THE MISSING ESTERHAZY.

A Detective Story.

BY FRANK SUMMERS.

The hours of a detective are as uncertain as those of a doctor. And therefore I was not surprised when, one morning at 6, I was awakened by a loud knock on my door.

It was my servant, who was all flurried and eager.

"Get up, sir," he said, "get up quick. Mrs. Potter's coach is in front of the door and the footman has got word to bring you at once."

"Who the deuce is Mrs. Potter?" I exclaimed before I had time to recognize the name of the wealthiest society woman in the town.

But Jenkins was gone. He had hurried down stairs to tell Mrs. Potter's man that I was dressing as fast as I could.

"What in the world could have happened to Mrs. Potter?"

I could only conjecture.

The ride was a short one around the corner from my moderate neighborhood into her expensive one, and in ten minutes after I had been called from my comfortable bed to go out into the cold bleak morning, I found myself in the presence of a superbly handsome woman, elegantly dressed as for a ball, and fairly trembling with her weight of jewels.

Her drawing room was brilliantly lighted, and in the halls a few servants stood at their posts, but all the guests had gone. Then, and not till then, did I remember reading that on the previous evening Mrs. Van Dyck Potter was booked for the greatest ball of the season.

For a minute Mrs. Potter stood eyeing me closely, as though scrutinizing me, then, speaking to a servant who drew shut the great drawing room doors, she motioned me to be seated.

"I asked you to come here, Mr. Boyle," said she, "because it is here that it happened; and it is here that you should hear about it."

I nodded attention.

"First," said she, "let me be sure that what I am to tell you will be wholly confidential; because if—from its nature—"

I lifted my hand. "Madame, if the slightest doubt exists in your mind—"

"Your pardon; I will proceed. Last night I gave in these parlors the greatest ball of the winter. It was to be the last one before Lent, and I spared nothing to make it a grand one." She hesitated.

"Yes!"

"And this is my reward"; as she spoke she laid her left hand upon my arm and pointed to it. The fingers were bare of jewels. Then she laid her right hand beside it. Each finger glittered like the cave of Golca.

"Until supper last evening I wore as many jewels upon my left hand. But after supper, when my gloves had been removed, I suddenly missed the rings from my left hand, and though I searched for them they were gone."

"Where did you look?"

"Upon the floor. I called my trustiest servants and told them to keep a look-out for the rings. They knew them at sight."

"Do you suspect any one?"

"No, but in so large an assemblage there are many—"

"Many who might be suspected."

I spoke the words with the inhospitable inflection which Mrs. Potter would have hesitated to utter.

"And you still suspect no one?"

"No one."

"And your husband; does he know of your loss?"

"Yes, and he is prostrated by it."

"Does he know you have consulted me?"

"By no means. He would fear publicity and scandal. Almost overwhelmed at the theft, for I must confess to you that we can ill afford to lose such valuable securities at this time, he retired immediately after the company had departed."

"Was there any stone of special value?" I asked, for I began to suspect more than she had told me.

"There was. The solitaire ring that was stolen from my third finger contained the Esterhazy diamond. Its value is many thousands. When my husband bought it for me he said: 'This contains a fortune. Remember it in time of need.'"

"And you missed the ring?"

"As I was walking with him after supper. For a minute he would not believe it was gone. Then its loss staggered him. 'One hundred thousand lost in Wall street today,' he said, 'and now the Esterhazy gone!'"

"Is there any more to tell?"

"Only that one of my dearest friends told me before she left that she had lost her diamond bracelet just before dinner, which preceded the dance. She was our guest of honor and sat at my husband's right hand."

The plot began to thicken, and I wanted time to think about it, so, rising, I extended my hand to her and said: "Promise me on your honor, Madame, that you will not tell a person that you have consulted me. Not even your husband."

"He would be the last one. In his nervous condition, it would irritate him beyond expression."

And so I bade her good morning, for it was now sun up and the city was growing noisy with the carts.

When a detective does not know what to do, he plays trumps. He watches the family in which the trouble has occurred.

