

"SHREWSBURY"

By STANLEY J. WEYMAN.

main. I am not greatly asbained, there-fore, that in a crisis which amply justified of the fact as you would have us believe all the horror and repugnance which mortals you."

there by relentless fingers while a rope was being fetched from the next room. I had no silence. Rage wision, as I have read some have, of the lovolunt things done in my life, but the set, dark faces that hemmed me in under the light,

that of itself was torture.
"Oh, God!" I cried. "O, God!" I felt that could see no help.

man, p'ny," said Charnock, inex-"Pray, for you must die. We will

girl's presence. So, doubtless, had the pirators, for at the sound they turned and with a quick glance took in the room pirators, for at the sound they turned and its occupants.

Kly toward her; and, the ring of men "Good!" said Cassel, with an oath, "I the girl's presence. quickly toward her; and, the ring of men opening out in the movement, she became visible to me. She stood confronting all, daring all. Her lips red, her face white as paper, her eyes glittering with a strange wild me" Long afterward she told me that the sound of my shricks and cries ringing in her ears had been almost more than she could bear; that as scream arose on scream she had driven the nails into the palms until her hands bied, and so, and so only had been able to restrain herself, knowing well that if she would intervene coarsely. "Do you know that his man there to the purpose her time was not yet.

Now that it had come, nothing could exceed the mockery and scorn that rang in her tone. "A fool," she cried stridently, "has fetched it, and a fool will fasten it! And, let who hang, they will hang. And two of you, aye, you at the back there, will hang them. Why, you are foole, you are all foole, or you would take care that every man among you put his hand to the job, and was deep as another. Or, if you like precedence, and it is a question of fasten-like man like master! And that that poor ing-for the man who fetched, he is as good as dead already-let the hand that wove the background, had already his eye on the door and his mind on retreat. "Let him the it!"

she repeated. 'You slut!" he roared, his eyes equinting, his face, livid with fury. "Your tongue shall be sit. To your garret, vixen." But the others, as was not unnatural, saw the matter in a different light, "By —, the wench is right!" cried Cassel, and Keyee saying the same, and another backing the girl who was sitting moodily at a table by the fire touched her cheek with her the girl is right. The girl is right." At



"I PROMISE," I SAID

"That is fair, Mr. Ferguson," said Charnock, *Do you put the rope round his neck Ferguson spluttered, glaring from under his wig.
"Yes, you!" the man who had brought reforted, with violence. "You!

And why not. I'd like to know, my gentleam no hangman," cried the plotter with a miserable assumption of dignity. But the words and the evasion only in flamed the general rage. "And are we?" ter?" re Cassel roared, with a volley of oaths. "You for Pret covenanting, pealm-singing, tub-thumping mighty covenanting, pealm-singing, tub-thumping old quill driver," he continued. "Do you think that we are here to do your dirty work and squeeze throats at your hidding. Peste! For a gill of hollands I would split." Pshaw:" Ferguson cried, in a rage at That and your pen

your tengue for you. That and have done too much harm already. Peace," Charnock said, "Go softly, n. And do you, Mr. Ferguson, take up rope and do your part. Otherwise we shall have strange thoughts of you. There have been things said before, and it were

well you gave no color to them."

I cannot believe that even I, writhing as
a few minutes before I had writhed in their hands, and screaming and begging for life, could have presented a more pittable spec-tacle than Ferguson exhibited, thus brough to book. All the base and craven instincts of a low and cowardly nature, brought to the surface by the challenge thus flung in All the base and craven instincts his face he qualled and cowered before the men; and shifting his feet and breathing hard gisneed askance, first at one and then at another, as if to see who would support him, or who could most easily be per-suaded. But he found scant encouragement anywhere, the men, savage and ill-disposed, to begin, and driven to the wall, to boot, had now conceived suspicions, and in proportion as delay and his conduct diverted Cassel answered curity. "He is his man, their rage from me, turned it on him with and it is his business. I don't tay a hand

growing ferocity. 'Here is the cock of the pit!" cried Keyes. who seemed to be a trooper and a man of no education, lacking even the occasional Prench word or accent that betrayed the others' sojourn with King Louis "D-n him! He would have us haug the man, but "And you are a coward!" Cassel retorted. won't lay a fluger on him himself! He is no Keich isn't he? Well I hang no man either, unless I put a hand on him." And

he pointed full at the pictter. A murmur of assent, stern and full of meaning, echoed his words. "Mr. Fergu-Mr. Fergulok, with grave politeness. "you hear what this gentleman says? And, cause, I thought that for certain the bitter-

mind you, if you ask me, he has reason T believe that it is one thing to confront with calmness a death that is known to be inevisible, and quite another thing to assume the same brow where hope and a chance re-

