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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.)

Countess Flavio started. Her lips grew white.

"Who has not heard of it? she said. "The papers are full of the tragedy. People are talking about nothing else. But you are not going to tell me that there is any connection——"

"Indeed, I am," Maria went on. "As I said just now, for years I was no better than a prisoner. I should be a prisoner still if our parents had lived. Then, finally, when I found my freedom, I made a discovery that there was absolutely no money left. I was forced to get my own living. I had nothing beyond my brush, and things were going from bad to worse with me when I made the acquaintance of Louis Delahay. We always liked one another from the first, and when he asked me to marry him I gladly consented. It seemed to me that the way was opening up for a happy middle-age. It seemed to me that Fate had got tired of persecuting me at last. I married Louis Delahay and we came back to England."

"You married Delahay?" the Countess said mechanically, "and you came back to England? I am trying to realise it. I read the account of the inquest. I know that people are saying that Delahay's wife is responsible for his death; but I did not dream then that it was my own sister whom folks were condemning. I cannot believe it now. But why did you go out that evening. If you had remained in your room nobody would have been—"

"I left the hotel to come here," Maria replied. "But I found that you were not in London. And now I am going to tell you why it is that I have refused to speak, why it is that I have allowed people to regard me as a perjurer. You say you read the account of the inquest. Do you recollect what a poor creature called Stevens said? He swore, and, what is more, he believed every word he said, that he saw Louis and myself together in Fitzjohn Square early on that fatal morning. Come, if you read the paper carefully, you must have seen that. It was the most sensational piece of evidence given at the inquest. The man picked me out in court, and said positively that he had seen me with Louis. But he didn't as you know perfectly well."

"As I know perfectly well?" the Countess stammered. "What have I got to do with it? Where do I come in?"

Maria Delahay threw up her hands with an impatient gesture. There was a steady gleam in her eyes now. She had lost all her listless manner.

"I was not there," she said, "because I was somewhere else. That James Stevens saw someone with my husband on that morning is absolutely certain. It is absolutely certain, too, that he did not see me. Then who did he see whose likeness to me is so great as to deceive a pair of keen eyes under a brilliant electric light? It was you, you, Carlotta, who were walking with my husband at that hour in the morning. Now tell me what it all means."

CHAPTER XIX.

Carlota's Story.

"Oh, this is terrible," the Countess stammered.

"Of course it is," Maria Delahay cried. "Why don't you be candid with me? I have told you what my name is, and, besides, you already knew. When you saw my husband on that fatal night your likeness to me would have struck him at once, and explanations would have followed. Then why are you trying to deceive me now?"

"I hardly know what I am saying," the Countess replied. "The whole thing is such a terrible complication. I don't want to deceive you, Maria, and I will tell you all I can. You might believe me or not, but when I read of the death of Louis Delahay, for the moment I had quite forgotten you. You see it was a great shock to me when you came in just now, especially as I had not seen you for so many years. But I am getting muddled up again. I am beginning to wonder which of us is which. It seems to me that all this miserable business is merely the result of the strong likeness which exists between us."

"Never mind that," Mrs Delahay cried. "If you will remember, in my evidence I said my husband had gone out, that he did not return all night, and that I found him dead in Fitzjohn square in the morning. I was out of the hotel for nearly two hours trying to find you, after I had been so strangely put on your track by the chambermaid. Perhaps it was a foolish thing on my part to conceal my absence, but, of course, I never guessed the result of my folly. It never occurred to me till afterwards that my absence from the hotel could be so easily proved. Even that did not matter so much. And when the witness Stevens swore that he saw me with my husband at a time when I had said I was in my hotel, things began to look serious for me. I know perfectly well that I may be arrested at any moment on a charge of murderng my husband. How true that charge will be I leave you to judge for yourself. But mystery was no longer a mystery to me when Stevens told the court most positively that he had seen me with my husband I did not know that Louis was acquainted with you. He never mentioned your name, but directly Stevens had finished I knew that it must have been you who was with my husband; and now I must ask you to give me an explanation."

