Beneath the Balcony

After he had left Adele Castle and the newcomer on the ba!cony, Dale gathered up his trailing purple-bordered robe and maker.

in sight.

cony. He wondered what Adele could find. Castle and the person who had Dale pondered, and of a sud-

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sheets right over the faded walls and ceilings and

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appearance of casualness, but instantly. Dale's keen eyes had seen The money was to be dropped to the lowest possible minimum, ous with regard to its clientele. through all that.

returned to the ballroom. The Joan had carried casualness to another of Dr. Moffett's agents from all angles, Dale found row court with tall buildings on gayety was at its noisiest, most an extreme that roused his sustumultuous height, Faces were picions. He had read design and receive it and make a sudden for Dr. Moffett. Then he fell to flushed and masks were awry or premeditation in her most in-flight the moment it was in his wondering how far Miss Castle removed altogether. A little un- nocent glances. Dr. Moffett was hands. steadily Dale edged his way certainly exercising a queer Dale smiled thinly. No other sary on before the latter should money to be dropped from the throng. His eyes seemed dull and Yet his choice in this particular his surmise must be correct. On mail money was padded. Nearly of detection. heavy and he offered his apol- instance had much to commend the whole the scheme was rath- 10 minutes must have elapsed ogies in a thick lisp when occast it. Joan's airy patter and unso- or ingenious. It offered the maxi- since he left the balcony, and he ionally he bumped into a merry- phisticated manner would have deceived the average observer.

At length he found an unoc: Yet the arrangement puzzled, cupied chair and sat down. His Dale. What could Dr. Moffett's head slumped to his chest and emissary accomplish out there he seemed half asleep, but, on the balcony, where an interthrough the corner of an eye, ruption might occur any moment he took in every detail of the and where a trap might easily boisterous scene, Everywhere he have been set for her? Surely looked for the swaggering ca- she did not mean to receive the ballero he had encountered earl- blackmail money in such an unier in the evening, but that protected place. Dr. Moffett was haughty cavalier was nowhere too shrewd and farsighted scoundrel not to have anticipated His eyes grew a little heavier, such risks. He must have chosen Now and then he roused himself this particular place for the deand looked groggily across the livery of the money because he floor, in the direction of the hal- considered it the safest one he

oined her out there were talk- den his brows went up and a mum of success with the mini- was thoroughly convinced that faint gleam of comprehension mum of risk. The ball itself, with he must act quickly and to the A knowing little smile twitch-kindled in his eyes. He had just its raucous hilarity, gave the best possible advantage. ed his lips. He could make a asked himself how he would have best sort of protection. Attenfairly close surmise. The armor- made his arrangements if he had tion, if any, would be focused He formed a mental picture of ed little maiden had not deceiv- been in Dr. Moffett's place and on Joan of Arc, not on the per the terrain. The ballroom was on ed him with her naive looks and if he had chosen this particular son waiting down below. A the very top of the Hotel Vanartless manners. She had ap balcony as the scene of the transaction in blackmail was al- dermoore, one of the largest and proached Adele with all outward transaction. The answer came ways more or less dangerous, but most sumptuous hostleries in the

over the railing, of course, to As he viewed the arrangement ground, looked out upon a nar-

this scheme reduced the danger city, although not very fastidi-

would be able to lead the emis-

the windows in those buildings! would be dark. A watcher waiting down below for a packet of

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through the swirling, carousing judgment in his choice of agents. arrangement was conceivable, so discover that the roll of black- top would be in no great danger Gordon Kerr of the Power Corpora- Mr. and Mrs. Roy McKinley of the swirling in the swirling of the swirling in the swirling tion of Canada staff arrived in the Arm, are visitors in the city ing from Stewart.

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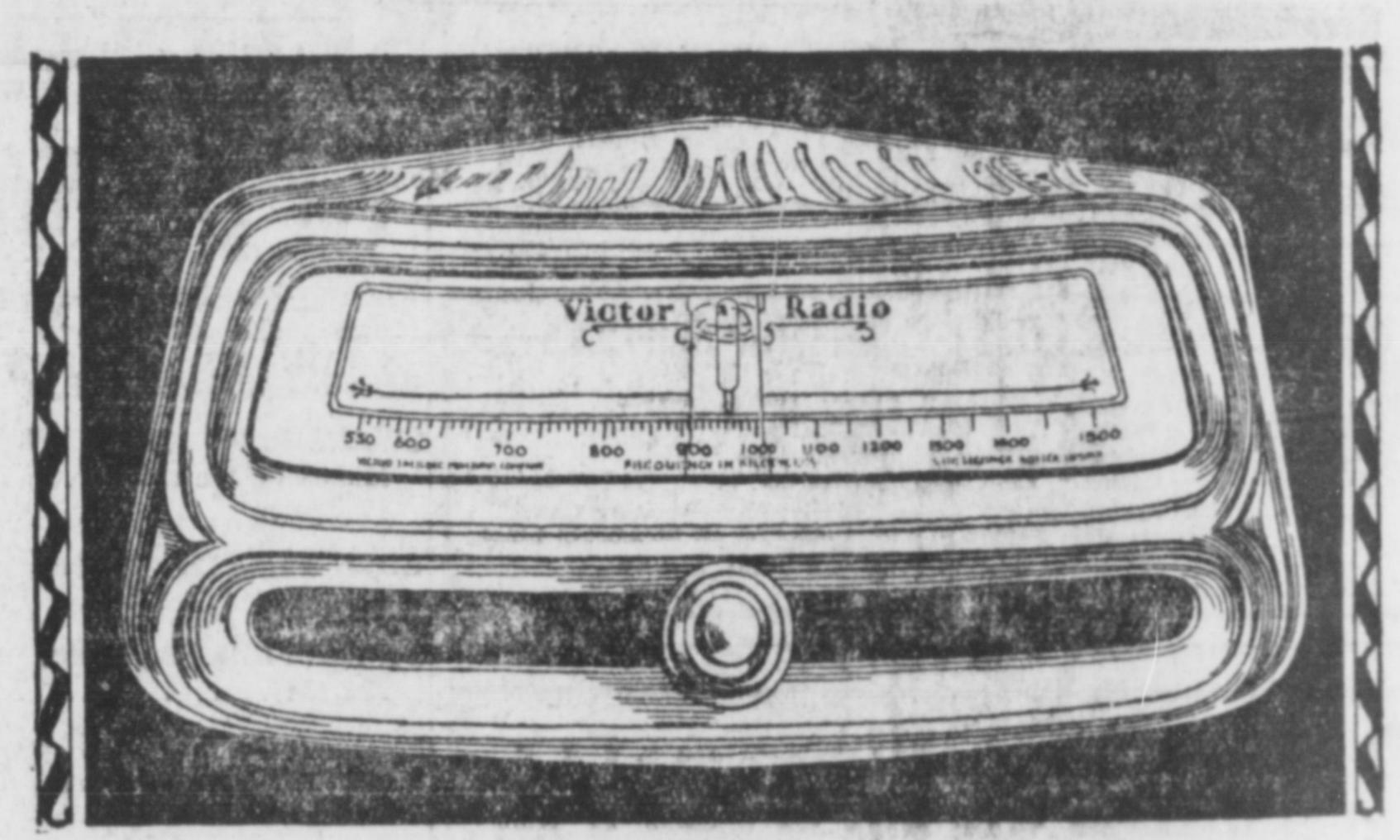
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