

swered, yet startled by his manner. "That was why I sent for you. Would that include his son's daughter?"

He buried his face in his hands, "Yes," he confessed brokenly. "To the best of my knowledge Rene Beaucaire is a slave."

The silence following this blunt statement was sickening. Up to that moment, in spite of every fact brought to my knowledge, I had secretly believed this condition of affairs impossible. Surely somewhere, through some legal form, Judge Beaucaire had guarded the future safety of



"By Heaven, Man!" He Cried, Pausing Suddenly.

this young woman, whom he had admitted into his household. Any other conception seemed impossible, too monstrous, too preposterous for consideration. But now the solemn words of the lawyer, his own legal counselor, brought conviction, and for the moment all power of speech deserted me. It was actually true, thenthe girl was a slave, a thing belonging to Kirby. Nothing broke the stillness within the cabin except the sharp crackling of flames in the open fireplace, and the heavy breathing of the negro. He was seated on the edge of the bed, his black face showing a greenish tint and revealing puzzled smazement, with wide-opened eyes staring blankly at Haines, who stood motionless before the fire.

"Whut was dat yer sed, Mister Haines?" he asked thickly. "You say as how Missus Rene Beaucaire is a slave, sah? 'Pears like I don't just rightfully understan'."

usekeeper; her father was Adelbert Beaucaire, the judge's only son. No one knows where he is, dead or alive." "De good Lord! An' de ol' jedge

never set her free?" The lawyer shook his head, words

evidently failing him.

"But are you absolutely certain of this?" I broke in impatiently. "Have you searched the records?"

"Not only searched them, Knox, but before he left for the north on this last trip Beaucaire was in my office, and I practically forced him to acknowledge the negligence. He even authorized me to draw up the necessary papers for him to sign on his return-for both Delia and the girl. They are in my desk now, unexecuted. There is no mistake-Rene is legally a slave, together with her mother."

"My God!" I exclaimed. "Could anyone conceive a more horrible position! Here is a young girl, educated, refined, of more than ordinary attractiveness, Throckmorton tells me, brought up amid every comfort, and led to believe herself the honored daughter of the house, awakening in an instant to the fact that she is a slave, with negro blood in her velns-a mere chattel, owned body and soul by a gambler, won in a card game, and to be sold to the highest bidder. Haines, I tell you Kirby knew all this-he either suspected, or had discovered through some source that Rene Beaucaire had never been set free. For some reason he desired possession of both Beaucaire girls; they meant more to him than either the money or the property. This card game gave him one; the other-"

"Eloise, you mean? Did the fellow

threaten her?" "Here is what he said sneeringly; you can judge yourself what he meant: 'She's worth fifty thousand dollars by her mother's will, and I intend to win

her if I can, fair means or foul." Haines did not speak for some moments, his eyes on my face. Then he paced back and forth across the floor,

finally stopping before the fire. "This is as near hell as anything I ever knew," he said, "and so far as can see there is no legal way out of it. We are utterly helpless to as-

"We are not," I answered hotly, "if we are men. There may be no legal way in which we can beat this villain, but there is an filegal one, unless we already too late, and I propose

"I am almost afraid I do," I and fo use it, whether you join me or not, You are sure the girls are still at the plantation house—that they know nothing of this condition?"

"I have reason to believe so, Della was buying provisions at the Landing yesterday; I talked with her a mo-

"And you said that Kirby and Carver were only in town for one night, leaving the next morning on a keelboat for St. Louis. My idea is they were not quite ready to take possession; that they have gone to St. Louis to file the papers, and will come back with officers prepared to execute

them. This means that we must work fast to get out of their way."

"What do you propose doing?" "Let me ask a question first. Is it true that Eloise Beaucaire is heiress to fifty thousand dollars through her mother's estate?"

"Yes; I invested most of it," "In what?"

"New Orleans property principally." "Then it is safe enough whatever happens. The only thing we can do is this: tell those girls and the mother the whole truth-tell them at once, before Kirby can return, and then help them to get out of this country. It is not necessary for Eloise to go, unless she desires to, but there is no other safe course for Delia and Rene. They must reach a northern state before Kirby can lay hands on them.

Could Delia pass for a white woman?" "Not in the South; still she could travel as Rene's maid. But I do not believe it is possible for the two to escape in that way, Knox, Understand, I'd be willing to risk it if there were any show. How can it be done? On the average at this time of year there isn't a steamboat along here once a month. If we did get them onto a straight south as far as the Ohio. Kirby wouldn't be more than a day or two behind them, with friends on every boat on the river. Illinois is no free state for fugitive slaves-they might just as well be caught in Missourl as over there. There is not one chance in a thousand that they make

"And less than that if they remain here for Kirby to get his hands on," I retorted bitterly. "Now look here, Haines. I am going to carry out this plan alone if you will not back me in it. I am not talking about steamboats; they could travel by night, and hide along shore during the day. All they would need would be two negro oarsmen, sufficient food, and a boat big enough to carry them safely. You have small boats, surely?"

"I got one, Massa Knox," burst out "Still, that is true, Pete," and the Pete eagerly. "She's down by de lawyer lifted his head and surveyed mouth oh de creek, sah, an' she sure us both. "She is the illegitimate am a mighty good boat. We could daughter of Delia, Judge Beaucaire's load her up right here, an' I'd be one ob de niggers fer ter take dem ladies down ribber. I'se a free boy, an' nobody care whar I done go."

