## THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

## VOL XXXVI.

IMPARTING VIGOR

We Are Now Ready

## GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1910.

would upon paper give nearly the same tint with which he had "washed" the drawing of the peninsula of Hercules. nlf.

tabille very gravely. "and nothing bas been added to it save a single tear. Resides, you will see that a tear more or less in the paint cup would detract nothing from the value of my demon-

stration." Thus saying, he dipped the brush in the paint and began carefully to "wash" all the space occupied by the circle which he had previously traced. When he had finished he looked at his watch and said:

"You may see, indies and gentlement that the coating of paint which covers my circle is neither more nor less thick than that which covers the circle of M. Darsac. It is almost the

same thing-the same tint" "Undoubtedly," rejoined M. Darsac. "But what does all this signify? I was certainly in enough of an fil huwhen I found the state it was in. letting his skull roll over it." "We are there?" spoke up Roulets bille quick as a flash. And be lifted from the bureau the "oldest skull of the human race." He turned it over and showed the crimsoned jaws to

Then he arose, holding the skull in the crook of his arm, and went into

the alcove in the wall, lighted by a large window and crossed by bars which had been a loophole for cannon in the ancient times and which M. Darzac had used as a dressing room There he struck a match and lighted a lamp filled with spirits of wine which stood upon a little table. Upon

had previously filled with water. The skull still my in the crock of his arm.

CHAPTER XIX.

Two Robert Darzacs. HE more he explained the less we understood. But nowwhich came over us? Why did we all suddenly recoil with a single movement? Why were the eyes of M. Darsne wide with a new terror? Why did the Lady in Black-Arthur

Rance-I myself-utter the same syllable, a name which expired on our lips-"Larsan ?" Where had we seen him? Where had we discovered him this time, we who were gazing at itoefstabilie? Ah, that profile in the red shadow of the approaching twilight, that brow in the background of the alcove upon which the sunset rays stream as did the dawn on the mording of the crime!

Oh, that stern jaw, bespeaking an iron will, which appeared before us, not, as in the light of day, gentle though a little bitter, but evil and threatening! / How like Rouletabilie was to Larman! How in that moment

in Black in both his own as though he wished to give her courage, "he must have believed that it was your-"That, then, explains the fact that "No one has touched it," said Roule-

when I reached my door I had only to push it open. Pere Bernier believed that I was within."

"Exactly. That is good reasoning." deciared Rouletabilie, "and Pere Bernier, who had opened to Darzac No. 1. had not troubled himself about No. 2 since he did not see him any more than yourself. You certainly reached the square tower at the moment that Sainclair and myself called Beruler to the parapet to see whether he could help us in understanding the strange gesticulations of Old Bob, talking at the threshold of the Barma Grande to Mrs. Rance and Prince Galitch." "But Mere Bernier!" cried M. Dar-

e. "She had gone into her lodge. Was she not astonished to see M. Darac come in a second time when she had not seen him go out?"

"Let us suppose," replied the young reporter, with a sad smile-"let us suppose, M. Darzac, that Mere Bernier at that moment, the moment when you passed into your spartments-that is to say, when the second apparition of Dargae passed in-was occupied in picking up some of the potatoes spilled upon the floor, and we shall suppose

the truth." "Well, then, I can congratulate myself on the fact that I am still upon

earth." "Congratulate yourself, M. Darsac!

Congratulate yourself!" "When I remember that as soon as entered my room I drew the bolts as I have told you that I did, that I began to work and that this wretch was hidden behind my back. Why, he might have killed me without hin-

> Rouletabilie stepped close to D sac and fixed his eyes upon him with a look that seemed to read his soul. "Why did he not kill you, then?" he

asked. "You know very well that he was waiting for some one else," replied Dargac, turning his face sorrowfully toward the Lady in Black." Rouletabille was now so close to

Darsac that their shadows on the floor looked like that of one strangely formed being. The ind put his two hands on the older man's sho

"M. Darmer," he said, his voice again clear and strong. "I have a confession to make to you. When I began to understand how the 'body too many' had effected an entrance and when I had discovered that you did nothing to undeceive us in regard to the hour of 5 o'clock, at which we had believed-at which every one, rather, except my self believed-that you had entered the square tower, I felt that I had the right to suspect that the murderer was not the man who at 5 o'clock entered the square tower under the form of Darme. I thought, on the contrary,

"That was madness," eried Darsac.

