You must know stranger, that I was born in the city all. of Shirazan, my father-peace to his ashes !-being a merchant, whose fair dealing raised him to a position of high den of our friend to meet Alzura as while each instant Alzura appeared to honor in the eyes of the Governor and esteem in that of his fellow-citizens.

phet when I was but an infant, and I passed under the guardianship of an of Hassan ibn Afzul.

Now, it happened that in the same Afzul ibn Hassan, between whom and my uncle there existed a rivalry so bitquences that the fame of it extended to the borders of Persia.

It is said that even among the learned of the Gionurs professional jealousy stomach with mice, as from the sound a terrible monster, every now and at times leads to strange acts of retal- of thy voice it must be as hollow as then filling the tiny retreat, and a iation; but, illustrious sir, it can eas- a drun." Then I hit at it with a seemingly gigantic paw at intervals ily be understood that when the contending parties for public favor are ing not its mournful wail. powerful magicians what pecks or trouble they may heap upon each other's head.

the effects of some enchantment bethe advantage in power and knowledge, of his art, the household of Afzul ibn Hassan suffered even to a greater extent.

Without entering too minutely into arms, I went bitterly. the details of the situation it will suffice, as an example of what we en- ing her unkempt coat, so that the fur of the garden. dured, to say that our perfumes were often turned into the vilest of odors, our food into the most unpalatable covered with scratches, and allowing of the previous night, saying that no dishes, our house filled with smoke, her to crawl all over me, for which I consideration would induce me shoes with scorpions and beds with suffered torments on account of the chance a repetition. "Farewell!" cockronches.

· What my uncle accomplished for Afzul ibn Hassan I do not know; but doubtless he was bountifully supplied ever, to lay the whole case before my with those lesser vexations, which uncle on the morrow, and entreat him, harass the soul beyond the limits of patience. In general my uncle adopt- who was completely innocent of any ed a grave demeanor, as became one share in her father's offence. of his learned profession, so that when his humor bubbled over, like the seeth- ticipated any sympathy or deviation ing mess in one of his crucibles, then in his cruel purpose I was quickly un-I judged that Afzul ibn Hassan was deceived. When I made known to him plucking the hairs out of his beard my passion for his rival's daughter. and petitioning Allah for vengeance.

teenth year, my uncle, considering that | hold. I had made sufficient progress in the study of astrolgoy, determined to advance me to the higher branch of his as an orphan little did he imagine that work-the science of magic-when two events occurred, bearing directly upon one another, which changed the whole sourse of my life.

was the daughter of my uncle's bitter Afzul ibn Hassan, my enemy." rival; and second, my uncle unravelled I truthfully answered that I naturwhich both the magicians had assidu- harm. ously labored for years.

isted between Alzura's father and my to speak, or by sign communicate, with uncle, neither of us had dared to make that jade of Afzul ibn Hassan's whom known our mutual affection, but we thou callest Alzura." contrived to meet secretly in the rose | "Sir," I protested, with such calmgarden of a friendly astrologer, who ness and decision, as I was able to possessed sufficient power to screen our summon to command, "that I cannot actions. At what length I could di- do, for she is no jade, but verily the late upon those blissful hours; the light of my existence." moon, that friend of lovers, peeping My uncle threw back his head and of a most fearful description!

Such being our position, it may be of Shirazan." assumed that I strove my best to bring "Sir," said I, respectfully, but with ing to engage a lad to assist on the about a good understanding between determination, "my choice is already farm, but would not finish the barmy uncle and his rival, pointing out, made. I thank you for all your past gain until he brought a character from in so far as I was able, how his repu- goodness, for which I shall ever re- the last place; so he said: tation for generosity would be great- main grateful, but to renounce Alzura Run and get it and meet me at the ly enhanced by permitting Afzul ibn is out of the question" Hassan to share in the benefits of his My uncle gazed at me inquiringly The youth was there in good time, discovery, rather than by using it sold for a moment, as if he yet doubted and the farmer said: ly as a weapon to do the latter fur- my resolution, then replied :- "Listen, Well, have you got your character

oxysm of madness.

Indeed, thou art a simple youth to presence. suppose that I will endow with the Much depressed in spirits I left my his favorite weed he will sit for hours round and saw me there. Never have I the similarity of our names, trades on that come what ill fate might I would may be had in any of the streams face. my reputation and entices away good remain faithful to Alzura. north of the Orange River. paying clients."

maths that Afzul ibn Hassan should down the bazaars, so preoccupied with realize the full penalty of having call- the dismal outlook that I passed by id him a cheap and pitiful trickster, friends and acquaintances without re-He would quickly prove to the world turning their salutations and stared which of the two was the greater mag- aimlessly at objects which left no im-

cian.

from obtaining the joys of the Pro- change. phet's paradise.

