

ROMANCE OF A YOUNG DOCTOR.

By CARRY EDWARDS BROWNSON.

"My name is John Hatley. I am an Englishman by birth. My father was a small farmer, near Northampton, and was pretty well fixed, at any rate, had fine stock, mostly horses. I was very fond of them, and had pretty much the care of them. At sixteen years of age, I left home and roamed around for a few years, as all boys do, to see the world. Finally engaged as a coachman to a wealthy titled family. I had not been in the service many years until I fell in love with Julie Ellet, one of the maids, and in about a year, we were married. "I had saved up my wages and took my bride home for a visit to the old farm. My parents liked her and my father persuaded me to stay and help him in his declining years. I consented, and for a number of years every thing was prosperous. Twin sons were born to us, and they were the apple of my eye. Then trouble began to come thick and fast. First my father, and then my mother died, and when I comforted myself with the thought that my own family were spared to me the cruel blow fell, and my dear wife sickened and died. My boys then were my only care. One of them was quite delicate and the other worried me by developing an extraordinarily bad disposition. He was always quarreling and getting into scrapes of some kind. Rumors began to reach me that Edgar was banded with a set of poachers, and I greatly feared it to be true, for he often remained out all night, and would give no explanation of his absence. Roy, his brother, determined one night to follow him, and find out if possible, where he went. To ease my mind of worry was the dear boy's purpose, but I did not know of his mission. (Can I ever forget that night). "The next morning Edgar came home, white-eyed, hair disheveled, and coming directly to me, said, in an awful voice: "Father! I am branded as Cain was a murderer—and I have killed my brother—but I swear before God, it was accidental. I did not know him. The terrible scuffle was in the dark. I thought I was trapped for poaching. When he fell to the earth with a groan and lay so still I knew I had killed some one, and flashed my dark lantern, and saw my brother's face—white as will—reproachful. I can never have peace of mind again! I shall leave this very hour for America. It will be thought an accident, for I have covered all traces of the struggle. But Father! have mercy on me, and swear to shield me, should suspicion arise. I can only hope for your forgiveness, and now, Good-bye." "No one can ever tell the anguish of that hour, for I had virtually lost both of my boys the one dead—the other worse than dead—a fratricide. Well—he went out of my life, and I was left to mourn. "My poor Roy was found and brought home, and it was generally supposed, that he was accidentally shot by poachers. But there were some who shook their heads, and wondered where the ne'er-do-well had taken himself. "It was easy to start the rumor that he had left the week before, as he had taken some horses to a neighboring town. He had not been seen and I could not tell his whereabouts. I had the sympathy of the whole community, and later it was not thought strange at my disposing of my little home and leaving the scene where so many calamities had befallen me. Before sailing from Liverpool for America I had a line from Edgar, saying he was in New York City, but going out West; he gave an address, where a letter would reach him. "I found employment soon after landing in this country as coachman for a rich lady. He resided at one of the small suburban towns near New York, on the Hudson. It was a beautiful country seat. My good recommendations from my employers in England, aided me greatly. My new masters name was Grayson." "The Doctor started and bent upon the sufferer, a look of keen interest! "Well," continued the dying man—"it was almost like old England—he was so good and kind. One day, I saw a tramp as I supposed skulking around the stables, and ordered him away—when—Lord help me!—I found it was my own wayward son. A poor, wretched, starved, sickly being. A father is a father, you know, and I took him in, like the prodigal, and cared for him. He slept in the loft, and I gave him money, and clothes, and his nakedness, but all unknown to the household. I continued so doing for several weeks. When he got a little stronger he began to absent himself for days at a time, and then come back, wild-eyed, trembling, and disolute looking, just getting over a leubach. He would demand more money. Oh! what sorrow, such degradation. He would at such times, threaten to steal from my employer, and by such threats held a sword continually over my head. "About this time my master's son married his sister's governess, and the old gentleman was very angry. "He sent for his son to try and persuade him to leave her. The family were away and my young master came one evening, near dusk, to plead with his father. I took his horse myself, and hitched it and to a him master was in the library. How proudly he carried himself, and such a determined look to his eyes. I heard his voice, pitched in angry tones, and I knew the lad was standing true to his new love. At last with pale set face, young Leonard came out, and hoarsely demanded his horse, and mounting, rode away. As he got to the bend of the road which shut the house from further view he turned in his saddle, and gave one long look back. I felt he was taking his last view, of the old place—from his expression—then turning, he disappeared, behind the trees, and I saw him no more. "My own son had not been around

