who had placed a dish beside him, had sat himself down thereafter behind the Englishman so that Norris was not aware that he was watched.

Gradually, as he recovered in the warmth of the day the use of his limbs, the aching thought filled him that escape was impossible, even though he were—as he believed himself to be—alone. The power of his body was so weakened that he could scarcely move. When, at length, he succeeded in conveying the contents of the bowl to his omouth, he felt somewhat the better of the to d; and, as the day wore on, recovered his orength, in so far that he was at length able to stand up, though reeling as he did so like a drunken man.

The Chinaman was watching him curiously, well knowing that Norris's strength was for the time being as nothing; and that even putting that fact aside, escape would have been an impossibility. Norris started when he perceived that he was not alone; the Chinaman was seated smcking, and, to all appearance, much interested in the movements of him whom he had evidently been set to watch. Very soon Norris became convinced that escape from the place where he now found himself was an impossibility, to scale the wall, even given that he should at some time be left alone, appeared beyond the power of man; to pass the buildings even more so: and further, his temporary freedom from his bonds would, in all probability, be of the shortest duration.

His feelings was a mixture of agony and despair. The hours passed with leaden step. Toward afternoon the first clew as to the reason of his inprisonment was given to him. Several Chinamen had come into the place of his captivity. One of these, taking a paper from the purse which he wore under his garments handed it to Norris, who, upon unfolding it, read with the greatest surprise these words written clearly in English:

"You write note, make pay any man ten Englishman's hundred pounds."

Where had this paper-been obtained? Clearly it had been written by a Chinaman knowing something of the English tongue, and knowing it, too, n

Such was his thought; and ne continued to follow the train of conjecture instantity suggested to him when his eye had fallen upon the paper.

"Ten Englishman's hundred pounds!"—

was there to ponder upon; and although the upon the paper.

"Ten Englishman's hundred pounds!"—one thousand pounds is large ransom—more than these men who stood around would think of exacting.

One of the Chinamen interrupted his thoughts, pointing with his finger to the writing, as though demanding an answer. But the paper which had been given to him was not one which could be replied off-hand. In the first place, what was required? "Make pay any man,"—what was the meaning of this? He had no English bank-notes with him, and the writer of the paper must have been aware that everything of a valuable nature, watch, chain, pencil, knife, everything had been stolen from his person. Yes, everything, save (for somehow his finger wandered idly down the inside of his coat), a couple of English pins, which he had dily placed there two days ago, to be used, perhaps, as substitutes for the buttons of his clothing, which were constantly giving way.

It was evident, therefore, that the only thing which could be referred to, was a note to, or a cheek upon, his bankers. Did the writer know of the English form of issuing checks? If so, who was he "—in what position! These were points the considerations of which set Norris's brain on fire.

The Chinaman pointed impatiently a second time to the paper. Norris could hesitate no louger. A vague hopefulness filled him. He was, as he knew, in the remote interior of the Temple of Confucius; but already a chance was given to him of communicating with some one (who, at least, knew his language) in the outside world, be beit only in Pekin.

Rapidly he made signs that he required to write. The Chinaman understood at once, and one of them hurried off to seet: what was required. Evidently they knew what Norris had been asked to do. In a moment or two the man returned with the materials used by the Chinese in writing—a brush, a pot of ink, and paper.

Norris was obliged to place these upon the ground, calculating at the time at the converse of the converse of the converse of the converse of

save that a large bowl of food had been handed by the Chinese in writing—a brush, a pot of ink, and paper.

Norris was obliged to place these upon the ground, calculating at the time as to what he should write. Then he took the brush in his hand and dipped it in the ink, whilst the Chinamen crushed round him in curiosity, chattering in their ugly tongue to one another. He drew every stroke with the utmost slowness, for each stroke gave him the longer time to think as to how he was to complete his reply. This is what he side.

case of doubt, so to convey something of ones's own doubt to the other side, if it be possible, by an atmosphere of brevity.

