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Now is the time to write for cat-

The Adventurers* By H. B. MARRIOTT WATSON. COPYRIGHT, 1898, BY HARPER & BROTHERS, ***** "I, Sir Ralph Vyvian, being now in plece of paper from its owner is mora my thirtieth year and upon the eve of ly guilty of his death.' exile through the malicious treachery "Pish!" he exclaimed lightly. "We of friends, this 15th day of April, in the can't make an omelet without breakyear of our Lord 1646, do hereby, as ing eggs, Mr. Greatorex. And now I follows hereunder, give and proclaim must reluctantly wish you goodby. I to all or any of my descendants, lawowe you an excellent dinner, and if forfully begotten, or their heirs, the entune favors me I shall look forward to suing information. It being in the returning it. There is no need to part twentieth year of the reign of our beon bad terms." loved sovereign his gracious majesty He held out his hand, but ere I could and in the fifth of the lamentable and accept or refuse it Sheppard sprang abominable strife with the disloyal forward. "Allow me, captain," he houses, I was besieged in Ivor castle said by one Colonel Morgan, attached to "Ah." smiled Sercombe. in no way the army of the houses and more parabashed by my hesitation. "it is a pity ticularly to the notorious traitor Sir you and I are not cast for companions, Thomas Fairfax. I held this castle for Mr. Sheppard.' the king for three days and three "At least," said Sheppard, "as scounnights. but upon the fourth day, this drels we can respect each other." said 15th day of April, through the ac-Sercombe broke out laughing, and cursed act of traitors, the enemy hath with one glance at Hood, in which, as gained entrance by the towers and I thought, he appeared to offer a queseven now is pressing upon the garrition, he marched out of the room. The son. And thus I set down these sevinnkeeper followed, and Sheppard went eral facts here upon the instant of the

after them, full of geniality to the last final essay-to wit, that I, being the and calling for Captain Sercombe's custodian of divers cases of treasure. cloak. Out of the window I saw them gold pieces, jewels and the like, despass under the dim light of the oil tined for his majesty's uses, having lamp before the doorway, and Sheptaken counsel with my steward and pard was still ushering them across my friend Sir John Clunes, have conthe courtyard to the gateway of the cealed this great treasure in a privy castle. place within the castle precincts and Suddenly I heard my name called in do hereby deposit this said writing also

a loud voice, and Montgomery started in a secret hiding place. And to whomto his feet and threw open the winsoever of my descendants or their lawdow. This gave upon the courtyard ful heirs this shall fall, in the event of from the northerly side of the castle. In an instant I recognized the cry of Sheppard, piercing shrilly through the esty King Charles or unto his heirs, the noise and clatter of a struggle. Shoutsovereign kings of this realm, as a dutiing to Montgomery to follow me, I

gomery's weapon stretched some one flat upon the stones as I entered, and the man crawled off. I fired another chamber of the revolver aimlessly, and the flash lit up the passage while the sound reverberated dully from the groined vault. The portcullis fell lower and Sercombe was driven across the drawbridge by his retreating allies. "Dead or living, they shall have him," said some one in my ear, and I beheld Sheppard, his face smeared with blood, dragging a body in his arms. Together we thrust it forth, and it lay halfway across the threshold. The portcullis dropped inexorably and was now within a foot of the ground. The man lay under the range of its iron spikes. The wheels creaked above, and the distance shortened. Montgomery ran forward and shoved the body outward But it still hung halfway. And then Sercombe came rapidly back and, stooping, by a swift movement drew the inanimate form from beneath the iron spikes of the drawbridge. He said no word, but merely glanced at us as we stood behind the grille. As Sercombe's figure faded blackly into the night I turned and peered into the gloom of the archway where my companion stood. Sheppard struck a match, and the tiny flame cast a precarious light upon the three of us. Two streaks of blood crossed Sheppard's forehead. "First blood and first honors," he Montgomery breathed like a black-"It was a mean trick," he observed.

EVENTS

An acute pain struck suddenly through my shoulder. "The foreigners use their knives aptly," I remarked. "They do that," said Montgomery fiercely. "One devil has pierced my stomach through." "Let us go back to the house," I said

and, setting the example, turned. Sheppard's light went out, and as the flame vanished the blue-black darkness fell like a pall again. We walked back into the castle.

