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Noetry.

A Woman's Question.

Before I trust my fate to thee, Or place my hand in thine, Before I let thy future give Color and form to mine--Before I peril all for thee. n thy soul to-night, for me

I break all slighter bonds, nor feel One shadow of regret: Is there one link within the past That holds thy spirit yet? Or is thy faith as clear and free
As that which I can pledge to thee?

Does there within thy dimmest dreams Wherein thy life could henceforth b Untouched, unshared by mine? If so, at any pain or cost, O tell me before all is lost!

Look deeper still. If thou canst feel Within thy inmost soul. That thou hast kept a portion back, While I have staked the who'e, Let no false pity spare the blow, But in true mercy tell me so.

Is there within thy heart a need That mine can not fulfiil? One chord that any other hand Could better wake or still? Speak now, lest at some future day, My whole life wither and decay.

Lives there, within thy nature hid, The demon-spirit, Change, Shedding a passing glory still On all things new and strange?

It may not be thy fault alone
But shield my heart against thy own.

Could thou withdraw thy hand one day, And answer to my claun. That fate, and that to-day's mistake, Not thou, had been to blame?

Oh, surely thou, wilt warn me now

Selections.

Some soothe their conscience thus; but thou-

The Pariah's Revenge.

I was once acquainted with a Frenchman in the art of consuming tobacco had been portraits. pipe was in full play-my friend was gen-England had obtained in the east.

and that of the Anglo-Saxon are the oppo-England in India has had no moral result. It has familiarized the natives with European commerce, and, to a certain extent, with European science too; but the Hindoo and the Musselman remain as far from Britain as their ancestors."

schools, and time.

"Well," said my friend, "we would never agree, and it's no matter; but I'll tell you She was young, toe-I think no more than within reach of my eye. What need of furan adventure which rather enlightened me seventeen. By the way, that is not counted ther apology? There was Zella alone, and on the subject when I was new in India."

This he did as follows: "It was at Agra, the ancient capital, reigned and built before the days of the to a different conclusion. The near neigh-Mogal. The modern city is still of great borhood of his garrison made him almost a timportance. There are holy places within resident with his parents, and my frequent its walls for Hindoo and Mohammedan, an visits, in the double capacity of artist and English garrison, and a considerable trade; friend, to the family, enabled me to observe but all around stood witnesses of earlier that Zelle's dress, which was a tasteful compower and splendor-temples and palaces, promise between the costumes of Europe and her glide away into the verandah. and regal tombs-scattered for miles over India, was always more studied, and her the country, and interspersed with palmgroves, native hamlets, and the bungalows captain was at home. Of course, it was by of the English residents. I had a full twelve accident; but I once espied something very months work among them; and, among like an assignation in the garden, though, other acquaintances made in my perigrinations, was that of an English family named Jackson. They had what might be termed a strong position in Hindostan. Mr. Jackson was a high law officer for the province: Mrs. Jackson's brother was at the head of the Agra custom-house; their son was a captain in one of the regiments of that native army by which England keeps her hold on Indis, and their daughter was married to one of the company's judges in Calcutta .-With their family interest so well represented, and titled connections in one of the mid-

ed to paint them.

the Jumma exactly as they would have done great hopes of her. on those beside the Trent, and applied the rules | "Mrs. Lester's visit was expected to take | moon was shining. I saw her go down the of conduct laid down for Jim and Bill, in all place in the cool and pleasant season of the walk straight to the outer gate. She opened the rigor of their Angloism, to Ali and Ra- Indian year which the English residents it too, and I followed her, but long before I nou. Mr. Jackson was an upright, honora- persist in calling the winter, because it ex- could reach the gate it was locked behind ble man, with little depth and much narrow- tends from October to March, and their her and the girl was out of sight. I reness of mind. Of his spouse I will only Christmas dinners come off in the midst of turned to my writing table, certain that she premise that she did not pretend to be inter- it. Intervening between the time of rain would come back for the half-rupee; and in esting, and the only part of her conversation and the fierce heat, it seems the natural sea- less than half an hour back Zelle came by I recollect is a lament over the inferiority of son for travelling; but by those many easu- the very way she went, and closed the winmeat in India, and a wonder that the Hin- alties which beset the goings forth of ladies dow saying: doos did not leave off worshiping idols when |-who will take everything with them as they were told it was wrong. Their son-of well as maids and children-the judge's his friends, and has promised never to come whom I saw a good deal, his regiment being spouse, for he himself, good man, stayed at near your bed again.' then in garrison at Agra-was a handsome home in hot Calcutta, found it impossible to young man, with very red whiskers, and a set out as early as she had intended; but as a young married lady of remarkable propri- the family would reach Agra before the regety, and had two really beautiful children, ular deluge set in. Meantime, my commis-

