THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

3 3 1

The Statue in the Wilderness

2

I tell the tale as I heard-is, two-fifths of a cen-The set of the set of

Dear Queen, how the faith of this ranger bold put to shame my own weak trust in Thee, Butstill, is my weakness, I ask Thee to bless and to guide me on life's stormy sea. So, I tell the tale as he told it, in words neither

more nor less-Mayhap you have heard of the finding, ere this, of our Queen in the wilderness.

Far away in the West, where the sunbeams rest Far away in the West, where the sume In the heart of the forest wild, A statue graced these solitudes Of the Virgin and the Child; No lovelier nook in nature's realm Than this sweet sylvan scene— Fit spot for our Infant Saviour Prince And His Mother, our Lady, our Queen.

It stood where two glant oaks entwined, Fwrning a niche or shrine, And the shirmmering sunbeams fell like a shower When the leaves were stirred by the wind, Ficeking the pure white marble With the day god's goiden rays, While above her, around her, beside her The song-birds trilled their tays.

And the wild flowers gave their homage, As they gommed the turf at her feet, And clambered o'erhead in profusion, Swinging out their incense sweet, He perfect was the contour of that pure and peer-lees fore.

iess face. While the folds of her simple mantle Fell around her with exquisite grace.

But how will I tell you the beauty That lay in the Child God's smile, Or the grand, yet gracious majesty That was with Him all the while; I connot, for words do fail me To speak, how those eyes Divine. Looked into my soul, and seemed to say Thou art Mine, and only Mine.

And I feit one answer alone could be given, As I knelt od the moss-grown sod, And I vowed my life and the love of my soul To theservice of my God. Have you wondered with me how this sculp-

tured gem, Shaud be found in the primitive wilderness, The the heart of the "Great Lone Land."

Yet there it stord, and by some hand placed, With a pure ideal taste, And graved in the atone of the redestal Wore these words, now near effaced:

 The work of Carlo Vangri, A sculptor in marble stone,
 Who offers the gift of his precious craft
 To the bonor of God alone; And to Theo fair Lily of Judah, Man's guide upon land and sea, Pray for the erring, the wanderer, Sweet Mother, pray for me."

It have the date of two cepturies gone. Mad the city from whence it came. With the names of two humble Missioner priests Wainscribed in the annais of fame.

What was their fate? these saintly men, What was their fate; these safety men,
Steep they each in an unknown grave,
Bid they gain the martyr's paim and crown?
From those they came to save;
Seldom they thought of the land they had left,
If the pleasures of earth, or their loss,
They sought but to gather the tribes of the West,
To the faith of the Nazarene's Cross.

What toils and privations? What tortures and

These men of the "Black Robe" bore, Can never be known, till the last trumpet sounds

sounds To meet, on Eternity's shore: But their work still remains, thro' the long lape of years, Blessing these solitudes fair, God's Angels alone must have guarded the spring

shrin With a loving and glorious care. AGNES BURT.



By MRS. HENRY WOOD: Author of " East Lynne," "Oswald Gray," Sc.

CHAPTER XXVIII.-CONTINUED. "Did your love for him cease with that night ?" respred Lord Dane.

There was a pause in the conversation; each was coupled with the past. Lady Adel-alde was the first to interrupt it. When did you arrive at Danesbeld," the asked, as the thonght occurred ro her.

THE P

" Last September, when the tarbulent see cast me schore. But for your step-son's ex-ertions with the life-boat, I had never again seen Daneshold." " Last September!" she repeated, quite shricking in her astonishment. "Was it you.

who were saved-who have been lying since it." at the Sailor's Rest? Why have you done 50 ?"

"I tell you, as I told Apperly, when he put to me the same question -- for reasons. Perhaps from the delicate motive of not wishing swidenly to deprive my Lord Dane of his title and rent-roll."

There was a grim smile on the speaker's face, and Lady Adelaide slightly started as the full import of the words struck upon her.

"Why, yes; as you are here, Herbert cannot be the rightful possessor," she slowly said. "Yon-must-be-Lord Dane !"

"I am Lord Dane. Herbert is not, and never has been."

"Then why in the world did you not return when your father died?"

