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## A TALE OF COLT'S PISTOLS.

It is well known to all in any degree familiar with the history of Mexico that a regular system of highway robbery ex-ists in every section of that iniserably gov- "As I should have expected," returned exact condition of things inside, and be erned country; and that through a want I. "You were not robbed on that occa- able to signalize her associates as she passof interference of the authorities, this has sion, I suppose." grown up into such a regular and formidable shape that every traveler must be prepared to put his life at hazard st.every stage, or be provided with a suitable contribution for los caballeros del carmine, (the knights of the road,) who will make their levy with a politeness only equalled by the smiling landlord when he receives your overcharged fare for your last night's entertainment. Why such systematic hicle, boldness of robbery is allowed if not "E with the connivance, at least with rarely any interference of the Government or

State authorities-is one of those mystical matters which among many others so puzsles and perplexes the intelligent foreigners; but that such is the disagreeable truth every traveler through the wretch-

ed country can bear ample testimony. Some years ago, having business which first called me to the capital of Mexico, and thence through the interior country to the northward. I met with several thrilling adventures, which I have recorded for the benefit of whomsover may take an interest, therein, omitting only the dates, they being nonessential to the interests of the narrations themselves.

The first of the series occurred on the them to flight for once." route between Vera Cruz and the city of Mexico. In the regular diligencia running between the places just mentioned I had taken passage, and had passed through the beautiful city of Jalapa, and entered the gloomy town of Perote, without meeting with any unusual incident, thong noting continually warned to be on my puard "Ah! Santa Maria! you will think bet-against the dangers of the road. [At Pe-rote, where we halted for relay and re-tance terrifies me!" "But not the idea of robbery?" leave of me; very solemnly assuring me that, if assailed by the ladrones, or robbers, it would be much better for me to take matters quietly, and suffer myself to be genteelly plundered, than to run, the risk of having my throatcut for resistance, as I had somewhat boldly proclaimed it was my intention of doing. I thanked them for their advice, and replied that I would take the matter into serious coneideration.

At Perote, I repeat, all who had been my companions from Véra Cruz took leave of me, this being the end of their journey in that direction, but there was one new passenger here to go forward, whom, to my agreeable surprise, I found to be a beautiful young lady, some twenty years of age.

Senorite Paula, as I subsequently ascer-

lting dark eve ires as pertect

with me, fired upon the robbers, killing one and wounding two." "And did the robbers fite back ?" "Yes, but fled immediately, and fortu-

"Each stands on the spot where some now concerce in a body in the spot one has met a violent death," she rejoined; door of the diligencia, I continued— "and as we go along, I will call your at- "Gentlemen, will you permit me to "Do you know," said I, "that I am re- all I have is yours," solved to emulate their example, let the The leader of the

consequences be what they may ?" "Holy saints defend us," she exclaimed ; 'vou are not in earnest, Senor ?" 'Seriously so, I assure you." "You would only bring certain death

"Because I never met with violence."

We continued to converse in a similar strain for some time longer-my fair companion gradually changing the subject, and seemed much interested in myself. I turn I gave her my own name, stated some-

thing of my own history, business and prospects, and altogether became more communicative than I would advise any friend to be with any stranger of either sex in a strange country. As we continued on our journey the

conversation gradually changing from one thing to another, Senorita Paula suddenly polite bow, and chinked the money. brought it back to the point where it first opened.

"We are coming to a dangerous part those rare beauties seldom met with ex- solved to defend yourself if assailed ?" > his left, who received it in the same polite you."" cept in works of fiction—tall, graceful, "With your permission, Senorita." manner. "With your permission, Senorita." manner. "I don't think it advisable," she replied, "This diamond ring I trust you will re-

ed along, so that they might know exactly

The leader of the party bowed politely

in return, and said with a grim smile-

them, Senor, and you are only one." "But fortunately I have a couple of re-volvers, which, in two good hands, amount to some ten or a dozen shots, and my ment sooner or later. I glanced up and friends have repeatedly told me I amnot down the road, where it wound between thinking these dangerous playthings made

dark and overshadowing trees but discov "Ah! Santa Maria! you will think bet- ered nothing to give me any hope. The robbers, some eight or ten in num-ber and all well armed, were collected And when the Squire's proud son, res-

their mustangs by the bridle. Looking upon my case as a desperate one, so far as panion gradually enanging the subject, being plundered was concerned. I still re-and seemed much interested in myself. I tained my presence of mind and did not who ever knew words of that kind to re-learned that her family name was Val-wholly despair. True, I had been outwit-ted and disarmed, and now stood singly father and brother were officers in the army, and so forth, and so on; and in re-ing tamely to this outrage was repugnant to my very nature and I resolved to nut curls. to my very nature, and I resolved to put curls.

