Her Great Love;

Or, A Struggle For a Heart

CHAPTER XXXIX.

When Delima had left the cell—taking all the light and warmth with her, as it seemed to Gaunt—he sat on the bed, with his face in his hands, thinking of every word she had said, recalling the sweet face with its new expression of sadness and resignation.

He added humanely why fate had sent him to earth, why heaven permitted one of its angels to suffer as she had suffered, simply through loving him.

Alas! this kind of reflection is not only futile, but possesses a real danger. Very few innocent people ever turn the Knife with the Wooden Sheath against themselves, but those are the people who are supposed to know everything.

Gaunt was so occupied in thinking of Delima that he did not hear the key turn in the door, nor was he aware of the presence of the governor and the chaplain until they were close enough to touch him.

Sir Telford brought Sir James, the chief warder, the first morning and they went over the whole story and examined the condemned man's arrangements with practical minds. Perhaps he anticipated this weariness to be seen for the last time on earth.

"Come, come, cheer up, Gaunt," he said, impressively, and up man should go before a tribunal than an agnostic when he has reason to question its competence and position."

"I see what I can," exclaimed Mr. Perkins, politely.

The warder was very strong. The first visit then passed in about three minutes. Then he can go over the ground, penetrate to room to room, and discover how to get out. I must not find myself on the south side of the river."

Gaunt smiled gratefully.

The days dragged on slowly and wearily. Gaunt, of course, had no idea how long his sufferings would last, and that uncertainty was the worst feature of his position. Not only he his whole life made a desperate bid, but he was going to be executed, perhaps, given pain, with the woman he loved and to save.

Yes, Gaunt had found out that love was the most powerful thing in the world. Women, he found, is going to [illegible] it, and [illegible] to [illegible] that long, he will remain unconvicted. I can [illegible] to [illegible] beyond that weary pacing [illegible] opposite my cell. [illegible] when I [illegible] that I am [illegible] that I [illegible] I [illegible] I [illegible]