16



(Copyright, 1899, by S. S. McClure.) and tear The window was either higher than I had cychalls. calculated, or I fell upon wlanting ground,

for I struck so solidly that I had the breath knocked out of me and when my sunses hecame clear again, I found that Miss Brandon had set me upright and was dabbing at me with frozen snow and setting my est straight upon my head with a freedom she would never have exercised had she not learned to regard me as a harmlere married creature who could safely be tumbled about Thrusting aside the enow with no gentle hand, for her daughterly care was growing perfectly intolerable, I was instantly upon my feet.

"Run," I whispered, and we ran, she like ellppers.

Quick as our flight had been, it was be gun none too soon, for by the time the darkness swallowed us, the whole house seemed suddenly to blaze up with hurrying lights while a loud shout reached us and increased our pace.

"Do you know which way to go?" I muttered.

"I haven't the faintest idea," came the cheerful whisper, and then we were off running again, with more care of our strength. this time, and I, possessed by lively expectations that at any moment we might puncture some enowdrift and find that i was but the upper crust of a bottomles abyss. The main road we must not take even could we find it which seemed anything but likely and we plunged about knee deep in snow. Blankless of fear settled on me as I realized the dangers we were facing. "Whoever saw anything so pitchy-black as this night," I exclaimed, peevish with alarm for my companion; for myself the gallows seemed so imminent that all lesser terrors paled before it.

"Yes, but it's the only thing that saves us, you know," tranquilly observed Miss Brandon, as I picked her out of a small ditch. "But what's that shuffing about so? and she shrank toward me in a way that chook my moral nature again to its very center.

It was a dog! A chained dog, indeed with all its fury spent and nothing much you could call dog left about it but r draggled shape and tumbled fur; yet still dangerous to us if it was disposed to haunt our path, for who could tell at what me ment it might break out into the melancholy

baying which had before alarmed us. "I must kill it," I muttered to myself but Miss Brandon heard me and faintly screamed

"Run on a few steps, please! To that tree." I said gently

With a little shudder she obeyed me, putting her fingers in hor ears as she ran, while wrong. You came pretty near it." I, pouncing like a huge bat upon my prey, soon put as merciful an end to him as possi-

thing seems to begin and end in snow." "Oh, there's no great hurry," said my com-panion coolly, with a little nod which I could see plainly as I gazed at her in hor-"I shall get by breath first, and be-TOP. sides there is some snow down my collardreadful condition.

"But Miss Brandon," I protested sternly,

could scarcely believe it, but she did. "How chair where I had placed her, drawing my some spirited young deer in its first en-counter with the hounds, and I-really after ing at her collar, with success I knew, for the way I spun along that night I cannot see bits of snew flew into my horror-stricken its to my lips. I cannot think what she the way I spun along that night I cannot see bits of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of show new into my torror-stricten day of heils of he having learned to potter about in carpet time about getting here? They won't dare I with a sudden rush of her bare toes across



ALL I COULD DO WAS TO KNOCK HIM DOWN, WHICH I DID.

her utter ignorance of all the common laws, pression of terror that I wondered if she

shrieked at her in every chill breath that first, and something to carry us back to

blew about our shivering forms, and threat- town," I whispered in return, and then I

fastened itself upon her garments, and she to be met with the promised 'sad-iron,

How many times in our wild course down from Miss Brandon warned me to tamper

A poor, mean light it was, coming from feet. She crouched down to cover them,

eyes.

aust bring the heart into the throat of any would jostle itself rudely to the front.

with an explosion of wood and nails that to be reasoned with personally,

that I must humor her, for a nervous cry

"Madam," I said pleasantly, retreating

could you make any use of a \$5 bill?" And ostentatiously flourished one before the

some steps and addressing myself strictly

knot hole; then placed it carelessly on the

and I produced a second. "If so," I said

I was sure of the eye now; its greedy blink

was not to be mistaken. A moment passed,

meat knife; but I could not resent this.

with a thrill at my heart that Miss Brandon

started and stared at me. Would it occur

to her, then, that I felt she needed protec-

thus fearlessly flinging herself on my honor?

