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NO. 22.

CARLISLE,

VOL. LVII.

E. BEATTY, PROPRIETOR AND PUBLISHER

TERMS OF PUBLICATION. The Caulsin lixar is, published weekly one along shost, containing voart columns, and furnished to subcriber a the, rate of \$1.50 M paid, strictly in advance; \$1.15 M paid, strictly in advance; \$1.15 M paid, within, the year; or \$2 in all cases when payment, is delayed until after the expiration of the year. No subscriptions received for a less period than six months, and none discontinued until all arrearges are paid, unless at the option of the publisher. Papers sont to subscribers living out of Cumberland county must be paid for in advance, or the bayment assumed paid for in advance, or the payment as responsible person living in Cumberland ase terms will be rigidly adhered to in all

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Methodist E. Unurch, (nrst Unargo) corner of mains and litt dreets.—Rev. John M., Straw, Pastor.—Eervices at Methodisk, A. M., and 35 o'clock, F. M. Methodisk, E. Ohnreh, (second Chargo) Rov. Tuomas Dauminarr, Pastor. Services in CollegeChapel, at 10 o'clock A. M., and 3 o'clock, F. M., Round Chargo, Rov. J. Mess. Bankirr, Pastor. Eervices on the 2nd Eun-Roy. James Bankirr, Pastor. Eervices on the 2nd Eun-Roy. James Bankirr, Pastor. heran Church, corner of Pomfret and Rev. I. P. Naschold, Pastor. Service at Bedford streets. Rev. I. F. Base and the pro-1014 A. M. F. Street Company of the pro-2014 Mary Name changes in the above are necessary the pro-

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Select Cale.

THE SIEGE OF THE BLACK COT-TAGE.

Young LADY .- As you were leaving my louse, I accidentally heard, you ask your sisheard you say, referring to me. She is not once for his long walk to the county town. an accomplished woman. There is nothing particularly brilliant or engaging in her con- the letter, and the necessity of resting before ments nimest for the trouble of asking?'

swor this question of yours-not a very complimentary question to me -- but never mind so I declined. No thieves had ever come uent that. You were brought from your distant home to my house, as a total stranger, by your acquainted, to see how the plants in my con-When-you had got all the hints you wantedhad refreshed yourself with what I am vain lunch-and had politely taken your leave, it was not probable that you and I should ever house. meet again. Under ordinary circumstaneds, should I care whether you were astonished or not at the position in life which I now occupy? cannot do this. Something in your voice

though it is, I warn you, a long story-how it they went out. was that my rich husband first conceived the strange resolution of acking the poor stonemason's daughter to become his wife. When you have read to the end, I hope that your tage. Mrs. Knifton had accused her husband view of the attractions which holp a woman to make a good marriage may be enlarged. You see I am thinking of your advantage as well out spending it all, if he possibly could, beas my own justification. Very strange, is it foro he got home again. Mr. Kuifton had not, that I should take all this interest in a laughingly defended himself by declaring that stranger? I am surprised at it myself; but all his pooket money went in presents for his

me such a face as yours. my sister was out at service, and when I lived, every one of the Cliverton shop windows.

to look at her all day if she

midst of a moor in the West of England. The moor was covered with great limestone and you have had time to get tired of your of the great Moor Farm, then in the possession of my husband's father, began. The form lands stretched down gently into a beauled to a country house, called Holme Manor, belonging to a gentleman named Knifton. Mr. my mother had nursed, and whose kindness and friendship for me, ber foster-sister, I shall remember gratefully to the last day of my life.

