(Concluded.)

the thought from your second letter that you were going to weaken," said the hick-seet man.

"On, that letter was a blind," I replied, not knowing what else to may.

"Well, see that you don't weaken," said the hick-seet man.

"On, that letter was a blind," I replied, not knowing what else to may.

"Well, see that you don't weaken," said first speaker, "failess you want the root of your head blown off."

This was reasuring. I hastily resolved seet to weaken, and said as mach.

The thick-set man thes leading the way, we crossed the street, climbed the fense at the coord of the lot, and lay down in the grape-arbor. I was given a long blicks mank, which I put on. The others maked likewise. From the conversation which ensued I learned that I—in the person of Preston—had arranged the catch on the shutier of one of the windows so that I tould be operated from the outside. My most paper.

We lay in the arbor for something over in hour I swa soys ettl. I sould distinguish five separate snores in she and in three leafs, and the said of the party arose and led the way to the port. I was given a way to the port in the catcher of the lot, and the said of the party arose and led the way to the port of many the said of the party arose and led the way to the port of the lot, and many the many that is many the many that is many the many the many that is many the many that is many the many that is many that is many the many that is many that is many that is many the leaf of the party arose and led the way to the port of the lot, and the said of the party arose and led the way to the port of the lot, and the said of the party arose and led the way to the port of the lots. The proch was an opensate, affect of the party arose and led the way to the port of the lots. The proch was an open work affect. The pro

"Open that shutter," said the leader, when we two stood on the roof of the porch.

Now this was the point at which I had intended to be heroic. But, very much to my surprise, I was not. I proceeded very quietly and expeditiously to open that shutter. The window proved to be up, leaving a space of about twelve inches between such and sill. Through this aperture I crawled into the room in obedience to a suggestion on the part of my "pal."

I trust I shall never again in my Me feel so sneaking, low-lived, and contemptible as I did when I stood in that room. It seemed to me that I was profaning a temple.

A star of the smallest magnitude burned at the tip of the gas-jet, and by its dim light I could see that Miss Marvin had

A star of the smallest magnitude burned at the tip of the gas-jet, and by its dim light I could see that Miss Marvin had lain down on the bed without undressing and had fallen asleep so.

"Help me in," said the other thief.
He had thrust his head through the open place and was resching out one hand to grasp some means of support. With to grasp some means of support. With sudden determination I raised one foot and planted square in his face a kick in which I managed to concentrate and give expression to all my loathing for the man as well a my self-contempt and disgust at my own situation. The result was gratifying. With a muffled cry of pain the

Then I laughed; for, accidentally putting my hand to my face as I spoke, I discovered that I still were the black mask which my "pal" had given me. No wonder my facial contortions had been ineffectual. This incident at once related my equanimity and brought with it a sudden flush of something like jocularity. For a moment I felt that I could enjoy the situation and even take advantage of it.

could enjoy the situation and even take
advantage of it.

"Miss Marvin," I said, "I beg of you
not to be frightened. I dropped in partly
to do a little thieving and partly to ask
you a very important question. As I lay
concealed under the sons in the parlor this
evening I heard you remark that you were
ready to marry any man who would conceive of some original method of popping
the question. Den't you think this situation has the charm of nevelty about it;
Can you lay your head on your heart and
say there is nothing unexpected, unhackneved, spontaneous or romantic about
this form of proposal? Will you, oh will
you be mine?"

Miss Marvin looked at me with a mix-

this form of proposal? Will you, oh will you be mine?"

Miss Marvin looked at me with a mixture of expressions which it would be hopeless to attempt to analyze.

"What is your name?" she gasped.

"I am your servant Preston," said I with a low bow.

"Preston!" exclaimed Miss Marvin.

"Are you Preston?"

Then, to my great astonishment, Miss Marvin arose from the bed, calmly walked up to where I stood, took me by the ear and led me to the window.

"You great, eavedropping booby!" said she; "If I ever catch you inside this house again I'll scratch your eyes out. Now craw through that hole."

I crawled.

I was impersonating Preston, and I am gire he would have crawled had he been there.

I told my wife the last half of the story yesterday—she was already acquainted with the first half—and her only remark was that if she had suspected the identity of the pseudo-Preston the night of the house-breaking she would have retained the ear as a mement of his impudence. The energy with which she said this caused me to postpone some rather pointed gemarks about novelties in sproposition, with which I had intended to conclude my story, and the reader will have to draw the moral for himself.

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The English peers control accounts a price that will not exclude the poor from living.

great art in knowing how to fall. At 18

iny own situation. The result was gratifying. With a muffled cry of pain the burglar relied off the porch and went plunging to the ground.

The noise awake Miss Marvin, who subbed her eyes sleepily, turned over, and then sat up, looking at me at first wonderingly and then terrified. I had turned the gas up, knowing that this would frighten away the thieves as effectually as a discharge of grapeshot.

"Miss Marvin," said I, "please do not seream. Please don't."

When I said this I assumed an expression of the most tender devotion, which sould not fail, I thought, to soothe and rebasure her.

"Who are you?" she whispered, tremulously.

"Don't you know me?" I said, throwing still more tenderness into my expression.

Then I laughed; for, accidentally putting.

London Truth says of Mr. Winans, the

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