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For the Year 1888.

No.	Place of Sittings and P.O. Address of Clerks.	Clerks.	Jan.	Mar.	May.	July.	Sep.	Nov.	Hour of Opening
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	L. Grant	17	13	15	4	15	13	9.30 a.m
4	Acton	J. Matthews	19	15	17	"	20	15	10 a.m.
5	Campbellville	S. R. Lister	6	3	4	"	7	3	9 30 "
6	Burlington	Jas. Robinson	10	6	8	10	11	5	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 p.m.

Audit of Criminal Justice Accounts—Tuesday, 3rd January, 3rd April, 3rd July & 2nd October.

By order, T. G. MATHESON, Clerk of the Peace.

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Harness, Saddles, &c., made to order promptly and at reasonable prices.
Repairing done with neatness and all work warranted.

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In returning thanks for the patronage bestowed upon the late firm of Hustler & McKenzie, I beg to announce that I will continue the business as before, and trust that by using first-class material and the best skilled labor will continue to give the same satisfaction to customers as did the late firm.
Call and examine my New Stock.
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Factory near N. & N. W. R. Station.

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IS WHAT WE HUM AND HUSTLE FOR.
GREAT -:- SALE -:- OF -:- PARLOR -:- SUITS!
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Walnut, Ash and Antique Oak Bedroom Suits.
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DOMINION FURNITURE CO.
130 and 132 King Street East, Hamilton.

MONA'S CHOICE.

By MRS. ALEXANDER.

CHAPTER I.—A PROPOSAL.

The "up" train was expected momentarily at the little junction at Galesford, from whence a line branched off to some villages and the county town.

A couple of commercial travelers, whose large neatly strapped cases were piled on a hand truck, stood at one end of the platform, in conversation of an amusing description, for they laughed loud and frequently.

A gentleman, covered from head to foot in a large dark ulster, walked to and fro smoking a cigar, and peering sharply into the thick mist which hid the line up to a few yards beyond the station.

The loose wrap he wore did not conceal his air of distinction. The eyes that watched so eagerly for the train, were light steely blue, his coloring was sunburned brown, somewhat too dark for his hair and mustache.

"Five minutes behind time," he said, glancing at the clock over the door of the booking-office, and addressing one of the two porters who were waiting about.

"It often is, sir! You see they have often to wait at Brenton for the Altonbury through passengers. It's express after this."

"Look after my luggage. It is in the waiting-room. My name is on it—Captain Lisle—I'll be back by the six-twenty, and will not forget you."

"Thank ye, sir! I'll take care of it right enough."

"Two-fifteen—and here it comes!" exclaimed Captain Lisle, throwing away his cigar as the engine rushed screaming out of the dim distance, and approaching the edge of the platform he peered sharply into the carriages.

In a first-class compartment a young lady sat alone. Lisle proceeded to open the door.

"Beg pardon, sir," said the urbane guard. "This is a ladies' carriage—there's plenty of room in the next."

"All right! I know the lady; she will permit me to travel a few miles in her company. Will you not?" raising his deerstalker's cap.

"Oh, Captain Lisle!" she exclaimed, with a swift blush. "Yes! of course."

"Don't cram in any women or babies," said Lisle aside quickly to the guard, pressing some coin of the realm into his hand.

"All right, sir!" significantly. "Jump in."

A shrill whistle, and they were off.

"I hope you will not fire my tobacco. But as I [illegible] I would try to say [illegible] cigar [illegible] were [illegible] you [illegible] ear [illegible] over the [illegible]

"Yes. I [illegible] perhaps offend you—[illegible] certainly have no right, but my sister Inter-

"Yes! and for that friendship's sake I am about to break my usual habit of not interfering with what does not absolutely concern me—to risk the snubbing you are quite capable of administering."

He paused, and gazed for a moment at the delicate, downcast face opposite to him, his brows contracting in a sudden frown.

"Why should I snub you?" she asked, without looking up.

"Wait till I have finished. Will you believe me when I say that I was as sleepless as yourself last night? My fancy—no, I am not an imaginative man—my experience, depicted all the hardship of your lot, for I have known difficulties—money difficulties; poverty, too, is a hundred-fold worse for a woman, a proud, delicately nurtured woman, like yourself; and for you there is no escape, such as a man can find in a good appointment—I hope for one myself in India before many weeks are over."

"But women can work, too," she said, wonderingly. "Why do you try to frighten me?"

