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A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Royal Baking Powder... ABSOLUTELY PURE... Highest of all in Leavening Power...

CHRISTMAS EVE.

By ANNA KATHARINE GREEN.

It was the last house at the end of Beauchamp's row, and it stood several rods away from its nearest neighbor...

The marmored. But the words were low, and she was glad he did not hear them, for if it was his duty to obey the orders he had received...

The man gave a grunt but knowing guffaw and then resumed his watch over her, following her steps as she proceeded to set him out a meal with a persistence that reminded her of a tiger...

The man gave a grunt but knowing guffaw and then resumed his watch over her, following her steps as she proceeded to set him out a meal with a persistence that reminded her of a tiger...

At the moment of need acted as her protector. She must have fainted, but if so, her unconsciousness was but momentary...

On this evening—a memorable evening for her, the 24th of December, 1894—she had expected her husband to remain with her for that night only...



"Who is there?" she called out. "It is I, Ned," he answered, his voice low and hoarse. "I have come to see you."

"I will shut it," she replied, with a half motion of escaping this sinister stranger by a flight through the night. "But one glance into the swirling snow-storm deterred her, and making the best of the alarming situation she opened the door and looked out. It being more afraid now of what was within the house than of anything that was now likely to enter from without."

"Money, is it money you want?" was her desperate greeting. "If so, here's my purse and here are my rings and watch. Take them and go, for I have not a cent left in the house."

"Oh, Ned, you look so troubled that I know you have only come home for a hurried supper. But you cannot leave me tonight, for Tennie" (their only maid) "has gone for a holiday, and I never can stay in this house alone with her."

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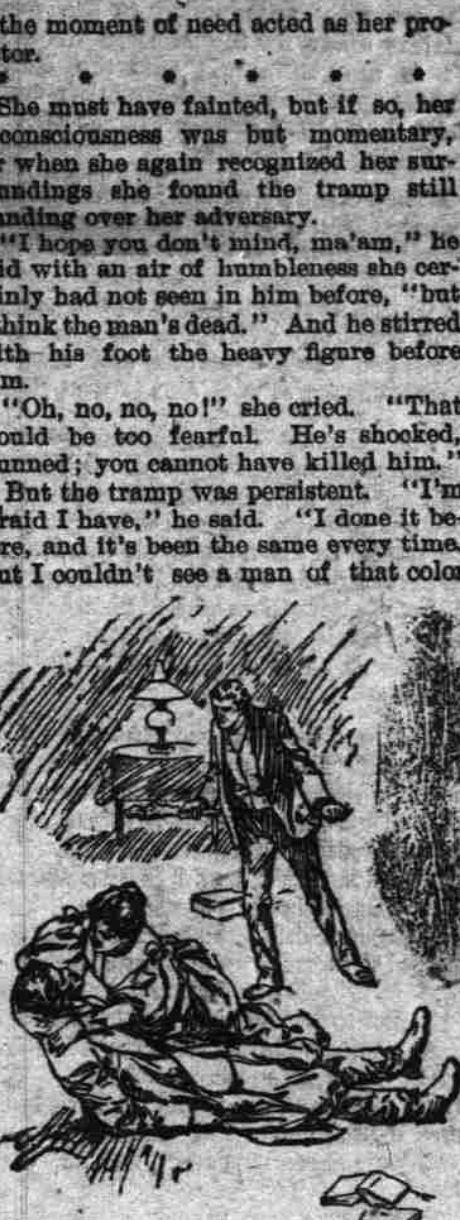
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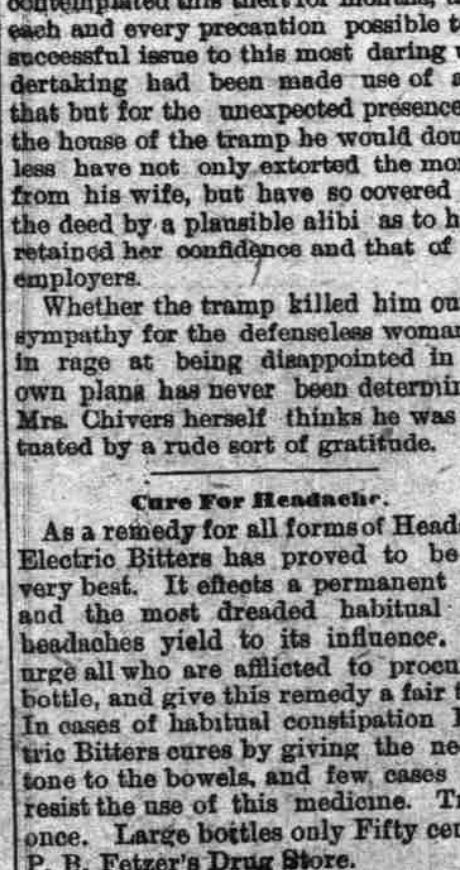
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"WATER! SHE CRIED. 'BRING WATER!'

"Water! she cried. 'Bring water!' he explained deprecatingly. 'My supper was too hot for me, ma'am. Shall I throw him outside the house?'



"WHERE'S THE MONEY?" HE DEMANDED.

"Where's the money?" he demanded, old receipts which which he had stuffed in, and seeing these he stamped with rage and flung them in one great handful at her rushed to the drawers below, emptied them, and finding nothing, attacked the bookcase.

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