the least favorable opportunity for defence and retaliation to the strongest test. "Will you accept this purse ?" said I, producing one that held several gold coins,

and handing it to the chief of the ladrones. "Thank you, Senor, you are very kind," he said, as he took it in his hand, with a "This diamond pin may prove accepta-ble to your friend ?" Indded, as I quietly

removed it from the bosom of my shirt,

## MR. JOHN SMITH.

"and as we go along? I will call your at-tention to those which mark the place alight and make you some valuable pres-where the foreigners met theirs." Gentlemen, will you permit me to a the victime, at least, the care they took prettiest and the best looked very kindly where the foreigners met theirs." little coquettes power, to fence round the and soon a party was not thought com-place where there had been a high, impen- plete unless he was present. etrable wall of resolves and avoidance and "Si, Senor, we shall be most happy to coldness. It is doughtful if they answered shoulder to him, nowever; and when he

around me, part of them mounted, and entfully at her teasing and caprices, in-the others standing on their feet, holding cautiously declaring that he would rather cautiously declaring that he would rather looking, and many of the richest girls in marry any girl within twenty miles, were the country would have jumped at the she ever so poor and ignorant, than Carry | chance of marrying him-and Carry would upon my case as a desperate one, so far as she ever so poor and ignorant, than carry than only a moderate portion. He tained my presence of mind and did not who ever knew words of that kind to re-

her to accompany him to a pic-nic. Her That evening, at singing school, she heart was in a flutter of pleasure as she

smiled so sweetly on the young squire, assented; for it was the first time he had and looked so approachable, that he was ever given her an invitation to accompaand blocked so approachable, that he was ever given her an invitation to accompa-almost beside himself with hope and joy; and when he walked home with her, the squire drove around in a new buggy which she graciously permitted him to do for her. An unfortunate caprice seized he was foolish enough to ask her to mar-ry him. And then how innocently sur-prised naughty Carry looked as she said: Mr. Smith didn't mind, or didn't seem

"I am very sorry, Mr. Hurbert, I thought you understood me when I told glad she pleased herself, and appeared tained her name to be, was indeed one of of the road," she said, "are you still re- and handed it over to the gentleman on you I could be no more than a friend to quite as usual at the pic-nic; at which the

name-turned rather quickly on his heel deal. But. s ow, after this she felt a

moping at home. Could she ever forgive

him-the strange, incomprehensible man?

One morning, quite early, the young

There seemed to be no help for it—the remainder of my stay in that country, no beautiful Senorita Paula Valverdo was a pretty woman ever had the honor of being spy and accomplice of the ladrones. She my business confidante or of getting poss-had entered the diligencia at Perote for ession of my trusty and unfailing revol-She had spoken quite rayidly and impet. "You are a brave and, thoughtful girl. And you feel all this anxiety for unworthy vor, possibly not expecting any other course of proceeding. Most certainly, he seemed perfectly at home where he was me, Caroline?" And he took the two little trembling hands within his own and drew her to the sofa. You are pale, you

An arrant coquette was Qaroline Fault-foreigners subsequently paid dearly for their resistance, for in journeying back their resistance, for in journeying back to are paie, you
An arrant coquette was Qaroline Fault-foreigners subsequently paid dearly for their resistance, for in journeying back to are paie, you
An arrant coquette was Qaroline Fault-foreigners subsequently paid dearly for their resistance, for in journeying back to are paie, you
An arrant coquette was Qaroline Fault-foreigners subsequently paid dearly for their resistance, for in journeying back to are paie, you
An arrant coquette was Qaroline Fault-foreigners subsequently paid dearly for they seem to be much more numer-ous, "I replied, looking forth from the ver-shiel.
"Each stands on the spot where some on chas met a violent death," she reioined;" she reioined;
"Each stands on the spot where some on chas met a violent death," she reioined;
"Each stands on the spot where some on chas met a violent death," she reioined;
"I acknowledge myself conquered by hier Clayton instigated it, and heis pattnery or sours."
"Each stands on the spot where some on chas met a violent death," she reioined;
"Each stands, on the spot where some
"I horden death," she reioined;
"I horden death," she re

