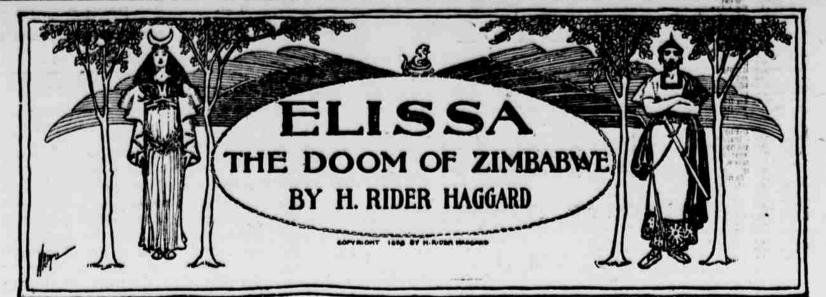
THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 1898.

TATES ADD AND AND AN



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10

THE MARTYRDOM OF ISSACHAR. It was done, and from the mouths of the pricets and priestesses rose a shrill cry of triumph, for had not their gods conquered? Had not this servant of the hated Lord of Israel been caught by the bait of the beauty of a priestess of Baaltis, denying and rejecting Him? Was not evil once more triumphant, and must not they, its ministers, refoice?

Again the shadid raised his wand and they

and he pointed to Elissa, who lay fainting on the ground, "and be happy in her love. eitting in my seat, which henceforth is yours, as ruler of the priests of El and master of their mysterles, forgetting the follies of your former faith, and splitting on its altars. Hall to you, shadid, lord of the Baaltis and chosen of El. Take him, you pricate, and with him the divine lady, his wife, bear-

ing them in triumph to their high house." "What of the Levite?" asked a volce.

The shadid glanced at lesachar, who all this while had stood like one stricken to the soul, wee stamped upon his face and a stare of horror in his eyes. "Jew," he said, "A had forgotten you; but you also are on your trial, who dared against the law to hold secret meeting with the Lady Baaltis. For this sin the punishment is death, nor would any woman same you husband to save you from it. Sill, in this hour of joy we will be merciful; therefore do as your master

be merciful; therefore do as your mister did, cast increase on the altar, saying the ap-pointed words, and go your way." "Hefore I make my offering on yonder altar according to your command. I have some words to say, O, priest of EL," answered issachar, quietly, but in a volce that chilled the blood of those who heard it. "First, I addressed myself to you, Aziel, and to you, woman," and he pointed to Eliesa, who had woman," and he pointed to Elissa, who had risen, and leaned treinbling upon her father. "My dream is fulfilled Aziel, you have einned, indeed, and mist bear the appointed punishment of your sin, yet hear a message of mercy spoken through my lips. Because you have sinned through love and pity, your effects is not unto death yet shell your soroffense is not unto death, yet shall you sor-row for it all your life's days, and in desolation of heart and bitterness of soul shall creep back to the feet of Him you have forcreep back to the feet of him you have for-sworn. Woman, your spirit is noble and your feet are set in the way of rightcous-ness, yet through you has this offense come, and therefore your love shall bear no fruit, for shall the blasphemy of your beloved save your flesh from doom. Upon the earth there is no fope for you, daughter of Sakon. Set your eyes beyond it, for itere is hope. Where is she who swore our lives away?"