"What about this wound, Montgomery?" I asked anxiously. renewed his exertions, and with a creak the knob turned and a gap grew The boy stood up straigh face severe and immobile in the wall. "It's no wound," he rejoined. "Hurrah!" said Sheppard, his voice ricochetting down the musty corridor. pin prick." "Hush!" I enjoined. "Pull it open." "Oh. well, let us see." I said care The two tore back the cupboard door, lessly. He stripped off his shirt and coat, and my lantern flashed on an appalland a great red bulging spot met my eye below the breast. Sheppard put ing space of blackness. "There is nothing here," said Monthis fingers on it. gomery. "We're not finished, you duffer," said "That wants a bandage," he said, Sheppard eagerly. "Feel along the back wall. Here, let me. Oh, the and, meeting my eye-"no, there's nothing much in it. A nasty place, but merely superficial." devil! I'm too short!" "We'll have old Toms over tomor Thrusting the lantern into Sheppard's row," I said. hands, I sprang at the wall, and with "The doctor?" queried Sheppard. a leap seated myself on the floor of the "But what about"-"Oh, I dare say we can compose some sort of lie. Besides, as a medical man, "The back is wooden," I said. My fingers ran swiftly across the oaken our confidences are sacred." surface and presently stopped. "The "That's true," said Sheppard, and a lantern," I called to him. little silence fell between us. "Well," Sheppard let the lantern fall in his he resumed presently, "can we sleep, excitement, and in a moment we were do you think?" plunged in darkness. At the same time "I think we are likely to have a there arose a sound on the grim silence lively night," I answered. "And for of the corridor. I drew in my breath. me, I am in no mood for bed." and I think every one did the same. I "Nor I," declared Montgomery. felt rather than heard Montgomery "Very good," says Sheppard. "Then fumbling with his revolver. Ten, twenwhat about this treasure?" ty, thirty seconds passed, and then "Precisely what I was thinking," I Sheppard struck a match. said "It's the infernal wind," he ex-"Let us see the papers," said he. claimed. "Oh. I have them burning in my The light flared in his face as he relit mind." I answered. "And if all are the lantern, and I noticed that it was wild and burning. With tremulous fingers he handed me the lantern, and the light shone on a bit of steel I held un- Phone No 100 der my thumb. I pressed, and with a jerk the oaken screen fell back. I put out a hand and encountered nothing. "I'm going through," I said in a whis per. "Follow me. I'll leave the lantern here. Heaven knows what we shall find." I let myself softly down below, and my feet struck the stone of the floor once more. Sheppard and Montgomery followed. We cast the light about us. We were in a dungeon closed with in absolutely blank walls. In the cor ner some rags and paper lay heaped. I pushed them aside, and they crum bled at the touch of my foot. "It's not here," said Sheppard.

down into the archway. Sercomoe through the grating, set with heavy stood in the light expostulating. Moniiron bars, we were able to perceive that the floor of the sepulchral corridor was buried some feet below the level of the most itself, for the gratings stood high above our heads and were only reached by climbing. I assumed that they stood just above the proper level of the water.

We were now, we judged, upon the western face of the castle-that is to say, upon the back parts which looked upon the park of trees and the brook behind, where the hill (or pitch, as it was called) rose in a thicket to its uttermost summit. We had twice turned at right angles and, pausing, consulted the document once again for the sake of certainty. We had now to proceed some thirty paces. Suddenly I stopped. "The wall," said Sheppard, who had the paper by heart as well as myself. and forthwith set to fingering upon the right hand.

"There is no doorway here," he observed in a low voice, "and yet this should be a chamber such as we have passed already." "Five feet from the ground," I sard

in equally low tones; "that is what it "Is it here?" he whispered.

Sheppard gave vent to an exciama-

tion. "Got it," he said sharply. "Throw the light this way." I moved the lantern forward, and sure enough there under Sheppard's hand stood out a round iron knob or handle in the huge masonry. "Press," said I.

