

UNDER SUSPICION.

(CONCLUDED.)

A great crowd of people was in the court room when the case came. Jamie was led in by the constable, and took his seat in the witness's box as calm and collected as though he had been sitting by the fire. He looked at the judge and the jury and the spectators, and his face looked very serious, while he showed by all his actions that he was deeply interested in the case.

Maggie and I had a good time during the preparation for the trial. We thought it would occupy the whole day, but it came to an unexpected termination. Joseph Milward was the first witness called. He told the story that he had at Jamie's former examination. I remember the scene well.

The District Attorney had asked the questions, and having finished, he said: "That will do."

Milward was about to leave the witness stand, when Mr. Carnan spoke up:

"We will cross examine the witness."

O, what a cross examination that was! And what an excitement there was in the court. The old judge dropped his spectacles, and the District Attorney looked blank. The jury scratched their heads, and the vast crowd kept still as mice, that they might hear every word.

Carman had farmed out the whole case, and from the mouth of that witness he proved that Joseph Milward and his companions were the guilty parties and they had been aided by many of the wealthy young men of the village, and before he had finished, the District Attorney jumped up and said:

"May it please the court, we throw up the case."

Then Jamie was discharged forthwith, and the people gathered around to shake hands with him; but he hastened away from them, and found Maggie and me, and together we went to the cottage. I can tell you all the following; but our grateful hearts are in thanksgiving to heaven for his deliverance.

Jamie could explain everything now. He had seen Milward and Butler coming from the vestry of the church the night of the fire, and the small of smoke, and their excited manner, told him plainly what their errand had been.

It was this terrible knowledge that had made him so nervous when he returned home. He doubted whether to divulge the secret or not, but Milward and Butler, fearing this, had anticipated him, and by preparing the case, they had solved his problem.

Three months later, Jamie and Maggie were married, and Lawyer Carnan was present at the wedding, and he gave to Jamie a receipted bill for his services, and to Maggie the finest dress yet ever beheld.

Jamie still works in the factory, but to this day, no one has seen Milward and Butler in our neighborhood. It is in California that they're living, I'm told.

THE CRIMINAL WITNESS.

In the spring of 1901, I was called to Jackson, Alabama, to attend court, having been engaged to marry a young man who had been accused of robbing the mail. I arrived early in the morning and immediately had a long conference with my client. The stolen mail had been recovered, and the money had been found, which the money had been rifled. These letters were given me for examination, and I returned them to the prosecuting attorney. Having got through my preliminary examination, and as the case would not come off before the next day, I went into court in the afternoon to see what was going on. The first case came up was one of theft, and the prisoner was a young girl not more than seventeen years of age, named Elizabeth Malworth. She was very pretty, and bore that mild, innocent look which we seldom find in a culprit. She had been weeping profusely, but as she found so many eyes upon her, she became too frightened to weep more.

The complaint against her set forth that she had stolen a hundred dollars from a Mrs. Nance, who had been a wealthy widow living in the town, was the girl's mother. The poor girl had been in innocence in the widest terms, but circumstances were hard against her. A hundred dollars in bank notes had been stolen from her mother's room, and she was the only one who had been in the room at the time. At this juncture, when the mistress was upon the witness stand, a young man came and caught me by the arm. He was a fine looking man, and big tears stood in his eyes.

"They tell me you are a good lawyer," he whispered.

"I am a lawyer," I answered.

"Then do save her! You certainly can do it for a fee in innocent."

"No," he begged, "but—but—"

"I am a lawyer," I said.

"Then that's good for anything—nobody that'll do anything for her. O, save her; and I'll give you all I've got. I can't give you much, but I can raise you something."

I reflected a moment. I cast my eyes toward the prisoner, and she was at that moment looking at me. She caught my eye, and the volume of confusion I read in her glance made me in a moment. I arose and went to the girl, and asked if she wished me to defend her. She said yes. I then informed the court that I was ready to enter the case, and that I would defend the girl.

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