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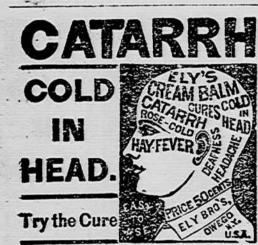


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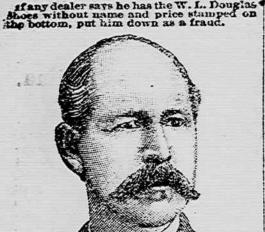
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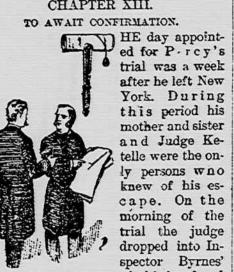
is on flie in Philadelphia at the Newspaper Adver interposed the judge.

FROM THE DIARY OF INSPECTOR BYRNES.

By JULIAN HAWTHORNE, Author of "The Great Bank Robbery," "An American Penman," Etc.

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CHAPTER XIII.



office, with a newspaper in his hand and a very grave face. "I want to call something to your recollection, inspector," said he; "something of importance to me, though you may have forgotten it."

"Oh, you mean young Percy Nolen's case, don't you?" returned the chief of detectives. "I remember; he was ac- destroyed, and several vessels were lifted cused of a robbery in a jewelry store and you went bail for him in fifteen hundred | One large merchant ship was taken up dollars. Yes, the trial comes on today." "You have a good memory. Well, you are perhaps not aware that Percy left New York on the day following the examination and never returned."

that, too! You see, we anticipated there might be some difficulty of the kind, and so we put a man on to watch him. Mr. Nolen spent that night at Mr. Martin's B. Co.'s steamship Amazon. She was rooms on Fifth avenue. The next morn- due at St. Thomas on the day after that ing, some one whom our man took to be on which the hurricane occurred. She Martin walked out and went up town. had cleared from New York with six plish that result." An hour or two later, Martin himself passengers and a full cargo. She had came out. Instead of following him our man made the mistake of going up stairs | miles of St. Thomas, and was someto see whether Nolen was in the rooms. what ahead of her schedule time. Ac-In that way they both got off. We did everything in our power to stop them, but it was too late. I sincerely hoped he would think better of it, and come back. I am sorry for you, but there it is!"

"As regards myself, I'm not a loser. I don't mind telling you that, a few hours after his escape, I received by letter the amount of the bail; it came, I have reason to believe, from Martin. All Percy's outstanding bills were also paid, probably by the same hand. Of course, Percy shoul I have stood his trial, and had I had any inkling of what he intended I should have used every means to prevent his departure. But at any rate he left no debts

"He made the mistake of his life, said the inspector, emphatically. "As the reason why will be known in a few hours, I may as well tell you now. In been driven through the narrow entrance the first place the evidence against him was not conclusive, and, taking everything into consideration, the chances are that he would have been acquitted. His looks and manner and his previous record and social standing were in his favor, though it is true that he had been making a fool of himself here and there, as boys sometimes will. But a fellow like that is not likely to steal a lady's pocket book in face of the absolute certainty of being suspected of it. The game wasn't worth the candle."

"I quite agree with you," replied the judge; "still there was a possibility that the verdict might go against him; and you can understand that a conviction would be as good as death to him."

"Even then, if we were innocent, the guilty party would be sure to turn up sooner or later and he would be vindicated. I could make a guess, even now, as to who the thief really is; but he has not committed himself yet, and as the money stelen was in bank notes of course it is more difficult to trace than jewels or any kind of personal property would be. But that is not the point I was going to make. If he had appeared in court today he would have been a free man the young man is drowned, is he?" he ever after."

"How can you know that?" "In this way. You have heard all

about that affair of his with the wife of the plaintiff. No actual harm had been done, but she was compromised and her husband had heard of it; they had had some words about it probably; and when he found Nolen in such an awkward prelose the opportunity of jumping on him. ally?" So he pressed the charge, as we saw. But his wife did what he had not anticipated-she joined him in the accusation, and thereby ranged herself definitely on his side. Of course that took the wind out of his sails; it proved that she hated Percy as much as he did, and therefore removed his own chief reason for hating

"I understand; but"-"Very well. Having no longer any especial reason for revenging himself upon Percy, and probably not believing, stany dealer says he has the W. L. Douglas on sober second thought, that he had shoes without name and price stamped on the bottom, put him down as a fraud. committed the crime, he would begin to ask himself how the public trial would affect his wife and himself. And the first thing he would see would be that it would involve letting out the whole story of the flirtation. Now, if his wife had persisted in her folly, instead of acting the part of a virtuous cur, as she did, he might have been willing to have her shown up; but as it was, he would desire to hush it up as securely as possible. There was only one way to do that, and

that was"-"Ah! I see. The plaintiff would decline to prosecute?"