"The letters from Calcutta were full of most striking scene; and as it was necessathem -their sayings, their doings, and their ry to witness the ceremony before transfer general progress. They were the theme to ring it to canvas, I was bound to be at the

site poles of mankind; hence the rule of of high easte in it, for that peculiar institu- show minute crevices when they get dry .-

or equipage. termed the classical of Hindostan-the up- was coming down in water-spouts, there came which distinguish the Brahmin's daughter. extreme youth in the east; but there was a of so much beauty, would not have charmed black hair more carefully braided, when the from circumstances too minute to be so long remembered, I believe that the siege did not as in partitions; the rain had found one just advance as rapidly as the gallant captain above my bed, and poured in such a torrent. could have wished; and Mrs. Jockson had a that, before it was discovered, the chamber mighty opinion of her maid. It was not easy to make an impression on the heart of tess, however, requested that I would occupy that very respectable lady; but Zelle had the children's room for the night; and I had years a silk merchant in Agra. achieved it, for the girl was clever and handy. I was told she could mend and clearstarch, mark and cut out as well as any maid from England; that she had never been

a house in the City of Agra, chiefly for the with good reason, for they had been great had come for one of the oft-mentioned tracts. are stiff Protestants; yet it might be as well and like everybody else, they awaited the which he had no occasion. transaction of business, and an extensive benefactors to her and all her relations; and "Saib,' said she, 'there's a cobra in a to warn the family by an anonymous letter.' spectacle, with the advantage of being bungalow on the outskirts, situated on the the good woman was accustomed to relate your bed; I smelled it as I passed your banks of a rivulet, surrounded by a garden how Zelle's life, as well as that of her four door, for my family were serpent-charmers. full of Indian flowers, shaded from the south- sisters, had been saved in their infancy by What will you give me if I take it away?' ern sun by tall clms, and commanding a the attorney-general's interference with that "'How did it come there?" said I, preglorious prospect of splendid ruins and peculiar institution which, in some parts of tending to write on, though my pen was eastern vegetation. There they lived in a Hindoston saves the higher castes the trou- making cobras on the paper, for the green degree of material luxury known only to the ble of providing trousseau and wedding- ball I had seen taken out of the barket re-Anglo-Indian. Nothing was wanted that feasts; how her mother had been prevented curred to my memory, and I knew the said wealth could purchase, and they possessed the from becoming a suttee by Mrs. Jackson's serpent to be the most deadly of its kind .love for elegance and taste; so the great law- cousin, then in the Agra mission, "though The Portugese settlers call it the capella, or yer and his lady were considered the clite of the poor creature was scorned for it by her hooded snake, by which name it is known Agra society, and my acquaintance with heathen people, and somehow fell into the in Europe; but it had obviously not been them could only be accounted for on the Jumna afterwards;" how her three brothers placed under the bed for me, and as Zelle ground that Europeans out of uniform were got advice and assistance from every branch replied quite innocently, 'Idon't know, Saib,' rather scarce, that life is somewhat dull in of the Jacksons to take up honest trades, my resolution was taken, though it was cer-

