

By H. RIDER HAGGARD.



Before the statue.

"Look!" he went on, pointing to the statue on which the moonlight played so brightly. "Thou seest that angel woman who rests her hand upon the forehead of the sleeping man; and thou seest how at her touch his soul flames up and shines out through his flesh, even as a lamp at the touch of the fire; so is it with me and thee, Nyleptha. Thou hast awakened my soul and called it forth, and now, Nyleptha, it is not mine, not mine, but thine, and thine only. There is no more for me to say; in thy hands is my life." And he leaned back against the pedestal of the statue, looking very pale, and his eyes shining, but proud and handsome as a god.

Slowly, slowly she raised her head, and fixed her wonderful eyes, all alight with the greatness of her passion, full upon his face, as though to read his very soul. Then at last she spoke, low indeed, but clearly as a silver bell:

"Of a truth, weak woman that I am, I do believe thee. Ill will be the day for thee, and for me also, if it be my fate to learn that I have believed a lie. And now hearken unto me, O man, who hath wandered here from far to steal my heart and make me all thine own. I put my hand upon thine hand thus, and thus I, whose lips have never kissed before, do kiss thee on the brow; and now by my hand, and by that first and holy kiss, ay, by my people's weal and by my throne that like enough I shall lose for thee, by the name of my high house, by the sacred stone and by the eternal majesty of the Sun, I swear that for thee will I live and die. And I swear that I will love thee and thee only till death, ay, and beyond-if, as thou sayest, there be a beyond-and that thy will shall be my will, and thy ways my ways.

"Oh, see, see, my lord! thou knowest not how humble is she who loves; I, who am a queen, I kneel before thee; even at thy feet I do my homage;" and the lovely impassioned creature flung herself down on her knees on the cold marble before him. And after that I really do not know what happened, for I could stand it no longer, and cleared off to | leave to withdraw myself to my own poor refresh myself with a little of old Umslopo-

PLATTSMOUTH WEEKLY HERALD, THURSDAY OCTOBER 20, 1837.

whose private apartments, together with each law it was handed to the queens to sign, those of her maidens, were exactly opposite whereon the trumpets blared out and the queens' guard grounded their spears with a our own, on the farther side of a narrow crash in salute. This reading and signing of court yard which divided one section of the the laws took a long time, but at last it came great palace from another. Accordingly, to an end, the last one reciting that "whereas | having armed himself with a native zither, on which, being an adept with the light certain distinguished strangers, etc.," and proguitar, he had easily learned to strum, he ceeding to confer on the three of us the rank proceeded at midnight-the fashionable hour of "lords," together with certain military for this sort of caterwauling-to make night commands and large estates bestowed by the hideous with his amorous yells. I was fast queens. When it was read the trumpets blared and the spears clashed down as usual; asleep when they began, but they soon woke me up-for Good possesses a tremendous but I saw some of the lords turn and whisper voice and has no notiou of time-and I ran to each other, while Nasta ground his teeth. They did not like the favor that was shown to my window place to see what was the matter. And there, standing in the full to us, which, under all the circumstances, moonlight in the court yard, I perceived Then there came a panse, and Nasta stepped Good, adorned with an enormous ostrich feather headdress and a flowing silken cloak, forward, and bowing humbly, though with which it is the right thing to wear upon these no humility in his eye, craved a boon at the

occasions, and shouting out the abomina-Nyleptha turned a little pale, but bowed ble song which he and the old gentleman graciously, and prayed the "well beloved bad evolved, to a jerl:y, jingling accompaniment. From the direction of the quarters of lord" to speak on, whereon in a few straightthe maids of honor came a succession of faint forward, soldier like words he asked her hand sniggerings; but the apartments of Sorais herself-whom I devoutly pitied if she hap-Then, before she could find words to anpened to be there-were silent as the grave. swer, the High Priest Agon took up the tale, There was absolutely no end to that awful and in a speech of real eloquence and power song, with its eternal "I will kiss thee!" and pointed out the many advantages of the proat last neither I nor Sir Henry, whom I had posed alliance-how it would consolidate the summoned to enjoy the sight, could stand it kingdom; for Nasta's dominions, of which he was virtually king, were to Zu-Vendis much any longer; so, remembering the dear old story, I put my head to the window opening what Scotland used to be to England; how it and shouted, "For Heaven's sake, Good, don't would gratify the wild mountaineers and be go on talking about it, but kiss her and let's popular among the soldiery, for Nasta was a all go to sleep!" That chocked him off, and famous general; how it would set her dynasty we had no more serenading.

