

**A HARD KNOT. A
NOVEL. IN THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. III**

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A Hard Knot. A Novel. In Three Volumes. Vol. III by Charles Gibbon

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CHARLES GIBBON

**A HARD KNOT. A
NOVEL. IN THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. III**

A HARD KNOT

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A HARD KNOT

A Novel

BY CHARLES GIBBON

AUTHOR OF 'EDDIE GRAY,' 'THE GOLDEN SHAFT,' ETC.



IN THREE VOLUMES

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A HARD KNOT.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

MORE FROM JOHN HADDEN'S NOTE-BOOK.

An Astounding Failure.

I TOOK his arm and marched him to the Royal George. The men followed us, and my lad Willie brought up the rear. At the head of Buchanan Street I met one of Mactier's men. I sent him in pursuit of the captain to tell him to join me at the stable-yard of the inn, or at the Central Station.

Everything was quiet about the inn and the yard. Upon entering the latter I glanced towards the door of the loft. As

I expected, the light had been extinguished.

In the centre of the yard I called a halt.

‘He will have the door fastened, I suppose,’ I whispered to the ostler.

‘Ay, he’s got an iron bar to put across it on the inside. I had to search for it before I left him.’

‘Is there any way of getting out of the loft except by the door?’

‘Only by the skylight and along the roof. He might drop on to the shed and then to the ground.’

‘All right. You go up first and get him to open the door. I will keep behind you whilst my friends watch the skylight.’

He obeyed, and sprang up the stair to the loft at once. He tapped at the door, and gave the word agreed on between him and Hewitt.

‘Open, the answer’s here.’

I was beside the ostler, but in such a position that the lintel would conceal me