PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT TOWANDA, BRADFORD COUNTY, PA., BY E. O'MEARA GOODRICH.

TOWANDA:

Salurdan Morning, Inne 21, 1851.

Confessions of an Affornen.

Circumstantial Evidence.

I one afternoon remained seated in Court after he adjournment, and was accosted by an attorney who handed me the usual retaining lee with a brief of a trial which was expected to called up the day following. It was a prosecution for atson-the prisoner an apprentice girl, and her master's premises those which had been destroyed.

awell," said Mr. Paget, the attorney, when had finished reading, "now you must listen to a long Nory. Eighteen years ago a large basket, ontaining an infant apparently about six months ald was left at the door of a surgeon in this town. been raised to defend her, and by God's help she The child was handsomely dressed, and a letter inclosing a bank bill for twenty pounds, and stating hat the infant's name was Mirlam Lyndon, were

"The surgeon was a bachelor, an eccentric and range man, although a very humane and charitaie one, and in spite of all the scandal and jests of the world he kept the little stranger. But he had a housekeeper, Alice Sharpe Yes," he comnued seeing me turn again to my brief, "that is woman whose house has been burned, and she ras so greatly entaged at the prospect of any one baring the influence she had obtained over her naster, that after vaintly frying to after his determinion, she revenged her disappointment upon the perchild by the most cruel usage. Ten years tled on in this way; the old surgeon gave up metice and society, secluded himself in his house & arden. There were no servants besides Atice Sharns poor finle Miriam, who was still unreasonab'y red by the former, with a boy who worked ocsonally in the garden. By the exercise of conat watchfulness and conning. Alice Sharpe manred to keep her muster and his little profigee nost entirely apart, and she continued so to fill child's mind with apprehension and fears for protector, that when by any chance they did et, her terror was so great as to mortify and disoint the kind old man. Still he loved the child ir, and used to watch her pretty figure running with great delight. Sometimes, too, when e was absent for a few liours at meeting or ket, he would try to conciliate and attract the e crea ure, and thus, after a time, she learned to and forgot to fear him. But all this was conal from the housekeeper. Why, had always a mistery to me; however, it was so and Alice. a her master was taken ill. Then, for the first the secret was betrayed by the uncontrolled etof Minam and the querulous anxiety of the hargh. To this, after a time, Alice was oblig. as sight. To this, after a time, and a fittle mattress was brought into the husband."

"Tes;, and therefore I have served him with a "Tes;, and therefore I have served him with a "Sich has frightened them, en of the willy artful woman changed from its al harshness to a caressing oppressive kindness was al nost as offensive. But Miriam was too utful to be allowed to remain with her protector astdious, and she unreed him night and day

il his death. lie hal no medical advice, Alice always ridi ling the idea of danger; but the prescribed for nself, mixed up his medicines out of his own kstock of drags, and administered them. Mirjam secred that after taking them he was invariably e and that he often objected to do so; but busekeeper always prevailed, and by dint of long and coaxing, usually carried her point days before his death. Alice introduced into room a cousin of hers a lawyer's clerk, whom fold Miriam that her master had sent for; and I was then made and signed. After this the can became careless, and left the dying man as wholly to the charge of Miriam, who was as with him when he died.

The last act of his life was to give the child : itel, which, after his death, he bade her take the Cleryman; it would explain who she was said. And Miniam postively asserts that his y is words were, " Bless you, my own child

The packet however, was lost; whether the d, in her exceeding misery, mislaid it, or it taken from her as she slept, there is no means iscovering. Alice Sharpe always asserted that whole tale was a pure invention, and that Min had never received any such article; she, vever, remained positive, and so do I.

Well, all was now changed. A will was proced, executed two days before the decease of testator, bequeathing all his property to Alice arpe and not one word was said about Miriam. ple talked loudly, but the heiress heeded nothsie wok possession of the property, married cousin, George Sharpe, (the man who made will), sent Miriam to the workhouse, and openmiliner's establishment.

