





TERMS:-81.25 Per Year,) IN ADVANCE.

AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

(75 Cents for 6 Months; 40 Cts. for 3 months.

Vol. VIII.

New Bloomfield, Pa., Tuesday, June 30, 1874.

No. 26.

The Bloomfield Times.

IS PUBLISHED SYRBY TUESDAY MORNING, BY FRANK MORTIMER & CO., At New Bloomfield, Perry Co., Pa.

Being provided with Steam Power, and large Cylinder and Job-Presses, we are prepared to do all kinds of Job-Printing in good style and at Low Prices.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Transient—8 Cents per line for one insertion 12 4 4 4 two insertions 15 44 44 three insertions Business Notices in Local Column 10 Cents per line.

• a. For longer yearly adv'ts terms will be given upon application.

THE UNFAITHFUL GUARDIAN.

CONTINUED.

'S it possible ?" Sears exclaimed, after the first instant of surprise, and going toward him with his hand extended. "Can this be you?"

"I believe so," he replied, returning his greeting, but with his eyes fixed upon the woman who seemed suddenly frozen to silence. "I am sorry to have startled yousorry that my appearance should have disturbed any one."

"Mrs. Grant," William said, turning toward her, "this is my guardian and best friend-Mr. James."

Mr. James bowed low, but the smile on his face seemed to wither everything on which it fell. Catharine did not stir-she was gazing forward in blank dismay. Sears looked from one to another in silent questioning, lost in astonishment at the singular scene.

"William," Mr. James whispered, "you must go with me at once-do not hesitateyou have a heavy stake in this." He took up Sears' hat and gently pushed him to-ward the door. "I am very sorry that Mrs. Grant does not remember an old ac-

quaintance !" "Old acquaintance !" gasped William. Catharine struggled to her feet-as of old the indomitable pride swept across her

face. "I remember you," she said, in a distinet, measured tone, "I remember

you !" "Hereafter I shall hope to be allowed to renew that acquaintance," he continued,

with the same smile. "Sears, I am sorry, but important business depends upon your haste."

"One moment," exclaimed William, "I will join you in an instant-go on."

"I fear I must be rude enough to insist -your presence is necessary, and the moments are precious-I am sure Mrs. Grant will excuse you !"

She made no answer-she was looking forward again with that dreary, expression-

"Mrs. Grant-Catharine !" exclaimed Sears; but Mr. James laid a firm hand upon his arm.

"She will pardon your unceremonious departure," he said, very quietly.

That voice made her shiver from head to foot, as if a chill blast had swept across the spring air.

"Go," she said, "go William !" "I shall see you again very soon, very

oon !" he replied!

Mr. James drew him away, while Catharine sunk back in her seat, those white lips

"Go, William-it is forever !"

murmuring still,

CHAPTER VII.

They reached the street and entered the carriage before William broke the amazed silence into which he had been thrown. Mr. James asked his address, and the sound of his voice aroused him ; he gave the number and they hurried away.

"What does this mean?" exclaimed Sears. "Do you know Mrs. Grant; and your sudden arrival-you had not written to me that you were coming over !"

"Have a little patience, William, don't overpower me with questions! You shall hear everything in its proper order; but let us get safe to your rooms first."

When the carriage stopped, Sears sprang out, and Mr. James followed him up to his desire." apartment in silence. When they had entered, William closed the door, and turned

hastily toward him. "Don't torture me any longer! I could me so far it seems." almost think something terrible were coming, only you always bring pleasant news," be added, striving to laugh, and thus shake off the nameless fear which had come over

"It is dark here, Sears," said Mr. James,

"can't you find a light?" The room was growing dusky with the

gathering shadows, but in his agitation Sears had not noticed it. He lit the lamp with nervous haste, set it upon the mantel, and turned again to Mr. James.

"Have you anything to tell me, sir-has anything happened? What could have brought you to Europe so unexpectedly?"

"It was on your account that I came." "Mine? What is it?" I can think of nothing-no affairs-no-

Mr. James waited for him to conclude, but Sears only made an impatient gesture, growing troubled and pale.

"I believe you have found me always willing to advance your interests in every possible way," Mr. James said, in his deliberate, passionless way.

