

JESSIE BROWN;

OR,

THE RELIEF OF LUCKNOW.

A Drama,

IN THREE ACTS.

BY

DION BOUCICAULT,

AUTHOR OF

London Assurance, Old Heads and Young Hearts, The Irish Heiress, Used Up,
The Corsican Brothers, Love and Money, The Willow Copse, The Life of
an Actress, The Phantom, Andy Blake, The Chameleon, Victor and
Hortense, Genevieve, The Young Actress, Louis the Eleventh, The
Knight of Arva, Faust and Marguerite, Janet Pride, George
D'Arville, The Poor of New York, Belphegor, Napoleon's
Old Guard, Love in a Maze, Alma Mater, A Lover by
Proxy, Don Cæsar de Bazan, Giralda, Sixtus the
Fifth, The Prima Donna, Bluebelle, The Cat
Changed into a Woman, Una, The Fox
Hunt, &c. &c.

THOMAS HAILES LACY,

89, STRAND,

(Opposite Southampton Street, Covent Garden Market.)

LONDON.

Nov 32
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JESSIE BROWN.

*As performed at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth,
November, 1858.*

A NEW, GREAT, AND ORIGINAL PLAY, ~~which has been~~ ^{now} ~~several weeks~~ ^{in preparation} founded on the beautiful episode in the present Indian War, and written by DION BOUCICAULT, Esq., for Wallack's Theatre, New York, where it was played upwards of 80 nights, under the title of ~~Jessie Brown~~ ^{and the Highlanders}.

JESSIE BROWN;
OR, THE RELIEF OF LUCKNOW.

The New Scenery by Mr. WILLIAM CHANNING. Costumes by Mrs. WATSON. The following account is taken from the letters of a lady, one of the rescued on the 26th September, when Lucknow was relieved by the forces under Sir Colin Campbell.

"Death stared us in the face. We were fully persuaded that in twenty-four hours all would be over. The Engineers had said so, and all knew the worst. We women strove to encourage each other, and to perform the light duties which had been assigned to us, such as conveying orders to the batteries, and supplying the men with provisions, especially cups of coffee, which we prepared day and night. I had gone out to try and make myself useful, in company with Jessie Brown. Poor Jessie had been in a state of restless excitement all through the siege, and had fallen away visibly within the last few days. A constant fever consumed her, and her mind wandered occasionally, especially on that day, when the recollections of home seemed powerfully present to her. At last overcome with fatigue, she lay down on the ground, wrapped up in her plaid. I sat beside her, promising to awaken her when, as she said, "her father should return from the ploughing." She at length fell into a profound slumber, motionless and apparently breathless, her head resting in my lap. I myself could no longer resist the inclination to sleep, in spite of the continual roar of cannon. Suddenly I was aroused by a wild unearthly scream close to my ear; my companion stood upright beside me, her arms raised, and her head bent forward in the attitude of listening. A look of intense delight broke over her countenance; she grasped my hand, drew me towards her, and exclaimed, 'Dinna ye hear it? dinna ye hear it? Aye, I'm no dreamin'; it's the slogan o' the Highlanders! we're saved, we're saved.' Then flinging herself on her knees, she thanked God with passionate fervour. I felt utterly bewildered; my English ears heard only the roar of artillery, and I thought my poor Jessie was still raving, but she darted to the batteries, and I heard her cry incessantly to the men, 'Courage, hark to the slogan of the Macgregor, the grandest of them a'. Here's help at last.' To describe the effect of these words upon the soldiers would be impossible. For a

very few moments all -

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moment they ceased firing, and every soul listened in intense anxiety. Gradually however there arose a murmur of bitter disappointment, and the wailing of the women who had flocked out began anew as the Colonel shook his head. Our dull lowland ears heard nothing but the rattle of the musketry. A few minutes more of this deathlike suspense, of this agonising hope, and Jessie who had again sunk on the ground, sprang to her feet, and cried in a voice so clear and piercing that it was heard along the whole line—‘ Will ye no believe it noo? The slogan has ceased indeed, but the Campbells are comin’. D’ye hear, d’ye hear?’ At that moment we seemed indeed to hear the voice of God in the distance, when the bagpipes of the Highlanders brought us tidings of deliverance, for now there was no longer any doubt of the fact. That shrill, penetrating, ceaseless sound, which rose above all other sounds, would come neither from the advance of the enemy nor from the work of the Sappers. No, it was indeed the blast of the Scottish bagpipes, now shrill and harsh, as threatening vengeance on the foe, then in the softer tones, seeming to promise succour to their friends in need. Never surely was there such a scene as that which by one simultaneous impulse, fell upon their knees, and nothing was heard but bursting sobs and the murmured voice of prayer. Then all arose, and there rang out from a thousand lips a great shout of joy which resounded far and wide, and lent new vigour to that blessed bagpipe. To our cheer of ‘ God SAVE THE QUEEN! ’ they replied in the well-known strain that moves every Scot to tears, ‘ SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT,’ &c. After that nothing else made any impression on me. I scarcely remember what followed.”

NATIVES.

THE NANA SAHIB (<i>Rajah of Bithoor</i>).....	Mr. G. ELLIS.
ACHMET (<i>his Vakeel</i>)	Mr. F ALLEN.
MAHOOH }	{ Mr. WESTLAND.
HAKEEN }	{ Mr. EVERIT.

BRITISH.

RANDAL MACGREGOR (<i>Officers in the</i>)	Mr. W. S. BRANSON.
GEORDIE MACGREGOR (<i>English Service</i>)	Mr. J. F. WARDEN.
REV. DAVID BLOUNT (<i>Chaplain, 32nd Regiment</i>)	Mr. STEPHENSON.
SWEENIE (<i>a Private, 32nd Regiment</i>)	Mr. BRIDGEFORD.

CASSIDY (<i>a Corporal, 32nd Regiment</i>)	Mr. C. LLOYDS.
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Soldiers, Highlanders, Sepoys, and Hindoo Servants.

JESSIE BROWN (<i>a Scotch Girl</i>).....	Miss M. EBURNE.
MRS. CAMPBELL (<i>Widow of an Officer</i>) ...	Miss KATE CARSON.
CHARLIE }	{ Master WHITE.
EFFIE }	{ Miss. L. RAYMOND.
ALICE (<i>her Sister</i>)	Miss F. MORELLI.
MARY	Mrs. G. ELLIS.

SCENE—LUCKNOW, in the PROVINCE of OUDE, INDIA.

TIME—THE SUMMER OF 1857.

Programme of Scenery and Incidents.

ACT I.

The BUNGALOW; or, Country House of Mrs. Campbell,
Lucknow in the distance—Jessie Brown the pet of the Regiment,

THE ALARM. THE MUTINY.

Preparation for Flight—Treachery of Nana Sahib—Attempted Assassination of Randal Macgregor.

Nana Sahib Plots to Murder the Women and Children,

INTERIOR of the BUNGALOW,

The Highlanders—Thoughts of Home—“Auld Lang Syne.”

THE CHILDREN'S SLEEPING ROOM WITH DISTANT VIEW OF LUCKNOW BY NIGHT,

Nana Sahib appears—he confesses his love for Mrs. Campbell—she spurns him—his threat to Murder her Child unless she consents to become his—arrival of Jessie Brown—she seizes the knife and stabs Nana Sahib—devotion of Sweenie.

ATTACK UPON THE BUNGALOW

Repelled by Jessie and Ladies—Escape of Randal.

ACT II.

MOSQUE IN THE CITY OF LUCKNOW,

Jessie a Prisoner, chained to the Wall—Lucknow in the Hands of the Sepoys—harrowing details of the dastardly

MURDER OF 200 WOMEN AND CHILDREN,

By the Wretch, NANA SAHIB.

Appearance of Sweenie and Cassidy—the Surprise—the Flag of Truce—the Sepoys lure their Victims to surrender and then destroy them—the Mine—the Prisoners—the Release,

Achmet about to Fire the Mine—he is Seized by Cassidy,

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION.

ACT III.

RUINS OF THE BRITISH ENCAMPMENT,

JESSIE BROWN
FAMINE IN THE BRITISH CAMP,
The British Soldiers refuse their Rations to give them to the
Women and Children,

JESSIE'S DREAM,
PREPARATION FOR A GRAND ASSAULT,
THE ATTACK
REPELLED BY BRITISH VALOUR.

THE WOMEN LEFT to LOAD the GUNS,
THE REBELS ARE BEAT BACK AGAIN,

THE RELIEF OF LUCKNOW,
GRAND AND IMPOSING TABLEAU OF
The Arrival of Havelock.

Costumes.

RANDAL.—Red coat, plaid trowsers and scarf, broad sword, white cotton toupee, with lappet round the neck.

HAVELOCK.—Blue frock, cocked hat, dark trowsers, and gauntlets.

GEORDIE.—Red coat, plaid trowsers, scarf, &c., like Randal.

BLOUNT.—Black cut-off coat, trowsers, broad brimmed hat, white cravat, and grey hair.

SWEENEY and CASSIDY.—Red coats, white trowsers, and white cotton toupees.

SOLDIERS.—Uniforms of different regiments.

HIGHLANDERS.—Full Highland uniforms.

MRS. CAMPBELL.—White muslin dress.

ALICE and MARY.—White muslin dresses, straw hats, and parasols.

CHARLIE and EFFIE.—Neat white dresses.

JESSIE.—Grey stuff dress, light paid scarf, and hood.

NATIVES.—All have dusky complexions.

NANA.—White turban with jewels, white tunic and trowsers, red morocco shoes, yataghan. *Second Act.*: Morocco boots, sword and pistols.

ACHMER.—Red turban, shirt and trowsers of a bold stripe—the same pattern not worn by any other character.

REBEL SEPOYS.—Red coats, white trowsers and shakoes.

SERVANTS.—White turbans, shirts, and trowsers, and leather slippers.

This is just no very difficult assignment of a one-sider. I think
it's just now—on the first Friday of the month, I mean,
as there are still some people who have not yet got
their pay, so it's just now—
JESSIE BROWN.
Now of course I'm going to do my best to help you. I'll just
take a look around and see what I can find out. And if I find
anything that's useful, I'll let you know.
ACT I.

(A short pause now—then another short pause.)

SCENE FIRST.—The Exterior of the Bungalow of Mrs. Campbell,
R. 3 E.—*Lucknow in the distance, seen over a low parapet wall at back.* Table laid on R. side, under a tree, with viands upon it. Native SERVANTS in attendance.

Music.—Enter GEORDIE MC GREGOR, with ALICE and MARY, L.
and ACHMET from the house, R.

