

Author of "The Stickit Minister," "The Raiders," "The Lilae Sun-Bonnet," "Cleg Kelly," "The Red Axe," Etc.

COPYRIGHT, 1898, UNDER THE NAME OF "LITTLE ANNA MARK." BY R. S. CROCKETT.

She is taken away to as boys. For example, be called droving, when Master this winter beasts in the beats Phillip in helping to way from home. In packing case, purporting Spanish wool, is delivered word. Glood flows, they open the case and find Dominie Elingrose halde, agreemently dead. Shortly after the house is tacked by robbers, whom Ringrose had ceant to let in. They are beaten off, but therwird. Philip's mother refuses to let im spend the holidays at New Milns.

## CHAPTER XVIII-Continued.

Anna Mark Sends a Challenge. (Copyright, 1899, by S. R. Crockett, So home to my mother I went to the little enough of you!" house in the Vennel, whose gable looks on the port and out on the sea washing the her brow, pretending that her hair was for a laddie bred on the hills. Before me ever could.) as I drew on my breeks were hundreds of

holds, the constwise schooners dimpling

"DID YOU EVER HEAR OF SIR HENRY

MORGAN?" HE SAID. on the swell midway, and a score of smacks packed along the quay like herrings in a

Then such rolling, tarry sailors as slouched and smoked along the sea front. such curious oiled curls, pierced ears strange eaths, jolly shiver-my-timbers comrades. All the sullen, melancholy, sour humors of the Covenanting hills seemed in an hour ing. I accompanied Will to his stable at the blown away by the sunburned mirth and King's Arms in the High street of Aber-Abercairn.

She had often pressed it upon Umphray Spur- Hull with a cargo of looms and foreign yarns. way that he was not the person to bring The customs themselves will take a full up a well grown girl verging upon 14 or day. Then there are his charges and allow-And so my mother offered to take Anna you that Little Anna Marks would fence Mark as her daughter and bring her up with you for a silver dollar at the back of the me in our little house at Abercairn.

She needs other governance than yours," said my mother to Master Spurway. "What fair. You can put the two and two together, | Vennel, save to consider how she would skills it that she can shoot and fish and I hope." play backeword as well as any man in ten parishes? She is not a man and the doing he spoke. Indeed, it sounded very like a of these things will only shame her the trysting of lad and lass. But neither Anna quay. But now, so soon as I knew that she not.

promptly put to silence with an asperity I longed to see her, and I did not believe her back with me there and then upon the Carolina slave. quite foreign to my mother's nature. "You that she could fence me. Indeed, I chuckled beast 1 had left in the stable. know nothing about the matter, Philip, Run to myself, for I had been taking lessons in So for the time I went, ill enough pleased,

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To All Who Write.

Free trial package of a most remarkable semedy are being maled to all who write the State Medical institute. They cured so many men who had battled for years against the mental and physical suffering of lost manhood that the institute has decided to distribute free trial packages to all who write. It is a home treatment and all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness resulting from youthful folly, premature loss of strength and memory, weak back varieocele or emacistion of parts can back varieocele or emacistion of parts can

The remedy has a peculiarly grateful ef-lect of warmth and seems to act direct to the desired location, giving strength and accelopment just where it is needed. It cures all the ills and troubles that come from years of misuse of the natural funcarefully scaled in a plain package, so foolish message and coming at all.

Synopsis of Previous Installments. and left my mother to press her project upon Umphray Spurway in her own manner, kind of thing, which doubtless she did with all success. On the contra For there was nothing then or ever that Umphray would not do to please my mother. But when I came in again I said to her:

'Mother, what alls you and Little Anna

Mark? Why do you not like her?" It was a surely simple question enough, yet must my mother fall a-trembling and looking at me with a pale and perturbed countenance.

"Listen, Philip," she said. "I have had enough of this Little Anna Mark. Ever since you went to the Miln house it has been 'Little Anna Mark' this, and 'Little Anna Mark' that, as often as you come back. And when Umphray-Master Spurway I mean-comes in to drink his dish of tea, it is Little Anna all over again. And a wildcat madam at the best, I warrant, she is, growing up among men there in that mill-

"Why, mother, they all love her," said to try her. "Umphray himself-" But at this she stamped her foot 'I will hear nothing more concerning the minx, neither now nor again!" she said; and so went up to her own chamber, slamming the door after her.

