

THE FATAL REQUEST OR FOUND OUT

By A. L. Harris Author of "Mine Own Familiar Friend," etc.
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CHAPTER XX—Continued.

"To-day is Tuesday. There is a little shabby prayer book somewhere among my belongings. I will put it once and for all out of my power to procrastinate further by fixing upon a certain date and swearing to carry out on that, and no other, the purpose which has been in my mind so long."

"To-day, as I have said, is Tuesday,—on Friday, then, without further delay, I will insert my duplicate key in the lock of that door—first of all ascertaining that it will fit—and make, what Dr. Jeremiah would describe as a felonious entry."

"Meanwhile, I have to consider Perkins."

"She has not shown me so much open animosity since my return; but it will not do to count upon this. She may be only—as she would, no doubt herself express it, 'biding her time.' You don't deceive me," she said, when I crept down stairs like a thief in the night and was nearly discovered through her instrumentality."

"What was the threat she employed toward me on that memorable occasion? 'I'll find out what you are up to, as sure as name's Maria Ann Perkins!' And she is a woman who looks as though she would not mind to what pains she put herself, or what time elapsed, so that she could avenge herself for her fancied wrongs."

"Since writing the above lines some hours ago, I have made another discovery. My master has remained shut up in his private room for the greater part of this time and I, in accordance with my position as spy, have hung about the door on the chance of hearing some sound, however slight, or catching sight of his face as he left the room."

"I have often wondered as to the manner in which he employs himself on these occasions, when he remains locked in this chamber for hours."

"To-day there has been no room for doubt. He has been writing on and on, ceaselessly. Evidently he uses a quill and writes a heavy hand, for I could plainly hear the sound the pen made in traveling over the paper."



"Let me relieve you of those things."

"Here is another subject for consideration. He has made his will, and now he is writing. Writing what?"

"Apparently something of importance."

"Once, too, I heard the unmistakable sound of the tearing of paper. Was he dissatisfied with what he had written and tearing it up? Did he find the composition of the document difficult, and, if so, for whose eye was it intended, that so much time and trouble were lavished upon it?"

"If he is now occupied in writing letters of an undoubtedly private nature, shall I be entrusted with the task of carrying them to the post when completed? Or, if the work upon which he has been engaged is of some other description, what will become of it when finished, and what will he do with the pieces of paper which he has torn up? Will they be committed to the flames, or simply to the waste paper basket?"

"Which," said the cook at dinner the next day, "ditchwater is the honny word as will eggpress the presint company, no offense bein' meant and no chinsinyatin' nothink agin nobody, feelin' the bein' things as is not to be controlled by the best of us, and better be low in your mind than in your hidears is my motter, but when it comes to not a word being spoke for five minits by the kitchen' clock, makin' allowance for its being twenty-two minits fast by railway time, it do seem as someone oughter hinterfere in a friendly sort of way."

"How much longer she would have rambled on in the same key it is impossible to say, had not another note been struck by the parlor maid, who remarked that, "Miss Agnes hadn't seemed partic'lar cheerful the last day or so."

"The young man, Edwards, seemed as though his attention was arrested by this trivial remark and glanced across the table inquiringly."

"Yes," added the parlor maid, addressing herself to him, as she perceived that what she had said had, somehow or other, interested him, "I've caught her sighing to herself more than once lately, as though she'd something on her mind. Pr'aps—with a sudden inspiration—"pr'aps she's in love—folks generally sighs a

deal, when they're in love"—and she directed what ought to have been a killing glance at the good looking young man opposite her and breathed a sigh on her own account.

It apparently missed its aim, but something in this last remark seemed to excite great derision in the breast of Perkins, the housemaid.

"In love!" she exclaimed. "Ha, ha! I like that," and she, too, sent a glance, which might, in a sense have been described as killing—if looks could kill—across the table. "In love, indeed!"—with withering contempt—"Who with, I should like to know? You forget there's never been such a thing as a young man as she'd look at, or touch with the tips of her fingers"—(there was a strong malicious emphasis on this)—"inside the door once since they've been living here."

"Ah!" said the parlor maid, still showing an inclination to hold her own, "pr'aps not. But how about before that?"

