MILTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1899.

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in his own the light seemed lowered to ought to do, Trooper Hunter hurried downed him."

discovered the recruit. sharp, stern demand.

both anger and suspicion in the tone. Where you running from?" you ask it then?"

For a moment the younger man was who marked the left of the first platoon. silent; surprise and disappointment The first sergeant, silent and solitary, geant to the sprinter. into it a shade of indignation, and it a few yards away, gazing out across prisoners loose. They want the doctor. showed plainly in the tone of his reply. the dim parade at the bright lights in squarely into the eyes of the senior. could be dimly discerned a few yards "They were telling me just before bled almost to death before the surgeon preparation for Stella's first lesson with manner of suggestions, sorely trying answer, as the younger soldier looked soldierly form of the second lieutenant does it mean?" bearing ways of Major Mainwaring, left, in front of the other barrack build- with a warrant for some one here at check the flow. Now he was lying at Among the men was Sergeaut Merri- impatiently, he hazarded the remark, Hunter's high spirit overmastered his ings, big black groups of men were the fort, but asked to see Prisoner the post hospital, slowly convalescing, weather, still discolored as to his face, "Phoo, Ray, that man can't rid resolution to take men and matters as gathered and sergeants' lights were Healy, one of the two that escaped the but very weak and dazed.

now. I won't trouble you." self across his path. "You go no farther, young man, till while, with the ease and rapidity of you hear what I've got to say. This is daily practice, the sergeant called the "They tell me you're the chap Conway the third time in less than a week roll.

For a moment the tall young soldier miss the troop," and, facing about, stood there, too astonished to make re- found himself confronting the unexpectply. He had heard the men talk of Mer- ed apparation of Captain Ray and heard riweather as "tough on recruits." He in the soft dialect of the Blue Grass his had understood that new men must captain's words: take a great deal of bullying from the "Send Trooper Hunter to me, serelders—that it was purposely done to geant, directly you dismiss." try their temper and test their sense of And while Lieutenant Scott went

well, taking merriweather squarely be you. Then break range wheel the eyes and knocking him flat. was the order, and the troop, cohesive balance wheel. tween the eyes and knocking him nat. The resounding thwack of the blow, the heavy crash of the fall, were echoed from the doorway by a woman's startled from the from the doorway by a woman's startled from the from the doorway by a woman's startled from the from the from the doorway by a woman's startled from the from th from the doorway by a women startled leaving the new member standing and the reply as authoritative had he been made many arrests, and nearly as many and the ladies' furs gave her ready extended the reply as authoritative had slipped both there for Ray was no reader. It was as he stood there still quivering, his there to pull himself together; then, first clinched and ready to dash again at nerved to face the worst, strode out to his floored victim, now feebly strugmeet his fate, his heart thumping in his gling to his knees, the slender form of breast. the sergeant's wife was bending over "Hunter," said the captain, "did I upon her kness beside her prostrate hus- a total stranger west of the Missouri

"You've struck him cruel hard," she enemies out here?" moaned. "Ob, you shouldn't have "Yes, sir," was the trooper's reply minded what he said, Mr. Hunter. his hand still at the cap visor. He's awful jealous. There, Danny, sit still-sit still," she pleaded soothingly. that prisoner in the lot brought in "Run for a little water, Mr. Hunter. the sheriff?" He's bleeding fearful. Do be still, Danny. Sure the gentleman never set foot inside your door nor spoke a word to me. You're foolish, Danny." She strove to stanch the blood with her handkerchief, but he was slowly regaining his side the breast of his coat, and fear the role along the role alon faculties and thrust her rudely away, gave her strength. Hunter had taken a "When I vouched for you in the addipperful of water from the barrel at she side of the little but and was bringing it, dripping, wondering as he came impulse, but she met him half way. seized the dipper and bade him go. "Quick," she panted. "Don't stop an instant now. Get away before he comes of Milton and vicinity that he | to himself or he'll shoot. Go instantly,

"I can't go if I've hurt him. I must help him up," he began, but she clutch. ed his arm with trembling hands and pause. whirled him about toward the barracks. "No, no; leave everything to me. Don't come here till I tell you. Don's



ts began the was absent from roll call, at his quar- topic of excited talk.