O illustrious most villainous piece of mischief of out from under a bush.

uncle-a sage magician of the name made my way to our place of meeting, Though I realized it not at the time, but for the first time for many moons my inhuman uncle had, in the furth-Alzura was not there to give me greet- erance of his animosity, changed me city where we dwelt, and where my forth, momentarily expecting her ap- supper instead of a husband for the uncle practiced his exalted profession pearance, and then I ventured to call famished Alzura. there lived another magician, called her by name, softly at first, and then Of the full horror of that night a little louder-" Alzura, Alzura, Al- am unable to find words to fittingly zura!" but the only response that describe the situation. Conceive yourcame to me was the plaintive meow of self. O illustrious one, cramped at the ter and far reaching in its conse- an ill favored looking, hungry visaged inner extremity of a small hole, with vellow cat that had persistently fol- two enormous green eyes, appearing

thee gone, brute. Away, and fill thy ine, if you are able, the hot breath of switch, but while eluding my blows thrust within almost a hair's breadth the cat still kept close at hand, ceas- of your shivering form, in strenuous

Then, as I stood for a moment re- Such was my position for seven ungarding the creature with no little ending hours-hours that seemed like surprise at the constancy with which seven decades. Toward morning my it had attached itself to my person, senses must have become so stupefied During my childhood scarcely a day the poor beast raised its eyes to mine with terror that I lost consciousness, passed, but that we would suffer from with a gaze so full of pathetic mean- until I suddenly found that daylight ing that at once the conviction forc- had come, that I had resumed my oried itself upon my mind that my vindic- ginal form and that Alzura was noing directed at our well being, and, tive uncle had changed the form of where to be seen. doubtless, as my uncle had slightly the beautiful Alzura into that hideous I paused, regarding my surround- might be lonely, added she. Would I not good care of me." bone protruding grimalkin.

sweet nature cannot be embodied in ity of it all was made plain, and a I answered. "I shan't feel dull, and who followed her. If he had gone with the insuch an ungainly shape. Alas, alas!" mighty dread of becoming the toy of knows?-your possible purchaser may tention of murdering her, I had no power and taking the poor creature into my Alzura's paws took possession of my turn up, and I can show him the farm. to stop him. My nerves were utterly

flew into my nostrils; permitting her, "Whither in such haste?" he asked, without a protest, to sharpen her tal- accosting me in a kindly tone.

my enchanted lady, determined, howwith all the eloquence of a desperate lover, to withdraw the spell from one

opportunity to carry out, but if I anand that we had already exchanged vows of fidelity his distress and sub-At the time, when I reached my six- sequent rage were fearful to be-

> First of all, he charged me with the basest ingratitude, pointing out tha when he took me under his protection I would grow up to make common cause with his enemy.

It was of no avail that I tried to argue the injustice of holding Alzure re- my uncle determined to transform his dealy remembering who this must be, I sponsible for her father's actions. At rival into an animal of the same spe- added, "Are you not Mr. Hartland? We In the first place I fell passionately the mere mention of Afzul ibn Has- cies, so that when night fell both magi- were expecting you. My cousin was so ing secret, I was the better able to do this. Other in love with the most beautiful crea- san's name my uncle's countenance became distorted with fury as he shoutture in all Persia, whose name was ed at me, "Choose, thou cobra that I Alzura, who finally reciprocated my have taken into my bosom, between sentiment, and who strangely enough, Hassan ibn Afzul, thy benefactor, and

the grand secret of night metamor- ally preferred to choose the one from phosiation, or the changing of the whom I had received so much kindform of a creature at sundown, upon ness and from whom I anticipated no

"Then thou wilt swear by the holy Considering the relations which ex- Kaaba," said he sternly, "never more

and smiling upon our happiness laughed derisively, "Light of thy exthrough sheltering foliage, the sweet- istence, forsooth!" he cried, "Thou est flowers perfuming the air upon shalt, in truth, make fuel for her exwhich we exchanged vows of unalter- istence, if thou dost not pay heed to thle devotion, our way illuminated by my word. "Look you, boy," and he those winged insect lanterns of the placed a five minute timeglass upon East, myriads of which flitted in the the table between us, "If before the ing often visited by the friendly asvoid and clung to every branch and sand hast run out thou hast changed trologer who had assisted us to that twig. Ah, what entrancing nights thy pigheaded obstinacy it will be end. were those, to be terminated by one well; if not, then thou hadst better get thee with all speed out of the land

