

Literature. THE DOUGLAS HEIR. CHAPTER XVI. A TERRIBLE ACCUSATION.

Mrs. Coolidge looked up with a frown, as Isabel entered the room. "Where have you been so long?" she asked. "I have wanted you to arrange about your dress for Lady Peasewell's drawing room next week."

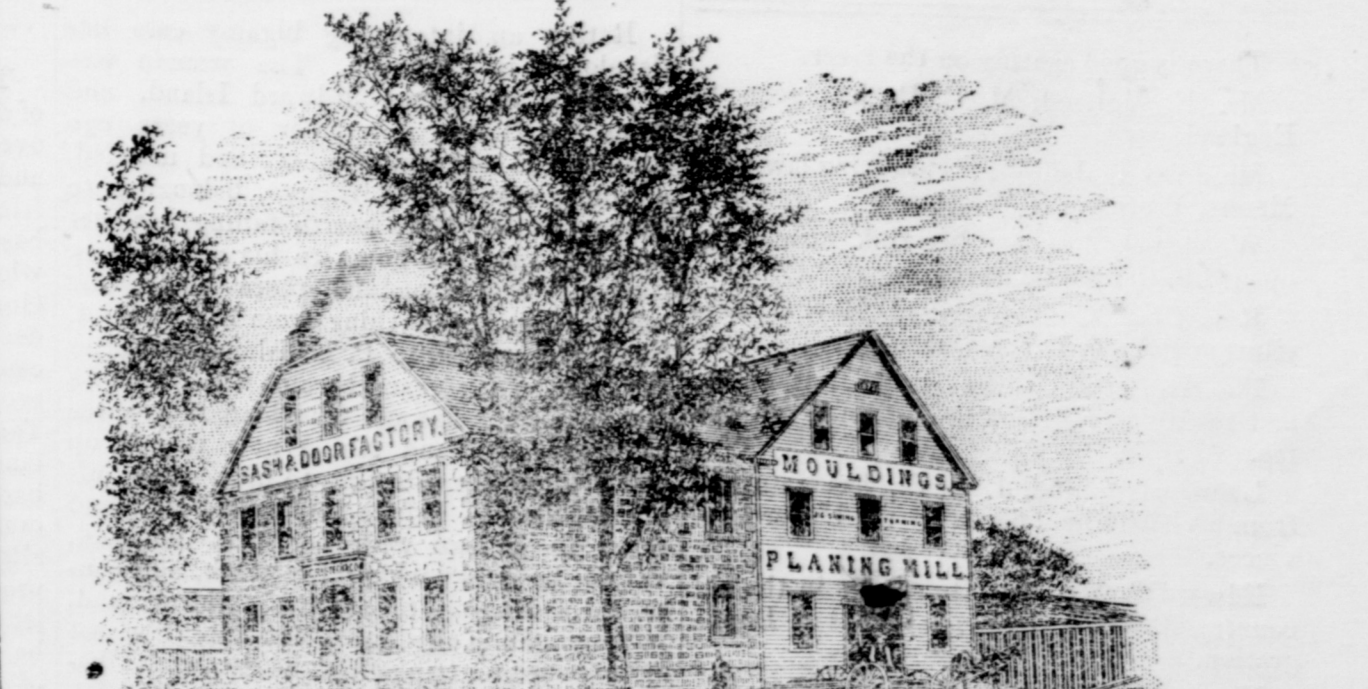
"I have never for a moment left the matron's face. She requested to give a straightforward answer. "When had she ever done otherwise?" "I wish to ask you, Miss Douglas," Mrs. Coolidge said, coming to the point at once, and feeling very uncomfortable beneath her look, "did you ever see the young girl's possession which does not honestly belong to you?"

She looked up with a frown, as Isabel entered the room. "Where have you been so long?" she asked. "I have wanted you to arrange about your dress for Lady Peasewell's drawing room next week."

She could not tell! And what was her future to be? where should she go? where would she go? Leave her present situation she must! She could not forget her self-respect by remaining where she had been so long, and she would not allow herself to be treated as a servant by the young girl, Viola and Alma.

Willour hastened forward to meet her as she opened the door. "My dear Miss Douglas," he said, "I do not know what to say to you, but I am more indignant than I can express at the treatment you received yesterday."

"I have not, indeed, had time to think, for I did not at once imagine that you cherished any such feelings toward me. But my heart does not respond to yours. No, Mr. Coolidge, I cannot be your wife."



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CHAPTER XVII. DECLARATION OF LOVE.

While Brownie was weeping out her misery alone, Isabel and her mother were examining more at their leisure, the beautiful necklace which she had just received.

Isabel tried the effect of each separate piece upon herself. To do the two women justice, they believed that the jewels had been stolen.

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