By JANIE O'BRIEN.

(Continued.) "No, no! Hope for nothing but to Ernest! I will be your friend - your to a richly furnished library.

"Maude, is there guilt, is there crime visitor to begin. connected with this terrible secret of

yours?" he demanded. She rose to her feet impetuously. "And you think me capable of crime, Lord Villiers?-of guilt that needs concealment?" she said, with proud scorn.

"You, Maude? No; sooner would I believe an angel from Heaven guilty of crime, than you. O Lady Maude! must this secret, which involves the happiness of my whole life, remain hidden from

Her tone was very sad, as she re- at his feet. plied: "Some day, my lord, I will tell here and never let this subject be renewed between us."

"One word, Maude-do you love me?" "I do! I do! Heaven forgive me!" "Now, why 'Heaven forgive me? Maude! you will drive me mad! Is it

such a crime to love me then?" "In some it is," she said in her low sad

"And why, fairest saint?" "Do not ask me, my lord. Let me go, I am tired and sick, and very unhappy. Dearest Earnest, leave me, and never speak of this again."

"As you will Lady Maude," he said turning haughtily away. But a light touch was laid on his arm, and the sweet voice of Lady Maude said: "I have offended you, my lord;

"I am not offended, Lady Maude Percy; neither have I any thing to forgive," he said, "You have rejected me, and I presume the matter ends there." "But you are offended, O Lord Villiers, if you knew how unhappy I am

caused you." Her tone touched him, and taking her brow grew dark. hand gently, he said: "It is I who should ask forgiveness, Lady Maude. Yes, I will accept the friendship you offer, until such time as I can claim a better reward. Notwithstanding all you have said, I do not despair still." He pressed her hand to his lips and

"Excuse me, your lordship," insinuated a footman in his ear," but there is for pardon from God, pardon him." an individual down stairs who persists in seeing the earl, and will not take no for an answer."

impatiently. A gipsy, my lord, a desperate-looking

old tramper, too." "What is that about gipsies?" said they are going to transport."

"How I wish I were a gipsy!" said Lord Villiers, gayly, "for such a re-

Lady Maude Percy, my lord," lisped Miss Jernyngham; "but about this gipsy _is it a man or a woman?" "A woman, miss, they call her the

gipsy queen, Ketura." "A gipsy queen! oh, delightful!" cried her up. I insist on having my fortune

"Your slave hears but to obey, Miss "Yes, me lud," said Jonson, hurrying Lord De Courcy! mercy, mercy for my

"George-George! do come here," exclaimed the young lady, as her brother passed; "I want you."

"What's all this about?" said the guardsman. "My dear Clara the way you do get the steam up at a moment's notice is perfectly astonishing. What can I do for you?"

"Do you want to have your fortune If any good sybil would predict for me a rich wife, who would pay my debts

and keep me provided with kid gloves and cigars, I wouldn't object; but in any His speech was cut short by the sudden appearance of the footman with the must suffer,"

gipsy queen, of whom he seemed considerably afraid. her abrupt demand.

"And we wish to have our fortunes "Your father!" said the woman, fixing her piercing eyes on his handsome face.

"then you are Lord Villiers." "You have guessed it. What has the future in store for me?"

she hissed. "Give me your hand." mother, what has destiny in store for deeply pity you; as heaven hears me, I

"Much good or more evil. This night "Oh, then, for my sake, if there is one decides thy destiny; either thou shalt be spark of pity for me in your heart, do blessed for life, or if the scale turns not kill me! For, Lord De Courcy, it against thee_then woe to thee! stand will be a double murder, his death and

A tall, distinguished-looking man of middle age approached, and looked with grave surprise on the group before him. to God alone." "A word with you, lord earl" said the gipsy confronting him.

"Speak out, then." "It must be in private."

and curious.

I am called the gipsy queen,
Ketura," said the woman drawing herself up.

"I tell you I must speak in private. Is your time so precious that you cannot grant ten minutes of it to me?" said the

"This way then," said the earl, as he forget one so miserable as I am. O Lord turned and led the way across the hall Seating himself in a softly-cushioned sister, if I may; but I can never be your lounging chair, he waited for his singular

> CHAPTER IV. THE GIPSY'S VOW.

May the grass wither from thy feet! the Deny thee shelter! the earth, a home! the A grave! the sun, his light! and heaven, he

"Well, madam! I am waiting," said the earl after a pause. "Lord Earl, behold at thy feet a moth er who comes to plead for her son!" said the strange woman, sinking on her knees

"Madam, I do not understand," said you all; but not now. Let us part the earl, surprised, and feeling himself obliged, as it were, to use a respectful form of address, by the woman's commanding look.

"My son is in your power! my darling, my only son! my first born! Oh, spare him!" said the woman holding up her clasped hands.

