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The Midnight Guest

By FRED M. WHITE

Author of "The Crimson Blind," "The Corner House," etc.

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(Continued.)

"The diary is locked up in a little desk in your bedroom," the Countess went on. "I am to find it and give it to Mr. Walter Lance to read. My good Silva, this is most extraordinary! What possible interest could Mr. Lance take in that diary? Are you quite sure that I have not made a mistake?"

Again Silva opened his eyes and nodded almost vigorously.

"Very well," the Countess said reluctantly. "I see you are in earnest. I will get the diary at once, and Mr. Lance shall have it without delay. If there is anything more—"

It was idle to speak to Silva any longer. Just for an instant a smile flickered over his face, and then he was completely lost to the world and his surroundings. Puzzled and mystified, the Countess crept from the room. Silva had made this request on what was practically his dying bed, and he must be obeyed. What good it would do at this moment the Countess was quite at a loss to see. She found the little desk presently and broke it open.

Inside lay a small parchment-covered volume with gilt lettering on the outside. With this in her hand the Countess Flavia walked out on to the lawn where Walter was strolling up and down and accosted him.

"This is for you," she said. "I don't know why, but Silva told me to deliver it into your hands, and perhaps when you have read it you will have a different opinion of Vera's mother."

CHAPTER XLII

Run To Earth.

Without waiting for a reply the Countess turned away, and went back into the house again. In the drawing-room Vera was seated, talking earnestly to Lord Ravenspur. There was an awkward pause as the Countess Flavia entered the room. Then Vera rose with a crimson face, and came in the direction of her father.

"I suppose there is no occasion," she said, "to introduce you to another, though it is so many years ago—"

"I have never seen Lord Ravenspur before in my life," the Countess said coldly, "and I am quite sure that he has never seen me, either. We are absolute strangers."

"But I thought," Vera stammered, "that Lord Ravenspur and yourself—"

"Oh, I don't know what I thought," she said, "but I am quite sure that he has never seen me, either. We are absolute strangers."

"The girl paused abruptly, conscious that she was saying too much. For some time past she had been hugging what appeared to be a shameful secret to her breast. Her face paled with remorse now when she thought how she had misjudged these two people. But the embarrassment was not all Vera's for Ravenspur was looking unhappy and uncomfortable. Only the Countess appeared to retain her cold self-possession. For some time no one spoke.

"Sooner or later, I suppose, I shall be entitled to an explanation," the Countess said at length. "It is now eighteen years since I was cruelly deprived of my child. It is just possible that Lord Ravenspur can explain his extraordinary conduct."

"I think I might manage to do that if you were alone," Ravenspur replied. "But, after all, you are Vera's mother, and what I have to say I could not utter in the child's hearing. Oh, I know that sounds like a cowardly remark, but my conscience tells me that I am only doing what is right."

Vera rose as if to go, but Ravenspur stretched out a hand and detained her. There was a determined look in his eyes. "Not yet," he said; "there will be time for that later on. After dinner, if the Countess will give me the honor of an interview, I may be able to satisfy her that I am not the scoundrel she takes me to be. There are always two sides to a question."

"Yes, where the man is concerned," the Countess said coldly. "Let us hope in this case the same remark will apply to the woman—that is, if you are prepared

to admit that I am a woman."

Ravenspur murmured something in reply. It seemed to him only right that mother and daughter should be alone. And, besides, he wanted to think the situation over. He had formed his own opinion of the Countess. He had implicitly believed all that his late friend Flavia had told him about his wife. He had anticipated something quite different to this. The woman was cold and self-contained and haughty, yet Ravenspur could see nothing in her face to which he could take exception. Flavia had spoken of her as a fiend, a creature who had no title to the name of woman. His pictures had been glowing and full of colour. And now, before a word had been spoken, Ravenspur began to have his doubts. And how like the Countess was to Mrs. Delahay. As Ravenspur paced up and down the lawn, he began to see a little light in dark places. He was still turning the matter over in his mind when Walter and Venables came out of the house.

