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A Million a Minute

A Romance of Modern New York and Paris

By Hudson Douglas

(Continued)

"I needn't bore you with all the details of my wanderings during those years. You've heard some of them already, and others you can imagine better than most men. But after you and I met and parted, I put northwest, maning to cross French Congo and the Cameroons to British territory. The carriers I had with me struck and turned tail when we reached the Baghirmi country, but, as luck would have it, I ran across a Frenchman's convoy ten days out from Fort Bretonnet, and he carried me in there. It seemed that I couldn't lose myself, no matter hard I tried.

"I had arranged some time before to have my mail sent up to the fort from the coast, not feeling sure whether I might not break back east from that point toward Darfur, and when I arrived I found a letter awaiting me. Think of that—one letter—after so long. It made me sour to think that I counted for so little among men—although, of course, it was all my own fault.

"But, as it turned out, that one was more than sufficient. It was from my precious uncle, a post-mortem message, forwarded by my own lawyers, and had been following me about for a long time. I wish it had never found me.

He swallowed a sip of wine, looked unseemingly round the now almost empty room, and went on again.

"My uncle was dead, dying, he had repented the work of his lifetime. He wanted to purchase absolution for that by paying blood money to me, the son of the man he had murdered. That shows you the sort of fellow he was. It makes me hot to think of it, even now.

"And that wasn't all. There was a condition attached in the shape of his adopted daughter, the orphan child of a Southern soldier he had befriended, whom I must marry in order to inherit his millions. Thus, quoth he, the most unfortunate feud which has sundered us while he lived would be healed. And, for added argument, he informed me that, if I failed to comply with his wishes within a twelvemonth, the money he had amassed would all go to charity, while the girl, whom he had brought up in luxury, would be left penniless.

"There was an infernal arrangement for you! He was as cunning as he was cruel. He must have known that nothing would tempt me to touch a penny of his, and how it would hurt me to harm an innocent girl.

"That sickened me of Fort Bretonnet. The Frenchmen were hospitable and begged me to stay, but I wanted to get back into the wilds by myself and think. The life I had been leading had left me half a savage. In my hurry I got together a worse gang of rascals than those who had just deserted me, and set off with them for the lake north of Palla, from which you can reach a waterway that will take you through to Nigara.

"It was most damnable going, but I kept them at it until we had crossed the Cameroon border, and there they in turn went back on me, bolting one night with all my trade goods, copper wire and calico I carried with me to pay my way in presents, leaving me only my canoe with my personal effects and a few provisions in the cruellest corner in Africa.

"I sat up and called myself names then, but it was too late to number off all the different sorts of a fool I felt, and I thought that I might reach Yola, where the British have a garrison.

"The natives round there are canibals, as you know, and I didn't do much traveling by daylight, so that I made pretty poor progress. It took me forty-eight hours to reach the fork of the Benue, with the current, and that was forty-eight miles, I reckoned.

"However, I got across to the western bank before daybreak, and drew in under the growth by the river-edge so's to escape observation. It was steaming hot, and the place stank. You know the rank, rotten smell of dead marigold. I couldn't sleep, tired out as I was, so I ran through my uncle's letter again, just to pass the time, although I had thought it threadbare already. But I couldn't think what I was going to do about it—I mean for the girl.

"I knew nothing of her, and she less of me, but she at least had never done me or mine harm, and it seemed hard that she alone should be the scapegoat. I was independent financially—I had sight drafts with me for all I possessed, except the Manor, and the two rose-diamonds as well. So long as I scraped through alive with these I need never want. But with her it was quite different, and that through no fault of her own.

"Well, I was lying there in the shade, sweating, body and brains, when I saw a canoe coming down river round the bend, and dropped the letter to pick up my rifle. I was half afraid that I had been spotted. But no more followed it, and there was only a single man with his paddle athwartships, doing no work and drifting along at an easy pace.

"When he came a little nearer I saw he was wearing a helmet, which gave me a jolt. I couldn't conceive what a white man could be doing there alone, but, in any case, I hailed him several times—and he paid not the slightest attention. An eddy caught the canoe, and it went sagging away toward midstream. On the spur of the moment I put out after him.

