

CHAPTER XIX .-- Continued. And when she had summoned assist- where he stood motionless. ance? When the castle was stormed, as it were, by gendarmes? My own the steps. I could hear her catching peril would be extreme.

her breath. It was Helena on her way It was hopeless to prevent the inevitable. The rescue of Captain to the hotel for aid. Forbes would be accomplished; my And now I am forced to a confession that will deepen the sympathy or concomplicity in the intrigues of Dr. Starva and Madame de Varnier would tempt felt for me when I related the tragedy at the beginning of my narbe taken for granted. Expostulations would be useless. My very presence rative. But I have determined to make me the deliverance of Captain Forbes. in the chateau would be face evidence myself no hero. For now again came that curious

of my guilt. And so I had played my desperate

game to no purpose.

for the moment of power to act in-To save myself-that was my one thought. Two courses lay before me. Could I make my way to Captain unless I hurled myself instantly on the Forbes? Could I effect his release betreacherous assassin. fore Helena returned with help? If I did indeed fling myself headlong that were possible, and if I could on him, but only after he had fired. hastily make my position clear to the There was a crash of shattered glass; king's messenger all might yet be the shot of his revolver was still echowell. At least so far as the establishing in the stairway as I grappled with

ment of my innocence was concerned. Or I might overtake Helena Brett. To her I might make my confession.

And if she were persuaded, not only that I was acting in her interests, but that my plan to clear up Sir Mortimer's disappearance promised success, I might even now be successful.

It was my fear that she would scornfully refuse both to believe my story and to accept my aid that made me hesitate as to this course.

It was Dr. Starva who decided for the wall.

He had appeared on the terrace below, and he was following Helena Brett.

I had read Captain Forbes's message as well as Helena. Why, then, could there not have been a third person interested in the strange antics of the mirror? And if this surmise were true? If Dr. Starva or Madame de Varnier had read the message? They had not hesitated to use desperate expedients to gain their purpose. Would Dr. Starva hesitate to use means as desperate to prevent Helena from summoning help?

I asked myself this startling question as I took the stairs two at a time to the great hall. The main entrance was locked. For a moment I thought that I was a prisoner in the chateau as well as Captain Forbes. Even now I am not certain that such was not the intention of Madame de Varnier. But Dr. Starva had gained the terrace by a small door close by the spiral staircase. In his haste he had forgotten to

watching, hardly an arm's length from Again the circle of light was blotted out. A woman was rapidly ascending

It was an unequal struggle. I felt

Dr. Starva's hairy hands close about

my throat and I was hurled backward.

CHAPTER XX.

I Am Rudely Enlightened.

The force of the blow had stunned

word Willoughby had spoken before he died. Now I was concealing from her the fact that I knew I deserved 80. the reproach as keenly. We had reached the top of the steps. We walked slowly toward the Grand

I were an honest man.

hotel. Helena, I could see, was concerned with her own thoughts as much cerne.

as was I. For a moment the shock of the accident had made her ferget her errand. Now that we were near the hotel its urgency came to her with redoubled force. She was debating whether she should take me into her confidence. She was saying to herself, I was sure, that it would be a

generous reparation for her unjust censure of me on the terrace of the hotel at Lucerne if she intrusted to "Why," she asked slowly, "should

that man have lain in wait for me paralysis, of will. Again, as in the there? Was he a common thief, do tragedy of the Alps, horror robbed me you think?"

"No," I answered after some hesitastantly. I had caught the glint of tion. "He is a Bulgarian, a political adsteel. I knew that Helena was doomed venturer. I am afraid, Miss Brett, that he has had much to do with the disappearance of your brother."

She paused, startled. "How should you know that?" her voice vibrated with suspicion.

"Because I have learned something of him at the chateau. I am a guest there." I pointed to the castle towers across the valley ... "You are a guest of that woman;

Madame de Varnier?" "Yes."

me for the moment. Presently I heard Helena calling for help. I struggled terness, "you draw your conclusions to my feet and leaned gasping against very hastily. Is it impossible for you to believe that I wish to help you-

"Are you much hurt, sir?" she asked that I wish to make atonement to you

either case I have been equally weak." through me." That was what I should say to her if "You have already made that reparation, Mr. Haddon," she said almos But I did not. You see I am frank in humbly. "Fate has punished me that these confessions. Really, then, I am I should have judged you so hastily showing that in this instance I was and so wrongly." even a greater coward than before. "No, no!" I spoke in fierce remonstrance. "Will you never be just to For then I at least told the truth. I did not conceal from her the hideous me? That was an accident, I tell you." "I do not like you less that you say

It was hopeless to make her understand now. I should have confessed my cowardice sooner if I wished to be believed. She had judged as at Lu-

living while Willoughby died. In save a life for the life that was lost

"Listen." I drew her to a garden seat. "A life for a life-that is what you said. But if, instead of a life, it were a man's honor that I could save -if it were the honor of your brother?"