Wheels roll within wheels; Mr. Sliarps das a language-payer, and once or twice overever; when his wife applied to the parish officers, ing to take Minam as an apprentice without am, those functionaries found it convenient bening to the skies, and without consulting poor gal bound her instantly.

The lie the tell in that house was horrible. then thre ever worked harder or was more tested; but the never repmed; she had ere of her wretched master, and her misery pressing bonnets. complete. The persecution she underwent ion, and the jealous; of his wife, made exce a berden to her, and many a night she has reflect, and therefore desired him to stay. with a prayer for death upon her lips. O.e night (bat named in the indictment)

Miriam was occupied in pressing some straw bonnels, when her master entered the apartment, and after a great deal of imperlinence attempted some familiarities. She resisted, and the noise of the room: while the cowardly assailant, as soon as he saw his wife, slunk away, leaving the poor girl tire." alone to bear the storm of her ungovernable ruge. Blows, oaths, and every description of abuse was heaped upon Mirjam, by the infuriated woman, and she left her with a dieadful vow to be revenged. Five hours after in the dead of the night, the house was discovered to be on the the pre-criping ed in Miriam's room, from which she was absent She was, however, soon found in a small outhouse at the top of the garden; where she was at work; as she says, by the order of her mistress, but which that woman denies. She was given into custody, and is prosecuted with a removeless zeal that would do honor to a fiend. A subscription has

shall be save." "Have you seen her!" I asked, after lisening thoughtfully to this history.

"Yes, several times; she has been in prison nearly four months."

"And she persists in her innocence !" ...

"Yes, but there is little necessity to asseverate that to every one who sees her must be so plain.

"Your suspicion then lies-" "Unon the prosecutor's wife, Alice Sharpe. And, more than this, I am inclined to suspect her of using unfair means with her late master, and of holding his property unjustly."

"I cannot exactly tell, but I firmly believe Miriam's assertion that the old man gave her a packet previous to his death, and that he called her his niece; and I also believe that in some way or other Alice Sharpe has become possessed of the secre! and a deeper motive than even jealousy urges lter

to destroy her victim." "But the will-i! that be fairly executed, she need be under no aperehensions."

4-So it seems. Still my suspicions of foul play are very strong Now let us go through the evidence. You see the principle witnesses are Alice Sharpe, Ann Jackson, the servant girl who discovered the fire, Edward Harris, the constable who be revenged upon her mistress."

We persued the evidence given before the committing magistrate: that of the servant and consta-Louisa Jones was not genuine, there were several points that I did not like, and the language of both betraved great acrimony and ill-feeling.

"You can make something of that !" suggested ralld, who craved to have the child perpetually Mr. Paget, as he saw me musing upon the matter.

> Crown-office subposite, which has frightened them, and put them on a wrong scent, I think." "Is the letter, found with the prisoner when she

was left at the surgeon's door, in existence?"

"I don't know; why?" "Nothing-a vague idea as to the indictment. that's all. But I think, it it is possible, it will be as well to have it. By the by, what brothers and sisters had this old doctor!-how could this girl have been his niece!"

"Nobody knows: He same there about thirty years since, but he never visited, and, so far as 1 know, never said where he came from. Alice Sharpe followed him immediately.23

- I should like to read my brief over alone, and see you upon it afterwards-to-night if you are not engaged."

"What time will suit you ?" " Eight o'clock."

After the attorney was gone, I poured over those theets again and again, and the more I did so, the more satisfied I was that Miriam was innocent. the more uncomfortable I was also, because I knew thing before morning as II make you stare."hat nothing that was not very plain and unmistakaby Lord Cranstoan. One help I had and next to common-sense

wimesees it is the greatest that counsel can havea shrewd, clever, practical attorney.

