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For the Year 1888.

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1	Milton	Wm. Panton	27	29	25	13	28	30	10 a.m.
2	Oakville	R. Balmer	11	7	9	11	12	7	10 a.m.
3	Georgetown	E. Grant	17	13	15	4	18	15	9.30 a.m.
4	Acton	J. Matthews	19	15	17	"	20	15	10 a.m.
5	Campbellville	S. R. Lister	6	2	4	"	7	2	9 30 "
6	Burlington	G. O. Bastedo	10	5	8	10	11	6	11 "

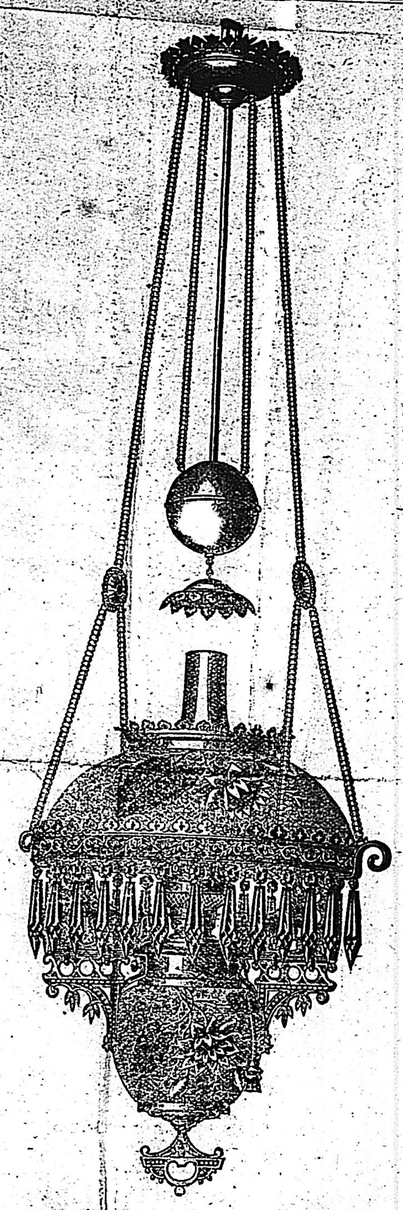
General Sessions of the Peace and County Court Sittings, with or without Jury, Tuesday 12th June, and 11th December, at 10 a.m.

County Court Sittings, without Jury, Tuesday, 3rd April, and 2nd October, at 10 a.m.

County Court Sittings, Formerly Terms, Monday, 2nd January, 2nd April, 2nd July, and 1st October at 10 a.m.

Audit of Criminal Justice Accounts, Tuesday, 3rd January, 3rd April, 3rd July & 3rd October.

By order, JOHN DEWAR, Clerk of the Peace.



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ADOPTED DAUGHTER

BY ELIZA A. DUPUY,

AUTHOR OF "TRUE LOVE BEAT FORGIVE," "PASSION AND PRIDE," ETC., ETC.

standing was soon arrived at, and a plan of action definitely settled.

Frank chafed under the necessity for delay; he wished to get out at once in pursuit of Lora, but to this Bligh would not consent. He must wait till something definite was heard from Silas Ford and the young girl he was so anxious to get under his own protection. He did not betray the source of his interest in Elfie, but the others clearly saw that it was on her account he was determined to remain in Louisville as long as there was a chance to intercept Ford.

When their arrangements were finally settled the party separated; Mr. Nugent and his wife took possession of an apartment near the rooms occupied by Grafton, and when that gentleman went out with the detective, Frank eagerly availed himself of the opportunity to learn from Mrs. Grafton the details of her summer tour with Lora, and the ruse by which they had been separated.

He listened with a pained and indignant heart, and when she finished her recital, asked:

"Who is this Von Rosenberg? and why should Mr. Ford have thrown Lora so constantly with him, knowing as he did that she was plighted to me?"

"Carl Rosenberg claimed to be a German count, and talked grandly of his rank and his possessions in Europe. As to the genuineness of his pretensions I cannot judge, though on thinking over some things which I scarcely noticed at the time, I have come to the conclusion that Count Rosenberg is one of Mr. Ford's partners in the business he carries on, and he wished Lora to marry him, that, together, they may share her fortune."

