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DOMINION CORSET CO., Mnfrs.
Quebec, Montreal Toronto.

A Mysterious Disappearance

By Gordon Holmes

A Great Detective Story

(Continued.)

"Ah! You are recovering already. But before you start exercise take your overcoat off. That revolver in the breast pocket might go off accidentally, you know. Besides, as I shall hit back, I might fetch my knuckles against it, and that would be hardly fair. Otherwise, I can do as much in the punching line as you can, any day."

This reply utterly disconcerted Mensmore.

"Look here," he said, avoiding Bruce's steadfast gaze, "what are you talking about? What has it got to do with you, anyhow?"

"Oh, a great deal. My business principally consists in looking after other people's affairs. Just how it is my definite intention to prevent you from blowing out your brains, or what passes for them."

"Then all I can say is that I wish you were in Jericho. It is your own fault if you get into trouble over this matter. Had you gone about your business I would have waited. As it is—"

It so happened that the guard, having nothing better to do, strolled along the terraces by the same path that Mensmore and Bruce had followed. The first sight that met his astonished eyes, when in the flood of moonlight he discovered their identity, was the spectacle of these two springing at each other like a pair of wild cats.

"Parbleu," he shouted, "the solitary ones are fighting!"

He ran forward, drawing his short sword ready to stick the weapon into either of the combatants if the majesty of the law in his own person were not at once respected.

In reality, the affair was simple enough. Mensmore made an ineffectual attempt to draw his revolver, and Bruce pinioned him before he could get his hand up to his pocket. Both men were equally matched, and it was difficult to say how the struggle might have ended had not the sword-brandishing guard appeared on the scene.

Claude, even in this excited situation, kept his senses. Mensmore, blind with rage and the madness of one who would voluntarily plunge into the Valley of the Shadow, took heed of naught save the effort to rid himself of the restraining clutch.

"Put away your sword. Seize his arms from behind. He is a suicide," shouted the barrister to the gesticulating and shrieking Frenchman.

Fortunately Bruce was an excellent linguist. The man caught Mensmore's arms, put a knee in the small of his back, and doubled him backwards with a force that nearly dislocated his spine. In the same instant Claude secured the revolver, which he promptly pocketed.

"It is well," he said to the guard. "Here is a louis. Say nothing, but leave us."

"Monsieur understands that the honor of a French policeman—"

"I understand that if there is any report made of this affair to the authorities you will be dismissed for negligence. Had this lunatic been left to your care he would now have been lying here dead. Do you doubt me?"

The guard hesitated. "Monsieur mentioned a louis," he said, for Bruce's finger and thumb had returned the coin to his waistcoat pocket.

This transaction satisfactorily ended, Bruce accosted Mensmore, who was awkwardly twisting himself to see if his backbone were all right.

"You are not hurt, I hope?"

"It is matterless. Why could you not let me finish the business in my own way?"

"Because the world has some use for a man like you. Because you are a moral coward, and require support from a stronger nature. Because I did not want to think of that girl crying her eyes out tomorrow when she read of your death, or heard of it, as she assuredly would have done."

Mensmore, though still furious at his fellow-countryman's interference, was visibly amazed at this final reference.

"What do you know about her?" he cried.

"Nothing, save what my eyes tell me."

"They seem to tell you a remarkable lot about my affairs."

"Possibly. Meanwhile I want you to give me your word of honor that you will not make any further attempt on your life during the next seven days."

"The word of a disgraced man! Will you accept it?"

"Most certainly."

"You are a queer chap, and no mistake. Very well, I give it. At the same time, I cannot help dying of starvation. I lost my last cent tonight at roulette. I am hopelessly involved in debts that I cannot pay. I have no prospects and no friends. You are not doing me a kindness, my dear fellow, in keeping me alive, even for seven days."

"You might have obtained your fare to London from the authorities of the Casino?"

"Hardly. I lost very little at roulette. I am not such a fool. My losses are nearly all in bets over the pigeon-shooting match which I ought to have won. I was myself at a game where I was apparently sure to succeed."