Then, some time after, when she had forgotten her strange angers, I asked her again. "But, mother, if you are so set against our Little Anna, why is it that you desire her to come hither and be with me in

"I desire the thing itself not greatly," said my mother. "But, indeed, one cannot see the girl brought up like a heathen among a lot of men, and for a guardian and companion baving only that great, soft heart of an Umphray Spurway."

This was knocking down my two idols at one blow; so I made answer: "Why, mother what has Umphray done that you have grown to dislike him? I am sure he is ever fond Whereat my mother dashed her hand to

very sand before our doors, a mighty change | falling over her eyes (which it was not nor "I mislike none," said she, "but I canno masts of the harbor of Abercairn, the tall sea- bear to see silliness. And in this Umphray

going ships riding without at their anchor- bas been foolish from the beginning!" I knew that it was time to stop, so I said no more at that time. But, as may be supposed. I thought much about the matter and the more I thought the less could i see light. Finally I judged that it must be on account of her mother, who had been ent away across the seas to the Carolinas that my mother hated Little Anna. It could not be that she was jealous of a girl like

> father. No, indeed, that was clean impos-But when next I saw Anna I got a still greater surprise. The manner of it was as follows: I was going one morning to the grammar school of Nicholas Kidston, in Abercairn, with my books in a strap under my arm, when I met William Bowman ridin into the town. At this I was most mightily rejoiced, and, throwing my books hastily inder a bench in a cobbler's shop where

her, living in one house with Umphray

Spurway, who was old enough to be her

was acquainted, I ran after him. "Let me up before you on your beast!" cried.

"I will do better than that for you, Philip, he replied; "I will give you the beast I self for the day, if you like to risk it-than is, if you are not afraid of the master birch for truancy tomorrow morning!" "Umph-Nicholas Kidston, indeed! I dar

him to meddle me," I made answer. care so little for him that I will ride past the school door."

And, indeed, I had feared my schoolmaste once for all the day when first I went to famous father did the business. I was no same.) more in terror of my instructor. But this

I did not tell to my mother.

So, without further thought of my schoolmany-tongued joviality of the seaport of cairn. As he went he told me his business. "I am going on board a skow to examine who would soon spring up into a woman. ances to be gone over. Now I was bid to tell

Miln house, and that Umphray Spurway would be all day wool buying at Moreham Will Bowman kept his countenance as

comrades—that was all. But nevertheless to make her promise—nay, even to take had ever spoken to her of Janet Mark, the sometime of Buchan's foot, but who, as he which lasses ought to learn. For you know, put it, had been promoted for drunkenness, after all, you are a lassic. You cannot Aberca'rn, I did wrong to bring you here!" and was now living in taverns and passing change that!" as a veteran of the wars.

It was (as I have elsewhere said) a good slip through the hills behind Abercairn by so fine-Great A. plain-Great B, plainwhich the distance was no more than seven. a good hour's ride only to one that knew the Sampler. Be a good girl and you will sucand rested it half an hour, I got across the loving friends.' No, thank you, Philip gret to me afterwards. A Free Trial Package Sent By Mail saddle and rode out of the town by devious Stansfield, I would rather a thousand times

It was not my habit to go home to dinner, for which, indeed, there was no time, my It was only a manner of speaking the girl mother's house lying at the far end of the had. own from the grammar school of Nicholas So we talked and talked, nor did we make

was no need of whip or spur. Comrade, the millhouse, but that day had not come. pasture and manger-or perhaps simply. At this last insinuation I fired up and there, by the mill wheel (as Will had said), Which was true enough, but I had not glow. was Little Anna Mark. At sight of her I learned then that best of women are not al- I was passing a little darksome loaning westerly gable of Umphray Spurway's house wheel, the singing of the weir and Little which grew over the lade. Anna's voice scolding me for minding her

## CHAPTER XIX.

Sir Harry Morgan's Treasure.

