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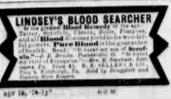
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Columbian.

THE LOVER'S CHOICE.

BY WARY AINGE DE VERE.

You implore

You refuse !

Do not start! Can you guess which flower I crave Now, sweetheart ?"

If you or I

"Sweet, from out their bloomin

"Kneeling-like love's numblest slave,

WE COME AND GO.

To-day should die, The birds would sing as sweet to-morrow

The vernal Spring Her flowers would bring, And few would think of us with sorror

Would then be said ;

The cort would nose, the grass yield the cattle low.

And Summer go,

And few would heed us pass away.

How few, alas!

Remember those who turn to mold

Whose faces fade,

Yes, it is so !

The Winter oe'r, Another takes our place instead

With Autumn's shade

We come, we go—
They hall our birth, they mourn us dead
A day or more!

Select Story.

THE MAN IN ARMOR

WEST INDIES.

forth of those wondrous stars, so apparently

-all is new, wonderful and beautiful.

of me.

world?' I suggested.

all melodrama.

choly songs.

light of these stars.'

of St. Thomas. West Indies.

Englishman, as we called him on board.

etc. Mine is called the 'Man in Armor.'

ere no secret. Might a stranger ask to

'Oh! by no means. Everybody knows it

ner topic; and if you will take passage with

me on the little schooner, which to-morrow

night will take me over to the neighboring

island, I will tell it to you by the witching

I accepted with alacrity. The next night

(for they do everything in the night in the

'You know,' my friend began, that these

have probably some West Indian boy in

your memory who was the brigard, the des-

perado of your class at school, Two boys

of passion, stabbed one of the boys.

posed to have embarked for home.

hear it, or is it of a private nature?"

The corn would floss, the grass yield hay,

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Dear Sir, -My daughter, after having a severe at ack of Whosping Cough, was left in a hable state t health. Being advised by a friend she tried the egothic, and after using a few bottles was fully re-tored to health.

Rhe matism is a Disease of the Blood.

recursor, in this discuse is found to contain an access of fulrin. Vegetine acts by onverting the boot from its discussed condition to a neathly circuiton. Vegetine regulates the bowles which is very apportant in this compilaint. One bottle of Vegetins if give redlef, but to effect a permanent cure it was be those regularly, and may take several but as, especially in cases of long standing. Vegetine sold by all druggetts. Try it, and your verdict if be the same as that of thousands before you do say, it never found so much relef as from the set of vegetine, "which is composed exclusively of arise, roots and herbs.

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Yours truly, Mrs. Lizzie M. PACKARD, No. 16 Larange St., South Salem, Mass

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Its immediate effect upon the digestive organs, whether impaired by disease or exhausted from any miliation and nutrition, the appetre being increased atonce. To those or their powers of their powers of their powers of their necessary of the contrary of the first of the difference of the contract of the contr VIGORENE

tions of all kinds, recreasing the sective VIGORENE is composed of the active properties of HERBS. ROOPS, GUMS and BARKS, that Nature alone furnishes, great care being taken by us that they are gathered at the right season of the year, and that they possess their native ritues.
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GREEN HIDES

revery description in the country. The public parage is respectfully solicited.
Licemstore, Cet. 1, 1878-

'Meanwhile the father, whom I shall call Vickars, received from England intelligence

of this transaction, but no news of his boys. His distress can be better imagined than described. His wife, a Spanish woman, died under the agony of suspense. All that was left to him was one daughter, Annunciata,

child of 12 years. He sent East and West

"Here are roses, red and white ""Thanks, dear,-no. for his lost children, but no tidings came of Nature paints them all too bright. 'One other friend he had, who shared hi "Well, then, take this Hly's face. watchings and his sorrows. This was the Chill it seems. From its calm and stately grace good Father Pedro, the Catholic priest, who Coldness gleams, spent his life in the humble but unwearying "Look-blue violets, you said

care of his church and his people, and who dearly loved the wife of Vickars, one of his Best their sweetness seemeth shed most devout children. He was one day At our feet." sitting at window which commanded the sea, "Heliotrope, the dearest flower talking to the afflicted father, and off-ring to go himself in search of the lost boys, wher Little worth !" n the extreme distance he described a sail 'A ship!' 'a ship!' How anxiously was she "Heart's-case-that you'll surely keep ! watched! How intently they had scanned | read thus:

"So I cannot please your sense ; 'At length, after many weary hours, the One fair gift to carry hence, One—no more; one boy. Only one. Yes, it was he; it was "Yet each choicest bud I bring, William.

