is not astonishing that she found time

now and again to glance in Estcourt's

his position, and she began to fear that

he was doomed to disappointment. But

at last there was a stir near the door,

and she hurried forward to receive the

An elderly dowager in green satin,

and a gouty old nobleman in a star and

spectacles hobbled in and paid a brace

of homely compliments. As they passed

on, Lady Glamorgan glanced back

over her shoulder, and saw to her sur-

prise that Estcourt was coming for-

ward through the crowd with a look

of relief upon his face.
"The Milbricks?" she asked herself.

"What can the man be thinking of?"

his eyes ignored this absurd old couple,

and were fixed intently upon some one beyond. She turned to the door once

more, just in time to welcome a very

different pair. A gentleman with iron-

gray hair and mustaches, wearing a

red ribbon across his plain evening-

dress, was piloting a lady through the

throng that blocked the entrance, with

a courtesy and adroitness that con-

spicuously distinguished him from all

As for the lady, whoever looked upon her turned to look again. She was fully

as tall as her companion, but scarcely

more than half his age; her dark-blue

eyes flashed fearlessly upon all they met; her lips were red with life and curved with the pride and laughter of youth; the slight flush of her marvelous

complexion and the spring of her step

roused the beholder's pulse in sympathy

with her splendid vitality. Her dress

was of white and gold, scarcely less

brilliant than herself; round her neck

and on her brow were diamonds, and

de Montaut; a prize taken from the

retreated a little to watch their meet-

ing with this audacious young captain.

It was evident at once that he was al-

ready in favor with Col. de Montaut at

any rate; the lady too, after a few mo-

ments' talk between the three, accepted

Estcourt's arm and continued her pro-

A quadrille was just ending; in an-

other moment the dancers would be dis-

persing, two and two, in all directions

to the seats and more secluded corners.

Estcourt led his partner across to the

farther door; there she stopped him and

turned to look at the dance. Her eyes

"Splendid!" she cried; "I long to be

sparkled, and her foot began to beat

His brow contracted slightly. "Don't you think," he suggested, a little timid-

ly, "that we had better choose our seats

"Oh, no, thank you," she replied, laughing. "I shall not need a seat for

a long time yet; we have only just ar-

rived. But perhaps you have been here

longer and are tired of dancing al-

"I have been here an hour or more."

he replied, "but I have not been danc-

"And pray, if I may ask, for what

other purpose did you come so early?"
This directness confused him. "I-I

got here too soon," he said, "and had

"Where, of course, you could not dance?" she interrupted, mischievously.

first here," he continued; "and-and-"

with the latest comer, by way, I sup-

pose, of striking the balance right?

"And even then I was almost the

"And so you resolved to dance only

He pulled himself together, and made

"Balance or not," he said, earnestly,

'I resolved to dance only with the lat-

est comer, if she should be Madame de

"And so you shall," she answered merrily, as the dancers broke off from

their first figure and made for the door

in pairs; "that is, as soon as these poor

things have rested; in the meantime let

us walk in the empty room till they

She took his arm once more, and her

touch seemed to send a tre for through him from head to foot; they stepped

forward into the great ballroom, hung

with mirrors and gaily colored flags, and brilliant with a thousand lights that threw a dazzling sheen upon the

broad expanse of polished floor. She

talked with animation, and he answered

almost mechanically; the intoxication of pride mounted to his head and

numbed his senses as he made his triumphal progress before the eyes of the

elder ladies on the dais, the long line

of dancers sitting out against the walls.

and the herd of solitary men standing.

each with folded arms, at the bottom of the room. Their whispers reached him with faint incense, and he scarcely

knew himself for a mortal like the rest.

the crowd returned, and he found him-self fleating with his radiant partner

through the upper heaven of perfect

seemed, the music stopped; he mastered

the swimming sensation in his brain and turned to look at her. Her eyes

beamed back upon his with frank sym-

"So soon?" he stammered, in a sud-

"Then we have but half an hour

rhythmic motion. Suddenly,

"Clorious" she exclaimed.

den panie: "so soon?"
"We are leaving sarty to-night."
"Etc." It is only just 11."

plty it must end so soon

But now the band struck up again;

come back.

an effort to play his part in the game.

to wait outside by the abbey.'

she wore them lightly, like a queen.

game for so quiet a man."

gress down the room.

time upon the floor.

one of them myself!"

before the rush comes?"

