Vol. 36.

TWO CHURCHES AN

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Montreal, June 21.-

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Toronto, June 21 .-

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CHAPTER VIII - (Continued.)

voice that trembled with rage:

the end of it with you!"

viewed with wonder

have the joy of serving you.

ers them beneath theirs.'

face was in a violent perspiration.

but I dared not rob my master-

voted entirely to his service.

blurted out:

your King."

his imprudence.

servant is the master.'

replacing her mask.

moisell," was all that I could say.

discovery.

"Moncieur, since you let your menial

hope for satisfaction. But though

him to follow it.

An Enemp the King

By Hagenbuch Wyman

said, modestly averting her eyes from I understand why it was you drew a "A privilege too precious to be resigned." I answered in a low tone,

my safety.' My words were spoken so tenderly Impelled by uncontrollable wrath, that she sought relief from her charmhe thrust at me furiously. With a ing embarrassment by taking up my timely twist, I sent his sword flying | sword from the table, and saying, with

from his hand to the door. I motioned a smile: 'I have you in my power, monsieur, Completely astonished, he obeyed my if I were minded on behalf of the govgesture, went and picked up his sword, ernor of this province to make you a opened the door, and then turned to Blaise and spoke these words, in a

"My faith!" I could only reply, "you

handle your sword for you, I cannot am no great prophet, I can predict that both you and your cur shall yet feel eyes with flattery.' the foot of my lackey on your necks. "It would be a crime beyond me to And, mademoiselle," he added, remov-

close eyes so beautiful!" She gave a pretty little smile and

ing his look to the lady, "this is not shrug of helplessness, as if to say, "I With which parting threats he strode cannot help it, monsieur; if you will out of the inn, closing the door after overwhelm me with compliments which are not deserved, I am powerless to Blaise, deprived by his false position prevent you." But the compliments of the power of speech, stood with were all the more deserved because frowning brow and puffed-out cheeks, she seemed to think them not so. nervously clutching at his sword hilt. Her modesty weakened my own au-The lady and her maid looked at him

dacity, and her innocent eyes put me with curiosity, as if a gentleman who into a kind of confusion. So I changed would stand idly and speechlessly by the subject. while his servant resented an insult to "I appears to me, mademoiselle." a lady, was a strange being, to be said, "that I have had the honor of

ridding you of unpleasant company." "Mademoiselle," said I, laying my Her face quickly clouded, as if my sword on a table, "heaven is kind to words had brought to her mind a me in having led me where I might greater trouble than the mere importunities of an insolent adventurer. The lady, whose musical voice had "De Berquin!" she said, and then heaved a deep sigh; "I had forgotten

the sound of sadness in it, answered with graciousness warranted by the about him "I would not commit his offence of "My good man, your sword lifts you thrusting unwelcome company on above your degree, even," and here you," I replied; "but I would gladly she glanced at Blaise, and continued offer you for a few leagues the sword in a tone of irrepressible contempt, "as that has already put him to flight." the tameness of some gentlemen low-She was for some time silent. Then she answered slowly in a low voice, "I

Blaise, from whose nature tameness ride toward Clochonne, monsieur." was the attribute farthest removed. Taking this for an acceptance of my looked first at the lady, in helpless beoffer, I sheathed my sword, and rewilderment, then at me, with mute replied with an animation that betrayproach for having placed him in his ed my pleasure: "And I toward the same place, made-

idiculous position, and lastly at the maid, who regarded him with open de- moiselle. When you choose to set out, rision. To be laughed at by this piqu- I am ready." ant creature, to whose charms he had 'I am ready now, monsieur-

crowning misery. His expression of sieur," as if trying to recall whether or woe was such that I could not easily not I had told her my name. retain my own serious and respectful

the title under which I was known Having to make some answer to the throughout the province as one espe-"An opportunity to defend so fair a ing to pass under a false name. Therelady would elevate the most ignoble." fore I said: lady, not being accustomed to

"I am M. de Launay, once of Anjou, exchanging compliments with a man- but now of nowhere in particular. The servant, went to her maid and talked great have caused my chateau to be nor's wrathful orders to depart from with her in whispers, the two both scattered over my lands, stone by the province on pain of sharing her gazing at Blaise with expressions of stone, and have otherwise encouraged my taste for travel and adventure."