"We wil let that subject rest, Adelaide. I never supposed it was Herbert who was reigning. I thought it was my brother Geoffry. I have heard a rumer that Herbert Dane seeks wife in Maria Lester. A pretty child she

was ten years ago." "I have not interfered-I would not interfere in Herbert Dane's marriage. I expect she would be his wile by now, had not her

fancy become enthralled by another, one Wilcame in ; you would shun him, did you know his character. Why, Harry, he is a dreadful man; an adventurer and a robber. He broke into our house last night. He is pursuing Maria for her fortune-that fourteen thousand

pounds she is entitled to." "Indeed !" composedly returned he, "Grave accusations to bring against a Dane."

"Against a Dane !" of course they would be; but I am not speaking against a Dane." "I am. William Lydney is a Dane, and was born one."

Lady Adelaide sat with her month open. half stupefied. Lord Dane touched her arm." "You may remember that I informed you of my early marriage. I did not tell you that I had a son born of it, but I intended to acquaint you, Adelaide, before I made you my wife. It is he whom you Danesheld people have been converting into an adventurer, a housebreaker, a poacher-I know not what. He is my own son-Geoffry William Lydney Dane."

"Why then he-he-will be-surely-Lord Dane ?" uttered she. when her consternation allowed her to speak.

" The very moment the breath goes out of my body, he is Danesheld's lord. A better parts for Maria Lester than Herbert Dane."

" My goodness me!" gasped Lady Adelaide. And I have called him—I don't know what I

have not called him. Everything but a gentleman." "Adelaide, ' said Lord Dane, awaking from a fit of musing into which he fell," take it for

all in all, life has not been to you all flowers you to bear it as a man." and sunshine." "Taking one thing with another, it has

been to me a wretched life," she answered, bursting into tears. "The world speaks of "The gay Lady Adelaide," it has more cause to speak of the repentant one. My own deceit has come home to me-as Herbert's must have come home to him."

"As we sow, so we must reap," concluded Lord Dane. "Deceit is a crime that, sooner or later, entails its sure punishment."

And, take you note of the words, reader, for they are full of truth.

CHAPTER XXIX. LORD DANE (we call him so a little while

Out of the room strode Lord Dane, and " she down to the hall. Lydney was in the mid-a To- die of it being shown in, and Bruff was cross-

ing id meet him, bowing low. . . What do you de here, sir ?" he foamed. "I am here in obedience to a request of Miss Dane," was the answer, delivered cour-

toonaly. "My visit is not to your lordship." "I am the master of this castle," foamed Lord Dane, "and there's the door. Go out of He laid his hand on Lydney's shoulder,

possibly to enforce compliance in no very gentle manner, but Bruff positively forced himself between them.

"Ob, my lord, don't !" he pleaded in excitement. "You may be sorry for it afterwards. This gentlemen may have as much right as your lordship to-to-enter castles."

Whether Lord Dane would have flung Bruff out, for his interference, and Lydney after him, cannot be told; for at that moment advanced Mr. Blair, who had followed Lydney in.

"Sir,' he said to Lord Dane, "will you grant me an interview before dealing further with this gentleman ?"

"Sir? Sir!" repeated Lord Dane, astonished at the style of address. For ten good long years he had left the "sir" beneath him.

"I speak advisedly," was the whispered answer. "I have strange tidings to communicate to you."

Lord Dane looked around hun, and was seized with an inward panic. The detective stood calm and stern; Lydney self-possessed and dignified, yet with some-what of pity in his countenance; Bruff was troubled and fearham Lydney. I saw him in your room as I ful, but testifying to Lydney the utmost respect. Lord Dane noted it all, and his courage failed him, almost his self-possession : yet he had no suspicion of the nature of the calamity to come.

"Pass in here," he said to Mr. Blair, motioning to Bruff to open the door of the diningroom; and, as the old butler hastened to obey, he saw the same livid look on his master's face which it had worn the night he passed him in the gateway. They were shut in, and Lord Dane motioned to the officer to take a chair.

"I have come here to prepare you for a most unpleasant surprise," began Mr. Blair, somewhat at a loss for words to break the unwelcometidings; "and I have but a minute or two to do it in, for one is following me close at hand who-who-must cause a startling effect upon you ; and it will be well for you that I speak first. But you are ill!" " No," replied Lord Dane, as unconcernedly as his quivering lips, which he was biting in his agitation. allowed him to speak. Proceed.'