"He is an impostor, then, and no better than Stephen Ford himself. Oh! how can I bear this delay, when I know that my darling is in the power of two such unscrupulous men? She may be compelled to marry that man, while I linger here, unable to lift my hand in her defence."

"It is a painful position, but you can do nothing effectual without the assistance of Mr. Bligh. While he waits here, his arrangements in Cleveland will be completed, and once there, he will lose no time in going in pursuit of those you are so eager to find. Try to be patient, Frank, and do not make yourself ill again—you are far from strong yet, and worry of mind will not help you to be in a fit condition to travel when the time for action comes."

"But how can I help being wretched, Mrs. Grafton, when I know how helpless Lora is, and how base her oppressors are?"

"Lora has courage and strong will; she loves you, and she will not be forced into a marriage that is distasteful to herself. Besides, Mr. Ford will hardly attempt extreme measures until he finds that she will not submit to be ruled by him. He was extremely indulgent to her until he left Niagara so suddenly, and I think he will still try to win her over to his plans, rather than attempt to coerce her."

Frank shook his head doubtfully.

"When he tore her away from you, he laid aside his mask, and he has lost no time, I am sure, in making her fully understand all the wretchedness of her position. She believes him to be her father, and who can tell what he may induce her to do? Did she seem at all pleased with the attentions of this pseudo count, Mrs. Grafton?"

"Lora's vanity was flattered by having him in her train of admirers, but I think you have no cause for jealousy, Frank. She gave him no decided encouragement, though she accepted his attentions as she did those of many other admirers. Remember that Lora is very young; that she is full of vivacity, and the life she was thrown into was entirely new to her. I think myself that her head was very little turned by the adulation lavished on her. To me she was always the same natural, affectionate child she has always been, and I am very certain that she clings tenaciously to those she has learned to love."

"Thank you, Mrs. Grafton, for that testimony. I will believe it, and trust to her constancy and firmness to baffle the efforts of Mr. Ford to bend her to his purpose. I must bear as well as I can with this delay, but the suspense is terrible."

"Yes, I can fully understand that, for I share it with you. Lora is scarcely less dear to me than she is to you, for she took the place of the child I lost, and it was a dreadful blow when she was torn from me so cruelly. When I came back to join George I found him ill and most unhappy about Lora, on account of an anonymous letter that was sent to him. It only contained these words:

"'Your adopted daughter is not Stephen Ford's child. For reasons best known to himself he claims her as such, and he means to marry her to one of his own pals. Take her from him at once, if you love her.'

"There was no signature, and no clew by which the writer could be detected. George telegraphed to me and told me to return and bring Lora with me at all hazards, but it was too late. Mr. Ford had already removed her from my care."

"He is too astute a villain to be baffled easily, but I will find the means to circumvent him, or die in the attempt," said Nugent, as he arose and prepared to leave her.

The days passed on, how Frank hardly knew, so feverish was his impatience to be doing something toward extricating Lora from the position in which she was placed; but Bligh steadily refused to leave Louisville till the Halcyon arrived.

She was not a fast boat, and it was not until the fifth day from the meeting we have recorded that she was reported at the landing. But Silas Ford and his companions were not on board.

On inquiry it was ascertained that they had landed at a small village below Cairo, and it was easy to understand that he had embarked on the next steamer that passed up the river, gone on to Cairo and taken the northern train. By that time Silas Ford was safe on his way to Flath Innis, and there must retribution overtake both the brothers if it was to be brought on them at all.

Bligh ground his teeth in silent rage when convinced that Silas had thus baffled them, and the share he had promised for him, and he lost no time in getting out for Cleveland, accompanied by Nugent.

The detective's orders had been so well obeyed that they found a swift propeller, armed with a swivel gun, ready to set out at an hour's warning. On board of her, in addition to the sailors, was a band of armed police sufficiently large to over-awe the inhabitants of the place they were going in search of.