But as he drew nearer she saw that

new guests.

For a long while he did not change

RAND, MENALLY & CO. CHAPTER L.

frosty night toward middle March. The moon had risen an hour ago, and hung like a round mirror of burnished silver close above the glittering stream of Thames, as he swept broadening

down to West minster Bridge. The Abbey towers rose sharply into the clear air, and caught the moonlight full upon their heads, but beneath them, on the farther side, lay a wide region of silent and mysterious shadow. In the shadow paced the figure of a man. By the slow and monotonous regularity of his footfalls as he passed backward and forward you might have taken him for a sentinel on guard. But to a closer look, the long, high-collared coat, the quaint and ample outline of his hat, and a certain balance in his step betrayed the seafaring man, and gave a hint of his rank. His figure and the easy swing of his movements proclaim him strong, but the obscurity concealed all other characteristics.

Up and down, up and down, he paced; always the same measured step, ways the same distance to a yard. Nothing about him spoke of impatience, and yet he was evidently expecting some one or something; for each time that his beat ended at the angle of the north ern tower he stopped, and looked first to the right across the deserted square up to the entrance of Whitehall, and then to the left, where, on the edge of St James Park, the lights of Glamorgan House shone through a few gaunt

For this was in 1821, and in 1821 Glamorgan House was still standing. And tonight it was especially in evidence, for the open gates and the unwonted illumination of the garden court showed plainly that some festivity was in preparation within.

denly from overhead came the deep sound of the clock striking the half nour. At the same instant Minute after minute passed, till sudhour. At any same instant a carriage rolled into the qua.e. The watcher had just turned his ck, and was retreat-ing for the fifti-th time toward the doorway of the Abbey, when the vibration of the chimes ceased, and the sound of the approaching hoofs and wheels fell upon his ear. In a moment he was back at the corner of the building. where he stood motionless, with his ead thrown forward like a dog strain ing in the leash.

The carriage passed close before him wheeled off to the right, and disap-peared into the court of Glamorgan House. He made a quick step forward as if to follow, but checked himself, and stood for a moment irresolute. While he was hesitating, a party of ladies muffled in opera cloaks and shawls, and attended by several gentlemen, crossed the road from the entrance of Dean's Yard, and took the same direction as the carriage. The figure in the shadow hesitated no longer, but followed in their wake with long, resolute strides. He came up with long. as they reached the portico, and passeinto the cloak room with the gentlemea of the party. There coat and hat were laid aside, and he stood revealed as an officer of the king's navy, wearing a captain's epaulettes upon a very stal-

wart pair of shoulders.

As he entered Lord Glamorgan—a tall, old man with bushy eyebrows and a jovial red face-stepped in front and shook him warmly by the hand. Then putting a big hand upon his shoulder with a fatherly air, he wheeled him forward, and himself turned to face his wife. "My dear," he said, with a haif bow, "I present to you Capt. Richard Estcourt of his majesty's ship —... Well, well! Dick, which shall it be, eh?"

His lordship had been a lord of the admiralty in the last ministry. though now for some time out of office. he retained a perhaps exaggerated idea of his own influence in naval affairs.

Lady Glamorgan received the young man with all the graciousness for which she was deservedly popular. "Capt. Estcourt," she said, "is slower to fol-low an advantage on shore than at sea; his reputation had been here long be-

Estcourt flushed. "I have been four ears on the Indian stations," he said, and three before that in America.

Since he had been almost the first in the room, it seemed impossible that he should miss the person for whom he was waiting; but when the stream of incomers had apparently ceased, and ady Glamorgan found time to leave the door and look at the dancing, hereye fell on him at once, still on guard in his solitary corner. She came toward him immediately, bent on the hostess' congenial duty of introduction. "Capt. Estcourt," she said, "you are

positively not dancing! A sailor too.

and at a sea tord's batt" Pray do not trouble about me, Lady Glamorgan," he replied; "I am in no hurry to begin.

No, no?" she said, "I must find you nome pretty craft at once; I have good patronage to bestow just now, and you between a strong ally or a rich cenvoy, both making their first

this grave eyes lit up with a smile in answer to her playful tone. "New ships," he said, "are never lucky; I'd rather have one taken from the en-

re was an undertone of unexmeaning in the words; she

They had left the ballroom and were FEMININE mounting the stairs in advance of the throng. At the top a tiny boudoir of-fered two chairs, and no more.

