## odless Duel's IUM=

FEBRUARY 15

to the frontier of Austria. OLD alling and laughing before the KENTUCKY" LADIES' NIGHT a apart from the others, sat lay - Thursday - Frid NO SMOKING

was a tall, strongly-built a sallow face and restless .......... without inspiring respect. r feared nor loved him; we Monday, Feb. 10

w indifferent. bye," said he, suddenly ONFUSION loward one of his neighbors, well me what the colonel ng with you this morn-

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MER.

officer is coming in place of nt captain, who goes else-THOMPSON'S DEAD

of you hear his name ?" He was formerly a lieuten-\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

exclaimed Platel. "Is officer who is engaged to of the chateau yonder ?" was itemted to him at the of his own safety." ang me, "that you and he the same regiment some five

true," I answered; "I reer, but a general favorite

broke in upon me with a \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* is smile

" said he, "your 'riend will me; but he must be careful tery temper, or 1 shall be it to cool it."

line ensued, which was broken orderly announcing :

stain Broc." captain himself stood in the , and bowed to the company. slight, fair-complexioned, with ce open as a summer day, led the very ideal of a cavalry

regiment." He bowed again, eing me, held out his hand. t rou, lieutenant! You have ten me, I hope ?"

It milingly uttered these words ked slewly up to him. la told you practice shootingstrange voice that we stared

in astonishment.

sual; but he quietly replied : this !" ing, unless the knowledge the pistol of Platel."

make my explanation clear, duel is absolutely necessary." I one knows there are certain lee no difference between the the robs his neighbor of his

sir !" said Broc. "Your ing way."

the you practice shooting eveready the shadows of night were jor, sharply.

ved and went out.

captain touched him gently on

ideat he has a grudge against joursly saluted us.

buth is, he is an admirer, to tlemen ?" he asked.

sement was encamped in the say the least, of Mile. Lucie. Jeal-

obscure village of Yalins, ousy, captain." "So! Well, there is no more to be

was over, and we officers said," returned Broe. "You will let us know the hour and not of the day. A little the rendezvous?" cried several voices.

at Platel, moodily watching bid one of us a last farewell." We all parted at the door, every officer in turn shaking hands with cold character repelled Captain Broc as with an old friend. II.

> Platel was waiting for me when I arrived at his house.

"Here are my conditions." he said. with formal civility. "Two sabers to be driven into the ground at one pace apart; I and my opponent to be placed behind each saber, with arm extended at full length, and to fire at the word 'Three.' Only one pistol will be loaded "

"Why, that is murder !" I exclaim-

"Ta, ta, my dear sir, I do not offer the captain a victim, but an adversary. We will fight as I propose, or we will not fight at all, and in I was not aware that you that eventuality I shall prove that He only arrived yesterday Captain Broc is only brave when sure

hous. He is anxious to I knew that my friend would insist your acquaintance, gentlemen, on my accepting any and every conthat are dingly invited him dition, and that it would be useless one of a once. And that re-to consult him further. None the less to consult him further. None the less suggesting that there should be a greater distance between the combatants, and I failed.

I went back to the captain with a well. He was then a heart as heavy as lead. He put down and some youth, of a rather the book which he was reading as I entered. I told him what had passed in my interview with Platel.

When I had ended, his face changed; he drew his hand across his forehead, and his eyes glistened with feverish luster

Suddenly the door opened, and a woman, wrapped in a long mantle, with the hood drawn over her face, stole ewittly and quietly in. She threw back her hood, and I recognized Mlle. Lucie.

Broc sprang forward to greet her. "What has happened?" he cried. "Why are you here?"

"Why am I here, do you ask me that, when this day is perhaps the men." said he, advancing, last of your life? Why am I here? would and happy to have join- To say adieu; it is only three hours since I saw you, and you never told

me !" She broke down-sobbing, and could

say no more. I got up to leave the room.

"Stay, sir," she said, struggling with her emotion. "One of your soldooting, too ?" said he, in diers, the brother of my maid, called on her a little while back and said it was rumored in the regiment that is my custom for an hour every Lieutenant Platel and Albert had g," the captain answered curt- quargeled and mischief would certaina slight pause.

ly follow. I heard and came at once." She paused, and stretched out wish in any case to kill you, captain. ent," returned the other, with her arms imploringly. "Albert, I ble sneer. "In my opinion pray, I command you, not to fight shooting is only another way of this duel. You will not end two lives thus! Your life belongs to me-it is in Broc seemed even paler no longer yours. You will not do

think, sir, you are wrong in "Lucie, Lucie, do not torture me. ag it as lost time to learn to Can I refuse to fight? I should be with a pistol. In garrison life dishonored-lost, if I could act so word often leads to a cowardly. Shame would kill me, not

a good shot inspires re- I came forward; I took her hand mg indiscreet persons who and raised it respectfully to my lips. a asking stupid questions." 'Heaven knows how gladly I would that is no reason, captain, spare you any sorrow, mademoisas in everything else, some-elle," I said in a trembling voice, build be left to chance. I will "but Albert is so situated that the

She had fallen into a chair, from who, while shuffling the pack, which she now rose, tale as a corpse, abstract the winning card, and with faltering hands drew the hood over her face again.