where is she who swore dat fives a way and he pointed to Mesa. "Woman, you plotted this that you might succeed to the throne of Baaltis: hear your fate: You shall live to sweep the fauts and inst bear the babes of savages. You, priest,' and he pointed to the shadid heart; you design to murder this man whom you greet as your successor, that you may usurp his place. I show you yours. It lies in the bellies of the jackals of the You priests and priestesses of El and Baaltis, think of my words, and raise your loud songs of triumph to your goda when you yourselves are their offering, and the red flame of the fire burns you up, all of you cave your slos, which are immortal You citizens of an accursed city, look on the hilltop yonder and tell me, what do you see? A sheen of spears, is it not? 'They draw near to your hearts, citizens of on accursed city, whereof the very name shall be forgotten, and the naked towers but the source of wonder to men unborn. And now, priests having said my say, as you bid me, I make my offering upon your altar." Then, while they all stood fearful and amazed, issuchar the Levite sprang forward. and, seizing the ancient image of Baaltis he spat upon it and dashed the priceless thing down upon the altar, where it broke into fragments and was burned with the fre. "My offering is made." he said; "may He whom I serve accept it. Now, after offering sacrifice, son Aziel, fare you well." For a few moments a silence of horror and dismey fell upon the ascembly as they gazed at the shattered and burning fragments of the consecrated image. Then moved by a common impulse, with curse and yells of fury, the priests and priestesses sprang from their seats and burled themselves upon lesachar, who stood awaiting them with folded arms. They smote him with their lyory rods, they rent and tore him with their hands, worrying him as dogs worry a fox of the hills, till the life was beaten out of him and he lay dead. Thus terribly, but yet by such a death of mar-tyrdom as he would have chosen, perished Issachar the Levite. Unarmed though he was, Azici had sprung to his aid, but Metem and Sakon, knowing that he would but bring about his own destruction, flung themselves upon him and held him back. Whilst he was still struggling with them the end came, and heachar grew still forever. Then Azlel's strength left him, and presently he elipped to the ground senseless. Thereafter it seemed to Azlel that he was and bitterly, bitterly do I grieve that for my lunged in an endless and dreadful dream, sake you should have stained your soul with and that through its turmoil and chifting ions he could continually see the dreadful death of Issachar and hear his stern ac- us and I cannot escape from death, neither cents prophesying wee to him who renounces the God of his forefathers to how the knee can you escape remorse, and as I think that worst of all desires, the desire for the dead." to Baal. At length he awoke from that hor- "Ca ror-haunted sleep to find himself lying in a Aziel. strange chamber. It was night and lamps "Metem will tell you that it is impossi-burned in the chamber, and by their light ble; day and night I am watched and he saw a man whose face he knew mixing guarded; also Ith bal holds Zimboe so firmly a draught in a glees vial. So weak was he that at first he could not remember the man's name; then by slow degrees it came

must not speak, for you have been ill. Drink

this and sleep." Aziel swallowed the draught, and was instantly overcome by slumber. When he awoke the sun was shining brightly through the window place, and its rays fell upon the shrewd, kindly face of Metem, who was seated on a stool watching him, his chin resting on his hand.

"Tell me all that has befallen, friend," said Aziel, "since-" and he shuddered. "Since you were married after a new fashion, and that bigoted but most honorable fool. Issachar, went to his reward. Well, I will when you have eaten," answered Metem, as he gave him food. "First," he were silent. "You have indeed done well and wisely," he said, addressing Aziel. "Now, take to wife the divine lady who has chosen you." and be nointed to Elissa, who lay fainting

'Elissa! Has she been here?'

"Caim yourself, prince. Certainly she has, and what is more, she will be back soon. Secondly, Ithobal has been as good as his secondly, ithobal has been as good as his word, and invests the city with a vast army, cutting off all supplies and possibilities of escape. It is believed that he will try an assault within the next week, which many thirk will be successful. Thirdly, to avoid that risk it is **F**umored that the priests and

not be held inviolate in Zimboe, much less her priestess, Aziel. This very night they purpose to seize me; yes, Mesa and others have been chosen for the deed, and offer

me as a bribe to Ithobal, for he will take no other price. Aziel groaned aloud. "It were better that we should die," he said.

we should die," he said. She nodded and answered: "It were bet-ter that I should die. But hear me, for I have a plan and there is still hope, though very little. Perchance as you drew near to Zimboe by the coast read you may have nothe city a shoulder of the mountain almost overhanging the path on which you trav-eled where the rock is cut away, showing narrow entrance to a cave closed with the a door of bronze."

