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sounded thick and labored, "we will admit that you stole this will, but I scarcely see what use it can be to you."

"You don't, eh ?" remarked Lavarick, on the table, waved his hand. with a sinister grin.

"No," said Jordan. "In the first place, you can scarcely produce it; you cannot account for its possession without laying yourself open to the charge of stealing it, to say nothing of running the risk, or, rather meeting the certainty of recapture." Lavarick smilad,

"That's my lookout,"

"You have been convicted of forgery once, let me remind you," continued Jordan, "and you will find it hard to prove this will which, of course, I shall declare to be false."

"Of course; but you forget Mrs. Parsons who witnessed it."

Jordan's eyes dropped.

"I forget nothing, my man," he said coolly; "but let us suppose that you can persuade a jury that this precious document is genuine (and I should fight it to the last penny; and remember, I am in possession, I have nine points of the law on my side). I can not see how that will help you to what you want-money. You say my halfbrother Neville is benefited; he may be lips. dead. 1 think it is not unlikely." "He may," said Lavarick.

"And if he were alive, why should you denounce and ruin me for his sake, you who do not know him ?"

"Never saw him," said Lavarick.

"Good. The only other person to be considered now is this girl, of whom I know nothing; nor you, I imagine. She may be dead, may have died even before the will was made.

Lavarick leaned forward with his hands resting on the table, and smiled triumphantly into Jordan's eyes.

"She's alive !" he said, slowly and emphatically.

Jordan winced and kept his eyes down. "You say so !" he said. "You have got to prove it."

"And I can," returned Lavarick, Sin Jordan, I don't go much on Providenceain't a saint like you, who spechify at Exeter Hall-but if ever I was inclined to be a reformed character, the way this thing has worked itself out would go far to convince me that there's something more than chance and luck in the world. Here am I, quite on chance, as you'd say, outside the window the night you were going to destroy the will; and here am I, years afterward, outside a tent in which the girl' father was dving. Oh, I knew him long ago, and I knew him again directly I heard his voice. Yes, there was the girl as was left a third of Sir Grenville's money-the daughter of the people he hounded to death-and there was I, happening on him at the other side of the world, and me with the wil in my possession that would make a rich woman of her. Ain't it wonderful, eh ? Jordan listened intently. "This is a strange story," he said with a forced smiled. "It is," retorted Lavarick, coolly," aud although you think it a lie, it's the truth. That's where Providence comes in and makes me sit up. I tell you"-he spoke slowly and emphatically-"that I was almost tempted to stop in England, and run the risk of being sent back to quod, that I might find this girl; but I couldn't screw myself up to the point, and I crossed the herring pond, and there, at the other end of the world, I came upon her. I should have missed her, perhaps forever, it I'd stopped on here. Do you think me lying ?"

Jordan came back, carrying a salver Neville and this girl, the daughter of the with a liquor bottle, a water carafe and glasses, and a candle, and putting them

the candle.

Lavarick poured out a liberal quanity of brandy and a very small quantity of water, and raised it to his lips; but suddenly arrested the glass half-way, and, with a girl ! Oh, impossible ! start, looked suspiciously at Jordan, who stood silently regarding him.

"Here !" said Lavarick, sharply. "Drink vourselt."

Jordan shook his head.

"I do not drink," he said. Lavarick sprung off the table and seized

him by the throat. "You mean livered hound !' he snarled. "You would, eh, would you ? Ill choke you first !'

Jordan struggled desperately, and succeeded in exclaiming :

"What are you doing ? What is the matter ?'

"Matter !' snarled Lavarick. "You've drugged the liquor !'

Jordan gasped a denial, his voice halt choked ; but Lavarick held the glass to his

"Drink !' he said. "Drink, or I'll-' and he caught up the revolver.

Jordan took the glass in his shaking hand.

"You focl !" he said, trembling with rage at the indignity he had suffered. "Do you think I'd stoop to work with such tools as you use ? '

"Never mind what I think !' retorted Lavarick, sulkily. "Drink, and drink a good draught. I'd trust you, Sir Jordan Lynne, just as far as I could see you, no turther. You've had time to doctor the stuff, and it you haven't done it, why, you've no cause to refuse to drink it."

Jordan, with a gesture of contempt, gulped a draught of the strong mixture and set the glass down.

"Enough," he said ; "my patience is ex-hausted. I'd rather give up everything than spend another quarter of an hour breathing the same air with you. The will-you have come to sell it; name your price; I will buy it here and now, or never."

Lavarick, still with smoldering rage, replenished his glass and glared at him.