"Exactly, and that (as I have the best reason for knowing) is just what he has done. His counsel are instructed to withdraw the charge; and of course, under the circumstances, the judge would allow him to do so. But when they see that the prisoner is not on hand, it may cause them to modify this course. They might profess themselves ready to go on with the case, and as the prisoner is absent judgment would issue against

"It is that result that I hoped to avoid It would be a sad thing for an honorable family to be dragged through the dust in this way for a crime for which the accused is not responsible."

"He should have had the manliness to face his accusers," repeated the inspector. "No one knows better than you, judge, that in this world a man must defend himself. He cannot expect other people to find excuses for him. But, as I say, he may live it down; he is a young

fellow yet, and"-"Have you seen this morning's paper?" anything particular?" The judge held out the paper, with his

finger on a certain paragraph. The inpector took it and read as follows: "A terrible hurricane is reported as having occurred in the neighborhood of the bail would be decided. St. Thomas, W. I., on the 13th ult. It is described as the severest ever known in those latitudes. It was preceded in the morning by a dead calm and excessive heat. Early in the afternoon

weatherwise persons predicted a heavy

blow. The prophecy was soon verified.

"Clouds were observed collecting in the southwest; they rapidly increasd in size and darkness, and advanced toward the northeast, from which quarter a gentle breeze was blowing. The storm burst with terrific fury. The harbor of St. Thomas is a large basin, the entrance to which is a comparatively narrow passage between two headlands. The harbor was at the time filled with shipping, including several steamers and large vessels. One of the steamers was at the time mother and sister | taking on passengers; the captain gave orders that this should be stopped, and steamed out of the harbor in the hope of weathering the gale. The steamer has not since been heard of, but fragments of it have been picked up at sea, and there is no doubt that she perished with all on board. The storm was accompanied by intense darkness, greater than that of ordinary midnight without moon or stars. The wind's velocity was estimated to reach no less than two hundred miles an hour, and the destruction it caused was terrible.

"After blowing for a ccuple of hours from the southwest it hauled about and blew with equal violence from the northeast. All the shipping in the harbor was out of the water and carried inland. bodily and planted in the midst of a warehouse near the shore. The houses of the town were unroofed and in most cases annihilated. Upwards of four hundred lives were reported lost, and "Yes, judge, I happen to be aware of the harbor was full of corpses, which were devoured by the sharks. One of the most remarkable episodes of this disastrous storm was that of the U.S. and cording to the narration of the survivors, she met the hurricane about "o'clock on the afternoon of the 13th. She was put about so as to run before the gale. The wind and waves almost immediately dismasted her, and it was found impossible to do more than keep her before the wind, even this taxing all the powers of those on board. At one time she was pooped by a heavy sea which broke into the forecastle and swept many overboard. "When the wind veered about the steamer became virtually unmanageable; she drove before the gale, and it was expected that she must founder. But after several hours she was suddenly beached; and on the storm breaking it was discovered that she was lying in the main street of St. Thomas, close to her own dock. In the darkness she must have of the harbor, and so across to the town, avoiding by a miracle numberless obstacles. She is, however, a complete wreck, and half her ship's company were swept overboard and drowned, while many of the others have received severe injuries. Of the six passengers who were on board the following are killed: Alfred Harper, went insane and washed overboard; Charles Tupper, neck broken; James Blair, washed overboard; Percy Nolen, washed overboard. The surviving passengers are Herbert Simpson and Valentine Martin. Mr. Martin occupied the same state room with Mr. Nolan, and is much affected by his death. He says he saw him shortly before the time when the steamer was pooped; he was on his way to the forecastle, under the impression, it is supposed, that there

was greater security there than in the day. It is his intention to return by way of Aspinwall to his sheep farm in New

Zealand, near Napier." Having read thus far, the inspector laid down the paper, and stroked his chin awhile with a meditative air. "So

said, at length. "The account seems to look that way. about it?" exclaimed the judge.