Blaise strode to my side with an awkwardness quite new to him. His Blaise, I saw on his face a look of of Fleurier. alarm and disapproval, as if he feared 'The devil!" he whispered. "How that the lady or her maid might be things to me became so great that I they laugh at me! Won't you ex- aware that De Launay and La Tour- presently desisted from pursuing the had half banteringly, deluged her at being moneyless, they had quitted his noire were on man, but it was manifest from their faces that he had no object to being taken for a calf." cause for such an apprehension said Blaise, ready to burst with anger. The lady smiled at my description,

Then, suddenly reaching the limit of and, adjusting her gloves, replied: "And I am Mlle. de Varion, daughnis endurance, he faced the lady and ter of a gentleman of Fleurier-"Mademoiselle, I would have run "What!" I interrupted, "the Catholic your pursuer through quickly enough, gentleman who has been imprisoned

for sheltering a Huguenot?" I coughed a warning against his be-"Yes," she answered, sorrowfully, traying us. He hesitated, then des- and then with a strange trepidation pairingly added, in a voice of resigna- she went on: "and it is to save myself from imprisonment that I have deter-"-my master, the King, of a single mined to flee to the south, in the hope less. As for her education, her unstroke of this sword, which I have de- of finding refuge in one of the provinces controlled by your King of Na-"I do not doubt," said the lady, with varre.

cold irony, "that your sword is active "But," I interposed, "how can you be enough when drawn in the service of in danger of imprisonment? It was not the arts and the sciences. She had you, but your father, who violated the "My King," replied Blaise with dig- edict."

nity, "had the goodness to make a "Nevertheless," she answered, in a somewhat similar remark when he low and unsteady voice, averting her "Cahors?" repeated the lady in a the governor of the province, has could, with safety, ride by her side and tone of perplexity. "But the King threatened me with imprisonment if I

remain in Berry.' "The King of France-no!" cried "Doubtless," I said with indignation, Blaise: "but the King of Navarre did!" | "the governor does this in order to es-"Blaise!" I cried, in angry reproof at cape the importunities you would means which he took to impress her in make in your father's behalf. He would The tone in which I spoke had so save his tender heart from the pain of startled the lady that she dropped her being touched by your pleadings."

mask, and I saw the sweetest face that ever gladdened the eyes of a man. It ly. was the face of a girl naturally of a | I did not tell her that the idea of recheerful nature, but newly made ac- leasing her father had already entered quainted with sorrow. Grief had not my head. In order to bring him safe rendered the nature or the face unre- out of the chateau of Fleurier, it would sponsive to transient impressions of a be necessary for me to return to Maury visage with a coquettish side glance; pleasant or mirthful kind. Hers was for my company. The attempt would one of those hearts in which grief does be a hazardous one, and I might fail, not exclude all possibility of gaiety. and I did not wish to raise hopes in whose rancorous fierceness must have prrow might lie at the bottom, never her for disappointment. She should not set the maid trembling. forgotten and never entirely concealed, learn of my intention until after its but merriment might ripple on the surits outlines, the face, in cause I thought she would really un- myself and a hell-born Papist, on St. every part, harmonized with the grace dergo danger by remaining at Fleurier Bartholomew's night, in 1572. From and purity of the chin and mouth. Her than because I was loth to lose the the next house roof, I had seen Coeyes were blue and large, with an elo- new-found happiness that her pres- ligny's body thrown, bleeding, from his quence displayed without intent or "What does it mean?" she said, in a best place whence to make, at a con- when his murderers came, and whom charming bewilderment. "The servant venient time, a safe flight to Guienne, he ordered to flee. I ran from roof to reproves the master. Ah! I see. The And she smiled with pleasure at her