"Always, sir-always. You have been a true friend," returned Sears, with eager haste, strangely at variance with the manner of his companion. "But tell me what it is you have to say-I am getting as nervous as a woman."

"I have come to take you away with me,

"Where do you wish to travel?"

"To America."

"America! But I have no reason for returning there at present-my business keeps me here-I am writing a play for one of the London theatres."

"You will be able to finish it in our own country."

"Excuse me sir," said Sears, with something of his usual haughtiness when irri- go." tated; "but will you have the goodness to be a little more explicit? there is nothing to be gained by talking in riddles."

"I never do that, Sears, you know." "Were you acquainted with Mrs. Grant?" Sears asked, quickly. " Did you know her in America ?"

"Mrs. Grant!" he repeated the name with a sort of ley contempt which made Sears quiver with indignation. "I was acquainted with her, and I know her in America."

"What does this mean, Mr. James? 1 demand an explanation! I am not a child to be treated in this way."

"Do you love this woman, William?" A light came over Sear's face-his bosom heaved-his proud eyes grew clear and untroubled-he threw his head back with a noble pride,

"Yes," he said, "I do love her."

"And you know who she is?" "I know only that she is a good, grand woman, and that I love her, and would

proclaim it before all the world." "Do you know what her past life has been ?"

"Her past !" repeated Sears, and Catharine's singular agitation recurred to his mind. A terrible shock passed over him, but he cast back the unworthy doubt.

"No!" he exclaimed, defiantly, "but there is nothing which she need fear to to have known-I would stake my life upon

her goodness." "You would lose the stake!" replied

Mr. James, in his stern unpitying voice.

Walter sprang toward him, with his clenched hand raised, as if he would have felled him to the ground in the whirl of passion which those words had aroused. "Take that back," he exclaimed, "retract those words—an angel from heaven should not repeat them before me !"

"I would not give you needless pain, Walter; but you must listen to me calmly, and without passion."

"You must leave Paris for a time." " Why 9"

"Because you must be removed from that woman's influence until you are yourself again."

"I am myself, Mr. James, for the first time in my whole life; it is only in her presence that I have begun to live, and there is no power on earth or in heaven strong enough to separate me from her now.

"You rave-I cannot talk with a mad-

"I am not mad, sir; but you seem determined to drive me so by your words and manner,"

"William, I have never yet asked you a favor: will you refuse the first?"?

"What is it? Let me hear what you

"All through your life I have granted you everything you asked, without even demanding your reasons-you cannot trust

"Mr. James, this is cruel-I have done nothing to deserve such reproaches-you make me frantic with your implied suspicions of a woman whom I prize beyond life itself, and then ask me to listen to you not think yet—his brain was too dizzy for calmly and without passion! What is it that but through the whirl of frenzy and you wish me to do? You know that I despair came the recollection of those fear- exertion. would give my right hand to serve you."

"I wish you to leave Paris, and promise me never to see that woman again."

"No, by Heaven, that I will not donothing shall induce me to trample my own heart under my feet."

"What reason have you for demanding this?" Sears said, pausing before him in his hurried march. "Why do you come here with these damnable doubts, thrusting yourself between me and my happiness?"

"I have intimated nothing which I cannot prove," he said.

"Then prove it-let me know the worst at once-I will bear this no longer."

"For your own sake do not force me to say more !" replied Mr. James. "Speak, I say !"

"That woman has deceived you-she is false, body and soul!"

Sears to the very verge of insanity. "It is a lie !" he exclaimed, "a mean, miserable lie! Mr. James, you have severed the last bond between us fare-

well. He moved toward the door, but Mr. James rose and detained him in a strong

"Wretched boy, where would you go?" "To her-to the woman whom you have s'andered! This is not your work, you could not be so vile-you have been deceived, but the very suspicion separates us-let me

But Mr. James held him firmly, his own face pale, and revealing some hidden passion which was more like hate than grief.

"You shall not go-I command you to stay."

"You command me !" exclaimed Sears, shaking off his hold; "a legion of demons should not stop me-how dare you speak thus ?"

"Because I have the right," returned Mr. James, while William stood paralyzed with passion and doubt.