These, and other slight particulars, it is nccessary to my story that I should tell you; especially careful to bear them well in mind. half away from the nearest habitation. In of his coat. all other directions we were four or five times that distance from neighbors ... Being very poor people, this lonely situation had one great attraction for us-we lived rent free on it .-In addition to that advantage, the stones, by shaping which my father gained his livelihood, lonco. Herman M. Johnson, Professor of Philosophy lay all about him at his very door. So that he thought his position, solitary as it was, quite an enviable one. I can hardly say that agreed with him; though I never complain I was very fond of my father, and managed to make the best of my loneliness with book case, put the pocket-book in a vacant the thought of being useful to him. Mrs. Knifton wished to take me into her service when she married, but I declined, unwillingly away, he would have had nahody to live with of that money shall you spend at Cliverton of

posed situation, to keep out the cold winds Postage on all letters of one-half ourse, weight or which; excepting just the summer months, and drew him away to the door. He protest-nich is letters of one-half ourse, weight or which is no cents pre-paid, except to California and Or. god. meet over us continually, all the year round of, and made come resistance, but she easily nich is no cents pre-paid. and proposed of the county, was a supervise continuity, attending the county within the County, was for too fond of a see, 18 cents per year. To any part of the wall of his own in any trifling words. Postage on all transfeat papers built atone walls, in y father protected against her to have a will of his own in any trifling

know, and may proceed at once to the pleasant task of telling you my story, One cloudy nutumn day, when I was rather

nore than eighteen years old, a berdsman walked over from Moor Farm with a letter which had been left there for my father It came from a builder, living at our county town, half a day's journey off, and it invited ter if it was true that I had begun life as the my father to come to him and give his judgdaughter of a poor working stone-mason of the ment about an estimate for some stone-work lowest degree. When you were told that this on a very large scale. My father's expenses was actually the fact, you expressed your as- for the loss of time-were-to-be paid, and he onishment at finding me the wife of one of the was to have his share of employment afterargest and richest gentleman-farmers in all ward, in preparing the stone. He was only the West of England. She could never have too glad, therefore, to obey the directions been more than ordinarily good-looking, I which the letter contained, and to prepare at Considering the time at which he received

ersation. She can never have had a farthing he attempted to return, it was impossible for of money of her own. What, in the name of him to avoid being away from for one night a all that's morvelous, could have induced her least. He proposed to me, in case I disliked husband to choose her for a wife, when, with being left alone in the Black Cottage, to lock his position in the world, he might have had the door, and to take me to Moor. Farm to beauty, and money, and brilliant accomplish sleep with any of the milkinaids who would give me a share of her bed. I by no means Now, under ordinary circumstances, young liked the notion of sleeping with a girl whom lady, I should not think it worth while to an- I did not know, and I saw no reason to feel afraid of being left alone for only one night,

us; our poverty was sufficient protection against them: and of other dangers there were nonsister, with whom I am not more than barely that even the most timid person could apprehend. Accordingly, I got my father his dinservatory were managed, as some guide to you ner, laughing at the notion of my taking refu setting up a conservatory of your own, ugo under the protection of a milkmuid at Moor Farm. He started for his walk as soo as he had done, saying he should try and be enough to think was a good and substantial back by dinner-time the next day, and leaving me and my cat, Polly, to take care of the

I had cleared the table, and brightened up therefore, I repeat, your question might well the fire, and had sat down to my work, with have remained unanswered by mo; for why the cat dozing at my feet, when I heard the trampling of horses; and, running to the door, saw Mr. and Mrs Knifton, with their groom In ninety nine cases out of a hundred I behind them, riding up to the Black Coftage hould have said to myself just such words as It was a part of the young lady's kinduess hose I have written, and should soon linve never to neglect an opportunity of coming to forgotten you and your-uncomplimentary ex- pay me a friendly visit; and her husband was ressions of amazement. But, in your case, generally willing to accompany her for bis wite's sake. I made my best courtesy, thereand look interested me the moment we met; fore, with a great deal of pleasure, but with ind now that you are gond, I cannot help no particular surprise at seeing them. They vishing to stand well in your opinion in spite dismounted, and entered the cottage, laughing amyself. I bolieve-perhaps in consequence and talking in great spirits. I soon heard of my unaccountable partiality for you—that that they were riding to the same county town the remarks you made to your eister about me for which my father was bound—that they in were only thoughtless-not deliberately und tended to stay with some friends there for a kind: and I mean to tell you in this letter- few days, and return home on horseback, as

