Athens Reporter

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

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OUTCAST OF MILAN.

no better off than before, for a dense mass of interwoven vine shut them in from any extended view. Upon one hand, however, they saw an open space, and a way which seemed to lead up to the roof of the cavern. Surely there could be no harm in going up there. They would not venture out beyond the cover of their retreat; but this way, so narrow and so rugged, was evidently within the secret place. It might lead to the top of the rock, whence they could obtain a grand view. Rosabel started up first. She had to move very carefully, clambering from stone to stone, clinging by roots and rocky points; and at length she arrived upon a level table of rock, upon three sides of which arose perpendicular ciampering from some to some other, the grant and rocky points; and at length she arrived upon a level table of rock, upon three sides of which arose perpendicular walls, while upon the fourth was a net-work of shrub and vine, growing out from a crevice, very much like that which guarded the mouth of the cavern. Of course, so much labor must not be lost. If they could pass this barrier they would in all probability gain a view of the mountains, and perhaps look off upon the distant country. Rosabel pushed her way through, and she was not disappointed. She stood upon a broad table of rock, with the mountain peaks towering in sublime grandeur above her on one hand, while upon another she gazed off upon the plains and rivers. It was a wild scene, and for a long time the two adventurers gazed in silence.

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"We will not go any further," said Rosa-

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"Wo, we will sit here and en, oy the scene, and breathe the fresh air. I suppose, if we were so inclined, 'we could wander away as far as we pleased, for I doubt not but some of the passes are open. But we will remain here. I will not forget my promise to Sir Orlando."

The girls sat down upon a loose fragment of rock, and after discussing various matters connected wiff the scenery, the conversation turned upon their flight from Milan. The princess had discovered that her companion possessed an intellect of uncommon clearness; that she was endowed with a good share of wit; and, furthermore, she had found her true-hearted and kind; and hence she had come to trust her with the deepest thought of her soul.

"Were you surprised when I told you that I had pledged my hand to the knight?" Rosabel asked, as the conversation seemed to legitimately approach that point.

"Indeed I was not, lady." I knew that it must be so. How could it be otherwise,"

"O—it might have been otherwise, Hippolita. I need not have pledged him my hand had it pleased me otherwise."

"Ah—but, my dear mistress, when we are left to our own will, we are very sure to

him, but he made no answer, are tray any sign of consciousness.

"There is life in his heart," she said look-ing up into her attendant's face, "and if we had him in the cavern we might revive him. If he remains here he may die."

"We can carry him down," returned Hip-polita. "He is not heavy, and the distance is short."

"We can carry him down," added Rosabel. "The life of a fellow-creature must not be lost while we have power to save it."
With this generous motive the girls lifted the senseless form from the rock, and bore it down by the way they had ascended. It was a difficult task, and many times did they slip, and come near falling; but a noble fortitude gave them uncommon strength, and finally they reached the mouth of the cave, where they were forced to stop and take breath. After a little while they bore their burden in, and when they had fixed a bed and a pillow, Hippolita brought water and some cordial. The wound upon the temple was washed, the brow bathed, and the hands chafed; and ere long the sufferer opened his eyes. In a little while his senses had so far returned to him that he raisee himself upon his elbow, and asked where he was.

"You are safe, and in good hands," replied Rosabel. "Partake of this, and you will feel better."

She extended to him a cup of wine, which he drank at a draught; and very soon after wards he sat up and gazed curiously upoh his nurses.

"Ans I dead?" he muttered, "or de angels inhabit these mountains? What has happened? How is it tast I am here?"

You aliuned and fell unon the rocks.

overheard de Castro and Ludovico talking on that very subject. They spoke particularly of the youthful count, Theedore; and I know that they were troubled exceedingly. Ha!"

"What is it?"

"What is it?"

"Mercy!"

"Mercy!!

"Mercy!"

"Mercy!"

"Mercy!"

"Mercy!!

"Mercy!!

"Mercy!!

"Mercy!!

"Mercy!!

"Mercy!!

"M

accident, all would have gone as I had planned."

"Aye, Marco, I admit more than that," oried the knight, who was touched by his host's keen disappointment. "If all had been done as you ordered, this thing might not have happened. The blame must rest upon me. I ought not to have left the females alone in the cave. But it is too late to think of these things. I must go to Milan."

"Can you do anything, when once there, commensurate with the risk you run?"

"Yes-yes," exclaimed the knight, striding across the floor. "I can die in a true cause. That is something. But I think I can do more. I have friends in Milan. I believe I can stir up a rebellion that shall shake the ducal throne! Marco—I go to Milan?"

"But not now, sir. If you must go, had

CHAPTER XVII.

upon me. I ought not to have left the Pendison alone in the cave. But I must go to the standard of the pendison of the pendiso

ATHENS REPORTER JULY 24 1804

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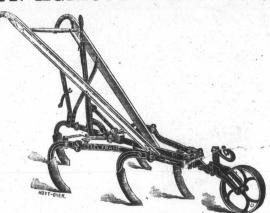
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