

A HARD BARGAIN.

By WALTER BESANT.

CHAPTER III.

In the morning I found myself lying on a stool in a small white-washed room. My head was throbbing and my throat was parched, and in my brain was ringing. I do not know why, the infernal "click-click" of the negro with derisive iteration. I had not long to meditate; the door opened, and a constable appeared.

"Now, then," he said, roughly, "if you can stand upright by this time, come along."

"I was clear enough to me now what had happened. I was in custody, in a police cell, and I was going before the magistrate."

"I do hope that the appearance of small details like the above, at first incredible, will be taken into account by the judge of my own part. I wish that I could tell the tale without these particulars, but I cannot. I must relate the facts as they were. I must relate the facts as they were. I must relate the facts as they were."

"You here!" said Mr. Grumbelow, looking at me with an air of contempt. He seated himself at the table and unfolded his napkin. "Soup, Boule-de-neige."

"Massa hungry? Dat young debbel there he look berry pale already." "Pretty well, Boule-de-neige, considering. You sit here and let me look at you." I obeyed. "Hold out your hand. It shakes. Let me look at your eyes. They are yellow. Do you know that your appetite before me, to be falling already—already—and it is only the fourth day."

"It is not my fault," I said. "Nonsense! Don't tell me, sir, because I will have none of your insolence. I say that you do not work enough. I order you to walk twelve miles a day—twenty after a heavy night—do you hear?"

"I am not in the contract," I replied doggedly. "You are to use your own power to keep your own muscles in vigor. What means have you?"

"I had the spoon on the table and placed it on the table and said, 'I had no choice.' 'Massa, soup got cold,' said Boule-de-neige. He grabbed it up, every now and then he would say, 'I had no choice.' 'Now, then, you and your contract. This is pretty intricate, this is. Here's a fellow, Boule-de-neige. I pick up out of the gutter, standing whom I keep expensively, because I color with an amount whom I deprive of the temptation to glut myself.'"

"I looked at myself in the glass. Less than a week had wrought this. The ordinary drunkard refreshes himself in the morning with tea. Nothing refreshed me, because I could taste nothing, and because my sufferings sprang from different sources, though there were the same in kind. I had to bear them."

"(To be continued.)" Jay-Eye See and Patron are matched to trot at Washington Park, Chicago, on either Sept. 27th or Oct. 2nd for \$2,000 a side.

The rock on which many a constitution goes to pieces is Dyspepsia. The loss of vigor which this disease involves, the malady which accompany it, or which are aggravated by it, the mental dependency which it entails, are to be reckoned among the worst of evils.

At the cricket match at Manchester on Wednesday, the scores were: Lancashire, first inning, 129; Yorkshire, first inning, 412. M. Hawke contributed 125 runs for Lancashire.

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Suddenly, as the clock struck 7, he stood upon the carpet before me, while Boule-de-neige stood at the table with a soup tureen in his hand. I declare that I did not see at any time any enter the room or go out of it. They appeared to be suddenly in it.

"I do hope that the appearance of small details like the above, at first incredible, will be taken into account by the judge of my own part. I wish that I could tell the tale without these particulars, but I cannot. I must relate the facts as they were. I must relate the facts as they were. I must relate the facts as they were."

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