"I saw it," answered Aziel, "and was told that there was the most sacred burying place of the city." "It is the tomb of the high priestesses of Baaltis," went on Elissa, and "and this day

before me, entering alone, and closing the gate, for none may pass in there with me. Now the plan is to lay hands on me as I go back from the tomb to the palace, but I

So the leaders of them visited the holy tomb and reasoned with Elissa through the bars, but got no comfort from her, for she may God, to visit the sin of it on my head and to leave yours unharmed. Aziel! Aziel! woman or spirit, while I have life and me-mory, I am yours, and yours only; clean-thand. I leave you, and if we may meet again in this or in any other world, clean I am to have lived, because in my life I have known you and you have sworn to love

hers. Then she was gone.

CHAPTER XV.

ELISSA TAKES SANCTUARY.

have known you and you have sworn to love me. Glad shall I be to live again if again I may know you and hear that oath-if not, storm has gathered, and now it must burst. When it has rolled away it will be known It is sleep I seek; for life without you to me would be a hell. You grow weak and I must be gone. Farewell, and living or dead, forget me not; swear that you will not forget me." "I swear it," he answered faintly, "and God grant that I may die for you, not you

for me." "We are glad," they answered, "since we "That is no prayer of mine," she whis-pered; and, bending, she kissed him on the brow, for he was too weak to lift his lips to hers. Then she was gone. upstart white men who have usurped the land should be set beneath our heel. Nor do we think that the task will be difficult, for surely we have little to fear from a city whose councillors cannot conquer the will

the darkness of the tomb. Great indeed was the dismay of the coun-cillors of Zimboe and the priests who had plotted with them when, an hour later, Mesa

plotted with them when, an hour later, Mesa came, not to deliver Elissa into their handa, but to repeat to them her threats and mes-sage. In vain did they appeal to Sakon, who only shook his head and answered: "Of this I am sure, that what my daugh-ter has threatened that she will certainly do if you force her to the choice. But if you will not believe me, go ask her and satisfy yourselves. I know well what she will answer you, and I hold that this is a judgment upon us, who first made her Baatis against her will, and now would do sacrilege to her office and violence to her-

sacrilege to her office and violence to her self."

Two hours had gone by and a procession of pricateness might be seen advancing slowly toward the holy tomb along the of a single maid." Then, although in their despair the elders offered other girls to Ithobal in marriage as many as he would, and with them a great tarrow road of rock cut in the mountain face. In front of the procession, wearing face. In front of the procession, wearing a black well over her broidered robes, walked Elissa with downcast eyes and hair unbound in token of grief, while behind her came bribe in money, the envoys took their leave saying that nothing would avail, since the preferred spear thrusts to gold, for which they had little use, and Ithobal, their king, Mosa and other pricatesses bearing the offer-ings to the dead in bowls of alabaster, food had fixed his heart on one woman alone. Ings to the dead in bowls of alabaster, food and wise, and lamps of oil and vases filled with perfumes. Behind these again marched the mourners, women who sang a functal dirge and from time to time broke into a wail of simulated grief. Nor, in-deed, was their wee as hollow as might be thought, since from that mountain path they could see the outposts of the army of Ithobal upon the plain, and note with a shudder of fear the space, heads of his councils. had fixed his heart on one woman alone. So with a heavy and foreboding heart the city of Zimboe prepared itself to resist at-tack, for as they had gueszed, when he learned all, the rage of Ithobai was great. nor would he listen to any terms that they could offer, save one which they had no power to grant-that Elisan should be de livered unharmed into his hands. Council of war were held, and to these, as soon a he was sufficiently recovered from his sick fear the spear heads of his countless thou-sands shining in the gorges of the opposing sands shining in the gorges of the opposing ness, the Prince Aziel was bidden, for he heights. It was not for the dead Baaltis was known to be a skilled general; there-that they mourned that day, but for the fore, though he had been the cause of much fato that overshadowed them and their city of their trouble, they sought his aid. of gold "May the curse of all the gods fall on

