Your being a w. I mademan to leave unput hed on the instant the outrage you have put upon me. I would give ten thousand crowns that you should have had a husband or a son."

"You lie, marquis?" cried Raoul, pushing back Captain de Maurevert, who attempted to restrain his impedualty. "If Madains d'Erstrain his impedualty. "If Madains d'Erstrain his impedualty."

restrain his impetuosity. "If Madamo d'Er-tanges had the support of either a husband or son you would not be here—for you are a coward?"

So atterly unprepared for the sudden ap-pearance of a forender of the Dame d'Erlanges was the marquis that for a low minutes he was completely dumbfounded. Gradually he re-covered from the rude moral shock, however. The pallor of his checks gave place to a purple hue, and his hand, elenehed tremulously, sought also hills of his distract.

the hilt of his dagger.

Ruoni observed this threatening movement:

the hit of his daggor.

Recoil observed this threatening movement; but instead of putting himself on the defensive he moved a step nearer to the marquis; until, in fact, thirt two faces almost met. The pupils of his eyes d'ated in an extraordinary mauner, and on the features of the marquis he fixed a strange and faming give, before the intensity of which the other shrank involuntarily.

At length the caim and clear voice of De Maurevert broke the painful silence maintained by the spectators of this terrible scents.

"Mousiour le Marquis de la Tromblais, and you also, Chevalier de Sforri: I beg that neither of you will take in ill part my interference in a discussion with which I have no direct concern, nor the observation I am about to have the honor to make to you. It seems to me that you have, both of you, very badly chosen your time and place for the interchange of courtesies. Before women and variets two gentlamen can hardly fight in a becoming manner. If you will favor me with your confidence, we may will favor me with your confidence, we may will layor me with your connected, we may descend into the garden, where I undertake, on my honor, to observe a strict neutrality. I will confine myself entirely to seeing fair play between you, and leave you to fight at your

este. You gladly accept my proposition? Let us go down into the garden at once, then,"
"Who are you, monsieur, who dare to address me in this manner?" demanded the marquis, in a witnering tone. "A Tremblats measure m a withing toda:

"A trumbale leasted

when the man and the moment that I should so far forget my birth and quality."

"Enve a care, marquis," replied the giant, still in the same calm tone; "without knowing

what you so doing, you are running the risk of rousing my slumbering bile, and ruffling the habitual amouthness of my character! Who am 1? you ask. Parbieu, a gentleman like yourself, and your equal in all respects! Captain Roland de Maurevert, the familiar of his Holand de Manrovort, the ministr of his Majesty, Honry IK., and the intimate friend of Messieurs de Guise!"

A contempinous smile passed over the marquia's features.

"What do I care for the house of Valois, or

"What do I care for the house of Valois, or for that of Lorraine!" he cried; "I hold my power in my own right alone."

At these arrogant words, pronounced in u superb tone, Do Maurovert raised his eyes towards heaven, and appeared filled with astonishment and indignation.

"la it possible that I have heard aright?" he cried, clasping his hands. "Oh, all you here present! I take you to witness the abominable arises of Recomplete that has the bear comerime of Geomajeste that has just been committed. Marquis de la Tremblais, in the name of the respect, obedience, and fidelity I owe, as a subject, to his Majesty, King Henry II. . my

master—you are my prisoner?"

The captain's audacity roused the fury of the

The captain's audacity roused the fury of the marquis to the highest pitch.
"Deschip" he excisimed, "do you think it is enough to throw a list over a lion to master him t you must first be sure that the meahesters arrong enough to resist his claws! Back traitors and variets! You shall suffer for this before long, I swear, on the faith of a gentleman, Back, I say!"
While sponking, he drew his decreat and

While sponking, he drew his dagger and morad towards th De Maurevert sword in hand, barred his passage.

moved towards the door. De Maurevert, sword in hand, barred his passage.