"Shall we hear the music so far away?" she asked as they entered it. He was pale and evidently ill at ease; he grasped at her question as at an unhoped-for opportunity.

"I shall hear your voice," he said, nervously, "and that is all the music I

"What!" she answered, laughing. "with my strong French accent, as your eople choose to call it?"

She sat down in the higher and straighter of the two chairs, and opened her fan. Only a low lounging seat was left for him, and nothing could have been more uncomfortable under the circumstances. He fixed himself upon the extreme edge and was about to speak, when she broke in before him

"You don't look as much at rest as you deserve to be after that famous

He was beginning an answer, destined no doubt to end sentimentally, when she again forstalled him. "You are not accustomed to the lux

ury of arm chairs at sea?" He saw that she did not mean to give him an opening, and tried de-terminedly to make one for himself. "Forgive me," he said, disregarding her question, "but I have something to

"And I to you," she answered readily. "I have found the pearl you were good enough to hunt for the other day.

Where do you suppose it was?" "Madame de Montaut," he said, with desperate irrelevancy, "I have admired you ever since I first saw you."

"You can hardly expect a woman to go quite so far in return," she replied, with an affectation of cordial simplicity; "but I may say truly that there is no one whose step I prefer to yours. Come, the next dance must be beginning, and I am eager not to lose a note of it." And she rose lightly and shut her fan.

He too stood up, but did not move toward the door.
"I am sorry," he said; "but what I have to offer you is more than a dance

-if it be not much less. Her quick ear caught the sincerity of his tone and her look changed. "You are right," she said, with a serious grace; "I will hear you." And she sank with a soft rustle into the low chair,

which she filled with an air of easy royalty. He remained standing; his hands, as they grasped the back of the other chair, were tense with nervous energy, but his throat was dry and his brain confused; for his life he could not break from this fatal dumbness and express

himself. A gleam of not unkindly merriment shone in her eyes as she came to the rescue.

"Capt. Estcourt," she said, "you are a man whose words mean, at the least, "Ah!" murmured the countess to herself, as she came forward, "It is Madame all they say; since, then, you speak of admiration, I understand you to offer enemy! I understand, but it is a bold me-love.

"Love? Devotion!" he exclaimed, She shook hands with her guests and with husky fervor, but stopped again and began to stammer.

"And I suspect," she continued, "from your embarrassment, that you have had houghts of asking me to marry you." "Oh! it is too great a think, I know," he broke in earnestly; "it is out of all reason; but I do not ask it, I entreat

She raised herself a little and looked him gravely in the face.

(TO BE CONTINUED.) THE ARCTIC MUSK-OX.

One Big Animal Which Is Not Likely to Become Extinct.

But there is one large bovine animal on our continent which is not destined to be snuffed out of existence like the unfortunate bison, and that is the musk-ox. He is under the protection of the forest king, whose game pastures are seldom penetrated by white poachers. On the map of Arctic America you can put your finger down almost anywhere, so that it be on land north of the Great Slave Lake and east of the Mackenzie river, and say, "There lives the musk-ox," without fear of successful contradiction. Just beyond the limit of trees and bushes, even the smallest and scantiest, on the silent, desolate, and awful barren grounds northeast of Great Slave Lake, at 64 degrees north latitude, the musk-ox draws the line marking his farthest south. A man who can endure cold like an Eskimo, travel like a caribou, live for weeks on frozen caribou meat, starve as cheerfully as a Yellow-Knife Indian, and endure the companionship of vermin-covered natives, can reach the southern borderland of the musk-ox, and possibly get back alive with two or three skins. Mr. Warburton Pike, Englishman, can do and did all these things no longer ago than 1890; and his book on "The Barren Grounds of Northern Canada" is a most interesting and valuable contribution to our knowledge of that very desolate country. The musk-ox is perhaps the rarest, and to white men the most diffleuit to secure of all our land quadrupeds. Robes are by no means uncommon, and often sell for as little as \$15 each; but of mounted skins there are in our country exactly seven. Three of these constitute a group in the National Museum; two are in the American Museum of Natural History in New York; and the museums of Philadelphia and Cambridge have one each Although during their long sojourns in high latitudes Gen. Greely and the members of his expedition party killed many musk-oxen, you will notice that they were unable to bring back even so much as a single horn.

