# The Midnight Guest

By FRED M. WHITE

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

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(Continued.)

A thoughtful expression came over Inspector Dallas' face.

"That was quite the proper thing to do," he said. "I suppose you don't know what time the key was fetched again from the office?"

"Oh, that I cannot tell you. You see, I went to bed about two o'clock and I was up again at seven. When I took Mrs. Delahay up her cup of early tea she was in bed then."

"Really! Did you notice anything about her?"

"There was nothing to notice. She appeared to be very bright and cheerful, and chatted to me in the friendliest possible way. She did say something to the effect that she was a little uneasy about her husband, who had not yet returned, and that she must go and look for him. But beyond that I saw nothing that was in the least out of the common."

'I think that will do," Dallas observed. "I won't detain you any longer. I know how busy you are."

Dallas went straight away downstairs and interviewed the clerk in the office. The latter's memory was a little vague on the subject of the coming and going of the various hotel guests. There were hundreds of them in the course of a week and it was the habit of most of them to leave the key of their rooms in the office everytime they went out. The speaker had no recollection of Mrs. Delahay calling for her key very late on the night of the tragedy. He debated the point thoughtfully for a moment then his face lighted up.

"I think I can help you," he exclaimed.

## CHAPTER XI

### The Express Letter.

"Take your time," Dallas said, encouragingly. "I don't want to hurry you. All I want are facts."

"It is beginning to come to me now," the clerk said thoughtfully. 'Yes, I remember it quite distinctly. You see, Madam Leona Farre, the great French actress, is staying in the house, and she did not come in till just two o'clock. After I had given her her key Mrs. Delahay came up and asked who the lady was. She wanted her key, too, which she told me was missing from the door of her room."

"Oh, indeed," Dallas said softly. "She had just come in I suppose? Had she taken off her things?"

"No," the clerk said. 'She had just come in from the street. I had to explain to her how it was that the key had found its way back into the office again."

"She did not appear to be annoyed at that?"

"Not in the least. Indeed, she seemed to be rather amused at her own carelessness. No, I saw nothing suspicious in her manner. I think that is all I can tell you."

"Possibly," Dallas said. "But there is one other little matter in which you may be of assistance. I suppose you can recollect the night that Mr. Delahay left the hotel. Did he happen to ask for letters or anything of that kind? It would be quite the usual thing to do. Of course, it is a small point——"

"There were no post letters," the clerk interrupted. "But just as Mr. Delahay was going out a messenger boy brought an express letter for him, which he read hastily, and then asked the hall porter to call him a cab. No, I can't say that the message disturbed him at all, but it seemed to hurry him up a bit just as a telegram might have done. That was the last I saw of him."

On the whole Inspector Dallas was not disposed to be dissatisfied with his morning's work. He had discovered some important facts, and, at any rate, it had impressed the detective with the truth of John Stevens' evidence. As to the rest, it would not be a difficult matter to find out the name and number of the messenger boy who had brought the unfortunate Delahay that letter. There was nothing for it now but to take a cab and go off in the direction of the district office whence the messenger boy had come. As Dallas walked briskly down the steps of the hotel he met Lord Ravenspur coming up.

"I am just going to see Mrs. Delahay," the latter said. 'By the way, Inspector, that was remarkable evidence which the witness Stevens volunteered this morning. But, of course, he was mistaken. It is absolutely impossible that Mrs. Delahay could have been with her husband at the time he stated."

"Well, I am not so sure of that, my lord," Dallas replied. "Really, I don't know what to make of it. At any rate, I have discovered an absolute fact: that for two hours, between twelve and two, Mrs. Delahay was not in the hotel. I have it on the independent testimony of two witnesses who corroborate one another down to the minutest detail. I don't know what to make of it."

All the healthy colour left Ravenspur's face.

"This is amazing," he said. "Yet I cannot believe that Mrs. Delahay has been deliberately deceiving us. I will go and see what she has to say for herself. I suppose I am at liberty to tell her what you have just said to me?"