"In addition to rearing, the lien will now, doubless, show us his strength and courage," said the giant. "Marcy is do in Trembleis, if you move forward another stop, I shall be upder the uccessity of pinning you to the foor with my sword! Aha! that induces you to indulgs in the injury of reflection for a moment, the prospective of horizontal immobility. I have promised you somewhat tempers your transports: Evidently you are not a man of solion, marquis; negotiation, I imagine, is more to your test than highting. Let us negotiate, by all means, if you prefer it. You have rendered yourself liable to all the pains and penalties attaching to the horrible crime of liss-majerié, and disposed to be element, and, therefore, I will lanve to you the right to fix the amount of your ranson. At the same time, I less you to bear in mind—is carefully considering the question of amount—that the larger the sum you decide on naming, the stronger will be the vidence of your onnettion and no openers can too much report having defied his sovereign! I awalt your answer, manquis."

During the delivery of this address a strange "bange oame over the are of the marquis. The

During the delivery of this address a strange "bange came over the air of the marquis. The expression of fury which had contracted his features passed out of his face-use threatening attlinde gave place to a look, if not of humble-uess, at least of pixeld resignation.

"Captain," he replied in a settened voice, "I have always beld man of judgment in serious outsideration and great esteem. Your way of worth from sixty to sixty-five solutions to conting at things please me much. I see that twenty france of the present day.

I was wrong in not instantly according to you

"All, marquis, you flatter me?"

"All, marquis, you flatter me?"

"Not at all—I do you no more than simple justice. I shall be surprised, captain, if we do rot in the end become excellent friends?"

"The honor would be all on my side. But let us return, I beg, to the subject of your ransons?"

WWith planning. You say that I am disposed

to make the greatest sperifices."
"I am happy to hear you say so, on my part am animated by a spirit of extreme

on my part, an animated by a spirit of extreme co-iclination. Pray make your proposal."

The marquis de la Tremblais, after a moment's reflection, was about to reply, when the Dame d'Erlanges approached him with a majestic bearing, and in a grave tone said.

"Stonsteur le Marquis, it is time to put an end to this useless discussion. What is the

end to this useless discussion. What is the good of your pretending to believe what Monsieur de Maurevert has been saying to you, when you know that in my presence you are safe from any attempt at violence? It was by your own free will that you came into my chatcau, and you are now free to leave it whenever it pleases you to do so. If the insult which you have received had come from one of my servants I should have humbly begged of you to excuse it, but it bellis neither my dignity nor rank to interfere in a quarrel of gentlen a. Marquis, I salute you."

"Horns of Pluto!" cried Do Maurevert, "this

What I am I not to nave the right is pleasant of discussing with my prisoner the terms of his

"You are my guest, Captain de Maurevert,"
replied the Dame d'Erlanges, coldly, " and that
quality assures you on my part considerable
condescension; do not, I entreat of you, compol
me to remind you that I alone am inistress me to remind you that I alone am mistress here. Marquis, I repeat, I will not detain you any longer?

any longer?"

"The fact is, my poor captain," said the marquis, silly, "there is no denying what Madame d'Erlanges says. I am truly distressed at your misadventure. But do not be down-hearted; perhaps something may turn up to compensate you for this little disappointment. If it would not be too greatly taxing your complainance might I ask you to accompany me to the gates of the chateau?"

"I am at your orders, monsieur," replied the captain, furiously biting his moustsche,

captain, furiously biting his moustach

The marquis, who from the time of his arrival had not removed his cap, moved towards the door without offering any salutation to the Pame d'Erlanges.

"As to you," he said, in passing Racul,

"As to you," no said, in passing tourd," wo shall meet again."

"Heaven send it may be speedly, and on neutral ground," replied the chevalier.

At the instant of passing from the room, the marquis appeared suddenly to remember somewhat the standard to th thing, and returning upon his stope, crossed to where Diane stood merionless and pale in the darkest corner of the room.

After looking at her for a moment in allence,

he said, in a tone of voice at once encoring and passionate.

