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quested to call and arr nge the amounts of their indebtedness within 60 days from date, not later than 14th August. All accounts not settled on or before that date will be placed in other hands for Chathan, June 17th, 1897.

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of indignation.

but attain it."

Payne?"

" 'References,' she repeated. 'Certain-

ly not! I have told you that my lady's

object is complete isolation-entire soli

tude. She would not wish that solitude

address known. You can tell Mrs. No

row for Mrs. Neville's answer.'

My agent looked disconcerted.

needful arrangements.

"Let her have the house," I directed.

she kept her vow tradition did not say.

It was certainly one of the most se-

cluded of spots; all human sounds seemed

to die away as one drew near to it; the

trees were taller and thicker there than

in any other spot in the vicinity. As one

crossed the long, wide fields, the rush of

lawn with a few fine old trees dotted

For any one who had grown tired of

a fairer retreat, but for one who desired

the sight of human faces and the sound

of humanity," nothing could be more

River House. At one time it was let to a

widow lady and her daughter, who con-

three years, nor could I find an eligible

It was not so much for the rent that I

was anxious to let it, but because the

to be good neighbors; and I looked for-

ward to visiting and associating with

them as one of my rights. I preferred too

that the house should be inhabited; when

left empty for long it lost value. The

trades-people at Daintree, moreover,

seemed always better pleased when there

was some one dwelling there. Even the

rector-good, simple Dr. Rawson-had

asked once or twice, with an air of great

solicitude, if the River House was still

Well, I had a tenant at last, but cer-

Dame Neville who so long ago had built

the house as a place of refuge from all

mankind-one I was neither to see nor

to hear. Nevertheless, I must plead

guilty to the truly feminine sin of curi-

osity, for I resolved, by some means or

other, at some time or other, to see what

I arranged to meet Mrs. Lewis at Mr.

Payne's office. I found ber a comely.

shrewd, homely woman, but, like my

agent, I was puzzled to know whether

She was most civil and deferential to

"You will pardon my mentioning it

again, Mrs. Neville," she said, "but it

is clearly understood that my mistress

will have perfect freedom from all in-

"It is quite understood, Mrs. Lewis."

"That no visitor need call under any

pretext whatever? She has no wish that

the clergyman of the parish even should

"No," she answered, slowly. "If you

will pardon me, Mrs. Neville, I should

prefer not to speak of my mistress; she

I felt rebuked. Some people might

have disliked the blunt honesty of such

speech; I liked the woman the better

for it. She told us that if all was satis-

factory her mistress would like to take

possession of the house on the week fol-

lowing. And then, as we parted, I said

to her that I respected her attention and

devotion to her mistress's orders, but

that, if ever she found herself dull or

lonely, I hoped she would visit my house-

She thanked me without saying

whether she would accept the invitation.

She took the needful documents away

with her, and in a few days they were

returned. The lease was signed "Huldah

I have a business-like method of care-

fully reading my papers, and this signa-

ture struck me very much. "Huldah

Vane"-the name was an uncommon

one to begin with, the writing strange

and peculiar; it was the writing either

of one who was old or of a person whose

force of character as all repressed-which

of the two it was I could not tell.

ill-health?" I added, impulsively.

does not wish it, I know.'

keeper at Neville's Cross.

me, at the same time insisting on her

demands. She looked at me fixedly with

her large bright eyes.

I replied.

wait upon her.'

tenant for it.

she was like.

We had been pretty successful with the

In front of the house was a pretty

PART I. MRS. NEVILLE'S STORY.

CHAPTER I .- "A TENANT FOR THI RIVER HOUSE."

I who tell this story am Constance Neville, of Neville's Cross. My husband died when I was twenty-seven, leaving the whole of his vast fortune to me without restraint or restriction, to enjoy as I would, to bequeath according to my own will and pleasure. He was not de pur sang, my husband. His father had been one of the richest merchant princes in England, and he, at his death, transmitted his fortune to my husband, Richard Neville.