"Until you were beaten by a woman's voice."

"Yes, wizard. I am too dazed to wonder at you sufficiently. Yet I would have lost fifty times for her sake, though it was for her sake that I wanted to win.

"Come, let us smoke. Sit down, and tell me all about it."

They took the nearest seat, lighting cigarettes. The guard, watching them from the shade of a huge palm-tree, murmured:

"Holy Virgin, what madmen are these English! They move apart, unknown; they fight; they fraternize; they consume tobacco—all within five minutes."

And he lovingly felt for the louis to assure himself that he was not dreaming.

"There is not much to tell," said Mensmore, who had quite recovered his self-control, and was now trying to sum up the man who had curiously entered his life at the moment when he had decided to do away with it. "I came here, being a poor chap living mostly by my wits, to go in for the pigeon-shooting tournaments. I won several, and was in fair funds. Then I fell in love. The girls is rich, well-connected and all that sort of thing. She is the first good influence that has crossed my life, so I thought that perhaps my luck was now going to turn. I backed myself for all I was worth, and more, to win the championship. If it came off I should have won over £3,000. As it is, I owe £500, which must be paid on Monday. My total assets, after I settled my hotel bill and sent a cheque to a chum who took some of my bets in his own name, was £16. Now I have nothing. So you see—"

"Yes," interrupted Bruce, "it is a hard case. But death is no settlement. Nobody gets paid, and everybody is worried."

"My dear fellow, my life is in your keeping for seven days. After that, I presume, I take myself in charge again."

The barrister took thought for a while before he inquired:

"Why did you go to the Casino tonight, if you did not patronize the tables as a rule?"

The other colored somewhat and laughed sarcastically.

"Just a final bit of folly. I dreamt that my luck had turned."

"Dreamt?"

"Yes, last night. Three times did I imagine that I was playing roulette, and that after a certain number—whether thirteen or twenty-three I was uncertain—turned up, there was a run of seventeen on the red. The funny thing is that I had an impression that the number was twenty-three, but with a doubt that it might be thirteen. I remember, during a sub-conscious state in the third dream, resolving to listen and look more carefully to discover the exact number. But again things got blurred. The only clear point was that the run was seventeen on the red commenced at once."

"Well?"

"Well, I took my remaining cash, went to the Casino, became a bit impatient when neither number turned up for quite a while, and when thirteen appeared I backed the red. But four times it was black that won."

"So I saw."

"Have you been keeping guard over me?"

"Yes, in a sort of way."

"You are a queer chap. I can't help saying that I am obliged to you. But it won't do any good. I am absolutely dead broke."

"Now listen to me. I will pay your fare back to London and give you something to live on until I return a week hence. Then you must come to see me, and I will help you into some sort of situation. But you must once and for all abandon this notion of suicide."

"What about my debts?"

"Confound your debts. Tell people to wait until you are able to pay them."

"And — and the girl?"

"If she is worth having she will give you a chance of making a living sufficient to enable you to marry her. She is of age, I suppose, and can marry any one she likes."

Mensmore puffed his cigarette in silence for fully a minute. Then he said:

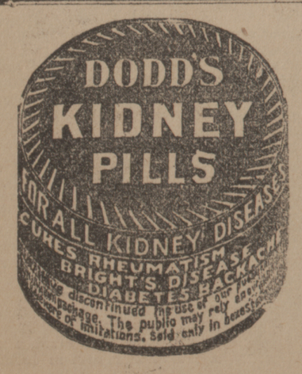
"You are a very decent sort, Mr. —"

"Bruce—Claude Bruce is my name."

"Well, Mr. Bruce, you propose to hand me £10 for my railway fare, and, say, £5 for my existence, until we meet again in London, in exchange for which you purchase the rights in my life indefinitely, accidents and reasonable wear and tear excepted."

"Exactly!"

(To be Continued.)