I will yet give thee until sundown to with you? At the mere suggestion my uncle was repent of thy purpose, when, if thou Na, replied the youth, but I've got in turn convulsed with laughter, and still persistest to thwart my will, look yours, and I'm no' comin'. enraged almost to the point of a par- to thy safety boy, or I may remember thee in a manner of which thou dost "By the beard of the Prophet," he not even dream." Then, with a motion exclaimed, "that is too good a joke! of his hand, he waved me from his

grand secret one who, on account of uncle's house, determined nevertheless angling. Very fine sport, indeed, seen anything like the expression of his

During the remainder of that day Then he swore with deep and fearful I wandered without purpose up and print upon my mind.

So he commenced by transforming So toward evening I took my way ill Afzul ibn Hassan's chickens each in the direction of the rose garden, sight into enormous frogs, that kept faintly hoping that Afzul ibn Has-

up such a lively croaking under the san might have discovered an antidote latter's window that rest was as far to my uncle's spell and thus preservfrom his pillow as the unbeliever is ed his daughter from the hateful

But alas! no sooner had I arrived at From this my uncle went on from our place of meeting than I was welaccomplishing one annoyance upon his comed by the same plaintive " Meow, rival to another, until he conceived the and, with tail erect, Alzura trotted

At that moment, I remember, I be-It was the night of the sixth full came conscious of a curious shrinking moon, in the 1,089th year of the He- sensation throughout my limbs. Smallgira, that I set out for the rose gar- er and smaller I seemed to become, usual; not, however, without misgiv- grow larger and larger until she verings, for my uncle appeared to be in ily looked to be a monster the size exuberant spirits, repeated y stro' ing of a house. Then an awful terror seiz-Alas! for my prospects, however, he his venerable beard and exclaiming, ed my bones, and making one desperwas gathered to the arms of the Pro- "Mashallah! but Afzul ibn Hassan ate spring, I scuttled away on four will now lie at my door as a suppli- little legs to a small crevice in the garden wall, where I endeavored to I entered the garden and quickly hide myself in its furtherest recess.

ing. For a while I paced back and into a mouse, so that I might become a

lowed up and down in my footsteps. as the size of two full moons, glaring "Hisht!" I at last cried. "Get in with hungry watchfulness. Imagendeavor to hook you out.

ings as a man that has awakened from | come with her? Alas, Alzura!" I cried. "Surely thy a horrible dream. Then, as the real-Far into the night I caressed and road from my uncle's vengeance, when up?" said I, just to tease her. soothed my transformed Alzura, strok- I encountered out friendly astrologer

ons in my limbs, so that they were I told him briefly of my experience parasites with which my uncle had cried, "and may Allah protect you, I not omitted to provide her plentifully. desire to make all haste to a place se-In deep grief I finally parted from cure from my uncle's malicious influ-

"Stay," said he, "You will not suffer a repetition of the last night's enchantment, for I can see that Afzul ibn Hassan is even now successfully working a spell to counteract your uncle's designs. In any case, I will give This intention I sought the earliest you a talisman to render you proof against his charm," and he handed me a dark, transparent stone, upon which was engraved a verse from the Koran I have given Alzure a similar charm to protect her also," he concluded.

I thanked him profusely, and, feeling assured by his assertion that the stone would protect us both from further misfortune, awaited without fear the events of the night to come. Now it happened that Afzul ibn Hassan, working upon the same problem, which my uncle had solved, himself that day discovered the secret of night metamorphosis and resolved to change my uncle into a rat at the same time that cians found themselves suddenly con- sure you would not come while she was clothes were placed where Jim could find them fronting each other in the shapes of away. But I can show you the farm." two vermin with all their hatred | I offered to dispose of his knapsack, but

took place simultaneously, and, their from his shoulders, lay it on the table you. It was necessary for his safety to intimidate brute instincts gaining the mastery and lean one elbow on it, while he ate you into silence. Come and see us here, where over their cunning and discretion, they | the luncheon I had prepared for him. | we are safe and happy, and we will promise you at once set upon each other with a Had Dartmoor the effect of making peofury born of years of jealousy and re-

crimination. Ah, Allah! how those beasts foguht! With their sharp teeth they tore he flesh from each other's bones, they squealed in their rage and fixed their jaws in each other's throats, until, in a short space, the lives of both were exterminated.

