

AT LOVE'S COMMAND.

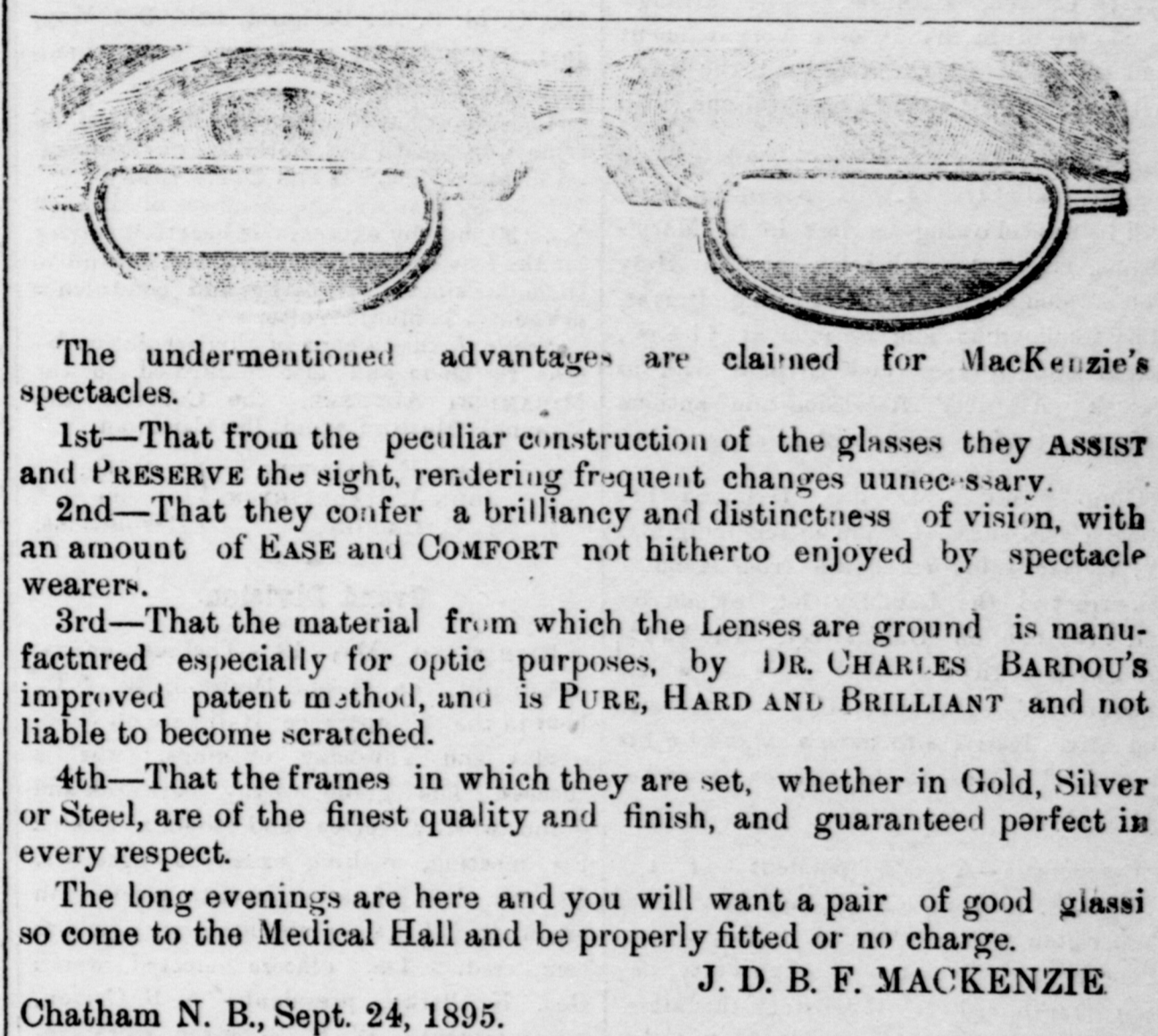
By John A. Stewart.

Year: he has been both here and at the Elms. I think he is friendly with Miss Gordon. But why do you start so? You must not be doing anything rash. Promise me that, Andrew. I will do nothing rash, mother, except in your defence. Now let me go. My father entered, and I went out, saying I wished to see Donald Gordon. Five minutes later I was at the Elms, hot with running and hotter still with anger. In the drawing-room I found Sir Thomas Gordon, Isabel, Donald, Rane, and Peter Clephane. At sight of him my anger rose to a white hot passion that made it hard to keep my promise to my mother. I looked at the three people seated with a feigned smile of pleasure, saying he had heard I was home, and I bowed slightly in return, pretending not to notice the three fingers he held out to me. Then we sat down and did not address each other once while we remained in the room. When my visit, which was brief, was at an end, what Donald, in his devilment, do but propose that we should go for a walk together. To my surprise Peter Clephane agreed with alacrity, remarking that he had been waiting for me. The reason was speedily made clear. "Sir," he said to me when we were in the road, "you give me unspeakable pleasure. I will insult you again."

his first command when a bullet from the wall aimed fifth of a minute in an angry lung lodged between his eyes. Then the fifth to command the Huscar took day, Lieutenant Pedro Garzon, took the place, and as he did so he called through an aperture telling the quartermaster to put a man to port; for he had determined to remain on the adversaries and sink with her if necessary. Over and over spun the wheel, but the Huscar's head still pointed between the Chileans. "For the Fort, I say!" screamed the commander. "She won't answer," cried back the quartermaster from the only one of four gunners alive. The bodies of the others were lying upon the grating at his feet. "A shot had carried away the star-board steering gear, sir," reported an ensign, and he dropped dead as the words left his mouth. The Huscar now lay drifting in a hell of shot and flame, but all the while the red, white and red fluttered from the peak. One by one, in twos and in threes, the men in the turret dropped at their posts, and at last the remaining great gun was silent. Its tackle lay choked with dead. The turret could not be turned for the same reason. Corpses hung over the military top; corpses clogged the conning tower. With cries and exclamations of the surgeons had been laboring in the ward-room upon the wounded, who, shrieking in their agony, had been tumbled down the companionway like so much butchered beef, for there was no time to use stretchers or to carry a stricken comrade to a doctor's care. Steam and smoke filtered through the doorways, and the apartment became stifling. While they were sawing, amputating and bandaging a shelling into the wardroom, the air and fragments around the medical staff having been killed earlier in the conflict. Those unfortunate who were stretched upon the tables were left in a place that had been lit only as flashes came from the guns. It was filled with powder smoke, and clouds of steam that drifted from below told that the Huscar had been struck in a vital spot—her machinery. As it came down in a crash, followed by the rending of the deck, and the little ironclad away as if she had struck a reef. Some one passed the word that the mainmast had been shot away. As it came down it brought living men to be dashed to death, and corpses that had been hanging over the side of the military top.

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