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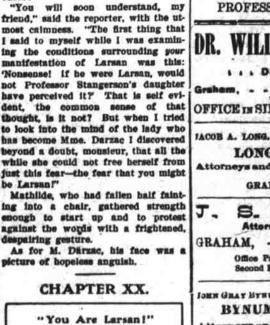
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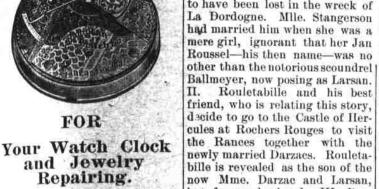
NO 7.

takes. Will Darzac, here present, per-Persia, is willing to accept the mit me to say that had a hundred Republican congressignal nomination in the ninth district. Then I thought to myself: "How un tocky that he did not mention his sus

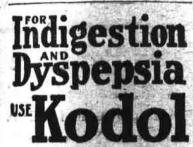
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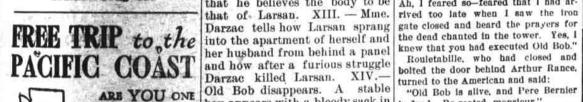
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CHAPTER I-Robert Darzac door which afforded entrance to the and Mile. Stangerson celebrate chamber of "the body too many." and. their wedding quietly in a Paris drawing from his pocket the little spechurch on April 6, 1895. Among cial key of which I have spoken, he the few present is Rouletabille, opened the door.

the reporter-detective, who has We were all astonished in entering his doubts about the alleged the rooms which had been occupied his doubts about the alleged death of Larsan, the government M. Darzac's desk the drawing board. secret service official who is said the wash drawing upon which our to have been lost in the wreck of friend had worked at the side of Old La Dordogne. Mlle. Stangerson Bob in the latter's workshop in the had married him when she was a Court of the Bold and also the little mere girl, ignorant that her Jan dish full of red paint and the tiny Roussel-his then name-was no brush drenched with the paint. And, other than the notorious scoundrel | lastly, in the middle of the desk there Ballmeyer, now posing as Larsan. was placed, appearing very much at II. Rouletabille and his best its ease, upon its bloody jaws. "the oldest skull of humanity."

Rouletabille locked and bolted the decide to go to the Castle of Hercules at Rochers Rouges to visit affected, while we listened with stupedoor and said to us, himself greatly the Rances together with the faction; newly married Darzaes. Rouleta-

"Sit down, if you please, ladies and bille is revealed as the son of the gentlemen. "You will acknowledge," began Rou-

her former husband. III-Darietabille, "that there is here around zac describes how his wife re- this table one chair too many and in ceives a severe shock at seeing consequence one person too few-to the face of Larsan in a mirrow at particularize, M. Arthur Rance, for a railway compartment. IV, V whom we cannot wait much longer." "Perhaps at this very moment my

and VI-Larsan is seen outside the castle at Rochers Rouges, and Bob's innocence," observed Mme. husband possesses the proofs of Old Rouletabille establishes guards and fortifies the place against Edith, whom all these preparations

him. VII-Old Bob, a professor, had disturbed more than any one else. exhibits what he describes as "the "I entreat Mme. Darzac to join me in oldest skull in the world". VIII Imploring these gentlemen to do nothand IX-Roulatabille traces Lar- ing until Arthur's return." The Lady in Black had no opportusan and one Brignooles on a mysnity to intervene, for before Mme. terious journey. At a luncheon Edith finished speaking we heard a Roulatabille and his friend realloud noise outside the door of the corize the presence of Larsan at the ridor. A knock came at the door, and

castle and are horrified. X- we heard the voice of 'Arthur Rance Rouletabille calls his friends' at- begging us to open immediately. He tention to the haunting odor of cried: the perfume used by "the Lady "I have brought the pin with the

in Black," Mme. Darzac. XI-A ruby head!" Rouletabille opened the door. mysterious pistol shot is heard in "Arthur Rance, you are come then the night. XII.-Darzac and Pere at last!" he exclaimed. Bernier, a servant of Rance's in

Edith's husband seemed plunged in the deepest melancholy.

the dead of night are seen to carry off a quivering body in a bloody "What have you to tell me? What potato sack. Rouletabille admits that he believes the body to be Ah, I feared so-feared that I had arthat of Larsan. XIII. - Mme. rived too late when I saw the iron Darzac tells how Larsan sprang gate closed and heard the prayers for into the apartment of herself and the dead chanted in the tower. Yes, I her husband from behind a panel knew that you had executed Old Bob."