"Where are you going now?" Ravenspur asked. "What is that thing that you have in your hand?"

"It is a new collar and dog-chain," Walter explained. "It suddenly occurred to Venables just now that we had seen nothing of Bruno all day. I have been whistling for him for half an hour, and though I am almost certain he is hiding somewhere in the garden, I can't get him to answer the call."

"Probably afraid of a good thrashing for his work last night," Ravenspur murmured. "But you must manage to get hold of him, Walter. It will never do for a dog to be like that to be roaming about the common. Those dogs are all right when they are well fed. But if the beast gets really hungry I wouldn't answer for the consequences. Whatever else happens, or whatever is neglected, you must find Bruno, and that at once."

Walter and Venables went off in the direction of the common, and for the next couple of hours sought everywhere for the dog. It seemed to them they could hear him every now and then. Presently Venables caught sight of his lean dark-brown side as he crouched behind a great thick of gorse. Walter called softly, and held a biscuit out in the direction of the bush. Then slowly, and with his body bent to the ground and his head hung down, the great beast came, and Walter slipped the collar round his neck. He had hardly congratulated himself upon his success when a hollow groan close by attracted his attention. He turned eagerly to Venables.

"Oh, yes, I heard it," the latter said with a smile. "Can't you guess who it is? I declare I had absolutely forgotten all about him. Unless I am greatly mistaken, that is our friend Stevens whom Perks tied up so neatly and artistically last night."

It was precisely as Venables had said. Stevens lay there groaning and shivering, quite helpless and almost unable to move. His hands and feet were cut away it was some time before he had strength to rise. His teeth were chattering with the cold, although the day was quite a warm one. He was a mass of cramps and aches from head to foot. When once his blood began to stir again, he turned an angry face in the direction of his rescuers.

"Oh, you need not laugh," he said. "It is no laughing matter. I'll have the law against you for this, see if I don't!"

"We will talk about that presently," said Venables coolly. "In the meantime, you had better come as far as the house and have something to eat. And you will be wise if you say nothing, or know nothing, of what happened last night. Your accomplice, Silva, lies in bed at the point of death, so you have nothing to fear from him. If you had gone straight with us, you would not have fallen into this sorry plight. Have you got any money?"

"I spent it all in coming down last night," Stevens said.

"Oh, well, we'll see you back to town again," Walter replied. "Meanwhile, we have other work to do. We will take you to the house and see that you are properly fed, and then you can kill time as best you can for the evening. You can return by the last train."

It was dark before Stevens reached the station with the few shillings in his pocket necessary to get him back to London again. As he stepped into a third-class carriage he did not realize that Walter and Venables were taking their places at the end of the train. It was just the same at Waterloo Station, where Stevens got out, and a moment later he was being followed by the pair, who had been joined now by Dallas.

"What is the game, gentlemen?" the inspector asked. "Surely that man is the witness Stevens who gave such startling evidence at the Delahay inquest?"

(To be continued.)

Heart Strength

Heart Strength, or Heart Weakness, means Nerve Strength, or Nerve Weakness—nothing more. Positively, not one weak heart in a hundred is, in itself, actually diseased. It is almost always a hidden tiny little nerve that really is all at fault. This obscure nerve—the cardiac, or Heart Nerve—simply needs, and must have, more power, more stability, more controlling, more governing strength. Without that the Heart must continue to fail, and the stomach and kidneys also have these same controlling nerves.

This clearly explains why, as a medicine, Dr. Shoop's Restorative has in the past done so much for weak and ailing hearts. Dr. Shoop first sought the cause of all this painful, palpitating, suffocating heart distress. Dr. Shoop's Restorative—this popular prescription—is alone directed to these weak and wasting nerve centers. It builds: it strengthens; it offers real, genuine heart help. If you would have strong hearts, strong digestion, strengthen these nerves—re-establish them as needed, with

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IMPROVEMENT TO SCHOOL BUILDINGS

City Will Provide the Money
But Treasury Board is Not
Sure That Present Plans are
Best.

