majority cut in squares and having three little hemstitched tucks running around three sides of the square, while the fourth side gathers up with a fine white cotton cord and is intended to be tied about the crown

This makes a vell very easy of adjustroomt, and as the body of it is usually white with the tucks in pale pink, blue or green, the general effect is exceedingly gay. Naturally only the very sheerest batiste is used and in the laundry these squares are merely washed out and ironed without starching or folding them. Fish net is the single fashommendation of the weave is that it is se steel and jet, and finished with a hem put on strong as if woven of buttonhole twist and with open hemstliching positively refuses to wrinkle.

veiling, all over with minute green, velvet musling, sharmocks, or gray chiffon embroidered along. Some

a yard and a bat to two yards and a quar-ter long, edged with lare, put on straight or in a frill, and this is first drawn over usually choose these big ones to match the plaids, poppy red.

STUMER BEDDING.

A Satisfactory Substitute for the Tire-

some Pillow Sham. Housekeepers whose patience has been desperately tried by the slipping propensity of the well-starched lines pillowsham that, with a perversity unequated, will persist in sliding from its appointed place, will be pleased now that fashion has at last dictated a subatitute for these troublesome day coverings of sleep-rumpled pillows.

Get two yards and a half of silkoline to suit the color of the room. As it comes in two widths it may be saiest to say, buy the wide. It may be had for 15 or 20 centa a yard. Turn each end with a hem three or your inches does not the cover is made. four inches deep and the cover is made. Rest the pillows in a slightly sloping position against the head board and throw cover over them, allowing the ends to hang loose. Do not draw smoothly over the pliloose. Do not draw smoothly over the phi-lows, but after giving a little lap on to the bed push the rest of the fullness in irregu-lar folds over the pillows. This is why silk-oline is preferable to china silk, it being wider allows more material for these locse plaits. Otherwise the appearance is about the same. This covering will not slip out of place, because the material is so clinging. It takes but a moment to adjust and the effect is very pleasing, while the simplicity of its make-up and the lessening labor of launder-ing will be appreciated by every thoughtful

Light tints of silkeline look well with white bedspreads, but, as is often the case, bed-spreads to match the pillow covers are used. For this article get eight yards of wide silkoline, sew together two widths the length of the bed, hemming each end. Let this fall over the sides of the bed until it reaches the rail, then hem under the extra width; on this hem sew a gathered flounce of the material, letting it just escape the floor about two inches. If the bedstead is of brass or enamel there will be room between the mat tress and the footboard to let a flounce slip down at the foot. Other beds will only per-

mit of the sides being flounced, Where one prefers pure white in their bedment can be carried out in any of white figured materials in cheap

The hemstitched hems on sheets this season are somewhat narrower and many of the newest have the two sides and the foot buttonholed in medium sized scallops, in some instances the scallops being worked on the bottom of the hemstitched hem. On linen sheets, of course, this work is done in linen floss, while on cotton and en floss, w linen cotton sheets the work is in soft cotton thread. This embroidery is generally done in white, as the prejudice seems to be against color in bed linen, but where the color scheme of the room is carried out any or all colored flosses, both linen or cotton can be had, though slightly more expensive than the white. As a rule when this is car-ried out in color the pillow and bolster covers as well as the towels, splasher and bureau

covers are all embroidered with the same design and color. For more expensive and elaborate bedding the sheets, pillow covers, bedspreads, curtains, towels, dresser covers, etc., have deep bands of embroidery or battenburg lace of course, are expensive when bought at the linen stores, but when worked at home cost is much reduced, and as they are only made of the heaviest linen, with careful use they will last for generations. sets can be had already stamped with the materials for embroidery or battenburg lace sewed in parcels and tacked to each article As the embroidery is usually in the simplest patterns, it can be easily accomplished by the average woman who has learned only the first two or three scitches taught in em-broidery, while battenburg lace, though exceptionally beautiful and remarkable for its durability, is equally as easily learned, as quickly accomplished and does not strain the

Fashion Notes.

The delightful old time chintzes have come once more into favor. Silk lingerie-inconsistent but still-used term!-is coming into favor once more.

Women's visiting cards are now engraved with shaded letters not unlike type print-White chiffon vests trimmed across with

black velvet ribbon are effective in the foulard bodices. Fine sheer grass lawn is to be worn over

daintily colored glace silks, many of which are first accordion pleated. The flowered muslins intended for dresses.

blouses and Marie Antoinette fichus are par quality and exquisite in design and coloring. The short sacque coat lately introduced a rather odd-looking garment, yet not

without becoming quaintness. It is, however, only suited to tall, slight figures. A novel idea is to have one ruffle around the bottom of a skirt, nine inches wide, with three above three inches wide. When the ruffles are narrow they are abso-

Apropos of the craze for tucks, have a clus ter of three two-inch-wide ones around the bottom of a skirt, again at the knee and just below the hips. Trim the bodice to carry out the same idea.