ing of their possessors. It was a cohvincing proof of the wisdom And in spite of his menial situation, the where Mr. Clayton was toying with his partner's fan. Before he could reach him, a small hand was laid gently on his arm. He paused. It was Caroline. - She look-ed up beseechingly into his face, her lips under the window, and she started up in the wildest alarm. The squire's son turned a very "Oh, go, go ! if you can; but it is now too late. What shall I do?"

quivering : "Oh, Mr. Smith ! don't have any scenes "Si, Senor, we shall be most happy to conducts. It is doughted in they answered shoulder to min, nowever, and when he receive anything which so distinguished a traveler may have to bestow." With this, I quietly stepped from the had the power to get back. Use of the duced any number of times.

"Seriously so, I assure you." "You would only bring certain death upon us both." "Say; rather, I should lighten the ex-penses of the journey—for your knights well as advance—and you yourself have acknowledged that firm resistance put them to flight for once." "But there were numbers opposed to them to flight for once." "But there were numbers opposed to them were numbers opposed to there was all the some of assistance for the rob-them, Senor, and you are only one." "Seriously so, I assure you." "You would only bring certain death with this, I quietly stepped from the back on a duck, searching glance of the road understand how to retreat as them to flight for once." "But there were numbers opposed to there was all the for once." "But there were numbers opposed to there was all the for once." "But there were numbers opposed to there was all the for once." "But there were numbers opposed to there was all the for once." "But there were numbers opposed to there was all there were numbers opposed to "But there were numbers opposed to there was all there were numbers opposed to there was little hore. If yours is the power to get back. As for the young lady herself, it is un-there was all the for once." "But there were numbers opposed to there was all there were numbers opposed to there was little hore. If yours is the power to get back. "As for the young lady herself, it is un-there was there exerced in yourself have there was little hore. If yours is the power to get back. "As for the young lady herself, it is un-there was all the same to frequence that this yours there was little hore. If yours is the power to get back. "As for the yours lists here were numbers opposed to there was listle hore. Of assistance for there were numbers opposed to there was listle hore. Of assistance for there were numbers opposed to there was listle hore. Of assistance for there were numbers opposed to there was listle hore. Of assistance for the collens if the cours if the cours if the cours if the cou

been more considerate of others? Therfore Caroline Faulkner, in the qui-et town of Readingville, managed to enjoy herself tolerably well, sporting with men's hearts as a child with its toys, thinking these dangerous playthings made for her especial breaking and tormenting and rejoicing in every new victim to her for inter the many ster than any other gentle. for inter the many ster gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean any other gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean any other gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean any other gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean any other gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean any other gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean any other gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean any other gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean ster to her the mean any other gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean any other gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean any other gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean any other gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean ster to her the mean ster gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean ster to her the mean ster gentle. for the mean ster to her the mean ster the mean ster to her to her the mean stere well, if not better, than any other gentlesides, their consciences troubled them,

man, and would eventually listen favora- knowing how eager they had always herebly to his suit for he was rich and good tofore been to receive his attentions. When the company were preparing to depart, Mr. Clayton sought Miss Faults ner, in order to escort her home, She lodge in some unfortunate brain, would declined haughtily, assigning no reason. "This conduct is strange, unaccounta-ble, Miss Faulkner. Some malicious per-sweetest, wisest, best, that pale face and

sons might charge it to an interest, to say those heavy eyes go to my heart. Will the least, which you would not be very you not trust me, love, when I say that broud or willing to own."

She gazed at him steadily a moment, never faltering. He quailed beneath that calm glance. She moved away, joining her friend, Miss Emmons, and her brother. alarm, I promise to speak to you. Will \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

"We suppose you know, through your daughter that John Smith is a suspected man, suspected of being an escaped convict from the State prison, and also of set-ting fire to the house that was burned a week or two ago." "Caroline is too sensible to tell me any

Squire Clayton.

up such lies?

such nonsense," said the farmer.