"I don't say there is; and as a matter of course, judge, I recognize the sincerity of your attitude. Still, if I were interested in the boy, I should think twice before I accepted this news as concludicament, he naturally was not going to sive. Have you heard anything person-

"Well, you are aware that people reported drowned at sea sometimes have a way of coming to life again. The sea is a big place, and it's difficult to be sure what becomes of a man in a heavy storm when everything's as black as pitch. Then again, young Nolen, you must admit, might find it convenient to have it supposed he was permanently out of the way. He could start in under a new name, with very little fear of ever being interfered with. When this affair has blown over or been cleared up, he might come back and all would be right again. I don't say that is what has happened; I only say it might be so. And, considering that Mr. Martin was a friend of the family, it seems a little odd that be shouldn't have sent a letter giving a full account of the affair. He must have known what a value the mother and

sister would have put upon it." 'I hope with all my heart your theory may be the true one," said the judge. But I fear the report is correct," he added, after a paused. "There can be no doubt about the hurricane, nor that Percy was on the steamer. There was no necessity of inventing a report of his death; he would be as safe in Mexico or New Zealand as at the bottom of the Atlantic. No. I'm afraid the poor boy is gone. And, as I was saving just now, I trust that no steps will be taken today to thacken his memory. The cause of justice would not be vindicated, and it would add a terrible pang to his reother's and sister's grief. Some considera-

tion should be shown to them." "Well. let us go down to the court room," said the inspector, rising and taking his hat. "I don't suppose any one wants to trample on a dead mannot even the woman he was in love

This surmise proved partly correct. On the case being called, counsel for the plaintiff submitted that their client was disposed to abandon the prosecution The court asked where the prisoner was. and the report of his death was put in The court observed that the prisener appeared to have intended ferfeiting his

"I have looked through it. Is there | dence of death was insufficient. But as and Dupee said he would see my brother there was only a moderate presumption and myself were not in New York just of guilt, the case would be adjourned pending confirmation of the report of death, when the question of estreating

CHAPTER XIV.



him. He gave ground. orders that she be admitted, and a ing when they left the restaurant toerful dark eyes The inspector rose and placed a chair for her. She sat

down, regarding him with great intentness, as if endeavoring to satisfy herself what manner of man he was. "Can I be of any assistance to you,

madam?" the detective inquired. "I hope you may," was her reply, "for I don't know where to look for help, unless to you. You were officially cogni- hind the ear, made with some blunt ingant, were you not, of the case of Mr. strument, for the skin was not cut, but Percy Nolen, who was accused of a roblit had produced concussion of the brain. bery a few weeks ago?"

The inspector inclined his head. "It came to my knowledge in the ordinary routine," he said. "It has been adjourned, as you are probably aware, and the chances are that it will not soon be heard of again."

"Percy Nolen was my brother," she resumed. "He was lost at sea." Her tips trembled, but she recovered herself | My brother"--the inspector noted that she seemed to possess unusual self command—and went on. "My mother and I are the only ones of the family left alive; and my mother shadow upon his name, and I consider it my duty to remove it. I am sure that it can be done; and I am ready to make any effort or sacrifice to do it. Nothing would be a sacrifice that would accom-

atter, Miss Nolen. Speaking as a professional man, I must say that the prospect is not a hopeful one."

she, in the same quiet tone which she had used from the first, but with immense underlying earnestness. "Of of finding out criminals, and I don't different. I believe that if the man who stole that money was to pass me on the for trial.' street I should feel that it was he."

The inspector dropped his pencil and stooped to pick it up. The notion of identifying criminals by emotional intuition was not without its humorous side; but he did not wish his smile to be seen; and by the time he had recovered his pencil he had recovered his gravity likewise. "Even if you were able to recognize him in that way, Miss Nolen," he remarked, "there would be no evidence in that to fasten the crime upon him. The jury might think you were mistaken, and would refuse to convict; in fact, I don't think you could persuade any judge on the bench to grant you a

"I wasn't thinking of putting it on that ground." Pauline replied, coloring a little. "But when I have convinced myself that I know the man, I would find evidence against him that would convince the world too. Only let me know Lim first, and the rest would be easy." "Well, all I can say is, I hope you'll

"I should not have come here to weste your time merely by telling you this," are continued, looking up at him firmly "I wish to tell you something that may indicate who he is, and then you will be able, perhaps, to help me find out where he is and what his record is. I don't suppose you know that Percy was not my only brother?"

The detective intimated that he did

"My other brother's name was Jerrold He died a few years ago. They had reason to think that his death was hastened "Do you mean there can be any doubt | by foul means. The man whom he accused of it was tried; the case was appealed several times, but at last, after having been confined for over a year, the accused was acquitted. He said that he would be revenged upon us. Why may he not have taken this way to be re-

The inspector began to be interested. "What was his name?" he asked. "His name was Horace Dupee. He

vas a medical student." "Tell me the circumstances. I may

recollect something of it." "When my brother Jerrold left college he decided to be a physician, and he began the study of medicine here in New York. He attended lectures and went to the hospitals. He was fond of fun and a favorite with his fellow students, and I suppose he was rather imprudent in his

habits. He was good natured and excit-

able and the others led him on.