At a meeting of the treasury board last night, Ald. Kelley and Frink, the sub-committee appointed to visit Winter street school to inquire into the need of the proposed new annex, submitted their report. Ald. Kelley was opposed to the expenditure of \$40,000 in such a locality. Ald. Frink, on the other hand, recommended that the trustees be allowed to issue the bonds. After considerable discussion it was agreed to recommend the council in accord with Ald. Frink's views.

Architect F. Neil Brodie's estimate of the cost of making the improvements on the schools was taken up and it was decided to recommend to the council that bonds be issued for the amount required, some \$13,000.

The chairman announced that the Bank of New Brunswick had offered to take care of the city's account for three years on the same terms as before.

The controller said there was an investment now offering for the money in the sinking fund. These were Nova Scotia securities. On motion of Ald. Frink the controller and chamberlain were empowered to acquire \$20,000 of them.

The controller brought to the notice of the board that the expenditure on hydrants is now up to the appropriation. He said he had intimated to the safety board that all further expenditures in that direction must cease. Some discussion followed and it is probable that an arrangement will be made to enable the department to finish the work of installing hydrants.

The chamberlain read a letter from the guarantee company who are furnishing bonds for the constables to the effect that they could not furnish bonds for Henry S. French and William Smith, they being 73 and 80 years of age respectively.

It was decided on motion that Messrs. Smith and French be allowed to enter into their own personal bonds.

A bill rendered by Constable George A. Blair for \$10.45 for serving execution for taxes was held up. He had put three men in jail. There were several papers against each and he desired to collect \$1.40 on each.

Quite a long discussion followed and as a result the chamberlain was sustained in his refusal to pay the amount. The chamberlain said he thought that 40 cents is too little to give the constables for putting one man in jail but he also said that in his opinion the constables should be allowed to collect the amount on each of several executions against the same individual.

The chamberlain also submitted the list of unpaid taxes on real estate for the year 1907. These showed a total of \$87,000.

STEAMER ARCOLA WRECKED

Fa'tie Line Bound to Miramichi
A Total Loss off Cape Breton Coast.

Halifax, July 9.—While the Battle steamer Arcola was steaming up the Cape Breton coast last night in a dense fog which shut out the shore line, she ran ashore on a treacherous reef north of St. Paul's Island and became a total wreck.

The steamer was bound from Manchester to Miramichi in ballast and was to load return cargo of deal for the United Kingdom. The impact against the rocks stove the whole bottom out of the ship, the sudden jolt sending both masts by the board. The vessel immediately began to sink and in five minutes was completely submerged.

The crew of twenty-nine had a narrow escape with their lives as the ship settled so rapidly they only had time to lower one boat. Several of the men were compelled to swim ashore, which fortunately was only a short distance away.

Captain Shaw says the fog was so thick he could not make out the light on St. Paul's Island. He had an idea he was near the island and trusted to the sound of breakers on the shore to give him his bearings. The water was so calm, however, scarcely a ripple stirring and the sea a glassy surface, that, without warning, the Arcola ran high and dry.

The Arcola was owned by Wm. Thomson & Co., of St. John. She is insured at Lloyds. The Dominion Coal Co. tug Cabot and Douglas H. Thomas, left for the scene of the wreck this afternoon.

William Thomson & Co., managing owners of the Battle Line, received word from Sydney yesterday stating that their steamer, Arcola, went ashore on St. Paul's Island, Victoria (N.S.), Wednesday night during a thick fog and was a total loss.

The Arcola was in command of Captain Shaw, and was on the passage from Manchester to Miramichi to load deals for the United Kingdom.