Among these was one man who professed to know where the island was to be found, as he had once been in the employment of Stephen Ford, as cabin boy, on the Arrow.

On the evening of a brilliant day, Nugent saw the distant shores receding from view, and fervently prayed that success might attend the expedition which was of such vital moment to himself.

CHAPTER XXXI.

ENTRAPPED—LORA'S RESENTMENT.

When Lora recovered from the effects of the narcotic which had been mingled with both food and wine, she found that she was no longer tossing on the lake. She lay dreamily looking around the luxuriously furnished room to which she had been conveyed, wondering how she came in that strange place, and why she was left entirely alone.

But gradually the memory of what had occurred after she was inveigled upon the yacht came back to her, and she slowly gathered the meaning of the outrage which had been inflicted on her in separating her so ruthlessly from Mrs. Grafton.

The deepest and bitterest resentment arose in her heart, and she said to herself that nothing should ever induce her to forgive Stephen Ford, even if he was her father. She understood at once that Rosen was to follow her, and she was to be coaxed or coerced into a marriage with him. Ford's double-dealing with regard to Frank Nugent was now apparent enough to her. She had been permitted to live in the delusion that he was to be allowed to join them at Niagara, and his pretensions to her hand be openly sanctioned; but when the time of his expected arrival drew near an excuse had been found to remove her, preparatory to the abduction which had since been accomplished.

"He has brought me to the island, home he told me about, and he means to keep me here till I submit to his commands," she muttered; "but he little knows what he undertakes when he attempts to rule me by violence and fraud. Good heavens! to think that my own father can be guilty of such baseness as this! If I loved him it would break my heart. But I don't love him—I never shall now—never!—nor will I obey him. By treating me in this shameful manner he has forfeited all right to obedience from me."

Her head was still dizzy from the effects of the potion she had taken, but she arose and looked around for the clothes which had been exchanged for a wrapper when she was placed in bed. She found them hanging in a wardrobe, and against the wall near the bed her trunk had been placed. On the washstand was water and fresh towels, and her brushes and combs had been taken from her satchel and laid on the dressing-table ready for use.

After making a careful toilet, she rang the handbell which she found placed in one of the wide window-seats, and wondered if it would be answered.

In a few moments the door of the apartment opened noiselessly, and Mrs. Choteau came in, making a slight inclination of her head as she said:

"So you're awake, Miss, and actually dressed? You take things coolly, considering."

"Considering what?" asked Lora. "You are rather enigmatical, madam, and I should like you to explain."

"Oh, well, I can do that easily enough," said the woman, in her hard way. "As you were brought here asleep, I didn't suppose that you came of your own free will—that is all. If you did, it's all the better for you; but I hardly thought any young girl would care to live on such an out-of-the-way place as this. My own girl wouldn't stay when she got a chance to leave me."

"Nor shall I stay long," replied Lora, carelessly. "I rang for you that you may bring me something to eat. I must have slept a long time, for I feel the want of food. Is my father in the house?"

"No, Miss; he ain't. He's out among the people." And the woman stared at her with widened eyes, for she had expected an outburst of indignation when she answered the summons of the bell.

"The table is laid for you in the room opposite to this, and I will bring in your breakfast immediately. Mr. Ford had his two hours ago."

"How long have I been here?" asked Lora.

"You were brought from the yacht about ten o'clock last night, but as soon as I looked at you I know that you were not in a natural sleep. That's how I know that you'd been brought here without asking your leave. The master's very close. He ain't said nothing; but I'm sharp enough to understand some things without words."

"You are very shrewd and very free-spoken, Mrs. —— What is your name? As you are to wait on me, I should like to know it."

"And why shouldn't I be free-spoken? My tongue is my own," said the woman, resentfully. "I am Mrs. Choteau, and my husband is the head man at the business carried on here. I suppose you know what that is, in spite of the airs you're putting on. Wait on you, indeed! In place of that, it's you that ought to help me, now that Mr. Ford has had my daughter taken away."

"What do you mean by talking to me in this way?" asked Lora, haughtily. "If your husband is head man here in my father's absence, that does not give you the right to speak impertinently to me. What business can be carried on in this lonely place which renders Mr. Choteau such an important person that his wife should dare to speak as you did to me just now?"