GEORDIE. Here we are at last. What can induce Mrs. Campbell to live a mile from Lucknow?

ALICE. You are a pretty soldier—you cannot march a mile without a murmur.

GEORDIE. On my own native hills in bonnie Scotland, with my hound by my side, I have walked a dozen miles before breakfast; but under this Indian sun—

MARY. And with only a pretty girl by your side—

ALICE. Say two pretty girls. Don't be bashful Mary—include me too.

(Enter MRS. CAMPBELL, R. 3 E.)

GEORDIE. Oh, Mrs. Campbell, look here! I am besieged—Delhi is nothing to the condition I shall be in if you don't relieve me.

ALICE. Mrs. Campbell, please, he won't tell us which of us he is in love with.

MRS. C. I will tell you: with neither. He is in love with his new uniform; he only received his commission two months ago, and every officer is for six months in love with himself.

GEORDIE. After that I'll take a glass of sangaree.

MRS. C. Where's Randal?

GEORDIE. My fiery brother, "the Mc Gregor"—as Jessie will insist on calling him—is, as usual, inspecting his men.

MRS. C. Jessie is right; for your brother, Randal McGregor, is one of the noblest men that ever breathed the Scottish air and made it purer. But tell me, what news from Delhi? (they sit)

GEORDIE. Oh, the siege continues; but it will be taken, of course—these black rascals are mere scum.

(ACHMET, C., who is serving GEORDIE, R. C. looks round)

ALICE. *There* is one who disagrees with you on that point.
GEORDIE. Does he?

ACHMET. No, sahib, Allah Akbar! it is so—we are scum. Lady, in Hindoostan there are one hundred millions such as am, and there are one hundred thousand such as you; yet for a century you have had your foot on our necks; we are to you a thousand to one—a thousand black necks to one white foot. Allah is great, and Mohammed is his prophet. We are *scum*!

GEORDIE. I can't answer for the truth of your calculation, but I agree in the sentiment—you are scum. (*drinks*)

ACHMET. Sometimes the scum rises.

GEORDIE. Yes, Dusky, and when it does, the pot boils over and puts the fire out; so the scum extinguishes the element that made it rise.

ACHMET. I cannot reason with a European.

GEORDIE. No, nor fight with one; by your own calculation, it takes one thousand of you to do either one or the other.

MRS. C. (R.) Beware of that man, Geordie; I did not like the expression of his face as you spoke. *Exit ACHMET, R. 3 E.*

GEORDIE. Bah! there is virtue enough in one red-coat to put a whole army of them to flight.

MRS. C. Have you ever been in battle?

GEORDIE. Never. But when I'm on parade, and hear the drums and see the uniforms, I feel like the very devil.

ALICE. There is no chance of the war coming here—is there?

GEORDIE. Not the slightest. London itself is not more peaceable than yonder city of Lucknow; the native regiments here are faithful as dogs. You need not fear danger.

MRS. C. The rebellion is still far. But when I think of the atrocities already perpetrated by the Sepoys—when I think of my two little children—oh, why do I remain here in the midst of such scenes of horror?

GEORDIE. Because you are in love with my brother Randal; the feelings of the mother urge you to go and the feelings of the woman command you to stay.

MRS. C. (rising) Geordie, there is more truth than kindness in what you say.

GEORDIE. (holds her) Stay, Amy, I'm a thoughtless fool.

MRS. C. Yet you wrong me a little—I was betrothed to Randal; we quarrelled, as lovers will, and parted;—in that moment of anger I accepted the hand of Colonel Campbell.

GEORDIE. At the seige of Sebastopol, Randal became your husband's most devoted friend, and watched over him like a brother.

MRS. C. Oh, it was a noble reproof to my falsehood.

GEORDIE. And at the charge of the Highlanders, when

Campbell was struck down mortally wounded, and the command devolved on my brother, Randal carried him in his arms, at the head of the regiment, into the redoubt, so that none of the glory of that day should be lost to his rival.

MRS. C. Should I not be ungrateful to my dead husband if I did not love Randal McGregor as I do?

(JESSIE, outside L., sings—GEORDIE goes up)

MARY. (C.) Hush, listen!

ALICE. (R. of her). What is that?

GEORDIE. What is it? why it is a sprig of heather from the Highland moors. It is a slogan on the Scotch pipes that nature has put into the prettiest throat that ever had an arm round it.

It is the pet of the regiment.—It is Jessie Brown.

MRS. C. (R.) Yes, 'tis Jessie; here she comes up the hill with her two lovers.

ALICE. Two lovers! that's extra allowance.

GEORDIE. She might have eight hundred if she liked, for that is the strength of the 78th Regiment, and there's not a man in it that would not stake his life for a blink of her blue eye.

MRS. C. Jessie is a good girl, as honest and true as steel; she is betrothed to Sweenie Jones, a private in the 32nd.

GEORDIE. An ugly, wiry little fellow, but a smart soldier, and as brave as a terrier.

MRS. C. But she is also followed by a soft, good-natured Irish corporal named Cassidy, the bosom friend of Sweenie, and to see these two men so devoted to each other, and yet so fond of the same girl, is a picture too like my own history not to fill me with interest and emotion.

(Music—Scotch air—very piano)

GEORDIE. She belongs to our clan.

ALICE. Here she comes.

MRS. C. And here come my darling ones.

Enter SWEENEY, L., carrying CHARLIE on his back, and CASSIDY carrying EFFIE on his shoulder.

CHARLIE. Wo, hossey! come up! (SWEENEY tries to salute GEORDIE; CASSIDY salutes him)

EFFIE. (beating CASSIDY with her parasol) Go along, hossey.

CHARLIE. Oh, Sweenie, you'll have me down! hold me up, sir.

Enter JESSIE, L.—music ceases.

JESSIE. Dinna ye hear the bairn, ye lout?—hau'd him up.

SWEENEY. How can I, when I must salute my officer?

JESSIE. Eh, sirs, it's maister Geordie—gude day, leddies—eh,

my certie, how braw a chiel he is in his red coat and his gow'd lace! There's McGregor in every inch of him. Eh why wasn't I the Queen of Scotland to make a king of him!

GEORDIE. Don't be a fool, Jessie,—you talk just as you did when we were children.

JESSIE. And why shouldn't I, Geordie? In the days of Auld Lang Syne, when we played together on the craigs o' Duncleuch, you aye used to kiss me when we met and parted—you do so now when there is nane to see—are you ashamed of those days when we were children, Geordie? I'm not.

GEORDIE. No, Jessie, and I'll kiss you now if Sweenie does not mind.

SWEENIE. No, your honour, if Jessie says all right, so it is.

CASSIDY. We give our consint.

ALICE. (vexed) Jessie has three lovers instead of two, it seems.

JESSIE. Eh! (aside) Yon lassie loo's him, I spier it in the blink o' her e'e. She'll be fashed wi' him for kissin' me.

GEORDIE. (aside) Alice is furious. (aloud) Come, Jessie, for Auld Lang Syne.

JESSIE. (snatching CHARLIE from SWEENIE—aside to SWEENIE) Say ye nae like it.

SWEENIE. (puzzled) Eh,—what! Hold your honour, I ax pardon, but—

JESSIE. Sweenie's jealous.

CASSIDY. We are chokin' wid it, plase your honor.

MRS. C. (who with MARY has watched this scene, and understood JESSIE's motives, advances) Go along, all of you, take your sweethearts into the kitchen. Jessie, leave the children here.

JESSIE. 'Tention 32nd! fa' in. Reecht face—March!

Exeunt SWEENIE and CASSIDY following her word of command, R. 3 E.

MRS. C. (laughing) There girls, there's a pair of lovers reduced to discipline!

ALICE. Yet people say that now-a-days the chivalry has left the officers and is to be found in the ranks.

MRS. C. No, Alice—Jessie is beloved, because all men worship what is brave, gentle, and good, because she shrinks from hurting another's feelings, even in jest, as she did yours just now.

JESSIE. Nae, my leddy—I knaw nou't o' what yer spierin' at.

MRS. C. Then take that blush away.

(JESSIE running out, R. 3 E. stops and returns timidly to ALICE)

JESSIE. (in a low voice) Ye are nae angry wi' puir Jessie.

ALICE. (turns and throws her arms round her neck and kisses her) No. JESSIE runs off, R. 3 E.

MRS. C. Now, Geordie, you can take Jessie's kiss where she has left it, and I am sure you will hurt nobody's feelings.

be ALICE. Oh, Amy. (GEORDIE crosses to ALICE)

MRS. C. Come girls, take Geordie in, I would be alone.

Music, exit GEORDIE, ALICE, and MARY, R. 3 E.

MRS. C. Randal is coming, I cannot hear his footstep, but the air he breathes conveys his presence to me, as it flutters through my heart.

Enter RANDAL MC GREGOR, L.

RANDAL. Amy.

MRS. C. Ah, I knew it.

CHARLIE. Oh, dere's Randal.

EFFIE. No, Charlie, me first, kiss Effie first. (*they run to him, C.*)

RANDAL. There, that will do, run along, go Charlie, go Effie, you tease me. (*the CHILDREN shrink back to R.*)

MRS. C. Come away, dears; you are tired, Randal.

RANDAL. No, but the sight of those children pains me.

MRS. C. They remind you that I have been unfaithful—oh Randal, do not visit the fault of the mother upon these innocent children.

RANDAL. Amy, your repentance wounds me, and your memory of that fault is a reproach to my love! Oh, let it be buried in the grave of your noble husband.

MRS. C. Forgive me.

RANDAL. Charlie, come here, Effie, come. (*they cross C., he kisses them*) Amy, I have bad news, the rebels are at Cawnpore, not fifty miles from hence, and a report has just arrived, that tells of horrors committed on our countrymen, their wives, their children, that makes my blood freeze and my heart groan.

MRS. C. Randal, Randal, are we in danger here? my children, are they safe?

RANDAL. Hush! one cry of alarm, one look of fear, and we are lost. Of our regiments in Lucknow, four will mutiny, one only will remain faithful—to-night you must leave this place.

MRS. C. Is peril so near.

Enter two native SERVANTS, R. 3 E., who remove the service, R.

RANDAL. Hush. (*sings as he dances CHARLIE.*

There is nae luck aboot the hoose.

There is nae luck awa', &c.

(MRS. CAMPBELL leans, trembling, over the child at her side. *Exeunt NATIVES, R. 3 E.—Randal lets his voice sink gradually.*

MRS. C. They are gone.

RANDAL. Regain you courage, think of these children.

MRS. C. Randal, you exaggerate the danger; look around you—all is at peace, the people are kind and gentle—not a

look of anger or of hate in any face; our servants are devoted to us.

