

Garrett Coast, a young man of New York City, meets Douglas Blackstock, who invites him to a card party. He accepts, although he dislikes Blackstock, the rea-son being that both are in love with Kath-erine Thaxter. Coast fails to convince her that Blackstock is unworthy of her friendship. At the party Coast meets two named Dundas and Van Tuyl. There is a quarrel, and Blackstock shoots Van Tuyl dead. Coast struggles to wrest the weapon from him, thus the police dis-cover them. Coast is arrested for murder. He is convicted, but as he begins his sen-tence, Dundas names Blackstock has married Kätherine Thaxter and fied. Coast pur-chases a yacht and while sailing sees a man thrown from a distant boat. He res-cues the fellow who is named Appleyard. They arrive at a lonely island, known as No Man's Land. Coast supon some de-port the place and comes upon some deplore the place and comes upon some de-serted buildings. He discovers a man dead. Upon going further and approach-ing a house he sees Katherine Thaxter.

# CHAPTER IX .- (Continued.)

"By boat," he returned stupidly, only irritated by this persistence in raising what to him, in his humor of the moment, seemed trivial and inconsequent issues-"my boat. We got lost and ran aground in the fog last night. I came ashore to try to find out where we were."

"Then you have escaped!" She went directly to the sole explanation of his presence there that lay within her understanding.

"Escaped?" He shook his head, not in negation but testily. "Yes, of course; or I shouldn't be here." It was plain enough to him that he had escaped the fate to which he had been 'sentenced. To what else could she refer? "But you-he-that dog Blackstock-I want to know-"

"Garrett!" she cried sharply; and he fell silent beneath the challenge of her eyes. "Mr. Blackstock is my

for his use. But it isn't generally distress, able only to comprehend one known-the vice-president of the thing, that she must somehow avert company, one of his best friends, man- the encounter he desired. But her aged it all for us. The necessity for rapid, stumbling accents were all seclusion, you understand . . . Even the servants know him only as which seemed to reel, dumfounded Mr. Black."

pressionless tone. "And this"-he face to face with the hideous, innodded toward the farmhouse-"is famous fact that she still held him your home?"

"Not exactly." Already she was regretting the intimacy her breathless shake his wits together and think coexplanation had implied. She hesi- herently, but to little purpose. All tated, seeming reluctant to continue. We-Douglass and I-occupy two rooms of the bungalow, where the was false, faith was treachery, juswireless station is, up on the hill. There are no facilities for housekeeping, so we come here for our meals, hung in the balance, teetering be-The servants live here-and Mr. Power, my husband's assistant." He looked away from her, avoiding

her eyes, while the struggle for mastery of self went on within him. To make time, "You-you don't find it of his features, his shifting gaze, his life. lonely?" he asked. She shook her head.

"And yet-cut off from the world-I should think-"

"I have sufficient to occupy me," she interrupted. "And we're not whol- hoping against hope for what she ly out of touch. A boat brings us deemed the best. provisions and whatever else we may require from New Bedford every week."

"You see the papers, then?" he asked with a trace of eagerness. "No; they are prohibited-doctor's orders.

"And no one writes you?" "Nobody knows where we are

"An admirable arrangement: I congratulate Mr. Blackstock," Coast commented-contemptibly, he felt.

She gave him a look of slow, with- (and she saw him now in the fullest ering scorn. "Do you think he fears flush of health and vigor, sun-browned, you?" "Me? O!" He laughed shortly.

"Probably not."

you too well to believe you would- repellent. He figured in her sight a



meaningiess in his understanding, by this revelation of the incredible. "I understand," he said in an ex- She had said enough to bring him blood-guilty, still honored and /believed Blackstock. He struggled to the world was mad and topsy-turvey -a mad, mad world, wherein all truth tice parodied, honor deep dishonor. For a little he felt that his reason tween wild laughter and still wilder tears. If man can be hysterical, Coast was near to it.