Fashion Hint for Times Readers



THE NEW BYZANTINE BLOUSE

More and more gorgeous effects are creeping in with the established favor for gold and silver trimmings. Old Egyptian and Byzantine metallic effects are the rage, and the deep, rich combinations of barbaric color promise to oust the delicate pastel shades of the Directoire mode. This blouse, reproduced in black and white, scarcely hints at the splendid color of the original model. The material is gold net, the embroideries being done with gold thread and silks of deep blue, red and green shades. The embroidery is done in such a manner that it suggests insertions joined by entre deux, but the design is all produced on one piece of gold net, the lighter motifs being in gold thread and the darned stitches in the colored silks. The entire deux is suggested by a fagot stitch with bronze brown silk. The gold net forming this blouse is mounted over a slip of pink chiffon, which gives a delicate rosy tone to the net.

LIBERAL MEMBERS WILL SETTLE THE FAIR GRANT

New Brunswick Supporters of the Government to Choose Between St. John and Chatham--North Shore Town is Very Confident of Securing It.

Ottawa, Feb. 9—Some of the delegates from Northumberland leave for home in the morning. Tonight they stated that they were well satisfied with their reception by the minister and hope that the Dominion exhibition grant would be given to Chatham.

This morning they met Ministers Fisher and Cartwright, and after introduction by W. S. Loggie, W. B. Snowball pressed the claims of Chatham for consideration. He emphasized the enterprise and business interests of the North Shore and spoke of the success of their exhibitions in the past, and making comparisons favoring the North Shore town as against St. John.

Regarding accommodation he asserted that at the time when the exhibition will be held, Chatham and neighboring towns would be able to accommodate more people than St. John. He further said that St. John was not an agricultural centre and Chatham was.

The ministers were also given to understand that many of the Liberal members from the province favored Chatham rather than St. John.

In reply Hon. Mr. Fisher was complimentary, but non-committal, observing that he thought the matter of accommodation should be given careful consideration. He said he would consult with the minister of public works and give their representations careful consideration.

This afternoon the delegation was invited to Alymer Chambers to see Dr. Pugsley, and the exhibition question was again discussed. The minister informed the delegates that while he fully understood and appreciated the enterprise and advantages of Chatham, they could not expect him, as a reprcsentative of St. John, to vote against that city. The decision would rest entirely with New Brunswick Liberal members. This statement was entirely satisfactory to the delegation. Tonight the visitors were entertained at dinner by Mr. Loggie in the House of Commons restaurant.

Chatham, N. B., Feb. 9—The Miramichi delegation is not expected home from Ottawa before Thursday morning. Within the last few days there has been a growing confidence that Chatham would secure the exhibition grant. In addition to those mentioned, R. A. Murdoch and Sheriff O'Brien are with the delegates.

W. B. Snowball will go from Ottawa to Toronto, where he will preside at the convention of the Canadian Forestry Association. In his address on Thursday Mr. Snowball will speak at some length of many things of interest to lumbermen and offer valuable suggestions. He will advise the establishment of lecture courses in forestry by the government; information as to the taking of proper precautions against fire and to the value of forests to the country, to be given to the people in this way.

Mr. Snowball will devote considerable attention to the question of prohibiting the exportation of round wood and will give both sides of the question, quoting from an appeal made by the International Paper Company before the committee of ways and means of the house of commons.

The purpose of the American companies, Mr. Snowball declared, was to denude Canada of its forests and conserve their own. He will recommend, however, no further action by the association than the passing of a resolution asking the dominion government to impose a duty.

CANADIAN NORTHERN WANTS RUNNING RIGHTS TO ST. JOHN

An Application Has Been Made to the Government for Rights Over the I. C. R.—It, as Well as the C. P. R. Request Must be Considered.

Ottawa, Feb. 9—In reply to a letter of President Shaughnessy, of the C. P. R., to the minister of railways, asking that the government again take up the question of giving running rights to the C. P. R. over the Intercolonial from St. John to Halifax, Hon. Mr. Graham has notified the company that the government in dealing with the question must also, at the same time, deal with the proposal of the Canadian Northern Railway for running rights over the government road to St. John and Halifax.

It is understood that Mackenzie & Mann seek to make use of the I. C. R. as the eastern link of their transcontinental line to the Atlantic seaboard.

