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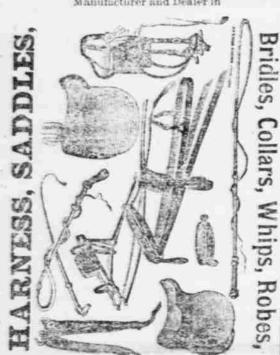
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THE

- 0 B -

Who Will Save Her?

CHAPTER XXXI, (Continued.) The veil was raised as the words come from ?" were distinctly but quietly attered, upon the speaker's face.

Simple words enough, but the effect from her bair. they produced upon the old man was theef ect of a thunderbolt. He threw up his arms with a cry of terror, lantern dropped, to extinguish itself woman in the background. at his feet.

'I am going mad!' he said-'mad-Will give diligent attention to any legal hasiness nerrosted to blacare. Office in Court House Build- mad! My brain is all in a whirl! It is not possible! It can't be possible! Then with another low, vague cry into the fire. of terror, he stumbled forward, and

> heavily on the ground. of the steward as it lay on the ground | madhouse-that's what you'll be! before him.

Work done to order and satisfaction guaranteed tle, 'bere-s another queer caper! I'm fingers. not what's generally called nervous. but I've had about enough of this pered Darknoll, alluding to the mys. track. place, and if I don't pack up my walise and start for town to-morrow, my at Tom.

> name's not Tom Brompton!' He raised the steward, who had had only a momentary fit of some kind, him, picked up the lantern.

'Lean on me, gaffer. Don't be afraid. I'm not much as regards size but I'm as full of sinew and as tough tern. 'Now let us forge ahead, look riveted on the stranger. around, and inquire for some further

gate." Meanwhile the mysterious visitor pressionless. had not paused for a moment, but as one knowing the way, had passed rapidly on, and entered the house.

> CHAPTER XXXII. IS SHE MAD?

When Tom, with Darknoll, still dazed from his fall, re-entered the housekeeper's room, both uttered a

ery of surprise. For there, in front of the fire, was seated a woman-the stranger they had just admitted.

She had removed her hat and shawl, borhood?" both soaked with water, and thrown 'P'r'aps. But we've no asylums them carelessly aside, had drawn a near here." a chair in the very front of the fire. This was sotto vocc. The girl

and was drying her feet at the blaze. woman with the weary voice and Very young, but with a face so dripping hair went on, her thin, small hands. Her long hair suddenly raised her hand, and pointwith water as it was, hnng in beavy | Bleck !' dark masses about the head and upon | 'The housekeeper looked up.

difficult, at once to pronounce. The times, you know-nothing like the features were regular and delicately old times !' and again she went off, to cut, but, as we before said, dreadfully | Tom's infinite disgust, calculating upworn. Not that there was anything on her fingers the number of years like physical pain, or even mental those 'old times' were off. suffering, in their expression; on the contrary, a look of intenss placidity allowed to leave my gallery. A full assortment of PICTURE FRAMES, of all styles and grades on hand. ALBUMS, LOCKETS resignation—pervaded the whole. A statue of marble-moving, breathing,

speaking, but still a marble statue. Stranger still yet! Mrs Bleek, whose old bones she them from her cushioned chair, was article. down on her knees removing the 'Yes, she's a lady,' muttered the sponge-like boots from the visitor's old man; 'and as a lady, should be ceived with a sort of apathetic non-

She was neither poorly nor richly clad. A dress, plain in color and comfortable in texture, -that was all. Ornaments of any kind she had

chalance, as one accustomed to be so

The stranger never turned even to look at the two men as they entered, but muttered to herself, as she stared down at Mrs. Bleek, still busy with her boots, "It's a wild night to make

many, many, many miles!' 'It is the voice,' said Mrs. Bleek, looking up, and also speaking to herself, 'but not the face! Ah, me! how dim my poor eyes are! It's not the

face! Changed-changed!' 'What's the meaning of all this,

gaffer?' whispered Tom. 'Meaning?'-and the old man turned his bead-like eyes upon the lad's _-'why not, since---' She stopped, curious and astonished face. 'That confused by the steward's snake-like some poor creature has escaped from eye. 'Well, well-I knew things

grandmother seems to me the mad- met in the churchyard long ago." dest of the two.'

