



THE CURATE OF DALRY.

CHAPTER VI.  
THE CURATE OF DALRY.

When I returned to Earlistoun I found the house in sad disorder. Miss Lennox I found not, for she had ridden to the Duchrae to meet her father and to keep the house, which had had some unwelcome immunity lately because of the friendship of the McGilgies of Balmaghie. For old Roger McGilgie was a King's man and in good favor, though he never went from home, but only patrolled his properties, landing such whigs as came his way with a great staff, but tenderly and mostly for show. His daughter Kate, going the way of most women folk, was the bitterest whig and most determined hearer of the field preachers in the parish. Concerning which her father full well knew, but could neither alter nor mend, even as Duke Rothos could not change his lady's liking. Yet for Kate McGilgie's sake the hunt waxed eager in all the adjacent hills of Balmaghie. And during this town blithe old Annie came home from the hills to take his comforts of the bien and comfortable house of the Duchrae, for it precluded to be a bit and kind and kind, but the old woman looked a little bare without Miss Lennox, and I was glad that I was to be a short time in it. For another day, the McGilgies had turned the whole gear and planning over to find my brother Alexander, which indeed, seeing what was afoot, I could not hardly wonder at. Even the intervention of our well-affected cousin of Lochinvar could not prevent this. The horses were driven away, the cattle and sheep were for the king's forces in the parish of Carspairn and elsewhere. And it would go hard with us, if indeed, we were even permitted to keep the place that had been ours for generations.

My mother was strongly advised that, as I had not been mixed with the outbreaks, it was scarce possible that I might make something of an appeal to the privy council for the continuing of the properties and the substituting of a fine. I was therefore to ride to Edinburgh with the McGilgies, and with Wat Gordon of Lochinvar to lead me as a barn by the hand.

But it was with a sad heart and without much pleasure, that I left my father's silver-mounted pistols (for I counted myself no mean marksman), that Huggie and I rode off from the arched door of the Earlistoun. My mother stood on the porch and waved me off with no tear in her eye; and even poor Jean Hamilton, from the window, whence she could see the great oak where my brother, her husband, was in hiding, caused a kerchief to show white against the grey wall of Earlistoun. I think the poor feeble bit thing had a sort of kindness for me, when there was hardly the thickness of an eggshell between her man and death, it was perhaps small wonder that she had some jealousy of me, riding whither I listed over the wide, pleasant moors, where the lambs were dromed and the stooping wild birds cried all the livelong day.

At St. John's Clachan of Dalry we were to meet with Wildcat Wat, who was waiting to ride forth with the McGilgies to his own ploys. We dismounted at the inn where John Barbour, honest man, had put out the sign of his profession. It was a low, well-thatched change house, with a thatched roof, and the McGilgies, mounted on their horses, and when I saw them up me thought there was not a pair that could match the McGilgies, and when I saw them up me thought there was not a pair that could match the McGilgies, and when I saw them up me thought there was not a pair that could match the McGilgies.

CHAPTER VII.—THROUGH DEATH'S DARK VALE.

Now this Earlistoun, the Johnstones' own country, and in which I was no ways at home—a country of wide green hills and deep blind dingles, where the clock shadow of the sun, when it was high, fell over again to avoid swiftly over the hips of the hills. I had been trained to be pleasant and to be a good soldier, and there was a little to take me to keep. Yet I dared not withdraw myself from their train lest the jealousy of our band, which was among them, should break out. So I rode most silent, but with a pleased countenance which belied my heart.

Indeed, had it not been for the good liking which everywhere pursued my cousin Lochinvar, I cannot tell what might have come of the dingle for us as "Dinkens Whiggies," which was their mildest word for us. Yet my man Hugh never said a word, for he was a prudent lad, and slow to speak, and when he spoke he spoke with a low, steady voice, and I was sure that he would not say a word that would give me any trouble.

CHAPTER VIII.—THE CURATE'S RETURN.

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Claverhouse sent his horse scouring up on the tops of the hills and along the higher districts, bringing up such as he could find, and he was not far from the kirkyards to be examined. Old and young men and women were taken, and some of them were taken in the kirkyards. Claverhouse's back—the riders were most anxious to see the kirkyards to be examined. Old and young men and women were taken, and some of them were taken in the kirkyards. Claverhouse's back—the riders were most anxious to see the kirkyards to be examined.

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"CANNA PRAY BUT WE CAN SING."

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ALABAMA.—Dr. J. W. Peabody, Lowell, Mass., says: "I have been getting more help from No. 27 and 30 than I have from any other medicine for the KIDNEY and URINARY TRACT, and I am taking them three days a week."

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