Maury, on the pretext of its being the was one of those who were with him Having summoned the landlord and roof, hoping to reach a house where a paid him, I waited for Mlle. de Varion number of Huguenots were. that I to precede me out of the door. There might lead them back to avenge the was a moment's delay while her maid admiral's murder. I dropped to the "But still your servant, madesought the riding whip which made- street and ran around a corner moiselle had laid down on one of the straight into the arms of one of the tables. At this moment, there came butchers employed by the Duke of Blaise vented a great breath of re-"I feel better now," he said, to me the idea of a jest which would Guise that night to decorate the heartly, and he turned with a beam- furnish me with amusement on the streets of Paris with the best blood in road southward and afford mademo- France. Seeing that I did not wear ing countenance to the maid who looked at his stalwart form and iselle an interesting surprise on her the white cross on my arm, he was

promptly revised her opinion of him, arrival at Maury. The two were soon in conversation to-"It occurs to me, mademoiselle," said on my forehead. But in those days I to complete explanations with the lady, guidance across the border. Let me a similar mark on a similar place. who did not attempt the coquetry of recommend to you one whose services Then I was knocked down from be-Clochonne-the Sieur de la Tournoise." dead. As for the man who gave me harm should befall her. "Your secret is safe, monsieur," she

but for thirteen years I have prayed ed at me with a look of terror on her hard to the bount ful Father in heaven "Decidedly," I thought, "as the mere to bring us together again some day, and the good God in His infinite kindnention of my name produces such an effect on her, it is well that I am not ness will surely do so!" going to introduce myself until she shall have learned that I am not such in her saddle to look behind. It was in the gathering dusk, upon the great

"Fear not, mademoiselle. He is not as bad as his enemies represent him." "I shall be glad to have his guidance," she said, still pale.

this province think me." And I said

We left the inn and took horse, being Barbemouche and the latter's joined outside by mademoiselle's two serving boys. Resuming his character of gentleman, Blaise rode ahead with mademoiselle was the object of De the lady, while I followed at the side Berquin's quest, I felt that our party my frankly admiring look. "And now of the maid, he casting many an envi- was sufficiently strong to protect her. ous glance at the place I occupied, and If he had abandoned the intention of reciprocating his feelings if not his annoying her with further importunilooks. Nevertheless, I was sufficiently near mademoiselle to be able to ex change speeches with her. The day even for the sake of my secret and was at its best. The sun shone, a no immediate danger in his presence, gentle breeze played with the red and for he did not suspect that I was the yellow leaves in the roadway, and I Sieur de la Tournoire, was happy.

Looking down a by way as we pass ed, I saw at some distance M. de Ber- from M. de Berquin. quin talking to Barbemouche, while follower of the King of Navarre! What the latter's three scurvy-looking companions stood by, as if awaiting the outcome of the conversation, between

the two. "Oho, M. de Berquin!" I said to myneed no sword to make prisoners of self, with an inward laugh, 'I do not know whether you are baragining for help to persecute Mlle. de Varion, or with a compliment," she said, continuito spy on the Sieur de la Tournoire; ing the jest; "but you cannot close my but it has come to pass that you can do both at the same time."

> CHAPTER IX. The Four Raseals.

We rode southward at an easy pace hat mademoiselle might not be made to suffer from fatigue. Aside from the desirability of our reaching safe territory, there was no reason for great tried, and the attempt to deliver him from prison need not be made immediately. Time would be required in necessary to employ all my men in it, by night marches, but I must not take the first step until the whole design

should be complete in my mind. I suggested to mademoiselle that we day. first go to her father's house, in Fleurier, where she might get such of her belongings as she wished to take with But she desired to take no more along than was already in the portmanteaus that her boys, Hugo and Pierre, carried with them on their horses. She had come directly from terrogating her was only to cause her been visiting an unmarried aunt in that city when news of her father's arrest reached her.

