

Two Blooming

The Adventures of Two Criminals.

BY DOUGLAS WINTON.

"I have seen the wicked... spreading himself like a green bay-tree."—Psalm, xvii. v. 35.

Bay Trees.

(Continued.)

"Now, Inspector," said the former—"here, take one of these"—there came the sound of a match being struck, then another—"you have come to see me, you say, about the Tony Croft affair. What's the news? Have you got the villains? I'm willing to help you in any way you like—offer a reward, or anything. What that night has cost me in—er—that is—" he stopped.

"He means in getting henpecked," chuckled Piggy.

"We have a clue, sir—" "Oh, psst!"

"But this is a real clue, sir, not a newspaper clue. In fact, only last night I was twice within an ace of getting them. Here's the proof, sir. One of them nearly got me; he gave me a whack over the head that I'm wearing this bandage for."

"Tut—tut! really."

"Yes, Mr. Van Coortvelt, and if I obeyed the doctor, I ought to be at home this minute; but really I think that if I stayed at home and did nothing towards catching him, I should only worry myself into a fever, and that would be worse for me than going out and working."

"Quite so, Inspector; now, what is it you wish me to do? Whatever it is I am ready; it seems to me that my duty towards my guests that night requires that I should be ready to do anything in my power to help recover their jewellery. Besides, the chap made such a cursed fool of me, humiliated me like he would a hayseed, darn him!"

Piggy was enjoying himself hugely.

"We don't intend to trouble you to do anything very much, sir, at least not at present," came the voice of the detective; "just allow us to take a few liberties with your name, that's all we ask. I will explain we want you to put an advertisement, in your name, in all the principal dailies. Here it is, all written out."

There was a click, which Piggy, who could only hear and not see, decided must indicate a rubber band removed from a pocket-book; then a slight crackling of papers; then came Van Coortvelt's voice.

"Why, surely to gracious you don't expect a thing like that to catch them? Herr Schmidt, inventor of burglar alarms, convinced of saleability of your invention. Will buy it outright for a sum that will allow you to put an end to the inconvenience suffered by your practical joke. All can be arranged without publicity.—Apply in first instance, Van Coortvelt, No. 6, Vauxhall Viaduct." Why, hang it all,

it's a plant on the face of it. You can't expect to draw a clever bunco man with a thing like that."

"I expect he'll nibble, sir," said the detective, complacently. "You see, it's in your name. We don't show at all."

"You do!" said Van Coortvelt.

"Wal, I do seem to be taken for an easy thing these days, and that's a fact! Way back in eighties, in N' York, if any one had quoted Chester D. Van Coortvelt as an easy thing, he'd—er—the old man stopped and sighed.

"It's not exactly that, sir," the detective began, not without a few diplomatic hints and haws.

Piggy, who understood exactly what was passing through Inspector Mackay's mind, could hardly keep from laughing, and betraying himself.

"He wants to tell him that he has the reputation of being a good-natured, henpecked old fool, with millions enough to spare some of them to secure a quiet life, and he doesn't know how to say it nicely. Well, it's his business and not mine!"

In fact, the Inspector did seem to experience a good deal of difficulty framing his sentence as he wished. At last he said—

"It's not exactly that, sir, but he will take you for a very genuinely hospitable host. And you are known to be a very rich man, fabulously rich, according to our quiet English ideas; and it is known, also, that you are willing to use your wealth to—now, how the devil am I to say it?" thought the Inspector.

But the old American saved him the trouble.

"To use my wealth to buy an entry into high-toned English Society. Wal, sir, I don't know that I like you any the less for speaking the truth, for it is the truth. Yes, sir, you're just about hit it. Not that it is exactly what I fancy myself neither My leannin's go rather towards the foundin' of a college, or an observatory, or some institoot o' that kind; but a married man can't always give free play to his own individual leannin's, an' so-wal, things have turned out otherwise. And that being so, of course this business about the jools was a great set back to our social ambitions—caused a sort o' slump like. So, as you say, this hyer crook might think—yes, if he was sharp enough, he might think that I'd be ready to compound with him at a high figure; but the value of those jools, wouldn't that make too high a figure altogether?"

"There is no idea that you should pay it, sir," replied the Inspector.

"It's only a bait for him to nibble at, so that we may get hold of him

again, or rather of them, for there are two of them. Last night we were hot on their traces, but since then they have given us the slip again completely."

"Thank you," said Piggy. "That's good hearing!"

"And we want them now," continued the Inspector, "for something even bigger than the Tony Croft affair. You've read about this occur robbery on board the Sofian?"

"Yes, do you mean to say that that's them?"

"The same pair, sir, and no others. I have proof positive," went on the detective.

