## EUGENE WEEKLY GUARD, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1908

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Author of "The Millionaire Baby," "The Filigree Ball," "The House In the Mist," "The Amethyst Box," Etc.

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TER XIV-(Continued.)

Would be snap the lock tight, that I crept hastily out of the room, so softly that be will not give away his presence in some way, I paused for an had to report?

watched the door. It closed slow- and that some one was coming up the slowly to latch. Would be little turnet stair, striking matches as

the which the other presented would go.

e in with a key and"-

It's a long story, sir"-

me was dry. The inspector was

"He is no common crook. s how it was: You wanted the m than in his own room. they's house. I accordthe necessary warrant and ag undertook the job. I -1 was always an egotisro's the pity-and with aution than a passing a the officer I met at the I hastened up the block to the eventh street. are three doors to the Fairbrothse, as you probably know, two ty-sixth street (the large front and a small one connecting directdih the turret stairs) and one on -seventh street. It was to the er I had a key. I do not think any e saw me go in. It was raining, and ch people as went by were more erned in keeping their umbrellas perly over their beads than in itching men skulking about in door-

the door behind me.

bered of how little use I should be to you lying in this well of a stairway with a bullet in me, and so I managed heard a noise which was not that or to compose myself and go on as I had swishing rain or even gusty windwent, but I cast him an these had not been absent from my begun. Next instant my fingers slipped aling look as I that his expression noise; it had a sneakish sound, and I knew that the moment of decision nate ed as his hand fell on the door- shut my light off in a hurry. After so softly that he will not give away

an shut me out from what con- for I don't like a setup in a trap. so shut me out from did any one "It was darker than ever now in the ed me as much as it did any one "It was darker than ever now in the hall, or so it seemed, and as I backed are whole world, or would be recog-are whole world, or would be recogwhole worth or the necessity I was away I came upon a jog in the wall of the hall before me I planged into of knowing just the ground I behind which I crept. For the sound ng on-and let me hear what I had heard was no fancy, Some one else besides myself was in the house.

by the knob? No; he he approached. Who could it be? A suche, and in that mirror I seemed to and, while the crack was detective from the district attorney's see the ghost of a ghost flit by and I, while the crack was detective from the data of the goost of a goost of a muttered vanish. It was too much. I muttered the of the floor would wid- have been provided with something a suppressed outh and plunged forgive me the opportunity I better than matches to light his way. But I did not have to wait A burglar? No, not on the third floor door. If flew open again, and I rushed The two men in the office I of a house as rich as this. Some fel-in, turning on my light in my extreme s, the two into speak and, to low on the force, then, who had seen desperation, when, instead of hearing nded relief, were sufficiently me come in and, by some trick of his the sharp report of a pistol, as I exwen now to warrant me in own, had managed to follow me? I pected, I saw a second door fall to be-

would see. Meantime I kept my place fore me, this time with a sound like expressions of astonish- behind the jog and watched, not the snap of a spring lock. Finding part of the inspector as to knowing which way the intruder that this was so, and that all advance

"Wheever he was, he was evidently riedly back toward the door by which inst escaped death! I'll tell astonished to see the turnet door ajar. I had entered the place, to find that that later. What I want to for he lit another match as he threw that had fallen to simultaneously with w is that the man we want it open and, though I failed to get a the other, a single spring acting for I saw him last night or glimpse of his figure, I succeeded in both. I was trapped-a prisoner in the which is the same thing, getting a very good one of his shadow, strangest sort of passageway or closet, s in the house in Eighty-sixth It was one to arouse a detective's in- and as a speedy look about presently the house they all think closed. stinct at once. I did not say to myself, assured me, a prisoner with very little this is the man I want, but I did say, hope of immediate escape, for the this is nobody from headquarters, and doors were not only immovable, with-I steadled myself for whatever might out even locks to pick or panels to

