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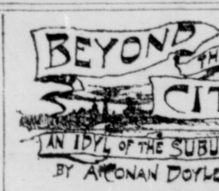

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CONTINUED.

Yes, Mrs. Westmacott was at home. He ushered them into the front room, furnished as a drawing room, where in spite of the fine spring weather a large fire was burning in the grate. The boy took their cards, and then, as they sat down together upon a settee, he set their nerves in a thrill by darting behind a curtain with a shrill cry and prodding at something with his foot. The bull pup which they had seen upon the day before bolted from his hiding place and scuttled snarling from the room.

"It wants to get at Eliza," said the youth in a confidential whisper. "Master says she would give him more'n he brought." He smiled affably at the two little stiff black figures and departed in search of his mistress.

"What—what did he say?" gasped Bertha.

"Something about a— Oh, goodness gracious! Oh, Bertha! Oh, merciful heavens! Oh, help, help, help, help, help!" The two sisters had bounded on to the settee and stood there with staring eyes and skirts gathered in while they filled the whole house with their yells. Out of a high wickerwork basket which stood by the fire there had risen a flat, diamond shaped head with wicked green eyes, which came flickering upward, waving gently from side to side, until a foot or more of glossy, scaly neck was visible. Slowly the vicious head came floating up, while at every oscillation a fresh burst of shrieks came from the settee.

"What in the name of mischief!" cried a voice, and there was the mistress of the house standing in the doorway. Her gaze at first had merely taken in the fact that two strangers were standing screaming upon her red plush sofa. A glance at the fireplace, however, showed her the cause of the terror, and she burst into a hearty fit of laughter.

"Charley," she shouted, "here's Eliza misbehaving again."

"I'll settle her," answered a masculine voice, and the young man dashed into the room. He had a brown horsecloth in his hand, which he threw over the basket, making it fast with a piece of twine so as to effectually imprison its inmate, while his aunt ran across to reassure her visitors.

"It is only a rock snake," she explained.

"Oh, Bertha!" "Oh, Monica!" gasped the poor exhausted gentlewomen.

"She's hatching out some eggs. That is why we have the fire. Eliza always does better when she is warm. She is a sweet, gentle creature, but no doubt she thought that you had designs upon her eggs. I suppose that you did not touch any of them?"

"Oh, let us get away, Bertha!" cried Monica, with her thin black gloved hands thrown forward in abhorrence.

"Not away, but into the next room," said Mrs. Westmacott with the air of one whose word was law. "This way, if you please! It is less warm here." She led the way into a very handsomely appointed library, with three great cases of books, and upon the fourth side a long yellow table littered over with papers and scientific instruments. "Sit here, and you there," she continued. "That is right. Now, let me see, which of you is Miss Williams and which Miss Bertha Williams?"

"I am Miss Williams," said Monica, still palpitating and glancing furtively about in dread of some new horror.

"And you live, as I understand, over at the pretty little cottage. It is very nice of you to call so early. I don't suppose that we shall get on, but still the intention is equally good." She crossed her legs and leaned her back against the marble mantelpiece.

"We thought that perhaps we might be of some assistance," said Bertha timidly. "If there is anything which we could do to make you feel more at home"—

"Oh, thank you; I am too old a traveler to feel anything but at home wherever I go. I've just come back from a few months in the Marquesas islands, where I had a very pleasant visit. That was where I got Eliza. In many respects the Marquesas islands now lead the world."

"Dear me!" ejaculated Miss Williams. "In what respect?"

"In the relation of the sexes. They have worked out the great problem upon their own lines, and their isolated geographical position has helped them to come to a conclusion of their own. The woman there is, as she should be, in every way the absolute equal of the male. Come in, Charles, and sit down. Is Eliza all right?"

"All right, aunt."

"These are our neighbors, the Misses Williams. Perhaps they will have some stout. You might bring in a couple of bottles, Charles."

"No, no, thank you! None for us!" cried her two visitors earnestly.

"Oh, help, help!"

"No? I am sorry that I have no tea to offer you. I look upon the subserviency of woman as largely due to her abandoning nutritious drinks and invigorating exercises to the male. I do neither." She picked up a pair of 15-pound dumbbells from beside the fireplace and swung them lightly about her head. "You see what may be done on stout," said she.

"But don't you think," the elder Miss Williams suggested timidly—"don't you think, Mrs. Westmacott, that woman has a mission of her own?"

The lady of the house dropped her dumbbells with a crash upon the floor.

"The old cant!" she cried. "The old shibboleth! What is this mission which is reserved for woman? All that is humble, that is mean, that is soul killing, that is so contemptible and so ill paid that none other will touch it. All that is woman's mission. And who imposed these limitations upon her? Who cooped her up within this narrow sphere? Was it Providence? Was it nature? No, it was the arch enemy. It was man."