"You are right, Albert; we must and the man who robs him of resign ourselves to our late. Perhaps we shall never see each other more. Tomorrow ! My love, my love !"

is an impertinence, and, for silent, tearless, in a despair too deep She laid her head upon his breast, turning to me, "I must for words. He put his arm tenderly lie the affair with you in the

Plater disappeared, Major we set out for the rendezvous. We camp.

No one stirred. The fate of a com- I will not be harsh with you. And rade was at stake, and even the brav- it shall go forth to the world that est shrank from the ordeal.

me this favor ?" The major could not refuse; he made a sign of assent.

"Be good 'enough to place us," saber. "Then load."

"You need not trouble about that," said Platel, "I have brought the pis- the trees. "Certainly, gentlemen. Come and tols; one is charged, the other has only a gun cap."

"Do you know which is which ?" said I.

He frowned darkly on me. sir. Captain Broc shall take which he pleases."

right; then he drew his own and set came tremblingly up to us. it in the same way before the first. One pace alone separated the two the very lips. blades. Each adversary was to stand behind a saber with extended arm, so muttered hoarsely. that each had the muzzle of the oth-

Major Clement stepped forward. "Are you ready, gentlemen ?" There was a silence of death. Only

was like a figure of granite.

voice made us tremble. "One "

"Two."

A click-a flash; but no sound from fired, and still held his arm rigid.

"Shoot," said Broc, calmly. me your word that in future you will Picayune. not be so prompt to fight duels, and I will be merciful.'

with it. I have nothing more to

"My terms can not wound your honor," insisted Platel. "Let the major decide." Major Clement was quick to grasp

the opportunity. "I assert that Captain Broc has To

behaved throughout like a brave and true soldier, and can accept the condition without any stain on his honor," said he. He stopped a moment and then added: "That is the opinion of us all "

in a voice that was hardly audible. Platel lowered his arm.

was merely curious to see your

if I have to load them myself !"

you again." "Then you shall fight with me," I

rel; you have deceived Captain Broc and his second as well." Platel was visibly confused; he had

not bargained for this." "And if our comrade does not kill you, I will," said another officer.

"Or I! Or I!" cried the others. "The devil! I cannot fight you all !" growled Platel. "Choose one among you, and I will fight him, though it will not be a duel, but an-

an old officer, appealed to had to pass the chateau on our way, "Lieutenant Platel," he said, with and I saw Mile. Lucie on the baleony a contemptuous pity which seemed to an not let them fight, gentle- outside, motionless as a statue. She be addressed to the lieutenant's forlorn situation instead of to him per-There was no one but ourselves in sonally, "you have evidently lost all should be willing to stand up and the sheltered glade where the duel sense of decency and self-respect. You a newcomer, remember, ma- was to take place; but the major and made Captain Broc pass through the We have heard of such persons in of you know me, and it is his friends arrived immediately after sensation of a man doomed to death, Europe who were obliged to marry for me to let this quarrel us. And in a few minutes we formed while you stood by at your ease, American heiresses for a living, but do not know what I have a group of nearly twenty officers. knowing you could come to no harm. annoy the sub-lieutenant but Then Platel advanced and ceremon- You have disgraced your uniform and "Who gives the word to fire, gen- fight with any of us. I now order cial standing would be lost should he

wealth, and of high social standing, you have retired in consequence of entertained us. My friends and associates of my life have been persons of wealth and high social standing. I

"Major," said Broc, "will you do bad health. The surgeon will sign the necessary certificate. Now go !" Platel rolled his eyes menacingly like a wild beast at bay; and his hands closed and clinched convulsivecontinued the captain, giving me the ly; he opened his mouth as if to speak, but speech failed him. In silince he turned and disappeared among

> We drew a long breath of relief and pressed around the captain. He looked sad and dejected.

"I know not what presentiment haunts me, but I wish the villain's "It does not signify in the least, pistol had been loaded," he said. We returned slowly, arm in arm

There was a strange stir at the chat-The major drew the captain's saber eau as we drew near; servants were from its sheath and drove the point talking on the doorsteps, and all at of it in the ground till it stood up once the old white-haired gardener

> Broc shuddered and grew pale to "Something has happened,

"Ah, sir! hasten if you would see er's pistol 6 inches from his heart, my dear young lady alive. She was While these preparations were being at the window when Lieutenant Plamade Platel took off his coat. His tel passed on his way back, and second produced a box in which were knowing you two were to fight she two pistols, and Broc, selecting the feared for your safety. We found her first his hand touched, stepped quick- stretched fainting on the floor, and ly back and stood erect at his post, she has never opened her eyes since." Platel eyes him closely. Not a mus- Broc left me without a word: The cle moved in the captain's face; he doctor was descending the steps as he reached them.