It happened by a strange coincidence that the ancient mansion and estate of Neville's Cross came soon afterward, through the death of the heir, into the market. My husband decided upon buy-

"I shall be Richard Neville, of Neville's Cross, then," he said, "and my lar Cases, Writing Tablets, Al- highest ambition will be gratified." I fancy he had some vague idea that, may be troubled with some kind of in buying the estate, he would become | mania; or she may have had some terat once a country gentleman of ancient | rible trouble. Any of these reasons will pedigree and long descent. How many account for it." thousands of pounds he spent in putting the grand old place into order I should not like to say; but, when all arrange- | tude, if that is all that she requires." ments had been made, it was one of the nost magnificent houses in England. Every country had been placed under equisition. The most superb pictures nd statues, wonders of ancient and nodern art the choicest flowers, the

ichest hangings, the most costly furniure, seemed to have been gathered from il parts of the world. We lived there happily enough for come years, going to London for the sea. | the house had been erected by one of the on and abroad for the winter, but ending the early spring and some part | lost her husband, built for herself such a the autumn for the shooting at Ne. | retreat, vowing that she would never

At twenty-seven the whole of my huspand's vast fortune, and his large estate with its innumerable responsibilities, ecame mine. I had no children, no reatives, few with whom I could claim sith or kin, and I was at a loss how to ct. I had loved my husband so well bat the idea of a second marriage was a river sounded clearer and clearer. ateful to me. What, then, was I to do with my money and my life? I resolved pon living at Neville's Cross, and beng as happy as possible under the cir- old-fashioned garden and an orchard; cumstances. So years glided away. One fine day in June I was sitting | pine woods. There was a short drive clone when my steward, James Payne,

shrewd, clever business man, came in o see mc. He had news, I felt sure, from ne expression of his face. After his isual bow and some preliminary remarks, he said :-"You will be pleased to hear that we have a tenant at last for the River "An eligible tenant?" I interposed.

"That is a point I must ask you to lecide, madame," was the cautious reply. 'I can not undertake to settle it. I will lay the whole matter before you-the de- lonely. cision of course rests with you." I bowed. My man of business contin-"I was in my office yesterday-my trived to keep themselves "alive" by

office in Daintree-when one of my constant relays of visitors. Once, to my clerks came to say that a lady wished to husband's great amusement, it had been see me. There came into the office a re- let to a newly-married pair, who soon mectable-looking woman, dressed in wearied of it. It had been empty now for tack silk and a Paisley shawl. I am pretty quick at coming to conclusions. but I could not for the world tell at first whether she wanted the house for herself-whether she was a lady's maid I residents at River House generally proved or companion, or what. She spoke well, and seemed to have a good head for busi-

"'I understand, Mr. Payne,' she be-

gan, 'that you have the letting of the house known as the River House. I should like to know the rent, terms of letting, and other particulars.' "Briefly enough I gave them to her. Perhaps, madame, in one respect I have done wrong. She seemed so like one who would bargain, and make the best | empty. possible terms for herself, that I asked twenty pounds per annum more than tainly one who was of the stamp of the you decided on asking, quite expecting that she would want me to take it off: but, to my surprise, she made no com-

plaint at all about the rent." "You are a good man of business," I put in, "but we must not take more for the house, Mr. Payne, than it is honestly worth. You must manage so that the twenty pounds per annum are made up to her." My agent bowed.

"I am not sure, madame," he said. "that you will find the tenant an eligible one. My visitor, whose name I afterward found to be Mrs. Jane Lewis, "'My mistress has been for some

weeks looking for a very quiet and re- then she was very reserved. tired house. It struck her at once, when she read your advertisement, that she | want signing I will take with me to my would like the River House. It is, I mistress.' suppose, quite out of the public way, quite solitary?' "I said 'Yes,' and that our chief difficulty in letting the house had always

been its isolated situation. Her face beamed with satisfaction, madame, when she heard that. "'I am sure it will do,' she said.

'You hear no sounds but the rushing of | trusion?" the river, the song of the birds, and the murmur of the trees?' 'You hear no other sounds,' I re-" 'The voices of men, and the laughter

of children at play, the distant murmur of traffic, the roll of carriage-wheels, the steps of passers-by, are all absent?'
"All absent," I answered. 'When the leaves are on the trees, the house is shut in completely.' "'It is the very thing,' she remarked, 'that my mistress wants.'

"And then I remembered, madame, your chief motive in letting the house, and I said to her:-" 'I should tell you, Mrs. Lewis, that the River House belongs to Mrs. Neville, of Neville's Cross. It has been used in by gone times as a dower-house. Mrs. Neville lets it in order that she may find an agreeable friend in the tenant. The

neighborhood is lonely, and it makes a great difference to her not to be able to visit at the River House,' "Mrs. Lewis looked embarrassed. " 'Then the owner, whom you call Mrs. Neville, would expect to be on what is called visiting terms with the tenant of the River House?' "'Certainly,' I replied; 'that is her chief object in letting it. The neighborhood is a dull one, and she likes society.'

