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COLONEL QUARITCH, V.C.

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a feat not often done even by the best driving shots.

"Bravo," said Ida. "I was sure you could shoot if you chose."

"Yes," he answered; "it was pretty good work," and he commenced collecting the birds, for by this time the beaters were across the fields. They were all dead, not a single runner among them, and they were exactly six brace of them. Just as he had picked up the last George arrived, followed by Edward Cossey.

"Well, I never," said the former, while something resembling a smile stole over his melancholy countenance. "That's the masterest bit of shooting that ever I did see. Lord Walsingham couldn't beat that himself—six teen empty cases and twelve birds picked up. "Why." and he turned to Edward, "bless me, sir, if I don't believe the Colonel has won them gloves for Miss Ida after all. Let's see, sir, you got two brace this last drive and one the first, and a leash the second, and two brace and a half the third, six and a half in all. And the Colonel, yes, he has seven brace, one bird to the good."

"There, Mr. Cossey," said Ida, smiling sweetly, "I have won my gloves. Mind you don't forget to pay them."

"Oh, I will not forget, Miss de la Molle," said he, smiling, but not too prettily.

"I suppose," he said, addressing the

tily.
"I suppose," he said, addressing the Colonel, "that the last covey twisted up and Colonel, "that the last con-you browned them."
"No," he answered quietly, "all four were

"No," he answeredquietly, "all four were clear shots."

Mr. Cossey smiled again an incredulous smile, which somehow sent Harold Quaritch's blood leaping through his veins more quickly than was good for him, and he turned away to hide his vexation. Edward Cossey would rather have lost £1,000 than that his adversary should have got that extrabird, for not only was he a jealous shot, but he knew perfectly well that Ida was anxious that he should lose, and desired above all things to see him humilisted. And then he, the smartest shot within ten miles round, to be beaten by a middle-aged soldier shooting with a strange gun, and totally unaccustomed to driving. Why, the story would be told over the country—George would see to that. His anger was so great when he thought of it that, afraid of making himself ridiculous, without another word he set off with his bearer toward the castle, leaving the others to follow.

(To be Continued.)

FUN, FACTS AND FICTION. A Judicious Compound of Wit and Wisdom. The Colonel swore beneath his breath, and Ida, kneeling at his side, sighed audibly, but it was no use, and presently the drive was done, and there he was with one wretched French partridge to show for it. Ida said nothing but she looked volumes, and if ever a man felt humilitated Harold quaritch was that man. She had set her heart upon his winning the match, and he was making an exhibition of himself that might have caused a schoolboy to blush.

Only Edward Cossey smiled grimly as he told his bearer to give the two and a half brace which he had shot to George.

"Last drive, this next, gentlemen," said that universal functionary as he surveyed the Colonel's one Frenchman, and then, glancing sadly at the tell tale pile of empty cartridge cases, added: "You'il have to shoot up, Colonel, this time if you are going to win those gloves for Miss Ida. Mr. Cossey has knocked up four brace and a half, and you have only got a brace. Lock you here, sir," he went on in a portentous whisper, "keep forrard of them, well for ward feet all called the well come.

Zola's new book will be called "Money." The author is frank enough to say his theme is sordid.

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The oldest Oddfellow has again passed away. The grip was not the cause of his

50 yards fromh im.

"Now," said Ida, and he fired, and to his joy down came the bird with a thud, bounding full two feet into the air with the force of its impact, being, indeed, shot through the head.

"That's better," said Ida, as she handed him the second came.

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Another mome thand the covey came over, high up. He ired both barrels and got a right and left, and snatching the second gun.

Another mome thand the covey came over, high up. He ired both barrels and got a right and left, and snatching the second gun another barrel after them, hitting a third bird, which did not fall. And then enthusiasm and certainty possessed him, and he knew that he should miss no more. Nor did he. With two almost possible exceptions he dropped every brd that drive. But his crowning glory, a thing whereof he still often dreams, was yet to come.

He had killed four brace of partridge and fired twelve times, when at last the beaters made their appearance about 200 yards away at the farther end of a rather dirty barley stubble.

"I think that is the lot," he said, "I'm affaid that you have lost your gloves, Ida." Scarcely were the words out of his mouth when there was a yell of "mark," and a strong covey of birds appeared swooping down the wind right on to him.

On they came scattered and rather atringy," and Harold gripped his gun and iteva a deep breath, while Ida, kneeling at his side, her lips apart, and her beautiful yes wide open, watched their advent through a space in the hedge. Lovely langth as he looked to charm theheart of any man, if a man out partridge driving could descend to any such frivolity, which we hold to be impossible.

Now is the moment. The leading brace are something over 50 yards away, and he knows full well that if there is to be a chance left for the second gun he must shoot before they are five yards nearer.

"Bang," down comes an old cock bird, Bang," and his mate follows him, falling with a smash into the fence.

Quick as thought Ida takes the empty gun with one hand and passes him the cocked and loaded one with the other. "Bang," down comes an old cock bird, Bang," and his mate follows him, falling with a smash into the fence.

"Bang," down comes an old cock bird, Bang," and his mat



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Unity Edward Cossey smilled grimly as he took this bearer to give the two and a half ways. The grip was not the cause of his clease.

A man's wife should always be the same specially to the further than the planeing saily at the tell tale pile of empty cartridge cases, added: "You'll have to shoot up, Colonel, this time if you are congregated by the colonely of the same specially to her husband, but if she is weak and nervous and uses tarrets from Piles to shoot up, Colonel, this time if you are congregated by the planeing saily at the tell tale pile of empty cartridge cases, added: "You'll have to shoot up, Colonel, this time if you are congregated by the planeing saily at the same should be the properties of the colonely of the same should be the properties of the planeing sail that the sail and down they'll come. You're a better shot that he is, a long way. You could give him birds, sir; that you could, and beat him."

Harold said nothing. He was sorely tempted to make excuses, as any man would have been, and he might with truth have urged that he was not accustomed to partridge driving, and that one of his guns was new to him. But he resisted marfully, and come to him. But he resisted marfully, and generated by the same should be the same shou

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