In an incredibly short space of time Job's flying form came into view. He had discharged his mission, and left Fanny in possession of the astounding truth, so that their absence, however long, would not now seem unaccountable.

For upwards of a mile the narrow road which they were traversing was of a desolate and secluded character, winding among the hills by continued slopes till it emerged on the open ground at the edge of a far stretching moor. The wheel marks were fresh and distinct all the way, and continued so till the path joined a broader road, which ran east and west. It did not stop there, for on the opposite side they saw it stretching like a narrow line to the south. This portion of it was called Goody Gaffer's Lane, which extended for some two miles farther, and terminated at the town of Kemple.

"I was sure of it," said Ralph.

"Sure of what?" cried Edward.

"That they had not taken her to Kemple."

"Where then have they taken her?"

ple."

"Where then have they taken her?"

"Who can tell. This road where we are now goes for miles over the moor, and at last joins the goest highway which runs on to Cumberland, Westmoreland, and through Northumberland into Scottand.

"Cumberland!" echoed Edward, a dreadful thought seizing him. "Cumberland!" he repeated; "Oh, my prophetic soil, my Uncle!"

"That's it!" exclaimed Job. "It's the Colonel that has carried Miss Mabel off. That's the plan he has taken to prevent the marriage."

Colonel that has carried Miss Mabel off. That's the plan he has taken to prevent the marriage."

The idea was so natural and likely that all three plunged at once into its belief. Their supposition was that the Colonel hid not taken his final departure when Ralph watched him over the heights two days before, but had returned to the lawyer's house the previous night, and learning from Jonas what had further transpired, had adopted the bold and daring expedient of removing Mabel out of Edward's reach. Yes, this must be the solution of the mystery; yet, while it carried a satisfactory explanation, it did not by any means allay their apprehension. The thought that Mabel was in the power of a man so unscrupulons as Colonel Marston was both to Edward and Ralph unbearable. What was such a man not capable of—any outrage, any crime—to accomplish his unholy purpose?

Convinced of the truth of this theory that Colonel Marston was the abductor of Mabel, they pressed on with accelerated speed, animated by the hope that they would overtake the waggon. It was not a swift conveyance, and had but a fewhour's start of them.

"We'll hire a carriage at the first inn and gallop on in pursuit," cried Edward. How far are we from a village or town, Ralph?"

"Ten miles," answered Ralph.

"Good heavens. No inn nearer than

"None where norses or a carriage can be had. There's a public house on the moor two miles ahead, but it has no stables, and doesen't bear the best of names either. We needn't expect to hire there, but we may hear news of the waggon—how long it is since it passed."

"Is the place called the Furze Bush?" inquired Edward,coming to a sudden halt, and turning on Ralph with a wild expression.

gion.
"Why, how do you know its name?" ask
ed Ralph, in no little surprise.
"It is the name of the inn."
"It is."

The eyes of Edward and Job met. A ew and still more horrible idea rushed

upon them.
"Oh, Lor'!" gasped Job, his face turning white and looking scared.
"My God, if she has been taken there," coaned Edward, the sweat drops rising ike beads on his brow.

"Taken there—taken to the Furze Sush," said Ralph. "What should she be taken there for? The house may have oothing wrong with it, for all that folks

nothing wrong with it, for all that folks say," cried Edward, with vehement witdness. "Poople are made insensible, robbed, perhaps murdered in it. I narrowly escaped being one of the victims."
Ralph stood speechless, aghast while the other recounted the strange adventure which befell him little more than a week before. While the narrative was being given they were pressing forward with agitated steps and hearts throbbing with anxious dread, though why they were subject to the fears which assailed them they could scarcely explain to themselves. The impaces of the Furze Bush were evidently of evil and dangerous character, and the track if the waggon ran towards the lonely wayside tavern, but this constituted the whole ground of apprehension, and it might be erroneous.

As they sped breathlessly on, they were checked in their panting progress by Job suddenly calling out—
"Look there."

ddenly calling out—
"Look there."
"What is it?" cried the other two, in a

"Then when tracks on that there road into the moor."

And, sure enough, on a slightly marked rath which branched off from the road fley were traversing, the fresh marks of wheels was visible—marks which a slight inspection showed to be the same as those they had been following, with this difference, that it was a single, not a double track. The waggon had passed over that path only once.

"Hal lyou are right," exclaimed Ralph who had been minutely examining both roads. "The waggon has come one way, and gone the other. What are we now to do?"

"Follow in the way it has gone," said Edward.

"But I cannot tell the difference. The ad is coo hard to show the print of the rese's feet."

"Then we must divide. Job will take a path over the moor, and you and I will

th over the moor, and you and I will the Furze Bush. Something tells there we shall learn tidings of

made.

When you see the print of a horse's foot you can tell the toe from the heel?"
said Raph, addressing Job.

Of ourse I can," replied Job.

Wel, you can't go far till you come to the total to the read of the total to the read of t

risw.

et and Ralph bore along, speaking but, oh! how tortured in mind. poor, helpless Mabel, in the hands ans, and no one to protect or save That might she not have suffered Perhaps it was too late to aid Brward's blood boiled. Ralph's maked as the same maddening fear seconsly pressed on them.

ack of the wagon wheels, though (SEE FOURTH PAGE)

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THE NOTED

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