RANDAL. Fatal security! Yonder country to you seems in repose—to me it seems like a sleeping tiger. Death is lowering in the air. You say your servants are faithful—there is one of them watching us now—we are watched—don't turn—a tall black fellow in a crimson turban. (*all this time he plays with the children*)

MRS. C. Achmet.

RANDAL. Listen, without betraying any emotion. At midnight I shall bring down fifty men—be ready to start without delay; take nothing with you—make no preparation.

MRS. C. Why cannot we fly now, at once?

RANDAL. Because your own servants would assassinate you, and join the enemy. (*night begins*)

MRS. C. May they not do so ere to-night?

RANDAL. No; I gave Cassidy and Sweenie leave to come here, and sent Geordie on—that makes three, and you have only thirty servants; the natives dare not attack at such odds.

MRS. C. Does Geordie know our peril?

RANDAL. No; nor is it necessary, until the hour arrives. He is young, and might lack coolness.

MRS. C. Why do you suspect my household of treachery?

RANDAL. (*drawing out a paper*) Do you know the Rajah of Bithoor?

MRS. C. Nana Sahib—I saw him at Benares, at the feast of Mohammedah, a year ago. I might not have recollected him, but he followed me with so strange a gaze that he almost terrified me.

RANDAL. Do you understand Hindooostanee?

MRS. C. No.

RANDAL. I do. (*as he reads, ACHMET glides on behind, and creeps to his shoulder*) This letter was intercepted at Secunderabad, to-day. Listen as I translate: "My faithful Achmet—to-night, at one hour after the set of moon, I shall be at the Martiniere with five hundred men; when the Feringhee woman is in my Zenana, to you I give a lac of rupees. Destroy the children—they are giaours. Nana Sahib."

MRS. C. My children!

(*Music.—ACHMET raises a knife over RANDAL, she sees him and utters a cry; ACHMET drops his knife, runs up and leaps over the parapet, at back, L. C.*) RANDAL turns, draws a pistol and fires at him, as he disappears.

The above conversation is held in a low and earnest tone, but with a light and careless manner, as if subjects of trifling importance were spoken of.)

Re-enter GEORDIE, ALICE, MARY, JESSIE, SWEENIE, and CASSIDY, R. 3 E.

RANDAL. Do not be alarmed. 'Twas only—a jackal; I fired and scared him away.

CASSIDY. A jackal is it—then, be jabbers, here he comes back again—and on his hind legs.

Enter BLOUNT, with his hat smashed, L. U. E.

ALL. Mr. Blount!

RANDAL. The chaplain of our regiment.

CASSIDY. His reverence!

BLOUNT. Good evening, my friends. May I suggest that the next time you throw a fellow six foot high over a wall, you should intimate your intentions to peaceable persons below.

CASSIDY. A jackal, six foot high!

GEORDIE. Are you hurt, sir?

BLOUNT. No; fortunately I received the thing on my head—from whence it bounded off, and rolled down the hill-side into the jungle.

RANDAL. Return to the house, all of you. (*Exeunt all but MRS. CAMPBELL, R.*) Mr. Blount, stay! one word—you are a clergyman; but once you were, I believe, an officer in Her Majesty's Carbineers.

BLOUNT. (L.) I quitted the army from conscientious scruples.

RANDAL. (C.) Are you a coward?

BLOUNT. A coward! I think not—that is—well—no; for when I read the accounts of these atrocities, I feel in me an emotion that is evil, very evil—a sinful desire to smash the heads of these wretches, who butcher women and infants. I know the feeling is horrible; I ought to forgive and pray for them. I have bound the devil in me, but he leaks out.

RANDAL. If you saw these little ones in peril, would you fight?

BLOUNT. Fight! young man—my dear Randal—I kill human beings! a clergyman destroy lives! what do you take me for?

RANDAL. I take you for a brave man. You were born a warrior, but your more gentle nature refused to war against any creatures but the wicked, and you could not shed blood except in the cause of humanity. Don't deny it; you retired from the army and became curate of a poor Scotch village near my home; from your lips I first learned what war was,

BLOUNT. I portrayed its horrors—its wickedness.

RANDAL. I only saw its glory; I only saw your face lighted with the animation of the charge—you fired my soul and made me what I am.

BLOUNT. Heaven forgive me ; I ruined the boy.

RANDAL. I entered the army—you followed me.

BLOUNT. Did I not promise your dying father to watch over you ? and here's how I did it.

RANDAL. Listen, my dear old tutor. You are brave and cool, and to you alone I can confide the defence of this house to-night.

BLOUNT. To me—good gracious !

RANDAL. You will be surrounded by Nana Sahib's troops ; his design is to murder all its inmates except Amy, whom he destines for his zenana.

BLOUNT. The demon ! May his infernal spirit roast in—what am I saying !—May a merciful father forgive him ! This is horrible.

RANDAL. At midnight summon all the household, and start for the city ; I will precede you, gather a guard, and hasten back to meet you,

MRS. C. Do you go alone ?

RANDAL. My horse is at the foot of the hill, picketed in the copse ; once on his back, I am in Lucknow. Farewell.

(Music.—He embraces MRS. CAMPBELL)

MRS. C. Oh, Randal, shall we ever meet again ?

RANDAL. We sleep to-night in yonder city or in heaven.

Exit RANDAL, L.

BLOUNT. Stop, Randal, my dear boy ; I can't do it. He is gone—what shall I do ?—Mercy on me ! What arms are there in the house ?

MRS. C. Two double guns, a rifle, my late husband's swords and a brace of pistols.

BLOUNT. A clergyman—a minister of peace—what will become of me ! Have you any powder ?

MRS. C. A small keg of cartridges.

BLOUNT. These poor children ! I tremble in every limb. Have you any caps ?

MRS. C. A box or two.

BLOUNT. The old devil is kicking in me—my blood beats hot.—Get thee behind me, Satan ! Oh ! if I could only see these deluded murderers, to speak with them, to prepare their erring souls, before I sent them to ask for that mercy in heaven which, by the way, they never show on earth. (music) My respected and dear friend, we are engaged in a wicked deed—I feel it—come, let us see your ammunition. *Exeunt, R. 3 E.*

SCENE SECOND.—*An Apartment of the House—a verandah, C. Night—(2nd grooves.)*

Enter SWEENEY and CASSIDY, R.

CASSIDY. Whist ! Sweenie, come here—speak low ! D'ye

see that wood beyant? there's fifty black divils hidin' in it, and here's one of their raping hooks I found in the grass! *thus*

SWEENIE. Rebels here!

CASSIDY. I was watchin' the Capting; as he hurried down they crept afther him. He has come to grief, Sweenie, for yonder is the road to Lucknow, and his horse has not passed down it yet. Oh, wurra, wurra, what will we do?

SWEENIE. Give me that sabre; stop here, Cassidy, I will creep down and see what is going on below; don't say a word to frighten the women, but if I don't come back in ten minutes, conclude I'm dead; then, in with ye, barricade the doors, and tell Master Geordie.

CASSIDY. Sweenie, avich, let *me* go. Oh, murdher! you'll be killed and Jessie will never forgive me for not goin' in your place.

SWEENIE. Cassidy, if the rebels are here in force, I shall fall; and as the savages spare neither women nor children, I'll see ye both in heaven before morning, so I won't say good night.

Exit, L.

CASSIDY. Heaven speed ye, Sweenie, an keep ye.

Enter JESSIE, R.

JESSIE. Who is that—Cassidy!

CASSIDY. Meself, darlin'. *(distant shot)*

JESSIE. What's that!

CASSIDY. *(aside)* It's murdherin' the Captain they are, I darnt tell her. *(aloud)* That, that was Sweenie, sure he's gone down beyant, may be, that is by accident, his swoord went off on half cock.

JESSIE. His sword!

Enter GEORDIE, R.

GEORDIE. Jessie, come here; eh, who's that—Cassidy?

CASSIDY. *(aside)* What'll I do at all? if he knew that Sweenie was gone to get killed for his brother.

GEORDIE. Go in, Cassidy; leave us.

CASSIDY. I'm off, your honour. *(going)* Five minutes are gone, I'll creep afther Sweenie. If I had a baggin', or a taste ov a twig itself, but I've nothin' in my hand but my fist.

Exit, L.

JESSIE. Did ye ca'me?

GEORDIE. Come here, you little puss, now you shall give me that kiss I did not get this afternoon.

JESSIE. Geordie, you have been drinking.

GEORDIE. And if I have. Wine lets out the truth, Jessie and the truth is—I love you.

JESSIE. Eh! didna ye always loov me?

GEORDIE. No, I love you as you deserve to be loved, and I can't bear to see such a pretty girl as you have grown, throw yourself away on those common soldiers, like Sweenie and his comrades.

JESSIE. Oh, Geordie! Sweenie loves you—he would dee for you or for Randal.

GEORDIE. Oh, devil take Sweenie! all our mess say you are too good for him. You are the prettiest girl in Lucknow.

JESSIE. Let us gang awa in, Geordie, dear.

GEORDIE. (*taking her in his arms*) No, you shan't—come, don't be foolish, Jessie. Could you not be happy with me?—don't you like an officer better than a vulgar, common soldier?

JESSIE. Oh, Geordie! oh, Geordie! (*buries her face in her hands*)

GEORDIE. Look up, Jessie.

JESSIE. I canna, I canna.

GEORDIE. Why can't you look up into my face?

JESSIE. I'm lukin farawa—far awa, upon craigs of Duncleuch; 'tis in the days of auld lang syne, and the arm of wee Geordie McGregor is round the waist of Jessie Brown, for he is saving her life in the sea. Na, don't tak yer arm awa, Geordie, dear. I'm lukin, still. Geordie is a laddie noo, and he chases the deer on the craigs of Duncleuch; beside him is poor Sweenie—poor faithful Sweenie, that follows the McGregor like a dog; Geordie drives a stag to bay; the beastie rushes on him and throws him doon—another minit and Geordie will na see Jessie mair—but Sweenie's dirk is quicker than that minit! the brute fell dead, but not before he gored poor Sweenie sorely. We watched by his bedside—d'ye mind the time, Geordie? your arm was round me then—na, dinna tak it awa noo.

GEORDIE. Oh, Jessie! oh, Jessie!

JESSIE. Luk up, Geordie.

GEORDIE. I cannot.

JESSIE. Why canna ye luk up into my face?

GEORDIE. Because I'm looking far away, far away into the days of auld lang syne, and they make me ashamed of what I am.