I am to have the charge of you. Good night, my Caroline, my precious one." The next morning, Farmer Faulkner-rubbed his eyes as it doubting his vision, when about half a dozen men, accompanied by two officers entered. They said they came to arrest one John Smith as

"I thought you liked him, Caroline. Is

She hid her face in her hand, when the

sharp clatter of a horse's hoofs was heard

when you come. Only go." "Not till I have first sothed my pretty

What-trembling yet? Why you forget the pistol my love. What a brave little

I am not in the least danger-a short de-

alarm, I promise to speak to you. Wily you not trust me? You know some day -perhaps nearer than you now imagine-

there any one dearer to you ?'

"Very singular, for my son informed their prisoner. He presented himself, and her of the reports the first thing, returned stood calm and collected, while they were waiting for the high sheriff and warden "And pray sir where did your son pick of the prison. They soon came. The former spoke : "Never mind. It is a long story and : "Good morning, gentlemen; I undertrue one, without doubt. We will take stand you have an escaped convict-a har-your deposition at once." dened criminal—in detention. Your zenl "Take the devil, rather !" thundered merits praise. Ab, John ! you here? glad the farmer indignantly. to see you. Father and mother well, eh? he said in a familiar tone of friendship, He was an obstinate man when excited. in spite of his usual good nature. In vain and shaking Mr. Smith's hand heartily.-But I must to business first, then I will they talked, one after another and then all place where the worthy old farmer was at together, to convince. Mr. Faulkner was take you home with me.' Where is your a popular man and his opinion had weight. | fellow ? Bring him hither." then carelessly said ; "Mr. Smith is quite valuable help ; is of fools he said, "to lister to such stuff-

as ever came from the hands of the sculptor, and with an animation the most fascinating, varying in expression with every T thanging mood of the intellectual possessor. A glance at her bewitching eyes showed me that she was one who was naturally of a social disposition; and as we fattled

away from the gloomy town; I took the liberty of opening the conversation.

"They tell me," said I, "that the route between here and Mexico is a very dangerous one to travel." "There is little to fear," she replied, with a sweet smile and melodious tone, "except from the professional robbers; and

they seldom harm any one who makes no resistance." "It seems strange to me," I rejoined.

"that you Mexicans should take such a thing as a matter of course, and deem resistance a very impolite way of freating the knights of the road, instead offboldly asserting your rights, and abating the evil by a manly spirit of resistance. For myself, I must consider it the most cowardly of proceedings for any respectable party to set out prepared to quietly gratify the cupidity of the ladrones, and unpre-

pared to treat them to their just deserts." "Every traveler, Senor," she replied, "should, before setting out, count the cost of his journey, and as, of course, it is natural he should value his life highly, it seems to be natural that he should pay a certain sum for positive safety rather than put that life in jeopardy. For instance, in traveling from Vera Cruz to Mexico, if he will reckon that so much is the fare by the diligencia, and that so much will be required for entertainment, on the way, and so much for the contingency you speak of, he will then have the exact cost between the two points, and if he will look at the whole as the sum total of his journey, he will not seem to be robbed by any one party more than another."

"That," I replied, "may be, I liclieve 1.5. the Mexican mode of doing business, one does not tally with the preconceived ideas of us foreigners."

" But every one," replied the fair speaker, "should conform to the customs of the "the for decisive action !" country he visits."

" Aud.do you then go prepared for this highway nobbery? and have you no fear in thus journeying by yourself?" "Well, Senor, what can I do? I am,

" you perceive, an unprotected lady, who, for certain reasons, am required to make the journey between Perote and the Capto my view. ital some twice or thrice a year, and you certainly could not expect me to go pre-pared to resist an armed baild? As to dear I will not deny I have my share of that, but so far I have never met with any rough treatment, and of course I trust to the saints that my fortune will ever be pro-nitions." "Good God!" I exclaimed, perfectly was, I escaped, and entered the town of nitions."