It was wonderful to see how the men, sore feel at the prospect of sudden and violent dissolution. I fell below the heroic standard, with what greedy ferceity they turned on the and said and did things, miles impar Archilli. Knave who only a few moments before had Nevertheless it is with no good will I swayed their passions to his will. It was to dwell on the matter; in writing as in life, no purpose that Ferguson, head and hands shaking as with a paley, strove frantically to her told and others to be implied. Let few profanity seemed to fail him on this occawords then suffice, alike for the moment when sion, while the violence which had daunted Charnock holding back the others, wrung from me, half swooning as I was, the admission that I had been to Kensington, and that the sentry was not mistaken, and for those minutes of frenzied terror which followed, when accepting and stringling in those minutes of frenzied terror which for lowed, when acreaming and struggling in their grasp, now trying to fling myself down and now shrieking prayers for mercy, I was dragged to a spot below the hook and held there will be a rope was

Rage died down in the others' faces, and involuntarily they clustered together, the panic was of short duration; hardly had the alarm been given and taken, or the faces that hemmed me in under the light, the grim looks of one and the scared pallor of another, even Ferguson's hideous visage as he hovered in the background, bitting his mails between terror and exultation—all these, even enlarged and multiplied, I saw with a dreadful clearness and a keenness of vision that of itself was torture.

In ad the alarm been given and taken, or the lamp which hung against the wall been of a key in the door reassured the conspirators. For me, who throughout the scene last described had leaned half-swooning against the wall, listening with what feel-that of itself was torture. "Oh, God!" I cried. "O. God!" I felt that Ings the reader may easily judge, to the contest for my life-for me, who now stood terror of what was to come; yet from man I reprieved, and for the moment safe, any could see no help. change might be expected to be fraught with terror; but whether I had passed the bitter cried a hard, gibing voice from and, hearing a cry of "It's Mat Smith!" somewhere beyond the circle. "No other." neither fear nor surprise, nor even moved I started convulsively. I had forgotten when Smith entered, followed by a woman

thought that the soldiers were on us. But if they had been, curse me, but I would have sent this old Judas to his place before

Smith looked with a grim smile from the speaker to Ferguson, and raising his eye-brows, "Judas!" said he, with ironical po-

has blown on the thing and sold us?" Smith's eye had already found me where I leaned against the wall, my hands tied "I see," he said coolly. "I knew before that the game was up; and I have been some-where—and warned some one," he added. "I knew before that with a glance at Charnock, who noddet. "But I did not know how they had the

like man like master! And that that poor place there would no more have dared to inform without his patron's leave than-".

He left the end of his sentence to be unnoise tie it! Let that man tie it!" And with pitiless finger she pointed to the old plotter, who, sheaking and cringing in the plotter, who, sheaking and cringing in the log who had already his even on the door. scribed in a few words what had happened When he came to the girl's intervention in my behalf, the woman who had entered with Smith, and who, though she seemed to be known to the conspirators—for her appearance caused no remark—had hitherto remained fidgeting in the background, moved forward into the room, and approaching chin turned up her face. To this the girl man who had brought the rope down. "There's for me," he said made no resistance and the two women regloomily, and with an ugly gleam in his eyes. "Let the old devil take it up. It is his job, not mine, and if I swing he shall at the lade," the lade, the lade, who was the same woman I had seen with Smith at the lady's house in the outskirts, let the girl's face drop again, with a little flirt 'Fair!" cried all. "That is fair! ' And

of her fingers. "Doris and Strephon, I see?" she said with a sneer.

