She drove off down the road to the Court, and Ralph, after waiting a monent or two leaning on his gun, and

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fashioned, time-wasting methods?



The Snake

Justice Done.

CHAPTER XVI.

(Continued.) "Oh!" she said, curtly. why you have not been up to the Court to enquire, I suppose?"

She spoke with an affectation of indifference which, of course, Ralph's dull, masculine mind did not detect. "That's why," he said, simply, "That is a very old pony, but a good one."

She shrugged her shoulders.

posts of the summer-house and helped you have grown restless, as you said her out of the lingle. She leant rath- the other dayer heavily on his arm, and the touch of her hand brought the blood to his have grown restless. I sigh for 'fresh

been used for months. That's all ing from a gamekeeper.

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THERAPION

and looked straight before her.

"You must lead a most enjoyable nembered that he was-going. The life," she said, "just walking through | silence grew irksome, intolerable. She these beautiful woods, with nothing to knew that he was looking at her, and

"But look after poachers who are as | which she felt was full of sadness and cunning and persistent as Old Nick!" melancholy. he retorted, grimly. "But, oh yes; it's enjoyable enough, and I'm sorry to suddenly but casually-"did you find

She raised her eves for an instant.

then looked away from him.

contented with your - place. saw you this morning at the weir, and

He glanced at her, then his eves fixed themselves upon the glade that opened before them. "Yes. I was. I am happy enough

when there is hard work to be done such as there was this morning; but - Ah, well, you wouldn't understand,

"Why should I not?" she retorted "Do you think I am lacking in in-He put his gun against one of the telligence? What you mean is that

"Wait till I dust the seat-it hasn't tion from Milton: a strange one, com-

"And it's time I moved on, as the

"And where will you go?" she ask-He shrugged his shoulders. "I don't know. Fate will decide.

Fate decides most things for us." "And when?" she asked, with wellsimulated indifference.

"At once," he replied. "As soon as Burchett can find someone to fill my place; and he will find no difficulty "I am sorry you have not been

happy here-at Lynne Court." she

"That's it," he said. "I have been too

ulously. "When did you make up

She was silent a moment, ponder ing over his reply, her eyes downcast. She was no longer restless and dis satisfied; a sense of peace and happiness, like the warmth of the sun

staring, with a frown, at the ground, Five minutes after they had left the

rbour the earl rose from a rustic and with bent head and stern face paced slowly towards the Court. When Veronica returned to the house

she found him seated before the hall "I hope you have enjoyed your drive,

Veronica?" he said, in an impassive "Oh, yes," she replied, "and I am nuch better. I can walk quite well,

or very nearly so."

He nodded but made no response, since she had left Ralph she was haunted by the idea that his resolve to leave the Court had been born the moment he had seen her that afternoon, and she could not be rid of the

It hovered about her for the rest of the day, made an accompaniment to the song she sang to the two men in the drawing-room after dinner, and nestled to her heart as she fell asleep after hours of musing.

The next morning seemed to drag its weary length like a wounded snake. Every now and then she was tormented by the idea that Ralph would go, notwithstanding his promise, before she could see him again. 3he dared not ask herself the meaning of her strange interest in him, her desire to be near him, to hear his voice. She felt as if she were drifting in a sind of stupor to the edge of the cataract, without the power of staying ner fatal course, without the capacity of summoning her pride, her commo sense, to her aid to save her.

As she went through the hall to the ony jingle she hesitated for a monent, trying to turn back. If she ould find some excuse!

"The earl-will you tell his lordship that I am going out, and ask him if he wants me?" she said to the butler, defled and left a chill behind as she re-

ago, miss," was the reply, and Verdread, got into the jingle and drove

she grew embarrassed under his gaze

"I must be going," she said, "Oh-

to assist her to rise, but she saw his

hand go to his breast, and she said,

"Oh, thanks! Bring it to-morrov

here. I shall come at the same time.

I like pottering along with this old

pony," she added, hurriedly, as if an

He helped her to the carriage. She

could have walked alone very well

but she leant on his arm; and when

course, he had to pace before the jin-

zle. She kept him, without his being

aware that she was detaining him

near her by intention until they had

you will be gone before then?" she

added, and raised her violet eyes to

"No, no!" he replied, swiftly and

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"Very good," he responded.

excuse were needed.

She made a longer round than that of yesterday, feeling all the time that she was being drawn to the arbour. and at last, with a reckless movement of her head, she turned the pony in the direction to which her heart point

Ralph was standing there leaning against one of the posts of the arbour. his gun beside him. The dogs were with Burchett as they had been yesterday, and the deep, intense stillness of the afternoon reigned unbroken save by the twitter of a bird or th murmur of a bee in the convolvulus that climbed over the arbour.

She saw that he looked haggard and wan as if from sleeplessness, and her eart gave a little leap of sympathy. Sir John Suckling's lines flashed through her mind:

'Why so pale and wan, fond lover? Prithee, why so pale? Will, when looking well can't move

got to the edge of the wood; then she Looking ill prevail? Prithee why so nale?" "At the same time, please-unless

She was wise enough to know that there is danger when the sight of a ment before, and was a moment after

He came to the side of the jingle. "I've brought-"

"I will get out, I think," she said. calmly. "One gets so cramped in these carts. Thanks! You hav brought the handkerchief?"

He took it, not from his breast pocket, but from the game-bag.

"Thanks!" she said again. She took it, glanced at it, and, with seeming carelessness, thrust it into the oottom of her blouse. She saw, with a voman's quickness, though her eve were hidden behind her lashes, that his eyes had noticed the action and that his face had crimsoned for a sec-

should leave the Court," she said, leaning back in the seat and looking steadily at the ground. "You say that you like the place, the country-"



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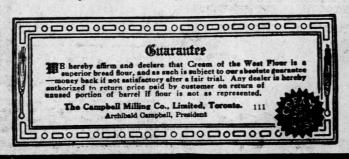
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He nodded. His eyes were fixed on hers with the lover's abstraction in his, the look which no woman fails to ly, her eyes raised and transfixing his.

so many things. The weir, for in stance, and the felling of the trees for

He inclined his head again. "Yes: I remember."

"And you have made friends here-

"But-what?" she asked, persistent-"There is something, someone, you do

bird endeavouring to avoid the fow-

"There is something," he said, rather huskily. "It's-it's of no consequence-I mean you wouldn't under-

To be continued.

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18 Aldermen Arraigned

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 13 .- The arraignment in the police court to-day of the 18 members of the Detroit Common Council, charged with having accepted bribes or with "promise to force the Wabash railroad to pay them barious sums for their influence n putting through a street for the

benefit of the railroad company. It is alleged that nine of the men actually received bribes, not however from a railroad official, but from a detective, who posed as such. The nine others, it is charged, agreed to accept certain sums but failed to col-

of Prosecuting Attorney Hugh Shep-pard in his announced fight to break up all illeged council "graft ring."
All of the aldermen are charged with

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