

# DONALD DONALDSON, JR.

Being a True Record and Explanation of the Seven  
Mysteries Now Associated With His Name In  
the Public Mind, and of an Eighth,  
Which Is the Key of the Seven

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Charles W. Hooke

By HOWARD FIELDING

(CONTINUED.)

"Harry is all right."  
"Then the color rushed into his face, which had been very pale. He reeled in his chair, and I put up my hand to catch him."

"What do you mean?" I asked.  
"I saw him," he said, "I saw him. He's all right. He's coming home."

"That was all that we could get out of him at first, and we did not know what to make of it. Finally I told him frankly just why we were there and what we had learned."

"No," he said; "it's all a mistake. He's not in any lumber camp. I don't know where he is. I never saw any such place before. I think it's in China from the look of it."

"Of course we tormented him with questions, and at last we got an accurate description of what he had seen. Why, he even described the furniture in the room and the view from the window."

"There was a man sitting at a table whom I think I should have known if he hadn't been back to me," said he. "My brother was sitting opposite, and there was some sort of document on the table between them. My brother has grown a beard. By heavens!" he cried suddenly. "The other man was Joe Vinal!"

"Vinal was receiving teller of the Dey Street bank. He had been slightly implicated in the robbery and had lost his place in the bank on account of it, but had not been arrested. That he should have joined Henry Donaldson in a far corner of the world was not altogether a favorable circumstance, and I asked Donald why he had said so confidently that his brother was all right."

"I know by the look of him," he replied, "and I heard him say that he was coming home."

"Donald pledged us all to secrecy in this matter, and I think the promise has been fairly well kept. That afternoon Donald and I made an investigation into the case of Vinal and learned that he had left New York and that his whereabouts were unknown. His wife, who was a beautiful woman of fine descent, was living in this city, but she had had no word of her husband in six weeks. She told me that he had left the city suddenly upon some matter of business which she did not understand. He had been in very bad health, and she was extremely anxious about him."

"That was all the information that we could get. About a week later Donald got a cable message from his brother. It came from Hongkong and was addressed to my apartments. It said: 'Am coming home; westward. Everything all right.'"

"By subsequent messages we traced him to the Mediterranean and Gibraltar and learned what steamer was bringing him to this country. He was ill of acute gastritis when he arrived, and I thought that we should hardly get him off the steamer alive. But he rallied and seemed on the road to mend."

"It appeared that he had gone from this country to Japan and had lived in one of the smaller cities. He brought photographs of his abode there and of a view from a certain window. I have never been able to be a skeptic upon things occult since seeing that photograph. He told us that he had lived almost in secret; that he had never dared communicate with Donald for fear that the message would fall into wrong hands and reveal his hiding place."

"One day he was amazed to see Joe

at his door. When he was traced him he never learned. Vinal was dying. Only his purpose had supported him through the latter part of the journey. He made a complete revelation of the inner facts of the bank robbery, in which he himself was the principal criminal. This statement was sworn to before the American consul, and a few days later Vinal died. Henry Donaldson went to Hongkong and thence home, bringing the statement which was put into the hands of the bank's officials, who used it to extort as complete restitution as possible from Vinal's accomplices, and the matter was kept quiet through the usual influences, except that a card was published exonerating Donald's brother. He seemed to be perfectly satisfied with this, though it was not very definite. Really the poor fellow was done with earth. He died as many men and women die who might live, but have not the will."

"In conclusion I have only this to say: So far as we can learn Donald's vision was perfectly accurate. It showed Vinal laying his written confession before Henry Donaldson. But the vision occurred about eight hours before the event. I leave the explanation of this phenomenon to any one who thinks himself competent. I am not."

"You may be disposed to suggest that Henry Donaldson had communicated with his brother unknown to me. In regard to this I have not only Donald's word, but Henry's, and you will bear in mind that I attended Henry in his last illness, so that, aside from the lack of motive for his telling me a falsehood, we must consider also the respect that is usually accorded to the statement of a dying man."

"Moreover, Henry could not have communicated the fact of the confession, because he knew nothing about it himself until some hours after it was known to us. It must be remembered also that Donald was entirely ignorant of his brother's whereabouts even after he had had the vision. He had the sensation of being in that room and of looking across the table toward the window, and from the aspect of the country he supposed that the scene was in China."

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## CHAPTER IV.

AN EXCEPTIONAL MATCH.

AS Whiting ceased Hackett drew a long breath and looked at me.

"A little ahead of anything we've found yet, John," said he. "Have you ever tried to figure the thing out in your own mind, Mr. Donaldson?"

The young man shook his head.  
"I know what I saw," he said, "but I don't know what was back of it, and I am inclined to think," he added, with a smile, "that it is much the same with all we see, however simple. There is a mystery behind that teacup which no man alive can solve."

"We know that it will hold our tea," said Hackett, "but this psychic business doesn't seem to have any bottom." I asked whether any one knew why Vinal had not made his confession in this country.

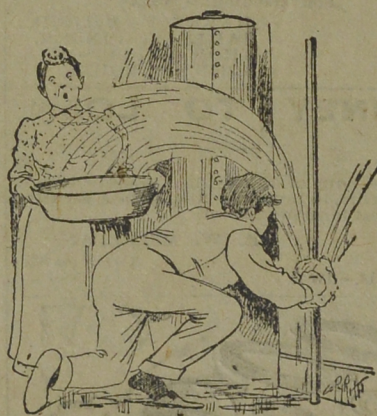
"He went to beg my brother's pardon and to die forgiven," said Donaldson. "He put his confession into the hands of the man who had been

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

## His Oversight.

He—Why didn't you answer my letter asking you to marry me?  
She—You didn't inclose a stamp.

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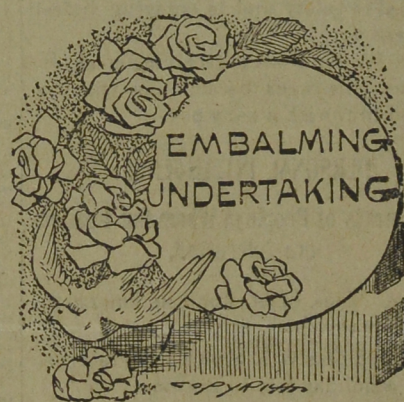
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