"Mercy, My Lord."

Mercy, Not for Me, but the Wife.

"She didn't know."

away, she was sure."

"Had she seen him since?"

"Had Mr. Wilson ever threatened to

lischarge her for insolence to Mrs.

"Was not the clasp-knife that had

been found always left in the kitchen

"No-not always; generally -but

"Mary Strugnell, you be a false-

sworn woman before God and man!

The outbreak of the prisoner was

checked and rebuked by the judge.

and the cross-examination soon after-

an acquittal; but as it war. at .

"Mercy!" said the judge.

The jurors stared at each other and

The usual ridiculous formality

asking the wretched convicts what

they had to urge why sentence should

not be passed upon them was gone

upon the mysterious, bewildering af-

"Stop, my lord!" exclaimed Arm-

strong with rough vehemence. "Hear

me speak! I'll tell ye all about it;

tha, I tell ye. It's I, my lord, that

is guilty, not the woman. God bless

ye, my lord; not the wife! Doant hurt

the wife, and I'se tell ye all about it.

raised, of murder, but of robbery

"John! - John!" sobbed the wife.

"Quiet, Martha, I tell ye! Yes, my

lord, I'se tell ye all about it. I was

gone away, wife and I, for more nor a

week, to receive money for Mr. Wil-

son, on account of smuggled goods

that money, my lord, as was found

in the chest. When we came home on

that dreadful Sunday night, my lord

we went in the back way; and hearing

a noise, I went up stairs, and found

poor Wilson stone-dead on the floor.

were dreadful skeared, and let drop

the candle. I called to wife, and told

her of it. She creamed out, and

amaist fainted away. And then, my

lord, all at once the devil shot into

my head to keep the money I had

brought; and knowing as the keys of

the desk where the mortgage writing

was kept was in the bedroom, I crept

back, as that falsehearted woman said.

got the keys, and took the deed; and

then I persuaded wife, who had been

trembling in the kitchen all the while,

that we had better go out quiet

again, as there was nobody in the

house but us: I had tried that wo-

man's door-and we might perhaps oc

taken for the murderers. And so we

did: and that's the downright, honest

truth, my lord. I'm rightly served;

but God bless you, doant hurt the

ears. Five-and-twenty years ago

come May, which I shall never see,

we buried our two children. Had they

lived, I might have been a better man;

but the place they left empty was soon filled up by love of cursed lucre.

and that has brought me here. I de-

serve it; but oh, mercy, my lord! mercy, good gentlemen!" — turning

from the stony features of the judge

to the jury, as if they could help him-

not for me, but the wife. She be as

nnocent of this as a new-born babe.

It's I! I! scoundrel that I be, that has

brought thee, Martha, to this shameful

pass!" The rugged man snatched his

life-companion to his breast with pas-

sionate emotion, and tears of remorse

and agony streamed down his rough

I was deeply affected, and felt that

the man had uttered the whole truth.

It was evidently one of those cases in

voman-my wife, my lord, these thirty

clinging passionately to her husband,

"let us die together!"

for? On what ground?"

(Concluded.) 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 for culinary purposes?" easily fell into the trap. I could see that I had got them into the humor not this time that Armstrong went of putting confidence in the evidence I had to produce.

The trial proceeded. The cause of interrupted the male prisoner with the death was scientifically stated by great violence of manner. two medical men. Next followed the evidence as to the finding of the knife in the bedroom of the deceased wards closed. Had the counsel been man; the discovery of the mortgage allowed to follow up his advantage by deed, and the large sum of money, in an address to the jury, he would, ! the prisoners' sleeping aparlment; doubt not, spite of their prejudices the finding of the key of the back- against the prisoners, have obtained door in the male prisoner's pocket; neutral sort of charge from the judge and his demeanor and expressions on by no means the ablest that then the night of the perpetration of the adorned the bench, the jurors, having crime. In his cross-examination of deliberated for something more than the constable, several facts perfectly hair an nour, recurred against both new to me were elicited by the very prisoners, accompanying it, however, able counsel for the prisoners. Their with a strong recommendation attorney had judiciously maintained mercy! the strictest secrecy as to the nature of the defence, so that it now took me by surprise. The constable, in at the judge: they had no reason to reply to questions by counsel, stated give! The fact was, their conviction that the pockets of the deceased were of the prisoners' guilt had been very empty; that not only his purse, but a much shaken by the cross-examinagold watch, chain, and seals, which tion of the chief witness for the prohe usually wore, had vanished, and no trace of them had as yet been made with doubt. I have known many discovered. Many other things were such instances. also missing. A young man of the name of Pearce, apparently a sailor, had been seen in the village ouce or twice in the company of Mary Strug- through; the judge, with unmoved nell; but he did not notice what sort feelings, put on the fatal cap; and of hat he generally wore; he had not then a new and startling light burst seen Pearce since she night the crime was committed; had not sought for him.