The designers of the latest French pele rines, fichus and yoked shoulder capes show a decided partiality for lace instead of chit-fon or mousseline de sole in the decora-

tions of these dainty garments. Word cones from Paris that the latest fad there is for undergarments of flaming red silk in all the new shades, varying from the soft reds to the brightest scarlets, but Mephistophelean freaks have not yet

reached this shore. Pale pink, pale blue, purple and yellow Ching silks sets, both figured and plain, are displayed in some of the most exclusive shops and are being much word. They consist of the four regulation pieces and two under-

skirts, one being very short. The handsome English serges and mohair in fine all wool are still the best and most appropriate selections for neat stylish gowns for traveling and morning wear on cool days out of town. A narrow belt and a silver buckle, an open jacket, and a vest or shirt waist completes more than two-thirds of the costumes of this description.

Square sheets of paper are now used by fashionable women, especially when having

They are prettry, too, as well as useful; the written more closely together than formerly and plain envelopes are in vogue. The ad-dress in white ink is now stamped on gray or dark blue paper. Monograms are surrounded by Louis XVI roccoco frames.

Fancy duck costumes in white cream elaborately trimmed with insertion or rows of white braid, or else a blazer that ex-tends about six inches below the waist line. The facket has no lining, neither has the gored skirt, which is about four yards wide, narrow on the front and sides, and full at

A blue and white crepe silk shows corded folding them. Fish net is the single lash toned dotted veil this season. This woven in a very wide mesh, exactly like a castnet and, at every angle in the weaving, a tiny chenille dot is placed. Black fish nets have gray dots, brown nets have dark blue dots and red ones green dots, and one prime records ret in around, and below the yoke of white silk covered with lace is a wide collar of white glace silk tucked and trimmed with a superscription.

ositively refuses to wrinkle.

Very many of the organdy and flowered and dottel muslin dresses have plain tinted All these innovations, however, have not quite done away with that mainstay of late years, the chiffon veil. It is the only face protector women now buy by the yard, for all other emart veils are made up to plustly figured in pretty lace and chenille designs. For instance, you can buy white chiffon veiling all over with minute green velvet where the protection was a cooler gown, and a more dainty, if a little less rich looking one, and this soft lining can be had in all the pretty figured in pretty lace and chenille designs.

Some of the new models in wrans are very the edges with cornflowers. Then there are perforated chiffors, that is on the material tiny leaves, stars or circles of net or lace are applied and the chiffon cut out underneath,
But all these vellings are mere frivolities
beside the nei draperles meant for the toploftical, rone-smothered hats women are
wearing. A vell for a big hat comes from sign can be carried out in black silk grenadine over shot taffeta silk.

The color combinations of the moment hat and face and tied in a knot behind, a are new and startling, the brightest of reds hat and face and field in a knot condition and face and face and field in a knot condition with mauve, violet and purple, a vivid green behind. If he did. a howknot is formed and pinned to the hair, being constantly added. Cerise, a very bright if he did. a bowknot is formed and pinned to the hair, just back of the right ear, and then the remaining length of net is left to flow down on the shoulders. It is permitted to add bright jewel headed pins in arranging these bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bows and nels of every bright color are used bright part of the first part of the did. And it would be easier to clude this being constantly added. Cerise, a very bright if he did. In his preoccupation Van Loo did not see that the had entered the barroom, but, finding himself there, he moved toward the bar; a proportion van Loo did not see that the had entered the barroom, but, finding himself there, he moved toward the bar; a glass of spirits would revive him. As the did. this way. Women who put a deal of pro-und thought into selecting their veils unally choose these big ones to match the raw of their hats, whether grass green or straw of their hats, whether grass green or mer serge or grenadine skirts, are in excellent taste.

The great majority of fancy straw hats in black or vivid colors are ugly in shape, with heavy waved brims, and unbecoming double eccentric crowns, and when heaped with all the various accessories employed in milinery this season, they look ridiculous and opheavy, and are wholly unfit for hotweather wear. The plainest and prettiest tyles are the zephyr braids, the pliable Neaolitans, the always popular Legnorns, and the creamy Panamas trimmed with orchids, violets, Itlacs, lilies-of-the-valley and green tulle; shaded roses, heliotrope, mignonette and velvet ribbon; hawthorn sprays, maidenhair fern and cream tulle and so on.