just walk up and fall down as we did. It the floor, shot from my sight into a small wouldn't do, you know! one might hit closet or pantry, immediately slamming the door, and applying an eye at once to a good It was perfectly true, but it made me seem | sized knot hole just above the knob. I suppose it was the state of my nerves, for I can upon perfumed knight and smiling lady and painfully stupid to have to take such plain ble considering my only weapon was my sense second hand, and from a young girl at

Docketknife. Once dead, though, he must be hidden and in great haste I tumbled snow and brush upon him. Then—for I either heard mouldering fire, follow me while I wrapped could have been kinder to me than you have had been or ladders, for no same man would delibe rolces, or all the excitement through was rendering me fanciful-rose and ately take such a leap in that pitchy dark- the shawl about her and fiercely poked the been tonight and that, too, without knowing ran toward the spot where I expected to ness. It was clear to me now where we were, was a stealthy rattling sound coming from self?" find Miss Brandon, only to spring back barely restraining a shout of terror. She We were adrift upon the frozen hed of one the closet which somehow hore in upon me of those mountain streams about whose sum- the impression that with one long arm the was gone "They have taken her," I gasped, a sudden mer music my sister had discoursed in her woman was gradually raking everything blank regret which I had no time to analyze letters home. I remembered well how she movable within easy reach. Why, I could sweeping over me. Then setting my teeth, had made them "leap from rock to rock." not guess until, happening near the door I plunged forward and with two strides hide themselves in granite caverns, "and in my desperate search for drink, it was found myself stepping off into space. The then burst from their brief restraint," all of jerked open a few inches and a thin skillet fifteen or twenty minutes during which I which had sounded well in the letters, but was flung at me through the apperture. seemed to be steadily falling gave me the when it came to sliding down this ice-clad "Stop that, woman!" I called sternly, for impression of being infinite. But I finally winding idyl, with a delicate young lady for though the action had broken somewhat the struck, fortunately for my earthly career, in your companion, a band of desperadoes spell of that immovable eye, the eltuation a bed of snow, through which I rolled and scouring along the mountain side in search was such a disgraceful one! gasped, finally fetching up with a painful of you, no coat on your back and the mem-"Then go away and lemme alone, or you'll thump against something so solid that my ory of two dead men and a dead dog behind git the sad-iron next," came the dogged airy, light-headed sensation of infinite space you, making the thought of your probable answer, and I could hear her hard drawn was immediately swallowed up in acute venture into the next world something to breath rushing through the keyhole. be avoided, if possible, I could have wished There was no time to be lost. I was medi physical pain. 2-An eventful night the "windings in and out" a shade less fautating means of obtaining what I desired "Oh, so you fell too!" exclaimed some one lastic, and would have entirely omitted that without misusing the woman when a languid rlose beside me. "How queer we should "bounding from rock to rock" had choice voice recalled me to Miss Brandon's side and to my great relief I found her sitting both do it? Really now we ought to be been given me. As for my companion, nothing could ex- up, wiping the blood from her face, and look thankful; it might have been quite unpleasceed her cheerful indifference to our sur- ing quite herself. "Oh, do take me out of

her pretty feet, what was I to do? Death

ppeared before us not many yards away.

blaze of glory ever thrilled my heart with

"Look, look, Miss Brandon!" I cried, and

hen we both fell again, to alight upon com-

paralively level ground, not far from the

raised my companion from the ground, she

ay in my arms limp and motionless, a cut

on her forehead, and a dark stream trickling

I thought her dead, and a great madness

seemed to possess me. Snatching her close

igalast me, I ran, with no sense of her-

weight, through a dooryard thickly strewn

with snow-covered objects, like lumps of

wood, old buckets and other litter. Stum-

bling among them as I did, I came to no stop, but bounding blindly over the last

hing in my path I brought my knuckles

upon the door with a sudden, loud thump.

with my flats, and then to kicking, all the

colitary dweller in that lonely place.

lown over her still features.

uch gratitude

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1899.

