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NANIAS!"

"Ye-as, suh?"

"What time is it?"

"G y a h d-mo'nt done gone, suh."

"The devil it has! What do you mean, sir, by allowing me

to sleep on in this shameless and unconscionable manner, when an indulgent government is suffering for my services? What sort of a day is it, sir?"

"Beautiful day, Mr. Waring."

"Then go at once to Mr. Larkin and tell him he can't wear his new silk hat this morning—I want it, and you fetch it. Don't allow him to ring in the old one on you. Tell him I mean the new 'spring style' he just brought from New York. Tell Mr. Ferry I want that new Hatfield suit of his, and you get Mr. Pierce's silk umbrella; then come back here and get my bath and my coffee. Stop, there, Ananias! Give my pious regards to the commanding officer, sir, and tell him there's no drill for 'X' battery this morning, as I'm to breakfast at Moreau's at eleven o'clock and go to the matinee afterwards."

"Beg pardon, suh, but de cunnil's done order'd review fo' de whole command, suh, right at nine o'clock."

"So much the better. Then Capt. Cram must stay, and won't need his swell team. Go right down to the stable and tell Jeffers I'll drive at nine-thirty."

"But—"

"No buts, you incorrigible rascal! I don't pay you a princely salary to raise obstacles. I don't pay you at all, sir, except at rare intervals and in moments of mental decrepitude. Go at once! Allez! Chassez! Skoot!"

"But, lieutenant," says Ananias, his black face shining, his even white teeth all agleam, "Capt. Cram stopped in on de way back from stable's to say Glenco'd sprained his foot and you was to ride de bay colt. Please get up, suh. Boots and saddles! soun' in ten minutes."

"It won't, but if it does I'll brain the bugler. Tell him so. Tell Capt. Cram he's entirely mistaken; I won't ride the bay colt—nor Glenco. I'm going

disarray of the bachelor sitting-room then whirled on Ananias.

"Mr. Waring dressed?"

"No-o, suh; jus' woke up, suh; ain't out o' bed yet."

"The lazy vagabond! Just let me get at him a minute," said the big man, tramping over to the doorway as though bent on invading the chamber beyond. But Ananias had halted short at sight of the intruder, and stood there resolutely barring the way.

"Beg pardon, lieutenant, but Mr. Waring ain't had no bath yet. Can I mix de lieutenant a cocktail, suh?"

"Can you? You black-imp of Satan, why isn't it ready now, sir?" Sure you could have seen I was as dirty as a limekiln from the time I came through the gate. Hware's the demijohn, you villain?"

"Bein' refilled, suh, down to de sto', but da's a little on de sidebo'g'd, suh," answered Ananias, edging over thither, now that he had lured the invader away from the guarded doorway. "Take it straight, suh, o' wid bitters—o' toddy?"

"Faith, I'll answer ye as Pat did the parson: I'll, take it straight now, and then be drinking the toddy while your honor is mixin' the punch. Give me hold of it, you smudge! and tell your master it's review—full-dress—and it's time for him to be up. Has he had two cocktails yet?"

"The lieutenant doesn't care fo' any da mawin', suh. I'll fetch him his coffee in a minute. Did you see de cunnil's oade'y, suh? He was lookin' fo' you a moment ago."

The big red man was gulping down a big drink of the fiery liquor at the instant. He set the glass back on the sideboard with unsteady hand and glared at Ananias suspiciously.

"Is it troot' you're tellin', nigger? What did he say was wanted?"

"Not unexpected. The big man made a leap for the chamber door, only to find it slammed in his face from the other side.

"Hwat the devil's the matter with your master this morning, Ananias?—Waring! Waring, I say! Let me in. The K. O.'s orderly is affer me, and

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"I tell you, Ananias, I'm going to town, sir; not to any ridiculous review. Go and get what I ordered you. See that I'm properly dressed, sir, or I'll discharge you. Confound you, sir, there isn't a drop of Florida water in this bath, and none on my bureau! Go and rob Mr. Pierce—or anybody."

