## Tricked and Tracked.

PART I. -TRICKED.

cident occurred in my life which may we then left the hotel silently, scarcely possibly prove interesting to those who, noticed by the servants busied about showing, is never duped or deceived by fell me during the winter of 1869.

I am the wife of an English officer. and at the time of which I write was residing in Paris. Late in June my husband had received orders to be in readiness to sail with his regiment for C. the following month, but as his ab- right myself? sence was not likely to be of long duration I had decided not to accompany him, and had decided to make Paris my headquarters during the time of our enforced separation.

My husband's body servant fell suddenly ill, and sent in his resignation the very week they were expecting to start. We at once made inquiries on all sides for a man competent to fill the vacant post. In this instance fortune favored us. Just as we were beginning to despair of success a Frenchman who spoke very tolerable English applied for the situation, and his references being satisfactory we hastily engaged him, heartily glad to have brought an unpleasant affair to so fortunate a conclu-

Although I had many friends residing in Paris, I had no near relations I could ask to remain with me during my temporary exile; my husband's people all lived in Ireland, and, with the exception of a few scattered cousins, my only existing relative was one brother (some years younger than myself), to whom I was greatly attached, but who for years past had been a source of constant anxiety to me by reason of his wild and reckless manner of living. My husband had assisted him in numerous difficulties, but his patience had at last become exhausted; and he had to tell my brother plainly and decisively that only in case of extremity, such as an illness which would really incapacitate him from work or from such urgent cause, would he supply him with pecuniary help. Several letters passed between them at this period; then followed an interval of silence, which remained unbroken up to the time of which I write. This naturally caused me much uneasiness at times; but I could only hope he had at length felt the necessity of putting his shoulder to the wheel, and was striving to regain the good name he had lost by his own foolish

Time passed slowly away. One evening (I remember it was the 22d of January) a note was brought me by one of the servants of the hotel, who said the bearer was waiting my reply. The letter was neatly folded and addressed in a woman's handwriting to "The Lady of Captain Ralph Branscombe," and was marked "Private." I read the following:-

"MADAME-I write this to you on alive you must come at once-without hesitation. Madame, the poor gentlestate. He prays you ask your husband to assist him, as he promised in his last sore strait. No one but Captain Bransyour errand; you must bring with you fifty pounds in gold, if possible. English money will do, but not notes. Your escort will only be a little child, but he knows every turn of the way you will have to traverse. Come on foot-to drive might excite suspicion. Monsieur repeats, no one but 'Ralph may come with you; he is too ill to write anything more than his name, which I enclose.

Here followed a few directions about tion to bring the letter to guide myself | had found me lying on the steps leadwith. Then the name "Marie Tois- ing to the side door of the hotel, which seau." Enclosed was a scrap of paper opened into an unfrequented passage or bearing my brother's signature, which I at once saw was genuine.

blouse which hung loosely about him. and wearing on his head a red knitted fisherman's cap, which was pulled down | the mystery of my strange return. low on his forehead -- a boy whose pale

gentleman who is so ill?"

Again his dark eyes wandered round the room, as though to reassure himself that we were alone, and then he replied softly in English, though with a foreign accent:-

"Surely, madame, I will; but you must be with all speed, or it will be a lost journey." Telling him to wait for me where he

was, I left the room and hastened to prepare for my expedition. I had thirty sovereigns in my possession, as it happened, and, making up the sum required as nearly as I could in French money, I placed it carefully in a small bag, which I hung on my arm. Dressing myself in | more sinned against than sinning.

taking my hand in his cold ones, said, criminally concerned in the dark trans- ment he refused, but on the order being in a whisper, as his piteous eyes filled action.

with tears :-

It is now some years ago since an in- under my cloak, and he was satisfied;

After a time, we turned into an unimposters, yet, in order to warn those frequented part of the town and the of my own sex who are more readily lights became less brilliant and the written from the Cape, and, in answer wrought upon, I will narrate as nearly streets more deserted. Suddenly the as I can a strange adventure which be- | boy stopped and seemed uncertain as to which road he should take. He paused a moment; then turning to me, said :-"Madame, I fear I have missed my

way a little: but my mother told me she would give some directions in her letter: will madame give it me that I may Without thinking I handed him his

mother's letter; and, standing beneath the directions contained in the note; then, holding it still open in his hand, he resumed his walk, referring to it every now and then, as though still in doubt as to our whereabouts. There was a certain mysterious quiet about the neighborhood we were in that preyed upon my spirits-a certain silence I could not fathom, and my courage beto flag strangely as we continued our lonely road. I experienced a sensation of intense relief, therefore, when my young guide stopped suddenly before a tall dark house in a quiet street,

his gentle tap at the closed door. A voice from within asked softly in French, How fares it, my son?" and in English the boy answered, "Safely and fairly. Open the door." The door was then unbarred and opened without the least

lamp held by a tall woman poorly clad. | Paris that night. The flickering flame of the lamp gave in a voice scarcely above a whisper. I begged her to conduct me to him at She shook her head sadly, and

to ease the poor mind that runs on nothing but money, money, day and night, without ceasing."

