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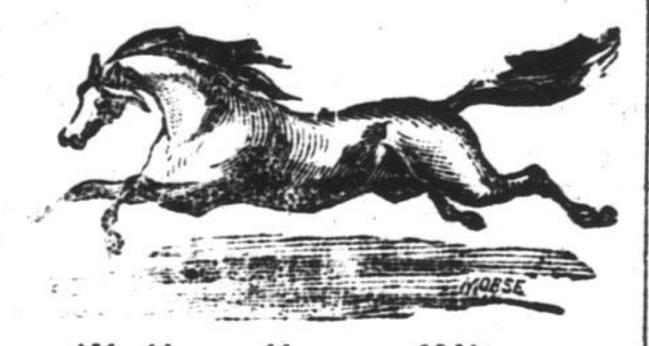
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"ALBERT LEA BOUTE."

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moments he returned and stood before

now he made a mistake. But who i was he mistook for Nellie he does not know, nor shall ever know, nor shall any living being know, other than my. self. And when I leave the wood to-day c.mot screen you from others prying. A. G. FRANKE M. See Det livn take me away? Alty pesso

> here, Teresa! Without knowing it. you her-for her sake, I spare you and shirk "For her sake !" gasand the weman

> "Weil," said Dunn coomily, "1 wish I'd found him and her together."

cry. Marb von weal int then, Uni tell fliat fellow to there various of 4114. and not run away the next time he sees " He didn't run." dad The an well flashing eves. " I-I-, sout hitte way.

combes. And the ring didn's fit ofth. Yes," interrupted Dunn with an :

most childish eagerness. "And I made him rake it back, a get the value in money. I hear t Isaacs sold it again, and made anoth profit; but that's like those trade The disingenuous candour of Teresa manner was in exquisite contrast Dunn's. He rose and grasped her has so heartily, she was forced to turn l

eyes away. "Good-bye!" he said. " You look tired," she murmured wit a sudden gentleness that surprised hi "let me go with you a part of the way." "It isu't safe for you just now," said, thinking of the possible cons quences of the alarm Brace had raised "Not the way you came," she replied "but one known only to myself." He hesitated only a moment.

seem to feel this dead bark crinkle under my fect." She cast a rapid glance around her the air. When she had finished her

and then seemed to sound with her eyes to grow pale with the advancing day but still holding a strange quiver of heat half abstracted scrutiny of the distance. she cast-one backward glance at her own cabin and stopped. "Will you wait a moment for me? she asked gently.

"Yes--but-no tricks, Teresa. isn't worth the time." She looked him squarely in the eyes without a word. "Enough," he said, "go." She was absent for some moment

le was beginning to become une dir a she made her appearance a but in her old facted black dress.

vet you don't neither," said Dunn, his cheek and shuddered.

Dunn attempted to rise to his feet. a large liberal way.

Let Low take you away from here as "Where did you find it?" "Never mind; now let me see it- his studies."

back. H. had fainted.

the helpless man, scurcely conscious of he asked. she marinured, "not this man's."

his cheeks, she pressed his hand eagerly eve had already detected in the dis- but she held her shawl with both hands and leaned over him. "Are you sure?" she asked.

his round eyes upon her. she said quickly. "Don't you remain- gone?

you. Ain't it just the biggest thing for good for a spurt, Teresa, like that I've agony of terror. the boys to get hold of? But we must just got through, but I don't think I'm "Don't let them touch me!" she keep it dark until after I marry Nellie, up to a family party. Couldn't you gasped, "keep them off! Tell me, for don't you see. Then we'll have a good issue cards later on?" time all round, and I'll stand the drinks. "You don't understand," she said. Think of it, Teresha! You don' no me, "I'm going to get Low to send some one and lifted her in his turn to her feet like do' no you, nobody knowsh anybody of your friends to you here. I don't a child. In that supreme moment of elsh. I try kill Lo'. Lo' wants kill think he'll begrudge leaving her a mo- physical danger, his strength, reason, Nellie. No thash no ri';" but the ment for that," she added to herself and manhood returned in their plenipotent liquor, overtaking his exhausted bitterly. senses, thickened, impeded, and at last, "What's that you're saying?" he trail she had quitted, and said: stopped his speech. His head slipped queried with the nervous quickness of "The Carquinez Woods are on fire!" to her shoulder, and he became once an invalid.