"I don't know why not," Dallas said after a thoughtful pause. "You see, she is bound to know sooner or later. And I hope you will make her see the advisability of accounting for her movements. Nothing can be gained by trying to deceive us, to say nothing of the wrong impression which Mrs. Delahay is creating in the minds of other people. Really, if you come to think of it, she is standing in an exceedingly perilous position, my lord."

Ravenspur was not destined to make any impression upon the widow of his unfortunate friend, for she refused to see him. One of the servants came down with a message to the effect that Mrs. Delahay could not see anybody. Even a letter hastily scribbled by Ravenspur failed to induce her to change her mind. With something like despair in his heart Ravenspur went off in the direction of his own house. For the rest of the afternoon he sat in the library, a prey to his own gloomy thoughts. Visitors came and went, but the same message was given to all of them—Lord Ravenspur was far from well. He could not see anybody this afternoon. It was nearly seven o'clock before Walter Lance came into the library.

"I am sorry to disturb you," he said, "but I have something serious to say to you. I have been reading to-day's evidence in the Delahay case, and I was so interested in the matter that I went to Scotland Yard and had a chat with Inspector Dallas. It seem to me that Mrs. Delahay has placed herself in a very compromising position."

"What do you mean by that?" Ravenspur demanded.

"Surely, my dear uncle, the thing is plain enough. Whatever your opinion of Mrs. Delahay may be you cannot get away from the fact that she was deliberately lying when she gave her evidence this morning. She swore that on the night of the murder she wasn't out of her bedrom after twelve o'clock, and we know now that she was away from the hotel for over two hours. You know it, too, because Dallas told you. You will forgive my plain speaking, sir, but I think you could throw some light on this painful tragedy. Believe me, I should not dare to say so much if——"

"You are presumptuous," Ravenspur said angrily. "Do you dare to insinuate that a man in my position——"

"I am not insinuating anything," Walter urged. "But I have a feeling we are in some way connected with this tragedy. I have a strange instinct that there is some close connection between the death of Mr. Delahay and that mysterious murderous attack upon you in the studio. Oh I know that commonsense is all against my theory, but I am going to tell you something which will astonish you. After I saw you to bed the other night I searched the studio for some way whereby an assailant could have entered the room —I mean some secret door known only to yourself——"

"You can disabuse your mind of that idea," Ravenspur said, with the ghost of a smile. "I give you my word that there is nothing of the sort. But go on with your story."

"Well, I couldn't find any means of entrance and exit except by the door, and then it occurred to me that I might possibly light upon a clue. Finally I found this lying on the floor, and I should like you to read it. You may find it interesting."

(To be continued.)

## C. J. MILLIGAN IN THE WEST

In a letter from Regina received in the city yesterday from C. J. Milligan, formerly registrar of probates here, Mr. Milligan writes:—"We are very much pleased with our experience of the west and particularly with Regina, which is a modern, up-to-date city of 10,000 people with splendid public buildings and private residences, granolithic sidewalks and pavements, good water, sewerage and electric systems. There are first class schools, churches and stores, and the climate so far has been ideal as, although we had a snow storm two weeks ago it has been summer weather ever since until yesterday when we had some rain. The city owns all its own easements and is entirely free from debt—in fact Regina is one of the only rich towns in Canada.

"I spent part of last week in Winnipeg, which is a fine city. There I met a number of St. John people, among them E. R. Chapman, W. H. Trueman and Hart Green (who are in a law firm together), Sam Milligan (who is an accountant with the lumber department of The Great Northern Railway) and Will Campbell formerly of the Times, who is a reporter on the Evening Telegram."

## MARINE NOTES

St. John bark Hector, Captain McDonald, cleared from Mobile last Saturday for Havana.

Capt. Samuel Samuels, who for nine years was captain of the famous clipper ship Dreadnought and who sailed the Henrietta when that yacht won the first trans-Atlantic race, in 1866, died at his home in Brooklyn on Monday night from a complication of diseases. He was eighty-five years old.

Investigation into the collision between Norwegian str Trold and British str Ottawa will be held at Quebec. A report from Gaspe states that the Trold is still there, loaded with coal for Montreal. She has been libelled by the Dominion Line for $75,000. Str Ottawa (Br) will be given temporary repairs at Levis.