And Katherine, witness to his excitement as evidenced in the working hands so tightly clenched that the nails (she thought) must be biting deep into his palms, saw presently that he no longer listened to her.

She ceased to speak and waited.

He was (so ran her thoughts, distracted, like wild things in a panic) not reasonably to be held in strict account for his attitude toward her or for his actions. In such men as he there must inevitably be something lacking, something like an abiding consciousness of right and wrong, the ability to distinguish between them: that rudder of the soul. In simple charity she must accord him patience. If her eyes told her he was more a man than the Garrett Coast of old weather-seasoned, glowing with strength and vitality) her mental vision clothed him with an aura of "Why should he? We both know abnormality like a shroud, awful and



Work Of Pardon Board. The Board of Pardons has disposed

of the following cases. Those pardoned are: Angelo Tomasco, Philadelphia, voluntary manslaughter; William Coher, Cameron, felonious attack; Thomas Gallagher, Philadelphia, fraudulent voting; Ward Ketchem, Columbia, larceny; Ernest James, Philadelphia, encouraging minors to violate parole.

The death sentence of William C. Schrader, the Mifflin county murderer. was commuted to imprisonment for

The applications refused are those of Andrew Mabin, Philadelphia, assault and battery; Grace Raab, Erie, larceny. A rehearing was granted to John

Maxwell, Philadelphia, murder second degree. The cases continued are those of

Jimmy Coura, Schuylkill, burglary; Alphonso Cutair, Jr., Philadelphia, murder; Daniel J. Adams, Northampton, horse stealing; David Murdle, Delaware, murder second degree: George Wright, Lehigh, larceny. Held under advisement: Frank Endrukat, Philadelphia, murder; Louis Miller, Lackawanna, felonious attack.

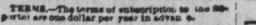
### Officers To Be Named Promptly.

Prompt appointment of recruiting officers as directed in the general order issued from National Guard headquarters is expected of regimental commanders so that when the inspection by the regular army officers begins next month the organizations of the Guard will be in possession of the ground work of the system. The inspectors of small arms practice will be required to inform themselves thoroughly on the regular army regulations as to recruiting and the regulations issued by the War Department for the militia.

A circular of instructions will be issued by Adjutant General Stewart for information of commanders and recruiting officers. Forms will also be issued which the recruiting officers will be required to keep intact and ready for instant use should the organizations of the Guard be called into national service. The forms and their use will form basis of inspections this spring.

Deny Crop Failure Reports. Although the 1912 peach crop is already reported ruined the apple yield

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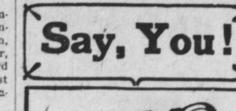


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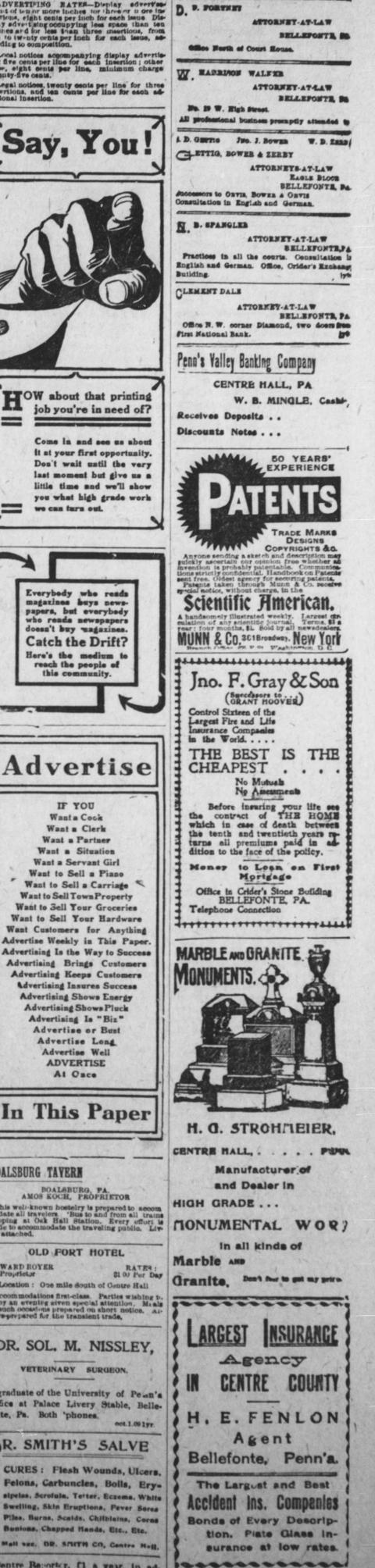
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husband. "Please." she continued, more gently, "don't forget that." "Is it likely?" he sneered. "But where is he? What made him leave you here?"

