

fellow's belts, instantly,' he repeated, 'and put the rascal in irons.'

"The sharp click of the musket, as Murphy cocked it, now rang upon his ear, and the next moment the unfortunate man fell from his horse. The ball had entered his thigh, close to the groin. The frightened steed plunged over the bridge, and rolling down the awful precipice, fell into the ocean beneath, where the sharks soon tore him to pieces. The Adjutant clapping spurs to his horse, gained the Fort, and gave the alarm, when a strong party having arrived, Murphy was strongly manacled and conveyed a close prisoner to the garrison.

"A litter having been hastily constructed, Major Daley was conveyed to his quarters, where an unskilful surgeon having attempted to extract the ball, but without success, a mortification ensued, and it was announced to Major Daley, that a few days would terminate his mortal career.

"On the following day, I was surprised by a visit from the Adjutant, who informed me that Major Daley would not press the charges against me, and as he had not yet made his report to Barbados, he had issued his orders for me to be released, and expressed a wish to see me as soon as I could make it convenient, 'in the mean time,' added he, 'allow me to have the pleasure to return you your sword, and to congratulate you upon the pleasant termination of this affair.'

"I thanked him, and having dressed myself in my uniform, I went to see Daley, in compliance with his wish, as expressed through the Adjutant. Upon entering the room, where he lay on the bed of death, all my feelings of animosity vanished. I ceased to remember my own sufferings as I observed his sunken eye and pallid cheek, and one feeling only, namely, that of pity for the dying man, filled my breast;—he essayed to speak as his glassy eye caught mine, and gasping with difficulty for breath, thus addressed me—

"I sent for you, Captain Montrose, to entreat your forgiveness,—as I cannot die in peace without it,—as also to give you all the information I can, concerning your wife. As you truly surmised, it was through my agency she was taken from you, but as I have not power to relate to you the whole, you will find it confessed at large in this packet, which I got drawn up yesterday and witnessed. Here is also a copy of it with a confession of my behaviour, with regard to your son, and a petition to the commander of the forces for his release."

He ceased, exhausted with the effort he had made, nor did he again speak, save to solicit my forgiveness, of which I unequivocally assured him. 'Father,' he ejaculated, 'may'st thou be as merciful.' And having said those words, he with a deep groan, expired. God of Heaven! I sincerely hope, that that appeal for mercy was not unheard.

"An inquest was held on the body, and a verdict of 'wilful murder,' returned against Private Patrick Murphy, —nd Regiment, who was instantly committed to the goal of Kingston upon the coroner's warrant, to answer for his crime, at the bar of his country.

"Having left the house of death, my first act was to dispatch the Petition in favour of my son, to Head Quarters, when having opened the other packet, I read as follows—

#### "TO CAPTAIN MONTROSE.

"Much injured man,—As I find that my end is fast approaching, and that there is but a step between me and eternity, I think it but justice that I should satisfy you in every particular as regards the sudden disappearance of your wife and child. With the cause of my departure from the —th regiment you are already acquainted; suffice it then to say, that as I viewed you as the cause of my disgrace, I was determined to leave no means untried to injure you, and having been aware that you passionately loved your wife and child, I determined to deprive you of their society. For this purpose I disguised myself one evening, and having sought out a magistrate, informed him that a dreadful riot had just broken out within a few miles of the town where you were stationed. This hoax succeeded, and having employed five men—giving them a well filled purse of gold—I had your wife and child conveyed to a carriage which was in waiting at a short distance from your lodgings. Isabella's health having suffered severely by the fright attending her abduction, I could not pursue my guilty design upon her at that time, more especially as I had again been called to serve upon full pay in the —th regiment, on account of the war. I have, however, bribed a person upon whom I could depend, to watch all her movements, and to give me intelligence from time to time concerning her. The accounts which I continued to receive inflamed me to such a degree, that my guilty passion returned in all its force, and being feigned myself sick, I again visited Ireland. Upon arriving, I sought the earliest opportunity to wait upon your virtuous wife, with nefarious proposals; to all of which she gave the most decided negatives, adding, 'that though she might never see you again, yet she would die rather than prove faithless to you.' I threatened to use force, but she gave me to understand, that rather than survive her dishonour, she would, like another Lucretia, plant a dagger in her bosom. My resolution was shaken—I cared nothing for her threats, and I was preparing to put my infamous design into execution, when my confidante came to inform me that she was dangerously ill. I arrived too