"Well," replied the housemaid, suddenly showing an inclination to go over to the enemy and side with her rival and invariable opponent, to the latter's vast astonishment, "I don't say as you mayn't be right. Anyhow, whether she's in love or whether she isn't, it's no good if he ain't her equal. For you may be sure her pr'aps never hear of her marrying beneath her."

"And quite right, too," put in the cook, who thought it was high time she introduced another of her experiences. "Unkel marriages is most all ways a failure, as 'as bin proved over and over again. But for all that"—with a startling and instantaneous change of the subject—"I should like to know why that there will, as I 'elped to drepe up, should be called a Testament? which I thought there was but two, the Hold and the New?"

"Lor, cook!" cried the housemaid, with a sniff, "how your mind do run on that will! Anyone would think as it was the only one as ever was, and nobody never signed their names to nothing before."

"Wills there may 'ave bin," answered cook, majestically, "but seldom one as the cook were sent for, all of a

CHAPTER XXI.

A Robbery and a Recognition.

The next day, being Thursday, was not destined to pass uneventfully.

"To-morrow!" said the young man who, for prudential reasons, chose to go by the name of Edwards, as he rose that morning; forgetting to take into consideration the proceedings of to-day and their probable influence on the affairs of to-morrow.

It was not very long before he awoke to a sense of mischievous brooding in the air. Perhaps it was the sight of that pale, narrow face opposite to him as he ate his breakfast—a face which, on this occasion, was wreathed with a false smile and characterized by a general air of great complacency.

Evidently Perkins was in a high state of good humor, so much so that it struck the young man with a vague presentiment of impending disaster.

However, he consoled himself with the reflection that there was only one more day to elapse before he hoped to be in a position to set everyone at defiance; and, surely, in that short time, she would be unable to meet with an opportunity for wreaking her spite upon him.

"After to-morrow, the Deluge," he thought, paraphrasing the words of the French monarch. Meanwhile, there was to-day to be considered; if he had only been aware of the fact, the chances of to-morrow were already in danger of being seriously jeopardized by the events of the more immediate present.

"Whatever's come to Mariarann?" asked the cook, who was also struck by the change. "I've never knowed 'er took that way afore. Hackshully offered to darn a pair of stockings for me, which, what with the preservin' and other things, my 'ands is full and my toes is hot. Which 'Make 'ay while the sun shines, as there's 'no knowin' 'ow long the weather'll 'old up,' is my motter, but let's 'ope it'll last."

"And she's been and called me 'dear' to my very face," said the parlor maid, taking up the parable; "which you might have knocked me down with a duster. I was that took aback, and hardly knew whether I was awake or dreaming. I wonder what it means?"

(To be continued.)

that the dust which it contained must have been gold dust at the very least. At any rate, he had his way, and hurried off with the articles as though he were half afraid that she might change her mind. But, when he arrived at the basement, there was nothing but dust and flue left in the dust pan. The pieces of paper had disappeared!

That same night, in the seclusion of his own room, he occupied himself in the seemingly vain and useless task of separating, sorting and pasting together some morsels of writing paper, which had been torn into the minutest fragments.

"I was right when I guessed it to be no ordinary letter he was writing," he muttered. "This is only the heading of the document that he had been engaged in drawing up; but it is sufficient to enable me to arrive at the purport of its contents."

"The true narrative and confession of me, James Ferrers, of the strange tragedy of the 25th of Ap—"

"Ah, James Ferrers, you were guilty of worse than a crime—a blunder—when you contented yourself with tearing up that sheet of paper into particles, which you thought were too minute ever to be deciphered, instead of burning them on the spot!"

"But why has he made this confession? Is it merely to relieve his own conscience, or has he some other object in view which I cannot at present discern?"

"Whatever it may be, that document, that confession of his guilt, of which I needed no further confirmation, cannot have left this house. It is, no doubt, concealed in some secret drawer or hiding place in that room of which I possess the means of entry in the duplicate key. Next Friday may settle that question as well as others."

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(To be continued.)

LIZARDS THAT LIKE MUSIC.

Tuataras of New Zealand Very Fond of Rollicking Choruses.

A curious fact has lately been learned about the tuatara, the large native lizard of New Zealand.