"That is an easier matter than it seems," Countess Flavio said. "I knew Louis Delahay, though he had no acquaintance with me."

"That sounds impossible," Maria murmured.

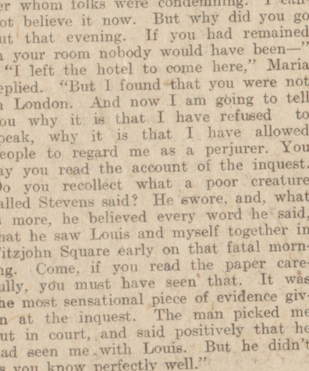
"Oh, I know it does, but it is true all the same; and to make my story plain I shall have to go back nearly eighteen years. The events which led to my making Louis Delahay's acquaintance took place near Florence at the time I mentioned."

"That is strange," Mrs. Delahay murmured. "I was in Florence about then, too. Yes, I know I told you that I was practically a prisoner all those years, but there were times when I had a latitude. I was very ill about that time, and the doctor ordered me to Florence, saying that it was good for me to see people and mix with crowds. I was supposed to be there by myself, but there was no movement of mine which was not noted. I never took even the shortest walk without being dogged and spied upon. The people who called themselves my servants were, in reality, my gaolers. But why do I worry you with these trivial details when there is so much of importance to say? Go on with your story."

"Well, as I was saying," the Countess explained, "I was in Florence with my husband. We had been married then something like three years. We had rather a lonely villa on the outskirts of the town. Ours was not a happy life; indeed, it was most miserable. I daresay there were faults on my side, too; but one night we had a violent quarrel, and, on the spur of the moment, I made up my mind to run away. I managed to get all my jewels together. I managed to leave the house in darkness and steal through the grounds to the road. I was dressed all in black, and I remember the night was very thick. Just as I was congratulating myself on my escape my husband overtook me. He was beside himself with passion. He laid violent hands upon me. I believe he would have killed me if I had not managed to wrench myself free and make for the road. What we said I do not know, but I suppose our voices must have carried far, for I had only got a little down the road, with my husband in hot pursuit behind me, when a man emerged from the cottage and caught me by the arm. At first I thought he was one of my husband's tools, but the first words that he said reassured me."

"'Do not be afraid,' he whispered. 'I was trespassing on the Count's property just now, and I heard all that was said. That man is dangerous, and it is necessary that I should protect you for the present. Come in here with me.'"

(To be continued.)



JAMES SCOTT.

The death of James Scott, a prominent farmer at Golden Grove, occurred at his home yesterday. He was a son of the late David and Margaret Scott and leaves two brothers, John and William of this city, and one sister, Mrs. Albert Adams of Golden Grove. Thomas Scott, a twin brother, died a month ago. Much sympathy will be felt for the family in their bereavement. The funeral will take place from his late residence on Tuesday at

MADE ELOQUENT APPEAL TO MEN

Rev. Wellington Camp The Speaker in The Every Day Club Hall Last Evening.

An impressive and eloquent appeal to men was made by Rev. W. Camp, in the Every Day Club hall last evening. Basing his remarks upon a famous admonition of Paul, he set forth four elements of manhood, such as they who would help men to be men must possess. The first was watchfulness, the second steadfastness, the third, moral aggressiveness and the fourth, the strength which comes from fellowship with Jesus.

Mr. Camp dwelt upon each of these points, and illustrated each in a manner which appealed very strongly to the feelings and sympathies of his hearers. Touching upon intemperance, he expressed deep sympathy for the victims of an appetite for liquor, but denounced those engaged in its traffic, and expressed the hope that ere long the Christian manhood of St. John would abolish the open bar.

He made a strong plea for the boys and girls whose playground is the street, and urged his hearers to be sympathetic and kind in their treatment of the wayward ones. His whole address was an appeal for the development of the highest manhood and the true spirit of helpful service.