I'm afraid the old lady has got a ed, impatiently. crack.'-and Tom touched his fore- 'Only Sir Hugh's' she said, apolohead. Then he added to himself, 'To getically. 'I am single-handed here. morrow morning, first train, seven a. and I air them by turns, why--m., Mr. Brompton's luggage will He stopped her abruptly. It was be at the station. When I came always necessary to stop Mrs Bleek fused to quit the great arm chair at the dently so afflicted, she crouched down to Wentworth, I didn't bargain abruptly to keep her ideas in the bed's head, and drew back from the quickly down upon the floor, and

'Stand up!' said Darknoll, very 'That room will do. Take her and a terrified shudder. sternly, crossing to the fire, and ad- place her there, I will myself pre-36 Main Street, BROWNVILLE, NEB. dressing the housekeeper, who, ever pare her a restoring drink.'

obedient to a word of command from facing the woman at the fire.

'What brings you abroad such a

'I don't know,' was the low, halfon quietly wringing the rain-drops 'Where are you going to?'

'Nowhere. I have come home.'

'It's the same voice, but not the iy. while from his nerveless fingers the same face!' murmured the foriorn old

'Look after your grandmother,' said out where she came from?' Graduated in 1851. Located in Brownville 1855.

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he had dropped came face downward will find herself, before long, in some such a place as this poor creature has 'Where she came from?' Tom, who had seen nothing of all escaped from. Be still, can't you.

> 'Hilloh! What's up ?-or, rather, shut up Mrs. Bleek. Utterly dom- and see her well cared for. Nothing soft-spoken ways, is the morning, will pay her a visit, ac- heart from me! I swore I would nevtumbled over your own lantern, I at once, and, though she never took nice business, this,' he muttered to my poor old brains into a muddle.' Well,' and he gave a prolonged whis- studies, ticking off the dates on her young rascal is here! What can have tremble,' she hurried to the door.

> > tesious visitor, and glancing furtively

'Right, lad, right. We must keep

her till the morning, poor thing!'

The last two pitying words were as a fowl at a luncheon-bar. Hold on dragged out between his set teeth, while I find my match box. Here it and there was no music in the tone is. Hurrah!' and he relighted, tho' they were spoken in, nor was there not without much difficulty, the lan- any kindness in the gleaming eyes

Suddenly the latter turned in her particulars about that figure at the chair, and her eyes quietly met his. The gaze was calm and almost ex-'Someone spoke of a madhouse just

now. Ah, that's a dreary place to live in! 'There's no place like home, as the song says. You're Benjamin Darknoll, I think?

The steward started, shivered, and glanced at Tom.

'She knows me, it seems,' 'Seems she does,' said that philosopher, who, having made up his mind to what he considered to be the true state of the case, troubled his head no

more about it. 'P'r'aps she belongs to the neigh-

worn as to render any guess at her ex- 'They say I know nothing; but I act age uncertain, the stranger sat, do. I am not quite so foolish as they with perfect self-composure, warming all seem to think. That'-and she had come undone, and, all dripping ed to the housekeeper-'that's Mrs.

'Yes, it's me, dear. Glad to see you Was she handsome? It would be back again. Nothing like the old

'She must belong to the neighborhood, said Tom. 'She went into the house straight as an arrow, while I, though the park was nearly as wide as Rotten Row, took every laurel; She's a lady, too,' added 'Tom -'you can see that at a glance; and I reckon, having seen a pretty fair sprinkwould say creaked when she moved ling of both sorts, I'm a judge of the

well cared for. All she wants tonight is rest and nourishment. She shall have both. You want rest,' he said, approaching the stranger, and placing his hand lightly upon her

She shuddered as though the touch were repugnant to her; but turned, nevertheless, and looked at him with her tranquil eyes.

'Yes; I have come a long way.' Darknoll crossed to where the house

keeper was seated. He shook her somewhat roughly by a long journey in; and I have come the shoulder; then looked her steadfastly in the face.

There could be no mistake about the influence he exercised over her. He bent down his head, and in one of those carefully modulated tones he could so thoroughly command, he said, 'You will find this poor creature a bed for the night.'