Feminine Notes. Mme. Bergliot Ibsen, daughter of the disinguished Bjornson and daughter-in-law of ie dramatist, has just made her debut as a

ocalist at Christiania. Miss Louise Sheffield Brownell has ben ancinted warden of Sage college and lecturer in English literature. Miss Brownell is a aughter of Silas B. Brownell of New he was appointed by the trustees of Cornell,

Next to Queen Victoria, Queen Louisa of commark is the oldest queen in Europe. 822 and was married at the age of 20 to rince Christian of Denmark, now King Christian IX. Her majesty, the queen, has a double in the

erson of an elderly lady who occupies—or cculed—a position in the Middlesex hesital, where she was known as the "Queen of Middlesex." She is the exact age of the meen, and became a widow in the same year hat the queen lost her consort.

The counters of Aberdeen is constantly in emand making addresses before women's organizations. Especially has this been the case since the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon her by the Queen's university at Kingston. She was the first woman in Canada to receive the honor.

Miss Fanny Grothian of New York is suceeding admirably with her new invention for setting runaway horses free from a carriage. The mechanism by which this is effected acts as a steering gear so the vehicle can be guided in any direction. At a recent exhibition it was proved to be most practical

Mrs. Davies of Burry, England, will in a few days present a library of 2,000 volum to the city, to be used by women and girls. A little later she will give the city a library for Sabbath school teachers and furnish, and hereafter suport, a reading room for women, She does all this in honor of the queen's long

Six of the nine seniors at Cornell university elected a few days ago to membership n Phi Beta Kappa were young girls. When t is remembered that elections to this venrable fraternity are based entirely upon the standing of the fortunates at or near the close of their college course, the glitter of those golden keys at the belt of the fair Corneilians takes on a new luster.

Lady Augusta Mostyn is one of the mos energus denors of gifts in honor of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. She has just offered \$10,000 toward the chancel of the church in memory of the duke of Clarence and \$2,500 toward the Queen's Jubilee hospital at London. Within a few days she has announced her intention of building and furnishing an entire church in a suburb o Llandudno. This will be in memory of her father and mother and also in commemoration of the queen's long reign.

Mme. George Eugene Haussmann, who erished in the bazaar fire at Paris, was he widow of the famous baron of that name, who was one of the foremost figures in French politics at the time of the second empire. He was a strong political ally of Napoleon III, and under that ruler made illions by tearing down the old buildings of Paris and filling their places with new and handsome edifices. Mme. Hanssmann spent considerable time in writing a large part of the baron's memoirs, which were published

Postage stamp collectors may be glad of hint to take care of their Dutch stamps of recent issue. The Amsterdam journals an-nounce that the government is about to put an entirely new series in circulation The reason for this change, as they say, the indignation of the young queen of Holland at seeing herself represented to her subjects upon their national postage stamps as a mere child. If she is not yet a woman she is at least a maiden, and she has signi fied her royal wish that the Dutch postal authorities shall duly recognize her adoles

Miss Elizabeth Marbury, who has bee decorated by the French academy with the purple ribbon for the service she has ren ered French dramatis's, means of placing their works upon the American stage. She is a bright American business woman, the representative in this ountry of the French Dramatic Authors Marbury that the works of Sardou and such distinguished authors are made accessible to the Américan public. It will be remem-bered that Miss Van Zant and Miss Kate field were the first two American women who were received into the academy.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward's summer room here she writes from May 1 to September is in London, on the top of her town She goes away in the autumn for summer vacation" and, during the hot nonths, stays home for home comfort, and to enjoy Lendon when it is clear. She has what her friend, Lady Aberdeen, first called a roof garden. It is on the top of the house, fitted up exactly like a room, with all sorts of writings there; and a hen with one single chick hatched from a store egg. There is a cat that lives peaceably with both; and on very twilighty days the room is lighted with

amps fitted into windproof globes. Mrs. Sarah J. Lippincott, better known as Grace Greenwood, was the pioneer woman journalist in official Washington. She still ives in that city, and though 72 years of age, and for some time unable to write, talks confidently of resuming her work. I 1823, and says she derives her descent from Huguenois, who narrowly escaped the mas-sacre of St. Bartholomew by never going near Paris, and from Puritans distinguished by not coming over in the Mayflower. She wrote verses from her earliest years, and enjoys the unique distinction of having known nothing of the struggles that usually fashionable women, especially when having affect a lecturer, and attracted large audi-invitations engraved. The reading matter is ences wherever she west.



