

## The Midnight Guest

By FRED M. WHITE

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

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(Continued.)

"Oh, of course," Venables said hastily. "But here is Stevens back again. It wouldn't be a bad plan to ask him point blank where that picture comes from."

Walter nodded his approval as Stevens came back into the room with a note book in his hand. He started uneasily as Venables literally fired the question at him. But there was no time for the man to prevaricate.

"It doesn't belong to me," he said. "As a matter of fact, it is the property of a man who used to lodge with me some time ago."

"Well, it is a very fine piece of work," Venables said, in a matter-of-fact voice. "I suppose your friend is a poor man; otherwise he would not live in a place like this. Do you think he would like to sell the picture?"

Stevens replied, with obvious confusion, that he could not say. His friend was not an Englishman, and where he was to be found at that moment Stevens could not say. There appeared to be nothing more for it but to change the subject. Then, as he stood looking at the painted face a sudden inspiration came to Walter. He wondered why he had not thought of it before. His mind went swiftly back to the moment in the studio when Lord Ravenspur had appeared so disturbed over the unexpected finding of the photograph by one of his guests. Here was the photo idealised. Could there be any connection between the thief of the picture and Lord Ravenspur's midnight guest?

"Perhaps I can stimulate your memory," he said. "Isn't your friend an Italian? Isn't he got something to do with the variety stage? Come, you can answer my question; surely it is an easy one. Isn't your friend in London at the present moment?"

Stevens stammered and hesitated. There was something like fear in his eyes as he glanced furtively at the questioner. Lance felt quite sure that he was on the right track now.

"Now, look here," he said. "We have come on important business, and if you refuse to help us, we may find some other way of inducing you to tell the truth. On the other hand, there need be no unpleasantness, and there is no reason why you shouldn't put a five-pound note in your pocket. Now isn't that picture the property of a man named Valdo who is at present under engagement at the Imperial Palace Theatre? Now, yes or no?"

"I don't know how you found it out," Stevens said, wriggling about uncomfortably. "But it is true enough. Valdo was living with me about three years ago. He came back one night with the picture in his possession."

"Not in a frame, I suppose?" Lance asked.

"He brought it rolled up. The frame was put upon it a day or two later by Silva himself."

"Silva?" Venables exclaimed. "I thought his name was Valdo."

"That is his stage name," Stevens explained. "You see, Silva had not come to England very long. He was very poor then, and I understood that he was looking for some Englishman, who had promised him employment whenever he crossed the Channel."

"Was the Englishman ever found?" Lance asked.

"That I can't tell you," Stevens went on. "Silva is very close about his own affairs, and I believe that he belongs to some secret society. He told me the picture had been painted for him by a clever compatriot of his, who was trying to make a name for himself. Of course, it was nothing to me, and I asked no questions about it. When Silva went away to find an engagement up in the North he asked me to take care of the portrait, and it has been hanging on the wall opposite ever since. I hope there is nothing wrong about it."

"Indeed there is," Lance said significantly. "Now, if you would like to help us, we will make it worth your while. If you don't, why, it is more than possible that you may find yourself in an awkward position. I don't mind telling you that that portrait was painted by Lord Ravenspur, and that it was stolen one night from his studio some three years ago."

Stevens gave a sudden start.

"I recollect it," he cried; "I recollect it perfectly. I remember that there was a great outcry at the time, and that a large reward was offered for the recovery of the pictures. Lord, if I had only known. And to think that all this time—"

"That reward would have been yours," Venables smiled grimly. "You would not have allowed your friendship for this man Silva—"

"Friendship?" Stevens said contemptuously. "What is friendship where money is concerned? And, after all, Silva was no real pal of mine. Precious little use he was to me."

"Oh, you'll find us useful enough if you play your cards correctly," Venables said. "We happen to know that you are on good terms with this man Valdo, or Silva, whatever you call him. In fact, we know that he gave you money to-night. You are quite astute enough to see how much better it will pay you to be on our side. Therefore you will see the advantage of saying nothing to this Italian about our visit here to-night. Here is a five-pound note to go on with, and if I want you again, as is exceedingly probable, I will write to you and tell you where to meet me. I don't think we need detain you any more at present."

"Then you don't want to know anything about Fitzjohn Square?" Stevens asked. "I can tell you a thing or two."

"I think that will keep for the present," said Lance. "Good-night, and remember that silence is your policy."

Stevens grimaced and nodded as he tucked the five-pound note into his waistcoat pocket. His recent visitors went off together in the direction of Venables' rooms.

