

with the instinct of a born scandal-mong- stantial evidence was never more firmly the girl, a good many trifling particulars recount confidentially to intimates at great attention, the belief was universal afternoon tea. Her manœuvre had a strange and startling result.

Ellen's manner was so odd that it at once attracted the notice of her lynx-eyed mistress. She was distrait and forgetful tears when rebuked. When anyone spoke to her, she started and turned pale, fatal deed, forbade that theory, which inand 'she did not eat enough to keep a deed there was not a shred of truth to sparrow alive '-at least, so the cook, a support. Hence the trial, as all foresaw, sour woman of forty, reported. Her ex- had ended in a verdict of 'guilty' against perience of 'young galls' led her to think Oliver West. this an alarming sympton.

"She sobs and talks to herself at night, so as one can't get a wink of sleep. It's shame and agony of a fellow creature, it my opinion there's something on her was strange that none seemed so calm, so mind, and I sez to myself, m'm, as you little moved as the prisoner at the bar. ought to know," she added.

Miss Plowman said nothing. But some days after, calling the girl into the study, speaking? she subjected her to a severe cross-examination, backed up with hints of the most awe-spiring kind, of the fate awaiting lit up the stern-lined face, as his glance thing defeated the ends of justice. Then suddenly she muttered, as she cast her eyes, as heavy sobs shook her frame. down her eyes and twisted her apron No one heeded her, the excitement was

with hot, nervous fingers-"Do you mean as how they would hang on the man who met his fate, well as he me, if I know'd who killed somebody and deserved it, almost like a hero. didn't tell of them ?"

"It is very probable," said Miss Plowman, who held the convenient doctrine that occasionally the end justified the

followed

The prisoner is innocent !"

y-play meant.

**Trevor** Court

means, and so quieted her conscience for this enlargement of the truth. "I cannot waste more time on you Ellen. However, ery heart stand still-and even startled you know best if you have anything to Oliver out of his icy calmness. fear. If so, I advise you as a friend, to make a clean breast of it; discovery must come sooner or later, and then-" Tightly closing her lips, and looking as if Ellen's last hour had come, Miss Plowman

left the room. order were in vain, and a man and wom-Ellen could bear the strain no longer. That night, with floods of tears, and forced their way with difficulty through many incoherent, wild entreaties not to the mass be given up to the police, she told her master and mistress of the words she had overheard Oliver West say, when trying commse

to rouse Miss Dering from her swoonhis vow of vengeance againt Sir Philip Trevor, coupled with his threat to take his life.

"Why did you not confess all this be fore Ellen," said the vicar sternly. Though a mild, absent-minded man, who rarely interfered in parochial squabbles, and depreciated the meddlesome bent of his sister, he was roused from his apathy by so extraordinary a disclosure.

"Because I dar'sent. My Aunt Hannah, who lives long o' Dr. West, she and had to be content. my uncle, when I told them, said I was making up a pack of lies-that I dreamed it, and nobody wouldn't believe me if I calmness. Instead of being relieved at spoke out, and I should very likely get the unexpected turn matters had taken, into trouble for doing so. They threat he gave one swift, despairing glance again ened, if I said anything, they wouldn't at Kathleen Dering. leave me a farden, and they've no children and a good bit in the bank. Mother neasure and father would ha' limbed me if I got wrong with uncle and aunt-as it is they will, I expect. Lor! whatever will become of me? But I couldn't keep it no color had returned to her white, wan longer," the wretched girl whined abjectly. cheeks, and he could have declared that The vicar sighed. He had outlived she smiled at him as he left the court. the youthful illusions with which he came to Gateley Regis, his first and only | it all mean? parish; and was only too well acquainted

\* \* with the peculiar code of rustic morality. Contrary to his sister, who had voted

er, Miss Plowman knew that by pumping riveted about a man's neck, and through Lopez had been killed in a gambling the length and breadth of the land, for brawl some time back, but as Philip never that Oliver West was the murderer of rash act gave him a loophole he had been

Sir Philip Trevor. from my hated presence, though he could The lame defence, that the prisoner not sever the tie that bound us. When I had killed his rival in a fit of temporary insanity, fell to the ground. The will came to my senses, I was wild with reby turns sullen or bursting into hysterical drawn up with terse simplicity, but abso- morse and shame. Philip pretended to forgive me, and said he would take me to lute clearness, on the very day of the England, where we would begin a new life together and forget the past. By a stratagem, he induced me to accompany him to a house at Ilford, saying Trevor Court was not quite ready to receive us. Tired with my journey, I slept heavily,