scarcely define. Not that it was en- pettishly. tirely a wild inspiration; she tried to reason calmly. What if she revealed deceived him-that she had overheard forehead. his conversation with Brace—that she "Give that to him," he whispered, had stolen Brace's horse to bring Low " from me." warning-that, failing to find Low in his accustomed haunts, or at the campfire, she had left a note for him pinned sentiment, not hearing the feeble lang

and Dunn-approaching, and had propared to meet them at the cabin? Would this miserable and maddened man understand her self-abnegation would he forgive Low and Nellie?—she did not ask for herself. Or would the revelation turn his brain, if it did not

"You look more like yourself now, and sunken orbits of his eyes and hectic on upon her. "You've Why was this added to the agony she changed in some way. What is it? Is already suffered? She had been willing it on account of that Injin? Couldn't to stand between them with her life. you have found a white man in his her liberty, and even—the hot blood dved her cheek at the thought-with 'I reckon he's neither worse nor the added shame of being thought the better for that," she replied bitterly, cast-off mistress of that man's son. Yet "and perhaps he wasn't as particular in all this she had taken upon herself in his taste as a white man might have expiation of something she knew not been. But," she added with a sudden clearly what; no, for nothing—only for stand of her old rage, "it's a lie; he's him. And yet this very situation offered him and his apprehensions of its vitality. At direct query—is the could stand the stillness of him. And yet this very situation offered retreat and his apprehensions of its vitality. At direct query—is the could stand the stillness of him. And yet this very situation offered retreat and his apprehensions of its vitality. At direct query—is the could stand the stillness of him. And yet this very situation offered retreat and his apprehensions of its vitality. At direct query—is the could stand the stillness of him. And yet this very situation offered retreat and his apprehensions of its vitality. At unless being born of a mother who thrilled her; a hope so wild in its imscarcely knew him, of a father who probability, so degrading in its possibinever even saw him, and being brought lity, that at first she knew not whether

Dunn looked at her with surprise not calm and think it out fairly. unmixed with admiration. "If Nellie," She would go to Low at once. that." But he only said:

"For all that he's an Injin. Why, lock at his name. It ain't Low. It's lock at his name. It ain't Low. It's hat the life and death of his father lay in the scale, would he let his brief, foolian in ame."

"And what does that prove?" resulting a name of any stranger, white or red, who may camp with them. Why, and who had described his part of red, who may camp with them. Why, even his own father—a white man—the

more about the other water—the Sleep"Yes," he repeated, "after I've mar- to the paper again, but with so little
ing Water—you know. How do you ried Nellie; tote you down to San effect that he could only repeat the last know all this about him and his Angeles, and there take my name like a words, "think sometimes of Teresa. man, and give it to you. Nobody'll ask He was conscious that this was not all;
"Partly from him and partly from after Teresa, sure—you bet your life. he had a full conviction of being deceived." Curson, who wrote to me about him," And if they do, and he can't stop their and knew that he held the proof in his she answered with some hesitation. jaw, just you call on the old man. It's hand, but he could not formulate it be-But Dunn did not seem to notice this mighty queer, ain't it, Teresa, to think youd that sentence. "Teresa"—yes, he incongruity of correspondence with a of your being my daughter-in-law?" would think of her. She would explain would think of her. She would explain It seemed here as if he was about to it. And here she was returning. "Yes, and I saw the name on an old lapse again, into unconsciousness over. In that brief interval her face and

amorandum book he has, which he the purely ludicrous aspect of the sub manner had again changed. She was says belonged to his father. It's full of ject, but he haply recovered his serious- pale and quite breathless. She cast a old accounts of some trading posts on ness. "He'll have as much money from swift glance at Dunn and the paper the frontier. It's been missing for a day me as he wants to go into business with. he mechanically held out, walked up to or two, but it will turn up. But I can What's his line of business, Teresa?" him, and tore it from his hand. swear I saw it." asked this prospective father-in-law in "Well," she said hoarsely, "what are Dunn attempted to rise to his feet, a large liberal way.