Did Bob disappears. A stable turned to the American and said: "Old Bob is alive, and Pere Bernie

"I am sure of it," Rouletabille re plied gravely. There was an awful silence, during which none of us dared look at each

"that Larsan is now among us?"

other. "I am sure of it, and there is no rea son why the idea should surprise you, madame, since it has not for a moment left your own mind. As to the rest of us, is it not true, gentlemen. that the idea has occurred to each one of us at the same moment on the Old Bob had ruined my drawing by day when we took luncheon on the

Terrace of the Bold when all our eyes were hidden by the black glasses? If except Mrs. Rance, who is there among us that did not feel the presence of Larsan at that time?" "That is a question which ought to Darmac.

be propounded to Professor Stangerson as well as to the rest of us." in terposed Arthur Rance instantly, "for from the moment when we begin any course of reasoning along these lines I can see no object in not having the professor, who was at the table at luncheon with us on that day, here at

this time also." "Mr. Rance!" cried the Lady in Black,

"Yes, I must repeat it, if you will pardon me," replied Edith's husband haughtily. "M. Rouletabille was wrong to generalize when he said, 'All the

nembers of the house party' "Professor Stangerson is so far rom us in spirit that I have no need of his presence here. Although Proessor Stangerson had lived with us

in the chateau, he was not one of us in regard to feeling the presence of Larsan on that day. And Larsan is ere among us."

But I launched out, and, forgetting that I had promised Mme. Edith to defend Old Bob, I started in to attack him for the pleasure of proving Rouletabille in the wrong, and, besides, I felt Edith would not bear rancor

against me for very long. "Old Bob," I began, "was also at that luncheon on the terrace, and you take him entirely out of your calculations on account of this little ruby pin. But of what use is this little pin

has happened? Some new misfortune? to prove to us that Old Bob was rowed away by Tullio, who waited for him at the orifice of a gallery leading from the shaft to the sea, it we cannot discover how Old Bob could, as he said, have gone by way of the shaft, which we found closed from above and on the outside?"

"Which you found closed, you returned Roul

this lamp he set a little pot which he drance!"

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Mrs. M. W. Christenbury, whose husband was kill by the sutomobile of Jeremiah Guff, of letabilie, with the from the funereal Charlotte, on the public road in Mecklenburg county recently, will bring suit for damages.

boy appears with a bloody sack in is dead. Be seated, monsteur." which the body was carried Rance stared at the speaker lo away. XV-Rouletabille's friend amazement, then looked in consternasuspects that Darzac is really tion at the drawing board, the dish of Larsan in disguise, but Darzac paint and the bloody skull and deconvinces him of being mistaken manded: by showing him a peculiar birth-

mark known to mark Darzac. XVI-Pere Bernier falls dead near several people with a gaping the Lady in Black. wound in his breast. As he falls he exclaims "Frederic Larsan"! "That will be a very easy thing to

and 1 turned my back upon him. But at the same moment the officers coming out of the castle called to us. The inquest was at an end. There was no doubt, in their eyes, after the

declaration of the doctors, that the affair had been an accident, and that was the verdict which they felt obliged to render. Darzac and Rouletabille accompanied them to the outer gate. As 1 stood leaning on my elbows at the window I suddenly heard a sound which fell upon the evening air like the blow of an immense gong, and I knew that it was Rouletabille who had

ordered the iron gates to be closed. Not a single minute passed after that when I saw Mme. Edith rush into the room and hurry to me as though 1 were her only refuge.