"That was a brilliant inspiration of yours," the latter said presently. "Now, what one earth put it into your head to ask if that man Valdo had any connection with the stolen pictures? To my mind,

## All Run Down

In the spring—that is the condition of thousands whose systems have not thrown off the impurities accumulated during the winter—blood humors that are now causing pimples, boils and other eruptions, loss of appetite, biliousness, indigestion, and other stomach troubles, dull headaches and weak, tired, languid feelings.

Hood's Sarsaparilla removes all these humors, cures all these troubles; renovates, strengthens and tones the whole system. This is the testimony of thousands annually.

Accept no substitute for

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Insist on having Hood's. Get it today.  
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noble family, hailing from that picturesque corner of Europe. My theory is further strengthened by the mysterious way in which these things have come about. See how anxious your uncle is to keep everything out of the hands of the police. I feel quite sure now that the death of Louis Delahay is all part of the same drama. It wouldn't be a bad plan to mention Luigi Silva's name to your uncle, and ask him if he has ever heard of the man before."

"That is a good idea," Walter exclaimed. "I'll ask my uncle the question before I go to bed to-night."

(To be continued.)



A MODEL FOR THE HOME DRESS MAKER

Very effective little frocks may be made by the home dressmaker with most expensive materials and pretty trimmings, such as here illustrated. The one-piece baby princess is the best model one could select. It is generally becoming to woman-kind of almost every age. A pretty use of black velvet ribbons and embroidery beading is illustrated in this model, with a deep yoke, wide girdle and elbow sleeves, trimmed with insertions of Normandy Valenciennes.

## Another Modern Miracle

### Paralysis Permanently Cured.

The Sufferer Paralysed From Waist to Feet—Encased in Plaster of Paris for Nine Months—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Cure After Four Doctors Had Failed—The Cure Vouched for by a Well Known Clergyman.

Paralysis, no matter how slight, is a terrible affliction, but to be paralysed from waist to the feet, to be a helpless cripple, totally dependent upon what others do for you, is a condition as wretched as man could possibly bear. Such was the state of Mr. Allan J. McDonald, of Rice Point, P.E.I. For over a year he was a helpless invalid. He was paralysed from his waist to his feet, and for nine months lay in bed encased in a plaster of paris cast. Four of the best doctors in Prince Edward Island were unable to help him and he seemed doomed to a life of misery and despair. But hope came to him when he read of what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills had done for other sufferers from paralysis. He procured a supply of the Pills and began taking them. Gradually they broke the chains of disease that bound him, and filled his whole body with new blood, life and vigor. Mr. McDonald says: "I am a farmer and in consequence have a great deal of hard work to do. One day while about my work I injured my back, but at the time I paid little attention to the injury and continued my work. As time went on, though, the pain became more severe and I soon found myself unable to lift anything no matter how light. It was not long before I had to stop work altogether and consult a doctor. He treated me, but his treatment did not help me and I rapidly grew worse. I had to take to my bed, and in the hope that my spine might receive strength I was encased in a plaster of paris cast. This did not help me and I could feel the paralysis slowly creeping over me till I was totally paralysed from my waist to my feet. I lost all control over my bowels and bladder and my legs had no more feeling than if they were made of wood. Three other doctors strived to cure me, but their treatment also was a failure, and for over eleven months I lay in bed unable to move. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills were advised, and I was shown testimonials of others who had been cured of paralysis through them. I bought a

supply and in less than three months they made a remarkable change in me. I was able to get out of bed and crawl along the floor on my hands and knees. Gradually my limbs became stronger. Soon I could walk with the aid of a cane and inside of nine months after I had begun the use of the Pills I was totally cured, and once more able to do light work. Now I am as strong as ever I was and can do my work about the farm without the least trouble. I think Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are without an equal, for, besides my own case, I know of two other cases of paralysis cured by them. Two young girls who had been cripples and whom I advised to try the Pills.

In corroboration of what Mr. McDonald says, the Rev. Dr. MacLean of Charlottetown, P.E.I., writes: "I visited Mr. McDonald many times during his illness. He was attended by three or more doctors and put in plaster of paris, and everything imaginable which might be of benefit was done for him without success. He had just all power of his body from his every nerve and I think he was nearly dead under treatment before he began to use Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I was with him the day he first moved his big toe and from that time on he gradually improved and for the last few years he has been perfectly well. I can vouch for the fact that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills effected his cure."