So, after breakfast, I betook myself down town to the hotel which is frequented by bankers and brokers after office hours, for I wanted to get acquainted with Mr. Potter.

Here I found, as I had expected, nearly all the gentlemen guests of the evening before, and immediately I began a study of them. That it was a man who had robbed the hostess and her dear friends of their jewels I felt positive, for reasons of my own. "The rings were not lost," I said to myself, "they were taken from the fingers of the woman by a man. But when and by whom?"

That question worried me so that, before the day was over, I had made arrangements with the manager of the hotel for a position as day clerk in the office, and had added to my duties that of assisting with the coats, the better to become acquainted with the large and wealthy clientele, many of whom had been guests at the Potters the night before.

When Mr. Potter came in at noon, he was the most worried man I ever saw. He ate scarcely anything for lunch, and hastened away without speaking to his friends. "Potter's had another bad day." I heard one of them say as he disappeared through the marble corridor of the hotel, "and coming at this time, he will feel it!"

The next day found Mr. Potter no better in spirits; and as I helped him on with his coat, I was almost sure I heard him mutter: "That diamond! Where can it be? And it would have saved me now!"

Matters went on thus three days, when I received word from Mrs. Potter to call on her again, saying that she had something of importance to tell me. "It is about the robbery," said she, when I saw her. "There has been another of the same kind. Last night at the Crawford's dinner a guest opposite me missed her rings. Search was made, but they could not be found. It made Mr. Potter so nervous that we came home."

The next day I took a walk in a part of the town where there is located a diamond exchange, and what I saw there made me resolve to act quickly and with caution. But how should I go about it? I confess that here was the difficulty. I was only partly sure.

But chance, the detective's best friend, saved me.

I resolved to consult Mr. Potter and without delay.

But when he came into lunch at the hotel, where I still acted as clerk, one glance at his troubled face made me hesitate. This time I was sure I could see the words on his lips, "If I could only find that diamond." Of course he meant the missing Esterhazy.

I held his coat for him that day, and as I lifted it for him to slip his arms in, I felt something strange in the back of the neck—a small hard lump, that caught in my fingers.

"Pardon, sir," I said, "there is something in your lining. Allow me to remove it for you."

At these words he turned, and, snatching the coat from my hands, pressed the lump in his fingers. "Thank God!" he exclaimed. Then catching sight of my inquisitive face he cried, "Leave me. I do not need you."

"But I need you," I said, placing my hand firmly upon his arm, "and if you please I will take that Esterhazy. There has been inquiry for it."

"But it belongs to my wife," said he, turning ashen pale.

"But how about the other rings, those you took from the fingers of your guest the night of your ball, and the one you took from the Crawfords last night?"

"Damn you!"

"Better make a clean breast of it."

With curses and tears the miserable man confessed to me how he had robbed the fingers of his wife's friends to help him in his money losses, and finally he told me how he had taken the Esterhazy stealthily from her hand that evening in their after dinner promenade, and how it had slipped from his pocket into the lining of his overcoat, and in some inexplicable way had worked itself up into the back, where I found it.

Anxiety over the accidental loss of his booty had led my man to unconsciously betray himself. The other gems had been sold, but they were redemeed, and the matter hushed up in that mysterious way ommon to society offences.

DIED FOR HER CHILD.

(Victoria Colonist, Feb. 22.)

Within the last twenty-four hours three of the northern fleet, the steamers Danube, Tees and Thistle, have returned from Skagway, Dyea and Wrangel. The newcomers relate many instances of suffering and even death from the cold on the trails leading through the mountains from the Lynn Canal, the most pathetic of which unfolds a tale of simple heroism, the central figure in which is an unnamed woman of the Dyea tribe. She with her babe and one other squaw was accompanying a party of five male Indians over the trail from Lake Linderman, when overtaken by a fierce storm at Crater Lake, in which the women, either purposely or intentionally, were dropped from the safety rope and lost by the party. The unencumbered woman staggered on in the direction their late companions had taken, promising to return with aid if she herself lived; the mother with her child waited for death in the tempest. When her body was found the morning following, the tale of her mother-love was mutely but eloquently told. She had, as the cold grew more and more intense, practically stripped her own poor body to wrap the garments about her child. It was found warm and well by the rescue party of whites the following day, held in fixed arms to the lifeless but faithful heart of the mother, who had given her life for its preservation.