Then I saw Darzac appear, then Rouensity be seen that she was making a powerful effort to hide the horror which, in spite of all, plerced through her troubled glance and to hide from us the emotion which made her cling feveriship to the arm of her young ompanion. Darzac, too, had the somber and resolute mich of a judge. But that which most of all added to our surprise and affright was the entrance of Pere Jacques, Walter and Mattoni into the square tower. All three were

armed with muskets and placed themselves in slience before the door, where they stood with military precision while they received from the lips of Rouletabilie the order to let no person go out from the old chateau. Edith was overwhelmed with terror and demanded of Mattoni and Walter, both of whom were greatly attached to her,

that their presence signified and what their weapons threatened; but, to my great astonishment, they returned no answer. Then the little woman rushed to the door which gave access to Old Bob's room, and, extending her two

arms across the threshold as if to bar the passage, she cried: "What are you going to do? You

do not mean to kill him?" "No, madame," replied Rouletabille gravely. "We are going to judge him. And in order to be sure that the judges shall not be executioners we are all going to swear upon the body of Pere Bernier after having laid down our arms that each of us will keep guard

And he led us into the chamber over where Mere Bernler coutinued to groan beside the bier of her spouse. There we laid aside our revolvers and took the oath which Rouletabille ex-

The oath having been taken, Ronacted .letabilie, with the Lady in Binck still

nean,'

"Who killed him?" Then, condescending to notice that his wife was there, he pressed her

hand, but his eyes were fixed upon "Before his death Bernier accused Frederic Larsan," answered M. Dar-

gac. "Do you mean to say by that that promise," I replied, foolishly irritated, he accused Old Bob?" interrupted Rance indignantly. "I will not suffer that. I, too, had some doubts in regard to the personality of our beloved

uncle, but I tell you that I have the ruby headed pin."

CHAPTER XVIII. Larsan Is Now Among Us!

TAT was Rance talking about had snatched one from her hand when she had playfully pricked him with

it on the night of the drama of the square tower. But what relaletabille, and leaning on his arm was tion could there be between this pin the Lady in Black. It could now very and the adventure of Old Bob? Bance did not wait for us to ask him, but burried on to tell -us that this little pin had disappeared at the same time as Old Bob and that he had found it in the possession of "the hangman of the sea," fastening a sheaf of banknotes which the old uncle had paid him on that fated night for his complicity and his silence in having brought him in the fisher boat to the grotto of Romeo and Juliet, and Rance told us, moreover, that Tullio had with drawn from the spot at dawn, greatly disquieted at the nonappearance of his passenger. Bance concluded triam-

"A man who gives a ruby pin to an-other man in a boat cannot be at the phantly: same moment tied up in a potate moth in the square tower.

Upon which Mrs. Rance inquired: "What gave you the idea of going to San Remo? Did you know that Tullio

was to be found there?" "I received an anonymous letter forming me of his whereabouts." "It was I who sent it to you," said Rouletabilie tranquiliy, and then, turn-

ing to the rest of us, be said in frigid "Ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate myself upon the prompt return of M. Arthur Rance. At the present mo-ment there are reunited around this

table all the members of the house party of the Chatesu of Hercules for whom my corporeal demonstration of the possibility of the 'body too many' may have some interest. I entrest you to give me your undivided attention." the possib

wick movement.

find Larsan The Lady in Black, who had

his eyes upon me with a strange expression, which somehow embarrassed me. "I, on the contrary, found the shaft open. But I had had time to

rup to the shaft and find out that it had been opened." "And to close it again!" I cried. "And why did you close it? Whom fid you wish to deceive?"

"Yau, monsieur." He pronounced these two words with contempt so crushing that the blood

rushed to my face. I arose. Every eye was turned upon me, and as 1 re membered the rudeness with which Rouletabille had treated me a little while ago before Darsac I had the horrible feeling that every eye was

suspecting me-accusing me. Yes; I felt myself entirely wrapped around by the atrocious fancy in the mind of each and all that I might be Larsan I! Larsan!

I looked at each one in turn. "Rouletabille," I cried madly, feeling my voice almost smothered in my

pect"-

At this moment a pistol shot soun ed outside, very near to the square I remembered that Mme. Edith tower. We all leaped to our feet, rehad told us that Old Bob membering the order given by the reporter to the three servants to fire upon any one who should attempt to go out of the square tower. Edith uttered a cry and tried to run out of the room, but itouietabille, who had not made so much as a gesture, caimed he with a word.

"If any one had drawn upon him," he said, "the three men would have fired together. That pistol shot was merely a signal-a direction for me to begin.