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## JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

### Interesting Discussion on Bil Before the Canadian Senate Last Week.

In the Canadian Senate last week, Senator Beique, in moving the juvenile declinquents bill, called attention to the benefit of a similar act in England. The British parliament was now being urged to go farther and adopt legislation similar to acts in force in some twenty of the United States. In Canada there was some similar legislation for youthful offenders. But it did not go beyond the conviction of such offenders and related chiefly to Ontario. Ontario had gone as far in its legislation as this bill proposed. It had advanced some useful legislation. The present act would not interfere with any provincial act but would promote their application. The present act declared youthful offenders should not be treated as ordinary criminals, but the welfare of the community demanded that they should be guarded against crime and criminals, that they should be subject to treatment and control to check evil tendencies. This bill provided for special officers for juvenile offences and a juvenile court. Children, especially those of the poor, were subject to temptations, which should be guarded against and corrected as far as possible by the state. This work among the children and among the poor was as much worthy the attention of the state and the wealthy as was the cause of higher education and university promotion on which money had been lavished.

Senator Coffey supported the bill, and commended work for the correction and rescuing of children who had been corrupted by environment. He would not have juvenile courts in any way connected with the police courts and he doubted if it would be wise to have juvenile cases dealt with by police magistrates. Men who considered such cases should have well balanced minds and warm, sympathetic natures. Criminal law, which had no regard for mercy, should not be applied to the child. He quoted the success of the United States criminal courts as a reply to Sergeant Archibald, of the Toronto police force, who had issued a circular against the movement for "kissing and cuddling" a class of juvenile offenders who needed the firmest and most thorough discipline. There was no doubt, Senator Coffey said, that the special treatment of youthful offenders in the United States had done much genuine good to both the individuality and the state. It was time for Canada to start. Senator Coffey advised action against literature of the dime-novel type, which excited criminal tendencies in boys. He asked the suppression of literature depicting criminals as heroes.

Senator Mac Donald favored the bill if it would check the offences of young persons which were reported day after day. However, he thought the provisions relating to the responsibility of parents too severe. Poor people especially had to let their children run upon the streets.

Senator Lougheed thought it ominous for the fate of the bill that it had been introduced by Senator Beique and not by the government. Canada was behind other countries in this legislation to an almost criminal degree. Statistics showed that crime had increased in Canada and juvenile offences formed no small part of the whole. In 1901 there were indictable offences to the number of 1017 by persons under 16 years of age. This was a fifth of all such offences that year. He strongly urged the passing of the bill.

Senator Beique said the minister of justice was now examining the bill, and there was every reason to believe the government would take it over.

Senator Kerr favored the bill and commended the example Ontario had set in dealing with youthful offenders. He also paid a tribute to Deputy-Chief Archibald, who had done much good among his fellow men, though he may not have advanced views on the treatment of child criminals.

The bill was given second reading.


### Men Swear—Women Complain

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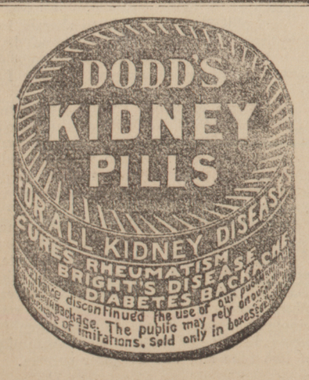
A THEORY.

Helen—What makes Clarence keep talk ing about hot weather?

Harry—I suppose it's to get his mind off it. He's one of the people who never give any thought to what they are talking about.

THE VENETI AN CHAPEAU.

Medium shapes like the Venetian, made of net drawn smoothly over the wire frame are trimmed with flowers of various hues and wing effects of silk or satin pleatings. These latter trimmings are decidedly new and very effective. They spring up high at the side, while the flowers encircle the crown in such masses as to extend almost to the edge of the brim, especially in the front. Roses and white lilacs are the flowers used in the adornment of this chapeau. The hat itself is white net, and the satin trimming is white, also.