for a week or more and I knew he was drinking up what money he had forced me to give him. I stood sadly thinking of the troubles, in this world to rich and poor alike. I thought I would just make bold to go, and knock at master's door. My heart went out in sympathy, and I was going to ask if he did not want to drive over to his married daughter's, that evening—knowing she would comfort him. So I went along the hill, in the half dusk—but saw a light from under the door in the library—when, suddenly, I heard a heavy fall—a sort of shuffling of feet, a feeble cry, and then silence. In one moment I was inside of that door. Would that I had dropped dead myself, before I was permitted to gaze on that terrible sight. Mr. Grayson, my beloved master lay upon the floor beside his desk, the blood streaming from a ghastly wound, and bending over him, with knife poised, to strike again, was my son, a second time a murderer. I sprang forward and grasped his arm. He turned fiercely, and I thought my time had come. But No! his arm dropped—nerveless—by his side, and with one hoarse command for silence, as to the deed—he sprang to the open window and the darkness of the shrubbery received him. Evidently, he was bent upon robbery, and my master had discovered him. My entrance foiled him, after the deed was committed. "Oh! could I have only been a little quicker. I left the room, dazed, stunned, horrified! No one was in that part of the house. They were all in the servant's quarters having a merry time. The sound of their laughter came to me through closed doors. What a mockery! "The deed was not known, but I might give the alarm, and, oh, gentlemen! I am ashamed to tell you; but it flashed upon my mind that the sooner it was known the better—for had not young Master Leonard just been there? And the crime—why not?—would probably be laid to him! Thus shielding my own blackhearted son, God forgive me; but the outcome was that it worked my way and Grayson would have been hanged, an innocent man, if they had not found my boy's cap, bloody handkerchief, and dirk knife in the water-spout, just outside the library window, after the trial was about half over. They were proven not to be young master's, and he was acquitted, verdict being: 'murdered, by some party unknown.' I knew to whom they belonged, but kept silent, and begged forgiveness of God, in my own heart, for my cruel plot, toward Leonard. "But, the tie of blood is stronger than friendship; you know the rest, how I found my erring boy, broken in health, and calmed his fears in his dying hours. I believe God has heard my prayers, and that he is forgiven, and may we meet again in the land of the redeemed, where sins shall be washed as white as snow. My son was laying crime at the door of another to shield my unfortunate boy—Nov, I want Leonard Grayson to come into his own, and stand before the world—spotless." "A hushed stillness fell upon the little group, as Hatley closed his eyes and appeared to almost sink away with exhaustion. Dr. Hastings took the thin hand in his own and said, "My man you can ease your mind. All shall be straightened out. I thank the merciful Father that I have it in my power, to clear this up, for I know Leonard Grayson and will leave no stone unturned, to find him. But do you remember the family lawyer's name?" "Yes—certainly—"Phillips—Judge Phillips, of Jersey City." "Well—do not try to talk any more. Justice has been done, at last, and may there be peace to your soul!" "The dim eyes turned a grateful look upon the Doctor, but he had no need to caution him, for his work done. The little group around his bedside, had only to wait about an hour and a half, and the struggle was over, the cot cleared to make room for one more unfortunate, and by day-light everything was moving along in its accustomed routine of hospital work. Only those who had kept the night vigil, had heard the story of a life, whose whole epoch was one of sorrow, wrought by crime.

CHAPTER VII. VINDICATED.

The next day the Doctor told his aunt, Mrs. Hull, that it was necessary for him to go to New York, on business. So he started, with the motive of communicating to the lawyer the confession made the night before by the former coachman. "He had no trouble in finding the old lawyer, who, after his errand was stated, insisted upon entertaining him, as his guest at his residence. The old friend was overjoyed to learn of the complete vindication of his favorite. Dr. Hastings then learned that the Graysons were in Paris. "After pleasant reminiscences, told by each, the Doctor took leave of Judge Phillips, and hastened back to Boston, and his patients; but with a heart as a boy with a new toy. For, had he not rendered his Adela the greatest favor one can bestow? An untarnished name to her dear father? He knew the first Transatlantic mail, would bear the message, vindicated before the world. "The papers soon published the account of the confession, under the usual sensational headlines, such as, "Murder Will Out," "Come to His Inheritance," "Cleared After Long Years." Young Scot MacDonald, sitting at the breakfast table at his hotel, scanning the morning papers noticed the headlines, and began to read them carelessly, when, all at once, he surprised his vis-a-vis, and companion, by exclaiming, "By jove! Grayson! The American, whom I met abroad. That accounts for the peculiar dignity and sort of offhensiveness. Well, I am glad for his family. Sweet daughter he had. This world is all mystery. "His life, has been eclipsed, as it were; but now, the cloud has passed away, and the silver lining, is appearing. It makes one look at life, in a different way—romantic, if you please! So, Doctor Hastings was mixed up in it. I'll have to drop into