start up with a cry of terror and that cry, same to me." I cried recklessly, "so long as others weren't all like him," she went on hurriedly, "So when his heart got to acting THE OLD AND

brought me back with a rush of shame to "I'm sure I can't say," she retorted, eyeing so queer, he just made his will, leaving me me askance as she unbooked a smoky lan- and my property all in uncle's hands, for my surroundings. Filled with misgivings at my mode of en-trance, I gazed about, at first seeing no John fools away his time in the sommer he died that night and it's all gone wrong one, and then I spied, drawn up at bay in poddlin' with him; then leaves him here to ever since and I presume I've had about a far corner, the gaunt figure of a woman eat his head off in the winter. If I could as dry a time of it as almost anybody you clutching in one hand a huge meal knife only beef him, he wouldn't live a minute, can think of."

after a fashion, having got one arm through some sort of a coarse woolen wrapper, but her feet were bare and her long toes curled up like talons. "Stand back!" she called in a quavering

volce, and then as I did not, but crowded myself yet further in, all spent and dis-, and tearing headlong, like so many burning heveled as I was, covered with snow and staggering beneath the weight of the faint-

"They have tracked us," I groaned, for lug girl, she set up such a series of shricks I heard a shout. "There is nothing for it, as drowned every attempt at consolation we must run again. But which way? This or apology, screaming out and seking to be protected from every crime on the cal-

endar. "Madam!" I shricked in an attempt to rown a double call for murder and thieves, which must be got out or I shall be in a well have screamed into the face of a yond snorting a triffe as Mrs. Brown thrust nice will be for nothing, for I must either whirlwind.

which she brandished with a slow, par- I can tell you that!" and opening the door, "Dry!" I exclaimed; it was really the first alyzed movement of terror. She was dressed sh) led me forth into what seemed a wilder- word that had caught my attention. I gave

ness of snow-filled keys and boxes, all of the will less than no thought at all. What which I am quite certain that I stepped into. | had a ranch or two, more or less, to do with I arrived at the small stable in no mood to such eyes as hers? endure the undignified commotion set up by | "I was to marry whom I pleased and if I a roost of old hons and a solitary cock, as did marry I was to have my property and

we threw the light from our lantern in use it as I pleased, but if I didn't matry, upon them. It was maddening, out upon a Uncle Rupert was to take care of me and all secret mission as we were, to note the zeal my money until I was 21 and that's going with which the cock set about his crowing, to be next week.

"Next week; so soon!" I cried in surprise and to have the hens come squawking down as ready for the day's engagement as though for the wonder of her flight, when escape the morning sun had tumbled bodily in upon was so near, almost formed itself into words them. Even Mrs. Brown found it trying, and upon my lips.

cried tarily for the rooster to "shot his "Soon, so soon!" she cried, and now with head," as we fought our way through to the real anger in her voice, though not, I felt, horse's stall beyond. against me. "It may seem soon to you, but Accurately speaking we found no horse, it will be just six days too late and then "no one intends to harm you. Oblige me with a little wine or brandy." I might as covered a four-legged, gray thing which, be-

the lantern contemptuously under his nose, marry Cousin Harold at the end of this Then, in happy inspiration, I undertook a dumb show that I wanted drink for Miss she said, bitingly. "Nothin' but a rat hole before I can come of age, and then deny I "they are close upon us. They-" dumb show that I wanted drink for Mies she said, bitingly. "Nothin' but a rat hole before I can come of age, and then deny I She gave a goodnatured little laugh. I Brandon, pointing to her as she lay in the to pour cats into. He hasn't had a bit between his teeth for two months, but you may the ones that turned out badly, though there take him and welcome." weren't mine at all, but his. Yes," she After digging in vain about his bony frame cried, defiantly facing me, "I don't deny for some trace of life and spirit, I was in that I have listened at keyholes, and pried eveloped, as he slowly unfolded his joints, tion just ruined by being kept mewed up al

nto a regular carcass of a horse, with great these years. How I used to rage when I hollows which it would have taken the could feel myself getting more and more earnings of a whole race of peddlers to round poky, and then to have only a few dollar out with high-priced hay. "Are you sure he is strong?" I gasped. "Will he be up to a doled out to me at a time when I knew that Cousin Harold, whom I just hated, was trip, you know?" It seems to me he looks spending all my money, and putting off marawfully shaky." rying me until the last moment, because