"Put your hand in my pocket," he said "He is a botanist!" said Teresa with He attempted to speak, but his voice somebody listening at the parlor win-

in a hurried whisper. "No, there!— a sudden childish animation that seemed failed him. Even then he was conscious dows. It was only a drunken Mexican bring out a book. There, I haven't look- to keep up the grim humor of the pater- that if he had spoken he would have at it yet. Is that it?" he added, hand- nal suggestion, "and, oh! he is too poor only repeated, "think sometimes of if he heard nothing I did. Nellie, I here as far as I am concerned, but I ing her the book Brace had given him a to buy books. I sent for one or two for Teresa." him myself the other day"-she hesi- helplessly at the spot where she had ed you in your disguise to the woods-do "Yes," said Teresa in surprise. tated—"it was all the money I had, but thrown the paper, as if it contained his it wasn't enough for him to go on with unuttered words. "Yes," she went on to herself, as if

quick. Open it, for my sight is failing. Dunn looked at her sparkling eyes he was a mute, indifferent spectator; and glowing cheeks, and became thought "yes, they're gone. That ends it all. "Take more whisky," said Teresa ful. "Curson must have been a d-d The game's played out. Well!" sud-Teresa remained silent. She was be- know it all. Your Nellie was here with

"Wait. Listen, Teresa—lower—put ginning to be impatient and uneasy, him, and is with him now. Do you there to surprise you and him together, you've there to surprise you and him together, killing that chap Low to-day. Wouldn't lay her dreaded, yet longed-for, meeting lost them—but here I am." with Low. Yet she could not leave this "Yes," he said eagerly, "yes, Teresa." He tried to smile, but his head fell sick and exhausted man, his father, now She stopped, stared at him, then bound to her by more than mere taking him by the hand led him like a

"You did yourseif a moment ago," from interruption-but where had he completed another circuit before the

"Nothing-but that I'm going now." Teresa breathed again. In that brief She turned her face aside to hide her moment she had abandoned herself to a moistened eyes. "Wish me good luck,

wretched man before her that she had her face down to his own, kissed her

She turned and fled, happily for he: to the herbarium, imploring him to ity that followed, as Dunn, in sheer imwith his companion from the danger becility, again referred to the extrathat was coming, and that remaining on vagant ludicrousness of the situation. watch she had seen them both-Brace "It is about the biggest thing in the wa" of a seil all round," he repeated, lyin his back, confidentially to the spec smoke-obscured sky above him. stured himself repeating it, not to llie-her severe propriety might ist overlook the fact but not tolerat joke-but to her father! It woul just one of those characteristic Cali

> mian jokes Father Wynne would ad. To his exhaustion fever presently suceded, and he began to grow restless. quick look at Burnham. he heat too seemed to invade his

denly turning upon him, "now you

child back to his couch. "Well," she "Couldn't you manage," she said said, in half-savage explanation, "I told look. He recognised the full importance gently, "to lean on me a few steps you the truth when I said the girl of the culminating fact conveyed in her further until I could bring you to a wasn't at the cabin last night, and that words, and was obliged to content him cooler spot and nearer assistance?" I didn't know her. What are you self with its logical and worldly signifi-For the first time in her life Teress He nodded. She lifted him almost glowerin' at? No! I haven't lied to cance. It was too late now to take her To save him I took upon me a shame I