I raised my voice as I ran alongside, but still he did not reply, and a single glance showed me that he was dead. They had done things to him as well as killed him, for—he had no face. He was held in position by two short spears, one under each shoulder-blade, a haft made fast to each gunwale. I felt sick, very sick, then, O'Ferral.

"But he had been a white man, and I was bound to do something. I drove both canoes back among the branches, and picketed them with my paddles while I—held an inquest on him. He was very raggedly dressed, could not have been either soldier, skypilot or trader, and it wasn't a nice thing to have to do, but I did it. I wanted some clue. I found none.

"As soon as I'd finished I flopped down in my own craft, and my fingers fell on my uncle's letter.

"That gave me my cue like a flash.

"Miles Quaintance had left me one loophole. There was a provision in his will to the effect that, if I should die during the twelve months' grace he allowed me, his money would go to the girl.

"I may have been half mad then, but it seemed quite simple. All I had to do was to shift my identity on to the shoulders of this poor fellow. He had none, so that I would be perfectly free to choose a fresh one for myself. There was not a soul in the wide world to wear mourning for me, and I could see no reason whatsoever against the exchange.

"So I set to work and did the thing thoroughly. When I was through with it, even you would have sworn from the evidence that it was Stephen Quaintance who presently went drifting down stream toward Yola, stone dead.

"He carried with him every scrap of identifiable property I possessed—except the drafts and the diamonds, of course—and that was more than sufficient to satisfy any coroner's jury. I knew that he couldn't help reaching Yola, and that I could trust the Englishmen there to see everything shipshape, and send the news on.

"I spent the rest of the day making a will bequeathing all Stephen Quaintance possessed to A. Newman, endorsed my drafts to that name, and practiced my new signature, which is as unlike the old one as I could make it."

"What does A. stand for?" interrupted O'Ferral.

"Oh, anything. Call it Ananias—I don't care.

"So that now, you see, the girl will get my uncle's money, to which she's justly entitled, while I'm as well off as ever, and—no one's the worse. There are still a few weeks of the year to run, but they'll surely have proof of my death before these are up, and that will settle the whole thing satisfactorily. Don't you think so, O'Ferral?"

O'Ferral was silent for some time, and then nodded gravely. And Quaintance's face cleared.

"I think I'd have done much the same in your place," said his friend. "It wasn't an easy one, and you've certainly cut your way out of it pretty effectually. If no unforseen complications arise, I don't see why you should ever have cause to regret what you've done.

"I think I've provided for every eventuality," Quaintance asserted with some return of his usual cheerful self-confidence. I think I've made everything safe for the girl—and myself."

O'Ferrall nodded again.

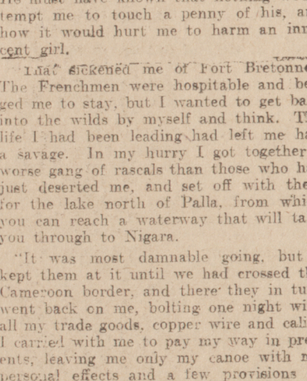
"You've done what you could," he said briskly. "No man can do more. It's up to fate now, and — How did you get home? What happened then?"

"I had a pretty tough time of it after that, living Lord knows how and not knowing where to turn. I didn't dare to go on to Yola, lest I should spoil it all by my appearance there, and I had staked too much to risk that. But providence presereved me in my folly. I got as far north as Lake Tchad, where I was picked up by an exploring party, whom I told truthfully that I had been deserted by my carriers, and they were not over-inquisitive. With them I worked toward the coast, and as soon as I struck quick transport I hurried on. They know me in Lokoja and Forcados as Newman, and you won't forget now, O'Ferral, that Quaintance is dead and buried. I would have told no one but you my story, and for that matter no one else is interested enough in me to ask any questions.

"Fill your glass, and let's talk about something else."

(To be Continued)

There were 502,000 pieces of gold coin struck at the United States mints last month, having a value of $5,925,000.



Fashion Hint for Times Readers



BORDERED CHIFFON RECEPTION GOWN

The spring bride always has in her trousseau one or two simple yet rather dressy gowns for wear on her receiving days in her new home. Crepe de chine and chiffon make attractive frocks of this sort, and in this case bordered chiffon was skillfully draped to give a very rich effect. The bodice, built surplice fashion of the bordered pattern, has sleeves of shirred plain chiffon, and a yoke and cuffs of cream lace brighten up the quiet color of the chiffon. The skirt is very graceful with an overskirt edged with the border joining an inset train on which the chiffon is used in lengthwise effect.