"You won't ? won't you ?' he sneered. 'We'll see. And you think I'm such a fool as to trust myself in your company with the thing about me? Not me, Sir Jordan. I know you too well. I saw

woman Sir Greville had wanted to marry. lasses, and a candle, and putting them n the table, waved his hand. "Help yourself," he said, as he lighted Neville might be dead; if so, he, Jordan, would be his heir. That was all right; but this girl? Banks had stated that he knew she was alive, and that he could produce her, and that she could prove her claim. Give up a third of the Lynne money and all the famous jewels to an unknown

The perspiration poured down poor Jordan's face as he sat in the darkened room trying to find a way out of his difficulties.

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It he could gain possession of the will and-and-put Banks out of the way ! He looked round with a shiver as the idea struck him, then shook his head. The ruffiian was a match for him at low cunning and more than his equal at violent measures.

No; there were only two courses open to him-either to dety Banks, or to pay him the sum of money he demanded. And even it he took the latter course he could not be sure that he had got rid of the scoundrel. That sort of man would be sure to squander the money and turn up again at intervals for more blackmail.

He got up from the chair at last. and felt so weak and giddy that he could scarcely stand. His neck was bruised and aching from the effect of the ruffiian's attack on him; the room reeked of brandy; Jordan himself felt as if he had been contaminated by the man's touch and presence.

He gathered the liquor-bottle and glasses together, fastened the window carefully, and crept back to his own room.

The reflection of his own face in the looking-glass almost trightened him, it was so white and haggard and desperate. He could hear the man's hard, strident voice still, could still feel his fingers about his throat. Oh, if something would only hap-pen to the ruffian, if he had only fallen from he window and broken his neck !

No man ever wished another dead more ervently than Jordan wished his foe at that moment. He went to a drawer and took out a revolver-a pretty, dainty little weapon which, for all its prettiness, was deadly enough at close quarters and balanced it in his hands, then he flung it in the drawer with a sigh and a groan of contempt.

Twenty revolvers could not help him against such a man as this convict, who could give him fitty up at any game of that kind and beat him easily.

muttered Jordan "The will, the will !

did, Sir Jordan. You always were a cool to hand over to the police." hand" went on Lavarick. "And you said, evil leer. said you : 'Everything shall be as you wish, father; I am quite satisfied. I will carry say, but not half such a fool as you, who out the will-ihe last one-as faithfully as forget that the will was witnessed, and that I can. Where is it, father ?' says you in a one of the witnesses-old Mrs. Parsonssoft voice. The old man raised his hand 18 alive and kicking." and pointed to the bureau-that one there," and Lavarick nodded to the peice of furnibeen creeping back to his face deserted it ture. " 'In that second drawer,' said Sir again; but he forced a sneer. Greville. 'Take my keys; they're under "Very well," he said, "we'll ad-mit the will, if you like; but you the pillow.' You took the keys and opened the drawer and got the will." have lied in your version of what occur-

Jordan stealthily put up his hand to his forehead, and wiped off the big drops of sweat which had gathered there.

plete. It was my father, who changed his "I saw it in your hand," continued Lav-arick in a low voice. "I knew it was the mind and repented of the will, who burned it at the candle a few minutes before he will, because you said : 'Is this it father ?' died." and the cld gentleman nodded. 'Keep faith with me, Jordan,' he said. 'I sha'n't rest quiet in my grave if those I've injured are not righted,' and you smiled and came stroke of yours!' he exclaimed, as it with genuine admiration. "It's smart, right up to the bed"-Lavarick's voice grew down smart. I couldn't have hit upon a lower, and he pointed to the bed-"and neater idea myself. But "-he leaned foryou smiled right down at him, and right ward and glanced cunningly with his evil before his eyes you held the will to the candle." man didn't burn the will, because it's still

Jordan started forward, as if he meant to silence the speaker with a blow, then in existence." fell back and laughed hoarsely.

"Hold on," said Lavarick. "Just at that moment there came a knock at the door, shoving the will inside your waistcoat, as you thought.'

Jordan's lips twitched, and Lavarick, as if warming to his work, went on with suppressed excitement, and yet carefully and emphatically, as if no minute detail of the terrible scene should be lost.

"It was the nurse. You went outside to her for a minute or two, kept her outsent her for something, I suppose-and locking the door, went back to the bed. The old man raised himself on his elbow, tried to speak, pointed at you then screamed out, and went off-dead !"

He stopped to take breath.

The Right Honorable Sir Jordan Lynne, Bart., M. P., let an oath slip through his white lips. "You have got it !" he stammered.

lips steady.

