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COMFORT. Art thou a bad one waiting, While some temptations ragging More dreadful make the strife?

Relieving Guard—March 4th, 1864. ON THE DEATH OF REV. THOS. STARR KING. Come the relief—'What, squire, ho!

Whittierisms.

A Christmas Story by Dickens. SOMEBODY'S LUGGAGE.

When that long "banquet scene" was at an end, and the ladies left the room, I found myself, by the retirement of old Lady Saltith, next my hearty straight-forward manly friend Jack Fortescue.

"My dear Fortescue, how in Heaven's name could you enter into so such an engagement?" "How? How could I do otherwise, you mean? You know my position.

"I saw that my friend wanted to get away from the subject, so of course I did not attempt to pursue it. I was not enlightened by anything that occurred in the drawing-room after dinner.

It was on the day succeeding that of my arrival at Creel that I sought the billiard-room, the usual refuge of the unemployed. I had remained at home that morning, having some letters to write and other things to do in my own room.

Two people were in the room. A gentleman and a lady. Jack Fortescue and Miss Crawcour. They were standing together at the further end of the table.

What was I to do? Fortescue was my friend. The room was public to every body in the castle. If I retired it would be marked as showing that I felt I had interrupted some scene which did not require witnesses.

Look," he said to me, quickly, "is that cannon possible?" and he made it almost as he spoke. Two or three more followed. Then a hazard. At last a bad shot, and it was time for Miss Crawcour.

"She came to her place at the table, and made a violent effort to collect herself. I did not look at her, but pretended to be absorbed in marking Fortescue's score.

"My dear Fortescue, I have no wish to force myself on your confidence. What I have seen can be forever as if I had not seen it, if you wish it. You know that."

"I hate speaking of things of this sort," he continued, after a moment, and in an impatient tone; "one's words sound like words in a valentine or a trashy novel.

"I looked out from behind my curtains; I am always very easily diverted from my work. The riding party had all assembled. Three or four men—among them, for a wonder, Lord Sneyd.

"I did not like the look of the animal on which Miss Crawcour was mounted. As far as beauty went, certainly there was nothing to complain of.

"I am pledged," Fortescue answered. "To what?" "To nothing that is calculated to hinder the marriage with Sneyd, and not to press my own suit by word or deed for a period of five years—by which time, of course, all chance will be over."

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groom behind him on a thorough-bred. This was the last I saw of the cavalier. The duke retired immediately to the gun-room, and I went back to my writing-table, but I could not help feeling a certain sense of uneasiness.

All the events of that day are very fresh in my memory. The next to mine was a boudoir. There was a piano in it, and some one of the ladies of the party was playing on it. I don't know what she was playing, though I should recognize the air now in a moment if I heard it.

"I went on writing, and what I wrote seemed in a sort of way to be mixed up with this time. Presently I heard the sound of wheels, and some light vehicle drove up to the door.

"Good-by, old fellow," he said, with a miserable ghastly smile. "I'm off, you see. Will you take charge of this note for the duchess?"

"I went back to my desk. And still from the next room came that same plaintive air, and still it seemed to belong to what I wrote, and to be an inseparable part of the day and its events.

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Not a word more was spoken. The carriage drove up to the door, and I saw at a glance that it was Miss Crawcour over whom the duchess was bending; that the poor girl's habit was all torn and dirty; and that a handkerchief, deeply stained, was laid over her face.

way. Nobody seemed to want him, or to notice him. I remained still where I was. I knew I could be of no use, should only be in the way below. I could not help looking.

"I was covered again, in a moment, but I had seen it—and so had some one else. When Lord Sneyd looked upon that mutilated face he turned even paler than he had before, and went into the house.

"It is told in two words," said Balham. "You know that mare that poor Miss Crawcour used to ride. Well, she was always an unsafe, ill-conditioned mare, in my opinion, but on this occasion she was particularly bad.

"I was absorbed in these strange figures that I scarcely noticed there was any one standing beside me, until I heard my own name pronounced by a voice familiar to me. I turned and found myself face to face with Jack Fortescue.

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watching, now that that French officer is speaking to her. The man is only looking for some potatoes, but Sneyd looks as if he would like—if he had courage enough—to put his knife into him."

It was true. A more pitiable and contemptible sight I never witnessed than this man's jealousy. It extended itself to the French officers opposite, to the young English undergraduates who sat next to the lady, and even to the good-looking young monk who—a perfect man of the world, and a very agreeable fellow—took the head of the supper-table.

It was not calculated to quiet her lord and master's discomfort. A more liberal view of a pair of fine rolling black eyes I never saw made. Not long after supper this worthy pair retired, not the slightest attempt at recognition of either Fortescue or myself being made on the part of this distinguished nobleman.

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