was empty.

where.

I've done the swine in."

where Helena was.

And then all at once I knew

She had fled for the staircase-

Rush had locked the door of the

The doorway by which I had en-

Helena was safe-for the moment.

within the room could open the

In the twinkling of an eye my posi-

tion had been reversed. If I could

not make an end of the two, I de-

I stepped to the cut through

which Pharaoh and Dewdrop had

Determined to leave nothing to

Pharaoh must find nothing wrong

-until too late. To all appearance

The bench, however, could be seen

the room must be as he had left it.

from the head of the winding stair.

I must therefore suggest to Pharaoh

that his captive had merely moved.

This was easy enough. Next to

the bench stood the fireplace, which

jutted into the room. On the other

side of this was a chair with its

back to the wall. If my torch were

trained upon this, Pharaoh would

receive the impression that his cap-

tive had changed her seat, for the

and could not be seen from the cut.

For a moment I stood thinking.

Then I perceived that, unless I

were to flout reason, this office

Anyone leaving the stair with a

corpse was poking its head. But

first blush, not even the man's own

mother would even have known he

Here I should say that, before I

had set Rush up, I had taken away

his pistol and Helena's master key.

-and heard no sound.

Once again I took care to listen

port the torch.

of life. . . .

was ilead.

to conceal me.

either hand. . . .

The two were mounting apace.

have heard them so soon.

of footfalls came to my ears.

their heavy breathing. . . .

spent and breathless. . . .

he had entered the room.

and I fired, I saw my mistake.

to grow clear. . . .

In that case-

rach thauth-"

The rapid, regular shuffle began

Unless they were moving as one,

The stars against them? All the

self on my side. The two would be

Dewdrop began to speak before

the shoes of one of the two were

knife, too.

ing stair.

must devolve upon Rush.

chance, I proceeded to lay my am-

bush with infinite care.

turret when Rush and I, between

us, had dropped the torch.

stopped in my tracks.

tered had disappeared.

served to be shot.

passed.

ing at all.

When I reflect upon what I have seen, what I have heard, what I have done, I can hardly persuade myself that all that frivolous hurry and bustle and pleasure of the world had any reality; and I look on what has passed as one of those wild dreams which opium occasions, and I by no means wish to repeat the nauseous dose for the sake of the fugitive Illusion.-Chesterfield.

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CHAPTER X-Continued

his luck will last. It's all my fault," the reputation of being a lady's he sighed, "I've only myself to man. thank. But he made such an excellent lever that against my better judgment I let him live. But there -we all make mistakes. To be perfectly honest, I went to the forester's cottage because I believed he was there. I didn't need you, thousand pounds in gold. And after you know. I always knew of this that I'll pay you five thousand a room."

"You seem to need me now." "Quite," said Pharaoh, "quite. But that's because your brother has gone. As a host-well, his hospitality left nothing to be desired. I About Mr. Spencer. You know I did give him a chance. I actually wrote him a note, containing some good advice."

"People like Mr. Spencer don't take any notice of threats. He has spoiled your game-and he isn't dead yet."

"I assure you," said Pharaoh, "it's only a matter of time." A gust of passion suddenly shook his accents. "If he goes to Tibet, I'll get him." The gust died down and he laughed, "Stupid," he murmured. "Let's say I don't like his face."

"You don't like him because you fear him."

"He may prove inconvenient. Unabated nuisances sometimes do." "It isn't his tongue that you fear. You fear his hand."

"But you don't, do you?" flashed Pharaoh, "It's astonishing how you've fallen for that young calf." I could just distinguish the man, but the resolute beam from the torch went far to distract my eye. I could make out that he was standing beside a chair, about six paces from Dewdrop, close to the wall. There was furniture standing between us, a massive writing table against which Dewdrop was leaning, holding the torch.

For fear of missing my man, I dared not fire upon him from where I stood. Reach him I could not. without crossing the beam of the torch.

"I told you I had no scruples." The voice was cold and harsh as the Vardar wind. "Am I to demonstrate this?"

Helena shrugged her shoulders. "That's a matter for you-not me. I find it sufficiently obvious, but perhaps you like gilding your most

refined gold." "I have two questions to ask you. You know what they are. To obtain the accurate answers I am ready to go all lengths. Not a long way. All lengths."

"I believe you," said Helena calmly. "The trouble is you've got as far as you can."