Turning to me, he continued:

"M. Sainclair, you ought to know that I never suspect any person or anything without previously having satisfied myself upon the 'ground of pure reason.' Larsan is here among us, and the power of pure reason is going to show him to you. So be seat ed again, if you please, and do not take your eyes from me, for I am go ing to begin on this paper the corporeal demonstration of the possibility

ty of the body too many." First of all, he investigated to make ture that the bolts of the door behind him were closely drawn; then, return ing to the table, he took up a com

"I have the intention of making my "I have the interior of managed demonstration." he said, "slong the name lines on which the body too many' has produced itself. It will be thereby only the more irrefutable." And with his compass he took upon M. Darmac's drawing the measure of the solution of the circle which repre-

the radius of the circle which repre-sented the space occupied by the Tow-er of the Bold, so that he was immedistely afterward able to trace the same circle upon a piece of white pa-per which he had fastened with copper banded nails to another drawing

When the circle was traced Bo bile, putting down his compass, pick-mick movement. "What do you mean by that?" "I mean," deciared Bouletabille, "all hose simong whom we may hope to best of his belief, it was the same paint which he had mixed for his

The Lady in Biasce, who use a void this time not uttered a word, arose trembling to her feet. "Do you mean," she breathed, her "Do you mean," she breathed, her pin the bottom of the dish; but, ac-eres filed with agonized apprehension, cording to the opigiou sincessed by

Larsan's very self! Another transformation. At a moas

from his mother Rouletabille came ou of his fupereal frame and appea before us as a bandit, and as he bur

ried toward us he was Rouletabilis once more. Mme. Edith, who had never seen Larsan, could not understand. She whispered to me, "What h going on ?"

Rouletabille was there before u with his hot water in the casesvole, a napkin and his shell. And he washed the shull. It was soon done. The paint disappeared. He made us beer witness to the fact. He stood in mute witness to the fact. He stood in more contemplation before his own drawing for tan minutes, desing which its had by a sign ordered us to keep ellence. Buddenly he select the skull in hi. right hand and tossel it about so that it rolled over the drawing. Then he showed us the skull and balls us no tice that it bore no tritle of red paint. Yes; I

throat. "You do not, you cannot sue

Bouletabille draw out his wates agein. "The paint has dried upon the plan," he said. "It has taken a quarter of an hour to dry. Upon the lith of April we new at 5 o'clock in the afternoon We new at b occose in the attornoon Darsac sutering the square tower and coming from out of down. But Darsac after having entered the square tower and after having Instead behind him the boits of his deor, as he tells us, had not gone out again until we came to fetch him after 6 o'clock. As to Old Bob, we had seen him enter the square tower at 6 o'clock, and there was no paint on this skull then.

"How was this paint, which has taken only a quarter of an hour to dry upon this plan, fresh euorgh still-more than an nour after Darme had left it-to stain Old Bob's shull when

the savant, with a movement of anget, threw it down of the pinn as he de-sered the round tower? There is only one explanation of this, and i defy you to find another, and that is that the Bobert Dariac who entered the equare tower at 5 o'clock and whom no one had seen point out again was not the same as the one who came to paint in the round tower before the arrival of Old Slob at 6 o'clock and whom we found in the room in the

square tower without having seen high out. Is one word, he was not th same man as the M. Darmac here presout before us. The tes fimony of pure reason shows that there are two per-

sonalities appending in the guine of Robert Durane." And Houletabilie ternid his aver full pon the man whose same he had nt-

Darane, like all the rest of te, Darmac, may all the runt of w, was under the spell of the luminous dem-construction of the young reporter. We were all divided between a new hor-ror and a boundless admiration. Here again we found the mark of his pro-digious and legioni mathematical in-fellignore. Darmae crited out:

"It was thus, then, that he was able to enter the square tower under a dis guise which made him without dealy any very image, it was thus that is was shie to him builted the panel is was shie to him builted the panel is much a way that i did not see him myself when I came have to write my letters after quitting the Towne of the Bold, where I left my drawing. Built how could Fure Bernher have opened to him?"

who led taken

"If I did not tell you the exact at which I entered the square tower it was because the time was somewhat vague in my own mind and I did not

ttach any importance to it." "In such a manner, M. Darsac," continued Rouletabilie without paying any attention to the interruptions of his nteriocutor, the emotion of the Lady in Black and our attitude, more than ever filled with terror-"in such a manner as that you could have stolen away the true Darmac when he came from outside and by your own careful-Lady in Black could have taken his place and have been perfectly able to dery detection of your audactous en-terprise. This was my imagination-only my imagination, Darsac. Don't jet is disturb you. But in such a manner as this I had thought that, you being Lersan, the man who was put in the sack was Darsac. Ah, the fancies

that I have had and the uncleas suspi "Bab?" responded Mathilde's hus-

hand gloomily. "We are all suspicious

Rouletsbille began speaking again. "You see, Darme, there are two tations of Robert Darane. To know which was the true one and which was the one which formed a guise for Larean my duty. Darmacthat which the power of pure reaso showed me-was to examine without fear or represch both of these man as in all Impartiality. Thus

egin with you-Darsac." Darsac replied: "It does not matter since you suspeet me no longer. But you must tell me immediately who is Larsan. 1 insist upon it-i demand it?"