I heard this, and I also discovered that they had been having an argument, in jest, about money matters, as they rode along to our cotof inveterate extravagance, and of never being able to go out with money in his pocket with must own the truth, and confess that if I wife, and that if he spent it lavishly, it was had ever had a daughter, I should have liked under her sole influence and superintendence. re going to Cliverton now,' he said, nam ing the county town, and warming himself at To begin at the beginning, I must take you our poor fire just as easily and pleasantly as if back to the time after my mother's death, he had been standing at his own grand hearth when my only brother had gone to sea, when You will stop to admire every pretty thing it alone with my father, the stone-muson, in the shall hand you the purse, and you will go it and buy. When we have reached home again

ooks, and intersected here and there by purchases, you will clap your hands in amaze stronmlets. The nearest habitation to ours ment, and declare that you are quite shocked was situated a mile and a half off, where a at my habits of inveterate extravagance. I stip of the fertile land stretched out into the am only the banker who keeps the moneywaste, like a tongue. Here the out buildings you, my love, are the specialthrift who throws lit all away!' . 'Am I, Sir ?' said Mrs Knifton, with a look of-mock indignation. We will see if I am to

tiful rick valley, lying nicely cheltered by the be misrepresented in that way with impunity high-platform of the moor. When the ground Bossis, my dear. (turning to mo), you sha began to rise again, miles and miles away, it judge how for I deserve the character which that unscrupulous man has just given to me I am the spendthrift, am I? And you are Knifton had lately married a young lady whom only the banker? Very well. Banker! give me my money at once, if you please. Mr. Knifton laughed, and took some gold

and silver from his waistcoat pocket. No. no. said Mrs. Kuifton. You may wan what you have got there for necessary expenand it is also necessary that you should be ses. Is that all the money you have about you? What do I feel here?' And she tapped her hus My father's cottage, then, stood a mile and band on the chest, just above the breast pocket

Mr. Knifton laughed again, and produced his rocket book. His wife snatched it out of his hand, opened it, drew out some bank notes, put them back again immediately, and, closing the pocket book, stepped across the room to my mother's little walnut-wood book-casethe only bit of valuable furniture we had in the house, and appropriate

What are you going to do there? asked Mr.

Knifton, following his wife. Mrs. Kuifton opened the glass door of the place on one of the lower shelves, closed and. looked the door again, and gave me the key. You called me a spendibrift, just now, she

enough, for my father seake. If I had gone said, There is my answer. Not one farthing him; and my mother made me promise, on her me. Keep the key in your pocket, Bessie, and Outsite the Value R in Road Coheast. President, Tread-like Watts, Severalary and Treasurer, Edward M. Diddles Saperintendant, A.F. Smith. Passenger trains twice a day. Estaward, eaving Carlisles at 20 20 clock. A.M. and 3.55 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.55 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.55 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains stery day West. Coheast, C.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains and S.A.M. and 3.65 o'clock, P.M. Two trains and S of Mr. Knifton's father to my father. This hands than yours, until we ride back, Bearle, double covering of cracks and crevices, which my dear, what do you say to that, as a lesson would have been superfluous in a sheltered in economy inflinted on a prudent husband by

position, was absolutely, necessary, in our ex a spendthrift wife ? water a sure of trees. She took Mr. Kuifton's arm while she spoke,

PA., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4. 1857.

transformation for the

glass door of the book ease began to worry ther gets back."

into the Black Cottage. running overvarious hiding-places in my mind, rity inspired by the closed doors and shutters. I thought of my tea anddy, a present from Mrs. that I had ever felt even the slightest appro-Knifton, which I had always kept out of hension carlies in the day. I sang as I washed harm's way in my own bed room. Most un up the tea things; and even the cat seemed luckily-as it afterward turned out-instead to catch the infection of my good spirite. I of taking the pocket book to the ton saidly, I never know the pretty creature so playful as

went into my room first to take the teascaildy she was that evening. read a page or two more of my story.