CHAPTER V .- Continued. But Mr. Van Loo did not immediately seek

Mrs. Barker. He had already some experience of that lady's nerves and irascibility on had come to him. He had already effected his purpose of compromising her with him in that flight, but it was still known only to few. It he left her behind for the foolish, doting husband, would not that devoted man take her back to avoid a scandal, and even forbear to pursue him for his financial irregularities? What was \$20,000 of Mrs. Barker's potent with the bank and Demorest to hush up that also. Hamlin was now the only obstacle to his flight, but even he would scarcely pursue him if Mrs. Barker were left And it would be easier to elude him

equal terms with the others, were standing a man with a swelled head like Stacy would in the corner with their backs toward him From the general silence as he entered he imagined that he had been the subject of conversation and that his altercation with Hamlin had been overheard. Suddenly on of the two men turned and approached him To his consternation he recognized Steptoe-Stentoe whom he had not seen for five year until last night, when he had avoided him is the courtyard of the Boonville hotel. Hi first instinct was to retreat, but it was to late. And the spirits had warmed him into temporary recklessness. "You ain't goin' to be backed down by a

hort-card gambler, are yer?" said Stepte with coarse familiarity. "I have a lady with me, and am pressed r time," said Van Loo, quickly. "He or time, knows it, otherwise he would not have

'Well, look here," said Steptoe, roughly 'I ain't particularly sweet on you, as you know, but I and these gentlemen," he added glancing around the room, "ain't particularly sweet on Mr. Jack Hamlin neither, and we kalkilate to stand by you if you say so. Now, I recken you want to get away with the woman, and the quicker the better, as you're afraid there'll be somebody after you fore long. That's the way it pans out, don't it? Well, when you're ready to go, and you just tip us the wink, we'll get in a circle round Jack and cover him, and if he starts ifter you we'll send him on a little longer lourney! Eh, boys?"

The men muttered their approval, and one r two drew their revolvers from their belts. Van Loo's heart, which had leaped at first at this proposal of help, sank at this failure of

you'd better take the woman with you," he said. "I don't think," he added in a lower voice, "that the boys would like your leaving her. They're very high-toned, they are!" he concluded, ironically,

"Then," said Van Loo, with another desperate idea, "could you not let us have saddle orses instead of the buggy? We could travel faster, and in the event of pursuit and any-thing happening to me," he added loftly, 'she at least could escape her pursuer's ven-

This suited Steptoe equally well, as long as the guilty couple fled together, and in the presence of witnesses. But he was not deceived by Van Loo's heroic suggestion of self-sacrifice. "Quite right," he said, sar-castically, "it shall be done, and I've no doubt one of you will escape. I'll send the horses round to the back door, and keep the buggy n front. That will keep Jack there, too-

with the boys handy."

But Mr. Hamlin had quite as accurate an idea of Mr. Van Loo's methods and of his own standing with Steptoe's gang of roughs as Mr. Steptoe himself. More than that, he also had a hold on a smaller but more devoted and loyal following than Steptoe's. The employes and hostlers of the hotel wor-shipped him. A single word of inquiry revealed to him the fact that the buggy was not going on, but hat Mr. Van Loo and Mrs. Barker were-on two horses, a temporary side saddle having been constructed out of a mule's pack tree. At which Mr. with his usual audacity, walked into the barroom, and, going to the bar, leaned care-lessly against it. Then, turning to the lowerlessly against it. ing faces around him, he said, with a flash of his white teeth: "Well, boys, I'm calculating to leave the 'Divide' in a few minutes to fol-



VAN LOO WAS ABOUT TO ENTER THE

low some friends in the buggy, and it seems to me only the square thing to stand the liquor for the crowd, without prejudice to any eling or roughness there may be against me. Everybody who knows me knows that I'm generally there when the band plays, and I'm preity sure to turn up for that sort of thing. So you'll just consider that I've had a good game on the 'Divide,' and I'm reckoning it's only fair to leave a little of it behind me here to 'sweeten the pot' until I call again. I only ask you, gentlemen, to drink success to my friends in the buggy as early and as often as you can." He flung two gold pieces on the counter and paused amilingly.

He was right in his conjecture. Even the men who would have willingly "held him un" a moment after at the hidding of Step toe, saw no reason for declining a free drink, "without prejudice." And it was a part of the irony of the situation that Steptoe and Van Loo were also obliged to participate to keep in with their partisans. It was however, an opportune diversion to Van Loo, who managed to get nearer the door leadng to the back entrance of the hotel, and to

were both wondering if Hamlin's intention was to intoxicate and incapacitate the crowd at the crucial moment, and Steptoe smiled grimly over his superior knowledge of their alcoholic capacity. But suddenly there was the drive, and had begun to see his error in taking so dangerous an impediment to his fight from the country. And another idea and the halt of another vehicle before the grumbling and outspoken criticism of his door. This time it was no jaced single horse methods and dust-stained buggy, but a double team. This and dust-stained buggy, but a double team of four spirited trotters, whose coats were arrival of another guest, for whom Steptoe for you. Pick up your shovels and drills scarcely turned with foam, before a light and his party were evidently waiting. He station wagon containing a single man. But was a short, stout man, whose heavy red station wagon containing a single man. But as well as the staring crowd within the sa-loon. It was James Stacy, the millionaire and banker. No one but himself knew that he had covered half the distance of a nightlong ride from Boomville in two hours. But before they could voice their astonishment Stacy had thrown a letter to the obsequious landlord, and then gathered up the