"Garrett!"

Her tone would have warned him, but he was able to see but one thing. the conclusion to which his reason, spurred by his inclination to credit the worst to the man, had jumped the moment he realized her existence in surroundings so foreign to her kind: that Blackstock, true to type, having persuaded Katherine to their clandestine marriage and gained his end, the control of her little fortune, had aban doned her even as he had abandoned Dundas, even as he would have discarded an old shoe or anything that had served his purpose and worn out its usefulness to him, leaving her to languish in this forlorn and desolate spot, out of his way and out of the world's way. . . . He hesitated to collect his wits, then pursued doggedly:

"Tell me where to find him," he said, his voice shaking-"give me the least hint to go by, Katherine, and for sheer revenge." I'll-I'll hunt him down, wherever he may be, I'll bring him back, I'll-" In his agitation he verged on incoherence.

Quietly but effectively the woman brought him to his senses. "I shall have to ask you not to continue in that tone," she said with disconcerting dignity. "You must not misconstrue matters arbitrarily to suit your prejudice. My husband has not left me, to contemplate 'hunting him down.' He is here.'

"Here!" Involuntarily Coast's glance veered to the house, suspicious and alert.

"On this island," she affirmed. "What island?" he demanded, turn-

ing back to her.

"No Man's Land."

He accepted this confirmation of his conjecture with an inconclusive, "Oh ?"

"You didn't know-?" she asked, in- right? . . . It's true, he testified credulous.

"How should I know?"

didn't come here on purpose . . .?" police came. After that, he had no "It was chance," he asserted. None choice. You shouldn't hold that the less an unformed suspicion involv- against him, Garrett; if only you tiny, ing Appleyard crossed his mind. He knew how he hated to take the stand in a breath.

"We bought the island last on his evidence . . .! But now spring .

"Yes," he said listlessly.

sary explanation: "After we returned are free, can go where you will . from Germany, on account of Doug- ." She broke off with an anxious las' eves. . . you know, and the shock of losing his where to look for you?" sight almost prostrated him. He is "What? No." He laughed aloud, may think him, Katherine." permitted no excitement, no social but mirthlessly "Oh, no, I gave them life-just peace and such mental em- the slip some time ago." ployment as his work affords. So we "I'm glad. But now, please, Garrett, heard of this place, looked it up and won't you give this up. . . bought it. The Standard Wireless peo- She said more, much more, continu- do you suppose any would bite? ple instal'ed an experiment station ing to plead with him in a fever of

"Tell Me Where to Find Him."

"Is it necessary?"

He'll be back before long."

peated.

"I'll wait."

repeat your mistake, in cold blood, | murderer, a man who could strike to death an unarmed and defenceless "My mistake?" he parroted blankly. friend, for a triffe. Nothing might "Oh, to be sure . . . No; hardly ever avail to erase that fact from her that." He waited a moment, noting consciousness,

how strained and tense she was. Unconsciously she drew a pace or "Nevertheless," he added quietly, "I two away. The action roused him. should like to see him for a moment." He lifted to hers hagged eyes set in a haggard face; and their look was "I should like to see him," he re- one of discernment. She knew instinctively that he divined her "He-isn't here just now." She met thought, that he knew why she had his keen, questioning look with a drawn away from him. And so pltias you insist; there is no need for you proud lift of her head. "On the is- ful he seemed that before she knew. land," she continued, "but not here. it her mood melted and knew only