The wrecked steamer was formerly called the St. Helena and when the Battle Line Company purchased her she was renamed the Arcola. She was a very old vessel built in the eighties and was fully insured.

The Washademoak Steamboat Company have not yet succeeded in securing a boat to take the place of the Aberdeen, burned at Cole's Island some weeks ago. James Hutchinson, the engineer, is away on a second trip to look for a steamer and it is understood that if his mission is again unsuccessful, the company will have a new steamer built in St. John.

P. S. Archibald, of Moncton, one of the Central Railway commissioners, is at the Royal.

UNITED BAPTIST CONFERENCE FINISHED LABORS YESTERDAY

Rev. Z. L. Fash Selected as Moderator With Rev. Dr. Phillips, Assistant; F. W. Emmerson, Secretary and James Patterson, Treasurer.

Halifax, N. B., July 9.—This afternoon the first thing before the United Baptist Association was the election of officers and the following were elected:—

Moderator, Rev. Z. L. Fash; assistant moderator, Rev. Dr. Phillips; secretary, F. W. Emmerson; treasurer, Jas. Patterson; members of executive—C. W. Weyman, Rev. Dr. Phillips, Rev. F. E. Bishop; members of Home Mission board from St. John—Rev. Wellington Campbell, A. B. Robinson.

It was resolved to ordain to the work of the Christian ministry, H. R. McGill and H. L. Orchard.

Clifford G. Clarke, of St. John (West), was granted an association license.

The Fair Haven church was recommended to make use of the discarded church as a nucleus for a parsonage.

The association declared itself strongly in sympathy with every movement for promotion of moral, social and civil purity, and calls upon all the members of the churches, which it represents, to discountenance and oppose in every possible way the deadly evils of profanity, licentiousness, intemperance, political corruption and bribery.

A resolution endorsing the Maritime Baptist was passed.

A hearty vote of thanks to church people was also passed.

The work of the Lord's Day Alliance was endorsed and the churches urged to zeal in the upholding of the sanctity of the Christian Sabbath.

Sympathy was expressed for Rev. J. N. Barnes and Rev. J. H. McDonald detained at home by illness.

Ministers were urged to faithful attendance at the annual meeting of the association. It was reported that the

following ministers died during the past year:—Rev. John Hughes, John Henderson and W. H. Perry, also Messrs. Lewis and Miller, of Campbellton, and Gideon McLeod, of Penobscot, active members of the denomination, and deep appreciation was expressed in regard to their work and character.

It was resolved that any minister from abroad settling in this province should as soon as possible have his name, credentials, etc., communicated to the registration committee of the association.

Rev. Mr. Grant from committee on temperance, reported regretting the traffic was still actively ruining the country and protesting against the government receiving any proceeds from the traffic.

It was pleasing to note that never was the public sentiment higher against the traffic and the denomination was strongly urged to take action leading to prohibition in this province. It was gratifying to know that the Scott Act was being vigorously enforced and it was recommended that temperance teaching in schools, as authorized by law, should be carried out. The report was adopted.

There were three new churches instituted during the year, two ministers ordained and three buildings dedicated.

Rev. Dr. McLeod was appointed statistical secretary for the ensuing year.

A committee was appointed to meet a committee of the convention to redress the times of the meetings of the denominational gatherings, so they would not conflict.

It was resolved that the Maritime convention be requested to have prepared a common manual for the denomination.

F. W. Emmerson and D. McLeod Vince were appointed delegates to the Maritime convention.

This evening was occupied by addresses on Home Missions by Rev. Dr. McIntyre; "Our Ladies' Seminary," by Principal H. G. DeWolf, M.A.; "Our Educational Work at Wolfville," by President W. B. Hutchinson, D.D., after which H. R. McGill and H. L. Orchard, of Carleton county were ordained, the address to the candidates being given by Rev. Dr. Phillips. The association then adjourned.