"I think I have paid my share to the with these banditti ?" ladrones for my transit through this coun-

"but still if such is your intention, I think tain as a keepsake!" I continued, drawing and went away. it no more than right that you should give the jewel from my finger, and presenting me a chance to take part in my defence, it to a third!" since my risk of danger will be as great as "I beg your pardon, Senores," I pur-

all, to defend yourself?" I inquired.

garding the whole proceeding with one "Hurry in, M of her sweetest smiles, "I must not forget lock the door." "If I had the means, Senor "I have two pistols," said I; "if you will accept one of them it is at your ser- this beautiful lady. I have here," I went on at the same time producing the article,

You are very kind, Senor; but can "a very beautiful gold snuff box-set, as fire it ?" you perceive, with diamonds-will your " With case, Senorita ;" and producing

vice.

the manner in which it was to be used. afforded me by your company and conver-"And this, you say, will shoot some half sation ?"

dozen times"?' "You are a very gallant gentleman, "I think it is safe to calculate that five Senor." she laughed, taking the two reout of six will explode, Senorita." "A very formidable weapon, indeed !" the other.

she replied, "and with such I can almost | I reached the box towards her-but my fancy we are safe You have another, you hand trembled a little-and just as the way, like this ?" present was about to touch her fingers, it I produced it.

slipped and fell between us. "A thousand pardons, Senorita, for my What a beautiful invention !" she observed, reaching over and taking it from awkwardness," I said, as I bent down to and walked up stairs. my hand. Then extending her hands, one pick it up.

of the revolvers in each, she continued---count himself against a host. You say this is fired in this manner?" she proceed- quick, furtive glance showed me that the directly, and turned the key rather ener- tone. ed, cocking one of the weapons, as she girl still held my weapons carelessly in getically; and two or three times the word spoke, and pointing it towards the road. one hand, with the other remaining ex-"Have a care, Senorita; or you will discharge it." tended for the prize. I lifted the box

A minute after, and while I was gently them from her. chiding her, we heard a loud quick tramp To wheel and commence firing upon the

party was only the work of a moment. of horses, and several sharp, rapid exclamations. The next moment our convey-The first shot, fortunately, stretched out the chief; the second took effect on the ance was stopped suddenly, and we saw ourselves surrounded by some eight or one nearest to him; and by the time the ten mounted men, one of whom, in a loud third had been sent on his mission there

vice exclaimed-

"Yield prisoners or die." the astounded robbers began to scatter in "Quick, Senorita," said I, extending every direction. I had no disposition to my hand; "quick, in Heaven's name! give follow them, however, another minute me one of those weapons! for now is our they might rally and turn upon me, and

springing forward I grasped the reins of a " Nay," she replied, putting the weap- freed mustang, and vaulted into the sadons behind her, "you will be too hasty .--- | dle. One more glance around me showed Let them suppose we yield-let them open me the Senorita Paula upon the body of the chief, her laughter changed - to grief, the door ! "Oh, no! it will then be too late."

and some of the scattered cowards bring-As I spoke the door was suddenly ing their weapons to bear upon me. thrown open and three or four swarthy, heavily-bearded men presented themselves "Adios, Senorita and Senores," said I bitterly; "he laughs best who laughs last." The next moment I was dashing away

"Quick, Senorita, for the love of God ?" down the road, the half-rallied robbers the farmer's daughter while he spoke. I cried, grasping at her arm. "Hold," she exclaimed, instantly pre-

senting one of my own revolvers to my doubtless have followed me in hot pursuit,

astounded; "our prisoner, did you say? Puebla in triumph; where, it is almost prison convict." "And you have really been robbed on It is not possible that one so fair and love- heedless to add, a narrative of my exyour journey back and forth ?" I inquired. I' as yourself is in any manner connected ploit made me a hero for the time. Here the reading of countenance. He is as ed him :

I sold my captured mustang and trap-pings for enough to indemnify me for "It is even so, Senor," she replied, with "And you expect to continue a repeti-tion of the rest of your life?" against myself, and significantly pointing "Who knows?" she replied. "At least the other to the door, --"You will oblige the other to the door, where I arrived in safety, without any further event worthy

hope to be always prepared." "Atal your fellow travelers," said I. into the care of those good gentlemen, of note.

change; and he had never invited her Carry went tripping along the pink to go anywhere since-though once, when bordered path to the house, stopped on the wood-vine covered piazza, and looked at the sky.