It was uliemoon before the trial came on shall never longet my sensations, as I saw the prisoner come to the bar. She was not simply preny; she was beautiful; fuir slight and delicate as a high-born lady, and graceful exceedingly -There. was a general murmur in the court as she appeared, and even the old stilge was softened-Oh, what I felt! knowing that under God her life was in my hands. I was very nervous; the pen ! held, feigning to make notes, trembled in my hand, The constable was the first witness called. His but her previous cruelty to the child, extelled hand Mirism Lyndon, the prisoner, who was accased of having set fire to her master's house; that when he reached the place he found it burning inside, in a room which he was told was the prisoner's trembled visibly. My hopes rose as I saw this. bed-room, and in another immediately under the There was something slie feared woold come cut, ny of that poor girl as she saw it too! chamber of her employers. That upon searching and I knew better than she did that there is no end endurance from infancy, and the practice the house the prisoner was not to be found, but place like a epon of justice to facilitate discovered in a or to tummask a lie.

At last, however, she had another that they would not discovered in a or to tummask a lie. timilar. At last, however, she had another diat after a little delay, she was discovered in a or to unmark a lie. Bester trial to bear; her beauty attracted the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a processing her evidence I he does you no good, as I sear he will not, be'll I knew, as I looked upon their pringing these, that delivered one of said discourses, meeting an old the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a principal trial to bear; her beauty attracted the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a principal trial to bear; her beauty attracted the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a principal trial to bear; her beauty attracted the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a principal trial to bear; her beauty attracted the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a principal trial to bear; her beauty attracted the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a principal trial to bear; her beauty attracted the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a principal trial to bear; her beauty attracted the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a principal trial to bear; her beauty attracted the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a principal trial to bear; her beauty attracted the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a principal trial to bear; her beauty attracted the smalf out-boilding; at some discovered in a principal trial to be discovered in a principal trial to be discovered in a principal trial to be discovered in a principal trial trial

"No, sit mone; nothing had been done, as see'd, the fire was a dying out of itself-a few pails of water would have put it but altogether; the shaw struggle and her cries brought her mistress to the blazed a bit fierce at first, but there wasn't nothing for it to catch hold on, there hadn't been no body o

> " You say you found the fire burning in the rooms, the prisoner's and the one under her em ployer's; was there much light, much glare I mean brough the windows, any thing to attract attention?

we ten module to mail Think !

"Yes, sir." "Was the flight then less visible from the moon shining on the windows than it would otherwise have tieen ** "Yes, sir."

"How far was the outshouse where the prisone was working, at the end of the orchard from the dwelling-house 111

"About three laundred yards, more or less." "la going in and out of the out-house, as you have just told the Court the prisoner would often have occasion to do, in the course of her work, was there my thing in the appearance of the house to

"No sir; I shouldn't have known there was fire, outside of the house." "Did the prisoner express any surprise at seeing

"No, rir; it seems there was a bonnet of my nisses altering at the shop, and she thought 11d

come fut il, for elle said, 'l'in sorry your wile's turcan isu't done, Mr. Harris, but we've been so busy." "Did she seem regularly at work, as if she had

been at it for some time?" "Yes, sir; there was lots of bonnets about

she had been scouring and pressing." "When you took her into enstedy what did she

"I told her nothing at first, only as she was suspected of setting five to the house, and then she looked all amazed, dambiounded as it were, but ufter a bit she said very steady like, I know noth- all unconsciously Mr. Ashley played into my

ing of it, I never had such a thought," The next witness was the servantegirl. Her testimony was clear and short. She had apprehended the necessed, and Louisa Jones an seen Miriam go to her bed room at the usual time. apprentice, who swears she heard Miriam vow to had retired herself immediately, after, and slept soundly until aroused by her mistress, who told her that Miriam had set the house on fire, and had run away. She was very much frightened, and the was straight-forward enough; there was no by her mistress orders went to the constable. She collusion or deception there; both spoke to facts did not see the burning rooms until her return with within their own knowledge without prejudice of the man for whom she had been sent; she wished exaggeration. But it struck me upon a second to do so, but her mistress refused to let her. She Her face became livid white, and elie muttered his dreamy state to a consciousness of all that was amination that the testimony of Mrs. Sharpe and knew of the quarrel between Mrs. Sharpe and Miriam, and heard the former say that her apprentice should " me the day she had set lier cap at her master." It was unusual to work at the bonnerpressing and scouring at night, but once or twice before Miriam had worked all night by her mistress onlers. Mrs. Sharpe was a regular Tork to her; and her master worried the life out of her; she led the fife of a black slave between them -Never heard her swear to be revenged, or any such thing, and would not believe it. There wasn't much bullied, only a capboard door and shelves in