A CHECK FOR ONE CENT.

Lots of Red Tape Necessary in This Case to Collect Unpaid Postage on a Letter.

NEWBURG, N. Y., Feb. 28.—Postmaster McCroskery owns a check on the National Bank of Newburg for the sum of one cent. And this is how he became the possessor of it: A drop letter in the Newburg post office, to go to a person in another state, had on it a one-cent stamp instead of a two-cent stamp. The person to whom the letter was addressed received a letter from Postmaster McCroskery, which informed him of the holding of the letter in accordance with the postal laws for the additional one cent postage. In response the person advised sent a money order for one cent through the Postal Telegraph Company, and wired the postmaster that he had sent it. The postmaster then sent the letter on to the person to whom it was addressed. At the telegraph office the one cent was refused until the postmaster called in a friend to identify him. This he did, and then a check for one cent on the Newburg National Bank was made to the order of the postmaster, and the person called in to identify him signed both the telegraph book and the check before it was delivered to Postmaster McCroskery. The check will be framed as a curiosity and kept to show the "red tape" now necessary to do business. The receiver of the letter expended $1.25 for telegraphing and the money order to get the letter, and all because the sender neglected to put on a two-cent instead of a one-cent stamp.

HONEST HELP FREE!

An old clergyman, deploring the fact that so many men are being imposed upon by unscrupulous quacks, is willing to inform any man who is weak and nervous or suffering from various effects of errors or excesses, how to obtain a perfect and permanent cure. Having nothing to sell, he asks for no money, but is desirous for humanity's sake to help the unfortunate to regain their health and happiness. Perfect secrecy assured. Address with stamp, REV. A. H. MACFARLANE, Franktown, Ontario.

WEEKLY SUN!

Special Notice to Our Readers.

Two Issues a Week, the First on Saturday, January 1st, 1898,

Thus Giving the News to All Subscribers While It Is Fresh and Timely.

Go to Your Post Office Twice a Week Henceforth for Your Favorite Family Journal.

With the opening of the New Year a radical change will be made in the publication of the WEEKLY SUN; a change that we feel sure will be heartily appreciated by all subscribers.

Commencing January 1st 1898, the WEEKLY SUN will be issued in two parts of 8 pages each,—one part on Saturday, January 1st, and the 2nd part on Wednesday, January 5th—and this new departure will be continued throughout the year. By this plan readers of the WEEKLY SUN will receive the advantage of the best news service ever attempted in the Maritime Provinces.

The WEEKLY SUN fearlessly invites comparison with any of its contemporaries. It is a newspaper, first, last and all the time. It prides itself on its accuracy and truthfulness. Its columns are clean, pure and free from sensationalism, containing no matter that may not be presented to the Family Circle.

It has been for years a welcome visitor once a week in thousands of homes throughout New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

It now proposes to double the number of its visits, and to call twice a week instead of but once a week on its patrons.

By issuing the WEEKLY SUN in two parts, Saturdays and Wednesdays, its subscribers will be placed as near as possible on a level with the city readers of the daily papers, and will be furnished with the news of the world as fresh from the telegraphic wires as the the mail arrangements of the country will permit

This great step in advance in the news service of the WEEKLY SUN will not be accompanied by any advance in price. On the contrary the management have decided to make a startling reduction in the annual subscription, and to offer the WEEKLY SUN to Subscribers who pay in advance at a discount of 25 per cent

Henceforth the WEEKLY SUN will be conducted on a strictly cash basis, and subscribers who are in arrears can take advantage of this unparalleled offer by squaring their bills and remitting 75cts. for the new year.

A GREAT SHOWING.

Made by Canadian Pacific and Commercial Cable Companies.