These unexpected words heartened me, strengthened my own resolve, and I obeyed the first impulse, instantly crossing the room and frankly extending my hand to the surprised negro. "That sounds like a man, Pete," I exclaimed warmly. "Yes, of course I mean it-shake hands. You are white enough for me, boy, and I do not propose letting you do any more than I am willing to do. I'll go along with

you on this trip. I have sixty days' furlough. "And now, what about you, Haines?" demanded. "Are you ready to help? Come, man, surely this is not some thing we have any time to debate. Kirby is liable to show up at any moment with full authority, and the sheriff to back him. It is still early in

the evening, and we must work tonight if at all," "You haven't the strength for such wenture," he protested.
"Haven't I?" and I laughed. "Oh.

yes, I have. I am young and this

wound is nothing. Are you with us?" He was slow in replying, and, as I eagerly watched his face, I could almost comprehend the working of the lawyer mind. He saw and argued every doubt, considered every danger. "In spirit, yes," he answered at last, "but not physically. I believe under the circumstances you are justified, Knox. Perhaps I'd do the same thing if I was in your place and had your youth behind me. But I am a lawyer, fifty years old, and this is my home. If the story ever got out that I took part in nigger stealing, that would be the end of me in Missouri. -You can take the risk, but about all I can do will be to keep a quiet tongue in my

is all I can promise." "Yet you acknowledge this is the only way? No legal course is open to

head. I'll promise you that. But that

"Absolutely none. If there was I should never consent to be a party to this plan, or shield you in any way. Kirby has undoubtedly got the law with him. We cannot establish fraud; the property actually belongs to himboth mother and daughter are his

"And how about the other girl-Eloise?"

"He has no legal hold on her; she is free whire woman. He could only

hope to overcome her resistance by threats. The plantation is irrevocably lost to the Beaucaires, but she possesses the power to defy him because of her mother's property. If Kirby marries her, it will only be through her consent."

He picked up his hat from the table, and a stout stick he had brought along with him, taking a step toward the door.

"I might as well tell you I consider this a mad scheme," he paused to add gravely, "and that it will probably fail, There is a possible chance of success, I admit, and for that reason I permit you to go shead with it, and pledge myself to keep the secret. I was rather intimately associated with Beaucaire for a number of years, and to see his granddaughter sold into slavery, even if she does have a drop of nigger blood in her veins, in more than I can stand, without giving her a chance to get away. That is why I consent to abet a crime, and keep still about it. But beyond that I'll not go. Do you understand the position this infernal Mair puts me into?"

"Yes, I do, Hnines," and I held out my hand to him, with fresh cordiality. It is uncommonly white of you to even go that far. I'll pledge you this -for Pete here, as well as myselfthat if we are caught, your name shall never be mentioned. Have you any advice to give?"

He paused uncertainly, his hand on the latch, the firelight flashing up into his face.

"Only this," he said slowly, "If I were you I'd never attempt to go south. Below St. Louis boars are numerous, and you would be almost certain to be discovered. If Kirby chases you-and I know him well enough to be sure he will-he will naturally take it for granted that you have headed for the Ohio. The very fact that the fugitives are women would convince him of this, To my mind the one chance of your getting away, lies to the north-up the Illinois, Anyhow, good luck to you both, and good

(To Be Continued.)

Coal in the Ice Regions.

Geologists have discovered immense deposits of coal in Spitzbergen, and It is now apparent that, in spite of boat they would have to travel ice, cold and fog. Spitzbergen is a land fraught with many commercial possibilities. The coal is practically all on the surface, and deep mining is

Could Drink Water.

If among the innumerable beverages of colonial times a maa could find nothing to quench his thirst, he must have been hard to satisfy. The Pilgrim fathers were much distressed because they were reduced to drinking water when they came to the New World. But Higginson, of Salem, proudly told his contemporaries; "I can and ofttimes do drink New England water very well,"

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PURCHASES LIMITED BY GROCERS.

New Crop Beet Sugar Looked to to Solve Difficulty.

Central Oregon is feeling the sugar shortage manifested on the coast, and is feeling it most strongly, a stocks revealed Fully half of the Bend dealers are without any supply of granulated sugar whatsoever, despite the fact that customers had been limited to dollar purchases, and others who still have some on hand have been forced to adopt the system of cutting down the amounts of individual purchases

Demand for this commodity has been unusually heavy this season, due to the large amount of canning which has been done, but the sudden famine finds many housewives who still have a large proportion of their winter's fruit to put up. Until a fresh supply arrives in Bend this work will be virtually stopped as the plan of allowing a limiting amount to individual buyers, is based on the amount required for ordinary household needs.

Beet Sugar Due Soon.

While the stevedores strike in San Francisco, preventing the handling of large quanities of sugar destined for Portland, is blamed as the chief reason for Bend's shortage. There are those who affirm that wholesalers holding large stocks for a rise are also in a large measure responsible.

To remedy existing conditions, local dealers are looking hopefully to the shipping of the Yakima and Wyoming beet sugar output, and varying with the locality in which it is produced, delivery has been promised all the way from the early part of October to the latter part of November. Once the new crop beet sugar begins to come in, there will be no

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