The Price of Liberty

CHAPTER VIII .- (Continued).

"It does, indeed," David said, grimly. "It is Wilkie Collins gone mad, Gaboriau in extremis, Du Boisgobey suffering from delirium trem-I go to Gates's house here, a perfect facsimile. and am solemnly told in the midst of the surroundings that I can swear to that I have never been there before; the whole mad expedition is launched by the turning of the handle of a telephone in the house of a distinguished, trusted, if prosaic, citi-Somebody gets hold of the synopsis of a story of mine, Heavens knows how-"

"That is fairly easy. The synopsis was short, I suppose?"

"Only a few lines, say 1,000 words a sheet of paper. My writing is very small. It was tucked into halfpenny open envelop-a magazine office envelope, marked 'Prof, urgent. There were the proofs of a short story in the buff envelope."

"Which reached its destination in due course?"

"So I hear this morning. But how on earth-"

gets slipped into a larger open envelope, the kind of big-mouth affair that enterprising firms send out circulars and patterns with. This falls "Take this pocket-knife, apply the He paused as he caught sight of might have done so. When did you tly, please. I want you to convince lost in a sigh. post the letter?"

"And there would be no hurry for Now then. a reply," Bell said, thoughtfully, "And you had no cause for worry on who found it have kept the envelope beyond the delay of a single post, which is only a matter of an hour or so in London. If you go a little farther we find that money is no object, hence the £1,000 offer and the careful, and doubtless expensive, inquiry into your position. Steel, am going to enjoy this case.

"You're welcome to all the fun you can get out of it," David said, grimly. "So far as I am concerned, I fail to see the humor. Isn't this the office you are after?"

Bell nodded and disappeared, presently to return with two exceedingly rusty keys tied together with a drab piece of tape. He jingled them on his long, slender forefinger with an air of positive enjoyment.

"Now come along," he said. feel like a boy who has marked down something rare in the way of a bird's nest. We will go back to Brunswick Square exactly the same way as you approached it on the night of the great adventure.

course?" David asked.

everything that even an irrational room and the hall would not have

house from the sea front."

entrance." Steel suggested. Here we are. The figures over the "I confess that my faith has been went forth that a distant relative of clean hands, the best soap, and ster-"Possibly. I have another theory. markable adventure?" fanlights run from 187 upwards, get- seriously shaken," David admitted, the family had arranged to live there ting gradually to 219 as you breast "But about the furniture? And in future. the slope. At one o'clock in the about my telephone call from Mr. morning every house would be in Gates's town house? And about my

till I reached 219."

find 219 by the light over the door. dences?" Naturally you were not interested in Come along.'

were the only matched pair there "One more, and I have finished for ting anything out of him. One ra- pounds. A postage-stamp on the abouts. Signs were not wanting, as the present. When I came here the tional human being they saw from scale will swing an indicator on Bell pointed out, that at one time other night-provided of course that the Grange occasionally, a big man a semi-circle a space of six inches. the houses had been occupied as one I did come here-immediately upon with an exceedingly benevolent face Parisians who suspect adulteration tively recent memory.

plemented here by a deeper desola- than ten lights burning for an hour, got that name, it would have puzzled a notice of "conviction of adulteration. Not that there was any dust Now, those unites must show on the the wisest head of the village to tell. tion." on the ground floor, which seemed a meter. Can you read an electric And yet, but for the mighty clamor singular thing seeing that elsewhere meter?" the boards were powdered with it,. "My dear fellow, there is nothing wilderness that surrounded it, Longeverywhere. Bell smiled approving- "Then let us go down into the house. Any visitor emerging from Berlin are regularly supplied with to?

point?" the former asked. "No," David said, thoughtfully; "I supply is cut off now."

-stop! The two side-shutters in the

"Impossible!" Steel cried. the fading of the distemper. the furniture, the engravings, the fittings generally-

which we shall arrive at with pa- for a sum like £80 per annum. Let Two footmen in livery stood in the tience."

