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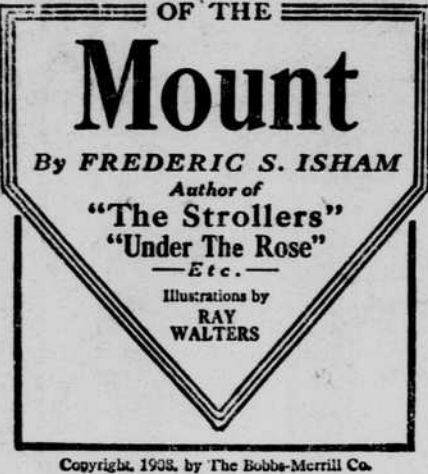
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Specialist, one who is
not afraid to use his own
name, and who has a
permanent business and resi-
dence. DO NOT BE DECEIVED
by scalping doctors who
charge low day care for chronic or
private diseases.
Stopping at length near the Tour
Bernard, he looked fixedly down at the
town, wrapped in a stillness that
should have reassured him. Never-
theless he appeared not satisfied; and
had stepped out into the court again,
when some sound he heard, or fancied,
sent him quickly to an embrasure in
the wall. From this opening-for-

The Lady



OF THE
Mount
By FREDERIC S. ISHAM
Author of
"The Strollers"
"Under The Rose"
Illustrations by
RAY WALTERS

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SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I—Countess Ellse, daughter
of the Governor of the Mount, has chance
encounter with a peasant boy.

CHAPTER II—The "Mount," a small
rock-bound island, stood in a vast bay on
the northwestern coast of France, and
during the time of Louis XVI was a govern-
ment stronghold. Develops that the
peasant boy was the son of Seigneur
Desaurac, nobleman.

CHAPTER III—Young Desaurac deter-
mines to secure an education and be-
come a gentleman; sees the governor's
daughter depart for Paris.

CHAPTER IV—Lady Ellse returns after
seven years' schooling, and entertains
many nobles.

CHAPTER V—Her Ladyship dances
with a strange fisherman, and a call to
arms is made in an effort to capture a
mysterious Le Seigneur Nois.

CHAPTER VI—The Black Seigneur es-
capes.

CHAPTER VII—Lady Ellse is caught
in the "Grand" tide.

CHAPTER VIII—Black Seigneur re-
sues, and takes Lady Ellse to his re-
treat.

CHAPTER IX—Seigneur and a priest at
the "Cockles."

CHAPTER X—Seigneur tells Desaurac
that Lady Ellse betrayed him, but is
not believed. The Seigneur plans to re-
lease the prisoners at the Mount.

CHAPTER XI—Lady Ellse has Sanchez
set free.

CHAPTER XII—Disguised as a peasant
Lady Ellse mingles with the people and
hears some startling facts.

CHAPTER XIII—A mysterious Moun-
tebank starts a riot and is arrested.

CHAPTER XIV—The Mountebank is
locked up after making close observations
of the citadel, and is afterwards sum-
moned before the governor's daughter.

CHAPTER XV—The governor enters
the room during the interview with the
Mountebank.

CHAPTER XVI—As a miserable but-
ton, the Mountebank is released in or-
der of the governor.

No; with two black figures; ominous;
armed. He could see the glitter of their
weapons, and ventured to move his
thick tongue, when, fiercely sil-
enced, he crouched down; waited,
with hands clenched, an interminable
period; until faintly from afar sound-
ed the note of a night-bird.

Roughly jerked to his feet, between
them he walked to the door; heard it
close; stepped out into the night.
Many times had he made his way be-
tween wheel-room and guard-house,
but now the route seemed strange,
and, looking around near the struc-
tures at the entrance to his dungeons
Jacques shook his head as if to rid
his brain of some fantasy. But the
scene did not change; the guard-house
remained—familiar; unlike, with un-
known faces peering from it, and an



"Seigneur, We Hardly Dared Hope—"
imperious voice issuing commands to
him, once unquestioned commander
here!

And comprehending what was being
said, he struck his breast violently;
with curses would have answered that
the keys were his own; the dungeons,
too, and what they held, and that he
would never lead them there; never
open these doors! But this grim, sav-
age, determined band beat down his
arms, and his courage; and, with the
shadow of the grave again before
him, the dwarf walked on; past the
stable into the guard-house, where fa-
miliar forms once had been seated,
and into the passage leading to the
dungeons beyond.

CHAPTER XXIII.

At the Verge of the Aperture.