sued, glancing at the Senorita Paula, who, at the sky. "And have you really the nerve, after with my pistols still in her possession, was I the door opened behind her, and a young quietly standing within the diligencia, re- man appeared. He said, very coolly." "Hurry in, Miss Faulkner, I am going to

"I don't care about burrying, thank squire went, as if accidentally, to the you, It is a splendid evening. I am looking at the stars. Se how bright they work; he praised his farm and crops, and

ladyship honor me by accepting this as a Perhaps Miss Caroline was not unwillone of my revolvers I explained to her slight token of my regard for the pleasure ing to say "no " again that evening; for he not? By the way, where did you pick good fellow as ever breathed." she looked up smilingly in the young man's him up ?" face, though he was only her father's The good farmer, in the honesty of his

"man," and one could see, even by the heart, related the whole circumstance, not was firm in the belief of the young man's moonlight, that he was dressed very plain- omitting his wife's fears and hesitation, volvers in one fair hand, and presenting ly; and rejoiced, besides, in the romantic and exulted in the proof of his own sharp ne of John Smith.

He must have been very cold or stupid or something, for he answered dryly: " I cannot wait for you to look at the two months, and he seems as dear to me disposed to doubt it. Credulous Carrie !

moon ; I am too sleepy. You can lock as my own son. I have to be somewhat the door when you get ready to come in." careful of him, for you see he is rather delicate, and I shouldn't think had been used Too sleepy to gaze at the moon with a to much hard work."

"Armed like this, one might almost the moment of life and death. All were beautiful girl for company ! No wonder "You say he came from up above?- hervous and abrupt manner of Mr. Faulk-"Armed like this, one might almost the moment of life and death. All were in a measure off their guard; and one out much longer star-gazing, but came in not? asked the squire in a peculiar remark,

> Bot it was all to no purpose. The farretired to rest early. "bear" escaped her lips. To whom, or mer was too honest himself to understand what did she refer? Perhaps her mind wan- more than people actually said, so he ancarefully, but as I raised myself, I gave a dered to menageries in general, and some- swered cheerily. his door. He did not answer. Another

The words were scarcely uttered when wild, startling yell, and as the Senorita thing or somebody had suggested bears "Certainly; it is only about twenty her finger pressed the trigger, and one of started back, I, with the quickness of light in particular. Be that as it may, it was miles from here. You ought to know that the charges exploded with a sharp report. ning, seized both weapons, and wrenched the burden of her song until she iell asleep. yourself, squire." ap. "Who is it.?" Mr. John Smith had been Mr. Faulk-

"O ho? I have you-now, my fine bold ner's "help" but a short time. His com- fellow ! he said to himself. ing there was accidental. At a social party, two evenings after, to

Some weeks since a very plainly dressed which Caroline and Mr. Smith had been to me. I have something to tell you." young man had called at the door to re- invited some days previously, the latter Wondering, he did as required, and o quest a drink of water. While little Char- did not go till quite late. It appeared to opening the door, found Caroline, who such a commotion? The talented John ley Fankner was gone to the well to get him on his entrance, that his greetings motioned him to the little sitting room arose one simultaneous yell of dismay and some fresh and cool water, and the man were received coldly and constrainedly, some fresh and cool water, and the man was waiting in the hall. Mr. Faulkner came in quite troubled, and told his wire and daughter that the hired man he had engaged had disappointed him, and he did not know what in the world he could do not happened to his experimed to his experiment. not know what in the world he could do not happened to his experience before,

just now. Haying time, too, he did not and he was naturally somewhat perplexed. know of any other person he could employ. "The next !" he asked of a pretty, The stranger's eye twinkled as he blooming girl, who had always been for heard ! and. turning to the farmer, mod- ward, in claiming his attention, estly offered his services, adding that he

" Engaged, also." "The next, then ?" he asked laughing- from the prison are coming to take you. was not very strong yet, having only latevery glid to do what he was able for his something was wrong. board. His eyes wandered admiringly to "I am very sorry! but I am engage

all the evening, when I am not too tired His offer was eagerly accepted by the to dance!" she replied blushing. pouring after me a volley, but fortunately His offer was eagerly accepted by the to dance!" she replied blushing. not touching their mark. They would farmer; though, but for his need, he would "You are fortunate, madame;" and

to light?"

