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he straightened.

In response to a request from Mc-Taggart, the Jactor, Pierrot, the trapper, left his cabin and went to the post to help in the general store for a few days. But McTaggart did not go on a business trip as he had said, but to Pierrot's babin, where he found Nepeese, the trapper's daughter, alone. Baree, the wolf-dog, jumped

up to attack the factor, but with a shot from McTaggart's automatic the dog fell in a heap. Then the factor. she struggled desperately.

CHAPTER XX .- (Cont'd.)

smothered in her hair. It covered her cat, and the panther.

facing her. His face was scratched himself to throw off the weight of the there for an instant. This was where and bleeding. He was no longer a halfbreed's body. But Pierrot was McTaggart's bullet had gone. A man but a devil. Nepcese was broken, fastened there, as Sekcosew the er- quarter of an inch deeper and it would panting-a low sobbing came with her mine had fastened itself at the jugular have meant death. As it was, it had breath. She bent down and picked up of the partridge, and Bush McTag- been like the blow of a heavy club, a piece of firewood. McTaggart could gart's jaws slowly-swung open, and paralyzing his senses and sending him She clutched the stick as he ap- purple.

had lost all thought of fear or cau- Pierrot's voice and the sound of bat- the tracks of the man-and the girl. tion. He sprang upon her like an ani- tle roused Nepeese quickly to con- As she ran, Nepeese's mind became again fate played against the girl. In self from the floor. She had fallen turned into the narrow trail over caught up the first stick her hand had head, her eyes rested for a moment on once before, but just before reaching touched-a light one. With her last the dog before they went to the fight- the chasm, she swung sharply to the him loose his hold.

from between her gasping lips.

her in his arms. In the open door stood Pierrot.

CHAPTER XXI.

followed an eternity of time rolled Bush McTaggart's hand was groping her lips the swan-song of her-mother's slowly through the little cabin on the blindly for his pistol: He found it. people. Gray Loon-that eternity which lies Unseen by Pierrot, he dragged it from Our Fathers-come! somewhere between life and death and its holster. It was one of the black Come from out of the valley. which is sometimes meted out to a devils of chance that favored him Guide us-for to-day we die,

low's eyes were opening. And a con- Pierrot's body. of Barec, where he lay near the wall, had happened. Her heart died in her er and faster, was Barce. And then, in that silence, a great gasping sob came from Nepecse.

Then Pierrot stirred to life. Like McTaggart, he had left his cont and voice was not like Pierrot's. It was a strange voice.

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he had killed him. , Was he not the

Factor of Lac Bain? Would not the

helpless before, she was ten times

more helpless now. She would never

He forgot the presence of death as

he looked at her, bowed over her fa-

ther so that her hair covered him like a silken shroud. He replaced the pistol in its holstor and drew a deep breath into his lungs. He was still

a little unsteady on his feet, but his

face was again, the face of a devil.

He took a stop, and it was then there came a sound to rouse the girl. In

the shadow of the farther wall Baree

had struggled to his haunches, and

now he growled.

teli of what happened in the cabin.

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Slow y Nepeese lifted her head. power which she could not resist drew her eyes up until she was looking into the face of Bush McTaggart. She ha almost lost consciousness of his presence; her senses were cold and deadened-it was as if her own heart had stopped beating along with Pier-

What she saw in the Factor's face dragged her out of the numbness of her grief back to the abyss of her own peril. He was standing over her. In his face there was no pity, nothing of horror at what he had done-only an insane exultation as he lookednot at Pierrot's dead body, but at her. He put out a hand, and it rested on her head. She fe't his thick fingers crumpling her hair, and his eyes blazed like embers of fire behind watery films. She struggled to rise, but with! his hands at her hair he held her

"Great God!" she breathed. She uttered no other words, no plea for mercy, no other sound but a dry, hopeless sob. In that moment neither of them heard or saw Barce. Twice in crossing the cabin his hindquarters had sagged to the floor. Now he was close to McTagagrt. He wanted to give a single lunge to the manbrute's back and snap his thick neck 'The great God has sent me back as he would have broken a cariboutime. m'sieu," he said. "I, too, bone. But he had no strength. He travelled by way of the cast, and saw was still partially paralyzed from his your trail where it turned this way." fore-shoulder back. But his jaws were

voice! A chill ran through McTag- McTaggart's leg. gart now, and slowly he let go of Ne- With a yell of pain the Factor repeese. She fell to the floor; Slowly leased his hold on the Willow, and she staggered to her feet. For a pre- was no hope. She was gone—and she The eyes of madman met the eyes clous half-minute she was free, and of madman now. Between them was as the Factor kicked and struck to death. Both saw it. Both thought loose Baree's hold, she ran to the cabin gathered Nepeese in his arms while certain. Mc suggart's hand did not with new strength; and without g) to the pistol in his holster, and thought of where hope might lie she utes, had accomplished it all.