'Why not?' began the old woman a lunatic asylum, that's all; and your must all come right when you and I

'What room is there ready?' he ask-

right place.

him, rose to her feet, and drew back egg,' cried the housekeeper, immedi- am afeard, you've been scared by slumbers vocal by entuning them an; she preferred that the odium of to consult? Ah, there's the difficulty, in much alarm, leaving the steward ately brightening up, 'with just a lit- some one, and so we lose trust in all.' through her nose. He looked down into the colorless, voice and bringing her lips near to about the room, as though expecting ger, or let us now call her Gertrude So she privately reported the cold, a woman, and no scholard, to play was always fond of that.'

round and glanced at Tom.

he was keeping himself up according- Miss Gertrude, are you not?"

The steward wheeled round, and re- ever she is, but cruelly used by the answer came.

idle time. It is killing her to keep -all the village says so-and a hard poor, wearied troubled head! The It has been intimated to Jane Mur- scoundrel, who visited our village to It required no more to effectually her here, wet as she is. Get a light, man when he's crossed. Despite his terrible sensation has come back doch that the doctor, in the course of steal my daughter, and my daughter's hat pened? Time, however, is all 'What's to be done with her?' whis- that is wanted. They must be on her live drink.

Without a word, the stranger, in obedience to the request of the stew- word. 'Can't turn her out such a night as ard, rose at once, and inclining her this,' said the latter, 'that's positive, head slightly as in leave-taking, drew ple. She wants rest; let her have it. Doctor Balm, of Windlestraw House, face? On the contrary, her eyes glit- beautiful, so clever, from beneath her Give her house room for the night, her drenched garments around her. I'll come again in the morning. Good and his chief assistant, Mr. Joseph ter as with the light of some coming mother's wing! Well, well! Provito his feet; and as he half supported and make the proper inquiries in the and, following the housekeeper, glid- night!' and turning upon his heel, Bradley, better known to the reader triumph, and her thin-lipped mouth dence watches over them who wait ed out of the room.

'Poor creature!' said Tom, drawing them both in. a chair to the fire, as the old man busname just now."

nearly upset decanters and glasses, head drooped upon the breast again. | the window was open. and caused him to spill half the contents of the jug he held in his hand It is warm, and good, and will cheer over the table. 'What's the matter?' said Tom, tes-

tily, and turning round. 'A fellow must have nerves of iron to live here. I'ts one succession of shocks, like an h'electrical machine.'

'I've scalded my hand with the boiling water, that's all,' replied Dark-

'Let me help you.' And Tom was

'No, Lo; stay where you are. I understand these things, and will make the drink myself. So she said her name was Gertrude,' he continued, keeping his back still turned toward. Tom. 'Did she say anything else?'

'Not a word; but sighed and kept on looking into the fire. Beautiful eyes, ain't they ?"

'I didn't remark them.' 'She's as mad as a March hare,' said 'Any fool could see that,' acquiesced

'Gertrude!' mused Tom. 'It's pretty name. I sh'n't forget it.' It is lucky for Mr. Thomas Brompton's peace of mind that his back was still turned toward the old man by the table, or he would have seen such a savage contortion of countenance. such a menacing movement of the clenched bony fist in his direction that for a moment the hunchbacked steward seemed to be converted into

a sort of horrible goblin. Tom, in blissful ignorance of al this, went on with his reflections. 'She certainly knew the house-that

is, her way into it; and she knew your name and my grandmother's." 'Bah! Chance: that's all. And as for the names, they were both mentioned before her. Will you drink any more, as I'm going to lock up the decanters?

'You know your way to your own

'Thank you.' 'And there's your chamber candlestick. Good-night.'

'Well,' said Tom, as he finished the remainder of his toddy, and stretched out his legs before the now rapidly decaying fire, 'the next time I take an outing, it won't be in the direction of Wentworth Abbey. Believe in ghosts? Well, I don't know; but if

that chair this night.' And he pointed to the high-backed, antique chair, lately occupied by the behind. stranger, and which itself looked vague and spectral in the flickering firelight.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

THE PANELLED ROOM. Not a word did the strange visitor speak in answer to Mrs. Bleek's random inquiries.