When I questioned her as to her conduct on the reception of that news, her face clouded, and she showed embarrassment and a wish to avoid the subject. Nevertheless, she gave me answers, and I finally learned that her purpose on leaving Bourges had been immediately and petition for her father's release. It was by accident It was no time at which to disclose that she had met M. de la Chatre at the inn, where she had stopped that her horses might be baited. My percially proscribed, and yet I was unwill- sistent, though deferential, inquiries elicited from her, in a wavering voice, that she had not previously possessed entreaties had evoked only the goverfather's fate; and that La Chatre had refused to allow her even to see her At this moment glancing toward father in his dungeon in the Chateau

Her agitation as she disclosed these subject, and sought to restore bright- the inn. ness to the face of one whose tenderness and youth made her misfortune

ineffably touching. I found that, with a woman's intel ligence, she had a child's ingenuousness. I had no difficulty in leading her to talk about herself. Artlessly of her life. Her father, the younger son of a noble family, had passed his land near Fleurier. Like myself, she had, when very young, become mothermarried aunt had taught her those accomplishments which a woman can est impart, while her father had instructed her concerning the ancients, been to Paris but once, and knew nothing of the court.

Most of my conversation with made moiselle was had while we traversed glance to the floor, "M. de la Chatre, a deserted stretch of road, where allow Blaise to take my place with the maid, Jeannotte. I could infer how deeply the good fellow had been smitten with the petite damsel by the return. Far from showing himself as the wounded, sighing lover, he swelled to large dimensions, assumed his most "It may be so," she answered faint- martial frown, and carried himself as a most formidable personage. boasted sonorously of his achievements in battle

"And the scar on your forehead," I heard her say, as she inspected his "at what battle did you get that?" His reply was uttered in a voice

"In the battle of the Rue Etienne," fulfillment. In the meantime, less be- he said, "which was fought between ence gave me, I would conduct her to own window into his court yard, for I

Now and then mademoiselle turned ed in, while I stood outside to muse, a terrible cutthroat as the Catholics in when she did this for the ninth or tenth time that she gave a start, and since my first meeting with her, six her lips parted with a half-uttered ejaculation of alarm. I followed her look and saw five mounted figures far behind us on the road. It was most probable that these were De Berquin, ragged comrades. But in this sight I found no reason to be disturbed. If transformation, and how unendurable to me would be a return of that ties and was merely proceeding to Clochonne in order to act as the gowernor's spy against me, there could be

only once, he should put himself to so heroically and betaking to song. much trouble merely to inflict his at-

that, he should already know my landlord and his wife had retired to name.

ing his talk with De Berquin outside Was it, then, of Mile, de Varion that he had been talking? Montignac, of course, having witnessed the interview between mademoiselle and the haste. M. de Varion had not yet been governor, had learned her name. It must have been he who had communicated it to De Berguin. Had the subtle secretary intrusted the unscrupulwhich I might form a satisfactory plan ous cavalier with some commission reof action in this matter. It would be lative to mademoiselle, as well as with with delight, the puzzling questions and to bring them secretly from Maury | vain that I tried to find satisfactory answers to these questions. I asked mademoiselle whether she

> "Never," she answered, with a kind grew reticent; again the shadow and face. I could make nothing of these signs. To attempt a solution by in-

Bourges with this baggage, having pain, and rather than do that I preferred to remain mystified. Once more mademoiselle cast an uneasy look at the riders in the distance rearward.

no fear for yourself, yet you continue to look back with an expression tha very nearly resembles that of fright.' "I do not fear for myself," she said quite artlessly; "it is for you that I been so speedily susceptible, was the said, lingering over the word "mon- to seek the governor of the province fear. M. de Berquin will surely try to revenge himself for the humiliation you gave him.'