broken stair case, the boy following us with the feeble oil lamp. The house sounded hollow, and our footsteps echoed drearily as we went. Presently we stopped before the door of a room which I imagine to have been at the back of the house, and the woman, entering first, beckoned me to follow In one corner of a large, almost

empty apartment, was a bed, shrouded by thick dark curtains, in the grate a low charcoal fire was burning. I made at once for the corner where the bed was, and was about to undraw the curtains which concealed from my view the poor boy I had come so mysteriously to visit. Suddenly from behind me a cloth was tied tightly over the whole behalf of your brother, Monsieur of my face, a strange burning sense of Richard Willoughby, who lies at this suffocation overspread my senses, and house dying. Would you see him and I remember nothing more: all was and I remember nothing more; all was silence, darkness, a hideous blank, until man is very sick—sick to death in mind I awoke in my bedroom at the Hotel and body-for he lies in fear of arrest, de L., with my head aching strangely and worse than arrest, even in his dying and a benumbed sensation pervading my whole frame. My maid, an English doctor with whom I was slightly combe may accompany you, or know of acquainted, and another doctor who was a stranger to me, were anxiously watching for my return to consciousness. It was quite light and the sun was shining into the room. As one by

rose before my mind, I was utterly at a

loss to imagine how I had been rescued

from that horrible house and brought

back to the hotel in safety. The story was soon told. The night the way we were to take and an injunc- porter, coming on duty at one o'clock, street. Finding I was unconscious, he had summoned the day porter, who I turned cold as I finished the perusal was waiting for him, to render assistof this letter, but, commanding my ance; and this man knowing me by voice as well as I was able, I bade the sight, identified me as a lady staying at servant send the bearer to me at once. the hotel. He at once roused the house. I was not left long in suspense: the My maid (who was waiting up for me. door of the salon soon reopened and a wondering at my prolonged absence) little figure appeared on the threshold. speedily procured the services of two A fragile looking boy, about eleven | medical men from the adjoining neighyears of age, dressed in a dark blue borhood, and they had since been using every method to restore me to consciousness, when I might perchance unfold

There was no trace of any violence face was lighted up with large dark having been used, nor any proof by eyes, their long drooping lashes sweep- which they could discover where I had ing his delicate cheeks. He shut the been. The only thing they had found door softly behind him and gave a swift | upon me, which was not my own, was searching glance around the room; then a handerchief tightly clasped in my as though abashed by my presence, he hand, on which were embroldered my stood with downcast eyes and his hands | brother Richard's initials, and which I loosely folded before him awaiting my at once recognized as having been worked by me some years previously for my "My boy," I said addressing him in unhappy brother. The money had, French, "can you conduct me to this of course, all been taken; also the rings, brooch and locket I had worn. My wedding ring was left, and the bag in which I had put the money was still

hanging from my arm. As soon as I was able, I told the doctors all I could remember of the past night's experiences, and, at the conclusion of the recital, they both advised me to put the matter into the hands of the police. I entreated that it might be stracted from one of Richard's letters done as privately as possible; my brother's name being so mixed up in the affair that outsiders would most probably be led to believe that he was robbery. an accomplice in the robbery, though in

my own mind I felt certain that he was

a dark bonnet and travelling cloak, I The sergeant of police who waited on recognized the boy as being the son of descended quietly to my apartment, me showed great interest in my advenwithout giving intimation of my depar- ture, but I could plainly see that, notture to any one. The child stood pre- withstanding all his civility, his suscisely as I had left him, with the light picions pointed at once to my brother the spot. I thought I recalled the falling on his pale face, and his hands as chief agent in the case. I could loosely locked in one another. I told swear to the signature being genuine. him I was ready to start, and walked to The handkerchief, too, I recognized. the table by which I had been sitting to Alas! it really seemed only too certain er the mystery was revealed in a moget the letter the woman had written, that my brother had at all events been ment by a strange stroke of luck." and which had caused me so much the companion of these people, and must have discussed our affairs freely fallen and frightened, my husband bade The boy then approached me, and, with them, even if he were not more him hold down his head. For the mo-

The Parisian police made every effort "Madame, the gentleman bade me to trace the offenders, but in vain; house say to you, for the love of heaven, and lafter house was searched in the quarter

for the sake of your dead mother, bring to which I believed myself to have been hair, about half an inch wide, which taken, but no trace of the woman or I showed him the little sack I carried | child could be found. And so for a time the matter dropped.