She wouldn't answer me; but kept on had been shut up in a convent until I was lragging out moldy pieces of harness and moth-eaten robes, until I had an outfit the match for any rag-picker's trap. "Heavens!" I moaned, as I mounted the sleigh, jerking at the rotten straps which

were all the hold I had on that great brute. "He has our lives in his hands. He couldn't feel the strain of these lines if I were to drag them across his naked eye. Have you low sobbing no respectable looking ropes?" I called fretfully, resolving to drop to even that, for hurriedly, "calm yourself, I beg. Are you the sake of security. But Mrs. Brown was at quite, quite certain about that will? Certain

the bottom of an old feed box, and rose to that you were left free to marry whom the surface with such a disgraceful con- you choose?" trivance in the shape of a whip that I felt would be madness to appeal to any sense she burst out indignantly. "Why it was

of decency within her. for that reason and no other that I was kept Cautiously I steered my beast up to the mewed up in that stuffy old convent all those loor and left him in charge of Mrs. Brown years and never a man to look at but priests while I went inside for Miss Brandon. As and some old things that did work about the entered the house a clock struck two clatgrounds! tering strokes. "And to think," I exclaimed It is pitiful to confess that I winced a

absently, "that I dined with Flo last night this. It did not please me that she should at 61" over have wished to meet other men and The statement bore in upon me no imwhen you recall that she had never really

pression of the truth after I had made it, seen me and had only looked upon me as but it startled Miss Brandon to hear me married person with a swollen eye, you will talking to myself, so I told her I had asked wonder at my folly. "What right had you to If she was feeling any stronger. It seemed want to see men?" I wanted to ask her hotly human to retain her confidence in my sanity; but instead I cried softly, "Hark! I hear my own faith in it was so badly shaken. horses' feet behind. They are coming fast. "And now you're off," cried Mrs. Brown Do you hear them?" toyfully a few minutes later as I cracked the whip over the back of Cousin John's

This dried her stormy tears at once and breathlessly we sat and listened. Yes, 1 was right. From far up the steep road there I think that I would have been content to came to us swift, hard strokes, breaking drive on that way all night, not speaking at startlingly upon the silence and filling us

all, but sitting there, half frozen and wholly with chill premonition of pursuit and capirrational, dreaming foolish dreams, But suddenly down went the curtain with a crash pliched. "They are following us," my com ture when our victory seemed all but accom panion whispered fearfully, creeping neare painfully stupid to have to take such plain sense second hand, and from a young girl at that. We could not get out, that was clear gave me to know that the one staring eye was shall we do?



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ant. "Might have been quite unpleasant." And roundings and although I knew perfectly this horrid place," she whispered, fearfully there I sat, with every part of my clothing well that this condition rose entirely from glancing at the closet door with such an exfilled with melting snow and my head ringfilled with melting snow and my head ring-ing. Really, if she had been a plain woman but been but being my first and usages she was trampling under but being my first and usages she was trampling under "I must get something to refresh you -but here! I belie myself. I have quite a reputation for courtesy, and I think that I partially deserve it, for, after coughing up ened her with every clinging snowdrop which advanced carelessly toward the door, only ened her with every clinging snowdrop which advanced carelessly toward the door, only strangled voice, if she was injured in any -she said, "Dear me, how sharp," to the hurled at me with a right good will. Evi-

icy wind, and bent her head to meet its dently our hostess was determined I should way. "Not the least bit in the world," she force, and flapped off the clinging snow with parley with her only at a distance and I saw answered cheerfully, whipping at the back graceful petulance. of my collar with her handkerchief. "My, but you're full of snow though! Do you the stream's bed, only a hair's breadth no further with her overstrained nerves. know, it is so funny; but I actually brought separated us from certain destruction, 1 will your shawl the whole way down here with not attempt to guess. Certainly we must me! You'd better put it on now and warm often have been so near to the dark river to the eye, which was again at its post up. You may have strained yourself some- that its murmurings might have reached our how, but they say if you keep warm you ears. We were a snowslide, an avalanche, won't stiffen." anything you please but human beings, and I,

for one became accustomed to traveling con- table. There was a perfect silence at this, That shawl again! It was too much!