But Ananias was already gone. Darting out on the gallery, he took a header through the window of the adjoining quarters through which Mr. Doyle had escaped, snatched a long flask from the dressing table and was back in the twinkling of an eye.

"What became of Mr. Doyle?" asked Waring, as he thrust a bare arm through a narrow aperture to receive the spoil. "Don't let him get drunk; he's got to go to review, sir. If he doesn't, Col. Braxton may be so considerate as to inquire why both the lieutenants of 'X' battery are missing. Take good care of him till the review, sir, then let him go to grass; and don't you dare leave me without Florida water again if you have to burglarize the whole post. What's Mr. Doyle doing, sir?"

"Peekin' froo de blin' is Mr. Pierce's room, suh; lookin' fo' de oade'y. I done tolle him de cunnil was ahter him, but he ain't, suh," chuckled Ananias. "I fixed it all right wid de gyahd dis mawin', suh. Dey won't tell bout his cuttin' up las' night. He'd forgot de whole t'ing, suh; he allays does; he never does know what's happened de night befo'. He wouldn't a' known about dis, but I told his boy Jim to tell him 'bout it ahter stables. I told Jim to sweat dat dey'd re-poh't it to de cunnil."

"Very well, Ananias; very well, sir; you're a credit to your name. Now go and carry out my orders. Don't forget Capt. Cram's wagon. Tell Jeffers to be here with it on time." And the lieutenant returned to his bath without waiting for reply.

"Ye-as, suh," was the subordinate answer, as Ananias promptly turned, and, whistling cheerily, went banging out upon the gallery and clattering down the open stairway to the brick-paved court below. Here he was promptly turned, and, noiseless as a cat, shot up the stairway, tiptoed back into the sitting-room, kicked off his low-heeled slippers, and rapidly, but with hardly an audible sound, resumed the work on which he had been engaged—the arrangement of his master's kit.

Already, faultlessly brushed, folded and hanging over the back of a chair close by the chamber door were the bright blue, scarlet-welted battery trousers then in vogue, very snug at the knee, very springy over the foot. Underneath them, spread over the square back of the chair, a dark-blue, single-breasted frock-coat, hanging nearly to the floor, its shoulders decked with huge epaulettes, to the right one of which were attached the braid and loops of a heavy gilt aiguillette whose glistening pendants were hung temporarily on the upper button. On the seat of the chair was folded a broad soft sash of red silk net, its tassels carefully spread. Beside it lay a pair of long buff gauntlets, new and spotless. At the door, brilliantly polished, stood a pair of buttoned gaiter boots, the heels decorated with small glistening brass spurs. In the corner, close at hand, leaned a long, curved saber, its gold sword-knot, its triple-guarded hilt, its steel scabbard and plated bands and rings, as well as the swivels and buckle of the black sword-belt, showing the perfection of finish in manufacture and care in keeping. From a round leather box Ananias now extracted a new gold-wire fourragere, which he softly wiped with a silk handkerchief, dandled lovingly an instant the glistening tassels, coiled it carefully upon the sash, then producing from the same box a long scarlet horsehair plume he first brushed it into shimmering freedom from the faintest knot or kink, then set it firmly through its socket into the front of a gold-braided shako whose black front was decked with the embroidered cross canon of the regiment, surrounded by the arms of the United States. This he noiselessly placed upon the edge of the mantle, stepped back to complacently view his work, flicked off a possible speck of dust on the sleeve of the coat, touched with a chamois-skin the gold crescent of the nearest epaulette, then softly, noiselessly as before, vanished through the door-way, tiptoed to the adjoining window, and peeked in. Mr. Doyle had thrown himself into Pierce's armchair, and was trying to read the morning paper.

"Wunner what Mars'er Pierce will say when he gits back from breakfast," was Ananias' comment, as he sped softly down the stairs, a broad grin on his black face, a grin that almost instantly gave place to pretentious solemnity and respect as, turning sharply on the sidewalk at the foot of the stairs, he came face to face with the battery commander. Ananias would have passed with a low obeisance, but the captain halted him short.