CELEBRATION OF 67th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WATERLOO ST. BAPTIST CHURCH

Notwithstanding the storm yesterday, the services held in the Waterloo street United Baptist church, in connection with the celebration of their sixty-seventh anniversary, were very well attended. At the morning service Rev. W. C. Kierstead, Ph. D., professor of economics in the University of New Brunswick, was the preacher and delivered a forceful sermon, taking for his text Hagar II, 3 and 4, "Who is left among you, that saw this house in her first glory, and how do ye see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing. Yet now be strong, Oh Zerubbabel, saith the Lord, and be strong, Oh Joshua, son of Josebech, the high priest, and be strong all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts."

The speaker remarked that he was very glad to be with the congregation on their anniversary. The words of his text had been first used to encourage the hearts of the Jews who had returned from their captivity in Babylon and had re-erected anew the temple of Jehovah. Such men who would leave the material advantages of a great city like Babylon, to march many weary miles across burning deserts, in order that they might rebuild a city, struggle against poverty for a bare existence on the barren hills of Judea and fight with many hostile tribes, so that they might worship their God in the home of their fathers, constituted, he said, that which made the Hebrews the first great idealists of the world.

Such a spirit was at the back of all great religious enterprises. Such a spirit must have influenced the fathers when they founded this church. Such a spirit was behind those great men Hart, McLeod and Noble, when on their strong religious principles they had founded those two denominations which now, much richer and broader in experience, were united in one, standing for the noblest and the best. To them had surely come the message, "Be strong and work."

But just as the Jews in their fourteen years of struggle for their very existence had forgotten the purpose with which they started out, so men started out with high ideals and lofty purposes, but by the time that they had achieved places of opportunity, efficiency and influence, found out that they had lost their former fire and ambition.

In the hard struggle for preferment and the rough experiences of life, many of the best intentions and lofty purposes were forgotten and lost forever. The ideals became less and less visionary, faded away and were gone. And glad should men be, if at any time, there should come to them the voice of a prophet, reviving in them forgotten purposes, quickening impulses and arousing dormant powers.

But even when men, after years of toil, had achieved some degree of success in comparison to their early ideals, how puny seemed their efforts and how insignificant their success. To them should come the realization that theirs had not been years of standing still but years of progress; that in doing what they could and in doing it well they had acted nobly. To do the common place was heroic. The place of a worker could be just as graud as that of a leader. The message, "Be strong, Oh Zerubbabel and work," was for them.

And after all how insignificant were success and greatness in comparison with God's greatness. The heroic striving in spite of difficulties and struggling on in spite of failure counted for more in His eyes who sometimes used men's failures for His greater successes. It was not the structure that men reared but the spirit in which they reared it and whatever blessing came, came from God.

So the members of this church, which in its sixty-seven years of history had had more than 1,500 members, and which had been a mother church to the Victoria street church and to the Charlotte street church, should feel encouraged to go forward, confident in the hope that the blessing would be theirs, to the wider fields of influence and power.

In the afternoon a meeting was very well attended, the congregation comfortably filling the church. On the platform, besides the pastor, Rev. Gideon Swim, were Rev. B. H. Nobles, of Victoria street; Rev. Dr. C. R. Flanders, of Centenary, and Rev. Gordon Dickie, of St. Stephen's, representing the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian denominations. Each of them gave a short congratulatory address, prophesying greater things for the church and the cause for which it stood.

In the evening, Prof. Kierstead preached another powerful sermon.

Tonight there will be roll call in the vestry. Features of the gathering will be the reading of a historical sketch of the church by J. S. Smith and an address by Deacon Wm. Peters, who has been a member of the church for sixty-three years.

THE CROCKET-HANSON ASSAULT CASE IN FREDERICTON COURT

Fredericton, N. B., April 4.—The assault case in which O. S. Crocket, M. P., is complainant, and A. E. Hanson, defendant, engaged the attention of Col. Marsh at the police court yesterday afternoon. The proceedings were exceedingly lively and were much enjoyed by the spectators who thronged the court room. R. B. Hanson appeared as counsel for the plaintiff and the defendant's interests were looked after by R. W. McLellan.