Montreal Gazette Says the Railway's Story is the Most Wonderful in Annals of Modern Business Enterprise.

MONTREAL, March 2.—The Montreal Gazette, commenting editorially on the Canadian Pacific's annual statement, finishes as follows:

"The Canadian Pacific Railway company is only eighteen years old. When its project was published people thought it would never be executed. The system today comprises 7,676 miles of road, owned and operated, and two steamship lines on the Pacific. It has assets representing a value of $245,000,000, earns twenty-four millions a year, and is paying dividends where some thought it would not earn axle grease. Its story is one of the most wonderful in the annals of modern business enterprise."

The Commercial Cable company's annual report for 1897 was issued today. The revenue from the operations of the cables, after deducting all expenses and reserving a sum of $11,750 to meet depreciation of the cable, amounted to $1,200,155.53, as compared with $1,123,653.46 for the previous year, being an increase of $76,502.07. The revenue from the land lines, after deducting all operating expenses and setting aside $60,000 to attend the lines' depreciation reserve account, amounted to $645,185.59. The net revenue of the combined systems was $1,845,341.12, out of which has been met the interest on the first mortgage bonds and debenture stock amounting to $640,000 and dividends of 7 per cent. and a bonus of 1 per cent. on the capital stock, absorbing $800,000—a total of $1,440,000—and leaving the balance of net revenue for the year $405,341.12.

WAISTED HIS SUBSTANCE.

One of New York's Spoiled Children in Bankruptcy Toils in London.

LONDON, March 2.—In the bankruptcy court here today, S. N. Cornell (son of the late J. B. Cornell, the iron manufacturer of New York), who was declared a bankrupt in this city on Nov. 17th last, applied for an order of discharge.

The judge said he considered that Mr. Cornell's bankruptcy was due to gross extravagance and suspended his discharge for four years.

Mr. Cornell, according to report, in addition to his income of $20,000 a year, received $125,000 under the will of his father in 1887. Since August, 1894, it is added, Mr. Cornell has lived at the rate of $55,000 a year.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORERS.

Granted all the Concessions They Asked from Southern Railways.

BOSTON, March 2.—The Southwestern Association has granted to the Christian Endeavorers of the United States and Canada all the concessions desired. They include the sale of tickets to Nashville and return, for the Christian Endeavor convention, at one fare for the round trip, July 1st to 6th inclusive, with final limit July 31st, and with privilege of extension to August 15th, provided tickets are deposited with the terminal lines at Nashville prior to July 31st.

A Colorado man who recently returned from the Klondyke with a fortune in nuggets and gold dust exultantly exclaims: "And I didn't have to sweat for it, either." Visitors to the Klondyke region may have noticed that with an average winter temperature of 50 degrees below zero perspiration rarely interferes with the work of picking up nuggets.

ALBERT.

A Big Successful Farmers' Meeting in Oulton Hall.

Col. McCrea, Spoke on Tuberculosis, Cattle Feeding and Wheat Raising—Remarks by Mr. West.

HOPEWELL HILL, Feb. 26.—A successful Farmers' Institute meeting was held last evening in Oulton hall, Albert. It is to be regretted that a larger number was not present. John Keiver was in the chair. Among the prominent residents of Hopewell and Harvey present were: J. S. Atkinson, W. A. West, M. M. Tingley, W. W. Jones, Luther Archibald, Joseph Turner, Alonzo Stiles, John Barber, Ezra O. Barber, Valentine Smith, J. Alex. Fullerton, D. W. Stuart, James Keiver, Wm. Stiles, H. A. Stiles, C. C. West, T. M. Pearson, Jos. O. McClelan, Albert T. Smith, Rufus Tingley, W. M. Calhoun, and others. The chairman spoke briefly in regard to the object of the meeting, and introduced Col. McCrae, who spoke first on tuberculosis. This disease, the colonel explained, was with cattle identical with consumption in man. Consumption was the most fatal of diseases. It attacks the lungs more generally, but frequently affects other parts. In cattle the lungs are not so frequently affected. In consumption the principal danger of contagion was from the spittle, and although in cattle it was not so easy to trace the cause of contagion, it was supposed to spread in a similar manner. The disease was not hereditary, though a tendency to its contraction no doubt was. Dark, damp stables have a tendency to cause the disease to spread. Fresh air and sunlight were essential. There is little danger from eating meat from cattle afflicted with tuberculosis. A tuberculous udder is the most dangerous, especially when the milk is taken by children and invalids. Boiling the milk will make it safe. Tuberculosis is fortunately rare in New Brunswick. The disease is extremely difficult of detection, the only sure test being tuberculin, a liquid, which is injected under the skin of the animal. The dominion government will at any time send a man to make an investigation where tuberculosis is supposed to exist. The colonel explained that cattle were not the only animals subject to the disease. Poultry may take it, and horses and sheep as well, though more rarely.

