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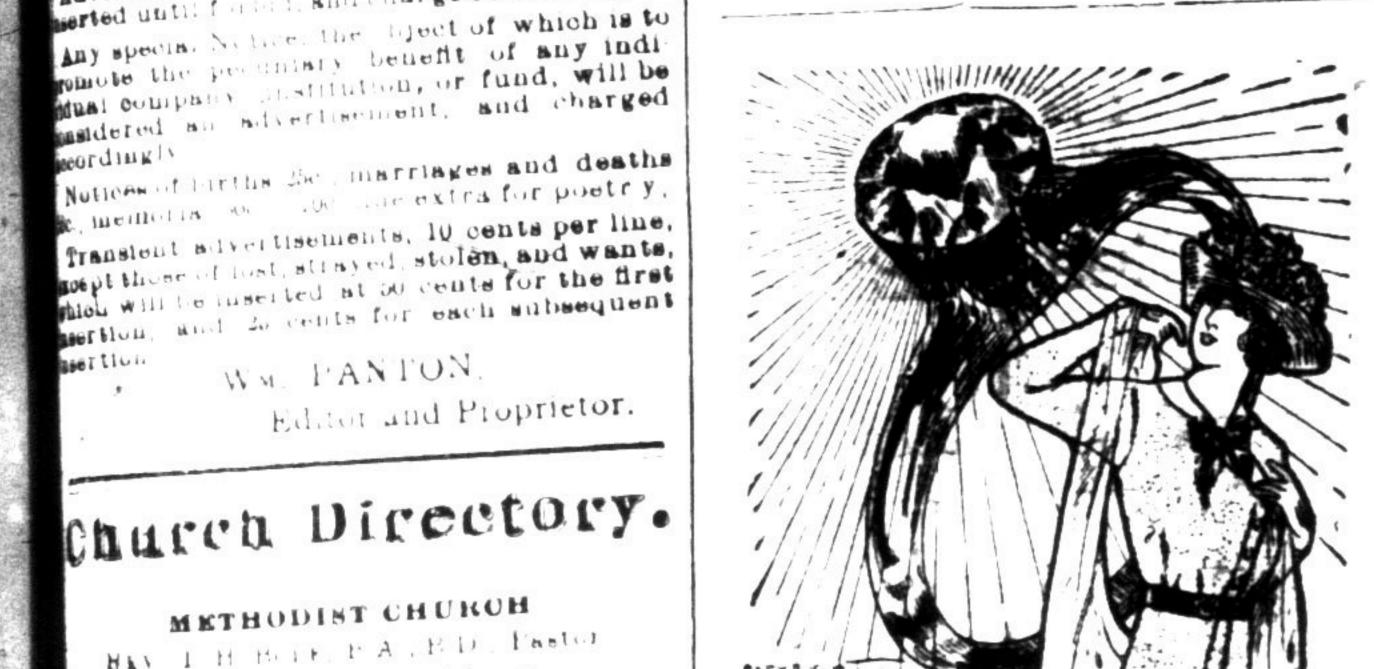
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finding it, but it was, if anything, at a sharper angle than the slip from my dungeon. How to get a footing upon It was, I had to hold on to the side of its scabbard. the slip to prevent the rope swinging The torch burns low. Think once back with me, for instead of being more." directly under my dungeon, as O'Ryan I wondered how be intended to take had led me to suppose, this opening her without her consent, as O'Ryan The Double Track Route An Attempt to Define a Familiar was a good ten feet to one side of some peculiar quality which separates my nails and fingers suffering in the the torch into a brighter flame with it from common humanity, like the operation. By letting the rope slide the point of his weapon,

fabled aristocracy of the revolution- between my knees gradually as I ad "See, I make the time as long as ary orators," says Mr. Wilbur C. Ab- vanced I brought myself to the floor possible," he said defiantly. bott, in a recent article in the Yale some feet from the edge of the slip I chose the spot and then dropped land were here and each one were forward on my hands and knees. The lighted from the dying flame of an-"Unlike that aristocracy it depends It has, indeed, been the bitterest foe released rope swung back and was other, yet that time would not suffice Frunk Ticket Agents or C. E. Horn- of mere birth and outworn tradition; gone. There was no return now. I to make me change," said Daria slowng, District Passenger Agent, To- for it has been the pioneer of the had dropped very cautiously, and all ly. "I believe-I know-that the Ged movements which destroyed them. It my energy had been centered on what who looks down upon us will give me is not a closed group, for no other I was doing. Now I was aware that strength to bear what is before me. class, neither aristocracy nor prole- above me, at the top of the steep as Go, Count Vasca, go! You are a doutariat, is such a shifting body, con-cent, there was a light. O'Ryan had ble traitor. See that I do not betray

its muscles or its birth. It is comshadows. On a couch at the foot of
posed of that element which is acthe pillar sat Daria, her hands classed customed to rely upon itself rather in her lap. She hardly seemed to MILTON than upon extraneous circumstance, listen to Vasca, who was standing birth or wealth or charity or state close to her, talking rapidly.