She allowed the old housekeeper to tore open, with a sort of mad strength. remove her wet garment, and replace them with dry ones, to arrange her ed them eagerly; then, as she again ering form a great warm wrapper. But this done, she obstinately re- With a curious cunning in one evi-

'Rest you there, then, my bird, if sleep of the just.

tle nutmeg.' Then lowering her The faded old woman glanced With astonishing celerity, the stran- not upon herself. lips nearly touched the girl's ear.

whisky and water from a case of de- often to me in my dreams? Ah, me! three documents, which she sewed ter-half-she was the one constant and ponder. canters that stood on the table. Tom and none comes to me, sleeping or strongly and carefully, in the smallest sole assistant permitted in the doc- If something should turn up out of needed keeping up, he thought, and waking, so often as yours. You're compass, into the body of the stays. | tor's labaratory; her knowledge-tes- this, it might be the means of reclaim-

peculiar to himself-a look which I will bring you the drink I spoke of; right, and I'm getting more and more ton had observed, 'the beautiful eyes,' their heads in the health and mind- chaelmas, but I've heard of her to my nearly caused her to retire altogether meanwhile, bed is the only place for foolish every day. My Miss Gertrude remained inexpressibly sad. her now. To-morrow we will find that's lost and gone, lies still and cold 'Over my heart!' she said, almost phere of Windlestraw. 'Where she came from?' repeated And yet,'-and again, after fearfully time may yet come-may yet come-max. he had dropped, came face downward will find herself, before long, in some the old woman, like some dismal echo glancing about her, Mrs. Bleek whis- but when, ah, when? She resumed The escape of a patient had aroused with a heavy sigh)—'and Nancy nev-'Come, do you hear?' and the stew- tell you something which can't be all the sleeping housekeeper with a cat- his wife, if so strong a term as fierce came. That man! What man?' and this, came hurrying up, just manag. Mrs. Bleek, with your nonsense and ard grasped her by the arm, and al- a dream, though old Benjamin says it like vigilance. ing dimly to see the outstretched form tomfoolery, or you'll be shut up in a most forced her to her feet. 'Don't is; and, oh! he's a had man is Benjy 'All I fear now is my head, my speaking, velvetty people.

who's down? Oh, it's you, gaffer, insted by the steward, she subsided can be done till she has had rest. A and do go on so, that he shakes all like a throbbing fire at my temples!' companied by Mrs. Balm, in her er forgive her, but caths are weak s'pose! But where's t'other party? her dim eyes off the stranger, went bimself, again glancing at Tom; 'and A sharp knocking brought the window and threw aside the curtain. A hint, which, as the woman well ah! if he has behaved bad to Nancy. and he peered around. 'Vanished! back to her chair and chronological to have occured just when this sharp housekeeper to her feet, and 'all of a A scream, checked in a moment by knew, signified dismissal.

'How is she now?'

'Quiet-quiet. She never speaks a the steward closed the door, locking as Powder Blue.

ied himself about the drink. 'And no astonishment on the part of Mrs. and bent-Benjamin Darknoll. such a pretty creature, too! She an- Bleek. She was long past being asswered 'Gertrude,' when I asked her tonished by anything: but the stran- opened her dim eyes, upon the day The steward gave a jump, which grated in the lock, but as quickly the but herself. The door was locked, but

> 'Take some of this drink, my bird. you up.

Thus urged, the stranger again raisep her head. 'Take some yourself-drink first,'

she said. There was something so imperative one of its inmates. in the manner, so quick and sharp, that the meek old lady immediately

and almost unconsciously obeyed. down. I will wait a few moments.'

fast asleep-sound as a church. The stranger paused in the centre of others. the room, raised both hands to her

vulsively. all eay it-all! But memory some- small private room, sunk in what is times comes to me-sometimes! How known a a brown study. did Leckhere? That I forget! I re- Once principal matron-that is to member this room-vaguely-vague- to say, she held that responsible posily.! Oh, why can't I think? For a tion some five years ago, whenastran-

des darkness! glanced between the curtains. Glanc. fice. ed, and, as before, drew back immediately, with the same frightened, Catt. There was no discussion upon the matter: the doctor, or rather the

'This I remember,' she said, after a doctor's wife, never permitted her or-'He lay there-there; and it was to- sians, contradiction was impossible. wards this place'-and she laid her ed oak panels. 'Oh, if I could but Mrs. Murdoch remained the same, struggled toward the light, fell back keep my reason for but a brief time and money is a great consoler in all into the darkness, and all was, as belonger, I would have some revenge- afflictions. some, for the torture they have made me suffer! But even while I speak, the old feeling comes back, and my rel? Mrs. Murdoch was hard, cold,

brain is going-going !" still following the line that had been | reader.

along the woodwork of the panel. sleep, and of the disappointment he So saying, the steward took up the brother! What a fate that brother little lady, ex-herbalist of the London the straight brows tightened into a exclaimed. "Why don't you tell me? warm drink he had been concocting reserved for me! Ah, this beating of Warren, had thought it her duty to frown that harmonized with her in a silver mug and abruptly left the blood at the temples-this dim- communicate to the doctor.

ness of sight! It is always so! Going, going !" She staggered suddenly back against the wall, and threw out both arms as

The shock was a severe one, but the result was astounding.