He folded the sheet, and gave it to the man who had brought him the materials wherewith to write. The recipient sfirst proceeding was to re-open and scrutinize the sheet, notwithstanding that he had been carefully observing Norris as he wrote; and this act was of itself sufficient to prove to the Englishman that none of those present could read his words. Then the man left him, still apparently discussing what was to them a strange and curious thing. One of them stayed a moment to lift the ink-pot and the brush. And, at last, Norris was left alone—truly alone, for his guardian had accompanied the others through the doorway, which they had then closed and barred. Clearly they had no fear of his escape; his bonds must have been merely to restrain him from violence; and clearly, also, it was judged that the paper borne away was that required—the equivalent of the demanded thousand pounds would not rusted to the word of his unforseen look trusted to the word of his unforseen look trusted to the word of his unforseen look. It was not quite apparent that one It was not here was no hereads which mand the remaind the note of hand had been suspicious on account of his readities and who had demanded the note of hand had been auspicious on account of his readities and who had demanded the note of hand had been auspicious on account of his readities and who had demanded the note of hand had been auspicious on account of his readities. It was no had been the Englishman that none of those present could read his words. Then the man left him, still apparently discussing what was to them a strange and curious thing. One of them stayed a moment to lift the ink-pot and the brush. And, at last, Norris was left alone—truly alone, for his guardian had accompanied the others through the document which might never end, unless death, by what means to be faally gained God alone could know, should set him from violence; and clearly, also, it was judged that the paper borne away was that required—the equivalent of the demanded theusand pounds. As Norris to have the demand pounds. As Norris to the promise made by the unknown receiver of the should have been in justice at once set free. Why, then, was he still a prisoner; Thus was no longer bound, and still he was no longer bound, and still he was no longer bound, and still he was no longer bound, and the dim chances of escape—by night seer, and is appointment of the demantime. Some days had passed ere he had been the demantime. Some days had passed ere he had been and the refused, and the refused, and where the inity were to linger the demantime. Some days had passed ere he had been and the search to cred to destroy, whilst he acted a hideous part, the only living tie between himself to be placed; for it is almost needlesved this note to be what was required—the equivalent of the promise made by the unknown receiver of the should have been in justice at an once set free. Why, then, was he still a prisoner; Thus was his life—by day, pacing to and for in his place of confinement, living upon the dim chances of escape—by night sleep.

A THRILLING STORY OF CHINESE TREACHERY.

GHAPTER III.—(CONTINUED

At last, two of his captors came; and, perhaps perceiving his condition, one of the and hands; but Norris samply lay still unable to move, and it was some hours before he recovered so far as to be able to sit up and partake of food. During these hours hands; but Norris sumply lay still unable hands; but Norris sumply lay still unable hands; but Norris sumply lay still unable him the amount when had placed a dish beside him, had sat himself down thereafter behind the English man so that Norris was not aware that he was atome; for the Chinaman who had placed a dish beside him, had sat himself down thereafter behind the English he aucoceded in the power of his limbs, the aching thought filled him that escape was impossible, even though to were—as he believe and pounds, even with the promise of the could and pounds, even were therefore and pounds, even which the promise of the could be the could be trusted for lively with the could gate the power of his dish down the could scan pounds, even were treated in the end.

The position in which he was placed seems thimself down thereafter behind the English he succeeded in common the power of his limbs, the aching thought filled him that escape was impossible, even though the were—as he believe him to be down the could be trusted for lively with the power of his budy was so weakened that he could sand pounds, even were treated in the end.

The following that form the power of his world with the could gate the power of the temple's promise? It was the power of the treather promise? The temple's promise? It was little, for him man had partable the was at the law the power of th

If the answer came to his letter," "Yes, you will be instantly set free upon giving me a letter to your bank," then he could give such a letter, but—sign it with a falso name! And if he were set free—well, then he would consider how far he was bound in honor to pay this thousand pounds and to take up the false order upon his bank; and if, as he was rather inclined to fear, the promise should prove as nothing, then at least he should not have given the first taste of blood to the wolves; and who could say but that the false order might lead some day to his discovery and escape? This seemed the wisest, indeed the only course to pursue.

say but that the false order might lead some day to his discovery and escape? This seemed the wisest, indeed the only course to pursue.