It is a great fat, sleepy thing, from a foot upward in length, with a measurement around it of about twelve inches. It is kept tamed, about rocks. Wild specimens are growing rare, though one island off the coast still swarms with them.

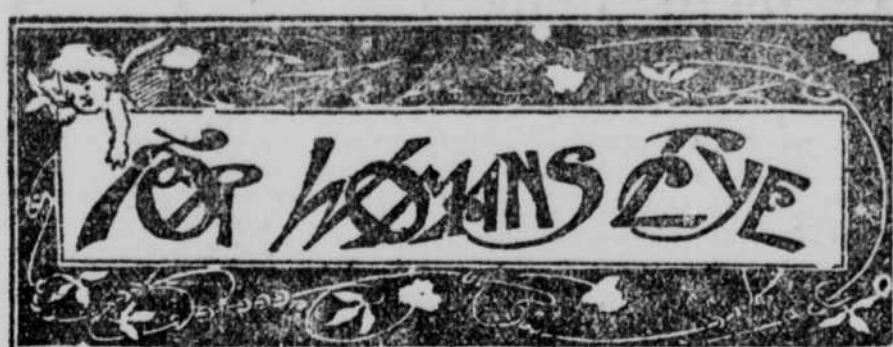
These harmless things come out as a rule only for food. But some one in Christ church has discovered a way of bringing them out at any time. This is by singing to them.

They have preferences in music, too. They evince much more satisfaction at a rollicking chorus than at a solo.

One day a song sung by a girl brought some out, but only their heads were visible, their sleepy eyes opening every few minutes. Then the charmer tried "Soldiers of the Queen" and when all joined in the chorus there was no doubt about the effect on the tuataras.

They wriggled about on the rocks, almost dancing in their excitement and joy, until the repertoire of the singers was exhausted, when the lizards sneaked back again to their home among the rocks.

New Zealand is the only place in the world where these great lizards are found, and they are said by biologists to be out of their place in this stage of the world's history. They belong to the coal period, and like the moa, ought, by natural laws, to have become extinct long ago.—New York Sun.



Sofa Pillows.

The new soft pillows are now being made of very gorgeous and rather costly materials, silk velour and gold cloth being really the latest thing. These are heavy and wear well, so they pay in the end if one does not become tired of the same cover. Gold braid is used for finishing and narrow cordings of velvet are frequently used along the edge. The cloth of gold is a dull shade, suggestive of bronze, and the design is a handsome novelty, but not really practical for everyday use. Leather designs are still handsome for the den and are delightfully durable, but not at all appreciated as an article intended to promote rest. Oriental designs are most attractive and are quite inexpensive and are made with very little work. The heavy linen stamped with odd conventional designs make up very prettily for a really useful pillow, while the plaid gingham and other wash fabrics are still holding favor for the couch which is used for the siesta.

Useful Pin Cushion.

The convenience of a pin cushion which can be hung at the side of a mirror or in some similar position is self-evident. A novel and useful one can be made from a large-size doll's parasol. To get the best results one of some bright-colored silk should be used. It must be closed and the cover tacked to the stick at each rib; then each of the sections becomes separated from every other and can be fitted at the top and stuffed either with bran or wool wadding picked into bits. When the cushions are slipped into place they can be tacked firmly into position and the parasol further ornamented with bows of ribbon tied on wherever fancy indicates. To make the best foundation the parasol should have a hooked handle by which it can be hung, but should such not be obtainable a ribbon loop can be attached to a handle of any sort.

For Morning Wear.

Pretty and attractive house jackets deserve to be numbered among the essentials of life and add both to the comfort of the wearer and her charm. This one includes a becoming wide collar that is almost a cape and is suited to a variety of materials, but is shown in pale blue cashmere with trimming of ecrú lace. The fronts are loose, but the back is fitted, so doing away with any unpleasant suggestion of a negligee, and the sleeves are the wide, puffed ones of the season. To make the jacket for a woman of medium size will be required 3 yards of material 27 to 32 or 2 yards



4523 Morning Jacket, 32 to 42 bust.

44 inches wide, with 4½ yards of lace and 1½ yards insertion.

A May Manton pattern, No. 4523, sizes 32 to 40, will be mailed to any address on receipt of ten cents.

"Easy" Luncheon.