"Nonsense, wife! Just trust me for Just then Caroline whispered, as she passhonest a fellow as ever breathed," said the "Better ask Lu. Einmons, Mr. Smith.

farmer, decidedly. And so the stranger stayed. It was ner for the next, if you please." for this dance. Consider me your partsomewhat remarkable that an exception to She spoke rapidly, and somewhat exciall preceding rules was made in his favor; tedly. He looked at her in surprise.-

her little brother. It must be confessed, however, that Mrs. self to dance with him! She looked pale, does not always chance to be provided for have your relief volume in the same difference of the same differenc

"I await your commands," said John, with a demure smile.

The sheriff stood thunderstruck, then-Mr. Faulkner conferred with his wife & burst into a hearty laugh.

"You dont mean to say that I have got. daughter after they had gone. Each one out of a comfortable bed and come all this innocence. The little bible on his table distance to arrest the son of an old friend sightedness, adding; "I can tell a rogue as far as I can see holy pages, the young girl noted, would nor would say to hear that his son is an him. Smith has been with me now over alone have convinced her, had she been escaped convict? Ha! ha! ha! What presented to John by his mother, and the whom I have known from his cradle? O. mad prank have you been playing, John? All three agreed it was unnecessary to When you left us a few months ago, we thought you were going immediately to. inform him of mere rumors at present. Mr. Smith might have, noticed the red open an office in the city."

eyes of Caroline and her mother, and the During the speech, the accusers looked at each other in dismay, and at the close one after another crept away in dire confusion, one after another crept away in mark. It was a rainy, pitch dark night. He dire confusion. A chaise was seen dash-ing furiously down the hill. It contained :-

the old and young squire. It was between eleven and 12 o'clock, when he was awakened by a light tap at The family were left alone, except the

high sheriff. The good farmer looked triumphant and excited, as he brought down his fist

"It is I, Caroline," answered a timid upon the table exclaiming; I told them so, voice. "Rise quick and dress yourself. the rascals.

Dont light the lamp! dont-pray, dont The sheriff shook the honest farmer's make the least noise, and come out here hand heartily.

By the way, John, you have not expla-Wondering, he did as required, and on ined. What have you been about to raise Smith Coleridge, only son of the Gov: of

with weeping, her face fearfully pale, and smiling Caroline.

she trembled violently. "O, Mr. Smith!" she whispered, in a have improved your time worke. I must voice choked with sobs, "there are men approve of a young man losing his heart all around the house to prevent your es provided he will lose it to one who will be cape, and to-morrow morning some officers sure to take good care of it. This young lady will take faithful care or else I am no ly recovered from a fever : but should be ly, but looking keenly at her, perceiving I heard it all from my window. O, Mr. jadge of countenances," boking keenly at Smith ! do you know what dreadful thing the ingenuous face of Caroline. "You'vo they suspect you of? They say that you my best wishes, John, and this young lady, are an escaped convict from the State pri- also, for your future wedded happiness. son, and an incendiary besides !" and she And these wishes have been more successfully realized than many have been-

He did not look like a very hardened uttered on similar occasions." ----

criminal as he stood before her with his 237"A counsel being questioned by a "Does Carolino believe these dreadful things?" he asked in a low voice. iudge to know "for whom he was concerned," replied, " I am CONCERNED, my lord, "Oh no, no! I know they cannot be for the plaintiff; but I am employed by

so," she answered fervently and quickly. the defendant. "I awoke you so you can escape to night. Here is a suit of father's—it will serve as 2. I'll teach yon to play pitch and toss! Til flog you for an hour, I will."--be too late. While you are gone I will "Father," instantly replied the incorrigi-keep watch. The north side of the house ble, as he balanced a penny or his thumb and that he sat daily at the same table This proud, exacting girl, who expected is the least guarded. Here is a pistol, you and finger, "I'll toss you to make it two

. . .

a disguise. O, burry quick-do, it may be too late. While you are gone I will with Mr. and Mrs. Faulkner, Carry and her exceptance of an invitation to be re- may need it to defend yourself, and and hours or nothing !"

cried bitterly.

moved face.