should the struggle be prolonged, they hoped through him to win Israel, and perhaps Egypt, to their cause. Aziel's counsel was her!" muttered one of the priestesses as she tolled forward beneath her load of ofthat they should sally out against the army of Ithobal by night, since he expected to atthe total of yard beneath her load of of-forings; "because she is beautiful and pet-tibh we must be put to the spear or be-come the wives of savages," and she pointed with her chin to Elissa, who walked in front, lost in her own thoughts. "Have patience," answered Mesa at her side; "you know the plan-tonight that proud tack and not to be attacked, but to this ad-vice they would not listen, for they trusted to their walls. Indeed, in this Metem sup-ported them, and when the prince argued with him he answered: "Your tactics would be good enough

girl and false priestess shall sleep in the camp of Ithobal."

"Your tactics would be good enough, prince, if you had at your back the lions of Judah or the wild Arab horsemen of the desert. But here you must deal with men of my own breed, and we Phoenicians are traders, not fighting men—like rate, we fight only when there is no other chance for our lives, nor do we stilke the first blow. "Will be be satisfied with that," asked the woman, "and leave the city in peace?" "It seems so," answered Mesa, with a laugh, "though it is strange that a king along, though it is strange that a king should exchange spoil and glory for a round-eyed, thin-limbed giel who loves his rival. Well, let us thank the gods that made man foolish and gave us women wit to profit by their folly. If he wants her, let him take her, for few will be the poorer by her loss." It is true that there are some good soldier in the city, but they are foreign merce natics, and as for the rest, half breeds and freed slaves, they belong as much to Itho-bal as to Sakon, and are not to be trusted No, no, let us stay behind our walls, for they were at least built when men were bonest and will not betray us " "You at least will be richer," said the

Well, I do not grudge it you, and as for the daughter of Sakon, she shall be lthobal's if I take her to him limb by limb." honest, and will not betray us." Now in Zimboe there were three lines of defense; first, that of a single wall built about the huts of the slaves upon the plain

"Nay, friend, that is not the bargain. Remember, she must be delivered to him then that of a double wall of stone with a ditch between thrown round the Phoenician

you that, should any lay a hand upon me, by one or other of them I will die before their eyes. Then, if you will, bear these bones to Ithobal, and take his thanks for them. Now, begone and give this message to my father and all those who have plotted with im, that since they cannot bribe Itho-bal with my beauty, they will do well to be men and to fight him with their swords." and she turned and left them, vanishing into the darkness of the tomb. Her Royal Highness, The Princess of Wales



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shall not go back, Azlel. I shall stay in

at sunset I must visit it to lay ad offering upon the shring of her who was the Baaltis

smilled and answered: "Where you should be, prince, in your own house, the palace of the shadid. But you

20

in his net that no sparrow could fly out of it and he not know. And there is worse "Metern," he said, "where am 1?" in the Phoenician looked up from his task, town, if, indeed, it will avail to save it. "But you are the Baaltis and inviolate." "In such a time the goddeso herself would

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violent emotions."

priestesses, at the instance of the council, the tomb-nay, do not teas-not dead. I have hidden food and water there, enough him the person of the daughter of Sakon, on the plea that her election as the Lady Baal-tis wes brought about by bribery, and is "But if so, how can it help you, for they tis was brought about by bribery, and is will break in the gates of the place and drag you away?" therefore void, as she was not chosen by the

unaided will of the goddess." "But," said Aziel, "she is my wife, ac cording to their religious law. How, then, can she be given in marriage to and "Nay, prince, if she is not the Lady Baal-tis, your husbandship falls to the ground with the rest, for you are not the shadid, an office which perchance you can dispense with. But all this priestly juggling means little, the truth being that the city in its terror will throw her as a sop to Ithobal, hoping thereby to appease his rage. The Lady Elissa knows her danger—but here she

miration, "but self-murder is a sin." comes to speak for herself." As he spoke the curtains at the end of the past days I would have dared it for less hamber were drawn, and through them came cause, rather than be given living into the Elissa, clad in her splendid robes of office, hands of Ithobal, for to whatever else I may and wearing nupon her brow the golden cresbe false, to you through life and death I cent of the moon.