Pierrot did not touch the knife in his ran through the snow into the forest. Lalt. When they came together, it McTaggart appeared at the door She could no longer see. She was fury and strength of the wolf, the ed his fangs, but he felt no pain as he ran in pusuit of the girl. She could face and breast and body, suffocating! McTaggart was the bigger and not go far. An exultant cry, inhuman her, entanging her hand and arms- heavier man, a giant in strength; yet as the cry of a beast, came in a great and still she fought. In the struggle in the face of Pierrot's fury he lurch- breath from his gaping mouth as he McTaggart stumbled over the body of ed back over the table and went down saw that she was staggering weakly Baree, and they went down. Nepecse with a crash. Many times in his life as she fled .- He was halfway to the was up fully five seconds ahead of the he had fought, but he had never felt edge of the forest when Baree drag-But again it was her hair. She Pierrot's hands. They almost crush, jaws were bleeding where McTaggart even the grave he would dig for Pier- dress, No. 1070, is cut in sizes 8, 10, what to do with my hands. I kept man. She could have reached the a grip at his throat like the grip of ged himself over the threshold. His paused to fling back the thick mass ed the life from him at once. His had kicked him again and again be rot. of it so that she could see, and Mc- neck snapped-a little more, and it fore his fangs gave way. Halfway Taggart was at the door ahead of her. would have broken. He struck out between his ears was a seared spot He did not lock it again, but stood blindly from his back, and twisted as if a red-hot poker had been laid see that her strength was almost gone. his face began to-turn from red to limp and unconscious against the wall. He could move on his feet now withproached her again. But McTaggart | Cold air rushing through the door, out falling, and slowly he followed in

mal. The stick of firewood fell. And sciousness and the power to raise her- all at once clear and reasoning. She her terror and hopelessness she had near Baree, and as she lifted her which McTaggart had followed her Vainly she was fighting now, not Then she dragged herself to her it another way that day. Two hunto strike him or to escape, but to get knees and turned to the men, and dred yards below the deep pool into her breath. She tried to cry out Pierrot, even in the blood-red fury of which she had pushed the Factoragain, but this time no sound came his desire to kill, must have heard the just beyond the shallows out of which sharp cry of joy that came from her he had dragged himself to safety-Again he laughed, and as he laugh, when she saw that it was the Factor was the beginning of Bule Feather's ments she stood swaying unsteadily breath she drew became more and as her brain and her body readjusted more a great and glorious hope. At themselves. Even as she looked down last she reached it and looked down. upon the blackening face from which And as she looked, there whispered During that terrible space which Pierrot's fingers were choking the life, up out of her soul and trembled on

human life in seconds instead of eons. again, for in his excitement he had And the winds whisper of death! In those seconds Pierrot did not not snapped the safety shut after She raised her arms. Against the move from where he stood in the doorway. McTaggart, huddled over with
strength left to pull the trigger. Twice she stood, tall and slim. Fifty yards
the weight in his arms, and staring at his forefinger closed. Twice there
behind her the Factor from Lac Bain
Pierrot. did not move. But the Wilcame deadened explosions close to stopped suddenly in his tracks. "Ah," he mumbled. "Is she not wonderful!" vulsive quiver ran through the body . In Pierrot's face Nepcese saw what And behind McTaggart, coming fast-

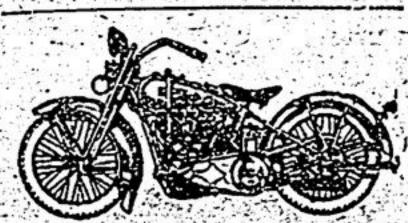
There was not the sound of, a breath breast as she looked upon the swift Again the Willow looked down. She and terrible change wrought by sud- was at the edge, for she had no fear den death. Slowly Pierrot straight- in this hour. Many times, she had ened. His eyes were wide, for a mo- clung to Pierrot's hand as she looked ment-wide and staring. He made over. Down there no one could fall mittens outside. He spoke, and his no sound. She could not see his lips and live. Fifty feet below her the move. And then he fell toward her, water which never froze was smashso that McTaggart's body was free ing itself into froth among the rocks. Blindly and with an agony that gave It was deep and black and terrible, Then he started to swim round the no evidence in cry or word she flung for between the narrow rock walls the herself down-beside him. He was sun did not reach it. The roar of it filled the Willow's ears.