Her lips trembled. She leaned to ward me in her appeal. "Oh, you would crush me with the

weight of my gratitude. Save my brother's honor, and, and-" "I should then stand equal with

other men in your respect?" "Yes," she said faintly, her eyes bright with unshed tears. "We need a friend so much now. We are in such deep distress because of my poor brother. Evidently you know of his disgrace." Shame blanched her cheek. "I know something of it." I said with sympathy. "Tell me, Miss Brett, do I not bear a marked resemblance to your brother?"

"At first sight it is startling;" she cried eagerly. "When my mother and I saw you at Lucerne we thought you were he. When we learned that you were with Mr. Willoughby at the time of his death, you can understand how bitterly we resented our disappointment. Forgive me if I am again suspicious, but that I should find you the guest of Madame de Varnier now,

at this time-' "If I am to help you, you must trust

"I will. I do." "Implicitly?" "Yes." "Even though circumstances seem

utterly against me? Even though I may seem a friend of Madame de Varnier-to be in league with her against vou?' She hesitated. "She is a dangerous

woman. If my poor brother has fallen a victim to her horrible beauty-" "I shall be on my guard," I replied lightly, smiling at her fierce resentment.

"But you will continue to be her guest. Is that wise? How can you effect the release of Captain Forbes if you remain at the chateau?"

"How can'I learn the truth concerning your brother, how can I do my utmost to save his honor (if it be not yet too late), unless I remain at the chateau-yes, unless I am on apparent good terms with Madame de Varnier?" "You are testing my belief in you to

you smooth the suspicions of your hostess as readily as you do mine." She spoke bitterly.

I have not a clear field to carry out

my plans-if I fail, or am baffled by

disgraced man. No one will believe

my defence-not even you. I may

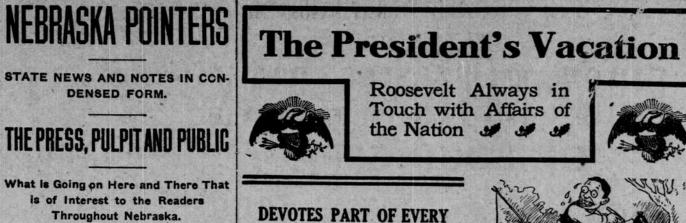
She placed both her hands in mine.

"Forgive me. My anxiety is so

great. I do trust you. Return to

Madame de Varnier, Mr. Haddon. I

truth.



The harvest in Pawnee county shows the wheat better than for many years.

United States Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, last week spoke at the Tecumseh chautauqua.

Protestant churches of Nebraska City have joined together and are holding outdoor meetings.

Prof. H. H. Hewitt has tendered his resignation as head of the department of music at the Peru normal college. Methodists of Aropahoe have received plans for thire new church to

be erected this year at a cost of \$7,000. H. A. Day, a directory man who

was recently appointed by the city, council to take a census of Beatrice, has almost completed the task. He finds that Beatrice has a population of about 12,200 people.

During a recent storm George Cowles' barn, on his farm three miles northeast of Valley, was struck by lighting. Four horses were burned. One escaped, but so bacay burned it was necessary to shoot it.

Deputy Oil Inspector D. W. Hoyt reported to Inspector Allen that he had rejected seven barrels of oil at Weeping Water and had ordered the stuff destroyed or shipped back. There were eight barrels in the shipment. Three railroads have filed answers with the interstate commerce commission to the complaint recently made by the Lincoln Commercial club which alleged discriminations on

freight rates from the south in favor of Omaha. R. H. Shurman, a prominent resident of Scribner, one of the early settlers of the place, dropped aead

from heart failure. He was chopping down a tree when he became faint. He sat down and in five minutes he had expired. County Superintendent Matzen says

there will be no shortage of teachers in Dodge and surrounding counties this year. There are many new applicants and the country school boards will have little trouble in finding teachers who will serve.

