

fortune to us if we needna use it! And I said to myself, 'Now, Ninian, if you were Duncanson and bogged so deep in mischief, what lengths would ye go to clear your neck?' Duncanson wanted Drimdorran, and when he couldna get it by fair play he tried the foul. For weeke he thought that Paul was drowned, and before he learned the truth he had put his head into the hemp. He hashed and haggled at the booke; he forged Paul's name; he grabbed the property. And then, *mo creach!* he got a staggerer! He was no sooner in Drimdorran, laird, and hie chair drawn to the fire, than a messenger came one day from the North with dreadful tidings. Paul Macmaster wae alive! He was there in the North, with Lovat! He might appear at any hour, though he was papered, and find out how he had been wronged!

"I put myself in hie position. 'What's to be done?' I asked the rogue of me. I was there, Drimdorran, at my window, looking out upon my lands, wi' not a crop yet from them, and a letter in my hand, and I saw the scaffold. When a body will see the ecaffold he deserves, it's pity him his bowels! there is nothing he will shirk to save him. And I said to myself (for mind ye I was Duncanson!), 'There is only one thing for it—Paul must go!'

"Now, how could thie be managed? I thought of Simon. Lovat could have ehipped him to oblige a friend, the way he shipped yourself and me, *Æneas*; but he wasna asked, and that of itself looks black. It meant that Duncanson could not feel safe with Paul alive, even though the ocean lay between them. He must die! Lovat is a bad man, and eome day he will euffer for it, but he's not the one to riek hie neck in a dirty murder for another man, though he'll stretch a point to do kidnapping', and Duncanson muet do the deed himsel'. Your brother never went to France, Alan: he meant to go, but first he meant to come to Inveraray. For a while it puzzled me that Lovat ehould be ignorant that Paul came thie way, but I think that now I have the reason. Paul couldna trust him. No man wi' his wits about him ever sat wi' Sim a day without seeing he was