"The first thing that happened was windows, and the only communication the sudden going out of the match which it could be said to have with the which had made this shadow visible. outside world at all was a shaft rising The Intruder did not light another. 1 from the ceiling aimost to the top of heard him move across the floor with the house. Whether this served as a the rapid step of one who knows his ventilator, or a means of lighting up jet flared up in the steward's room. It was much too inaccessible to offer

and I know that the man the whole any apparent way of escape. force was looking for had trapped himself as not my chance there was of any outside interduty to take him then and there with. forence, how my captor, even if he out seeing what he was after. He was was seen leaving the house by the offithought to be in the eastern states or cer on duty, would be taken for my-

south or west, and he was here. But self and so allowed to escape. I own here? That is what I knew you that I felt my position a hopeless one. • ould want to know, and it was just But anger is a powerful stimulant, and what I wanted to know myself. So J I was mortally angry, not only with kept my place, which was good enough. Sears, but with myself. So when 1 and just listened, for I could not see. "What was his errand? What did he around, and, finding that there was no

want in this empty house at midnight? getting through the walls, turned my Papers first and then clothes. I heard attention wholly to the shaft, which him at his desk, I heard him in the would certainly load me out of the closet and afterward pottering in the place if I could only find means to old trunk I had been so anxious to mount it. look into myself. He must have "And how do you think I managed

brought the key with him, for it was to do this at last? A look at my behis voice was calmer than I expected. no time before I heard him throwing draggled, lime covered clothes may when he finally said: I got in, then, all right, and, being out the contents in a wild search for give you some idea. I cut a passage "I'll remember this. It was a good for myself up those perpendicular something he wanted in a great hurry night's work." Then the inspector pat what I knew must be the main hall. He found it sooner than you would be- walls us the boy did up the face of to him some questions, widch seemed

was barred that way, I wheeled hur-

break in, but the place was bare of

first intimation of his presence be the knife and even to penetrate dev. touch of cold steel or the flinging enough to afford a place for the tips of agree, or rather, all agree, that be around me of two murderous arms? I my fingers and afterward for the point wore no beard. Sears did, but a beard had met with no break in the smooth surface of the wall, so could not have reached the second story. Whén I should get there the question would be whether to leave the staircase and from above as I worked my way up give me no definite description-one, I inch by inch, foot by foot, to what mean, as satisfactory or unsatisfactory seek him in the mazes of its great rooms or to keep on down to the parlor might not be safety after it was atfloor and so to the street, whither he tained.

"Five hours-six. Then I struck was possibly bound. I own that I was something which proved to be a window, and when I realized this and that. There seemed to be so little that almost tempted to turn on my light | and have done with it, but I rememknew that with but one more effort I was distinctive about the man. should breathe freely again, I came as near falling as I had at any time be- all this would serve to rouse my mem fore I began this terrible climb.

ing look as I did so. It evident-ears for a moment. I didn't like that i its effect, for his expression noise; it had a sneakish sound, and I ute passed. Then I went caimty on the difference possible in our outlood my work, and in another half If we can lay hands on either of these with hour had reached the window, which, men".

> ward, but was off the latch. It was word too much, for he instantly with a sense of inexpressible relief that | changed the subject by askidg if I had I clambered through this window and succeeded in getting a sample of Miss for a brief moment breathed in the Grey's writing. I was forced to say

"Here it was not so dark, yet I could have been only for a moment. It was put away. "But I do not know what make out none of the objects I now 3 o'clock in the afternoon before I moment I may come upon it." I added. and then ran against. I passed a mirfound myself again in the outer air.



The only way I can account for the folly of my own suspicions. Indeed, I subjected was too much for even my doubtful character. I acknowledge hardy body and that I fell to the floor may have had his reasons for wishing of the cedar closet and from a faint Mrs. Fairbrother's death, may even went into a sleep that lasted until 2. have had a hand in the matter, but I can easily account for the last hour | what evidence have you to show that because it took me that long to cut the be, himself, entered the alcove, struck thick paneling from the door of the .he blow or stole the diamond? I have closet. However, I am here now, sir, dstened eagerly for some such eviand in very much the same condition | dence, but I have listened in vain." in which I left that house. I thought my first duty was to sell you that I had seen Hiram Sears in that house last

night and put you on his track." I drew a long breath-I think the inspector did. I had been almost rigid from excitement, and I don't believe he was quite free from it either. But

His nose she don't remember. Both

I shook my head. Like the others, I felt that I should know him if I saw him, but I could go no further than

The Inspector, hoping, perhaps, that ory, shrugged his shoulders and put "Happily, I had some premonition of the best face he could on the matter. "Well, well," said he, "we shall have

fortunately for me, not only opened in- He seemed to realize he had said a pungent odor of cedar. But it could no; that everything had been carefully "I do not forget its importance in this investigation."