The footfall of the Black Seigneur,
near the guard-house of the dungeons,
was measured, yet noiseless, as he
stepped on the soft earth, alongside
the stone wall, now toward the pas-
sage in the direction of the wheel-room,
then back into the little square. That
his thoughts, however, moved not in
accord with that deliberate stride, the
brows impatiently knit, and the quick
glances he continued to cast over his
shoulder, bore testimony.

merly for cannon in defense of the
fensils, and the poulin, or plankton for
the hoisting of goods—he leaned far
out, his glance instinctively turning
toward the barracks, some distance to
the right and far below. As he stood
thus, that which had first attracted
his attention—the sound of a voice
giving orders—was repeated; at the
same time where had been only dark-
ness now shone many windows, while
to the left, near the entrance he had
passed after leaving the stable, lights
began to dance like fireflies.

At these signs of activity and the
sounds breaking the general quietude,
an exclamation fell from his lips; then,
pausing only a moment to listen and
observe, he sprang toward the guard-
house. Crossing the threshold, de-
fined by a faint glimmer from a dis-
tant corner, he made his way past sev-
eral motionless forms, into a low pas-
sage beyond. Here he called out im-
patiently; but from those depths, lead-
ing down into the dungeons where his
comrades had gone, no answer was
returned. His voice, hollow, mocking,
seemed stifled in a tomb; more loud-
ly he shouted; walked farther in, when
an indistinct response was followed by
a pin-point of light, and, ere long, by
the bearer of a little lamp, Sanchez.

"The others?" At the head of a
dark stairway into which he would in-
advertently have plunged, had he gone
farther, the Black Seigneur confronted
the man, as he approached.

"They will soon be here," said the
old servant, springing up the steps and
walking after his master, who had al-
ready turned back toward the guard-
room. "Jacques—curse him!"—put-
ting out his light in obedience to a
gesture from the other—"fumbled
with the keys; pretended he couldn't
find the right ones! So it took long-
er to open the doors."

"The prisoners?"

"I left our men working at the last
dungeon to come on ahead—to let you
know you might soon expect them."

"Soon," ironically, "may be too late."
"You mean—?"

"The hue and cry is out! I have
long been expecting it; I do not un-
derstand why it didn't come before;
unless a mountebank, locked up, was
considered safe enough for the night—"

"Then some one knew—?"

"Some one?" A bitter laugh was
jerkily suppressed on the young man's
lips. "Hark! Listen!"

"Sounds below! the soldiers!" ex-
claimed Sanchez, and started toward
the window to look out, only to fall
quickly back.

"What is it?" With his hand on the
other's shoulder, the Black Seigneur
whispered the question.

"A face! At the window!"

"So soon?" The bounds are quicker
than I thought! Or," drawing his
sword, "it may be only one or two in
advance. In that case—"

But no enemy, single or plural, met
their view, either in front, or at the
side of the guard-house; only the
darkness, void, empty, and bare
rampart wall winding around the head
of the Mount like a monster guardian
dragon, asleep at his post.

"Here is no one!"

"No one! Yet am I sure I saw—"
"A shadow!" answered the other.

"And we have nothing worse to fight!"

"Some one was there, Seigneur,"
stubbornly, "and fed!"

"Eh bien! He's gone!"

"He? It looked like a—"
"Back with you, quick! Is this a
time for talk? Call those who can
come—if they would save their
necks!"

"Here they are now," exclaimed the
servant, and, as he spoke, the first of
their men, blowing out the light he
carried, ran quickly across the guard-
chamber and into the open air. Oth-
ers hastily followed, until the gather-
ing, swelled by those brought with
them from the dungeons, stood ex-
pectantly before the little stone struc-
ture.

"All the prisoners are here?"

"All!"

"To the wheel-house, then!"

But as they hastened across the
square and into the narrow way, the
Black Seigneur again spoke to the
man just ahead:

obeyed; all save one.
"I'll let it out myself," said San-
chez.
"Get in!"

"No!" was the obdurate reply, when
the Black Seigneur made a sign;
hands reached up, seized Sanchez, and
a moment later the car started down.
The line strained; as it played out,
now running free about the stanchion,
then stopping with jerks, the man in
the wheel-house almost looked to see
it part. The hempen strand, however,
proved sound; held its human freight;
but another danger pressed near.

Scarcely had the car begun its down-
ward journey than an attack, indica-
tions of whose approach had not been
wanting, manifested itself without. Be-
neath a sudden, savage assault, the
door shook; yet engrossed at the line,
every muscle strained, the man at the
stanchion heeded not. Swiftly, me-
chanically he worked, apparently as
unconscious of the clamorous soldiers
without as of a silent presence within
—some one that had been concealed in
the little store-room adjoining, open-
ing into the wheel-house, and now
peered out; but at once drew back, as,
with a crash, the door fell in.

