THE UNDOING OF A DOUBLE BY AUGO ST FINISTERREMD. 图 AUTHOR OF-WHO'S WHOLETCETC

Continued from first page.

was under surveillance, and the vigi-Black Man's swamp. The discussion among the members had been long and angry, but it was ended at last, and

Jim Dungan was still the leader.
"At 7 o'clock tonight," he said, to his followers, "let every one of you be on hand at Tom Bulfinch's. Sam and Jake will keep watch of Colonel Manslsy's house to make sure he doesn't slip away. We'll go together and wind up

this business in good shape."

And with this understanding the vigilantes separated to their homes to await the decisive hour that had been announced by their leader.

CHAPTER XXV. I found the home of Colonel Mansley better prepared for defense than would be suspected. Like most southerners, he was fond of hunting, and in his house were two fine rifles, a shotgun and a small revolver. The smaller rifle and pistol were the property of his daughter, who was an expert in their use as well as a horsewoman of consummate skill. The revolver belonging to the colonel had been taken by him when he rode off in quest of re-enforcements, so that no cartridges were found of which I could make use. But his rifle was placed at my disposal, while Miss

Mansiey was similarly armed. Our hope was that if the vigilantes arrived before the master of the house we could stand them off until he came. The real strength of this peculiar defense, as it seemed to me, lay in the personality of the young woman, who was well known and universaly respected. It was hard to believe that a company of her neighbors would proceed to violence in which she was sure to become involved, but when I intimated such belief she shook her head, and since she knew them better than I her views were entitled to belief.

Erastus Brown was our main reliance among the servants. He expressed an eagerness to join in the defense, but since he refrained from doing so until after his mistress' announcement that he was to confine his services to watchman or scout it cannot be believed be was much disappointed. The other men, of whom there were several, were enjoined to scan the country in every direction and report promptly the discov-

ery of anything suspicous. Early in the afternoon, when everything appeared to be quiet, Miss Mansley and I ate a hasty lunch. We remained in the parlor, moving from window to window, talking together in low tones and continually on the alert. Nothing could be clearer to me than our powerlessness against a determined at-tack. If our assailants should confine their assault to the front of the house, where they would be in fair range, it is probable that we could have held them off indefinitely, but it was too much to expect them to butt their heads against a wall in that fashion.

It was about the middle of the afternoon that Erastus Brown, who was on the lookout at one of the upper windows, rushed down stairs in a state of excitement, with startling news. "Dey're comin!" he gasped. "Dey'll

be here in a few minutes!" "Whom do you mean?" asked Miss Mansley, betraying less excitement that

"De biggermists, dat am gwine to tore de house down!"

"How many?" "Two hundred and twenty-five; I

Instead of replying to this astound ing declaration, the young woman ran up stairs. She had hardly disappeared, when she uttered a glad cry.

"Father is returning!" she called. Almost instantly she reappeared at the head of the stairs and hastened to my side, her face aglow with delighted

"Is he alone?" I asked. "He brings re-enforcements. Isn't it

"How many?" "Two—sufficient to repel 100." Evidently the daughter held a good opinion of her parent's courage. Nevertheless four determined men (for I include myself) constituted a formidable

force, to say nothing of the brave young A few minutes later the three horse-men dashed up and leaped from their

Erastus was on hand to take charge of their animals, and Esther opened the



Esther was clasped in the arms of he father. massive front door and was clasped in the arms of her father, who affection-

ately kissed and embraced her. Quickly she had explained everything and introduced me to her parent. who cordially pressed my hand and presented me to his companions,