"I've got it !"

Lavarick smiled and nodded, and swung his toot to and fro with lezy sang-froid. "Yes, Sir Jordan, I've got it. When

a well known criminal whom it is my duty

Lavarick eyed him sideways, with an

"I'm a fool, am I?" he said. "I dafe

Jordan started, and the color which had

red-lied as a convict naturally would to

serve his purpose and make his story com-

Lavarick smacked his leg with his hand.

" 'Pon my soul and body ! that's a clever

eyes at Jordan-"it won't work. The old

Jordan clinched his hands and kept his

"That is a lie!" he said. "It it is in

existence, where is it? who has got it?

Oh-!" For Lavarick's face answered him

before he, Lavarick, could even snarl out :

CHAPTER XXXII.

you'd gone outside to speak to the nurse I slipped in, picked up the will from the floor, where you'd dropped it, and slipped out of the window again. You thought I the affectionate son-oh, oh, very loving hadn't been in before when you saw me, and yet it seems singular that a clever gentleman like you shouldn't have guessed what had become of it, doesn't it ?" Sir Jordan stood with downcast eyes, trying to realize what had bappened to him. This scoundrel, this escaped convict, a man whose daring equaled his cunning, had him, Sir Jordan, in his power! At a word he could produce the will and ruin Sir Jordan, large as it was, would mean comparative ruin to a man in Jordan's position. A Cabinet Minister who means to be Premier wants all the money he can get. It is of no use for a politician to be clever unless he possesses the golden charm with which to buy opportunities for the display of his Greville's money, Jordan could not afford to lose a penny, least of all the largest portion of his wealth. Besides, the scandal! How his enemiesand what a host of them he had-would leap upon this story of the lost will with yelts of delight, and swiftly send it round the world ! Good-bye to greatness then for the Right Honorable Sir Jordan. His candle would be snuffed out once and for all. He would be ruined in purse and reputation, and this Neville, the half-brother whom he had always hated, and this unknown girl, would thrive and flourish at his expense. The thought the vision called up by his reflections made him turn hot one moment and cold the next. At any cost, he must buy off the man and keep the money. But forced a smile at last-it had been rather at any time. You want to know how? long in coming-and looked up.

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(CONTINUED. "But you kept yourself in hand, you

"In came the nurse, and the doctor, and the rest of them, and there was a confusion, as usual You were terribly cut up, quite and heart broken and all that. Quite touching, it was; and you got 'em out ot the room that you might be alone. And the very first thing you do when you are alone is to put your hand in your waistcoat and find that the will-wasn't there." Jordan drew a long breath, folded his

arms, and looked at Lavarick defiantly. "It made you queer for a moment," re-

sumed Lavarick. "You would have taken for the loss of two thirds of the property, your oath that you'd stuck it inside your, bosom, you know. But it wasn't there. Then yon began to hunt about. I suppose you'd lost your head-it was enough to upset anybody-for you looked in all sorts of corners, as if you might have thrown it away anywhere-as if the old man might of got out of bed and cleverness. Rich as he was, with all Sir hidden it while you were outside. You were out of the room quite long enough for him to have done so if he'd had the strength; and there's things that will make even a dying man desperate, and give him strength to do what one 'ud think he was capable of doing. That's how you put it, I dare say, for you hunted everywhere. But you couldn't find it. It was as clean gone as if you had burned it."

He stopped, as if expecting Jordan to speak, but Jordan remained silent, his brows knit, his eyes fixed on Lavarick's crooked ones.

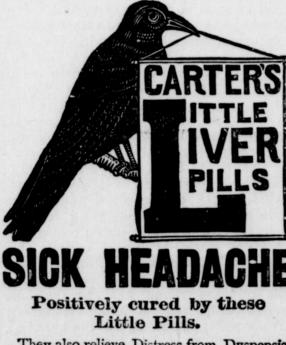
"Just then, after you'd been searching for about a quarter of an hour, I heard foot steps outside. I knew they'd nab me if I stayed where I was, or if I went down. I'd got to come into the room, and I came." He laughed grimly.

"I thought you'd have a fit when you saw me open the window and step inside. You looked worse than you looked when I came in just now, and that's saying a great deal. Of course, you'd have given me up, but I had this little friend here"-and he tapped the table with the revolver-"and that kept you quiet for a moment, till I'd explained that I'd heard you and the old man and that it you offered to give me up, I'd split on you."

Jordan bit his lips, but still did not speak.