W. A. West referred to the importance of the agricultural interests, and urged the farmers to be alive to the needs of their profession. Mr. West traced the history of the Provincial Farmers' and Dairymen's Association, and regretted the Hopewell society had been allowed to go down. The sessions of the association were of great interest and profit to all concerned. The provincial government had promised to do everything in their power to carry out the wishes of the people, and in this were promised the hearty co-operation of the leader of the opposition. The agitation in regard to wheat growing was referred to. Farmers were recommended to give more attention to the raising of poultry, which was of growing importance and very profitable. The speaker thought the farmers should strike out and at least raise enough in all lines to supply the home market, which is the best market in the world. Mixed farming was recommended.

Col. McCrae in the second part of his address dealt with cattle feeding, wheat raising, etc. When he first came to New Brunswick he thought it a poor section for the raising of wheat, but since visiting the different sections he had changed his mind, and believed the farmers here could raise all the wheat they want to eat. He learned that in some parts of New Brunswick fifty bushels of wheat had been raised per acre. This could not be done in Ontario. Wheat will give the most per acre of any grain crop. Wheat raising is valuable in rotation of crops, and of especial importance in connection with the raising of grass. The colonel exhibited tables of the crops raised at the Nappan farm, and discussed the showing in the different lines. Corn he considered the best cattle feed in many ways. Mixed grain sowing was advised, and more attention should be given to roots. He ascertained that while New Brunswick farmers sow four bushels of oats per acre, in Ontario they only sow one and a half. In the latter province the soil is a sandy loam, and the grain is planted in drills. The value of roots in feeding was dwelt upon. The farmers here should raise more in that line. Turnips and straw made as good beef as can be made on anything. In raising beef cattle great care should be taken with the calves. Good beef breeds are essential. Too much importance could not be given to the matter of stabling and the general comfort of the animals. Stables should be light. In New Brunswick the farmers were away behind in the housing of their stock. Good barns were invaluable. The speaker dwelt very pleasingly on the home life of the farm.

A unanimous vote of thanks was tendered the speaker for his instructive address.

PRESENTATION AT MUSQUASH.

Some few nights ago a representative party of Trinity church congregation, Mace's Bay, drove out to the rectory as Musquash, and, after usual happy preliminaries, Robert Mawhinney being called to the chair, Mrs. R. T. Mawhinney read the following address:

Dear Mrs. Bareham—We, the members of Trinity church congregation at Mace's Bay, have assembled ourselves in your home this evening that we might pay you a tribute of respect of which we feel you are in every way deserving. We wish to assure you also that we are not indifferent to the kind interest you have ever taken in our welfare since coming among us, as the wife of our beloved pastor, and having heard with highest gratification that the congregation of St. Ann's church, Musquash, recently presented Mr. Bareham with a costly fur coat, while the friends at Prince of Wales remembered him also in the way of a pair of beautiful driving gloves, we tonight take every pleasure in asking you to accept from us this mark of our regard and affection for you.

On behalf of Trinity church congregation and friends at Lepreaux.

(Signed), MRS. LIZZIE SHAW.