As the half-fainting girl clutched at ever there was one, it was sitting in the carved wood-work, to prevent herself from falling, the panel she rested against slid back, discovering a recess AT LAST!

> Eagerly she peered into the dark cavity in the wall. Nothing; yes-a no key, she forced open, or, rather

with a snap.

such be your wish, and I'll heap more No movement on the part of that

impassible face, which gazed up into Darknoll's ear, she added, with a sat- to hear stealthy footsteps moving be- Wentworth, threw off the wrappers stern woman as one stubborn and the game out for themselves. They his, showing no signs of recognition isfied smirk, 'I know her tastes; she hind the panelled walls, or to see supplied her by the housekeeper. stiff-necked, and hard to deal with. are capable of it. They're a bad lot, watchful eyes gleaming at her from Divesting herself of her corset, she, For Mrs. Prudence herself, Windle- and there's no choice between 'em!' Benjamin Darknoll, keeping his among the heavy folds of the curtain- with the same astounding nimbleness straw House was indeed an Elysium. After which rapid 'summing up' of night as this, lass? Where do you hand upon her shoulder, swerved ed bed. Then she bent down till her of fingers, proceeded, by the help of a Not only was she directress in the ab- the entire legal profession. Mrs. Mur-Much to his relief, that here was 'You're not a ghost, I'm sure. Not case, to unrip a portion of the interior that without arousing any jealousy on into her pocket, and continued, now and the light of the lantern fell full whispered reply, as the stranger went conceeding for himself a stiff glass of one of them shadders which come so lining, sufficiently large to contain the the part of the learned 'Seppy's' bet- with both hands resting in her lap, to

> The expressionless eyes were turned had done this, but it was a laugh by simples rendering her services invalu- that flesh and blood of mine is going 'The poor thing wants sleep,' con- upon her for a moment, and a sort of no means pleasant to hear; it was not able. tinued Darknoll-'rest. A lady, who- sad smile quivered on the lips, but no a mocking laugh, and there was noth- So, as the serpent lay coiled among volutary pun by frequenting them ing of mirth in it; the lips alone the flowers of Paradise, so dld those theatres. I haven't heard from her garded her with one of those looks night. See if she will go with you. 'Deary, deary me! Old Benjamin is moved, while the eyes, as Tom Bromp- twin snakes jealousy and malice raise for these three years, come next Mi-

> > under the Abbey Church out yonder. with a sigh-'over my heart! The Matters have at last come to a cli- was writ down in print all about her pered in the stranger's ear,-'I could ber wrappers, all the while watching the fiercest ire of Septimus Balm and er missed chapel once till that man

> > > Choking for air, she approached the room.

the violent pressure of a man's hand Formalities of that kind were never woman raised two rather formidable It was Darknoll, with the restora- upon her mouth, and Gertrude Went- used by Dr. Balm without a result fists, and shook them threateningly

At the bottom of the ladder stood This gaoler-like proceeding excited another man, feeble, hunch-backed,

ger raised her head quickly as the key she found the apartment empty of all the keyhole. The bird had flown!

CHAPTER XXXIV.

AGAIN AT WINDLESTRAW. Great had been the commotion in Dr. Balm's philanthropic establish-Such a thing had never before oc-

curred in the annals of Windlestraw. The joy was proportionately great 'That will do, thank you. Put it when the fugitive, cleverly tracked and run down, was brought back to She waited not only a few moments, the abode of Health and Happiness- in one of her rare lucid intervals, but nearly an house, and when she did that secluded Elysium, where, for a had sewn linto her stays the night of rise from the chair, Mrs. Bleek was consideration, those who desired it could find rest for themselves or for

