

spanning the way and joining certain long unused chambers, next to the W, L. MARCY. Governor's palace, with my lady's DENTIST. abode. Against the somber background



age. At the head of the steps, which without further incident or interruption, he reached, the Black Seigneur, stepping to the shadow of a small bush against the wall, glanced about him; with knit brows and the resolute manner of one who has come to some definite conclusion, he left the spot of

> Mount, and plunged diverging to the right. From glint and glimmer to darkness unfathomable! For some time he could only grope and feel his way, after the fashion of the blind; fortunately, however, was the path narrow; although tortuous, fairly well paved,

and no serious mishap befell him, even when he walked forward regardlessly, in feverish haste, beset with the conviction that time meant all in all, and delay the closing of the toils and the failure of a desperate adventure. Several times he struck against

the stones; once fell hard, but picked himself up; went on the faster, only, after what seemed an interminable period, to stop. "Am I, can I be mistaken?"

But the single star he could see plainest from the bottom of the deep while at the same time any desire to

whereof the details were in a measure

On one side the low wall obscured

not the panorama below-a ghost-like

earth fading into the mist, and near-

a darkened patch on the slope of the

rock; but in this direction the man

hardly cast a glance. Certain build-

ings ahead, austere, Norman in out-

line, absorbed his attention to the ex-

clusion of all else, and toward them.

with steps now alert and noiseless, he

stole; past a structure that seemed a

CHAPTER XXII.

The Whirling of the Wheel.

er, the roof of the auberge des voleurs.

dimly shadowed forth.

the recollection his own response he had been about to retire to his evoked; then turned; walked on, and, mattress in a corner.

"What do you want?" repeated this person, the anger and viciousness on his distorted features, revealed in the moonlight from the large opening, like that of some animal unwarrantedly disturbed.

"You, landlord of the thieves' inn!" And inaction giving way to movement on the intruder's part, a knife that had flashed back in the hand of the hunchback, with his query, was swiftly twisted from him and kicked aside. while a scream of mingled pain and rage became abruptly suppressed. Struggling and writhing like a wildcat, Jacques proved no mean antagonist; with a strength incredible for one of his size, supplemented by the wellknown agility of his kind, he scratched. kicked and had managed to get the other's hand in his mouth, when, making an effort to throw off that clinging burden, the Black Seigneur dashed the dwarf's head violently against the wooden support of the place. At once all belligerency left the hunchback, and, releasing his hold, he sank to the ground.

An instant the intruder regarded the inert form; then, going to the door,

latched and locked it with a key he ound inside. Having thus in a measure secured himself from immediate interruption without-for anyone trying the door would conclude the wheelroom vacant, or that the dwarf slept there or in the store-house beyond-

the Black Seigneur walked to the aperture, and reaching up, began to pay out the rope from a pulley above. As he did so, with feet braced, he leaned over to follow in its descent a small car along the almost perm a: ular planking from the mouth of the wheelroom to the rocks, several hundred feet below.

A sudden slackening of the ropeassurance that the car. at the end of the line, had reached the loadingspot below without the fortificationsand the young man straightened; in an attitude of attention, stood listening. But the stillness, impregnated

only with a faint underbreath, the far-away murmur of water, or the just audible droning of insects near the figtrees on the rocks, continued unbroken. An impatient frown gathered on his brow; more eagerly he bent forward to gaze down, when through the air a distant sound-the low, melanobservation, almost the apex of the choly hoot of an owl-was wafted upward.

Upon him at the aperture, this nightcall, common to the Mount and its environs, acted in magical manner, and swiftly had he stepped toward the wheel, when an object, intervening, stirred; started to stagger to its feet. At once was the young man's first impelling movement arrested; but, thus forcibly drawn from his purpose, he did not long pause to contemplate; his hand, drawing the soldier's sword, held it quickly at the hunchback's throat. "A sound, and you know what to ex-

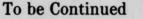
pect! With the bare point at his flesh,

Jacques, dully hearing, vaguely comprehending, could, indeed, guess and the fingers he had involuntarily raised

to push the bright blade aside, fell, alley, and to which he looked up, an- attempt to call out, or arouse the



It came up loaded; went down once more, reappeared. On the little platform now were more than a dozen men assembled, but to Jacques this force looked multiplied. Amid the confusion of his thoughts, vaguely could he hear orders given; caught something about the need for quiet, naste, overpowering the guard; then hadows, go out; leaving him alone.





