

THE PAINTER OF PARMA; OR, THE MAGIC OF A MASTERPIECE.

es!" broke in Madelon, who had... "Save my papers and tell the... "I was faithful to the last!"

fano. Four years passed after the... "Of course, signor, I can not picture... "There can be no question that the... "And he had other papers—affidavits—solemnly sworn to under oath, all... "Why surprised? Stefano said he... "Did not the agents from your elder... "If they came to Valladolid they... "However, he had arrived at Madri... "When Antonio had heard the story... "No, I think you have done very... "The signor will understand," said... "To be sure not!" the old woman... "How should he have, poor, dear boy... "It is the French who are said to eat... "Steffano; yes!"

of the Farnese was as familiar to her... "Hush! He is here! Remember, not... "Scarcely had the words been spoken... "Well! upon my word!" he burst... "You have made a royal visit to the... "Signor!" she replied, looking him... "To a certain extent, yes," he said... "Reputation!" replied the princess... "Madelon, does she treat the hand... "Oh! You are going over to the... "Oh! You are going over to the... "Something that flashed in the face... "Good Madelon, did you see the picture... "Yes; I did!"

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THE ELEPHANT STOPPED SHORT. A Fainting Woman's Part in a Narrow Escape from one of These Beasts. "Speaking of elephants," said a man who had been listening to a story concerning the intelligence of the huge earth-shaking beast, "I have, for personal reasons, a very high opinion of such animals, because when I was in India two years ago it was my misfortune to be in the power of one of these behemoths—and it very considerably let me go."

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"Speaking of elephants," said a man who had been listening to a story concerning the intelligence of the huge earth-shaking beast, "I have, for personal reasons, a very high opinion of such animals, because when I was in India two years ago it was my misfortune to be in the power of one of these behemoths—and it very considerably let me go."

"How was that?" inquired a friend. "Well," continued the speaker, "it was at Allahabad, in the Northwest Provinces, that one evening I happened to be out driving with a lady. On our way home, it occurred to us to call upon Col. Farley, and when we reached the maidan, or wide plain, which on the further side his bungalow overlooked, we decided to let our carriage be led around and to cross the maidan to the house on foot. There were sundry ditches and numerous rut holes in the plain which made driving in the dark dangerous, so we got out and began our walk."

"Now, in the centre of the maidan there stood a barn in which the elephants belonging to the department of which Col. Farley was chief stored their forage, and on that evening one of these animals, having been either idle or misbehaving, was still at that late hour busy unloading itself, and a very bad temper, indeed, it seemed to be in."

"We had gone about a third of our way when I heard its shrill cry, protesting at working overtime, and its trumpeting significant of revolt. My companion also heard the furious beast but she only laughed and said: "What a queer noise that elephant is making."

"Yes, very strange," I replied, but I didn't laugh, for again I heard the voice of the angry beast, and so it appeared to me, coming nearer and nearer. Still I walked on listening with both my ears, when suddenly I caught that strange and dreadful rustling sound, which an elephant, when it is moving fast, always makes. It is the feet brushing on the surface of the ground. Otherwise the advance of the colossal brute is noiseless."

"Can you run?" I now asked my companion. "Yes, of course I can," she said. "Look," I continued, "do you see that white object glimmering over there? It is a culvert, a little bridge. When I tell you to go you must run there as fast as you can and creep under the woodwork as far as you can possibly get." While I was speaking I was staring into the gloom trying to catch sight of the approaching beast. But against the deep shadows of the barn and trees nothing could be seen. Suddenly I heard the clink of a chain—quite close—on my right hand.

"Run," I said, and the next instant there towered out of the gloom, seeming positively to overshadow me, the elephant. For a moment, I saw the gleam of its sawn tusks, heard the great brute breathe, and then—why, or wherefore, is a mystery I could never solve—it swung swiftly round and vanished as spectrally as it had appeared."

"And the lady?" asked a listener solicitously. "Why, she had only got about fifty feet away from where I was standing when she dropped to the earth in a dead faint. When she came to her senses I and Col. Farley helped her into my carriage, and, after congratulating each other on our escape, we continued our way home. The next morning we heard that one of the Colonel's elephants had killed its keeper the night before, just after dark."

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CHAPTER VII.

The distance from the studio of our painter to the royal palace was but short, and through one of the broadest and pleasantest thoroughfares at that, and when the weather was pleasant and the sun not too warm the princess preferred to walk, as she and her aged companion had now started to. They had taken but a few steps, and Isabel was thinking how she should introduce the subject she wished to speak upon, when she saw the Marquis Stefano on the opposite side of the way, where he appeared to have been standing, and now just starting to cross over and join them. She saw, and caught the duenna's wrist with a quick, strong grip, her whole frame quivering with excitement. "Madelon! Do you see who is coming?" "Steffano; yes!" "Do you love me?" "Merely! What a—"

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