Prapartions are being made for the third annual encampment of the Platte Valley District Reunion association, which will be held in Central City August 19-23. August 20 will be Children's Day and school children the utmost, Mr. Haddon. I suppose from all over the county will participate.

> A young man giving his name as he was discovered by th

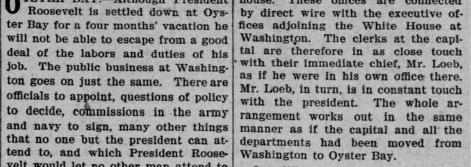
Roosevelt Always in Touch with Affairs of the Nation 3 3 3



DEVOTES PART OF EVERY DAY TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

O YSTER BAY.-Although President | house. These offices are connected deal of the labors and duties of his job. The public business at Washington goes on just the same. There are officials to appoint, questions of policy tend to, and which President Roosevelt would let no other man attend to

even if he had the power. modest and comfortable country house than a few-to the nation's business.



One difference is that the president never visits the executive offices in While he spends the summer in his | Oyster Bay. Whatever business requires to be brought to his attention at Sagamore Hill he is obliged to de- is taken up by Secretary Loeb to Sagvote a few hours a day-often more amore Hill. Mr. Loeb goes to the president in the forenoon about 11 When the president went down to o'clock, after he has gone through the Oyster Bay recently he was accom- mail and sorted out from it the letters panied by Secretary Loeb, Assistant and official papers which need to pass Secretary Latta, and four clerks from under the executive eye or hand. Some the executive staff at Washington. days Mr. Loeb gets back to the village They began work next day in the ex- in time to put in an hour's work beecutive offices in the village of Oyster | fore luncheon. More often his lunch-Bay, three miles from the president's | eon has to wait an hour for him.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES THE

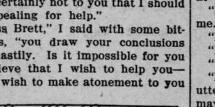
PRIDE OF VILLAGERS



THE executive offices at "the sum- | iness center of the village. His door mer capital," as Oyster Bay folk is always open; any one can walk in take pride in calling their village, upon him, get a pleasant greeting and never fail to impress visitors by their see as much of the government wheels into which a loft above a corner grobusiness there.

unpretentiousness. They consist of going round as he could in Mr. Loeb's seven office rooms and a storeroom, Washington office. All he will see is Mr. Loeb busy at a big flat-topped cery has been divided. Mr. Moore, the desk, with another desk close by coventerprising purveyor of pure food to ered with the newspapers which the the villagers and surrounding gentry, secretary to the president reads dillis a famous man every summer. The gently. He will see the rest of the whole country hears each summer in staff in the five other rooms. One the press dispatches of "the executive room is occupied by one of two teleoffices over Moore's grocery." Mr. graph operators who are on duty by Moore's pride would be greater if the turns from nine a. m. to 11 p. m. They president should come down some day are kept busy most of the time. Much and transact some important piece of of the matter is summaries of correspondence, to which Secretary Loeb Secretary Loeb has a large, sunny directs routine formal answers to be room in the front overlooking the bus- | returned.





"Then, sir," she was hastening her steps, and spoke with cold hostility, "it is certainly not to you that I should be appealing for help." "Miss Brett," I said with some bit-

lock this door.

Desperate as was my own haste Itook the precaution of locking the side door after me and placing the key in my pocket. My reasons for this were vague enough. It was an instinct that prompted me to take the precaution rather than deliberate reflection. But perhaps I might be able to regain the chateau in due time by this side entrance, and none be the wiser. For as far as I knew I had effected my exit unobserved.

In the meanwhile I ran swiftly after Helena and Dr. Starva. I had lost sight of both. I soon came to an end of the promenade. It led directly into the main street of the village. Now that I had gained the village street I looked eagerly about for them. Neither was in sight. I guessed that Helena Brett would make her way as soon as possible to the hotel where she was known. What hotel? That was the question.

I halted an urchin and asked him the name of the best hotel in Alterhoffen. "Oh, the Grand hotel," he answered without hesitation; "that is where all the English lords and American millionaires stay."

Then let him take me hither; I tempted him with a franc.

"Evidently the gentleman is in hurry.'

I assured him that I was, and promised him two francs if I could reach the hotel before a lady whom I was following.

