

Jeannie Sinclair,
OR,
THE LILY OF THE STRATH.

CHAPTER XXXI.
A NIGHT OF PERIL—THE CRUEL FATE OF MOSES
SEVI—UNLOOKED-FOR AID—A BANGUINARY
BATTLE—HOMEWARD BOUND.

By this time the dusky Indians had descended the ravine and clustered among the bushes at its base, ready to swoop forward on the brigands the moment their allies were prepared to lead the attack. Most ferocious savages they looked, with their bare limbs and painted faces, and the dreadful tomahawk grasped in their right hand. Critical as were the circumstances, Watty could not forbear gazing in astonishment at their singular appearance, so different from anything human he had ever seen, and William, by whose side he lay, heard him utter in amazement—

"Guid keep us! they are devils, and no men ava."
"There was no time, however, for indulging in wonder or any other mental sensation.—Life and death hung upon the moment. The poor Jew was hurriedly wounded—his face and the upper part of his body being covered with blood—while at any moment a knife might be sent flying into his heart. To save him, therefore, as well as to overcome and put the robbers to flight, instant action was required.

By instinct, as it were, William was looked to as leader in the emergency, and in low tones he directed them to creep forward and regain their arms, telling Josh to acquaint the Indian Chief with their intention, and let him understand that, the moment these were secured, the attack would be made simultaneously, and with vehemence.

To Josh's communication Eagle Heart returned an expressive and approving "Ugh," and gave the Mexican to understand that he and his followers were ready.

William now looked anxiously at the wild and brutal scene that was going on below.—The robbers were still engaged in their devilish sport. Half drunk as most of them were, they were throwing their knives almost at random at the Jew's body, and though several had struck him no fatal wound had yet been given. But, tired apparently of throwing in turn, they were now whirling their blades in twos and threes, and the wilder spirits of them were shortening the distance, as if bent on despatching their victim at once. Their mad mirth and excitement had increased in proportion, and the captain and those beside him, who only witnessed the scene, were fully absorbed in its contemplation.

Making a signal to the rest to follow, William crawled noiselessly towards the weapons, fearful lest a stray eye might be upon them, and alarm given. But safe at once in the darkness in which they lay, and in the brutal work which was occupying the attention of the brigands, they accomplished their work safely, and each had his arms securely in his grasp. The moment Shagar was free, and had seized his knife and pistols, he was away like a tiger towards the stake to which Moses was bound. This action on his part made it imperative that the attack should not be delayed for a moment, and William, with a rapid wave of the hand, dashed forward with Robert at his side, and Jonathan and Josh close to their rear.

Then burst out with a startling yell the indistinguishable war-whoop of the Indians, paralyzing in a moment the brigands with consternation, so that, when their late prisoners and the redskins leapt in amongst them, they were standing like dumb statues, incapable alike of thought and motion.

The Captain was the first to understand the desperate state of matters, and recover his presence of mind.

"Hold, men, rally!" he shouted, leaping to his feet and drawing pistol and sabre from his belt, he and those surrounding him dashed into the melee.

Stupefied, bewildered, and taken utterly by surprise, the robbers were for some moments panic stricken, and rushed about in frantic confusion. Many of them were unarmed, and most had only the long Spanish knife with which they had been engaged in their hellish sport. Despite the command of their leader, they were for some moments terror-stricken, and then it was that the terrible, swift descending power of the Indians was felt, as they wielded their tomahawks with deadly effect. The darkness made only more bewildering by the blazing torches; and soon in their madness, rage and despair, the brigands were slashing with their knives in blind fury.

The thick of the fight was where the Captain and those who stuck closely to him encountered their late prisoners, and here the fray was terrible. The combatants selected their antagonists, and William Denman found himself especially attacked by the infuriated Captain.

The youth did not shrink from the combat. His soul was on fire. Knowing the terrible issue that depended, he fought with the courage of a lion.

Robert Douglas fought with unmatched valor. He fought for more than life—for life's dearest hope and sweetest experience—for Cloverlea and Helen.

Watty kept close to William and Robert through the whole bloody struggle. Like the others he knew no fear. One thought alone animated him—to vanquish the robbers and recover their property. But even in that time of danger and excitement he did not forget the purpose for which he was in that strange land, and he watched as well as fought. He watched the danger that came nigh the two youths, and more than once he intercepted blows that, if not mortal, would yet have inflicted serious wounds.

Eagle Heart and his Indians fought with savage ferocity—their yells also striking terror into the souls of the brigands, and their numbers making it soon apparent that the latter was doomed to be defeated. Their Captain was among the first to see this; and gathering around him those of his gang who manifested the nautical air we spoke of before, he addressed to them a few rapid words in a clear, commanding voice—

"Lads, we are overpowered!" he cried.—
"To fight is useless. Keep together, and let us make good our escape. Follow me."

TO BE CONTINUED.

THE LAST MASSACRE IN KANSAS.—The *Leavenworth Times* and *Conservative* has received the following particulars of the Indian massacre: The tongues and hearts were cut out of the dead bodies. The calves of their legs were slit down and tied under their shoes; pieces of telegraph wire stuck into the bodies; the ears cut off, and heads scalped. The Indians boiled the hearts of their victims for medicine. The Swedish settlers who were attacked all lived in one house.—Only those were killed who left the house and attempted to reach a place of great security. Those who remained in the house were not molested. This occurred in two instances. The calamity is mainly attributable to the lack of arms. Wherever a gun was fired the savages made no fight.

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