'Even in this hour of inexpressible emtion arose the cry. 'Where is thy broth-'William told, with many tears and sighs, a story of great length and great interest. They had escaped to Madeira; thence had started for home; had been taken against their will to Lisbon; had been inhosppitably put ashore, as their money was gone; party of robbers, or been taken up by them, and Philip, having offended the chief, had

suspended breath till she came nearer!

iam, tied and wounded, was carried in another direction by the rather troop. 'Escaping at last, he reached the sea found a ship bound for the West Indies. The sour father if face not if he'rs dead?

'Old Father Pedro was an attentive lister er to this story. He had never liked Wm. and he thought there were some discrepancies in this story. 'You say, my son that the robbers took

three leagues from Lisbon?' said Father be caused by painful recollections.

'Yes, good father, said he.'

'I know that country well, and was born not far from that convent,' said the old man, musingly. 'The events in the history of his family had been so shocking that Vickars sank into a state of incapacity. Although a man in the vigor of life two years before, he was

now sunken and apparantly aged. 'His estate was large, and came very much proved himself an exellent man of business. of nightfall; the instantaneous beaming His slaves worked more hours than any gang on the island, and his sugar and coffee by many of the inhabitants. William coolly near; the feeling that earth and moon and brought high prices. He led a life of unparalleled license and dissipation, and sion of that person now, and produced a will stars are floating together in a lambent ether Such were my delicious emotions as I

arrived, after a wearisome voyage, in the and that was Father Pedro, 'At length it occurred that this check The town, with its many lights, always a should be removed. Father Pedro had long property of William, the smaller being the relcome sight to the traveler; the hill-top since determined to go to Spain, and to make property of Annunciata, no mention being growned with the Buccaneer's tower; the search for the unfortunate Philip, but many made of Philip whatever. ight, graceful boats of negroes crowding things detained him. The Catholic priests ound the ship their songs in the melancholy minor key, the warm and tranquil atmos islands, to the government; so he must wait one had any personal knowledge of it. ohere, altogether carried me away into the land of reverie and dreams, and pleasant until some successor arrived to take his languor and indistinctness took possession place. At length, all difficulties being aged, and asked several influential men to smoothed away, Father Pedro departed silently, not communicating the purpose of 'An enchanting picture,' said a voice be

behind me. It was my friend, the silent his journey to any save one, and this was ascertain what they could. old Santa, an African slave. 'You are familiar with this part of the from Africa immediately, having still the tion to maintain his rights and put all original brand on the forehead giving by the suspicions at defiance. n estate on one of them. I come down to slaver. Of these the islands of Cuba and see it now and then. They give the estates very queer names : 'Diamond and Ruby' is their souls, and they seem to have a super- them, or caused them to be murdered? Why one of them, 'Prosperity,' 'Mary's Hope,'

their untamed eyes. 'Ah! then yours has the queerest name the plantation. She had been very insub- a will? Produce your proof, genlemen, of he came. The rockets were of his invention, ordinate at first, and Father Pedro had in- my guilt : produce one connecting link be- and this same agent of his who revealed his 'Yes, and the queerest story-a story of rime, of misfortune, of retribution; a terfered to save her many a cruel punishnelodramatic story, for West Indian life is er Pedro.