PART II.—TRACKED.

Two years passed, and the night of like myself, are too easily imposed the entrance hall. Once out in the open my strange adventure was like a dream upon; and although by the recital, I air, I seemed to breathe more freely; to me. We left France after my hushold myself open to the ridicule of the but my heart was too heavy for speak- band's return from abroad, and, on his mind masculine, which, by its own ing, and we pursued our way in silence. quitting the army we took up our residence in London. I had meanwhile received several letters from my brother, to one I wrote him in reference to the robbery, he replied with the most solemn assertions of his entire ignorance of the transaction. I believed him. My husband was silent on the subject, and I felt thankful the Cape was so far off. We seldom referred to the circumstances before recorded, for I could not bear to recall the horrors of that evening in the dark, desolate house.

One morning, however, I was startled a neighboring lamp, he read over slowly by my husband saving suddenly, as he looked up from a letter he was reading: "I say, Madge, they think they have found a clew at last to your Parisian exploit; read that."

He passed me over an official looking letter, and I read what follows ::-"BUREAU DE POLICE, PARIS.

TO CAPTAIN BRANSCOMBE: "Monseiur-We believe we have in custody the boy who acted so prominent a part in the robbery committed on madame your wife in January, 1869. He is concerned in an affair which bears a close resemblance to the one in which your lady was the victim. Will she come herself and, if she can identify and I listened eagerly for an answer to him, thus help to clear up a matter which has long puzzled us all? (Signed)

The thought of proceeding in this case was at first very distasteful to me but so much might be brought to light by making the effort, that I resolved, by noise, just wide enough to admit us, and Ralph's advice, to face the disagreeable we entered a hall lighted by a small task; and accordingly we started for I will not enter into the details of the

forth so dim a light that I could not case then under examination. Suffice distinguish her features, and she spoke to say it was a robbery committed on the wife of a Colonel Styles under cirinquired eagerly for my brother, and cumstances closely resembling those of which I was made the dupe. In this instance, however, a boy had been seized on suspicion, and it was this same "Ah, Madame, your coming may do boy I was called on to identify. I had great things for him; you will be able not much difficulty in the matter, although he had altered in the time that had elapsed since that memorable evening, there was still those remarkable She barred the door by which we had eyes, with their long drooping lashes, entered, and then preceded me up a and the pale delicate face, to bear witness to his identity; and without the least hesitation I declared him to be the same boy who had guided me to the

> evening of January 22, 1869. The boy did not seem at all disconcerted at recognition, and even smiled in a slightly supercilious manner, as though he felt himself secure from any discovery resulting from my identifica-The authorities had been unable, as yet to elicit any information from him, he baffled all their attempts at questioning him with a skill and cunning almost increditable in so young an offender. All at once I was surprised at an exclamation from my husband. who stood near me :-

"Good heavens!" he said half audibly, "Ibelieve I see through the whole plan; what a blockhead I was not to have thought of it before! But it was neatly planned and earried out, by Jove

He crossed the hall to where Colonel Styles was sitting, and after speaking to him in a low, hurried manner, he asked leave to call a witness, who he believed might throw some light on the matter in hand. Permission having been granted, he said, in a loud voice :-"The man calling himself Jules Fetier, body servant to Colonel Styles, and now present in this hall, is requestone the events of the preceding night

ed to stand forward."

For the first time since our entrance the boy's face fell, and he looked perplexed and rather dismayed. There was a movement in the crowd, as though some one was trying to effect a departure from the door, but the attempt being promptly frustrated, I saw them lead into the witness box the French servant who had accompanied my husband abroad, but who had left his service on his return to England. After some time passed in making inquiries, and eliciting very little from the cautious man before us, he was searched, and many letters of his present employer's were found upon him also a pocket-book which contained memoranda, proving a great deal against himself and his two accomplices