On the noon of the day following head, and pressed her forehead con- Gertrude's return to captivity, Mrs. Murdoch, once principal matron in 'Mad! mad! mad!' she said. 'They Windlestraw House, is alone in her

momen all seems clear, and then dark- ger was introduced to the establishment by Doctor Balm, who quietly She moved towards the bed, and superseded Mrs. Murdoch in her of-This stranger was Mrs. Prudence

pause, and with the same convulsive ders to be disputed. Like those removement of the hands to the head. markable laws of the Medes add Perhand upon one of the elaborately carv- place; but then the salary paid to mind, which had for so brief a space

No quarreling ensued.

indicated by the pointed finger, felt But of late-it was impossible to ig- er than I did. How I hate that wom-'He often talked of this panel in his veloped much strangeness of conduct, to be dismissed, and through her ! I'll which, failing to find an explanation | be revenged, that I will!" had hearded up for my brother-my for it in her own mind, the red-eyed The hard mouth grew harder, and

> A silent woman at all times, and, clenched itself fiercely, and she smote even when speaking, abrupt to mor- the larger of the documents before her oseness, Jane Murdoch had lately as though she were smiting the face been singularly neglectful of her usu- of a fee. al duties; would sit for hours brood- 'There's been some deadly, black ing by herself, and to any question, work afoot, and who knows but what table reading the newspaper. would answer vaguely and wide of the key to it mayn't be here? I am the matter, as one whose mind was no scholard, but can make out that painfully pre-occupied.

Prudence. 'Since her daughter Nan- her Mary. This other paper is a state- nant wife. cylwent away to Lunnon, and took to ment of an exchange of children, and play-acting and such-like wickedness a heap of other things beside; a twist- You asked we what I was wating for, hours of reason had visited her for it ha' gone nigh to break her heart .- ed hank, which wiser heads than and I said summons to come to supper five long years, was at last realized. It ha' nigh put her off her head, mine must unravel. A black business! It was possible that her revenge might that's what it ha' done.' But Mrs. Prudence concerned her- ly folding up the papers as she spoke.

small ebony box, which, for there was bellious even, and performed her du- knows? At least, I'll try for it.' having such duties to perform. Papers! One, two, three; she count-

hair, and draw around her still shiv- touched the spring, the panel closed carefully noted by Mrs. Prudence, ficulty, and closed with a sudden and Denver City Railroad, for the purand as carefully reported to the doctor snap, like a steel-trap, that is sure to pose of preventing snow from driftand his wife.

> ent's notice if she so chose. But she did not choose to do any- continued to ruminate

'Some mulled wine and a beat up warm things about you. Like me, I ancient dame, who was rendering her thing of the kind. A captious wom- 'What shall my first move be?' who

pair of seissors taken from a needle- sence of the two principals, but-and doch put the huge pocket-book back She laughed to herself when she tified to by Dr. Malyon-of herbs and ing my poor gel. I can't bear to think

worth felt that she was once more in having been determined upon before- in the air, - 'to give me the power, be-The window was open. A ladder What is the matter with Mrs. Mur- he has meted out to her. The light, had been placed against it, and by doch? Is there an apprehension of foolish bird! He came like a thief in 'All the better. Follow her exam- that ladder two men had ascended- coming misfortune in the set, cold the night, and stole her, so bright, so

> wears a smile. She has locked the door, and, more those who bide their time.' than that, has hung a shawl or garment of some kind over it, so that any Some hours later, when Mrs. Bleek inquisitive eye would find only a dark disappointment; in; peering through

> > She has been busy mending and darning-an active, industrious woman, and clever with her needle. A pile of garments of various kinds are scattered on the floor beside her

ped, lie before her on the table. But, for once, needle and thread are ment on the discovery of the flight of idle, and the enger scissors have ceased their sharp clippings.

Mrs. Murdoch's; whole attention is

chair. A pair of stays, partially rip-

absorbed by the contents of two papers-two written papers, which are opened out upon the table. They were the papers which poor Gertrude, her visit to the Abbey.

It has been described in a former chapter how the unfortunate girl, after reclosing the panel, had, on approaching the window, been recaptured by her relentless gaolers: They had easily tracked her from

Windlestraw to Wentworth, and with

the aid of Darknoll, the rest of their work had been easy: The relapse from reason-if reason it could be called, where there was no possibility of following up a connected idea-was the immediate result of Gertrude again finding berself iff the hands of Doctor Balm and his myr-

She had offered no resistance-she thought of none. Gentle and cubmissive, she had submitted without a the squire, after looking lugubrious word. The subtle drugs which, unfor a moment, joined in. der the direction of Malyon, the little herbalist knew so well how to admin-Mrs. Prudence took Mrs. Murdoch's ister, resumed their sway, and the fore, a blank.

