Jeannie Sinclair.

THE LILY OF THE STRATH.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

MARKET-DAY AT SHAWHEAD—THE TWO TRAVEL
LEES—AN IMPORTANY CONVERSATION OVERHEARD—EXCITING SCENE AT THE BANK.

'Then 'this Robert Douglas has no near
relatives?' said Jim, interrogatingly.

'No ane, sir. No ane. But wull ye, sir—
'Will I answer your question? Oh, yes'
I did see them in California. We all wrought
at the digging together, and made between
three and four thousand pounds. We sailed
in the same ship, the Fetrel. She took fire
in a thunder storm, was burned, and sank.
We took to the boats. The boat in which
we diggers were was the only one that did
not swamp, but we had no provisions, and
after being tossed about on the sea for days,
my companions died one after the other, till
I was the only one left. I was nearly dead
too, when I was picked up by a ship. I got
to England only a few days ago, and I have
come here to get our cash, for we sent it on
to the bank here; and, as my companions
are dead, it is all mine.
'Wae's me, wae's me! but ye bring bad
news indeed,' said the landlord, in a tone
and with a look of genuine sorrow. 'An'
they are a' three drooned! Sie heavy tidin's
for the folk in the Strath! Alack-aday!—
And sic a fine young lad as Maister Robert
was; and sae for that pairt was the ither
gentleman. He stoppit here as day, and a
purpose-lie, well spoken chield he was,
though nashody ken's onything aboot him,
or where he belanged he. 'Ye'll be gann
owre tae the Strath tae tell the Sinclairs and
them.'

owre tae the Stratt tae tell the Sinclairs and them?'

"Well, I don't know! I'm rather in a hurry, replied Jim. 'And, egad, that reminds me that the bank will be shut immediately. I must go across for the cash.'

Clever Jim Murdochson! Having pumped the landlord of all information necessary to him, he left the room; and armed now, as he deemed, with sufficient knowledge to impose on Mr. Murro, he went boldly across the street towards the bank.

As he was quitting the spartment the Captain, lying quite still in his easy chair, unclosed first one eye and then the other, and watched his retreating figure. Then, as he heard his footsteps pass out into the street, he sat bolt-upright and gazed through the open window at Jim's jaunty figure as he swaggered across—never taking his eye off the bank.

"Well, there's a precious scoundrel!' he

open window at Jim's jamty figure as he swaggered across—never taking his eye off him till he disappeared within the doors of the bank.

"Well, there's a precious scoundrel!" he ejaculated. "My eye, I wonder how I managed to keep quiet all the time he was laying off such confounded lies. But I'm glad I did it, for it has shown us what a rascally landshark he is. By the Lord Harry, but it has been a providence that made me miss the coach, and kept me here. Shiver my timbers, I'm as flabergasted as a ship taken all aback by a foul wind. I know I should be doing something at once, yet here I am sitting as still as a binnacle. Hang it, I wish I knew what to do. That feliow is up to some horrible foul play, and if I don't look sharp he'll cut out his prize from under the very nose of the fleet. The poor fellows—I wonder what has come over them, for it is clear they did not swamp as we thought.—By heavens, I'll force the truth from him, though I should choke it out through his lips.'

The Captain started up, and, stalking to the window, stared hard at the bank. How long he might have stood thus inactive is uncertain, but he was suddenly put into motion by seeing the clerk preparing to close the premises for the day. This acted like a spur, and, catching up his hat, he made across the street at a rapid pase, just as the clerk had got one half of the door fastened up and was preparing to close the other,

"Past bank hours, sir,' remarked the official, standing in the narrow sperture to bar the Captain's entrance.

"I know, I know. My business is not in the bank but with the banker.'

"Can't see Mr Munro at I resent, sir. He is engaged.'

"I know he is, but I must see him. It is of the utmost importance that I see him immediately. Stand aside, my man.'

To BE CONTINUED.

The Spanish Regent.

The Spanish Regent.

Spain has a regent for a ruler for the third time within the last forty years. The first of the three was Queen Christina, the mother of Isabella, lately driven from the throne. The revolutionary movement at Madrid in 1840 resulted in her down fall and the appointment of General Esparto as regent, who held power only two years, when he was overthrown by another revolution, and Isabella, then only 13 years, was declared by the Cortes to be of age.

Francisco Serrano, the new regent, is one of those many soldiers of fortune in Spain who owe their fame and rank to the devotion with which they attach them selves to the cause of Christina, and the courage with which they fought during the war of independence. Like many of his class he was liberally rewarded by the Queen mother, and at the period of her overthrow, in 1841, he already held high rank in the military service of his country. The Queen's abdication and exile did not long retard his advancement, for he took a prominent part in the successful movement against the regent Espartero; and immediately on the restoration of Christina he joined Narvaez in his scheme to combat and destroy the influence over the mind of the young Queen that in 1846, some time dater marriage, a very serious difference occurred between her and the King Consort, arising our of the latter's jealousy of Gen. Serrano. This domestic difficulty was indeed a matter of public scandal at the time. An attempt was made shortly after by the Duke of Sotomayer the mind of the young face of the latter's jealousy of Gen. Serrano. This domestic difficulty was indeed a matter of public scandal at the time. An attempt was made shortly after by the Duke of Sotomayer the property of the public of Sotomayer the public of Sotomayer the property of the server of the s sort, arising out of the latter's jealousy of Gen. Serrano. This domestic difficulty was indeed a matter of public scandal at the time. An attempt was made shortly after by the Duke of Sotomayer to ruin Serrano politically, but it recoiled on that Minister's own head, Serrano subcacceding in overthrowing the Ministry of which the Duke was chief. Popular opinon, however, proved more powerful than royal favor, and Serrano subsequently tell with the Ministry of the Salamanca, with whose fortunes he had identified himself. Up to this time the lucky favourite had been a reactionary in politics, but he now became a liberal; and he has ever since been identified with what is known in Spain as the Liberal Union party. He was sent in 1854 into exile for having taken part in the Saragossa outbreak; but the revolution of July in that year opened the way for his return to Spain, and he became a supporter of the O'Donnell-Espartero Coalition. He played a prominent part in the coup de ctat of July, 1856, it being principally through his instrumentality that the insurrection in Madrid was subdued, and O'Donnell enabled to seize power as Dictator. For this sorvice he was sent as Ambassador to Paris; but the downfall of O'Donnell shortly after led to his recall. In 1865 he was appointed by the new O'Donnell Cabinet Captain General of Madrid. For many years he has had a seat in the Senate, where has distinguished himself by a uniform and vigorons opposition to the reactionary policy of the old school of Spanish statesmen, and by his hearty support of all liberal measures. He has taken a quiet but influential part in this last revolution, and he owes his elevation to power as regent to the character he has won, of late years, for prudence and moderation, joined to liberal and enlightened views. Serrano is about 70 years of ago, having been born at the end of the last century.

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