The Green Silk Sash.

While the Kellys were living at Wallan, Ned Kelly saved the life of a boy who had fallen into kelly sale and fallen into a flooded creek. The boy's father was so gratea nood Ned's heroic rescue of his son that he decided to make Ned a present of a very valuable "Green Silk Sash with a heavy bullion fringe." It seems a strange coincidence that, while the Kelly Gang were on the run, Ned had just finished relating the circumstances under which he had saved the life of a boy at Wallan, when his sister -Mrs. Skillion-announced that there was a man coming through the slip-panels, mounted on a nice bay horse. There was some excitement and speculation as to whom the stranger might be. A spy, I suppose, said Dan. Don't let him in here, it might not be too healthy for him, said Ned. The visitor rode up to the house, and dismounting, approached Mrs. Skillion, who had advanced to meet him. My name is — said the stranger, and I have come with a little present for Ned Kelly, who very heroically saved my son from drowning some years ago at Wallan. "That is quite right," said a voice from within. "Bring him in." At that time, said the visitor, Ned refused to accept money as an expression of my gratitude, and I decided to find something that he would accept. And I thought the present time would be a suitable occasion on which to express my gratitude, admiration and confidence in him. The grateful parent unwrapped the parcel and produced from it the beautiful "Green Silk Sash with a heavy bullion fringe," saying, "I hope Ned

will like it." "Too true I will," said Ned, sud. denly appearing at the visitor's side. "It is a rare beauty, and I will always wear it."

After the visitor had taken his departure the whole family assembled to inspect the precious "Sash." "I hope," said Dan, "that bloke won't tell the police that he saw you here." "There is no danger of that," Ned replied. "That man is as straight as an arrow and as honorable as a

At the siege of Glenrowan, Ned Kelly received five bullet wounds, and while bravely attempting to rejoin his comrades he fell, overpowered by numbers. He was captured and removed to the stationmaster's office. While Dr. John Nicholson, of Benalla, was removing Ned's clothing, he saw the beautiful Sash, and, removing it, rolled it up and put it into his pocket.

Having fainted, Ned was quite unconscious while the doctor secured the sash. After the siege was over the doctor said nothing about the sash, and neither the police or the public were aware of its existence. But in the year 1901 the doctor's son, Richard McVean Nicholson, took the sash with him to England.

In 1910 the young Mr. Nicholson was drowned in the Firth of Forth, and the sash was handed over to his sister, Mrs. R. Graham Pole, to whom application has been made for its return to Mr. Jim Kelly, Ned Kelly's sole surviving brother.

Still more important than the green sash referred to is the confiscation by the police officials of the four suits of armour used by the members of the Kelly Gang. The armour of Dan Kelly, Steve Hart and Joe Byrne is still in official custody, and is in Melbourne. Ned's armour, with a bogus helmet, is said to have been simply given away to a titled millionaire. The original helmet is still in Melbourne. As Ned had ceased to be an

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soutlaw," before he was arrested, and afterwards tried, convicted and hanged by process of law. there was no legal justification for confiscating his effects, and these should now, as an act of very tardy justice, be obtained by the present Government and handed over to Mr. Jim Kelly, as Ned's sole surviving next-of-kin.

It is to be hoped that, though belated, retribution will yet be made to the next-of-kin-Mr. Jim Kelly, of Greta, the only surviving brother of Ned Kelly. It may incidentally be mentioned that Mr. Jim Kelly is a well-known and very highly respected resident and farmer of Greta, and the author has the greatest possible pleasure in haring produced this book, vindicating the memory of his famous brothers and all the members of his famous brothers as Carrington, Artist. his family.

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In this version Kelly is not presented with the sash at the time of the Dick Shelton rescue as a boy, but many years later, as a grown man on the run. The incorrect town of Wallan is given, as in all of Kenneally's versions, rather than Avenel. The boy's father would not have got that wrong in the story. Kenneally gives his repeatedly used description of a "beautiful 'Green Silk Sash with a heavy bullion fringe'" which is described in a different edition as something he learned from someone who told him the story. This 1934 version is the only one that has the presentation of the sash, barely mentioned in the first two editions, taking place about a decade after the rescue. The fourth and further editions have no such elaboration about such a late gift, which suggests it was fanciful and soon dropped. This version must be quite a disappointment to the legion of Kelly enthusiasts who have fantasised that Kelly was given the sash as a boy and took it with him for many years as the family moved north from Avenel.