I was just gotting the unlucky tensoaddy

which I had received Mr. and Mrs. Knifton, I inquired what they wanted, sharply enough, as he spoke, and I recognized him as a stonemason, going among his comrailes by the name of Shifty Dick. He bore a very bad character for everything but wrestling -a sport for which loud bang at the front door the working men of our parts were famous all through the country. Shifty Dick was champion, and he had got his name from some tricks was a tall, heavy man, with a lowering, scarred face, and huge hairy hands—the last visitor in the whole world that I should have been glad to see under any circumstances. His companion was a stranger, whom he addressed by the name of Jarry a quick, dapper, wicked looking little man, who took off his cap to mo with mock politimes, and showed, in so doing, a bald head, with some very ugly-looking knobs on it. I distrusted him worse than I did Shirry Dick, and managed to get between his learing eyes and the book-case, as I told the two that my father was gone out, and that I did not expect him back till the next day, The words were bardly out of my mouth before I repented that my anxiety to get rid

when I denied having any older to give them; and Jerry (as I am obliged to call him know ing no other name by which to distinguish the fellow) took off his cap to me once more, and with a kind of black guard gentility upon him, said they would have the pleasure of calling the next day, when my father was at tome. I said good afternoon, as ungraciously as possi ble; and, to my great relief, they both left the

cottage immediately afterward. As soon as they were well away. I watched them from the door. They trudged off in the direction of the Moor Farm; and as it was beginning to get dusk, I soon lost sight of them. Half an hour afterward I looked out again. The wind had lulled with the sunset, but a mist was rising, and a heavy rain was beginning to full. Never did the lonely prospect of the moor look so dreary as it looked to my, eyes that evening. Never did I regret any the leaving of Mr. Knifton's pocket-book in my charge. I cannot say that I suffered any an army of you!"

actual alarm, for I felt next to certain that

You may imagine what a passion I was i my charge. I cannot say that I suffered any neither Shifty Dick nor Jorry had got a chance when I supored and blustered in that way. of setting eyes on so small a thing as the pocks heard Jerry laugh, and Shifty Dick swear et book while they were in the kitchen; but whole mouthful of oaths. Then there was there was a kind of vague distrust on me-a dead silence for a minute or two, and then the guspicion of the night a dislike at being left two ruffians attacked the door. by myself, which I nover remember having experienced before. This feeling so increased on me, after I had closed the door and gone buck to the kitchen, that when I heard the as if I could keep up my courage better if cottage, on their way home to the village in as it may appear, the next thing that altracted the valley below Moor Farm, I stepped out in my attention was, my pussy, crouched up, pate to the passage with a momentary notion of nic stricken, in a corner. I was so fond of telling them bow I was situated, and asking the little creature that I took her up in my them for advice and protection. I had hardly arms and carried her into my bed room, and formed this idea. however, sofore L dismissed put her inside my bed. A comical thing to d it. None of the quarrymen were intimate in a situation of deadly peril, was it not? bu friends of mine. I had a nodding acquaint- it, seemed quite natural and proper at the ance with them, and believed them to be bon- time.