firmly on the throne, and would gain the The whole thing formed a laughable inblessing and approval of the "Sun," i. e., of cident in a tragic business. the office of high priest, and so on. Many of

Well, the more Sir Henry held off the more his arguments were undoubtedly valid; and Sorais came on, as is not uncommon in such there was, looking at it from a political point cases, till at last things got very queer inof view, everything to be said for the mardeed. Evidently she was, by some strange riage. But, unfortunately, it is difficult to perversity of mind, quite blinded to the true play the game of politics with the persons of state of the case; and I, for one, greatly dreaded the moment of her awakening. young and lovely queens as though they were ivory effigies of themselves on a chess board. Sorais was a dangerous woman to be mixed Nyleptha's face, while Agon spouted away, up with, either with or without one's own was a perfect study; she smiled, indeed, but consent. At last the evil moment came, as I beneath the smile it set like a stone, and her saw it must come. One fine day, Good having gone out hawking, Sir Henry and I were At last he stopped, and she prepared herself sitting quietly talking over the situation, esto answer. Before she did so, however, Sornis pecially with reference to Sorais, when a leaned toward her and said, in a voice sufflcourt messenger arrived with a written note, ciently loud for me to eatch what she said, which we with some difficulty deciphered. "Bethink thee well, my sister, ere thou dost and which was to the effect that "the Queen speak, for methinks that our thrones may Sorais commanded the attendance of the

Lord Incubu in her private apartments, Nyleptha made no answer, and with a whither he would be conducted by the shrug and a smile, Sorais leaned back again bearer." "Of a truth a great honor has been done to

"On my word!" groaned Sir Henry, me," she said, "that my poor hand should not "Can't you go instead, old fellow?" only have been asked in marriage, but that

"Not if I know it," I said with vigor. "I had rather face a wounded elephant with a shot gun. Wash up your own dirty dishes, my boy. If you will be so fascinating you thinks that in another minute he would have wed us fast cre the bride had said her say. must take the consequences. Ain't you just Nasta, I thank thee, and I will bethink me of in for it now, that's all?"

"You remind me of when I was going to thy words, but now as yet I have no mind for he flogged at school and the other boys came marriage; that is a cup of which none know to console me," he said, gloomily. "What the taste until they begin to drink it. Again right has this confounded queen to command I thank thee, Nasta," and she made as though my attendance, I should like to know? I won't go."

The great lord's face turned almost as "But you must; you are one of her officers black as his beard with fury, for he knew that the words amounted to a final refusal of and bound to obey her, and she knows it. And after all it will soon be over."

"That's just what they used to say," he "Thanks be to the queen for her gracious words," he said, restraining himself with difsaid again. "I only hope she won't put a knife into me. I believe that she is quite ficulty and looking anything but grateful, touch is poison, and whom none can hold." capable of it." And off he started very "my heart shall surely treasure them. And faintheartedly, and no wonder. now I crave another boon, namely, the royal

I sat and waited, and at the end of about forty-five minutes he returned, looking a good cities in the north until such time as the deal worse than when he went.

cup of wine, there's a good fellow, and tell what is to be done.' I shook my head, for the affair was indeed

serious. As one of the poets says, Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned,

more especially if the woman is a queen and a Sorais, and indeed I feared the very worst, including imminent danger to ourselves. "Nyleptha must be told of all this at once," I said, "and perhaps I had better tell her;

she might receive your account with suspicion. Who is captain of her guard tonight?" "Good " "Very well, then, there will be no chance of her being got at. Don't look surprised.

that. I suppose one must tell Good of what about to open at Pittsburg. The subject has happened. "Oh, I don't know," said Sir Henry. "It would hurt his feelings, poor fellow! You | tion, to replace the bonds which the Gov- R. B. Windham,

see, he takes a lively personal interest in Sorais," "That's true; and after all perhaps there is no need to tell him. He will find out the less vital to the country's interests is the truth soon enough. Now, you mark my words: Sorais will throw in her lot with Nasta, who is sulking up in the north there, and there will be such a war as has not been known in Zu-Vendis for centuries. Look there!" and I pointed to two court messenger who were speeding away from the door of Sorais' private apartments. "Now follow me," and 1 ran up a stairway into an outlook tower that rose from the roof of our quarters, taking the spy glass with me, and looked out over the palace wall. The first thing we saw was one of the messengers speeding towards the temple, bearing, without doubt, the queen's word to the High Priest Agon, but for the other I searched in vain. Presently, however, I spied a horseman rushing furiously through the northern gate of the city, and in him I recognized the other messenger. "Ahf" I said, "Sorais is a woman of spirit, She is acting at once, and will strike quick and hard. You have insulted her, my boy, and blood will flow in rivers before the stain is washed away, and yours with it if she can get hold of you. Well, I'm off to Nyleptha. Just stop where you are, old fellow, and try to get your nerves straight again. You'll need them all, I can tell you, unless I have observed human nature in the rough for fifty years for nothing." And off I went accord-