the company's territory, that the Jacksons when the company dispossessed them of tainly not the best policy. 'I'll give you wanted their portraits, and that I was want- some land to which they had no right in law; half a rupce,' said I, and with a quiet geshow, in consequence, one had a place in the ture of assent to the bargain, Zelle approach-"They had resided almost thirty years in custom-house, one had become a soldier in ed the bed, turned up the belster, and, India, and believed themselves thoroughly the captain's regiment, and one a small mer- without haste or fear, lifted out the deadly acquainted with it and its people. So they chant at Agra; Mrs. Jackson always wound thing, coiled up exactly as she had laid it might have been as regarded time and op- up that recital of benefits by stating that in; and, may I be forgiven, but I halfportunity; but unfortunately the Jacksons Zelle had been three years at the school for wished it might bite her. Nothing of the father's country house near Calcutta: and spectators the scurvy, trick of dying before had brought the English midland counties native girls; that she could read English as kind happened to Mrs. Jackson's maid; she with them, and never could get rid of the well as Hindostance; that she had never laid the cobra carefully in her muslin apron

that the moment of arrival would be the tell them this instant.'

which Mrs. Jackson returned from the two Jackson's bungalow in good time on the day leading subjects I have mentioned-the topic | the visitors were expected. Having English to which the lawyer came down from his patrons to deal with, I was punctual. Mrs. official dignity, and on which the captain Lester and company were due early in the condescended to unbend his mind. The afternoon, and the house was on the qui vive twins were now in their fourth year, but the for hours; but there was no arrival. Toold people had not seen them since their first wards evening, the rain, which had fallen in summer. The distance between Agra and occasional showers for some days, as it does Calcutta made the visit of the judge's lady at the beginning of its season, came down in who could smoke any two Germans down. to her parents rather rare. However, in good earnest, with a fag-end of a thunder He was an artist, and, when I knew him, the third quarter of my acquaintance with storm, which we heard raging far to the an exile, having got mixed up in some of the Jacksons, it was publicly announced southward, and the Jacksons comforted the conspiracies against Louis Phillippe; but that Mrs. Lester was coming with the dear themselves with the hope that the travelers he always declared that his uncommon skill children, and I was engaged to paint their had taken refuge in some tomb or ruin, of which there was no lack on the way, and acquired during his residence in British In- "Like most families of distinction in would come on as soon as the storm passed dia, where he was employed for years in British India, the Jacksons kept a consider- and the moon rose. It had been arranged

copying scriptures and inscriptions from the able retinue. The requisitions of caste, that I should remain until the picture was ancient tombs and temples for the Institute which always limit the Hindoo's labor, and finished, and a painting room was assigned of France. Of his other experience in the the indolence superinduced by a tropical me accordingly, situated in a sort of wing land of the Brahmins, he was not inclined climate, contribute to augment the number which Mr. Jackson's predecessor had built to talk much on English ground; but one of these household troops. My friends had for a ball-room; but the Jacksons being evening when we sat together, and his long servants of all sorts and sizes; but among quiet people, who gave no balls, had divided them there was none in more esteem and it into three, by partitions of Indian matting. problem most fluent then—our conversation trust than a native girl who acted as Mrs. The central division was my painting room. happened to turn on the extent of empire Jackson's own maid, and held besides sun-rather better lighted than any artist would dry important offices, such as the charge of desire by two windows looking into the gar-"A curious study they are," he said, "the the household linen and the dealing out of den; to the right was my bedroom, and on Hindoo and his ruler. Nature never in- the spices. They called her Zelle; and when the left a spare apartment, considered the tended the two races to occupy one country; her good mistress was in a hurry it became coolest in the house, and therefore intended surpose they were willing, it is an absolute Sally sometimes, but I believe her proper for the much regarded twins. Partitions of impossibility that they could ever under- name was Zellaya. She was a Pariah-at Indian matting, though cheap and movable. stand each other. The oriental character least she did not object to do or touch anything: but her appearance had something allow sounds to pass readily, and are apt to tion of India has the advantage of making I was standing close by the one which dithe classes known without the help of dress vided mine from the children's room, putting the color-box in order by the last light of "Zelle had the tall, slender figure, the fea- day-and the Indian night gives short warntures of that fine mould which might be ing-when, through the heavy rain, which

