

OUTCAST OF MILAN

"Troops!" cried Pietro, in surprise. "What troops can be here at this time?" "I don't know," replied Bernardo. "I didn't see them. They were stout rascals, our informant said, and led by doughty knights. They may have been Milanese."

who gathered about him, and he saw little there of sympathy. "Do you mean that you will murder me?" he asked. "No," replied the chieftain; "we have no such thought. We are to execute you. It is the order of the Duke of Milan that you die, and I am to lead your head to him."

"This may be my last friend of earth!" she murmured, as she gazed upon the sharp, glittering sword. The wicked prince of Milan shall never know Rosabel as a wife—NEVER!"

demand of you the princess Rosabel. If you do not bring her, I shall send for her." "Wait—wait," replied Manfred. "You shall have your answer soon enough."

cannot explain. But come—I think they are waiting for you. Will you not go with us?" "The hour of help is past for me; but will go with you. I am ready."

when he had spoken those words, which made Orlando Vendorme and his man and wife, the happy couple, stare at him and received his blessing.

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CHAPTER XIX. GUESTS WHO WERE NOT INVITED.

Rosabel of Bergamo could find no means of escape from the fate which had been pronounced by her guardian. She had exhausted every resource of thought and invention without effect.

CHAPTER XX. CONCLUSION.

Rosabel sat alone in her chamber, still clad in her bridal robes; and in her hand she held the dagger, which she had looked upon as her last source of relief from the terrible doom which had been pronounced over her.

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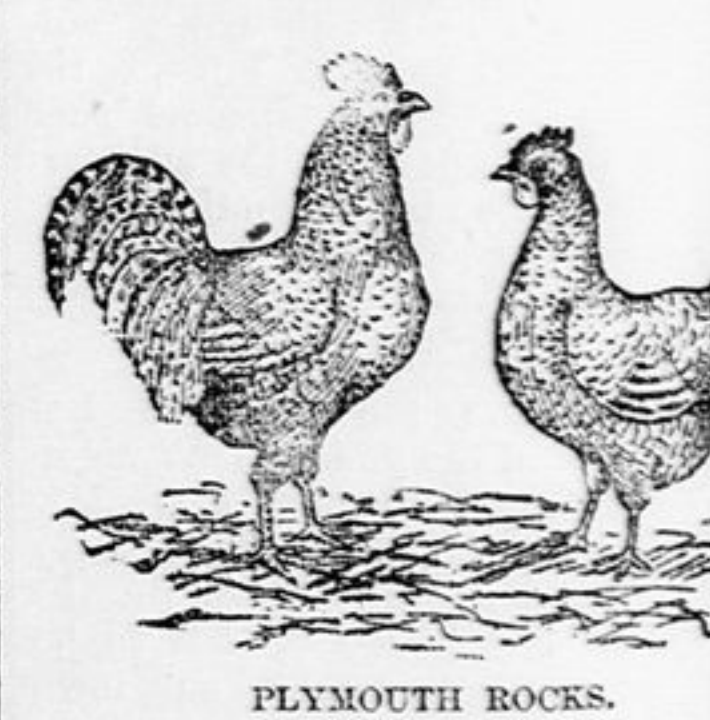
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