"Then, the gentleman must go by the short cut."

I sped after the urchin down the village street.

This street is one of the most quaint in the whole world. There are two stories of shops on either side. The pavement of the shops below is roofed steps. over; this covered passageway is the pavement for the second series of shops above. I was on the lower pavement, and this explains how I was able to reach a flight of steps, the cut the youngster had promised, before Helena or Dr. Starva.

At the foot of these steps the youngster bolted, assuring me that I should find the hotel when I had reached the I received her thanks almost guiltily top of the flight.

and a little sullenly. These steps pierced a wall of one "I little thought," she continue of the houses of the village street. dreamily, "that you, of all men, would The flight was straight for the first save my life. It savors a good deal 20 or so, then it turned curiously on of the melodramatic, does it not? It a little landing at right angles. Here is very strange." I was in semi-darkness. I groped my "At the best it was a lucky accident. way for the continuance of the flight. Miss Brett. Frankly, you are unhurt The first series of steps, I began to see rather because the man was a bac dimly, had ended at a sort of porter's lodge. I learned afterwards that this shot than because of any assistance I gave you."

was a private entrance to the hotel above and that in the glass-covered I spoke the words thoughtfully and little room a porter was accustomed quite sincerely. I knew only too well that my interference would have been to sit. too late had Dr. Sarva's aim been

I was still feeling my way cautiousmore sure. It seemed to me little ly about (for I had not yet seen that less than a miracle that Helena Brett should be unwounded. I could take the flight of steps was continued at right angles, and the steps were broken and uneven), when the circle no credit for that myself. of light at the foot of the steps leading into the street was blotted out.

At first I hoped it might be Helena. But it was a man, and he was leaping up the steps in desperate haste. I guessed it to be Dr. Starva. But

I had no intention of letting him know

To my astonishment he darted into



It Was an Unequal Struggle. in French, in a cool, matter of fact | for the suffering I have caused you

voice. She had not recognized me in unconsciously?" the semi-gloom. She looked at me intently, her eyes "I am not hurt at all," I replied in still wide with distrust. English. "But I am sorry, Miss Brett, "But you are at the chateau," she that that villain has made his escape." repeated. "You are a friend of that "I fancy I heard some one rush after infamous woman who has ruined my him," she continued, coming to me brother. If you are her friend, how

closer and trying to distinguish my can you be mine?" features. "I have not said that I am her

"I am Mr. Haddon," I said, quietly. friend," I protested quietly. She repeated the name vaguely. "But you are at the chateau." She "The coward." I added: spoke the words obstinately. That There was an awkward pause. We fact was, in her eyes, an unanswerable began to ascend the second flight of

argument. "Yes; and I know that Captain "I am afraid you are assuming a

name to which you have little right, Mr. Haddon," she said gently. "I believe that you saved my life just now. I am much obliged to you." She extended a white hand in the

gloom. There was absolutely nothing of sentimentalism in the action. And for myself, I was cynically unmoved.



Had the Laugh on the Lawyer

Whole Court Room Joined in Joke on Conceited Advocate.

genarian, who was bravely enduring cross-examination, that he "saw the

feet away," suddenly challenged him to tell the time by the clock referred to. The lawyer did not look around

looked at the clock and replied, after

value of the witness' testimony. The distinguished practitioner, however, found himself laughing alone. Presently one of the jury chuckled, and in A distinguished, but conceited advo- a trice the whole court room was in

vate not long ago, after securing an a roar at the lawyer's expense. The unqualified statement from an octo- clock had stopped-at half-past 11.-Exchange.

To Encourage Sleep. Many people suffer constantly from a sense of over-fatigue which entirely prevents sleep at night. A hot bath taken before retiring is a capital antidote in some cases, but in others the bath acts as a stimulant rather than a narcotic, and prevents rather than engenders sleep. One of the best means of obtaining rest is a cup of warm milk to which has been added a seconds—because terror held me speli-bound for the moment. It makes lit-the difference, so far as my courage or self back in his sest with an air of that sleeplessness is caused by shut the empty porter's lodge and crouched the difference, so far as my courage or self back in his sest with an air of that sleeplessness is caused by a down in the gloom. I held my breath, cowardice is concerned, that you are having finally annihilated the entire windows and a lack of fresh air.