> riam had no call to ether: . The apprentice was called next She was bold impudent looking girl, dressed in a very showy sayle, and stated around the court in the most insolent manner. She took the oath with great flippancy, and when she terried round cast a look at Miriam which betray all the natred ofher heart, and its cause—she was jealous.

one room, and an old beadstead in another; there

was a lot of straw and matches under the bed; Mi

She swore to many conversations with the priso ner on the day previous to the fire, in each of which she had declared her resolution to be revenged upon Mrs. Sharpe, although she did not eay why .-Never saw Mr. Sharpe pay her attention, although she did ali in her power to attract him. Considered her a great flirt, and a very artful girl. - Purchased a tinder-box and sixpenny-worth of matches for her a few days before the fire. She said she wantand that Mrs. Sharpe had some serious reason for ed them for a maticular purpose. Don't know wishing to get red of her. But, unfortunately, this where sae got the money, unless it was from the was only my own conviction; I could see no way young lawyer up the street, who was always after of working it out, or of bringing a jury to so desira- her. Would swear that on that very night before ble a conclusion, and the more satisfied I became, she left work, Miriam said, "You'll hear some-Asked what she meant, but got no answer, excep very day of the fire Miriam went to her house, and it should overwhelm me. ble, would, except by a great chance, be accepted a row to be rerenged on her mistress. This conversation took place at the garden-gal ? There is an old-fashioned lodge at the gaiden gate, open to the road. People can sit and rest in it; anylody there could see all the people who came down the garden walk. They could not help seeing.

Cross-examination did very little wall this wit ness, except to show the bitter feeling with which she regarded Mujam, to elect the fact that the young lawyer had formerly been a lover of her own, but had deserted her for Blirfam, and that her own character was far from statuless.

Then came Alice Sharpe, the only witness from whom I had any hope; and what that hope was, was even to mysell a vague and undefined an idea. and I shirered from head to bot as if ague-stricken, that I could not shape it into any practical and tangible form. With a hesitatury step and furtive evidence was short and clear. He stated that he glance Alice Sharpe now entered the box, and cerwas sent for at twelve o'clock at night to appre- tainly I never looked open a more conning, rathless, determined countenance than hers.

She was evidently ill at ease, for she cast an anxious, apprehensive gaze round the court, and

looked steadily at her, and she became confused ruin the case wholly, you had better trust to your not the most obdurate among them would, venture lady of his parish, he enquired now she liked the The man was turning to leave the box, when it and nervous, and hurried on, and I saw that if I self." But I dered not one most obtained the most, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said to proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said the proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said the proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath? "La, sur," said the previous subbath? "La, sur," said the previous subbath? "La, sur," said the proceed the world which must, in the event of the previous subbath in menced, what had been done to extinguish the division between two fingers I managed unseen he words I addressed to the jury, and then niged I their past towards comforting her, they returned hidden properties which chance alone discovers;

guilt. She postively denied having sent the girl to ed wandering. work in the out-house, and swore to having found a tinder-box and matches concealed in Miriam's I said quietly. bed after the discovery of the fire, as also some of the same matches (which she recognized from employed for the purpose) by the heap of straw which had been used to set the closet and bedstead on fire.

She said all this in a flippant, mallejous manner. every now and then casting her eyes furtively upon me, but receiving reassurance by seeing how compietely I appeared to be absorbed. While she was speaking, a note was passed over to me by one of the renior counsel, who had been watching her atentirely. It ran thus; "I am not quite sure-but believe this woman was tried five and thirty years fince at Liverpool, for aiding in torging of a check. Her accomplice was a cousin, a soit of clerk in some office; but they were acquitted in couseoffence of an error in the indictment. I recognized her by that mark upon her right cheek and temple. which she was suspected of receiving upon the occasion of some disreputable quarrel, and by that singular pronunciation; but her name then was Martha Steele."