" You were surprised at my addressing you as 'sir,' and naturally so. I am sorry that it should have fallen to my task to inform you of the change hanging over your head; but I must do my duty, however unpleasant. When I released William Lydney from custody you questioned my motives, my right-I believe my good feeling. I would have explained matters to you then, had I been at liberty to do so; but they were not sufficiently ripe. I must do it now, and I can only ask

Lord Dane made no reply. He stood with his arms folded, and his pale face turned on the speaker. That he only controlled himself to calmness by a very great effort was evident.

ceeded Mr. Blair, "a catastrophe occurred in the Dane family. Captain the Honorable Harry Dane met his death, as was supposed, in falling from the heights, struggling with an assailant. Until a day or two back, it was neither known or suspected who the other was; but it is at length discovered to have been you. He----"

of Lord Dane, whose agitation was fearful to

oould mistake him for any other thin Harry surely out on the plant an acorn, and it all my penetration and experience was misled. Date: "In the body or the spirit?" may natural fruit? We plant an acorn, and it all my penetration and experience was misled. The old up an oak tree; we sow an ear of wheat, and while we were cunningly guarding the cas-servants of the castle were gathered around, some standing, some positively kneeling, all with tears in their eyes. Braff's eyes were we gethered around stord we gethered around store we are been around store we are gethered around store we gethe with terrs in their eyes. Braff's eyes were overflowing; and in the background stood Ravonsbird and Lawyer Apperly.

"I said you would know me again," he smiled, his own eyes full, and his right hand grasping those of his father's old retainers. " I did not think I should live to return to assume my proper position amongst you; but God has been merciful to me, and 1 am here.'

A low murmur of congratulation, intermixed with sobs, were heard in answer.

"Not for long, my dear old friends; not, I

The hall was rent with a shout.

" Long live Lord Dane ! Thank God for restoring the dead to life ! Long live and bless the true Lord Dane 1" "No, no, it will not be for long, he answered, "for the old grim enemy who must take us all at last is coming swiftly on for me. I was about to introduce you to one who will fulfill my place to you is all when I shall be gone. Look at this young man by my side, and tell me who he is like."

They looked attentively. Seeing the two side by side, they compared their height,

their features; and some voices were heard to answer, somewhat timidly :

"He is like a Dane."

"Yes, he is like a Dane. You may have known him only as plain William Lydney; you may have heard him traduced as an adventurer, a suspected criminal. My friends, Danesheld little guessed who it was accusing. He is my only son, your future lord, the Honorable Geoffry Dane."

Geoffry Dane held out his hand; all pressed, around to clasp it. There was another shout, while poor old Bruff sobbed outright. One, who was not overwheimed with brains, was heard to ask how he could be Geoffry Dane and William Lydney!

"Must I give you his name in full?" smiled Lord Dane. "He was christened Geoffry William Lydney; so, you see, though he was known in Danesheld as William Lydney only, he did not sport false colors. My dear friends," he added with emotion, " there is nothing false about bim. He is a genuine Dane, honorable, upright, open. He never gave me a minute's uncasiness in his life, and that is what can be said of few sons.. Serve him truthfully in all good faith, as he will be faithful to and protect you. He will not

belie his race." But what, of all this, had heard Herbert Dane?-henceforth Lord Dane no more. as Lord Dane, and that, William Lydney-Nothing, save the shout, "Long live Lord | Harry! is it indeed you ?" Dane," for they were at one extremity of the

Blair, its expression asking for the information that his lips did not. "Yes, it is your cousin, Harry Dane, and if and has now returned to claim his own. You conclusion you jumped to," continued Mr. | marry his grandmother." Blair, with a smile, "but you must put up with the loss of your title and fortune. That's

Lord Dane." "And he?" pursued Herbert, pointing with

"Ten years and some months ago," prohis finger to Lydney, the conviction flashing over his mind in the same moment that he had been all along laboring under some extraordinary delusion as to the young man's doings and character. and went forth. The crowd opened, and they stood face to face gazing at each other.

Mr. Blair paused, alarmed at the appearance

clapping her hands in triumph, as she looked could mistake him for any other than Harry surely our own doings, bring forth ; their from the window, "for he is already come." In the body or the spirit? may natural fruit? We plant an another the spirit?

