Jeannie Sinclair.

THE LILY OF THE STRATH.

CHAPTER XXXI.

BEST OF PERIL—THE CRUEL PATE OF MOS.

WI—UNLOKED-TOR AID—A SANGUINATILE—HOYEWARD BOUND,
order.

order.

LEVI—UNLOOKED-70R AID—A SANGUINARY
BATTLE—HOYEWARD BOUND.
Those of them who heard responded at once
o the order, and closing in a body, like men
the had been drilled and disciplined, they
segan an orderly retreat towards a ledge of
ock which had closed the mouth of a narrow
effile affording access to the rugged heights
and the higher land which skirted the gorge.
Against this rocky ledge the Captain setis back, sabre in hand, and refused to leap
p its side till all his men who were with him
ad gained the top, and so made good their
cape. When the last had gained a footing
in the slope he quitted his vantage ground
ad vaulted up after them. A few of the Inians followed, not so much with a view to
sail them in their flight as 'to make sure
say really departed, and did not lurk among
bushes to renew the fight.
The battle was now over. Those of the
bbers who had not fied were either dead or
ortally wounded, and the anxiety of the
stors now was to learn the fate of their
ends. The exigencies of the fight and the
rkness which surrounded them had made
impossible for any one of them to notice
w the others had fared; but now that vicry was theirs and the struggle ended, they
xiosily sought about for each other.
Hardly had the form of the robber Captain
nished in the darkness when William and
bert came together.
Robert, my friend, you are safe I trust,
ed William.
Safe and sound—and you?' exclaimed
bert.

Without a scratch, so far as I know, was the answer.

'Sae am I,' cried Watty cheerily.

'Thank God,' ejaculated Denman, 'But what of our other friends? Where is Mr. Bardle?'

The American was nowhere to be seen.—
Josh, who made his appearance at the moment, knew nothing of him. His first care, he said, had been to make for the waggon and liberate Bree, and the dog with a savage howl, had bounded into the midst of the combatants, where he had been heard occasionly to bark. More than this Josh could not tell.

howl, had bounded into the midst of the combatants, where he had been heard occasionly to bark. More than this Josh could not tell.

With lighted torches they began to seek about upon the ground for the American.—The sights they came on were sickening and harrowing. Human forms lay there stiff and distorted, dead and dying. Nothing, however could be seen of the American, till they heard the mournful howl of a dog on the other side of a clamp of bushes. Guided by the sound they drew near with their torches, and came upon Bree. Jying beside two dead bodies. One of them was that of poor Jonathan, with his skull cleft in twain, the other was that of a stalwart robber, who held an axe in his hand—the instrument, doubtless, which had deprived the American of life.—Certain marks in the throat of the wretch showed clearly enough how he had come by his death—the marks having been left there by the fangs of Bree.

At their first approach, Bree, who lay crouching by his master's side, emitted a fierce growl, which subsided into a long melancholy whine when he recognized his friends. He turned his eyes mournfully towards them, then fixed them on the distorted face of his dead master. It was a sad sight, and in silence and sorrow they turned away for the present, to discover the condition of Moses Levi.

They found Shagar kneeling beside him, not far from the post to which he had been found, doing his best to staunch the many wounds which the kinves had mad weeping wildly when he found himself unable to stay the purple tide. The poor mardered one was dying fast, but he was conscious, though weak, and growing weaker every moment, then smiled and died.

Shagar threw himself on the dead and bloody body, tore his hair, and invoked bitter curses on his murderers. His mingled gried and rage was something fearful to witness, and the onlookers turned from the sight with as shudder.

The dawn was now breaking. The veil of darkness which had deepened the horrors of that dreadful night was drawn slowly and steadily saide, and the gray

few more were slightly wounded, but nearly a dozen of the brigands lay dead upon the ground.

Eagle Heart and his dusky followers lifted the dead bodies of their friends, and after performing around them their wild, weird dance of death, scooped out three shallow graves side by side and laid them therein.—William and the others did the same sad duty to the American and the Jew, and leaving the other bodies to bleach in the desert, they gladly bade farewell to the gloomy spot, and, escorted by the Indians who had rendered them such signal service, proceeded on their journey.

Eagle Heart and his braves accompanied them to the edge of the desert, and when they parted company, a handful of gold-dust was considered ample reward by the simple sons of the wilderness. Having parted from their allies, whose skins were red, but whose hearts were true and faithful, the travellers proceeded on their journey, and reached San Francisco in safety.

Here they likewise parted company with Josh and Shagar. Bree had by this time attached himself to William Demman.

To reach Scotland and the Strath was now the chief anxiety of our three friends, and they lost no time in settling matters for the voyage. They found no difficulty in disposing of their gold dust, and of the monster nugget which had brought them into so much difficulty and danger—receiving for the whole over 25,000.

It was a fortnight, however, before the first vessel sailed for Europe, and this delay was a severe trial to their patience. But at length the joyful day came on which the Petrel—the sailing vessel in which they hadtaken passage—was to sail, and with light and buoyant hearts they found themselves

passage—was to sail, and with light oyant hearts they found themselves blue water, and fairly homeward

TO BE CONTINUED.

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