"Ah!" said I with a smile, "you have

A joyous thrill sent the blood to my cheeks. Without disguising my feelings, I turned and looked at her. Doubtless the gladness that shone in my eyes told her what was in my heart. Realizing that her frank and the governor's acquaintance; that her gentle demonstration of solicitude was a confession to be received with ineffable delight by the man to whom it was tendered, she dropped her eyes and a deep blush overspread her face. For some time no word passed between us; enough had been said. that the look in my eyes had told more, a thousand times, than all the extravagant compliments with which I

We might, by hard riding, have reached Maury on the night of that day, but mademoiselle's comfort was to be considered, and, moreover, I desired to throw De Berquin off our track before going to our hiding place. Therefore, when Clochonne was communicated to me the salient facts some leagues before us, we turned into a by-way, and stopped at an obscure inn at the end of a small village. This days in study on his little portion of hostelry was a mere hut, consisting of a kitchen and one other apartment, and was kept by an old couple as stupid and avaricious as any of their class. The whole place, such as it was, was at our disposal. The one private room was given over to Mademoiselle and Jeannotte for the night, it being decided that I and Blaise should share the kitchen with the innkeeper and his wife, while the two boys should sleep n an outer shed with the horses.

Roused from sluggishness by the sight of a gold piece which Blaise displayed, the old couple succeeded in getting for us a passable supper, which we had served to us on the end of an old wine butt outside the inn, as the kitchen was intolerably smoky. "A poor place, mademoiselle" said I

ashamed of having conducted so delicate a creature to this miserable hovel. 'What would you have?" she replied, with a pretty attempt to cover her dejection by a show of cheerfulness. 'One cannot flee for one's liberty through the forest and live in a chateau at the same time."

As for the others, hunger and fatigue made and fare and shelter welcome. Blaise, in particular found the acceptable. Conscious of the glances of Jeannotte, now flashing, now de- ate tones: mure, he strove to out do himself in one of his happiest accompaniments, that of drinking. The two boys, Hugo and Pierre, emulated his achievements, and only the presence of mademoiselle deterred our party from becoming a

berant as he made the wine flow the more generously. Seeing a way of diverting mademoiselle from her sad fellow, looking at the tall, lean Fran- the business without waking them up thoughts I set him to telling of the things he had done in battle when controlled by the sanguinary spirit of his father. He had a manner of narrating these deeds of slaughter which took all the horror out of them, and made them rather comical than of any other description. He soon had mademoiselle smiling, the maid laughing, and the two boys looking on him with openeyed admiration. Finding Jeannotte good enough to give me this red mark and the boys so well entertained, mademoiselle allowed them to remain gether at the fireplace, and I was left I, "that you will be glad to have some was quick at repartee, and I gave him with Blaise when she retired to her

I followed her to the inn door and I think I can assure you, and whom hind, and when I awoke it was the bade her rest without fear, assuring painted minions. "That is what an- to them. They drew their weapons "Our secret is yours, mademoiselle, we may fall in with in the vicinity of next day. The dogs had thought me her that I would die ere the least

would endure much harm rather than affair, how could I ever again indulge buy security at such a price." my passion for fighting?

For an instant her smooth and delicate fingers lay in mine. Then they to the door and cautiously opened it were swiftly withdrawn, and she passchange that had come over the world ant efforts of the old couple. hours before. The very stars and sky seemed to smile upon me: the moonlight seemed to shine for me consciously with a greater softness; the very and turned to his fellows smell of the earth and grass and trees had grown sweeter to me. I thought how barren, though I had not known it, the world had been before this

I rejoined the now somewhat hoister ous party at the wine butt in time to catch Blaise making an attempt to kiss Jeannotte, who was maintaining a fair pretence of resistence. She seemed rather displeased at my return, for as Blaise, unabashedly, continued his efforts, she was compelled, in order to "Be assured, mademoiselle," I said, make her coyness seem real to me, to "you have nothing whatever to fear break from him and flee into the inn. Blaise, in whom the spirit of his "I do not fear for myself," she re-plied, with a pathetic little smile. "It ascendency, consoled himself for the cannot be possible that, having seen me absence of Jeannotte by drinking more

The boys labored assiduously to keep him company. Finally the stalwart "Then you never saw him before the fellow, Hugo, succumbed to the effects neeting at the inn to-day?" I asked, of the wine, and staggered off to the shed. Pierre followed him a few min-"Never. When he addressed me and utes later, and Blaise was left alone ntroduced himself I was surprised with the remains of the wine. The rest on their pallets on the kitchen I then recalled that the governor's floor some time before. Blaise sat on secretary, Montignac, at one time dur- a log, singing to himself and cursing imaginary enemies, until all the wine window, had pointed toward the at hand was exhausted. Then he let me lead him into the kitchen, where he immediately dropped to the floor, rolled over on his back, and began snoring with the vigor that characterized all his vocal manifestations.