"Because I want you to seize the only way of escape that offers."

"Escape? How?"

"Hear me out! I am going to rush in—probably like a fool—where angels might hesitate to tread; but I know what life is, and I must open your eyes. After Everard had told me all he knew, I went to my room, and Waring, who had been dozing over an evening paper—"

"Was he a confident of our troubles, too?" she interrupted, with a slight curl of the lip.

"His was—that need not affect you. Waring followed, and asked for a few words with me. You know what a shy, awkward fellow he is. Well, I was amazed at his clearness and fluency—pray hear me out. He said he came to consult me, knowing that I had been on tolerably intimate terms with Mrs. Newburgh and yourself all last season—in short he confessed—what I already guessed—that he was desperately in love with you; that he was afraid you did not think much of him; and asked me if, under the circumstances, I thought it would be good form to propose for you. He said it cut him to the heart, to think of your being deprived of anything that could give you pleasure or comfort—I must say he spoke like a gentleman."

"It was very strange his consulting *you*" she exclaimed, with unconscious emphasis.

"I do not think it was," he returned, with studied composure, while he watched her varying color; "we have become rather cousins."

"Are you?"

"I advised him to make the venture, and I made this opportunity to advise you to accept him."

"Ah!" a pause ensued, during which she deeply pressed her handkerchief to her brow. "There must be an east wind. Such a chill [illegible] through my temples. Would you drive up the window?"

The request sounded unusually. He observed—and resuming his seat and his argument proceeded—

"Waring is not a bad fellow, and he is rich, really rich, no matter if the richness is new or old. He is not as dull as he seems, though dullness is no drawback to a husband. He adores you—but he is half afraid of you; you may reign supreme; you can help your grandmother; you will even thank me hereafter for showing you this way to escape from the horrors of genteel poverty, only you must not hesitate in your acceptance of him." Lisle went on, impressively. "He is a shy bird; if you act not kindly, he will flutter away; you need not affect any passion, simply promise to be his wife. He has a high opinion of your integrity and honor. He will trust you, and when I come back after a few years of brulling, I shall see you, I hope, what you ought to be, a leader and an ornament of society, perhaps to be rewarded for my enormous unselfishness by a renewal of your friendship and confidence."

While he spoke, his companion had opened her traveling bag, taking out a flask of *eau-de-Cologne*, and dropped some on her handkerchief, which she applied to her forehead.

"Ah!" she said, "it is a little better!" She raised her eyes to his with a smile, a polite smile. "You are really very good to take all this trouble for me; it is more than I could expect! You need not exhaust yourself in persuasion; I really do not dislike Mr. Waring; on the contrary, he is evidently malleable, and by no means bad looking—rather young perhaps, but that is a fault which corrects itself. I had no idea he thought of throwing the handkerchief to me! I am much obliged for your warning not to scare a shy bird! It is not always thus a man is gifted with a figure as well as a fortune."

She spoke with languid composure, keeping her eyes on his.

"I am very glad you take so sensible a view of my suggestion," he returned, with slight suppressed surprise; "as to looks, that is a matter of taste; I do not admire the 'prize-fighter' style myself; but Waring is quite six or seven years older than you are! I assure you it is a relief to my mind that you deign to accept my counsel and do not snub me for meddling."

"That would be a bad return for your disinterested friendship. I do not think many people would imagine you capable of so quixotic an effort to succor a damsel in distress! You do not do yourself justice, Captain Lisle! Now, do tell me something of your own plans, for I reciprocate your friendly interest, I assure you."

"My plans," he repeated, in a different and less steady tone. "They are simple enough. My uncle, General Forrester, has promised me an appointment on his staff. It may keep me in India the best part of my life; but I shall have leave of absence from time to time, and so keep in touch with civilization."

"That will be delightful! And you really have known commonplace money troubles like other people?"

"Yes; very decidedly yes."

He was feeling curiously displaced from his position of superior firmness and worldly knowledge. The unexpected acceptance of his suggestion by his fair gentle creature, who was hardly nineteen, threw him off his balance.

"Then I hope they are over forever," she remarked, in a kindly tone. "You must pick up a Begum in India. Yet, no! I should not like to be less bountiful than you are! I would give you a pretty, as well as a wealthy wife. Mr. Waring is handsome, or rather he will develop into a handsome man. I think you have chosen well!"

"I did not choose at all. I simply did my best to induce you not to throw away a good chance. Are you serious? I do not quite understand you, Mona."

