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The annual report of the Cauadian profitable last year.

"I believe," remarked one, with a lute necessity of money to a European DISENCHANTMENT AND DESPAIR taste for finance, "those unconscion- in the East, is it probable that he able lagans make themselves deities would decline to take advantage of While the Bird of Paradise—such of the finest ore set with precious this provision which had been made was the alluring name of our gallant stones, while we haven't cash enough for him? Then there is the curious brig—was being loaded with a cargo Kilgour," he said one day, "has a tenfor an afternoon's outing. Just send circumstance that he was last seen a of cashmere shawls, cocoanuts, drugs, us a god, old chappie, till we see how few hours after he must have received glass beads, and other articles of mer- within and petrify the feeling, but the heathen abomination would melt the banker's letter, apprising him of chandise likely to suit the cultured try to keep a fresh sweet corner in my in the crucible of a Christian gold- the deposit which had been made to Mohammedan taste, I was so closely They escorted me in a body to my Supposing this letter was seen by the urgent hospitality of Sir Thomas' coach. For, being prosperous now, others, would not the money be a great friend that I paid but scant heed to ninepins with virtue and character,

THURSDAY MARCH 10, 1898.

playes. I hobnobbed with the dusky and luxurious potentates of the East. he had ever had in his life, but as he happened to be absent in Dundee my virtuous intent did not blossom into heard from Sir Thomas and received

eve in one to three bours and cures in a few Munyon's Dyspensia Cure positively cures all was to find Captain Rogers. n the back, loins or groins, and all forms of Munyon's Headache Cure stops headache in ing, roaring wilderness of the largest city of the world eager to learn and Munyon's Female Remedies are a boon to all Munyon's Catarrh Remedies never fail. The Catarrh Cure-price 25c.-eradicates the disease Munyon's Vitalizer, a great tonic and rewas glad to get away.

so dazed by the distracting throb and amult of a nation's mighty heart, that When the time came to sail, the river sides were thronged with people to the era of steam, it was thought screeching fire demon that seemed to

be crying out in eternal agony and ing to it in its miniature pandemonium. never silent, never slumbering, never for one brief moment at peace, but desk at your disposal in the house ever setting up the same inappeasable -good Scotch names, all of them. the fire fiend that, as it were, but I to live pending the finding of somenever come near him in steamer or thing better should you not take kind hissing locomotive without a shudder ly to banking." at the thought of the vengeance he will one day wreak on this world. But in that fresh experience curiosity of the merchant princes to whom straining eye rests when he is leaving much at home as a rabbit in a England for the East, and the first hill. But that's not saying that on which it wistfully falls when hap- Kilgour would not take kindly pily he returns. The sun was going banking. If he's after supees,

entered the strait, casting a glamorous of intelligence at his friend. iridescent light on the receding land Indian ward bound, others, their wanderings tion for a day or two. time reckoned for the voyage before false step involves a change. allow Sir Thomas' business to lag. Having presented my letters of in- are fond of them. by land or by sea, or been despatched Avoid it." ing the cool air among the hills, or trafficking with oily natives in anor Japan or Australia or the South you may light on something that may you immediately assented.

completely slipped all his friends in nothing better to send than hope of Mr. Kilgour ought to go." which I was no niggard. I stated fully, that I was not without reason- diately I would think the matter over. able ground for thinking that he and But the suggestion pleased me; wherecleverest private detective in the city The upshot was that I declined Mr. a day passed that he did not distinto helt me, and that he had failed Macdonald's offer, and decided to visit guish himself by some deed of cruelty to find so much as a single clue. Had Arabia in Mr. Matheson's ship. The or violence. I written what was in my mind I kindly banker would not, however, take Such, in brief, were my shipmates, I saw this more clearly when the letter was gone, and I had stronger rea