At eight of these two I started to my suspicions were allayed, the more so that little Anna sat still where she was, pulling ween her small, white teeth.

"This, then, is his grandfather's beir-a man come alive again." fine lad," said Saul Mark, after a while, uncle, turning to his companion like one ne who asks a cuestion.

see you so seldom at the Great House, which in a manner belongs to you? That is not well done to your grandmother." For, indeed, Anna and I were far above that

"I am at school, uncle," I said, not knowing well what else to say, 'So I see," said he, smiling at little Anna and taunt one another, and for a long time Mark. "It is a pleasant sort of tutelage.

there was scarce a civil word apoken be- I myself have learned much at such an tween us. But these I need not write academy." down, though I can remember them well | That was the way my Uncle John talked ever, not speaking plain, but in long law-But the serious part I will write. And yer's words, and mostly with some other in the aftercome that proved grave enough meaning than that which appeared on the

surface, It was not our custom to shake hands "You were about to play singlestick," said when we met, much less-but of that we Saul Mark. "I used to play myself. Will had not as much as thought at that time. you have a bout with me, Anna?"

'Agreed," said his daughter, rising quickly So Little Anna and I sat down on the broad and leading the way about the mill house wooden edge of the pool below the mill to the wool room. As he entered I saw wheel, the same into which the man had Saul Mark glance around, as if to verify a fallen the night of the attack. Here we description, swung our legs and watched the minnows "Master

"Master Umphray is perchance not at circling calmly in the cool back wash, till home today?" he said. "No." said Anna in answer, "but there head under the impetuous down rush of the are half a hundred weavers all busy with mill stream, were tumbled deep in the brown their looms."

urmoil of the pool, and after a time emerged | And she opened a door into the weaving beaten and breathless in the shallows once room where were a crowd of men and the more. It seemed so good to be a fish and creaking clatter of many looms and shuttles.



IT WAS A SURELY SIMPLE QUESTION ENOUGH, YET MUST MY MOTHER FALL A-TREMBLING.

On the contrary, we did nothing but spar-

at a certain point they dived heels over

enough.

to Abercairn to live with you or your mother

I could not conceal my astonishment, "But," I remonstrated, "I know it has een settled so. For I heard my mother persuade Umphray Spurway to it.

"O." she made answer, without looking at me, "so your mother persuaded Umphray to it against his will, did she?" Certainly, Little Anna," I made answer, "I heard it with my own ears."

"Through the keyhole, I suppose," she school, by drawing a dirk on him when he said scornfully. But as that was her man-

"Well," she went on, "it will surprise you victor. to hear that I am not coming to Abercairn. I do not propose to exchange a house where his head. I am welcome for one where I am not. Besides, my father has come back to this to be snapped off in some foreign chip to and turned haughtily away. My mother, however, had a new grievance. bills of lading with the captain. He is from help Saul Mark at his dice tables or to mind his monkey in the sleeping booth. Both these things came like a thunder-

clap on me. Anna Mark would not come to us. Her

father was back in Scotland. And now, so curious is the heart of a boy-I had cared little or nothing hitherto about Anna coming to our hourse in the

"You would go to school in Abercairn," I

"Yes." she answered with great scorn, little B, flourished B-Anna Mark Her paths. So, when Will had baited his horse ceed in life and he a nuisance to all your monkey!

Of course her father possessed no monkey.

myself at New Milns. For as soon as set of ladylike manners. The day might the beast got its head homeward there come when my mother would put her out of

could hardly get my steed quick enough into ways fair to one another especially when which leads to a lonely grange house called of New Milns when, in the evening sunshine, home? You that should be in your warm the stables and call on Robin Green to take the same number of years which will bring the Hermitage, when I heard the sound of I rode away over the hills well enough con care of the beast off my hands. I wanted one of them to 19 will land the other at 40. so greatly to run to my comrade, to tread | So Anna and I swung our legs and talked, sixely in my saddle, or rather in Will Bow- rabit of mind in 16 when it hath spent an my old pastures, and forget all in the clean while the sun mounted higher till we were man's saddle. I could see a dusky shape hour or two in the company of an honest downward thresh of the water from the mill almost out of the shade of the great beech turn into the main road behind me. The young lass-

wear no clothes on such a day. For it had . Then Anna went and found the singlesticks grown hot as I rode over the hills and down and she and her father fell to. Saul Mark in the sheltered valley there was not a had been the finest player on Glasgow Green on the eve of St. John (which is their head