'It is lucky,' said the matron, still How could those two women quar- ruminating, 'that it was I who undressed her when brougth back. Had and self-contained; the character of the fingers of that red-eped dwarf once With a feverish impatience, she, Mrs Prudence is already known to the touched the slays, she would have found these hidden papers -ay, quicknore the fact-Jane Murdoch had de- an! After so many years of service,

> one of these is a will in favor of a Miss company." 'It is all along of her daughter,' sug- Gertrude Wentworth, and that must

ters. Mrs. Murdoch was sullen, re- several somebodies, perhaps - who for this." ties like one who despised herself for | She had taken out of a capacious pocket an equally capacious pocket-Dangerous symptoms these in one book-a dingy and greasy affair, with in a situation of trust. They were a great clasp, which opened with dif-

hold fast what it has once caught. Not but what it was quite in Mrs. Placing the papers in this bulky re-Prudence's power to act upon her own | ceptacle-it might, at a pinch, have

any severity should fall upon others, I don't like lawyers, never did. They may take advantage of my being only

headlong to the pit'--(it was an inrestoring (see advertisement) atmos- shame. It was only the other day I

come across a newspaper, in which singing and dancing. Ah!'-(this can be used to such soft-gliding, soft- again the hard mouth tightened 'She has never told me his name, this against a mother's love. The man! I pray beaven,'--and the stern, old fore I die, to render him the measure

> and pray, and nothing is denied to A sharp knock at the door, at the same time the sound of a siumble on the threshold, caused Mrs. Murdoch

TO BE CONTINUED]

to start hurriedly to her feet

he wanted for dinner:

tiently said the squire,

are the meats?"

Even With One Anothers A certain squire had a friend to visit him on business, and was very much annoyed to be interrupted by his wife, who came to ask him what

Business detained the friend until after dinner time, and the squire urged him to remain. The squire

"Go away! Let us alone!" impa-

was a generous provider, proud of his table, and he complacently escorted his friend to a seat. A little to the surprise of both, they saw nothing on the board but a huge dish of salad, which the good wife began quietly to "My dear," said the squire, "where

"No meats? What in the name of poverty! The vegetables, then !-Why don't you have them brought

"You didn't order any."

"There are none to-day," said his

said the amazed squire. "You forgot," coolly answered the housewife. "I asked what you should have, and you said lettuce alone. The friend burst into a laugh, and

",Order! I didn't order anything!"

Here's that fifty dollars you wanted for that carpet which I denied you." The squire forked over. "Now let us have peace and some dinner." The good woman pocketed the pa-

"Wife, I give it up. I owe you one.

per, rung the bell, and a sumpluous repast of fish, poultry and vegetables was brought in. A few days afterward the squire remained working in the garden later than the usual tea hour. His wife find him. His excuse, when asked

"Some one's come to supper!" she words, while the strong, bony hand men." And without asking which of his friends was expected, she hastened to

what he was waiting for, threw her

into a flutter of excitement.

change her dress and slick up her hair for the occasion. This done, she came out and found the squire seated at the "Where's your company?" "My company? I haven't any

"But you said you expected somegested some of the servants to Mrs. be the girl that's here, but they call body to supper," exclaimed the indig-"My dear, I said no such thing.

-that's what I was waiting for, and

a black business!' she repeated, slow- I came at once." "And you have made me go and self but little with such domestic mat- 'But there's a fortune for somebody- change my dress! Oh, I'll pay you "No matter about it, my dear; I

> owed you for that lettuce." Willow trees are being set out at the euts along the line of the St. Joseph

Water in which a good big pinch of bed itself, at first, with something like peeped around at the place where the responsibility, and discharge any ser- done duty as a valise-Jane Murdoch salt has been dissolved, 'freshens' salf good Mrs. Bleek was sleeping the vant of the establishment at a mom- fastened it carefully, then, holding it fish or ham much quicker than a like in her hand, which rested on her lap, quantity of unsalted water will. Fry

ing into the cuts.

