CÆSAR'S COLUMN.

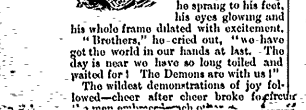
By Ignatius Donnelly

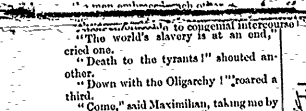
SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.—The scene of the story is laid in New York in the year 1988. The hero, Gabriel Welfenstein, a citizen of the African State of Uganda, of Saxon origin, comes to New York on business. There, by a curious series of adventures, he becomes aware of the existence of a widespread secret organization, having its ramifications in all parts of the world, and known as the "Brotherhood of Destruction," having for its object universal revolution and the overthrow of an utterly corrupt and demoralized plutocracy. Having rendered one of the chiefs of the Brotherhood, a young man named Maximilian Petioman important service, Gabriel becomes intimate with him, and joins the confidence of the leaders in the movement. He learns that a young lady named Estella Washington with whom he has fallen in love at first sight, is an inmate of the household of Prince Cabano, a Hebrew magnate of enormous wealth, one of the leaders of the clique of rich men who are the real rulers of the country. Prince Cabano had purchased Estella from a wicked and unscrupulous agent, intending to make her his mistress. Gabriel Weltstein resolves to save her, and enlisting the aid of Maximilian, gains admittance to the mansion of Prince Cabano, ostensibly in the commission of Rudolph, a member of Cabano's house hold, who belongs to the Brotherhood. But his life is formed for danger, and a scheme devised for her rescue. A meeting of the governments is held at Cabano's palace. Gabriel Weltstein being connected in some secret way so that he can see and hear all that goes forward. A spy named Stephen Andrews, a workingman who has been bribed by Prince Cabano, is introduced, who betrays to the Council what he has learned of the plans of the Brotherhood. General Quincy, commander of the forces, demands increased pay for the soldiers. The government comply, and after his withdrawal discuss the coming outbreak and lay plans for a wholesale massacre of the people. Gabriel Weltstein, who has heard all, rushes forward and pleads with them to forego their purpose. The Prince determines on having him killed, and he is detained in Rudolph's custody until an assassin arrives. He contrives to escape by Rudolph's connivance. He attends a secret conclave of the Brotherhood to report as to the plans of the government. The spy Stephen Andrews is present, and on being identified by Gabriel is put to death. General Quincey is introduced to the Brotherhood and is informed by Gabriel that the government after using him and his men to suppress the insurrection, intend to have him and other officers executed. The General makes terms with the Brotherhood and agrees to bring the *Demons*, or air ships under his command to their aid when the revolt breaks out.

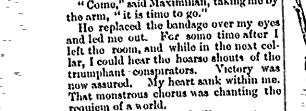
THE commander of the Demons and lieutenant of withdrew. The president sat consulting his watch, and when he was sure that they were beyond hearing, he sprang to his feet, his eyes glowing and his whole frame dilated with excitement.

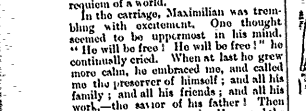
"Brothers," he cried out, "we have got the world in our hands at last. The day is near when we have so long toiled and waited for! The Demons are with us!"

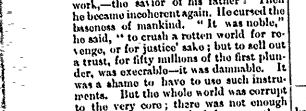
The wildest demonstrations of joy followed—cheer after cheer broke forth

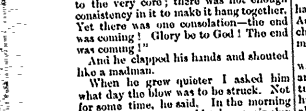


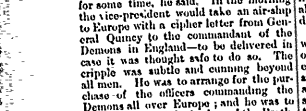


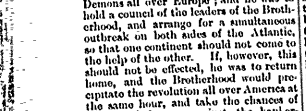


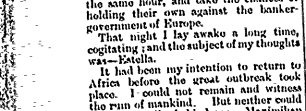


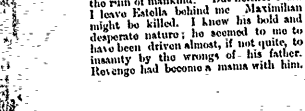




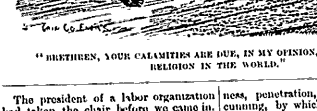


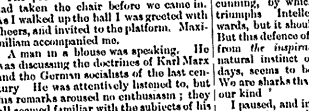


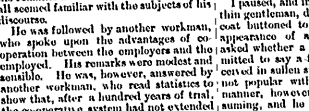


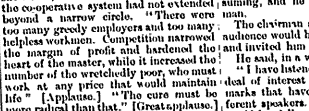


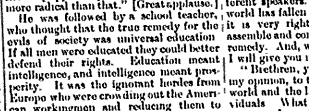
"BRETHREN, YOUR CALAMITIES ARE DUE, IN MY OPINION, TO THE LOSS OF RELIGION IN THE WORLD."

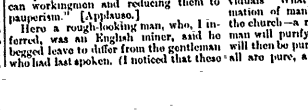












"The world's slavery is at an end," cried one.

"Death to the tyrants!" shouted another.

"Down with the Oligarchy!" roared a third.

"Come," said Maximilian, taking me by the arm, "it is time to go."

He replaced the bandage over my eyes and led me out. For some time after I left the room, and while in the next cellar, I could hear the hoarse shouts of the triumphant conspirators. Victory was now assured. My heart sank within me. That monstrous chorus was chanting the requiem of a world.

In the carriage, Maximilian was trembling with excitement. One thought seemed to be uppermost in his mind. "He will be free! He will be free!" he continually cried. When at last he grew more calm, he embraced me, and called me the preserver of himself; and all his family; and all his friends; and all his work,—the savior of his father! Then he became incoherent again. He cursed the baseness of mankind. "It was noble," he said, "to crush a rotten world for revenge, or for justice' sake; but to sell our work,—the life