"Oh, I say, auntie," drawled out her nephew.

"It was man, Charles. It was you and your fellows. I say that woman is a colossal monument to the selfishness of man. What is all this boasted chivalry, these fine words and vague phrases?

Where is it when we wish to put it to the test? Man in the abstract will do anything to help a woman, of course. How does it work when his pocket is touched? Where is his chivalry then? Will the doctors help her to qualify? Will the lawyers help her to be called to the bar? Will the clergy tolerate her in the church? Oh, it is close your ranks then and refer poor woman to her mission. Her mission! To be thankful for coppers and not to interfere with the men while they grabble for gold like swine round a trough—that is man's reading of the mission of woman. You may sit there and sneer, Charles, while you look upon your victim, but you know that it is truth, every word of it."

Terrified as they were by this sudden torrent of words, the two gentlewomen could not but smile at the sight of the hoary, domineering victim and the big, apologetic representative of mankind who sat meekly bearing all the sins of his sex. The lady struck a match, whipped a cigarette from a case upon the mantelpiece and began to draw the smoke into her lungs.

"I find it very soothing when my nerves are at all ruffled," she explained. "You don't smoke. Ah, you miss one of the purest of pleasures—one of the few pleasures which is without a reaction."

Miss Williams smoothed out her black silken lap. "It is a pleasure," she said, with some approach to self assertion, "which Bertha and I are rather too old fashioned to enjoy."

"No doubt. It would probably make you very ill if you attempted it. By the

(To be Continued.)

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HENRY MORGAN & CO.,

January 2, 1894—tu thu sat MONTREAL.

Mrs. DeWet—"There, Reginald, are those Rigby Waterproofs I have been telling you about. Can't you see how stylish and comfortable they look?—and they are just lovely for winter weather. You always wait till everybody else in the world adopts a new thing before you will believe in it. We really must have them at once."

Mrs. Uptodate—"Dear me, what a sight those DeWets are, out on the streets a day like this without Rigby Garments. It takes some people a lifetime to learn how to be comfortable. Just think how we used to swelter in those horrid Rubber Waterproofs, and such smelling things."

dec19—t t s

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HENRY M. STANLEY will contribute, especially for young readers, a story of AFRICAN ADVENTURE.

NATURAL HISTORY AND ADVENTURE.—There will be several articles written by Raymond Blathwayt, who has been called by Mr. W. T. Stead the best interviewer in England, from material furnished him by Carl Hagenback, of Hamburg, the great animal importer and trainer. These articles deal with the Capture of Wild Beasts, the Training of Wild Beasts, the Transportation of Wild Beasts, the Adventures and Escapes of Carl Hagenbeck. The series will be illustrated by an English artist of great skill in drawing animals.

JOHN BURROUGHS, C. F. HOLDER, DR. C. C. ABBOTT and other writers famous for their work in this field, will contribute to the Magazine.

Of interest to both Young and Old will be PROF. R. L. GARNER'S AFRICAN EXPEDITION TO THE GORILLAS. Arrangements have been made, in connection with a leading English review, to publish Professor Garner's letters descriptive of his present expedition to Africa. Professor Garner is noted the world over for the curious and interesting investigations he is making in the speech of monkeys. He sailed for Africa last September for the purpose of further pursuing his studies in the native haunts of the gorilla. The illustrations of these articles will be from photographs taken by Prof. Garner in Africa.

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His Own Experience Tells Fully and Freely some Truths which all Readers of this Paper Should Know.

Here and there, in almost every town of our province, are "chronic" cases over which doctors disagree; cases that become worse year after year. It is to reach such that the gentleman to whom these lines refer, and whose portrait is here given, has written the story of his case.

Mr. Branscomb's home is in Chipman, Queens Co., N. B. It was there that a representative of the Groder company called upon him, Sept. 1st, of the present year. His greeting was most cordial. He gladly acknowledged his thanks, giving expression to the following statement:

"It is five years since I first became afflicted with a form of indigestion. Last winter it became more severe, developing into chronic diarrhœa. I cannot tell you how much I suffered for SIX LONG WEEKS. It seemed as though relief could not be found. You will remember how I told you of my condition and asked your advice about taking a bottle of GRODER'S SYRUP. You told me that the medicine was a laxative and might not meet my needs. I delayed buying for a few hours until I began to hope that it would help me. Even my clothes seemed a burden because of bloating of stomach. It was with difficulty that I kept about sufficiently to attend to my business.

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Truly yours,

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The Children's Favorite—Hawker's Tolu and Wild Cherry Balsam.