And of all the vast concourse who had assembled that afternoon to gaze on the waking late the next day to find Philip gone, and myself in the charge of Dr. Bell, whom you see here." All eyes were turned on the doctor,

who, in answer to the counsel's questions, Did he even smile, sadly, as he bowed took up the thread of Maraquita Lopez's his head to the judges decree, without Some thought so; others said that a

look of relief, which was almost gladness, she has stated. No, I am not a native of liars and those who by concealing any- fell for an instant on the opposite side of this place. I made the baronet's acquaintthe court. Amongst others, Kathleen aintance through an advertisement, stat-At first Ellen was obstinately dumb. Dering sat there, her handkerchief over ing that a medical man was required for a patient suffering from dipsomania, leading to occasional intervals of insanity. The terms offered were high, certainly," with too intense. All attention was centred a slight cough of embarassment behind

his dry, bony hand, "but not too high for the responsibility, a great one. Sir Philip There were none present who forgot that required that I should take charge of the noment, nor the strange scene which

but near enough for him to be aware at The two wardens were about to remove once, if necessary, of any change in her the prisoner, when a shrill cry rang state of health, and to be sure of her safe through the court-a cry which made evcustody. A house belonging to him, on the outskirts of Ilford, was furnished for us, and with the assistance of a respect-" Stop ! in Heavens name, I implore you !

able, married couple, accustomed. to such cases, I there received Lady Trevor, for A noise was heard of tramping feet, until to-day I always imagined my patient cries and vociferations, penetrating above to be Sir Phillip's wife. the hubbub of the crowd. The calls for "All went well, until one day, a highly

important matter of business required my an, accompanied by a police constable absence from home. My servants seemed thoroughly trustworthy; there appeared no risk in leaving the patient for two They handed a paper to the clerk of the court, who in turn gave it to Oliver's days in their charge. It was a terrible

mistake. Lady Trevor managed to elude their vigilance and escaped. They sought The judge then read it, during the siher in vain for the greater part of two lence now restored, for the multitude was speechlesss with curiosity as to what this days, trembling with terror at the thought

of my wrath at their neglect, and were just about to telegraph to me, when to The result was stranger than any of their unspeakable relief she returned to them dreamed. Fresh evidence had the house, travel-stained, moody and come to light regarding the tragedy at

silent, refusing to give any account of how she had passed the intervening time." The sentence on the prisoner was there-The doctor turned paler as he continued fore postponed until the matter had been "My housekeeper and her husband

thoroughly sifted. finally agreed to keep the whole thing a And with this, until the morrow, all secret from me; Lady Trevor they knew

was safe. Regarding me as her jailer, For the first time a look of terrible unshe always maintained a cold, disdainful easiness displeased the prisoner's set silence towards me; and as I knew that she cherished a revengeful anger against her husband, for having caused her incarceration, I was somewhat surprised by the excess of agitation she displayed, What he saw, surprised him beyond

when I acquainted her, as in duty bound, Instead of the hunted, agonized exwith his tragic fate. Her subsequent confession was, and is still almost incredible pression of a criminal brought to bay at to me. That is why I brought her here last, Kathleen looked almost happy; the that its truth may be sifted, and an inno-

cent man, if possible, cleared." Dr. Bell sat down, and Lady, or rather His brain was in a whirl. What could Maraquita Lopez, was further interrogated by the counsel for the crown. A sensat ion was caused by her pointing at some-

"Call Lady Trevor." Like an electric shock, th

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Miss Amelia Plowman engaged Ellen, behalf, and simply pleaded not guilty. He by jealousy, and maddened by the stimu- hame I was better, so I didna use i their maid, as housemaid at the vicarage. would give no particulars, he affirmed or lants I had long taken secretly, one day I When the wife took sick, I gied her the She was incompetent and stupid; but denied nothing. The chain of circum- attempted to stab my husband, for such I draught, and she died by mornin'! Isn't had ever regarded Philip Trevor. Pepito it a mercy I didna tak' it mysel'?

A BOON TO HORSEMEN .- One bottle of might be elicited, toothsome and racy, to the case from its peculiar nature excited knew of his existence, this made no differ- English Spavin Liniment completely removed a curb from my horse. I take ence in the relations between us. My pleasure in recommending the remedy, as seeking for some time; to release himself it acts with mysterious promptness in the removal from horses of hard, soft or calloused lumps, blood spavin, splints, curbs, sweeny, stifles and sprains.

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She (in affiright) - Oh, Tom, why do you make such awful faces at me? He (contritely) - I can't help it, my dear. My eyeglasses are falling off and I don't want to let go of your hands.

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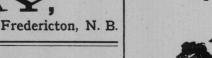
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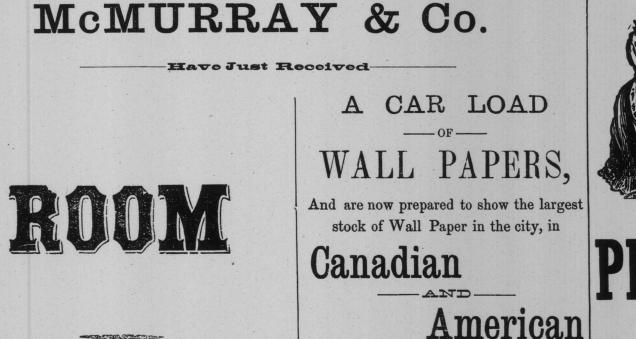
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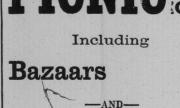
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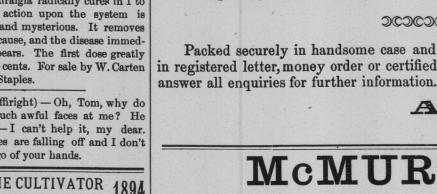
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