acquaintances became friends. They temptation to a needy villain, who the men with whom I was to sail. gave a prolonged cheer as the vehicle might take the risk of attempting to had a vague notion of a picturesque better than to go about carousing with moved off, and a unanimous injunction secure it by getting rid of Donald, but, medley of dusky children of the sun an ugly and debauched one. As Sancho to mind my liver and be on my guard finding the thing impossible as he pro- who would be likely in the course of Panza says about sleep, 'God bless the against the encroachments of pride ceeded, abandon the project ere any- the voyage to discourse of many mar- man who invented books." when, as nabob with a retinue of one became aware of its existence? | vellous things and discover traits at | Books, however, were the subjects of All this I reasoned with myself over once new and interesting. But at sea our bytalk only. Oftenest our converand over again, and the more I reason- and within the narrow confines of a sation was about India, Arabia, and Only one thing marred my enjoy- ed the firmer became my conviction two-master, one is impelled to take an our companions. ment. I had it set in my mind to give that Donald Gordon must be dead. He active individual interest in his com- "Just look at them, Mr. Kilgour," he once and the disease was completely broken | Peter Clephane the soundest drubbing did not die in the orthodox fashion, panions, and so it came that as soon as said once. "Aren't they a pretty set" else there would be a record of his the towers and spires of Bombay had Haven't they the look of having been death, but there was no evidence that sunk out of right on our weather beam born, bred, trained, educated for the he ever left the city, and he was not I was eagerly and curiously studying special purpose of wallowing in crime? I laid my conclusion before the de- officers and crew.

to my own concerns. My friends admitted it really was the only thing to

Macdonald, a banker, at whose dinfinding of the volatile Donald Gordon -who, for aught I know, has the powof getting forward save by a wheel er of making himself invisible—I am vocation of cutting throats, such gour?" bound to confess I would have nothing pleasure and romance were mine. "As nature armed me," I rejoined. to foam; and if it was strange to the to do with it. It seems unquestionspectators on shore to see a big ship able that Mr. Donald has gone, de- men on Mr. Matheson's ship, but the sary to come on beard Mr. Matheson's going bravely on independently of siring no further news of his friends, explanation came later. "I had for ship armed." wind and tide I must own it was rath- and I think you are right in giving gotten that the Scotch are frugal and er startling to one at least of those on up the chase. And now that you have did not know how Asia pours her said, significantly. "In this golden board to be caged up on the waters disposed of Sir Thomas Gordon's busi- scum upon the sea. with a belching, pounding, wheezing, ness, might I ask what your plans are was obliged to answer that I struggling with all its frenzied might no definite plans as yet, having been to burst its bonds and wreak destruc- so absorbed in the hunt for Gordon

that I had had no time to think of Often in the night have I lain listen- myself, but now I would certainly look "As to that," said he, "there forever wrenching and writhing, for- Macdonald, Maciavish and Macintosh inclined to begin work. The emolu 'I have had some knowledge

Highlanders," but in Mr. Matheson, one and interest soon mastered fear. There had a letter of introduction. "I have was gladness in the ease and speed had some knowledge of Highlanders. with which our flame-fed slave car- and I hardly ever saw one of them prominent spot on which the exile's activity in their hands, and they're as down in a soft suffusion of colour as we will," and Mr. Matheson cast a glance I hastened to say that I was very and the sails of the many stately grateful to Mr. Macdonald for his genships that were bearing gallantly up erous offer, and that, with his permis-Tea and down, some, like ourselves, out- sion, I would keep it under considera-Teas. Therefore they use the greatest care in the for the present over, bound for the "Quite right, Mr. Kilgour, quite selection of the Tea and its blend, that is why they home we had left. I stood on the deck right," said Mr. Macdonald, cordially.

