TUESDAY EVENING, JAN. 5, 1869.

### Jeannie Sinclair,

THE LILY OF THE STRATH

CHAPTER II.

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THE GIPSY'S TENT ON BAIGLEY MOOR.

It was a quiet, calm, sultry night early in October. There was no moon in the sky, but the myriad stars which sparkled in the mighty dome relieved the darkness, and made the surgounding objects dimly visible. Out in the open country, under that throbbing night sky, a great hush of stillness reigned, producing a sense of solitude and isolation, which saddened and oppressed the spirit of the wanderer whom necessity called to travel at an hour when most of human kind had withdrawn to the retirement of their closed homes.

On the level, far-stretching surface of Baighley Moor the stillness and solitude were doubly intense. Even at noon day a wide, barren moor is a dreary place. What, then, must it be after nightfall, when the footpaths and sheep tracks cannot be traced—when bare, desolate miles separate the traveller from human habitations? Deeper loneliness than this cannot well be experienced. It is natural—nay, inevitable—to the place and hour; but if in addition thereto, there is sorrow and anguish in the heart, the oppression to the spirit is tenfold greater. The poor outcast feels there most keenly and acutely that he is forsaken and alone—out off from human aid—left to struggle all unhelped with his burden of wretchedness.

On the October night in question, Baigley

all unhelped with his burden of wretchedness.

On the October night in question, Baigley Moor, with all its stillness and solitude, was not quite deserted. At one point of it a red light gleamed through the gloom, and shone afar. This light came from the fire of a small gipsy encampment, which had been planted for the last two days on a slightly rising ground about a quarter of a mile from the road which traversed the Moor, and led directly down to the entrance gate of Baigley Castle, and a half mile further on, to the hamlet of Sinclairtown, which had the largest assemblage of houses in the upper part of Strathmae, and, from its comparative size, might almost have been called a village.

The gipsy encampment consisted of one tent, and a cart with an arched cover of dingy cloth stretched over a wooden frame. The lean, high-boned horse which drew the cart was tethered on the Moor, about a stone-throw off, where it munched diligently at the dry coarsé grass.

at was instructed on the Moor, about a stone-throw off, where it muched diligently at the dry coarse grass.

Within the tent, and round the fire which burns in the centre, reclined two men and a woman. The woman seemed to be about thirty years of ago, and was habited in the control of the woman of the woman of the work of the wo

give anything like an accurate indication of the character. Her occupation at the moment was a culimary kind. She was attending to a large iron pot which hung above the fire, the steaming contents of which sent forth a savoury smell, and gave large promise of an abundant and substantial supper. Two hare skins, newly flayed, hanging upon the pole of the tent, a number of teathers lying on the ground, and a quantity of turnip blades thrown into a corner, gave significant tokens of what the supper was likely to consist of.

The woman conducted her cooking operations in silence, but the two men who lay on the other side of the fire were engaged in conversation. One of these was a huge, broad-shouldered, bushy-whiskered, olive-complexioned fellow, dressed in dark velve-teen clothes, and a conical-shaped hat. He had much the appearance of an Italian brigand, but his swarthy complexion, his black eyes and hair, and his eastern conformation of countenance proclaimed him likewise a gipsy. He was a cunning, cruel-facedman—a man whom you would see at once was a vagabond, and a reckless, upprincipled ruriaeu.

The other was of a different type. He had

vagabond, and a reckless, unprincipled ratifian.

The other was of a different type. He had neither the gipsy features nor complexion. He was considerably younger than his shaggy companion, being not older, perhaps, than twenty-five. He, too, had an uninviring countenance, and a dissolute look, as if he had cast away restraint and abandoned himself to a wandering, lawless, and idle life, The expression of his face was surly and gloomy, as if some purpose or hope of his life had been thwarted, and driven him into an angry rebelliousness of being.

'You do hate him and no mistanke,' observed the younger man, continuing the conversation. 'Won't you tell me what it's for, Mark?'

drak?

Tell you what it's for, Will?' burst forth he gipsy, with a savage growl. 'Tell you why I hate Sir Fergus Sinclair? I dou't nind if I do, as you've sworn to lead the oyal life of the Rommany. Shall I tell him (fee?')

of her black eyes, and with curling lips she replied—
Do as you please, Mark. The matter is known through all the tribe, and I have but to raise my finger to obtain ample revenge.

'Revenge can wait,' returned Mark, doggedly, 'What could a bullet do in that way? Think you a swift death would satisfy me? No, curse him, nothing but slow, lingering torture will do. I want to wring his heart, drop by drop, to make him groan and writhe in his pain, to endure years and years of agony, and to know that it is the gipsy's weird he is dreeing. Wait a bit, Zoe. I'll get revenge for you, and I would like to see one in the tribe dare to take it out of my hand.

'Why, what on earth did he do to offend

nd.'
Why, what on earth did he do to offend
u?' asked Will, considerably astonished
the other's fierce vehemence and passion-

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