beaten earth that ran round the sides were occupied by coartiers, castle officials, and the more prominent etitizens, while the common people and the soldiery, some with bristling arms and some without, elbowed each other to find standing room as best they poulf.

Marching with my proudest step jate the centre, I abruptly ceased playing, and saluted my judge. He did not return my salute, but sitting metiopless as a statue, was the factor of the sharp eyes and contracted brows.

For an Arab he was uncommonly handsome. In the prime of life, he was tall, broad-chested, elega-featured, and bore himself with the imberial mien of the Caesars. His half was jet black; his eyes, also black, were as keen as the falcon's and more determined, and his countenance in general expressed haughtiness and infexible resolution. Just then it was inauspiciously severe.

He was arrayed with regal solution. Over a glemming white shirt, he wore a cashmere robe, richly amolour. Over a glemming white shirt, he wore a cashmere robe, richly amolour. Over a glemming white shirt, he wore a cashmere robe, richly amolour for the finest red and yellow silk, severe ously brocaded, and was fastened by a fillet of camel's hair, in wore with spid and sliver and blazing with precious stenes. His leather girdle, worked with gold and set with brilliants, supported a gold-hilled sword and a specific work were bound elaborately-decorated sandals.

There was an uncomfortable silence. There was an uncomfortable silence. There was an uncomfortable silence. The side of him ??

Said Achmet in a few sentences repeated the tale of misor on the head to out the had trouble in get the comming may be judged by his readiness to endure dangers and hardships. Thinkest thou it was for sport he encountered those perifs by sea and land? In spite of the years, and thy wanderings, thou art by the wee of the decifful. Hast thou never yet learned that words are easy as the wind, and often as false? This fellow hath come to apply the week of the decifful. Hast thou never yet

s he examined me, minutely, from ead to foot. On both sides of him head to foot. On both sides of him sat his ministers—ugly, crafty, pitiless-looking dogs, with a sort of grin of expectation on their faces—but none dared to disturb the Governor's scrutiny. Presently he gave a signal, and without a word the guards pushed me closer to him. For a moment he scrutinised me again, and his eyes had in them the leaping lights of a hawk's when it beands over its prey. when it bends over its prey.

"Theu hast the face of a Christian, an infidel, and the garb of an Arab, a believer," he said, sharply, at length.

"Yaw carath 12"

"It is a likely story," he remarked, with a sneer, when I had finished. "Hew comest thou, an utter stranger, and, as theu sayest, with no desire to come hither, to speak our tongue?" I told him of the tuition of Abram ben Adam.

"Thou seest yonder tower?" he said, significantly. "It is not many days since it was adorned with the head of a spy who added lying to his other virtues."

"As my level liveth, I speak the truth," I returned, earnestly, for it was a hardship that my proficiency as a linguist should stand against me.

"Never liar yet but was as true as the prophet. Thise own cars shall hear the corroberation of thy words."
Whereupon he called the witnesses. They appeared is appalling numbers, with the glibbases and assurance of actors who had well cenned their parts. I had anticipated much. The reality was beyond my widest conception; beyond anything indeed that the singlish Western imagination could conceive. Speechless with amazement and horrer, I heard the damning evidence heaped up that would have convicted with a jury sworn to acquit. At times I was almost moved to indignation at my own villainy, for I had difficulty in remembering that I was the second mitted. Never did cities are switch.

What is that instrument on which thou madest musio?" he asked. "Nay, rater," he added, quickly, "on which thou madest witches and genif sareech." a spy who added lying to his other virtues."

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By John A. Steuart.

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Every beas and such about Kilgour, revery beas and en bear and servery control of the steady of the

warning to spies and tors."

He was a leather-faced rasoal, with small, deep-set eyes, very close together, the mouth-and jaws of a bloodhound, and the shifting, sinister expressions of the house

gether, the mouth-and jaws of a blood-hound, and the shifting, sinister expression of the hyena.

There are brave and elegant gentlemen, adventurous fireside heroes, who can dispose of the fear of death in an epigram. Unluckily for myself, I am not so happily constituted, and it was a sudden gasp and throb of terror that I now turned to the minister. The hate of hell was in his lowering, janatical face—the spirit that makes the Moslem a fiend in the fray, that impels him to cut out an enemy's living heart and stamp its quivering life under foot, that in jealousy, angor, revenge or statecraft makes him subtle, crafty, ruthless, diabolic, an instigator of foul deeds, a secret assassin or an open murderer, as the occasion may require. Such a spirit gleamed sullenly from every lineament of the minister's cruel and repulsive visage.

Crouching there, his hand upon his

With palpitating hasts I answered it was named a bagsphe in my counstry. The state of the part of victory into the heels of their seaments.

"I said it was the screem of demona," he remarked, with a chuckle one of deep thought; he seemed to be trying to recoilect something. "I have it; I have it." he cried, sitting up with a beam of intelligence. "In the country are the men naked about the country and the country are the men naked about the country are the men naked about the country are the country and the country and the country are the country and the c

The next instant the wondering people were being hustled back, and the pipes were squealing in the process of tuning up.