At first, in the comparative dark-
ness, with only the sky at the aperture
starting them in the face, the in-rush-
ing black figures paused, uncertain;
lights soon were pushed forward, how-
ever, and then could they see the great
wheel going round, unwinding the
rope; the man at the stanchion.

"The prisoners! He's letting them
down."

"Cut the line!"

Some one with a knife rushed for-
ward, severed the strand; but at that
moment the car touched the bottom.
Then did the solitary man at the rope
for the first time awaken to his own
situation; with a backward sweep of
the arm he struck so fiercely the fore-
most of those to rush at him that the
fellow fell, hitting hard the stone floor.

Those nearest stumbled, and drawing
his sword, with a thrust of point or
blow of hilt, the Black Seigneur, for a
moment withstood the first confused
on-coming; then extricated himself
and leaped to the narrow space behind
the wheel. Here was he protected be-
hind by the wall; at one end, by the
masonry jutting out, while, at the oth-
er, only one or two could attack at the
same time. But in front, through the
spokes of the broad wheel, they might
well hope to reach him.

At once the soldiers sprang for-
ward, when, seizing the wheel, the
man behind, with a savage jerk, set it
in motion. The swords thrust at him
were turned aside, one or two of his
assailants were caught in the ponder-
ous mechanism, and before those at-
tacking him had recovered from their
surprise, the blade of the Black Sei-
gneur shot in and out; to the right, to
the left. Those ahead fell back upon
their comrades; two, however, were
unable to withdraw, and sank to the
ground before the wheel. A third,
with his hand to his throat and mak-
ing strange sounds, staggered back to
the wall.

Momentarily disconcerted, the oth-
ers hesitated. "In the fend's name,
fear ye one man?" shouted an authori-
tative voice.

"'Tis the Black Seigneur! I had a
good sight of him."

"Beat beat!
'Mid marsh-muck and mire—"

came in mocking tones from behind
the wheel.

"The mountebank!"

"Sacre tonnerre! But mountebank,
or outlaw, you shall pay! This way!"

And at the unprotected side of the
wheel the commandant sought to
bring the issue to a conclusion. One
blade the Black Seigneur struck down,
while his own weapon retorted with
more effect, though as it did so, an-
other soldier made a lunge, and his
sword entered the shoulder of the man
behind the wheel. A shout of triumph
that fell from the lips of the Gov-
ernor's trooper was, however, abrup-
tly checked; lunging forward with the
stroke, ere he could recover, some-
thing heavy—a brass hilt—beat like a
hammer on his head and he dropped
to his knees. The others pressed
closer; but with the desperation of a
man resolved to sell his life dearly,
the Black Seigneur fought on; regard-
less of cut and thrust, was holding the
narrow entrance, when from the rear,
somewhere, came the report of a fire-
arm.

"Back! Stand back!"

Those nearest the wheel, not un-
willing, perhaps, to desist, drew away;
other detonations followed and smoke
filled the place, obscuring the gaze.

In the yellow fog they waited; until
first it was swept aside close to the
opposite wall by a draft of air from
the aperture of the adjoining store-
room, and the commandant, in an ef-
fort to see, moved impatiently for-
ward. Ere, however, he could reach
the wheel, near the threshold of the
store-room, he felt his arm suddenly
seized.

"Look, listen!"

"A warning cry—a girl's voice—
rang through the wheel-room; but the
commandant did not at once heed it;
at that abrupt touch he had involun-
tarily wrested his arm away; he
stared, not in the direction she who
had called out pointed, but at her!

The white, drawn face, the eyes dil-
ated—

"You, my Lady! Here?" he stam-
mered.

But she only made a wild move-
ment; again grasped, drew him for-
ward.

"Quick, or—" And suddenly was he
brought to a realization of what she

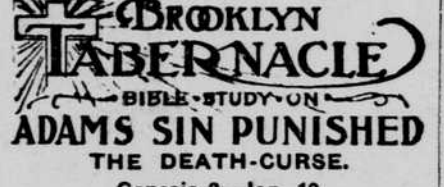
wished him to see; a figure drawing
itself along, slowly, painfully, toward
the verge—

"Don't you see? Rather than be
taken, he's going to throw himself
over!"

The excited, admonishing sound of
her voice aroused the commandant.
He gave a sharp order and the soldiers
sprang forward; laid roughly hold of
the prostrate form; drew it back. The
Black Seigneur yet struggled, but not
for long! A moment, and his eyes
turned to the Governor's daughter.