est men, as tibes wert. But my own com. All this while the blows were falling faste mon sense told me that what little knowledge and faster on the door. They were dealt, as of their characters I had, was by no means I conjectured, with heavy stones picked up sufficient to warrant me in admitting them from the ground outside. Jerry sang at hi into my confidence in the matter of the puck- wicked work, and Shifty Dick swore, As et book. I had seen enough of poverty and left the bedroom, after putting the cet under poor men to know what a terrible temptation cover. I heard the lower panel of the door bea large sum of money is to those whose whole gin to crack. lives are passed in exaping up sixpences by ... Frad hito the kitchen and huddled our four weary hard work. It is one thing to write silver spoons into my pooket, then took the

fine sentiments in books about incorruptible unlocky book with the bank notes and, put it honesty, and another to put these sentiments in the bosom of my dress. I was determined into practice, when one day's work is all that to defend the property confided to my care Within the State, 13 cents per year. To any part of the United States, 25 cents. Postage on all transfert papers under 3 ounces in weight, I cont prepald or 2 conts under 3 ounces in weight, I cont prepald or 3 ounces in the weight, I cont prepald or 3 ounces in the weight, I cont prepald or 3 ounces in the weight, I cont prepald or 3 ounces in the weight, I cont prepald or 3 ounces in the weight, I cont prepald or 3 ounces in the weight of a man has to set up in the world in the weight, I cont prepald or 3 ounces in the weight, I cont prepald or 3 ounces in the weight, I cont prepald or 3 ounces in the weight of a man has to set up in the world in the weight, I cont prepald or 3 ounce

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into the saddle, mounted himself, and away told, my pride revolted at the idea of present they both galloged over the moor, as wild and ing myself in the character of a doward be happy as a couple of children. Although my being trusted with money by thought rather a graceful attraction among

Mrs. Kniffon was do novelty (in her maiden ladies, but among poor women it is something days she always employed me to pay hardress to be laughed at. A woman with less spirit maker's bills), I did not feel quite casy at of her own than I had, and always shall have, having a pocker-book full of bank notes left would have considered twice in my situation by her in my charge. I had no positive ap before she made up her mind to encounter the prehensions about the safety of the deposite jokes of playing and the jeers of milkmaids. placed in my lands; but it was one of the odd As for me, I had hardly thought of going to points in my character then (and I think it is the fails before I despised myself for enter still), to feel an unreasonably strong objection taining any such notion, . No, no, thought I to charging myself with money responsibilities 'I am not the woman to walk a mile and a of any kind, even to suit the ognivenience of half through the rain, and mist, and darkness, my dearest friends. As soon as I was alone to tell a whole kitchenful of people that I am the very sight of the pocket-book behind the afraid. Come what may, here I stop till fa-

me; and instead of returning to my work, I Having arrived at that valiant resolution puzzled my brains about finding a place to lock the first thing 1 did was to lock and bolt the it up in, where it would not be exposed to the back doors, and see to the security of every view of any chance passers by who might stray shutter in the house. That duty performed, I made a bluzing fire, lighted my candle, and This was not an easy matter to compass in | sat down to ten, as saug and comfortable as a poor house like ours, where we had nothing possible. I could hardly believe now, with valuable to put under look and key. After the light in the room, and the sense of secu-

to the pocket-book. I only noted in this The tea-things put by, I took up my knitroundabout way from sheer thoughtlesands,
and severely enough I was punished for it, as
you will acknowledge yourself when you have resolution enough to leave it and go to bedi I sat staring lazily into the blaze with my out of supposed, when I head footstops in the knitting on my lap—sat till the splashing of passage, and running out immediately, saw the rain outside, and the fitful, sullen, subbing two mon walk into the kitchen the room in of the wind grew fainter and fainter on my car. The last sounds I heard before I fairly dozed off to sleep were the cheerful crackling and one of them answered immediately that of the fire and the steady purring of the cat, they wanted my father. He turned, of course, as she basked luxuriously in the warm light on the hearth.

These were the last sounds before I fell asleep. The sound that woke me was one

I started up, with my heart (as the saying is) in my mouth, with a frightful momentary shuddering at the roots of my bair I started in wrestling, for which he was celebrated. He up broathless, and cold, and motionless; wait log in silence, I hardly knew for what; doubt ing, at first, whether I had dreamed about the bang at the door, or whether the blow had really been struck upon it.

