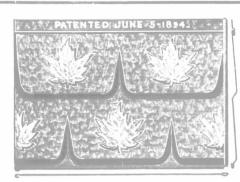
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the figure of the frail old lady, looking down on the white face of the fugitive

"Ah, my lord, and in the old right merry days I knew your mother! Out into the storm, forsooth! Not while House! I have a roof to my head! Jermyn shall light you to the best chamber, and Deborah shall kindle a fire of logs, and then, my lord, I shall beg the honor of your company in my withdrawingroom, where we may plan your conceal-

Jermvn groaned aloud and Deborah's teeth chattered. She received a sharp reproof from her mistress, and tried to murmur an excuse about keenness of the wind.

From the head of the staircase, Lady Dacre returned Lord Ferguson's bow, and then swept back to the fire; the him. servants would obey carefully.

storm without might be terrible, but, trouble awaiting the mistress of Dacre

It was not very long before, in dry garments, Lord Ferguson sat facing Lady Dacre in her room, telling her in a few rapid words of the warning he had received and the difficulties and dangers through which he had passed.

or gesture escaped her. He was so boy, and engaged in the dangerous pur-He must fly, and follow the daring plan that others had found success- she gave that night. Not a word was

he had been careful to hide every trace open to anyone but Jermyn. of surprise at the order of the prepara-tion of the best chamber. Notwithstanding the fury of the storm, he might have been seen, followed.

Lady Dacre's heart went out to the boy; she could not stifle all misgivings, Her keen eyes rested on his face. She but surely some way of escape might be sat, leaning forward, and not one word planned. She sat long after she had sent the weary fugitive to bed, turning young, this fugitive, little more than a over plans in her clever brain, while Jermyn and Deborah sighed and shook suit of carrying signed letters from King their heads. It seemed to their anxious James, as they called him, to his royal hearts as if they saw the walls of a servants, when the warning reached gloomy prison closing round their dauntless mistress. One order, and one only,

A fire in the best chamber! What ful-make his way to London, and, to be breathed to any of the other serrashness, what grievous folly! The through the help of someone like Lady vants as to the arrival of Lord Fergu-Dacre, get on board a ship and sail to son, and the door of the chamber in alack! worse, far worse, would be the safety. He had heard no whisper of which she hoped he would sleep long the disaster of the secret-room, though and securely must be barred and not

When the early sunshine, bright and clear after the violent storm, stole through the heavy curtains in Lady Dacre's room, it disclosed a red-eyed Deborah with the early morning chocolate, a woeful waiting-woman, who received brisk commands with astonish-

"Deborah, open speedily the doors of the great cupboard yonder; spread my gowns so that I may see them well, and if by chance you have stored away silk or cloth of the same kind as any one of them, fetch it hither.'

Deborah would have liked to question had she dared, but swiftly enough she produced a heavy, blue brocade skirt, and a length of the same material folded carefully away with lavender- scented sheets

"Make as modish a gown, a skirt only of a length to suit my Lord Ferguson, a high mob cap, with some fine lace set here and there, and fetch hither also the shawl of Chinese silk that lies on the shelf yonder. Right steadily must your fingers keep to the ask, Deborah, for my Lord must lie in the chamber yonder until all be ready. Now, woman, no sighs! Wouldst let a handsome lad go to the prison or the block for want of a little courage? Those clever fingers of thine will make nought of the task. Let us pray a good God that the Bow Street runners may have no hint of his coming hither, for the bolt in the best chamber door would not keep them out. Sit with the work in the window of the corridor that overlooks the road without; your eyes are younger than Jermyn's, and there are no others I may trust.

Lord Ferguson rested contentedly enouch, with only Jermyn to keep him company, in the great four-post bed of the best chamber. As night drew on, a fire of logs-for the spring evenings were chilly-cast flickering shadows on the

man on whose head a price was set. He had sacrificed so much for what he believed to be his duty, and his heart

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very near in his eyes as he wondered i he would ever again feel the heather be-neath his feet. Would he ever look out again over the grand mountains of home? He would be fortunate to escape with his life. He lay listening wishing he could remember more clearly the many stories he had heard of the brave Lady Dacre. How good she had been to him, and how terrible the tress might bring trouble upon so brave a woman! He longed then and there to bid Jermyn fetch his garments, and let

#### CHAPTER II.