"How will you like it." I said, "when you night for these plays in the west). But ome to Abercairn to live with my mother? now he had grown a little stiff, and it was There are no weirs to sing or pools to dabble not long, whether by accident or intent, beyour feet in there, excepting sult water ones | fore Anna got within his guard and cracked out among the dulse and the sand jumpere." | his crown so that a thin thread of scarlet "I might like it well enough," she replied, trickled down his brow. He flung down very composedly, "only I am not coming the stick smiling and mopping his head. "First blood!" he said. "I did not think that the day would come when a girl could

erack the pate of Saul Mark! Master John, do you try her." But my uncle declined, saying that he was man of peace, and that combats of wit were all that were allowed to gentlemen of the long robe. So Saul Mark bade me take the stick, which, when I had done, Anna and I played a very fast bout, as was our wont, the sallow man with the rings in

bis ears applauding every good and clever stroke. We did not spare each other, she bade me untruss. That and the fear of my ner, I paid no heed. (It was true all the and I, and when a halt was called we were both out of breath, but Anna manifestly the

"Good schooling!" said Saul Mark, nodding

"Scottish courtship!" echoed Mr. John Stansfield, smiling, for which I did not thank country. And I am not going to Abercairn him And Anna cast the sticks on a shelf

house after this, being as I think apprehensive lest Umphray Spurway would return. And so Anna and I were left to ourselves. We watched them going slowly and in deep converse across the fields towards the great house of New Milns.

Anna looked long at them under her hand. "We are quaintly fitted in the matter of fathers, you and I, Philip," she said, with a agree with my mother, and how late the strange look on her face. I thought she was pair of us would be allowed to play on the going to add, "and mothers!" But she did Indeed, I know not whether she rewould not come, I was in a mighty taking membered her own mother, or whether any

"Now, you will have a bite of dinner, and be going on your way," she said. "With so the art from one, Sergeant Robert Arthur, urged, "and learn also those things which- many loving friends in the neighborhood you cannot be too soon within the Vennel port of

But with one thing and another it was after five-of-the-clock when I took my beast turning up her nose. "I am a lassie. And from Robin Green and cried a last goodbye welve sniles by the ordinary well-trodden because I do not wear knee breeches I must to my comrade. She stood by the white reads to New Milns, but there was a pass or forsooth sit all day stitching at a sampler— thorn free at the gable end and the westerly sun was rosy on her face. There was a light in her eyes which smiled upon me, though her mouth was grave. I did not offer even to take her hand, which was a re-

So in this fashion I rode away from ways so that my mother would not hear of go help father with his cartes and his door of the Miln house, which I loved so well, and from Anna Mark, my dear companion and playmate of many years.

I had mastered the elceps of the bill and was making my way quickly through the perilous bypaths of the hills when night fell. Kidston. So the day was mine own till bed- any better of it. Anna would not come to I will not admit that I was frightened, but be pressed in a mold like a jelly. She could | drew a long breath when at last, like a gray In little more than an hour I found not be fitted to Mistress Priscilla Allan's sheet hung midway the sky, unspotted and unwrinkled, the sea broke upon my vision through a gap in the hills

After this the night fell sharply, and the dusk seemed almost to speed eastward like the desire for home—pulled the rein so that presently the great square of that presently the great square of the that my mother, that my mother was a good coded with a rim of living gold, rose, tow-thomas that presently the great square of the gr

horses' feet behind me. I turned apprehen- ceited with myself, which is no unusual which grew over the lade. shope seemed familiar, and a spasm of fear Well, as I say, I left Anna standing under turn him about her little finger as she did "Now come to single stick in the wool took hold of me. I had put my finger into the flowering thorn which Umphray had me—sye, and for the matter of that shed," she cried, suddenly starting up, "and my waistcoat pocket, where (a foolish boy's fetched all the way from Yorkshire-why, Umphray Spurway also. Now if any one thinks this is going to turn I will make you all over blue marks to trick) I carried a pinch or two of powder no one exactly knew. It may be that one