The doors was absent from roll call, at his quar- topic of excited talk.

And well it might be. Armed with a three of the ladies of the regiment. It wider hurdle, a man being stationed at land with a three of the ladies of the regiment. It wider hurdle, a man being stationed at land well it might be. Armed with a three of the ladies of the regiment.

Hunter was silent.

"Where and when?"

about that robbery?"

bere again he hesitated.

"Before I joined the regiment, sir.

"I do, sir."

"What excuse had he for his absence?" was the brief question. met with a mishap—bad a fall in the dark. But it looked to me more l blow, and he couldn't deny it, sir. "A blow? Assaulted? When, and by

"Just a few minutes ago, sir. Close to his own door, I think." Ray's be-d went back with a jerk, aroused. "He must know who did it, unless he was struck from behind. Did you ask him?"

ranks was close behind a tall corporal a Wyoming gale.

he found them, and his eyes, too, flashed gleaming, all awaiting the next signal. night of the train robbery—the one of angrily. "Whatever thought I had of Suddenly it came, quick, rippling, mer- the two that was recaptured. The man of Healy? Where was he in hiding, for riding dress, Mainwaring and Ray in blanket and all, by this time." it ten minutes ago," he said, "is gone ry. "Fall in," were the hoarse words must have knifed him and got away." growled from half a dozen sollier "Is Captain Ray there?" came a call And with that he would have gone throats. The groups quickly resolved from the darkness in the deep, well his way, but Merriweather, smarting themselves into two long columns of known voice of the colonel, and Ray with jealousy and suspicion, threw him- files that faced to their left the instant sprang to answer. Then the sergeant the music ceased and stood motionless turned on Trooper Hunter. "Look here, young feller," said he.

you've been prowling here around my The noncommissioned head of the sor-CHAPTER VIII. door. Keep your distance in future. rel troop twice repeated one name in a D'ye understand? No man enters that questioning, surprised tone, then faced A general court martial had convened house except on my invitation. Now his lieutenant and reported, "Sergeant at Ransom for the trial of such enlisted you go to Captain Ray and tell him I Merriweather absent, sir." The officer men as should be brought before it, and acknowledged the salute, said, "Dis- the president thereof looked out from behind his newspaper during a lull in the proceedings, and, with the characteristic expression which seemed to say, "Don't you dare lie to me now," popped the following question:

"Blake, what's the name of the Three Guardsmen?" And Blake, never laying down his subordination. Hitherto he had looked away to report the result of roll call to paper or changing a muscle of his long, upon Merriweather's asperities as hav- the adjutant and the sergeant again sallow countenance, placidly ing no personal significance. Now, for faced his company Hunter felt his heart promptly responded, "Clotho, Lachesis he was singled out for harsh, overbear- er, then, had managed to get word to Captain Gregg, sitting at the right of no man answering his description had lowering his voice, "He's got a hand soldiers had been attracted from the the first time, it flashed upon him that sink within him. Already Metriweath- and Atropos." ing and abusive language from a man his captain, and the captain was there the presiding officer, after reflecting boarded the transcontinental trains far on a horse's mouth as light as a quarters to the fence, while a little far coarse by nature, mentally, physically to wreak vengeance on him, the luckless profoundly a moment, slowly nodded, or near. Butte was a big, straggling child's."

and socially his inferior. All on a sud- offender. In violation of the strictest as though to say, "Right, though I frontier town, illimitable in its future The tall recruit had dismounted from Sudstown people, with a pale blue den the hot blood boiled in his veins, articles of war he, Hunter Gray, had didn't think you knew." Captain Trusand, forgetful of his new obligations, struck down his superior officer and was cott, sitting opposite Gregg and busily equally illimitable in present devices thrown the reins over a picket of the evening wraps over her head, pretty occupied with a letter, glanced quickly for concealing stolen property or steal- fence, was new quietly approaching Mrs. Merriweather stood to gaze. Trooper Hunter hit out straight, hard and "You hear, Hunter, the captain wants from under his heavy lashes and coming practitioners. Butte had a large Stella, with a light English saddle in Trooper Hunter nit out straight, hard and small sinking with the long table looked a bit to be much frightened and small sinking with long table looked a bit to be much frightened and small sinking with long table looked a bit to be much frightened and small sinking with long table looked a bit to be much frightened and small sinking with long table looked a bit to be much frightened and small sinking with long table looked a bit to be much frightened and small sinking with long table looked a bit to be much frightened and small sinking with long table looked a bit to be much frightened and small sinking with long table looked a bit to be much frightened and small sinking with long table looked a bit to be much frightened and small sinking with long table looked a bit to be much frightened and small sinking with long table looked a bit to be much frightened and the long table looked a bit to be much