"How goes it with the prince. Metem?" who asked in her soft voice, glancing anx-lously toward the couch, which was half hidwill be true. Now Azlel groaned in his doubt and bitter ness of heart, then, turning to Metem, asked: "Have you aught to say, Metem?" den in the shadow of the wall.

"Yes, prince, two things," answered the Froenician. "First that the Ludy Elissa is "Look for yourself, lady," answered the Phoenician, bowing before her. "Elissa, Eliesa!" cried Aziel, raising him-self and opening his arms.

arms from about her neck. "there is

to might carry her words to the council or the priests.' She saw and heard, then with a low cry "Nay, Metern, I am not rash, for I know and swiftly as a swallow excoping to its nest, she ran to him and was wrapped in

that, although you love gold, you will not his embrace, and thus they stayed, mur-muring words of love between their kisses. betray me.' "You are right, lady, I shall not, for gold would be of little service to me in a city that is about to be taken by storm. Also I hate "Is it your pleasure that I should leave you?" asked Metem, presently, "No? Then, prince, I would have you remember that you are still weak and should not give way to

Ithobal, who threatened my life-as you did also, by the way-and will do my best to keep you from his clutches. Now for my second point. It is that I can see little use "Listen, Azlel," said Elissa, untwining bis in all this, because Ithobal, being defrauded of you, will attack, and then-" time for tenderness; moreover, you should show none to one who is still the high "And then he may be beaten, Metem, for the citizens will fight for their lives, and pricetees of Baaltis, although in truth she the Prince Aziel here, who is a general worships her no longer. It was noble of you indeed to offer incense upon yonder al-

skilled in war, will fight also, if he has recovered his strength--" "Fear not, Elissa. Give me two days and I will fight to the death," put in Aziel.

rash indeed to speak thus openly before me

bar that my life might be saved, but when I prayed you not, I spake from the heart; "At the least." she went on, "this cheme gives us breathing time, and who knows but such a sin. Moreover, it will avail nothing, for the doom of the dead prophet lies upon that fortune will turn, or, if it does not, I have no better."

"No more have L" said Metem, "for at ength the oldest fox comes to his last double. I might escape from this city, or the prince might escape, or Lady Elissa even might escape, but I am sure that the three of us "Can we not still fice the city?" asked

"Metem will tell you that it is impossi-

the armies of Ithobal await us. Oh, Prince Aziel, I should have done well to go as I might have done when you and Issachar were taken after that mad meeting in the and doubt.

temple, from which I never looked for any-thing but ill, but I grow foolish in my old age, and thought that I should like to see the last of you. Well, so far we are all her prayers are long, and I fear lest she should have come to harm." So they called, cetting their lips against live, except la achar, who, although bigoted,

was still the most worthy of us, but how long we shall remain alive I cannot cay. Now,

time to return to the temple."

If we cannot-why, then we must go a little sconer than we expected to find out who it is that really shapes the destinics of men, and whether or no the sun and moon are the have plotted to deliver me this night to those who should lead me as a peace offerharlots of El and Baaltis. But, prince, you turn pale."

tome water, the fever still burns in me." Metem went to seek for water, while Now Mesa pressed her thin lips togethe and answered Elizsa knelt by the couch and pressed her

lover's hand. "I must stay no longer." she whispered, "and, Aziel, I know not how or when we shall meet again, but my heart is heavy, for, alas! I think that doom draws near me. I have brought much corrow of you, Aziel,

to sacrilege in vain. Be silent, here is the cave.