CANTON A GAY CITY.

Narrow Streets Clow with Color and Swarm with Life.

Canton's narrow, evil-smelling streets are picturesque, fascinating, wonderful. Some of them bear high-sounding names, such as the Street of Resting Dragons, the Street of Shouting Dragons, the Street of One Hundred Grandsons, the Street of One Hundred Thousand Grandsons, the Street of Golden Profits, the Street of Golden Flowers, the Street of Ten Thousand Happinesses, the Street of Saluting Dragons, the Street of Old Clothes, the Street of Physic Street, New Green Pea street. Only eight or nine feet in width, paved, but lacking sidewalks, and impassable for wagons or carriages, these tiny alleys glow with color and life, and to the eyes of a foreign devil offer innumerable novelties. "The fragility and the insignificance of most Cantonese buildings make it difficult to realize that the city dates back over a century before the Christian era. It has, to be sure, many times been almost entirely destroyed by fire, but the surrounding wall and several of the pagodas are known to be very old. "To all streets in the shop district a festal air is given by colored signboards decorated with golden characters, which, on projecting iron bars, hang lengthwise. To their somewhat bewildering blaze are added the bluffs of cotton cloth, worn by a hustling, bustling crowd, the varied hues of silks in which mandarins are clad, and the gay banners, flags, lanterns and umbrellas held aloft in the processions always taking place on the streets of their cities. These streets, the most characteristic and interesting in the city, are lined by two-story buildings, supporting on their roofs a lattice work of bamboo poles, on which rest light-colored being moved back and forth as the weather suggests. At night sliding shutters furnish protection, but while daylight lasts the entire front of these doorless, windowless shops is thrown open. This arrangement adds greatly to the thoroughfare, and a shop's fanerations are often doubled by its having beyond the counter an open division where the article sold is manufactured. In full view men are carving wood, painting fans or lacquer, or hand looms, working in metals, embroidering, all of which is done with marvellously little elbow room—the Chinese being remarkable for the ability to live and work in a very small space. "One does not find all these industries grouped together. Entire streets are devoted to the manufacture and sale of a special article. There are silk streets, embroidery streets, fan streets, and streets of all kinds of coverings ranging from a coolie's cheap straw sandals to the tiny embroidered shoes with painted heels, destined for golden lilies, as the compressed feet are called. There are streets all glowing with jade. The prettiest of all are the lantern streets. So beautifully made are these lanterns, and so absurdly cheap are they that it requires considerable self-control to refrain from buying them by the hundreds. "SIGHTS OF THE STREETS. "One does not find all these shops, but many other things in these streets attract one's attention. There are wise men, or fortune tellers, with their assisting trained birds seated on the corners; the itinerant restaurants containing a variety of queer dishes; the clever prestidigitators, ready to squat down and for a few cash to perform wonders; the migratory dentist, wearing as a necklace a string of teeth. The barber, whose home is a seat on his own door, after shaving his customer, brushing out and plaiting his pigtail, proceeds in a name of massage, unmercifully to punch and pound him, winding up the performance by vigorously driving into his victim's head a ivory instrument which an innocent foreign devil almost expects to see emerge through the opposite orifice; the money changers, who sit behind tables to which their strings of cash are chained, and the menders and vendors of all kinds of things, who walk about with trays containing tools or goods, as the case may be, slung on their shoulders. "Then there are the processions, such as funerals, and the scarfs and hoods; the parade of all ablaze with scarlet, and a crackle-crackle of exploding fire-crackers; joss pidgeon processions, with their roost pies, baskets of artificial flowers, unwearyingly so-called music. All these, as well as the long trains which greet the variety of queer things, belong to every day life, but a great many days during the year have their own special processions, such, for instance, as the fishermen's, characterized by its lanterns resembling fish. Paak-tai, distinguished by stuffed birds, or aloft on poles, and trays containing wax figures representing historical scenes; the procession in which red giants and black dwarfs are prominent; the dragon procession, and the lantern parade. "Several streets are occupied by the Kung Yuen, or examination hall. This consists of thousands of tiny brick buildings set in rows fifty-seven deep, in which the competitors for literary degrees, who every three years flock to the city, are separately locked. The furniture of each little cell consists of one stool and a plan serving as a table by day and a bed by night. The student's food is passed to him through a grated floor three times daily, but until his essay is handed in, no other communication with the outside world is permitted. "Quite as interesting in their way as these streets already described, are certain thoroughfares overlooking the water. The Pearl river, crowded with boats of many different shapes and sizes, some stationary, others moving, is highly picturesque. Most conspicuous are the great fantastically carved and painted junks, with high stern and big eyes staring on the bow, for, as the Chinese express it in pidgin English: "Suppose no got eye, how can see? Suppose no can see, how walk?" Very showy, too, are the mandarin-made gaily floating flags and dangling lanterns, the joss pidgeon boats carrying decorated altars and long-robed attendant priests, their banners and lanterns always suitable to the occasion, therefore, held. On a day when prayers for the dead are recited, these are blue and white, but if some joss pidgeon, to insure the happiness of a newly married pair, is performed, all are scarlet. On the famous Flower Market, or floating restaurants, through the cabin's wide doors, one catches as they pass a glimpse of elaborately dressed, paint-bedaubed sing-song girls, trained entertainers, who, together with the boat, are hired by the day or evening. In addition to these restaurants the river boasts plenty of hotels, which, however, always remain anchored. These are very necessary, for if travelers arrive at night after 9 o'clock, when the city gates are closed, they are not allowed to enter. "FLOATING HOMES OF MASSES. "Then, crowding both sides of the river, as well as all adjacent creeks, are boats on which thousands of the poorer classes spend their lives. These, re-