"Can we arrive at the number over the door with patience?"

I noticed an old pair of steps in the back sitting-room. Would you mind opening of a chess-match between placing them against the fanlight for masters, and yet the more Steel

He was growing credulous and inter- plicated tangle in the way of a plot ested in spite of himself. At Bell's had ever been anything like the skein instigation he placed the steps before this was. the fanlight and mounted them. Over "Easily enough. The whole thing his head were the figures 218 in elon- he said. "I'm a blind man on the gated shape and formed in white por- end of a string; a man dazed with laundry regulations is one which of 18, which is regarded as the limit celain.

"Now then," Bell said, slowly, help a woman again-" yourself that the piece comes away "I can't give you the date. Say because it is broken, and not because the pressure has cracked it.

that head. Nor need the woman fore the segment of the lower circle ing the House of the Silent Sorrow, dropped into Steel's hand. He could compared the doleful clanging to feel the edges of the cement sticking the boom that carries the criminal No salary at the beginning; later on to his fingers. As yet the full force from the cell to the scaffold. Every double."

> "Go out into the road and look at the fanlight," Bell directed.

cry of surprise escaped him as he the Silent Sorrow. looked up. The change was appar- For seven years this had been go- An Italian organ grinder named the scheme was its safeguard.

David said, drily.

"There ought to be an object in there has been furniture here, or this predatory disposition.

"I didn't notice a light anywhere at Brighton? And about Miss Gates'

and would not have noticed any "They are merely evidences of clever with a large bonus in money as a re-Well, here is 218, folks taking advantage of an excel- compense for their promise to evacuwhere I propose to enter, and for lent strategic position. I said just ate Sussex without delay. Everywhich purpose I have the keys. now that it was an important point thing was ordered by telephone from that Mr. Gates had merely taken the Brighton and left at the porter's David followed wonderingly. The next door furnished. But we shall lodge. The porter was a stranger. houses in Brunswick Square are come to that side of the theory in also he was deaf and exceedingly ill-

residence. The two entrance-halls my entering the dining-room the and mild, large, blue eyes—a man full in the food or drink they buy take were back to back, so to speak, and place was brilliantly illuminated. of Christian kindness and given to it to the municipal laboratory and what had obviously been a doorway Now, directly the place was void the largesse to the village boys. The have it analyzed free of cost. leading from one to the other had supply of electric current would be big gentleman went by the name of city undertakes the prosecution been plastered up within compara-cut off at the meter. So far as I "Mr. Charles," and was understood need be) of the offender, who, if the can judge, some two or three units to have a lot of pigeons of which he case be proven, is liable not only The grim and dusty desolation of must have been consumed during the was exceedingly fond. But who to fine and imprisonment, but to an empty house seemed to be sup- visit. There could not be many less "Mr. Charles" was, or how he had the exposure in his shop window of

ly. as David Steel pointed the fact basement and settle the matter; the drive would have been delighted fresh flowers from the public gar-There is pretty sure to be a card on with it. For the lawns were trim dens, while twice a week each of the kins. "Charley can always tell the "Do you note another singular the meter made up to the day when and truly kept, the beds were blaz- national schools receives from 100 to day before a race which horse ought the last tenant went out. See, the ing masses of flowers, the creepers 150 specimens of four different kinds to win and the day after why he

As Steel spoke he snapped down riot too extravagantly. And yet the hall switch and no result came. the strange haunting sense of fear Down in the basement by the area was there. Now and again a huge door stood the meter. Both switch- black head would uplift from the copes were turned off, but on Bell press- pice growth, and a long, rumbling ing them down Steel was enabled to growl come from between a double

"There's the card," Bell exclaimed. were no fiction, they lived and bred 'Made up to 25th June, since when in the fifteen or twenty acres of copthe house has been void. Just a pice round the house, where they minute whilst I read the meter. Yes, were fed regularly and regularly that's right. According to this the thrashed without mercy if they showcard in your hand, provided that the ed in the garden. Perhaps they looklight has not been used since the in- ed more fierce and truculent than dex was taken, should read at 1521. they really were, being Cuban blood-

