

derground passages, and consigned

guide proved a talkative fellow, and

eemed anxious to answer their many

nouiries concerning the place. The

had ordered them relegated to the

shelves of the museum. The caba-

nons, or black holes? Louis XI. built

them; the carceres duri and vade in

pace, however, dated from Saint Mau-

"And the Black Seigneur? How have

"In the petit exil; just to the left!

ritius, fourth abbot of the Mount.

you accomodated him ?"

We are going there now."

seized her. He started.

guard-house."

them to his care.

SYNOPSIS.

R I-Counters Elise, daughter whor of the Mount, has chance with a peasant boy.

APTER II-The "Mount," a small bound island, stood in a vast bay on northwestern coast of France, and with the time of Louis XVI was a gov-mt stronghold. Develops that the int boy was the son of Seigneur

PTER III-Young Desaurao deter-to secure an education and be-a spotteman: sees the governor's tor depart for Paris.

CHAPTER IV-Lady Elise returns art-

CHAPTER V-Her Ladyship dances with a strange fisherman, and a call to ims is made in an effort to capture a preterious Le Seigneur Nois.

CRAFTER VIII-Black Seigneur res-

CHAPTER X-Sanchez, the Seigneur's

CHAPTER XI-Lady Ellise has Sanche

CHAPTER XII-Seigneur and a price

CHAPTER XIII-Sanches tells Desaur-so that Lady Elise betrayed him, but is not believed. The Seigneur plans to re-lease the prisoners at the Mount. but is

CHAPTER XIV-Lady Elize pleads with her father to spare the lives of con-

CHAPTER XV-Disguised as a peasant ady Elise mingles with the people and ears some startling facts.

CHAPTER XVI-A mysterious Mounte-

CHAPTER XVII-The Mountebank is ched up after making close observations the citadel, and is afterwards sum-oned before the governor's daughter.

CHAPTER XVIII-The governor enters e room during the interview with the ountebank.

CHAPTER XIX-As a miserable bufder of the governor. CHAPTER XX-Desauras overpowers

CHAPTER XXI-The Seigneur success-

CHAPTER XXII-Jacques, the jailer, orced to tread the wheel and bring up memies of the governor. CHAPTER XXIII-The Black Seigneur eleases the prisoners, but is himself cap-

Beauvillers again visits the Mount.

CHAPTER XXV.

The Under World.

A coterie of brilliant folk soon followed in the wake of my lord, the Marquis' retinue; holy-day banners

on samesin ?" & satirical voice lates "My father hates you, and you-" "My Lady has, perhaps, a standard of her own for judging!" Unmindful of tronical incredulity, he related how she had been forced

to take refuge in the wheel-house; how, when Sanchen had seen her, alarmed she had fied blindly down the passage; walted, then hearing them all coming, at a loss what else to do had manual the shear had to do, had opened the wheel-house door; run into the store-room! What she had seen from there/ disconnectedly, also she referred to; his res-cue of the others; his remaining behind to bear the brunt-as brave an act as she knew of! Her tone became

tremulous. to hesitate and then to answer in the negative. He would leave the doors from the euter room open, and him-self await there the visitors' return. With which reassuring promise, he distributed lights; called a guards-"Who betrayed me?" -His voice, bold and scoffing, interrupted.

She answered. It was like speaking to some one in a tomb. "The soldier you bound gave the alarm." man, familiar with the intricate un-

From behind the bars came a mocking laugh. "You don't believe me?" She caught

One of the gay procession, the Lady her breath. Elise stepped slowly forward; the "Believe? Of course." "You don't!" she said, and clung tighter to the iron grating. "And l can't make you!" salle de la question? Yes, it existed;

"Why should your Ladychip want but the ancient torture devices for the to? What does it matter?" "interrogatory ordinary" and the "in-"But it does matter!" wildly, "When terrogatory extraordinary" were no longer pressed into service; the King your servant accused me that day in

the cloister I did not answer nor deny; but now-" "Your Ladyship would deny?" "That I betrayed you at Casque? Here? Yes, yes!"