Defendant pleaded not guilty and Mr. Crocket, who had arrived from Ottawa by the noon train, was called as the first witness. He gave a detailed account of the alleged assault which occurred on Queen street on the afternoon of March 18. He said he met Hanson, who enquired if certain observations he (Crocket) had made in parliament touching on the St. John river survey had been correctly reported and his reply was that his remarks had been correctly set forth in the official debate of the house. After he had made this explanation Hanson drew off and struck him in the face with his clenched fists. The blow caused his hat to fall off but inflicted no injury of a serious nature. He admitted having made a pass at Hanson by way of retaliation but failed to land. At this stage Mayor Chestnut appeared on the scene and put an end to further hostilities.

Witness was subjected to a lengthy and severe cross-examination by Mr. McLellan and he showed considerable anger at times in his answers to the questions addressed to him. Mr. Hanson became involved in the discussion quite frequently and the magistrate had a difficult time in preserving order. Crocket said that he had traveled from Ottawa on purpose to appear against Hanson. He had a certificate from the government which enabled him to travel free on Canadian territory but he had to pay his fare through the State of Maine. He was sharply questioned in regard to his speech in parliament and declared that he had cast no reflections upon Hanson's reputation as an engineer, his sole object being to show that the river survey was useless and foolish. He said he was secretary-treasurer of the company which controlled the Gleaner newspaper and had written editorials for that paper, but had done very little of that kind of work for the past year.

After considerable probing counsel finally compelled him to admit that in August last he had written an editorial in which the St. John river survey had been sharply criticized. He admitted that in the speech at the Opera House in September he had referred to Hanson as a "distinguished hydrographer."

Asked if he had written a despatch to the Gleaner which stated that Hanson was likely to be called before parliament for assaulting him, Crocket replied that he was in Fredericton at the time the despatch appeared. "That's the reason I thought you might have written it," retorted McLellan. Crocket assured him that the despatch was written by the correspondent of the Mail and Empire.

Asked if this was the first assault case in which he had figured, Crocket replied with considerable heat that it was. He added that the statements made by Hanson in a letter to the Herald were absolutely without foundation.

T. G. Loggie, deputy surveyor general, was next called and swore that during the month of February he had heard Hanson say that he would slap Crocket's face because of some remarks which he had made in parliament. Witness had afterwards warned Crocket of the danger that threatened him.

The case will be continued on Monday.

Prof. Falconer, of Pine Hill College, occupied the pulpit at St. Paul's church today in the absence of the regular pastor.

Fred W. Thomas, general secretary Brotherhood of St. Andrew, delivered an interesting address on the work of organization at the cathedral this morning.

The ice in the river here is still holding solid and is not likely to make a move before the middle of the month.

The St. John River Log Driving Company have repaired the damage to their booms caused by the big freshet in January and will be ready to start work promptly on the opening of navigation.

Disease Germs

Cannot harm healthy human bodies. We cannot have healthy bodies unless we have pure blood, —the kind of blood that Hood's Sarsaparilla makes.

This great medicine has an unequalled, unapproached record for purifying and enriching the blood.

It cures scrofula, eczema, eruptions, catarrh, rheumatism, anemia, nervousness, that tired feeling, dyspepsia, loss of appetite, general debility, and builds up the whole system.

Get Hood's Sarsaparilla today.

FIRE SWEEPS TEXAS TOWNS

Fort Worth and Dallas Badly Scorched—Nearly $3,000,000 Worth of Damage Done

Fort Worth, Texas, April 3—Starting in a barn, presumably from a carelessly thrown cigarette, fire this afternoon destroyed property in the southern portion of Fort Worth to the extent, conservatively estimated at $2,500,000, caused the death of one person, J. J. Newton, of Krum and also rendered several thousand persons homeless.

The fire originated at Jennings avenue and Peter Smith street, in the centre of a fashionable residence district, and, fanned by a stiff wind, was beyond control within fifteen minutes after it was discovered. Spreading to the south it burned its way through thirty-two blocks and continued until it had swept through the yards of the Texas & Pacific Railway, destroying the railroad buildings, yards, and a large amount of rolling stock. There it practically burned itself out as nothing farther remained in the pathway of the flames.