Referring to the Every Day Club, he said he believed it stood higher in public estimation today than ever before, and its motto must appeal to all who appreciated true manhood. A man could not help others to be men without at the same time developing his own manhood.

A crowded house listened with much interest to the address. The choir of Leinster street church sang an anthem, Morton L. Harrison played an instrumental solo, there was a duet by Messrs. Bean and Garnett, and solos were sung by Wm. Wood and Capt. Crocker. The musical programme was one of exceptional merit.

OTTAWA CAR MEN GET HIGHER PAY

Recognition of The Union However is Not Mentioned in New Agreement.

Ottawa, June 7.—The board of conciliation dealing with matters in dispute between the employes of the Ottawa Electric Railway and the company, on Saturday effected a settlement satisfactory to all concerned.

The company gives an increase of one cent an hour all round and makes certain concessions as to uniforms. The men demanded a raise of 4 1-2 cents an hour and other things, but at the outset the board regarded this as somewhat extravagant.

The company undertakes to meet and treat with a committee of its employes on grievances or disputes which may arise, but in the new agreement there is no mention of the union or of its being recognized.

The text of the new agreement and the schedule of wages, in effect June 1, is as follows:

1st year's service—18 1-2 cents per hour for weekdays, 20 1-2 cents per hour for Sundays.

2nd year's service—19 1-2 cents per hour for week days, 21 1-2 cents per hour for Sundays.

3rd year's service—20 1-2 cents per hour for week days, 22 1-2 cents per hour for Sundays.

Ten hours constitute a day's work.

MARITIME MAN LEADS THE MCGILL MEDICOS.

Montreal, June 7.—As for the past six years a Maritime Province man has carried off the highest honors in the medical faculty's final year at McGill university. This year W. J. P. MacMillan, of Clermont, P. E. I., has won the Holmes gold medal for the highest aggregate in all subjects forming the medical curriculum.

Of the sixty-eight new doctors turned out by McGill university this year there are twenty Maritime Province men in the list as follows:

J. W. Arbuckle, Summerside, P. E. I.; B. Allen, Mount Albion, P. E. I.; R. L. Chipman, Kentville, N. S.; R. B. Dexter, Wolfville, N. S.; R. A. Donahoe, Cardigan Bridge, P. E. I.; A. E. Gardner, McAdam Junction, N. B.; B. E. Goodwin, Amherst, N. S.; W. M. Jenkins, Downeyville, N. B.; W. P. P. Kirby, Gagetown, N. B.; J. F. London, Wickham, N. B.; C. O. MacArthur, Summerside, P. E. I.; W. J. P. MacMillan, Clermont, P. E. I.; J. N. McDonald, Shelburne, N. S.; R. H. McDonald, North Bedeque, P. E. I.; R. E. Powell, St. John, N. B.; C. E. Purdy, Bear River, N. S.; E. T. Tanton, St. Eleanor's, P. E. I.; E. H. Thomas, Somerset, N. S.; W. L. Tracy, Hartland, N. B.; I. J. Yeo, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

DR. PETERSON'S PREDICTION

Moncton, N.B., June 7.—Dr. Peterson, president of McGill College, addressed the Moncton Canadian Club last night on "True Imperialism," and the oration was greatly enjoyed. Dr. Peterson didn't share the apprehension of some people that imperialism would interfere with the full development of Canada's nationalism, and the component parts of the Empire need not lose anything of their individuality. Canada was destined to take a foremost part among the nations of the world.

He praised Canada's form of government as superior to that of the United States and said Canada's growth and development was one of the greatest phenomena of modern times. We had seen two great peoples agree with each other to work out their national destiny.

In St. Philip's church yesterday, the pastor preached at the morning service. In the evening the Rev. George Gilbert Walker, of Shelburne (N. S.), delivered the sermon. Rev. Mr. Walker, who is here on a visit to his parents, is the son of Dr. A. B. Walker, barrister, of this city. In his sermon yesterday he dealt thoughtfully with his subject, "The Life in Christ." At the close of the service, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered.