How long Nepeese lay there, how She turned and faced McTaggart Even then he did not guess, but long she waited for Pierrot to move. to open his eyes, to breathe, she would came toward, her again, his arms never know. In that time McTaggart stretched out ahead of him. Fifty rose to his feet and stood leaning yards!- It was not much, and shortagainst the wall, the pistol in his ening swiftly.

hand, his brain clearing itself as he Once more the Willow's lips moved. saw his final triumph! His work did After all, it is the mother soul that not frighten him. Even in that tra- gives us faith to meet eternity-and gic moment as he stood against the it was to the spirit of her mother that wall, his defence-if it ever came to the Willow called in the hour of death. a defence-framed itself in his mind. With the call on her lips she plunged Pierrot had murderously assaulted into the abyss, her wind-whipped hair him-without cause. In self-defence clinging to her in a glistening shroud.

CHAPTER XXII.

Company and the law believe his word A moment later the Factor from before that of this girl? His brain Lac Bain stood at the edge of the leaped with the old exultation. It chasm. His voice had called out in a would never come to that to a behoarse bellow-a wild cry of disbelief trayal of this struggle and death in the cabin-after he had finished with and horror that had formed the Willow's name as she disappeared. He her! -She would not be known for all! looked down, clutching his huge red time as La Bete Noir. Northey would hands and staring in ghastly suspense bury Pierrot, and she would return to Lac Bain with him. If she had been at the boiling water and black rocks



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far below. There was nothing there now-no sign of-her, no last flash of her pale face and streaming hair in the white foam. And she had done that-to save herself from him!

The soul of the man-beast-turned sick within him, so sick that he staggered back, his vision blinded and his legs tottering under him. He had killed Pierrot, and it had been a triumph; all his life he had played the part of the brute with a stoicism and cruelty that had known no shocknothing like this that overwhelmedhim now, numbing him to the marrow of his bones until he stood like one paralyzed. He did not see Baree. He did not hear the dog's whining cries at the edge of the chasm. For a few moments the world turned black for him; and then, dragging himself out of his stupor, he ran frantically No. that was not like Pierrot's like iron, and they closed savagely on along the edge of the gorge, looking the water, striving for a glimpse of her. At last it grew too deep. There had faced that to escape him!

He mumbled that fact over and over again, stupidly, thickly, as that they saw the direction in which door and out into the day. The cold though his brain could grasp nothing its bony finger pointed. Both were air struck her-face; it filled her lungs beyond it. She was dead. And Pier-

He turned back toward the cabir not by the trail over which he had ming. The sketch shows edges of in the dressing room of Al Jolson, the pursued Nepeese, but straight through collars and slashes for godets bound funny man, thrust into the middle of a And Nepcese lought. one twisted was thront- two beasts now, instead just in time to see ner disappear. His particular flakes of snow with material of the same color as stage scene and told to make a speech in his arms until she was facing him, of one, for Pierrot had in him the leg was torn where Baree had fasten. The looked at the the simple cost just the right length. sky, where banks of dark clouds were -which completes this version of the the audience raffled for the original rolling up from the south and east, ensemble. The coat, No. 1061, with copy of a letter from Lloyd George to The sun went out. Soon there would folding or roll-convertible collar, is the American nation. be a storm—a heavy snowstorm. The big flakes falling on his naked hands cut in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. and face set his mind to work. It was Size 10 years requires 31/2 yards of tion from the City Club and by my lucky for him, this storm. It would 36-inch material, or 2% yards of 54- presence on an unknown stage, very cover everything-the fresh trails, inch, with 2% yards for lining. The hot, rather flustered, and not knowing

> Factor long to recover from a moral concussion. By the time he came in sight of the cabin his mind was again at work on physical things on the Rats Did Their Best to Wreck necessities of the situation. The appalling thing, after all, was not that both Pierrot and Nepeese were dead, but that his dream was shattered. It will, in which a copy was admitted to was not that Nepeese was dead, but probate, has just occurred in Belfast. that he had lost her. This was his The original will was kept in a locked vital disappointment. The other thing his crime—it was easy to cover. (To be continued.)