Three churches, the Broadway Baptist and Presbyterian and the Swedish Cathedral were among the buildings destroyed as was the Presbyterian sanitarium. The patients of the latter institution were all removed in safety.

The Texas & Pacific railroad suffered the largest individual loss. Fourteen locomotives were reduced to twisted masses of steel and iron and several hundred box cars, besides the roundhouse and other buildings of the road were destroyed.

Dallas, Texas, April 3—Sixty-four residences and a private sanitarium in Acliff, a suburb of Dallas, were destroyed by fire late today, causing a loss estimated at a quarter of a million dollars. The fire fanned by a strong southwest wind swept through fourteen residence blocks. In the burned area, which covers more than a quarter of a mile square of territory, only five buildings remained intact. All the patients at the sanitarium were removed in safety.

BACK STRAINED BY HEAVY LIFTING

Lay Helpless in Bed for Four Days, Crippled, Suffering Agony and Torture:

"While engaged with a large construction company," writes Amos E. Wilbur, from Concord, "I wrenched my back while lifting a steel beam. I realized at once that I was hurt, but finished the day out. I was so lame when I reached home that my wife insisted on my going to bed. I applied poultices, hot water bags and other remedies, but at the end of the fifth day my suffering was more intense than at the first. A fellow workman brought me a bottle of NERVILINE, and rubbed my back twice during the evening. This gave me relief. Rubbing with Nerviline was continued the next day, and by night I was much improved. Nerviline must have penetrated right into the muscles that were sore, because it took out the stiffness, cured the pain, and had me well in four days' time. Of course, to strengthen my back, I put on a Nerviline Porous Plaster and find it a wonderful help to a working man."

Not a liniment on earth today that compares in pain-subduing, healing and curing power with Nerviline. Fifty years' record has established its unusual merit. Look out for the substitutor, insist on "Nerviline" only. Large 25c. bottles at all dealers.

C. P. R. CHANGES

D. W. Newcombe to be Agent at West St. John—Robert King to be Superintendent at McAdam

Robert King, C. P. R. terminal agent at West St. John, has been appointed superintendent of district No. 2 of the Atlantic division which comprises lines north and south of McAdam, with head quarters at Woodstock. The appointment will go into effect today.

Mr. King was formerly station agent at McAdam Junction, and was transferred to West St. John about a year ago, succeeding James R. Gilliland who went to Montreal. He has made many friends during his stay in St. John who will be glad to learn of his promotion and wish him every success.

The vacancy on the west side will be filled by Supt. D. W. Newcombe, of Woodstock, who will bring his family here to reside. Already well known to the traveling public from his long connection with the C. P. R., Mr. Newcombe will receive a warm welcome and renew many old acquaintances.

MEAN.

He smokes 25c. cigars.

She—Yes; and he kicks every time his wife buys herself a glass of soda water.

QUITE DIFFERENT.

Grace—Fred told me yesterday that I am the only girl he ever loved.

Helen—Yes; but that was April Fool's Day.

Fillers.

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Take LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine Tablets. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box. 25c

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ever shown in St. John or the Lower Provinces, representing the latest styles of the season from New York, London and Paris.

Call and See This Splendid Display.

The Marr Millinery Co.

Corner Union and Coburg Streets.

THE TEMPERANCE PEOPLE OPEN THE LOCAL OPTION CAMPAIGN

Mass Meeting Held in Four Churches Last Evening—Rev. Mr. Graham Gives Out some New Facts—Temperance Men Wanted Bars Closed at 9 P. M. and at Noon on Summer Saturdays

Yesterday the temperance people fired the first shot in the local option campaign. Meetings were held last evening in two of the North End churches—St. Matthew's and Main street Baptist, and in the Tabernacle church, Haymarket square. The meetings began at 8.30, at the close of the evening service.

There was not a large attendance at all the meetings, and this they attributed to the storm. The Main street church meeting was a large one.

In St. Matthew's Presbyterian church, the chair was taken by W. J. Forbes, secretary of the temperance federation in Lorne and Lansdowne wards. After the hymn Soldiers of Christ Arise, was sung, Rev. A. A. Graham was briefly introduced by the chairman.