"The way the end came was this: There was a supper given to one of the students who had got through his course. He was the Horace Dupee I spoke of. He was a clever man, I believe. I never saw him, and he and Jerrold were great friends. There were ten or twelve other young men at the suppor. They drank a good deal of wine and became noisy and excited. They began to play practical jokes on one another. At Last Horace Dupee got up to make a speech. My brother, who sat near him, kept interrupting him with jokes and laughing. He got angry finally-Dupce did-and made some threat or said some insulting thing. My brother instantly threw a glass of wine in his face, glass and ail.

Dupee rushed at him and struck him with his fist. They began to fight; but my brother was the stronger, and he struck Dupce in the face, so that be fell over a chair. Then the others separated them; and my brother, after a moment. forgot his anger, and wanted to make friends with Dupee again, but Duper would not for a while, but the others urged him, until at last he laughed and came and shook hands with my brother, and pretended that he was quite recon ciled, but he said afterwards to one of the young men that he would be even with Nolen vet."

"They had been on the point of breaking up, but after this they got to drinking and talking again; and Dapee came and sat down by my brother, and kept filling his glass for him, but only pretending to drink himself, until my brother got quite intoxicated and acted foolishly. It was then after midnight, bail, and was of opinion that the evi- and the young men began to go home,

the plaintiff wished to withdraw, and to his lodgings. My father and mother then; we had gone down to a southern watering place on account of my mother being delicate, and Jerrold was staying in furnished rooms in a boarding house.

"He and Dupee started off together after leaving the others. My brother could walk, but he was not fit to take care of himself. The boarding house was on West Twenty-third street, some after this event, way down. The door had a covered the inspector was porch to it and was nearly on a level informed that a with the sidewalk. It was a winter lady desired to see night, but there was no snow on the "It was not quite 1 o'clock in the morn-

young woman gether. At 2 o'clock the policeman whose dressed in mourn- beat was on that part of Twenty-third ing entered the street saw some one lying in the porch room. She was of the boarding house. He examined pale and hand- and found that he was in evening dress, some, with pow- with an overcoat on; he was insensible and his pockets were empty. There did not seem to be any mark of violence on him. The policeman thought he was insensible from drink. He knocked up the people in the house, and when he found that my brother lived there helped to take him up to his room. But there was a physician living in the house, and he came and looked at my brother and saw there was something wrong. At last he found a bruise on his head, be-Towards dawn he partly recovered consciousness, and when he was asked about his injuries he mumbled something about Dupee; but they could not get anything definite from him. A telegram was sent to us at Old Point Comfort, where we were stopping. My mother was too ill to move; I stayed with her, and my father went on at once, but he arrived too late.

The story had been told with entire simplicity, but with intense vividness and earnestness. The scenes which she deis an invalid. My brother died with a scribed seemed to be before her as she spoke, and the emotion which she had striven to repress broke forth at last in a few quick sobs. She soon controlled herself and added, "My father had an inquest held; the young men who had been present at the supper were called "I'm afraid you will find it no easy upon to testify, and they told of the quarrel and the apparent reconciliation, and it was shown that Horace Dupee was the last person seen with my brother. "I don't expect it to be easy; but I am | In his examination Dupee said that he | determined to succeed, and I mean to had taken him home and left him in his give all my life and energy to it," said doorway, bidding him good night; and undergoing the most surprising changes that, though my brother had seemed not | under the influence of the mirage; and, quite himself, yet he was able to take care of himself. He denied any knowledge of course, I know nothing about the ways | the blow. But it was proved that he had threatened my brother; and it was think that, in an ordinary matter, I | thought that he might have emptied my should make a good detective; but this is | brother's pockets only to make it appear a thing I care so much about that it's that the murder was the work of some common thief. So the coroner held him | cooking and eating could be devoted to

Her voice faltered, and she broke off.