JESSIE. The blush of shame never crossed the brow of a McGregor. Na! na! you may kiss me now; but listen, Geordie; whisper—

(*sings*) Should auld acquaintance be forgot

And never brought to mind,

Should auld acquaintance be forgot

And the days of auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,

For auld lang syne,

Then tak a kiss of kindness yet

For auld lang syne.

Exeunt, R.

SCENE THIRD.—*The Interior of the Bungalo; night. A room serving for a nursery—large opening at the back, with muslin curtains, discover a distant view of Lucknow, brilliant with lights.*

(Mrs. CAMPBELL, CHARLIE and EFFIE, ALICE and MARY discovered.)

MRS. C. No, I shall not undress the children. Take Effie with you, Alice.

ALICE. Poor child, she is almost asleep now.

CHARLIE. Mamma, I want to go to bed. Where is Jessie?

(Enter JESSIE, R. 2 E.)

JESSIE. Here, my precious one.

(Exit ALICE and MARY, with EFFIE, R. 2 E.)

MRS. C. Place him in his cot; do not remove his clothes. (walks up and down. Aside)—I have calmed the agitation of the poor old chaplain, but my own overpowers me.

CHARLIE. Jessie, sing me Charlie; you are not tired, are you?

JESSIE. Nae, darling; I'm never tired o' teaching ye the airs o' Scotland. (sings a verse of "Charlie is my Darling.")—He falls asleep.

MRS. C. Can I entrust the secret to this girl? (going to her) Jessie!

JESSIE. Aweel, my lady.

MRS. C. (in a distinct whisper—taking her arm) There's danger near—don't start, don't cry—to-night this house is to be surrounded by the rebels—our murder is planned, but so is our escape.

JESSIE. (rising) It canna be!—wha tauld ye this?

MRS. C. Randal McGregor.

JESSIE. Then it's true.

MRS. C. Hush! five hundred men will attack us.

JESSIE. Mercy on us! what will become of us?

MRS. C. Randal has promised to rescue us.

JESSIE. (resuming her calmness) The McGregor has said it; dinna ye fash yersel—gin he said it, he'll do it. (returns to the cot)

MRS. C. Go, Jessie, see to the fastenings of all the doors, but show no fear, excite no suspicion.

JESSIE. I hae no fear. Has not the McGregor gi'en his word to coom back? He'll tak it up, and under his claymore there can nae fear.

(Exit hastily, L.—Music.)

MRS. C. This girl gives me a lesson in courage—what reliance, what noble confidence she has in Randal—how calm she

turned, when she heard he had given his word to secure our escape.

(NANA SAHIB and ACHMET appear at the verandah, on the balcony. ACHMET points to MRS. CAMPBELL. The NANA enters the chamber. ACHMET creeps along the verandah, and off, R.)

What is the hour? (*looks at her watch*) It is now past eleven. Randal must have reached the city by this—it is time to prepare. (*she turns and sees the NANA beside her*) Mercy!

NANA. (R. c.) Be silent—You know me! *she looks at him*

MRS. C. (c.) The Nana Sahib.

NANA. The officer who intercepted my letter to Achmet, is my prisoner. My men are now surrounding your park. Escape is hopeless.

MRS. C. (*aside*) Randal taken prisoner! then we are lost.

NANA. Listen! I saw you at Benares—your soul entered through my eyes into my heart, and thrust out my own. I followed you, until like the sun you passed away where I could follow no more; I went to Bithoor, and my wives offended your soul in me, I gave them riches and sent them away—my Zenana is cold—I am there alone; it awaits the form to which the soul here belongs.

MRS. C. You would murder my children and dishonor their mother.

NANA. Your children shall be mine, princes of the Maharatta; follow me and no blood shall flow. I will withdraw my men. Lucknow shall be spared, and peace restored.

MRS. C. England would spurn the peace bought thus with the honour of one of her people. (*goes to R.*)

NANA. (*approaching the bed—L. of it*) This is your child?

MRS. C. (R. of cot) My child.

NANA. (*draws his yataghan*) No cry! or this steel is in his throat!

CHARLIE. Mamma, oh, dear mamma, help me.

MRS. C. Hush, Charlie, my own one, don't cry, hush. Oh, Rajah spare my child; yes, I consent. I will follow you—spare—

(JESSIE snatches the knife from the NANA, and stabbing him with it suddenly)

JESSIE. Drop that bairn, ye black deevil! (NANA drops the child, whom JESSIE catches to her breast; he staggers a moment and falls on couch, c.—Tableau).

69. **NANA.** Tehanum possess ye—mine then you shall be by force
—none under this roof, but you, shall see to-morrow's sun.
(distant shots—cries within—ACHMET appears at C. from R. HOSPITAL)
NANA and ACHMET draw their scimelters and leap over the balcony)

Enter GEORDIE, ALICE, and MARY, R. 1 E.

GEORDIE. What shots were those?

ALICE. What has happened?

MRS. C. The Nana Sahib with five hundred rebels, besiege us in this house. Randal is their prisoner. Randal who promised to rescue us.

JESSIE. Prisoner or free, the Mac Gregor will keep his word.

MRS. C. The impossibility of that girl drives me mad.

Enter CASSIDY, running, L.

CASSIDY. He's comin' thunder and turf, he's fightin' like a cat wid tin legs and fifteen claws on aich fut.

ALICE. Who?

CASSIDY. The captain; Sweenie is fightin' beside him. (*shots outside*) Hurroo! they're at it.

(runs up, GEORDIE follows to verandah at back)

GEORDIE. There they are in the copse.

CASSIDY. Where's a gun, oh a gun for the love o' heaven.

JESSIE. Here is one.

CASSIDY. Hoo! there goes a bullet through my leg. (**GEORDIE** staggers back to R. very pale. **JESSIE** runs up with the gun) The devils see us by the light here, and they're pepperin' us handsome.

JESSIE. Look, Cassidy, look! there's a big fellow makin' for Sweenie, quick.

CASSIDY. (*fires off C. to L.*) Hoo!

JESSIE. Here they come—(*calls to them*) quick, by this ladder.

Enter SWEENIE, and then RANDAL over the verandah. JESSIE comes down and soothes CHARLIE and EFFIE.

RANDAL. Cast down that ladder, Cassidy, and stand to your arms.

CASSIDY. Ay, your honor.

MRS. C. Oh, Randal, you have escaped!

JESSIE. I told you the Mc Gregor would keep his word.

RANDAL. I was taken prisoner, by about fifty men, who are posted just this side of the bridge, their main force is still beyond the river, they are led by some Rajah of rank.

MRS. C. By the Nana in person, he was here.

ALICE. Here!

MRS. C. He came by that ladder, and fled when wounded by Jessie.

JESSIE. Na! the deevil had a steel jacket on, the blow slipped awa.

RANDAL. Nana Sahib! then the whole force of the rebels is in the neighbourhood—Lucknow is threatened—the garrison will be taken by surprise, where is Geordie?

GEORDIE. (*advancing*) Here, Randal.

RANDAL. How pale you are, are you wounded?

GEORDIE. No—it is nothing.

RANDAL. A scratch I suppose. Geordie, a dispatch must be carried to the city; I will write it, and you must bear it.

MRS. C. But can Geordie escape through the lines of the enemy who surround us? Death must be nearly certain.

RANDAL. Death is nearly certain, and therefore I pick my own brother for the service; besides, he is an officer, and claims the post of danger as his right.—Do you forget the name we bear? Alice, return to the interior of the house. Come, Amy, give me paper and ink. Geordie, while I am gone, see to your arms.

Exeunt all but GEORDIE and JESSIE, R.

GEORDIE. (L.) Death—he said that death is nearly certain.

JESSIE. (R. c.) How pale he is! Geordie, speak—are you hurt.

GEORDIE. Oh, Jessie!

JESSIE. I saw ye flench from the shots—you came back white as snaw. You tremble—what is it, Geordie dear?—tell me.

GEORDIE. I can't, Jessie. My tongue fails me—as my limbs do—oh, Jessie—I feel I cannot face the fire.

JESSIE. What say ye?

GEORDIE. I am a coward. (*falls on sofa, c.*)

JESSIE. (*runs to him*) Hush, dearie; there's nae drop of coward bluid in the Mc Gregor—tak' time, Geordie.

GEORDIE. I cannot help it, Jessie; the passion of fear is on me—I cannot stir.

JESSIE. Oh, my heart! oh, my heart! My Geordie, think of what Randal will say if he sees ye so—his ain brither—his ainly one! Think, dearie, there are women here—and bairns, puir helpless things—and if ye flench noo, they will be killed!

GEORDIE. I know it—(*hides his face and his hands*)—but I am paralyzed.

JESSIE. Think of the auld mither at hame, Geordie—the proud one that nursed ye, Geordie—the leddy that awaits her twa boys cumin' back fra' the wars—what! will ye bring yer mither back a blighted name? Oh, hae courage, for her sake!—oh, for mine, Geordie! (*throws her arms around him*) Oh, why canna' I gang beside ye, to show ye how to bleed for the auld braes o' Scotland?

Enter BLOUNT, L.

Wha's there?—gang awa'—oh, 'tis the minister.

BLOUNT. Is he wounded? my poor boy, is he hurt?

JESSIE. Oh, sir, help him; his heart fails—it is his first fight, and he flenches.

GEORDIE. This terrible sense of fear which paralyzes me will pass away. 'Tis a spasm—it cannot be that my father's son my brother's brother, can be so miserable, so contemptible a thing as this!

BLOUNT. The boy has conscientious scruples, like me.

GEORDIE. No, no; to you—to you alone, companions of my childhood, let me confess—

BLOUNT. No, dont; you sha'n't say a word—you don't understand; I know all—first powder smells sick; but after you see a few men fall, that goes off.

JESSIE. Yes, it clears awa'.

BLOUNT. Take your lip between your teeth and choose your man.

JESSIE. Think o' the bairns they've slaughtered in cauld bluid.

BLOUNT. Don't trust to pistols—I always preferred steel, it's more reliable and doesn't miss fire; use the point—it kills ten when the blade throws open your guard, and only wounds one. Lord forgive me! I am teaching this boy how to murder.

Re-enter RANDAL, R., with the order, followed by SWEENIE.

RANDAL. Here is the despatch. Where is my brother?

JESSIE. He is here, but stay a wee. (*aside*) Oh, what can we do?

RANDAL. (R. C.) How's this? what has happened?

JESSIE. Naething. (*aside*) He blenches, he canna' do it. (*aloud*) Randal, I have asked Geordie a favor, and he has granted me. That order—winna' the soldier that bears it safe to the General get advancement?

RANDAL. My brother will win a brevet rank of lieutenant.