Here are some luncheons which one may easily prepare: Thin slices of veal loaf, tiny hot baking powder biscuits, orange ice in glasses, vanilla wafers, coffee. Or sandwiches of salt rising bread with pressed chicken between cut heart shape, potato salad in lettuce leaf, tiny cucumber pickles, crackers, sprinkled with cheese and heated in the oven; Plain ice cream or fruit salad and devil's food cake. Or thin sliced bread and butter, chipped beef, radishes, olives, hot waffles and maple syrup, coffee. Or hot mushroom, oyster or chicken patties, minced tongue sandwiches, Neufchatel cheese sandwiches, hot tea, water-cress and apple salad, whipped cream seasoned with a spoonful of rum, macaroons, candies, coffee. Or fruit, bouillon, panned chicken, sweet potato croquettes, drop biscuit, olives and radishes, grape and orange salad, ice cream, assorted cakes, coffee.

Beauty in Fine Linen.

Fine linen really presents a study in art nowadays, while as to costliness one might squander a small fortune on a comparatively meager household equipment in this line. The linen itself, so fine and sheer and silky as to delight both eye and touch, is adorned with Arabian, cluny and fllet laces, the antique, square mesh styles being particularly desirable for combination with this material. A set comprising lunch cloth and napkins is made beautiful with drawwork and is banded round a center of plain linen. Delicate shading is effected by

means of the drawwork. Here and there upon it flowers are tossed—roses, clover blooms, chrysanthemums and tulips. These have filmy centers of drawwork, giving a most graceful touch of lightness. All the decoration is hand-wrought, the work of humble peasants in Germany, who surely must have labored at it for very long.

Sectional Petticoat.

The petticoat made with detachable flounce has many advantages. It allows the use of clinging materials above the knees where such are desirable, and of silk or any preferred fabric below. It makes possible the snug habit back in combination with a generously flared flounce. Withal it is economical as one upper portion can be made to serve for several flounces, so allowing change of color and appearance with the minimum of cost, or of several washable flounces to one skirt, the flounces always being the perishable portion. This very excellent model combines stockinette with taffeta, but various combinations can be made of silk, mohair, cambric or any other skirting material can be used; or, again, the skirt can be made suitable for the thinnest gowns by the addition of a straight flounce of plisse silk or net over the circular one of silk.



4635 Sectional Petticoat.

22 to 34 waist.

The petticoat consists of skirt, flounce and band. The skirt is cut in five gores and is without fullness at the back. The placket is made at the left front seam and the upper edge can be finished with a belt or cut in dip outline and underfaced as preferred. Both the band and the flounces are circular, the former slightly, the latter generously and at the edge of the flounce is a narrow gathered frill.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is, for skirt 2½ yards 21 or 1½ yards 30 inches wide; for flounce and band 6½ yards 21 or 3½ yards 36 inches wide.

The pattern 4635 is cut in sizes for a 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 34 inch waist measure.

Bridal Fashions.

Brides are wearing the plainest of dead-white satin gowns at the altar. These are generally cut en princess, with some beautiful lace employed for the emplacement and sleeves.

Lace flowers are more worn than tulle. The vellers for this occasion are white roses and myrtle; a sprig of orange blossoms is generally mingled with the flowers of the wreath. These are worn rather low on the forehead, the hair being pulled well forward and pinned here and there over the flowers to prevent that heavy regularity of the line of white that is sometimes so trying to the prettiest and youngest of faces.

Comfort and Economy.

It is in the construction of dainty lingerie that the clever amateur can show her individual taste and talent. And here it is that sale remnants can be utilized. A length of pretty silk or satin, with a little nun's veiling, can be turned into the coziest bed or dressing jacket and perhaps trimmed with a dainty collar taken from an old blouse. The kimona is a charming pattern for the flannel dressing gown, and very little trimming is required on this beyond a piece of dainty embroidery or lace at the neck, and to edge the wide sleeves.

Latest in Sleeves.

More sleeves of evening coats are made with the deep cuff and the full drooping puff above than in any other way, but the flowing sleeve rather short filled in with chiffon or lace ruffles is better. There may be a narrow cuff at the wrist on the broad hem. One of the latest ideas is to have a broad hem of velvet seven or eight inches deep just at the bottom without stitching or any finish, excepting folds or bands of the goods that fall over at the top.