"1532," David cried. means eleven units since the meter to the simple folk around. was last taken. Or, if you like to The bell was swinging dolefully were the real driving power of state.

tenant or owner," Bell suggested. have been the butler of an archbishop and he has worked in collusion with blind may be an accident, so might "Discover what the two houses were from his mien and deportment, yet the Chinese Ambans to limit the life used for when they were occupied by his evening dress was seedy and shiny of the Dalai Lamas. Of the last one person. Also ascertain why on to the last degree, his patent leather earth the owners are willing to let a boots had long lost their lustre, his "Are all capable of an explanation, house this size and in this situation linen was terribly frayed and yellow. us go and take the keys back to the hall. They might have been supers

"Exactly what I was coming to. self in the fresh air again. Some trimmed coats hung raggedly upon progress had been made like the them. thought of it the more muddled and David complied readily enough. bewildered did he become. No com-

"I'm like a child in your hands,"

into the hands of the woman who is blade to the right-hand lower half Ruth Gates's lovely face through the at the bottom of this and every of the bottom of the 8-to half the window of No. 219. Her features other case, and she reads the syno-small o, in fact-and I shall be ex-were tinged with melancholy; there psis from sheer curiosity. The case tremely surprised if the quarter sec- was a look of deepest sympathy and fits her case, and there you are. Mind tion doesn't come away from the feeling and compassion in her gloryou, I don't say that this is how the glass of the fanlight, leaving the jous eyes. She slipped back as Steel thing actually happened, but how it rest of the figure intact. Very gen- bowed, and the rest of his speech was

CHAPTER X.

A bell tolled mournfully with The point of the knife was hardly slow, swinging cadence like a passing under the edge of the porcelain be- bell. On winter nights folks, passof the discovery was not apparent to night all the year round the little valley of Longdean echoed to that the County Court judge at Newark, mournful clang. Perhaps it was for a boy's life is twice as valuable as a this reason that a wandering poet girl's from the legal standpoint, and David complied eagerly. A sharp christened the place as the House of the damages in the action were as-

ent. Instead of the figures 818 he ing on now, until nobody but stran- Antonio Mora, charged at Birmingcould read now the change to 219- gers noticed it. From half-past sev- bam. England, with using obscene a hundred. With a strong light be- tell. Nobody in the village had ever harged. hind the figures the clumsy 9 would been beyond the great rusty gates never have been noticed at all. The leading to a dark drive of Scotch firs very simplicity and ingeniousness of though one small boy bolder than the rest had once climbed the lichen-"I should like to have the address strewn stone wall and penetrated the of the man who thought that out," thick under-growth beyond. Hence he had returned, with white face and "Yes, I fancy that you are dealing staring eyes, with the information with quite clever people," Bell re- that great wild dogs dwelt in the plied. "And now I have shown you thickets: Subsequently the village stadt, Germany, who was sentenced how utterly you have been deceived poacher confirmed this information, recently to two years' imprisonment over the number we will go a little He was not exactly loquacious on the for ill-treatment of schoolboys, used farther. For the present, the way subject, but merely hinted that the to burn their hands by means of a "Any particular object in that in which the furniture trick was grounds of Longdean Grange were burning-class when he wanted them stin upon the basin of the upper Nile worked must remain a mystery. But not salubrious for naturalists with a to confess a misdoing.