Chinese Politeness. Etiquette requires in Chinese conersation that each should compliment he other and depreciate himself and all his belongings. A missionary who has just returned heard the following conversation:

"What is your honorable name?" "My insignificant appellation is Ying

"Where is your magnificent palace?" "My contemptible shack is at Lung

"How many are your illustrious children?"

"I have five vile, worthless brats." "And is your distinguished wife enoying good health?" "The old hen is pretty well."

A Bargain Offer.

"Comin' this way ag'in?" asked the justice of the peace, after he had fined Jimpson \$50. "I'm afraid I'll have to," said Jimp-

son ruefully. "Wa-al," said the justice, stroking his chin whisker reflectively, "perhaps

swered not the fierce, half-muttered guard, was replaced by an entirely dif- I'd oughter tell ye thet we sell a re

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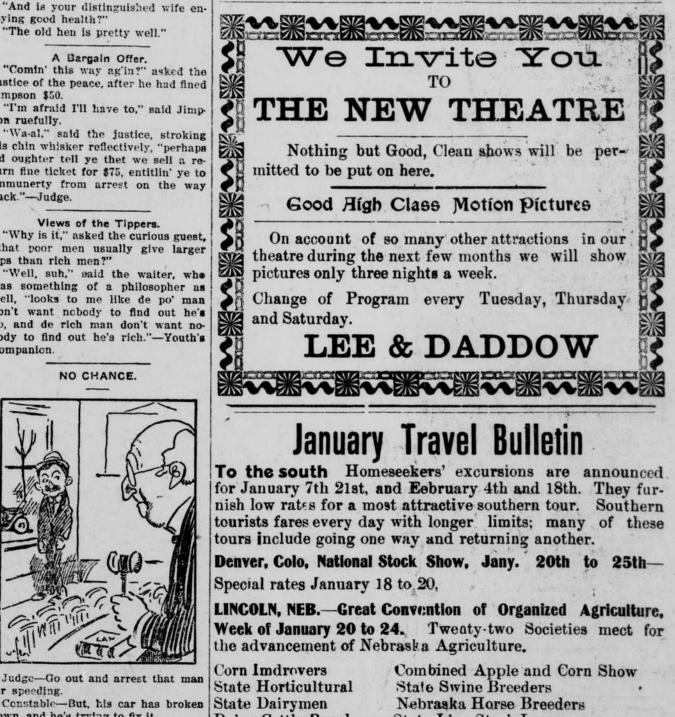
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of that covered passage of granite, the LOUP GITY, NEE. face looking out would still have remained unseen, even had the young man, drawing near, lifted his glance. This, however, he did not do; his eyes. with the pale reflections dancing in them, had suddenly fastened themselves lower; toward another person, not far beyond the bridge; some one who had turned in from a passage on the other side of the overhead archi-

tectural link, and had just begun to ing beard, from afar the new-comer looked not unlike one of the ancient Druids that, in days gone by, had lighted and watched the sacred fires of sacrifice in the rock. He, too guarded his light; but one set in the tall.

pewter lamp of the medieval watchsmail salle des gardes whose window man. afforded a view of four men nodding "Twelve o'clock and all's-" he beat a table within; across a space to gan when his glance, sweeping down, another passage, and thence to a low caught sight of the ascending figure, door at the far corner of a little triand, pausing, he leaned on his staff angular spot, alongside the walk and with one hand and shaded his eyes near a great wall. At once the young

with the other. man put out his hand to the door: A half-savage exclamation of disaptried it; pushed it back and entered. pointment was suppressed on the Before him a wide opening looked out young man's lips; had he only been able to attain that parallelogram of

at the sky, framing a multitude of stars, and from the bottom of this darkness, beneath the abbot's passage, aperture ran a strand, or rope, conhe would have been better satisfied, necting with an indistinct object-a his own eyes, looking ahead, seemed great wheel, which stood at one side! to say; then gleamed with a bolder