"The right, the right !" he stammered. "No, never, you have none-stand back, you are powerless here !"

He would have rushed from the chamber, but again Mr. James' voice staid him.

"Ay, the right ! I command you to listen, because that woman is wicked and depraved-because you are my own son, William Sears, and she has been to me what she is now to you, or would be if you desired it."

Sears fell rather than sank into a chair, gazing upon the speaker with his frenzied eyes, while the whiteness of death settled over his face.

"Now will you believe me, young man? You have wrung forth the secret of a life are you satisfied?"

Still there was no answer-Sears was looking into his face with the same dull stare. At length his head fell slowly forward and was buried in his hands, while he trembled beneath the shock which had so nearly maddened him.

"William," Mr. James said, in a softened tone, William P

"Don't speak to me-leave me alone !" "Only a word—this must be settled now and forever! Listen-try to understandwe are going away on the instant! A steamer sails from Havre to-morrow, in that we return to America."

Sears sprang to his feet, and a despairing cry broke from his lips. "Unsay those words-tell me that you

did not mean it, and I will follow you to the ends of the earth." " William, I am your father !"

"I know-I know-not that! I can bear shame-disgrace-but tell me that Catharine-'

"I charge you never to mention that name again-you dare not violate the laws of God and man by loving a woman who has been---

"No more-do not go on ! Let us go where you will-when you will-but leave me alone !"

Mr. James went slowly away closing the door behind him, and shutting that wretched young man in with the terrible solitude about him-a solitude which could never he removed. That iron father were a look of demoniae exultation-standing in the dimly-lit passage - his hands clenched, while his compressed lips hissed forth some broken werds.

"Catharine - woman - in my path

again ?" William Sears remained motionless where that man had left him. He could ful words-a gulf had been dug between Late in the afternoon, the servant came son?" To be continued.

ever pass. He thought not of shame or time to start. disgrace, both he could bear, but he was separated forever from that happiness which had seemed so near.

He sprang up and rushed to the door; there was no collected thought in his soul, only a longing for death, a mad desire to look once more upon her face; it seemed as if fate would have done with him then, that destiny would be appeased.

At the door he met Mr. James, who started at the sight of that face which was so contracted by despair, that those moments seemed almost to have done the work of years.

"All is ready," he said, "your servant will follow to Havre with your baggage." "Ready," he repeated, mechanically, " ready ?" The words fell icy and cold, stinging

Mr. James took a flask from the table and poured out a glass of wine.

"Drink this," he said, "it will bring you to yourself a little. William drained it at a draught, and allowed himself to be led down stairs and

placed in the carriage without resistance. All that night they were speeding away, the moan of the steam whistle sounding in the ear of the sufferer, and seeming to his excited fancy like the cry of a fiend. When morning came they had entered Havre, the quaint, old city, and drove away toward

the steamer. An hour after, they were out upon the blue waves, and William Sears was straining his eyes to catch a last sight of the land, where he had found and lost all of happiness that heaven itself had power to bestow upon him on this side of the grave.

Catharine sat in her room after the departure of Sears and that dreaded man, until the night gathered about her with its solemn gloom. She knew what awaited her, and sat there stunned by the unexpected blow.

Janet Brown's voice aroused her. "In the dark, mistress, and alone. I have just got in, the young gentleman is

gone ! "Gone?" she repeated, springing up. "Oh, Janet, come with me-come with me !"

The astonished woman threw a shawl over her and followed her mistress into the street. They hurried in silence to Sear's lodgings-it was too late-he had left a few moments before - whither no one knew.

What mattered it where ?-he had gone from her-he knew all-he despised and forsook her!

She reeled and fell into arms of her woman.

and let me die !"

"Mistress-mistress !" "Don't speak, Janet-don't comfort me -it is death this time-oh! it is death."

So the dream ended-the bright, beautiful dream, which had seemed so glowing and so real! The one lying mute and unconscious in that sickness which was like death, the other away upon the deep, darksea, and between those parted souls flowing a gulf deeper and darker than the ocean's treacherous waves, a gulf which neither might cross to claim that happiness their grasp.