the besten man. Then she threw nerself not understand you to say that you were at Blake the while, then outspoke: and that you had neither friends nor what I want to get at is the name of war's face grow lined and anxious. It Downstrong to be perfect strangers, Confurnished excuse for a kick and a plunge. ever. Five minutes' petting made her

> thing-bow do you pronounce it?" "Then how did you come to know stumbled on now?" "You admit having seen him before?"

thinks he's going to sweep the race trebly armed, but his very first victim her back, Ray letting go the moment ridden one often enough, I suppos tracks from Jerome park to Jerusalem. proved far too clever, adroit and dan- the reins were gathered. Dee-what d'you call him? I wouldn't gerous. The knife was driven furiously, And then did Stella dance nimbly, Captain Ray was silent a moment. ride one of their steeplechases on an and it was God's mercy the sheriff was daintily about, playful and spirited, met him with another man at Pawnie."

ment, I felt somehow that you were a service saddles," said Blake, whose long young woman had never been seen at dainfully at the uncavalrylike pose, the then?" asked Mainwaring, who had truthful man and not a runagate, and I legs could wrap around any horse in Ransom. She was always unlike other long, flat seat, the knees far to the fixed idea that no one not of the cavalry don't wish to be disappointed in you. I the regiment. Those high, sharp pom- girls, said Mrs. Mainwaring. She had front, the feet set home in the stirrups sould be at home in the saddle—th. don't want to find a man with a clouded mels are the worst kind of thing to use always visited the poor and needy at and away forward. He sniffed still too, despite long years among vaqueron record in my troop. What do you know gross country." "Nothing more than everybody else, the major, who loyally stood by every- mania for reading aloud to the sick. stirrups, riding lightly, springingly and

sir—that it took place and that"— But thing that was regulation. "I'll bet Few of the ladies of the -th, deeply never thinking of sitting fast. Ray call- | McClellan saddle," said Mainwaring you any real cavalryman will tell you imbued though some of them were with ed to Merriweather to bring one or two curtly. "Well, that what, Hunter?" said Cap- that he'd rather use a McClellan for religious faith, had ever thought it men and come over to the hurdles, and, tain Ray, noting the soldier's significant any kind of riding than any other kind their duty to visit the patients in the without an audible word, the order was quick glance of the soldier toward his

list an applicant who looked as though was a vastly overrated officer.

told, but the former was recaptured and brought back. He was a merry little be after beatifying the gyardhouse." Irishman, an almost universal favorite before the trouble occurred. The garri- her niece what people said about this an odd old trick of his when mentally son declared to a man he couldn't have fad of hers had no effect whatever. So had a hand in the robbery, though it she went a bit further and told her was probable he couldn't have kept out things people really had not said, but of the assault. But evidence of a serious might say. This, too, fell harmless. "Certainly, sir, and he declares he character was piled up against him Afternoons and evenings Miss Leroy didn't see, and Mrs. Merriweather de- when he made the suspicious attempt to was ready to devote to social duties and Bright lights were burning in some lute, bewildered, hardly knowing what clares it was two men, and they ran get away. Conway was possessed with Mrs. Mainwaring, but the morning of the quarters, dim ones in others, but he did and far from knowing what he away toward barracks the moment they the idea that Healy knew something readings to the men in the convalencent about the train robbery. No one could ward went on without interruption or the verge of darkness. Not two yards from the spot, breasted the slope to the sergeant stood surely identify any of the seven lan-noteworthy incident an entire week. from his door the tall figure of a man in "bench" on which was spread the garsoldier overcoat loomed into view, and, rison proper, and found full two-thirds Then the recruit suddenly and impulsheriff was at his wits' end. The officer True to his colors, Mainwaring was time Hunter had never opened his lips sheriff was at his wits' end. The officer True to his colors, Mainwaring was time Hunter had never opened his lips peering closely at him, Merriweather of his troop already gathering in front sively stepped forward. Before he could of the guard had gone over to get his out at the hurdles ten minutes before to speak. Now, in obedience to the capliscovered the recruit.