I was about to consent when a pair of the night of the attack, silver-mounted and under the white May and smiling even as shadows fell across the pool. We looked a gentlemanly weapon, though without crest Anna had now smiled upon me. up and lo! there on the opposite bank stood or device. With the pinch of powder 1 Anna Mark stood a while looking after me her father, Saul Mark, and my own uncle, primed and cocked it and was just setting under her hand, and I, for very pride of my with me. They passed up this street a moit in the holster again, when a voice said horsemanship and the straightness of my ment ago, and we will lose them if we are

at my left hand: "So you are a soldier al- back, did not turn round in the saddle, not quick" ready. You travel armed, I see-a very Then, since William Bowman was in Aber- But it was not in Will Bowman's power excellent habit in these uncertain times!" a long clock of black, and wearing a hat matters in the Miln house, and to see that arm he had so unceremoniously dropped feet and made as if I would escape. But with a feather. He was mounted on the that foremen weavers shut and barred all was a certain Tib Rorrison, who earned her the two men stood looking at us with such very gray horse my father used to ride in the doors properly, for in this matter Umph. daily bread in the fish trade of Abercairn.

I told Saul Mark how I had come by the well he might.

'Tis pity that you will be a rich man and ; who seeks confirmation, rather than like never know the sweets of travel, save in a couch and four, or see stranger places than "How is it. Philip," he went on, "that we the cities between here and London."

> a natural inclination for the sea (which, Indeed, most boys have), and that I hoped to enter his majesty's navy and help to fight

> "That is good enough." he said gravely, but there is better!" Then there at once was I all agog to know what could be better or more adven-

> turous than fighting the French in the royal He leaned toward me a little as I gaped open-mouthed at him from the back of my forging beast.

"Did you ever hear of Sir Harry Morgan?" he said. "No," I answered, much taken down by

my ignorance, "who might he be?" "He was a great buccaneer," he answered n a hushed tone. "Harry Morgan took Panama and many fine cities, and was a terror to the Spaniards all his days."

"But there are no buccaneers now." I said, and if there were, how am I to find them!" "It is called privateering now," he said, 'but it brings in the moldores and pieces of eight all the same."

I was eager to hear more, but he seemed all at once to wax mightily reticent. So we rode ellent to the gate of the city. Then he seemed to take a resolution,

"I will tell him," he murmured aloud enough for me to hear. "I care not what the captain says!"

He turned to me. "Master Philip," he said, "if you are man come with me tonight for half an hour, will show you such a sight as no lad of your age in broad Scotland has seen. I have here in this town of Abercairn the treasure of Sir Henry Morgan, the buccaneer, the spoil of a score of plundered cities. It is waiting safe transport across the north water to Amsterdam, where the diamonds and precious stones are to be cut and reset. There are gold pieces of every all sorts, swords and daggers by the hun- her mind. dred, Indian dresses, bows and arrows, chain mail and leather fringed dresses made for great Peruvian Incas. Many of these are of little value," he added softly. "I know not o your mother."

"Who is the captain?" I said, "I cannot go unless I know where I am going." "O," said my companion lightly, "take

sides you can bring your pistol." ould be the least danger in accompanying Saul Mark to the house of Provost Gregory

ng more left to live for. So I stabled my horse at the King's Arms without waiting to inquire whether Will

Bowman had returner or not. Saul Mark awaited me at the door. "Follow me," he said, "and remember, be silent. This is a secret we tall to but few.

And there is a company of horse quartered in the town." We went down the High street to the house of that douce man, Mr. Gregory Partan, shipmaster and merchant. My guide passed quickly to a side door under a lowbrowed arch, which opened at the gable end of the provoet's house. He knocked twice

After a moment the door was opened an nch and I heard the rattle of a chain. "Who's there?" said a voice. "A friend to see the treasure!" said Saul Mark.

