LENA RIVERS. CHAPTER XXXI. MORE CLOUDS.

Literature.

Since the morning when Durward had thus securely dreaming, a cloud, darker would take her far on her road.

surprised—she had from the first suspect- could have borne the rest, but when you ed 'Lena, and she had the best of reason for so doing !"

Of course Mrs. Graham's friend was exceedingly anxious to know what she meant, and by dint of quizzing, questioning, ond promising never to tell, she at read last drew out just enough of the story to know that Mr. Graham had a daguerreotype which looked just like 'Lena, and that Mrs- Graham had no doubt whatever that she was in the habit of writing to him. This was of course repeated, not-withstanding the mean of the bend-ly sleeping, 'Lena gazed through blinding tears upon each lineament, striving to imwithstanding the promise of secrecy, and then many of the neighbours suddenly remembered that some little circum. the hand which had so often rested caresremembered that some little circum-stance, trival in itself, but all going to swell the amount of evidence against poor 'Lena, who unconscious of the gathering storm, did not for a time observe the side-long glances cast toward her whenever she appeared in public.

Ere long, however, the cool nods and the home she was leaving. distant manners of her acquaintances be-gan to attract her attention, causing her way station, was well known to her, and gan to attract her attention, causing her to wonder what it meant. But there was no one of whom she would ask an explan-ation. John Jr. was gone—Anna was gone—and to crown all, Durward, too, left the neighborhood just as the first breath of scandal was beginning to set the waves of gossipin motion. In his absence Mrs. Graham felt no restraint, whatever, and all that she knew, together with many things that she didn't know, she told, until it became a matter of serious debate whether 'Lena ought not to be cut entire-ly. Mrs. Graham and her clique decided in the affirmative, and when Mrs. Fon-taine, who was a weak woman, wholly governed by public opinion, gave a small party for her daughter Maria. 'Lena was that she was a wanderer in the world. party for her daughter Maria, 'Lena was purposely omitted. Hitherto she had been greatly petted and admired by both Maria and her mother, and she felt the CHAPTER XXXII. slight sensibly, the more so, as Carrie darkly hinted that girls who could not be-REACTION. have themselves must not expect to asso-ciate with respectable people. "'Leny not invited !" said Mrs. Nichols, espousing the cause of her grand-daughter. "What's to pay, I wonder Miss Fontaine and the gineral, too, alus ap-peared to think a sight on her." "I presume the general does now," an-swered Mrs. Livingstone, "but it's natural that Mrs. Fontaine should feel particular about the reputation of her daughter's daughter had arisen early and gone beassociates.' fore her, she attempted to make her own "And ain't 'Leny's reputation as good toilet, which was nearly completed, when as the best on 'em," asked Mrs. Nichols, her eye caught the note. It was directed her shriveled cheeks glowing with insult- to her, and with a dim foreboding she ed pride. "It's the general opinion that it might be improved," was Mrs. Livingstone's haughty option of trial, but ed pride. haughty answer, as she left her mother. who- instead, turned against her, crushing in-law to her own reflections. "It'll kill her stone dead," thought Mrs. Nichols, revolving in her own mind the propriety of telling 'Lena what her Grandma did not heed it; and when Coiin-law to her own reflections. aunt said. "It'll kill her stone dead, inda came to seek her, she started back and I can't tell her. Mebby it'll blow in affright at the scene before her. Mrs. over pretty soon." That afternoon several ladies, who were gray locks fell around her livid face as in the habit of calling upon 'Lena, came she swayed from side to side, moaning at to Maple Grove, but not one asked for intervals, "God forgive me that I broke her, and with her eyes and ears now sharp her heart." ened, she fancied that once, as she was passing the parlor door, she heard her own name coupled with that of Mr. Gra-ward the vacant bed, "Leny's gone; I've ham. A startling light burst upon her, killed her." and staggering to her room, she threw Corinda waited for no more, but dartherself, half fainting, upon the bed, ing through the hall and down the stairs, where an hour afterward she was found she rushed into the dining-room, announ-The old negress had also heard the had done murdered Miss 'Lena, and hid by Aunt Milly. story in its most aggravated form, and her under the bed !" readily divining the cause of 'Lena's grief "What will come next !" exclaimed attempted to console her, telling her not Mrs. Livingstone, following her husband to mind what the good-for nothin' critters to his mother's room, where a moment said; they war only mad 'cause she's so sufficed to explain the whole. much handsomer and trimmer built." 