Ryan, George McDermott and W. H. Coates. W. L. Williams will attend as county president and Nicholas Ryan as county secretary. Capt. E. J. McLaughlin will represent the Hibernian Knights and Major Kieckheaf the Hibernian cadets.

At a meeting of No. 1 Division last evening, the president, Mr. Ferguson, reported the progress being made with the new headquarters for the division in Sutherland Hall. He showed the plans and they met with general acceptance. The main hall is a handsome room 34 by 47 and will be furnished in first class style. There will be three ante-rooms. Gas will be used for lighting purposes. It is proposed to open the rooms with a grand assembly.

THE GLORIOUS TWELFTH

Orangemen Will Hold a Church Parade on Sunday.

The largest church parade of the year is expected to take place on Sunday afternoon when the Orangemen of the city and county will turn out in force to celebrate the Twelfth. The members will gather at the Orange Hall, Green street, and march to Main street Baptist church, where the sermon will be preached by Rev. R. G. Fulton. Service will begin at 3.45 o'clock. Dominion Lodge have secured the services of St. Mary's Band and the Carleton Cornet Band has been secured by the central committee. Capt. F. H. Elliott, of the 62nd, will act as grand director.

The members of True Blue L. O. L. No. 11 are requested to meet at their hall at 9.30 a.m. Sunday, for the purpose of attending divine services. Again at 1.30 p.m., to join with St. John County L. O. L. for the same purpose.

ONE DRINK THE LIMIT.

Fitchburg, July 10.—One drink each, and that only to those persons who drink for the sake of refreshment and without a defect in all the saloons of the city and its vicinity. The saloon keepers have united with the brewers and police in seeking a reform in the manner of conducting the liquor business, and all three parties to the agreement, are looking to work the plan arranged. In every saloon there is posted a list of those persons convicted of intoxication since May 1, and any person who is the dispenser of liquors to refuse any person, who, in his knowledge is addicted to the use of drink, or have ever been arrested for drunkenness. Patrons must first tell their names before being served, and the bar-keeper gives him the desired drink after an examination of the list, but one to a person is the limit hereafter.

The Carleton Cornet Band delighted a large number at Sesside Park by an excellent concert last evening. Though the weather was not ideal, the band has been heard the Suspension bridge been open for traffic, there were a goodly number and the evening was much enjoyed.

PREPARING FOR A CONVENTION HERE

Three Hundred Members of A. O. H. and Friends Will Gather Here Next Month.

Preparations are well advanced for the biennial convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, which will be held in the hall of St. John division No. 1 on Aug. 25 and 26. Some 300 delegates and friends of the order are expected here from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick points, including 100 looked for on an excursion to be run from Halifax.

The convention arrangements are in charge of the St. John county board, with W. L. Williams, county president, and Nicholas Ryan, county secretary. The delegates will assemble at the hall on Tuesday morning, Aug. 25 and march to the cathedral where solemn high mass will be celebrated at 10 o'clock. The preacher will be Rev. Father McLaughlin, of Richibucto, provincial chaplain of the order, who is an eloquent pulpit speaker. The order of procession will be:

City Cornet Band.
Hibernian Knights.
Hibernian Cadets.
Delegates and visiting Hibernians.

Seats will be reserved for the members of the order and for the ladies' auxiliary. After the service the procession will return to the hall and the business of the convention will be opened. Presidents of kindred societies, the mayor and other prominent citizens will be invited to seats on the platform. The convention will be in session for two days, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Wednesday afternoon an up river excursion to some point of interest about twenty or twenty-five miles from St. John, will be organized for the entertainment of the visitors. A steamer will be chartered and a band will be in attendance and refreshments will be served and several hours will be spent on shore.

During the afternoon of the convention a annual meeting of the ladies' auxiliary will be held in another hall. The ladies will also have a prominent place in the programme, which will be arranged for the upriver excursion. Arrangements are now being made with the hotel to provide accommodation for the visitors.