I gained audience of the queen without trouble. She was expecting Curtis, and was not best pleased to see my mahogany colored face instead.

"Is there aught wrong with my lord, Mais he sick f

I said that he was well enough, and then, without further ado, I plunged into my story and told it from beginning to end. Oh, what a rage she flew into! It was a sight to see her, she looked so lovely.

"How darest thou come to me with such a tale!" she cried. "It is a lie to say that my lord was making love to Sorais, my sister. "Pardon me, O queen," I answered; "I said that Sorais was making love to your lord." "Spin me no spiders' webs of words. Is not the thing the same thing? The one givwhat matters it which is the most guilty? Sorais-oh, I hate her !- Sorais is a queen and my sister. She had not stooped so low had he not shown the way. Oh, truly hath the poet said that man is like a snake, whom to

"The remark, O queen, is excellent, but methinks thou hast misread the poet. Nyleptha," I went on, "thou knowest well that thy words are empty foolishness-that this is no ime for folly." "How darest thou?" she broke in, stamping her foot. "Has my false lord sent thee to me to insult me also? Who art thou, stranger, thou shouldst speak to me, the queen, after this sort? How darest thou?" "Yea, I dare, Listen. The moments which thou dost waste in idle anger may well cost thee thy crown and all of us our lives. Already Sorais' horsemen go forth and call to arms. In three days' time Nasta ,will rouse himself in his fastnesses like a lion in the evening, and his growling will be heard throughout the north. 'The Lady of the Night'" (Sorais) "hath a sweet voice, and she will not sing in vain. Her banner will be borne from range to range and valley to valley, and warriors will spring up in its track like dust beneath a whirlwind; half the army will echo her war cry; and in every town and hamlet of this wide land the priest will call out against the foreigner, and will preach her cause as hely. I have spoken, O queen."

their tribesmen and retainers. Sealed orders were dispatched to the rulers of far off cities, and some twenty messengers were sent off before nightfall with instructions to ride early and late till they reached the distant chiefs to whom their letters were addressed; also many spies were set to work, All the afternoon and evening we labored, assisted by some confidential scribes, Nyleptha showing an energy and resource of mind that astonished me, and it was 8 o'clock be-

It can hardly be truthfully claimed that the American Bankers' Association will have no importanti question to ad-I don't think that her sister would stick at dress itself at "its convention, which is and promptly remained for. of providing a suitable basis for circulaernment is compelled to redeem, is even more pressing than ever before. Scarcely subject of the relations between the banks and the speculators. Within the present year banking institutions, upon the most inadequate security, have furnished funds by which the prices of food were advanced on exchanges and boards of trade, and injury inflicted on 60,000,000 people, in order that a few audacious make inordinate profits. There are other questions which can appropriately be brought before the convention. Howgiven the coasideration which their importance demands, the bankers will be kept remonably busy during their entire session .- Globe Democrat.

What am I to Do?

The symptoms of biliousness are unhappily but too well known. They differ in different individuals to some extent. A bilious man is seldom a breakfast eater. Too frequently, alas, he has an excellent appetite for liquids but none JOHN FITZGERALD, for solids of a morning. His tongue will hardly bear inspection at any time; cumazahn, that he waits not upon me? Say, if it is not white and furred, it is rough at all events.

The digestive system is wholy out of order and diarreha or constipation may be a symptom or the two may alternate. There are often hemorrhoids or even loss of blood. There may be giddiness and often headache and acidity or flatulence and tenderness in the stomach. To correct all this if not effect a cure try eth, the other taketb; but the gift passes, and Green's August Flower, it cost but a triffe and thousands attest its officacy.

if you are wise you will do so at once, Ac H. HALLETT & O., Portland, Maine.



gaas' society, leaving them to settle it their own way, and a very long time they were hap," he added, with a sneer, "the queen will own way, and a very long time they were about it.