"You were always a cool one, and you looked up with a keen glitter in his eyes. since that awful night when the old man lover, pulled yourselt together after a minute or "You've got those papers ?" he said in had died-had come to pass at last. PILLS a low, eager voice. For years he had expected Banks, the two. It didn't take long to persuade you man who had witnessed the death-bed that the best thing you could do was to hide Lavarick's face fell for the first time, and me in the cupboard there, get me a suit of he looked-well, quite ashamed and crestscene, to turn up and levy blackmail upon fallen as he struck the table and swore. him, and the man had turned up, and matyour own clothes, and give me money round his throat. "I said I'll act on a square with you, ters were even worse than Jordan's imenough to clear out of the country with. and I will, No; I've not got 'em. I've ag nation had painted them, for Banks not 'Once he's out of the way,' thought you, only knew of the existence of the will. risked my life for 'em, not once or twice 'he won't dare to come back.' And you were right, Sir Jordan-up to a point. only, and each time l've bees balked. which would have been awkward enough But"-he uttered an awful oath-"I will Positively cured by these for Jordan, but actually had it in his pos-I left the house next morn-"I think I must have got a chill," he ing. quite free and open like, they have them yet !" session Little Pills. took me for one of the undertaker's men, I Jordan watched him closely. Lavarick's If he had only kept away a few weeks They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, longer-until Jordan had secured Audrey tone and manner convinced Jordan that he expect. There was all sorts of people com-Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perwas speaking the truth-if not the whole of and her large fortune-he might have se ing and going, and I looked such a perfect fect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsithe ruffian at defiance, laughed his story to gentleman, such a respectable card in your Lavarick drew his hand across his mouth. togs, that even it that idiot Trale had seen ness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue scorn, and declared the will a forgery. "Phew ! this is dry work ; and I've warm-There would have been a scandal, of Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They me he wouldn't have known me." And he The valet went down to the servants' ed myself up talking and thinking of all course, but Jordan would have got Audrey laughed with keen enjoyment. "I got clear Regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable. hall, puzzled and perplexed. I've gone through. Let's have something safe and secure, and could have afforded off, and never intended to come back, but "He was all right last night," he remark-ed, "but he looks to-day as if he'd been on Small Pill. Small Dose -" He paused, and his face darkened. But now, just on the eve, so to speak, Small Price. Jordan showed no resentment at the "Well, I got homesick, for one thing, the spree for a month." insolently rough command, rather than reof the marriage which was to put the copand-" "You thought you could blackmail me," said Jordan. "You are a fool! I have listened patiently to your farrago of non-sense and absurdity—listened far more pa-tiently than a jndge or jury would do. Yes you are a fool! Who do you think would holione this each and hull store of the would Substitution Jordan kept to his dressing-room, to which his letters and dispatch-box were quest, but nodded almost pleasantly. ing-stone to the edifice of Fortune which "You shall have some wine," he said. he had built up with so much care and the fraud of the day. brought; but for once the eminent statestoil and cunning cleverness, he dared not defy the man. And yet, to give up so large a sum, so big a lump of the money he had pouched ! He shuddered—actually "Curse your wine ! Bring some brandy," man completely neglected public business and paced the room restlessly, or sat with said Lavarick, curtly. "Certainly," said Jordan, and softly out of the room. See you get Carter's, went his head leaning on his hand, his brows knit into a brooding frown. The valet lighted the candles at dusk and believe this cock-and-bull story of a second Ask for Carter's, Lavarick followed him to the door and shuddered-as he thought of it. will ? A story told by an escaped convict !" looked round the handsome corridor, with Poor Sir Jordan ! It is to be hoped that brought the cup of beef-tea which Jordan had ordered, and Jordan was making an He laughed, contemptuously. "No such will ever existed, excepting in your fertile magination. The whole story is a concocall will sympathize with a good man struggling with adversity. its costly carpets and hangings, pictures Insist and demand and statuary. attempt to dispose of it when the man re-"Ah !" he muttered," I'll have a place as What was to be done? There were ion worthy of a scoundrel who committed Carter's Little Liver Pills. (CONTINUED ON FIFTEENTH PAGE.) two persons whom he had cheatedgood as this myself, presently."

"For the sake of argument," he said, and he knew his voice



Jordan sneered.

"Well, I suppose that you are telling the truth," he said, "and that you found the girl to whom my father left this money. But you said - I imagine it slipped out unawares-that her father is dead.'

"That's so," assented Lavarick. Jordan smiled.

"You will find it difficult to prove her identity, my friend," he said.

