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OR THE SEARCH FOR THE BIGGEST DIAMOND IN THE WORLD. *** ** By FRANK BARRETT. ** *****

better."

CHAPTER V.

When I met Sir Edmund in the morning I told him that my partners had agreed with me to alter the clause in the agreement, though we had not yet decided in what manner.

"I am glad to hear it," he said: "anything will be better than that agreenent as it stands." Edith came down late to breakfast.

she looked pale, and said sue had werslept herself.

she paused as if to collect her

houghts, and then said: 41 was nearly asleep when I noticed · sound coming from the window. It was as if some one were rapping upon he glass-not loudly or quickly, but softly, as though with the tip of the inger, and at intervals. I might have counted twenty or fairly between one sap and the next. I took little notice if it at first, thinking as I had left the window partly open, it might be he wind moving the Venetian blind; rat, after a while, the persistent tapap-tap irritated me. I rose and lit t candle, then I went to the window. the lattice was just as I had left it The blind hung perfectly motionless. I drew it up and looked out. . There was a gray mist everywhere. Not a reach of air stirred; the flame of the ridle burned as steadily as though he window had been closed. I let

the sligh' st sound "A moth on the ceiling," said Sir Edmund; "they have worried me in the same manner. Then you get a light and the thing steps."

jown the blird and listened; there was

"It was not like the beat of a moth's wing. It was like nothing but the touch of a human finger. But I tried to think it was an insect in the wallwatch.' And I did my best to take no | ne said. totice of it, but I could not help hearmg it; and after a time I grew frightmed, and the sound grew dreadful to my cars. It became unedurable; I gold not lie there listening pensively. I got up again and struck a match. The wick of the candle was slow to light, and during those moments I nofieed the sound had ceased. As I say, I was frightened-very frightened. And the unbroken silence seemed more terrible than the sound. There was something ghostly and supernataral about it that brought the old terger I used to feel as a child in passing Froom that is said to be haunted at aight. And just then the clock in the belfry struck. I dared not go to the window. My hand trembled so that I could not take up the candle, but I looked toward the window. The first Using that struck me was that the atis of the blind, instead of lying flat, ve they generally do, when down, and as I had left them, were opened and turned edgeway-do you know how I mean?

She held her hands, that trembled with the recollection of her terror, one leve the other horizontally.

"But the next thing," she continued, and then stopped, with a little shudder, while we who listened held our theath-"the next thing I saw was two great black eyes that caught the ight from my candle as they glaced left?" in between the lower laths of the

"I think I fainted-I must have done so, for I was conscious of nothing after that, until I found myself upon the tloor. The light was still burning upon the table. As recollection returned to ine, I looked toward the window. The aths were no longer open, but turned Dat. Then it occurred to me that all I had seen was merely imaginativethat it was merely a realistic dreamthat I had gone through these experiences in my sleep. My great terror was gone. I went without fear to the window to ascertain if the night was as I had seen it. There was the gray mist; the flame of the candle did not | ls: flicker. Nevertheless, when I looked fown and saw how impossible it was for any one to have stood outside the window, I felt convinced that at least the vision of the two eyes was imaginary-an outcome of the fear I felt when I looked toward the window. I lay downl again, and though I could not sleep for some time, I heard no further sound whatever, save the chiming of the clock."

tear?"

"I bad no fear when I first went to the window. The sound was a reality. It is that I wish explained." "Do you know what time it was when the tapping first began, Miss

Lascelles?" Van Hoeck asked. "It was a quarter to one by my

watch when I recovered from the

"May I ask, miss, without offense, if a thing o' this kind hes ever happened to you afore?" asked the Judge. "As a child I was timid, but I can-

not remember ever being so frightened." "You don't look as if a trifle would keer you. I will allow; and, rising from his chair, the Judge added: "If you'll excuse me, I'll go and prospect the place straight off, for I'm lords to say it looks to me like as if the Kid had been taking a hand in this game."

"By all means," sail the Baronet: "the sooner the truth is discovered, the

We all went out on to the lawn which faced that part of the building in which Edith's room was situated. On the way Van Hoeck, who had taken my arm for guidance, gripped

it tightly and whispered: "What did I tell you? This is the beginning of the end!"

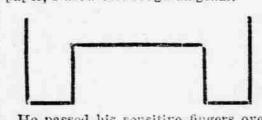
CHAPTER VI.

It is necessary for the reader to know what kind of building Monken Abbey was, and something of the disposition of its rooms, in order to follow clearly the action of the drama that took place within its walls. I can do no better than to give the description by which I braught the facts home to the comprehension of my blind partner.

"Tell me what you see, Thorne," he said, as we stood on the lawn, "An old Gothic building, flanked by two later additions in the Tudor style,

that project beyond it." "I don't understand" he said, impatiently; "can't you make it clearer to is."