## PLAYS AND PLAYERS

### AT THE NICKEL

Pathe Freres' latest sensation, The Haunted Castle, is the Nickel's big feature for today and tomorrow, though the other three motion photos—A Wife's Devotion, The Students' Joke and A Champagne Bottle—are in themselves worthy of more than secondary place. The Haunted Castle film, however, is conspicuous because of its wonderful scenic beauty and bewildering transformations; indeed a series of fanciful happenings that make one gaze with amazement. It is such truly wondrous pictures as this that gives the French firm of photographers their universal fame.

A Wife's Devotion is a drama from real life, of strong heart interest; The Students' Joke, another Pathe picture with real running water, as the comedy element. A Champagne Bottle is the first of the Danish pictures to be shown in the Nickel; from the Nordisk Company of Copenhagen. Mr. Cairns will sing his great ballad My Heart Beats For You Alone for the last time today and Miss Wren will sing In Dear Old Sweetheart Days; new songs tomorrow.

### AT THE PRINCESS.

The show that was put on at the Princess this afternoon is equal to anything that has ever been shown in this city.

Kidnapped for Hate, one of the most interesting dramas ever produced in moving pictures.

Manoeuvers of artillery, showing a regiment of artillery going through its manoeuvers at breakneck speed. Drawing the heavy cannon over very uneven ground and many other interesting feats.

Indiscreetness of the kinematograph. A marvel in a marvel. Explaining the art of motion photography, from the taking of the pictures and the developing of the film, to the time they are thrown on the curtain. This is a very interesting and amusing picture.

New songs by Baby Calahan, Master Lemuel Calahan, Mr. Louis Monohan.

### AMATEUR NIGHT ON WEST SIDE.

Last Wednesday evening the high water mark for amateur nights was reached in the Palace Theatre West End, and such a fine bill was presented that it has been the talk of the West Side ever since. This evening a large number will undoubtedly attend from the city, and a record audience is expected in the big City Hall, the finest building devoted to moving pictures in the city. This evening the programme to be offered is still better, and besides twelve amateurs will include a comic sketch by Fairbanks, Harrison and Mofatt. Those three artists compare favorably with any entertainers ever heard in the city, and in themselves are well worth the price of admission. Four new motion pictures and an illustrated song by Miss Mofatt go to make up the best programme ever offered in any picture house in this city for any price.

### THOMAS JEFFERSON COMING

The sale of seats for Thomas Jefferson's engagement in "Rip Van Winkle" at the Opera House, on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 2 and 3, will open on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, and Manager Anderson anticipates a good rush. Inquiries have been coming in for seats and it is safe to predict that Mr. Jefferson and his company will be greeted by two of the finest audiences seen in the Opera House in many a day.

For generations parents have told their children the story of "Rip Van Winkle." It is a charming story, one which will never grow old, and so long as it is played by a Jefferson, and kept up to its present high standing, just so long will it appeal to the better class of theatre goers and remain one of the standard attractions of the stage.

### GEORGE F. HALL TO-MORROW.

Frank W. Nason is exploiting Geo. F. Hall in a brand new musical fun show, "Hello Bill," in which he will appear at the Opera House, opening to-morrow, Thursday. Hello Bill is entirely different from anything that Mr. Hall has before been seen here in; it is a musical farce comedy, enlisting the services of a large company of players. Geo. F. Hall needs no introduction to theatre goers, he is known as an unctuous humorist who confines himself within the bounds of propriety, and always provides a broad gauge laughing show and produces it with due regard to modern environment and sightliness. This is what may be expected of "Hello Bill" and the promise is made that the fun is new, the laughs incessant and the music good. There is no doubt that all who have seen Mr. Hall on his previous visits will greet him on his return, and it is now up to the others to make his acquaintance.

## PARIS NEWSPAPERS FAVOR ANGLO-FRENCH ALLIANCE

### Le Temps Wants British Army Reorganized---Says Closer Relations With Germany are Impossible.

Paris, May 26—The speeches exchanged in London between President Fallieres and King Edward have attracted much attention from the French press, and the Temps, this afternoon says it considers the time to be ripe for the substitution of an Anglo-French alliance instead of the present entente, provided that the British army be radically reorganized in order to render it capable of energetic action on the continent, otherwise, the papers says, the benefits of the alliance would be one-sided and in favor of England, and consequently inadvisable.