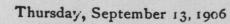
"No; turn," said he. Nothing ensued upon his action. "Let Montgomery try," I suggested. The boy stepped forward and wrenched at the knob.

"It's stiff with rust of centuries, but it's set in iron," said Sheppard. "We shall want oil." "Oil be hanged!" said Montgomery.

"I'll do this or die." He swung, doubling on himself, and the veins jumped in his forehead.

"You will move your wound," I pro-tested. Montgomery said nothing, but

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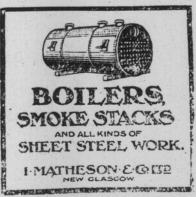
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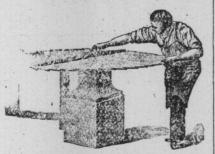
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ful subject, being held in trust for that dashed out of the room and down the staircase, almost falling upon the slip-"And here is how ye shall find the treasure: If ye will descend by the

Now I paused for a moment, for here

the document which Sercombe had giv-

en me was ended. I cast a glance at

the others as I laid it aside and took

up the other portion. Sercombe's face

was appalling in its marks of greed.

The vulture shone from Hood's eyes.

"Turning this corner, it is necessary

survey the walls. If ye will then de-

termine a height of five feet from the

footway, there will be hereupon dis-

closed a small knobbe, the which re-

volving will give access to a large cup-

board within the wall. Observe dili-

gently upon the back of the cupboard

and where the oaken lining adjoins the

stone. Here will be a spring, the

which pushing, a doorway shall open

behind the cupboard, and ye shall find entrance to an interior vault. A flight

of stairway leadeth"-

sir?" he asked sharply.

pored over the sheet together.

As I rose a man grappled with me.

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I nodded.

pery cobble of the courtyard in my haste. As I rose a man grappled with stairway in the guard room within the me: but, being now strung to fighting northern tower ye will find a gallery pitch by my excited anticipations, I among the donjons of the basement. flung him heavily to the stones, where Keep upon this, feeling upon the walls, he lay inert, and I leaped over his body until ye shall touch the corner where to the assistance of Sheppard. the castle turneth to the south"-

CHAPTER IX.

OU will remember, if I have been explicit enough, that the entrance to the castle lay across the drawbridge and by way of a great stone archway running through the width of the easterly wing. This passage, which was not more than ten feet across, was in effect a vault twenty feet high and thirty feet long. It was here that the noise attracted me, and into this narrow chapnel I ran, breaking tumultuously upon the aggregated knot of men that seemed to struggle in the uncertain light. Stars illumined the sky very faintly, but in that passage the gloom was heavy, and I could perceive very little. As I was casting about, tossing among the swaying bodies, I saw immediately to my right the fair head of Sheppard rise, struck with the evening glow from without. Forthwith I dashed the body nearest me to the ground and with my fist dislodged another man in front of

At this point, as you will remember, the document grew illegible and nothme. Then I heard Sercombe's voice raised in angry remonstrance. I ing but the blur of faint characters gathered nothing, neither words nor was discernible. But we had all that was necessary in that explicit narrasense, from it, but, occupied merely with the physical lust of battle, drove tive of the dead Cavalier, and in proof right through the press of the melee to Sheppard. It seemed to me then that of this up jumped the captain, his green eyes shining with emotion, andthere were dozens of people crowded "You will give me a copy of that, within those narrow walls, but I believe, as a matter of fact, that there were only "You are welcome," I said. "If you will write I will dictate." And forthsome eight of us. Sheppard rose and fell and rose again.

with, pen and paper being fetched, we "Ned! Ned!" he called, and at the sound, plunging upon human bodies, I proceeded upon the odd task. When we had finished he gave a look at Hood, who joined him, and the two lurched and went under. A stampede of feet seemed to rush over me. I felt battered and bruised; the wind was all Then Sercombe rose and, putting the out of my lungs; but, slowly edging on my stomach toward the wall, I drew paper in his pocket, remarked: "You out of the press. As I did so I heard a see I have trusted you, Mr. Greatorex. great dull noise, thud, thud, interven I take your word. And as you have ing upon the sounds of the struggle,

and presently, my eyes being now accustomed to the darkness, I caught sight of Montgomery's tall form, his arms uplifted and wielding a heavy

HEYER

Montgomery wrenched at the knob.