Looks as if the boss of creation was in a

"More like as if he was just humpin' him-

2.11

ingly.

hurry," said one of the eager gazers in the doorway. "Somebody goin' to get smashed,

and had sped away to the railway station

Everything they had in their hands tumbled yesterday in Sacramento. Men like me and yesterday in Sacramento. Men like me and doors that whisky won't unlock." he added you ain't goin' to trest their money to be as Steptoe turned the key in the door after 'jockeyed' with in that style. Nobody but the party had entered.

that coach gets there."
"You swear it?" said Van Loo, hesitat-"I've said it." returned Jack. "Come," and Van Loo followed Mr. Hamlin into the

The abrupt disappearance of Jack Hamlin and the strange lady and gentleman visitors was scarcely noticed by the other guests of the "Divide House," and beyond the circle of Steptoe and his friends, who were a distinct party and strangers to the town, there was no excitement. Indeed, the hotel proprietor might have confounded them together. and perhaps Van Loo was not far wrong in his belief that their identity had not been ms belief that their identity had not seen suspected. Nor were Steptoe's followers very much concerned in an episode in which they had taken part only at the suggestion of their leader, and which had terminated so tamely. That they would have liked a "row," in which Jack Hamlin would have been incidentally forced to disgorge his winnings, there was no doubt, but that their interference was asked solely to gratify some personal spite of Steptoe's against Van Loo was equally plain to them. There was some

CHAPTER VI.

This was later made more obvious by the that man was instantly recognized by every beard was trimmed a little more carefully one of the outside loungers and stable boys than when he was first known to Steptoe as "Alky Hall," the drunkard of Heavy Hill. His dress, too, exhibited a marked improvement in quality and style, although still characterized in the walst and cheat by the unbuttoned freedom of portly and slovenly middle age. Civilization had restricted his middle age. potations, or limited them to certain feativals known as "sprees," and his face was less puffy and sodden. But with the accession of obriety he had lost his good humor and had the irritability and intolerance of virtuous restraint.

"Ye needn't ladle out any of your forty-rod whisky to me." he said querulously to Step-toe as he filed out with the rest of the party "More like as if he was just humpin' himself to keep from getting smashed," said
Steptoe. "The bank basn't got over the
effect of their smart deal in the wheat trust.
Everything they had in their hands tumbled
They're less likely to blab, and there are few

The room had evidently been used for meet



"HE'S GOT TO PAY FOR IT."

his little plan of abandoning Mrs. Barker. have even dared to try it on. "And now, by ings of directors or political caucuses, atc He hesitated, and then stammered: "Thank G-d! he's got to pay for it." was roughly furnished with notched are

"You're not drinking," said Jack Hamlin, cheerfully.

started. f Jack, sharply. Jack jerked his thumb over his shoulder. Gond to hurry up his girl, I reckon. I away here."

at the same moment they were all startled-Barker passing hurriedly along the veranda five years ago. That's what you are, gentle-before the windows in the direction of the still walting buggy. "D-n it!" said Steptoe in a flerce whisper to the man next blee sudden devices and," he added, with a n a fierce whisper to the man next him. sudden dominance that they all felt, "the Tell her not there—at the back door!" But man before the messenger reached the door there me. was a sudden rattle of wheels, and with one former frontal manner. Now, what are the accord all except Hamlin rushed to the cold facts of the case? The Marshalls worked veranda, only to see Mrs. Barker driving this claim ever since '49, and never got any-rapidly away alone. Steptoe turned back into the room, but Jack also had disappeared.

For in the confusion created at the sight of to work what was left of it. Weil, a few Mrs. Barker he had slipped to the back door days ago he found 'indications' and that with a side saddle on. His intuitions were right. Van Loo, when he disappeared from the saloon, had instantly fied, appeared from the saloon, had instantly fied, to get 'cm to take a hand in it. Well, you then the other horse and abandoning the fugitive in the distance, heard the half-angry, half-ironical shouts of the crowd at the back door and as he reached the hill-top saw, with a mingling of satisfaction and perplexity, Mrs. Barker on the other road still driving frantically in the direction of the railway station. At which Mr. Hamlin halted, threw away his encumbering saddle, and, good rider that he was, remounted the vein sure enough and a big thing, and some torse, barebacked but for his blanket pad. and thrusting his knees in the loose girths again dashed forward, with such good recults that as Van Loo galloped up to the

stage coach office at the next station and was about to enter the walting coach for Marysvillo the soft hand of Mr. Hamlin was d on his shoulder.
"I told you." said Jack, blandly, "that I had pleuty of time. I would have been here before, and even overtaken you, only you had the better horse and the only saddle." Van Loo recoiled. But he was now desperate and reckless. Beckening Jack out of ear-shot of the other passengers, he said, with tightened lips: "Why do you follow me? What is your purpose in coming here?"
"I thought," said Hamlin, dryly, "th "I thought," said Hamlin, dryly, "that I was to have the pleasurerof getting satisfac-

"What'll keep him from pre"Well, and if I applegize for it, what
then?" he said quickly.
"Hamlin looked at him quirtly. "Well, I
think I also said something about the lady
being the wife of a friend of mine."
"What'll keep him from pre"Our possession."
"But if he is their claims to him to
send the sheriff and his posse
persisted the first speaker.
"It will take him three mo being the wife of a friend of mine."

