POOR DOCUMENT

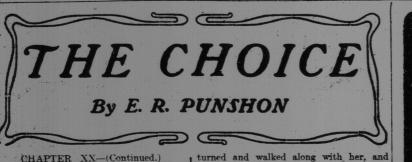


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THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. E., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1908.

her lap. Ivanovitch sat down and

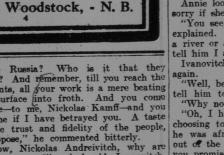
drummed with his fingers on the table,



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pursing her lips, "but for the present I prefer to say nothing." Annie made up her mind that for her part she also would say nothing. Some day her step-mother might find out for herself who this secret friend had been, and then be sorry for what she had just said; and if not, it did not matter. She listened silently while Madam Ross con-tinued to talk about their late experi-ences, through nearly everything she said an undercurrent of complaint running that Annie should have been safe in Lon-don while the favorite Catherine was un-dergoing danger and hardship in Russia. Several times she referred to their "secret friend who had helped them so power-fully." She declared their very lives were due to his efforts, and she spoke of him with a gratitude the fervor of which really astonished Annie. But it was these ex-pressions of thankfulness which, as she heard them, reconciled her to the sort of grumbling discontent Madam Ross showed that she should have escaped what the rest, of them had endured. "Really, mother," Annie did say once,"

turned and walked along with her, and Well, perhaps," answered Madam Ross he understood at once though she did not rsing her lips, "but for the present I speak that she was unhappy and troubled. Without saving anything he



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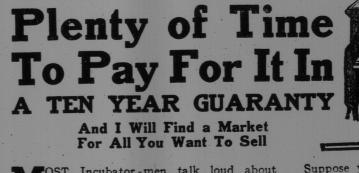
and she yawned as she watched him. The spirit of recklessness and wild defiance she had once had seemed to have sunk down into a profound indifference that nothing could penetrate. "You wil send him about his business, I suppose?" Ivanovitch asked presently. "What do you want to know for?"

"What do you want to know for?" Annie asked. He le red at her and grumbled some-thingen his throat. Then he said aloud: "Ou have done your share, and we he done ours. So far, we have been riends. Why not answer me a few ques-tions? Nickolas Andreivitch is making me very uneasy. I though he might be disturbing you also, and then perhaps we could have consulted together." Annie made no reply, and Ivanovitch re-sumed his restless, nervous tapping on the table. Then he said again: "But you will send him away?" "If he will-go," answered Annie. Ivanovitch jumped up and flung his arms about wildly. "Oh, this is too bad," he cried. "Well, then, everything must go to the devil.

then, everything must go to the devil. That is all."

That is all. Annie looked mildly surprised, and was sorry if she had annoyed him. "You see, you cannot understand," she explained. "It is just like saving 'no' to a river or a mountain. But today I will tell him I am married." Inservise hear to look uncomfortable

"There first time, and she saw that his expres-ptly, re- sion was less hard. "Fred," she whis- RIDER HACGARD



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