it difficult to trust me now, how much nightwatch rummaging through the more difficult when she learned, not mail in the Park hotel, Alliance, He the whole truth, but a damning halfwas taken to the jail and searcheq and seven of the letters were found

"Ah, you are wavering already in in his pocket, one of which had been the trust you have promised to give torn open. He was fined and given me. Great God, you think that it is a a severe reprimand and allowed to pleasant task I have set myself? To depart.

smile on this woman, to play the hypo-Senator Norris Brown has announccrite, to spy on her when I am her ed the following nominations for guest, that I may dog her, coax her West Point: George Doane Keller, into telling the truth, that I may en-Omaha; alternates, L. E. Oliver, trap her accomplice and herself at the Falls City, and Clarence G. Grim of right moment? Miss Brett, I would Wilber. He also announces nominwash my hands of this ugly business ations for Annapolis as follows: if I had not sworn to endure every Robert A. Hall of Hampton; alterignominy and risk of being misundernates, William D. Eakin, University stood not only by a man like Captain and George Gibson of Kearney. Forbes by by yourself. I tell you that

Bellwood has an octogenarian, "Granddad" Freeman, who is climbing hishis 87th year, says the Gazette of some well-meaning intruder, I am a that place. He can swing a trewel or lay a brick just as of yore and is as noisy and as full of fun as many even be dragged to prison as a comof the young bloods. He goes to bed with the chickens and gets up with them, and we believe can knock spots off anything in either David City or 'Ulysses of the same age.

Rev. Peter Van Fleet of Table shall try to be patient. But Captain Rock, who purchased what is known Forbes, am I to do nothing to help as the "Blacklaw farm," a few months since, has just sold to the Burlington people twelve acres, lying a short distance from the Nemaha river, for \$200 per acre. As the company is getting ready to again burn ballası at this point, and did not have the necessary room, and this was the only piece available, it became necessary to pay this price.

> The champion fish catch has been made by W. B. Havelock of Atkinson. While fishing for trout on the Curtis ranch, seven miles from that city he caught two trout one of them being two feet in length, weighing six pounds when dressed and the other fish measuring nineteen and a half inches. So strong was the fight with one of the trout that both line and fish pole were broken and the fisherman jumped into the creek and secured his trophy. The fish have been sent to his Nebraska home in proof of his story.

> A most destructive storm of wind and hall visited Scotia and surrounding country. Crops of all kinds are badly damaged and fruit and gardens ruined.

Macadam road-building in Dodge county got a serious setback at the hands of the county board of supervisors. After listening to arguments by a government expert and leading citizens of Fremont who want to see the inheritance tax fund devoted to the road-building purpose, the supervisors refused to act, but postponed the whole subject until next January.

A fire supposed to be of incendiary origin destroyed four frame business buildings and, most of their contents in the village of Crab Orchard. The fire orginated in A. F. Roxburg's twostory building.

The body found in the Missouri river at Plattsmouth and taken to Glenwood, Ia., is believed to be Charles Klofat, an Omaha man, who lost his life by drowning under the Douglas street bringe ally 4. He wore a black satin shirt, gray vest, black trousers under blue overalls and his hair was black.

SEE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

president will be glad to see them at A LARGE part of Mr. LOED'S DUSI- president with the and hour on the day ness in summer is deciding "who's such and such an hour on the day LARGE part of Mr. Loeb's busiwho" in the matter of requests for per-

sonal interviews with the president. The president has a telephone in his Few persons are allowed to go up to house, but if you, Mr. Citizen, had something in your mind that you Sagamore Hill and ring the door bell. thought the nation's chief ought to Of course, cabinet officers, senators know about at once, you couldn't go and a few representatives would be permitted, if they chose to arrive in him up. The telephone exchange girls into the nearest pay booth and call Oyster Bay unannounced, to drive up at Oyster Bay have a strict rule on to the presidential door and send their that. All persons, from cabinet rank cards to Mr. Roosevelt. But these down who call for Mr. Roosevelt's privileged men are the very ones who number are switched over to Mr. would never think of doing so. All Loeb. If it's all right, Mr. Loeb says visiting statesmen write or telegraph beforehand, asking whether it will be Mr. Loeb doesn't know you he asks convenient for the president to see you your business and probably adthem on a given day. The query and vises you to put it into writing, for the answer pass through Loeb's hands. Mr. Loeb is a methodical and careful He writes these gentlemen that "the secretary.



stay for luncheon.