Colonel Fitzroy Mansley was a West Pointer, a veteran of the Confederacy and one of the finest looking men I ever looked upon. He was tall, erect, with a profit, pronounced military bearing, silvery white hair, a keen eye, pink cheeks, an aquiline nose and a set of natural teeth almost as fine as his daughter's. He Only 15 cents a copuby mail was an ideal soldier and as chivalrous a knight as ever rode under the standard of Godfrey of Bouillon. His companions, like him, had served the Confederacy from the first Manassas to Appomattox and most of the time with him. One was Captain Hugh Warren and the other Captain Sam Vernon. Needless to say, they would not have been appealed to by Colonel Mansley had he not known the stuff of which they were made. They welcomed the opportunity for a brush of this nature that would serve to recall the days of the bivouse, the camp and the battlefield. Each of the couple brought a Winchester and a revolver and within the same minute that they reached the colonel's residence were ready for

business. It came out that there had been a third recruit in the person of Sheriff Buttlin, but on the road whom should they meet but Hank Beyer, mounted on

most to get out of a section which he saw would soon became too hot to hold him. The sheriff promptly arrested the oung man and started for the county ent, a dozen miles distant. The sympathy and respect fult for Beyer's father led the party to drive to his home with a statement of the facts and with a view if allowing the parent an opportunity of giving bail if he chose for his son. But Major Beyer had become convinced at last of his worthlessness and refused onger to acknowledge him or have

"Take and do with him what you choose. I never wish to look upon his face again," said the old Roman, turn-

ing away. It may as well be stated that the sheriff conducted his prisoner to the county seat without difficulty, and there in due time he was placed upon trial to answer several charges, was con-victed and sent to the penitentiary for

a long term of years. And so it may be said at last that my

double was us lone.
"Mr. Kenmore," remarked Colonel Mansley after the first flurry was over, 'I deeply regret that you should receive such an introduction to Mississippi, but if some of our people are inhospitable we intend to prove to you that others know how to treat a gentleman. These boors are in need of the salutary lesson that awaits them. "

That was proved long since. It will always be a cause of deep regret to me that I should have brought this trouble upon you and"-

"Tut, tat, tut! None of that! We are doing a simple set of duty, which you and your friends in the north would be quick to restpresate were our situations

Before I could say more he called to Captains Warren and Vernon to join us a a council of war.

It was agreed that one of these officers hould post himself on the east of the house and the other on the right, though it was almost certain that the vigilantes would come from Aldine, lying to the west. The moment they were discovered Captain Warren was to give the signal, when he and his comrade would withiraw to the house. There we should defend ourselves as the exigencies present od themselves. The request of Miss

Mansley to assist us was firmly declined. "Your place is in your room," her father said. patting her head affectionstely. You will be good enough to go thither and remain until I send for

She knew better than to protest, and rissing him goodby for the time did as directed.

Night was closing in. Most of the ervants had been sent to their quarters, or to show Celonel Manuley's contempt or the vigilances the lights were lit brough the lower past of the house, and when we at our evening meal every me of us could have been picked off from the outside without risk to the harpshooter. I confess I felt nervous when I glanced at the windows, whose urtains were raised and the shutters

At the conclusion of the meal the captains repaired to their stations and the colonel and I went into the parlor, where all was darkness. Everything possible had been done, and we were in readiness for the attack that we were sertain would soon be made. Sure snough, less than half an hour had passed when, through the stillness, we heard whistle from Captain Warren.

"Our friends are prompt," remarked Colonel Mansley. "They will be here in 10 or 15 minutes."

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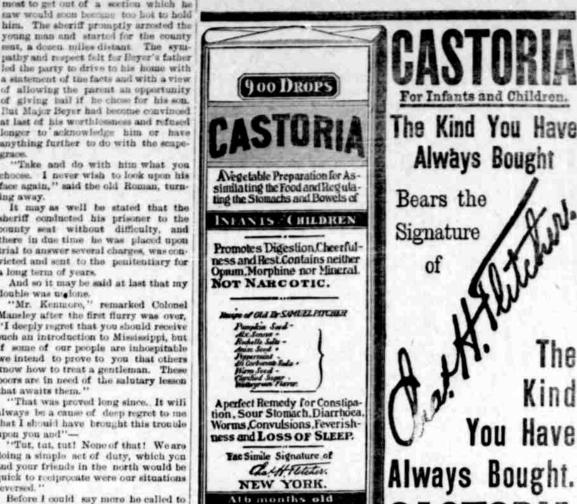
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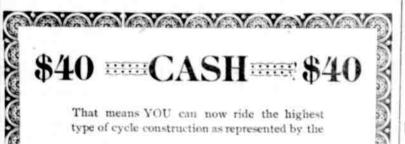




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