My response was about missions, and right carriage and elastic grace, the long, a sort of half hiss, half whisper—the queershining hair and pure clive complexion, est sound thatever struck my ear. I was born in France; and there was a crevice all wet, as if she had just crept in through cold glitter in her black eye, which, in spite the window, which stood open, taking out of her little grass basket something like a where the sultans of the Persian dynasty me. I thought Captain Jackson had come large green ball, which she carefully tucked in under the bolster of the bed. Which of and earth with them. Now, Saib, give me her duties the trusted maid had come to my wages, for I have taken away the cobra perform so stealthily, I could not guess; but and told you the truth.' she stepped out of the window and closed

> "The rain continued, and the travelers did not come. Mrs. Jackson hoped they had stopped for that day with some of the many friends they had on the road, and the family retired to rest at the usual hour. But the dry season makes crevices in roofs as well was perfectly uninhabitable. My good hosinstalled myself there with candle and writing-case, in order to write letters which

for I was not inclined to sleep. known to tell a fib, black or white; might be trusted with any-body's wardrobe or jew-

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING. | born, you may believe that the Jacksons | caste. Mrs. Jackson also said that the girl | slight rustle made me lock up, and there | reputation, you will be set down as a jesuit | sible to the scaffold, in order to lose nothing | Perhaps so; but, while taking the armor, were rich and important people. They had was sincerely attached to her family; and stood Zelle, as erect and composed as if she in disguise, and I understand the Jacksons of the events that were about to take place; he would evidently have left the body; for

burthen. They reasoned on the dwellers by refused a tract, and the missionaries had opened the window, and stepped out into the garden. The rain had ceased and the

"'Now, Saib, the cobra's at home with

"'Very well, Zelle,' said I, getting between her and the door, 'I have promised great though silent esteem of himself; and she travelled in the most expeditious man- you a half-rupee, and I will give it to you, of their daughter I only know that she was ner, by boat and palanquin, it was hoped but I saw you put the cobra in the bed this evening. If you tell me why you did so I will not mention it to any of the family till twin boys, around whom the whole family's sion to paint the children had widened into you are two days safe out of the house; and affection, and much of its pride, was gath- a family group. Somebody had suggested if you do not, I will rouse them all, and

"Zelle looked to see whether there was any way of escape; but I had my eye on the window: then her face took the fixed, stony look of the eastern, who knows his destiny

is not propitious. "'Saib,' said she, 'I put it there to kill the judge's children. My mother sent it to me, to be revenged on this family for all the evil they have done to ours. Listen, and I will tell you the truth, for you do not come from England. My father was a Brahmin and Zemindar, he inherited his land by adoption into the family of our ancient neighbor Guzroo, and the Saib Lester. who then gave law in Agra, took it from him, saying he had no right, and it belonged to the company. It had always been the custom to rear but one daughter in our house, and in due time that daughter was wedded, with a marriage-feast becoming a family of high caste; but the Saib Jackson found out this custom, and so frightened our people with his law that all the girls grew up. When my father's soul departed, my mother determined to become a suttee, according to the custom of her ancestors, that the family might have honor in this world much, that fear came upon her when the they heard." pile was ready, and she could not perform the ceremony. Now, see what the doings of these hogs, who eat everything, have brought at first." upon my people. By the loss of this land, my father could not make the accustomed offerings, he therefore lost his standing in By the loss of their inheritance my brothers were brought down to trades beneath their castes. There were no means to make marriage feasts for five daughters: all my sisters are therefore married to low-caste men. and I am a Parish, drinking out of common vessels, and going abroad with an unveiled face. My mother was so despised by her neighbors at the holy places, that she would not live, but threw herself in the Jumna, an offering to the goddess Durga, who will not refuse even the polluted. By her favor, she

