

the possession of the diamond. Where is he now?" "With Lola, in the woods looking for

300.

"What? Already?" he exclaimed in alarm. "He is losing no time. Where are the woods?"

"We are in them now," I replied, as we had passed the cross roads.

He stopped short. Shaking off my hand, he muttered in a tone of dread: "Are you three hunting together?" "Be reasonable, Van Hoeck," I said.

"l am," he said; "leave me here." I made no reply, and we stood there in the middle of the road, he quaking with fear, and turning his head from side to side to eatch the sound that might confirm his fears. He looked like a hunted beast, that knows not which

way to escape the hounds. "What's that?" he asked, under his breath, quickly. "There's some one on the road. It's his step. If you have any mercy, save me from him."

While I was turning to look up the foad, to see if his fears were justified, he groped about until he sought hold of my arm.

I had heard no sound, but his finer sense was not at fault. On the brow of the hill-which we were now descending-stood the gaunt figure of Brace. The light of the rising sun shone upon him, but we stood in the shadow of the wood, where the mist still hung over the sodden earth.

"I do not hear him; where is he now?" Van Hoeck whispered. "He is standing on the hill, a couple

of hundred yards behind us. He does not see us." "If we could but get to the Abbey!

Forget what I said. Thorne. Have pity on me," he murmured.

"What do you want me to do?" "Lead me back to the Abbey. If I escape that man now, I may protect myself after."

I saw no possible reason for refusing compliance with this request, and taking his arm. I led him along that side of the road where the shade was deeper.

But before we had gone a dozen yards, a shrill whoop rang through the echoing woods to our right, and Van Hoeck again stopped. I looked In vain over the brake for Lola, whose cry I recognized; but, glancing up the road, I perceived that the Judge had heard the signal, and was coming after us. At the same moment Van Hoeck, starting forward, cried-

"Quick, quick-he sees us-he is coming down upon us!" and then, after another dozen yards, "do you want him to overtake us that you stick to this cursed road?"

"I am looking for a path: we cannot push through the brake," I replied. Glancing over my shoulder I saw the Judge, his shoulders bent forward, his arms swinging from side to side, bearing down upon us with long strides, and rapidly diminishing the distance between us.

"He is gaining upon us. How far are we from the Abbey?" asked Van Hoeck

weather-beaten face. "He has given me the slip; has he given it to you likewise?" he asked.

"No," I replied, "I gave it to him. I helped him to escape." "Stand up, Gentleman Thorne, and let up look each other in the face." I stood up. He held out his hand and I gave him mine.

"Now, standin' here hand in hand and face to face, say, air we the noblest works of natur' or air we not?" I could not go so far as to admit that his appearance realized my high-

est ideal of nobility, but I understood his allusion and replied: "I believe you are an honest man, if that is what you mean, Brace."

"It is; and that is my opinion likewise. Let us sit down and hold a committee. Now, pardner, will you tell me why you let Israel git?" "Because the poor wretch is half distracted with the loss of the dia-

mond and his fear of you." "Why do he fear me?" "He believes that you took the dia-

mond, and intend to have his life, in order to get the reversionary share, or

something of that kind. And now, tell me why you pursued him when you saw he wished to avoid you?" "Because he did so wish "for one thing," and, he added, with emphasis, "because he's got to speak. Israel's got to speak," he repeated, with still greater decision. "A man what has presentiments as a thing is going to be took so accurate as his'n, must nt'rally

have presentiments what's what's gone of it when it's took." Looking down the gre in alley toward the road, as we turned off from it, I

could see nothing of the Judge. I thought we had beaten him. But we advanced now with great

difficulty. There was room only for one in the path, yet I had to keep hold of Van Hoeck's hand and guide him, for the brake met before us; the trail-

ing brambles that crossed the path caught his feet; at every step he stumbled. It was hopeless to continue, Already I fancied I caught a glimpse

through the trees of the Judge swinging along the bridle way. "Your only chance is to get among the brake and throw yourself down

while I go on," I said. "I can go quicker alone, and, coming behind, he may imagine that you are still before me."

"Show me where to go." I opened a way through the brake, led him behind a thicket and bade him

lie down. As he carried out this instruction I got back into the footpath, and was then enabled to trot along at a brisk pace.

It was only just in time, for, looking back a couple of minutes later, I perceived the Judge plowing his way through brake and bramble, which came well up to the level of his breast, with as little difficulty as though it "And suppose he cannot tell you?"

"Well, then he's got to try till he do. As a jedge, I've had to try a pretty considerable number of bad lots, but

abandoned my blind partner. The Judge's notions of justice were peculiar and based upon the rough usage of California miners in the days when they made and executed their own laws. I believed him capable of ap-

manner.

plying torture, only stopping short of actual murder, to wring from Van Hoeck the secret which he believed him to hold with respect to the lost

diamond. I retraced my steps to the spot where I had helped to conceal Van Hoeck. The broken brake marked a distinct trail, and in a pit less than a hundred yards from that point the undergrowth was beaten down, as if a struggle had taken place.

