

'Mercy, My Lord.'

Mercy, Not for Me, but the Wife.

(Concluded.) It consisted in fixing my eyes and addressing my language to each juror one after the other. In this way each considers the address to be an appeal to his individual intelligence, and responds to it by falling into the views of the barrister. On this occasion the jury easily fell into the trap. I could see that I had got them into the humor of putting confidence in the evidence I had to produce.

The trial proceeded. The cause of the death was scientifically stated by two medical men. Next followed the evidence as to the finding of the knife in the bedroom of the deceased man; the discovery of the mortgage deed, and the large sum of money, in the prisoners' sleeping apartment; the finding of the key of the back-door in the male prisoner's pocket; and his demeanor and expressions on the night of the perpetration of the crime. In his cross-examination of the constable, several facts perfectly new to me were elicited by the very able counsel for the prisoners. Their attorney had judiciously maintained the strictest secrecy as to the nature of the defence, so that it now took me by surprise. The constable, in reply to questions by counsel, stated that the pockets of the deceased were empty; that not only his purse, but a gold watch, chain, and seals, which he usually wore, had vanished, and no trace of them had as yet been discovered. Many other things were also missing. A young man of the name of Pearce, apparently a sailor, had been seen in the village once or twice in the company of Mary Strugnell; but he did not notice what sort of hat he generally wore; he had not seen Pearce since she night the crime was committed; had not sought for him.

Mary Strugnell was the next witness. She repeated her previous evidence with precision and apparent sincerity, and then I abandoned her with a mixed feeling of anxiety and curiosity to the counsel for the defence. A subtle and able cross-examination of more than two hours' duration followed; and at its conclusion, I felt that the case for the prosecution was so damaged, that a verdict of condemnation was, or ought to be, out of the question. The salient points dwelt upon, and varied in every possible way. In this long sitting, were these:

"What was the reason she did not return in the evening in question to her aunt's to supper as usual?" "She did not know, except that she wished to get home." "Did she keep company with a man of the name of Pearce?" "She had walked out with him once or twice." "When was the last time?" "She did not remember." "Did Pearce walk with her home on the night of the murder?" "No." "Not part of the way." "Yes; part of the way." "Did Pearce sometimes wear a black shiny hat?" "No—yes; she did not remember." "Where was Pearce now?" "She didn't know." "Had he disappeared since that Sunday evening?"

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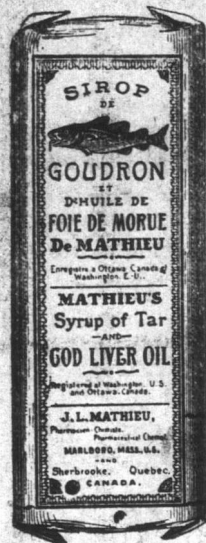
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another, the charge of murder had been fixed upon him and his hapless wife. When his confession had been uttered, I felt a species of self-accomplished mob of the brutal exhibition they so anxiously awaited. On inquiring for Mary Strugnell, we found that she had absconded. At the evening of the trial. All search for her proved vain.

Five months had passed away; the fate of Armstrong and his wife was still undecided, when a message was brought to my chamber in the Temple from a woman said to be dying in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. It was Mary Strugnell; who, when in a state of intoxication, had fallen down in front of a carriage, as she was crossing near Holborn Hill, and had both her legs broken. She was dying miserably, and had sent for me to make a full confession relative to Wilson's murder. Armstrong's account was perfectly correct. The deed was committed by Pearce, and they were pecking-up their plunder when they were started by the return of the Armstrongs. Pearce, snatching up a bundle and a portmanteau, escaped by the window; she had not nerve enough to attempt it, and crawled back to her bedroom, where she, watching the doings of the farmer through the chinks of the partition which separated her room from the passage, concocted the story which convicted the prisoners.

Pearce thinking himself pursued, too heavily encumbered for rapid flight, left the portmanteau as described intending to call for it in the morning, if his fears proved groundless. He, however, had not courage to risk calling again, and made the best of his way to London. He was now in Newgate under sentence of death for a burglary, accompanied by personal violence to the inmates of the dwelling he and his gang had entered and robbed. I took care to have the deposition of the dying wretch put into proper form; and the result was, after a great deal of petitioning and worrying of authorities, a full pardon for both Armstrong and his wife. They sold Craig Farm, and removed to some other part of the country, where, I never troubled myself to inquire. Deeply grateful was I to be able at last to wash my hands of an affair, which had cost me so much anxiety and vexation; albeit the lesson it afforded me of not coming hastily to conclusions, even when the truth seems, as it were, upon the surface of the matter, has not been, I trust, without its uses.