"Your son! Madam, I do not understand," said the earl knitting his brows in perplexity. "You have condemned him to trans-

portation! And he is as innocent of the crime as the angels in heaven," cried the woman in passionate tones. "Madam, I assure you I do not under-

more and more perplexed, "You know him as Germaine, but he my lord! spare him!" wildly pleaded is my son Reginald-my only son! Oh, the gipsy queen.

"Madam, rise." "Not until you have pardoned my

"That I will never do! your son has been found guilty of wilful robbery, and you would forgive me the pain I have has been justly condemned. I can do nothing for him," said the earl, while his

"My lord, he is innocent!" almost shrieked the wretched woman.

proven guilty," said the earl coldly. "It is false! as false as the black hearts of the perjurers who swore against him! He is innocent of this crime, as innocent of it as thou art. lord earl. O. Earl DeCourcy, as you hope

"Madam, I command you to rise." "Never, never! while my son is in chains! Oh my lord, you do not know "Who is it?" inquired Lord Villiers, how I have loved that boy! I had no one else in the wide world to love; not a drop of kindred blood ran in any human heart but his. O Lord De Courcy, I have suffered cold and hunger, the unceremonious little Miss Jernyng- thirst and hardship, that he might never ham, passing at that moment. "You want; I have toiled for him night and must know, I fairly dote on gipsies, ever day, that he might never feel pain; since I saw that charming young man I have stooped to actions I loathed, that he might be happy and free from guilt. And when he grew older, I gave him up, though it was like rending body and You can do so very easily by going to soul apart. I sent him away; I sent him to school with the money that years unceasing toil had enabled me to save. I sent him to be educated with Who will give you full particulars gentlemen. I never came near him. least any one should suspect his mother was a gypsy. For twenty-three years my life has been one long dream the young lady; "my lord, we must have of him; sleeping or waking, in suffering and trial, the thought that he was near me gave me joy and strength. And now he is condemned for life-condemned to Jernyngham. Jonson, go and bring the a far off land, among convicts and felons, where I will never see him again! O

> A spasm of pain passed over the face of the earl; but he answered sternly "Woman, your son is guilty. I cannot

"He is not guilty! Perish the soul so base as to believe such a falsehood of my high-hearted boy !" cried the gypsy He, my proud, glorious, kingly-hearted FIFES, FLAGEOLETS, Reginald, stoop to such a crime! Oh! sooner could the angels themselves be guilty of it than he!"

"Woman, you rave! Once again I tell "Pardon, pardon for my son!" "Madam, I cannot. I pity you.

Heaven knows I do! but he is guilty, and "Omy God! how shall I convince him?" cried the wretched woman, wringing her "I wish to see Earl De Courcy," was hands in wildest despair. "O Earl de Courcy, you too have a son, handsome, gallant and noble, the pride of your old told, good mother," said Lord Villiers, age, the last scion of your proud race! "my father will attend to you presently." For his sake, for the sake of your son,

pardon mine!" "Once more I tell you, I cannot. Your son is condemned; to-morrow his sentence will be executed, and I have no power to avert it. And madam, though "Nothing good for your father's son," I pity you deeply, I must again say he deserves it. Your son deserves his fate: He extended it with a smile, and she all the more so for his ingratitude to took it in hers and peered into it. "Well you, after all you have done for him. I

this sentence is executed. not prevent it, and once more, madam, I

beseech you to rise. You should kneel Just received per Steamship Nova Scotian "God would forgive him, had I plead ed to him thus; but you, tiger heart, you 110 BDIS. Sled Shoe Steel; will not!" shrieked the woman, "O lord earl, I have never knelt to God or man "It must be in private."

"Who are you?" said the earl, surprised ed now! You hold my life in the hol-

low of your hand, and you will not grant "I tell you I cannot." (To be Continued.)

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8 30 P. M.—From Water Street, St. John—Night Express for points West, and for St. Stephen, Woodstock, Houlton, and all points North.

3 25 A, M.—From Fredericton—Passenger and Mails for St. John. 9 00 A. M.-From Fredericton for points West

ARRIVALS: 6 30 A. M., at St. John—Out Express Train from all points West, and from St. Stephan, Woodstock, Houlton, and all points North. 10 10 A. M., at St. John, Water Street-Express

00 P. M.—At Fredericton—Accomodation from

11 50 A. M.—At Fredericton—Passenger and Ma 5 35 P. M.—At Gibson from Woodstock and points Pullman Sleeping Cars on Night Trains, and Drawing Room Cars or Day Trains to and from Bangor. Berths secured at ticket office, Waterstre. —C. A. FREEZE, agent. No Train leaves St. John Saturday night or Sun-A train arrives at St. John from the West Sun day morning and a Train leaves for the West Sun day night.

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