> she stopped. They stood before the made the narrow circuit of the opening. tance, before she had allowed Dunn to drawn tightly over her shoulders. Sudenter the opening with her, that her denly a wood-duck darted out of the note was gone. Low had been there covert blindly into the opening, struck the liotel." before them; he had been warned, as against the blasted trunk, fell halfwould not return there. They were free ing, fluttered away. She had scarcely

irruption was followed by a whirring The sick man drew a long breath of bevy of quail, a flight of jays, and a terest. relief as she seated him in the clover- sudden tumult of wings swept through grown hollow where she had slept the the wood like a tornado. She turned second night of her stay. "It's cooler inquiringly to Dunn, who had risen to She held her breath in expectation, than those cursed woods," he said. "I his feet, but the next moment she caught But only the ludicrousness of the dis-suppose it's because it's a little like a convulsively at his wrist; a wolf had covery seemed paramount to his weak- grave. What are you going to do now?" just dashed through the under-brush ened faculties. "Isn't it just about the he added, as she brought up a cup of not a dozen yards away, and on either side of them they could hear the scamwith a feeble chuckle. "First you "I am garg to leave you here for a per and rustle of hurrying feet like the nearly kill me before you know I am little while," she said cheerfully, but outburst of a summer shower. A cold Low's father. Then I'm just spoilin' to with a pale face and nervous hands. wind arose from the opposite direction kill him before I know he's my son; "I'm going to leave you while I seek as if to contest this wild exodus, but it was followed by a blast of sickening mistakes you for Nellie, and Nellie for The sick man raised his head. "I'm heat. Teresa sank at Dunn's feet in au

God's sake, what has happened!" He laid his hand firmly on her arm

tude of power. He pointed coolly to the

CHAPTER X.

The nest of the tuneful Burnhams, wild inspiration of hope which she could won't you?" she asked half sadly, half although in the suburbs of Indian Spring. was not in ordinary weather and seasons! She came and bent over him. He hidden from the longing eyes of the you take the invitation-yes or no?" the truth to him? What if she told the suddenly raised his hands, and, drawing youth of that settlement. That night, however, it was veiled in the smoke that encompassed the great highway leading | will stop at the hotel and give Low a to Excelsior. It is presumed that the letter from Burnham brood had long since folded their wings, for there was no sign of life nor no ment in the house as a rapidly- said scornfully, "for it will be your tex driven horse and buggy pulled up before for the conversation you will have with it. Fortunately the paternal Burnham him. Will you please take your hand was an early bird, in the habit of pick- from the lock and open the door?" ing up the first stirring mining worm, Wynne mechanically opened and a resounding knock brought him | door. The young girl flew upstairs. I

> startled at seeing Father Wynne before him, a trifle flushed and abstracted. "Ah ha! up betimes, I see, and | read as follows: ready. No sluggards here-ha, ha!" he said heartily, slamming the door behind him, and by a series of pokes the ribs genially backing his host into his own sitting-room. "I'm up, too, and am here to see Nellie. She's here, eh-of course?" he added, darting a

But Mr. Burnham was one of those reat, and from time to time the little large liberal Western husbands who tch of blue sky was totally obscured classified his household under the gene- tance in that pleasing study, even clouds of smoke. He amused him. ral title of "woman folk," for the inte- though approaching events may compet with watching a lizard who was gers of which he was not responsible. me to relinquish it for other duties. May vestigating a folded piece of paper He hesitated, and then propounded over I beg you to accept the enclosed ring as hose elasticity gave the little creature the balusters to the upper story the a slight recognition of my obligations to

leaves that Teresa had so carefully pre-ceeding from half a dozen reluctant pared him. He rose to his feet stiff and throats, more or less cottony and less cruel than they were—could make him one."

And yet was it unreasonable? She was him one."

Dunn looked at her with converge not less than they were—could make him one."

Dunn looked at her with converge not less than they were—could make him one."