1 States

we gether. You and Adelaide Errol did me a bitter wrong. It was not the injury of a moment-that which may be committed in a whirl of passion, without premeditation; but it was a appeal to Sir Bichard Mayne." concerted, long-continued wrong-a decep-tion that you carried on through months of tion that you carried on through months of him?" sharply asked Mr. Lester. "The time—one day planning how you should best what has that conduct borne for you in the

end? Adelaide looking upon you as a murderer, would not have you, jilted you, as you fear, for many days. You will only regain term it, and married George Lester, entailing me to lose me again; but I shall leave one a life's misery upon herself-for she loved but you. Her ill treatment of, and ill feeling

toward George Lester's son, drove him, the young man, nearly desperate. His life was worth nothing to him, and in his recklessness to preserve it, he put off in the life-boat the night of the shipwreck, saving me and William. None but a man whose life was valueless to him would have manned, and by his example induced others to man, the boat on that desperate night. Thus Adelaide is the remote but certain cause of our safety; the cause of your being put down from your high pinnacle, the cause of your losing your wished for bride-for that Maria Lester will be William's there can be no manner of doubt. See you not how it has all worked under Providence ? that the original deceit is

recoiling on yourselves ?"

Herbert Dane did see it. Who would not? and a recollection flashed into his mind of of solemn meaning. Mr. Lester, he could william Lydney's triumphant look, when he not tell why, did not like it. William Lydney's triumphant look, when he had said Maria might yet be Lady Dane.

was; but I warn you beforehand, Mr. Lester, "I have come to remain, Herbert," con-tinued Lord Dane. "The castle from to-day that it will not be pleasant to your ears." "It must have been Lydney," was the fal-tering answer, all Mr. Lester's assurance must own me for its lord, and you must be my guest. Do not think I will turn you abruptly gone. out of it; we will discuss plans for your future amicably, and I will take care that you are better off than you were when you were stand before him, his face red, and his tongue last Herbert Dane. Some persons might loud. come upon you for the back rents of the past ten years," he added, laughing, " but you need as he paced the room. "Do you forget who not fear that I shall. How is Cecelia ?" he is __ that he is a gentleman? He is under

" More flighty and absurd now than ever The present crotchet in her head is, that William Lydney is in love with her."

"Oh, indeed. Well, she and Maria Lester must settle that between them. Poor has mless Cecelia."

" May I come in ?" cried a voiceat the door, which proved to be from Cecelia herself. "I don't think I shall ever have my understanding clear again; it is being turned upside down. They tell me that Harry is come back

"That William Lydney is not himself but great hall; he at the other. But he had somebody else," laughed William, turning seen. He turned his perplexed face upon Mr. from the window, after the meeting between her and his father was over. "I must introduce myself as your cousin, Miss Dane."

"Oh, dear! cousin !" echoed Miss Dane, a you saw him, as you state, the other evening, blank look arising to her face. "Why, to be though I had not heard of it, you saw him in sure you are, being Harry's son; and not a the flesh, not in the spirit. He did not die first cousin either." And away flew she up when he fell from the cliff; he was preserved, | stairs to consult her prayer-book as to the forbidden ties of consanguinity; opening it at are not about to be arraigned as a murderer, the that part which begins, "A man may not

CHAPTER XXX.

SQUIRE LETER was seated in his study, in very cross and disturbed mood. Various things were giving him trouble. In the first place, the discharge of Lydney from custody, and the positive refusal of Inspector Young to retake him, was an offence that worked up his blood to bubbling heat ; in the second, an in-terview he had just held with his daughter, in-"His son, the Honorable Geoffry William." Herbert Dane wiped the drops from his face, creased it to boiling-point; and in the third, however." the uneasiness and vexation he endured on the score of his son, sent it flowing over. He could not deaden all natural feeling for Wilfred, though he had striven to do so lately he began to fear that something must be wrong on his side; and to doubt whether Lady Adelaide's constant incentives to the persecution of Wilfred were altogether the precise line of conduct he ought to have fallen in with. Of his wife's expedition to the Sailor's Rest the previous evening, under the convoy of Mr. Apperly, he knew nothing ; Lord Dane having demanded a promise from her that she should for the present be silent as to his return. His anger against Maria arose from this: he had sent for her to his study that morning, and told her to hold herself in readiness to espouse Lord Dane; and Maria, calling up her whole stock of courage, had told him that she could not.

"But we were on the wrong scent. I with of the whole, and it was upon my authority William Lydney was discharged from custody -which induced the lord-lieutenant's haughty

"But what could possess you to discharge blind and deceive me on the next. But now, you done it to screen him from the consequences of his guilt?"

