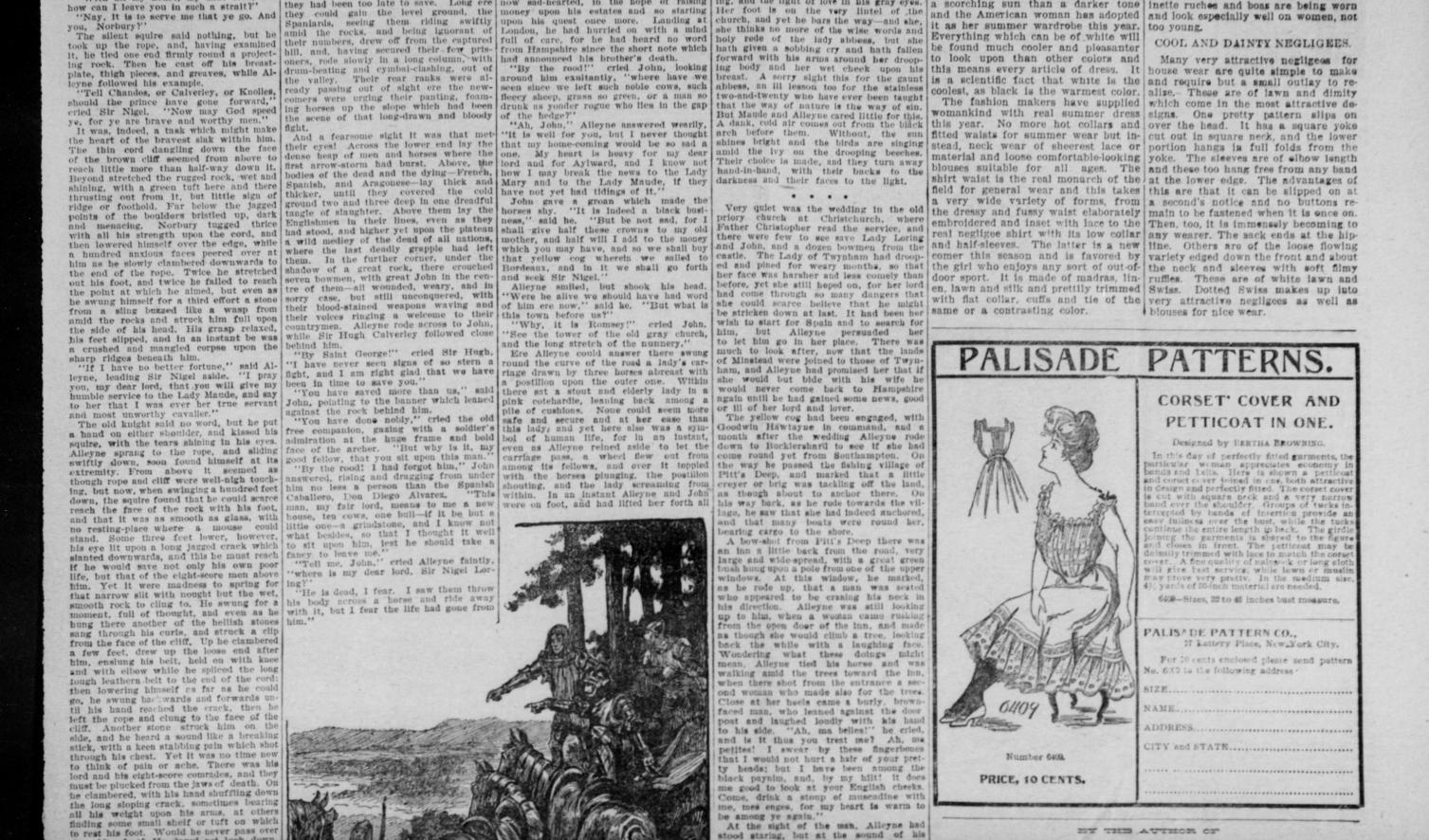
left the rope and clung to the face of the cliff. Another stone struck him on the side, and he heard a sound like a breaking stick, with a keen stabbing pain which shot through his chest. Yet it was no time now to think of pain or ache. There was his lord and his eight-score comrades, and they must be plucked from the jaws of death. On he clambered, with his hand shuffling down he clambered, with his hand shuffling down the long sloping crack, sometimes bearing all his weight upon his arms, at others finding some small shelf or tuft on which to rest his foot. Would he never pass over that fifty feet? He dared not look down, and could but group slowly enwards, his

that fifty feet? He dared not look down, and could but grope slowly onwards, his face to the cliff, his fogers clutching. his feet scraping and feeling for a support. Every vein and erack and mottling of that face of rock remained forever stamped

bow try if, Alleyne?"
'With all my heart, my dear lord, but
'With all my heart, my dear lord, but
hey had been too late to avenge, as
hey had been too late

mp yonder track, steep and rough as it is, royal house of Castile. Up the long slope, rough or the whole summing with waving pennons and brank trach the states and tracks of men-exultant. House you that at one correct of the platean are dy and size and the strength and the long and to the work and the strength and the long and to the work are did again the level warmet on the bodies? "With all my heart, my dear long." "With all my heart, and dear long and to the were the could and to the wave the could set for the house of the bodies the warmet and the level warmet on the bodies to the bodies the bodies the bodies the long, and for the rest? "As the bodies could could come how find the level warmet on the bodies to the bodies and the level warmet on the bodies to the bodies and the level warmet on the bodies to the bodies and the level warmet on the bodies to the bodies and the level warmet on the bodies to the bodies the bodies



