Jeannie Sinclair,

THE LILY OF THE STRATH. 'I need hardly ask you, Mark, if you bear any good will to my cousin, Sir Fergus?'
'Goodwill to him! I hate him; and haven't I good cause?' replied the gipsy, fercely.

fiercely.

'You have. He treated you badly, and your tribe, too, in destroying your huts, and expelling you from a place where you and your people have harboured so long.'

'You don't approve of his harsh measures, then?'

your people have harboured so long.

'You don't approve of his barsh measures, then?

'Far from it. I remonstrated with him on the subject, but to no purpose.

'Gurse him,' said Mark, with a fierce look and flashing eyes. 'Ay, curse him, Master Lynedoch, cousin though he is of yours. I have nothing against you, and you never sought to oppress our people.'

'Inever have; nor would I keep you off the land, if Baigley were mine.'

'Then, I wish with all my heart that Baigley were yours, for the old people among us have a liking for the old spot, and have sore hearts at living away from it. Yes, hang it, I wish you were master there.

'There's little use in wishing that for me, Mark,' retured Lyngdoch,

'Why not? Fox hunting baronets have broke their neck before now.'

'Perhaps; but even, were Sir Fergus to drop, haven't you fheard that an helr was born at the Castle the other night?'

'Oh, yes, I heard that.'

'Which cuts me out for ever.'

'Bah! Your chance isn't lost yet. Measles or hooping-cough or scarlet fever may stand your friend.'

'Not likely, Mark; not likely. The Strath is a dreadful healthy place. Children seldom die in it. If my chance hangs on that peg, I may count it as good as lost. Can you think of no quicker and more certain way of getting rid of the brat?'

The gipsy's eye caught Lynedoch's at the moment, and the two gazed infently at each other for some time—the glance of the one indicating significant inquiry, that of the other significant meaniog.

'You are pointing at something that will secure you an ample revenge for the insulty our received from the Baronet,' rejoined the other.

'I guess your, drift; but speak it out plainy.'

'Why, man, children have been kidnap.'

'Why man, children have been kidnap.'

'When and the through the for Tobacco.

The inte

'I guess your drift; but speak it out

'I guess your drift; but speak it desplainty.'
Why, man, children have been kidnaped before now, and that by gipsies, too, if popular belief is to be credited.
'And you want us to carry off the Baroncut's son and heir?'
Lynedoch nodded.
Mark Gideon smiled grimly.
'That would be some revenge truly,' he mutterred. 'I know Sir Fergus has set his beart on having his own flesh and blood to come after him, and not you, Master Lynedoch.'

doch.'

'I know he has,' replied Lyagdoch, bitterly. 'To cut me out is the dearest object of his life. He doesn't hide it; and to prevent suspicion, I have to wear the, mark of indifference, as if I hadn't spirit enough to wish for the inheritance of my ancestors, and courage enough to dare everything to gain it. Aye, to dare everything. Come what will, Buigley shall be mine. Speak, man. Do you agree to this proposal! 'You amount of your people will find your account in it. When I am master there, the old huts will be rebuilt, and your tribe shall live in them as of old.'

'It would be a good blow to deal,' said.

be rebuilt, and your tribe shall live in them as of old.

'It would be a good blow to deal, 'said the gipfy, his eyes emitting flashes of wild, flerce light.

'The heaviest you could inflict,' said the other, in an impressive tone. 'The loss of the child would wring his heart to its core.' It would! I know it would! and by you setting sun I swear to you, Master Lynedoch, it shall be done. The Baronet of Baigley will yet find what it is to have insulted and persecuted the royal blood of the Bournany.'

once.

'Fear not,' returned Mark, loftily. 'When once the child comes into the hands of our people it will be impossible to recover it. When the gipsy strikes a blow he strikes it effectually.'

'I hope, also, it will be struck quickle.'

effectually. 'I hope, also, it will be struck quickly,' added Lynedoch. 'Not till the convenient time comes,' returned Mark. We can't be bothered with a suckling. The child must be able to run about before we take it in charge.'

'Why, man, that won't be for a year to come.'

"Why, man, that won't be for a year to come."

Two years,' said Mark, with a decided nod. 'I would make it longer if I could, but longer than that would not be safe, for then things would begin to fix themselves in the child's memory, and when he grew up he would know that he was not a gipsy.

'But two years is a horrible time to wait,' said Lynedoch, with a look of disappointment and disapprobation.

On this point, however, Mark was inexorable, and the other had to submit. The compact was, however, made, and it was settled that at the expiry of two years the child should be carried off, and the gipsy undertook that the abduction should be effected in such a manner that its relations should be utterly unable to find further trace of it.

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