"Hardly," responded Mr. Blair : "my office is to bring to punishment not to screen. I discharged him because he was not guilty. Listen, Mr. Lester. In the attack made on your house, there was a ring-leader, one who planned it, and on whom, in my opinion, nearly the whole guilt rests. The fellows he induced by promises to aid him, some of your loose poacher chaps have neither brain nor the courage to enter upon a house-breaking expedition on their own account."

" It is precisely my opinion," eagerly ac. quiesced Squire Lester; "it is also Lord Dane's. Those poacher's are not worth punishing, and therefore we have not moved Heaven and earth to take them. The ringleader is the guilty man, and that ringleader was Lydney."

" Mr. Lester, give me credit for being assured of my facts before I speak. William Lydney was not the ringleader." The officer had dropped his voice to a low, earnest key, and his look had changed to one

"I am here to tell you who the ringleader

Up started Mr. Lester, overturning the ink-

"How dare you traduce my son !" he cried,

the cloud of my displeasure just now, and it

drives him to be wild, random ; to associate

with loose company. But a midnight house-

breaker! You shall eat your words, Mr.

"I am not sorry to hear one admission from

your lips," equably returned the officer, who had sat with professional coolness until the

burst was over : 'that it is the being under the

cloud of your displeasure which drives him to

be wild and to join bad company. You speak

truth, Mr. Lester. Whatever ill your son may

be guilty of, you have driven him on to it. He

was the housebreaker into the hall last night

-that is, the mover in the step-the ring-

"Perhaps you will say I drove him on to

that !" chated Mr. Lester, whose feelings

were taming down frem indignation into

"Yes, I should, if you ask my opinion. Mr.

Lester, allow me-it is of no use to contend

against facts, or to resent what it is my pain-

ful duty to tell you. Knowing, as you now

do, who I am, you may be sure I should not come to you with a half-substantiated story. It

was your son who planned and carried out the

attack on his father's house, the poachers

being persuaded and bribed by him to help

"There was no robbery, in the ordinary

sense of the word, and the pistol you heard

discharged was raised by him at one of the

men, who had hinted that it might be pleasant

to effect a little business of that sort on his

own cheek. There was something taken,

Mr. Lester looked around, as if to make

sure that the chairs and tables were all in

"It was Wilfreed Lester."

Blair."

leader.'

pain.

in it."

their places.

she returned her accent one of sharp pain. fast in the castle, or to speak more correctly, "Though I refused Herbert Dane, though I | after breakfast, for the meal was over, though took him for a murderer, I yet loved him. I believed that what he had done, he had done in the heat of passion, in his jealous love for me, and the feeling may have softened my judgment and my heart. All I know is, that It was years before I overgot my tenderness for him. I do not think it had quite left me when he returned recently from abroad."

"Yet, in the very midst of this love, you married George Lester."

"I had the choice of two alternatives: to raturn to Scotland-hated Scotland-or to marry George Lester, and I chose the latter. He has been an indulgent husband to me."

"Very much so, as I hear," remarked Lord Dane, "More so than to Katherine Bordillion's children."

Lady Adelaide's cheeks flushed at the allu-Aton. She did not pursue it. She began to question Lord Dane of his escape from death, of his sojourn abroad, and he gave her a brief summary of its history.

"How could you think of not letting us know you were alive?"

"Let who know? My father and mother were dead, and you the wife of George Lester; there were none left in the old country who cared to bear from me."

"But to go off in that strange way in Colonel Moncton's yacht. And the castle "every." close at hand for you to have been brought to ?"

"That night was the turning point in my life, as well as in yours," was Lord Dane's | drawled Lord Dane. pointed answer. "It opened my eyes to the fact that Adelaide Errol, my promised bride, was but playing a game with me-that while her shafts of ridicule, of dislike, were thrown to me, she kept her heart's love for Herbert. Smarting under the blow, was there any wonder that I should become an alien, Lady Adelaide?

Again she bent her face down-her face still so lovely-and the bright color rose upon it, almost as fresh as it had used to do in a damask purity.

"Have you married since then?" was her next question.

" Lord Dane-I mean my uncle-wrote to the States to make inquiries as to your fortune, after your supposed death. You had never told him what it was invested in, he said."

"I am aware I had not. It was all safe. though, and at good interest."

"He wrote, I say, but he could learn nothing satisfactory. And before he could pursue further his inquiries, he died."

"And Herbert did not, when he succeeded. That is easily understood. A man who had sent, or thought he had sent, another out of the world, would scarcely dare to grasp his fortune. I expect my remembrance has not been one of sweet odor to Herbert Dane."