"Decidedly, I had no idea that the police were so clever!" muttered Piggy. "If we were to go on long at this game we should be bagged at last, that's certain."

"Now about the offer to buy back the jewels, for of course that is what we mean them to read between the lines of the advertisement," went on the detective. "It should be more tempting to them than you think. You see, these are not regular thieves."

"Wal! all I can say is, that if that weren't a regular robbery, may I never get a sight of the golden gates!" broke in Van Coortvelt.

"Yes, sir," laughed the detective. "It was a regular robbery right enough, and perhaps by now they may be getting to be regular thieves but they are not of the regular criminal class; they have probably few if any, criminal acquaintances. This has helped them to a certain extent; but, in other ways, it is sure to be against them. At the present moment, for instance, I shouldn't wonder if they are just beginning to discover that a hundred pounds worth of jewellery, sold to a fence—"

"A what?"

"A fence, sir—a receiver. I say that they must be finding out by now that a hundred pounds worth of jewellery sold to a man like that fetches some five or ten pounds at most, and they have to put their liberty into his hands into the bargain. So you see, sir, that an offer, almost any offer, from you, with no questions asked, would be very tempting."

"You are not quite so clever, nor are you quite so innocent, as you suppose, my friend," was Piggy's comment.

One of the first resolves which Piggy and Jack, on entering their criminal career had made, and kept to, was to have absolutely nothing to do with fences, or professional receivers.

"Well, Inspector, you are welcome to put in the advertisement," said Van Coortvelt, after a pause, "by

the way, what is this house, No. 6, Vauxhall Viaduct?"

The Inspector chuckled.

"It's a half empty house, sir. One of our men's wives keeps a small stationer's shop on the ground floor and has charge of the rest of the house. Oh! We'll fix up a beautiful mousetrap for our gentleman—the place is made for it."

"Thanks!" said Piggy.

"And now, sir," said the Inspector, "I must be going. That advertisement must be in to-morrow's papers, if possible. I doubt if it's not too late; but, if I drive there myself in a handsom. I may get it done—that is, if the type is not yet actually cast."

"Another cigar?"

"Well, sir, thank you; I don't mind if I do."

Piggy waited till all the household were in bed. Then went out, and after a little fumbling found, as he had expected, a latchkey in a drawer of the hall table. He returned to the study, and lit the candles on the writing table. Then, by bending first one and then the other over, he made a nice little blob of wax, with which he took a careful cast of the key, afterwards returning the latter to its place in the drawer. To preserve this cast, he placed it in a little box which had contained pen-nibs.

"It may be useful, one never knows," he said.

After that he had to let himself out, to do which without noise was not easy. However, Piggy was no novice, whatever the detective might say, and managed his exit without disturbance.

"They will find the door unbarred in the morning," he said, "but that I can't help. As nothing is stolen, except some information and a little box of cardboard, old Van Coortvelt will probably disbelieve the whole story—that is, if he is told about it. Probably he will think that it was carelessness on the part of the fat footman and sack him."

And that was exactly what happened.

(To be continued.)

KING AND PRESIDENT

Rome Dec. 7.—American Ambassador Myer was received today in private audience by King Victor Emmanuel, and presented to His Majesty an autograph letter from President Roosevelt acknowledging receipt of the note in which the King notified Mr. Roosevelt of the birth of the Crown Prince and congratulating the King upon the event.

To Break Up a Cold

Right quickly nothing works so nicely as Nerviline taken real hot. It sends a glowing warmth all through the body, and when rubbed on the throat and chest loosens up the cough and relieves tightness and soreness in the chest. Nerviline is used as a preventative and cure for colds, coughs and winter ills in thousands of homes because it goes right to work and brings relief quickly. There is no remedy in the world with half the power and merit of Nerviline; it's invaluable in every house. In large bottles, price 25c.

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.

The Way Physicians Now Treat Catarrh.

Physicians who formerly depended upon inhalers, sprays and local washes or ointments now use Stuart's Catarrh Tablets because as one of the most prominent stated, these tablets contain in pleasant, convenient form all of the really efficient and reliable catarrh remedies, (such as red gum, blood root and Hydrastin.)

They contain no cocaine or opiate (so common in liquid catarrh remedies and cough syrups) and they are given to little children with entire safety and benefit.

Dr. J. J. Reiting says: I suffered from catarrh in my head and throat, every winter and it would hang on clear into summer, with stoppage of the nose and irritation in the throat affecting my voice so that I was continually clearing my throat before I could speak plainly; it finally extended to the stomach causing catarrh of the stomach.