"Holty-toity! We're stuck up, to be sure!" was the insolent reply. "So—you're mighty innocent as to where the money for all the fine fallals you wear comes from. Oh, no! You don't know where it's made and how it's circulated—you don't!"

Lora sank back half fainting as this first intimation of the source of Ford's unlimited command of money. When she could control her voice she briefly asked:

"Am I to understand that I have been entrapped into a counterfeiter's den?"

"You've guessed it fast enough, and you'll have your part to do, too, Stephen Ford would never have brought you here if he didn't mean to make some use of you. I'll go and get your breakfast now, but from the way you look I don't think you'll have much appetite for it."

The virago went out, slamming the door violently behind her, and Lora sat like one stupefied, trying to realize the sudden and awful change made in her future prospects by the shameful revelation she had just heard.

CHAPTER XXXII.

STEPHEN FORD'S THREAT—LORA'S DEFIANCE.

Lora was for a time overwhelmed by the horrors of her situation.

Severed from all she loved; brought without her own consent into this lonely place that she might be at the mercy of submission by the man who claimed her as his daughter, she asked herself what was to be her ultimate fate. With a thrill of horror she recalled the fact that she had been seductively taught the engraver's art, and she understood now why Ford had insisted that she should thoroughly master one accomplishment, the reason given being that, if she should ever become reduced in fortune, she would have a resource to turn to as a means of living.

"Could Grafton have been aware of the use to which her talent for drawing was to be put?" she asked herself, with a pang as keen as though she had been stabbed through the heart.

But she rejected the thought; she would not believe that he was connected in any way with the nefarious business Mrs. Choteau had declared to be carried on at Flath Innis.

After some delay her breakfast was served in a beautifully furnished room, the windows of which looked toward the lake. But Lora was too miserable to enjoy the beauty of the view. She could only think of the base uses to which this verdant oasis, in the lovely summer sea around it, had been degraded.

The viands prepared by Mrs. Choteau were worthy of her skill in the culinary department; and, in spite of the dreadful blow she had received, Lora partook of them with the appetite of youth and health. She had tasted no food for thirty-six hours, and had felt faint and nerveless for the want of it. Knowing the battle that was before her, she must not come to it physically weak, she said to herself, and somewhat to Mrs. Choteau's surprise, she made a good breakfast.

With a laugh the woman said:

"You're a plucky one, you are; I can see that plainly enough. But you needn't try to fight against Stephen Ford. He never gives in; and if you'd have a good time, now you've been brought here, you'd better do as he tells you, mind."

"I think I can get on without your advice, Mrs. Choteau," said Lora, coldly; "when I desire it I will ask you for it. Take the things away, and let my father know that I have had my breakfast."

"Umph! so you're determined to keep on your high horse, young lady? You'll be glad enough to come down before long, mark my words. If you know when you're well off you'll try to keep on good terms with me."

Lora arose and walked out of the room without reply. The coarse familiarity of this woman was something so new to her experience that she found it difficult to tolerate it, though she thought it very probable that she might ere long, need the good offices even of Mrs. Choteau.

She walked to and fro on the long veranda in front of the house, trying to nerve herself for the approaching interview with Ford, and feeling as utterly wretched and forlorn as is possible to a young and untried heart in its first experience of treachery and disgrace.

Half an hour passed away, and then she heard a footstep coming through the hall which she recognized with a throbbing of her heart that almost threatened to suffocate her.

Ford approached her in his most jaunty manner, and with assumed gaiety, said:

"How is my pearl of price this lovely day? And what does she think of the charming home by the sea to which she has been wafted?"

"I am not well, for I have been heavily drugged to get me here, and no prison house can be attractive to me," replied Lora disdainfully, and she turned away from the hand extended to her.

A heavy frown gathered on his brow, and he cast on her a look of such vindictive triumph as must have chilled her to the heart had she seen it. But she had turned her back on him, and was looking eagerly out upon the lake, hoping that some approaching sail might be descried.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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