If you are sick and the treatment you are now taking does not help you, give Dr. Williams' Pink Pills a fair trial. They have cured thousands after doctors and other medical treatment had hopelessly failed. They are a natural, safe, rich, red blood, feed the starved nerves and bring health and strength to every part of the body. This is why Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure such apparently hopeless cases as Mr. McDonald's, and it is why they have cured thousands and thousands of sick and suffering people in every town and city of the world. Sold by all medicine dealers or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

## REORGANIZE THE POLICE COURT

Ald. Baxter's Suggestion in Connexion With Judge Ritchie's Request for Salary Increase

## WOULD DO AWAY WITH CIVIL COURT CLERK

Thinks Mr. Henderson Should Issue Legal Papers, and Stenographer Take Evidence in Court—School Board Sinking Fund—Scheme for Graded City Salary List.

At a meeting of the treasury board yesterday afternoon the chairman, Ald. Baxter, suggested in connexion with an application from Judge Ritchie for increase of pay that the police court be re-organized and brought up to date. Judge Ritchie was heard in support of his request for increased salary.

The chairman, Ald. Baxter, said that no increases should be granted to other officials before the next January, after which His Honor withdrew.

The chairman then spoke of loss of time to the public, to lawyers and to their clients in the police court. He did not know any man more competent to take evidence than the police clerk but any man who wrote longhand was at a disadvantage. Mr. Henderson had originally been engaged to do the work now performed by Capt. McIntyre. He suggested that the captain's services be dispensed with and a stenographer be engaged to take the evidence in the cases before the court. Ald. McGoldrick said that Judge Ritchie wanted only fair play. He remarked that St. John ought to have an up to date police court.

A letter was read from the secretary of the school board explaining the position of the sinking fund. In this communication it was said that money had been drawn out and the bonds of the board deposited in the bank as security.

## REORGANIZE THE POLICE COURT

Ald. Frink said that this manner of dealing with the sinking fund was just what he objected to.

The chairman—"They have just taken a leaf out of the city of St. John's book."

After some more discussion it was decided to let the matter lie on the table.

An application was received from Robert J. Cunningham for the position of collector of taxes. This was filed.

The matter of Judge Ritchie's application for increase of salary was left with a committee consisting of the chairman, Ald. Frink, Kelley, McGoldrick and Pickett.

Applications from H. H. McEllan, of the assessors' office, J. E. Toole, A. G. McMullen and George McKinney, of the Chamberlain's office and Miss Bessie Wetton for increase of salary were referred to the June meeting of the council.

In discussing these applications Ald. Frink said that at the June meeting of the council he would bring in a resolution to the effect that employees of the city be paid graduated salaries according to years of service and ability.

A resolution sent from the carpenters' and joiners' union with reference to taxation of small incomes was laid on the table.

W. D. Lighthall, honorary secretary of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, wrote that the 8th annual convention will be held in Montreal on July 15, 16 and 17 and inviting the members of the council and officials to attend. He also enclosed a bill for the fee of \$120 for 1908.

It was decided later not to pay this bill, consequently no delegate will be sent. It was decided to grant \$750 to the tourist association and \$500 for Riverview Park.

The monthly bills were then recommended for payment and the meeting adjourned.

Those present besides the chairman were Ald. Baskin, Sprout, Frink, Scully, Vanward, McGoldrick, Rowan and Pickett.

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## THEN HE SHUT THE GATE.

The Tramp—Say, lady, are youse people vegetarians?

The Lady of the House—es—but our dogs ain't.

## PLAYS AND PLAYERS

### AN ARTIST OF RARE ABILITY

Thomas Jefferson, who comes to the Opera House on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, June 2nd and 3rd, is an artist of rare ability well worthy of the name he bears. Jefferson, a name which has stood for all that is best in theatricals for five generations. He is happily endowed for nature to succeed his great ancestors. He gives a splendidly sustained characterization which possesses certain elements of strength and power that belong to the Jefferson individuality alone.

"Rip Van Winkle" is well worthy of preservation to the stage. It is a delightful romance told in an entirely charming manner; its sentiment, its comedy and its pathos have the ring of sincerity notwithstanding the poetical and fanciful style of treatment, and there is real human interest in its characters.

That the play possesses surpassing merits is amply proven by the length of time it has held the attention of the public. Even the genius of the Jefferson could not have for so long a time maintained a popularity for a play that was valueless in itself.