Of their quarters awaiting the signal to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough rig to heavy coat and to change into rough right recommendation of their quarters awaiting the signal to heavy coat and to change into rough right recommendation of their quarters awaiting the signal to heavy coat and to change into rough right recommendation of the recommendation of manding silence. The first sergeant and an overconfident sergeant, detailing good his word. He came soon enough, "What do you think of her jump-"Looking for you, sergeant," was the "Did you see Doyle? He was looking whirled abruptly and stood facing to- a sentry to stand close by, permitted Mrs. Ray and Mrs. Blake, two charm- ing?" asked Ray. for you, Hunter," chirruped a little ward the distant south gate. Borne on Healy to come out of the prison room ing women, with him. Presently out "She has been well taught, sir," was "Who sent you?" And there were Patlander. "You're blowing, man. the night wind came a confused medley and be questioned. At first the young rode Captain Billy on his old favorite the answer, in lew, quiet tone. of hoarse murmurs, of distant shouts, Irishman was stubborn and would tell Dandy, now a sedate steed over 10 think she will give Mrs. Ray little "Oh, no one. I wished to speak with But Hunter made no reply. Hooking of rapid running feet, then from far out nothing, but gradually he made admisyou a moment. I want some advice." the collar of his overcoat and buttoning across the townward stretch of prairie sions and kept glancing fearfully over groom Hogan, leading a beautiful little with the sidesaddle and skirt, I under-"There is no need of your coming it throughout, he stepped quietly to the the muffled report of firearms, one, two his shoulder as though he thought the bay mare, all points and elasticity, a stand." here, then. You've seen me a dozen point where the center of his troop unu- three, and from the direction of the sentry might hear. So Conway drew spirited, dancing creature, with dainty No, she had not. Hogan produced the times in the last two days. Why didn't ally formed for roll call, for his place in guardhouse a soldier came rushing like him around behind the portico of the head and legs, brilliant eyes, pretty sidesaddle and a cavalry blanket. I heavy log structure and told the sentry pointed ears and a satin coat that fairly two minutes the mare was housed in

"What is it, Kid?" sang out the ser- to come no nearer; he would be respon- glistened. The hurdles were at the edge the one and Hunter relled, as to his sible. The very next minute the sentry of the drill ground on the northeast side legs, in the other. This time mounting clouded his face. So, too, there crept his swinging lantern in his hand, stood "Sheriff Conway-stabled, and his heard a stiffed cry, a scuffle. Healy of the post, and no sconer was the party was not so easy. Stella despised that darted away like a shot into the dark- sighted from the barracks than a num- blanket and would not suffer it to come "Why," said Ray in surprise, "what ness. The sentry and the guard pursued ber of troopers made their way to the near her, and that blanket was to be "I had no need of it then," was the the distant quarters of the officers. The business could be have out here? What in vain, and Conway lay stabled to the fence, and with appreciative eyes stood tried in lieu of a riding skirt. Main bilt of a ghastly looking knife. He had watching at respectful distance the waring sat on his horse, shouting all Then, just as when angered by the over- beyond the sergeant. To the right and tattoo, captain, that Conway came out reached him or unskilled hands could sidesaddle and skirt.