-his wife and the boy in the dock before us. No one else seemed concerned in his fraudulent transactions. On further search the whole system of his roguery was unfolded piece by piece. He would take service with gentlemen about to travel, imposing on their credulity with false references and gaining their confidence by his well trained demeanor and intelligent conversation. Once safely out of the country he would commence his nefarious schemes, and, with the aid of his clever wife and child, carry them out successfully. Nothing was ever forgotten that could lead to the desired end. No fraud was started until the details had been thoroughly mastered by his accomplices and the plan well matured. It was impossible to say how many peo-

ple he had defrauded in different ways. He had soon found out how matters stood between my husband and brother -partly from his own researches, and partly from a conversation he overheard between his master and a brother officer-and considering the situation a capital one for practising his system upon, he had at once communicated with his wife, and unfolding his plans to her, sending her the signature abto act as a decoy; and also the handkerchief which Ralph happened to take among his own, to throw suspicion on

my brother as being accessory to the Before the examination concluded the sergeant, who had been so long on the look out for the perpetrators of the deed, asked my husband how he had his former servant. Ralph laughed slightly as he replied

"I believe I should have made the best detective of you all had I been on boy's features as being in some way familiar to me, but could not determine of whom he reminded me; however as he stooped to speak to the ward-Turning to the boy who lost all his

peremptorily given he obeyed reluctant-From one side of his head to the ther, contrasted strangely with his ick dark curls, was a streak of white would respectfully announce that he is prepared to give MUSIC LESSONS on very reasonable Boxes. For sale by the Subscriber.

shone like silver in the sun light; then bidding the elder man remove the cap he wore, he bad him also to stoop forward, which he did with a muttered exclamation; and there again we saw the same strange white band shine out

on his closely-cropped head. No link seemed wanting to complete the chain of evidence against the offenders, and the elder was at length forced to admit the proofs were too strong for him to battle against. He begged that his wife-to whom he seemed really attached-might be treated leniently, as Notary Public, Conveyancer, &c., she was slowly but surely dying from cancer; the statement was afterward proved to be correct, and the woman was removed to a hospital, where she lingered but a short time. The father and son were fully committed for trial and duly found guilty. The sentences imposed upon them were of a severe nature, owing to the number of accusations brought against them.

I can only hope when their term of imprisonment has expired they may find people less easy to impose upon and better able to resist their machinations than was "the lady of Captain Ralph Branscomb," who fell so easy a prey to their duplicity and cunning on that memorable evening of January, 22,

## Traveler's Column.

D. T. JOHNSTONE,

Regular Coaches to trains leaving and arriving at CHATHAM RAILWAY STATION.



1880. TIME TABLE, 1880. Steamer "New Era," CAPTAIN, CHARLES CALL.

Until further Notice the above Steamer will run Leave Newcastle for Leave Chatham for Newcastle. 10.30 a. m 12 noon p. m. Will call at Douglastown, every trip, and go to Nelson at 9, a.m., 12 noon and 3, p. m. trips from On Saturday evenings the Steamer will leave Newcastle at 6.30 p. m., instead of 5.30 p. m., and

house where I had been robbed on the 1880. TIME TABLE. 1880. STEAMER "ANDOVER." On and after MONDAY the 10th inst., and un-

til further notice, the above Steamer will run as Leave Newcastle for Chat-Leave Chatham for Indiantown 9 a. m. TUESDAYS. (tillMay 26) FRIDAYS and | Leave Indiantown for Newcastle, connecting with > 3 p. m. New Era for Chatham at Leave Newcastle for Red Leave Red Bank, for Chat-Leave Chatham for Red Leave Red Bank for New

New Era for Chatham, On WEDNESDAY, the 2nd day of June, & every alternate Wednesday after, leave New castle for Bay du Vin at 8.30 a.m Leave Chatham, do., do.
"Bay du Vin for Newcastle On WEDNESDAY, the 9th day of June and every alternate Wed day after, leave Newcastle for Burnt Church 8.30 a m

Leave Chatham do., do. 9 a.m.
"Burnt Church for Newcastle. Vessels will be moved to or from the different ding berths on the River at reasonable rates. Newcastle May 9th 1880.

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Ladies' Camel's Hair and Felt Hats, POINT LACE BRAID & NUN'S LACET LINEN THREAD,

Alliance & Cruel WOOLS. and a variety of FANCY GOODS.

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Furniture Emporium, Can be found all the newest styles of Boots and

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Chatham, N. B., May, 1880.

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Chatham, N. B.

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There is a store and small warehouse on the premises also a small boom connected with it, and is altogether an excellent property for commercial or other purposes. For particulars apply to D. & J. RITCHIE, & Co. Newcastle, March 25, '80.

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