

and to withdraw much of their confidence and countenance which he had hitherto enjoyed, his society being courted, as he was a very agreeable and entertaining companion ;—that the perpetrator's life must inevitably, by the Articles of War, pay the forfeit of his crime—a man of a praiseworthy character—a favorite with all his comrades, and respected by his officers—should by his means be hurried, in the prime of manhood and youthful vigour, into eternity,—must all—have been considerations which sunk melancholy deep in his heart, with bitter pangs to corrode his mind, and to render his life unhappy.

The commanding officer of the regiment, Lieut. Col. Manly, was a man whose grave countenance and demeanour depicted the stern and rigid soldier—whose appearance demanded respect, yet not fear ; for though a disciplinarian on duty, he was, when in company, exceedingly urbane and pleasing in his manners, having mixed in much good society, and as he had seen a great deal of the world, and experienced some of its severest trials, he was possessed of considerable information and feeling. His conduct and actions were all based on Christian principles, and proceeded from a good heart. He was a most excellent and exemplary character. He had just joined his Regiment a week or two previous to Ensign Burgh's misfortune, and in commiserating his case, which he did with a father's feelings—for he was one, and a truly fond one—he felt much hurt that such an unfortunate occurrence should have happened so soon after his taking the command, and to have the painful duty of reporting a crime of the kind to the Commander of the Forces against one of his men. But duty and not feeling was to be attended to without delay, and he forwarded the report, and issued orders for having the prisoner properly confined, and all evidence prepared for the Court Martial.

Ensign Burgh bore the pain of his wound with much fortitude, and after two or three days confinement, was enabled to leave his bed, fever very happily not having made its appearance. His almost feminine and highly interesting countenance, was now tinged with an expression of melancholy—of hope destroyed—for the doctor had given it as his candid opinion, that he would never be able to wield a sword. Poor fellow! he cherished only the liveliest sympathy for the impending fate of the prisoner, and evinced the kindness of his tender heart in many little kindnesses towards him. Indeed, he was so much affected by the unfortunate case of Snell, that he would readily have done much to free him from his unhappy predicament.

In a few weeks an order was received from the Commander of the Forces to send up the prisoner William Snell, together with all the witnesses necessary for his trial, to Head Quarters, Barbadoes. A small sloop was hired for the conveyance of the party—Ensign Burgh being one of the number—in which they arrived safe at their destination.

The Court Martial assembled on the day following that of their arrival. The prisoner having gone fully prepared to meet his doom, and knowing the fallacy of trying by denying his crime to avoid it, in a very

solemn manner confessed his guilt, and recited with much feeling the various uncalled-for indignities and hurtful reproaches that he had received from Lieut. Riddell, which at last drove him to commit the act with which he then stood charged. He regretted that revenge had carried him to such a length, inasmuch as he had been the unintentional means of irreparably injuring a young gentleman, Ensign Burgh, for whom he had the greatest respect as an individual, whose pleasant kindness of disposition and warmth of feeling as shown towards the men of his corps, and especially towards himself since the occurrence, would have rendered him an ornament and an honour to the profession, which the injury he had received would for ever preclude.

The prisoner having admitted himself guilty, the trial was virtually ended ; but the Court, before passing sentence, called forward the evidence, every person of which confirmed the substance of Snell's declaration with regard to Lieut. Riddell's conduct, spoke of the high character which Snell bore in the Regiment, and proved to the satisfaction of the Court, that he was esteemed both by his officers and his comrades for irreproachable conduct in never having been convicted of any offence, till the present one.

The Court was of course unanimous in finding the prisoner guilty, and proceeded, as usual in such cases, to sentence the prisoner to be shot to death ; but in animadverting upon the circumstances of the case, and in bringing to the notice of the Commander of the Forces, the heinousness of the prisoner's crime, and the disastrous consequences that might ensue in the Army, were he allowed to go unpunished, they at the same time also brought to notice, that if anything could mitigate the prisoner's offence, and render him a deserving object of mercy, it would be the great and grievous provocation he had received, and his hitherto unimpeachable and praiseworthy character.

The prisoner evinced not the least dread on hearing his sentence ; but the sympathy of the Court opened his heart, and he was very sensibly affected—that which fear could not effect, a kind, fellow-feeling produced, in a copious flood of tears.

The Commander of the Forces had pre-determined, if the prisoner were convicted, to allow the utmost rigour of Martial Law to be carried into effect as a terrible warning, that though the offence was the first of the nature that had occurred for many years, he would not allow it to pass unpunished, trusting to nip in the germ any tendency to insubordination or mutiny, by showing that no mercy might be expected. He, accordingly, approved the finding and sentence of the Court Martial, and directed that the execution should take place at Antigua, in one week after the prisoner should be taken back to that Island.

Ensign Burgh was deeply afflicted with the result of the trial, and sought an interview with the General to plead for the life of the prisoner : he even implored mercy on his bended knees in the most trying and affecting language ; but his efforts were fruitless : the General would not relax in his rigid determination—his