

Jeannie Sinclair, OR, THE LILY OF THE STRATH.

CHAPTER XXI.
THE TRIAL—A VERDICT OF GUILTY—CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

Some difficulty and a good deal of delay took place in the choosing of the jury, as the prisoner's counsel used his right of challenge to the full, his object being to exclude those who resided in the Strath or its immediate neighborhood, and who might be expected to entertain prejudice against the prisoner. At length, however, the full number was made up, and the trial began.

The chief witness, and one whose appearance was looked for with absorbing interest, was the young gipsy who had been an unnoticed witness of the crime, and through whom it had come to light. He had not been seen by any of them since the memorable day the Falcon's Cleuch, but it was understood that he and the other gipsy, his companion, had taken up their abode in an old shieling among the hills. The older man—Will Sanderson, as they knew his name to be—had been among the first to enter the Court-room that morning, and they saw him now in a corner in full sight of the bar, where he regarded the prisoner from the moment of his entrance with a look of strange vindictive satisfaction. His gleaming eyes, as he kept them fastened on Lynedoch's face, were expressive at once of passionate hate and savage joy, while those of all the other—besides, too, in the same direction—indicated a fearful fascination and horror.

A prisoner on trial for his life is a man already separated from all his kind, and looked upon with feelings which are at once peculiar and intense. His crime and its possible consequences remove him from the sphere of social humanity, and make him an object of wonder and awe, mixed with partial pity and detestation. Those who look upon him try to realise his feelings, but feel that they cannot; and this very feeling produces the idea we have named, that he is now away from the sphere of human experience—at least of common human experience. Murder is perhaps the only crime which isolates its perpetrator so completely. Lesser violations of the law do not remove their authors perpetually out of society, but reason and instinct rebel so powerfully against the atrocity of murder that the man who commits it is no longer looked upon as human.

And yet his human relationship is recognised in the intense interest with which a murder trial is watched and followed. The awful issues of life and death which wait upon it make it, as much as the crime and criminal, a thing of dread fascination, thus bringing out a confession that, after all, the man who has become a murderer is of like passions with the rest of mankind. And what is more awful to think of, that the capability of murder lies in every one, though, thank God, it is only in a murderer of like slumbering demon is roused to reveal himself.

A strange thrill, simultaneous and universal like an electric shock, ran through the Court, when the young gipsy appeared in the witness-box. It was his face, his features, that produced it—these having such a startling resemblance to the prisoner. The dark eyes, the coal-black hair, the dark complexion, the shaggy eyebrows, the formation of lips and chin, and the general expression of face, presented a likeness to Lynedoch Sinclair which struck every one at a glance, and made them wonder exceedingly. Those who first saw him on the Falcon's Cleuch had a dim notion that his countenance was not altogether strange to them; but at that time they could not tell why. Now, however, with Lynedoch before them for comparison, they were at no loss to understand the reason, and could only stare in wonder at the singular resemblance which they could not but imagine was a chance one.

This feeling, however, speedily gave place to the interest produced by the lad's evidence. Coolly, minutely, and in language every syllable of which told fearfully against the prisoner, he described the scene of which he had been the solitary and unobserved witness—the death of a murderer in the plateau, the stealthy and tiger-like coming of Lynedoch, the conversation between the cousins, the struggle, the final act of murder, and the death of the murderer, like another Cain, when the fearful deed was done. And ever as he told his damning story his eyes would turn on the prisoner, whose death he was now giving evidence of, and whose death he was now giving evidence of, and whose death he was now giving evidence of.

And, oh, the exulting look on the faces of Will Sanderson as he eagerly listened to the story, and saw the blanching of Lynedoch Sinclair's face as the words of the speaker sped more and more his doom. Every one within the crowded Court felt that this was the evidence which would condemn the prisoner, and Lynedoch's counsel set himself by a severe cross-examination to shake it. First he sought to destroy the credibility of the witness by making out that he was a wandering vagabond, and belonged to a race of lawless, semi-barbarous people; but as the jury and the people in the Court knew as much about the gipsies as the learned lawyer did, they were well able to judge whether the testimony was not trustworthy because it had been given by a gipsy.

TO BE CONTINUED.

We bear willing testimony to the success of Dr. Briggs' modern Curative, in all diseases of the feet. He doctored a toe nail with the Curative which was growing into the flesh, and had caused a great deal of annoyance and pain; now it is as well as if nothing had ever been the matter with it. Those having corns, bunions or any other ailment of the feet, should call at E. Harvey & Co.'s, or some other drug store and get a box; it is reliable.

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AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE,

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Guelph, 9th April dw

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1869. SPRING. 1869.

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Are the right men in the right place. Buying for two of the largest Dry Goods establishments in Canada, we are enabled to sell our Goods at the same prices which smaller dealers have to pay for them.

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Clothing made to order in our usual satisfactory manner.

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We are safe in saying that no other House in the business in Guelph can approach the variety of our Stock to select from; and the prices at which our entire Stock will be offered must command immediate sale.

We are desirous of impressing this fact upon all intending buyers, that it is UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE for any other House in the Trade TO COMPETE WITH US, for this reason: We have no second profit to pay; we buy direct from the Manufacturers in Britain ourselves; and as all others in the Dry Goods business here purchase their Goods at second hand from wholesale houses in Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton, paying these importers their profit (as a profit they must have) and then adding their own profit on before selling you the Goods here, it certainly cannot fail to convince you of the great truth that we assert, that our Goods must be at least twenty per cent under ordinary prices in other Stores in Guelph.

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Dress Shirts, Fancy Flannel Shirts

Collars, Ties, Gloves, Gents' Hosiery, Braces, &c.

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