"A sword and blade

A drab and a jade; ....l's one to the King's men of the army!" he began to hum softly, as with a more reckless swing, quickly he went up in the manner of a man assigned some easy errand. At the same time the patriarch slowly and rather labori-

light.

face.

night!"

the other's features.

was the quiet reply.

those-" uncertainly.

St. Dalard?"

affairs of succeeding communities on the rock. It, or the hempen strand it controlled, had primarily served as a link between the sequestered dwellers, and-drawing up what? ously resumed his descent, and just below the bridge, without the bar of and the flesh-pots and material comshadow, the two came together. forts of the lower world. Through its "Think you it is too late for his Ex-

enabled to keep full the mighty winebutts of his cellars; to provide good message?" at once spoke up the youngcheer for the tables of the brethren, er, breaking off in that dashing, but low-murmured, song of the barracks. with the fresh greens of Flemish tap-"That you may learn from the guard at the palace," was the deliberate anestry, or the sensuous hues of rugs and fabrics from seraglio or mosque.

swer, as, raising his lamp, the watch-Times less ancient had likewise man held it full in his questioner's claimed its services, and even in recent years, by direction of his Excel-"Thanks! I was going to inquire." lency, the Governor, had it occasional-As he answered, at the old abbot's ly been used for the hoisting of goods, window in the bridge above, the face, looking out, bent forward more inwares, or giant casks, overcumbertently; then quickly drew back. "Good some for men or mules.

Toward this simple monkish con-But the venerable guardian of the elevator, wherein serfs or henchmen inner precinct was not disposed thus lightly to part company. "I don't seem to know you, young man," he dwellers, the Black Seigneur had at observed, the watery, but keen and critical eyes passing deliberately over stopped, hardly breathing, to look over "No?" Unflinching in the bright left unfastened. An involuntary quesglare of the lamp, the seeming soldier tion flashing through his brain-the smiled. "Do you, then, know all at the Mount-even the soldiers?" cause of this seeming carelessness-

"I should remember even them," "Those, too, but lately brought from confirmed. "True, true! There may be some of

"No doubt! So if you will lower your lamp, which smells rather vile-

"From the miscreants it has smelled out," answered the old man grimly, few moments before and now appeared | ly to the platform. from behind boxes and casks where "Seigneur, we hardly dared hopebut obeyed; stood as if engrossed in

question; coldly, enigmatically it twinferent emotion in his aching brain. turn fine ticket for \$75, entitlin' ye to kled, and, half-running, he continued Never before had he actually felt that immunerty from arrest on the way his way, to emerge over-suddenly into sharp touch-the prelude to the final back."-Judge. a cooler well of air, and-what was thrust. At the sting of it, a tremor more to be welcomed!-an outlook

ran through him, while cowardice, his "Why is it," asked the curious guest, besetting quality, long covered by growl and egotism in his strength and "that poor men usually give larger hideousness to terrify, alone shone tips than rich men?"

from his unprepossessing yellow features.

was something of a philosopher as "You were brave enough with the well, "looks to me like de po' man soldiers at your beck!" went on a dedon't want nebody to find out he's termined voice whose ironical accents po, and de rich man don't want noin no wise served to alleviate his body to find out he's rich."-Youth's panic. "When you had only a mounte-Companion. bank to deal with! But get up!" contemptuously. "And," as the hunch-NO CHANCE.

back obeyed, his crooked legs shaking in the support of his misshapen frame, "into the wheel with you!"