Why dilate further? The story is finished, Alzura, when her grief for her father's death had subsided and the required period of mourning undergone, yielded to my entreaties, to permit me to fill his place as her protector. I established myself in a business in the principal bazaar of Shirazan, where we together enjoyed many years of great happiness and prosperity, be-

WHY HE DIDN'T GO.

At a Scottish fair a farmer was try-

cross-roads at four o'clock.

BOERS GOOD FISHERMEN.

Given a pipe and a goodly supply of clamation escaped me. The man turned

YOU'D DO THE SAME. At 8 p.m., the gaslight's gleam Reveals young Cholly Smart, He's calling on his lady fair-

They sit this far apart. At 10 o'clock the question's popped, Their souls are filled with bliss, If we could peep we'd see that they Aresittingcloselikethis.

A Lady Entertained Him Unawares, but Did Not Care to Visit Him and His Wife Afterward.

BY B. F. CRESSWELL.

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I thought my cousin, Annie Rigwell, would have made me more welcome when I may make." I came to stay with her at her Dartmoor farm. I had been ill; change of air was recommended, so I offered myself to my cousin, in that fashionable manner, as a "paying guest," and I must admit that after a long, hilly drive to Brackworthy I thought she surely would be glad of society in so isolated a spot.

But her welcome was not of the hearty kind I expected from a west country woman. She greeted me without enthusiasm. I observed that we were almost strangers to one another, and she made no professions of wishing we might be better acquainted.

"You'll find us very dull and lonely and tell her Mr. Hartland is here." bere, Florrie," she said. "You won't want

to stay long."

asked me if I were not getting tired of the place, in a style suggesting that she would not be sorry if I left. One morning she observed to me: "I am expecting I said. "Do you know him by sight a visitor here, Florrie. He may come any | Annie?" day, I'm not sure of a particular time. It "Of course I do." place. I intend going to America."

of her plans, and I observed with what greeted the man with three words. difficulty she now spoke of them.

she said she must drive into the town for and I thought he looked significantly at business and would be absent all day. I me as he spoke-"your cousin has taken

being. I turned to flee by the first What's his name, in case he should turn shaken. Whether she was gone a long

"His name? Hartland," she answered, came back alone. in a suppressed tone.

I watched her drive away, our maid beside her. Eliza could not understand I was staying at home for my own pleas- and I burst into tears. ure and tried to cater for my amusement

before she left. us, Miss Florrie."

two days old, into my hand, and then | could sleep no more.

ran after Annie, who was calling her. the convict's escape with no particular I rose and looked out of my window. It interest. It was written in a sensational was neither dark nor dawn, and on the style, giving a graphic description of road below stood a cart and horse. the man, Jim Phipps, who was under | Two people left the farm. I watched under such doubtful circumstances that They were Annie and Mr. Hartland.

it seemed almost like murder. Later in the morning some one opened the gate. I saw a tall, good looking man, clean shaved, with something in his appearance that suggested an actor-I knew not why-carrying a knapsack over his

"Miss Rigwell at home?" he asked.

when I opened the door.

"No. My cousin has gone to Ashburton and won't be home till late." Then sud-

he would not part with it. All my impor-Apparently a mutual recognition tunities only served to make him slip it ple taciturn? thought I.

ently said. "Don't let me hinder you. I'll take a walk round the farm and have | tion. a look at the place."

Evidently he did not care for my society, I reflected. He was very willing to leave me. Some men would have invited me for a stroll, or have staid to entertain me since he knew I was alone. Mr. Hartland's behavior did not prepossess me in his favor.

I finished some letters, made some domestic preparations and then thought of

looking for my guest.

Hartland about a quarter of a mile from where the soil near the stream was soft | and deep. What an extraordinary performance!

I crept up to him, step by step, my footfalls making no sound on the soft turf. He neither heard nor saw my ap-

The inseparable knapsack was beside him open, and it did not take long to discover that Mr. Hartland was burying something. It was a convict's dress! The stranger was no man of business, but an escaped criminal!

In an instant I remembered the newspaper description. Jim Phipps was tall, of gentlemanly appearance and a man The Boer is no mean fisherman, of good education. An involuntary ex-

"What brought you here?" he fiercely cried, seizing me by the wrist,

"I came to see-to see"- I gasped. "What I was doing. Fatal curiosity, of course. The curse of mother Eve is on all you women."

Was it fatal curiosity? Would he murder me and bury me with the clothes? I trembled like a leaf and dared say noth-

"Will you hold Four tongue?" he demanded

say, no word to any one." "You can help me," he grimly remarked. "Is there no quicklime on the farm?"

"I think so," I replied.