Some three-quarters of an hour afterward the "pair of doves" came strolling toward us, Curtis looking slightly silly, and Nyleptha re-marking calmly that the moonlight made very pretty effects on the marble. Then, for she was in a most gracious mood, she took my hand and said that I was "her lord's" dear friend, and therefore most dear to her-not a word for my own sake, you see. Next she lifted Umslopogaas' ax and examined it curiously, saying significantly as she did so that he might soon have cause to use it in defense of her.

After that she nodded prettily to us all, and casting one tender glance at her lover, glided off into the darkness like a beautiful vision. When we got back to our quarters, which

we did without accident, Curtis asked me, jocularly, what I was thinking about. "I am wondering," I answered, "on what

principle it is arranged that some people should find beautiful queens to fall in love with them, while others find nobody at all, or worse than nobody, and I am also wondering how many brave men's lives this night's work will cost." It was rather nasty of me, perhaps, but somehow all the feelings do not evaporate with age, and I could not help being a little jealous of my old friend's luck.

Vanity, my sons, vanity of vanities! On the following morning Good was in-formed of the happy occurrence, and positively rippled with smiles that, originating somewhere about the mouth, slowly traveled up his face like the rings in a duck pond, till they flowed over the brim of his eyeglass and went where sweet smiles go. The fact of the matter, however, was that not only was Good rejoiced about the thing on its own merits, but also for personal reasons. He adored Sorais quite as carnestly as Sir Henry adored Nyleptha, and his adoration had not altogether prospered. Indeed, it had seemed to him and to me also that the dark Cleopatra like queen favored Curtis in her own curious, inscrutable way much more than Good. Therefore it was a relief to him to learn that his unconscious rival was permanently and satisfactorily attached in another direction. His face fell a little, however, when he was told that the whole thing was to be kept as secret as the dead, above all from Sorais for the present, inasmuch as the political convulsion which would follow such an announcement at the moment would be altogether too great to face, and would very possibly, if prematurely made, shake Nyleptha from her throne.

and reflecting that if the walls could speak they would have strange tales to tell.

upon her golden throne, draped in her bla-zoned "kaf" or robe of state, sat the fair Nyleptha; and when Sir Henry came in a little of her guard, and humbly bent himself before her, she merely acknowledged his salute with a careless nod and turned her head and would not listen to me; so I determined abroad, with the result that the great hall were our friends the priests in force, headed by Agon, who regarded us with a vindictive how to scan a line-of a most interminable meditatively and looking unusually unpleas-ant. It was a splendid and impressive sight, Availing himself of this custom, Go especially when the officer having read out thought him that he would serenade Sorais,

be pleased to visit mo there, and to bring with her these stranger lords," and he scowled darkly toward us. "It is but a poor country and a rough, but we are a hardy race of mountaineers, and there shall be

Agon here should be so swift to pronounce

the blessing of the Sun upon my union. Me-

was not perhaps unnatural.

hands of the Queen Nyleptha.

eyes began to flash ominously.

hang upon thy words."

and listened.

she would rise.

his suit.

in marriage

gathered 30,000 swordsmen to shout a welcome to her." This speech, which was almost a declaration of rebellion, was received in complete silence, but Nyleptha flushed up and an-

swered it with spirit. "Oh, surely, Nasta, I will come, and the strange lords in my train, and for every man of thy mountaineers who calls thee prince will I bring two from the lowlands who call me queen, and we will see which is the stanchest

breed. Till then farewell." The trumpets blaced out, the queens rose, and the great assembly broke up in murmuring confusion, and for myself I went home with a heavy heart, foreseeing civil war.

After this there was quiet for a few weeks. Curtis and the queen did not often meet, and exercised the utmost caution not to allow the true relation in which they stood to each other to leak out; but, do what they would, rumors as hard to trace as a buzzing fly in a dark room, and yet quite as audible, began to hum round and round, and at last to settle on her throne.

CHAPTER XVIL THE STORM BREAKS.

And now it was that the trouble which at first had been but a cloud as large as a man's hand began to loom very black and big upon our horizon, namely, Sorais' preference for Sir Henry. I saw the storm drawing nearer and nearer; and so, poor fellow, did he. The affection of so lovely and highly placed a self. woman was not a thing that could in a general way be considered a calamity by any man; but, situated as Curtis was, it was a grievous burden to bear.