She raised a warning finger playfully.

"As I am not, according to you, to keep my name much longer, pray let me hear it always; it is far prettier than Waring—Miss Joscelyn, if you please."

She had grown quite animated; a faint color replaced her extreme pallor; her large eyes sparkled; she dominated the conversation. Captain Lisle watched her closely; her manner was quite natural, while his lost the curt decision which characterized it at first. She questioned him as to how many horses Waring could keep, as to where they should live—said she was glad he was not encumbered with landed estates, as she would like to ramble about, and much more to the same effect, half in jest. At length he looked at his watch.

"In ten minutes I must say good-bye," he said. "I get out at the next station, and wait for the four-fifty train to Galesford."

"What a long tiresome wait! You really have sacrificed yourself to friendship."

"I have," he returned, emphatically. "I wonder if you exactly appreciate the sacrifice."

"I do, indeed."

"May I not call and learn from your own lips how you are going on?"

"You see it is a little uncertain where you may find us. I fear they do not allow visitors at the work-house, which may be our destination, if Mr. Waring has not the goodness to charge himself with our support."

"It is too bad that these wealthy new men get the pick of everything! Ah! here we are. Do you know, it is awfully hard to say good-bye; I really feel a little murderous towards Waring."

"Beware! I have taken him under my protection."

"It is not good-bye, however; I will see you in ten days or a fortnight. Till then, *adieu!*"

He pressed her hand close, she withdrew it in fierce haste; the next moment he was standing on the platform, yet another, and the train was again in motion. Miss Clifford kissed her hand with a saucy smile as she passed out of sight. The only other passenger who alighted gave up his ticket, and Lisle was left to pace the damp gravel and think over the conversation he had just held.

"I am well out of it," was his first thought; "but she took my advice rather differently from what I expected. I fancied we would have had high-flown sentiment, perhaps tears and despair. I suspect I do not quite understand my fair friend. How beautifully fair she is. I did not dream she had so much pluck. By Jove! she turned my flank by her ready acceptance of my suggestion; but I fancy it was a tremendous blow, for all that! She was growing fond of me—I know it, I feel it—and I never was so near making a fool of myself about any woman as about Mona Clifford; but it would not do! Matrimony is a hideous institution. Even Mona's fine eyes, and general charm (she is charming!) would lose their effect in a few years—perhaps in a few months, and I might be a brute, or she would think me one. Anyhow, I did not make my early start this morning for nothing."

Meanwhile Mona was carried deeper and deeper into the gloom of the fast-closing October evening. Alone—unwatched, she set loose the reins of her self-control, and yielded to the storm of shame and despair which rent her soul.

She had indeed "grown fond" of Lisle, after months of frequent intercourse, during which he had sought her with so much carefully veiled assiduity—and won her confidence by a happy assumption of elder-brotherly authority, flecked with gleams of passionate admiration, which seemed to flash out in spite of himself, and were real enough. Now behold! the time of trial came, and he was eager to hand her over to another. How could she have been so blind—so deluded? Her rage was more against herself than against him. Her long slender fingers clutched the arms of the seat with feverish force, in her agony and self-contempt. How could she have been so weak, so conceited, as to suppose that she had become all in all to such a man as St. John Lisle? Yet, yet he did admire her and seek her! A hundred instances crowded on her memory which might well have misled her; important trifles which could not have occurred had he not loved her at the time. If he had, why did he change so suddenly? What had she done to forfeit the tenderness of which she was so sure? No! She was not all self-deceived. He was false, fickle, cruel—she might be less hard upon herself! As to poor Waring, she bestowed small consideration on his honest affection for her. Of all the house-party at Harrowby Chase, she had taken least notice of him. Their previous intercourse had consisted of a few meetings at evening parties, [illegible] asked her to dance, and she had as unreservedly endeavored to evade him. Of this he was unaware, as her manners were softly gracious, and she hated to give pain.

Now this ungraceful, shy, inartificial young man was thrust upon her by Lisle, who had so often turned him into ridicule. Anything was good enough for a girl who was penniless and almost unprotected! It would go hard with her, she thought, while her cheeks glowed, and her heart beat fast—very hard, before she would consent to marry him. And poor grannie! Mona's heart reproached her for having utterly forgotten grannie, who had been so sunned by the terrible loss which had befallen her. How her proud, worldly, yet sound nature would wither under the disgrace of poverty. Grannie, who loved her so well, even while she tyrannized over her, she had often been rebellious, selfish, when she would try and comfort the poor old woman. She had built such hopes, too, on Mona's success, now everything was crumbled into the dust.