"I remember the case now," put in the inspector. "The case was pushed against circumstances of the members of the him vigorously, but it broke down at last for want of conclusive evidence, and Dupee was discharged, as you say, after | home was made by the red light of sunhaving been kept in jail for a year. set or by the white luster of the moon. Well, I must sav. Miss Nolen, that the

doubt as to his guilt is a reasonable one; tained concerning Horace Dupee; if he and supposing him to have been innocent, he has certainly received hard treatment: for such an accusation as that, though not proved, is enough to ruin a man's career " "I do not believe he was innocent, In-

spector Byrnes! I am sure that he was guilty, and, having escaped punishment for that, he means to do us more injury still. No-an innocent man would not have been ruined by an unjust accusation! It would have stimulated him to prove by his after life that he had been

"Do you know what his subsequent life has been?" inquired the inspector.

"I have heard enough to know that it has been what I should have expected it to be. He has associated with low and dishonest people; he has gone under different names, and it is probable that he may have been arrested more than once for other crimes. I have always felt that he was our enemy, and have expected that something like this would happen. I am the only one of us left to fight him, Inspector Byrnes. He killed my eldest brother: he was the means of bringing about the disgrace and death of Percy; my father died of disappointment and grief; my mother is a broken down invalid. But I am strong and well, and I am determined to bring him to justice!

Will you help me?" Her eyes darkened and her cheeks flushed as she put the question. The inspector, though he could not but perceive that the chances were against the correctness of her theory, was touched

by her earnestness. "In what way would you expect me

to assist you?" he inquired. "You can communicate with the police in all parts of the country," she auswered, "and you know, or can find out, the history of all the criminals who have been arrested in New York and in many other places. What I ask you to do is to trace the record of Horace Dupee from the time he left the jail on the termination of his trial till now. Find out his associates, and make them give evidence against him: learn what his aliases have been and whether he was not in New York on the day that Mrs. Tunstall lost her money. If he was-and I am sure it will turn out so-it will be found that he had money to spend soon afterwards, and perhaps some one of the bank notes can be traced to him. Oh!" she exclaimed, lifting one hand with an irrepressible gesture, "if I can see him stand before me in the prisoner's dock, I shall have lived long enough!"

"Upon my word, Miss Nolen," remarked the inspector with a smile, "I wouldn't envy the man who had done you an injury, be he who he may; and if this fellow Dupee, or any one else, has been guilty of the crimes you charge him with I hope with all my heart you may live to see him convicted of them-and a long time afterwards, too! As for my share in the business, I can assure you that all possible investigations shall be made and, if Dupee has really joined the criminal classes, it will probably only be a question of time before we run across him. It is something to have a definite person suspected in connection with the affair. I don't want to give you any hopes that I cannot fulfill; but I am willing to say that it is not impossible something may come out of this." "I don't ask for promises-only let

something be done!" Pauline replied, rising and giving her hand to the detective. He felt the strong clasp of her little fingers, and smiled again.

"You may depend upon my being at least as good as my word," he said kind-1v. "Your cause is a good one, and, so far as I am connected with it, you may be certain that it will not suffer. But you must be prepared for disappointment, and you must be patient."

CHAPTER XV.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SEA. T had been the custom with the Nolens, during a seaside resort known as Squit-New England bedrooms, and a he possessed to win her heart.

larger than all the rest of the house. greatly. She was graver and more taci- at him at that juncture, and could not

boat was moored. It was out of the line of fashionable travel; and those who knew of its existhere, were united in a conspiracy to keep fashion away from it. If they themselves felt the need of a little dissipation, they could be at Newport in four or five hours or at Swampscott before night. But here they could always be sure of rest, seclusion, charming scenery and as much fishing, sailing and bathing as they wanted. Of course they could not hope to keep their secret long; sooner er later somebody would appear and build a hotel; but meanwhile they enjoyed it all the more for feeling that their exclusive possession of it must be

Islands, seven or eight miles distant, which served as a natural breakwater light as scarcely to ruffle the water, and assented and they started, leaving Mrs. against the violence of the Atlantic's set nearly in a direction opposite to that | Nolan beneath the cedar. panse of water the advantages of a bay. They were also a charm and attraction in themselves; for they were constantly being within an easy sail, were often visited for picnicking purposes by the sojourners in the cottages. Baskets of provisions were carried over, and the materials for a clambake or a chowder | swiftly, but still with an even, gliding | downcast. "It puts my doubts at rest. were always obtainable from the sands and the sea. The time not occupied in picking huckleberries, practicing with line, and got out his lines. The squid I can feel that all is well with him. I the rifle or shotgun, or, if the age and party permittad, in quiet flirtations along the beaches or in the woods. The sail The winter and spring had passed away without any news having been ob-

had really been in New York at the time of the perpetration of the robbery he had entirely disappeared. The only thing to be done was to wait patiently until he came back again, keeping a bright but undemonstrative lookout for him in the meanwhile. As Inspector Byrnes had the matter in charge, it was not necessary that Pauline should remain in New York: she could be communicated with at any time, and it might even hasten the result she desired if she were known to be out of the city. Accordingly, as summer approached, and her mother's health manifestly demanded a change, preparations were made to go down to Squittig Point. Judge Ketelle, for reasons which the reader will perhaps comprehend, arranged to accompany them. He had not as yet made any avowal to Pauline of the nature of his soutiments towards her. but he had been assiduous in his attentions; and only the greatness of the prize at stake withheld him from putting his fate to the touch at once.