"We all demand it-and at one we all cried, turning upon both of them. Mathide rushed up to her child and pinced herself in front of bins as if to protect him. We fell the pathos of her stillude, but the scene had endured too how and we were had endured too long, and we were beyond the limits of patience. "If he knows who is Larsan let him

speak out and make an end of this! exclaimed Arthur Bance.

And enddenly, just as the thought crossed my mind that I had beard the same cries of anger and impatience two years before at the court of an sizes, another pistol shot sounded out-side the door of the square tower, and we were all so seized with conon that our anger fell away in a moment and we found curselves not investening Rouletabile, but entrest-ing him to put un end as soon as pos-this to this intelerable situation.

As noon as the second shot was beerd the countemance of Rouletabilic thenged completely. His face seemed manuformed, and his whole being apribeate with a savage

ing aside the half bantering man Laying and the the half bantering main-ner which so had need toward M. Darmac and which we had all found activately disagreeshie, he gently re-leased himself from the class of the Lady in Black, who still clung to him, walked toward the door, folded his arms and said:

"Too see, my friends, in an affair The this it does not do to neglect any point. There were two manifeste-tions of Robert Darme which entered the square towar. There were into manifestations which came out, and tons of these was in the sec

CONTENTABILLE, still merciless, continued:

"When I recall all the acts of Mme. Darzac after your re-

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excuses for suspecting him?"

about the map of Australia."

inaudible from anger:

cuses ?"

picions to me! I would have told him

Darmac strode across the room and

planted himself in front of the young

reporter and said in a tone nearly

turn from San Remo I can see now in everything must be experienced from her fear that she should allow the secret to everything must be explained, here and now if there is to be peace in the fu-ture! We are about to clear up the sit. ture! We are about to clear up the sit-pation. There was nothing natural or

the railroad station, monsieur, she lived in the most utter misery. She was already crying for help-for help against perself, against her thoughts and per haps even against you. But she dared not reveal her thought to any person. because she dreaded that any couff-

dant might say to her"-And Rouletabille leaned over and said in M. Darzac's ear, not so low that I could not bear, but so softly that the words did not reach Mathilde, "Are you going mad again?" Then, lifting his head again, he con-

tinued: "You ought to understand everything better now, my dear M. Darzac, both the strange coldness with which you were treated occasionally and also the fits of remorseful tenderness which in the doubt which filled ber brain would impel Mme. Darzac to surround you with every evidence of attention and affection. I have fancied that you must have discovered that whenever Mme. Darmac looked at you she could not in spite of berself chase from her mind the image of Larsan, and consequently it was not the belief that she would have known it which removed my suspictions, since in spite of her-self she entertained the fear all the while that you and Larsan were one

No, no: my suspicions were remo ther cause." by and "They might have been removed," sciaimed M. Daranc at once ironically and despatringly-"they might hav been removed by the simple course of reasoning that if I had been Larsan having her for my wife, I would have bad every cause for making her believe in Larsan's death. And I would have pever resuscitated mygelf. Was it not upon the day that Larsan returned to worth that I lost Mathilde ?"

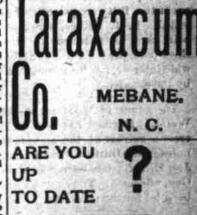
"Pardon, monsieur, pardon!" replied white as a sheet. "You are abandon-ing now, if I may say so, the directions of pure reason. The facts which you mentioned show us just the contrary of that which you believe we should when one has a wife who believes or

when one has a wife who believes or who comes very near to believing that one is Larann one has every interest in showing besihnt Larann axists out-side of oneseiff" As Rouletabilie uttered these words the Lady in Black, supporting herself. by groping with her hands against the wall as she walked, came stam-blingly to the side of Rouletabilie and ingly to the side of Rouletabille and

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