Waman's Affection. t have often had occasion to remark the fortitude with which women sustain The most overwhelming reverses of Those disasters which break down the spirit of a man, and prostrate him in the dust, seem to call forth all the energies of the softer sex, and give such intrepidity and elevation to their character, that at times it approaches to sublimity. Nothing can be more der female, who had been all weakness and dependence, and alive to every trivial roughness while treading the prosperous paths of life, suddenly rising in mental force to be the comforter and supporter of her husband under minfortune, and abiding with unabrinking firmness the bitterest blast of adversity.

Everything commenced upon the first day of the moon is supposed to turn out auccessful.

SAMSONS.

EN WHO POSSESS STRENGTH OF SANDOW.

of Exercise, Regular Diet, Proper Training and Constant Renovation of the Tissues.

Woman, as we all know, is no longer weak. That is, physically. The present and the athletic girl belong to each other. There are nowadays women, sweet tender women, who have made themselves champions at rowing, boxing, teeth-lifting, fencing, bicycle riding and heavy weight lifting. In England the champion strong woman is Mile. Athleta, a good looking, well-formed, muscular specimen of womanhood, who has thrown down the gauntlet to America's champion strong woman, Minerva, Flossie La Blanche and to Yucca. Athleta stands 5 feet 7 inches in height and weighs 150 pounds, and her bust measure ment is 42 inches. Among the fenis of strength she performs is the notable one of swinging a chair allaround her own head. She also holds a pyramid of chairs above her head with her teeth. She lifts also a 170 pound man up in a chair with her teeth, or an anvil 200 pounds in weight. Holding a 56-pound weight at arm's length in each hand is a bagatelle to her. She is likewise deft at lifting a 130 pound dumbbell over her head with one arm. Often she has held a 56 pound weight in each hand, while she lifted thirty pounds with her teeth. She can lift up a barrel with three heavy men on it, and a barrel of water weighing 600 pounds, the latter feat being performed with her teeth alone. She raises an anvil weighing 300 pounds with one finger. A horse with harness and slings weighing 1,340 pounds has of-



Flossie La Blanche, ten been suspended in the air on her hands.

Athleta has a number of admirers who believe no one can defeat her, and it is in a contest in the above performances that she has challenged Minerva, the champion strong wom-an of America, for \$1,000 and the female heavy weight lifting championship of the world.

The only hitch in the proposed match is the circumstances that Mile. Athleta desires the contest to take place in England, while Minerva is enger that the question of superiority be decided in this country. However, it is expected that Minerva will final-

ly go to England to meet Athleta. Minerva, the American champion is an excellent speciment of physical womanhood. Her right arm at the bicep muscle measures 17 3-4 inches She is the daughter of Dr. Joseph Schaner, a well known physician of Hoboken, N. J., and was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1865. Like Athleta the English Samson, Minerva. commenced practice with light weights in a gymnahium, and when only eleven years old could juggle a twentypound dumbbell. In 1887 she came to this country, and under Professor Charles C. Blatt gained much of her strength and began to give exhibitions in lifting light dumbbells and bar bells. By degrees she developed her muscles until able to perform won-

derful feats of strength. Minerva. is taller, heavier and no doubt stronger than either Mile. Aththe English female champion; Mile. Bronx, the Bavarian strong wom an: Angela, the Italian champion, or Tulla, the German female champion, Minerva stands 5 feet 7 1-2 inches fa height, is twenty-six years old and weighs 160 pounds. She is the only "strong" woman who has ever fairly lifted 800 pounds in America. She has a fifty-two inch base and is an amazon in proportions. Among the many feats she excels in are holding straight from the shoulder with one hand a liftypound weight to which a ring is at tached and holding fifty-pound weights



above the head. The feat pussies many strong from She puts up a 150 pound bar helf with two hands ead raises it above her head at arit's length. She can lift a barrel of light with the hard. weighing 300 pounds with her hairs and place it on her shoulder. She a

and lifts a barrel of stands in a pati lime with her hands without upsetting the pail. This feat is a most difficult one, and requires great strength and unity in balancing. Minerva lifts a unity in balancing. Minerva litts a 150 pound man in a chair with her hands, holding chair and man at arm's length. One of the sensational feats Minerva performs is that of standing with one foot each on two chairs, the chairs being placed three feet apart, and raising 250 pounds by the help of a rope and hook a tached to her neck. But her greatest feat is catching a twenty-four pound, cannon ball fired twenty-four pound cannon ball fired from a cannon. Side accomplished this twice in a single day, and it is claimed that she is the only female who can