JESSIE. Na; your brither is rich and can buy his rank, but my Sweenie is puir, and Geordie has consented to let Sweenie tak' his place and win his sergeant's stripes.

SWEENIE. Oh Master Geordie! do you so? Heaven bless ye! there's not a prouder boy in the Queen's uniform to-night than I am!

GEORDIE. (C.) Jessie! Jessie!

JESSIE. (L. C.) Dinna' speak.

BLOUNT. (*aside*, L.) She puts her own lover in the jaws of death! Poor girl—good girl! good girl!

RANDAL. It is better so—I have other work for Geordie.

Quick then, Sweenie ; at the copse, near the brook, my horse is tied to a tree. Can you ride ?

SWEENIE. (L. of JESSIE) I can hold on.

RANDAL. This letter to the General. I will defend this house till he comes to relieve us, or we are buried under its ruins. The alarm guns which will be fired from the fort when your news is known will apprise us that you are safe in Lucknow, and have escaped. We can both see the flash and hear them from here. Away with you.

JESSIE. Heaven be wi' ye, Sweenie. Heaven be wi' ye, laddie. (*throws her arms round him*)

SWEENIE. I'll deserve ye this time, Jessie ; ye'll be proud of me, dead or alive. (*goes up—JESSIE falls on her knees*)

BLOUNT. What are you about ? you are not going by that road, you will be seen.

SWEENIE. I know it—they'll fire—'tis ten to one they'll miss me ; but I'll fall into the garden as if I was shot, and while they are thinking me stiff, I'll be creepin' down to the horse and off to Lucknow.

RANDAL. Well, let me see you try it.

JESSIE. (*raising her hands*) Oh ! my loov ! 'tis for Geordie's sake. (*RANDAL and SWEENIE go into the balcony*)

MRS. C. But why should Randal go ?

BLOUNT. To lead his man—habit.

(*A shot—SWEENIE falls over as if shot—a cry from JESSIE*)

RANDAL. (*after watching, returns*) 'Tis all right, he has escaped.

JESSIE. But he may be wounded ?

RANDAL. I think not, unless there were two bullets. I have got one here. (*takes off his cap—his temple is bleeding*)

MRS. C. Randal !

RANDAL. Tut ! we have other things to do. (*draws out a handkerchief, presses his forehead ; and replaces his cap*) Now, Amy, to work, there are but three of us here, Geordie, Cassidy, and I.

BLOUNT. You may say four ! I will lay aside my conscientious scruples, and like my namesake, David, I will smite the Philistines.

RANDAL. You have three native servants, who I think may be trusted. There are not more than fifty Sepoys on this side of the bridge—now if we can destroy that bridge, we shall divide our foes and hold our own for a few hours.

BLOUNT. There's a keg of powder down stairs, I'll take it down under my arm, and blow up the bridge. This enterprise is bloodless, it suits me exactly.

RANDAL. You propose with your form to creep down unobserved, you would be cut to pieces.

BLOUNT. But if the piece of me that held the keg got there, I might accomplish the good deed. (*aside*) I'm afraid he'll send Geordie.

RANDAL. Geordie, quick, you and I will see to this.

GEORDIE. (*rises*) I am ready. (*RANDAL embraces AMY*)

JESSIE. He's ganging, look, look, he goes bravely, the McGregor bluid is in his cheek, the dark fire is lechted.

GEORDIE. Bless you Jessie. (*aside to her*) Sweenie has not been sacrificed in vain. I'll not belie your love, Jessie, fare-well.

Exit GEORDIE and RANDAL, L.
JESSIE. He's gane, he's gane, baith gane—and Sweenie—and my courage has gane too.

Enter ALICE, MARY, and the children, R.

ALICE. All is quiet.

BLOUNT. That's a bad sign. But let us extinguish the lights—they serve the enemy. (*he puts out the lamp—stage dark*)

MRS. C. (*kneeling R. and praying, her children grouped round her, their little hands clasped*) Oh, Heaven protect us in this dark hour of peril, preserve my poor little children.

BLOUNT. Amen! (*goes up*) They come! I see white figures in the garden.

JESSIE. My Sweenie, have they killed my poor Sweenie? Oh, this suspense is worse than death.

BLOUNT. The house is surrounded, the whole collection is here.

MRS. C. Cassidy, fire, why don't you fire on them.

CASSIDY. (*looking in from balcony*) Plase yer honor, ma'am, them savages is like birds—firin' frightens them away, and if we coax them here awhile, sure they won't be seeing affer the Captain Randal.

BLOUNT. Good heart, noble heart, oh merciful Father in heaven, it is a pity such good people should die. Have pity on us, have pity on these weak ones, and upon these little ones.

JESSIE. Oh! protect my puir Sweenie; don't let his bluid lie on my hands—and break puir Jessie's heart.

(*distant explosion—music*)

CASSIDY. (*at back*) D'ye hear that? It's the bridge! the devils are skelping back again to see what kind of hell is behind 'em (*sounds of conflict*)

BLOUNT. They are coming! I hear Randal's voice.

RANDAL. (*without, L. U.E.*) Cassidy! Cassidy!

CASSIDY. That's me! here I am, your honor. Hoo!

(*leaps over the balcony and disappears*)

BLOUNT. The door, the door is fast inside. (*runs out, L.*)

JESSIE. No alarm guns from the city! the time is passed;

no sign that he has escaped, and I sent him, I sent him. Oh, Sweenie, Sweenie !

MRS. C. They come—they are safe.

Enter RANDAL, bearing GEORDIE in his arms, L.—he places him on settee, C.

RANDAL. See to the doors.

ALICE. He is dead !

JESSIE. Dead ! wha's dead ? (sees GEORDIE, and utters a scream of grief and horror) Geordie ! what have ye done ? ye have killed the bairn. Stand awa, a' o' ye. Geordie, Geordie, look to me. Oh ! I did it—I killed him—only for me he wad nae have gane. Geordie ! (she kisses his face) Speak to me, dear ! Oh, I shall go mad, Geordie, if ye dae not answer me—if ye do not luk to me. (GEORDIE raises himself at this moment. A flash of a gun is seen from the distant city)

RANDAL. Ha ! the alarm gun from the city. (a second gun is heard—all turn towards the back)

GEORDIE. Jessie, Jessie, do you hear those guns ? Sweenie has escaped, and after a', Geordie is not a coward.

(he faints—JESSIE supports his head—tableau and}

END OF ACT I.

ACT II.

SCENE.—*The interior of a Mosque in Lucknow; curtains at back, C. JESSIE chained, L., to a pillar. GEORDIE is lying on a pallet, R., chained also. REBEL SEPOYS at the back; a divan, L. Stage sombre.—Music.*

GEORDIE. (awaking) Where am I ? Oh, these chains, those dark walls, those darker faces—I am a prisoner—why did I awake ?

JESSIE. (L.) Geordie, dear, you are better noo, the fever has left ye.

GEORDIE. Jessie, are you there ? come near me.

JESSIE. I canna, dearie, the savages have tied me like a dog to the wall.

GEORDIE. What place is this ?

JESSIE. It's a church where they worship the deevil.

GEORDIE. How long have I been here.

JESSIE. For six lang weeks.

GEORDIE. Does the Residency still hold out against the rebels ?

JESSIE. I dinna ken I have been here at the time.
GEORDIE. Were you taken prisoner when I fell into their hands?

JESSIE. Na ! but when we heard that you were dying here, for want of Christian help, I cam' across to nurse ye.

GEORDIE. My poor girl ! But they will murder you ; they show no mercy for age or sex.

JESSIE. I ken it weel ; where is the Calcutta News ? It is fu' o' the bluidy wark the Nana made at Cawnpore.

Enter NANA, followed by ACHMET, with a paper, c.

Ee ! talk o' the deevil——

NANA. (c.) Sahib, open your ears. Your countrymen are dogs. They still lie howling in the Residency—they dare not come forth—Inshallah !

GEORDIE. They look for aid.

NANA. Their hearts lie, and hope will not feed them ; their food is out, they cannot live on air.

JESSIE. Ye mistak' ! they are living on an' air noo, and it's ca'd, " the Campbells are coomin'." And oh, could I but hear one screel of the pibroch—could I see the wavin' o' the bonnie tartan, and the braw line o' the shinin' steel, I'd na' gie ye twa minits, but ye'd find the deevil before ye could say " Cawnpore."

NANA. Woman, be silent, read your printed words, and leave men to speak with men. (to GEORDIE) Your countrymen are in our hands. Beneath this mosque, even below our feet, we have a mine, it passes beneath the fort commanded by the Sahib, your brother. Behold, the powder is laid, the match is ready ; we can destroy him utterly — his fort once taken, the Residency is ours. Bismillah ! have I defiled my tongue with lies ?

GEORDIE. The Redan fort is the key to our position.

NANA. Enough blood has been shed—let him yield—his men shall go forth unharmed, we will pour the oil of mercy on their wounds.

JESSIE. (reading the paper) " And under these conditions Cawnpore was surrendered ; the garrison marched out, and entered the boats provided for their safe transport."

NANA. You say your countrymen still look for aid, but they know not that the Sahib Havelock was defeated by my troops. From Lahore to Alahabad, Hindooostan is ours ; you shall write these things that they may know ; they will believe your word, and they will yield. Inshallah ! they shall go forth safely ; we will show mercy—on my head be it.

JESSIE. (reads) " No sooner were the boats containing the troops, the women and children, in the midst of the stream

than the enemy's opened a murderous fire, and a work of slaughter began."

NANA. What woman is that? What writing has she in her hand? Tear it away! (ACHMET tears the paper from JESSIE) What says the pen there? (also I tried to tear it off)

JESSIE. (rising) I'll tell ye in broad Scotch. It says that you have taught baith women and children to fecht, for you have found something that they fear more than death.

ACHMET. What's that? (as soon as I cut the string he pulls out)

JESSIE. The mercy of Nana Sahib!

NANA. Let my Ferooshees come here.

(ACHMET goes to back and beckons—enter two HINDOOS, c.)

Take that woman and let her die.

GEORDIE. Stay, Rajah, you would not kill that poor child.

At a signal from ACHMET two cords descend from the roof.

NANA. You would have her life? Give me the letter to your brother; she herself shall bear it to the Redan fort (they unbind JESSIE)

GEORDIE. That letter will not serve you. You do not know Randal McGregor—he will die, but will never yield.

NANA. Be it so! (rising) Achmet, cut off the right hands of these prisoners, and let their bodies swing from the heights of this mosque.

ACHMET. On my head be it.

JESSIE. Geordie, Geordie! (goes to him, R.)