Dunn looked at her with converge not less than they were—could make him one."

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Dunn looked at her with converge not less than they were—could make him one."

Dunn looked at her with converge not less than they were—could make him one."

Dunn looked at her with converge not less than they were were and mental distress, which is indicate too early roused young woman. movement frightened the lizard, who hood. The eventual reply seemed to phry, President of the British Sanitary She abandoned the paper and fled. With a be affirmative, albeit accompanied with Institute, who said in a recent lecture

even his own father—a white man—the wretch who begot him and abandoned him, he had an Indian name—Leap him to this miserable plight?

"Le Leap Noir, the Black Wolf. I suppose you'd call him an Indian too? Eh! Was this like the calm, proud young gods and god of the staircase, and Nellie Wynne, pink down to read these words:—

"When you get this, keep away from draped in a white counterpane with a store the words. Durn and another man are blue border and a general classic suggestion, slipped into the parlor. At the leap had an army, therefore, directly in deadly pursuit of you and your complete head on me."

"There—there lean on me."

"There—there lean on me."

"There—there lean on me."

"There—

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you hear?-that when you pretended to be here with the girls you were with

"And what did you do?" she asked. and I harnessed up and got ahead of

"Yes," he said hurriedly : "but if you

"Did you go to wie cabin in the wood;

"Did you ever go there with Low?" "No: I do not know even where it is." Wynne felt that she was telling the truth. Nellie knew it: but as she would have been equally satisfied with an equally efficacions falsehood, her face

"And when did he leave you?" "At nine o'clock, here. He went to "He saved his life, then, for Dunn it on his way to kill him." The jeopardy of her lover did not

"He has," replied Wynne.

"I want to know what you are going "I was going back to bed." "This is no time for triffing, girl." "I should think not," she said with a

Hear me. Put whatever face you ike on this affair, you are compromise -and compromised with a man vo "I don't know that I ever wanted !

"And Dunu wouldn't marry you now." "I'm not so sure of that either." Nellie," said Wynne excitedly, "de you want to drive me mad? Have yo nothing to say -nothing to suggest?" "Oh, you want me to help you, de you? Why didn't you say that first Well, go and bring Dunn here."

ing you with him." "Then he will the more readily come 82...In the Carquinez Woods.

"Enough. On your way there yo

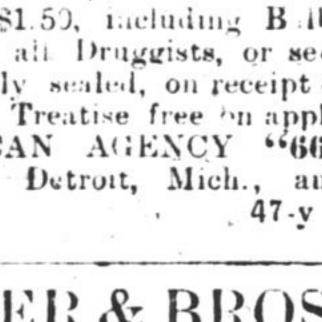
"You shall read it, of course," she half-dressed to the street door. He was a very few moments she returned with two notes; one contained a few lines of

"DEAR MR. DORMAN, -My father will tell you how deeply I regret that our recent botanical excursions in the Car quinez Woods have been a source of serious misapprehensions to those who have a claim to my consideration, and that I shall be obliged to discontinue. them for the future. At the same time he wishes me to express my gratitude for your valuable instruction and assis "Your grateful pupil,

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It is generally supposed that a nation's

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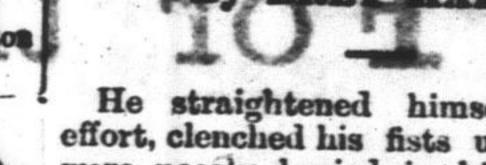
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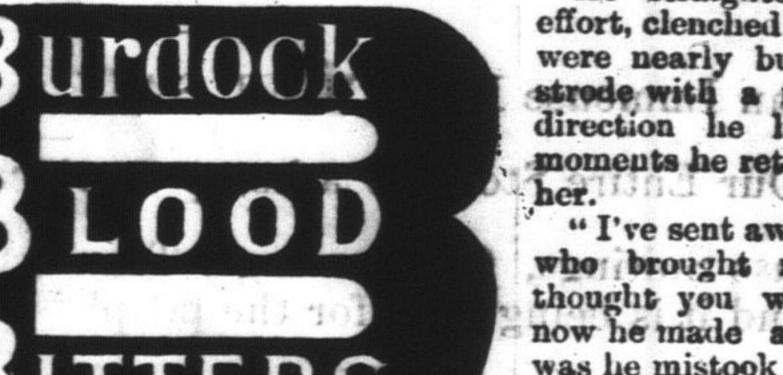
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To sive you," said Duno. "Look