Making a pillow of my cloak, I lay down beside him and tried to sleep; but the stale air of the kitchen, the new thoughts to which my mind clung the task of betraying me? It was in that sought to displace those thoughts, and the tremendous snoring of both the landlord and his wife, as well as of Blaise, made slumber impossible to me. had ever known Montignac before this I therefore rose and went out of the inn. At a short distance away was a smooth, grassy knoll, now bathed in of shudder, which seemed to express moonlight. I decided to make this my both abhorrence and fear. Again she couch. I had proceeded only a few steps from the inn when the silence of the look of confusion appeared on her the early night was disturbed by the sound of footsteps on the crisp, fallen groan. I quickly arose, left the shed, leaves in the woods close at hand.

The smallness of the village and the obscurity of the locality gave importance to every sound proceeding from a human source at this hour. I, therefore, dropped behind the thick clump of a tree, where I might see and hear without being observed. Presently a figure emerged from the edge of the the inn. It stopped, made a gesture toward the wood, and then continued extremely thin. They came on with great caution, and finally joined the first comer near the inn. By this time he stretched out his arms with relief. friend, Barbemouche. The others were

his companions. with curiosity. Was in in quest of us, and tie him up like a trussed fowl! I at the behest of De Berquin, that they turn into the byway which, as one or them into pieces, and save the maid!" more of them perhaps knew, led to this inn and to no other. It was not themselves.

The fat ruffian sank down, with a heavy sigh of relief, on the log where Blaise had sat. He pulled down with him the thin fellow, who had been clutching his arm as if for support. The latter had a wavy, yellow heard, a feminine manner and a dandified air. as if he might once have been a fop at the court before descending to the rags which now covered him. The fat hireling had a face on which both good nature and pugnacity were depicted. At present he was puffing from his exertions afoot. The most striking figure of the group was that of the tall rescal. He was gaunt, angular and erect, throwing out his chest, and wearing a solemn and meditative mein upon his weather-beaten face. This visage, long enough in its frame-work, was further extended by a great pointed beard. There was something of grandeur about this cadaverous, frowning, Spanish-looking wreck of a warrior, as ne stood thoughtfully leaning upon a huge two-handed sword, which he had doubtless obtained in the pillage of some old armory.

"The place seems closed as tight as the gates of heaven to a heretic, growled Barbemouche, scrutinizing the

The tall fellow here awoke from his

the landlord and try his wine?" "Wake up the devil! cried Barbemouche, angrily. "Nobody is to be with the lady. Lay him yonder.' So waked up. We are simply to find out they carried me over to whether they are here, and then go 'And now for the others,' said the back to the captain. Your unquench- giant. 'Why lose time over them?' Blaise became more and more exhu- able thirst will take you to hell before said the burly fellow, who seemed to your time, Francois."

> cois, "how so few galions of body can hold so many gallons of wine." wine, Antoine," said Francois, longingly, and then, casting an unhappy into the room of mademoiselle and her

> wine to fill it with." "What are you shaking for, Jac- it was the wine that kept her asleep ques?" asked fat Antoine of his slim but now she awoke, and I could se comrade at his side. "One would think her looking around very scared, from you were afraid. Haven't you told us one to the other of the four rascals, that love of fighting was the one pas- Then she gave a scream. At that in-

no one having barred it after my departure from the kitchen. I could hear the sound of Blaise's superb snoring, mingled with the less resonmouche surveyed as much of the kitchen as the moonlight disclosed to him. Then he quietly shut the door