aid; capable, energetic, ambitious, in-"I have been ambitious. I have de dependent, self-respecting, and thinkceived you. I crave your pardon. ing for itself rather than subject to have not done it for myself alone. have done it for you. My love has measure, made us what we are. It spurred me on. They would make me has painted the pictures and written king. It has been your ambition to the books and brought forth the new reign in Yadasara. Now your ambi-

ideas of the world. It has furnished tion may be realized." the leaders of "You are not a king." the inventors, Tonight; no, tomorrow"- He broke It has car- off excitedly. "Say that you will be the business of life. It has queen of Yadasara, my queen, and converted the dream of democracy in- now, this instant, this dungeon door craving your favors. Your word shall and rushed at me. I remembered that they should enter the dungeon when little. The way was rough and un-Moreover, above all, it is open to you. In a few hours you past, as was the old aristocracy, does bring death or grant life. Your will the trap was just behind me, and I we are gone and should find that—it not seek to abolish the past, as does shall be law in Drussenland and he stepped aside as our blades met. who speaks the humblest yet the hap-

"With all its faults, it is not only plest of your slaves." the most intelligent, most self-sacri- "A pleasing prospect most easily constructive, but the spoken of." "It is true. Tomorrow at this time you." day—for it includes every man who I shall be king. The last obstacle is believes in the old-fashioned virtues, overthrown."

ence; and it reaches out at the same CHAPTER XXIV. OU play a double game, An interesting experience that he once had with bears while wandering; (in the Snake River country is related |

whom you professed to serve. You would now betray him to whom you have transferred your al-"For your sake," he answered. "Do "I was," he writes, "in that bliss-

ful borderland between sleeping and not forget that" waking when I was startled by an For my sake?"

bear was coming down to the spring. covet."

through the brush and, followed by two cubs, made directly for the wa- morrow I die." greater aim. Consent, and we will less. Not for a moment did I forget ing for tomorrow." "The trio reached the spring and leave this dungeon and the city. Be the man with whom I had to deal.

take a mud bath. The cubs at once break. Revolution will shake the city. engaged in mimic battle and playfully and I shall be saved." He paused a moment. t and scratched each other. Occasionally one would nip a little too . The fortress is not yet in my hands, hard, and the other would squall else had I not been forced to gain the with pain and anger; whereupon the king's permission before I came to

mother, who was stretched at full you. I cannot save you unless you length in the mud, would rise and come with me. From this dungeon the king protects us, afterward my "Fnally, tired of their play, the friends-your subjects." youngsters started exploring. It was

some means of communicating brave man, I grant still, a foreigner." ideas, for the old bear soon wal- "Yet you will be king tomorrow, so

her hind legs. Then all three started "44 To the "Aye, as surely as that torch begins to burn low and shows that time clamin the lead, pawing up the earth in her haste, and her offspring were ceived that his patience was nearly

The rack is a cruel companion, Were I the greatest villain in Drussenland, yet should I be a gentler commade than the rack." The creepie of cutty stool was a "The rack kills the body. A villain I once used in the Scottish church would break my heart."



it was a matter for consideration. As ly I felt that my sword was loose in

it. Fortunately the walls of it were had said he might do. Would he at-What is the middle class? It is rough hewn, and, clinging to the rope tempt to drug her? Suddenly he drew not, as many have assumed, a group with my knees and feet, I managed to his sword. Was be about to wound of individuals bound together by drag myself inward with my bands, her and thus secure her? He stirred

"Though all the torches in Drussen-

tinually recruited from above and be- not deceived me. The trap in the dun- you when the rack cracks these limbs

He threw his cloak back from his shoulder to give his sword arm free-

dom. Whether he meant to kill her I shall never know. My time had come. Daria sprang toward him. "For that I thank you. You could

do me no greater service." She clutched the bosom of her dress with both hands and tore it open, showing her white flesh.

"Strike, and strike deep!" ment of opportunity. I drew myself sword and put it on instead of my must have struck it at an angle which up and stood in the dungeon, sword in own, and I drew his hat well over my hand. Daria turned with a low cry. eyes. The count, with an oath, pushed her "Here is the key," I said, drawing aside, so that she fell upon the couch, it from the cloak. "Stay! In case pose, I had sense enough to raise a

"The road you were to take to- trap. Then I let him go, and he slid night I take. The death way is for noiselessly out of sight.