"Miss Brandon." I cried, excitedly spring- siderable stretches upon the back of my ing to my feet; then I stopped abruptly, and head, while that detested shawl I dignified jauntily, "you probably might prefer two," taking her by the arm drew her as far back Into a sort of pad for Miss Brandon in some and I laid a second boldly beside the first. as possible in the shelter of the rock against of our straighter shoots. which I had grazed in my fall. "Hush, I don't know that we traveled very far hush!" I whispered uscleasly, for she had, this way; I am quite certain that we did then the eye drew back. Plates, cups and

made no attempt to speak, and I pointed not, but I have been to other continents other things rattled a retreat to the shelves; upwards as I crouched beside her, for lights and back since with less seeming expendi- the door creaked upon its rusty hinges were beginning to dot the glocm above us ture of time, and have never, before or First a head, and then a neck appeared, in many places; hurrying lights, held low since, viewed with such joy, any inanimate then shoulders, and finally the woman was

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sticks of sputtering wood. All the time there i my story. Why don't you ask me about my-

Swallowing the "father" like quinine which has stuck in the throat, I suggested faintly that there had been no time, but no sooner did my voice break the silence than she stopped me with a nervous start. "I wonder why I don't like to talk with you so well in the dark," she said uneasily, **1 haven't seen your poor face really, it's been against the earth's dark line, the lights of done up so; but, somehow, when I can't see the city lay. Above and below us stretched your bandages, you seem so different. Your a tortuous path upon which impatient hoofs



voice is so-I don't know what you'd call | were beating not many rods behind and we -what could we do, all unarmed as we were, object, as I did the light which suddenly before us again, entirely in her dress this it; but it seems so changed." "I'm getting a cold in my head," I said and at the mercy of an ancient heast whose time, and with a conscioueness of her hare every motion seemed wrung from him in bitfirmly. I could not bear the sudden trembter pain?

some smoky lamp, I fancied, and shining which made her seem more feminine and ap-through the window of a miner's hut; but no preachable. She should not fear me if I had to go down "O, you do not know my uncle; we are lost!" came in an awed whisper close be "My name is Brown," she said solemnly, to the grave and live there in her memory I saw that her right hand still clutched the as the old fellow with full grown girls deside me and then a great desperation fell pendent on him. "Oh, is that it? How upon me. The road to the city stretched "Are you running off with that girl?" she funny!" she exclaimed with a relieved before us. Inside that city there was justice burst forth, jerking her thumb toward Miss laugh. "But now I am going to tell you to be had; help, at least. Then reach that hut and its cheering light. But when I Brandon, who turned very red, but looked, all about myself," and she settled down for city we must before those fleet hoofs behind Brandon, who turned very red, but looked, all about myself," and she settled down for city we must before those fleet hoofs behind all about myself, " and she settled down for city we must before those fleet hoofs behind tracked us down. With a spring I I realized with unreasoning anger, more narrative with a delightful little flutter had tracked us down. With a spring I inclined to laugh than to cast down her which brought her warm garments brushing reached my feet and folding the useless against my chilled timbs like something livit down upon the back of the horse before "She io my sister." I said, looking the

ing. me with all the energy of a despairing man's "Just as you think best," I murmured. woman shamelessly in the eye, while I saw though I folt morally certain that if abe last effort. "Go!" I cried in a voice of thunder; then sank back crushed with the should confess that the whole escapade was planned in a fit of rage because the proper certainty of defeat, while nearer and yet nearer came those ringing foot falls and a kind of stuff for an evening gown had been tion before the judgment of strangers in denied her, I should awear she was justified. distant shout told us that our black shape on the moonlit track was already clear to "You see." she began with a little sigh our pursuers. The nobler side of me shrank from seeing "It all came about through that horrid will

her pretty head droop, and then turn away. of papa's." while an irritable longing to see myself re-"Oh!" I said vacantly.