the press.

guard near the porch.

with the closest scrutiny the develop-

ment of the campaign for the nomina-

CABINET OFFICERS OFTEN VISIT SAGAMORE HILL

THE cabinet is rarely called together | not they would be quietly advised to in the president's vacation, and keep moving. The guards know who then only to consider matters regard- has and who has not the "open sesed as of the highest importance. ame" to the summer White House. No one can bluff his way past them. Nevertheless, in the course of a summer most of the members of the cabi-Some have tried. net pay a visit, either of business or

The president's bodyguard is comfriendship to Sagamore Hill. They ofmanded by "Jim" Sloan, who has had ten dine and sleep there. Some of the the chief responsibility for his safety president's closest friends in the sensince Secret Service Agent Tyree was ate, members of the "tennis" cabinet. made a United States marshal. Sloan or literary cronies, are overnight now has eight men to help him. guests. But most of Mr. Roosevelt's Guards at the house and at the envisitors who call by appointment are trance from the highroad a quarter asked to arrive in the forenoon and to mile away are changed with the regularity of military discipline, night and

It is the impression at Oyster Bay day. The guards are all picked men, that there will be many such visits by who have shown not merely zeal and the closest political friends of the ad- devotion, which are essential, but ministration from next week on. The horse-sense, alertness and quick judgmaster of Sagamore Hill is watching ment.

Laughter at Meals.

tion of his successor, and it is likely Worry at mealtimes and hurry dithat he will have frequent consultaectly after are two great factors in tions with the leading statesmen who weakening the digestion. One of the are devoted to him and his policies. most important meals of the day is Any incident tending to show a recrudesence of the "reactionary conspibreakfast, yet how often one hurries over food or scrambles through it in racy" would almost inevitably be folstony, frigid silence, scanning the collowed by a procession of party chiefumns of a favorite newspaper. An tains eager to proffer advice and old physician, writing 70 years ago, swear allegiance anew, both to Mr. said: "Laughter is one of the great-Roosevelt and to the public through est helps to digestion with which I am acquainted and the custom preva-

There is no barrier up to prevent lent among our forefathers of exciting persons who can give a reasonable it at table by jesters was founded ccount of themselves and betray no upon true medical principles. Theresigns of the crank, from driving up to fore, endeavor to have cheerful and Sagamore Hill, on the understanding merry companions at your meals." that they are not to halt their horses.

Gave Up Unequal Fight.

but drive around the house and out again. If any person should gain entrance by giving this assurance to the A man's suit of clothes and boots secret service men at the outpost and have been found on the towing-path then try to break faith and seek enof the river Lea, in England, near trance to the house, he would be stop- Clapton. In one of the boots was a ped by other secret service men on piece of paper, containing the followng: "To anybody or everybody:

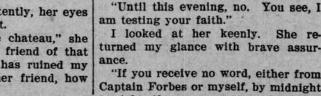
These men, chosen for discretion as Hitherto I have been a wanderer with well as for valor, would politely in-quire of the visitors whether they had an appointment with the president. If Lea.'—One of the Submerged."

whole thing as if it had occurred ten

Far from that, I should tell her the himself, as he had done so about half absolute truth if I were honest. I an hour before, when he had noticed that it was half after 11. The old man would say to her: "On the contrary, I have proved myself to be a coward again-infinitely more so than, when Willoughby lost his life. Then I was a pause, "Half past 11," upon which exhausted, physically powerless. Now the lawyer, knowing that it must be that I was following him. I pressed I have failed-still by the fatal three nearly 12, turned to the jury and burst close against the wall to let him pass. seconds-because terror held me speli- into a derisive laugh, exclaiming sar-

he has just signaled to you that fact fen." and has asked you to get help. And "And will you not include among my now I want you to leave the matter services," drawled a voice behind us. in my hands. I demand that as my "the fact that I was so fortunate as to right. It is a task I have set myself. save your life just now, Miss Brett?" Once you said to me that I should

COTASON -



mon felon."

him?"

to-night, if you are not summoned to the chateau by your brother (and that I warn you is only too unlikely), inquire at the Grand hotel for Mr. Robinson Locke. He is an American consul at Lucerne; he will help you."

"He has already helped us. It was Mr. Locke who directed Captain Forbes is detained there; I know that Forbes and myself here to Alterhof-

(TO BE CONTINUED.)