THE GOLD MINE OF THE VASSE.

Hour sped after hour, yet round and round the shadowy, silent precipice of wall the afflicted heart wandered with tireless feet. It was woful to think how near she was, and to touch the sullen granite—yet it was a thousand times more endurable than the torture and fear that were born of absence.

The great pententiary of Millbank is.

deeper than his, which he, as a man and a faithful friend, should be strong to revery cell was visible.

lieve and comfort.

At breakfast, a large official letter was the unfortunate off for ever from the brought him. It was a brief but unoffil to a large official message from the Colonial Secretary, Lord George Somers, appointing an hour—two o'clock on that day—when he should be happy to receive Mr. Sheridan at the Colonial Office,

These details were not noticed by Will Stricking as he entered the schoins arch.

impression he made on the observant modern was instantaneous and deep.

He was received with more than courtesy. Those letters, Lord Somers wild, from Australis, had filled him with interest and desire to see a man who had observing the features or motions of some observing the features of the guide.

all this the Secretary was most anxious to not.

After a long interview. Sheridan rose noticed that on every door was hung a Atter a long interview. Sheridan rose noticed that on every door was hung a to take leave, and the Secretary said he hoped to see a great deal of him before his return to Australia, and told him plainly that the opinions of a settler of relief to him; as he walked he read the

There was only one thought in Sheri- seen. dan's mind all this time, and now was the moment to let it work. He said he desired very much to visit the convict prisons in England, and compare the home system with that of the Penal Colons.

and handed the paper to his visitor.

Will Sheridan took his departure, with a tremulous hope at his heart, and drove straight to Millbank Prison.

Will Sheridan's heart leaped within him, for he knew that this was the place he should so he should so

There is something strange, almost unaccountable, and yet terrible, in the change that appears in half a century in the building of prisons. Few people have thought of this, perhaps; but it contains a suggestion of a hardening of hearts and a suggestion of a hardening of hearts and a lessening of sentiment. The old pri-sons were dark and horrible, even in saspect while the new ones are light and airy. In the latter, the bar takes the place of a wall, and the bur is often or namented with east-iron flowers and other slightly but sar-lonic mockery.

Seeing him pause, and intently examine the card, the governor beckened to the female warder, who was in the passage to come and lopen the door.

To be Continued

MOONDYNE. Better the old dungeon, with all its gloom; better for the sake of humanity. The new prison is a cage—a hideous hive of order and commonplace severity, where the flooding sunlight is a derision, Hoursped after hour, yet round and means of confinement. For the sake of

fear that were born of absence.

Surely, if there be any remote truth in the theory of psychic magnetism, the its vast arched gateway sombre and afflicted soul within those walls must a tomb. It has disappeared in the theory of psychic magnetism, the afflicted soul within those walls must have felt the presence of the loving and suffering heart without, which sent forth unceasingly silent cries of sympathy and comfort. Surely, if communion of living spirits be possible, the dream of the lonely prisoner within must have thrilled with tenderness when his fevered lips were pressed as lovingly to the icy stone of the prison wall, as once they were pressed to her forehead in affectionate farewell.

Baok to his hotel, when morning was beginning to break, the lonely watcher west, spiritless and almost despairing. The reaction had begun of his extreme excitement for the past four days. He passed along the lonesome river, that hurried through the city like a thief in the night, flashing under the yellow quay-lights, then diving suddenly beneath dark arches or among atmy keels like a hunted murderer escaping to the sea. Wild and incoherent fancies flashed through Will's feverish mind. Again and again he was forced to steady himself, by placing his hand on the parapet, like a drunken man.

At last he reached his hotel, and flung himself on his bed, prayerless, friendless, and only saved from despair by the thought of an affliction that was deeper than his, which he, as a man and a faithful friend, should be strong to rever the least of the prison of the world.

As last he reached his hotel, and flung himself on his bed, prayerless, friendless, and only saved from despair by the thought of an affliction that was deeper than his, which he, as a man and a faithful friend, should be strong to re-

It was past noon when he awoke. The fever had passed, and much of the dejection. While dressing, he was surprised to find his mind actively at work form. ing plans and surmises for the day's enterprise.

At breakfast, a large official letter was the unfortunate off for ever from the

Under other circumstances such an Sheridan as he entered the echoing archappointment would have thrown off his balance a man so unused to social or for the cold shadow of the surroundings. mal ways as this stranger from Australia, whose only previous training had been on a merchant ship. But now, Will Sheridan In a few minutes, he found that his in-

a merchant ship. But now, Will Sheridan In a few minutes, he found that his inprepared for the visit without thinking of its details. His mind was fastened on a point beyond this meeting.

Even the formal solemnity of the powdered servant who received him had no disturbing effect. Will Sheridan quite forgot the surroundings, and at length, when ushered into the presence of the Colonial Secretary, his native dignity and intelligence were in full sway, and the impression he made on the observant prison he himself became the guide.

achieved so much, and who had so rapid-ly and solidly enriched and benefited the Colony. Gas and solidly enriched and benefited the He did not see the wretched, crime-Colony.

The Colonial Secretary was a young stained countenances in the cells he man for his high position—certainly not passed, but in every one he saw the over forty, while he might be still white face, the brown hair, and the

over torty, while he might be still white face, the brown hair, and the crouching figure that filled his mind. At last the governor asked him to visit the female prison, in which the discipline was necessarily different. They this stranger, whom he knew to be influential, and who certainly was highly entertaining.

Will Sheridan's was soon talking fluently.

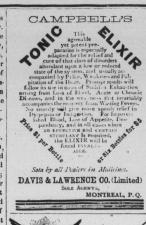
Will Sheridan's heart heat and the blood

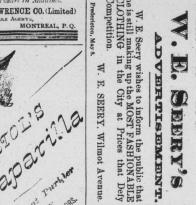
will Sheridan was soon talking fluently and well. He knew all about the Penal Colony, the working of the old penal system and the need of a new one, the value of land, the resources of the country, the capabilities for commerce; and should learn whether Alice were there or all this the Scenetor was prost parties to

plainty that the opinions of a settler of reflect to him; as new succed in ereal the wealth and intelligence on colonial name on every card, and on and on they matters in Western Au-tralia were just then of special importance to the government. He also wished it were in his power to give Mr. Sheridan pleasure while he remained in England.

The governor opened the door at the The minister was gratified by the request, and, smiling, asked which prison light, short corridor, with large and he would visit first. Will metioned Millbank; and the minister with his own hand wrote a few lines to the governor, ers, who, by extreme gool conduct had merited less severe treatment than the

Life.





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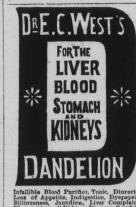
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