The Death Warrant Delivered

No defence can be offered when you apply Putnam's to a sore corn—the offender has to die. Nothing so certain to quickly cure corns as Putnam's Corn and Wart Extractor; try Putnam's, it's free from acids and painless.

Fashion Hint for Times Readers

BY THE SAD SEA WAVES.

The lady clasping the lifeline is wearing one of the new mohair bathing suits, which are both smart and durable. These are shown in the shops in all the effective new blues. French-looking pinks suggestive of crushed fruits, and the soft greens which blend so well with the surf shades. The knee-length princess model, with the fulness box-plaited at the waist and over the hips, becomes most women, and white lace collars and cuffs lend a dainty finishing touch. The modern bather does not protect her throat and arms from the sun and water, but protects her hair with an oilskin-lined cap or a big straw scoop bonnet.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS

AT THE NICKEL

It is extremely doubtful if the impecunious Franz Lehar ever dreamed of the great popularity his music would attain when he wrote "The Merry Widow." Today it is thrummed on almost every piano tooted by every band, ground out by every hurdy-gurdy, and is a haunting dream to all who absorb catchy melody. Today at the Nickel this popular waltz will be hilarously burlesqued in a 1,000 foot picture entitled "The Merry Widow Craze," a film that has had a wildfire success in the United States. The Nickel has secured it for two days only. The other pictures will be "A Parent's Devotion" and "Neighbouring Neighbours." Miss Alicia Wren, who made such a furore with the baseball song, will have another hit number, "Top o'the Morning, Bridget McCue," while Mr. Cairns is booked for the very newest bit of sentiment, "Sweetheart."

During the evening shows, complete returns of the Quebec and Ontario provincial elections will be announced.

THE DEVIL'S AUCTION

Coming almost direct from Mr. Yale's big scenic studio, where all the scenery and costumes were built and made, the patrons of the Opera House, where this attraction will play next Tuesday and Wednesday are promised that the "Everlasting Devil's Auction" is to be presented with everything in bright and brilliant newness.

This season Mr. Yale meets the popular demand by interpolated high-class advanced vaudeville. Every act is a novelty. These acts are distributed throughout the run of the piece, so as not to distract or take away any interest from the big scenic investiture. The familiar form of "Toby" wanders all through the play.

The "Auction" is really a scenic production, yet that alone has not carried it to success. A large and perfectly drilled chorus appear at times in "The Realms of Mephisto," at "The Gates of Castle Morpheus," the "Magic Picture Gallery" and in the Transformation Scene.

FAUST ON FRIDAY

Faust will be the attraction at the Opera House on Friday evening next.

GREAT INTEREST IN QUEBEC CONTEST

Bets Made on Election Eve That Conservatives Will Have Thirty in Next House.

Montreal, June 7.—Not for years has there been so much interest manifested in a provincial election as in the campaign just closing. A peculiar feature of the election is that the straight fight between the Conservatives and Liberals has almost been lost sight of in the intense anxiety with which the campaign being waged by Henri Bourassa and his followers is followed.

Naturally St. James division of Montreal where Bourassa is opposing Premier Gouin, is the centre of interest and the fight there has been one of the hottest ever waged in this city. Both sides claim victory, but it is certain that Gouin and his supporters are worried over the wonderful fight that has been made by the Nationalist leader and his tremendously successful meetings.

Bourassa's followers claim that a good many underhand and dishonest means have been adopted in order to defeat him and many charges of corruption have been made. One ruse tried by the Gouin faction was delaying the issue of the lists of polling places until Saturday in order to try and prevent Bourassa's workers from notifying their followers where to vote, but by working all night this has been done.

Bourassa's workers claim 1,000 majority, while Gouin's committee consider that the premier will be elected.

Mr. Bourassa's workers in St. Hyacinthe also claim that he is sure of election there. On the other hand, Premier Gouin is certain to be elected in Port Neuf.