"To induce use to forget this morning, and

"To induce me to forget this morning, and obtain pardon for your mother, you will have to bend your opposition to my wishes."
Indignation flashed from the eyes of the charming girl. The marquis bowed; then taking De Maurevert's arm, left the room.
Once in the courtyard of the chatcau, he stopped, and after assuring himself that no one was within earshot, thus addressed the captain.

"Let us lose no time in useless talk," he sald.

"Do not attempt to deceive me. Though I see you to-day for the first time, I know you as well as if we had lived togother for ten years to-Your conscience is of the most sting kind. You have no scruples, Umately. And go buy pogram, a comotae' word king secommodating king. And pead no secret finisticia. And, consequence in of the t

money. " Marquis "

"Did I not tell you it is of no the attempting to decire me? You have too much good son for me to go round about with you; there ere, come to the point directly and at onco-round about with you. love money."

"T do. What then?"

come to the point directly and at onco-you leve money."

"I do. What then?"

"Will you enter into my quarrol, and nelp me to avenge it? There are five hundred sun crowns" to be gained."

"The stin is not enormous," replied De Maurevert; "but before we discuss the amount, distinform we against whom your congenace is to be carried out. Is it regainst these Dames d'. Erinuges? In that case I accept. I know noting of them personally."

"Very good. But my vengeance does not stop at this vité old Huguenot sorceress! It includes that miserable adventurer who has put includes that miserable adventurer the whole of Aivergne. I desire my vengeance to equat the source; that it should terrify the whole of Aivergne. If five hundred crowns do not appear to you chough, I will double the sum."

"By doing so you would merely double the horror with which I regulse your structous offer," oried De Maurevert, in a tone that siartled and astonished his interiocutor. "Marquit de la Tremblais, you have formed a very scourate estimate of me. my conscience is one of the most secondindating. I do laugh at all scruptes, I love money, and I do not believe in romores; in a word, if I were not a gentleman, I might be fairly be treated as a scoundrel. That is frank, I think. Each! we are alone, and it con-

corns you more than it does me; why should I prefend to be a saint? Only, among all this heap of vices, I postess, marquis, one small virtue. I respect my word. For all he treesures in the world I wouldn't break my out..."

"Now, you must know, marquis," he continued, "that Raoul and myself contracted no later than yesterday a jeegue of friendship—a defensive alliance. If I had only had the good fortune to have met you forty-eight hours carlier—but now the evil is done, and we must resign ourselves to the consequence. But if you will allow me I will I will not say give you a word of advice, but make a suggestion; do not think of advice, but make a suggestion; do not think of attacking this little chevaller—he's a tiger! Our acquaint nece commenced yesterday, sword in hand. I lister myself that I play very trettily with sword and dagger, and should not fear to stand face to face with Hercules himself; well will you believe it?—this Raoul, even to this moment I cannot understand how he did it—in less time than it takes me to tell you, had me on the ground, his knee on my chest and his dagger at my threat. To that you reply that you do not intend to mee, the chevaller yourself, but leave him to be dealt with by your servanis. Very well. Do you know what will be the result?—that his sword will serve your handsomest of apostles in the same fashion—which would be a pity. Trust to my experience, marquis, and let the utilit drop."

serve your handsome set of apostles in the same fashion—which would be a pity. Trust to my experience, marquis, and let the affair drop."

"I am most obliged to you for your information, my dear captain," replied the marquis coldly, "and will endenvor to profit by your salvice. We are arrived at the postern: I will not trouble you further, Monalcurde Maurevert. I hope we shall meet again."

As soon us he was out of the chateau, the Marquis de la Tremblals repaid himself by a volley of caths for the partial restraint he had

volloy of oaths for the partial rearraint he had been obliged to put upon himself, "Bonois." he cried to the chief of the apos-ties, "the Chatcau de Tauve contains a wretch named Sforzi, before a week has passed this man must be in my power. A nundred gold drowns for you if you succeed—the gallows if you fall! I accept beforehand responsibility for all the means you may employ in the execution of my orders. How will you get to recognize him ?

him?"