The doctor looked inexpressively shocked

"I am sorry, but it would be cruel the leaves rustled on the trees. In kindness to hide the truth from this dread hush the major's ringing you," he said, kindly. "Be brave, sir; you will need all your courage now. Mademoiselle had a weak heart and I always told her to avoid any strong emotion-

But the cantain had ceased to listhe captain's pistol. Platel had not ten; he rushed past him into the nouse

On a couch in the saloon lay Lucie. "It is mine to command, sir," re- placidly, as if she was sleeping. He torted Platel. "I am not here to kill threw himself on his knees beside her you, but to give you a lesson. You and touched the hand that never are young-you are beloved-you have again would return his pressure. all that makes life dear. Yet it is Clasped in her hand was a slender you who must die. Well, sir, give curl of her own hair.-New Orleans

## will be merciful." "Thanks. Now fire, and be done A WARNING TO FATHERS

## Teach Their Sons Self-Support.

"Then I consent," murmured Broc, George E. Tilford, a Shining Example of General Business Worthlessness.

ere is something at once pathetic courage tested. Neither weapon was and absurd in the affidavit George E. Tilford of New York presented to the He pulled the trigger of his own supreme court October 15. Mr. Tilpistol as he spoke. The hammer fell ford is the son of the late Charles smartly on the cap without flash or Tilford of the firm of Park & Tilford, the well known New York grocers. Broc cried out like a wounded lion. The father began life by sweeping out "By my father's soul, but this is the store and died two years ago another insult, more flagrant even leaving an estate of \$1,000,000. His than the last! Ah! it is ended, say son had displeased him by marrying you? No; it shall begin again, and an actress, so Tilford, senior, left him this time the pistols shall be loaded, an annuity of \$6,000 and a right to be buried in the family vault and "No, sir," replied Platel. "Insult nothing more in "having or in exme if you like, but I will not fight pectation." A George Lara obtained a judgment of \$556.41 against young Tilford and now asks the court to said. "You have acted like a scound, order the trustees to pay him his judgment out of the \$6,000 income. To this Mr. Tilford seriously objects, testifying that his social station is such that he must spend at least \$6,000 per annum or be lost. His affidavit concluded :-"I have received no technical or

scientific education fitting me for any business or profession, and should I be deprived of any portion of my income I will be plunged in debt anew." The creditor will no doubt be disposed to scoff at this, and will say that if the judgment is paid Mr. Tilford will be "plunged" out of debt for the time being and that he will find it very difficult to "plunge in" again since nobody will trust him, and further that if his social position. is so expensive he should move somewhere where he would have no social position, to Philadelphia for instance where no one without the right kind of grandparents has any social position at all. To us, it seems infinitely pathetic that a young American swear that he was absolutely useless." young American men are supposed to be able to do something. Mr. Tildishonored the army. You shall not ford takes it for granted that his soyou to resign your commission; but do a stroke of honest work. He says

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am a member of many clubs. I have

absolutely no income except the al-

lowance I receive from my father's

estate, and the same is barely suffi-

cient to support myself and family."

A more contemptible plea to avoid

paying an honest debt was never

made. But after all, we are dispos-

ed to blame the father as much as

the son. Had he put the boy to

work in the grocery store when he

left the high school, the family might

have been spared the humiliation of

one of its members. One of the first

duties a parent owes a child is to

enable him to earn his living and to

contribute his part to the ongoing of

society. Old Mr. Tilford was so in-

tent on making a fortune that he ne-

glected to teach his boy how to work

and now it may be too late for him

to learn. He is evidently not asham-

ed of living an idle, useless life and

has not even ambition enough to buy

an "abandoned farm" where he could

live comfortably on \$6,000 a year and

gain a "high social position" by pay-

ing his debts and saving part of his

income.-New York Sun

having such an unmanly plea made by

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did not even return our bow.

assassination." ett," rejoined Platel. "How- I awoke early the next morning. Al- "Silence, gentlemen!" said the ma-

and I do not, I shall claim gone; the sun was shining in my We all fell back. The major strode to equalize the chances. The eyes, the cool air stirred the curtains into our midst with his hand resting and I will settle details." as I opened the window. I passed in- on the hilt of his sword, and quietly to the breakfast room, where Broc surveyed us-master of the strange word had been spoken by any presently joined me. His face was position in which we were placed, as this altercation, but as pale 't serene. Half an hour later be was master in the barrack and the