"Let us see. Your brother was a mine of information, as you may believe. Amongst other things, he told me the following curious fact. When a son or a daughter of Yorick is ten years old, a leopard, the naked as well as clothed." badge of Yorick, is tattooed upon their skin.... Is-is that true, Lady Helena?"

Helena moistened her lips. "Yes."

"He said-it may not be true. but he said they were always tatooed beneath the left breast. . . . In your case, I think an expert was brought from Japan. It was thought, very properly, if I may say so, that so exquisite'a canvas deserved a master's brush. . . . May we . . see his handiwork, please?"

Helena sat as though strickenturned into stone.

Pharaoh proceeded mercilessly. "If you would like assistance, you've only to say the word. We're none of us lady's maids, but Rush has the reputation of being a lady's man."

The sweat was running on my

temples. As I tried to measure my distance, I found that I could not see. for my eyes had been fixed on Helena and now could not pierce the darkness which veiled the rest of

the room. And then I heard Rush mov-

Had the fellow moved forward. that must have been the end of this tale. But he only passed behind me, to stand between me and Dewdrop -I suppose to be nearer his master . . . the suddenly favored courtier approaching the steps of the

That the end was fast approaching was very plain. Any moment now I should have to send my mask flying. First Pharaoh. . . . I would sion. And then I knew he was strike down the torch and hurl my- dead. . . .

time to think. First Pharaoh, and then his fellows. But for the "In a sense that's true," said thought of his fellows, I could not Pharaoh, "I frankly admit I'm more have stood my ground. But if I accustomed to dealing with knaves should not survive Pharaoh. . . . than fools. And he's been very for- My heart that had been smoking tunate so far; but I don't think seemed suddenly cold. Rush had

> Helena was trembling. A little hand went up to cover her eyes.

> "I'll make you an offer. I nearly made it just now. If you'll go now, I'll show you the secret way. Tomorrow night I'll meet you with five year-for every year that you let Mr. Spencer live."

It was clear that a child was speaking, a terrified child. Offer, promise, figures were things grotesque. Her suggestion was below find you more exacting. Never mind, comment. But Pharaoh had his foot in the opening, quick as a flash.

"That's better," he said. "Much better. You've gone, shall we say, a long way. But I'm sure Mr. Spencer's worth ten thousand a year." The man was playing with her-

playing the fish he had hooked. Helena's voice was shaking. "I've no right to give any more. The money's not mine. That's more than I ought to take for my person-

al use." It was awful to hear such naivete | chair was masked by the fireplace Issue from Helena's lips.

"I am not concerned with your right. To insure Mr. Spencer's life will cost you ten thousand down and ten thousand a year."

Her palms clapped fast to her eyes, Helena threw back her head. "All right," she said, "I'll pay it." The words seemed torn from her throat.

"One thing more," said Pharaoh. 'It will not be convenient to meet



"The Trouble Is You've Got as Far as You Can."

first premium now. Show me that cellar, or strip. I don't care which you do, for I guess you can open it

I think a full minute went by be-

fore Helena moved. Then very slowly she rose and turned to the right. Then her hand went up to a sconce, laid hold of

the bracket and pulled it down. I heard no sound, but a panel below the sconce moved, and, when she turned, I saw the shape of a door which was standing ajar.

So Helena severed one of the threads by which her life. was hang-

Slowly she returned to the bench. As she took her seat, Pharaoh rapped out an order.

"Put a light on the lady, Bugle." I think my heart stood still; but I had a torch and the wit to do as he said.

"Rush and Bugle stand fast: Dewdrop with me." He crossed to the gaping panel,

with Dewdrop directly behind him, lighting his steps. As he pulled open the door, I saw the stonework beyond.

I stood waiting for their footfalls to fade. My moment had come. Rush was speaking and wagging his dreadful head.

"Sheba's the goods," he murmured. "Look at that mouth. Here, I'm goin' to 'ave a close-up. Gimme that-torch."

Between us we bungled the business, and the torch fell down and it. As he stood up, grunting, I took | read. him fast by the throat and drove my knife into his heart.