The Temps recognizes that the cordial relations between France and Great Britain as manifested yesterday are likely, in the event of a crisis to breed identity of interests, but it thinks it dangerous to rely upon moral understandings.

"Forced to choose between Germany and Great Britain," the Temps declares, "France chooses Great Britain. We can with dignity, live on correct terms with Germany, but the past forbits us going further. As for the future, Germany only wants what we cannot grant, namely: the admission of German funds to the Paris Bourse. On the other hand the greatest objection to a British alliance has disappeared with the reconciliation of our ally, Russia, with Great Britain.

"From the English standpoint, this alliance is desirable. England, throughout her history, always has felt the necessity of continental alliance and continental support. The French army would be of inestimable value to Great Britain in the event of war, but would British support be equally advantageous to us?

"British naval victories would not drive a single cannon from our frontier. It would be different if the British army was completely reorganized so as to render it capable of a powerful land diversion, in other words, if Great Britain became for the French, a second Russia.

"The day upon which Great Britain, discarding Mr. Haldane's insufficient plan, gives the country a modern army; the day upon which Great Britain remembers Napoleon fell at Waterloo and not at Trafalgar, that day all far-seeing Frenchmen will become partisans of the British alliance, the purpose of which would be to complete and enlarge that system of Pacific defense which did not result from the Franco-Russian alliance of 1891.

"To those who express surprise," the Temps concludes, "that military considerations weigh so heavily in this argument, we observe that the value of diplomatic combinations for peace is measured by their efficacy in war."

## AUTO AND CART COLLIDE, PASSER-BY FATALLY INJURED

Brookfield, Mass., May 26—Henry Mathewson, aged 84 years, a wealthy and prominent citizen of this town for many years, was probably fatally injured on the East Brookfield road late today when an automobile owned by Mr. Jenks, of Warren, struck a heavy cart and bounding to the side of the road, knocked down Mr. Mathewson. In the automobile with Mr. Jenks who is said to be a wealthy mill owner, were his chauffeur and another man. All were thrown out of the machine and considerably bruised and cut, but after helping Mr. Mathewson into a nearby house, they went away without giving their names. Three men in the cart, E. T. Thatcher, Thomas Simpson and Andrew Leach, employed on the state highway were not hurt much by the collision.

According to the story of these three men, the automobile, while going at a fair rate of speed, attempted to pass the team on the left. Its wheel struck the hub of one of the cart wheels, hurling the automobile heavily upon the sidewalk, along which Mr. Mathewson was walking. Physicians, who were hastily summoned, found Mr. Mathewson suffering from bad wounds about the head and body and it is feared he is internally injured. It is not believed that he will recover.

## KING GIVES BRILLIANT STATE DINNER TO FRENCH PRESIDENT

London, May 26—At Buckingham Palace tonight, a great state ball was given in honor of M. Fallieres, the president of the French republic. This was the culmination of a busy day of entertainment spent by King Edward's guests. Everywhere the French president has gone he has been greeted with the greatest enthusiasm, and early in the evening immense crowds gathered about the various royal residences to witness the processions to the palace and to cheer the president of France.

The scene within the walls of Buckingham was one of exceptional brilliancy. The royal guests assembled in the throne room, and a fanfare of trumpets heralded their entry to the ball-room which was superbly decorated with flowers.

King Eward and Queen Alexandra, accompanied by M. Fallieres and the royal entourage, passed down the entire length of the room between rows of bowing guests. By the king's command, the ladies gowns were all of soft shades of color, most of them being fashioned after the Directoire and Empire periods. All of the embassies were well represented and many high Indian officials were present. There was a great display of jewels and orders.

## MAY USE CANADIAN OIL AS FUEL FOR BRITISH NAVY

Montreal, May 26.—In the event that coal will be substituted by oil as fuel for the British Navy, Major J. R. D. Henry, formerly of the British Army, and J. D. Henry, an oil expert, have been delegated by the British government to enquire into the best available fields.

It is also expected that oil will be used on steamers in commercial business crossing the Atlantic, and an experiment is to be made shortly with these. Officials state that Ontario and New Brunswick oil analyzes very highly and is free from sulphur.

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