'I have aiready seen him, monseigneur."

"When was that?"

"Yesterday, monseigneur. He was in company with the glant who struck me."

"Nothing could be better!" cried the marquis. "This glant, Captain de Maurevert. is the only support possessed by Bforzi. You auderstand? I put no restriction on you."

"Ro under so apprehension, monseigneur."

"Be under no apprehension, monseigneur," replied the chief of the species, in a hearse opinion and outsit of the appeales, in a noarse rolos, while a sinister smile played about his aldeous features. "Your wish shall be accom-

"One last word, Beneist—the chevaller must be delivered into my hands living i—hving I for a simple stab of a poignard would not satisfy my vengeance."

You shall have him, living, monseigneur,

As to Captain de Maurevert—?

"About him I care not—I leave him to you." "I humbly thank you, monseigneur," replied Benoist, with a dendish sparkle in his deep-set

(I'o be continued.)

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WITCHCRAFT

It was in dorme by that the could in witch-craft ecems to have first taken that dark, sys-tematical form which held so fearful a sway over men's minds in the sixteenth and sevenover these times in the aixteenth and seven-teenth centuries. There the wilder appenditions of the ancient Tentonic creed have been pre-served in greater force than in any other part of Europe. The plous legends of classifies of Heisterbisch, who doublished in the earlier part Heisterberh, who nourished in the earner part of the thirteenth century, are little bouer than a mass of stories of magic and sorcery. The imaginative feelings of the people, and the wild character of many parts of the country, were peculiarly calculated to foster superstiof this churacter.

In fact, we may there trace back distinctly most of the circumstances of the cariter belief In fact, we thay there trace back distinctly most of the circumstances of the earlier belief relating to withhers to the mythology of the ante-Christian period. The grand night of moeting of the distinct which answered to one of the religious feetirely, which answered to one of the religious feetirely which answered to one of the religious feetirely. In after-times two other nights of annual assembly were added—those of the feasts of St. John and st. Bartholomew. It is probable that, as unristiantly gained ground and became established as the religion of the state, the old religious feetirely, were suites and particularly the weaker sex (more succeptible of appersitious feetings), were still attached, were colobitated in solitary places and in private, and those who frequented them were branded as witches and zorcorers, who met together to hold communion with demons, for as such the earlier Christians looked upon all the heather gods. This gives us an easy explanation of the manner in which the heathen worship became transformed union the witcherse, in the Middie Ages.

At an early period it was commonly believed that the witches rode thought the air to the

the Middie Ages.
At an early period it was commonly believed that the witches rode through the sit to the place of rendezvous on reeds and sticks, or on besons, which sater were the article readiest at hand to women of this classic society. The chief place of meeting at the great annual witch-festivals in Germany appears to have been, role from an earlief period, the Breeken Mountain, lengt the highest part of the wild Harts chain, but lant.

there were several other places of resort. The persons believed to have been initiated at their assemblies were looked upon with dread, for they were supposed to be capable of injuring people in various ways; both in their persons and their possessions, and their malice was especially directed against little children.

One of the earliest trials for witcheraft, unconnected with other offences, on the Continent is that of a woman in the bishopric of Novara, on the northern borders of Italy, about the middle of the fourteenth century; and it illustrates the general belief which also prevailed ir Germany at that period. It appears, from the slight account which remains of this trial, that the belief then held by the Church was that women of this class could by their touch of look fascinate men, or children, or beasts, so as to produce slokness and death; and they believed One of the earliest trials for witcheraft, unto produce slokness and death; and they believed farther that they had devoted their own souls intiner that they had devoted their own some to the demon, to whom also they had done personal homage, after having trampled under foot the figure of the cross. For these offences they were judged by the most learned theologians to be worthy of being burnt at the stake.

AN ANACONDA TAKING ITS DINNER.

