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guarantee of perfection in fashguarantee of perfection in fash-
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What most of the peopre reaily come
tor Tim Intormed that they give all
the other The other operas better in Munlch,
with the advantage of belng in what
 pared with the the . Is that correct, do
pouthkw s. 1 belleve sa what Is want to know is, why you and shoulda't go into a iltule buousiness artnershlp, and do this kind ot thing
brown, an it ought to be done.:
Marsaret opened her bandsome eyes wtde. ew plan to $a$ baird of directors,
 otween us, and there's a demand in
New York for what I propose to do
Nat till nil a want, 1 know, and that weans succens and money, Why dant ay a theater, I mean a Arsteclass opera house and not a barn. We'll andioy of course $I \mathrm{Id}$ leave to builla it, bout if tourse, ro lo loave everything
rve got a block in

 any tne management. You'll pu we'll share the profts. Maybe they'll heater to other people weutside of the season. We'll have the best talent in Europe, and pay for it, and the public
will pay us back. We'll call it the Cordova Opera, it you like, and you'll run it according to your own Ideas, "Are you In, earnest?"
Margaret had some dimity nouncing the words clearly. Was here ever a great soprano who did
not dream of having the most pertect theater of her very own, and who cuild recelve unmoved the offer to 20 if he chose? Very rarely in her
life bad she been whild hee bad she been aware of her bodill, ng like a hatamer on the now, beat. wered with perfect calm. Tin anaspects, he whole thing over in all Its
canal, or a mould a mailroad, or canal, or a mine, and rye railroad, or
to try it if you'll help me concluded soing to be a safe investment. Yo
see, Miss Donne," he went there's no artist on the grand operaa
tage now who's so well equipped for the business as you are. Tm not flat ering you, either. In your own kind
of parts you've simply got no rival Et parts you've simply got no rival.
Eon't play kays so, and I suppose you and deny it. Lot's tart falr, now." one of the first."Margaret admitted. Arst, and the firat is you. One of the frst, and the frat is one of them, an
oou're it. Besides, you've got befor ou what's behind most of them. our personal appearance, but that
fust one more ftem in the asset. ther blg one is that you're a firs class musician, whereas half these
singers can oniy bang the box like reat, thundering overgrown school sirls. Allow that ${ }^{\prime \prime}$. "I suppose I must 'allow' anything." "Well, now, Tive told you. You've The volee, and the talent, and you've
sot the science and culture. I suppose ou'll let me say that rye
usiness ability, won't you?"'
 vished you had less!" and moneys here, for 1 alway ou like, Ill fill it in, and wéll de osit it wherever you say, in the
ame of the 'Cordova Opera Company Co.' We can make out our litt1
agreement in duplicate right here, the corner of the table, and sign it and before we leave here you migh
so around and speak to the best sing ra about an angagement in New York: for Wagner festival, A year from anty to a puroly pusiteses proposition.
it you'd like to thik it over, ril go sad take a little walk before dinner.
"It sounds like a dream!'" Margaret
answered, in a wondering tone. "Money's an awful reality", Van
Torp remarked. "Tm taling butsi,
ness, and as I'm the one whos going
to put up most of the capital, you'll to put up most of the capital, goong 11
do-me the credit to belleve that in do-me the credit to belleve that I'm
quite wide awake."
"Do you really, really, really mean
"D "r. She spoke almost like a chill.
It was not the first time in his life It was not the first time in his life
that the finaneier had seen the stunthat the finaneier had seen the stun-
ning ofrect of a blg sum, profected
with precision, like a shell, at exactly the pright moment. He was epaciaying
the great gaine again, but for a prize the great gaine again, but for a prize
he thought worth more than any he had yet won, and the very manyitude
of the risk steaded his naturally
stan
 haps I've startled you a little, and I
shouldn't like you to make a decisfon
till you feel quite ready to say again that Ive thought the whole
thing out thing out as a genuine venture, and
that $I$ belilive in it, or $I$ wouldn't propase It Maybe you've got some sen-
pose
sible lawyer you have cond and would like to consult him himst. If if
you feel that way. I'd rather you
should. A business Td should. A business partnershlp's not
a thing to go into with your eyes
shut, and if we had any reason for
distrusting better to make tnquiries. But so far
as that goes, it appears to me that
we've got the facts to go on, which we ve got the facts to go on, which
would make any partnership succeed.
You've certainiy got the musical You've certainly got the musical
brains, besides a lutte money of your
own, and Ive certainly got the ret the funds. rd like you to put some
money it, though, if you can spare it,
mecause the boney it, though, if you can spare it,
because that's a guarantee that you're
going to be in earnest, too
 to a man in the same position. N
because 1 doubt that if you put yo name to a plece of paper you really
will do your share as a partner, but
because sort of way in business. How that
that strike you? I hope you're not
 pressed excitement and dellight in her
voice. It he had possessed the intelligence of Mephistopheles and the
charm of Faust he could not have said anything more subtly pleasing to her
dignity and her vanity. "Ot course," he said, "It needn't be
a very large sum. Still it ought to be something that would make a differ-
ence to you." spoke rather timidy. it thith and then could manage a hundred tho it--I
pounds." she said. "Would that be
too little, do you think oo little, do you think?"
The large mouth twitched and then
mifled pleasantly. "That's too much," he said, shaking
his had. "You mustn't put all your eggs in one basket. A hundred thou
sand dollars would be quite enough
as your share of the capital, with op-
tion to buy stock of me at par, up to
and a million, or sock of me it's a success."
"Really? Would that be enough
And, please, what is 'stock' in such a And, please, what is 'stock' in such a
case?"
"Stock," said the financiel, "Is a ut-
tle plant which, when well watered, will grow like the mustard seed, till all the birds of Wall street make their
nests in its branches. And if you don't water it too much, It'll be all right. In
our case, the stock is solng to our case, the stock is golng to bo
that share of the business which most people sell to ralse money, and whith we mean to keep for ourselves. I al-
ways do to that way, when circumways do it that way, when circum-
stances anow. I once bought all the stances akow. I once bought all the
stock of a rallioad for nothing, for tock of a ralroad tor nothing, for
Instance, and sold al. the bonds, and
let it go bankrupt. lot it go bankrupt. Then I bought
lite road one day, and found all the
the road ond the road one day, and found sill the
stook was in my own pocket. That's sork was in my own pocket. That's
only a little Illustration. But I guess
you can leave the innanctar ide you can leave the financlal side in my
hands. You won't lose by th, rm protty sure."
"I fancy not!" Margaret's eyes were wide oopen, hargaret's hands were
clasped tightly on her knee, and she clasped tightly on her knee. and she
was leaning forward antile. "Be FOR SAL
Good second-h
Iy at this office.




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everything as everything could be, it
it everything as everything could be, it
it were really, really the best that
can be had! Do you believe it is pos.
sible to have all that?

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