It was over fifty years ago that Joseph Jefferson brought out the current version of "Rip Van Winkle" at the Adelphi Theatre, London, but even that lapse of time does not cover the period that the story of "Rip Van Winkle" has held the

interest of theatre-goers, for Joseph Jefferson's father and half brother, Charles Burke, together with himself, had played an older version long before Dion Boucicault revised it for production.

In all, over sixteen thousand performances have been given of the play by members of the Jefferson family, a record never equaled by any other stage production in the history of the world. Thomas has been playing it now for over eleven years, and so long as he keeps on playing it just so long will it remain the one great classic of the American stage.

### AT THE PALACE

Harrison and Mofatt will conclude their engagement at the West End Moving Picture House this week. These artists have become deservedly popular, and should they ever return to the Palace will receive a warm welcome. They will to-night, in conjunction with Mr. Fairbanks, present the last sketch, entitled "A Night In An Up Town Flat." Miss Mofatt will sing a new illustrated song, and a change of pictures, including five up-to-date subjects, will be shown. This afternoon the first candy matinee will be given, each child attending receiving a large bag of candy. The Palace is becoming nightly more popular, and west-enders are losing the habit of coming to the city to see Nickel shows.

## HERE'S A VOTING MACHINE WHICH CANNOT BE WORKED

A New System of Voting by Machinery Which Will be Adopted in Montana Next Fall—A Description of The Machine And How It Works.

(Anaconda, Montana, Standard.)

The new system of voting which will be tried in Silver Bow county next fall, will be an innovation, so far as Montana is concerned, and very gratifying results are expected. Voting by machine is becoming popular throughout the country, and the makers of the United States Standard voting machine are flooded with orders from all parts of the country. Before Montana adopted the machine, California and Utah were the only far west states that used them. Utah has employed them in Salt Lake, Farmers, Ogden, Bingham, and Bingham Junction, and this year their use has been extended to many other localities, including small farming precincts. Fifteen counties in California used the machine at the last election, including San Francisco, Sacramento, and Los Angeles. The experience of communities using the voting machines has been such that they wouldn't think of returning to the old system of voting and counting ballots.

At the last general election throughout the country, 2,431 machines were in use in 721 states towns and villages, having 972 election precincts. The number of voters using the machines was 1,062,000.

It is impossible to vote a defective ballot on the machine, and consequently every ballot cast, or ticket voted on the machines at the last general election was counted. In many places a saving of 40 per cent was made in the cost of the election was made.

In view of the fact that every vote counts, and no mistake can be made on the machine, it is interesting to speculate on what might have happened in the election in Silver Bow county if every voter had voted for each officer. The total number of ballots cast at the election of November, 1906, was 14,066. For representatives in congress the total votes were 11,879, showing a loss of 2,187.

For justice of the supreme court the vote was 11,692; loss, 2,374.

State senator—Vote, 11,671; loss, 2,395.

District judge—Vote, 11,532; loss, 2,534.

County attorney—Vote, 11,638; loss, 2,428.

Sheriff—Vote, 12,443; loss, 1,623.

Assessor—Vote, 11,152; loss, 2,914.

Clerk and recorder—Vote, 11,503; loss, 2,563.

Auditor—Vote, 10,889; loss, 3,177.

Superintendent of schools—Vote, 11,751; loss, 2,315.

Commissioners—Six-year term, 11,503; loss, 2,563. Four-year term, 10,952; loss, 3,084. Two-year term, 11,223; loss, 2,833.

Treasurer—Vote, 10,828; loss, 3,238.

Coroner—Vote, 11,315; loss, 2,751.

Surveyor—Vote, 8,810; loss, 5,256.

Public administrator—Vote, 10,182, loss, 3,884.

The votes on state representatives ran about in the same proportion. The losses, indicated by the above figures, run from 1,022 to 5,256; that is, the votes polled for the various officers fell that much short of the total vote polled at the election. The loss on each office would have been enough, and much more, to have changed the result had the voters properly exercised their franchise.

It is claimed that the machine encourages independent voting, and there is no great, awkward blanket sheet to handle. He can vote all the board, change his mind, push back the little keys over each office and pull them down over some other name until he is finally satisfied.

Where voters are given an opportunity to learn how to vote, they indulge freely in splitting their tickets. The following illustration shows this. In the city of Buffalo, at the municipal election in 1905, where 64,062 voters voted, officers were elected with the following pluralities:

District attorney..... 2,739 Dem.  
Mayor..... 3,257 Dem.  
City clerk..... 10,085 Dem.  
Comptroller..... 4,566 Dem.  
Corporation counsel..... 4,028 Dem.  
Assessor..... 13,640 Dem.  
Assessor..... 1,313 Dem.  
Justice of peace..... 7,374 Dem.  
Justice of peace..... 470 Dem.  
Councilman..... 2,963 Dem.  
Councilman..... 3,244 Dem.  
Justice of municipal court..... 318 Dem.  
Overseer of poor..... 1,114 Rep.