"Where's Mr. Waring, sir?"

"Dressin' fo' inspection, captain."

"He is? I just heard in the mess room that he didn't propose attending—that he had an engagement to breakfast and was going in town."

"Oh, murther! murther! murther!" groaned the poor Irishman, sitting down and covering his face with his hands. "Sure, they'll court-martial me this time without fail, and I know it. For God's sake, Waring, can't ye let a feller in and say that I'm not here?"

"Say to him? Poor devil! why, you never can remember after you're drunk what you've been doing the night before. Some time it'll be the death of you. You abused him like a pickpocket—the sergeant of the guard and everybody connected with it."

"Ye-as, suh, ye-as, suh, Gen. Rousseau, such, expects de lieutenant in to break fast, but the moftent he hyuh'd twas review he ordered me to git everyting ready, suh. I's goin' fo' de bay colt now. Beg pardon, captain, de lieutenant says it is de captain goin' to wear gauntlets or gloves dis mawin'? He wants to do just as de captain does, suh."

"What a merciful interposition of Divine Providence it is that the African cannot blush! Capt. Cram looked suspiciously at the earnest, unwinking black face before him. Some memory of old college days flitted through his mind at the moment. "O Kunopes!" ("thou dog-faced one!") he caught himself muttering, but negro diplomacy was too much for him, and the innocence in the face of Ananias would have baffled a man far more suspicious. Cram was a fellow who loved his battery and his profession as few men loved be-

fore. He was full of big ideas in one way and little oddities in another. Undoubted ability had been at the bottom of his selection over the head of many a senior to command one of the light batteries when the general dismounting took place in '66. Unusual attractions of persons had won for him a wife with a fortune only a little later. The fortune had warranted a short leave abroad this very year. (He would not have taken a day over sixty, for fear of losing his light battery). He had been a stickler for gauntlets on all mounted duty when he went away, and he came home converted to white wash-leather gloves because the British horse-artillery wore no other, "and they, sir, are the nastiest in the world." He could not tolerate an officer whose soul was not afame with enthusiasm for battery duty, and was perpetually at war with Waring, who dared to have other aspirations. He delighted in a man who took pride in his dress and equipment, and so rejoiced in Waring, who, more than any subaltern ever attached to "X," was the very glass of soldier fashion and mold of soldier form. He had dropped in at the bachelor mess just in time to hear some gabbling youngster blurt out a bet that Sam Waring would cut review and keep his tryst in town, and he had known him many a time to overpersuade his superiors into excusing him from duty on pretext of social claims, and more than once into pardoning deliberate absence. But he and the post commander had deemed it high time to block all that nonsense in future, and had so informed him, and were nonplussed at Waring's cheery acceptance of the implied rebuke and most airy, graceful and immediate change of the subject. The whole garrison was chuckling over it by night.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

#### POWER OF TELESCOPES.

Comparative Figures Showing the Weakness of the Human Eye.

The following careful statement by Prof. E. S. Holden on the power of the eye and the telescope as they are contrasted in actual experience, is of special and permanent interest: If the brightness of a star seen with the eye alone is one, with a two-inch telescope

it is 100 times as bright; with a four-inch telescope it is 400 times as bright; eight-inch telescope it is 1,600 times as bright; sixteen-inch telescope it is 4,000 times as bright; thirty-two-inch telescope it is 25,600 times as bright; thirty-six-inch telescope it is 32,400 times as bright. That is, stars can be seen with the thirty-six-inch telescope which are 30,000 times fainter than the faintest star visible to the naked eye. While the magnifying power which can be successfully used on the five-inch telescope is 100 times as bright; with a four-inch telescope it is 400 times as bright; eight-inch telescope it is 1,600 times as bright; sixteen-inch telescope it is 4,000 times as bright; thirty-two-inch telescope it is 25,600 times as bright; thirty-six-inch telescope it is 32,400 times as bright. That is, stars can be seen with the thirty-six-inch telescope which are 30,000 times fainter than the faintest star visible to the naked eye. 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