CHAPTER XXIX.

was no longer on his trial. Afterwards I learned that while my attention was astray

with the woman, Smith by stating what I

had stated to him-namely, that the secre-tary had used Ferguson as his intermediary

brough whom to warn Berwick-had con-

frmed the plotter's story and at a stroke had restored his position. Whereon, full

of spite and desperately certain that how-

ever exposed he lay on other sides, I at any

rate knew enough to hang him, the wretched

man had set himself anew to compass my destruction. Deterred neither by the check

he had received, nor by the gloomy looks

of the conspirators who responded but slug-giehly to his appeal, he drove home again

and again, and with wild words and wilder

one point that was so dear to him that he

uld not understand their hesitation.
"Waste time?" he cried. "We would be

better employed looking to ourcelves and

slipping away to Romney, would we? But you are fools! You are bables! There is

one evidence that can swear to you all! There is the evidence, keen to do it! There is the

"Where is Prendergast?"

evidence in your hands! And you will let

There is evidence without him, ' said King

"But where is he? And where is Por-

Where is Sir John Fenwick for that mat-

"Pshaw!" Ferguson cried, in a rage at e digression. "Why will you be thinking

And they are gentlemen besides, and

the matter of that," said Cassel

of them? Cannot you see that they are tainted, they are in it? They cannot if they

bluntly; "Preston was a lord. But he sold

That word brought a kind of cold breath

of suspicion into the room, at the chili touch of which each looked stealthily at his neighbor, as if he said, "Is it he?" Or he?"

Ferguson sceing on this that he made little progress, and that the men, though they looked at me vengefully, were not to be

kindled, grew furious and more furious, and began to storm and rave. But Charnock

"Mr. Ferguson is so far right," said he: "that if we let this person go to perfect his evidence against us we shall be very

foolish. Clearly, it is to set a premium on

"I'd as soon trust him as you. If you are taken you'll peach, Ferguson' G- d- you

I know you will. You will peach. You are as white-livered a cur as ever lived."

Then seeing them divided and the most bloody minded of them—for such Cassel had been a short time before—taking up my

Then let Mr. Ferguson deal with him,'

Nor I! cried several, with eager-

in a moment cut him short.

on him, and that is flat."

not dirty knaves like this fellow!"

oaths the one point on which he relied.

had restored

sulkily.

the digression.

Ashtor

treason.

Nor I!

What the girl answered I did not catch, for as she raised her head again to reply my ear caught the sound of rising danger Ferguson was speaking; his words, no onger incoherent, a mere frothing of oatha and calling of hideous fates on his head if he had ever betrayed, if he had ever sold, if he had ever deceived, now ran in a steady current of wrathful denunciation. And the men listened; he had their ears again, he what I say I do.'

nock answered, peevishly. "So that you stop his mouth."

fully am I persuaded was this the case that had it been a question of stabbing the king in the back or shooting him from a window, I believe not one would have volunteered. Let this stand to their credit; to the credit of men whom I saw and have described at their worst, drunken, reckless, ill-combined and worse governed whose illegal design, had it been accompliched, must have postponed the Protestant succession to these realms, but who, mister?" replied the man who had answered for Prendergast. "He is too high and mighty to mix with us, and will only all did it in a measure for a cause—and in

ollow him and leading the way upstairs

Smith's first act, when he reached the room above, was to close the door upon us. This done, he set his candle on the floor—whence ts flame threw dark wavering outlines of our figures on the ceiling, and moved to the hearth. Here, while I stared, wondering at his allence, he searched for some spring or handle, and finding it, caused a large piece of the waiscot to fall out and reveal a cavity about three feet deep and six long. He beckered me to bring the candle and look in, and supposing it to be a secret way out I did so. However, outlet there was

oncealed cupboard. "Well," he said, when he had moved the candle to and fro that I might see the better hs face the while wearing a smile that don. Messengers files of soldlers you think of it, Mr. Taylor?"

That was a night don. Messengers files of soldlers through the street

It is a tolerable hiding place," said he. I nedded; to please I would have said it was a palace. 'And not a bad prison?"

I modded again, staring at him, fascinated began to understand.

future, and myself to hope and plan. But his fingers, "would they use it, I wonder? the warm current of returning life had Would they use it? What do you think, Mr. scarcely coursed through my veins and set my heart beating before Charnock's cold

voice, taking up the tale, smote on my ear, and in a moment dashed my jubilation. There was that in his tone that gripped my hoursely.