"It is well," he said. "The gentleman himself is snoring his lungs away just inside the door. There is anothe room, and it is there that the women must be. The others are probably in the shed. Let us go quietly, as it would Whereupon Barbemouche led the

not be polite to disturb their sleen.' way back to the woods, followed by fat Antoine, who toiled puffingly, Jacques, who stepped daintily and seemed fearful of treading on stones and briars and last of all, Francois, who moved at a measured pace, with long strides, re-taining his air of profound meditation. The sound of the crushing of leaves beneath their feet became m tant, and finally died out entirely. In vain I asked myself the meaning

of this strange investigation. Manifestly the present object of De Ber quin was nothing more than to keep himself informed of our whereabouts But why had he sent all four of his henchmen to find out whether we were at this inn, when one would have sufficed? I abandoned the attempt to deduce what his exact intentions were. Drowsiness now coming over me, and the night air having grown colder, repaired to the shed for the purpose of obtaining there the repose that had been denied me in the kitchen. I was satisfied in mind that whatever blow De Berquin intended to strike for the possession of mademoiselle, or for revenge upon myself, would be attempted at a time and place more conveni ent to him. Knowing that my slumbers invariably yielded to any unusual noise, I allowed myself to fall asleep on a pile of straw in the shed.

I know not how long I slept, when I suddenly awoke with a start and sat "M. de Berquin now turned to upright. What noise had invaded my sleep, I could not, at that moment tell. fright. Taking her hand, he sale The place was then perfectly quiet, save for the regular breathing of the two boys, and an occasional move- own escort failed to afford. Perhap ment of one of the horses. The shed now you will be the less unwilling was still entirely dark, excepting where a thin slice of moonlight enter- looked at him, and he got a good vi ed at a crack. I sat still, listening. Presently a low sound struck my ear.

something between a growl and a and ran to a clump of bushes at the side of the inn, whence the sound proceeded. Separating the bushes I saw, lying prone on the ground, among them the stalwart body of Blaise. "What is the matter?" I cried.

'Speak! Are you wounded?" The only reply was a kind of muffled roar. Looking closer I saw that wood and moved cautiously toward Blaise's mouth and head were tightly bound by the detached sleeve of a doublet, and this had deterred him its course. Three more figures then from articulating. I saw, also, that his came out of the wood, one very tall, legs had been tied together, and his one exceedingly broad, and the third hands fastened behind him with a rope. I rapidly released his legs, and he stood up. Then I undid his hands, and I recognized the leader as my old Finally I unbound his mouth and he spoke:

"Oh, the whelps of hell! To fall on I waited their further proceedings a man when he is sleeping off his wine, will have the blood of every cursed had come hither so cautiously and knave of them! And the maid! Grand-without their horses? Very probably. Doubtless, from afar, they had seen us the maid! Come monsieur, let us cut But I held him back and cried: "And mademoiselle, what of her? Speak, you thinks to win her favor by appearing likely that, having certainly made some bargain with De Berquin, and harmed?"

drunken dog! Have you let her be to be her rescuer from these four pre-

"She is perfectly safe," he answered service so soon. Yet, if they were now in his turn, holding me back from protect her. He does no know that carrying out orders of his against rushing into the inn. "I do not think she has seen the four rascals in his maden biselle or against me, the supthat she was even awakened. What company. He wishes to work with his posed lackey who had incurred his use to let her know what has happen- own hand his revenge upon us, and so wrath, why was he not with them? I ed? If we rescue the maid and the he has let us live. I see the way hoped soon to see these questions an- maid will hold her tongue, mademo- make him so ridiculous in the eyes swered by the doings of the rascals iselle will never know what danger she mademoiselle that he will never dare has escaped.'

"Or what vigilant protectors she has had to guard her sleep," I said, with bitter self-reproach, no longer daring to blame Blaise for a laxity of which I had been equally guilty. "You are self, the sham rescue which they mi right," I went on; she must know nothing. Now tell me at once exactly and seek your precious Jeannotte. what has occurred."