The question was, what had become



Healy darted away like a shot into the

"Nothing much. Reading about a the better would it be for his chance of ly set and girthed the sadale, and then, fellow that named his horse that and re-election. Then he came to Ransom at a nod from his captain, vanited on behave under a cavalry saddle. You've

"I wouldn't care to ride one on any ings' guest, had developed an odd fad maintaining only light and easy pres- ago," was the firm yet respectful rep jutant's office the day of your enlist- other kind-certainly not on one of our for an eastern girl. A more independent sure on the bit. Mainwaring sniffed dishome, had headed all manner of chari- more when Stella began to bound and Comanches and cowboys. "Not if you know how to ride," said table schemes as a young girl and had a curvet, and Hunter rose slightly in his "I learned to ride as a boy, sir." big post hospital. The surgeon and the obeyed, though it was remarked at the captain and the half vexed express. "Nothing more, sir. I met one of the "Done," said Blake, "and leave it to steward did all that. The young assistprisoners at Pawnee in a restaurant Stannard or Ray." And here he kicked ant surgeon was a bachelor and suscep- possibly because of his disfigured face. Ray, hesitated no longer.

her was Sheriff Conway, to whom she spot, let her sniff at and examine the Sergeant Merriweather was busily "What does Stannard know about it was now reading aloud an hour every strange affair, then as quietly rode her setting the peg at three feet again standing," said he presently, "and you anyhow?" bristled Mainwaring. "He morning. Mild raillery had no effect a dozen yards away, turned her head to when, glancing up to see that the opp looked me in the eye and said I shouldn't never rode anything but a McClellan. upon her. Expostulation was not resort- the bar, and relaxing the reins gave her regret taking you in my troop. You've And as for Ray, I know a dozen better ed to, for it speedily developed that, the hint to go, his long sinewy legs caught sight of the slender figure of his been with me barely a week, and al- riders and cavalrymen who agree with with all her slender, dainty physique, close pressed to the saddle. Stella came | wife standing well back of the group as "All right. You come out to the hur- will of her own. The post surgeon had with the second stride and would have on the ladies, but with deep, intense Virectly accused of something to make dies after court adjourns, major, and said there was no harm whatever, in flown the track but for the firm hand terest in her gaze, upon the tall, erec we'll give you a chance to see the differ- fact it was a blessing to more patients and closed leg. Finding she couldn't young soldier on the spirited mare. ence. That pretty mare of Mrs. Ray's than one, therefore by all means let dodge and had to do it, she rose high, to this moment Merriweather had been but the words died on his lips. From is to have a jumping lesson this after- Miss Leroy keep it up. Thereafter there and, half affrighted, cleared the bar and silently carrying out his instruction. the direction of the barracks a soldierly moon, and you can try both saddles and was no one to say her nay. Secretly came bounding lightly to the turf, then all his attention given to them or Mrs. Mainwaring had hoped the colonel bolted away with blood in her eye and Stella. Of the man in saddle be to beneath their feet began to light up with But the re-entrance of the judge ad- and her husband would express disap- the bit in her teeth. Only a few rods, apparently no notice whatever. No the gleam of a nearing lantern. It was vocate with the prisoner put a stop to proval, but, with the perversity of their however. Hunter, sitting her like wax the first sergeant again, and Elunter the chat, and Mainwaring called the sex, they persisted in saying to Miss now, reined her round in broad circle, Leroy that she was an angel of goodness headed her back for the group, gradual- heaven only knows what thoughts formal stiquette of the old cavalry days, A week had rolled by since the night and it was a wonder that other women ly checking her speed as he neared the ling through his brain, and await his captain's signal o ap- of the assault on Sergeant Merriweather had not done likewise long before. By party. and the stabbing of Sheriff Conway. the time she had been three weeks at "Try it from that side," said Ray, "Remain here a moment," said Ray The first episode seemed to have died Ransom Kate Leroy was better known and over she popped, light as a bird. A she impatient words seemed to to his anxious recruit. "What is it, out of the interest of even the few who and infinitely better leved in the quar- third and a fourth time was the leap of it, for Merriweather's lips ters of the married soldiers whose little repeated, Stella enjoying being the cen-"I found Sergeant Merriweather, who were sealed, but the second was still the ones were ailing and in the wards of ter of attraction and improving on her to himself. "The captain says set it a

had come to the post about tattoo that seen, each morning about 10 o'cleck, evening, had stopped at the guardhouse on her way to her patients, and with and asked to see Prisoner Healy, a sol- them she would stay until orderly cal "Well, sir, his wife says that he had dier under charges of assault and rob- sounded at noon. There were four men bery of a fellow trooper only a few in hospital when she began; there were weeks before. Healy and a companion seven men at the end of the week, and confined as an accomplice had sawed the doctor said she was making it too their way out and escaped, as has been attractive a place after all.