quietly slipped his arm in mine, and you the truth and never flatter, you mony. His most caressing tones were the risk of being killed without prayhave done so well in this Gordon busi- the growl of the thunder; his anger The Pearl of the Orient made a ness that I should like to catch you. was the fury of a fiend. His natural us in Bombay in a day less than the right to avoid a rash decision. starting. You may be sure I did not though the proverh says that changes was an achievement in profanity to are lightsome it adds that only fools be remembered with a creepy shudder he asked, a moment later, holding up fiery course of hospitality, I set vigor- good or bad. If a rolling stone does his pistols under the stress of passion offer. ously to the work before me, assisted not gather moss, it often gathers what showed that he was not of those who "Well, well, so be it," by the numerous friends of my patron. is a great deal better than moss-an value human life. I had no difficulty in discovering that auriferous coating that we are all glad Donald Gordon had been in Bombay to admire. So don't decide hastily, been eventful, his experiences start-dagger, I suppose it's no use offering some eighteen months before, and had It's a poor business getting out of the ling and varied. He boasted—and I you a sword. No, I thought so. Well, suddenly disappeared. But whither frying-pan into the fire and back am sure truthfully-that he could now for the copestone of the counsel, he had gone, whether he had departed again from the fire into the frying pan. show more sword cuts and by the hand of the assassin, no one "And that you may have an alter- then living. "A man with a greater ing me straight in the eyes. had the least idea. There were of native, Mr. Kil our," added Mr. Ma- extent of hide might beat me," he let anyone get too familiar. He theson, "let me say that in a week or would sometimes say, might be hunting in the jungle, or tak- two I have a vessel starting for Jedda, square inch show me him who equals blaze away. If you don't kill, you will

"I think the suggestion an excelient promise of brutality. Meanwhile one," answered Mr. Macdonald, "and swore, took his grog, and practised assomething about thanked Mr. Macdonald, saying that Donald; also, I fear not quite so truth- as the ship was not sailing imme-I should shortly have a dish of curry as, though sincerely grateful to Mr. into the hold without so much as casttogether. I did not tell them that as Macdonald, I was not in love with ing a downward glance to see whether

> ships and tarry sailors might by that a holiday voyage vanished. has kept his word, there has been a situation that I fancied myself regard vacant desk in that establishment for ed by the captain and mate as an in-The decision made, my next piece of with the sharks outside. But on ter to Kilburnie and another to The self. Neither of them troubled of hand with no effort, but the one came near me except it were by chance

put the better face on the thing. tive was good, and I know that, acut as must have been Sir Thomas' dis than my own, for if his hope was centred in Donald so also was mine.

CHAPTER VI

engaged with my own concerns and of choice souls. After all, a good book my surroundings and he characters of Without ocular evidence could you

tective, before the bankers, and some Never have I been more swiftly or be condensed within a few skins? They all said it was plausi- completely disenchanted. Perhaps it They are the very essence of villains. ble. "Only," said one, "you forget was because I was young and foolish sir, or rather the dregs, with not an Donald's pride. He was the proud- and ignorant that I had so gayly cher- honest or honorable instinct among est man I ever knew in my life; in- ished illusion; perhaps it was the fine them. I verily believe old Nick would deed, he was silly in that way." And, name of the brig that had given me be ashamed of them, for he, if reports to be sure, theere was Donald's pride exalted and gorgeous ideas, but I had be true, is an artist and a gentleman. to be taken into account. But it did anticipated a holiday sail on sunlit but they-they are mere butchers. I not aid us. At the end of two months seas in a sort of Cleopatra barge with justice were any more than a thing of had exhausted my own ingenuity companions fitly representing, if not courts and fine talk, there isn't a man and that of all my friends, including the pomp and magnificence, at least of them that shouldn't long ago have coming on a the poetry and romance of the Orient. adorned a gibbet." If he was My punishment for indulging such fan- "And how in the name of wonder do tastic reveries was speedy and condign. they come to be on Mr. Matheson's semblance to the ship of my imagina- his face knowingly and winked. tion as a hedgehog hears to a leopard. In plain truth, she was an ill-smelling, leaky old coal bunker, with a crew the conscience? of the most desperate-looking villains born avont the Tweed, and knows the that ever swung from a yardarm. value of bawbees. These rinsings of little shrewdness to guess. A glance made it clear that whatthere could be in sailing with the