man says or does," Bell replied. "I been so carefully swept and garnish- apocryphal hounds were heard to bay care without danking anvhave achieved some marvellous re- ed whilst the rest of the house re- and whimper. A shepherd up late thing. Patagonian llamas live for sults by following up a single sen- mains in so dirty a condition. If my one spring night averred that he had tence uttered by a patient. Besides, eyes don't deceive me I can see two seen two of them fighting. But noon the evening in question you were fresh nails driven into the archway body could say anything about them particularly told to approach the leading to the back hall. On those for certain; also it was equally cernails hung the curtain that prevent- tain that nobody knew anything "Somebody might have been on ed you seeing more than was neces- about the people at Longdean Grange the look-out near the Western Road sary. Are you still incredulous as The place had been shut up for thirto the house where you had your re- ty years, being understood to be in Chancery, when the announcement

like nobody could say. She had ar- who are not complying with the byedarkness. Did you find that to be adventure taking place in the very rived late one night accompanied by law. next house to the one taken by him a niece, and from that moment she Another attempt has been made had never been beyond the house. by the inhabitants of Zug, Switzeragitation when she learnt my identi- None of the large staff of servants land, to induce the authorities to "Good again. And you could only ty? Do you call them coinci- ever left the grounds unless it was permit Sunday dancing at the counto quit altogether, and then they "No, I don't," Bell said, promptly, were understood to leave at night Grand Council, to whom the matter somewhat irregular in point of arch- due course. Have you any other tempered, so that long since the village had abandoned the hope of get- any amount of metal up to 400

of that hideous bell and that belt of gean Grange was a cheerful-looking over the Grange were not allowed to of plants for use at botany lessons. didn't."

row of white teeth. For the dogs

put it from your point of view, elev- over the stable-turret; it rang out its Col. Waddell continues: bay-windows are closed, and there is en units used the night that I came passing note till the clock struck the same vivid crimson blind in the here. You are quite right, Bell, eight and then mercifully ceased. At ways died young. He never attained sentre window. And the color of You have practically convinced me the same moment precisely as she his majority. No sooner had a Dalai the walls is exactly the same. The that I have been inside the real 219 had done any time the last seven reached the age of 18 than he died faint discoloration by the fireplace is for the first time to-day. And yet years the lady of the house descend- in a mysterious manner, thus necesthe more one probes the mystery the ed the broad, black oak staircase to sitating the accession of a newborn "In fact, this is the room you were more astounding does it become. the hall. A butler of the old-fash- infant and prolonging the Regent's in the other night," Bell said, What do you propose to do next?" | ioned type bowed to her and annouc- term of office. So a Regent was al-"Find out the name of the last ed that dinner was ready. He might ways in charge of the Government playing on the boards of a travelling Steel was nothing loth to find him- theatre, their once smartly cut and

(To be Continued.)

ODDS AND ENDS.

Items of Interest From Many strings. Countries.

Among the proposed new Paris born in 1876, reached the tragic age wine in a labyrinth. And if ever I makes it compulsory for all laundry of a Dalai's life, the young National

> while at work. sentenced to six months' imprison- where shortly afterward he died. The ment for beating a postman who was Dalai Lama assumed sovereign powfive minutes late in delivering a er and deprived the Chinese Ambans letter from his fiance.

> preventive medicines in China is that mant Chinese edict from Pekin, orsoup made from a black cat, which is drunk by blacksmiths in Canton to prevent burns from hot metals. The village council of Hirsingen (Alsatia) has issued the following advertisement:-"Wanted, a good

man for winding-up the steeple clock. According to a decision given by

sessed accordingly.

a fairly indifferent 9, but one that en till eight o'clock that hideous bell language, proved that the supposed would have passed muster without rang its swinging, melancholy note. "obscene language" he uttered was criticism by ninety-nine people out of Why it was nobody could possibly only his own name, and he was dis-A schooner, laden with sugar, grounded off the coast of New Jer-

sey, and the cargo was thrown overboard. The proprietor of an oysterhed in the vicinity is suing for damares, because sugar does not agree with overters.

George Jandt, a teacher, of Halber-

A parakeet in the Zoological Gar-Indeed, on moonlight nights those dons, Tondon, has lived more than years without tasting water, and a narticular class of cows bred near Tosere, in France, and noted for the richness of their milk, take it extremely rarely.