In the bustle of landing I lost my friend 'The family estates were three in number. and forgot him, his estate and his story, un-One lying on the seacost was called 'The ship which I hold.' til the next evening I met him pacing the Bay ." another more to the inlan i, was callpiazza of the hotel and smoking his eigar. We joined company and smoked together. lazily watching the negresses poising their urdens on the head, and walking under the finest, was called the 'Man in Armor,' nem with the majesty of dark Cleopatras, from a fanciful decoration to the facade of the house-an effigy of a man in full armor telligible sounds. chanting as they walked their wild, melanlying beneath each window-the proprietor having paid this tribute to his love of 'mer-'By the way.' I remarked, 'you spoke of

your estate last night, and its history as if it | rie England' in her feudal days. 'Vickars drew nigh to death and prepared to resign all these possessions. As the body gave way the mind came back, and summoning his lawyers, he dictated as fol-In its own island it is the favorite after din-

'I have three estates, and I pray to God that I may still have three children. My fine estate called the 'Man in Armor,' I gave o my son Philip, if he be living; and I give it to my son William to keep for him twenty years. If at the expiration of that time he is not heard from, it becomes the prop-West Indies) we embarked on a very crazy erty of William. My estate of 'The Bay' little schooner; and I almost repented, when give to my son William. My estate of 'The I saw our crew, that a foolish idea to hear Sapphire' I give to my daughter Annuncia-

a story had caused me to intrust myself to a captain who seemed descended from some 'And other provisions followed which de African Hecuba, and whose assistants were not affect this story. as black and weird as himself. However, 'This will was signed by Vickars in the my friend seemed satisfied, and I tried to

ne Mr. Agayo, a Spanish gentleman who owned an adjoining estate, and, unnoticed planters generally send their sons to England or the United States to be educated, and you by all of them, old Santa, who was busy in the room. 'Poor Annunciata, whose youth had been withered by the these events, after paying the last sad offices of respect to the remains of the true type of ungoverned tropicals of her father, departed for England to the left this island we are now approaching

relatives whom she had never seen, hoping

presence of his son William, his lawyer and

many years ago for England. They were o receive some alleviation to the grief which placed at school, and were endured for the nsumed her. sake of their money, which was supposed to 'Meanwhile her brother employed himself be inexhaustible. Philip, the eldest, was somewhat amenable to law and order after a itering and refitting his houses, particulary the 'Man in Armor.' He sent away all time; but William, the youngest, put all the slaves pertaining to it to his other planauthority at defiance, and at length, in a fit tations, and employed some Spaniards who and newly arrived on the island,

Before the young murderer could be caught he and his brother had effectually 'One day, as he was surveying the facade, he muttered to himself: 'Almost large enough for a man's body.' He started as two in front of the door, and two more threw better; and then, with childlike "simp escaped, and the only trace of them was to a neighboring seaport, where they were sup- he heard a step behind him, but felt reassured as he saw only old Santa.

'After giving her a sound rebuke forlounging about he sent her away, but her curiosi ty was aroused and she determined to watch | ed, but the prisoner was gone.

events are so few that one such thing as this entered the solid wall. which does not attract much notice in a that was known. Before this event had ceased to be a ton-

c of conversation the dinner parties of the island were enlivened by a very different ru- land. She was followed by an English genmor, which was that the lost heir of the tleman to whom she had promised her hand, 'God be with you, my son, and give you roof of the 'Man in Armor,'

every sail for months! How they sat with brothers of the convent found him bruised cloud, yet their conviction of his crimes and and bleeding at the foot of a precipice. They his harsh and unbrotherly conduct towards took him up and tenderly cared for him. His memory is effected much, and he may and they had got to look upon him as somenever quite recover it. He can recall noth thing mysterious and dreadful, and to try to ing of the robber troop, of whom you have forget him.

'The wedding was arranged with great thing of riding with you up a mountain pass, when his horse stumbled and he fell. had retreated into the interior; joined a He cannot approach this place witnout emotions almost overpowering. The boly brothers tell me that they see a change for been murdered, or at least was dragged insensible from his brother's sight, and Wilneed not tell you that he knew me, and will accompany me back to that home from which a mysteriovs fate has so long withheld | ing flowers to throw before the bride.

Thine in the hope of heaven,

'How William received this intelligence history does not inform us; but before Father Pedro and Philip arrived, another sudden death startled the inhabitants, the old lawyou past the Convent of Santa Maria, about | yer who drew up the will and witnessed the signature was thrown from his horse and killed; and now suspicion became rife, for 'William turned very pale, but that might | William had been seen in his company not long before.

