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Continued on 4th page.

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Le Britta reached the wagon in a single ound.

Whatever was to be done must be ave.

He then pushed the board up as far as he could and Vance, grasping the boards at the side, began to scramble through Whatever was to be done must be executed quickly; he realized that fully.

Peering into the close wagon-box he spuld make out plainly a human form lying prostrate upon a heap of old grain bags.

It was a tight squeeze and fraught with considerable peril.

Too much pressure on the board might be hood over the driver's seat concealed them from the two men, once the board.

CHAPTER XL.-ESCAPE.

a surmise as to the identity of the occu-pant of that dark wagon-box.
"Yance—Sydney Vance!" he gasped softly but with startling distinctness. The board shot back with the force of a lever on Le Britta's fingers, as he saw Vance reach the top, scramble over it, and drop to the road from the rear of There was a rustle, a muffled ejaculaand drop to the road from the rear of the vehicle.

He was elated at the success of his experiment. He theorized that Vance would follow after the wagon until he had effected his own escapt, when he would rejoin him.

Resting a moment or two, Le Britta started to escape as his companion had done. 'Eh! who is it?" "A friend. You are Sydney Vance?"
Yes."

"Yes."
"I thought so, listen! we have not a moment to spare. I am Gladys Vernon's friend. I came to rescue you."
"But those men?"
"'Are momentarily out of sight. I will drag you out."

Le Britta seized the man's feet. He calculated on dragging him to the ground, and then, tied as he was, bodily arry him to some near retreat 'No! no!' dissented the captive, pant-BLOOD MAKER

> "You are tugging in vain. You cannot drag me out."
>
> It did indeed, seem as if the task was impossible—as if some obstacle offered a sturdy resistance to all Le Britta's efforts.
>
> "What is the matter?" queried the photographer, with an apprehensive glance toward the stable.
>
> "I am also secured to a ring in the 'I am also secured to a ring in the

"I am also secured to a ring in the side of the wagon."

Le Britta uttered a concerned cry, but he was not yet daunted
He clambered through the back of the vehicle, and groped 'n his pockets for a knife to sever the ropes securing the captive

ive.
"Too late!" gasped the latter, suddenly.
"Eh! what now?"
"Those men!"
Le Britta uttered a dismayed ejaculation.

At just that moment Durand and his two accomplices came out from the stable.

There was no time to spring to the ground and run for cover. He doubted even if his retreat was a safe one, as he shrunk back in the darkest corner of the wagon-box.

"You understand, Tom," spoke Durand. SHAVING PARLOR

"Perfectly," replied the man addressed, "Perfectly," replied the man addressed, wiping his lips.

His companion advanced to the rear of the vehicle and closed the doors with a crash, enveloping the startled Le Brittain complete darkness

"No danger of his getting away now?" laughed the man.
"Scarcely." snoke Durend "Year "Scarcely," spoke Durand. "You have your instructions. Don't lose sight of the prisoner, and obey orders."

Doctor Yourself.

of the prisoner, and obey orders."

The two men jumped into the seat. Separated from them by only the thin board partition, Jera Le Britta tried to realize the strange situation into which this rashness had precipitated him.

His position was one of undoubted peril. He was weak, unarmed, practically at the mercy of two desperate foes, shut in to a prison-place from which escape would be difficult.

The vehicle started up. Le Britta sank to the bottom of the wagon. He groped about until he established the position in which his companion in captivity lay. Then placing his lips close to his ears, he began a hurried, undertone conversation.

"Who are you?" queried the prisoner, Le Britta explained sufficient to force A few deft strokes severed the ropes securing hands and feet. He untied the securing nadus and reet. He untied the strong cords running to an iron ring sunk in the side of the wagon. "You are free," whispered the photog-rapher. "Now for liberty!"

The jolting of the wagon and the grinding of the wheels masked Le Britta's movements about the interior of Britta's movements about the interior of the vehicles. He felt at the sides of the partition, behind the driver's seat, at the bottom, top and at the locked doors at the rear.

"We are fightly shut in," he announced, coming back to Vance.

"Then let us wait until they reach all woman.

the rear.

"We are flightly shut in," he amounced, coming each to Vance.

"Theu let us wait until they reach their destination." "And then."

"They will unlock the doors. We will spring out suddenly upon them, overcome them."

"You forget—they are armed."

"But we shall take them at a dismostration of the shall take them a

"I never thought of that."
"No," spoke Le Britta, thoughtfully, "No," spoke Le Britta, thoughtfully,
'our only hope of escaping their clutches
safely, is to find some way of leaving
the vehicle unperceived by them before
they reach their destination."

"But, how?"

That was, indeed, a serious question,
and Le Britta reflected deeply.

Their combined efforts, vigorously
persisted in, might eventually enable
them to burst open the rear doors, but
the noise would disturb and warn their
jailers, would lead to an investigation,

jallers, would lead to an investigation, and certainly end in recapture.

"Let us make a united rush for the doors," murmured Vance.

"They are strongly locked." "But we may burst them open

succeed."
"Then it is fight or flight," returned
Vance grimly. "Come. Ready."
"Stop!"
The desperate venture about to culminate, the voice of Le Britta sounded a NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF peremptory halt.
"What is it?" queried his companion,

"I have discovered something."
"What?" me time. Yes. I am positive."

Le Britta was feeling along the roof of Le Britta was feeling along the roof of the wagon-box.

His hand reached up; he had discovered a slight break in the sealed top.

One board, about a foot wide, had given slightly under his touch, and as he pressed it, he found that it was loose from the rear end clear to the center of the wagon.

ITCH, minutes

the wagon.

It swayed upward about six inches, then some new resistence prevented fur-"What?" queried the eager Vance. "The top has a covering of water-roof. Wait. I can slit it."

By extending his knife past the loos glorious cause. -- Roxbury Gazette. by extending his knife past the loose board, the photographer was enabled to cut the outside covering.

Pushing now on the board, it gave nearly a foot, and through the opening the stars were plainly visible.

The center nail, however, held it firmly so that it would spring back into place once the pressure of his band was "If I hold it, can you creep through?"

ne queried of his companion.

"Yes, readily; but you!"

"I will try to follow."

"Good. I am ready"

Le Britta gave some quick whispered

necious guilt, blushed vociferously, as Mr. ephen Crane might say .- Indianapolis

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nks, Iron Pipe, Baths, Creamers the very best also Japanned stamped and plain tinware in end-less variety, all of the best stock which I will sell low for cash

ADMINISTRATOR'S

A sigh of dismay escaped his lips, as he lifted himself to the aperture. For just then he made a distressing NOTICE. It was easy to get out with some one to hold the board up for the escaping person, but unaided, Le Britta vainly strove to force head and shoulders MRS. WM, COPPING through the opening.

The heard, taut as a steel trap, would not give sufficiently.

With a concerned face, the photographer dropped back to the bottom of the waren, her

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anted by J. Pallen & Son. "Mary, I hope you took good care of my animals while I was away." "Indeed did; only once I forgot to feed the cat.' "I hope she didn't suffer." "O, no! She ate the canary and the parrot."-Fliegende

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> Briggs-You know Mangle married a ridow and went on a wedding trip, didn't you? I saw him yesterday on his return Griggs- Anything happen while he was away? Briggs-Yes, He says that in fit of absent mindedness she proposed him again. - Harlem Life,

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