

“ Because he is saying you murdered his daddie and minnie, and that it will be his turn next, and because of his minnie’s last word.”

“ Her last word ! ” said the Laird alert. “ What was that ? ”

“ Just that if he didna kill your Honour, your Honour would be after killing him,” said Robin. ‘ And who kills Danny, kills the Laird,’ she whispers with her last breath, and straight she put the Black Ban on ye and died.”

“ Did she say that ? ” asked the Laird, suddenly roused.

“ So they are saying in Hepburn,” Robin replied.

“ Who was it put ye to this poisoning ? ” asked the Laird harshly.

“ I put myself to it,” said Robin.

The Laird leaned forward.

“ Answer me now ! Had Simon Ogg any hand in this, or has he not ? ”

“ A-weel,” said Robin, a little cowed, “ maybe him and me together a bit.”

The Laird sat back.

“ To-morrow, the Sabbath,” he said ; “ Monday I will see Simon Ogg.”

## LXXI

### ROBIN SOWS

ALL that Sabbath evening Robin and Danny worked together secretly in the birch-woods, and all along the burn where at night passes the traffic of the moors. And ever and anon in some hidden likely place the old man paused as one who sows ; then he turned to Danny and spoke, and the little knight listened shrewdly and understood as the other expounded to him that the seed he sowed was the seed of the Tree of Death.

In the hallowed calm of evening the two came down together from off the hill ; and at the brae-foot the Woman met them.