They arrived about the middle of June. The cottage had previously been put in order for their reception; curtains unpacked and put up; mattings spread on the floors; hammocks swung in the verandas; Venetian blinds fastened over the windows. The catboat had been routed out of her winter quarters in the barn, a new coat of paint had been given her, new sheets and halliards rove, and her shrunken seams had been soaked till they were water tight. There she rested at her moorings as gracefully as a sea gull. Every thing being ready, the party, convoyed by the judge, drove out from the town one fine day and took possession. It was sunset by the time the last trunk was moved in. They had supper, and then sat out on the veranda enjoying the pure salt air and the liquid outlook over the bay. There was a faint breeze; little waves made a barely auditinkled audibly across the water.

cigar between his lips. "To-morrow he had in his heart addressed it.

thinking of her son drowned at sea. Pauline understood what the sigh

he has become a part of the sea, I shall feel more at home on it than before." tice of navigation began, and was continued day by day thereafter. Pauline looks so pretty! I hope it will be as nice showed herself an apt pupil, and was, in- going back. deed, quicker in an emergency than the judge himself. Mrs. Nolen at first could not be prevailed on to accompany them; venture out, and the experience was so pleasant that she repeated it from time to

Meanwhile the judge's affair was monifestly approaching a crisis. The constant companionship of the girl he loved was inexpressibly sweet to him, and he was unable to repress some manifesta-

tion of it; yet he could not decide whether or not Pauline cared enough about him to accept him as her husband. That she esteemed him highly was evident, and that her affection for him was deep and sincere; but there are many the summer kinds of affection, and the question was whether her affection was of a kind capable of being developed into the love of a wife. The judge wished with all his tig Point, on the heart that he could do her some immense service, or make for her some noble saccoast. They own- rifice which might serve to draw her nearer to him. But such things cannot turned to do the like service for Pauline.

The house stood upon a low bluff direct- turn than before, and her manner was have failed to notice the sudden faltering ly overlooking the beach. There was a more thoughtful and controlled. She of his expression from its previous joysemi-circular inlet at this point, about seemed already to have outgrown her ful expectation; she hesitated, and then, fifty yards across; in this a pier had been girlhood and to have attained the strength with a faint blush, held out her arms, constructed, to the end of which a cat- and experience of a woman. All this saying: "After all, perhaps you had betwas in the judge's favor; for his age was | ter take me." It was a pretty place, but a very quiet the factor in the matter which he feared The judge could not speak; the revulone. To reach it it was necessary to most. If they could meet on more nearly sion was too sudden. She had never bedrive five or six miles from the railway equal terms in this respect, he could feel fore done anything which seemed so sigstation in the neighboring town. With- more confidence as to the rest. She con- nificant, and as he received her on his in a radius of a mile there were perhaps | versed with him on his own intellectual | sturdy shoulder he experienced a happia dozen cottages similar to the Nolens' level, and consulted him freely and conand occupied chiefly by artists. Milk, fidentially on all matters of interest to known. The action lasted but for an ineggs, poultry and vegetables were fur- herself. No friendship between a man stant, but the effect was by no means so nished by the farm houses in the vicinity: and woman could have been more inti- transient; on the contrary, it kept glowfish could be caught by any one with a mate and genuine; but it was something ing and increasing in his soul, and quite fishing line and a boat; meat and gro- more than friendship that the judge | illuminated his whole aspect. Pauline, ceries must be fetched from the town. longed for; if he could have detected a too, was in an unusual mood; she seemed single glow of passion in her cheeks he softer and more accessible than was would have been a much happier man. usual with her. The tears which she tence, and had established themselves On the other hand, Pauline was quite had lately shed had brought all the able to veil her feelings; and no young woman in her to the surface. There woman of healthy mind can be expected to show what emotion may be in her, the judge's heart like exquisite music.

