

"I have seen him frequently in my store" added Rigg, "and a very nice, respectable-looking girl with him."

"She is a table maid at the Victoria Hotel," said Romans, "and the orderly wanted to make her his wife but the Captain could not permit him to marry."

"I hope that he may make good his escape," said another.

"Could you identify the man, Mr Sheriff," said Corporal Casey, addressing Mr Bourke.

"Yes, yes, I am sure I could if I saw him in his uniform standing at the Governor's door. Certainly, certainly."

"Did you see the passenger in the steamer whom we found sleeping all night there with his face to the wall? Is that the deserter, Mr. Sheriff?"

"Like yourself, Corporal, I could not see his face, and took very little notice of him," said the Sheriff.

By this time the stage coach was slowly drawing up the ascent of Mount Tom, and the outside passengers determined to get down and have a run for a mile or two to Nancy Stewart's—the first stopping place—to lighten the load and get their own blood into circulation. Corporal Casey called the Sheriff's attention to an active young fellow who was bantering the others to race to Nancy Stewart's, where we were to stop for some refreshments, and asked if he thought that was the man who had been orderly.

"It is precisely his height and figure, said the Sheriff, but he may now take to the woods here, as soon as he is out of our sight. Good heavens! Corporal, you should have been beside him all the time. If he escapes now I shall report you to the Colonel at Halifax as soon as I get there. Stick close to your man but don't arrest him without letting me know."

Corporal Casey lost no time in getting out and following the others, now a quarter of a mile ahead of the coach; but he was no match for them and they were soon out of his sight. When the coach arrived, we found the Corporal puffing and blowing seated on a log outside. He informed the Sheriff that all the other passengers were safe inside,