"Master Philip Stansfield the younger, whose mother lives in the Vennel!" "A decent woman," said a voice; "let him

ome in and see the treasure." I recognized the provost's voice. I had The two men did not stay long at the Miln in chaffering and badinage with the sailors ever a number about him. So I felt safe, Scotland-no, nor ever will be. That heart

> "Now, quiet," he said, "give me your dark!"

important a man pay to him:

I followed him down a long passage, still we stood on a hard floor of crumbly stone which rang hollow under foot.

"Wait a moment here, till I get a light," said my guide. He let go my hand and left me standing there in the midst. The next moment a heavy door clanged behind him and I heard the sound of shooting bolts.

"Saul-Saul Mark," I cried, "where are you? Let me out! Let me out!" For now it came to me that I had been

hoarse. I shouted entreaties, reproaches, threatenings. 1 felt all round the walls, bruising my hands as I did so. They were of stone and solid, yet with a curlous, crumbly, dryish feeling everywhere. prison house appeared to come to a point over my head. The iron door at the side by which I had entered was now blocked up by stones like the rest and quite indistinguishable.

The Egyptian dark of the place could be felt lying like a weight on the eyelids. Exhausted and desperate, I sat me down on the cold stone floor and wept.

## CHAPTER XX. On the Trail of the Hunter.

numbskull as I had proved myself hath oc- eyes. cupied the tale long enough. I will relate

I left Anna, as all may remember, by the

out a love tale she is graviously mistaken. carry back to Abercairn. It will save Domi- loose, as another might carry snuff. Then like it grew in his mother's garden on the she gasped. "Do not hinder me. It is a

nic Nicholas the trouble of birching you to- I took out the pistol Anna Mark had pressed edge of the wold, or, perhaps, once on a time matter of life and death. I am following upon me, one that had been left behind on he, too, had left a young maiden standing Philip and my father.

cairn and Umphray himself not yet home, on this occasion to be quick. Heauty The speaker was Saul Mark, habited in she went off to the ordering of domestic scorned was upon him. The lady whose kindly and smilling countenances that my the old days before my grandfather's death, ray Spurway trusted her wholly, as, indeed. Now, why fish dealing should produce in

weapon, and he was interested greatly to And white she was within doors the sun raspiness of tongue is not perfectly clear. the tart herb called "soorocks" from the hear of the attack and all that concerned it, began to sink, and the copiness of evening But the fact could not be doubted while Tib moist crevices and crunching the stalks be- I told him also of little Anna's bravery, and to come up out of the ground. By and by was explaining to Will and Little Anna what how she had delivered me from the dead Anna went out to the hillside pastures at the she thought of them. back to find Joey Forgan, the herd boy of the "Ah, lad," he said, "you have in you the Mile, who ought to have had the cows home cried, shaking her red fist, solid as a quarter And this your daughter?" inquired my true stuff for adventure. I can see that, by that time. She was promising to herself of beef, a bare inch under Will's nose, "ken what she would certainly do to Joey when ye so little o' Isobel Rorrison that ye wad she caught him. Walking with the swing I dare to miscryst her, to tak' up wi' a silly knew so well, and whistling like a lintle. partan o' a bairn like this, And you, Mistress she sped swift and light over the bent. But Babyclouts, that thinks wi' thae winkin' een I told him that, on the contrary, I had all suddenly she saw that which made her

> The heather grows low down on the hills above Umphray's, those same purple hills gorse and whin-bloom reach up the burn sides to meet it and all about there is scattered a bewilderment of rocky knotls and great gray stones as big as cot houses. Anna Mark was turning the corner of one of these huge bowlders when a couple of score of yards beneath her she saw two men speaking together like folk who have secrets to hide. One, the smaller and more thickly set, was Saul Mark, her own father. The other was a much taller, more commanding man, in a laced coat, which, though they stood in the shadow, glittered in the bright reflection from the western sky. It was of