"I'll let it out myself," said San-
chez.
"Get in!"

To be Continued



THE BIBLE STUDY ON
ADAMS SIN PUNISHED
THE DEATH CURSE.

Genesis 3—Jan. 19.

"Every one that committeth sin is the bond-
servant of sin.—John 8:34.

ADAM'S first sin brought the
penalty specified in this les-
son. The Bible proposition is
that God, having made Adam

perfect, required perfect obedience as
the condition of everlasting life. One
act of disobedience broke the covenant
between God and Adam. (Hosea 6:7,
Margin.) Immediately he dropped from
favor, under the sentence, "Dying,
thou shalt die." Nothing that Adam or
his children could do subsequently could
recover covenant relationship with God.
The death penalty was the limit.

By the law of heredity, Adam trans-
mitted to his race a share of what he
possessed, good and bad. As Adam
could not increase his penalty, neither
can his children. But as Adam could,
by obedience to the Divine Law, pro-
long the process of his dying, so may
his children. But the impairment
wrought by sin has so progressed that
many of Adam's children die in in-
fancy; and few maintain the struggle
for existence for a hundred years.

Death the Curse—Not Torture.
Our forefathers during the Dark Ages
misunderstood the Heavenly Father's
character and Plan. Misunderstanding
the Bible to teach that God arranged
for the eternal torture of all except the
Church, they sought to copy their mis-
conception of Jehovah by torturing their
fellow-creatures. Because

God's people have been gradually
getting back to the teaching of His
Word, the horrible practises of the
past are no longer approved. But
many have much yet to learn re-
specting the true teaching of the Bible.

The curse which God pronounced
against our race is not eternal torment
at the hands of devils; but as the Ap-
ostle says, "The wages of sin is death."
The remedy is a resurrection, secured
through the Redeemer's death at Cal-
vary. "The gift of God is eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord." All
experience the death penalty. All will
have opportunity sometime of regain-
ing everlasting life through Messiah's
redemptive work and His Kingdom.

For a Little Flock, who in this Age
have obeyed the Master's Voice, God
has provided glorious things, far su-
perior to anything that Adam lost. To
those who walk in Jesus' footsteps,
God promises a share with the Master
in His glorious Kingdom.

The Lesson of This Study.
If our Christian forefathers could
properly have appreciated today's les-
son, they would have known what the
Bible teaches respecting the "wages of
sin," and have seen how seriously pub-
lic thought had drifted away from the
Divine testimony, to "doctrines of de-
mons." How distinctly God forewarned
our first parents that eating the for-
bidden fruit would bring upon them
the death penalty! After they had dis-
obeyed, God drove them out of Eden,
that the penalty pronounced against
them might be accomplished. Had
they continued in Eden, eating of its
life-sustaining fruits, they would have
lived indefinitely.

Why Evil Was Permitted.
God foreknew the fall of man, before
the foundation of the world, and pro-
vided the Lamb of God to take away
the sin of the world. God had a glo-
rious purpose interwoven with His per-
mission of sin, which the majority but
faintly discerned until lately. Jesus
estimated that shortly before the es-
tablishment of His Kingdom His
Church will understand features of the
Divine Plan previously kept secret;
they will have an appreciation of God's
purposes, and His reasons for having
permitted sin and death for six thou-
sand years.

The Temptation of Eve.
How Lucifer and holy angels became
disloyal to God we will inquire into
later. In this lesson Lucifer, or Satan,
is shown as seek-
ing to alienate
our first parents
from the Creator,
that he might en-
slave them as
servants. Aspir-
ing to be God, he
was unwise to
sue for possession
of a position which
he was not qual-
ified to fill.

The serpent ate of the forbidden fruit
in the sight of the woman and then
manifested its wisdom. The woman
perceived. She craved knowledge.
Could it be that God wished to keep
them in ignorance, and for that reason
had forbidden their eating of the fruit?
Such disloyal thoughts should have
been promptly wiped. She was not de-
ceived as respects the wrongdoing, but
regarding the result. Seeing that the
serpent was not poisoned by the fruit,
she did not realize that the poison to
her was that of disobedience, bringing
the death sentence. Adam's eating of
the fruit was with full knowledge of
the result. In love with his wife, he
ate knowingly, preferring to die with
her rather than to live without her.

Driven out of Eden.
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serpent was not poisoned by the fruit,
she did not realize that the poison to
her was that of disobedience, bringing
the death sentence. Adam's eating of
the fruit was with full knowledge of
the result. In love with his wife,