

The Lost Cipher.

By STANLEY J. WEYMAN.

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When they were gone, doubtless to tell Henry how I had taken it. I sat down to supper with La Font...

The way of beginning I summoned Malignan and put him through a severe examination. Later, I sent for the rest of my household...

By this time it was nearly midnight, and my people were drooping with fatigue. Nevertheless, a sense of the desperate nature of the case animated them...

"And what game have you played?" she replied, transported on a sudden with equal passion...

"On the contrary, madame," I answered, collecting myself for a last effort, and speaking with all the severity which a just indignation inspired...

"Yes," she replied stoutly, "It is! Or stay; you shall not go empty handed." And thrusting her arm under the pillow she drew out, after a moment's search, a small packet which she held out towards me...

I touched Mademoiselle, where madame was resting with her parents, a little before 7 o'clock, and riding with her to the stable, took the Orlean road through the forest...

This was so like her that it did not astonish me, and I balled her malice by leaning against the wall. This is no ordinary hour--from M. de Rosny's she said, flouting me with her eyes...

"He does not know, madame," I answered, severely. "What?" she cried, in affected surprise, "When he gave it to me himself?"

enough in rough times, but is now growing--" "Madam!" "A trifle exigent and superfluous."

"No more than I am afraid of yours," she answered, hardly. "But if the king is disappointed in his hopes?"

"Not in keeping what the king has given me?" she answered, raising her eyebrows. "Whereas, what do you gain?"

This pleasure, for one thing--the pleasure of seeing you there, awkward, hooted, stammering, and scolding, waiting my will.

"Have a care, madame!" I cried, bursting with indignation at a speech so shameless and disloyal. "You are playing a dangerous game, I warn you."

"And that is your answer, madame?" I said, choking with rage. It had been long since any had dared so to beard me.

"I suppose," observed the tramp, bitterly, "you would like to have met out of the cart. But I cannot." "Have you tried soft soap?" asked the woman in the blue gingham dress, dispassionately.

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escape--this falling--I took little heed of her, and less of the delective looks to which the household, quickly taking...

"I have got it," he said, timidly, pointing to the packet which I mechanically held in my hand. "And to what purpose?" I cried, glad of this opportunity of unloading some of my wrath...

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