Rev. Mr. Graham said that the purpose of the meeting was mainly to explain the clauses of the local option bill now before the legislature. Before doing this, he said, perhaps it would be just as well to look back and note the steps by which they had come to the present position. In November and December of last year a petition was circulated in four of the wards concerning the banishment of the saloon from those wards. This petition had the requisite number of signatures and was presented to the mayor and common council, by a committee who asked that a vote be taken on the same day as the civic election.

The city council, he said, flatly refused and the petitions were withdrawn and announcement was made that the matter would probably be referred to Fredericton. At this time there was talk of provincial prohibition, so the action was withheld until this matter should be settled. As all knew prohibition had been refused, but at the time of refusal the government had promised that they would amend the existing local option law.

The Social and Moral Reform Association of New Brunswick was summoned to meet in St. John on March 10 to consider amendments to the law and sending delegates to interview the government. At this meeting the demands and amendments were discussed, and put down in black and white and three members were appointed to act on a committee consisting of six members, the other three being appointed by Bishop Casey. Dr. McAvenny, one of the joint committee, was prevented by professional duties from attending the committee, but a very strong ally was found in Bishop Richardson, who of his own free-will offered to assist them in any way possible. So he was asked to go with the other five members of the committee to interview the government then meeting in private session in this city.

The government then went over with them their proposed amendments, and after rejecting two or three impossible demands, had the secretary of the executive council, Mr. Dickson, draft their amendments, almost entire, into a bill. This draft was sent down from Fredericton to the committee who, with their solicitor, Amon A. Wilson, went over the bill and after making two or three slight changes, returned it to the government.

Some of the most important provisions were then explained. It was decided that the provincial lists should be used. Objections lists on the ground that those who were in arrears in their taxes could not vote, thus making an unfair election.

They had asked, he said, for the closing of saloons at 9 o'clock but this was not granted, the former hour of ten being retained. The closing of saloons at 5 o'clock on Saturdays had been granted. This would be very beneficial. The laborer was paid off at 6 o'clock, and all temptation being removed, he would get home to his family and allow them to have some benefit from his wages. It was estimated that closing of the saloons two hours earlier on Saturday nights would cost every saloon in St. John $1,000 a year. That would be $94,000 more for the wives and families who after all had to bear the brunt of a man's intemperance.

They had also asked for the closing of saloons at 12 o'clock during June, July and August, but this was refused on the ground that Saturday half holidays were really matters of local opinion and rested altogether with the custom of a community.

Another good thing, the speaker said, was the provision that the very presence of an interdict or a minor, with the barkeeper's consent, in a saloon would be taken as prima facie evidence of violation of the law. The removal of screens from the windows and any device to hinder clear view of the bar was referred to and the speaker added that the hotel keepers had been warned to prepare for legislation that would force them to throw their bars open to public gaze.

Prohibition had been passed once in the legislature, he said, but had never gone into effect. This new local option law would be ahead of anything ever before. This was not a movement of the temperance people but of the Christian church, Protestant and Catholic alike united as they had never been before. The responsibility now rested with the people themselves.

The liquor dealers would not make such a time about the beer license, amendments if they did not have hopes of striking at the temperance cause through the beer shops. In conclusion he urged that the people turn out in great numbers to an organization meeting to be held in the Douglas avenue Christian church this evening.

In the Main street church a large audience listened to Rev. W. R. Robinson, who said that the new law provided something tangible with which the temperance people could fight.

At the mass meeting in Tabernacle church Edwin N. Stockford, Andrew Patterson, E. W. Rowley and F. Allaby spoke briefly. The chief address of the evening was delivered by Rev. S. W. Anthony. He said that the new amendments represented a great gain for the temperance party. They had not received all they asked for. They had asked for bread and had been given hard tack. They were so hungry, however, that they would be satisfied with the concessions. Some temperance people thought that the accepting of such slight amendments to the law was merely a putting off of the question. Personally he thought that every gain only brought prohibition so much the nearer.

Warts Disfigure the Hands

But can be painlessly removed in twenty-four hours by the use of Putnam's Wart and Corn Extractor. Fifty years in use and still the best. Insist on getting "Putnam's" only.

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture



POOR SISTER.

He heard them kissing on the sly,
He peeped in through the door.
And then he cried in accents high,
"Say, sister, what's the score?"

Find both of them.