"I did not venture to reason with the maid of whom the missionaries had hopes. She it behind her so swiftly and silently, that I took her half-rupee, and glided away to her could scarcely believe my eyes when I saw own room. My own sleep was not sound that night, and in the morning Zelle was no where to be found. Neither mistress nor servants could give any account of her, but that she had performed her accustomed duties and retired to rest as usual; that her room was all in order, and her trunks and best clothes gone with her. I resolved to keep my promise and let the two days clapse; but, in the interim, I could not resist telling the story to a countryman and confidential friend of nine, who had been for fifteen

has reached the transmigration of the ser-

pent, and sent the cobra to me that we might

be avenged on this family, who worship

nothing but rupees, and think to buy heaven

"'Take my advice,' said he, 'and say nothing about it. I know something of the were justly due to sundry correspondents, English; they'll wonder why you did not immediately tell her master-what business "The whole house was silent. It was near | you had to look through chinks-in short, midnight; and I was half-way in a letter to they won't believe you; and if the girl's superboak wood. land counties of England, where they were el-case, and give no trouble on the score of Armandine—we were friends then—when a disappearance has no worse effect on your The two companions got as near as pos- covered the body?

"I took his advice, and the letter was sent; but not being in their confidence, the with less fatigue. There suspense was not Jacksons never mentioned it to me.

"The lady deeply regretted the absence of her handy maid. Mr. Jackson made diligent inquiries after her, but all to no purpose; but sometime after, the part of her doings which most puzzled me was cleared executioner. The thief was clad in the arup. Why, do you think, did she come to mor he had stolen, and was riding back- pose? remove the cobra? Not for the half-rupee alone; but her brother, the merchant at visor was down and he hung his head. Agra, happened to be the very man from whom I was in the habit of purchasing trifles for myself and presents for my friends at home, and the bill I owed him just then

saved my life. "The children arrived a week after, and I painted the family group. I saw Zelle dancing as a nautch-girl at one of the festivals at Delhi. I heard the following sum. mer that the twins had died from the bite of a serpent received in the garden of their since then I never went to bed in India without first looking narrowly under the

Twice Hanged. FROM THE PRENCH.

Have you ever been to La Piroche? "No!" no more have I. Consequently, I

shall take no unfair advantage of my knowledge of the place to inflict upon you a description of it, more especially as, between us be it said, nothing is more tiresome than descriptions are.

Consequently, I have only to state that, it the moment when the tale I am about to tell commences, it is noon, that the month is May, that the road on which we are entering is bounded to the right by heath and broom, to the left by the sea, and you know at once what I do not tell you,-namely. that the broom is green, that the sea is blustering, that the sky is blue, that the sun is hot, and the road is dusty.

I have only to add, that this same road, which winds along the coast of Brittany, goes from La Poteri to La Piroche; that La Piroche is a village I have never seen, but which must be just like every other village; that we are fairly affoat in the fifteenth contury, in 1418; and that two men, one elder than the other, one the father and the other the son, both peasants, are jogging along the road, mounted on a couple of ponies, which trot at a pace sufficiently agreeable, considering they are only ponies bestrode by pea- and he tried to make the criminal mount sants.

"Shall we get there in time?" asked the

"Yes: it won't take place before two o'clock," answered the father, "and it is only a quarter past noon, by the sun." "It is what I am very curious to see."

"I have no doubt you are." "And so he is to be hung in the armor he

stole?''

"Yes." "Was the armor handsome?"

"Magnificent, they say, embossed all over pushed him up behind. with gold."

"And he was caught as he was making way with it?" "Yes: you can comprehend that the armor !

was not to be carried off without making a round the patient's neck the running noose and in Paradise; but the preaching Sail, horrible clauking and rattling. The people which ornamented the end of the rope, and, who is also one of the Jacksons, talked so in the chateau were awakened by the hom. Lagiving him a violent kick in the back, sent

"And they arrested the fellow?" "Not immediately; they were in a fright

"Afraid of whom?"

ommon strength, held the armor in front him die. of him, in such a way that his head was at about the level of the waist of the said armor, so that it appeared to be of gigantic right to do, kicked, writhed, and then reproportions in the corridor along which he passed. Add to that a harsh noise which the cunning rascal made behind him, and you can fancy what a terror the valets were

in. Unfortunately for him, they went and roused the Seigneur of La Piroche, who cares a straw for no man, either living or event. dead, who simply, and without any one's assistance, stopped the thief, and delivered him up, bound hand and foot, to his own proper justice."