Was it not possible that Brace had gone further than he intended and killed Van Hoeck? Had he concealed the body and fied with his daughter to escape the consequences of his act? Asking myself these questions, I followed a track from the pit that brought me to the bridle way. Looking for further traces of a passage through the brake, I made my way

toward the road. Again I perceived broken brake, and following the line, I threaded my way between the trees upon the slope of the hill until I emerged from the wood upon the high bank that edged the Abbey road at that part. It was nearly as possible the point where Van Hoeck had stopped me in the morning upon hearing Brace in our rear. Looking up the road, I saw the finger-post at the cross-roads; looking down, I saw that which took by breath away with amazement-Brace was trudging along

the road toward the Abbey, with Van Hoeck holding his arm on one side, and Lola his hand upon the otheran incomprehensible picture of unity, friendly assistance, and reliance.

It was true that without assistance Van Hoeck could not have found his way along the road, and very possibly that, without the restraint of her father's hand, Lola would not have walked by his side: but all doubts as to the existence of a friendly understanding between the two men was dispelled from my mind by what fol-

lowed. Arrived opposite the bridle path leading up into the wood they stopped, and consultation ensued between the two men. I could hear their voices at

ticulations that they were discussing some point; it ended by Brace going to the side of the road, and craning his neck to see if any one were in sight. I crouched down beside the thicket, which partly concealed me. When I cautiously raised my head and looked again, Brace, still standing opposite the bridle way, was drawing

his arm out of the sandy bank that there skirted the road. I ducked my head, as once more he peered to the right and left. They were gone, all three, when I looked again.

When I thought it safe to venture I went to the spot where Brace had stood. There was a rabbit hole in the ndy cutting partly hidden by the

kissed. Then, bending forward, the which the lower house will prepare Emperor clasped the hand of the met- to the speech from the throne, in ropolitan, raised it to his lips and which issue with the crown will be kissed it, the metropolitan return- joined, and succeeded in staving off ing the salutation. premature action.

The Empress, who had in the mean- . The Emperor and the Empress aftime advanced and taken their places | ter leaving the palace entered a on either side of the Emperor, greet- launch, passed down the river, boarded the sacred emblem and the repre- ed the imperial yacht Alexander and sentative of the Church in a similar returned to Peterhof.

Spoke in Firm Voice.

imperial party. There was no other His majesty rose and looked down incident. upon the wonderful scene, then delivered his message to the Russian millions. The Emperor spoke with a The scene around the Tauride Palfirm, steady voice which was heard ace was in striking contrast with that distinctly in every corner of the hall. at the Winter Palace. Each, indeed, emphasizing deliberately every word. was typical and told an eloquent Such a hush fell on the assembly story. At the Tauride Palace, tens during the reading that the snap of of thousands of people were acclaima camera shutter was sharply audiing their representatives; at the Win-

The Emperor's speech was as follows:

## The Czar's Speech.

"The supreme Providence which spectacular; in fact, they were most gave me the care of our fatherland tame in comparison with those at the moved me to call to my assistance in Winter Palace. The only genuine legislative tork elected representa- flashes of fire which showed real temtives of the people. In the expecta- per of the members of the House, tion of a brilliant future for Rus- were when Prof. Mouromsteff, who sia, I greet in your persons the best | had been elected president of the lowmen from the empire, whom I ordered | er house, invited government officials my beloved subjects to choose from and clerks to leave the hall and when Ivan Petrunkevitch, in a few eloquent among themselves.

"A difficult work lies before you. words from the rostrum, told the I trust that love for your fatherland | auditors that the first thought of the Parliament should be for those that and your earnest desire to serve it have suffered in the cause of liberty will inspire and unite you.

who now filled the prisons and whose "I shall keep inviolate the instiarms were stretched out in hope and tutions which I have granted, with confidence to the people's representathe arm assurance that you will detives. More enthusiastic cheering vote all your strength to the service than that which greeted this appeal of your country, especially to the never was heard in a political conneeds of the peasantry, which are vention in the United States. so close to my heart, and to the edu-

cation of the people, and their econ-Constitution and amnesty were the omical welfare, remembering that to keynotes of Prof. Mouromtseff' the dignity and prosperity of the speech.

State not only freedom but order Dispatches received here from al parts of Russia indicate that the opfounded upon justice is necessary. "I desire from my heart to see my ening of the Parliament was cele cople happy and hand down to my brated everywhere.

Cotton Killed in Northern Alabama.

Birmingham, Ala., Special.-A speeial from Decatur, Ala., says another heavy frost fell Wednesday night in the Tennessee river valley and that this frost and the one of Tuesday night have killed all the cotton that was up, in that section of the State. In some places the entire crop, will have to be replanted.