On the Monday morning I was pacing up and down my breakfast room in the next adjacent town, in a state of great excitement, when a chaise-and-four drove rapidly up to the hotel, and out tumbled Johnson the constable. His tale was soon told. On the previous evening, the landlady of the Black Swan, a roadside public-house about four miles distant from the scene of the murder, reading the name of Pearce in the report of the trial in the Sunday county paper, sent for Johnson to state that that person had on that fatal evening called and left a portmanteau in her charge, promising to call for it in an hour, but had never been there since. On opening the portmanteau, Wilson's watch, chain, and seals, and other property, were discovered in it; and Johnson, as soon as it was possible, set off in search of me. Instantly, for there was not a moment to spare, I in company with Armstrong's counsel, sought the judge, and with some difficulty obtained from him a formal order to the sheriff to suspend the execution till further orders. Off I

and the constable started, and happily arrived in time to stay the execution, and deprive the already-assembled mob of the brutal exhibition they so anxiously awaited. On inquiring for Mary Strugnell, we found that she had absconded. At the evening of the trial. All search for her proved vain.

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UNCLAIMED LETTERS, REMAINING IN G. P. to NOV. 14th, 1910.

A	Ansty & Co., St. John's	Curnew, Wm.	J	James, Nellie, Lime St.	Phillips, Mrs. Thos., card.	
B	Bradford, H.	D	K	Kennedy, Fred, card	Power, Mr., Naglo's Hill	
C	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	E	L	LeDrew, Anthony, card.	Power, Mrs., Long Pond Rd.	
D	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	F	M	Mahoney, Lizzie, Cook St.	Power, Master, of George	
E	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	G	N	Nelson, Bertram	R	Ryan, Jim, late Grand Bank
F	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	H	O	O'Brien, Patrick, card.	S	Sanson, Lavinia
G	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	I	P	Parsons, Albert J.	T	Taylor, Mrs. Dunan
H	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	J	Q	Quinn, Wm., care G.P.O.	U	Utter, Peter, card
I	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	K	R	Richardson, Wm., care G.P.O.	V	Vivian, A., schr. S. M. Lake
J	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	L	S	Squires, Helena E.	W	Walsh, Miss Mary
K	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	M	T	Taylor, Mrs. Dunan	X	X Pittman, John, schr. X 10 U 8
L	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	N	U	Utter, Peter, card	Y	Yates, Wm., care G.P.O.
M	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	O	V	Vivian, A., schr. S. M. Lake	Z	Zimmerman, Mrs. G.
N	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	P	W	Walsh, Miss Mary		
O	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	Q	X	X Pittman, John, schr. X 10 U 8		
P	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	R	Y	Yates, Wm., care G.P.O.		
Q	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	S	Z	Zimmerman, Mrs. G.		
R	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	T				
S	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	U				
T	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	V				
U	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	W				
V	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	X				
W	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	Y				
X	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.	Z				
Y	Blacking & Mercantile Coy., Ltd.					
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SEAMEN'S LIST.

A	Hollett, Capt. T.	G	Glynn, Dick, card.	L	Dean, Geo. B.	O	Walters, Capt. T. J.
B	Crouse, Ambrose	H	Keating, John M.	M	Snow, Capt. Wm.	P	Evans, Capt. Henry
C	Moulton, John Thos.	I	Keating, John M.	N	Lester, J.	Q	Peddle, Abijah
D	Charles, Benjamin	J	Kendrick, Capt. J.	O	Morcott, Patrick	R	Schr. Prowl
E	Sharpe, Wm. John	K	Kerman, Alex.	P	Young, Albert	S	Miller, Henry
F	McLennan, Wm. John	L	Keating, John M.	Q	Young, Albert	T	McLeod, John
G	McLennan, Wm. John	M	Keating, John M.	R	Young, Albert	U	Schr. Strathcona
H	McLennan, Wm. John	N	Keating, John M.	S	Young, Albert	V	Schr. Strathcona
I	McLennan, Wm. John	O	Keating, John M.	T	Young, Albert	W	Schr. Strathcona
J	McLennan, Wm. John	P	Keating, John M.	U	Young, Albert	X	Schr. Strathcona
K	McLennan, Wm. John	Q	Keating, John M.	V	Young, Albert	Y	Schr. Strathcona
L	McLennan, Wm. John	R	Keating, John M.	W	Young, Albert	Z	Schr. Strathcona
M	McLennan, Wm. John	S	Keating, John M.	X	Young, Albert		
N	McLennan, Wm. John	T	Keating, John M.	Y	Young, Albert		
O	McLennan, Wm. John	U	Keating, John M.	Z	Young, Albert		
P	McLennan, Wm. John	V	Keating, John M.				
Q	McLennan, Wm. John	W	Keating, John M.				
R	McLennan, Wm. John	X	Keating, John M.				
S	McLennan, Wm. John	Y	Keating, John M.				
T	McLennan, Wm. John	Z	Keating, John M.				
U	McLennan, Wm. John						
V	McLennan, Wm. John						
W	McLennan, Wm. John						
X	McLennan, Wm. John						
Y	McLennan, Wm. John						
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G. P. O., November 14th, 1910. H. J. B. WOODS, P.M.G.

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