"And his own proper justice?"

"Wherefore that clause in the sentence?"

ot only a brave captain, but a man of nowhere to be seen. lon't you know that whatever has touched natural consequence, no armor. a hanged man becomes a talisman for its | The most extraordinary circumstance was: ossessor? The Seigneur of La Piroche, that the rope was neither broken nor cut, therefore, ordered the criminal to be clad in but exactly in the state in which it was behis armor, that he might take it back after fore receiving the criminal. he was dead, and so have a talisman in our coming wars."

"That's a very clever stroke!" "I should think so, indeed!"

want to see this poor wretch hanged." The father and son continued their journey, chatting as they went, and half an hour what others had seen. afterwards they reached La Piroche.

There was an immense concourse of peoteau, for there the scaffold was crected-a very handsome gallows, in truth, made of

of long duration.

appeared, preceded by the guards of the the armor. Seigneur of La Piroche, and followed by the wards on an an ass without a saddle. His

He was led close to the scaffold, and a agreeable to his feelings began to be sketched in upon the azure background.

The hangman had just set his ladder leaning against the gallows, and the chaplain of the Seigneur of La Piroche, mounted on a platform purposely prepared, was reading the sentence.

would have said that he had played the there was time to hang him. They called out to him to get off his ass,

The condemned man did not stir. You

and give himself up to the hangman. He did not budge an inch. We can un-

derstand his hesitation. Then the hangman seized him by the elbows, lifted him off the ass' back, and set

him down upright on the ground. When we say that he set him down upright, we speak the truth. But we should tell a falsehood in saying that he remained in the same position in which he was deposited. In two minutes he ran through two thirds of the alphaber-that is to say, in vulgar parlance, instead of remaining straight as an I, he became crooked as a Z. During the change of attitude, the chap-

plain had finished reading the sentance. "Have you any request to make?" he inquired of the patient.

"Yes," replied the wretched man, in a sorrowful and scarcely audible voice.

"What is it?" "I request my pardon!"

I do not know whether the joke was inented on that occasion, but then or neve was the time to conceive and utter it.

The Seigneur of La Piroche shrugged his shoulders, and ordered the hangman to do his office.

That official personage prepared to mount the ladder, leaning against the gibbet, which, impassible, with outstretched arm, was about to tear a soul out of a living body, before him; but the thing was not easy. It is scarcely credible what an amount of diffi-

culties condemned men in general make. The executioner and his present client appeared to be engaged in a contest of poiteness. The point at issue was, who should go first.

The hangman, to make him mount the ladder, had recourse to the same means which he had employed to make him get off the ass; he took him by the waist, set him on the third stave of the ladder, and there

"Bravo!" shouted the crowd.

There was no help for it, except to mount.

Then the executioner adroitly slipped him swinging into open space.

An immense clamor followed this expected denouement, and a shudder ran through out the crowd. Of whatever crime he may be guilty, a dying man is always, for an "Of a ghost. This wretched thief, of uninstant, greater than those who come to see

> The hanged man swung two or three minutes at the end of his rope, as he had a mained motionless and stiff.

> They stared a few minutes longer at the sufferer, whose gilded armor glittered in the sunshine; the spectators gradually formed into groups, and then went their several ways homewards, discoursing on the late

The next morning, at break of day, a couple of guards walked out of the chateau miracle!" of La Piroche, to take down the body of the criminal, and to strip it of the armor belong-"Condemned him to be hanged, clad in ing to their lord; but they found what they were very far from expecting-namely, that the gallows and the rope still remained in "Because the Seigneur of La Piroche is their places, but that the hanged man was

sense and spirit, who wants to obtain from The two guards rubbed their eyes, in this just condemnation both an example for doubt whether they were dreaming or not: others and a benefit for himself. Well, but such was the fact. No body, and, as a

The guards went to announce the news to the Seigneur of La Piroche. He would not "Let us push on, then; for I particularly ant was this same seigneur, that he felt as- his suit of armor. sured the body would be found in its place, in obedience to his wishes: but he only saw

ple in the grand square in front of the cha- day before, as the whole population had terdemalion, in a fortnight it had the apbeheld with their eyes.

