

you please." With a sudden movement the woman flings back the cloak that has been drawn close about her face, and strikes with her hand upon the timbers of the boat house. There is a cracking sound, a flash of light, and then the slow blaze of a parlor match.

By its light they gaze upon each other, and then the man mutters a curse. "Miss Wardour!"

"Mr. Belknap, it is I."

There is a moment's silence, and then she speaks again :---

"You are disappointed, Mr. Belknap; you expected to meet another who would pay you your price for-you know what. You will not see that other one; she is hovering between life and death, and her delirious ravings have revealed you in your true character. You may wonder how I have dared thus to brave an assassin, a blackmailer. I am not reck-less If I do not return in ten minutes and request them to remain in their C. less. If I do not return in ten minutes, rooms for the present. After that, you safe and sound, the boat house will be are at liberty to proceed."

touch of sarcasm in his voice. "that this is an unwarrantable and useless proceeding-doubly so at this late hour.'

"Nevertheless, it is a necessary one." broke in Mr. Wedron, orisply. "It is presumable that you can have no personal enmity against Doctor Heath, sir; therefore you can have no reason for opposing measures instigated by justice. The ex-amination will be a brief one." The resolute tone of his voice, no less than his words, brought Jasper Lamotte

to his senses. "Certainly, I have no wish to oppose the ends of justice," he said, in a tone which, in spite of himself, was most ungracious. "Such an investigation is naturally distasteful to me. Nevertheless. you may proceed, gentlemen, but I should not like the ladies of my household to discover what is going on. They are sufficiently nervous already. If you will excuse me for a moment, I will go u

this 'ere women who can't hold her

tongue will be bauled up as a witness for (To be continued.)

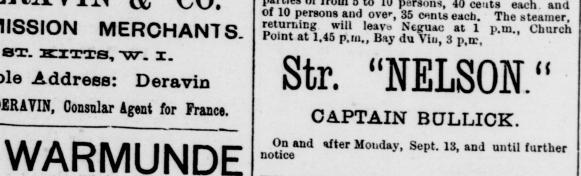
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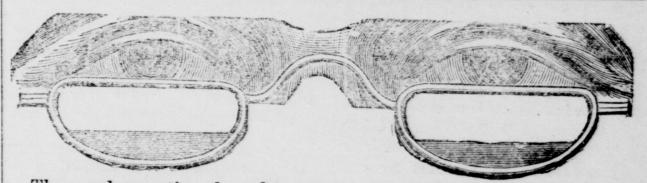
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