"And I have left her barind. Her husband can take her back without diegrace, for no one knows of her flight but you and I. Do you think your shooting me will save her? It will spread the scandar of and wide. For I warn you that, as I have apologized for what you choose to call my personal insult. The property of the property o

unless you murder me in bold blood without witness, I shall let them know the reason of your quarrel. And I cab tell you more: if "Now you're talkin and not yelpin," was also a man of the world and knew that Van Loo's reasoning might be good. He put half a dozen voices, eagerly. his hands in his pockets and said gravely; "What is your little game!"

spiration of desperation. Steptoe had been partly responsible for this situation. He knew that Jack and he were not friends. He had certain secrets of Steptoe's that might be of importance to Jack. Why should he not try to make friends with this powerful from "We sin't going to do no more mining there." had certain secrets of Steptoc's that might be of importance to Jack. Why should he not try to make friends with this powerful free lance and half outlaw?

"We sin't going to do no more mining there than the bank," said Steptoe flercely. "And

urned on his heel and said: "Come with

He hesitated, and then stammered: "Thank you! Haste is everything with us now, but I shouldn't mind leaving the lady among chivalrous gentlemen like yourselves for a few hours only, until I could communicate with my friends and return to properly chastise this scoundrel."

Steptoe drew in his breath with a slight whistle and gazed at Van Loo. He instantly understood him. But the plea did not suit Steptoe, who, for purposes of his own, wished to put Mrs. Barker beyond her husband's possible reach. He smiled grimly. "I think you'd better take the woman with you," he "You're not drinking" said Jack Hamlin."

have even dared to try it on, "And now, by the opay for it,"

The harsh, exultant tone of the speaker the speaker that he had quite forgotten Van Loo and Hamlin in his superior hatred of the whittled armehars and a single long deal table, on which were ink and pens. The men sat down around it with a half-contemptuous attitude of formality, their benefit of the country hasn't been big enough to hold him. But the plea did not suit Steptoe, who, for purposes of his own, wished to put Mrs. Barker beyond her husband's possible reach. He smiled grimly. "I think you'd better take the woman with you," he "You're not drinking" said Jack Hamlin." ance, as if he enjoyed his own coarse direct I reckon you all have a sort of gen eral idea what you were picked up for, or you Steptoe turned toward the bar and then tarted. "Where's Van Loo?" he demanded wouldn't be here. But you may or may no know that for the present you are honest hard-working miners-the backbone of the State of Californy-and that you have formed alculate he ain't got much time to fool yourselves into a company called the 'Blue Jay,' and you've settled yourselves on the Steptoe glanced suspiciously at Jack. But bar below Heavy Tree Hill, on a deserted claim of the Marshall brothers, not half en Jack himself-at the apparition of Mrs. mile from where the big strike was made

> But man who forgets it will have to recken with before the messenger reached the door there me. Now," he continued, resuming his was a sudden rattle of wheels, and with one former ironical manner, "now, what are the and found, as he suspected, only one horse, big lead in the rock, and instead of man, and callin' in the boys to drink, he son's woman to her fate. Jack as instantly leaped know, when Jim Stacy takes a hand in any-upon the remaining saddle and dashed after thing, it's both hands, and the bank wouldn't him. Presently he caught a glimpse of the see it until he promised to guarantee posthe half- session of the whole abandoned claim-'dips. vein sure enough and a big thing, and so ne else on our side found out, too, all that Marshall had promised the bank, and what men, when the bank sends down that experi tomorrow I expect that he will find you in possession of every part of the described claim except the spot where Tom is still work

> > "And what good is that to us?" asked one of the men, contemptuously, "Good?" repeated Steptoe harshly. "Well if you're not as d-d a fool as Marshall you'll see that if he has struck a 'lead' or ein it's bound to run across our claims, and keep us from 'sinking' claims for years nor pre-empted them for this lead?" ong as Marshall hasn't worked the other

"What'll keep him from pre-empting now?" "Our possession." "But if he can prove that the brothers THE OLD STORY left their claims to him to keep, he'll just send the sheriff and his posse down upon us,"

"But what's to prevent Marshall from get

witness, I shall let them know the reason of your quarrel. And I cab tell you more; if you only succeed in stopping me here and make me lose my chances feating away the scandal to your friend will be greater still."