"Then fetch me some as soon as you

can." I returned to the farm yard, found what was required and brought it in a basket. He shook it over the clothes that

he had placed in the pit. "You understand that you have helped me?" he said. "If those clothes are found, you are responsible, and you will have to answer any inquirles the police

Shouldering the spade, he trudged into the house.

I shall never forget the strange horror of that afternoon. I sat pretending to work; my visitor dozed over a magazine in the back of the parlor. We made no attempt to converse. Now and then he looked up, usually when the clock struck. I think he found the time as long as I did. His danger was not yet passed; he must have chafed at the sunshine of the long summer day. Wheels sounded on the road at last.

"My cousin is coming back," said I. "Well, you know who I am," replied my companion, without moving. "Go

I went into the passage and told Annie. She shook, swared, caught the wall During the days that followed she often | with her hand. I could not comprehend

> her agitation. "Here, and I away!" she cried. "I guessed rightly that he might come."

-it is a gentleman who is coming to see Then she would know this man was the farm. You know I am selling the not Hartland. I wondered why he had

had the audacity to stay. It was the first time I had heard of any | But Annie had entered the parlor and "You are come," she said.

One morning, a few days afterward, "I have come," he answered, adding-

I don't know what Annie replied. She "Oh, I've plenty to amuse myself with," soon left the room, and Mr. Hartland or short time I could not say, but Annie

> "Where's Mr. Hartland?" I said. "He left," she carelessly replied.

The overstrain was too much for me "It has been so lonely," I sobbed in ex-

cuse, "and I don't like strangers." "One o' they convicts from Prince's | Annie was very kind-kinder than I Town's escaped," she said to me, when had yet known her-and when I went to Annie was out of the way. "'Tis all bed she came and brought me mulled here in the paper. I'll leave it for you to cider. I drank the stuff, but I did not read, since you're not able to come with like it. It tasted funny, and, though I slept, it was with feverish dreams, and She thrust a dirty local paper, some presently I awoke hot and restless and

A farmhouse stirs early, but the sounds After they left I read the account of that morning seemed earlier than usual.

sentence of 25 years for manslaughter | them get into the cart and drive away.

More than 18 months after I had left Brackworthy I heard from my cousin Annie, then in America:

Dear Florrie-I and my husband feel that we owe you some explanation for an affair you cannot have forgotten. The man whose convict clothes you helped to bury was my husband. Never mind about his so called crime. In my eyes he is innocent, for never was a man killed Jim's sentence, I took Brackworthy farm on purpose, if possible, to help him. Our marriage beon the moor, a hiding place provided at Brackworthy whenever he should be able to get there. The rest you know. Pardon my inhospitality. had no thoughts while you were with me save for Jim. Pray forgive him also the fright he caused

I was glad to learn the truth of that "I'm sure you must be busy," he pres- trying experience, but I have not cared to avail myself of Cousin Annie's invita-

Sleeping His Life Away.

"There goes the happiest man in the borough," said a Norristown barber, pointing out of the window to a little, elderly man, dressed gayly, who walked with his eyes fixed complacently on his new but old fashioned yellow shoes.

"That fellow," continued the barber, "became rich suddenly, after a life of hard, uninterrupted work. Now that he Out of the back door I glanced over | has money, he knows of nothing better the moor, where no tree or obstruction | to do than sleep. He sleeps all the time, hindered the view for miles. I saw Mr. and it is ruining his health. In the morning he comes down to breakfast at his the house, where a brawling stream | boarding house, messes with the food a dashed down the hill. But what was he little, and then, as soon as his bed is doing? Evidently he had found a spade, | made, skates up stairs for a snooze. At for he seemed to be digging a big pit | dinner he tries hard to eat, but his appetite is bad. He plays with his food and blows to the other boarders about the fine naps he takes while they are working hard, and if they pretend to be envious he shows that he is delighted. Of course he sleeps all the afternoon, but at night, although he denies this, it is well known that he rests poorly.

"I suppose it is better if you are rich to ruin your health by sleeping too much rather than by drinking or dissipating in the other ways, but just to sleep seems to me a foolish thing to do, because when you sleep all the time you might as well be dead.

Wronged.

"You bust excuse be this evedig, Biss Billigad," said Mr. Addlethwaite, "if by speech is a little thick, for I have a terrible cold id by head.

"I see you have," Miss Milligan replied, "and that reminds me that you ought by all means to call on Sue Dalling. ton while you are in your present condi

tion." "Why so, Biss Billigad?"

"She told me the other day that she was sure you had nothing in your head. Now you can prove that she made a mistake." -Cleveland Leader.