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In your own mind you are finding her guilty before she has been tried

Then what folly to think you are esponsible for what she did in taking the life of her child—if she did take it.

and motives were, you, so far as I can see, had nothing to do with them— nothing whatever."

Stowell's pulse was beating high. He tried to say something about his moral responsibility, but again the Gov-

ernor cut him short.
"Your mors! responsibility!" he said,

crime is the criminal-that's the only

"Then you think, sir." said Stow-

ell, "that since I * * *"
"I think," said the Governor, "that
the whole thing is unfortunate, damnably unfortunate, but since you are not

responsible for the girl's crime, if she

committed a crime at all, and knew nothing about it, and have no sym-

pathy with it, you ought to go on doing your duty. Why shouldn't you?

Interested? Of course you are inter-ested. In a little community like this

Judge is nearly always interested.

Stowell muttered something about

Isn't that what your Deemster's oath

being afraid, and again the Governor

is intended to provide for?"

foundation of law and order.'

The person who commits the

act, can it?"
"God forbid!"

TICTOR STOWELL. — A brilliant wong advocate, appointed despite is youth Deemster, or Chief Judge, of the Isle of Man, in which position he has to sit in judgment on a fel-her-sinner. He is high principled bre-sinner. He is high principles and likable, though in a moment of nutual passion he has, to great later prailence over the secret sin, had illicit relations with

881E COLLISTER+A handsome but illiterate peasant girl. She has a shild which is accidentally smothered in the night of its birth. She is erested for murdering her babe. Besie really loves

Bessie really loves

LUCK GELL—Agreeable but someelst weak, who persuades Bessie to
betroth herself to him despite the
sposition of his father.

SPAKER GELL.—The rich and
tyrannical head of the Manx Parliament.

PENELLA STANLEY - A great RNELLA STANLEY A great-kearted and beautiful girl with ad-esneed ideas on women's rights who is in love with Victor and he with ker. She is the daughter of SNERAL STANLEY—Governor of the Isle of Man.

the lale of Man.

MN BALDROMMA — A brutal farmer, stepfather of Bessie, and was tries to use her trouble, for which he thinks Gell is responsible. as lever to advance his own fortune.

CHAPTER XXVII The Judge and the Man

ELLOA! Glad to see you about Hagain. Fenella has gone off to be south of the island somewhere, but still be home for luncheon. Take a cigar? No? Not smoking yet? I see anyway. "I've come to see you on a serious matter, sir." said Stowell—he felt his tembling.

he Governor glanced up quickly, ged his pipe and then settled himself

to listen.
"You will remember the story I told you—about the man who had promised to marry a girl and then fallen in love the company of the

with somebody else?"
"Perfectly."
Stowell paused a moment. His lips tesme pale and his hands contracted.
"Well?"

"That was my own story, sir."
There was another moment of silence.
Stowell had expected an exclamation of surprise, a clang of astonishment, but the Governor's face was still to the fire the only sound he made was the "You advised me to break off the magement and I did so."
"What was the result?" "The girl was relieved."

"Yes, because she, too, had in the meantime fallen in love with somebody "How fortunate!"

"It seemed so at first. I thought
Providence had stepped in to help her
at. But fate has kept a terrible "What has happened?"

"The girl has committed a crime. She is in Castle Rushen awaiting her trial for the murder of her new-born child." "The woman Collister?" "Yes. And now I'm a Judge and in

caught him up. "Afraid? What are you afraid of? The public? Doesn't it occur to you There was another period of silence.

There was another period of sile that's not all, sir. Being in

"But that's not all, sir. Being in this frightful position everything is ing here this morning, and if you are not in court on the appointed day, and desire to influence the trial after of the girl—perhaps to get her affactored. Next, pity for her poor beging me to try the case because the el statute is severe and my colleague truel. And last of all the step-father of the girl who has been trying to intuitidate me."

"Certainly there's Gell * * When the marriage was broken off you didn't tell him anything, did you?"

Stowell shook his head. "How could I?"

"Yes, how could you? And now he wishes you to sit, and, if you don't, isn't he likely to support the

"I think you will see it is impossible for me to sit on a case in which my private interest and my public duty conflict—utterly impossible. It would be against all usage, all justice."

The Governor removed his pipe. His face had become cold and hard. "You

face had become cold and hard. "You speak of your colleague—have you done taything with him?"
"Yes. I have asked him to sit instant of me." "What if he cannot?"

"Then I will ask you, sir, to send for another Judge from across the

Stowell had struggled through to the std, although perspiration had been breaking out on his forchead. When he led finished the Governor sat for some time without speaking.

the without speaking.

Obscure motives were operating within him. In the depths of his mind, seriely known to himself, he was asking himself, "How will all this, if I allow it to go farther, affect Fanella? Will it stop her marriage, disturb her happiness, destroy her life?" But on the surface of his mind he was only sware of considerations of public welware of considerations of public wel-fare. He was irritated by what had eccurred. It was an impediment in his ecurred. It was an impediment in his path which he wished to kick out of the way.