Having come to this decision, Norris proceeded to examine the note which had been sent to him, and which he still held in his hand. It was written upon paper of foreign make—English or German, not Chinese and this struck him as curious, in so fa that a Chinaman, unless of some high rank, would be unlikely to indulge in a luxary such as the using of paper other than Chinese. As he looked upon it, the thought came to him that, by carefully preserving the paper, there was a dim chance of his tracing the man who had written the words. That he was not an Englishman was evident, alike from his diction and writing—even putting aside the connection with his captors—and from the fact that one thousand pounds would have been but a small demy of from one of his own race; so there was, 19-deed, but a faint possibility of ever ascertaining who had penned the lines. Notwithstanding which, Norris determined to carefully preserve the sheet.

The time seemed to pass rapidly—so much was there to ponder upon; and although the sun was setting, and, in reality, more than two hours had passed when the answer to his note arrived, it seemed to Norris that his captors had passed when the answer to the roply was none the less strong, in that he had been considering every point regarding the demand which had been made. In a second of time his eyes had perused the lines now placed before him. And this was the answer to his note:

"Write bank make pay; then you go free. Write bank make pay; then you go free. Write bank make pay; then you go free.

him the longer time to think as to how he was to complete his reply. This is what he wrote; "I am your prisoner. If I pay one thousand pounds, am I free? My money has been stolen. All I can give is a letter to my bank to pay one thousand pounds. If I do this shall I be set free at once?"

The Chinaman resumed his post of watch for a lengthy period, but there were no explicit. He had learned, in bygone days, that it is well to cut a letter short, in case of doubt, so to convey something of ones's own doubt to the other side, if it be possible, by an atmosphere of brevity.

collated with a wild madness for a moment or two, some days since, met in conflict in the air above him, and, whilst he watched them, both dropped toward the ground, finally falling in the court.

The feelings that filled him—wild hope, intense longing, terrible excitement—few can understand.

To secure one of these court.

an understand.

To secure one of these swallows!

His heart burst within him in wild pray

He approached the birds. One flew off

He approached the birds. One flew off; the other was so wounded and torn as to be unable to rise upon its wing, though it fluttered wildly and struggled vainly to rise from the ground.

Norris could have counted his heart-beats.

Hastily taking off his coat, he threw it twice, over the bird which now fluttered along the ground. Each time in his terrible excitement he missed it. Yet again he threw the coat. hrew the coat.

threw the coat.

Indescribable joy filled him as he perceived that the swallow was beneath; then carefully he secured it in his hand and set about examining the wound. The bird was but little hurt.

Considerably less than half an hour later amall piece of paper lay before him, with

Considerably less than half an hour later a small piece of paper lay before him, with some words upon it written in his blood. The swallow was securely wrapped in his coat. His thread he had procured from the rough edge of his clothes. All that now remained was to fasten the paper to the swallow's neck, or, better still, he thought, round its leg and then to throw the bird over the wall, in the hope that it might by some chance bear his message beyond the seas.

seas.

He folded the small paper carefully, and as carefully replaced the pin in the inside of his coat.

The only traces that remained of his experiment the inside of his experiment the inside of his experiment.

periment at this juncture were the presence of a thread upon the ground, a small folded paper, which for the moment he held be-tween his teeth, and the swallow wrapped

He reached out and took the bird gently in his hand.

He reached out and took the bird gently in his hand.

At the same instant the door of the temple facing him opened, and two of his Chinese captors appeared.

One of these instantaneously perceived the bird. The utmost danger faced the Englishman. His lips had closed over the fragment of paper held in his teeth. The bird was the suspicious point. If he hesitated, the bird would be taken from him, and these men would begin to question how and why it had come to he in his possession, and to ask what he had intended to do.

He knew that one of the Chinamen saw the swallow. To conceal it, or attempt to conceal it, was ruin.

Never did Norris experience such a moment of intense agony of rapid mental conception as now.

Never did Norris experience such a moment of intense agony of rapid mental conception as now.

The Chinaman spoke to his companion both had now seen the bird; and Norris, acting like a cold, dead thing that scarcely knew what it was doing, took the atruggling swallow in both his hands and tore wing from wing, and thrust the living flash and the warm feathers in a hideous pretensed.

to him, and that captivity and death only were before him.