"That it has not !. Others wondered why he went abroad, on coming into possession, and stayed away for years. I could have told them; that the sight of the old spot was unbearable to him."

"Yes," responded Lord Dane. And he may have felt himself safer when beyond the pale of British law. The fear of detection. of the discovery that he was the actor in the night scene, Harry Dane's assailant, must have caused him many a night-sweat ; the coroner's verdict was ' wilful murder.'"

"Gun love cease as rapidly as it comes on ?" longer) and Miss Dane were seated at breakthe things were not removed. Miss Dane was airily attired, as if in opposition to the winter weather; gay colors predominated in her dress, and her ringlets were no less flowing than usual. They were holding an ar-gument about William Lydney.

"It's of no use trying to convince me Geoffry," said she persisting in her own view of things. "I know that he is no more what you call him, than I am. He is the best looking, the most polite, the most gentlemanly man in Danesheld; and he does pay the sweetest compliments. A midnight housebreaker! just as much as Tille is. She must have dreamt it."

"Pshaw!" returned Lord Dane, with apathy.

"Had those police creatures kept him in custody, I should have gone in the carriage and made a morning call upon him at the sta-tion. I should. Just to testify my regard for him, and to show Danesheld how very much I resent the opinion they have taken up respecting him. I asked him one day, whether he was rich-rich enough to keep a wife; he laughed and answered, Yes, and a gilt coach-and-six for her. A man with those means is entitled to every respect," concluded the lady, with a great stress upon the

"Possibly you would like to offer him a call, and enjoy the benefit of the gilt coach,"

"Oh, dearl" simpered Miss Dane, "oh dear 1 I'm sure you have no cause to say that. If he does admire me, which is evident from his looks, and if he has paid me a little attention, he has not said anything-yet. But he he is a most fascinating man; it can't be denied; and I expect him here every minute.' "Expect whom here? Not that fellow,

Lydney ?" cries Lord Dane, aroused out of his apathy.

"Indeed, yes, he and no other," she smiled. "I dispatched a note to him yesterday evening, after I heard of his release from the fangs | some evenings ago I saw the apparation of of Young and those harpies, requesting him | my cousin Harry. Never since the fatal night to be here this evening at ten o'clock, on im- of his death had I entered the ruins, but the portant business. I want to offer him my congratulations, and to assure him of the fact there, sent me to them. It was the night that the more Daneshold abuses him, the higher he stands with me."

you show it more every day," was the complimentary retort of Lord Dane. "With regard to that imposter, I shall stand no further nonsense; he goes out of Danesheld, or I do. | saw it as plainly as ever I saw it during his I wrote to Sir Richard Mayne last night; lifetime these police underlings shall find out what it is to beard a lord-lieutenant. And you may deemed them ominous ones-seemed to arise as well understand me, now and for the future. | from the next apartment the hall. Mr., Blair's Should your friend Lydney attempt to darken | ears were opened to the same, but before he my doors, the servants shall kick him out."

"How remarkably impolite you are, Geoffry, and you do take such unaccountable prejud- door gently open, so as to allow of peeping ices!" was Miss Dane's rejoinder, who, what- out. You may forgive the tremor that shook ever may have been her other deficiencies, his frame; he believed that the officers of bossessed one of the meekest tempers. "It justice had arrived for him. is my home as well as yours, and I shall receive my own friends in it, of course."

If Miss Dane cannot keep herself from degrad- on the shoulders of William Lydney, was a ing associates, I must beg leave to do it for | tall, upright figure, his high features bearing

nebold. Well it might be. All that he had dreaded

for years was come. Lady Adelaide had spoken of her burden, but what was hers compared to the one he had carried? One perpetual nightmare had lain upon his soul. In his ghastly visions by day and by night, one perpetual terror had ever been upon him,the day of DISCOVERY, when he should be dragged from his high pinnacle to answer for the murder of his cousin Harry ; perhaps to suffer for it a felon's punishment, death upon the scaffold. That the officer now before him was about to arrest, him, and was thus preparing him, in his humanity, he entertained no manner of doubt. The perspiration broke out on his brow in large drops of anguish and he threw up his hands to Mr. Blair in an attitude of entreaty.

" it was not wilful murder." he gasped, in a tone of the sharpest pain. "If you arrest me for it, you will do me a foul wrong, for I am innocent. We were quarrling, and it came to blows; he struck the first; as I have a soul to be saved, he attacked me! We got too near the edge of the cliff, in our strife, and he went over, but I did not push him; I swear I did not. I was as guiltless of intentionally causing his death as I am of causing yours. Could Harry Dane speak to you from the next world he would say so."