The provincial officers of the order are: Provincial President P. J. McManus, of Halifax; Vice-president Hugh F. Hamilton, of Moncton; Secretary John R. McCleary, of St. John; Treasurer John Brennan, of Moncton; Chaplain Rev. Father McLaughlin, of Richibucto. Delegates from division No. 1 will be the president, J. C. Ferguson; F. J. McInerney, J. J.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS

SHERCOCK HOLMES AT OPERA HOUSE TONIGHT

No company has appeared here in years that has received the favorable comments bestowed on Joseph Selman and his company of melodramas. "Northern Lights" and the exquisite play "Sweet Clover" delighted the playgoers, and this evening, Conan Doyle's fascinating character study, "Sherlock Holmes," or "The Sign of Four," will be offered. No character in fiction has more dramatic possibilities than "Sherlock Holmes." Mr. Selman is well suited in the part, and gives a splendid interpretation. Miss Eugenie Du Bois, as "Mrs. Shotts," the cunning ventriloquist, gives a strong touch to the role and presents a charming stage presence in some magnificent frocks. The scenery is picturesque, particularly the third act, showing the old boat house by moonlight. Bois made the setting after a sketch of Abbey's. An entire change of scenery by Messrs. Daly and Wilson and Misses Eastcourt, Herman and Sylphette Radcliffe. A matinee will be given tomorrow afternoon, "Sweet Clover" being the offering. Children 15c. to all parts of the house; adults, 25c. Don't fail to see the Selman company—the dramatic event of the season.

AT THE PRINCESS

The new programme of pictures presented to the hundreds of patrons at the Princess Theatre yesterday was rated as one of the best for some time.

Saved by the Telegraph Code proved to

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture



Whenever the moon and stars are set,
Whenever the wind is high,
All night long in the dark and wet,
A man goes riding by.
Late in the night when the fires are out,
Why does he gallop and gallop about?
(From Stevenson's Child's Garden of Verse.)

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE.

Upside down, in necktie.

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St. John Exhibition

BE ON TIME

Those who intend to take a space in the Exhibition, September 12-19—take it now—don't wait a month, a week, or even a day longer.

EARLY ENTRIES

are an advantage beside costing less than when made later—read the information in the Prize List. That's official: if you have not seen one, send for it to

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PLAYS AND PLAYERS

SHERCOCK HOLMES AT OPERA HOUSE TONIGHT

No picture full of thrilling scenes and was witnessed with the utmost interest. Three brand new comedy films entitled The Dress Maker's Surprise, Cast Off by His Father and All through a Slap on the Face were decidedly funny and were received with rounds of laughter. A Munroe Doré was heard to sing a new ballad "When I'm a Millionaire," and taking the programme on the whole, it was one of the best produced for some time.

LAUGHING CARNIVAL AT THE NICKEL TODAY

The Nickel has a list of laughmakers and instructive pictures for today that will cause every patron to leave the big, cool theatre perfectly satisfied. The travel and educational films are Flemish Folks, showing the quaint people at play, at work and en fête; Stone for Paris is a series of quacking views in France. For fun and hilarity The Desperate Lovers will cause uproars of merriment as it depicts the efforts of a love-sick couple to end their lives after they were refused consent to marry. Music vs. Poetry is a battle of wits and things between a literary artist and a trombone player in adjoining rooms while The Masqueraders tells of a gay night in Gay Paree. Miss Foley will sing her new ballad "When I'm a Millionaire" and Mr. Cairns will be heard today and tomorrow for the last time in the song "If I Were To Fall In Love With You." Last evening the Nickel was most liberally patronized.

Abbey's Effervescent Salt

This is the Maid of beautiful face;
With wealth of hair and matchless grace;
Complexion clear and without a fault;
She's a regular user of ABBEY'S SALT.

"Nature's Own Beautifier."

Your Advt. Here

Will be read by thousands every day