To begin with, Nyleptha, though altogether charming, was, it must be admitted, of a rather jealous disposition, and was somewhat apt to visit on her lover's head her indignation at the marks of what Alphonse would have called the "distinguished consideration" with which her royal sister favored him. Then the enforced secrecy of his relations to Nyleptha prevented Curtis from taking some opportunity of putting a stop, or trying to put a stop, to this false condition of affairs, by telling Sorais, in a casual but confidential way, that he was going to marry her sister. A third sting in Sir Henry's honey was that That morning we again attended in the throne hall, and I could not help smiling to myself when I compared the visit to our last, attractive, Lady of the Night. Indeed, poor Bougwan was wasting himself to a shadow of his fat and jolly self about her, his face What actresses women are! There, high getting so thin that his eyeglass would scarcely stick in it; while she, with a sort of carcless coquetry, just gave him encouragement enough to keep him going, thinking, no late, dressed in the full uniform of an officer doubt, that he might be useful as a stalking horse. I tried to give him a hint, in as delicate a way as I could, but he flew into a huff coldly aside. It was a very large court, for to let ill alone, for fear of making it worse. not only did the ceremony of the signing of the laws attract many outside of those whose his distress, and went in for all sorts of abduty it was to attend, but also the rumor surdities, under the belief that he was adthat Nasta was going to publicly ask the vancing his suit. One of them was the hand of Nyleptha in marriage had gone writing-with the assistance of one of the grave and reverend seigniors who instructed was crowded to its utmost capacity. There us, and who, whatever may have been the measure of his erudition, did not understand eye; and a most imposing band they were, with their long white embroidered robes girt recurring refrain was something about "I with a golden chain from which hung the fishlike scales. There, too, were a number of among the Zu-Vendi it is a common and the lords, each with a band of brilliantly most harmless thing for young men to sereattired attendants, and prominent among nade ladies at night, as I believe they do in them was Nasta, stroking his black beard the southern countries of Europe, and sing

Availing himself of this custom, Good be-

"Give me something to drink," he said hoarsely I got him a cup of wine, and asked what

was the matter. "What is the matter? Why, if ever there was trouble there's trouble now. You know when I left you? Well, I was shown straight into Sorais' private chamber, and a wonderful place it is; and there she sat, quite alone, upon a silken couch at the end of the room, playing gently upon that zither of hers. I stood before her, and for a while she took no notice of me, but kept on playing and singing a little, and very sweet music it was. At

last she looked up and smiled. " 'So thou art come" she said. 'I thought that perchance thou hadst gone about the Qmeen Nyleptha's business. Thou art ever on her business, and I doubt not a good servant and a true.'

"To this I merely bowed and said I was there to receive the queen's word. "Ah, yes, I would talk with thee, but be

thou seated. I cannot lift my neck so high," and she made room for me beside her on the couch, placing herself with her back against the end, so as to have a view of my face. " 'It is not meet,' I said, 'that I should make

myself equal with the queen.' " 'I said be seated,' was her answer; so I sat down, and she set to work to look at me with those dark eyes of hers. There she sat, like an incarnate spirit of beauty, hardly talking at all, and when she did, very low, but all the while looking at me. There was a white flower in her black hair, and I tried to keep my eyes on it and count the petals, but it was of no use. At last, whether it was her gaze, or the perfume on her hair, or what I do not know, but I began to feel as though I was being mesmerized. At last she roused her-

" 'Incubu,' she said, 'lovest thou power ? "I replied that I supposed all men loved power of one sort or another.

"'Thou shalt have it,' she said. 'Lovest thou wealth?

"I said I liked wealth for what it brought. "Thou shalt have it,' she said. 'And lovest thou beauty?

"To this I replied that I was very fond of statuary and architecture, or something of that sort, at which she frowned, and there was a pause. By this time my nerves were on such a stretch that I was shaking like a leaf. I knew that something awful was going to happen, but she held me under a kind of spell, and I could not help myself. "'Incubu,' she said at length 'wouldst thou be a king? Listen, wouldst thou be a king?

Behold, stranger, I am minded to make thee king of all Zu-Vendisay and husband of Sorais of the Night. Nay, peace, and hear me. To no man among my people had I thus opened out my secret heart, but thou art an outlander, and therefore do I speak without shame, knowing all I have to offer and how hard it had been to thee to ask. See, a crown lies at thy feet, my lord Incubu, and with that fortune a woman whom some have wished to woo. Now mayst thou answer.' "'Oh, Sorais,' I said, 'pray do not speak thus'-you see I had not time to pick and

choose my words-'because you are putting us both in an awkward position. I am going to marry your sister Nyleptha, Sorais, and I love her.