The fight in general is lively, being the first real provincial election in years. The Conservatives under the leadership of P. E. LeBlanc are vigorously contesting almost every seat. While few are so rash as to imagine that the Conservatives will overthrown the immense majority which Mr. Gouin had in the last legislature it seems certain that the opposition will be much better represented in the house and bets are being freely made that Mr. Le Blanc will have upwards of thirty followers elected by tomorrow evening, while Mr. Bourassa may have enough to make the position of the government anything but strong.

EXTENSION OF HILL ROAD

Winnipeg, June 7.—James J. Hill, chairman of the Great Northern Railway, has announced to the associated boards of trade of Saskatchewan, that as soon as the gaps in British Columbia are closed and the line is built to Calgary, it is his intention to extend the Great Northern system through Northern Saskatchewan and Alberta.

H. W. Woods, M. P. P., of Welsford, was registered at the Dufferin on Saturday.

HAZEN AND FLEMMING IN MONTREAL ON WAY TO OTTAWA

Montreal, June 7.—"We have received an unfortunate legacy from our predecessors in office, but with careful administration I believe that there will be no financial difficulties that cannot be overcome," was the statement made at the Windsor tonight by the provincial secretary of the province of New Brunswick, Hon. J. K. Flemming.

It is out of the common to see Conservative ministers of the crown registered at the Windsor from the province of New Brunswick, and yesterday many friends and admirers came to the hotel to extend their congratulations to Hon. J. Douglas Hazen, prime minister and his colleague, Hon. Mr. Flemming, who are on their way to Ottawa to interview the federal ministers re claim of the province against the Ottawa government in connection with the Central Railway of New Brunswick.

The provincial leader and his colleague decided to remain in Montreal to see how the elections are carried on in the commercial capital, and both these gentlemen were anxious to gauge public opinion in the province of Quebec. There is, of course, a difference of opinion for while some assured them that the government would be sustained, others felt confident that the prime minister would be defeated in St. James and that the result might be another New Brunswick overthrow.

Speaking of the situation of his province, Hon. Mr. Flemming declared that they had the best legislature since confederation, that the government were receiving a loyal and independent support from the men who were elected a few months since, and he believed they would be able to do a great deal of good work for New Brunswick.

OFFICAL VISIT TO MUSQUASH

William T. Galbraith, master of St. John County (west) L.O.L., accompanied by Samuel Ferguson, P. C. M., and a number of the members of the order from the West side, paid an official visit to Guardian L. O. L. No. 5, at Musquash, on Saturday evening, and a very enjoyable time was had.

Several members were advanced to the Royal Arch Purple degree. Addresses were delivered by County Master Galbraith, Past County Master Ferguson, Mr. Moody, W. M. of Guardian Lodge; Wm. M. Campbell, W. M. of Verner Lodge; B. J. Anderson, W. M. of True Blue Lodge; J. Nelson Spinney and others. M. Laskey, of Dominion Lodge No. 141, also gave some very interesting sleight of hand tricks. Refreshments were served and the visitors returned to the city feeling highly pleased with their trip and also with the satisfactory manner in which the lodge at Musquash is progressing.

Good for Coughs and Colds

At the first sensation of soreness, apply a vigorous hand rubbing with Nerviline. It penetrates instantly to the inflamed parts, relieves congestion and cures. The true value of Polson's Nerviline can only be measured by the days and weeks of sickness it prevents, try it yourself.

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture

The Curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea,
The plowman homeward plods his weary way
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.
(From (

Find the plowman.

ANSWER TO SATURDAY PUZZLE.

Upside down, above gate.

REV. DR. SPRAGUE PREACHES HIS LAST SERMON

Pastor of Centenary Church to Leave on Thursday Next For Sackville.

Rev. Howard Sprague, D.D., last night conducted his farewell service in Centenary church. He has been for forty-five years in the active pastorate of the Methodist church, nine years of which he has been in Centenary. Next Thursday he will leave for Sackville, where he will assume the position of dean of the theological faculty of Mount Allison university.