Blaise would rather have looked for his sword and started off immediately before you try to release her. to the rescue of the maid, but I bade him stand with me in the shadow of this conditional commission. He was the inn and relate.

the kitchen floor," he said, "I knew ever, and found his sword where nothing until a little while ago, when had laid it before supper. The awoke, and found myself still where mademoiselle's room was ajar. Standhad lain down, but tied up as you ing at the threshold, I could hear he found me yonder. Four curs of hell breathing peacefully, unaware of were lifting me to carry me out. I peril from which, by a blunder, she had tried to strike, but the deep sleep, in- been saved. Through the small win duced by that cursed wine, had allow- dow of the room came a bar of moon ed them to tie me up as neatly as if light which lighted up her face. I had been a dead deer. Neither could was a pale face, sad, innocent—the face speak, though I tried hard enough of a girl transformed, in an instant, to curse, you may be sure. So they womanhood by a single grief. brought me out and laid me down there by the inn door. "Would it not I went from the inn to the shed, st be best to stick a sword in him?' said one of the rascals, a soft-speaking, in first leaving the kitchen after womanish pup. A hungry-looking giant | futile attempt to sleep. Blaise was al put the point of an old two-handed sword at my breast, as if to carry out the suggestion; but a heavy, blackreverie, and spoke in solemn, deliber- bearded scoundrel, whose voice I think I have heard before, pushed the sword "Would it not be well to wake up away and said: 'No, the captain has a quarrel to adjust with him in person. We are to concern ourselves entirely be the leader; 'they are sleeping like "It is astonishing," put in the fat pigs in the shed. Come! We can do

"So they left me lying on the ground and went into the inn again, very "Would I had your body to fill with quietly. They must have gone, without waking the landlord or his wife look at the inn, he added, "and the maid. Presently they came out again, carrying the maid. So far, I suppose, stant, there came rushing from the "Death of the devil, so it is!" re- woods, with his sword drawn, your plied Jacques in a soft voice, and with a lisp worthy of one of the King's off, rascals!' he shouted, as he ran up noys me, for if this insignificant mat- and made a weak pretence of resisting Mademoiselle turned white, and star- this mark, I have not seen him since, "Nay," she answered smiling, "I accidentally be killed in so obscure an changed a thrust with him, they all

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turned tail, and made off into the woods.

maid, who had fallen to her knees 'Mademoiselle, I thank heaven I rived in time to give you the aid you accept my protection!'-the maid of her face. He started back as if he had opened before him, threw her hand from his, turned towards the wood and shouted to the four rascals. 'You whelps of the devil, you have made a mistake and brought the maid!' He was about to follow them, when probably occurred to him that if left free the maid would disclose his little project; for he stood thinking a moment, then grasped the frightened maid by the wrist, and ran off into the woods, dragging her after him. All this I saw through an opening in the bushes while I lay helpless and speech less. By industriously working my jaw, I at last succeeded in making my mouth sufficiently free to produce the sounds which brought you to me. Now, monsieur, let us hasten after the maid for mademoiselle will be vastly annoy-

ed to lose her precious Jeannotte. I saw that Blaise knew with what argument I was quickest to be moved "Blaise," I said, "do not pretend that is is only for mademoiselle's sake that you are concerned. In your anxiety about the maid, you forget the danger in which mademoiselle still lies and which requires me to remain here When the ingenious De Berquin learns from his four henchmen, that made moiselle was not awakened he wil certainly repeat his attempt. He tended assailants, and, at the same

show his face to her again." "But the maid!" persisted Blaise. "They will doubtless secure he somewhere in the woods, and return here to enact, with mademoiselle her takenly carried out with the maid. G you please, but do not let them cover you. Wait until they leave he

Blaise was quick to avail himself with me into the kitchen, where From the time when I fell asleep on old couple were sleeping as noisil

Leaving her door as I had found i wearing my sword, which I had put ready making rapidly for the woods.

I quietly awoke Hugo and Pierre, a bade them put on their weapons a remain ready to respond to my call. then posted myself again behind the tree stump near the inn door and awaited occurrences.

(To be continued.)

-Steamer Princess Beatrice on arriva Monday evening from Skagway had small number of passengers. Nearly those brought south were landed at Van couver. The steamer had among her pas sengers several who arrived direct from Dawson, having travelled to the Coas on some of the Yukon steamers now operation.

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