GEORDIE. No, Nana, do not give me the death of a dog. Spare that poor child.

NANA. Stifle the howling of that hound.

JESSIE. Geordie, far'weel, Geordie!

GEORDIE. Hold! what would you have me do?

NANA. (returning) Do you see yonder ropes? they ascend to the minaret of this mosque. (to ACHMET) Prepare the means in yonder room to write. (exit ACHMET, R. 1 E.) Behold! write as I have said or give your neck to the cord. Choose—I have spoken.

Exit NANA, R. 1 E.

JESSIE. Ay, but you have spoken to a McGregor!

(they unbind GEORDIE)

Re-enter ACHMET, R. 1, E.

GEORDIE. (aside) One day more—aid may come! Havelock, Outram, cannot be far.

JESSIE. (aside) He hesitates—if he pens that letter a' is lost again, yet if I speak the deevils will murder me.

GEORDIE. (aside) She shall not die.

Exit, GEORDIE, R. 1 E., followed by ACHMET and the HINDOOS.

JESSIE. (*looking off, R.*) He will do't; to save my life, he will write down his ain infamy ; nae if I bear it to the fort, I can tear it up on the way, but then they will kill him after a', and I ainly can be saved. Yonder he sits, he takts the pen—his hand shakes, but still he writes ; he writes, oh, what are the words ? words of infamy, that will gae hame, and fill the faces of a' the Christian world wi' shame. Oh, could I reach his heart, I could stay his hand, but that black Beelzebub is wi' him. Eh, haud a wee, I'll speak to him (*sings*)

"Oh, why left I my hame," &c.

(*after first verse*) He stops, his head fa's in his hand—tears, tears, —he minds me, he minds me (*she falls on her knees and sings the second verse*) He knows what I mean ! (*a portion of the floor gives way, R. C., and falls in*) Ah ! (*starts back to L.*) What is that ?

CASSIDY puts his head through the orifice.

CASSIDY. Pooh ! what a dust. Cheu ! (*sneezes*) That was a big pinch of snuff anyway.

JESSIE. What's that ? "Tis Cassidy's voice.

CASSIDY. I'll call Sweenie !

(SWEENIE'S head appears through the orifice, beside CASSIDY'S)

JESSIE. Sweenie !

CASSIDY. Sweenie !

SWEENIE. What's the matter ?

CASSIDY. Matther ! Bedad, there's an echo here that spakes first—a Hindoo echo that takes the words out av yer mouth.

JESSIE. Hush, 'tis I, Jessie.

SWEENIE. Jessie !

CASSIDY. Hoo ! "Garry Owen" yer sowl ! Hurroo !

JESSIE. Hush ! gae down quick, they are coomin'.

(CASSIDY and SWEENIE disappear, JESSIE draws the nusmud or turkish carpet of the Divan over the orifice)

Enter ACHMET with a light, R. 1. E.

JESSIE sings, "My boy Tammie !" with affected unconcern.

ACHMET examines the place, holds the light to her face, and goes out, R. 1 E. JESSIE withdraws the carpet.

JESSIE, Hush, silence, whesper.

(SWEENIE and CASSIDY re-appear)

CASSIDY. Where the devil are we at all.

JESSIE. This is a mosque, they ca' it. It is my prison and Geordie's. How did you get here ?

SWEENIE. We were working in the counter mine, ordered by the Captain, when we struck right into the mine prepared

by the rebels to blow us up, we removed their powder, of which we were running short, and then Cassidy and I took a stroll along their mine, to see the country.

CASSIDY. The road was mighty dirty, but the view at the end of it, is worth the walk.

JESSIE. Then this passage goes under ground to the fort.

CASSIDY. Bedad, Sweenie, we niver thought of that! it comes this way, but I don't know if it goes back the same.

JESSIE. D'ye see yon ropes danglin' there, they are ready for me and Geordie. Twa hours mair, and ye'd been too late, down wi' ye noo, don't stir, until I tell ye.

CASSIDY. We'll be as dumb as oysters. (they disappear, JESSIE replaces the carpet)

*Enter the NANA and ACHMET, R. 1.E. Drums without—
SEPOYS enter at back, C.*

ACHMET. (who has spoken with a Sepoy) A flag of truce from the fort.

*Enter RANDAL and BLOUNT, C., from back, preceeded by a
NATIVE with a white flag.*

JESSIE. (R.) The McGregor!

RANDAL. (C.) You are the Nana?

NANA. (seated, L.) I am he.

RANDAL. I command the Redan fort. I come to offer you an exchange of prisoners. We have taken sixty of your men.

NANA. They are in your hand, Inshallah! Death is their portion. To each man his fate.

Exit ACHMET, R. 1 E.

RANDAL. We fight our foes, we do not murder them.

BLOUNT. (R. C.) Stay, Randal, don't be so fiery, let me speak to the Rajah. Salam, Aleikoom!

NANA. Allah, Resoul Allah! speak! There is no God but God, and Mohammed is his prophet.

BLOUNT. There I can't agree with you, and I shall feel pleased to discuss that question at any time your leisure may permit. I am a minister of peace and a herald of mercy. Let me touch your heart. Our Heavenly Father, whom you call Allah, has given you rule and power over men; you have used it so cruelly, that all the world will shudder at your deeds of blood. This girl came here on a mission of mercy, she is not your prisoner; in every religion, and of all time, the weakness of woman protects her life, and makes her safety sacred.

NANA. The shepherds from the hills of the Himalayah came to me and they said, Behold the tigers come out of the jungle and prey upon our flocks, and we fear. Which hearing, I arose; I sought the lair of the noble beast. I found there the tigress and her cubs. I struck them, until they died; but,

lo, the tiger came, but did he whine and weep, saying, Sahib, you have done evil, my mate and my little ones are sacred, their weakness should proteet them?

BLOUNT. Are we tigers? NANA. The tiger was placed here by Allah; he eats for his hunger, and kills that he may eat. Did Allah send the Briton here to make us slaves, to clutch us beneath his lion's paw, and to devour the land. Inshallah! The voiceless word of Allah has swept over the people, and it says, Sufferers, arise, ye shall be free!

RANDAL. Freedom was never won by murder, for heaven never yet armed the hand of an assassin.

NANA. What, dogs are you, to judge the ways of Allah?

Enter ACHMET with a letter, R. 1 E.

Has the English prisoner written as I have said?

ACHMET. 'Tis done!

JESSIE. Na, it canna be!

NANA. The officer, your brother, knowing the folly of further resistance, writes here to you Sahib, and counsels you to yield.

JESSIE. Oh, I dar' na luk' at Randal.

RANDAL. (*striding up to NANA*) You lie!

BLOUNT. Randal, forbear, perhaps Geordie has been misled, deceived?

RANDAL. Deceit can make a man a fool, but not a coward.

Enter GEORDIE, R. 1 E.

GEORDIE. Randal!

RANDAL. Stand back! Lieutenant McGregor! the Rajah of Bithoor declares, that in this letter to me, you have counselled us to surrender. (*a pause*) You are silent.

GEORDIE. Randal, you will forgive me when you know all but now, and here, I dare not speak.

NANA. The proud brow of the Englishman, our tyrant, can be bowed down with shame. Achmet, read the letter.

GEORDIE. No, no, not here.

ACHMET. I cannot; it's in a foreign tongue.

BLOUNT. (*looking over it*) 'Tis in Gaelic, the native tongue of Scotland; I do not understand it.

JESSIE. Eh! I do; let me see. There's nae words in Gaelic that would serve a coward's tongue. Let me see (*music—reads low*). Eh, sirs, it is pure Gaelic and rins so. (*to NANA*) Open yer lugs, ye deevil, for here's porridge for ye, hotter than ye can sup it, may 'be. (*reads*) To Captain Randal McGregor, Her Majesty's 78th Highlanders: "My dearest brother, the Nana Sahib has doomed me to the death of a dog.—My execution will take place at seven o'clock; you can spare our mother

that grief and me that disgrace.—Jessie will point out to you the window of my prison—it looks over the Redan Fort, and is within gun-shot of our men. As the clock strikes six, I will be at the window; draw out a firing party, and let them send an honest volley through my heart. Heaven bless you; give my love to Alice and Mary; remember me to all the fellows of our mess—let them give me a parting cheer when I fall. Your affectionate brother, Geordie McGregor."

RANDAL. Geordie, my brother! my own brother!

GEORDIE. (R. C.) Randal! (they embrace)

BLOUNT. (bursting into an ecstasy of delight) I can resist no longer. (shouts) God save the Queen.

(embraces JESSIE, R., NANA goes up with ACHMET—artillery heard without)

RANDAL. What guns are those?

NANA. My artillery cover the advance of the faithful on the Redan fort. Bind these men. Your hours are numbered.

RANDAL. Traitor! we are protected by a flag of truce.

NANA. Your flag of truce shall be your winding sheet. Swing their bodies to the Minaret, through the dome above. (he points upwards, c.) As the hour strikes seven let it be done. (the SEPOYS seize RANDAL, GEORDIE and JESSIE) Let the old man go, that he may bear witness over all the earth, and strike the hearts of England white with terror, when they hear the vengeance of Nana Sahib.

SEPOYS & FOR THE LAST A FEW WORDS NANA SAHIB IS MURDERED

Exit, c. to L.

BLOUNT. Don't! Hang me too, hang me! I'll be hung, if I die for it.

ACHMET. Slaves, see the Nana's order done; on your heads be it.—On the stroke of seven, draw the ropes! my duty calls me to the mine. The mine below your countrymen. In five minutes the match will be lighted, and as you hang in the air will be able to see your soldiers blown to the skies.

Exit ACHMET, c. to R. *The SEPOYS having placed a noose round the necks of GEORDIE and RANDAL, and bound BLOUNT and JESSIE, exeunt, c. to L.*

JESSIE. (calling) Sweenie, Cassidy, quick.

(CASSIDY throws back the carpet.)

CASSIDY. Here I am! (appears in the orifice) I'm nearly choked wid keepin' the fight in me. (jumps up)

BLOUNT. Where do you come from?

CASSIDY. From the mine, alanna! Sweenie has run down below to look after the naygur, that's gone to blow us up, he's got a word or two to say to him.

RANDAL. Quick, cut these cords, the executioners hold the other end, outside, and at the stroke of seven they will run us up. (CASSIDY cuts the cords, aided by BLOUNT.)

GEORDIE. Free!

SWEENIE. (*below the orifice*) Come along, it's no use kicking.

RANDAL. Sweenie! *He goes to stand outside, holding a long lance*

SWEENIE. All right your honour. (*salutes RANDAL*) I've got a Hindoo Guy Fawkes, matches and lantern all compleat.