The Hon. Mrs. Newburgh, sister of the late and aunt of the present Viscount Sunderline, had had much disappointment in her long life. Beginning with all the advantages of rank and beauty, she rejected numerous excellent offers—to be sure, at the mature age of thirty-five, the moment looking forward to her son or a Yorkshire squire. He loved her, but he also feared her—which condition of mind led to much concealment of difficulties, and their consequent complication. Mrs. Newburgh was a woman of strong will, and some business capacity, and she always held on firmly to her own small fortune. Her only son went into the army, and was killed at Inkerman. Her only daughter, who resembled her father in character, formed a strong attachment to an obscure young Scotsman, whom she met accidentally in the Highlands, under somewhat romantic circumstances. Mrs. Newburgh set her face against so disgraceful a union; she dragged her pretty daughter from one continental court to another, and finally tried to force her to marry an Englishman of high position and large fortune. This was too much, and the weak, simple, frightened girl fled to her Scotch lover. Her mother renounced her, and never saw her face again.

From this time Mrs. Newburgh devoted herself to increasing her fortune, both by saving and speculating. She returned to London, and once more took her place in society.

The announcement of her daughter's death made little or no change in her way of life; she made no attempt to communicate with the bereaved husband, and seemed to forget she had ever had a daughter. About five years later she was startled by a letter from the minister of a church in the neighborhood of Glasgow, describing the last moments of Kenneth Craig, who had been a broken man ever since the death of his wife, and inclosing a brief letter to Mrs. Newburgh from the deceased. In it he simply said that, to pay of a bank clerk had been too small to permit him to lay anything by for his little girl, that his only people were poor, that he trusted her mother's mother would so far forgive as not to punish the innocent, and begged her to give the child sufficient education to earn her bread hereafter. She was named, he said, Mona Joscelyn, after her mother and her uncle.

Mrs. Newburgh answered this second begging for the little bright-eyed six-year-old, and placing her at a school specially arranged for children whose parents were either dead or absent. It was in the country, and kept by a quiet motherly old maid. For some time her grandmother never saw Mona, but one spring, when the child had nearly attained her tenth year, scarlet fever broke out in the school, and little Mona was sent off without a word of warning to Mrs. Newburgh, who had been spending a few months in town, and was packed up and ready to start for the Continent.

Though dreadfully annoyed by the *contretemps*, Mrs. Newburgh was struck and pleased with the improvement and promise of her granddaughter, especially as she was very like her late uncle, her reddish hair being a legacy from the plebeian Craigs. Finally she took her abroad, and placed her first at a convent school in Paris, and after in an educational establishment of a very superior description at Dresden. Here Mrs. Newburgh occasionally visited her, and she remained till she was seventeen, when she went to reside with her grandmother in London; she continued to study music under the best masters, and was always present when Mrs. Newburgh received. The spring before the opening of this story she had been presented, her grandmother was well satisfied with her social success, and hoped for a brilliant marriage, when the blow fell which ruined them.

It was quite dark when Mona reached St. Pancras; she was utterly weary, but profoundly still.

As a porter threw open the carriage door, a respectable foreign-looking man, somewhat tan-colored in complexion, and pear shaped in figure, going small to the feet and spreading out roundly above, put him aside. Raising his hat he said in German,

"Welcome, my fraulein! I hope you are not fatigued."

"Yes, a little, Wehner! How is my grandmother?"

"Better, my fraulein! but weak! s... very weak. She is looking anxiously for you. If you get into the cab, I will find your baggage."

CHAPTER II.—ANOTHER.

The door was opened by Mrs. Newburgh's maid, a very important person, with whom Mona had not unfrequent differences of opinion. Her face was expressive of ill-temper and disgust.

"Mrs. Newburgh has been worrying herself and every one else because she fancies you are late, miss," was her salutation.

"I do not think I am, Hooper!"

"I dare say not; only you see she is all wrong about time—a minute or an hour, it's all one to her. I never thought you would see her alive. After she read about that cruel, deceitful, swindling company in the paper, she sent off Mr. Wehner for Mr. Macquibble. After they had talked a bit, the bell rang sharp; I was called, and there was Mrs. Newburgh, in a dead faint.

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