"'In that case,' said Mrs. Lewis, 'I may give up all thoughts of it; it will not do for my mistress. She wishes to be quite alone-quite solitary. She would not care to take it on these terms.' "You may imagine my embarrassment, madame," continued Mr. Payne. "I took the liberty of saying that Mrs. Neville was highly accomplished, and eagerly sought after, but she stopped me

" 'That does not matter at all,' she

said. 'You had better consult Mrs. Ne- House. Dr. Rawson was the first who ville. Say my mistress, Miss Vane, is mentioned it to me. looking for a house where she can live in "I am so delighted, my dear madame," complete solitude and retirement, that he said "to know that we have neighbors she can not receive visitors, and that she at last. I hear that your new tenants does not go into society. If, knowing have arrived." this, Mrs. Neville consents to receive her "Yes," I ret as a tenant, the rent will be paid punctually, the house kept in excellent repair, and she will have no trouble.' "'It seems strange,' I remarked. 'I suppose, Mrs. Lewis, your mistress can

does not care for it," I replied Dr. Rawson looked very dignified; he repeated my words. "Not care for it! But, Mrs. Neville, she will receive me?" "I think not," was my answer. "I shall most certainly wait upon her; intended doing so. She may be per-

who cares little for the frivolities of life; she will surely not refuse to receive me. She must understand that my duty compels me to see every person under my charge, rich or poor. "Try it, doctor," I said, laughing, pic turing to myself the face of Mrs. Lewis. And then I remembered suddenly that I

haps a sensible lady, of middle age, one

had pledged my word no one should intrude upon my tenant. Full of contrition, I turned hastily to him. "Doctor Rawson," I said, "I had quite forgotten, but I promised when this lady took the house that her wishes should be respected, and that no one should call upon her."

to be broken even by a letter. If she tave "My dear Mrs. Neville," he sail. you references, that would make her smiling blandly, "you are exceedingly kind, but permit me to say that this is a ville all these things, and let us know matter about which you could not posher decision. My mistress is not exactly sibly make any promise-you could not, an invalid, but she objects to society of indeed. This lady is now one of my every kind; she wishes to live in retireflock, under my charge. Indeed, the ment and seclusion. I will call to mormore you say the more certain am I that I am needed there. Sin and sorrow must "And now, madame," concluded my be gently dealt with."

agent, "it is for you to decide. I have "Perhaps there is neither, doctor -an impression that Miss Vane has nothing but disinclination for society." plenty of money, and that she will not "We shall see," was the concise reply, care what her object costs her, if she can And we did see. I met the good doctor a week after-I felt puzzled-at a loss how to decide, ward at Lady Glendon's, and I fancied "What should you imagine to be the that as his eyes met mine there was in reason of her wish for solitude, Mr. them a certain half-abashed expression.

"Did you call at the River House?" I "There may be several reasons, ma His face flushed, and something dame. Possibly the lady is old and disstronger than clerical indignation quivlikes seciety; or she may be an invalid ered round his lips. and not care to see any one; or she "I called, madame," he replied, "bu I did not see your tenant." It would not have been generous to

cry out, "I told you so," but I felt strongly inclined to do so. "I hope that your reception was at Say that I undertake to respect her solileast courteous," I ventured to observe. "Moderately so. I drove over to River Mr. Payne, therefore, left to make all House three days ago, and requested to see Miss Vane. I was somewhat startled Many people were puzzled to know by the aspect of the house, which is why the River House had ever been Oriental in its magnificence. I was built. It was so remote that even the shown into the library-the room that chiming of the church-bells did not reach looks over the river on the west. I can it; no other habitation was near, and no not tell you what strange fancies came one ever approached it except on busiinto my mind as I sat there waiting. ness. In the annals of Neville's Cross Presently the sound of footsteps startled there was a tradition to the effect that me. I do not know what I expected to see, or what my idea of Miss Vane was, Ladies Neville, who, having suddenly but when the door opened I felt a thrill of disappointment. There entered a stout, comely, shrewd woman, with keen, look upon the face of man again. Whether bright eyes-eyes that seemed to look me through. I bowed and murmured something about Miss Vane.