The sermon last evening was a forceful one. The subject was the Love of God. At the close Dr. Sprague spoke briefly, bidding the congregation farewell. He had never, he said, in his forty-five years ministry preached a farewell sermon because, in his opinion, it called for qualities of mind which he did not possess. He felt, however, that a great many would be waiting to hear some farewell expressions from him.

He went on to speak of the years which he had spent in the pulpit of Centenary church. He thanked the congregation for their forbearing kindness to one who, he said, had not been able to do as much as he would but who at all times did his best. He also thanked the quarterly board for the never failing pleasantness of their attitude towards him, and also thanked the members of the choir who, by their efforts, had done so much to make the worship of the church inspiring.

The quarterly board of Centenary church adopted the following resolution at a meeting held on Friday last:

Whereas the Reverend Howard Sprague, D.D., having been appointed to the position of dean of the theological faculty of the University of Mount Allison, is about to withdraw from the pastorate of this church, be it resolved that the quarterly official board, desirous of expressing the feeling of the members and adherents of the Centenary church, hereby place upon historic record in the minutes of this meeting their sincere appreciation of the high value of the services of the Rev. Dr. Sprague in the three periods during which he has held the superintendency of the circuit.

During his first pastorate with us, beginning July, 1876, occurred the great fire, which, consuming a large portion of the city, swept away our church building. Through his faithful and energetic efforts in England and elsewhere was received a considerable part of the money spent in the erection of our present church. Again in July, 1890, he was called to preside over us, and for three additional years rendered brilliant and highly valued service. And now since July, 1905, our people have been enjoying the fruits of his matured and ripened intellect. During all these years he has been true to the trust committed to him, and his sermons, while of clear and simple expression, have also been of a character so high as to be best appreciated by the most refined and acute minds.

In clear, logical analysis, in solving of doubt, in defence and illumination of the truth these discourses have been regarded by our congregation as of superior and eminent excellence.

The regard and esteem of our people have been manifested to Dr. Sprague by resolution and in other ways from time to time, and he now leaves us with the high respect and cordial good will of every member of the church and congregation, and with our best wishes for his success in the important position he is about to assume, and for the health, prosperity and happiness of himself, Mrs. Sprague and family in the coming years.

It is expected that Rev. Dr. Flanders, the new pastor of Centenary, will take charge the first Sunday in July. Rev. E. W. Kelly will conduct the services for the next two Sundays.

SIX APPLICANTS FOR HARBOR MASTER

Appointment Will Come Up at Board of Works Meeting On June 23--Six Are After It.

At the monthly meeting of the board of works on June 23, the appointment of a harbor master in succession to the late John E. Ferris, will be taken up. Following the course adopted on previous occasions, ballots will be cast to decide on a recommendation to the council. So far, applications for the position have been received from Capt. R. H. Fleming, J. A. Mowry, Pilot Thomas Traynor, Capt. Starkey, G. W. Colwell and Capt. J. H. Crossley. Messrs. Fleming and Mowry are said to have the best chances of success, but a spirited canvas of the aldermen is being conducted by the friends and supporters of all the applicants.

It is thought probable that whatever recommendation the board may make, it will be challenged in the council as the four aldermen at large and the mayor, who also has the right to vote, would not otherwise have an opportunity to take part in the election.

The mayor on Saturday appointed Ald. Scully, Baskin, McGoldrick, Willet and McGowan the committee under the terms of Ald. Scully's motion at the last meeting of the council to look into the question of building a steel bridge across the harbor at Navy Island.

NOT THE REAL ARTICLE.

Reggy—Some of us fellows were discussing the drama lawst night and I got an idea in my head——

Peggy—You didn't, really?

Reggy—Pawsitively! Fact, I assuah you! All my own idea, too.

Peggy—Oh, that's different. You'll find it wasn't really an idea.