pale blue cloth and the braiding was of no pattern which bespoke of a soldier of the king. Saul Mark was standing with his hat off before the man in the blue coat and listening with an air of much respect. The latter appeared to be giving certain orders, for as he finished speaking. Anna saw her father salute and presently mount the horse whose bridle-rein had been passed through his arm. He rode off as bard as he could go in the direction of the Tinkler's Slap, the nearest pass through the hills to the town

of Abercairn. The tall, swarthy man stood awhile lookng after him and then turning abruptly on his heel, he strode past the broom bush in which Anna was hidden so closely that she could feel the ground shake with his heavy

tread as he went. Then it came into her head that Saul Mark, her father, had been ordered to ride after me for some purpose of immediate father's face as he had watched us across noon, and do what she would she could not | Tib. tribe and denomination, arms and armor of get the sense of impending danger out of

Anna looked about for Joey and the New Milns kye. She could see the last of them passing in through the great gate and a couple of weavers standing on either side but that the captain might permit me to to make all fast so soon as they were safe, give you one or two of them to take home Then there came to the girl one of those quick impulses which, far more than ordered and reasonable resolves, rule and order

women's conduct. Anna resolved to follow her father through our horse to stable first. He will not be the hill-gap to find out for what purpose he needed tonight, and then come with me. You | had ridden off so hotly upon my trail, and will surely not be afraid to go to the house who the tail man might be whose orders he of the chief magietrate of this city. He it is had taken like a servitor standing in the who is our receiver and supercargo. Be. presence of his master. All which indeed she achieved before the night was out, It seemed to me impossible that there though not in the fashion she anticipated, Now, with Anna to think was simultaneously to act, which circumstance made her Partan, shipowner and merchant of the town so dangerous at fencing and the singlestick of Abercairn. And the thought of the suits play. So it chanced that as Saul Mark rode every lad and lass that will follow ye, gein' or armor, the damascened ewords, and above northward by the Tinkler's Slap to intercept | Tib first choice o' the saveloys. Guid nicht all the Indian bows and arrows tempted me me, he had a long, limber slip of a girl beyond the power of words to express. I tracking like a sleuth hound hard upon his

thought that if I could only show myself trail. For the first part of her pursuit it to Little Anna Mark in the costume of an was not hard to keep her father in sight. Indian brave with feather plume, bow and He did not ride well, but rather with the arrow, and tomahawk, there would be noth- seaman's roll and lack of both comfort and elegance in the saddle. Besides, the pass was difficult enough even for a good horseman and in the daytime. What it was to Saul Mark in the gray deeps of the gloaming only Saul himself knew, and so far he has kept his counsel. But to Anna all this was child's play. She had wandered on the hills with Muckle Saunders Macmillan till she could run as lightfoot over the heather and morass as one of his scouring collies. The moorland night was to her as day, being, as

I often cast up to her, eyed like a cat. And so while Saul Mark was every mo ment gripping and slackening his beast's rein, and cursing under his breath each time it stumbled, Anna was watching every movement with eyes which could distinguish the twinkle of the wide silver earrings in his ears every time his beast plunged over a mossy bowlder or wandered aside from the fairway of that perilous and breakneck

path. When at last Saul debouched upon m at the meeting of the hill roads on the brae face overlooking the twinkling lights of Abercairn, Anna was not 100 yards in our rear. Yet such was the resolution heard it often enough on the quay upraised her heart that she did not betray herself either then or afterwards. Such a lass as and masters, mariners, of whom he had little Anna Mark there was not in broad and my ideas of Saul Mark were much of hers beat as steady and true between the altered by the deference which I heard so instant jaws of danger as when she sat in Moreham kirk listening to the minister's sermon. And always, come stress or ease-The first part of the way is ment, the merry eyes of laughter or the grinning sockets of death himself, her brain abode under her broad white brow as cool further down a flight of steps, and finally and unruffled as beneath some overhanging rock in the forest you may find in summer heats the caller water of some crystal well. So it chanced that while Saul the father played me for one silly gull, gorging me with the bait of lies, which I swallowed greedy-tooth, hook and all, his daughter Anna played him for another, and from a safe distance kept us both under observa-