"I have thought for some days that it might be a warning that this was coming upon me," continued Lord Dane, in a dreamy wife in your own person, as well as a morning tone, as he leaned against the side hoard. never so much as hearing the interruption. "Harry Dane appeared to n e."

" What?" uttered Mr. Blair. " Appeared where?"

" Aye, ridicule it. I am a strong man, sir, a man of enlightened education, of intellect; and, as all such must do, I have ever cast the most contemptuous disbelief, the veriest mockery on supernatural tales. Ghosts. visions! appearances !- they might he fit marvels for children, but not for men. Nevertheless, I tell you now in the broad light of day, I, Geoffry, Baron Dane, in full possession of my mind and senses, I tell you that story told by Shad, that the plotting might be preceding the day when I telegraphed for you. I stood in the ruins, my thoughts naturally "You always were a weak fool, Cecilia, and cast long back to the unlucky night and its events, when I was last there. I raised my eyes, and there at one of the apertures, gazing

Lord Dane's voice faltered, for sounds-he

could say another word to Lord Dane, or impede his movements, the latter had drawn the

Not much like officers of justice, however, did the group look that met his view. Stand-"Any friend you please, but not Lydney. | ing in the hall, his left hand affectionally laid an unmistakable likeness to the Dane family. "Ab, but you can't," she returned gently In spite of his pallor and his white hair, none | as Retribution ? Have you remarked how

In a moment their hands were locked; and alone, save for William, they retired to the dining-room, Lord Dane leaning upon Herbert.

" Herbert !"

" Harry !"

"First of all. Herbert, let me say that I for give you---

"It was not purposely done," interrupted Herbert Dane, in agitation, while William retired to the window out of hearing. "I never pushed you; I never knew we were so near the edge until you went over. Harry, I swear it."

"Not for the encounter; I have as much need of your forgiveness for that, as you have of mine, for I believe I was the aggressor. But, you might have come to see after me, or sent assistance to me when I was down."

"I never supposed but that it must have killed you, and in my cowardice I dreaded detection and punishment. As for assistance, I saw that one of the preventive-men was underneath."

"What I would forgive you for is the provocation-the deceit practiced toward me by you and Adelaide. Do you realize what it must have been to me? I forgive you, as I have forgiven her. I am hastening on to my long journey, and I could not enter upon it without at first squaring up my accounts; so I sent for her last night and gave it to her."

"She was worth neither you nor me, Harry. She jilted me afterward, like she had been ready to jilt you. Many a thousand times dren." have I wished that I had let you win her; it "Oh would have been better for all of us."

"Ay. But we will drop the subject. You played me a sneaking trick, Herbert, about him from utter ruin, and do not force me upon that box. What induced you to steal it-and conceal it ?"

" The box trightened me. I have feared detection in every leaf and sound for this last ten years, and when the box, that box, stared and fretting, when he was interrupted by the me in the face on the beach, I cannot tell appearance of Mr. Blair, that gentleman havme in the face on the beach, I cannot tell you my sensations. Remember, I never cast a thought to the idea that you might be living after his interview with Herbert Dano. and if rights came to be measured, I, the only Dane left might surely claim the box. I conand would, have opened cealed it, it to see what it contained, but the inner case morning from Scotland Yard. The lord. bailled me. I will give it up to you; it is in the castle.

"I don't fancy it is," said Lord Dane. But he resumed. "And now comes the last question touching your misdoings. Why is t that you have so persecuted my son ?"

"He terrified me as being' the owner of the box. I no more supposed him to be your son than I supposed him to be mine; but I in upon me was the form of Harry Dane. I did fear he might be coming over to denounce me as having helped you to your to you?" inquired Mr. Lester, who felt most death. And I really have had a bad opinion | considerably astonished. of him from his consorting with the

ponchers." "Consorting' with them !" returned Lord. Dane, some scorn in his tone. "He was after

the box-that's what took him into the headlong as he could go. Who but Wilfred officer; one of the chief." Lester, do you suppose, broke into his father's "Bless my soul!" elaculated M- T-there to got him to be the set him to be a suppose of the chief."

of it." surprise. The past was becoming clear to him. "Herbert," said Lord Dane, bending toward him, "did such a thing ever cross your mind men, waiting for the robbers?"

