



ing, almost fainting. But before she could reach her, she had drawn herself up again and resumed her former demeanor. "Excuse me," said she, "I am not myself this morning. I beg your pardon," and she turned steadily to the coroner. "What was it you asked?" "I asked," and his voice grew thin and high—evidently her manner was beginning to tell against her—"when it was you heard the library door shut?" "I cannot fix the precise time, but it was after Mr. Harwell came up and before I closed my own."

"No, sir." "The coroner cast a quick look at the jury, who almost to a man dropped their eyes as he did so. "Miss Leavenworth, we are told that Hannah, one of the servants started for your room late last night after some medicine. Did she come there?" "No, sir." "When did you first learn of her remarkable disappearance from this house during the night?" "This morning before breakfast. Molly met me in the hall, and asked how Hannah was. I thought the inquiry a strange one, and so questioned her. A moment's talk made the conclusion plain that the girl was gone."

attempt at consolation on the part of a stranger, must seem at a time like this the most bitter of reproaches, but do try and consider that circumstances are not always absolute proof." "No," murmured she, "circumstantial evidence is not absolute proof, but Eleanor does not know this. She is so intense; she cannot see but one thing at a time. She has been running her head into a noose, and O—"

possession," interrupted she. "In the first place, there was no paper of importance enough—I saw Mr. Gryce's form suddenly stiffen—for anyone to think of concealment. Don't I know? Was I not my uncle's confidant?" "I do not suppose there was," suggested I, "as far as your knowledge goes. But could she not have been acquainted with something?" "She drew back coldly. "There was nothing to be acquainted with. Mr. Raymond, we lived the most methodical and domestic of lives. I cannot understand for my part why so much should be made out of this. My uncle undoubtedly came to his death by the hand of some intended burglar. The robbery was stolen from the house, is no proof that a burglar never entered it. As for the doors and windows being locked, will you take the word of an Irish servant as infallible upon such a point as that? I cannot believe the assassin to be one of a gang who make their living by breaking into houses, and if you cannot honestly agree with me, do try and consider such an explanation as possible, if not for the sake of the family credit, will then—"

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