

CHAPTER XXXVIII

It may be taken as an axiom that the Law finds haste incompatible with dignity. Italy certainly offered no exception to the rule, the unkind might even remark there were occasions when dignity was incompatible with delay. Paul Arrington fretted and stormed and expostulated, but he had to remain in Potenza or the neighbourhood a good three weeks while the Law made due and deliberate inquiries into the cause of Giorgio Matoni's death and the subsequent discoveries.

The courteous kindly little doctor, who by some good stroke of Fortune had chanced to be dining at Bari's café when Paul had hastened out for assistance on the discovery of Matoni's death, did his very best for both the unhappy foreigners then plunged into such tragic difficulties.

Margetta, who was the principal—indeed, almost the only witness called at the inquiry—was in dire terror of Arrington, whom she swore had the evil eye, and from her it was ascertained Luigi Matoni on his release from prison had returned to Tallio with his brother and remained there for some time, quarrelling a great deal with the usually good-tempered Giorgio.

The sole point of resemblance between the two brothers seemed to be a desire to get as much out of the world and each other for their private use, as might be managed with safety. Whether Giorgio had really intended to assist Luigi to America or not, no one knew. There was no trace of a passage being booked, but that was not considered conclusive evidence either way. All that was actually known was that on the evening before the intended departure, Margetta