That his lite would be spared for some time to come he could well understand, since by killing him all prospect of further monetary extortion would disappear. So that it seemed probable that so soon as the order upon his bankers was returned unpaid and as a false creation upon his part, his captors would be so much enragad as to proceed to extremes immediately, since thus they became aware of the deceit practiced. In the mean time, if he were pressed for further sums, he decided that he should, after holding out as long as possible, give as many further orders as might be necessary, signed with the false name.

ame. As the first of these orders had to go to As the first of these orders had to go to England before histrick would be discovered, and as the news that it had been refused payment would take equally long of transit, Norris calculated that even supposing it had been sent by camel-post overland to St. Petersburg, a means frequently employed by those living in Pekin, he might look upon it as a certainty that the reply regarding the order would not reach Pekin for probably four months to come.

At the expiry of that time he forsaw certain death—a death of the most horrible

tain death—a death of the most horrible nature, unless his escape should be effected

ing, or gazing toward the stars when he could not sleep, as he lay upon the skins.

A week went by uneventfully, and Norris still remained captive, as far removed from liberty, so it seemed, as on the first day of his confinement.

He rarely saw hi: captors; their curiosity regarding him was long ago satisfied, and seldom did any of them enter his open-air prison save to give him food.

Several ideas suggestive of escape had occured to Norris—one that he should scale the wall by the arduous fabrication of holes in its surface, whereby he might, with difficulty, mount to the top. But there were reasons to bar this gate of hope: the holes in the wall would at once catch the eye of the man who brought him his food; and again, he might, indeed, succeed in making stepping-places to a certain height, but beyond that, beyond his reach whilst standing on the ground, how was he to do so?

And this, like many another idea, had to solve had added to a Nowale wall heave the stick that he did not for a moment or two realize that time had passed more quickly than he had dreamed of, and that the Chinaman, with his food had entered from behind, and now stood watching him, with curiosity expressed upon every line of his sallow features.

The swallow was struggling feebly beneath the coat. Norris was intent upon his work. Suddenly he looked up. Some consciousness came upon him that he was not alone. A band of iron seemed to draw his heart-attrings together. The door of the temple behind was half open. He was discovered; but the man who had discovered him was alone, and as yet had made no cound.

whilst standing on the ground, how was he to do so?

And this, like many another idea, had to be abandoned; for Norris well knew that once his captors perceived any possibility of his escaping, he would immediately be transferred to another place, or possibly chained, either to the wall or to some huge if stone, as he had seen the Chinese prisoners chained. Then, indeed, the last ray of hope would have gone! And so, urged by extreme caution not to hazard a failure, he waited, eagerly examining the while every loophole of escape.

And at length he was in part rewarded, for he perceived that the man who brought his food was growing more careless, and would at times leave the door behind him half open when he entered from the temple. Upon this Norris detern...ed to act. The Chinaman must be overpowered silently and quickly.

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Norris had no weapon. His hands alone were not sufficient to do the deed at once with absolute silence and rapidity; so he set about carefully twisting a species of rough cord, or thongh, which he made from strips bitten or torn with his teeth from the skins furnished him to sleep upon—a tedious process indeed. These he twined and knotted lightly together. This he did chiefly by night; and on the second day following in resolution to overpower the Chinaman, he was in readiness to seize his opportunity. Such as a noose, which it was his intention to cast, and the second day following him for a noose, which it was his intention to cast, and the second day following him yellow the second day following him to cast, the man's back.

Such was his crude thea; but the opportunity was not given him for a number of days, for by some chance for a number of days, for by some chance for a number of the swallow. Strangley enough, he had looked upon it as conclusive at the time; how he began to think differently. The Chinamen had seen him eat the living bird; why should he not trade upon that fact. There were many nests along the eaves of the temple. Could be but reach these to see the birds?

In which had the properture of the swallow. Strangley enough, he had looked upon it as conclusive at the time; how he began to think differently. The Chinamen had seen him eat the living bird; why should he not

der, sandtently long to reach to the swallows'nests.

At first it was his plan to disturb the birds, and to strike them with his slender rod, as they issued from their nests; but putting aside the difficulty of such a proceeding, there remained the probability of so injuring them, that they must prove useless; whilst on the other hand, his weapon might snap in the air, from its unwieldy length, at every attempt he made. Abandoning this idea, he determined to endeavor to form of his coat a species of net, and, rough and crude as the plan may seem, it was by this means that he ultimately succeeded in capturing, at long intervals it is true and in the face of continued and frequent disappointene' several of the swalquent disappointmen' several of the swal-lows as they issue from the caves of the

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The Chinaman spoke to his companion both had now seen the bird; and Norris, acting like a cold, dead thing that scarcely knew what it was doing, took the atruggling swallow in both his hands and tore wing from wing, and thrust the living flesh and the warm feathers in a hideous pretense; tween his moving teeth.

