THE EVENING NEWS.

Monday, - - - January 15, 1872.

"THE MYSTRY OF EDWIN DROOD."

A Startling Statement from Germany.

BY CLARENCE F. BULHER.

[CONCLUDED.]

Owing to the warning, Edwin is not wholly unprepared when Jasper grapples him on the tower, and the struggle is so violent as to displace a number of the stones. (This is next day attributed to the storm.—14.) Edward is finally forced over the edge of the tower, but clings tenaciously to it until Jasper forces him to relinquish his hold by stamping on his hands. He breaks the force of his fall, however, by catching at the hands of the cathedral clock and the Virginia creeper, (2), which adheres stoutly to the wall. (The tearing of the hands from the clock is also ascribed to the storm.—14.) Supposing Edwin to be dead, instead of merely stunned, Jasper locks him in the Sapsea vault, intending to consume the body with some of the lime which Durdles has recommended for such a purpose (12.) He has removed from Edwin's person the only articles of jewelry he knew of (14), *(thus leaving the ring)*, and throws them into the Cloisterham Weir, so that on their being found, it will be supposed that Neville has thrown Edwin into the river.

All these proceedings have been witnessed by Deputy.

Jasper keeps a light in his window that night (14), so as to have sufficient light for his operations without the risk of carrying a lantern.

The next morning Neville is arrested on suspicion (15(. Jasper endeavors to inculpate him, and by superintending the search for Edwin's body, prevents any one from looking in the right place (15).

Grewgious suspects him, however, and enjoys his remorse at hearing from him (Grewgious) of the circumstance which rendered his crime unnecessary (15). After being informed of it, Jasper encourages the idea that Edwin has absented himself in consequence of the broken engagement (16), but he renews his efforts to fasten the crime on Neville when Crisparkle mentions that the latter is infatuated with Rosa (16). He makes an entry in his diary expressive of his determination to bring Neville to justice, and shows it to Crisparkle (18), who afterward reproaches himself for causing Jasper to renew his persecution of Neville.

As Edwin's body is not found, Neville is discharged from custody (16), and being an object of suspicion in Cloisterham, goes to London, where he devotes himself to the study of law (17), with a view to acting as the prosecutor of Jasper. Grewgious hires apartments for him opposite his own office, and thus has them constantly under his eye, and keeps a watch on Jasper, whom he discovers in a room near by (17).

The chambers adjoining Neville's have been hired by Grewgious for Edwin Drood himself, who appeared there as a returned sailor, under the assumed name of Tartar (17). On seeing Edwin locked in the vault, Deputy had notified Durdles who released him forthwith. Bribing them to secrecy, he went to London and consulted with Grewgious as to the best course to pursue. He wished to conceal his identity for two reasons. In the first place he and Rosa had broken their engagement merely for the reason stated, and his winning her incognito would give each the desired choice. In the second place, he still had a lingering affection for Jasper, and wanted other evidence than his own to convict him. So the Tartar disguise was agreed upon, and his room was furnished with articles which would be of use to him on his engineering tour (3). Grewgious placed him and Neville in adjoining rooms, so the latter, who was greatly depressed, would have the benefit of Edwin's society until Helen came to live with him. Edwin made his disguise more effectual by first introducing himself to Neville at midnight (17)

While Grewgious acts as detective in London, it is also necessary to have one at Cloisterham. His clerk, Hazzard, is well qualified to act in that capacity, for he has not only written a tragedy (20), but has considerable historic ability himself. So he appears at Cloisterham under the name of Datchery and wearing an immense shock of white hair (18).

Jasper avails himself of the first opportunity to ask Rosa to marry him, and when she recoils in horror he threatens, if she favors Neville, to fasten the Drood murder upon him (19). In her alarm she flies to Grewgious (20), who engages board for her in London, and invites Miss Twinkleton to spend the vacation with her (22). When Rosa asks about Hazzard, Grewgious merely tells her he is off duty there at present (20).

In order to introduce Tartar to Rosa without suspicion on her part, it is arranged that they are to meet in the presence of Grewgious and Crisparkle, and that the latter is to pretend that he recognizes in Tartar an old schoolmate of his (21).

It transpires that Grewgious was not altogether disinterested in bringing Miss Twinkleton to London, for it is not long before she becomes Mrs. Grewgious. She brings him a larger dower than either anticipated, for the mysterious inscription, "P. J. T., 1747," over his office door (1), reminds her that her eccentric uncle, Percival J. Twinkleton, died in that locality, leaving no clue to his possessions. And behind the panel containing the inscription certain papers are found establishing her claim to the estate.

Meanwhile, two other courtships are progressing more slowly, but quite as surely. The parties to one of them are Crisparkle and Helena, whose regard for each other has steadily increased ever since she kissed his hand at Cloisterham Weir (10). The third one is between Tartar and Rosa, whose marriage is deferred at her request until Jasper shall be rendered incapable of revenge. That result is attained as follows:

"Datchery" learns of Jasper's connection with the Princess Puffer, and employs Deputy to ascertain her place of abode (23). Learning it, he bribes her to co-operate with him; for she can prepare opium that makes Jasper answers questions while under its influence (23), and he has already confessed to her the pushing from the tower (23). In this way Datchery obtains from him all the particulars of his crime; and officers, headed by Datchery and Neville, go to Cloisterham to arrest him. Seeing them approach, Jasper rushes from the Gate House and up the tower stairs, leaving all behind with the exception of Neville, who bounds after him two steps at a time. Reaching the summit of the tower, Jasper glares wildly over his shoulder, and sees Neville close upon him, with every fiber strained to its utmost tension. He turns with a wild appeal for mercy, and stumbling backward over the displaced stones, falls headlong to the ground—a mutilated corpse.

It transpires that Durdles is the renegade husband and Deputy is the vagabond son of the Princess Puffer; and an account of the happy reunion of this distinguished family, and of the two weddings (at one of which the *mare-turned ring* is brought into requisition), brings to a close "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."—*N. Y. Mail.*

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