"Or at the wheel-house when you called to warn the soldiers?" "You were about to---to throw your

self over!" she faltered. "And your Ladyship was apprehensive lest the Black Seigneur should escape?'

"I-am" going back!" A hand "Escape?" she cried. "It was death." touched the arm of the Marquis, last "And the alternative? My lady preof the file of visitors, and, lifting his candle, he held it so that the yellow ferred to see the outlaw taken-die like a felon on the gallows!" glimmer played on the face of the

"No; no! It was not that." Governor's Maughter. Her eyes looked "What then?" His eyes gleamed deeper; full of dread, as if the very bright; her own turned; shrank from spirit of the subterranean abode had them. A moment she strove to an-"Surely" you, Elise, are not afraid?" recess a faint light from the flicker-"I prefer "the sunlight," she said hurriedly in a low tone. "It-it is not complete the stillness, so dead the cheerful down here! No; do not call very air, the throbbings of her pulses

the guide or let the others know. I'll filled the girl with a suffocating sense return alone, and-wait for you at the of her own vitality. "I spoke to my father to try to get He, nevertheless, insisted upon acyour cell changed," she at last found companying her; but, indicating the herself irrelevantly saying; "but not distant door through which they could do nothing." had come, she professed to make light "I thank your Ladyship! But your

of objections, and when he still clung Ladyship's friends will be far away. to the point, replied with a flash of Your Ladyship may miss something spirit, sudden and passionate. It comamusing!" pelled his acquiescence: left him sur-"I did not bring them-did not wan prised for a second time that day; a little hurt, too, perhaps, for heretofore

them to come!" "No?" Her figure straightened.

"Perhaps, even, they are not aware you are here?"

"They are not, unless-" "Elise!" From afar a loud call interrupted; reverberating down the main passage, was caught up here and there. "Elise! Elise!" The whole r-world echoed to the name



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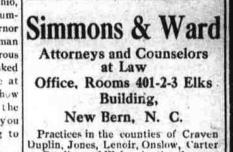
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are succeeded by holiday ribbons. the miserere of the multitude by pacans of merriment. Hymen, Io Hymen! In assuming the leading role to which circumstances now assigned her, the Governor's daughter brought to the task less energy than she had displayed on that other occasion when visitors had sojourned at the rock. Her manner was changed-first, lukewarm; then, almost indifferent; until, at length, one day she fairly waived the responsibility of planning amusements; laid before them the question: What, now, would they like to do? "Devise a play," said one.

"With shepherds and shepherdesses!

The Marquis, however, qualified the suggestion. "A masque! that is very good; but, for this morning-I have been talking with the commandantand have another proposal-"

"Which is?"

"To visit the dungeons."

"The dungeons?" My lady's face changed.

"And incidentally inspect their latest guest! Some of you heard of him when we were here before-Le Seigneur Noir-the Black Seigneur!"

"Le Seigneur Noiri" They clapped their hands. "Yes, let us see him! Nothing could be better. What do to fascinate; to draw her forward; you say, Elise?"

She started to speak, but for the instant her lips could frame no answer; with a faint, strained amile, confronted him, when some one anticipated her repdy.

"Did she not leave it to us? It is we who decide."

And a merry party they swept along, bearing her with them; up the broad 'stairway, cold, gray in the morn; beneath the abbot's bridgeblack, spying span!-to the church, and thence to the isolated space before the guard-house to the dungeons. Here, at the sound of their voices, a man, carrying a bunch of keys-but outwardly the antithesis to the hunch-

"Unless I am mistaken, the new allert" With a wave of his hand, he Marquis indicated this person. "The commandant was telling me his

Commandant was telling me his illency had engaged one-from Bi-a, or Fort l'Eveque, I believe?" licetre, my lord!" said the man-rely. "And before that, the Bas-

Ah!" laughed the nobler " inughed the nobleman. "That place some of the foolish are grumbling about! As if ald do without prisons any more without palaces! But we have my good fellow, to inspect this world of yours!" man's glance passed over the the Marguis handed him; then if he moved aside, and unlocked. oan. "That

spectrum th a daughter drawn anter ourbs; now, with face ha bood gaving off. all Burgrissd, the Marquin off.

