## uthor of s of the Morning

skilled in the new heraldic fashions a penetrating the East. But the aspition that he was an adept therein ed the last drop to the cruse of oil chad been so judiciously administration.

at to alm.

aving ascertained when the escort hat be expected, he gave orders that as to be received with proper honor. Soon as the sowar had ridden away h, ventre a terre, the two grandees inted and proceeded slowly through ranks of the halted cavalcade. Valter, chatting affably about the ndors of the court, comited two hundrailly serviceable horsemen, and as many armed guards of the bagstrain. He estimated that a siminumber would bring up the rear, so futility of a surprise attack by night, the Roger had suggested, was now e demonstrated. Even if a panic cereated and the host broke up in rder, what could be done next day, every other day for weeks, by twennen burthened with a host of help-captives, for da Silva's account e it certain that nearly all the Portes es soldiers had fallen in the first e fight at Hughli. The whole counwould deem it a religious duty to the Giaours, and they would all miserably. Yes, his americal.

would deem it a religious duty to the Giaours, and they would all sh miserably. Yes, his amazingly ng plan, now that the first barrier passed, promised ultimate success, his heart throbbed at the thought two Englishmen, alone and almost iended in a powerful foreign land, lid have adopted such a mad device carried it triumphantly to the very of achievement. ir this was his scheme. He counted long ere this, Nur Mahal was firmtablished as the despot of a despot was sure that a woman of cultured artistic tastes would sway the shalminded King back from his retropolicy with regard to other nations, after the instant Lai Singh heard

anistic tastes would sway the shalminded King back from his retropolicy with regard to other nations. efore, the instant Jai Singh heard Fateh Mohammed had taken the so neatly prepared for him, the Rajand a couple of men would ride at sit speed to Agra and warn Nur al as to the way in which Jahangir's crity had been usurped. If she did gainsay it, but promised to make the their path, all would be well. If tuntoward happened, Jai Singh to collect as many of Sher Afghan's ners as were available, and ambusthe carayan at some preconcerted. They would endeavor to secure scape of those able-bodied prison-ho could ride, the Europeans there-plunging recklessly into Central with the hope of reaching Bom-If not all, some could be saved. ese alternatives each depended on er's primary success. If, however, he Mohammed were suspicious or ely hostile—it was thought he d not dare do more than detain pray until his pretended mission justified or otherwise—then the course which remained open was a sise attack at midnight, of which bray would privily warn all whom ould trust in order to create a dim. Here, obviously, lay the chief of failure. But Mawbray steadbelieved in his theory that Mahal would so mold ngir's mind that Fatch Moned would be acclaimed as a most ious person when his reached Agra, by consequence, that he himself Sainton would have no difficulty in eding to the west coast by the diverlanad route. At any rate, granthe less favorable outcome, they sure of saving Fra Pietro, who,

pverlanad route. At any rate, granthe less favorable outcome, they
sure of saving Fra Pietro, who,
all, most enlisted their sympaties.
d now the sowar was speeding to
greed rendezvous to apprise Roger
ai Singh that all had gone well
far. No wonder Mowbray felt
l, and that his confident air left
in Fetch Mohammed's brain for
adow of suspicion. But his geight and in rags. Poor souls, they had advantage of the unexpected halt advantage of the unexpected halt down again in the dust. Such was misery that they had lost all huinterest. They looked at Walter is companion with lack-lustre eyes, use on the point of death who reome glimmer of consciousness yet already quitted the living world. he Mohammed, giving a sidelong at Jahangir's envoy, saw the frown in his face and began to n.

dul Aziz is a hard man," he mur-"He gave his orders and L could

bey."

by stiffed his rage. He must is part to the end. is part to the end.

course," he said, "there were difis. This is no time to tell these
unates of the Emperor's regret.

them to be freed and given good
Then let them rest all this day
orses and camels are investigated for forses and camels are procured for ow's march."

stout commander obeyed in, with such denunciations of his
dons and such appeals to the
et that his own men deemed himmarily insane, while some among
happy prisoners lifted their heads
ertain if they had heard aright.
plight of the women was not so
None save the young and good
g had been brought from Hughli,
were supplied with mules and g had been brought from Hughli-were supplied with mules and, and were destined for the zen-of such court favorites as might fancy to them. All the older wo-ad been massacred in cold blood. were girls who had lost their s, wives who had seen their hus-cut to pieces before their eyes. hem, too, brooded a settled des-Tears had long been dried. There ed only a haunting terror of the

ninent among them, if only on acoff the richness of her soiled garwas the Countess di Cabota. Alshe was, in Eastern eyes, being by reason of her fair skin, rown eyes and exceedingly plump she was undoubtedly over thirty of age. Hence, she owed her life which many another woman risks to avoid, namely, a somewhat mounced development of a figure lly inclined to solidity.

unhappy lady—perhaps by subration of the principle noblesse retained some degree of vivacter glance mo sooner fell on Mowhan she cried in Partuguese:—

(To be continued.)

VICTORIA MERCHANTS MAKE SOME SPLENDID DISPLAYS OF CHRISTMAS GOODS

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PLEASE WAS CHARGE

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