## Jeannie Sinclair.

THE LILY OF THE STRATH.

CHAPTER V.

THE TEMPTER T. THE FRAUD—THE TEMPTER TON—THE FRAUD—THE UNSERN WITNES.

The doctor placed the temptation most skilfully, and the sensation of horror in Mrs. Carrick's mind gave place to the desire to obtain the money. He narrowly watched her face, and read there the wish that had come. But though she wished it her scruples were not overcome. The risk to be run, the fear of consequences, deterred her.—'1 daurns, I daurns,' she whispered, breathing hard with excitament. 'We wad be shure to be fun' oot.'

'1 have made everything secure against that,' urged the doctor. 'The idea struck me when I say the boy on your knee up at the keeper's house, and I hastened down to put things in trim for its execution. I got all the servants out of the way. I put something in the housekeper's krink to keep her salesp, and I gave her ladyship a draught which caused her to know nothing, and from which she will not recover for at least two hours. Then by the measures I took the child was born. As I fully expected, it furned out a girl, and my plans were not laid in vain. Where, then, is the danger? Not a soul hat ourselves will know of it: Sir Gregus is absent, and will not return till the day after to-morrow. Master Lynedoch is also absent, and her is this unknown, girl come to help us to as neat a project as could be done. All that is to be done is for you to take the girl in your lap up to the keeper's house, lay it in the boy's place, and bring the latter here. Then we shall rouse the house—rouse Mrs. Brode here—rouse her ladyship and announce the birth of a son. Nothing will be suspected. Not a sandow of doubt will ever crass any mind. We will receive our reward, and, no doubt, Sir Fergus, in the greatness of his satisfaction, will give you a gift too.'

'I wass it could be dune doctor. The siller would be a great thing for ms, and, as ye say, the bairns would never 'Esn o' the change, and the folks in the Castle might never be the wiser. But ye forget as thing doctor. The puir lassie wunna part wi' her ain bairn. She wund ken

anger we may lind it imposes us our purpose.

"I'm a in a trimmle, doctor. My heart's seath" like the clapper o' a mitl. It's sic an swire thing tae dae.

"Pool!—mere imagination. You are too squeamish, Mrs. Carrick. When will you have another chance of earning a hundred rounds?

squeamish, Mrs. Carrick. When will you have another chance of earning a hundred pounds?

'That's true eneuch,' assented the nurse, with a sigh. 'It's a great temptation to a puir weedey woman like me.'

'Who otherwise has only the parish to look to,' artfully bringing again what' he knew to be the strongest motive to bear upon her.

look to, 'artfully bringing again what he knew to be the strongest motive to bear upon her.

'Yer shure it wull never be fund oot? she anxiously whispered.

'How should it?' Not a soul but our two selves will know anything about it.'

Mrs. Carrick looked at the face of infant innocence and beauty which lay upon her lap, and her heart smote her at the thought of betraying the helpless one to a hard and helpless fate. Then ensued a struggle in her soul between the instincts and right feelings of her nature and those less worthy desires which the temptation appealed to—comfort and independence in old age—exemption from the paupers' roll and parish pittance—these were advantages which it seemed to her could not be overestimated, and the more she considered these the more desirable did they appear. The doctor waited rather impatiently but with confidence for the issue. He was too well eversed in the philosophy of human nature not to know that when a temptation is not resiste I at once and shaken determinedly aside but lingered near and dallied with, it is sure to obtain the victory.

'I'll dae it,' she at length said, starting up, and turning towards the doctor a resolute face, on which the sweat drops stood like beads. 'My mind is made up.

'An I your decision is a sensible one. We may n'erckon the money as ours.'

Bu, it mann be done at once—this very minut.'

'It cannot be done too soon,' replied the

'Bu. it main be done at once—unix very minut.'
'It cannot be done too soon,' replied the doctor, promptly. 'You understand the course you are to take. Carry up that child, and lay it as it is where the other is now lying. Bring the boy here, and as soon as your return we will take our measures to have him presented to her ladyship and the servants as her ladyship; new-born son. After the bustle is over, the story of the girl at the keeper's house must be broached, and some one sent from the village to wait on her. We know, of course, what a person so sent will find—a dead mother and a living child.

Now, then, speed on your errand.'

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past two o'clock. The girl is now dead.

'Deid' echoed Mrs. Carrick. 'The puir lassic deid'

'Even so. When I saw her I knew that she had not two hours to live.'

'And what for did ye no tell me sae? returned the nurse, in indignant horror. 'Hoo cruel and siiful tae leave her alane tae warsle wi death! God forgie ye, doctor, for the biame is yours—no mine. Had I kenned sho was sae far gane I wad hae run tae the toon and sent Mrs. Lunsden had been beside her and watch her end. Fuir helpless creatur, wha kens what she has sulfered?'

'Keep your mind easy on that score, asswered the doctor, with the greates professional coolness. 'Suppose both you hand Mrs. Lunsden had been beside her, your presence could have given her no relief, and even no comfort, for she suffered not, and was beyond the feeling of fear and anxiety. She was sinking when I saw her, and would die with as much ease as a weary man falls saleep. Now, are you satisfied?

The nurse shook her head. 'I wish somebody had been beside her,' she marmured.

'In which case our scheme would have been rendered aboutive. But let us decide and act quickly, for time presses. It we wait longer we may find it impossible to carry out our purpose.

'I'm a in a trimmle, doctor. My heart's

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