"The wheel!" stammered the dwarf. "Why-what-"

"To take a little of your own medicine! Pardi! What a voluble fellow! In with you, or-"

With no more words the hunchback, staggering, hardly knowing what he did, entered the ancient abbot's machine for hoisting. But as he started to walk in the great wheel at the side of his captor, a picture of the pastthe times he, himself, had forced prisoners to the wheel, stimulating with jeer and whip-arose mockingly before him, and the incongruous present seemed, in contrast, like a black waking dream.

That it was no dream, however, and As old as church or cloister, the that the awakening would never ocmassive wheel of the Mount had, in cur, he well knew, and malevolently the past, played prominent part in the though fearfully he eyed the rope, coming in over the pulley at the aperture; to be wound around and around by a smaller wheel, attached to the larger,

An inkling of the sort of merchandise to be expected, under the circumuse had my lord, the abbot, been ever stances, could but flash through his mind, together with a more vivid consciousness of the only course open for him-to cry out, regardless of conseand to brighten his cold stone interiors | quences! Perhaps he might even have done so, but at that instant-as if the other had read the thought-came the cold touch of a bare blade on his neck; and with a sudden chill, the brief heroic impulse passed.

More stealthily now he began to study his companion in the wheel, while a question, suddenly occurring, reiterated Reelf in his brain. This man-who was he? And what did he know of the mountebank, or his, Jac trivance, the summit's rough lift, or ques', dealings with the clown? That his captor was no soldier of the rock, had walked like squirrels in a cage to or belonged there, the hunchback felt bring solace to generations of isolated by this time assured, and a growing suspicion of the other's identity first stepped impetuously; then brought home with new force to the dwarf the thankless part chance, perhis shoulder at the door that had been haps, had assigned to him in that night's work. And at the full realization of the consequences, should his surmise prove correct-what must ul-

found almost immediate answer in his timately happen to himself in that mind, and the certainty that he stood event, when unwilling co-operation at not there alone-a consciousness of the wheel should become known-alsome one else, near, became abruptly mest had he again reached the desperate point of calling out; but at "What are you doing, soldier?" A that moment a turn in the wheel

voice, rough, snarling, drew swiftly his brought to the level of the aperture, glance toward a presence, intuitively the car. In it, or clinging thereto, divined; an undersized, grotesque fig- were a number of figures who, as soon ure that had entered the place but a as the rope stopped, sprang noiseless-

MATA. Judge-Go out and arrest that ma or speeding. Constable-But, his car has broke lown, and he's trying to fix it.

Houte.

Judge-Then go out and arrest him for obstructing the highway. Finnicky. Some motorists kick

At the gasolene odor; They'd like it to smell Like an ice cream soda

Scholastic Flippancy. "And now," continued the professo

of history, 'permit me to mention a tireless worker in the great cause of humanity-"

"Attireless worker?" interrupted one of the seniors; "pardon me, professor, but if you are referring to Lady Godiva, she was attired in her luxuriant hair."

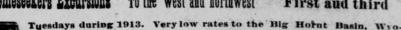
A Fabulous Age. Spratts-Miss Elder is much older than I thought

Hunker-Impossible Spratts-Well, I asked her if she had read Aesop's fables, and she said she read them when they first came out.--Home Journal.

Another Progressive. "Why are you here again? I have told you that you cannot have m daughter. Isn't that sufficient?" "No, sir. I am in favor of the re call of parental decisions."

Would Have Inside Information Gibbs-My memory is getting to be wful. Why, two hours after dinner I can't remember what I've eaten." Dibbs-You would if your wife was of poor a cook as mine.

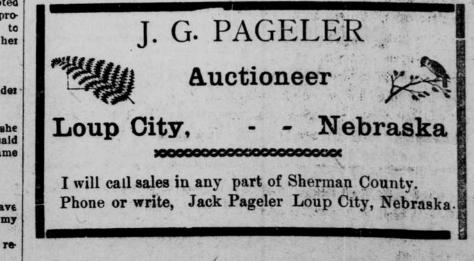
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