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The Snake

Justice Done.

CHAPTER VII. (Continued.)

"Are you so agitated by the sight of "Are you a gamekeeper!"

He shook his head, his lips set tight, and laughed low and grimly. "Not by oceans of it," he retorted:

"but to give you-a woman-pain! That's another matter!" She was quick to notice the volun-

tary "you", and a smile shone in her downcast eves "You'd better let me do it-I don't

"No, no," he said. "You'd make a cut-a gash-of it. I can do it so that it will scarcely leave a mark. It would be a pity-" He did not finish the sentence, but she could feel his eyes on her white wrist that was warmth in his light grasp.

"Ah, well!" he breathed as if it had to be done. She felt the sharp point i and the little pang of pain as he drew out the hook; but she would not wince. She was about to withdraw her hand with a cold "Thanks," but, to her surprise, he still held it.

"Wait!" he said. "The fly was an oid one, one I have used several times; thy get poisoned sometimes. I'm sorry-but there is no other way!' Before she could stop him he had trying to do so," said Ralph, eyeing

"Was that-necessary?" she de-

"Veronica!"

ing her with cold surprise.

ing from less cause; a pin's prick shapely fishing-suit looked and spoke vill do it sometimes: and I could not like a gentleman.

He droped her hand, almost flung from him, and, as if he were struggling against some emotion, said,

"I'll take the rod and see if the fish

As he strode up stream and, wading earl's nephew. in, began to fish, Veronica stood, still as stone, looking from the red spot on

Ralph came to the bank and, taking her wrist to the man whose lips had a fresh fly from the lappel of his he had just put on. "Good fly isn't it? coat, put it on with deliberate care.

most open insolence.

"Who are you?"

"That's strange," he said, medita-She looked up with a start. Talbot change his mind pretty quickly. He Denby was standing beside her, eyeengaged me only the other day

he said. "Nor do I think it necessary

to teach a man his place. You seem

to forget yours, my man. What were

"Teaching her to throw a fly," said

"And you took advantage of-of-

her condescension. I was on the hil

stream as if to try it, then he said

"The lie's yours-and, the impud-

Talbot's face mastered him: taking

step forward he raised his stick.

ped Talbot's arm, which seemed sud-

denly to have lost all power, for the

stick fell to the ground, and when

Ralph released the limb it dropped to

Ralph set down the rod, taking up

the stick, broke it across his knee and

"Some men can't be trusted with

even a stick," he said, coolly. "You're

one of them, sir. Take my advice and

its owner's side as if it were paraly-

"What are you doing here with that What's wrong? Talbot Denby eved him with smoul-

lady who has just left us."

Ralph very quietly

nam's wrist-"

scamp!" exclaimed Talbot.

as quietly as before:

fellow?" he asked, pointing to Ralph Farringdon. "It is not my custom to give ex-CHAPTER VII. planations to discharged servants."

"What are you doing here with this Veronica's face flushed and her lips

parted with the retort. "What busishe checked it, and, drawing herself to her full height, looked at him with the air of proud disdain and surprise which, when it flashes from so beautiful a woman as Veronica cuts a man like a whip, and turning away from

Talbot Denby looked after her for a moment, gnawing his lip, then strode your eyesight," said Ralph, just glanc-

"What are you doing here?" he de-

Ralph glanced over his shoulder. "I'm getting some trout-at least,

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tricate mechanism of a beautiful watch which will keep in good running order only with good care and the proper oiling at the right time, so that the delicate mechanism

have served you as I served you

don't deserve them; and if I find you you kicked off the estate."

Ralph appeared to consider proposition carefully.

"The lord's nephew, I think said?" he enquired: "his heir. I suboose. But you're not master yet, I take it? Lord Lynborough is my boss, as we say in Australia. Do you know, if it's all the same to you, Mr. Denby I'll wait until I get notice he kicking.

Talbot Denby uttered an oath un-

"You must be out of your mind," h said, as if he found it hard to credi such insolence. "What is you

"Ralph Farringdon," said Ralph, 'at our service-no, not at your service 'd rather starve first! Have you any ore questions to ask me?"

Talbot Denby's lip writhed

near of you again. I shall inform

Ralph samed to consider for a my

"Do you think you will?" he asked almost pleasantly, "From what I say him as if he wondered where he had of his lordship and what I've heard, I come from and what was the matter should imagine him to be rather awell, manly old gentleman. Won't he Talbot was conscious of a feeling of be a little suspicious when he hears surprise and doubt: the man in his that his nephew allowed his stick to

Talbot's eves flashed and flew ove the tall and slim but muscular figure "Who are you?" he said, with al-"Yes; we're about the same height "I'm one of the Lynborough gameand weight," remarked Ralph, as keepers," replied Ralph, gravely. he had read Mr. Talbot Denby's thoughhs. "If you'd rather fight said. "I am Mr. Talbot Denby, the ingly and drew a little closer to Talbot. "We are being watched-ladies! tively. "His lordship appears to me on I shall be delighted to oblige vou. You'll find me at Burchett's or

> Talbot stood and glared at him with clenched teeth for a full minute-Ralph having resumed his fishing as if nothing had happened-then turned and walked away.

(To be continued.)

you doing with Miss Gresham, the SALVIA is a Preparation That Will Grow Hair Abundantly.

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MINARD'S LINIMENT LUBBER

Talbot was well-nigh incapable of speech, and stood glowering at his opponent in silence for a moment, then he said in a low, almost inarti-

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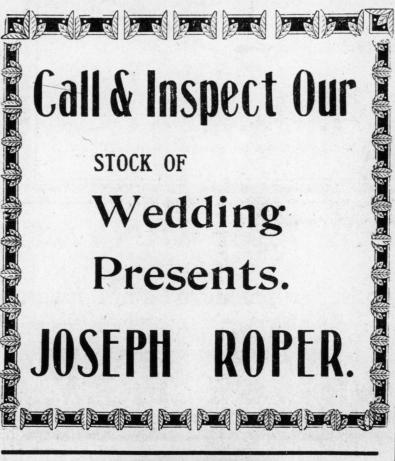
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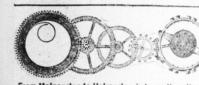
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