In a minute or less; there came a second bang, lauder, than the first. I ran out into the passage. Who's there?'

'Let us in,' answered a voice, which I recognized immediately as the voice of Shifty

Dick. Wait a bit, my dear, and let me explain, said a second voice, in the low, oily, jeering tones of Dick's companion—the wickedly clover little man whom he called Jerry. " You are alone in the home, my pretty dear. You of my unwelcome visiters had made me incautlous enough to acknowledge that my father to reason, my love, and let us in. We don't would be away from bome for the whole night. want cider this time-we only want a very other when I unwisely let out the truth, but have, and your late excellent mother's four made no remark, except to ask if I would give silver ten spoons that you keep so nice and them a drop of cider. I answered charply, clean on the chimney-piece. If you let up that I had no clder in the house-having no in we won't hurt a hair of your head, my chefear of the consequences of refusing them rub, and we promise to go away the moment were at work within hall, in a neighboring cularly wish us to stop to tea. If you keep us out, we shall be obliged to break into the

bouse, and then --"And then," broke in Shifty Dick, "we'l mash you!"

"Yes," said Jerry, "we'll mash you, my beauty. But you won't drive us to doing that,

will vou? You will let us in? This long parley gave me time to recove the effect which the first bang at the door had produced on my nervos. The thrents of the wo villains would have terrified some wo men out of their senses; but the only result they produced on me was violent indignation I had, thank God, a strong spirit of my owl and the cool, contemptuous insolence of the man Jerry effortually roused it.

"You cownidly villains!" I screamed a them through the door. You think you can frighten manbeanse I am only a poor girl left alolie in the house. You reganifilm thieves, I slight thing more sincerely than I regretted defy you both! Our bolts are strong, our shutters are thick. I am here, to keep my father's house safe; and keep it I will against

I rushed into the kitchen and seized ti noker, and then heaped wood on the fire, and lighted all the caudles I could find, for I felt voices of the quarrymen, as they passed our had plenty of light. Strange and improbable

Get out, you villain, or I'll brain you on the spot!' cried I, threatening him with the poker. Mr. Jerry took his head out again much faster than he had put it in.

The next thing that come through the rent have jarred the hand of Shifty Dick up to his chimney, and the floor was smouldering in very shoulder, for I heard him give a roar of several places. rage and pain. Before he could catch at the -I had wit enough to let the smouldering go fork with his other hand I had drawn it in- on for a moment or two more, and to pour

of that I heaped my father's big tool-cliest, three chairs, and a scuttleful of coals-and, were coming up to the door with fresh stones. Jerry said, 'Stop a bit!' and then the two consulted together in whispers. I listened ogerly and just caught these words: Less trouble the other way

Nothing more was said, but I heard their footsteps retreating from the door.

Are they going to try the back door now? had hardly asked myself that question be the house. The back door was much smaller little and then came the sound of tearing. than the front; but it had this advantage in That, in its turn, stopped too; there was inside by heavy cross-pieces. It had no bolts like the front door, but was fastened by a bar fallen fragments. He tapped at the rafters iron, running across it in a slanting direction, and fitting at either end into the wall.

thought to myself. And they soon found out part of them. as much for themselves. After five minutes farther attack in that direction, and cast their to hear. I went into the kitchen and dropped Suspense and excitement together were beginning to tell upon me. The perspiration broke out thick on my forehead, and I began to feel making the barricade on the front door. I had not lost a particle of my resolution, but I was beginning to lose strength. There was a ther the sailor had left with us the last time be was ashore. I drank a drop of it. Never before or since have I put any thing down my throat that did me half so much good as that precious mouthful of rum f.