And had she been left to herself there is little doubt but that she would have tricked. I called on the provost till I was prevented all the evils which followed. But as ill chance would have it, not a score of yards from the entrance of the town, who should come across her but Will Bowman. He had been walking with his arm about a girl's waist, more for something to do than for any pleasure there might be in courting the not too impervious damsels of the town of Abercairn. But at the sight of Little Anna with kilted coats linking it through th busy streets, Will dropped his companion's arm incontinent and took after her as hard as he could go. He thought it was likely that Anna had come over the hills with me to look for Umphray Spurway, and he knew that it would not make for peace that she should seek him where he was to be found at that moment-that is, to be plain, in the little house by the Now I must go back to where I left little Vennel corner, where he sat sipping his Anna Mark. And full time, too, for such a glass and devouring my mother with his

So on the slanted shoulder 't the girl as

"Anna," he said, breathlessly, "what in the world of sin are you doing so far from bed behind barred doors in the house of

New Milns?" She tried to escape from his restraint, but Will's hand was overstrong. She never could

"You; let me go! Or, better still come

speaking like a man in a maze.

women a certain rough readiness of wit and

"Ye menseless landward-bred hound!" she o' yours to tak' Tib Rorrison's lad frae her stop stock still one moment and the next on the high street of Abercairn-for a bodie drop out of sight into a copse of tall broom. I wad tear the bonny face o' ye till it is a' rig-an' furr like a new-plowed field. Aye, I had ridden into half an hour before. The skelpin' wad fit ye better, ye pennyworth an' Tib wad do it, too-were it not that o' whitey-broon thread tied in a wisp. "Na, an' I'll no stand oot o' your road Will Crack-tryst! And I'll no hand my Im-

pident tongue. What care I if a' the toon What business had ye to speer me ot to walk to Lucky Bodden's booth wi ve, and partake o' spiced gingerbread and fardin' saveloys, forbye the best o' tippenn; ale? Ave. lasses that did he, the deceiving thief, an' he shallna leave thae plain-stanes he is standin' on till he has treated no only me, Tib Rorrison, but every ither honest lad and lass within hearin' o' the sound o' my voice?" "That's richt, Tib! Gie him his kail

brough the reek!" chorused the crowd; gar him scunner. Tear the e'en oot o' that wee besom that garred him lightly you!" "Faith wad I, gin it were me, the randy hat she is!" "Aye, an' me!"

"A herd lass, nocht better!" "If Tib has only spunk in her ava', she'll never stand the like o' that."

Such were the interruptions, all obviously provocative, which reached the ear of the dready militant lady, Mistress Isobel Rorison, as she squared her arms and strode up so close to Anna Mark that even in the lusky flare of the torches from the booths Anna could see the red of her weatherboaten complexion, netted and marly like he reticulations on a bladder. A fire was beginning to burn in Anna's eye, and her hand stole down toward the dirk she carried in her satchel pocket. But Will noted the treachery. She remembered the look on her signs of coming trouble, and, putting his hand into his pocket, he drew out half a the little linn of Kirkconnel that very after- dozen silver coins and held them out to

> "There," he said, "I will stand treat. This is my master's daughter, and she is secking him ower late to be left on the treet of Abercairn by hersel'. Tak' the iller, Tib, and bear no malice. And the next time I come to Abercairn I swear ye shall hae Lucky Bodden's candy stall, stool and a', gin ve like.'

Tib, though considerably mollifled, would not at once give in, being in the presence f so many witnesses. "Gie vour dirty siller to wha ye like, Will

Bowman," she cried, changing her ground; 'when Tib Rorrison sets tryst wi' a lad, it's neither for the sake o' siller nor yet tippenny ale, I wad hae ye ken!" Will, anxious to be out of the crowd, looked around for some one he knew. He

Tib! Eat your fill and dinna bear malice!" And so, under cover of the cheering and packelapping, Will and Anna escaped down

(To be Continued.)

the High street of Abercairn.

espied the hostler from the King's Arms.

"Hey, Jock Pettigrew, ye are no sae proud

as Tib. Here's five silver shillings, sterling

money. Gang doon to Lucky's and treat

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