He gave one frightful convul-

self at the monster before he had I got to my knees and sought for no one came down would confirm sung, a pardon arrived.

the torch. When I had found it, I this report. And no one could have switched it on to the bench. This killed Dewdrop, unless he had first

made an end of Bugle and Rush. The truth was in Pharaoh's I turned the beam on to myself. "Helena," I said, "it's all right. hands. He knew as well as did I that someone was in the chamber. She did not answer, so I got to

waiting to take his life. my feet and threw the beam round As I say, I could have done myself the room. She must be there someviolence. I was here to play the knave, and instead I was playing the

I am bound to confess that I cannot defend my annoyance at finding that I must fight Pharaoh instead of playing the butcher as I had already done. I can only say hall, not the door of the secret room. that at that time I had no fear for I took a step toward this-and myself; but since I knew very well that the man was as swift and as cunning as I was slow, I was full of apprehension lest he should escape. The bare thought of such an outcome made the sweat start on So much I saw. (As a matter of my brow. Live-after what he had done? Live-to walk out of that fact, she was saved; but at that time I did not know that no one room and do it again?

I pulled myself together, slid my door she had shut.) And Rush was pistols into my pockets and set dead, and Pharaoh and Dewdrop about hoisting Dewdrop out of my knew nothing of what had occurred. | way.

CHAPTER XI

Helena.

Now by firing, as I had, upon Dewdron I had east away Dewdrop, I had cast away the element of surprise; but that As I had supposed, this gave to was not all the mischief that I siderable depth, for though I pistol had made me completely strained my ears, I could hear noth- deaf.

When I had fired in the forest, so savage was the report that four or five minutes went by before my full hearing came back: but here, within such four walls, the shock of the violent explosion had appalled the drums of my ears.

To listen for Pharaoh's coming was, therefore, but waste of time, and, since he might arrive at any moment. I made my preparations as swiftly as ever I could.

These were simple-there was not much I could do.

The chair on which Rush was seated I slewed to the left, so that the beam of his torch fell full on the cut in the wall. I then took Dewdrop's torch and studied the room, marking the furniture well pot. The only question was how to sup- in case I must move in the dark. Then I slid the torch into my pocket and lay down behind the great table of which I have spoken There will then be no odor and before.

This was a pedestal table of carved, gray oak. Between the two torch in his hand would be almost pedestals there was a knee-hole or sure to illumine the opposite side archway three feet wide by some twenty-six inches high. Looking of the room. The corpse must therefore be moved in any event. And through this, I directly commanded you tomorrow night. I take the if I could gird it into the semblance the cut, while the pedestal offered good cover on either hand.

In two or three minutes the gris- I ventured to settle myself with ly business was done, and Rush the greatest care, for I knew that was seated upright in a high-backed if I possibly could I must kill my chair, with an arm along one of the man before he had entered the chairs and the torch in his hand. room; if Pharaoh could contrive to His belt and mine and some cord come in, the advantage I presently I found in his pocket had done the held would be utterly lost, for, trick. His head had proved trou- though we should, in a sense, be blesome, but I took a stick from fighting on even terms, Pharaoh the grate, buttoned this into his was an expert at murder, but I waistcoat and propped it like that. was no more than a resolute ama-The effect was hideous, for the teur.

Since the cut was so narrow. that was beside the point. At the the gauntlet he had to run was extremely strict and, unless my pistol misfired, I did not see how he could do it and save his life. So I lay very still from force of habit straining my useless ears with my pistol-hand on the plinth of the pedestal-table and my eyes on the at the head of the winding steps cut that was waiting to frame my

dead. To pick my own position was easy After a little, I found myself enough. I had only to take my stand thinking how soft the carpet behind the panel-door that belonged was. . . . to the cut. This was wide enough

I do not know how long I wait-I decided to use a pistol, for the ed, but the first intimation I had bullet was swift and sure and at of Pharaoh's approach was the sudquarters so close I could not pos- den roar of his pistol as he fired it fluently? sibly miss. For all that, I took the at and shattered the torch.

I fear this tale is a record of And then at last I was ready, with bad mistakes, but when I was laythe knife at my hip and a pistol in ing my ambush I made the worst of them all. I have no excuse to I had to wait full five minutes offer. I think a child would have before I heard a sigh on the wind- seen that he must so place the torch that, while it illuminated the The sigh grew to a murmur, and cut, it could not itself be seen the murmur into that unmistakable from the head of the winding stair. sound-the regular scuffling of feet Be that as it may, the horrid that are mounting a flight of stone shock and the darkness took me steps. The footfalls were hasty, aback, and when I fired at the cut, I fired an instant too late. Pha-Why this was I could not imag- raoh's answer came swift as a flash, ine. Why should they run? The and his bullet went through my stars were fighting against them, knee-hole, to lodge in the wall be-But for their haste, I should not yond.

