

Vernor, the traitor

BY S. R. CROCKETT, author of "The Flea of the Floss-Hags," "The Stickit Minister," etc.

Patrick and Robert Vernor are the eldest and the youngest of the seven sons of a Scotch-Covenanter of Ironage, in Galloway.

Then came Col. Douglas, and, as was usual with him, his orders were swift and stern.

his troops should be well cared for in their marching, in town, and to leave a visiting guard to see that they were kindly treated by the country people, who had indeed small reason to love us.

And as we rode on behind my brother I had time to bethink me. The words of Isobel Weir pressed hard upon me.

But whenever I rode within earshot of the preacher, he was crying blood and vengeance on my head, till the lads of the escort fell to laughing.

So in this blank desert we came to the prison, and the commandant directed the jailer to put Robert in the thieves' hole for safety, and not into the general room, wherein debtors, ordinary rogues and all the scoundrels of southern-country rascaldom were put.

At this Grier of Lag looked sour and strange; but Col. Douglas beat upon the table with his hand.

In his own place. There are those who think well of him for the manner of his death, and indeed I myself am grateful, and also my wife, Isobel, though she never named his name.

So with no more said, the officer gave the word. And thus was a wicked man cut off ere he had lived half his days; as saith the Scriptures: "But the horn of the righteous shall be exalted." R. V.

THE END.

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