Barbers and barbers' shops in Manila are by stringent law constrained to display scrupulously white coats, fikia, a distance of over 200 miles, ilized instruments. From time to time the police make a round of the What the lady of the Grange was town, and arrest all razor-weilders

try tea-gardens and village inns. The was referred, has, however, sternly refused to alter the law.

Ore of the wonders of the Bank of Encland is a weighing machine. which is so delicately adjusted that it can give the accurate weight of a speck of dust, and can also weigh

HOSPITAL FLOWERS.

DALAI LAMA LUCKY.

Chinese Killed All Previous Ones at the Age of 18.

Col. Waddell, a well known expert in Tibetan matters, describes how since 1749 it has been the policy at Lhasa up to the present reign to assassinate every Dalai Lama. In 1749, the Tibetans having massacred the Chinese at Lhasa, the Chinese Emperor Chaulung sent a punitive army and restored the Chinese ascendancy, and the influence of the What do you make of the card?" hounds, but they gave a weird color Chinese Ambans was enotmously in-"Which to the place and lent it new terror creased. They kept the appointment of a Regent in their own hands and

> "Henceforth the Dalai Lama alfour Dalai Lamas, one died at 11 and the other three at 18.

"The present Dalai has been permitted to become an exception to this rule. As this was a blow against the intolerable tyranny of China, the National party which has arisen in Tibet, and to whom Chinese interference has become too onerous and distasteful, is credited with having saved the present Dalai from the fate of his predecessors. Certainly he and his Government have now escaped from the Chinese leading

"When the present Dalai, who was girls to wear indiarubber gloves party by stratagem obtained the seals of office from the Regent, whom Oscar Schutz, of Innsbruck, was they imprisoned in a monastery, of any say in the government. The One of the most curious of all the latter officials procured an indigdering that the Regent be reinstated and the seals returned. Meanwhile the Regent died, or was murdered, and a new senior Amban came to Lhasa and was bribed heavily to let matters remain as they were. suppressed the edict, while at the same time leading the Pekin Government to believe that it has been complied with.

"Afterward the opportunist young Lama, profiting by China's loss of prestige through her defeats by Japan, and afterward by the allied armies in 1900, openly refused to be guided by the Chinese, and these have now to confess how powerless they are in Tibet and how contemptuously the Tibetans regard their authority, which is now an empty farce. As recently as 1902, the Chinese Viceroy of the western province of Szechuan, which adjoins Tibet, had to ask Pekin to send an army to Lhasa to make Chinese power re-

PROJECTS FOR EGYPT.

To Spend \$107,000,000 and Redeem 2,650,000 Acres.

The British Foreign Office has issued a blue book containing an exhaustive report by Sir William Garpublic work in Egypt is recommended. It is now well known how for scores of miles sudd, or river weed, marshes block the Upper Nile. Sir William Garstin estimates that the cost of cutting a proper channel would be £3,500,000.

The work is likely to have to be repeated every few years, therefore, he suggests cutting a new wide course for the White Nile from Boz to Tanthe probable cost of which would be £5,500,000. By this means the 80 per cent. of water from Lakes Victoria and Albert, now lost in the swamps between Lado and Fashoda, would be preserved. The scheme includes dams for the regulation of the overflow from Victoria and Albert.

Sir William also sketches greati projects for the regulation of the Blue Nile at a point several hundred miles above Khartoum. He proposes to dam the river Gash, which is now dry half the year, and in this way irrigate the plains around Kassala.

The whole scheme will reclaim the entire Soudan and secure to Egypt constant and sufficient water supply for the whole area between the cataracts and the Meriterranean. The total cost of the scheme, including the raising of the Assouan dam and completing the Suakim-Berber Railway, is estimated at £21,400,000. Fifteen years is suggested as the, time for completion.

Irrigation works would then bring 2,650,000 more acres into cultivation in Egypt and the Soudan, giving the former an additional revenue of £1,-205,000 and the latter £500,000

HE'S SO CLEVER.

"Does your husband take as much All the hospitals and almshouses in interest in horse racing as he used

"Yes," answered young Mrs. Tor-