A Pair of Queer Kings.

Maj. Gen. Sir Francis Howard, whose into the drawer and practically desstrength she struck at McTaggart ing men. Baree was alive! His body right. She could see McTaggart. He father was once British minister at troyed the document. From the fragwith it, and as it fell on his head, he was twitching; his eyes were open; was not running fast, but was gain- Munich, are some strange tales of the ments and the recollections of the witstaggered back. But it did not make he made an effort to raise his head as ing steadily, as if enjoying the sight various "queer" kings of Bavaria. nesses a copy of the original was preshe was looking at him. of her helplessness, as he had enjoyed Their queerness ranged all the way pared, which the judge admitted to from mere oddity to outright insanity. | probate.

The mad King Ludwig, he writes, passed most of his time at Hohenschwangau, one of his numerous palaces on the mountains, driving about at a ed, he heard the door open. Was it from Lac Bain who was underneath. Gorge. An appalling thing was shap- furious pace by night only and in the the wind? He turned, still holding With a tremendous effort she stag- ing itself in her mind as she ran to it winter seated in a sleigh lit by elecgered to her feet, and for a few mo- -a thing that with each gasping tricity. His companions were mostly stablemen; no servants waited on him at meals; the table came up through a trap door in the floor and disappeared in the same manner when done with.

After he had been officially deposed because of his madness he was put under the charge of a brain specialist, an old man named Kutten. They were always attended by two genuarmes, but one day the king persuaded Gutten to dispense with them. When he and Gutten were talking amicably on a bench close to the Lake of Staremberg the king, who was a good swimmer, suddenly jumped up and rushed into the water. Gutten, who thought he was trying to commit suicide, ran after him. So far as the incident could be deconstructed in the absence of any witness they appear to have closed with each other. Gutten had not much of a chance; the king seized him by the throat, strangled him and held him under the water until life was extinct. point, where according to rumor the empress of Austria had sent a carriage to wait for him and drive him over the frontier, but the icy water brought on

cramp, and he was drowned. Another King of Bavaria, the son of Prince Ludwig, wore atraciously-fitting clothes. He could constantly be met strolling unattended round the town with one of his daughters. He generally acknowledged a greeting by lifting his hat by the back of the brim instead of by the front. By that means he kept the hat looking quite new in front; -unless you stared at him from behind you could not observe the dilapidated condition of it.



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the Estate.

A recent curious happening about a me coldly that I had utterly destroyed drawer. When the testatrix died and the estate was to be administered, the City Chib! drawer was opened, but there were only tiny fragments of the will, not one large enough to have more than a Among the gossipy reminiscences of word or two on it. Rats had gnawed

Speaking of Courage.

The boy who never is afraid, Who laughs at danger, calm and cool, May sometimes do a useful turn, At other times be just a fool: But when a chap comes sharp upon A scary job that must be done,-Done quick, although his hands are

And both his knees distinctly quaky,-Hops in and does it, all the same, And takes the plunge and plays the

Pin medals on that fellow's coat For First Ald-Minard's Liniment.

What if his heart was in his throat?

Regarded as the finest maker of artificial eyes-in the country, Miss Millauro, a London girl, 23 years of age, can make a perfect specimen in fifteen minutes.



Lucky it Wasn't-His Fee. -Stranger things happen to an Eng-

lish lecturer in the United States than in any other country, reports Sir Philip Gibbs in Adventures in Journalism/ At least, he writes, they happened to me. I shall never forget, for example, that in the middle of a speech to the City Club of New York, I was thrust into a taxicab, hurried off to the 44th Street Theatre, received with a tremendous explosion (a flashlight photo)

Astonished at my rapid transmigrathe time I had finished my three-minutes' speech it was a bit of wet, mushy pulp. When I left the stage, a whitefaced man in the wings who had been making frantic signs to me informed Lloyd George's letter to the American nation that had just been raffled for many hundreds of dollars. After that I went back to finish my speech at the



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