RUTH BRANDON

Or, Science Against Savage Force

HIGHLY ILLUSTRATED THIS WONDERFULLY ENTERTAINING TALE OF

A NEW PHASE OF WILD LIFE

Terrible : and : Pathetic : Incidents

Of Border Existence, are the most SIDE-SPLITTING SCENES▶

ASTOUNDING SURPRISES

The Heroine, Ruth Brandon, is a beautifully drawn character, having all the soft feminine graces with some of the self-reliance engendered by the residence on the Border.

The first chapters of this Story appeared in THE WEEKLY MAIL of December 6th, and will be continued in large instalments until concluded.

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FROM NOW TO THE END OF 1884. THE MAIL.

ENGLISH LODGING HOUSES. A huge fire, be the weather what it may out-

A Pen Picture of a London "Kip"-Un-cleanly Condition of the Place. When a man has sunk from the position of when a man has sunk from the position of a householder, says a letter in the Pall Mall Gazette, he has two courses open to him. If his employment he still sufficiently remunerative he may inhabit one of the dens known as furnished loigings. These are rooms let singly and supplied with a couple of chairs, a flap doing duty for a table, and a blackened sack stuffed with straw on an old and snaky flap doing duty for a table, and a blacked sack stuffed with straw on an old and shaky foor-post bedstead. For these advantages he is charged the nightly sum of eightpence, which a long experience has taught the intelligent landlord to exact beforehand. Eightpence is a large sum and cannot always be afforded, so the next alternative is the common lodging house, or "kip," which, for the moderate sum of fourpence, supplies the applicant with a bed, use of lavatories, kitchen and kitchen fire, for the space of twenty-fornhours at the most. The "kip" is under the unwinking eye of the law, which is supposed to insure cleanliness—i.e., clean sheets once a fortnight: decency—i.e., the separation of the dormtories of the two sexes and sanitation, which means something almost as indefinite as "common sense." The older inhabitants of the "kip" relate most harrowing details about these places before this supervision and registration took place, which it is a pity even to evoke from ohivion. Suffice it to say that anyone much status, and many an old soldier or pensioner lives permanently in them. But the majority of the houses are open to per ous of all ages and sexes and degrees of social status. The prominent feature of all "kips" is the and sexes and degrees of social status. The prominent feature of all "kips" is the kitchen. This is at once dining-room, drawing room, smoking and card compartment,

side, serves to cook the viands of the in-habitants and to supply the heat which an insufficiency of clothing renders grateful in the colder weather. A number of tin vessels, supplied by the house, serve for teapots or missiles as the case may be, both uses being frequent.

TORONTO

THE INMATES.

The first impression of a "kip" is that of a savour of death unto death, with variations and permutations. The men, following afar off Sir Walter Raleigh, perpetrate a consumption of the rankest shag. The fair sex contributes a resume of savour of sealled terminations. rack sales, every article of which is marked in large letters "Stolen from ——"s." The double beds have little wooden partitions between them, with doors and latches upon the as well as kitched. At one end is the swing door, which leads to the long sawdust floored room, surrounded with benches, or perhaps

THE DORMITORIES. room, surrounded with benches, or perhaps divided into compartments, like a restaurant. Ing conveniences, still less any chests or cup-



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boards. Those of the inhabitants who possess a change of raiment or any other portable property keep the same at "my uncle's," from which Sunday suits are weekly redeemed in order to keep holy the Sabbath day, and again resigned to the pledger on the Monday by the owner, who is well acquainted with the ways of his fellow-lodgers. It is a most vital question whether or not the percentage of these places to the population has increased. If it has, as is most possible, it means that a large in the population, either at or over the borders of crime and panperism, is growing all around us. Statistes are very hard to get that are at all conclusive, but the opinion of many of the poor is that "kips" are certainly growing too numerous. The race bred up in them is an alarming spectacle. The flux of population defies the school board, and the characters of the senior inhabitants provide an effective education in devilishness to their juniors, even better than that of her Majesty's prisons. The children might, indeed, be taken away and sent to the industrial schools, as being found in notorious had company, but this is seldom done. These places may not be the exact counterpart of the insulæ of the old Roman Empire, but they seem even to the man not given to croaking, to be serious scandals in the nation's paths for the future. boards. Those of the inhabitants who post

A CHURCH FIGHT.

How an Organ was Tarred and Feathered. The tarring and feathering of a church organ is the novel way one faction of the quarrelling Wallpark (N.J.) church "got even" with the other. This religious body has been fighting bitterly for 10 years because the new meeting-house was built on the west side of the river instead of being kept on the east. The matter was settled by an agreement to take the building where the most money was raised, but somehow this only added to the augry flame. As time went on the original cause of the war appears to have been nartly lost sight of, but the bitterness only grew. This body of Christians were determined to fight each other on some pretext or other, and The tarring and feathering of a church sight of, but the bitterness only grew. This body of Christians were determined to fight each other on some pretext or other, and another was found a few years ago in the fact that the organist was an east-sider. She was the only person in the neighbourhood who knew the mysteries of the instrument, and as the west-siders, therefore, could not successfully oust her, they grat fied themselves by leaving anonymous letters on door-steps at acking her character and bringing grave charges of immorality against others of the congregation—east-side people, of course. The writer could not be found, and about seven months ago the disgraceful method of revenge was begun again. Meanwhile thewest-siders succeeded in finding somebody able to play the organ, and, what was as much to the purpose, succeeded also in getting the old player dismissed. This defeat of the long victorious east-side aroused a storm of rage in their bosoms. But the revenge they took was not so commonplace as the leaving of slanderous letters on door steps. They had fertile imaginations among them, and when the ininister and congregation met the other evening to pray and to hear the new organist play for the first time they were dumbfounded at finding the organ looking like a huge bird of prey, so covered was it with tar and feathers. This is how the battle stands now. The east-side faction of this church militant would seem to have done more than enough to satisfy them for a while; but they have not, and they mean to form a church of their own where they can worship the meek and lowly Nazarene in their own way.

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