He rose, haid his pipe on the mantel-pice, and standing with his back to the fire and his hands behind him, his chin and his mouth set hard, he said, with sudden energy.

"Now listen to me. I always knew that was your own story." hat was your own story.

"What I did not know was that any ham had been done. Did you?"
"Indeed, no."
"Did the girl?"
"It is incredible."
"Do you know that she has killed her still?"

"Not certainly. She denies it, and the evidence is not too convincing."
"Do you know that she ever had a

child?" ** o * o I can't say. * o * She childs that also, and the medical testimory is far from conclusive."

"Do you know—are you satisfied—

"Do you know are you satisfied—that if she had a child, and killed it, the child was yours?"

Stowell, with a gulp, stammered comething about Bessie having been a sood girl before he met her. "But do you know anything?"
"Well, no I can't say . . .

Then, good heavens, what are you thinking about? Knowing nothing.

Athinking about? Knowing nothing.

Athinking really, you are acting, and asking ne to act, on a cloud of conjectures. I'll not do it."

Stowell drew his breath with a gasp of relief. It was just as if he had heen living for days in the stuffy at-mosphere of a scaled room and some-body had broken open a window. His head was down; the Governor touched has shoulded.

ha shoulder.
"My friend, you are doing that poor ay friend, you are done.

It a cruel injustice."

Stowell was startled and looked up.

In your own mind you are finding be gully before she has been tried."

are doing yourself an injus-Fiven if the girl committed

erime—I say if—you are not re-

I did wrong in the first in-sir, and nothing but wrong

Governor said sharply, "Of

tice, is he? Well, the surest way to squelch such people is to walk them."

"There's the girl herself." "Of course, there's the girl herself.
But if she is guilty and has held her
tongue thus far, she'll probably continue to do so."

The Governor made a turn across the on and then drew up sharply.
"There's myself, too. I suppose I serve some consideration?"

'Indeed, yes.' Then go on with your duty-that's With a thrill of relief Stowell rose to But oh, misery of the heart, he

and kept his most searching objection to the last.

There is somebody else, Your Excellency."

"Who else?" asked the Governor, laying down the pipe he had taken up.

"I hate to mention her in this connection—Fenella." "Fenella? Why, what on earth has

And then Stowell told him. Having interested herself in this case, Fenella was hunting down the guilty man that he might be exposed and punished—punished by public ob-loguy if he could not be punished by

course you did wrong in the first in-stance. But that has nothing to do with "If she finds him before the trial how can I possibly sit? Whatever happens it will be colored by her knowledge of the truth. If the girl is acquitted she will think I have helped her to escape the wrong which she (if she is guilty) has done since. It can't be supposed that you had any sympathy with her punishment in order to salve my con-science or cover my share in her crime. "Did you desert her? Did you leave And if she is condemned what happi-ness can there be for either of us after

her to the mercy of the world? Has she ever been in want? Was she in any danger of being unable to provide for her offspring when it came?"

'No ** I cannot say ***."

And it she is condemned what nappiness can there be for either of us after that?"

Ile had spoken with emotion, but the Governor, who had recovered from his surprise, replied impatiently. surprise, replied impatiently, "Aren't you crossing the bridge be-

responsible for what she did in taking the life of her child—if she did take it. No, other facts and motives operated with the girl. And whatever those facts and motives were, you, so far as I can see, had nothing to do with them—nothing whatever."

There you come to the river?"

Stowell made no answer, and at the next moment there was the sound of carriage wheels coming up the drive.

"It's Fenella," said the Governor. looking out of the window. "I'll ask nothing whatever." you to say nothing to her about the subject of our conversation. And lis-ten" (he was relighting his pipe and puffing at it with lips that smacked angrily; Stowell's hand was on the door), "don't let my girl make a damned feel of you."

with a ring of sarcasm. 'I'm sick of this sentimental talk about moral re-"Victor, I have something to tell sponsibility-man's responsibility for the conduct of woman, and all the rest you." said Fenella.

They were in the library. She was looking feverish; he was feeling ashamed, embarrassed and afraid.
"I have found out who was the friend of that poor girl."

He gazed at her without speaking. "It will be a great shock to you-it was Alick Gell." "I'm sorry, dear. I knew you would

be unable to believe it. But it's true -terribly true." Mrs. Quayle, the evening before, had said very little. Nobody had called to see the girl while she stayed at her house, and nobody had come to take

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"But that was enough for me," said Fenella. "This morning I went down to Derby-Haven and found there was only one school there. It is kept by two maiden ladies named Drown. Simple old things, very timid and old-fashioned. They were thrown into terrible comments by the service of t rible commotion by my call, and having read the reports in the newspapers they were at first afraid to say anything. But after I had promised that they should not be mixed up in the matter in any way, I got them to speak.

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her away. She, herself, had seen her off by the train, and all the girl had their house. He had paid for her, and told her was that she was going to a school at Derby-Haven.

Mr. Alick Gell had brought the girl to their house. He had paid for her, and they had always looked upon him as school at Derby-Haven. tainty, you see-a shocking certainty.

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