

## MIRABEL'S ISLAND

that Lindsay's correspondence should be forwarded from London.

Hence, the procurator-fiscal was enabled to read the story of the crime at first-hand, because Locksley's statements were explicit. Evidently foreseeing that his letter might be produced in court, he divided it into two well-defined portions. The second of these, dealing directly with the tragedy, was published. It read:

"Having made up my mind to rid the world of a scoundrel, I have acted methodically. Macdonald was gone early in the day, so, late at night, I sent my daughter and her dog to the mainland in a small boat which she kept on the island for her own use. I did not retire to my room, because sleep was out of the question. For some hours I watched sea and sky as my injured sight would permit, and, when I was sure that no adverse weather conditions had prevented my daughter from making a crossing which would be dangerous in so small a craft unless the sea was smooth, I went inside the house and awaited the dawn. Soon after daybreak Hawley appeared. At first he did not realize that my daughter was gone, nor that I had not slept during the night, but he grew alarmed when I suggested that we should prepare our own breakfast, and he threatened me with physical violence if I did not tell him what had become of his wife. His threats did not move me at all, for I had fathomed the man's character by this time, and he soon became more reasonable, since it was obvious that his only chance of leaving the island quickly, or of ever meeting my daughter again, rested with me. He knew, of course, that my daughter loathed him, but he still believed that he had a hold on me by reason of a bygone episode in my own life. Poor wretch! Seeing that his blackmailing tactics had doomed both himself and me to death, I could well afford to leave him the cheap triumph of self-delusion. My attitude served to calm him. The