compassion for him. "Thank you," he replied evenly; "Oh, Garrett," she cried impulsive-

ly, "I am so sorry!" Visibly he took command of him-

"But Garrett!" She seemed to overcome an inward resistance and, reself. "I'm sure of that," he said slowentering the dooryard, stood near ly; "and I don't want to distress you. him, touching his arm with a gentle, My coming here was pure accident, as persuasive hand, her eyes imploring. I've said; and presently I'll go and "Must you?" He nodded gravely. Blackstock need never know I've "But why-why rake up this buried set foot on the Island-since you wish grievance?" she protested. "Is it wise, it."

"Oh," she cried, half sobbing, against you. But what else could he "thank you-thank you!" do? You had your chance he gave

"But first I want you to tell me one She watched him, distrustful. "You you your chance to escape, before the thing."

"Yes-anything!" she promised gratefully, heedless of his sober scru-

"Are you happy?" he demanded considered, rejected and forgot it all against you, how terribly he felt it forthwith; and held his breath, for on when you were convicted practically her answer everything he prized depended. "Are you happy with himthat it's all over and past remedy, Blackstock?"

wouldn't it be better not to reopen It was like cold water in her face. Her nervousness drove her on in that old wound? Kinder, Garrett, and She gasped and drew herself up, rambling, inconsecutive and unneces more generous . . . to me? You straight and slim, defiant. "What · right have you to ask me that?" "None but that of a man who loved

. He is quite blind, thought: "The detectives don't know you once, and who, though he may not, loves you still-whatever you

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

### A Surmise.

Smarty-Every tree has a bark, but Downrite-The dogwood.

predicted as certain to fail and the wheat as sure to be killed by the unprecedented cold weather of the last week. State officials whose business it is to keep in touch with the conditions prevailing in the agricultural and horticultural regions of the Commonwealth say they believe nothing of the sort. Many of the reports are declared by folks on Capitol Hill to be "scares" and they are inclined to show more or less mirth over the peach crop failure so early in the year.

#### Start Survey Work.

Engineers of the State Highway Department have started work on the surveys of the old southern road between Pittsburgh and Gettysburg in spite of the cold weather, and it is planned to push the work as rapidly as possible. The work has been divided between two corps of picked men, all of whom are eager to make a record. The data gathered will give the State authorities the first complete information about the lines of the old road and the engineering conditions to be met in its reconstruction

#### Child Labor Delegates.

to

The Governor has announced the appointment of the following delegates represent Pennsylvania at the eighth annual conference of the National Child Labor Convention in Louisville, Ky., January 25-28. Miss Annie E. McCord, John W. Anthony, Rev. George B. Richards, Miss Harriet Rosebaum and C. D. Scully, all of Pittsburgh; Daniel E. Crane, of Sewickley.

#### Request Road Improvements.

State Highway Commissioner Bigelow gave hearings to delegations from Luzerne and Bradford counties who asked early construction of State main highways in their districts. Senator Sterling R. Catlin headed the Luzerne party, which desired improvement of highways running across the county. The Bradford party asked for early construction of the route from Towanda to the New York line.

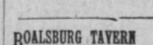
Canal Basins Commission Named. The Governor announced the appointment of the following named persons to be members of the Commission for the Improvement of the State Canal Basins at the Port of Erie: Clarence L. Thompson, Frank E. Grant, Frank Connell, G. Irving Blake and L. Ph. McCreary, all of Erie.

Building Societies To Report. Banking Commissioner William H. Smith issued a call for a report from each of the 1,609 building and loan associations of the State of its condi-

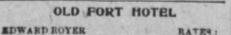
private business.

tion at the close of its last fiscal year Gets Prison Inspectorship. Governor Tener announced the appointment of Thomas B. Foley, of Pittsburgh, to be a member of the Board of Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary, vice Thomas A. Dunn,

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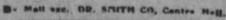
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