I was still sitting in my window-seat drying my face when I suddenly heard their voices close behind me. They were feeling the outside of the window against which I was sitting. It was protected, like all the other windows in the cottage, by iron bars. I listened in dreadful suspense for the sound of filing, but nothing of the sort was audible pro easily into letting them in, and had come iron bars. I listened breathlessly for some warning of what they might do next, for their voices appeared to die away in the distance. They were retreating from the window. Were they also retreating from the house altogethor? Had they given up the idea of effecting an entrance in despair?

A long silence followed-a silence which tried my oqurage even more severely than the tumult of the first attack on the cottage. Dreadful suspicions now beset me on their being able to accomplish by treachery what my hand on the bar of the back door when a know the cottage. I began to doubt whether provided. The ticking of the clock annoyed from the beam fell on the door. me; the crackling of the fire martled mo. 1 looked out twenty times a minute into the the coal-scuttle forming the top of my barridark corners of the passage, straining my cade were hurled, rattling, on to the floor; eyes, holding my breath, anticipating the but the lower hinge of the door and the cheak. most preposterous events, the most impossi- of drawers and tool-chest still kept their plan they prowling still about the house? Oh, one more run with the beam, and down it all what a suin of money I would have given only comes ! to know what they were both about in that interval of silence !

I was startled at last out of my suspense in the most awful manner. A shout from one of and fied out into the night, with the book full them reached my ears on a sudden down the of bank-notes in my bosom, the silver spoons kitchen chimney. It was so unexpected and in my pocket, and the cat in my arms. I so horrible in the stillness, that I screamed threaded my way early enough through the for the first time since the attack on the house. My worst forbodings had never suggested to me that the two villians might heard the second shock and the crash, which mount upon the roof. ...

Let us in, you she dovil! ronred a voice down the chimney.

There was another pause. The smoke from the wood fire, thin and light as it was in running out to pursue me. I ran on at the the red state of the embers at that moment, had evidently oblidged the man to take his fuce from the mouth of the chimney. Toounted the seconds while he was, as I confectured, getting his breath again. In less than for refuge—I can not tell you. I remember. Lot us in, or we'll burn the place down over your head !

my mind to discover what possible danger perished of fatigue and exposure on t first sliower of embers which the first stone down at his feet for the first time in my life, was southered them whenth it has here bed the in a dead awoung

For an instant I stood quito petrified before this new proof of the devilieh ingenuity of the villains outside. But the imminent danger I was now in recalled me to my senses immediately. There was a large canful of was, a long pitchfork, which they darted at me water in my bodroom, and I ran in at once to from outside, to move me from the door. I fetch it. Before I could get back to the kitchstruck at it with all might, and the blow must on a second stone had been thrown down the

fork with his other hand I had drawn it in-side. By this time even Jerry lost his temper, and aware more awfully than Dick himself. hefore the third stone came down the chim-Then there came another minute of respite. Dey. The five embers on the floor I easily. I suspected they were gone to get bigger disposed of after that. The man on the roof stones, and dreaded the giving away of the must have heard the hisaling of the fire as I whole door. Running into the bedroom as put it out, and have felt the change produced this fear beset me, I laid hold of my chest of in the atmosphere at the mouth of the chimdrawers, dragged it into the passage; and ney, for after the third stone had descended, threw it down against the door. On the top no more followed it. As for either of the ruffians themselves dropping down by the same road along which the stones had come last, I dragged out the kitchen-table and that was not to be dreaded. The chimney, rammed it as hard as I could against the as I well knew by our experience in cleaning whole barricade. They heard me as they it, was too narrow to give passage to any one above the size of a small boy.