I had a notebook in my pocket; pressing the metallic pencil hard upon the paper, I drew this rough diagram:



He passed his sensitive fingers over the impression. The two end blocks are the additions

you speak of, the space between them the insect that is called the 'death | the old part. I understand. Go on,'

"Seven or eight feet at least." "And the wall between is perfectly

"There is a stone molding running along parallel with the floor of the first story and the base of the oriel." "Why didn't you tell me that?" he asked sharply.

"Because it is perfectly impossible for any one to walk along it." "What width has it?"

"A few luches. It seems to be merely a sidne gutter to carry off the water from the oriel."

"Is there no try on the house-noth-

ing to catch hold e??" "There is no ivy, but there is a pine midway between the bay and the oriel; it descends from the gable to the

"What! and you tell me it is impossince to get from the bay to the window!"

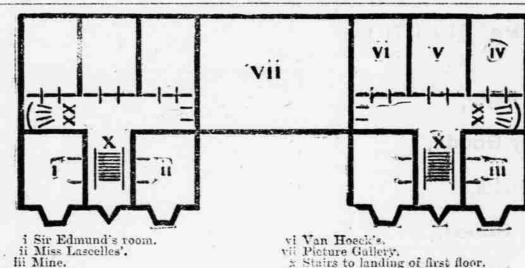
"I still mean what I said. The gutter is so narrow that no one, even facing the wall closely, could stand on it and maintain a centre of gravity." "But with the aid of the pipe?"

"The pipe is four feet from the bay and four feet from the oriel. Now, suppose Lola, for I know whom you suspect, got from the window in the bay she would have to advance holding to the mullion of the window for support, and with one hand only, until the other could touch the pipe, a span

of four feet." "Four feet; that is not impossible. unless the girl is short limbed." "It is impossible, if in holding to the mullion or the pipe the girl had to

support part of her own weight," -"Let us go up and measure the width of the ledge," said Van Hoeck; "it may appear from below less than it

We went up to my bedroom in the right block, which, as I have said. corresonded in every external respect to the block on the left; and from the oriel I measured the width of the stone ledge outside. Van Hoeck's supposition was just; it was wider than I expected, measuring a trifle less than my span, which is nine inches. Van Hoeck placed himself flat against a wall, and turning out his toes until he obtained the limit of width upon which he could sustain his equilibrium, bade me measure the distance between his 'ieel and the wall. I found it was fully three inches within my span. and was astonished to perceive upon "The great door is in the centre c how narrow a space one may stand



side, the library on the other. The floor above is occupied by the picture gallery. It has a gable roof, and the belfry rises from the middle. The block on the right and that on the left are alike. The ground floor is divided into drawing rooms, sliting rooms, kit-"Where are the dairy and the door

that is left open at night for the Kid?" "At the back of the house, It cannot be seen from here."

"Is that in the right block or the

"In the right; the kitchen is in the left. On the first floor are the principal bedrooms; the servants' are above. Our rooms are in the right block, Sir Edmund's and Miss Lascelles' are in

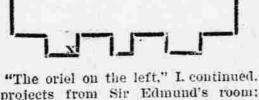
the left." "What means of communication are there? For instance, how could Sir Edmund get to your room?"

"By simply passing through the picture gallery."

"I understand; go on."

"There are two ories windows and a bay in the end of the left block facing us as we stand here."

I drew another diagram to explain the wondows to Van Hoeck. Here it



"projects from Sir Edmund's room; that on the right from Miss Lascelles'. There are stone mullions at the angles of the oriel and lattice windows be-"Is it not very probable, my dear." | tween, hung inside with Venetian said the baronet, "that the sound you | blinds. I have marked a cross where speak of was also the outcome of Miss Lascelle saw the eyes looking through. The oriels are supported by corbels. They are perfectly inaccessible from the ground except by a ladder."

"But from the story above?" "There are no windows over the orlel. The only means of descent would be by a rope from the roof."

"Are there any other means of getting at the window?" "None whatever that any human being could use."

"What is this projection between the oriels?" he asked, feeling the paper. "A two-sided bay carried up from the ground to the gable, pierced with latticed windows from top to bottom. It gives light to the stairs inside."

"Do the windows open?" "Yes" "And what distance is there between he windows in the bay and Miss Las

celles' window?"

the old part, the dining-room is on one | with safety. This settled the point. Lola might well have passed along the edge with safety.

ax Stairs to upper rooms.

"Now," said Van Hoeck, "draw me a plan of the rooms, roughly and broadly, showing their relative position to the stairs, the bay, and the picture gal-

I complied with his request, marking the several points with figures, which I explained to him in the order marked

CHATTER VII.