> notice of these things, though private indi viduals were much excited about them. 'In this state was the public when Father Pedro and Philip arrived; the latter feeble and shattered, but still a reasonable man, 'As soon as decency would allow, after th arrival of Philip, Father Pedro suggested to William that it was proper for him to re-Armor' to its rightful owner, as he had

'Still justice, always tardy where the su-

there was one man who made him tremble, yer and Mr. Agayo, the features of which were these : 'That the two largest estates were the

'Many pesons on the island had heard of are very dominant men on these islands, and the original will, many had talked with the very important, particularly in the Spanish deceased gentleman about it, but still no 'Father Pedro was not so easily discour go with him to the 'Man in Armor,' confront

William, tell him of their suspicions, and 'William received them all in the most 'An 'African slave' means one brought nudaunted manner, declared his determina-

'How do you dare, gentlemen, because Porto Rico are full, and a wild, fierce race one man dies in dis bed and another falls er and Father Pedro. they are. The gyves have not yet entered from his horse, to say that I have murdered natural power about them, burning ever in do you believe that, because I inherit my on that occasion, to issue from it at nightfather's estates -he believing himself to have fall, to bury his murderous knife into his 'Old Santa was the commanding spirit of no other son-that, therefore, I have forged unoffending brother, and to escape the way tween me and the death of these men, and I story had charge of them. ment. She was now old, subdued and at- will abdicate in favor of my brother, a feeble tached to the family, and especially to Fath- and broken man, who shall have the care he crept to the house and shut himself in his and support he requires, but who never shall hiding place. His horrible death from sufhold the position of power and proprietor- fooation had caused such convulsive strug-

'A low, fiendish laugh was the only sound ed 'The Sapphire,' from its commanding a which broke the silence after this speech of ting inmate to the ground. It never was review of the blue ocean; a third, and by far William's. Old Santa had stolen in as he turned, and a stone was plainly fitted in place spoke, and now stood behind father Pedro's of it. chair attering her broken and almost unin-

> 'William sprang at her, but an athletic man near him held him down in his chair while the old woman spoke, brandishing a vial in her hand.

cottonwood tree. I watch him! Dere is the place.'

After landing we stepped into a carria; thing else, too! The old woman watched him growing livid under her words, and darted towards

You kill my daughter, too; you say you love her; you beat her; you break her heart. I break your heart! The old creature fell on the floor, uttering wild shricks Like all her savage and imaginative race, she could be wily and quiet for a time; but the terrible flood would come at last, and

'The gentlemen gathered around William

Father Pedro and one other were dispatched

for the dressing case. In it were discovered

now it overwhelmed her.

several vials of poison, and in a secret top the original will, the contents of which have been before stated. 'William recovered his coolness somewhat, begged of the gentlemen to remember that the word of a slave was not of value as testi-

tained at once, as he would then clear him-'tie walked into a small room near the hall door from which there was no egress to ask in secret the forgiveness of his except the window and the door, both of enly Father. His offense was passion. which were effectually guarded,

two walking up and down before the window, ing accents she heard him ask to be themselves on the couches in the hall, walt- he added : "Lord, make ma's temper ing to relieve their comrades.

'In the morning the diguitaries of the is land arrived, the door of the room was open

'About this time the island was very much had not left their post; the door was sesgitated by the report that Mr. Agayo was curely guarded; there was no other opening found dead in his bed. In these islands the to the room. It seemed as if he must have

'However, he was gone. The search for larger place, fills the minds of the whole him proved utterly unsuccessful, and was population. He had been at a dinner the given up. Gradually he ceased to be talked night before, and had drunk freely, but had about. There were wild rumors of his having gone home perfectly well, and that was all been seen in a boat pulling for a ship; but nothing very definite was known. Perhaps a year after this sudden disappearance Annunciata came back from Eng-