I turned round and handed this to the attorney, and in a few seconds the man who had written it came round and spoke to me. When I next turnod towards the witness box, I saw her displaying att old pocket book of her husband's, which she said had been found among the articles in Mirram's box, and which had been missed for some days. It was an old book. With a green shagreen cover, and as I glanced at it I saw silver studded halls the initials Q. S. upon it. I resumed my seat carelessly, looking at her with the utmost indifference I could assume. I hoped to throw her off her guard, and hands mos, admirably.

At last the examination in chief was concluded, and I rose as Mrs. Sharpe was bartly quitting the box. "Stop," said 1, "I must have a little conver-

sation with you now." I cast one look at the prisoner. The misery of her face gave me new courage, and I mentally prayed for help to bring the truth to light. At first I put a few unimportant questions, and then said-

"You live with your late brother-master, 'I. mean-twelve years, or thereabouts, did you not?" some indistinct reply. Whether wisely done or not, I felt that I had now thrown off the mask, and must be prepared to make the most of every word, or even change of feature. "Why do you not anener me ! I saul sternly.

Another muttered senjence.

"Speak louder," said the judge. "Yes," replied the woman.

"What did you do from the time of your trial for orgery at Laverpool, in 18- till your appearance n Worcester as the late Mr. Steele's housekeeper !"

She gazed hopelessly at me. " Answer me, woman,"

"I was fiving in different places; I can't exactly ! say where now." "Were you not married in the name of Snarpe?

"How fong previously had you ceased to bear our own name of Steele 1. A highieued glance was all lier answer!

the time that unpleasant business of the embezzle. on his quivering face. ment in Mr. Pearson's office occurred. You were housekeeper then, I think. After that it would of you did wisely to get rid of it as soon as you could, and I suppose your cousts was of the same opin-

Her face worked convelsively as I went on thus cooly, but she said nothing. This rather perplexed me; I had depended upon discovering, comeding from her own accautions replies, and her wary conning baffled me. At last I was obliged to let her purchased a "bolting" of straw, and a kuze bunile of matches, all of which she declared were for her mistress, but portions of which, as it turned out had been found in the borning from All nev tact tailed in shaking her testimony; it was evidently true; and she also proved having hers. If delivered direction, and put under her bed in her room. She asked for what purpose it was wanted, and was fold that Mrs. Sharpe was about to make some new

This closed the case for the prosecution; and I could see that, although the jury had been dissatished with some of the evidence, yet this last testimony had decided them against us. Their taxes beinted in the dock, and whose beautiful and son- though it may bear a little hard on the profession, it word the hard resolute expression of men who have row-stricken face lay white and moveless before is to good to be lost; A minister who had an excer-

to keep, a keen; watch over her. The effect of this know not how, I called George Sharpe. He was a release from sorveillance was immediately apparaivery long time coming, and when at last he made ent. She thought that she had boffled me, and that I his appearance, it was only by the help of the crief l felt myself beaten; and this idea brightened her and in a most prinable stite; that he could enter be voice, and unloaved her tongue. Thenceforth she box. He looked like some one who had been sudspoke fixely, and her evidence against the prisoner denly stricken with death; he shook frightfully, his was, if it could be believed, perfectly conclusive of eyes glared, his teeth chattered, and his mind seem

Your name is Steele, Ithink - George Steele !

He stared vacantly; then said, "Yes-George Steel; you're right, sir, George Steele. the late Mr. Will am Stoele, the surgeon!

Af Yes." Do you remember how long it was after you rial at Liverpool that you changed your name?"

"No," he unswered helplesely. "Had not Mr. Steels another sister besides you tle-one who displeased him by marrying ?"