The government has also in view the fact that the G. T. P., when completed to Moncton, will want access to St. John and Halifax over the I. C. R. rails and is desirous that the whole question of running rights to other roads should be dealt with in a comprehensive manner.

HAMPTON TO HAVE A BIG MASONIC NIGHT

A gathering of more than usual interest to members of the Masonic fraternity will be held in Hampton on Friday evening, Feb. 12, when the new Masonic hall at the shiretown of Kings county will be formally dedicated.

A special train has been engaged to take the officers and members of the grand lodge and members of the fraternity who will go from this city. It is expected a large number will attend.

The Brussels street Baptist church boys' class, of which Stanley Carr is teacher, and the Ludlow street church boys' class, of which R. Hunter Parsons is teacher, enjoyed a sleigh drive last night. On their return they had supper in the Brussels street church school room.

U. N. B. CANDIDATES FOR RHODES PRIZE

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 8—A fourth application for the Rhodes scholarship to be awarded at the U. N. B. this month has been received by Dr. C. C. Jones, the chancellor. The applicant is W. H. Morrow, of St. John, who graduated last June and is now teaching school at Riverside, Albert county. It is not unlikely that an an application will be received from a member of the present senior class before the close. Chancellor Jones this afternoon stated that a selection of the Rhodes scholar would probably be made on or before Friday of next week.

Headaches and Neuralgia From Colds

LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine, the world-wide Cold and Grip remedy removes cause. Call for full name. Look for signature E. W. Grove. 25c.

Good Blood

Means good health, and Hood's Sarsaparilla has an unapproached record as a blood-purifier.

It effects its wonderful cures, not simply because it contains sarsaparilla but because it combines the utmost remedial values of more than 20 different ingredients. There is no real substitute for it. If urged to buy any preparation said to be "just as good" you may be sure it is inferior, costs less to make, and yields the dealer a larger profit. Get Hood's Sarsaparilla today.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MISSION CHURCH

The annual meeting of the congregation of the Mission church St. John Baptist last night, was attended by many members the school room being well filled. Rev. Canon Smithers delivered an excellent address, after which Rev. D. Convers, priest in charge, made a statement of the work done during the year.

From this it appeared that satisfactory progress had been made in all the organizations connected with the church, the Sunday school especially showing a large growth. During the year there were 509 choir offices and 345 celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at which 1,931 communions were made. There were thirty-six baptisms, four marriages celebrated. Father Convers conducted seven funerals and administered the rite of unction of the sick twice.

The treasurer, H. B. Schofield, was able to present a very satisfactory statement. This showed that during the year the congregation had raised $745 for missions and $3,300 for all other purposes. The floating debt on the church had been reduced. E. M. Shadbolt, of the Bank of Montreal, proposed a plan for paying off the balance of this debt and preventing any deficits in future.

MANY DON'T KNOW HEART AFFECTED.

More People than Aware of It Have Heart Disease.

"If examinations were made of everyone, people would be surprised at the number of persons walking about suffering from heart disease."

This startling statement was made by a doctor at a recent inquest. "I should not like to say that heart disease is as common as this would imply," said the expert, "but I am sure that the number of persons going about with weak hearts must be very large."

"Hundreds of people go about their daily work on the verge of death, and yet do not know it. It is only when the shock comes that kills them that the unsuspected weakness of the heart is made apparent."

"But undoubtedly heart weakness, not disease, is more prevalent nowadays. I should think that the stress of living, the wear and rush of modern business life, have a lot to do with heart trouble."

There is no doubt but that this is correct, and we would strongly advise any one suffering in any way from heart trouble to try a course of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills.

Price 50 cts. per box or 3 boxes for $1.25, at all dealers or will be mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

FLUTTERING OF THE HEART.

Mrs. G. M. White, Williamstown, N.B., writes: "I was troubled with weak spells and fluttering of the heart. I was so bad I could scarcely lie down in bed. I procured a box of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills and they helped me so much I got another box and it has made a final cure. I cannot speak too highly of them. I think they are worth their weight in gold."