Portrait and Miniature Painters. We beg to inform you that we still occupy "for her sake! Oh, was! Go on." he old studio, the light of which has given such genera setisfaction for the past 16 years. favor the new arm with the patronage bestowed on you've gradge enough agin me still to

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spassin of her old rage, "it's a he; he's him. And yet this very situation offered not an Indian; no more than I am. Not her that gleam of hope which had unless being born of a mother who thrilled her; a hope so wild in its im.

he thought, "could but love me like would find him somewhere; and even "ridiculous" discovery through the me- had just been discovered as an answer stances, and in spite of the good in-

Late Notman's Fraser, Photographers to the Quean. listed me out of hell just now, and he with a strange anxiety creeping over fool," he said finally.

Portrait and Miniature Painters. cause of the wrong I might have done her. "You are faint again."

Teresa remained siles it have been ridiculous?"

CHAPTER IX.

lost her presence of mind in an emer- Eke a child to his feet. A spasm of pain you, I swear to God, except in one gency. She could only sit staring at passed over his face. "How far is it?" thing. Do you know what that was? his condition, her mind filled with a "Not more than ten minutes," she don't deserve. I let you think I was value your reputation, if you wish to sudden prophetic intuition of the signifi- replied.

cance of his last words. In the light of "I can make a spurt for that time," you? Well, before God to-day—and fully." that new revelation she looked into his he said cooily, and began to walk slowly He may take me when He likes-I'm no paie haggard face for some resemblance but steadily on. Only his face, which more to him than a sister! I reckon to Low, but in vain. Les her swift tent was white and set, and the convulsive your Nellie can't say as much."
inine instinct met the objection. "It's gip of his hand on her arm betrayed She turned away, and with the quick, the mother's blood that would show, the effort. At the end of ten minutes impatient stride of some caged animal, Recovering herself, she began to chafe spintered, lightning-scarred shaft in the stopping a moment mechanically before his hands and temples and moistened opening of the woods where Low had the sick man, and again, without lookhis hips with the spirit. When his rest built her first camp fire. She carefully ing at him, continuing her monotonous piration returned with a faint color in picked up the herbarium, but her quick round. The heat had become excessive,

"Of what?" he whisp red faintly. "That Low is really your son?" "Who said so?" he asked opening his absence from the cabin showed; he stunned near her feet, and then recover-"You did. Is it not so?" He smiled faintly. "I reckon."

ridiculousest thing all round?" he said water and placed it at his side. then that God-forsaken fool Jack Brace Low."

more unconscious.

kill him outright? She looked at the

up among white men, and wild beasts— despair was not preferable to its shame. ore, and supporting himself by the nuffled, in those various degrees of

limbs failed, and stooping gently she was competitors that offer loss again think "I was reckoning it was only the was obliged to support him half reclining for Low to stop this pro-

BASSWOOD and WHITE CLOV

"And found me here," she said, look. He understood her and returned the

seem to affect the young girl with alarm, although her eyes betrayed some in-"Then Dunn has gone to the Woods?"

"Is that all?" she asked. rawn; "it's too early, or too late." Wynne grasped her arm more tightly

marry Low, if you mean him," she sa

"Are you mad? The man has gonalready in pursuit of your lover, believ

and talk with me without him. Wi

formal invitation to Dunn, the other

"NELLIE WYNNE."