"Very good. Those lines handed up to Mrs. Fairbrother from the walk outside are the second most valuable clew We DOSSESS.

I did not ask him what the first was I knew. It was the stiletto, Strange that no one has testified to

that handwriting." I remarked. He looked at me in surprise.

"Fifty persons have sent in samples of writing which they taink like it," he observed; "often of persons who never heard of the Fairbrothers. We have been bothered greatly with the business. You know little of the difficulties the police labor under."

"I know too much." I signed. He smiled and patted me on the hand.

"Go back to your patient," he said "Forget every other duty but that o" gour calling until you get some definite word from me. I shall not keep you In suspense one minute longer than is absolutely necessary."

He had risen. I rose too: But I was not satisfied. I could not leave the room with my ideas (I might say with my convictions) in such a turmoll.

"Inspector," said 1, "you will think me very obstinute, but all you have told me about Sears, all I have heard about him, in fact"-this I emphasized time is that the strain to am afraid that, if anything, they are ch both body and nerve had been strengthened. This steward, who is a





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up the first short flight of steps my fine rooms without looking in, look, when he gave a sudden snarl and starvation the first difficulty-was to reach the the conversation where we had left it. "This is very interesting. Go on shaft from the floor where I stood." The description I was just about to arst listened-a natural instinct with I am sure he said kill." th here and there an open passage "I had no pistol, sir, and he had. I and the desk was not high enough to I belleve."

if dozen great chimneys. e, I crossed to this door these." s. It was the steward's er's."

nd you found ?"-

locked drawers. But a key ch opened some of these and Stick to facts," hem looked very Interest-

e desk which had disap-

had been given a plan of the Interior, lieve and began throwing the things the natural bridge in Virginia. Do to fix the fact that Sears had left the d I had studied it more or less before | back, when something happened. Ex- you remember that old story in the ting out, but I knew that I should pectedly or unexpectedly, his eye fell reader? It came to me like an int lost if I did not keep to the rear on some object which roused all his spiration as I stood looking up from alrease, at the top of which I ex- passions, and he broke into loud excla- below, and, though I knew that I ected to find the steward's room. mations ending in groans. Finally he should have to work most of the way here was a faint light in the house, in fell to kissing this object with a fervor in perfect darkness, I decided that a site of its closed shutters and tightly suggesting rage and a rage suggesting man's life was worth some risk and awa shades, and having a certain tenderness carried to the point of ag- that I had rather fall and break my

and of using my torch, knowing my ony. I have never heard the like. My neck while doing something than to akness for pretty things and how curiosity was so aroused that I was on spend hours in maddening inactivity, and if would be for me to pass so the point of risking everything for a only to face death at last from slow

made my way up stairs, with no oth-guide than the handrail. When I 'Kiss what I've hated? That is as bad knife, in my pocket, and for the first what had just passed. Nevertheless reached what I took to be the third as to kill what I've loved.' Those were few steps I should have the light of my we understood each other. or, I stopped. Finding it very dark, the words. I am sure he said kiss, and electric torch. The difficulty-that is, When I was again seated he took up

I was in a large hall, empty as a | with your story. Why didn't you col- There was but one article of furniture read to you." he went on: "will you alt and almost as desolate. Blank | lar him while he was in this mood? In the room, and that was something listen to it now?" ors met my eyes in all directions, You would have won by the surprise." between a table and a desk. No chairs,

y. I felt myself in a maze. I had heard him cock it. I thought he was enable me to reach the mouth of the He did not answer save by a curious and knobs in a shut up house at mid- like that was in his mind. Instead he look feasible. However, I threw off went on reading:

of it had to be done, and I went at for the door and turret stalrease.

and I made at once for the "Yes. Have you not heard how he stairs. loved her? A foolish passion, but ever "I could now see my way to the I received of that waiter in the mo-

house before Sweetwater did, after which he bade him send certain men to regulate the Bowels. Furely Vegetable. him and then go and fix himself up. I believe he had forgotten me, I had almost forgotten myself.

CHAPTER XV.