At the conclusion of the address Mrs. Shaw stepped forward and placed an elegant coon fur coat upon the graceful shoulders of Mrs. Bareham. The surprised lady being too much affected to reply, her husband made a few fitting and graceful remarks in her stead, after which baskets were opened and a social tea enjoyed by the company. Miss Balcom and Prof. Dustin gave some fine selections on piano and violin, and others of the company sang songs.

COSTA RICA

Actively Preparing for War With Nicaragua.

COLON, Colombia, March 2.—The arrivals from Limon, Costa Rica, today report that preparations for war with Nicaragua are actively advancing. Men are being enlisted and troops have already been ordered to the frontier. The mission of the Guatemala peace envoys to the two governments have thus far been unsuccessful.

Latest news in THE WEEKLY SUN.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COLUMN.

The raison d' etre of the Sabbath school is to lead the scholars to accept Christ. This should be the first step in the work of the school, and not the last, as we so often make it. After decision for Christ comes building up in Him, training for His service, growth in grace and knowledge and the ready, profitable and enthusiastic Bible study.

Advanced Sunday school work that is really advanced will bear fruit directly in the winning of souls. Such has been the result of the home department, than which no better evangelizing agency has been discovered.

What does it mean for soul-winning to train in normal classes our teachers that they may be able to better instruct in God's word? It means more souls saved, for the better teaching cuts a wider swath in the harvest field and more surely convinces and leads to the Saviour. It means a more effectual building up of the scholars into holy character, and better training into Christian workers, thus again assuring more souls won to Christ.

But no matter how efficient our plans may be they are not of themselves sufficient; they must be used by consecrated hands, and hearts filled with the Holy Spirit.

The importance of more direct spiritual work in our Sunday school is becoming widely recognized. Many schools have already adopted the plan of having a "reaping day," or "decision day," in connection with the school, and in the near future it will be a feature of every earnest Sabbath school. In Pennsylvania it has been made a feature of the state association work.

Below is a short account of "decision day" exercises in connection with one of our city schools, which adopted one of several suggestive plans. The results were most gratifying.

Sunday, 20th February, was observed as "decision day" in Queen square Sunday school. The teachers made special preparation for it by study, prayer and personal work with the members of the classes. A teachers' prayer meeting was held at the close of the morning service and their responsibility for the supplying of the spiritual needs of their pupils was deeply felt. At the close of the lesson the pastor, Rev. R. W. Weddall, made a short but earnest address, urging the members of the school to accept Christ as their Saviour. Cards were then distributed to all, both teachers and pupils, church members and non-members. On one side of the card were the words "Our school for Christ." On the other side "Freely ye have received, freely give." "My confession: I believe that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. I believe that Jesus loved me and gave Himself for me. It is my earnest desire to love Him who first loved me, and trust Him who died for me. Realizing that I cannot save myself, and looking to God for strength, I accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, and will endeavor to follow His example and commands."

A place was left for signature and date, and at the bottom "Give me thine heart." After this had been carefully read to them the younger members were asked to take them home and talk it over with their parents, returning the cards the following Sunday if they wished to sign. The elder members were asked to sign at once, and almost the whole school did so. Over thirty between the ages of twelve and eighteen, who had not before confessed Christ, signed. Some of these have since come out boldly for Christ, and the young people's class meetings have been strengthened.

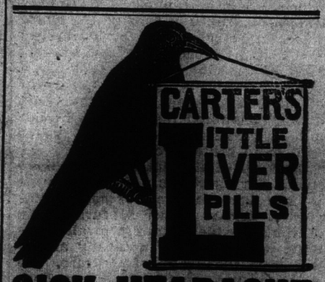
Preparation is of course needed. As many churches are at present holding special evangelistic services, we would recommend the testing of the feeling of the school in some such manner before the close of the special services. Several schools in various parts of the province already have the matter under consideration.

Checks are often kited in an effort to raise the wind.

Matrimony carries of more single girls than any other epidemic.

The man with a cloven breath isn't always the spiciest speaker.

The friends of a woman are usually less prepossessing than herself.



SICK HEADACHE

Positively cured by these Little Pills.

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