F. B. CARVELL'S DAUGHTER IS TAKEN ILL AT OTTAWA

Ottawa, Feb. 9—(Special)—Miss Mildred Carvell, daughter of F. B. Carvell, M. P., of Woodstock (N. B.), was today taken to St. Luke's Hospital with what is feared to be an attack of typhoid fever. Mr. Carvell left yesterday for St. John on legal business. At that time, the young lady was indisposed but it was thought to be only a slight cold. On account of today's development, however, a telegram has been sent to Mr. Carvell asking him to return to the capital.

Mr. Carvell, who arrived in St. John yesterday, said last night that he had received information of his daughter's illness and as soon as adjournment of the International Railway arbitration case could be effected he would leave for Ottawa.

WOMEN'S WOES

St. John Women Are Finding Relief at Last.

It does seem that women have more than a fair share of the aches and pains that afflict humanity; they must "keep up," must attend to duties in spite of constantly aching backs, or headaches, dizzy spells, bearing-down pains; they must stoop over when to stoop means torture. They must walk and bend and work with racking pains and many aches from kidney ills. Kidneys cause more suffering than any other organ of the body. Keep the kidneys well and health is easily maintained. Read of a remedy for kidneys only that helps and cures the kidneys and is endorsed by people you know.

Mrs. J. R. Ryan, of 52 Clarence street, St. John, N. B., says:—

"I was languid and run down and I had no ambition to attend even to the slightest duties of the house, but instead they seemed to drag on me tire me out completely. Dull headaches were very frequent and often attended by severe attacks of dizziness and faint. Spots would dazzle before my eyes and everything would turn black. I had tried several different remedies but found little relief in any of them and it was through an advertisement at Mr. Wasson's drug store, 100 King street, that I learned of Booth's Kidney Pills. I used only two boxes and they cured me. I have not had an attack of backache or headache since I feel like a new person."

Sold by dealers. Price 50 cents. The R. T. Booth Co., Ltd., Fort Erie, Ont., Sole Canadian agents.

The tug Lord Kitchener, Captain Livingstone, left yesterday for Cutler (Me.), to tow the disabled schooner Moama to this port. The Moama was on her way here from Philadelphia with a cargo of hard coal. She went ashore last Saturday on Hog Island in Machias Bay, and was floated and towed into Machias with rudder unshipped and leaking. The schooner will probably arrive today.

Allan liner steamer Sardinian, for London and Havre took away a cargo valued at $107,672. She had on board 40,000 bushels of wheat and 200 cattle.

More bread and Better bread

—And the Reason for it

A STRONG FLOUR can only be made from strong wheat. Manitoba hard wheat is acknowledged the strongest in the world—and that is the kind used for Purity Flour.

But that's not all. Every grain of this wheat contains both high-grade and low-grade properties. In separating the high-grade parts from the low-grade the Western Canada Flour Mills put the hard wheat through a process so exacting that not a single low-grade part has the remotest chance of getting in with the high-grade.

Of course this special process is more expensive to operate but it means a lot to Purity flour users—that's why we use it.

It means that Purity Flour is made entirely of the highest-grade flour parts of the strongest wheat in the world.

It means a high-class, strong flour and therefore yields "more bread and better bread."

Purity may cost a little more than some flours, but results prove it the cheapest and most economical after all.



PURITY FLOUR

WESTERN CANADA FLOUR MILLS COMPANY, LIMITED
MILLS AT WINNIPEG, GODERICH, BRANDON

CONGRESS TALKS MUCH BUT HAS DONE LITTLE

United States Congress With But a Little Over Three Weeks of the Session Remaining and Much to Do, Continues to Dawdle and Waste Time.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