Having reached the platform in front of the tomb, the procession of mourners ranged themselves about it in a semi-circle. On the third morning after Elissa had barred herself within the tomb Ithobal attacked the with their backs to the edge of the cliff that rose sheer for sixty feet or more from the plain beneath, across which, but at a native town. Uttering their wild battle cries tens of thousands of his warriors, armed

"If so, Aziel, they will drag away a corpse, and that they will scarcely care to present to Ithobal. See, in my breast I have hidden poison, and here at my girdle hangs danger, are not the two of them enough little distance from its foot, ran the road followed by the caravans of merchants in with great spears and shields of ox-hide and wearing crests of plumes upon their heads, charged down upon the outer wall. their journeys to and from the coast. Then here for having been sung, invoking the blessings of the gods on the dead priestess; Twice they were driven back, but the work was in bad repair and too long to defend, a dagger; are not the two of them enough to make an end of one frail life? Should Elissa, as the Lady Baaltis, unlocked the gates of bronze with a golden key that hung the so that at the third rush they flowed over it like lines of marching ants, driving its defenders before them to the inner gates. In this battle some were killed, but the most they dare to touch me, as I shall tell them through the bars, most certainly I shall drink the bane, or use the knife, and when at her girdle, and the bearers of the bowls of offerings pushed them into the mouth of they know it they will leave me unharmed, trueting to chance to spare me." "You are bold," murmured Aziel, in adthe tomb, whose threshold they were no of the slaves threw down their arms and allowed to pass. Next, with bowed head and hands crossed upon her breast, Elissa en-

tered the tomb, and, locking the bronze gate behind her, took up two of the bowls and vanished with them into its gloomy "It is a sin that I will dare, beloved, as in lepths. "Why did she lock the gate?" asked

slaught which must come. Everywher within the circuit of the inner wall troop were stationed, while the double souther priestees of Mesa. "It is not customary." "Doubtlees because it was her pleasure gateway, where Prince Azlel was the cap-tain in command, was built up with loose blocks of stone. A while before the dawn, just as the eastern sky grew gray, Aziel,



FEAR. P. YONDER. PRINCE; LOOK HAVE NO

"What did she say? Quick, man, tell me." "But little, prince, for the tomb is watched, and I dared not stay there long. She sent you her greetings, and would have you know that her heart will be with you in the battle, and her prayer beseech the could not escape together, seeing that within the walls we are watched, and without them to do so." answered Mesa sharply, though she also wondered, why Elissa had locked the gate. e j throne of heaven for your safety. Also, she said that she is well, though it is lonesome there in the grave among the bodies of the

When an hour was gone by and Elisea had not returned, her wonder turned to fear "Call to the Lady Basitis," she said, "for

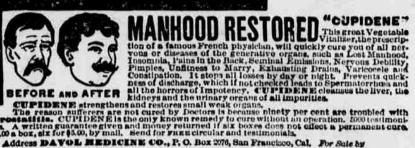
our best chance is to defeat Ithobal if we place?" she acked. can, and afterward, in the confusion, to "Lady, because they set the night watch escape from Zimboe and join our servants, to upon the walls," answered Mesa, "and it is

"Return, then," said Elissa, "and leave me in peace What, you cannot, Mesa? Nay, and shall I tell you why? Because you

ing to Ithohal, and when you come to them empty-handed they will greet you with hard words. Nay, trouble not to deny it. Mesa, I have taken canctuary in this holy place." "It is nothing," said Aziel; "bring me

city, and, lastly, the great fortress temple send a book containing portraits and indorsements of Emperors, Emand the rocky heights above it, guarded by presses, Princesses, Cardinals, Archbishops and other distinguished permay forts within whose circle the cattle were herded, which, as it was thought, could sonages MARIANI & CO., 52 WEST 15TH STREET, NEW YORK. only be taken with the sword of hunger