CASSIDY. Come up asy, darlint. *He goes to stand outside, holding a long lance*

(SWEENIE and CASSIDY pull ACHMET, gagged and bound, out through the orifice, L. C.)

RANDAL. Secure that fellow, so that he may not give the alarm. *He goes back to stand outside, holding a long lance*

CASSIDY. Never fear, Captain. (*guns outside*)

RANDAL. The attack has commenced! To the Redan, Geordie, to the Redan.

(GEORDIE and RANDAL disappear down the orifice, R. C.)

BLOUNT. Sweenie, spare that man! shed no blood, boys; do you hear me.

CASSIDY. All right, yer riverence.

BLOUNT. Bind him fast, but let him live. (*he descends*)

SWEENIE. Here is a rope, tie him with this.

(ACHMET struggles and tries to speak, they throw him down.)

CASSIDY. He's as lively as a cock salmon. Hould quiet ye devil, he's tryin' to spake.

JESSIE. (*aside*) That rope—they dinna ken what it is there for.

CASSIDY. Tie him tight, and for fear he'd get the gag out and cry murdher, give the rope a hitch round his neck.

JESSIE. Stop, release him, that cord is held by the executioners outside, and at the stroke of seven—(*the great clock of the mosque strikes*) Ah! mercy.

CASSIDY. What is it?

(The body of ACHMET is suddenly carried up, and disappears above through the roof.) CASSIDY and SWEENIE look amazed. JESSIE utters a cry and kneels, hiding her face.

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SCENE.—*The Redan, a fort commanding a certain part of the City of Lucknow, and forming an outpost work near the Residency. A breast work of gabions, fascines, and other military appliances embraces the stage. Through embrasures four pieces of artillery are placed, one of them is dismounted as if by a cannon ball. In the distance is seen the encampment of the rebel Sepoys, and three forts similarly constructed to the*

*Redan, and mounted with artillery. The scene generally bears marks of a severe attack, both of musketry and cannonade. Groups of LADIES with CHILDREN, wounded SOLDIERS, on guard, and some asleep. CASSIDY, smoking a pipe, sits beside JESSIE, who is asleep, her head resting on his knapsack, and his grey coat spread over her. SWEENIE, with his head bound and wounded, leans on his musket. MRS. CAMPBELL and her two children on the L., a grey cold light thrown over the scene, indicates the dawn of day. GEORDIE at the back is looking through a field glass, examining the position of the enemy—music and tableau.**

MRS. C. Geordie, what can you see?

GEORDIE. I can see the road to Alumbagh, from whence we expect relief, but there is no sign of troops there.

MRS. C. Day after day we hope, until hope itself dies away—for three long months we have resisted.

CHARLIE. Mamma, I am hungry.

MRS. C. Heaven help you my poor child.

GEORDIE. (to the men) Lads, here's a little child starving, is there a crust among ye?

SWEENIE. (saluting) Not a crumb, your honor, except it's in Phil Regan's kit, he died an hour ago. There he lies. (points, R.)

GEORDIE. Search and see. *Exit SWEENE, R.*

Enter RANDAL, L. 1. E.

RANDAL. What news of the night?

GEORDIE. Nine men dead of their wounds. Six gone into the hospital.

RANDAL. Inglis is hemmed in—can scarcely hold his own, like us, can scarcely sustain himself from hour to hour. If the columns of General Havelock's force do not appear to-day, we must make Lucknow our permanent residence, Geordie.

GEORDIE. You mean that you will die at this post?

(SWEENIE re-enters, R., with a morsel of bread, and hands it to

MRS. CAMPBELL. She gives it to CHARLIE, who is going to eat it, but, hesitates, breaks it in half and places one half of it in the hand of EFFIE, who still sleeps, then the child eats)

MRS. C. How is Jessie? (GEORDIE kneels beside JESSIE)

SWEENIE. She sleeps, the long weeks of suffering have worn her spirit out at last.

RANDAL. Poor Jessie, has she too lost her spirits?

CASSIDY. Lost her sperrits! Behad, yer honor, the biggest keg of whiskey will give out at last if ye go dhrawin' at it

* In this Act, the appearance of all concerned should present a marked change, the women should seem pale and worn; the men, wan and overfatigued, their beards should be long and their dresses soiled and torn.

ev'ry minit, an' afther Jessie cam' back, she tuk no rest, night or day, what wid nurse-tendin' the woundid men, an' comfortin' the wimmin an' chil'der, an' cookin', an' kaping up the sperrit of the boys at the guns. When the hunger was in her mouth, she'd always have a song in id about the ould country that warrum'd our hearts, or a gay word to throw us in passin', that ud fetch the tear into our eyes. Lost her sperrits, oh, alone ! them sperrits was brewed in heaven above, they nivir touched the head, but the heart of a man could get dhrunk upon 'em.

MRS. C. Poor Jessie ! she has been in a state of restless excitement through all the siege, and has fallen away visibly during the last few days. A constant fever consumes her, and her mind wanders occasionally, and when recollections of home seem powerfully present to her. Overcome by fatigue, she has lain there since midnight, wrapped in her plaid. Poor child ! it is strange, Randal, to see those rough men watch over her with the tenderness and grief of a mother over a sick child.

Enter BLOUNT, L. 1 E.

BLOUNT. No news of relief ?

RANDAL. None yet, but our fort here is cut off from the Residency, and Colonel Inglis may have despatches.

BLOUNT. Cheer up, lads, there's a good time coming. The old folks at home will long remember the defence of Lucknow, and every man here will be a hero in his own native village.

CASSIDY. Except me, your reverence ; devil a native village I've got. I was born under a haystack ; me father and mother had crossed to England for the harvest.—Me mother died of me, and me father bruk his heart wid dhrinkin', so when they sent me home to Ireland, my relations wouldn't own me, bekase I was an Englishman.

BLOUNT. My good Cassidy, hearts like yours are never without a home, while there is goodness in earth and mercy in heaven !

CASSIDY. I'm content, sir ! If Jessie was not sick, and I'd an ounce of baccy, I wouldn't call the Queen me uncle. (*he draws the coat over JESSIE*)

GEORDIE. Here's the rations for the day.

Enter a SERGEANT with a tin vessel containing the food, L.

RANDAL. Now, lads, there's no bugle to call ye to breakfast, so fall in and fall to. This is the last of our food, so make it go as far as you can. (*the food is divided amongst the MEN—they form a group and whisper*) As soon as the sun is up, we shall have warm work. So buckle your belts tight. (*a distant gun*) There goes a how d'ye do from the rebels.

SWEENIE. (*advancing and saluting*) Please your honor, the

men wants to know very respectfully sir, please if this here ration is the last of our food—what's the children and ladies a' goin' to have serv'd out?

RANDAL. That is a mutinous question, sir, fall in your ranks.

SWEENIE. Ax your pardon, please sir—the men won't eat their rations till they know. They say they wouldn't fight no how, sir, anyways comfortable, if they ain't allowed to share all fair with the women and the little 'uns.

ALL THE MEN. Share alike! Share alike!

RANDAL. Silence in the ranks! fall in, my good lads. Listen: for eighty days we have held this fort against fifty thousand rebels; from week to week our numbers have been thinned off, until few indeed remain; a few hours more, and General Havelock may arrive, (*a gun*) but those few hours will be terrible. The rebel Sepoys grown desperate by repulse, will try to overwhelm us with their whole force. (*a gun*) To preserve the lives of these weak ones, you must have strength to repel this attack—you are starving; the food you eat is their protection.

(*the MEN whisper again*)

SWEENIE. Please, Captain, the men say they'd feel worse after such a meal.

RANDAL. Do as you will, there is a Captain above who commands your hearts. Break ranks.

(*the MEN hasten to the various groups of WOMEN and CHILDREN, and divide their rations with them*)

BLOUNT. The Lord is with us.—His spirit is amongst us?

GEORDIE, (*to BLOUNT*) Will you not eat, sir? (*offering him food*)

BLOUNT. How can I, boy? my heart is in my mouth, I have food enough in that. (*to the groups*) Stay, my dear ones! the food is poor, but let us not forget Him who gave it. (*each person arrests his hand at the moment of eating—raising his hat and hand*) May He bless us, and give us strength in this dark hour of our lives!

JESSIE. (*waking*) I'm cauld—I'm verra cauld.

CASSIDY. Cowld, darlin'! sure it's September, and as hot as blazes—the Lord be praised.

MRS. C. Jessie, are you better?

JESSIE. (*looks round eagerly*) I maun get my father's breakfast; the gude man will be back soon frae the field.

CASSIDY. What is she talking about?

SWEENIE. Eat, Jessie, dear, we have kept your ration till you awoke.

JESSIE. Eat, na—ah! (*rejects the bread*) dinne ye see? there's bluid upon it!

CASSIDY. Blood!

GEORDIE. Jessie!

MRS. C. Jessie! (*crosses hastily to her*) Jessie, you are ill?

Look at me—speak to me—do you not know me? (kneels beside her)

JESSIE. Knew ye! knew ye! Nae, but I ken a bonnie song—a song of Scotland—it's made o' heather and bluebells, woven in a tartan, and it is so gladsome that it makes me weep.

MRS. C. Randal, Randal, her senses have gone—her mind wanders.

CHARLIE. Jessie, my own Jessie! don't look so.

JESSIE. We'll gang hame. Coom to me—what's yer name?

CHARLIE. Charlie Fergus Campbell.

JESSIE. Then ye'ar Scotch—Scotch to the core of the heart.

Listen. (sings) "In winter, when the rain rained cauld," &c.

SWEENIE. Jessie, Jessie, dear? Don't you know me? Sweenie.

JESSIE. Sweenie! where is he? He'll be outside the byre, doon by the gates. After melkin the coos, I'll coom t'ye, my lad. I'll steal away to the trystin, Sweenie. Fear nought.

(sings)

Oh, whistle and I'll come to thee, my lad,
Tho' feyther and mither and aw should goe mad;

Oh, whistle and I'll come to thee, my lad.

RANDAL. Do not weep, Amy. She is happier so—and if we fail in repulsing the rebels to-day, or if we are not relieved by sundown, her madness will be a blessing—she will be insensible to her fate.

MRS. C. Has the last hour come, Randal?

(three guns are heard in quick succession)

RANDAL. Hark! the batteries are opening their fire. Fall in, men. Geordie, repel any advance by the left. I will hold the front.

CASSIDY. (who has been looking over the back) Please your honor, here come the black devils—they're upon us.

RANDAL. Steady men, no hurry.—Sweep them down!—Forward!