Frost Kills Cotton

Greenville, S. C. Special.-Effects of the recent cold have been far-reaching in this and adjoining counties. All lowland cotton has been either

ealities farmers have already gone to \$15,000 required has all been subscribwork to plow up the damaged crop ed. Among those interested and

compromise amendments.

A number of very important changes were made in the second section, including a provision restoring the imprisonment penalty of the act of 1887, and an amendment suggested by Senator McCumber imposing a penalty of fine and imprisonment against the shippers who secure rebates from transportation companies. The latter amendment was incorpo-

rated for the avowed purpose of hitting the trusts. Another amendment adopted was offered by Senator Warren. It gives the government business a preference over all other traffie in time of war. A long series ci changes also were made at the instance of the inter-State commerce commission. Many of these were verbal, and all were intended to improve the administrative features of

## Six Propositions Agreed On.

the law.

ter Palace legions of military and Conferences in the Senate which courtiers by the hundreds cheered for the Emperor. Nevertheless, the proresulted in positive agreements on six propositions to be incorporated in ceedings of the lower house were not the Allison amendment to the railroad bill were ratified by additional conferences of Senate leaders representing Republican factions. That there could be no further misunderstanding this data for the basis of the agreement was prepared and exchanged:

"The Allison amendment is to comprise six propositions:

"First-The words 'fairly remunerative' in section 4 of the bill are to be stricken out:

"Second-The words 'in its judgement' in the same section to be retained:

"Third-Jurisdiction is vested in the United States circuit court to hear and determine suits against the commission;

"Fourth-No preliminary injunction or interlocutory order is to be granted without a hearing and notice: "Fifth-The application for preliminary injunction or interlocutory decree is to be heard by three judges;

"Sixth-A direct appeal from the interlocutory order or decree to lie only to the supreme courts of the United States."

Buyin of Sheels Made Open. Shells and projectiles for the Navy Department will, after June 30, 1906, be purchased by the Bureau or Ordinance in the open market instead of, as is now the practice, in secret markets from firms engaged in the manufacture of the articles. This change ir existing conditions was brought about through the efforts of the chair-

man of the appropriation committee, Mr. Tawney, of Minnesota, who offered an amendment to the naval appropriation bill, which the House had under consideration, directing that the Secretary of the Navy should ad- ceeded its authority, and second, an vertise for proposals for shells and inquiry whether the constitutional projectiles so that all firms engaged rights of the carrier had been violatin the business of their manufacture ed.

trying to injure or defeat the bill by ingenius constitutional arguments, but that he had come to a complete disagreement with them. He made this point emphatic by repetition." The statement given out by Mr. Tillman follows:

"Senator Tillman said that on Saturday, May 5, he insisted on having from ex-Senator Chandler a written statement of the various conferences by the latter in connection with the plan of the President to control the railroad rate legislation by alliance with Democrats of the Senate, and Mr. Chandler gave him such a statement made prior to Saturday, May 12, and signed by Mr. Chadler. Mr. Tillman said that he would give out a portion of that statement relating to the interview of Mr. Chandler with the President on March 31, which had become a subject matter of dispute, but would retain the remainder for use in case of any of his statements in the Senate Saturday should be denied."

The following is the portion of Mr. Chandler's statement given out by Mr. Tillman:

"On Saturday afternoon, March 31, 1906, a friend of mine came into my office and told me of the White House conference of that day in which an understanding as to a limited court review had been reached with Senator Long and others, and he told me that the President wished to get into communication with the Democrats and would shertly ask me to come and see him. While he was talking a messenger boy arrived with a letter to me from Mr. Loeb as follows: "'The White House, Washington, March 31, 1906.

"' 'My Dear Senator Chandler :----The President requests me to say that he will be glad to have you come to the White House at S.30 o'clock tonight. Will you please let the beares know whether you can come?

" 'Very truly yours,

"WILLIAM LOEB, JR., " Secretary to the President." "Hon. W. E. Chandler, 1421 I street.' '

"I told the messenger I would be there.

"At the time and place appointed the President said to me that he wished, through me, to get into communication with Mr. Tillman, Mr. Bailey and other Democratic Senators. He stated his purpose slowly and carefully, and in exact substance his statement was this: That he had reached the conclusion that the best plan for railroad rate legislation was to expressly grant a court review, but to distinctly limit it to two points; first an inquiry whether the inter-State commerce commission had ex-

may have an opportunity to compete. "He said that he had been much

Baptist Church met. Reports were read by Hie corresponding secretary Miss A. W. Armstrong, and the treas urer, Miss E. V. Ricker, both of Maryland. The convention of the church opens Friday.

Glass Factory For Lexington.

Lexington, Special.-Lexington i to have a new industry in the shape

killed or badly injured. In many lo- been organized and the capital of

of a glass factory. A company hai

Bapitst Missionary Union Meets. Chattanooga, Tenn., Special.-The Missionary Union of the Southern

The crowds on the banks of the

river and island heartily cheered the

Parlament's First Session.