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ing through the market place, and that peering into the eyes of the wraith, as in a watching from his post above the gate of the wall, heard the savage war song of the tribes swell suddenly from 50,000 throats mirror, hesaw a great flame wrapping the temple walls, and by the light of it his own

dead body. "This was the priest who struck down the them advancing in three armies toward the three points chosen for attack, the largest of the armies, headed by Ithobal, the king, directing its march upon the wall gate of which he was in command. dead and cried with the voice of a man that before three suns had set its blood should be required at their hands. That is the story, and if I do not believe it, this at least is true, that the priestesses fiel fast from the secret chamber of death, for I met them as they

ran shricking in their terror and tearing their robes. But what need is there to dwell on omens, true or false, when cow-ards man the walls and the spears of Ithobal shine yonder like all the stars of heaven? Prince, I tell you that this ancient city is doomed, and in it, I fear, we must end our

wanderings upon earth." "So be it, if it must be," answered Aziel, "at the least I will die fighting," "And I also will die fighting, prince, not because I love it, but because it is better than being butchered in cold blood by a savage with a spear. Ob, why did you

savage with a spear. Ch, why did you ever chance to stumble upon the Lady Elissa making prayer to Baaltis and lose your heart to her? That was the beginning of the trouble, which, but for those eyes of hers, would have held off long enough to see

late it must have come. But see, yonder marches lihobal at the head of his guard. Give me a bow, the flight is long, but per-chance I can reach his black heart with an arrow." us safe in Tyre, though doubtless soon or

The second second second second second

dead priestesses of Baaltis, whose spirits, as she vows, haunt her dreams, reviling her be-"Save your strength." answered Aziel "the range is too great, and presently you will have enough of shooting." and he turned

cause she desecrates their sepulchre and has "Save your strength." answered "the range is too great, and presen "the range is too great, and presen will have enough of zhooting." and he shudder. "But tell me, Metem, had she no (To Be Concluded New Winth (To Be Concluded Next Week.)

the

other word?" "Yes, prince, but not of good omen, for now, as always, che is sure that her doom is at hand, and that you two will meet no more. Still, she bade me tell you that all your life long her spirit shall companion you, though it be unseen, to receive you at the last on the threshold of the under world." Aziel turned his head away, and sale

presently: "If that be so, may it receive me soon."

ent over to Ithobal, who spared them, to-

Through all the night that followed the generals of Zimboe made ready for the on-

and the measured tramp of their insumera. ble feet. Then the day broke, and he saw

was a wondrous and a fearful eight,

that of these hordes of plumed savages

their broad spears flashing in the suncise and their flerce faces alight with hereditary

hate and the lust of slaughter. Never had

the scen such a spectacle, nor could he look upon it without dreading the issue of the

war for if they were cavages, these foes were brave as the lions of their own plains and had sworn by the head of their king

to drag down the sheltering walls of Zimbo

with their naked hands or die to the last man. Turning his head with a sigh of doubt, Aziel found Metem standing at his

"Have you seen her?" he asked eagerly "No, prince. How could I see her at night when she sits in a tomb like a fox in his burrow? But I have heard her."

Everywhere

gether with their wives and children.

"Have no fear, prince," answered Metem, with a grim laugh, "look yonder," and he pointed to the advancing hosts. "These walls are strong, and we shall

beat them back," answered Aziel. "Nay, prince, for strong walls do not avail

without strong hearts to guard them, and "Those who dare to lay hands upon the person of the living Baaltis will not shrikk from seeking her in the company of her I tell you that the phophecies of Issachar "I must stay no longer," she whispered, "and, Aziel, I know not how or when we shall meet again, but my heart is heavy, for alas' I think that doom draws near me. I have brought much corrow of you, Aziel, and yet more on myself, and I have given you nothing, except that most common of all things, a woman's love." "That most correct of all things," he an-swered, "which I am glad to have lived to wi." "Yes, but not at the price that you have pild for it. I know well what it must have cost you to cast that incense on the flame, and I pray to your Ged, who has become FLORAPLEXION.





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the bars of the gate, until presently Elissa came and stood before them. "Why do you disturb me in the holy

whom I have sent word to await us in a secret place beyond the first range of hills.

over's hand.