or even to acknowledge it to herself,

until she has been fairly challenged. At length, having become quite accustomed to the management of the boat, they decided to make the trip to the island. The lunch basket was packed and stowed amidships; fish lines and hooks were placed in the locker, in case they should come across a school of bluefish; cush-Opposite the point was a line of low which they wished to go. In order to get out of the little cove it was necessary to use the oars; but after that the wind by long tacks, they slowly made their quiver and waver in the heat on the ho-

About 11 o'clock the breeze freshened a little, and the boat slipped more who fancied he detected signs of bluewas thrown out astern, and cut a tiny am glad it came.' wake through the waves, while the judge, with his finger on the line, watch- message should be illegible," remarked ed it like a hawk. For an hour, in spite the judge. "It would have been well to caught, but finally there was an unmis- | Percy's own hand." takable tug, and, hauling in with feverish rapidity, the judge, in a few moboard a fine large demijohn, tightly written by some one else. It is from

After the laugh had subsided the judge suggested that the demijohn might contain something, and he knocked off the About a pint of salt water came out and understand that any information, howthen a fragment of wood-apparently part of the lid of a cigar box, on which something had been written with a pencil. The writing was almost obliterated, but two or three words, or portions of words, still remained.

"See if you can make them out, Pauline," said the judge, after scrutinizing

eves are better than mine." Holding the tiller in her left hand and looked at it. "I can make out part him be drowned. I can understand why of a name," she said presently, "and he has not written to me-he would not some figures-a date, I suppose. Ah!" Her lips closed tightly and her eyes had forgotten the tiller.

She met his eyes, and then glanced cy's death."

stealthily toward her mother. "Nothing," said she; and put the belm over again. The boat resumed its course, the water bubbling under thestern. Mrs. Nolen gazing toward the island, which a few feet above high water mark, and

name of the steamer in which Percy sailed, and the date of the hurricane. Some one must have thrown it overboard in the storm-perhaps it is his were inexpressibly soothing. own writing. Say nothing; mother must

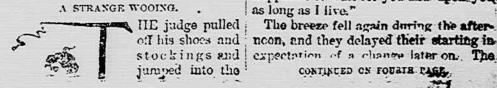
She thrust the bit of wood into the front of her dress, while the judge drew ble plash on the shore of the cove. The back with a grave, concerned face and boat courtesied gently off the end of the folded his arms in silence. It was a pier, as if welcoming its owners back to strange event, indeed. That demijohn nature. The moon rose late and red; it had been drifting about on the ocean was past the rull To the right, beyond currents for months, to be brought, at the point, the lightheuse lamp fiashed last, to the very hand for which it had intermittently; a sloop drifted past half a been perhaps intended. Pauline did not mile out, and the sound of a banjo doubt that Percy had thrown it overboard at the moment when all hope mingled with sadness. 'It's delicious!" murmured the judge, seened gone, and probably just before sitting with Mrs. Nolen on one side of he himself was swept from the deck; him and Pauline on the other, and a and if so it must have been to her that

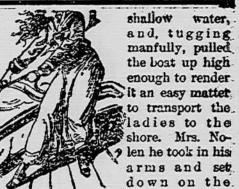
we'll go out in the boat and visit the The incident brought the picture of the disaster vividly before ner imagina-Mrs. Nolen gave a sigh. She was tion; she had never realized to so inreeling decks, the shattered masts, the meant; but she was made of other metal | white leaps and seething of the mad- | years, and more; but in my love for you than her mother. "I mean to learn how | dened seas, the deafening shrick of the I am young and shall always be." to sail the boat myself this summer," she | gale, the black darkness around and | said. "I like the sea; I would like to overhead; and her brother, her own belive beside it, or on it, always. How loved brother, staggering forth into this the manly generosity of his appeal; but soft and gentle it is now! But when blind fury of chaos to waft to her the something was yet wanting to give the the storms come —!" last message of despair. She saw it alk final conviction to her heart, and she "I can give you lessons in sailing," ob- and then, with a long indrawing of the was too true to herself to commit herself served the judge. "You know, when I breath, her eyes beheld the blue surface without it, was a boy I spent a year before the of the summer sea, the warm and tender "There is no man living for whom I sky bending over it, the green shore of care so much as for you," she seided "I learned something last year from the island toward which they were softly length; "but I have never thought of

wet her cheeks unawares, The next day, accordingly, the prac- Nolen, turning round with a smile. "It has been a delightful sail, and the island

Well becun is half caded," said the udge, raising the centerboard as the coat entered an inlet and ran up on the but one warm day they induced her to worst, we have provisions enough to stay am. But give me till to-morrow."

CHAPTER XVI.