had probably never known what it is revealed the handle of a dagger other, as toward their officers, they this way, Mr. Kilgour. caged beasts of prey, and no doubt office and bedroom working at the point of the bayonet with iron rivets. the muzzle of the rifle. Misfor-

hough Captain Holden was an Engcaptain was short and broad, square beam, as a sailor would say, and his nasty to be caught unprepared. muscular strength and energy of the firearms. tiger. His face, hairy as a Skye terhis men when anything went amiss for a lifetime, and the gleam of his eyes and the way in which he fingered too suggestive, and As might be expected, his career had their place.

and that you are welcome to a free me. By Jupiter, if I was to preach be respected trip if you choose. It will enable you on that kind of tattooing, a week would justice anyway. to look about, and maybe (who knows?) be too short for my sermon!" And you're was training excellently and gave high siduously on the crew. The first day had out he knocked a sailor down with later he sent another head foremost

and it will be easily understood how It enhanced the discomforts of standing to his credit with his father's I was but scantily endowed. I wrote to get back to the deck and the dis-Nor was the mate much more socia-

could that I was a priggish, puritanical landsman, who was no fit company for Mr. Watson, the supercargo, was the

est interest in me or mith whom I cared At any rate, he tolerated my amateurish views of seafaring men and things pleasure. He was fond of talking of Edinburgh, which he knew well, having compared notes on our reading, and he was certainly not the worse read man

"This roving, free and easy life, Mr dency, as Burns says, to 'harden a' affections for the thoughts and fancies and to read about a pretty girl is

imagine that so much rascality could The Bird of Paradise bore as much re- ship?" I asked. Mr. Watson screwed

What their past had been it required creation are got cheap because they're flying from the scaffold." "Flying from the scaffold! How do to lay aside for a little their natural minds me, are you armed, Mr. Kill

Naturally I was amazed to find such "I did not think that it was neces-My security, such as it was, lay in clothes, but you do it all the same. the fact that among themselves there A pistol's not heavy, and sometimes was not the least evidence of good it's very handy. I always carry one, ill. They were sullen, suspicious and and this little thing besides." and turnincommunicative, and in all their lives ing up the edge of his waistcoat he to smile out of pure good nature or "That's to prog them who might innocent hilarity, for their features take a thought of progging me." he were fixed in a perpetual scowl which exclaimed. "I have found it useful at nothing could soften. Toward each close quarters more than once. Come had the sulky, defiant demeanour of He led me to his cabin, which was they had a sense of imprisonment, were inside he carefully closed and Off duty or on, they indulged in no fastened the door, then getting upon No his knees he unlocked a heavy iron stories were told: no songs were sung. box, which notwithstanding its im-The spirit was that of a chain gang mense weight was fixed to the floor "This is for the ship's papers," he

tune, failure in hazardous and bloody explained, looking up with a smile of enterprise, had brought them together, intelligence, "but you can put more and as vet they were not atle to than hats in a bandbox. Here, take your choice of these," and he lifted an crew, armful of pistols. I drew back a step with a quick senrigged, with a tremendous breadth of said, in his matter-of-fact way. "It's squat, burly frame had in it the daresay you know something about "I know more about fowling-pieces than pistols," I answered, taking one

into a target at less than a moment's ers is danger, then we are not in the a sheaf of daggers. But they were

confers authority. The hand just to gain assurance by grasp I kept, as you may think, a keen eye

a whit more danger now than there had been from the beginning, I detected treachery and a murderous intent vince myself I was prepared for it. to me whether I were armed or not I naturally referred it to my tion with Mr. Watson. was mistaken. I went to bed deadly ing I was so giddy that on attempting to Sir Thomas was a different matter and in the way of duty. To be sure, a little, I managed to crawl back to

degrees

ry cases

KHOWII