But just at that moment came a

"Mr. Montgomery's pistol went off by

"I think we shall have to square the

"Leave that to me," says Sheppard

"Well, come along," said I, and, seiz-

Sheppard broke a jest or two at the

entrance as we stumbled up the stairs.

but once we were in the passage and

had descended into the basement a

deep silence enveloped us. The cor-

ridor rang with our feet, and the great

slabs of stones were damp, to be felt

even through our boots. As we pro-

They won't trouble us just yet."

"Turn, you fools! Curse you, turn!"

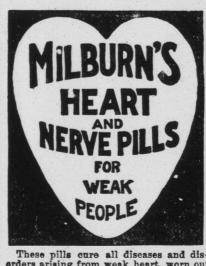
knock at the door, and Mrs. Main I was conscious then of white teeth showed in the open doorway, wearing and a grotesque screw neck that rose a face of alarm. up before me, and even while I put up my hands to choke it I felt the warm accident," said Sheppard promptly. sting of a knife in my shoulder blade. Mrs. Main apologized and retired. By some magical thought, dawning at the moment, I. recalled Montgomery's old lady or get rid of her," I observed. revolver, which I carried in my breast pocket, and, producing it, fired at the cheerfully. bestial form before me. There was a sharp cry, the en my appeared to reing the lantern, I stepped out into the coil, and then Montgomery's flail de courtyard and made for the entrance scended in a pitiless shower of blows. to the northerly drum tower.

Of Sheppard there was no sign. Seeing that the affray was turning in our favor, I sprang to the side, and, opening a small doorway in the southerly drum tower, rushed up the stairs. It was fortunate that I had made so complete a study of the castle. I found the crank I wanted and turned the wheel, putting forward all the strength I had in my muscles. Slowly the mighty portcullis descended, shrieking as it fell, but this, as I had hoped, following upon the report of my revolver, and accompanied as it was with Montgomery's continuous and powerful blows, proved the turning point for our enemies. As the groaning gate descended there were cries uttered in a foreign tongue, and a rush ensued for the gateway. Leaving the machine tc revolve by its own impetus. I flew | passages we explored, and by peering

"Throw the light this way. Ah, I thought so!" Ere he had finished he was halfway ad a flight of stone steps, and we folved pellmell. A door of heavy oak

barred the way at the top. "We wanted oil after all," said Sheppard impatiently. Montgomery flung agreeable, we may take a lantern. his weight against it, and with a crash

(To be continued.)



ceeded on the way I noticed that now and then a narrow passage branched orders arising from weak heart, worn out nerves or watery blood, such as Palpita-tion, Skip Beats, Throbbing, Smothering, off to the right, and on each occasion, at the farther end. I caught the soft glow of the external lights of the night. Dizziness, Weak or Faint Spells, Anaemia, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Brain Fag, General Debility and Lack of Vitality. They are a true heart tonic, nerve food From this I gathered that the chambers we were passing (whatever was the use to which they had been put) were cut off by exiguous channels tc and blood enricher, building up and renewing all the worn out and wasted tissues of the body and restoring perfect the outer wall of the castle and breasted by gratings upon the moat. One of these health. Price 50c. a box, or 8 for \$1.25, at all druggists.



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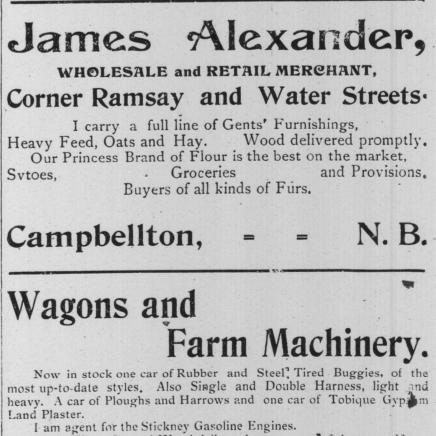
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bar of iron. "Bravo!" I cried and, struggling to my feet, pushed toward him. said Sercombe's voice.

now the whole document of the late Mr. Kesteven in your possession I wish "There is one word more," said I sternly. "The man who stole this