And then-silence. We were both of us deafened, of

course; and, remembering that, I at least had the sense to move. An instant later I was standing rubber-soled, for only one set of behind Rush's chair, And then for the first time that

night I felt the stab of something And then I saw the glow of a I knew to be fear. I was as good as blindfolded.

Two steps more, and I heard my ears were stopped: four walls hemmed me in, and somewhere within their compass was movingcompany of heaven had ranged it- Death. (TO BE CONTINUED)

Picked Longest Psalm The Covenanters, in the time of

"Bugle an' Ruth to go down. Pha- the Civil wars were exceedingly fond of singing psalms. When the As he stepped through the cut great Montrose was taken prisoner. his chaplain, Wishart, the elegant Dewdrop would lisp no more, but historian of his deeds, shared the the deafening roar of my pistol same fate with his patron, and was had carried a message to Pharaoh condemned to the same punishment. went out. I let him grope and find which not even a child could mis- Being desired on the scaffold to name what psalm he wished to I could have done myself violence. have sung, he selected the one hun-Pharaoh was more than warned, dred and nineteenth, consisting of My shot, being fired when it was, 22 stanzas. In this he was guided had reported the ugly news that by God's good providence, for be-Dewdrop was dead. The fact that fore two-thirds of the psalm was

All Around the House

Try rolling doughnuts after frying in cinnamon and sugar. You may like the flavor.

When the lining of your hat becomes soiled take it out, wash with soap and water and iron. Steam hat, if felt, to renew the color, and sew in clean lining. A very fine sandpaper rubbed over

plying linseed oil and turpentine will make tubs as smooth as when new. For luncheon try serving frankfurters in this way: Wrap a slice of bacon around each frankfurter

soapstone set tubs or sink before ap-

. . . Onion soup is delicious when grated parmesan cheese is sprinkled on top of it.

and fasten with a toothpick. Place

under broiler until bacon is crisp.

Glue used to keep furniture parts together cracks and dries out in heated rooms. If a good grade of fish glue is used furniture should stay glued for a long time,

If tea stains are on cotton or linen a winding stair-no doubt of a con- had done, for the roar of the heavy and only a few days old, soak them in a solution made of one-half to one teaspoon of borax to one cup of water. Rinse in boiling water.

Linseed oil applied to leather furniture makes it soft and pliable, gives a darker shade and increases its durability.

The glass which covers the indicator on your gas oven may be cleaned by wetting a stiff brush with water, sprinkling liberally with a scouring powder and rubbing over

Fill the coffee pot with cold water to which a tablespoon of baking soda has been added and boil for one half hour each week. This will re move the brown stain on inside of If fruit juice from ples runs out

into the oven, throw salt on It. where burned crisp the juice may be easily removed. When a hot-water bottle leaks it



to hold hot salt instead of water.

& Associated Newspapers .- WNU Service.

A Generous Attitude

"Can you afford to keep a dog?" "Dat ain' worrying me," replied Mr. Erastus Pinkley. "But de way my luck's been runnin', if I was de dorg I'd git out an' hunt up somebody else to belong to."

Double Checking

"Nurse, did you kill all the germs in the baby's milk?" "Yes, ma'am; I ran it through the meat chopper twice."

Suspicion "What is the principal business in Crimson Gulch?" asked the stran-

"Let's understand each other," said Mesa Bill. "Are you a drummer or a detective?"

Some Linguist Visitor-I hear your daughter has learned Esperanto. Does she speak

Fond Mother-Like a native!-Stray Stories Magazine.

In Need of One Sonny Boy-Say, dad, are there

any plumbers in heaven? Dad-I rather think not, my son. What made you ask such a funny question?

Sonny Boy - I thought there couldn't be, because the sky leaks so much.-Pathfinder.

And Stay Put All Night

"What do you take as a remedy for your insomnia?" "A glass of wine at regular inter-

"Does that make you sleep?" "No; but it makes me content to stay awake."-Humorist (London).



Faces Their Fortune, Yet

They Don't Visit Beauty Shop Mongolia harbors some queer persons whose faces keep them in food. Members of a certain Mongolian cult know the secret of making hair grow all over their faces, until they almost look like animals.

They terrorize simple villagers into providing them with food and clothing, and thus, their faces become their fortunes.

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The usefullest truths are plainest; and while we keep to them, our differences cannot rise high.-William



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TOP AND BOTTOM, THEN



"I love you from the bottom of

my heart." "Why make that distinction, when it is so small that top and bottom are identical."

Leftovers Tourist (in museum)-What's in

Guide-Remains to be seen, sir .-Answers Magazine.

