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and he hears.
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and Don Zeres' hour than the great orb of the eastern house and had not taken a look before break-

"what a gloom seems to be re- seemed to sing the tops, in richer air wont. The have brighter more verdant—

the woods more y. Even the and grand, and g around the th golden hues.

ar so grand on ny had Consaburs previously, ure ? The rea- elated on this s risen an hour e, like a great sleeping away saut, and most

became absorbed y, of the happy ella his own. It be far distant, n so well. The mortgage ; now

t, and plenty of ge ceremony— tour—all were

How little he oyous anticipa ere many days started as one at he strolled ; so he retraced awaiting him.

on Zeres made. Immediately ina would pro all at Baldwin the matter, and to New York a return home

for which Baldwin was to receive the honor of completing the residue of the business. They would be three days absent, as it was a good day's drive to New York ; they would be delayed one day there, and on the other they would return. As soon as breakfast was over, Don Zeres and Consabina made a start. Twenty minutes' drive brought them to the front of Baldwin's office. Early as it was, Baldwin was there. He was never kept very busy ; still he was punctual, and during business hours you would hardly ever fail to find him at his office. On hearing the rattle of the wheels coming down the street, he rose from the desk and made for the door—always on the look-out for business. As the door opened, the buggy halted. Baldwin bowed, and saluted them.

"Hallo, Messrs. Seville ! Has the world turned upside down or what wonderful event has transpired to bring you to town so early as this ? Something remarkable indeed ! I never knew you to be in town at this hour before. It used to always be ten or later in the morning, and why (consulting his watch) it is only half past eight yet. What's up ?"

Baldwin was a quick speaker and all this language was spoken before Don Zeres or Consabina could realize that the horse was stopped.

"Nothing serious has occurred," replied Don Zeres, "on the contrary, good fortune has favored me for once in my life-time, and we have come down to receive your congratulations, and to solicit your assistance in the business line, and amongst other things in having that old difficulty the mortgage squared up."

"What ! eh !" resumed Baldwin, his eyes sparkling with eagerness, "a fortune I suppose. Some wealthy friend has died and left the old friend Don Zeres a pile. But I must not conjecture. Walk in—no person in the office, and I shall be happy to hear all, and to do all I can to assist you."

The exterior of Baldwin's office was not very attractive—the interior no more so. The building was small, and as it contained two rooms, neither of them was commodious. The one room was for business, the other for private consultation.

It was into the business department that Don Zeres and Consabina were ushered.

A large writing desk on which were a num-

ber of papers and writing utensils—an arm chair, four easy chairs, and a sofa rather the worse of the wear, composed the furniture of the apartment. On the walls hung two maps, a few posters, some business cards, an oil painting which was a life size portrait of Baldwin himself.

Baldwin was quite a young man, not exceeding thirty. Of medium height and rather slim built. He had a bushy head of jet black hair. He shaved the hair on his face all off but his moustache, which he permitted to grow to a great length. Dark heavy eyebrows, long black lashes, and a full black eye, made his glance penetrating. He had not been very successful in business as a lawyer, and the clothes he wore were rather shabby in appearance. When the trio had got seated, Don Zeres handed the letter to Baldwin as the easiest mode of acquainting him with his business. While he was reading the letter, Consabina eyed him closely, not from any suspicion he had of him, far from it ; Baldwin was held in too high estimation for that. But it seemed as if something inspired to it. He noticed a peculiar glitter in Baldwin's eyes, and a nervous twitch in the muscles of his face, as his eye had met the figures \$20,000.

"Well," commenced Baldwin, as he had finished perusing it, "I must say that I heartily congratulate you on your good luck. I only wish some of my friends would give me such a lift."

Consabina thought this linked with what he had noticed previously. However he might be mistaken.

"I suppose," resumed Baldwin, "the first steps to business is to get the check cashed. That you can do yourselves."

"The check is on one of the New York banks," said Don Zeres. "Thither we are bound, and your company is desired, if you can accommodate and oblige us so far."

Baldwin was only too ready to assent. Don Zeres was a man of means now, and he must oblige him, but at the same time with an eye to his own interests.

In a few minutes Baldwin was ready, and they started for the metropolis of America.

The sky was clear. It was a hot, sultry day, and they could not make very rapid progress. This, be it remembered, was before the days of many railroads. Baldwin was