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down on the beach; then he tage there, con- be commanded at will, and seldom occur and his heart beat at the thought of A sisting of a sit- when they are wanted. It seemed that having her for a moment so near him. ting room, three he must trust to whatever unaided merit But as she stood poising herself in the bows, light, beautiful and agile, he per-i Pauline had always been mature for ceived that she meant to make a leap of. veranda, the area her age; but since the calamity that had it, and, indeed, the distance was probaof which was fallen upon her she had developed bly not beyond her powers. She glanced

were tones in her voice that thrilled to The memory of her brother had done

her lover good service. A spot was selected under the shads of a cedar, with clean white sand underneath. Here Mrs. Nolan was established with her cushions, and the cloth was spread for lunch. The basket was unpacked, the plates and knives and forks arranged, and the good things set out. ions and wraps were provided for Mrs. They had brought a jug of water, but it Nolen, and extra ballast was put into the had become so warm as to be unpalathold, in order to keep her steady in case able; so the judge proposed that they the wind should increase. An early should go and find a spring; there was start was made, for the breeze was so sure to be one not far off. Pauline

'I did not know whether to be glad or sorry that I was the means of bringing that strange message to you," said the gently swelled the sail, and, proceeding judge, when they were out of earshot. "And yet I could not help thinking that way toward the island that seemed to there must have been some providential design in the matter. It was as if Percy had appointed me his messenger to you. "Oh, I am glad-I am only glad!" re-

motion, through the water. The judge, All this time I could not realize that he was gone. I knew it, of course; but it fish, now relinquished the helm to Pau- had not been brought home to me. Now "It seems a pity that so much of the

joined Pauline musingly, with her eyes

of several false alarms, nothing was know for a certainty that it came from "Perhaps it will become more legible when the wood is dried. But I should ments, had the pleasure of lifting on not care if it turned out to have been

corked, which had been hooked by the Percy's ship-the Amazon-and in that case it is from him." "I am a little surprised," said the judge, after a pause, "that Mr. Martin has not written us some of the details of head against the gunwale of the boat. | the affair. He can hardly have failed to

ever slight, would have been precious to

you. You have not heard from him. have you?" "No, and I think you are right. He should have written. But I can imagine why he has not. It was his suggestion that Percy should leave New York. He urged him to go with him; he took that the inscription a few moments. "Your responsibility. The least he could do was to guard him from harm. When that storm came he should not have let him Pauline took the bit of wood in her right | go out of his sight. But, instead, he let

dere!" She said this with a passionate emdilated. ... boat swung round into the phasis. The judge was secretly conwind and lay with the sail flapping. She; scious of a feeling of relief, but his sense of rectitude compelled him to say: "If "What is it?" asked the judge in sur- would not be just, I think, to charge Mr. Martin with being accountable for Per-

"Perhaps it is not logically just; but that is the way I feel," was her reply,

By this time they had reached the spring, which trickled out of a sand bluff was now near at hand, had noticed noth- filled a barrel that had been sunk in the sand below. The judge knelt down and After a moment, she leaned toward planged the jug into the cool water, him and whispered in his ear: "It is the which gurgled into it with a refreshing sound. Pauline stood, with her hands hanging foiced, looking down on him. The blue sea, the sunshine, the warmth

"How pleasant it is here," she said. The judge rose, with the jug in his" hand. A moment before he had not meant to speak so soon, but now the words seemed to break from him invol-

She took a step backward, and their eyes met. She was startled, and the expression of her face at first seemed to indicate refusal. But after a few moments the softer look returned to it, "Infinitely best for me. But it is you

"Pauline will you be my wife?" he said

who must decide. I have loved you ever since you were a little girl." "Does my mother know of this?" "Yes, since last year; and she has bidden me Godspeed. But I do not wish tensely before—the plunging hull, the you to be influenced by that. Decide ar yourself alone. I am twice your

> She stood sile t for a while. She was evidently touched by his words, and by

Percy," Pauline replied, "and, now that cliding. Her heart melted, and tears caring for you in that way. I have depended on you and trusted in you, but "I am really glad I came," said Mrs. to be your wife. . . . Oh, you must give me time! I do not know what I think, or feel. But I shall not be in doubt-I will give you an answer soon. It seems to me that if I could love you as you wish it would be a fortunate thing: for me-fortunate that a man like you beach; "and, if the worst comes to the should wish to marry such a girl as I

> "As long as you need," answered the judge, huskily. "It is my duty and my happiness to wait for you and upon you as long as I live."

off his shoes and noon, and they delayed their starting instockings and expectation of a change later on. The. CONTINCED ON FOURTH PAGE