That is better," said he, nodding. "Well, "Peace, man," he said. "Peace. Is this to be candid, almost nothing. Two pledges, a time to be bickering? Let us be clear before we separate, what is to be done with this man. For my part, I am not for letting him and the said and the said

looked at the speakers and at one another with a sort of apathy. Only Ferguson cried, violently, "Nor I, by ——! Nor I. We are many, and what is one life." "Quite so, Mr. Ferguson, Charnock re-pried. "But will you take the life?" "I prom The plotter drew back as he had drawn honestly."



"GO MAN," HE SAID, "YOU ARE FREE BUT REMEMBER-"

"And have him found by the messengers his closed teeth; and then, when terrified Ferguson knows plenty." iens. Ferguson knows pienty.

The woman who had come in with Smith aughed. "That might answer," she said, "If his sweetheart were not here. Do you

"Peace, man," he said. "Peace. Is this

Nor I," said Smith, speaking almost for

The others, lately so hot and impassioned,

the first time.

think she would leave him to starve?" There was a general stir and muttering as the men turned to the girl. "Pooh," said one, "it is Ferguson's giri."
"And your spy's sweetheart," the woman repeated. The girl lifted her head and showed the

room a face pale, weary and dull-eyed. "He is nothing to me," she said. And the men would have believed her, but the woman, with a swift, cat-like movement, seized her wrist and held it. "Nothing to you, my girl, isn't he?" she cried. "Then you have the fever or the small-pox on you. One, two three-

Interface flaming, the girl sprang up and snatched away her hand.

The woman laughed—and how I hated her!
"He is nothing to you, isn't he?" she said, in a mocking tone. "Yet what will you not give me to save him, my chick? What will you not give me to see him safe out of this house? What—"

"Peace peace" gried Character in the country of it, that I shall be taken with the others, or escaping, shall be taken with the others, or escaping the first of the factor with the others, or escaping the distance with the others, or escaping the factor with the others, or escaping the distance with the others, or escaping the factor with the others, or escaping the state with the others, or escaping the factor with the others, or escaping the factor with the others, or escaping the factor

"Peace, peace!" cried Charnock. "Time s everything, and we are wasting it. Un-Uness we would be taken, every man of us, we should be half way to Romney Marsh by morning. Will you leave him to me?" said Smith suddenly.

"Leave him?"
"Ay. Or, better, let me have two minutes" talk with him here, and if he comes to my way of thinking, I will answer for him."
"Answer for him?" Ferguson cried with "If you answer for him no better a sneer. "If you answer for him no bett than I did you will give us small gurety." "Ay, but I am not you, Mr. Ferguson," Smith retorted, in a tone of contempt, whereat the older man writhed impotently. "This man-Mr. Taylor or Mr. Price, or whatever his name is-knows me and that

'Well, do-what you like with him," Char-

To my joy the other men assented in the same tone, being giad to be rid of the bur-den. It may seem strange to some that those who had prepared an hour before to take my life, should now be as ready to let me go; but there are few men who are eager to take life in cold blood, and kill a man as they would a sheep. Moreover, in favor of these men-on whose memory the assassination plot has cast obloquy not altogether deserved, since few of them were assassins in the strict sense, and the worst of all, Ferguson, escaped his just fate-in heir favor I say it is to be observed that he fact which they designed, however horrid n the eyes of good citizens, and certainly ot to be defended by me, was not in their sight so much of a murder as an act of private warfare carried into the enemy's coun

their sufferings a fortitude that would have become better men and a nobler effort.

So much of them. One released my hands, and another, at Smith's request, found him light, and my new protector, bidding me the bare room at the back whence I had broken out, those we had left were deep n muttered plans and whisperings of the march, and Hunt's house, and Harrison's nn at Dimchurch, before we were out of

The place was nothing more than a

I did not understand him, and I said so, trembling.