IT THE AVINCE OF

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inpon his memory. At last, however, his foot came upon a broad resting-place and he ventured to cast a glance downwards. Thank God! he had reached the highest Thank Golf, he had reached the inglest of those fatal pinnacles upon which his comrade had fallen. Quickly now he sprank from rock to rock until his feet were on the ground, and he had his hand stretched out for the horse's rein, when a sling-stone struck him on the head, and he dropped senseless upon the ground.

An eril blow it was for Alleyne, but a worse one still for him who struck it. The Spanish slinger, seeing the youth lie slain, and judgirs from his dress that he was no common man, rushed forward to plunder him, knowing well that the bow-men above him had expended their last shaft. He was still three paces, however, from his victim's side when John upon the cliff above plucked up a huge boulder, and, poising it for an instant, dropped it with fatal aim upon the slinger beneath him. It stuck upon his shoulder, and hurled him, crushing and screaming, to An evil blow it was for Alleyne, but a mm. It stock upon in substant, in the second of the ground, while Alleyne, recalled to his senses by these shrill cries in his very ear, staggered on to his feet, and gazed wildly about him. His eyes fell upon the scanty posting upon a riderless horse and "He sprang upon a riderless horse and "I trust that you have taken no hurt, "I trust that you have taken no hurt, with fair and alleyne." ear, staggered on to his feet, and gated wildly about him. His eyes fell upon the horses, grazing upon the scanty pasture, and in an instant all had come back to him—his mission, his comrades, the need for haste. He was dizzy, sick, faint, but he must not die, and he must not tarry, ca his life meant many lives that day with a scowling brow. for his life meant many lives that day. In an instant he was in his saddle and sprung down the valley. Loud rang the swift charger's hoofs over rock and reef, while the fire for four the strate of the fire that we have ye all in my company." swift charger's hoofs over rock and ref, while the fire flew from the stroke of iron, and the loose stones showered up behind him. But bis head was whirling round, the blood was gushing from his brow, his temple, his mouth. Ever keener and sharper was the deadly pain which shot like red-hot arrow through his side. He felt that his eye was glazing, his senses slipping from him, his grasp upon the reins

BELOW LAY THE GREAT SPANISH ARMY.

At the sight of the man, Ancyne may stood staring, but at the sound of his voice such a thrill of joy bubbled up in his heart that he had to bite his lips to keep his with from shouting outright. But a deeper pleasure yet was in store. Even as he looked, the window above was pushed outwards, and the voice of the man whom he and seen there came out from it. "Aylward," cried the voice, "I have seen just now a very worthy person come down the road, though my eyes could scarce discern whether he carried coat-armor. I pray you to walt upon him and tell him that a very humble knight of England abides here, so that if he he in need of advancement, or have any small vow upon his soul, or desire to exait his lady.

faced man, who leaned against the door post and laughed loudly with his hand to his side. "Ah, ma belies!" he cried,

post and laughed loudly with kis hand to his side. "Ah, ma belies!" he cried, and is it thus you treat me? Ah, ma pejites! I swear by these fingerbones that I would not hurt a hair of your prei-ty heads; but I have been among the black paynim, and, by my hilt! it does me good to look at your English cheeks. Come drink a storp of muscadine with

Come, drink a stoup of muscadine with me, mes enges, for my heart is warm to

be among ye again." At the sight of the man, Alleyne had

I may help him to accomplish it." Aylward at this order came forward amid the trees, and in as instant the two men were clinging in each other's arms, laughing and shouting and patting each other in their delight; while Bir Nigel came running with his sword, under the impression that some bickering had brok-en out, only to embrace and be embraced himself, mill all three were hoarse with their questions and outeries and congratulations

On their journey home through the woods Alleyne learnt their wondrous story: how, when Sir Nigel came to his senses, he with his fellow-captive had been hur-

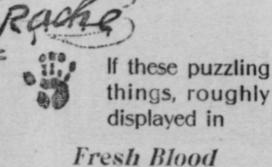
in a shake with fear, but little the work for her mischance. "I trust that you have taken no hurt, my fair lady," said Alleyne. "Nay, I have had no scath, but I am much beholden to you, gentle sirs. Sol-diers ye are, as one may readily see. I am myself a soldier's daughter," she ad-ded, "and my heart ever goes out to a brave man." "We are indeed fresh from Spain," outh Alleyne.

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