maining permanently moored, form regular streets, and it is easy to step from the high platform on the stern of one boat to that of its next-door neighbor. "The occupants of these aquatic homes are quite a host, with a few exceptions to build than a house, is quite as comfortable, pays no ground rent, and runs less risk of being burned or robbed. Many—indeed most of them—contain three generations of a family, and the tools of all, as well as various other domestic operations, are publicly performed. "It rather astonishes one to find that among these very poor people, not only do the men hire a barber, but all the women as well employ a hairdresser. However, although this hairdressing is a job occupying fully one hour and a half, the artist only demands a few cents in return for her services, and the elaborate hairdo construction vied for, is a treat not only finished and coated with a vegetable gum, lasts a week or more. Then the chow-chow of these people, at least as regards quantity and variety, seems rather luxurious. Each person has a private bowl of rice, and in the center stand ten or twelve others, free to all chopsticks, and filled with bits of raw fish, boiled cabbage, pickles, and a variety of queer-looking, queer-smelling masses. "To provide for the wants of all boats on the river, innumerable sampans fly busily back and forth. Some filled with flowers look particularly pretty, their closest rivals being those piled high with vegetables, and such fruits as custard apples, peaches, Buddha's hands, persimmons, deep red mandarin oranges, pale yellow coolie oranges, loquats, and comquats. Others carry fish, meat, cooking utensils, charcoal, and ling wood, a few being fitted up as kitchens, in which chow chow is cooked to order. "It has been shown that the Pearl is by no means a dull stream. But the Pearl's gayest day is the fifth of the moon, about June 15, when the Dragon festival occurs. From 10 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon, long, narrow boats, rowed by sixty men race up and down the river. These contests create intense interest and excitement both on the water and on land. The boats are always accompanied by a vast concourse of men and boys, who run along the shore, shouting, waving banners and beating gongs, and great shells, and, considering how the crowd the watery thoroughfares of Canton, there are not many accidents. The dragon boats, however, owing to their extreme shallowness and peculiar build, are so easily upset that the crew is apt to be marked by a few mishaps. "This bright river picture is not without some sadder tints. These are cast upon it by a special class of house boats inhabited by lepers, who may not land, and who, for the most part, are left to their own devices. "In navigating their craft they are slow and awkward, and, considering how the crowd the watery thoroughfares of Canton, there are not many accidents. 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