"Lay a man in there, bound hand and to dawn; nor since the great panic of Beachy

I dared resist no longer and I crawled in mbling and praying him not to shut me in

-not to shut me in! "Lie down!" he said, gleating on me with I lay down, praying for mercy, "On your back! On your back!" he con-

tinued. "And your hands by your sides. the du So! That is better. Now listen to me, Mr. had gi Price, and think of what I say. When you future. want to be laid out for good as you are laid out now, when you are ready for your coffin and shroud—and the worms—then break your promise to me, for coffin and shroud and worms will be ready. Think of that-think of that and of me when the tempta-

words, apparently so simple, had on me, or the terror, out of all proportion to the means chosen-for he spoke without eath, violence or passion-into which they threw me, and which was very far from passing with the sound. I had feared Ferguson, but I feared this man more, a hundred times more! And yet I can give no reason, adduce no explanation, save that he spoke quietly, and so seemed to mean all, and something beyond, what he said. The plans for deceiving him and breaking my word, which I had entertained a moment before, melted into thinnest air while I lay and sweated in my

narrow berth, not daring to move eye or limb until he gave me leave. And he, as if he knew how fear of him grew on me under his gaze-or in sheer cruelty. I know not which-kept me there. and sat smiling and smiling at me (as the devil may smile at some dead men parsed beyond redemption)-kept me there God knows how long. But so long and to such purpose, that when at length he bade me rise, and, looking closely into my face, nedded, and told me I might go-nay, later than that, when he had led me downstairs and opened the door for me and supported me through it—for in the cold air I stag-gered like a drunken man—even them, I say, so heavy was the spell of fear laid on me and such his power I dared not move or stir until he had twice-smiling the second time—bidden me go. "Go. man," said he "you are free. But remember."

CHAPTER XXX.

Few men are condemned to such an ordeal as that through which I had passed, and, though some who read this and are as remote from death as the wife, that may be any day and must be one day, is from the young bachelor-though some, I say and in par-ticular those who never saw blade drawn in anger in their lives, but have done all their fighting in the cockpit, may think that I carried it poorly in the circumstances, and with none of the front and bravado suitable to the occasion. I would have them remember the old saying, sutor ne ultra crepidam, and ask of a scholar only a scholar's work. I would have them remember that in the shadow of the scaffold, even a man so gallant leaders more evil than themselves, evinced stooped to be an evidence, and that in the some spark of chivalry in their lives—for same situation the family pride of Richard all did it in a measure for a same situation the family pride of Richard came situation the family pride of Richard Hampden availed as little as the reckless ourage of Monmouth or the effrontery of Sir John Fenwick to raise its owner above the common level.
Simpliciter, it is one thing to vapor at the

ocoa tree among wits and beaux and another to take the hazard when the time comes; as no less a person than my Lord Bolinbroke discovered, and that no farther back than 14. I would have large talkers to remember this. For myself I am content that I came through the trial with my life, and yet, not with so much of that either that anything surer than instinct guided my steps when all was over to the duke's home in St. James square, where, arriving speechless and helpless, it was won derful I was not put to the door withou I was not put to the door without Fortunately, my lord, marveling at more. my failure to return before, and mindful, even in the turmoil of that evening, of the ervice I had done him in the day, had given orders in my behalf, and on my arrival I was recognized, half dead as I was, and taken to the steward's room, and, being to blood by a surgeon, who was hastily calle n, was put to bed, all who saw me suppos-ng that I was suffering from vertigo or some injury, though no marks of blows on the head could be discovered. That was a night long remembered in Lon-

Mecsengers with lights attended by were every through the streets, scarching houses and arresting the suspected, from mouth to mouth rumors of the conspiracy flew abroad; at 9 clock it was stated and generally believed that the king was wounded; at 10 that he had been seized; later that he was dead. Early Early in the evening the drawbridge at the tower was drawn, and the sentries were doubled;

ness of death was past, and I took courage, discerning for the first time solid land beyond the deep and black, suffocating fears through which I had passed. For the first time I allowed my thoughts to dwell on the continued, stopping to shuff the candle with

"If they knew of that downstairs," he the secretary's residence, whither many of continued, stopping to shull the candle with his fingers, "would they use it, I wonder? Would they use it? What do you think, Mr. Price?"

Again I made no answer, "shall I tell them?" said he easily, "What—what do you want?" I whispered astir without, my case attracted less notice within; and, unheeded and aimost forgotten, which perhaps was the better for me. I was to be candid, aimost nothing. Two pledges, First that you will give no evidence against any one here. That of course."