"'I am not Miss Vane,' she said, quietly. 'I am her maid.' " 'I look for the pleasure of seeing Miss Vane,' I observed. "'It is impossible, sir,' she said. 'My mistress receives no visitors.' " 'My good woman I do not come as

a visitor, but as one intrusted with the here and there, and at the back lay an souls of all under his charge. Go back to Miss Vane and tell her from me that it beyond these a wide lane led to some is not as a visitor, but as the rector of he parish in which she resides that I through the woods which brought one to wish to see her.' the high road. That lay to the north; " 'I will go,' she said, doubtfully, 'but on the south, east, and west there was I tell you candidly, sir, I do not think nearly the same view, the same green it will be of the least use.' lawn sloping down to a broad, beautiful "I looked very stern, and she hastened

way, only to return in a few minutes

looking brighter and more determined the world, who loved solitude and Nature, there could not have been selected " 'My mistress, sir, wishes me to say that if she could break through her rule for any one she would do it for you-but of human voices, who loved the "music the can not. She regrets that you have had the trouble of coming, and regrets deo that Mrs. Neville's agent did not make her wishes on the matter known "So I came away without seeing your enant, Mrs. Neville. I felt annoyed, but managed to say that if Miss Vane ever found herself ill or in distress I was at her service."

"I hat was very good of you, doctor. she is a strange person." "I only hope, madame, that it may be all right, and that you may not repent of having taken such a tenant."

CHAPTER II .- "WHAT WAS THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING HER?" Three years had passed since my silent and mysterious tenant had taken up her abode at the River House, and during that time the silence that surrounded her had not been disturbed. At first she BOOTS! had proved a marvel in the neighborhood. Lady Glendon, Mrs. Conyers, the popular wife of our member, Mrs. Hurst,

Continued on 4th Page. General News and Notes. A Wonderful flesh Producer.

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she was a lady's maid or what. She seemed to be a well-spoken, well-educat-WARMUNDE ed woman, frank in every way except where her mistress was concerned, and IS OFFERING "Any documents," she 'said, "that

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Silverware & Novelties, luring the Holidays. Ail new goods. Give him We are glad to welcome visitors, pleased to show ur goods and ready to make close prices to all. WARMUNDE. EXPERIENCED WATCHMAKER Pallen Corner, Chatham ,N. B.

"I am sure that her wishes will be re-GO TO spected," I returned, again wondering more and more what it was that caused PORTLAND, BOSTON, ETC. this singular desire for solitude "I hope that your mistress does not suffer from

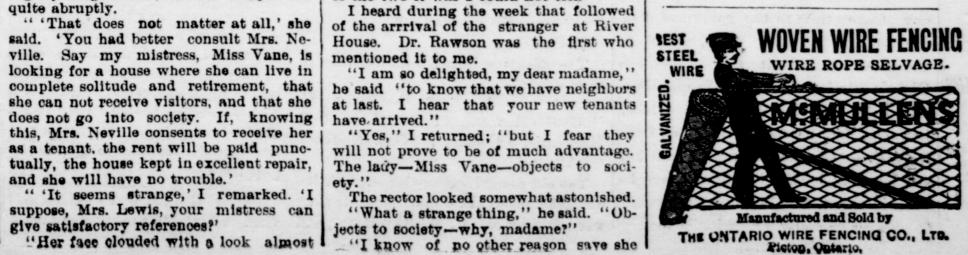
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alled to Section 19 of the Timber Regulations which reads as follows ;-19 No Spruce or Pire trees shall be cut by any Licensee under any License, not even for piling, which will not make a log at least 18 feet in length and ten inches at the small end; and if any such shall be cut, the Lumber shall be liable to double stumpage and the License be torfeited? and all Licensees are hereby notified, that for the future, the provisions of this section will be rigidly

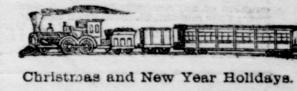
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by all Agents of this Railway from the 21st at about First Class Sing'e Fare, good for return journey commencing not later than the 7th January, 1898 Tickets are not good for going after date of issue. Through Excursion Return T.ckets will be issued on above dates at about First Class Single Fare, good for return journey commencing not later than 7th January, 1898. Tickets are not good for going journey after 1st January, 1898. All tickets are good only for continuous journey in either direction.

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D. POTTINGER, General Manager.