"Shall I ?" retortsd Lavarick, with a You eneer and snigger as if I was telling you something a child wouldn't believe.

would prove who she was. He told her to hide them until she was eighteen. He knew Sir Greville had sworn to ruin him and his, and he was afraid that the old man would hound the girl as he had done her father and mother. She was to hide

the papers. I saw her put them in her bosom-" He stopped, for Jordan had

you smiling down at the old man as he lay a-dying there, and mocking him to his face, and I know the kind of gentleman I've got to deal with. I rather trust a tiger than you, Sir Jordan, for all your snaky smile and smooth voice."

Jordan, writhing with impotent rage, beat the devil's tattoo with his foot.

"Don't try me too far," be said, threateningly; "I'm more than half inclined to bid you do your worst." Lavarick sneered.

"How nice it would read in the papers, wouldn't it ? 'The great Sir Jordan Lynne and his father's will.' I'm not sure that it isn't a case for a judge and jury and quod. You'd look well in the prison regimentals, Sir Jordan, and you wouldn't be so ready to talk of convicts, eh ? But I'm as ready for business as you are. Here's my terms; 1'll part with the will to youas you're an old friend-for five-andwenty thousand pounds."

Jordan laughed bitterly and mockingly. "I expected some such preposterous attempt at blackmail," he said. "I refuse. Do your worst. I defy you, and I regret that i have not done what I should have done the moment you forced your way in-handed you over to the police."

"Right!" cried Lavarick, cheerfully, and he got off the table and began to button up his coat. "That's my offer, and I don't budge from it," he swore. "I will give you till to-morrow night to think it over. I've got some business to do in the place that will amuse me till then. Don't trouble to come down to the front door, Sir Jordan,' sinister smile. "I think not ! While she's | he added, with a grin. "Oh, I'm not afraid he would try a little defiance at first. He alive she can prove her identity anywhere, that you'll give the alarm, and I'm not atraid for my money. You'll come to terms tomorrow, Sir Jordon;" and with an insolent nod he got through the window and I'll tell you how : Just before her father | slowly disappeared, his crooked eyes died-mind, I was there; I'm telling you | dwelling on Jordan's face till they vanished what I saw-he gave her the papers that | below the window-sill.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

The Right Honorable Sir Jordan Lynne Bart., M. P., sunk into a chair as the evil face of Lavarick, alias Jem Banks, disappeared below the window-sill, and covered his eyes with his hands.

What he had feared for so long-ever

'If I could only get that the rest would be easy !"

He undressed himself at last and crept into bed and lay there stark, staring wide awake, his brain hard at work over the problem which must be solved, and at once.

When his valet knocked in the morning the Right Honorable Sir Jordan got out of bed and looked in the glass and decided that he could not get up. There was a line of dark marks round his throat, his face was white, his eyes bloodshot.

He went to the door, and, without unlocking it, said that he was unwell and would rest for awhile, and crept back to bed again, and groaned as he thought how happy, triumphant and victorious, how confident of the future he had felt yesterday ! He had intended going back to town to-day and engaging an architect and setting the upnolsterers to work, and in the evening he was to address a large charity meeting, and now here he was, with this hideous secret of his sitting like a nightmare ou his chest.

He could not go to town, and could not leave Lynne until he had seen Banks again and come to some terms with him.

Atter an hour or two he got up and wrote the tollowing note to Audrey :

"Dearest Audrey,-I find myself detained at Lynne by business connected with some of the tenants whom, much as I long to be back by your side, I must not neglect. The care and welfare of his tenants should be one of the first duties of a landlord, and am humbly trying to fulfill it. I trust, dearest, that these good people, whose comfort and happiness so much depend upon those above them, will soon have one in their midst who will, I know, prove a true and tender-hearted friend to them. Yes, Audrey, here, alone, I am looking forward with eagerness to the hour-soon to arrive, I trust-when I shall have an angel by my side as helpmate and wife. Dearest Audrey, for the sake of others beside myself our wedding must take place soon. I would say at once, but that I fear to startle you. I hope to return in a day or two and to hear from your own sweet lips that you will consent to make me the happiest and most fortunate of men before many weeks have passed. Your devoted JORDAN."

He sent this to the post at once, but he did not admit his valet until late in the atternoon, and when he did so he was dressed and had a silk handkerchief wound

The man was startled at his master's appearance, which presented so striking change to that of yesterday, and suggested a doctor; but Jordan declined medical aid.

said, "and-ahem! it has settled in my throat. I shall be all right in a few hours. If-it any one should come-I am expecting a person from London on political business -let him be shown into my dressing room. don't think I will go downstairs today."