eyes and her part

Despite, however, her avowed repugnance for that under-world, my lady showed now no haste to guit it; for scarcely had the others vanished than she stopped; began slowly to retrace her way in the direction they had taken. When the narrow route to the petit exil connected with the main aisle, a sudden draft of air extinguished her light; yet still she went on, led by the voices, and a glimmer afar, until reaching a room, low, massive, as if hewn from the solid rock, again she paused. Drawing behind a heavy square pillar, she gazed at the lords and indies assembled in the forbidding place; listened to a voice that ran on, as if discoursing about some anomalous thing. Again was she cognizant of their questions; a jest from my lord, the Marquis; she saw that

had their intimacy been maintained

on a strictly ethical and charming

plane. But he had no time for analy-

sis; the others were drawing away to

the left, into a side passage; and, with

a last backward glance toward the

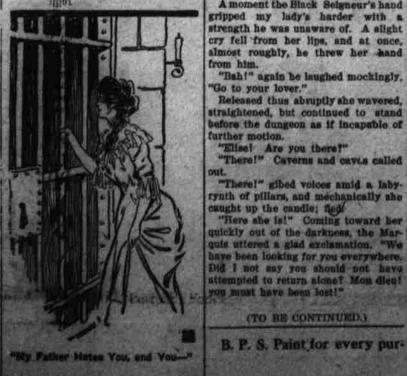
retreating figure, the Marquis reluc-

tantly followed the majority.

several stole forward; peered, and started back, half afraid. But, at length, they asked about the publicites, and, chatting gaily, left. Their garments almost touched the Governor's daughter; lights played about the gigantic pillars, and like will-o'-the wisps whisked away. Now, staring straight ahead toward the chamber they had vacated, my lady's attention became fixed by a single dot of yellow s candle placed in a niche

by the faller's assistant. It seemed cross the pertals-into the room itnelf!

How long she stood there in the faint suggestion of light, she did not realize; nor when she approached the iron-barred aperture, and what she first saidt. Something eager, solici-tous, with odd silences between the words, until the impression of a motionless form, and two steady, cynical eyes fastened on her, brought her to an abrupt/pause. It was some time before she continued, more coherently, an explanation about her apprehensoften on his face? sion on account of her father, which



ad outirely left her when she pound hrough the window of the guardpose. J. S. Basnight Hardware

on thought me, then, but a case | Co., New Bern, N. C.

"I promised to meet them at the Eoos, per doz guard-house," she explained hurriedly. And hardly knowing what she did, put BEESWAX, fb..... out her hand, through the bars, toward him. In the darkness a hand seized hers; she felt herself drawn; held against the bars. They bruised her shoulder; hurt her face. The chill of the iron sent a shudder through her; though the pain she did not feel; she was cognizant only of a closer view of a figure; the chains from him to the wall; the bare, damp floor-

then, of a voice low, tense, that now was speaking: "Your Ladyship, indeed, found means to punish a presumptuous fellow, who dared displease her. But ma fol! she should have confined her punishment to the offender. Those stripes inflicted on him, my old servant! Think you I knew not it was

my Lady's answer to the outlaw, who had the temerity to speak words that offended-" "You dream that! You imagine that!" The warmth of his hand seemed to burn hers; her fingers, so closely im-

prisoned, to throb with the flerce beating of his pulses. "I do not want you to think-I can't let you think," she began.

Jan. Feb. "Ellise!" The searchers were draw-Mar. April ing nearer. Oct. Nov. She would have stepped back, but the fingers tightened on her hand. lor & Son.) "They will be here in a moment-Still he did not relinquish his hold; Middling and better 11c. the dark face was next to hers; the Sales, None. plercing, relentless eyes studied the agitated brown ones. The latter cleared; met his fully an instant. "Believe!" that imploring wild giance seemed to say. Did his waver for a

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Sure Enough.

The teacher had been telling the Now, name some things," said she moment; the harshness and mockery that are very dangerous to get near "Elise!" From but a short dis to, and that have horns." tance came the voice of the Marquis. A moment the Black Seigneur's hand gripped my lady's harder with a biles!" replied little Jennie Jones. promotly .-- Unidentified.



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