OT until the inspector had given several orders was I again summoned into his presence. He smiled as our eyes mot, but did

"Gladly," said I. "It is Wellgood's,

Mea which was the door I sought, going to take his own life and held shaft. If I could turn it on end, there glance from under his brows, but, takit is not pleasant to turn unaccus- my breath for the report, but nothing might be some hope. But this did not ing the paper again from his desk,

at, with the rain pouring in torrents | Inid the pistol down and deliberately | my coat and went at the thing with a "A man of fifty-five looking like one the wind making pandemonium in tore in two the object of his anger. vengeance, and, whether I was given su- of sixty. Medium height, insignificant Then with a smothered curse he made perhuman power or whether the clumsy, features, head bald save for a ring of thing was not as heavy as it looked, I scanty dark hair. No beard, a heavy

order till I came to a lit- "I was for following, but not till I did finally succeed in turning it on its nose, long mouth and sleepy, half shut one opening on the turret had seen what he had destroyed in end close under the opening from which eyes capable of shooting strange gave me my bearings. Such an excess of feeling. I thought I the shaft rose. The next thing was to glances. Nothing distinctive in face or adjoined the staircase. knew, but I wanted to feel sure. So get on its top. That seemed about as figure save the depth of his wrinkles as no difficulty in spotting the before risking myself in the turret I impossible as climbing the bare wall and a scarcely observable stoop in his or now and, merely stopping crept to the room he had left and feit itself, but presently I bethought me right shoulder. Do you see Wellgood pening I had made to this about on the floor till I came upon of the drawers, and, though they were in that?" he suddenly asked.

locked, I did succeed by the ald of my "I have only the faintest recollection open. I had been right in "A torn photograph! Mrs. Fairbroth keys to get enough of them open to of his appearance," was my doubtful make for myself a very good pair of reply. "But the impression I get from this description is not exactly the one

mouth of the shaft, but after that! mentary glimpse I got of him."

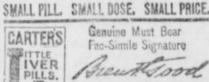
"Never mind comments, Sweetwater. Taking out my knife, I felt the edge. "So others have told me before." he 612 Willamette St. - - - - Eugene Stick to facts." "I will, sir. They are interesting but was it good enough to work holes "The description is of Sears given me s handwriting which I col-loubt if you will get much straps I stole back to the turret stair-upon the plaster. Had the masons in we could fit the description of the one I saw nothing compro- case. And here I made my first break. finishing that shaft any thought of to that of the other, we should have it be whole room, but then I I Trumbled in the darkness, and the the poor wretch who one day would easy. But the few persons who have to go through his trunks, man below heard me, for the pistol have to pit his life against the hard- seen Wellgood differ greatly in their clicked again. I did not like this, and ness of the final covering? My first remembrance of his features and even e hills and"-time? Why hadn't you my job. But I dain's. I merely wait bled violently at the prospect of what What happened to cut it ed till I heard his step again. Then I that first test would mean to me and even when they are thrown into daily wondered if the perspiration which I contact with him. Mr. Jones says the "But very warfly this time, It was felt starting at every pore was the re- man's eyes are gray, his hair a wig

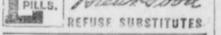
and a second a state of

was said roused me if it not an agreeable venture. It was like suit of the effort I had been engaged in and dark, his nose pudgy, and his face "inspector, I do not intend to have indy, that his eyes are bine, his hair,

ing and presently could hear nothing you live with me through the five more whether wig or not, a dusty auburn, oom, which was as bare as but the almost imperceptible sliding of tal hours which followed. I was en- and his look quick and plercing-t hand of everything like ornament my own fingers down the curve of the allocation of the my own fingers down the curve of the my own the my











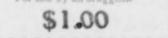
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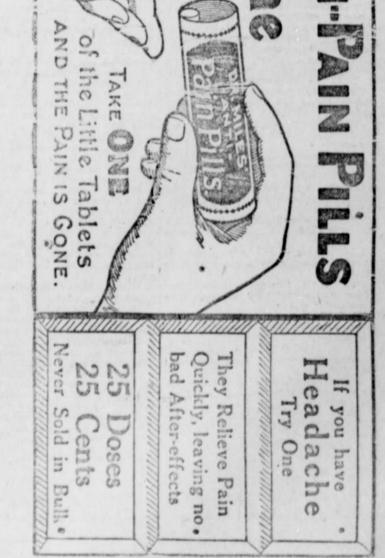
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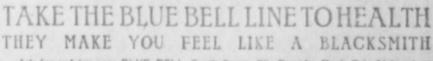
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