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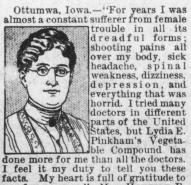
From where I stood I saw distinctly that it was a handsome diamond ring, and the next instant I gasped with astonishment, for deliberately removing the lid of one of the numerous coffeecarefully pushed the ornament well down beneath the powder.

He replaced the tin amongst the others, and went on with his duties as if nothing out of the common had oc-

As I recalled the incident, wonder ing why it should have returned to my mind at this particular moment,

**OTTUMWA** WOMAN

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you for my cure."—Mrs. HARRIET E. WAMPLER, 524 S. Ransom Street,

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sudden impulse scized me-an impulse retired to rest on Thursday night, wild as ever a man obeyed blindly. My mind dwelt persistently on onme night I presented myself at the nilford Hotel and pleaded hard to be a moment doubtfully.

'What can you do?" he asked. Anything,' I answered, humbly. I've been a valte, and understand hotel work; but I'm down on my

'Wait a minute,' he said, as he disappeared, and that minute of suspense was like an ordinary lifetime. He came back, and looked me over carefully again.

We want a man to help carry the not water and messages to the bedooms for a few days, as we're so very full at present. If you can give reference now, and it's satisfactory, you can come in to-morrow at ten

With a sigh of relief, I promptly ave my own name and address as eference, and the man made a note

'We can't send to this gentleman to-night,' he remarked, 'but we will electric torch with me, and, feeling about nine to-morrow moining; so if my way to where I knew the tins of you're here at ten, I can tell you

Smothering a smile, I thanked him. and turned home feeling that I had made some sort of a beginning in my attempt to help Lady Norah.

How I blessed the peculiarity which had always prompted to employ a man in my little effice instead of a boy, as most men in my struggling position would have done.

When we arrived early next morning, I told him briefly that I had a case on hand which needed careful treatment; and, entering into the humor of the thing, Smithson array d himself in my best clothes, and eceived the messenger from the Guilford Hotel, who arrived at 9.30 recisely, with impressive solemnity, iving me a character which made me

After the man had gone I gave mithson a few directions, and then cilled round to the Guilford, where, as I anticipated, I was engaged with-

out hesitation. The chance for which I longed was very difficu't to obtain. I had no real excuse to enter the kitchen, except for meals, so it was impossible Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass., to touch the coffee tins; and real z invites all sick women to write her for advice. Her advice is free, ing how little time I had at my disidential, and always helpful. Posal, I was very depressed when

nagine—and at ten o'clock that piece of information which the Comte's valet had given me: that given work. I was carefully dressed their master was a gambler, and had or the part I had determined to play, made a big coup at Monte Carlo or the oldest suit I possessed, and the a date that I noted as being just be in incharge looked me up and down fore the time of Lady Norah's visit there. It might mean nothing, yet somehow it strengthened my sus picions that his income did not em anate from 'the estates in Hungary, to which Felice told me he frequent

> Friday passed as Thursday had done, leaving me still at a deadlock, morning. Hope to have a chance

As I sat in my tiny bedroom, thought of Felice as I had seen he for a moment that evening-a white faced Felice, whose red eyes bor suffering on her mistress's behalf

The hotel clock chimed 3 a.m. as I opened my door noiseles ly and crept down the long passage to the kitchen. It was wrapt in complete darkness; but I had brought my tincoffee stood, I risked everything and, pressing its little button, flasher the light upon them. I had no idea which tin I sought, and they were a for, as the light fell upon the shining row. I saw distinctly that one of then was marked with a cross scratched roughly on the side! Lifting i quickly from the shelf, I extinguish ed the light, and standing there it the darkness, I pushed my hand dee ] down in the powder. For a momen I found nothing, then my heart gave a great jump, for my fingers ha touched a small, hard object, which



even in the darkness, I knew was what I sought - the I st ring.

I dared not risk lightning my orch again, so, hastily thrusting the ing into my waistcoat pocket, I replaced the tin, and crept cautious' back to my bedroom

I had to pass the Comte's on my way, and, jist as I was stealing noise lessly by, a white of int on the floor, caught my eye; it was lying half un der the door, and, stooping, I pulled it gently out. It was a dirty envelope, with something stiff inside, but not daring to look more closely then, I sped on to my own door.

Once safely inside, I bolted securely, then, turning on the light examined my prizes. The ring was very heavy, and manufactured with a urious roughness of workmanship that surprised me in so valuable an ornament, but the diamond was with out doubt the most beautiful stone ever handled, and worthy to grace any collection of gems; it was set flat in a band of unpolished gold, yet even so, its facets caught the rays of light, and flashed them back in rainoow gleams, as I gazed at the stone n fascinated admiration,

I laid it down at last, and, picking up the dirty envelope, drew out the contents. Only a faded photo a snapshot view of a portion of some city which I fancied I had seen in the ourse of my wondering several year back, and I turned the creased card over. There were only a few words scrawled half illegibly on the back Bird's-eye view of Melbourne. -D.' but they brought in a flish the word that solved the problem I had struggled with through three days, and now I knew where I had seen Count Z-itlen before.

As I gaz d wonderingly at the old photo of Melbourne, it seemed to fade before my eyes, and in its place rose memory picture of an Australian gambling-hall, with a lot of half drunken men crowding round twwho stood cursing each other acrosthe table in the middle of the room. on which lay the stake they had been playing for- a diamond ring,

To be continued.

have found the right thing at last. My ace was full of pimples and blackheads. After taking Cascarets they all left. I am continuing the use o them and recommend them to m friends. I feel fine when I rise in the Witten, 76 Elm St., Newark, N.J.

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