"Yes; Miliam's mother." An exclamation from his wife, who stood in wit behind, started him a little, but he shook his head dismally, and said, as if to himself. " It's no

good!!" "What was her name-Mrs.-Mrs.-!" and turned over my brief as if to look for it. "Mrs. Blackwood, she married young Will

Blackwood, the squire's son, as he had been courting Martha afore Fanny left school." The whole thing was now plain-legible t mind as if I had it upon my brief-but, as fact after fact rapidly followed, corroborated and explained, I began to fear that I should loss the connection.

and not shape my questions so as to bring out the trudy for the jury. "When was it that you first knew the child left at Mr. Steele's door to be his sister Mrs. Black-

wood's child ? "Not for a good while-but Martha knew it soon atter "

"That relationship is the reason, I suppose, why she dislikes the girl so much; her sister had captivaied her sweetheart, eh? and of course she did not like the cuild ?"

"Yes, that reason, and another!" he answered gloomity.

"George!" exclaimed a voice, which all recog nised as that of his wife. He heard it, as he had before but took no heed.-

"Av, that was the will. I approse?" "The will?"

" Yes, that document which was contained ire letter which Mr. Steele gave to Miriam you Know.2

about that !" he asked, as if suddenly awaking from going on around him.

first will, you remember, ten days before Mr Steele's death but this deed, which altered that her mother, and some weeks after, he received the disposal of his property, and left it to his sieter Faumy's child, was executed the very day of his death, fle the suspicion of Martha, (now called Alice and was stolen from Miriam while she slept."

I thought this probabte, and acted as if it were a certainty; but the man looked surprised, and said He did not heave it all to her."

"No !-I've been misinformed, then !How much

lid he leave !" "George!" said the same warning voice.

* How should I know? replied the frightened "Take that woman into custody," exclaimed the lger sail she disturbs the court willin." The man was now thoroughly alarmed and per-

"How much besides the house did he leave Well never mind; it was some where about her? I asked quietly, fixing my eyes steadily up- Mujam. But after a time a new fear sprang up in

> "I don't know." did Mr. Steele leave to his niece!"

"What's the use of bullying me! I tell you I don't know." Then came a moment's pause, and then I said

suddenly : "Who mixed up the medicines?"

The man's face was hornble to look at as I ask. ed this. White it had been all along; but now it go down without having produced any stronger et was ghastly; the eyes started and glared, and white upon the dying man to make a will in her favor, feet than that of destroying her credit with the jury . hoth came out, hinging the blue livid lips I shad, which he willingly did, having another form ready Another witness, for whom we were not prepar | dered as I fooked. There was evidently some ier- prepared for his signature, which gave every thing ed, now came forward, and deposed that on the rible mystery, and falmost dreaded to speak, lest to his niece. This he contrived to execute during

> A vacant stare of terror was all my answer. 1- I must have an answer, 2 f said stemly, 4 or

shall ask his lordship to commit you." "Oh Lord, Martha, it's come at lost " exclaimed the wretched man; "I knew a would?" and otter- band's admiration of Minam, and partly that she the straw, which she took up states by Ministras ing a hideous scream, he fell upon the floor of the might, by her conviction, get rid of her torever. winness box in strong convulsious.

room as the confusion had subsided, Mr. Ashley cowardice which had caused so great a diversion mattresses "unbeknithen to her husband," and rose to reply upon his evidence; but, as it was im. in her favor, that poor girl must have been found therefore desired that it should be hidden out of his possible to recall the man, and endeavor to set him guilty open the strong circumstantial esidence way. The girl, she said, was crying, and upon be- right with the jury, or to remove from their minds brought against her, I have ever looked with fear ing asked why she did so, said that her mistress the textfat impression he had made, the counsel and susperior upon any verdict semencing to death had been very cruel to her, and that size wished confined his remarks to a few common place ob- apon testimony so liable to interpolation, misconherself dead, drowned, bumt, or possoned, or say servations, which he hurried over as quickly as struction, and falsehood. possible.

heeded him very fittle; they, in common with all the court, were gazing on the prisoner, who had failing fund of anecdotes, relates the following, and made up their minds to punishment. Oh, the ago him. Her head was supported by one of the turn. Sively good opinion of his own performance, bad keys, and a surgeon, who happened to be near, had fallen in into the habit of frequently, giving to the "I would not rule the risk of calling George entered the box to chafe her hands and bathe her people a new text with an old sermon, supposing

and borne out of the dock, senseless.