But I was still credillous, How was the girl hiding in the woods all day to know of the existence of the ledge? It was true she Lad access to the house at night, but I doubted if it were possible for her to see the ledge in the lark even from the bay window. But idmitting the possibility, would she risk her life for no purpose but to darm Miss Lascelles? There was too nuch strength in Lola's character for such a senseless and feeble device to be acceptable to her. It was not the act of a rational being, but of a mischievous or malevolent idiot.

I was laclined to believe that the explanation Miss Lascelles had offered was a just one, and that what she had seen was purely imaginative and the result of fear, inspired by those mysterious sounds which might ye. be explained.

This was not Van Hoeck's opinion, nor was it Brace's. "I will not say the kid has done it." he said: "there's no sayin' what greaser blood will not do. For the sake of argyment, we will say she did, but I ondertake she shall not play the same bower twice, if her father's persuasion counts for anythin';" and he went off at once to search for

Lalo in the wood. When we were alone, Van Hoeck

"Ask Sir Edmund; he will tell you. as he told me, that Brace was in the woods yesterday while you were philandering with Miss Lascelles, What was he there for but to find his daughter and employ her in working out this plot?"

"Good heavens." I exclaimed, losing my temper; "what notion have you got hold of now? Last night you suspected Sir Edmund-"

To be continued.

KITTY LOST. Miss Maybelle McGree, who was lat, By accident sat on the cat; Said she: "Hear poor Kitty! Dear Puss, what a pity! I wonder where she can be at?"

-Denver Post.



spring equinox.

BY D. CRESP

or "And hath appeared unto Simon!"

we rejoice at the | changed eggs in springtime, as a sym-Easter season, our bol of re-creation. The Christians throught is centered adopted this custom but modified it. on its significance to They dyed their eggs red to signify us-the Resurrection that while there was a re-creation, inof the Saviour. In deed, it was secured only through the contemplating the Blood of the Lamb. To-day, when we beauty of this basis exchange eggs of all colors, all sizes of Christianity we and with all sorts of wonders hidden in seldom recall the them, we have lost sight of their sigfact that a festival | nificance to the first Christians.

at this season ante- When the missionaries of the Cross dated the birth of advanced to the countries of Northern our Faith; that the Europe; they found that here the peoancient peoples, both ! ple had a joyous feast day about the Hebrews and Gen- time of the Resurrection, in honor of tiles, celebrated a Eostra, the goddess of springtime. joyous normay about the time of the When they converted these nations they still kept the festival, interpreting Christ's own race had kept the Pass- it to be now in honor of the God of ali over during the month of Nisan-the seasons. However, we still have a refirst month of the natural year-ever membrance of the pagan goddess. since the Lord had spared their chil- Eostra, in our English title, Easter.

dren and their possessions when He | Throughout the carly Christian the old pagans cherished. With the slew the first-born of both man and world, Easter was the greatest feast in story of the Great Sacrifice for our beast in old Egypt. Christ Himself the calendar, and it soon came to be sakes, added to the instinctive joyous-

cycle always has a fraction of a day tacked on its end, and so a skilled mathematician is necessary to foretell the correct date of her changes. However, if an expert calculate the recur rence of her phases, the rest of us ordinary people, by following the Nicean rule, can find the date of Easter for Even if we had no exact date, we



Consider the lily, how she grows; She toils not, neither does she spin; Yet Solomon with all his clothes Was not arrayed like Evelyn.

throw difficulties in our way. Her



HUNT

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the Chatham Record,

RATES OF ADVERTISING.



Some Fascinating Easter Eggs. MARGARET MEREDITH.

Easter eggs were a great thing with us little girls in Virginia. I do not remember whether there was any talk. of new Easter clothes; but then that would have been, in our eyes, a small matter in compatison.

The prettiest ones by far were dyed

with calico. Get the calico either small figured, wee sprigs of fowers and the like, or with a flow r large enough to decorate

the whole side of the eg-A piece about four by seven inches will serve the purpose, or two pieces three and a half by four inches, larger. if the rigures require it, in order to

be well placed upon the egg. In covering, put the right side of the goods to the egg, and tack or pin the carleo tight over it, and follow this tacking with close sewing (see il-Instration), drawing the calico tight and as smooth as possible, especially where the fig. tes are, as you wish the figures to lie 3at against the egg, and whole figures, if possible, rath... than parts. Outside of these smooth. places the pleats and 'idges (resemwould probably feel the inspiration bling the spurs of a mountain range) need extra stitches and extra tightening to adjust them right. There is unlimited scope for skint. It is worth



aster eggs, showing the eggs wrapped in the calico and a ter the cloth is removed.

the sacrifice of a good many eggs as a

manual art lesson. We were advised to use calicoes which faded easily; but that was exaggerated advice: the tolerably fast dark colors succeed better. The brown, black or searlet of good fast colored prints, searcely color the egg at all, Purple seems desirable, and dark blue. Deep pink roses of en come out beautiful. A white or very light ground is generally best.

