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By Marchesa Theodoli

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from Under Pressure At eight o'clock in the morning, the vast, cold, frescoed hall of the Palazzo Astalli was almost destitute of its usual occupants, consisting of two dignified butlers in black, and several body-servants, footmen and coachmen in green liveries. Besides these, a whole swarm of elderly dependants of the princely family, who had retired after thirty years of faithful and active service, with their well-deserved pensions, retained the rightful and honourable privilege of returning daily to the field of their past exploits, there to enjoy in unmolested peace a few hours of rest and conversation with the younger servants who had superseded them. They gathered round the great brass brazier which stood in the middle of the room, and every now and then threw the peel of an apple into the incandescent furnace of burning coals, to perfume the air. As in most of the typical Roman palaces this antechamber, destined for the sole use of the servants, and the largest room in the building, was decorated with frescoes of gods and goddesses of...

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