Mary Strugnell was the next wit ness. She repeated her previous evid- 1 will indeed, my lord. Quiet, Marence with precision and apparent sincerity, and then I abandoned her with a mixed feeling of anxiety and curiousty, to the counsel for the de- I alone am guilty; not, the Lord be nce. 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 in this long sifting, were

"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 a the night of the murder?"

"Not part of the way." "Yes; part of the way." "Did Pearce sometimes wear

black, shiny hat?" "No yes: she did not remember." 'Where was Pearce now?".

"She didn't know." "Had he disappeared since that Sunday evening?"

BROKEN-DOV'N SYSTEM.

THERAPION No. 3

VITAL STRENGTH & ENERGY

THE EXPIRING LAMP OF LIFE
LIGHTED UP AFRESH,

THERAPION.

damages his own cause by resorting to a trick. No doubt, by this act of theft. Armstrong had been driven to in expedient which would not have een adopted by a person perfectly inrocent. And thus, from one thing to

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The judge, on the contrary, was quite undisturbed. Viewing the harangue of Armstrong as a mere tissue of alsehood, he coolly pronounced senence of death on the prisoners. They

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J. L. MATHIEU,

vas Friday. "A bad job!" whispered the counsel or the defence as he passed me. secution, and this recommendation That witness of yours, the woman was a compromise which conscience Strugnell, is the real culprit."

were to be hanged on Monday. This

I tasted no dinner that day: I was sick at heart; for I felt as if the blood of two fellow-creatures was on my nands. In the evening I sallied forth to the judge's lodgings. He listened to all I had to say: but was quite imperturbable. The obstinate old man t should be. I returned to my inn in fever of despair. Without the aproval of the judge, I knew that an pplication to the Secretary of Stare vas futile. There was not even time o send to London, unless the judge ad granted a respite.

All Saturday and Sunday I was in nisery. I denounced capital punishnent as a gross iniquity-a national recollection of that unhappy affair of Harvey, noticed in my previous aper. I half resolved to give up the par, and rather go and sweep the treets for a livelihood, than run the

vho did not deserve it. On the Monday morning I was pacng up and down my breakfast room reat excitement, when a chaise-andnd out tumpled Johnson the constaand never been there since. On open- I never troubled myself to inquirhain, and seals, and other property, last to wash my hands of an affair and, as soon as it was possible, set and vexation; albeit the lesson it afthere was not a moment to spare, I. conclusions, even when the truth sel, sought the judge, and with some the matter, has not been, I trust, with lifficulty obtained from him a formal out its uses. order to the sheriff to suspend the xecution till further orders. Off 1

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Lame Bac!

nother, the charge of murder had and the constable started, and happily been fixed upon him and his hapless arrived in time to stay the execution, wife. When his confession had been and deprive the already-assembled attered, I felt a species of self-accu- mob of the brutal exhibition they so sation in having contributed to his anxiously awaited. On inquiring for destruction, and gladly would I have Mary Structell, we found that she had undone the whole day's proceedings. absconder. In the evening of the trial.

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 intexication, 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 vas satisfied that the sentence was as count was perfectly correct. The deed was committed by Pearce, and they were packing up their plunder when they were startled 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. in and disgrace; my feelings of where she, watching the doings of ourse being influenced somewhat by 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 isk of getting poor people hanged too heavily encumbered for rapid flight, left the portmanteau as described intending to call for it in the morn ing, if his fears proved groundless, n the next assize town, in a state of He, however, had not courage to risk calling again, and made the best of our drove rapidly up to the hotel, his way to London. He was now in Newgate under sentence of death for ile. His tale was soon told. On the a burglary, accompained by personal previous evening, the landlady of the violence to the inmates of the dwell-Black Swan, a roadside public-house ing he and his gang had entered and about four miles distant from the robbed. I took care to have the descene of the murder, reading the name position of the dying wretch put into of Pearce in the report of the trial in proper form; and the result was, after he Sunday county paper, sent for a great deal of petitioning and worrysohnson to state that that person had ing of authorities, a full pardon for in that fatal evening called and left both Armstrong and his wife. They a portmanteau in her charge, prom- sold Craig Farm, and removed to ising to call for it in an hour, but some other part of the country, where, ing the portmanteau, Wilson's watch, Deeply grateful was I to be able at were discovered in it; and Johnson which had cost me so much anxiety off in search of me. Instantly, for forded me of not coming hastily to in company with Armstrong's counseems, as it were, upon the surface of

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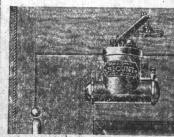
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