'Lena was gone, and the shock had for ,' You know, then,'' said 'Lena, lifting a time unsettled the poor old lady's reaher head from the pillow. "You know son. The sight of his mother's distress what it is; so tell me, for I shall die if I aroused all the better nature of Mr. Livremain longer in suspense. ingstone, and tenderly soothing her, he "Lor' bless the child," exclaimed old told her that 'Lena should be found--he Milly, "to think she's the very last one would go for her himself. Carne, too, to know, when it's been common talk was touched, and with unwonted kindmore than a month!" ness she gathered up the scattered locks "What's been common talk? What is and tying on the muslin cap, placed her it?" demanded 'Lena' and old Milly, hand for an instant on the wrinkled brow. seating herself upon a trunk, commenced "Keep it there; it feels soft, like "Why, honey, haint you hearn how you 'Leny's' said Mrs. Nichols, the tears gushdone got Mr. Graham's pictur and gin him yourn long of one of them curls—how he's writ and you've writ, and how he's gone off to the eends of the airth to git rid on you--and how you try to cotch young Mas'r Durward, who hate the sight fered their assistance in searching. Never on you—how you waylay him one day, settin' on a rock out by the big gate— and how you been seen mighty nigh fifty times comin' how seen for the big setting once did it occur to Mr. Livingstone that she might have taken the cars, for that he knew would need money, and he suptimes comin' home a foot from Captain Atherton's in the night, rainin' thunder and lightnin' hard as it could pour—how after you done got Miss Anna to 'lope, you ax Captain Atherton to have you, and git mad as fury 'cause he 'fuses—and how where he remained for more than a week, your mother warn't none to likely, and a thus preventing the information which he heap more that I can't remember—hain't could otherwise have given concerning you heard of none on't ?" her flight. Consequently, Mr. Living-"None, none," answered 'Lena, while stone returned, each night, weary and dis-Milly continued: "It's a sin and shame for quality folks that belong to the meet-in' to pitch into a poor 'fenseless 'girl and pick her all to pieces. Reckon they done forgot what our Heavenly Marster told 'em when he lived here in old Kentuck, how they must dig the truck out of then how they must dig the truck out of thar own eyes afore they go to meddlin' with others; but they never think of him killed her; did you know it?" at the these days, 'cept Sundays, and then as soon as meetin' is out, they done git to gether and talk about you and Mas'r Gra-'Lena was a general favorite in the ham orfully. I hearn 'em last Sunday, -and Miss Fontaine's cook, Cilly, and if nounced her, and when it became known they don't quit it, thar's a heap on us that she was gone, there came a reaction, goin' to leave the church !" and those who had been the most bitter 'Lena smiled in spite of herself, and against her now changed their opinion, when Milly, who arose to leave the room, wondering how they could ever have again told her not to care, as all the blacks were for her, she felt that she was not ut-terly alone in her wretchedness. Still, thought her guilty. The stories concern-ing her visits to Captain Atherton's were traced back to their source, resulting in the sympathy of the colored people alone could not help her, and daily matters grew worse, until at last even Nellie Douglass' faith was shaken, and 'Lena's heart died within her as she saw in her mended for her efforts to save her cousin signs of neglect. Never had Mr. Living- from a marriage so wholly unnatural. stone exchanged a word with her upon the subject, but the reserve with which he part he had taken in deceiving Anna, a the subject, but the reserve with which he treated her, plainly indicated that he, too, was prejudiced, while her aunt and Carrie let no opportunity pass of slighting her, the latter invariably leaving the room if she entered it. On such an occasion, in a state bordering almost on distraction, 'Lena flew back to her own chamber, where to her great surprise, she found her uncle in close conversation with her uncle in close conversation with her same time asking "how they expected to A grandmother, whose face told the pain his clear up the Graham affair." words were inflicting. 'Lena's first im-pulse was to fall at his feet and implore present state of feeling the neighborhood his protection, but he prevented her by were willing to overlook many things immediately leaving the room. "Oh, grandmother, grandmother," she sterious, while Mrs. Graham, for some cried, "help me or I shall die." In her heart Mrs. Nichols believed her tracted almost everything she had said, guilty, for John had said so-he would acknowledging that she was too hasty in not lie; and to 'Lena's touching appeal her conclusions, and evincing for the misfor sympathy, she replied, as she rocked sing girl a degree of interest perfectly to and fro, "I wish you had died, 'Leny, surprising to Mrs. Livingstone, who lookyears and years ago." "Twas the last drop in the brimming what the end would be. About this time will be mailed free of postage, on receipt of the bucket, and with the wailing cry, "God Durward returned, greatly pained at the money, by addressing help me now-no one else can," the heart existing state of things. In Frankfort,