Had another thief taken advantage of the

Had the friends or relations of the sufferer mounted on ponyback, and of seeing better determined to give him a Christian burial? The case was far from impossible, except that the sufferer had neither friends nor At a quarter to two the gate of the charrelations: and people acting under religious teau was opened; and the condemned man motives would have taken the body and left

> That supposition, therefore, was not to be entertained. What, then, were they to sup-

The Seigneur of La Piroche was in despair! He was mad about his suit of armor. He offered a reward of ten golden crowns to picture that must have been anything but whoever would deliver up the criminal, attired as he was at the time of his death.

They searched the houses; nothing [was found. Nobody came to claim the reward. They sent for a learned man from the city of Rennes, and put this question to him: "How can a man who is hanged to death

contrive to escape from the rope which sus-

nends him in the air by the neck?" The wise man demanded a week's time to think the matter over. At the end of the week, he replied: "He cannot manage it." Then they put a second question: "Can thief, who did not succeed in a theft during his lifetime, and who has been condemed

to death for thieving-can he thieve after

death?" The wise man replied. "Yes."

They asked him how that could be managed. He answered that he had not the slightest idea.

He was the most learned man of the time. They sent him home again, and were obliged to be content to believe (for these were the days of sorcery) that the thief was a sorcerer.

Then masses were said to exorcise the evil mirit, who doubtless intended to avenge himself of the seigneur who had sentenced him to death, and of the peeple who came to see him die.

A month was spent in the fruitless search. The gallows still remained in its place, humiliated, downcast, and despised. Never had a gibbet committed so disgraceful a breach of confidence.

The Seigneur of La Piroche continued to lemand the restitution of his armor from men, angels, and the infernal powers.

Nothing came of it.

At last he was doubtless on the point of making up his mind to this strange event, and the loss resulting from it, when one morning, on awakening, he heard a great noise in the square where the execution had taken place.

He was going to inquire what was the natter, when the chaplain entered his cham-

"Monseigneur," said he, "do vou know what has happened?"

"No, but I will inquire directly."

"I can tell you. 1"-

"What is it, then?" "A miracle!"

"Really!" "The man who was hanged"----

"Well?" "Is there."

"Where?" "On the gallows,"

"Hanging?" "Yes, monseigneur,"

"With his armor?" "With your armor."

"Exactly so; because it belongs to me .-And is he dead?"

"Perfectly dead. Only"-"Only what?"

"Had he spurs when he was hanged?" "No." "Well, monseigneur, he has spurs on now; and instead of wearing the helmet on his head, he carefully laid it at the foot of the gallows, so as to be found hanging uncov-

"Let us go and see Messire Chaplain; let us go and see at once.'

The Seigneur of La Piroche ran into the square, which was crowded with inquisitive spectators. The neck of the hanged man was replaced in the running noose, the body was really at the end of the rope, and the

armor was really on the body. It was prodigious. So they shouted, "A

"He has repented," said one, "and has ome back to rehang himself." "He has been there all the time," said nother. "only we could not see him."

"But why has he put on spurs?" inquired a third. "Doubtless because he has come from a

listance, and was anxious to get back quick." "For my part, whether far or near, I should have had no occasion whatever for spurs, because I would have taken good care to remain where I was."

And then they laughed, and then they looked at the ugly grimace on the dead man's countenance.

As for the Seigneur of La Piroche, his believe them, but insisted on ascertain- only thought was to make sure that the thief ing the truth with his own eyes. So pussi- was really dead, and to take repossession of

They took down the body and stripped it, and then, when stripped, they hung it up again, and the crows set to work with such What had become of the dead man? For effect that in a couple of days it was stripthe condemned thief was certainly dead the ped to the bone, in a week it was like a tatpearance of nothing at all.

Eventually the mystery was explained .night to take possession of the armor which It appared that our two peasants, returning home by night, and passing close to the gib-