His heart stood stone-still; the Chinamen saw him eat the living strain, and by that he was saved:

It had become fully dent to Norris that his freedom was possible to him, and that captivity and death only were before him.

That his litts, would rapidly endeavor to bring them in collision with the coat on the chance of their falling thus entanged to the ground results.

and one morning in the early dawn he caught his first bird.

From this time forth it became easier: many escaped, and disar pointment followed disappointment; but notwithstanding he secured an occasional bird, and these he liberated with the brief message and cry for aid written in blood and bound to the leg, in the hope that some one of his English fellows would hear.

In this manner he caught and liberated ten awallows as the days went by. Once he recaught one of his birds with the paper tied to its leg—a disappointment of the severest kind, for if the birds were to linger in the Temple of Confucius for ever all had been done in vain.

The eleventh bird was in some way slightly hurt in capture, besides being evidently young, and to Norris's dismay it proved unable to fly freely, settling upon the rocf of the temple near the edge.

The sun was already advancing in the heavens, and he knew that shortly he might expect his first installment of food for the day to arrive.

d de the sticke that he did not for a moment or two realize that time had passed more quickly than he had dreamed of, and that the Chinaman, with his food had entered from behind, and now stood watching him, with curiosity expressed upon every line of his sallow features.

The swallow was struggling feebly beneath the coat. Norris was intent upon his work. Suddenly he looked up. Some consciousness came upon him that he was not alone. A band of iron seemed to draw his heart-atrings together. The door of the temple behind was half open. He was discovered; but the man who had discovered him was alone, and as yet had made no sound.

sound.
With apparent callousness he unded the leathern thong which he had bitten from the skins upon which he sat, and which he now wore around his waist.
This he made rapidly, and yet quietly, into the form of a noose, as formerly. The Chinaman was observing his every act, curious as to what was the meaning of all that he say.

A Margin of Silence.

A Margin of Silence.

The city man who goes to the country seeks a certain remoteness from villagers and people; he wants a margin of repose and silence about him. He is eager to get away from the unconscious but very real pressure of dense populations; to escape the noise and tumult and constant presence of mobs and crowds. There is a deep instinct in his woul which prompts him to seek quiet and shifted in order that he may recruit his depleted spiritual force. He has a sense of being submerged and lost; he craves the oppondunity of returning to himself and recovering his individuality. Such a margin of silence and repose is the constant necessity of every thoughtful mind and every fruits of contractions. low as they issue from the excess of the lower from the lower from the excess of the lower from the excess of the lower from the excess of the lower from t

"Didn't I send 'im to Heton an' Hoxford' Didn't I send 'im into the harmy, along of some o' the biggest nobs in all Hengland, with an allowance fit for a young hear! And what's the hupshot of it all? Why, he gives dinners to dooks and royal 'ighnesses, and don't even harsk 'is poor old father to meet 'em. 'Ighnesses, indeed! I could buy up the ole blessed lot. And, what's more, I wouldn't mind tellin' 'em so to their faces for two pins—av! just as soon as look at 'em for two pins—av! just as soon as look at 'em for two pins—ay! just as soon as look at 'en —and 'e knows it."

A bridegroom at Hammond, Ind., thought it prudent to begin married life economically. He gave fifty cents to the clergyman who performed the ceremony, and then had the audacity to demand a receipt.

Sorrows are visitors that come without nvitation; but complaining minds send a wagon to bring their troubles home in.

A colony of about 1,000 Japanese is to be established in Sinaloa, Mexico.

Men are not in this world rewarded according to what they know, but according to what they can make others think they know.

For Sunday Contemplation.

Religion is in a measure the living out

A proud heart and a lofty mountain are never fruitful.—[Gurnall.

Riches are the baggage of virtue, which always hindereth the march.

Four things come not back—the spoked word, the sped arrow, the past life, the leglected opportunity.

Our character is but the stamp on our souls of the free choice of good and evil we have made through life.