I muttered assent. I was ready to promise anything.

"And secondly that you will, when I call upon you, do me a little favor. Mr. Price in my lady's house three days back. Promise to do that for me, when I demand performance, and in ten minutes from this time you shall leave the house, safe, free and unyou shall leave the house, safe, free and unsprised me that I key under the leads of ance, and in ten minutes from this time caves which projected over the latter, soon you shall leave the house, safe, free and unapprised me that I lay under the leads of a great house; but this was the extent

done?"
"Put him in a lugger," Keyes cried, "at the bridge, and by morning—"
"He will be taken off at the Nore," Cassel answered scornfully, "And you, too, if you think to get off that way. There are more Billops in the Pool than the Billop who gave up Ashton."
"Gag him and leave him here."

not have done the same, being in my place?
I suppose I answered too quickly to please him, and so he read my thoughts or he had which I descended without seeing any person until I reached the landing on the first my mouth before he sild his hand into his breast with the ugliest smile I ever saw on a man's face, and he signed to me to get into back from it—"Get in!" he said, in a voice which appeared to be paved with heads. First, and powers to where I stood, were First, and nearest to where I stood, were clustered on the lowest steps of the staircase a number of persons whom I took to be serv. ants and who, standing as if in the boxes of a theater were taken up with staring at what went on on the floor below them, and particularly at a row of eight or nine men who, seated on chairs along one side of the hall, seemed to be in the charge of a messenger and some tip-staves, and to be pris-oners awaiting examination. Between these last and the stairs, occupying the floor of the hall, and both moving and standing still. were a crowd of persons of condition; the greater part to all appearance clients of the duke, or officers and persons who, having the entree, had stepped in out of curiosity to

However, I had no eyes for these, for with a beating heart I recognized among the de-jected prisoners seated along the wall four whom I knew-King, Keyes, Cassell and Ferguson himself, and I had anything but a mind to stay to be recognized in my turn. I was in the act of withdrawing, therefore, as quickly as I could when I saw with a kind of shock that the prisoner at the end of the row, the one nearest to me and farthest from the door, was a girl. It scarcely needed a second glance to tell me that the girl was Mary. The light at that inner extremity of the hall was waning, and her face, always pale, and now in shadow. wore an aspect of gray and weary depres sion that, natural as it was under the cir numstances, went to my heart and impressed me deeply in proportion as I had always found her hard and self-reliant. But, moved tomorrow morning?" Cassell answered. "As the change in him and the order, I began to well and better call a chair and pay the chairman, and bid them take him to the secretary's office with our compliments."

"Well, if not here in one of the other to threaten and no more,"

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"Well, if not here in one of the other to threaten and no more," and drawing back undiscovered sneaked up the staircase to my room. My cue in the circumstances was clear.

Plainly it was to lie close and keep quiet and shun observation until the crisis was uel eyes-and his hand still in his breast. past, then by every means in my powersaving always the becoming an evidence in court, which was too dangerous—to deserve the duke's favor, and, as to the pledge I had given to Smith, to be guided by the Such a line of conduct was immensely fav-

ored by the illness to which I had so fortunately succumbed. Once back in my bed. had only to lie there and affect weakness. and in a day or two I might hope that things would be so far advanced that my tion comes. And hark you, you fancy," he share in them and knowledge of them would went on, fixing his eyes on mine, "and you go for little, and I, on the ground of the count on it, that I shall be taken with the personal favor I had done his grace, might share in them and knowledge of them would

the past week I was indeed well off. Here in the remote top floor of my lord's great house in the square, I was as safe as I could be anywhere in the world, and I knew

But so contrary is human nature and so little subject to the dictates of the soundest sense, that I had not lain in my bed five minutes, congratulating myself on my safety, before the girl and the wretchedness I had read in her face began to trouble me. It was not to be denied that she had gone some way towards saving my life-if she had not actually paved it; and I had a kind of feeling for her on that account. True, things were greatly altered since we had agreed to go to Romford together et nuptias facere. I had got no patron then, nor such prospects as I now had, these troubles once overpast. But for all that it roubled me to think of her as I had seen her, pale and downcast, and by and by I found myself again at the door of my room with my hand on the latch. Thence I came back, shivering and ashamed, and calling myself and doubtless rightly, a fool, and tried, by watching the crowd in the square, but timidly since even at that height I fanevied I might be recognized. With so little success in the end, however, that presently was stealing down the stairs again

