

BEAUTY AND TIME. The sun in the garden slipped her hair. As she looked to her faithful maid...

DAVID BALFOUR.

(A Sequel to "Kidnapped.")

BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

Part II.

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CHAPTER XXX.—THE LETTER FROM THE SHIP.

Daylight showed us how solitary the inn stood. It was plainly hard upon the sea, yet out of all view of it, except on every side with scabbid hills. There was, indeed, only one thing in the nature of a prospect, where stood out over a bare the two sails of a windmill, like an ass' ears, but with the ass quite hidden. It was strange (after the wind rose, for at first it was dead calm) to see the turning and following of each other of these great sails...

as a drawing. One of these was extremely close in to me, so great a vessel, and I was aware of a shock of new suspicion when I recognized the trim of the Seahorse. Why should an English ship be doing so near in to France? Why was Alan brought into her neighborhood, and that in a place so far from any hope of rescue? Was it by accident or by design that the daughter of James More should walk that day to the seaside?

Presently I came forth behind her in the front of the sand hills and above the beach. It was here long and solitary, with a man-of-war's boat drawn up about the middle of the prospect, and an officer in charge and pacing the sands like one who waited for by design that the daughter of James More should walk that day to the seaside?



I BEAT THEIR BLADES DOWN TWICE.

"I know you are always meaning kindly," she replied, and the words were like a stab. "Why will you be sending money to that man? It must not be."

"I am caring less and less about this man," she said. "There's something not right with the man James, and I would have done with him long ago."

"I have nothing left to give or to keep back," she said. "I have given you all I have, and I am not to be thanked for it."

"I know not how much longer we might have continued to forget all else besides ourselves," she said. "I have a dreadful terror here at my heart."

ous like, and the English ship being here, and your father having word from it, and your officer that stayed ashore. He would not be alone either, for he must be along with him; I dare say we are spied upon this minute. Aye, no doubt, the letter should be opened; but somehow, not by you nor me."

"I was asked something of the same question when I had seen you but the once," said I. "What do you think I answered? That if I liked you as I thought I did—and oh, but I like you better—I would marry you at his grave's foot."

"I have been upon a fool's errand," said he. "I don't have done better than you then," said I; and, at least, here is a great deal of matter that you must judge of. Do you see that? I went on, pointing to the ship.

"I should keep her, too," says Alan. "I had fyke enough with her when she was stationed in the Forth. But what ails the man to come so close?"

"I am here to prove it," said I. "I know it, and I would never trust Alan until he was asleep or waking!" says he. "The business looks bad. Let's see the letter."

"The man was, no doubt, a little deafened by the clattering of the mill, and we got some noise in the mill, and they were turned, and I saw he was a big fellow with a mahogany face."

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"It sticks in my mind it's either now or never; for the fact is me and Mr. Balfour were here to get a line, and we're thinking of it."

"I saw a little surprise in James' eye, but he held himself stoutly. 'I have but the one word to say to cure you of this,' said I, 'and that is in the name of my business.'"

"I ken the place, Mr. Stewart, and can take you there," said James. "Well, and I'm glad I came to Dunkirk. And so this was your business, was it? Halvers, I'm thinking."

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council of war on our position. We had taken a daughter from her father at the sword's point; any judge would give her back to him at once, and by all likelihood Alan and Alan into jail; and though we had an argument upon our side in Capt. Paliser's letter, neither Catriona nor I were very keen to be using it public. Upon all accounts it seemed the most prudent to carry the girl to Paris to the hands of her own chieftain, Macgregor of Bohalide, who would be very willing to help his kinswoman, on the one hand, and as anxious to dishonor James upon the other.

We made but a slow journey of it up, for Catriona was not so good at the riding as the running, and had scarce set in a saddle since the Forty-five. But we made it out at last, reached Paris early of a Sabbath morning, and made all speed under Alan's guidance to find Bohalide. He was finely lodged, and lived in a good style, as well as in the Scotch fashion, as well as private means; greeted Catriona like one of his own house, and seemed altogether very civil and discreet, but not without an argument upon our side in James' favor. "Poor James!" said he, and shook his head and smiled, so that I thought he knew further than he meant to tell. Then he showed him Paliser's letter, and he read it with a sad face at that.

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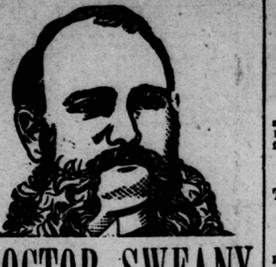
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