The voyage came to an end a length! Sears arose slowly and went on deck, his step feeble, like one recovering from recent illness, and his pale face looking sorrowfully baggard and worn. Mr. James approached him with some words of pleasure at his improved appearance, but William could only bow his head in reply; that man's presence filled him with an indescribable pang, which he strove in vain to subdue. No farther explanation had passed between them-William desired noneif there were grief and wrong he would not know it-let that past be buried along with his own, and the weight of their added ashes lie upon his heart until their chill pressed life slowly out !

"My house is shut up," Mr. James said, after giving some orders to the servant, "so I will drive with you to a hotel, if you please. An hour's rest will set you up again, and then I would like to persuade you out into the country."

William submitted passively-anything rather than being obliged to exert his own will ! He followed him off the vessel, and they drove away to the hotel. William lay down upon the bed in the room to which he was shown, not sleeping, but too utterly worn out to make the alightest unavoidable

him and that woman, which neither could up with a message from Mr. James-it was

"Shall I rever be left alone?" mut'e:ed William. "Even to die in peace seems denied me !"

But he went down, silent and indifferent, after the first momentary fretfulness had subsided.

"We go by railway," Mr. James said, 'and we must be off, for it is almost time for the train to start.

William did not recognize the route they took-probably a new road built during his absence, and he was too careless as to their destination to inquire. They got out at length at one of the way stations, and drove along a road which circled around the

curves of a small river. "You have not even asked where I am taking you," Mr. James said, cheerfully. Look, you can see the house on the hill yonder. It belongs to my ward-you have beard me speak of her. I hope you will stay with us some time-you remember what I said one day during the passage ?"

" No, really-"Never mind, we will speak of it soon

again."

The sun was setting as they drove through the iron gates and entered the forest-like grounds, losing sight entirely of the house for a time, until a sudden turn in the avenue brought them in full view of the imposing front.

The sound of the carriage brought several of the servants around, and the excitement at Mr. Jame's arrival roused Nellie in her quiet chamber. She hurried down the hall and threw her arms about his neck with a glad welcome.

"I am so happy to see you again. How . could you leave us in that sudden way?but to come back so soon-how good you

were !! Then, for the first time, she perceived a stranger, and started a little, blushing and

surprised. " Nellie, this gentleman is an old friend of mine, and a great favorite of yours-Mr Sears. William, your poems will find a warm admirer in Miss Lennox."

When Sears was alone in his room that night, Mr. James entered with his usual gentle knock and quiet manner.

"I saw the light and knew you were not yet in bed-I wanted to speak with you."

"Is it anything of consequence, sir ?-I am very tired." "I will not detain you long, but what I

have to speak of will admit of no delay." William leaned wearily back in his chair, shading his eyes with his hands. Mr. James was watching him with his old scrutinizing gaze which seemed to read his oman.
"Take me back, Janet, take me back fully chosen his time; in Sear's state of wretchedness and mental fatigue, he was incapable of struggling against a will like that which had marked out and decided

upon his future course. "You were pleased with my ward, Nellie Lennox ?"

"Of course-a charming little thing." "Do not look so absent-I wish your attention. That girl's fortune was placed wholly in my hands-I acted as I thought best for her interests-unfortunately it seems. I engaged in speculations which I believed would advance them, and they which had been so suddenly snatched from have failed-I must account for the money placed in my hands to that girl's husband -William, I wish you to marry ber and

save your father's honor." He had spoken clearly and without hesitation-it was his way, and he knew well also the character of the young man with

whom he had to deal. "Marry Nellie-why she is a child !"

"Hardly-she will soon be fifteen." "But this is impossible, sir, I cannot do

"You prefer perhaps to see me disgraced -no one will believe that I acted from the best motives-you will hear your father termed a scoundrel and a villain."

William shuddered at that word fatherhe could not help it-such terrible doubts of shame arose-doubts which he did not possess the courage to resolve to certainty.

"But the poor child-she does not care for me-does not even know me." "She will love you, she would love any one that treated her kindly, she is at the right age for that; besides your fame, your

appearance, all attract her." "But this is terrible, sir !" "Only be rational, William ! To-morrow, any hour, Nellie is liable to meet with some one who will try to win her for herself or her fortune-that day witnesses my total ruin and disgrace! Teall upon you to save me-shall I ask sid in vain of my