These pluralities range from 13,640 for the democratic candidate for assessor to 1,114 for a republican candidate for overseer of the poor, a difference of 14,754 votes. This number represents the preponderance of the splitting and does not show the many additional split votes which were offset by contra-splitting.

In San Francisco at the first election in which the machines were used, in November, 1904, the pluralities ranged from 11,594 for mayor to 3,696 for treasurer.

In Syracuse, N. Y., in the election of November, 1905, the pluralities ranged from 6,006 for mayor to 1,795 for police justice.

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MILLS AT WINNIPEG, GODEFRICH AND BRANDON.

In Rochester, N. Y., in the election of November, 1901, the pluralities ranged from 4,275 for treasurer to 73 for mayor.

In the election of November, 1903, the pluralities ranged from 5,798 for president of the common council to 2,202 for school commissioner.

It is claimed to be absolutely impossible to beat the machine or get false returns from it, unless the entire election board of the district stands in and makes false returns; even then the machine itself would have to be broken to cover up the fraud.

Voting is remarkably simple. A judge of election sits outside and some distance from the booth, with a string attached to a knob on the outside of the machine. As the voter enters the booth the judge pulls the string and the machine is ready for the voter. The latter then pulls the large lever at the top of the machine from left to right until it catches in a catch at the right and rear of the machine. This movement also draws the curtains behind him and shuts him from view. He then begins voting by pulling down the little keys or miniature levers over the names of candidates, and when all the levers are down on candidates he wishes to vote for he pulls the large lever at the top of the machine to the left again and his vote is recorded and added to the total vote at the back of the machine. When he draws the big lever to the left it also opens the curtains of the booth, and the voter returns to give place to the next. It is mechanically impossible to vote a defective ballot, and equally impossible to vote for more names than is right. By drawing down the little keys, or miniature lever, for instance, over the democratic candidate for sheriff, the act locks the keys on all the other party nominees for that office, but the voter can change his mind, replace the little lever, and then vote for any other man for the office. In the same way 12 candidates may be voted for on the county legislative ticket, and after 12 little levers are pulled down all the others mechanically lock. A man can vote for less than 12 but not for more. A voter may vote for a man or two on the Republican ticket, some on the socialist and labor tickets, and then vote the remainder of the Democratic ticket by drawing his finger in one sweep along the Democratic ticket, voting for every man he has not already voted for on the other tickets.

By this system it is even possible to hold school elections at the same time as the general election, and a woman can vote for school trustees and can't vote for any other candidate on the ticket.

The average time taken usually to vote a ticket on the machine is less than a minute; in many cities the average has been little more than half a minute. One machine is capable of registering something more than 600 votes in a day.

The result in each precinct is known the moment the last vote is polled, and the general returns from all machine precincts can be known within an hour after the close of the polls.

That is something of an item in Silver Bow county, where returns from the large precincts on general elections are never known for two or three days after election.

A. C. Peel and C. S. Hammond, representing the machine manufacturers, have been in Butte several weeks explaining the voting system to hundreds of people who called at the court house.

"It is somewhat surprising to me, but I have found it less trouble in explaining and making the machine understood in Butte than at any place I have yet been," said Mr. Peel. "Your miners grasp the idea with astonishing clearness."

It is likely that some days before the day of election the machines will be set up in the various precincts where they will be used and instructors will be on hand to teach voters how to use them. In addition to that a plan of the machine, with the names of the candidates will be published in the official newspaper of the county for some time prior to the election, so that every voter can be, and should be, thoroughly familiar with the system of operation before he enters the booth on election day, and should have made up his mind just how and for whom he intends to vote.

THE PEN.

Jimbs—I didn't think Raisem was an author, and yet I heard a man today talking about the latest thing from his pen.

Blinks—Easy, He's a farmer and he raises fine brands of hogs.

Banions No Joke

Not to the man who has to move about, but a slight application of "Putnam's" softens the thickest tissue and cures the bunion quickly. Just as good for warts, lumps and callouses is Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. Use no other.

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DISCONTINUED USE OF

THE PUBLIC MAY BE

OF PATIENS, SOLD ONLY IN