I bought a fifty cent box of Stuart's Catarrh Tablets at my druggist's carried them in my pocket and used them regularly several times a day and the way in which they cleared my head and throat and improved my hearing and general health I consider little short of remarkable. I had no catarrh last winter and spring and know I am entirely free from any catarrhal trouble whatever.

Mrs. Jerome Ellison of Wheeling writes: I suffered from catarrh nearly my whole life and last winter my two children also suffered from catarrhal colds and sore throat so much they were out of school a large part of the winter. My brother who was cured of catarrhal deafness by using Stuart's Catarrh Tablets urged me so much to try them that I sent to the drug store and bought a package and I am truly thankful for what they have done for me and my children. I always keep a box of the tablets in the house and at the first appearance of a cold or sore throat one or two of the catarrh tablets nips it in the bud and Catarrh is no longer a household affliction with us.

SMUGGLERS' PARADISE.

(Toronto News.)

The town of Emerson, on the boundary between Manitoba and the United States, is to have a railway station of a novel kind. The Canadian Pacific, the Great Northern, the Canadian Northern and the Minneapolis and Sault Railway will construct a union station, half of which will be on each side of the boundary. There are stories of shops and dwellings in the same position, which give great facilities for smuggling, but the international railway station will be a more conspicuous example. We may expect that the West will produce some curious situations of this kind. It is customary to say that there is only an imaginary line between Canada and the United States, but between Ontario and the States there is a chain of lakes, so that communication must be by bridge, tunnel or ferry. Between the United States and portions of Quebec and New Brunswick the same conditions

prevail as in the West, but on a much smaller scale. A boundary line several thousand miles long, over which one may step as if from York County into Peel, will be a new experience, and one that will develop some interesting situations as population flows in.

GOT THE CHILD BACK AGAIN.

Their Change of Religion Was No Barrier in the Case.

(Ottawa Journal.)

Henry Narcisse Fortier, Le Breton street, is again in possession of his thirteen-year-old daughter, awarded him by order of Judge MacTavish. He secured her from her foster parents last week, and the exchange marked the close of one of the most stubbornly contested cases tried in the local courts. In the first place, the child was taken from Fortier and his wife and handed over to the Children's Aid Society several years ago, the explanation being that the Fortiers were not fit persons to have custody of the child. They were Catholics at the time and hence the child was placed with foster parents, also of that religion. Fortier braced up and he and his wife joined the Baptist church. They were desirous of securing possession of their daughter again, but the foster parents thereupon took legal action to regain their child and the case was argued before Judge MacTavish. For the defence it was claimed that, according to law, the parents had forfeited their rights to their child by changing their religion. Judge MacTavish, however, ruled that the father was the natural guardian of the child and to him was intrusted its education and religious training until it had attained the age of twenty-one. The defendants appealed and in their application for right to carry the case to a higher court, the whole argument was gone over again before Judge MacTavish, who adhered to his former ruling. Fortier's lawyer, accompanied by a constable, visited the home of the foster parents last week and secured the child.

A GOOD BREAKFAST.

There is no disputing the excellence of "SWISS FOOD." Its enormously increasing sales prove its quality. P. McIntosh & Son, Millers, Toronto.



RECEIVED THIS MEDAL.



This medal was awarded to Minard's Liniment in London in 1886. The only liniment to receive a medal. It was awarded because of strength, purity, healing powers and superiority of the liniment over all others from throughout the world.

YORKSHIRE BAR.

Ale and Porter 4 C per glass or tankard.

Highest Award Colonial and Indian Exhibition, London.

ENGLAND, 1886.

European Plan. - 20 Mill St.

J. RHEA

BEGIN NOW!

Times Wants Bring Good Results.

\$2.75=Up to Date Ladies' Skirt=\$2.75

Special Seasonable Sale of Ladies' Tailor Made Skirts, newest materials, first class fit and finish, every skirt is beautifully tucked and corded, making a really elegant skirt, we have 240 of these for sale, original prices were \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00 and \$4.50, and we purpose offering as a leader, and for a few days only at one price and one price only, your choice for \$2.75 each, these skirts will be on view in our windows on Saturday 19th inst., when you can judge for yourselves if this is not a bonafide offer of extraordinary value combined with low prices it is hard to beat.

Don't miss this Ladies, and come early to obtain first selection.

\$2.75 B. MYERS, 695 Main Street. \$2.75

The Demand for

MANITOBA FLOUR

Has Been Steadily Increasing in the Maritime Provinces

The People Find That it is More Profitable to Purchase Flour Made From Manitoba Wheat

KEEWATIN

"FIVE ROSES" FLOUR

Is the Best Flour Made From Manitoba Wheat

It is Manufactured by the

LAKE OF THE WOODS MILLING CO., LIMITED