You may be sure that if ever piper played with all the zeal and skill that were in him it was then. The consciousness of the great prize at stake was diffused like an electric current through lips and lungs and fingers, through head and feet and all that lay between, giving fiery energy and ardour to both the soul and body of the performer.

Yet, in spite of this earnestness and the acute sense of momentous issue hanging in the balance. I could not help being tickled by the ludicrousness of the situation. Very absurd it was to me, an Arab in garb, a Highlander in feeling, to go sailing about in flowing skirts, bursting my cheeks for the favourable verdict of judges who had never seen or heard a bagpipe in their lives, who did not know one tune or note from another, and who would be quite likely to decide with overwhelming unanimity that all my merits werefaults and all my faults merits, and who were prejudiced and incensed against me.

It was like putting Harlequin on a trial of skill before a man who had never seen a play, who detested the theatre and its traditions, and above all fervently hated the performer. Yet I gave them the music of my native a livelier regret at the parting that was near.

For the most part of three happy days I was with him, listening to wondrous tales of the diabolical prowess of the man on the black horse from Tabal, or discussing the prospects of the campaign with him, or drinking in the wise and varied discourse of my host himself as we sat inhaling fragrant essences in the shade of his garden palms.

How far off all that is now, and how strangely tinged with mystic hues! Said Achmet has long since gone to his account—



of a day spent on an azure summer isle after escape from devastating

tempests.

The preparations at the castle went

every man to get into his fellow's way and thwart him in his work. The

pounds to every beast—and all the while the soldiers badgered, shouted, jested, and blasphemed in a way that might have moved the envy of any Christian army in the world.

On the morning of the fourth day a messanger come to be her bear the large of the soldiers.

messenger came to me breathless, say ing that Abou Kuram was seated in the audience court and was seated in

ing that Abou Kuram was seated in the audience court and wished to see me at once. I hurried off, Said Achmet accompanying, in some excitement, fearing that liars and intriguers had been at their loathsome work and had succeeded in turning him against me. Rut I was quickly reassured, for when I entered his presence with palpitating heart and hesitating step he beckoned me to him with a gracious smile, bade a cushion be placed for me, and proceeded to inquire in his most affable tones, and as I thought, with covert glaness at Abdallah, who sat close by, about my health and welse

soon have sport enough. Ere the sun go down again we shall be on the

was one of constant confusion iproar. Night and day the hub-

went on, waxing ever louder and er, till it seemed like pandemon-

"Is there anyone else to speak in his favour?" demanded Abou Kuram, in a loud voice. The crowd swaying viole lently, craned its neck for an answer. None came, and the Governor turned to me.

"Thou canst not be old," he said surveying me for the fiftieth time.

"Thou canst not be old," he said surveying me for the fiftieth time.

"Thy face hath the bloom and comeliness of youth, yet already thine actarion to the nostrils. In what school thou hast learned thy guile and how thou hast the heart to practise it. I know not, but thou art a match for the hoariest headed transgressor alive. We have had some of thy kind here lately, and they did not return to the place whence they came. Thou hast heard the tale of thine iniquities. What thinkest thou is thy due?"

Before I could give any opinion in the matter—indeed my tongue was not at all ready—one of the men seated by Abou Kuram, on the right, interpolated:

"A needless question, my lord. Cast him to the dogs and let them tear him alive. Then let his gnawed head be perched on the topmost tower as a warning to sples and other malefactors."

He was a leather-faced rascal, with small, deep-set eyes, very close tors."

He was a leather-faced rascal, with small, deep-set eyes, very close together, the mouth-and jaws of a blood-gether, the mouth-and jaws of a blood-

A SURPRISING CHANGE OF FRONT So all my rosy hopes were blown to the winds again. Fate had cut off the last chance of escape, and I could tentous mysteries of statecraft that make such havoc of the conscience of rulers and understood that behind the personal will and inclination of Abou taggering emphasis when the leather-aced ingrate I had relieved of his cost of blood, and ending up with the proposition, "Let my lord decree death forthwith, and while he despatcheth weightier matters I will see this rogue executed.' But we had both mistaken the force of Abou Kuram's character. A weak man is the slave of his office; a strong man is its master and director. Perman is its master and director. Per-haps it was the working of humanity in his breast, perhaps it was a sudden conviction of my innocence, or, what is more likely, it may have been a prince's dislike of dictation and inter-ference that influenced my judge, but he unexpectedly took a course of his own.

To be Continued. Assessors' Notice own. "Words of wisdom drop from thy mouth as honey from a honeycomb, Abdallah," he said, with a severe look at his counsellor. "Foreign intriguers and spies must indeed be given to the fowls of the air and the beasts of the earth. It is my duty and privilege to guard the State. I will take care they are not neglected. Again, business, as thou well sayest, present hard, and in order that thou mayest give thy mind to other and morest Parish of Chatham.

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