Alice Sharpe abscended during the confus court, and her husband, in the intervals of delicium and just before his death, made a learlul confession.

of which I can only give the outline: Martha, Fenny, and William Stoole, were the three children of a tradesman living in a Yorkshire village. The son of the Squire, attracted by the bold beauty of Martha, paid her so much attention that she fully expected he intended to marry her, and therefore boasted of her conquest to all of her companions; but just when she had decided in her own mind that the proposal ought to be made, Fan-

by returned from school.

From that time Martha lost her empire over her lover's heart; and, in her treatment of the unfortepute cause of her disappointment, showed the first symptoms of that innate cruelty of, heart which afterwards worked so much evil to herself and others. In a few months, worn out with her sister's unkind ness and tauntering words, and inged by her lover, poor Fanny Steele eloped, only leaving behind her a vague note for her brother William, whom the

Soon after this their father died, and Martha accented a situation as housekeeper to a solicitor in Liverpool. There she became acquainted with her cousin George, and in a very short period attained so great a mastery over him as to pursuade him to commit the forgery for which they were both subsequently tried and acquitted. After this she was. of course, homeless and characterless; her guilt had been too evident to admit of any doubt, and if was very well known that her life had only been saved by one flaw in the undictment, no wonder, then, she found it impossible to obtain any situa-

le this position she thought of her brother. She knew that he was most merciful and forgiving, and thought that if she could only persuade him of her innocence of the crime for which she had been tried, he might receive her again. This after a time he consented to do, on condition that she changed her name, so that she might not be recognised as the heroing of the celebrated forgery case. This proviso, however, reasonable as it was, angered her greatly, but she affected to be grateful. and after her brother broke up his comfortable house in Yorkshire, and went to Worcester, she followed him in the capacity of housekeeper. Two years afterwards an annoymous letter, informing him of his sister Fanny's dangerous illness, reached the kind-hearted surgeon. Wahont saying any thing to Marthe, he went to the place to which he was directed, just in time to see his dear sister before she died, and to undertake the charge of her infant. He learned then, for the first time, that her husband was dead, and that his family had refused to rethe child to the care of the woman who had nursed infant from her in his own surgery, while, to buf-Sharpe.) to whom he had said nothing of Fanny's illness and death, and to whom he dared not intrust the secret, he deposited the baby, the bank note, and the letter at his own door.

But Martha was not long deceived. The likeness to her sister was so strong in the child's infant features, that her suspicions were soon awakened. and her brother's tenderness to his protegee, although carefully concealed, speedily confirmed them .-She was however, too wary to spffer her knowledge of his secret to be discovered by the surgeon, and she revenged herself for the silence she was compelled to maintain, and her previous disappointments, by harshness and cruelty to the unoffending her mind, and she dreaded least Mr. Steele, whose health had already began to fail, should at his death "That's a falsehood. Remember you're upon bequeath all his property to the poor, forforn little course be disagreeable to bear the same name; and your oath, man, and answer me truly; how much child. This lear she communicated to her cousin George, who had followed her to Worcester, and by the aid of a false reference, obtained employment in a lawyer's office; and then commenced that diabolical system of slow-poisoning, which wore her brother's life away, gloin by atoin, and finally ended in destroying it.

Previous to his death, however, she introduced George into his toom as a stranger, and prevailed I should overwhelm me.

Mariha's absence, the night before his death, in the Who mixed up the medicines? I asked again. presence of some stone-mixing who were working in the yard, and it was kins which he inclosed in a letter to Minam, explaining her parentage, and which after his death was stolen from her by Martha, partly from revenge and jealousy of her hus-

All thei, and much more, George Steele confess After this witness had been carried out, and as ed goon his death-bed; and as, but for his endden

I ALWAYS LIKED THAT SERMON .- A good onholox Lord Cranstoun then summed up ; but the pury minister of our acquaitance, who masesses a never-