Mr. Hamlin looked at Van Loo curiously. There was a certain amount of conviction in what he said. He had never met this kind of both on the same level before the law, for vertices before the law, for reature before. He had surpassed even Ham-lin's first intuition of his character. He that we're as good as any roughs they can

> "But what's the job goin' to pay us?" sisted a Sydney man.

than the bank," said Steptoe flercely. "And the bank ain't going to wait no three months for the end of the lawsuit. They'll float the Hamlin took his hands out of his pockets.

Hamlin took his hands out of his pockets. and get out of it with a million before a month. And they'll have to buy us off to do Mr. Jack Hamlin, who was watching him, as the men closed up to the bar.

The toast was drunk with acciamation, for lowed by another and yet another. Steptoe and Van Loo, who had kept their heads cool.

The toast was drunk with acciamation, for lowed by another and yet another. Steptoe and Van Loo, who had kept their heads cool.

The toast was drunk with acciamation, for less than \$5.000, which will be \$250 to clive Collect on Delivery Express packages, "Come with me," said Jack. coolly. "If each man. But," said Steptoe in a lower but nor be otherwise imposed upon. Mention that they it and they it has the body will depend upon. N. Y.

Readers sending for this book will not receive Collect on Delivery Express packages, nor be otherwise imposed upon. Mention that they it also to the bar.

The toast was drunk with acciamation, for less than \$5.000, which will be \$250 to clive Collect on Delivery Express packages, nor be otherwise imposed upon. Mention that they it also to the bar.

you down at the next station an hour before

session. You hear me?"

There was a breathless silence for the moment, and a slight movement of the men in other things had hitherto been proof against their chairs. But never in fear or protest, such idle dreams or suggestions, but the Everyone had heard the speaker distinctly, very strength of his parental love and featand every man distinctly understood him. Some of them were criminals, one or two had already the stein of blood on their hands. but even the most timid, who at other times might have shrunk from suggested assassi-

"Van Loo!" repeated Hall, eagerly. "Van Loo! Was he here?"
"Yes," said Sieptoe, shortly, administering a kick under the table to Hall, as he had no wish to revive the previous irritability of his comrades. "He's gone, but," turning to the others, "you'd have had to wait for Mr. Hall's arrival, anyhow. And now you've got your orders you can start. Go in two parties by different roads and meet on the other side of the hotel at Hymettus. I'll be there bethat. Now scatter."

It was well that they did, vacating the

room more cheerfully and sympathetically than they had entered it, or Hall's manithan they had entered it, or Hall's mani-fest disturbance over Van Loo's visit would have been noticed. When the last man had disappeared Hall turned quietly to Steptoe. "Well, what did he say? Where has he

"Don't know," said Steptoe with uneasy Hamlin was here, and was jockeying to stop him, and interfered. But what the devil has that job to do with our job?" He was losing his temper; everything seemed to turn upon this infernal Van Loo!

"He wasn't running away with Mrs. Bar-ker," gasped Hall. "It was with her money! and the fear of being connected with the wheat trust swindle, which he organized, and with our money, which I lent him for the same purpose. And he knows all about that job, for I wanted to get him to go into it. job, for I wanted to get him to go into i with us. Your name and mine ain't any too with us. Your name and mine and tally on sweet smelling for the bank, and we ought to have a middleman who knows business to arrange with them. The bank dar'n't object to him, for they've employed bim in even shadler transactions than this when they ildn't wish to appear. I knew he was in lifficulties along with Mrs. Barker's specula-lions, but I never thought him up to this. And." he added, with sudden desperation, you trusted him, too."

In an instant Steptoe caught the frightened nan by the shoulders and was bearing him down to the table. "Are you a traitor, a liar, or a besotted fool?" he said hoarsely. "Speak. When and where did I trust him?" u sald in your note-I was-to-help gasped Hall.

"My note," repeated Steptoe, releasing Hall, with astonished eyes, "Yes," said Hall, tremblingly scarching in his vest pocket. "I brought it with me. It isn't much of a note, but there's your signature, plain enough."