It is heaven upon earth to have a man's mind move on charity, rest on Providence, and turn upon the poles of truth.

Like rose leaves, good thoughts are bless ed quests, and give out a sweet smell if laid up in the jar of memory. It is good for us if the contrary winds ec-casionally blow on us, for, after all, it is they that make us strong as we sail the voyage of life.

voyage of life.

God gives peace not as the world giveth.

Many forget this truth, and when all is
favorable without, think they have the
peace of God.

The way to avoid great faults is to beware of small ones, therefore pull up in
time if you would not be dragged by your
neighbor into the ditch.

Seek not proud riches, but such as alou mayst get justly, use soberly, distribute freely and cheerfully, and be able to leave contentedly.—[Lord Bacon.

contentedly.—[Lord Bacon.

A man who has any good reason to believe in himself, never flourishes himself before the faces of other people; in order that they may believe in him.

If you would be well with a great mind leave him with a favorable impression of you; if you little mind, leave him with a favorable opinion of himself.—[Coleridge.

you, if you titue mind, leave tim with a favorable opinion of himself.—[Coleridge.

We are made for wide communion. The man who isolates himself dwarfs and loses the power he believes he is cultivating. Our need is to have intimate communication with our fellow-men, and with as large a variety as possible, always excepting, of course, the depraved.

Lady Holland was always lamenting she had nothing to do—that she did not know what to be at or how to employ her time. "I recommend her," said the poet, Rogers, "something new—to try and do a little good." Once fairly engaged in that business, one will never have to complain of nothing to do. It is a great cure-all to laziness or listlessness.

Tall pines of the mountain range

Tall pines of the mountain range Form an outline 1 figure strange. A lion, with uplifted crest On the mountain seems to rest, And in Minne-squam below Darker does the shadow show.

But as any one draws near Lo! the figure, once so clear, Slowly seems to pa -s away, Fade into the clouds of gray. Only pine trees straight and tall, Stately stand there—that is all. So our troubles seem afar More than what they really are, Magnified to wondrous size, Closer, fade into the skies.

London's Life-Destroying Fogá

London's Life Destroying Fogs

A London despatch says:—After a summer and autumn abnormally healthy, the death rate in London has suddeniy almost doubled. The mortality is now above thir'sy per 1000, the increase being almost entirely confined to diseases with respiratory organa. The cause is ascribed by nearly every one to the low temperature of the past three weeks. It never seems to occur to Londoners that the lack of oxygen and the presence of poisonous gases in the atmosphere of the metropolis at this season constitute a positive danger to health. The so-called foggy days of the past few weeks have brought, perhaps, greater discomfort than ever before. The air has been surcharged with fumes of sulphur, carbonic acid gas and smoke, There has been very little real fog. On days when it has been as dark as midnight at noonday the humidity has been as low so with clear skies in summer. People went about with smarting eyes, coughing and almost gasping, and complaining hopelessly of what they called the fog. A London fog can at any time be banished by law, just as the same sort of fog has been suppressed in Pittsburg and other American cities. The same statute which dissipates the London fog will bring another great boon to the metropolis. It will give it comfortably-heated homes in winter. The million or two grate fires of bituminous onl make the London fog, and nothing else. Occasionally a newspaper timidly suggests that the use of anthracite coal in stoves and furnaces would banish the nuisance, but an apology and an admission of the impractibility of the suggestion always goes with it.

Official statistics of the cholera epidemic Official statistics of the cholera epidemia in Germany last year, and up to its practical disappearance, show that the total number of deaths from cholera was 8,510. Nine-tenths practically of this number were in the city and State of Hamburg, where the total number of deaths was 7,611, 1.22 per cent. of the whole population. The statistics show that the cholera spread up the rivers from the centre around Hamburg with diminishing virulence.

The Court of Schleswig-Holstein published.

with diminishing virulence.

The Court of Schleswig-Holstein published the following notice: "At the request of Herr Peter Lohmann, of Altona, the seaman Dietrich Lohmann, who was born in Kirchmoor in November, 1848, and was drowned on the journey from Stockton to Hamburg while sailing in the ship Berthe Jenny, is hereby called upon to appear before this Court and report himself, one reference this Court and report himself, or er before Friday, Jan. 20th, 1893, at it o'clock a.m., under pain at being declared dead.