Fannie Gorman, Better Known

stand thirty feet from the cannon and successfully perform the feat. Another wonderfully strong woman who can probably deficat any of the foreign female candidates for the championship is Yucca. She is a native born American, stands 5 feet 8 inches in height, weighs 150 pounds

and beasts a bust measurement of forty-four inches. She has appeared at all the principal places of amuse-ment in the United States, and two years ago in New York created a sensation by lifting a horse weighing, it was claimed, 1,360 pounds. This won derful feat gave Yucca a national reputation, and she was challenged by Minerva, but owing to their failure to agree upon fifteen test competitions no contract was arranged.

Yucca's feats include holding two forty-pound weights to which a ring is attached, with each hand straight from the shoulder; putting up a 150 pound bar bell with two hands and elevating it above her head at arm's length; lifting a barrel of lime, weighing 310 pounds, and placing it on her shoulder; lifting a man of 140 pounds weight seated in a chair, chair and man being held at arm's length; lifting sixteen chairs with two hands, elevating them above her head and then balancing them with only one hand, and raising a cart wheel, weighing 310 pounds, from the ground to her chest, there balancing it on her chin. One of the sensational feats Yucca performs is raising 300 pounds weight with the assistance of a rope and hook attached to her neck.

Another champion at lifting is Flossie La Blanche, the female Samson. She is also a native of this country, and possesses wonderful grength, al-though not able to accomplish the dif-ficult feats performed by Minerva and Yucea. This is not because she does not possess the same splendid physical development. She has not had the training and experience of her sister athletes. Picsels La Blanche stands 5 feet 7 inches and weighs 150 pounds. She lifts a bar belt weighing 150



Miss Alice Sinclair.

ounds with two hands above her head, and can break chains upon her chest with her bare hands. She is credited with pulling up a seventy-fivpound dumbbell, using only one hand and with elevating a forty pound dumbbell twenty-five times in thirty minutes, which is a rare feat. She is constantly improving, and expects in the near future to be able to accomplish the marvels performed by Ath leta, Minerva and Yucca.

Another strong woman who is fast gaining fame in England is Alice Sin clair. She is not only noted for her feats of strength, but is a splendid equestrienne and quite a swimmer, too. Since the outbreak of the strong woman craze, she has daily practiced in gomassiums, and gained both mus-cle and strength. Her manager expects her within a year to be a formidable rival of any strong woman to America or England.

The Best Insulator.

Woodite has proved very successful as an insulator for high-tension currents. During the three years in which it has been used for this purpose at the Deptford station of the London Electric Supply corporation there has not been a single break-down or fullure, says a London exchange. Before trying this material there has been great difficulty in insulating the pele-places of the field magnets of the large dynamic. A tension of 40,000 volts has proved one-mail to piercing woodite The material has also the advantage of being unacted on Ly oil, even at high temperature—Electrical Review

Wanted No Invidious Comparisons One of the new members of congress was, a few years ago, a county judge in the state from which he halls (says the Washington Star). On one occasion in his court, a lawyer was pleading a case and was making a speech which stirred the jury to its profoundest depths. In the course of his peroration, he said: "And, gentlemen of the jury, as I stand at this bar today, in behalf of a prisat this bar today, in behalf of a prisoner whose health is such that w any moment he may be called before a greater judge than the judge of this court, I—" The judge on the bench rapped sharply on the deck, and the lawyer stopped suddenly and looked at him questioningly. "The gentleman," said the court with dignity, "will please confine himself to the case before the jury, and not permit himself to include in invidious comparisons."

In this Work-a-Day World In this Work-a-Day World
Brains and nervous systems often give
way under the pressure and anxieties of
business. Faresis, wasting of the nervous
tissues, a sudden and unforwarned collapse
of the mental and physical faculties are
daily occurrences, as the columns of the
daily press show. Fortify the system when
exhausted against such untoward events
with itostetter's stomach Bitters, that most
helpful medicine of the weak, worn out and
infirm. Use it in rheumatism, dyspepsia,
constipation and malaria.

Bees in a California Church.

Four swarms of bees have taken pos-session of the Methodist church in East San Jose, Cal., and it is estimated that there are at least three hundred pounds of honey deposited between the outer and inner walls of the church. It is proposed to hold a honey carnival in the church and in that way secure enough money to pay for the damage done in securing the honey.

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