He handed Steptoe a torn piece of paper folded in a three-cornered shape, and Step-toe opened it. He instantly recognized the paper on which he had written his name and sent up to his wife at the Boomville hotel. But, added to it, in apparently the same in similar characters, were the words, "Help Van Loo all you can."
The blood rushed into his face.

nickly collected himself and said hurriedly "All right, I had forgotten it. Let the d-d sneak go. We've got what's a thousand times etter in this claim at Marsha'l's, and it's well hat he isn't in it to scoop the lion's share. Only we must not waste time getting there now. You go there first, and at once, and set those rascals to work. I'll follow you before Marshall comes up. Get; I'll settle up here."
His face darkened once more as Hall hurried away, leaving him alone. He drew out the piece of paper from his pocket and stared at it again. Yes; it was the one he had sent to his wife. How did Van Loo get hold of it? Was he at the hotel that night! Had he picked it up in the hall or passage when the servant dropped it? When Hall handed him the paper and he first recognized it a fiendish thought, followed by a spasm of more flex dish rage, had sent the blood to his face. But his crude common sense quickly dismissed that suggestion of his wife's complicity with Van Loo. But had she seen him passing through the hotel that night and had sought to draw from him some knowledge of his early intercourse with the child and confessed everything, and even produced the paper with his signature as a proof of identity? Women had been known to do such acsperate things. Perhaps she disbelieved ber son's aversion to her, and was trying to sound Van Loo. As for the forged words by Van Loo, and the use he had put them to, he cared little. He be-lieved the man was capable of forgery; indeed, he suddenly remembered that in the old days his son had spoken innocently, but admiringly, of Van Loo's wonderful graphical powers and his faculty of imitating the writings of others, and how he had even offered to teach him. A new and ex-asperating thought came into his feverish consciousness. What if Van Loo, in teaching the boy, had even made use of him as an innocent accomplice to cover up his own tricks. The suggestion was no question of moral ethics to Steptos, nor of his son's possible contamination, although the night of the big strike held different views; it simply a fierce selfish jealousy that another might have profited by the lad's helpleseness and inexperience. He had been tormented session of the whole abandoned claims spurs and angles'—and let them work the spurs and angles'—and let them work the admiration and imitative regard for this whole thing, which the d—d fool did, and smooth swindler's graces and accomplish though he scorned them himself, he was, after the common parental infatuation, willing that the boy should profit by them. Unable, through his own consciousness, of distinguishing beconsciousness, of distinguishing be-tween Van Loo's superficial polish and the true breeding of a gen-tleman, he had only looked upon him as an equipment for his son which might be serviceable to himself. He had told his wife the truth when he informed her of Van Loo's fears of being reminded of their former ntimacy, but he had not told her how its discontinuance, after they had left Heavy Tree Hill, had affected her son, and how he still cherished his old admiration for that specious rescal. how this had stung him, through his own selfish greed of the boy's affection. Yet now that it was possible that she had met Van Loo that evening, she might have become

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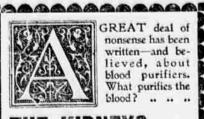
a row-and they begin it-and in the scuffle | aware of Van Loo's power over her child. Tom Marshall their only witness, should How she would exult for all her pretended happen to get in the way of a revolver or have his head caved in, there might be some plotted tog ther! How Van Loo might have difficulty in their halling are difficulty in their halling are difficulty. have his head caved in, there might be some difficulty in their holdin any of the mine against honest, hardworking miners in possession. You hear me?"

There was a related of validated tog-ther. How Van Loo might have become aware of the piace where his som was kept, and had been bribed by the mother to tell her! He stopped in a whirl of giddy ousy had awakened in him at last the terrors of imagination.

His first impulse had been to seek his wife, regardless of discovery or consequences, at Hymettus, where she had said she was going. might have shrunk from suggested assassination, saw in the speaker's words only the fair removal of a natural enemy.

"All right, boys. I'm ready to wade in at once. Why ain't we on the road now? We might have been but for foolin' our time away on that man Van Loo."

"Yan Loo!" represed Hall eagerly. "Van the could be arraigned afterward. It was possible for him to grace the little mission with the could be arraigned afterward. sible for him to reach the little mission church and school, secluded in a remote valley by the old Franciscan fathers, where he had placed the boy for the last few years unknown to his wife. It would be a long ride, but he could still reach Heavy Tree hill afterward before Marshall and the expert arrived. And he had a feeling he had never felt before on the eve of a desperate adventure-that he must see the boy first. He remembered how the child had often accom-panied him in his flight and how he had gained strength; and it seemed to him a kind of luck from the touch of that small hand in his. Surely it was necessary now that at least his mind should be at rest regarding him on the eve of an affair of this moment. Perhaps he might never see him again. At any other time, and under the influence of any other emotion, he would have scorned such a schimentalism—he who had never troubled himself either with preparation for the future or consideration "Don't know," said Steptoe with uneasy curress. "He was running away with a woman—well, Mrs. Barker, if you want to know." he added with rising anger, "the wife of one of those cussed partners. Jack wife of one of those cussed partners. Jack wife of one of those cussed partners. galloped to the station. By the Irony of circumstances the only horse available for that purpose was Mr. Hamlin's own.



lieved, about blood purifiers. What purifies the blood?

nonsense has been

written-and be-

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(To Be Continued.)

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