I looked upward as that comforting reflection crossed my mind-I looked up and saw, as plainly as I see the paper I am now writng on, the point of a knife coming through the inside of the roof just over my head. Our cottage had no upper story, and our rooms had no ceilings. Slowly and wickedly the knife wiggled its way through the dry inside fore I heard their voices at the other side of thatch between the rafters. It stopped for a the way of strength-it was made of two solid great fall of dry thatch on the floor, and I oak boards, joined longwise, and strengthened saw the heavy, hairy hand of Shifty Dick, armed with the knife, come through after the with the back of the knife, as if to test their strength. Thank God, they were substantial . They must have the whole cottage down and close together! Nothing lighter than a before they can break in at that door!' I hatchet would liave sufficed to remove any

The murderous hand was still tapping with of banging at the back door, they gave up any the knife when I heard a shout from the man. Jerry coming from the neighborhood of my beny stones down with ourses of fury awful father's stone shed in the back yard. The hand and knife disappeared instantly. I wont on the window-seat to rest for a moment. to the back door, and put my ear to it, and Both the men were new in the shed. I made the most desperate efforts, to call to mind what tools and other things wore left in the bruises I had inflicted on my hands in it which might be used against me. But my agitation confused me. I could remember nothing but my father's big stone saw, which was far to heavy and unwieldly to be used on bottle of rum in the cupboard, which my brobrains and making my head swim to no purpose when I heard the men dragging something out of the shed. At the same instant when the noise caught my ear, the remembrance flashed across molike lightning of some beams of wood which had lain in the shed for years past. I had hardly time to feel certain that they were removing one of these beams,

before I heard Shifty Dick say to Jerry, 'Which door ?' 'The front,' was the answer: 'We've cracked it already; we'll have it down in no time."

Senses less sharpened by danger than mine They had evidently reckoned on frightening would have understood but too easily from these words that they were about to use the unprovided with house-breaking tools of any beam ne a battering-ram against the door. klod. A fresh burst of onthe informed me When that conviction overcame me, I lost courage at last. I felt that the door must come down, that no such barricade as I had constructed could support it for more than a fow minutes against such shocks as it was now to receive. 'I can do no more to keep the house against them," I said to myself, with my kness knocking together, and the tears at last beginning to wet my cheeks.

'I must trust to the night and the thick darkness, and save my life by running for it while there is yet time.'

I huddled on my cloak and hood, and had piteous mew from the bedroom reminded me of the existence of poor Pussy. I ran in, and there might not be ways of ounningly and si- huddled the creature up in my apron. Before lently entering it against which I was not I was out in the passage again, the first shock

The upper binge gave way The chairs and des. One more! I heard the villains ory

Just as they must have been starting for that " one more run," I opened the back door familiar obstacles in the back yard, and was out in the pitch darkness of the moor before I told me that the whole door had given way. In a few minutes they must have discovered the fact of my flight with the pocket-book, for

I heard shouts in the distance, as if they were top of my speed, and the noise soon died away. It was so dark that twenty thieves instead of How long it was before I reached the farmthat I had just sense enough to keep the wind. at my back (having observed in the beginning Burn it? Burn what? There was nothing of the evening that it blew toward Moor Farm. easily combustible but the thatch on the roof; and to go on resolutely through the darkness. and that had been well soaked with the heavy In all other respects I was by this time half the rain which had now fallen incessantly, for orazed by what I had gone through If it had .. ?? rain which had now fallen incessantly for so happened that the wind had changed after fitte more than six hours. Burn the place over I observed its direction early in the evening, many While I was still casting about wildly in I should have gone astray, and have probably there could be of fire, one of the heavy stores Providentially it still blow steadily as it had placed on the thatch to keep it from being blown for hours past, and I resubed the farm-torn up by high winds, came thundering down house with my clothen wer through, and my the chimney. It spattered the live embers brain is a high fever. When I made my a on the hearth all over the room. A richly farm at the door, they had all gone to bed but farm at the door, they had all gone to bed but furnished place, with knickkoncke and fine the farmer's eldest son, who was sitting up late. muslin about it, would have been set on fire over his pipe and newspaper. I just mustered immediately. Even our bare floor and rough trength enough to gasp out a few words tellfurniture gave out a smell of burning at it be ing him what was the matter, and then fell a

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