Music.—Exit, R. U. E, with MEN—exit GEORDIE, L. U. E. with MEN—sounds of musketry—cannon outside—drums.

BLOUNT. To your knees!—to your knees!—and pray!—this hour may be our last. Oh, if my scruples did not weigh so heavily upon me, I could strike for my country.

JESSIE. (who has been recovering her senses, as she listens to the conflict, at first with surprise, then with awakening comprehension) Ah! I mind it all—I am awak! where's Sweenie?

BLOUNT. Let me read aloud to you, the words of peace and comfort. (JESSIE turns and sees the heads of some of the SEPOYS at the embrasures, two of them are trying to escalade the breast-work) Look! look! they come! (the WOMEN utter a cry of dismay)

BLOUNT. The enemy! (*pockets the book, and seizes a gun rammer*) In the name of the Lord and of Gideon! (*he advances to the back—the two wounded SOLDIERS rise, lie down and crawl to the guns—JESSIE runs to a bombshell, that lies, L., and finding CASSIDY's pipe where he has thrown it still alight, she lights the fuse, and carries it with great difficulty to the breastwork, toppling it over—BLOUNT standing on a disabled gun, deals ponderous blows right and left, with the rammer, and knocks over the SEPOYS as they appear—the wounded SOLDIERS, JESSIE, ALICE and MRS. CAMPBELL, draw in the other gun, load it, and run it out again—the bomb is heard to explode outside, followed by cries and Hurrahs—MRS. CAMPBELL applies a port fire to the gun, and fires it—another shout—JESSIE leaps on the gun—the CHILDREN bring hand grenades, and roll in a cannon ball—RANDAL and GEORDIE re-appear, R. and L. leading back their men, some wounded—groups are formed—the LADIES tear their dresses and make bandages for the wounded SOLDIERS. Tableau)*

RANDAL. Well done, bravely done! The enemy is repulsed, it was hot work.

BLOUNT. Hot! it was terrible! I'm afraid I have killed somebody. I fear I have sent some sinners to their last account up there. (*points up*)

CASSIDY. (*taking his arm and making him point it down*) No, that's the way they wint. Bedad but ye made that shillelah dance over their heads—they wint down by dozens, it was illegant.

BLOUNT. I'll have to answer for this hereafter.

CASSIDY. Oh, make yer mind asy! Divil the question, y'ell ivir be axed about it.

GEORDIE. Who sent that bomb, it fell into their advancing column and exploded with terrible effect?

MRS. C. Twas Jessie. (*she looks at her and a smile crosses*

SWEENIE. (*she grows silent and sits close to MRS. C.*)

CASSIDY. Jessie!

RANDAL. (*she looks round, Jessie is discovered crying bitterly,*

GEORDIE. (*they look round, Jessie is discovered crying bitterly,*
seated on the breastwork—they bring her forward.)

MRS. C. Jessie, what ails you? why do you weep? (*to herself*) I never saw her cry before.

ALICE. Dearest Jessie, are you wounded?

JESSIE. Na, na, but I canna help it. The clouds in my brain are pourin' oot, an'—an'—an—*(falls into hysterics)*

ALICE. She is weak, poor child, hunger and fear have killed her.

BLOUNT. No! this spasm of tears relieves her overburdened brain—she will recover.

MRS. C. Leave her to Alice and me.

CHARLIE. Jessie, dear, don't 'ee cry, don't cry.

(JESSIE embraces the CHILDREN, R. C.)

RANDAL. (*taking BLOUNT and GEORDIE aside, L.*) We have repulsed the first attack, but the enemy is too strong for us, they will try a second and a third—we have now only twenty men left—their next attack will succeed.

BLOUNT. The Lord's will be done. Let us thank Him that we are prepared to die. Yes, it is with joyful thankfulness that I say it. There is not one human being here, that has not shewn a noble, beautiful and Christian spirit, except me. I have been led away. The shepherd has killed his flock.

RANDAL. No, he has only driven the wolf away.

BLOUNT. Let us hope that it may be forgiven me. Now what shall we do.

GEORDIE. Alice, Amy, and Jessie, must they fall into the hands of these wretches? Oh, Randal, remember Cawnpore!

BLOUNT. Let them decide. Let them know the worst, that they may prepare to meet their fearful fate.

RANDAL. I cannot speak it. I can face the enemy, but I cannot look into the pale faces of those women and tell them that my arm is powerless to defend their honor and their lives.

(*goes up and seats himself dejectedly on a gun carriage*)

BLOUNT. This is my mission I will speak to them; heaven inspires me with courage! Geordie, tell me when the last moment is come. (*sits L., and takes out his book*) Let me know when our death is near.

MRS. C. Her temples throb and burn. My poor Jessie, lie down awhile and rest your head in my lap.

GEORDIE. (*near BLOUNT*) What are you reading?

BLOUNT. (*looks up*) The prayers for the dead!

(GEORDIE goes up, and leans on the breastwork. The MEN are reposing in groups)

ALICE. How she trembles! her hands are icy cold.

MRS. C. Jessie, are you cold?

JESSIE. (*sings in a low voice*)

"In winter, when the rain rained cauld," &c.

ALICE. Her senses wander again.

MRS. C. Jessie, my dear Jessie, try to rest your wearied brain—try to sleep.

JESSIE. Sleep! Aye, let me sleep awee—but you will awak me when my feyher cooms frae the ploughin'.

MRS. C. Yes, Jessie, when the gude man comes home, I will awake you. (*aside*) Heaven help her!

JESSIE. I'm his only bairn, and he loos me weel. (*sings slowly the first few bars of "Robin Gray," as she falls asleep*).

GEORDIE. (*advancing to BLOUNT*) The enemy are moving, sir—the time has come.

BLOUNT. (*closing the book*) I am ready.

(rises. *Distant drum is heard, very low*)

RANDAL. The enemy! Fall in, men!

(*eight MEN rise and form with SWEENIE and CASSIDY at back—RANDAL counts them*)

RANDAL. Ten! ten men alone are fit for service—ten men to repulse a thousand! (*turns aside*)

BLOUNT. My gentle friends—to you, weak in body but strong in soul, I speak. It is fitting that you should know that the last hour has arrived. (*drums. A gun*) The last earthly hope is gone—let us address ourselves to heaven!

ALICE. (R.) Will these men desert us?

BLOUNT. In an hour not one of those men will be living.

MRS. C. (R. C.) But we shall be living. Oh, recollect Cawnpore! these children will be hacked to pieces before our eyes—ourselves reserved for worse than death, and then mutilated, tortured, butchered in cold blood. Randal, will you see this done—will you not preserve us from this fate. (*kneels*)

(ALICE weeps on GEORDIE's breast, R.)

RANDAL. (up, C.) Amy, my heart is broken. What can we do?

MRS. C. Kill us. Put us to a merciful death ere you fall. Oh, Randal, do not turn away from me—think of the fate reserved for her you love. Oh, death, death! a thousand times death! You are going to die—take us with you, Randal; if you leave us here, you are accessories to our dishonour and our murder.

BLOUNT. They come, they come—already they begin to ascend the hill.

ALICE. Geordie! (and her voice trembles with alarm)

MRS. C. Quick, or it will be too late. Quick, Randal—oh, remember we are cowards—we are women, and we may not have the courage to kill ourselves.

RANDAL. I cannot, Amy, I cannot.

MRS. C. Lend me your dirk, then. Rather than see my children mutilated, tortured, they shall die. Our Father will forgive a mother when her children plead for her.

BLOUNT. (*at back*) They are here, Randal—they are here.

RANDAL. Murderers! they come for their prey. (*dashing down his bonnet*) Yes, I will tear them from their rage! Soldiers, one volley—your last—to free your countrywomen from the clutches of the demons. One volley to their noble and true hearts, and then give your steel to the enemy. Load.

(the SOLDIERS bite off the ends of their cartridges and load their muskets, L. The WOMEN cast themselves into each other's arms and form a group, R.)

BLOUNT. (L. C., begins to read the service for the dead) In the midst of life we are in death.

(a distant wail of the bagpipes is heard. JESSIE starts from her sleep)

RANDAL. (L. C.) Shoulder arms. Ready!

(another wail of the pipes is heard)

JESSIE. Ah! (utters a cry) Hark—hark—dinna ye hear it? dinna ye hear it? Ay! I'm no dreamin', it's the slogan of the Highlanders! we're saved—we're saved! (throws herself on her knees, R. C.) Oh, thank Him! whose mercy never fails the strong in heart, and those that trust in Him.

RANDAL. Relief! no! it is impossible!

JESSIE. I heard it! I heard it!

GEORDIE. Here comes the enemy.

JESSIE. To the guns, men, to the guns! Courage! Hark to the slogan. 'Tis the slogan of the McGregor, the grandest of them a'. There's help at last. Help! d'ye hear me? help!

RANDAL. There is no signal from the Residency. Jessie, your ears deceive you.

MRS. C. She is mad.

JESSIE. I am not daft, my Scotch ears can hear it far awa'. (bagpipes sound nearer) There again—there—will ye believe it noo—d'ye hear—d'ye hear—d'ye hear?—"The Campbells are comin'!"

(the bagpipes swell out louder, but still distant. Distant musketry is heard to roll. Shouts)

GEORDIE. See, the flag runs up at the Residency! (cannonade)

RANDAL. To arms! men! One charge more, and this time drive your steel down the throats of the murderous foe. (musketry)

JESSIE. Ha! they coom! they coom! yonder is the tartan. Oh! the bonnie Highland plaid. (she stands on a gun, R. C., and waves her tartan plaid) You have nae forgotten us. (the pipes here change the air to "Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot") D'ye hear! d'ye hear? "Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot." Noo lads, here come the rebels. It will be yer last chance at them. (she leaps down)

RANDAL. Steady, lads! (the SEPOYS appear at back)

ALL. Hurrah!

(they dash up the breast work and after firing, club their guns and disappear fighting, driving the SEPOYS down. Shouts and musketry and cannonade, grow furious. The back scene is covered with a red glow; explosions, as from mines, are heard, through all of which the bagpipes continue, now very loud and near. The SEPOYS appear fighting, and driven in at the back. They fall over the breast-work; GENERAL HAVELOCK (who remains on breast-work, c., to end) and the HIGHLANDERS, with their piper, charge up the breast-work and crown it in every direction, bearing down the SEPOYS with the bayonet.

GEORDIE and his men enter, L.; CASSIDY and SWEENIE from R., with others of the men, and face those of the SEPOYS, who are driven over by the HIGHLANDERS—Grand Tableau and)

Curtain.