fixed on mine, his sword flashed with fitting the key in the lock when there the first few feet it should suddenly death. We both knew that. He tried without to force me back toward the hole. I tried to make him change ground with Vasca!" me. We neither of us succeeded, yet "The king!" whispered Daria. ing torch was before me and spoiled door. my sight somewhat. Twice, thrice, he "Open in the king's name!" made a sudden effort to finish the matter, once almost breaking through my guard. The point of his weapon touched my arm and the blood showed. The count smiled. The next moment I unmistakable sound coming from the a You are a princess in Drussenland had touched him, and there ensued a dense undergrowth. No person who You would be queen. As your knight flerce encounter for a few moments. has heard a mother bear admonish- I could but draw a good sword in your succeeded in getting round him. Now ing her young will ever forget the service; as a king I can give you my his back was toward the trap, the MILTON, ONT sound. I sat up and listened. The hand to help you mount the throne you torchlight in his eyes. The advantage into my head. was with me. Whether it was the "I have ceased to covet a throne. To- light that troubled him or that his courage failed him I do not know, but

drank deeply, lapping the water like thirsty dogs. When they had satisfied their thirst the mother went fied their thirst the mother went fied their thirst the mother went field their thirst the mother went field the sharp note of a trum. It wants but the sharp note of a trum. down the small rivulet that flowed It wants but the sharp note of a trum utter between his teeth. Well could muddy spot, where she proceeded to Then let the trumpet sound at day ripe. Tomorrow Yadasara would be even on the spot where a few moments other and my legs I struck out for



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pared to strike and end it, but once now your feet between mine, so. Do more he escaped me. He forced me not struggle. To fall straight is our "I will see to that," he answered back across the dungeon until my foot only chance. My darling, I love you, it has been identified wholly with its the dungeon, supporting the low vaultmy ambition nor make me careless. was a strange laugh, such as few men Our lips met. the touchstone of the middle class; torch was fixed. A breeze from the tis rather that this is the class open trap caught the flame, making high has something to a somethi which, but the rack shall not burt the last of the water runs out, for the I shuffled over the edge as I spoke,

> side the hole. I went to him. "He is dead." Daria was beside me.

"My love," I said, kissing her, "forget that name for awhile. We will most immediately. I felt her arms go. I know the road. The danger is tighten round me a little, that was all

"But you-you"-"I am the count for tonight." I took the cloak from the dead man and threw it around me. I took his incline or not, but I believe I was. We

count. It is your last chance," I hiss- arms and drew him to the edge of the I took the dead man by his limp

"Now come!" Her arm was in mine and I was

mine. It was to be a duel to the was a roar of voices in the corridor change. "Vasca! The traitor! The traitor,

cloak. At least I might die fighting. "Clinton, kiss me." "Open, open!" they shouted without. I kissed her, one long kiss.

"Now kill me," she said. Perhaps the request put the thought

"You do not fear death?"

she did not stop even to sniff the air am here. If I can win your consent to from his breast, and unconsciously he man rose to the surface. We might water close over my head again. but came straight on. What a glor- be my wife he has promised you life drew nearer to the hole. Once or twice rise alive. It is a poor chance, but if put out my arms to struggle, and a love chance for a short. Thus but ious chance for a shot! True, but and freedom. Even so far is Count his eyes left mine for an instant—a death comes it will find us in each weight began to slip from me. I was such a thought never entered my

"I am ready," she said.

I sat down on the edge of the trap.

"Sit beside me," I said to Daria. "Now put your arms round me so,

CHAPTER XXV. HE brave woman in my arms uttered no sound as we went downward, slowly at first,

We so held each other that practically we fell extended to full length. do not remember whether I was conscious of striking the top of the rocky being still whole in body. My arm protected Daria's head. My own, I sup-

shaft was originally a stratum of softer material in the heart of the rock since the working was easy. It is the only explanation I can find for the fact that after falling almost sheer for

Down-down faster and faster! Still feet first, I believe. Some moments I feel sure I was conscious, at others I was not. I seem to remember that verely. "You betrayed me, he had the advantage, for the flicker. A thundering knock came at the our speed increased, that loose dust to cling closer to Daria as if in some way she were protecting me. I seem I drew my sword and threw off the to remember hearing the sound of the swirling water coming nearer and nearer until it roared like continuous thunder, and then a swift plunge to

Then came a blank. I have no recollection whatever of what happened from the moment we plunged into the water until I awoke suddenly out of a faint, it may have been, to feel a cold wind upon my face and to draw into my lungs half a dozen long "Only dead men take it, they say, and breaths of it. They were drawn in feet away, so secure did she feel that save you. By the king's permission I he only just managed to keep my point lie still in the river bed. Yet one dead rapid succession, and then I felt the such a thought never entered my Vasca powerful. But I have a far bad sign—but it did not make me care—other's arms. It is better than wait-She shuddered a little. Then she vent Daria slipping from my grasp. turned upon my back and with considerable difficulty shifted Daria's position until she lay upon my chest. With one hand I steadied her and with the

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