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difference is assumed, as indeed many of his moods are-there is more fire concealed under this affected, cool, and deliberate exterior than one could imagine.

Endeavouring to be calm, Doctor Jack unfolds the paper. His hands tremble a little. The paper has become somewhat crumpled in the dude's pocket, but leaning over so that the light from the four smoky flambeaux of the Indian sword-swallower may fall upon it, Jack reads. He immediately gives, an exclamation, and bends closer, Larry watching him with a smile, his slender figure drawn up a la Napoleon as though he deems himself of considerable importance just at this moment.

"Jove! this is singular !" mutters Then he looks up, an odd smile

Jack.

crossing his face which the half mask hides-he has suddenly caught a glimmer of the truth. "Ah! you appear puzzled," says

Larry. "Well, yes. There seems a cipher needed here to set me straight." respends the other. So Larry straightens his slender legs, throws out his chest, pulls at the awfully diminutive mustache fiercely, and rapping on his breast as a Booth or a Barrett might, he cries :-"Look on me-I-I am the missing link." Doctor Jack, remembering his first opinion that the dude resembled a

monkey, inwardly chuckles to think how near the mark these words may be construed-children and fools always speak the truth, they say.

me out of it, deah girl.' Some men would get angry at such

talk, but Jack cannot-he knows Larry is a conceited fool-under his breath he calls him a jackass, but it is also dead certain that the little man is wiser than surface indications would promise. His present errand proves it, and Jack is not the one to find fault with a little eccentricity, for it serves as a spice to flavour the soup. So he makes out that he is highly pleased, presses the dude's hand warmly, and howls in his ear--the villainous band is just passing.

"Awful glad to know you don't object to my cutting you out with Miss Avis. You know that's the fate of cousins, anyhow. If I'm ever so lucky as to succeed you shall be my best man, Larry." The plot thickens-Larry tumbles into the pit dug for him by the scheming lover, and shakes Jack's

hand in return. "Thanks, awfully, doctor-count on

"And now let's move back here a piece. I remember a spot where we can talk-a nice quiet place," shouts the other.

They soon reach the quarter Jack has reference to-it does promise them a chance for a quiet talk, being a little refreshment saloon, gauaily lighted up for the occasion, but as yet not well patronized, for the weird scenes upon the street keep every one on the qui vive.

Entering here. Doctor Jack selects a table just around a corner, where they will not be in view from the open dcors. A black-eyed Spanish girl "I presume this note does refer to takes their order, and refreshments

B.

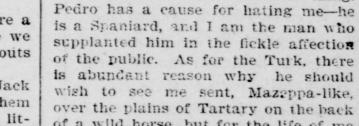
be so, but the facts are as plain as day.

What strange motive can Don Carlos and his niece have for their action ? Surely it is not robbery, for in what manner would they profit by his death ? There is some deeper, darker mystery back of it all, and he cannot hope to pick up any crumbs from Larry-still there is no harm in try-

"The Turk did not take you into his full confidence, I presume, old fellow ?" he queries. "No, but he gave promise of doing

so if I would consent to join them. You see, he talks broken English, and as I have not burnished up my Turkish tongue lately, we did not get on as well as we might." Larry says this with a pecaliar smirk, for, as a linguist, he is a dead failure, knowing

nothing but his mother tongue, and precious little of that, some of his acquaintances are fain to believe. "I am bothered over one thing.



of a wild horse, but for the life of me I can't understand why Don Carlos, whose life I have saved in the Pryenees, and his lovely niece should conspire against me. Perhaps you can throw some light on the subject, my

gcod friend." -----

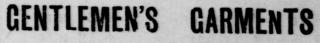


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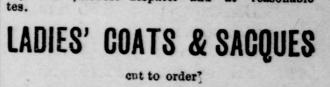
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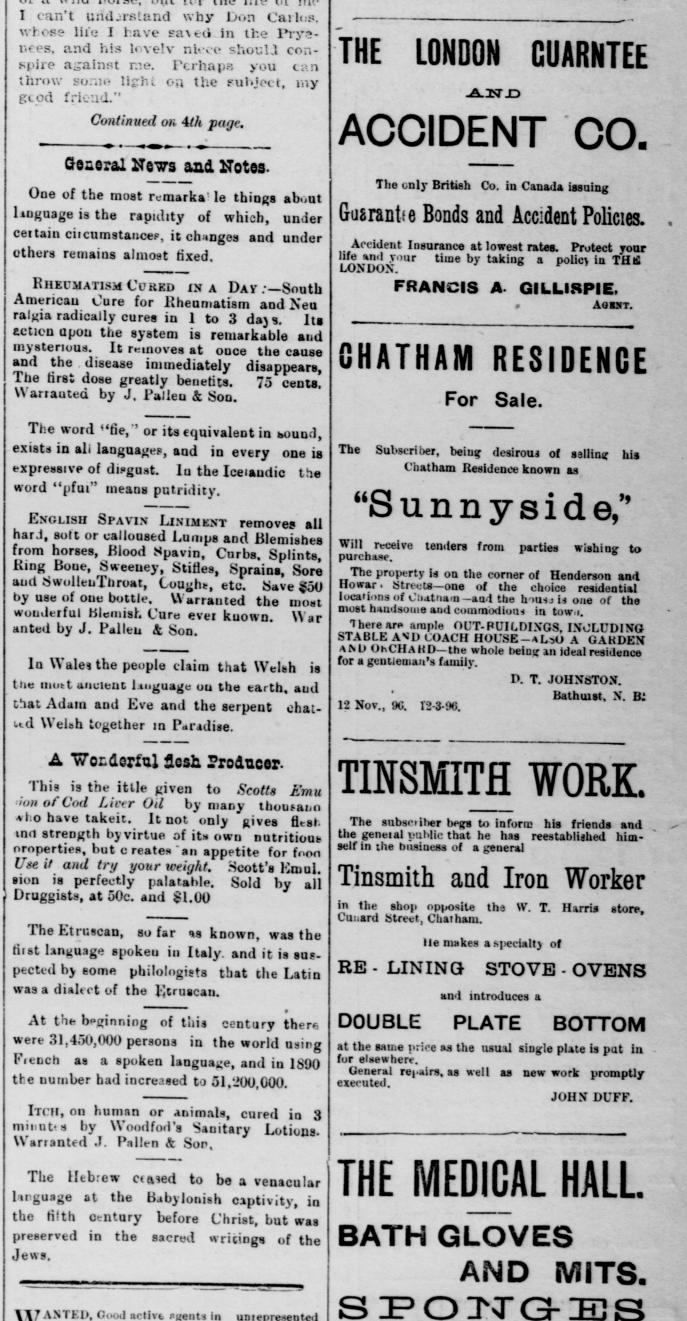
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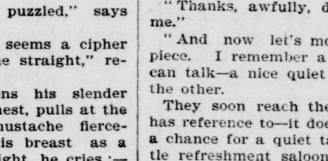


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