Washington, D. C., Feb. 4—Congress which has now but little over three weeks for the passage of many important measures before inauguration, continues to dawdle and waste its time. This week it has spent many hours arguing over a twelve thousand dollar appropriation for automobiles for the White House. Representative Sims, of Tennessee, and 27 of his friends are sternly opposed to the introduction of automobiles for the president, and he, with a number of his colleagues, have made speeches against this, their pet aversion. Their arguments have been futile in the lower house, though, and all their gory pictures of the dead and wounded who are left on the trail of the gasoline machines, succeeded in securing only 27 votes against the appropriation to 185 in its favor. Mr. Taft will have a machine. Maybe he will have two, and he is to have a chauffeur and a footman, and if the ordinary man is a judge of such things, he will get all of the punishment that Mr. Sims and his friends wish him. The horse is a known and tried luxury, but the automobile is a fitful, unreliable thing as yet and no man can be the possessor of one, much less two or three, without having as much trouble as his envious friends and enemies can wish him. And if the automobile is a care, there are no mild terms for the description of the load of trouble he has undertakne in a chauffeur. If the automobile is still far from perfection, the average chauffeur has just emerged from the nether regions. Probably Mr. Taft will not be so unhappy in his automobile as the average man. His chauffeurs will be responsible to some one besides the president, who will not have to find out that his car is left to stand in oil to weaken the tires; that tacks are recklessly sprinkled in his garage for the same purpose, and that gasoline is soaked into the inner tubes with the object of having them blow up. The chauffeur has a rake off on all the supplies and repairs for his machine and it is up to him to see that the car, which would ordinarily behave like an angel on wings, does not pursue its peaceful career. Presumably there will be someone to see that when the cars are turned in at night, the chauffeur does not take his family and friends out for moonlight drives, and it is to be hoped that there will be some adequate inspection of the car before it starts out on a long trip, so that Mr. Taft may not find himself stranded miles from a car line on a lonely road. Still, if all of these safeguards are provided there will doubtless be many times when the president-elect and his family will wish for horses, and when Mr. Sims and his 27 friends may indulge in "I told you so's."

It is probable that the friends of the movement for the conservation of our national resources will see congress adjourn without having made provision for that purpose. So far that body has appeared content to let the movement drift and it is not likely the enemies of the movement will allow an appropriation to be made for it in the last hurried month that remains. The president has done his best and there may be other messages despatched to congress with the object of prodding it on to its duty in the matter. The enemies of conservation, led by the speaker of the house, are so numerous and powerful, though, that it is not likely anything will be accomplished, and the fifty thousand dollars that the president has asked for the beginning of work will probably not be forthcoming. Mr. Pinchot, the national forester, has returned from his trip to Canada and Mexico, for the purpose of interesting those countries in the movement, and reports informally that these governments are in full sympathy with the proposed work and that they are eager to join the international conservation commission that will meet in Washington by invitation of the president, February 18th. At this conference many important questions will be discussed, among them the border forest fires which may originate in one country and carry devastation into the next and also the question of the removal of the tariff on lumber, and how its removal would affect the matter of the conservation of forests.

The thrilling incident of the rescue of more than one thousand persons from the steamer Republic through the agency of wireless telegraphy, has inspired congress to take some action with regard to the equipping of all passenger carrying steamers with the apparatus. Had the Florida been so equipped, the accident by which the Republic was sent to the bottom would not have occurred, for the two vessels would have been able to exchange signals in the fog. It appears that the French assembly has already taken up the subject and it is probable that England will follow with laws requiriing vessels to carry the wireless equipment. Its cost is slight, ranging from one to three thousand dollars, and its maintenance is not exorbitant, and it is proposed by the Committee on Merchant Marine to urge that all ocean steamers carrying more than fifty passengers will carry the apparatus.

Alderman J. King Kelley delivered a very interesting address before the Portland Y. M. A. last evening in their rooms, Portland street. The alderman took as his subject The City's Finances. There was a good attendance and the address was listened to with close attention.

The Italian bark Merioneth cleared yesterday for Bahia Blanca, Argentine Republic, with more than 1,000,000 feet of dry spruce lumber, shipped by A. Cushing & Co.

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture



REVITALIZATION OF THE GIRL.

At home she only lounges round,
She has no vim at all,
But, goodness, see her scour the ground
At playing basket ball.

Find another athletic girl.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE.

Upside down, among trees.