"Next thing," said Wilkins, "she'll Mrs. Mainwaring found that telling

but an interested spectator for all that. There's a dozen men in my-old troop Mainwaring, Ray and Blake were in would have had her over the hurdle saddle, and Mainwaring's first bellow The blood rushed to Hunter's face. was, "Now, where's your English sad- and he bit his lip hard. Thus far Ray

"Coming," said Blake coolly, and the bit-a hub, so to speak, about which pointed toward the stables, whence, at she circled, first one way, then the ot easy gait, a tall, slender soldier came er, to dodge the blanket swathed form riding a troop horse, carrying some. Now the trooper was heard to speak. thing over his arm. Blake recognized "Pardon me, captain, but may I take at once Ray's recent acquisition, Hun- her myself?" ter. Mainwaring stopped glaring at Instantly the two ladies exchanged a Blake, turned and gazed at the new glauce. "I told you he looked like a comer with all his eyes, and then gentleman," said Mrs. Ray, in low tone. whirled in saddle toward Ray and ejac- Then began a very pretty, piece of ulated, "Well, I'll be d-d!" There coaxing. With one firm hand at the b to were times when even the presence of the blanket still strapped about his ladies couldn't restrain Mainwaring's waist, Trooper Hunter had managed impulse to verbal outbreaks.

glowering at the newcomer until he Hogan muttered to Duffy. Several ad grew tired of the calm indifference ditions had been made to the group ov which rewarded his gaze. "This ain't this time. The colonel, Dana by hi one of your lot, is it? I've seen him be- side and followed by his orderly, can to enlist," laughed Ray good natured dies, sat in saddle, an interested specia

For a moment he pondered, scowling just about 48 Hours. Then as man after despite Ray's practiced hand extended the right leg over the horn, and, despite the right leg over the horn, and the right leg over the leg over t at Blake the while, then outspoke:

"Well, that's all right, probably, but that other fellow with 'em-Dee-some- began to look as though failure were Hogan to look after Dandy, himself took again about to stamp him, when some Stella's bit and began Blue Grass expos- the shadow of the skirt. In less than ten "Depends on whether you're in a one suggested that Pat Healy at the tulation, which seemed more intelligi- she had leaped the hurdle to and salon or a saloon, major," answered post could tell him all he wanted to ble than Irish. At all events, the met- balf a dozen times and was realizable Blake. "Dartanyan in one case and Dee know, and somebody else whispered tlesome creature quieted down long she had made a fool of herself. Al Artagnan in t'other. What have you that the sooner be got every man even enough to admit of Hunter's approach, then some unhallowed inspiration seize remotely connected with the robbery and that tall, silent young soldier quick- the major.

> but not in the least vicious, Hunter giv-And then Miss Leroy, the Mainwar- ing her head abundant room to toss and

some few weeks ago. I never saw him across under the table to rouse his oppo- tible. Miss Leroy's plea to be allowed "Try her over the bar first, Ray." | "No, no, major, don't change the before, and I've never seen him since— site fellow member to full rejoicing in to visit the hospital was eagerly grant- said Mainwaring. And, with a man saddle. Let us see how she'll take the the colloquy, for Mainwaring couldn't ed, and he himself was there to escort stationed at each post and the bar set bar again. Set it loosely, you men, so "I told you it was taking chances to en- ty on any subject and was sure that Ray One of the first patients to interest Hunter guided his pretty mount to the strikes."

was a new departure at the post. each end to give her the idea of posts

Day after day, then, was she to be between which she must jump. This, Advertise in "The Canadian Champi

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had been holding the mare's head by

reach Stella's neck with his right band Thought you had a whole troop of and, patting her softly, was niurmuring rough riders, Ray, 'said he, after again gently. "Makin love to her in Irish riding around from the direction of the "Yes, the day you persuaded him not stables and, doffing his cap to the ly. "I roped him in afterward." Then, | tor. Several wives and children of the ther back, aloof from the general run of

Hunter slowly lifted an edge of the blanket and let Stella nose it, which sh

"Never until I came here, sir." "Mean to tell me you've never been in the cavalry?" "I told the major as much a fortnig

Atherton heard the order, saw the