I knew that it was impossible I could pas down the main staircase and through the servants unobserved, but I took it that in such a house there must be a back stairs, and coming to the first floor I turned craftily down the main corridor leading to the heart of the house and pretty quickly found that staircase, which was as good as dark, and crept down it, etill meeting no one, a thing that surprised me until I stood in the long passage on the ground floor corresponding with the corridor above, and found that the door, which from its position should cut it off from the front hall, was fastened Tantalized by the murmur of voices in the hall, and my proximity. I tried the lock twice, but the second effort only confirmed the result of the first. I was letting down the latch as soft as I could, hoping that I should not be detected, when the door was sharply flung open in my face, all the noise the opening appeared a stout, angry man, who glared at me as if he would cat me.
"What are you doing here?" he cried,
"when twice I have told you-" There he stopped, seeing who it was, and "Hallo!" he continued, in a different and more civil

tone, "it is you, is it? Are you better! Afterwards I learned that he was Mr. tin, my lord's house steward, but at the time I knew him only for some one in authority, and I muttered an excuse: come through, now you are here, he con-tiued sharply. "But the orders are strict that this door be kept locked while this business is going. You can eee as well, or better, from the stairs. There, those are the men. And a rare set of Frenchified devils they look! Charnock is in with my lord now, and I hope he may not blow him up with gunpowder or some fiend's trick! He had scarcely told me when, a stir i rival, a cry was raised of "Room for m Lord Marlborough and my Lord Godolphin" and the press, falling to either side out of espect, I had a glimpse of two gentlemen the act of entering; one a stout and very noble-looking man of florid complexion, the other stout also and personable, but a trifle mug and solemn. The steward coner heard their names announced than in great fluster he bade me keep the ninute, and, pushing himself into the throng e went with immense importance to receiv

So by a strange piece of luck, at th moment that the check of his presence was withdrawn. I found myself standing within three feet of the girl, whose seat was close to the door; moreover, the movement be thrusting those who had before occupied the floor, back upon the line of prisoners, had walled us in, as it were, from observation. Under these circumstances our eyes met, and I looked for a flush of joy and surprise, & was drawn, and the sentries were doubled; ory of recognition at least, but, though Mary the city gates were closed and guarded; a started and for an instant started at me wide-"And a grave?"

I shuddered. "What do you mean?" I at Kensington: the council was in perpetual muttering something inaudible, she let her nuttered.

Whole battallon stood all night under arms eved, her gage fell the next moment, and at Kensington: the council was in perpetual muttering something inaudible, she let her sitting; many houses were lighted from eve chin sink back on her breast. (To be Continued.)

IMPLETIES.

deep or widespread.

If this was so in the city generally, at An English parish beadle was lately much the secretary's residence, whither many of exercised at the appearance of a strange old

"Haven't they had some kind of rumpus in the Rev. Mr. Pfifthty's church?"
"Yes. He was taken suddenly ill one Sunday morning, and Mrs. Pfithly, like the good little woman she is, went to the church and

preached in his place." 'And the congregation, I suppose, thought

It was an act of presumption, and a pisin disregard of St. Paul's teachings about women speaking in church?" "On the contrary, she gave them a sermon so much better than any her husband had ever delivered that they want her to do all the preaching hereafter."

"Quite so, Mr. Perguson." Charnock retorted. "But will you take the life?"

The plotter drew back as he had drawn before. "It is everybody's business." he mutered.

"Then will you take part in it? You are the first to condemn. Will you be one to execute?"

Figuson moistened his lips with his tongue, and swallowing with an effort, looked shiftlily at me and away again. The sweat stood on his face. For me I watched him, fascinated. Watched him, and still hed find not answer.

"Just so," said Charnock at last. "You will not. And that being so, is there any one else who will? If not what is to be done?"

"Put him in a lugger," Keyes cried, "at "I promise, "I said eagerly. "I promise, "I promise, called for food, and I took lt. and happened to me, and rising and the window I recognized to me, and rising and songue, and shald happened to me, an "Well, well," he would say, "let it release you and we will begin again.

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