'Man in Armor' was alive and coming to and finding her brother Philip much imclaim his own again. It at first was a ru- proved in mind and body, she determined to mor, but soon became more the arrival of a celebrate her marriage at his house, and en letter from Father Pedro to William, which | deavor to break the chain of dreadful events which had followed one another under the satisfaction in the tidings I bring. Your The marriage day of Annunciata arrived. brother, whom you believed dead, is alive! They deemed it proper to show their sense ship reached the dock. On her deck stood I found him in the holy convent of Santa of the neighborly kindness to their friends, Maria, injured in mind and body, but still, and invite the to be present. Although the I hope, capable of improvement. The holy fate of William hung over them like a dark

> them had blotted out the love of kindred, state, as became the wealth and social position of the parties. The planters, in their beautiful equipages drew up before the superb entrance of the 'Man of Armor.' The negroes, in holiday costume, filled the the better in him in the last year, and I grounds. Numbers of them from the other estates, with their bright-colored dresses and white turbans, came on in processions bring

> > 'About 4 in the evening, as the beautifu frithful Tather Pedro pronounced the mar

'Returning to the north Returning to the some ships the bridge and her immediate friends were retiring to the grand saloon a rocket ascended from the remote corner of the garden. The guests im mediately hastened thither, thinking that their hospitable entertainers had provided a new treat for them. The rockets drew the attention of the bridal party in the saloon, and they all crowded to the windows, for they were as much surprised as their guests. They were soon absorbed in something more pected person is rich and powerful, took no startling still—the sound of groans, pro-ceeding they knew not whence, followed by

clanking of metal and a heavy fall. 'Immediately a servant rushed in, seized Father Pedro's robe and drew him to the outside of the house. There, detacned from the window, lay one of the 'Men in Armor,' leaving a ghastly opening in the wall of the house. A few, bolder than the rest drew near and discovered the horrible truth. Within the 'Man in Armor' was the body of heard the conditions of the will mentioned William, stifled in his own ingenious contrivance. Poetic justice could not have dereplied that he believed it to be in possesmanded a more fitting termination to such a seemed to fear neither God nor man. Yes, signed by his father, witnessed by the law- career. The fastenings of the mouthpiece of the casque, made to fly open at a touch, had grown rusty with the dampness and had

resisted all efforts to open them. 'The confession of a Spaniard, shortly after spprehended for some crime or other, supplied the deficiencies in this story. William had designed this hiding place to afford him a retuge in that day when retribution should find him. It was a suit of armor, painted to match the stone effigies which ornamented the house, and ingeniously fitted to a small closet in the wall of the house, He had used it successfully on the night of his escape, remaining quietly in it while his guards were in the house, and letting himself out when they had all gone. It was true that he had escaped in a boat to one of the lesser islands, where he was not known, returning sometimes in the night, and always determined to be revenged on his broth-

'The wedding having come to his knowledge, he determined to use his hiding place

gles that the 'Man in Armor' was torn from its fastenings and tell with its still palpita-'Annunciata, her husband and brother

departed for Fagland. The house has nev

'While the people were gone to the church

My friend paused and looked out upon th land we were just approaching in the gradawn.
'I am the inheritor of this estate throug "He kill him! he kill Mr. Agayo! He my relation to Annunciata's husband. The asked him to drink the day before he died; died childlers. Philip died young and ur he put this in his cup ! He killed de old married. All this happnned fifty years ag lawyer; he knock him off his horse under the but I feel as if it were vesterday when I so

> and drove over one of the finest hard ros I had seen for many years, through the u surpassed luxuriance of the tropical verdi After an hour we approached the 'Man Armor.' A noble gateway commanded 1 attention. My friend drove in. Group which might have adorned the palace c Grand Dake opened to my view. Artific rivers wound through the garden. Ti and flowers planted with much taste ado ed the lawn. Before me arose a noble cade. The 'Man in Armor' was gilded the morning sun. Under each window I served the characteristic effigy, save One of the 'Men in Armor,' marshaled some untimely resurrection, had left brothers-in-arms awaiting their turn.

> > As we took our coffee in the once

aloon, and were waited upon by the d

old woman, who might have been Santa mony, but surrendered himself a prisoner, and desired that legal opinion should be ob-A very little boy had one day done v

and he was sent, after maternal corre ious to hear what he would say, his n 'Six men remained through the night; followed to the door of the room. In