'Lena's marble face' "she's innocent as ing after her, at least as far as Rockford, the new-born baby." where he fancied she might have gone. "Oh, if I could think so," said grand- To his surprise his mother made no obma; but she could not, and when the jection, but her manner seemed so strange soft brown eyes again unclosed, and eager-ly sought hers, they read distrust and "Nothing—nothing in particular," said doubt, and motioning her graudmother she, "only I've been thinking it all over away, 'Lena said she would rather be lately, and I've came to the conclusion I've came to the conclusion alone. W. E. MILLER & CO'S., that perhaps 'Lena is innocent after all." Many and bitter were the thoughts Oh, how eagerly Durward caught at her which crowded upon her as she lay there words, interrupting her almost before she watching the daylight fade from the dishad finished speaking, with, "Do you know

tant hills, and musing of the stern reali- anything? Have you heard anything !" ties around her. Gradually her thoughts She had heard-she did know; but ere so boldly avowed himself 'Lena's cham-pion, her health and spirits began to im-prove. That she was not wholly indiffer. assumed a definite purpose; she would go away from a place where she was never wanted, and where she now no longer vented her answer. In a perfect fever of control of the provent of the second reply, the violent ringing of the control of the second reply, the violent ringing of the door-bell, and the arrival of visitors, pre-vented her answer. In a perfect fever of control of the second reply is the violent ringing of the second reply is the violent ringing of the second reply is the violent ringing of the control of the second reply is the violent ringing of the second reply is the ent to him she had every reason to be-lieve, and notwithstanding the strong barrier between them, hope sometimes whispered to her of a future, when all that a given her money to the that a series had promis-excitement Durward glanced at his watch If he waited long, he would be too late for the cars, and with a hasty adieu be left the parlor, turning back ere he reached Who favor us with a Christmas call. that was now so dark and mysterious amount of twenty dollars, which was still the outer door, and telling his mother he should be made plain. But while she was in her possession, and which she knew must speak with her alone. If Mrs.

and deeper than any which had yet over- With 'Lena to resolve was to do, and what she knew, the impulse was now shadowed her, was gathering around her that night, when sure her grandmother gone, and to her son's urgent request shadowed her, was gathering around her pathway. Gradually had the story of her ride to Captain Atherton's gained circula-tion, magnifying itself as it went, until at last it was currently reported that at several different times had she been seen riding away from Sunnyside at unreason-able hours of the night, the time varying from nine in the evening to three in the morning, according to the exaggerating

morning, according to the exaggerating ting down by the table, she wrote :

peated it to his or her neighbour, until at last it reached Mrs. Graham, who forget-ting the caution of her son, said, with a very wise look, that "she was not at all to stander her, but you do not bevery wise look, that "she was not at all lieve it, and that is the hardest of all. I answered, "Her mother died years ago." "And now dear, dear grandma, it costs ment Mrs. Graham gazed after him, re-me more pain to write than it will you to gretting that she had not told him all,

Durward kept on his way.