Prints not intended to be washed do well; for instance, the cheaper draperies, like thick silkaline, and the thin furniture coverings, especially oldfashioned "curtain calleo" (lately fashionable again), which has a sort of varnished glaze.

Results, however, differ so endlessly that no absolute rules can be given; and, indeed, experimenting is a great part of the interest. Flower clusters or other combinations of several colors are desirable, because when some of the colors do not "take" at all, others may come out finely and produce en excellent, though unexpected, ef-

We boiled our eggs (thus sewed in their covers) in weakened lye; but t (living in town) boil them in washing soda and water; a lump the size of a wainut to a quart or less, which boils down generally to still less. Put the eggs into the boiling mixture at any time. Only be sure that the soda is fully dissolved. Let them boll nearly half an hour. If your called is, however, of somewhat fast colors, an hour may be better. The danger is of boiling off the pictures which you have boiled on. - The fast colors will stand a good deal of boiling, getting prettler and prettier, whereas the less fast may soon begin to tade out of the egg as well as cut of the covering.

Use a spoon in handling the wet egg (soda or lye eats the skin). Hold !t a minute gently in a cloth. You cau hastly rip a space of the seam to decide whether to boil longer; but if kept the feast faithfully, and around called "The Great Day." It still holds ness of the spring, we seem to acquire eggs are plenty, and you are not very

Cut off the calico at the seam, and

The colors will seldom be the same as those of the calico; often quite different. Experimenting uses up a good many eggs, but you can hardly fall .o get some very pretty results.

Do not boil many at once in a cau if there is canger of the colors running much; and in poiling successive lots, if the solution has grown dark, make e. fresh one (half a dozen walnut sixed lumps of soqu'cost a cent).

If this is too much for the family patience, there is another entertaining way: Get some of the ready prepared egg dyes, to be used cold. Boil the eggs hard, and after they are thoroughly cooled, mark words or figures upon them with melted wax. Then dye and afterward carefully tear off the wax. Or you can seratch pictures in white lines on the plain, dark dyed eggs with

a penkuife. Several rainy spring days could be made very catertaining by these processes, and pleaty of Easter presents provided for little cousins and schoolmates.-The Householes

QUENTIN MATSYS

Conceptions Christ

Great Tragedy occurred—that the fan- the Jewish Paschal, no matter on what Chandler, in The Household. atic multitude chose to free Barabbas, day of the week this occurred; while the murderer, and to crucify the Man the church in Europe celebrated the feast as near the 14th of Nisan as pos-With the earliest Christians, the feast | sible, but always on a Sunday, because of the Passover was easily transformed they said Christ had risen on a Suninto a commemoration of the Resurrec- day. For two centuries the fathers of tion of the Redeemer. As the blood of the church argued the question, and the paschal lamb on the doorposts of then, at the Council of Nice, in 325, their forefuthers had saved them from they compromised. It was decided, the destroying angel, so now the blood first, that the 21st of March should be of the Lamb of God would deliver them accounted the vernal equinox; second, from their own destroying weaknesses, that the full moon haprening upon, or As in the past they had rejoiced over next after the 21st of March, should their escape from the bond of Egypt, be taken for the full moon of Nisau; so now they exulted in their freedom third, that the Lord's day next followfrom the eternal chains of sin. They ing the full moon should be Easter exhibited their joy to the surrounding day; and fourth, that if the full moon world. Their houses were decorated be on a Sunday, Easter day should be with greens and blossoms and their the Sunday after. It is very probable persons adorned with fresh garments | that few of us of this generation have In glad tones they uttered a new known that Easter can never occur greeting, "Christ is risen;" to which during the period of Luna's greatest was replied, "Christ is risen, indeed!" brilliancy.

With so simple a rule, it would seem Customs typical of the Resurrection that any one of us could compute the were copied from neighboring coun- exact date of Easter for years ahead. tries. The Persians had long ex- but the fact is the moon's movements

It are grouped the most dramatic inci- a unique sovereignty, for upon its time a new personal dignity. Our hearts wise, you would better not. If not. dents of His life. It was at the Pass- depend the dates of all the movable tell us that if we are worth saving our set it on the top of a vase or any supover that He astonished the doctors in feasts and fasts of the church year. lives must be worth living, and with port which win only touch it at points. the temple; it was during the annual The exact date of Easter made a genuine cheerfulness we welcome this It will dry very speedily. Waiting does gatherings for this holiday that many schism in the early church. The gladsome season when nature burst spoil run. of His miracles were performed; and churches in Asia Minor commemorated forth afresh to accompany the resurit was at this same feast that the the Resurrection on the 14th of Nisan, rection of the soul of man.-Katherine be careful not to break or scrape the

