"When will you begin?" the officer as ked disinterestedly. "Immediately after weget him," said Edwards swalowing some more of the wine. "I will [] [do it through Amlah and by mail. I can hang around the Colonel and governor and see my own letters come in."

He smiled at what he considered a joke, and relapsed icto silence.

"How much you goirg to make them hand over?" went on Hopeford.

"Fifty thousand dollars ten thousand pounds."

Edwards went into a drowsy state again, and only occasionally a muttered word was heard by the officer.

"Ah!" exclaimed the colonel at the bead of the table. "I see. You remember four years ago, it was rumored that Prince Alar Juth had escaped and the denied. This is the way of it. Colonel Benson was at the fort guarding the Prince at that time. One hot night in the midst of a terrible thunder storm, the guard came running in shouting that Alar Julh was gone; and sure enough when they looked, he was gone."

"Well, they searched the town and villages, of course, but discovered nothing and had grown hopeless, when one day Colonel Benson got a letter offering to return the prisoner for ten thousand pounds as this gentlemen says. This brought about a renewed search after the Prince, after the man making the offer, and after the messenger even, but not a clue to any one of the three was discovered.

"So it finally resulted that the prisoner was returned according to the conditions, and soon the matter was forgotten. One day, however, the colonel re ceived a note enclosing a draft for ten thousand pounds. The writer stated that he had removed the prisoner in order to force a loan of tifty thousand dollars which he needed badly. He had finished with it by that time and returned it with interest at seven per cent, exact to a penny.

"Now, gentlemen of the mese, that was the height of perve. You see the man who d'd that at the table side by side with you. At first I was going to suggest kicking him out the door like a dog. But since I think it over I find I admire this incarnation of nerve. And then his methods were the methods of a gentleman, though coercion was used perhape; and a little worry and incorvenience caused Co'onel Benson."

"I say, let him stay. We need never refer to it, and of the wine of Dhassi, let us never spaak."

"Let him stay, said the mess as one

G. C. SHEDD.

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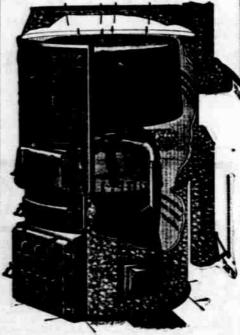
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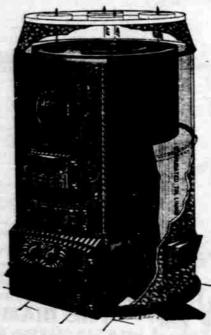


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