

400-402 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton.

THE FAIR

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Great :- Alteration :- Sale :- Continued

We Mention a Few of Our Prices for This Week:

Table with 3 columns: BARGAINS, Regular Price, Alteration Price. Lists various items like Linen finish Toweling, Apron Gingham, Indigo Blue Calico, etc., with their respective prices.

THE FAIR

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FOR BARGAINS

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The Lost Cipher.

By STANLEY J. WEYMAN.

(These short serial stories are copyrighted by Bachelier, Johnson & Bachelier, and are printed in The Tribune by special arrangement, simultaneous with their appearance in the leading daily journals of the large cities.)

The queen, whose face was flushed with fever, made a fretful movement, but did not answer.

"Do you wish me to ask him?" Henry said with admirable patience.

"If you think it is worth while," she muttered, turning sullenly and eyeing me from the middle of her pillows with disdain and ill-temper.

"I will, then," he answered, and he turned to me. "M. de Rosny," he said, in a formal tone, which even without the unaccustomed monsieur cut me to the heart.

"He is good enough to tell the queen how the key to my secret cipher which I intrusted to you, has come to be in Mme. de Verneuil's possession."

I looked at him in the profoundest astonishment, and for a moment remained silent, trying to collect my thoughts under this unexpected blow.

The queen saw my hesitation, and laughed spitefully. "I am afraid, sir," she said, "that you have overrated this gentleman's ingenuity, though doubtless it has been much exercised in your service."

Henry's face grew red with vexation. "Speak, man!" he cried. "How came she by it?"

"Mme. de Verneuil," I said.

The queen laughed again. "Had you not better take him out first, sir?" she said, scornfully. "and tell him what to say?"

"For God, madame!" the king cried passionately. "you try to my secret cipher, I not told you a hundred times, and sworn to you, that I did not give Mme. de Verneuil this key?"

"If you did not give her that," the queen muttered, sullenly, picking at the silken coverlid which lay on her feet. "you have given her all else. You cannot deny it."

last, when I came to a lame conclusion—since I could explain nothing except that the key was gone—he could restrain himself no longer. In a tone in which he had never addressed me before, he asked me why I had not, on the instant, communicated the loss to him; and when I would have defended myself by adducing the reason I had given above, overwhelmed me with abuse and reproaches, which, as they were uttered in the queen's presence, and would be repeated, I knew, to the Comenais and Galignais of her suite, who had no occasion to love me, carried a double sting.

Nevertheless, for a time, and until he had somewhat worn himself out, I let Henry proceed. Then, taking advantage of the first pause, I interposed. Reminding him that he had never had cause to accuse me of carelessness before, I recalled the twenty-two years

in sheer dismay. Then his chagrin turned to anger, which, as he dared not vent it on her, took my direction. He pointed impetuously to the door. "Begone, sir!" he said in a passion, and with the utmost harshness. "You have done mischief enough here. God grant that we see the end of it Go—go!" he continued, quite beside himself with fury. "Send Galignais here, and do you go to your lodging until you hear from me!"

Overwhelmed and almost stupefied by the catastrophe, I found my way out. I hardly knew how, and sending in the woman made my escape from the ante-chamber. But hasten as I might, my disorder, patent to a hundred curious eyes, betrayed me; and, if it did not disclose as much as I feared or the inquisitive desired, told more than any had looked to learn. Within an hour it was known at Nemours that it was

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"Begone, Sir," He Said.

during which I had served him faithfully, and the omens I had incurred for his sake; and having by these means placed the discussion on a more equal footing, I descended again to particulars, and asked respectfully if I might know on whose authority Mme. de Verneuil was said to have the cipher.

"On the own!" the queen cried hysterically. "Don't try to deceive me, for it will be in vain. I know she has it; and if the king did not give it to her, who did?"

"That is the question, madame," I said.

"It is one easily answered," she retorted. "If you do not know, ask her."

"But, perhaps, madame, she will not answer," I ventured.

"Then command her to answer in the king's name!" the queen replied, her cheeks burning with fever. "and if she will not, then has the king no prisons—no fetters smooth enough for those dainty ankles?"

This was a home question, and Henry, who never showed to less advantage than when he stood between two women, cast a sheepish glance at me. Unfortunately the queen caught the look, which was not intended for her; and on the instant it awoke all her former suspicions. Supposing that she had discovered our collusion, she flung herself back with a cry of rage, and, bursting into a passion of tears, gave way to frantic reproaches, wailing and throwing herself about with a violence which could not but injure one in her condition.

The king stared at her for a moment

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AMUSEMENTS. ACADEMY OF MUSIC FRIDAY, JAN. 25

KELLAR AMERICA'S OWN MAGICIAN. Presenting the Astonishing Results of a Conscientious Search for Novelties in the Old World.

Kellar's New Theosophic Wonders: The Shrine of Koumra Sa mi; The Mystery of "L'Hassa;" The Mystic Light of Bala; Soumanabala; The Adept of Serenagur; The Phantom Bride; Cagliostro; Flyto; and a solution of the great enigmas.

HOW TO GET RID OF A WIFE. Sale of seats opens Wednesday, Jan. 23.

THE FROTHINGHAM Friday and Saturday Jan. 25 and 26 and Saturday Matinee. Engagement of the Talented Young Actor, MR. WILLIAM MORRIS, in H. C. DeMille's Great Popular Success, THE LOST PARADISE

Under the Auspices of GREEN RIDGE WHEELMEN. Direction of Mr. Gustav Frohman. A strong supporting company, including Miss Ettie Hawkins, in her original character. Cinders. Regular prices. Matinee prices, 25c., 50c. and 75c. Sale of seats now open.

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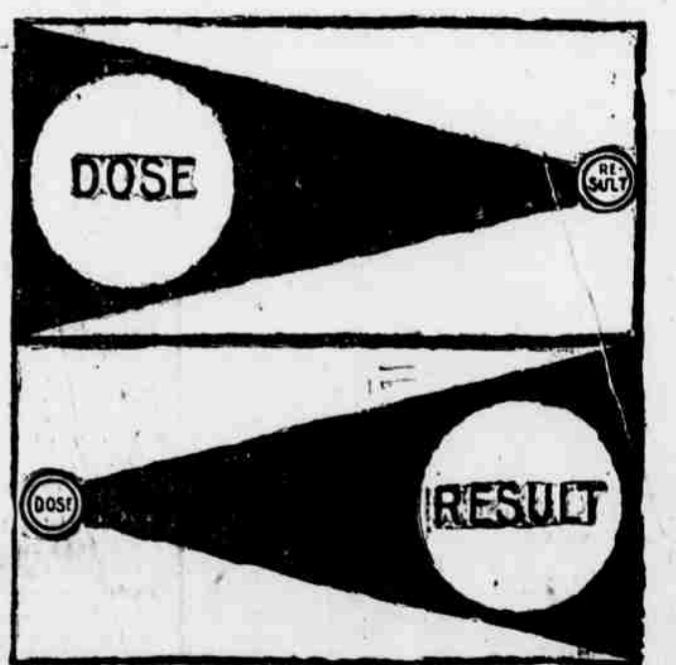
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