"Next moment it struck me that I had said an awful thing, and I looked up to see the results. When I spoke, Sorais' face was hidden in her hands, and as my words reached her she slowly raised it, and I shrank back dismayed. It was ashy white, and her eyes were flaming. She got on to her feet and seemed to be choking, but the awful thing was that she was so quiet about it all. Once she looked at a side table on which lay a dagger, and from it to me, as though she thought of killing me; but she did not take it up. At last she spoke one word, and one only-

"And I went, and glad enough I was to get out of it, and here I am. Give me another

Nyleptha was quite calm now; her jealous anger had passed; and putting off the character of a lovely, headstrong lady, she, with a rapidity and completeness that distin guished her, put on that of a queen and a woman of business. The transformation was sudden but entire.

"thy words are very wise, Macumazahn Forgive me my folly. Ah, what a queen I should be if only I had no heart! To be heartless-that is to conquer all. Passion is like the lightning; it is beautiful, and it links the earth to heaven, but alas, it blinds!

"And thou thinkest that my sister Soraiwould levy war upon me. So be it. She shall not prevail against me. I, too, have my friends and my retainers. There are many, I say, who will s out 'Nyleptha!' when my pennon runs up on peak and pinnacle, and the light of my watch fires leaps to-night from crag to crag bearing the message of my war. 1 will break her strength and scatter her armies. Eternal night shall be the portion of the 'Lady of the Night.' Give me that parchment and the ink. So. Now sum-mon me the officer in the ante room. He is a

trusty man." I did as I was bid, and the man, a veteran

and quiet looking gentleman of the guard, named Kara, entered, bowing low.

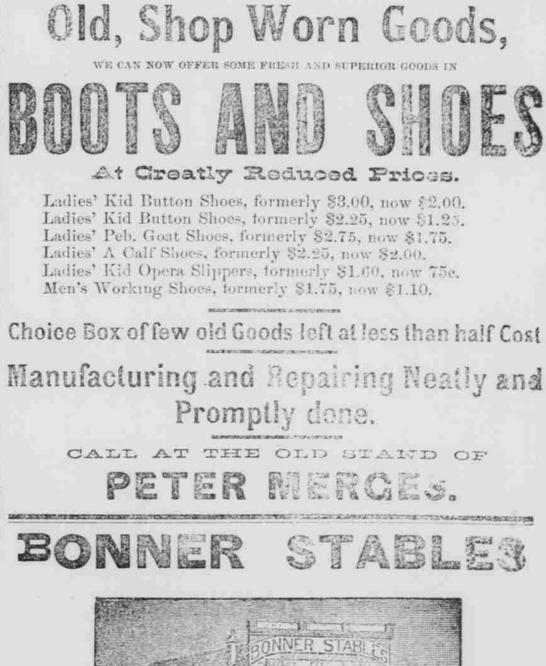
"Take this parchment," said Nyleptha; "it is thy warrant, and guard every place of in and out going in the apartments of my sis-ter Sorais, 'Lady of the Night,' and a queen of the Zu-Vendi. Let none come in and none go out, or thy life shall pay the cost." The man looked startled, but he merely said, "The queen's word shall be done," and departed. Then Nyleptha sent a messenger to Sir Henry, and presently be arrived, looking uncommonly uncomfortable. I thought that another outburst was about to follow, but wonderful are the ways of women. She said not a word about Sorais and his supposed inconstancy, greeting him with a friendly nod and stating simply that she required his advice upon high matters. All the same there was a look in her eye and a sort of suppressed energy in her manner toward him that made me think she had not forgotten the affair, but was keeping it for a private occasion.

Just after Curtis arrived the officer returned, and reported that Sorais was gone. The bird had flown to the temple, stating that she was going, as was sometimes the custom among Zu-Vendi ladies of rank, to spend the night in meditation before the altar. We looked at each other significantly. The blow had fallen very soon.

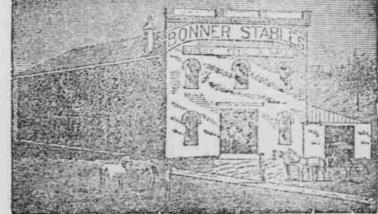
Then we set to work.

Generals who could be trusted were summoned from their quarters, and as much of the state affairs as was thought desirable was told to each, strict injunctions being given to them to get all their available force together. The same was done with such of the more powerful lords as Nyleptha knew she could rely on, several of whom left that very day

for distant parts of the country to gather up



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