"You would prefer to marry that villain. Lydney!" spoke Mr. Lester, in his wrath. Maria bent her head, crimsoning painfully. All that she reiterated was, that she could not marry Lord Dane.

Mr. Lester was obliged to wait for his rage to subside sufficiently to speak.

"Look you here, Maria. I will give you the day to consider of it. If you do not tell Dane, you must leave my house. You can take up your abode with Wilfred; 1 will not suffer you under my roof any more than I did him. Had I followed the advice of Lady

"Ob, papa!" she said, the tears streaming from her eyes, "have a little compassion for joinder of Mr. Lester, who was cutting rather us both? Give some aid to Wilfred, save a sorry figure; as most men do when a con-Lord Dane?"

"Your answer to-night, Miss Lester." WAR

all the rejoinder he vouchsafed to give. Maria escaped; Mr. Lester sat on, fuming ing made his way to the hall immediately

"Good-morning, Mr. Lester. I am disturbing you early, but business must be my excuse. I have had a telegraphic dispatch this lieutenant wrote to Sir Richard Mayne, last afternoon, regarding this house-breaking affair of yours, and Sir Richard has communicated the fact to me. A fine invention, this electric telegraph. I look upon it as one of the greatest connected with science! He would receive Lord Danes letter at eight, and I got his message at half-past."

" May I inquire what was the object or the nature of Sir Richard Mayne's communication

"None whatever; except to inform me of the appeal having been made to him by the lord-lieutenant. You appear surprised, Mr. Lesier ; you have, I believe, looked upon me as my Lord Dane's banker, but I must assure ponchers' company; and looking after Wil- you I am nothing half so important in a com-

Danesheld. A communication reached me Herbert Dane made no answer, in his that an attempt was to be made to break into Dane Castle, and I laid my plans accordingly. Would you believe, Mr. Lester, that on Sunday night the castle was protected by police-"No!"

an?" he inquired his accent What wa savoring of incredulity.

"Have you examined your iron safe?"

" No." But Mr. Lester turned short around and examined it then : that is, gave a stare at the outside.

"I fancy his object was to get into his possession a certain deed, relating to some money he believes he is entitled to, but which you withhold. And I fancy he succeeded."

After a pause of astonishment, Mr. Lester hastily drew some keys from his pocket, and unlocked the safe. He knew precisely where to lay his hand upon the parchment, and essayed to do so.

"The dead is gone!" he uttered turning around in perturbation. And Mr. Blair nodded.

" You now perceive your son's motive. don't defend him: mind that. I don't defend him; but some may deem that he had provocation. Whether the money ought by law to have come to him when he was of age, 1 cannot offer an opinion upon. He expected that it should, and the least you me to night that you are ready to accept Lord | could have done, was to allow him to peruse the deed. When you shall deliberate the past over with less prejudice than you have probably been in the habit of doing, you may arrive at the same conclusion as myself-that Adelaide, you would have gone to them had Wilfred Lester been treated differently by months ago. Disobedient disgraceful chil- his father, he might never had forfeited his good name."

" Are you going to arrest him ?" was the reviction of their own had conduct is brought home to their shame.

"To arrest him is not in my department. If you choose to give him into custody, you can hand your warrant and instructions to. Inspector Young. Your son might get the punishment, but I know who would get the odium. When the whole facts were disclosed, the miserable course of his past treatment, there's not a judge upon the bench but would recoil from sentencing him,-thinking of their own children.

Squire Lester gave his brow a rub, which was apparently growing hot.

"I am not going to give him into custody," he sharply said. "You need not preach."

"But that I felt convinced Mr. Lester was a good man at heart, and had been led away [he best knows by what influence] to act harshly, I should not have disclosed to him the true culprit," observed the officer, looking him steadily in the face. "I knew he would shrink from bringing public punishment ou one who is his son, and ought to be his heir, thereby furnishing further food for scandal in

Danesheld." "Futher food!" retorted Mr. Lester. "] bave furnished none yet."

"My good sir !" returned the officer. "If you only knew the hard words bestowed upon you from one end of the place to the other, you would not think that. Wilfred, with all his ill-doings, is popular and respected, compared with you."

"You are bold," chafed Mr. Lester. "It is the fault of my trade," was the answer given with a knowing smile. "It is a good thing, and you may thank your stars for it that some one else, has been more compassionate to your son and his wife, than you have been : or else I am not sure that they-