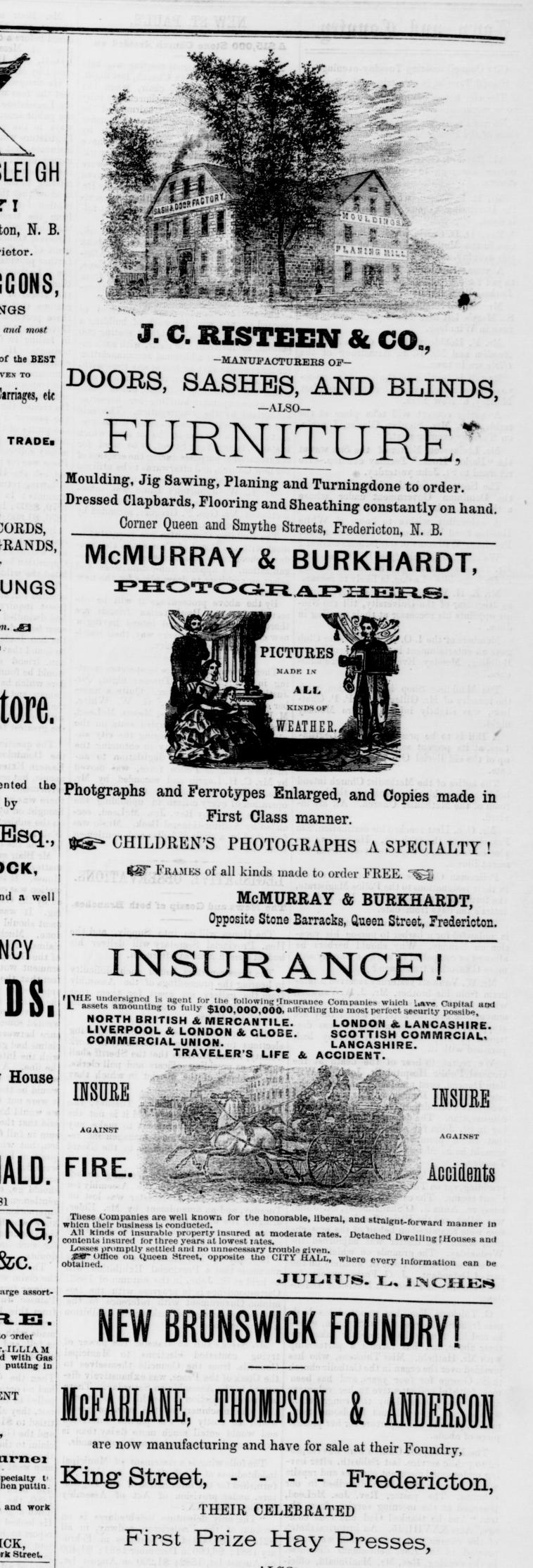
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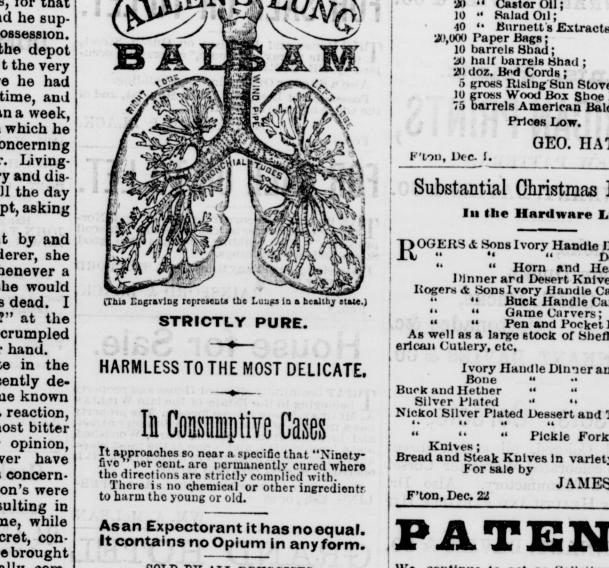
WHOLESALE and RETAIL

Dominion Grocery House,

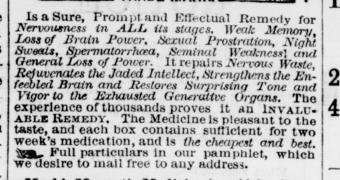












broken girl fell fainting to the floor, while where 'Lena's flight was a topic of dis-RUBBING Body Varnish, Gearing Varnish, Wearing Body Varnish, Black Walnut Stain. Z. R. EVERETT. 2 CASES Wood Screws, containing 650 gross Windsor, Ont., Canada, 5 doz. Narrow Axes; 2 bundles Axe Steel. For sale low agreeable and lasting perfume, and as an in silent agony Mrs Nichols hung over cussion, he had met with the depot agent, Just received and for sale as usual. Z. R. EVERETT. Sold in Fredericton, by article for the toilet it is economical and er, shouting for help. Both Mrs. Livingstone and Carrie re- of the young girl whose rather singular CEORCE H. DAVIS. her, shouting for help. R. CHESTNUT & SONS. Dec. 22 R. OHESTNUT & SONS unsurpassed in its excellence. Team Bells. Team Bells. fused to come, but at the first call Aunt manner had attracted his attention. This THIS PAPER MAY BE FOUND ON FILE AT GEO. P. BOWELL & CO'S Per S. S. Prussian. Just Received. Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Milly hastened to the room. "Poor was undoubtedly 'Lena, and after a few sheared lamb," said she, gathering back moments conversation with his mother, Wholesale Agents, - - St. John, N. B TUST received, another fine lot of Team Bells. 6 CASKS Pipe Boxes, containing 150 setts-Newspaper Advertising Bureau (10 SPRUCE Practical and Analytical Chemists, ROSTON Sugar Cured Hams, at For sale low. STREET), WHERE AD-VERTISING CONTRACTS NEW YORK, may be made for it in the thick, clustering curls which shaded Durward announced his intention of go-Lowell, Mass. Z. R. EVERETT. February 2, 1882 Feb. 2 R. CHESTNUT & SONS. SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS EVERYWRERE. GEO. HATT & SONS. Feb. 2