Quite a large number of persons were assembled a few days since at the De Groot House, New York, Fourth Avenue, to witness the feeding of a bea-constrictor belonging to Mr. Parks. The animal had had nothing to eat for over two weeks, and was consequently in a condition of hunger which served to make the exhibition more interesting. It is kept in a box with a glass top, pinced directly in front of a register, whereby it receives a degree of heat reminding it to some extent of its native African climato. When this box was drawn out into the centre of When this box was drawn out into the centre of when this ook was drawn out into the centre of the road and the cover raised, the lengthy anake-more than seven feet—slowly crawled around the interior, his neck hardly thicker than a man's wrist, and the rest of the body comparatively attenuated. In one corner of the comparatively attenuated. In one corner of the spariment was a basket containing four snow-white rabbits, nibbling and munching their food, totally unconscious of their approaching fate; the largest of these was first given to the snake. Still crawling, the thin neck kept constantly roving around the box, while the rabbit cowered as if dreading he knew not what. Soon the snake saw him. Gathering back nearly a foot he waited for a chance to strike. Just then the rabbit turned his head and approached, as ne'd done several times before, to touch the snake's head. The small eyes gleamed, the narrow forked tougue shot in and out like a whip-thong, and in an instant, quicker than the watching eye could follow the motion, the reptile caught him by the nose. At the same moment, the long, slim body was wrapped around the rabbit in three folds. Fightening quickly, the skin of the anake became rough and corrugated; it glistened with a strauge. quickly, the skin of the anake became rough and corrugated; it glistened with a stratue, shiny lustre not hitherto observable, and was wrinkled in numberless little circing rings. "Binny" attered no squeak, gave no sign of vitality, with the exception of a simple convuitive kick. He was evidently suffocated soon after the catching; he felt no pain, but died easily. For some minutes the anake stayed thus, the folds contracting, the skin becoming rougher, and the lustre deepening. Then the small, leathery head drow back from the circular contractions are sufficiently as the same of the small, leathery head drow back from the circular contractions. small, leathery head drow back from the cir-cumvolved rabbit, and the keen eye regarded it curiously. The fokis contracted more and more, until poor "Bunny" seemed to be no longer by half than askere had fashioned him. So prepared for swallowing, the snake commenced that operation. Cockery to the popular opinion, he did not cover the abimal with salves, but began absorbing him without further ecremony. began absorbing him without further eeremony. To here jaw dropped, extending to quite its natural size, and the rabbit's head was gently sucked in. Next, the skin, seemingly loose, wrinkied into irregular creases near the neck, as if the snake were shrugging its shoulders. As these wrinkles straightened out the rabbit disappeared down the gaping laws, supplingly, it glided away until there was left of it but the tail and hind legs. A final gulp, and these, too, were gone. The wrinkles still crawled and crept over the snake's skin, while his food could be gone. The writkles still crawled and crept over the enake's ekin, while his food could be plainly seen passing down his body. A rest was now given him, though shortly his movements and the swift darling of his tongue, showed him to be ready for further food. 'Again's rabbit was placed in the box, but sithough once struck it showed such skill in dodging the snake that by unanimous desire of the speciators he was taken out and restored to his former state of unthicking happiness. The next one was ineffectually selved. Excaping the stroke, the rabbit field to a corner, but in an instant was asped by the hind leg and enwrapped in thick colls. The operation did not compy more times than would a fissh of lightning. With a few faint squeaks the rabbit was dead, and was interest specially swallowed like his predecessor. Although four were provided, 'two only ware eaten, and having accomplished the deginitation of these the snake cared for no more. As an inciover the snake's skin, while his food could be

the anake cared for no mora-As an incl. dank in observation of natural history the sight was entertaining, and all the more so that the rabbits were killed so addenly that their suffering was almost nothing.

A new and wonderful beauty has dawner A new and wonderful ocasily has dawned upon Rome—an Austrian Princess Furstemburg, alarge, dark woman, with man-like hair, huge colinire, great black eyes, rich sain, herole fiatures, and a Venus of Milo form. Her laugh and words can be heard three houses [4].