which I had not the humanity to realize garded other than a harmless watch dog. "Yes," she went on with relish. "And don't you think wills are nearly always "Humph!" snorted the woman-snorted horrid? They're made, you know, mostly No answer came, I grew furious, and from is the word-and then she eyed us fixedly. when people are sick and not quite right in ounding my knuckles, fell to hammering "I can't say that yeu look much alike." | their heads, and then how is any one to be A faint gleam of hope lit the gaunt fea- argued with after he is dead and gone? Oh, ime shouting for admittance in a voice tures of Mrs. Brown. There was, then, some I'm all against wills," and she shook her o hearse with fatigue and excitement that prospect of being rid of us. "I suppose he head severely.

must have sounded like the creaking of might use Cousin John's horse," she said, "They certainly do stir up a great deal of some asthmatic madman. A flercer kick talking across to Miss Brandou, as one might ill feeling," I stammered, seeing that she than all at length brought the door open discuss the beef tea of a patient who is not expected me to say something. upHfs

"And papa was so awfully good, and all made even the insensible girl in my arms "Cousin John or Cousin Jim, it's all the that, that he couldn't be got to see that

The two illustrations above show more plainly than words can express, the What should we do indeed? At that mowonderful change that has been made in the treatment of respiratory diseases ment, as if to increase our perplexities, the during the past two years. Formerly, any sufferer from Catarrh, Asthma, Consumpmoon, which had been hiding all night betion or Bronchitis was at once placed under the care of some physician and desed neath a blanket of clouds, burst suddenly with all sorts of nauseating drugs and tonics. Even as far back as twenty-five years forth, clothed in glistening garments, which ago, the doctor seemed to be aware of the fact that in order to reach these diseases, lighted every nook and cranny of the rugged inhalation must be used, and experimented with atomizers, sprays and douches, in scenery about us. Far above towered the the hope of finding some germicide which could be forced into the bronchial tubes and snowy peaks, while way down below, a dim lungs. That all these treatments proved practically useless is shown by the fact that radiance, nestling close like a circlet of gems during the past twenty years the number of deaths from catarrh and consumption alone, has increased from 8,000 to over 200,000 a year. The discovery that these terrible scourges were germ diseases did not lessen the death rate, for of all the germi-

cides known to the profession but one of them could be inhaled into the lungs, and this, Chlorine Gas, was deadly poison. The others, carbolic acid, ammonia and creosole (liquids) must touch the germs them selves in order to destroy; consequently, could not be used with effect, as it is absolutely impossible for moisture in any form to enter the bronchial tubes and lungs. The discovery of THE NEW DRY AIR GERMICIDE made the cure of these diseases by inhalation possible; without it there was no way of reaching the germs, and up to the present day NO OTHER HAS BEEN FOUND. HYOMEI alone is the only germicide of sufficient power to destroy the bacilli of atarrh, Bronchills, Coughs, Colds, Croup and Consumption, and which can be taken in the air we breathe without injury to the patient.

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But what was this? What magic had that | swinging us and the rickety old aleigh bewhipstalk held? What fire had my hoarse hind him with as much unconcern as though cry infused into the huge frame before me? we were so many wisps of straw.

"Now may heaven help us? I can do no Or was it those clattering hoofs behind? Was the instinct of some ancient courser trem- more!" I gasped, guarding the useless lines bling through those starting veins and with care for that awful moment which i pricking up with long buried fire the dull felt must come, when the variation of a cars drooping beneath their rusty harness? hair's breadth might save us from some Scarce had that cry behind ceased echoing horrid death. Death? Why the thing seemed when the huge bulk of horse flesh before us simple. The only question was how to die began to tremble with the workings of some Every avenue was open but, since my rehidden passion. Slowly did the great head mains might be recovered by my sorrowing itself, the great chest expand and friends, I yearned for some more symmetric then, with a bound which, but for my too cal end than to go crashing down over jagged ready arm, must have flung my companion rocks into some bottomless abyas. from the seat, the beast sprang forward. (To Be Continued.)

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