Sweaters With Sleeves.

An ideal arrangement to wear under jackets cold days is the sweater which has sleeves. It comes in all colors and may be as smart as one wishes.

Readers of this paper can secure any May Manton pattern illustrated above by filling out all blanks in coupon, and mailing, with 10 cents, to E. E. Harrison & Co., 63 Plymouth Place, Chicago. Pattern will be mailed promptly.

Name

Town

State

Pattern No.

Waist Measure (if for skirt)

Bust Measure (if for waist)

Age (if child's or miss's pattern)

Write plainly. Fill out all blanks. Enclose 10c. Mail to E. E. Harrison & Co., 63 Plymouth Place, Chicago.

LIVE STOCK



Growth of the Horse's Hoof.

John W. Adams, professor of veterinary surgery in the University of Pennsylvania, says: All parts of the hoof grow downward and forward with equal rapidity, the rate of growth being largely dependent upon the amount of blood supplied to the pododerm, or "quick." Abundant and regular exercise, good grooming, moistness and suppleness of the hoof, going barefoot, plenty of good food and at proper intervals removing the overgrowth of hoof and regulating the bearing surface, by increasing the volume and improving the quality of the blood flowing into the pododerm, favor the rapid growth of horn of good quality; while lack of exercise, dryness of the horn and excessive length of the hoof hinder growth.

The average rate of growth is about one-third of an inch a month. Hind hoofs grow faster than fore hoofs and unshod ones faster than shod ones. The time required for the horn to grow from the coronet to the ground, though influenced to a slight degree by the preited conditions, varies in proportion to the distance of the coronet from the ground. At the toe, depending on its height the horn grows down in eleven to thirteen months, at the side wall in six to eight months and at the heels in three to five months. We can thus estimate with tolerable accuracy the time required for the disappearance of such defects in the hoof as cracks, clefts, etc.

Irregular growth is not infrequent. The almost invariable cause of this is an improper distribution of the body weight over the hoof—that is, an unbalanced foot. Colts running in soft pasture or confined for long periods in the stable are frequently allowed to grow hoofs of excessive length. The long toe becomes "dished"—that is, concave from the coronet to the ground—the long quarters curl forward and inward and often completely cover the frog or lead to contraction of the heels, or the whole hoof bends outward or inward, and a crooked foot, or, even worse, a crooked leg, is the result if the long hoof be allowed to exert its powerful and abnormally directed leverage for but a few months upon young plastic bones and tender and lax articular ligaments. All colts are not foaled with straight legs, but failure to regulate the length and bearing of the hoof may make a straight leg crooked and a crooked leg worse, just as intelligent care during the growing period can greatly improve a congenitally crooked limb. If breeders were more generally cognizant of the power of overgrown and unbalanced hoofs to divert the lower bones of young legs from their proper direction and, therefore, to cause them to be moved improperly, with loss of speed and often with injury to the limbs, we might hope to see fewer knock-kneed, bow-legged, "splay-footed," "pigeon-toed," cow-hocked, interfering and paddling horses.

If in shortening the hoof one side wall is, from ignorance, left too long or cut down too low with relation to the other, the foot will be unbalanced, and in traveling the long section will touch the ground first and will continue to do so till it has been reduced to its proper level (length) by the increased wear which will take place at this point. While this occurs rapidly in unshod hoofs, the shoe prevents wear of the hoof, though it is itself more rapidly worn away beneath the high (long) side than elsewhere, so that by the time the shoe is worn out the tread of the shoe may be flat. If this mistake be repeated from month to month, the part of the wall left too high will grow more rapidly than the low side whose pododerm is relatively anemic as a result of the greater weight falling into this half of the hoof, and the ultimate result will be a "wry" or crooked foot.

Sheep Wagons.

A report of the Department of Agriculture says: The method of managing sheep on the western ranges varies greatly in different parts of the country and with different sheep men. In some localities readily accessible, large and commodious sheep wagons follow the bands of sheep from place to place, and in these wagons the herders carry their necessary utensils, food, clothing and beds. The usual form of sheep wagon contains a cook stove, convenient arrangement for sleeping and a supply of medicines. These wagons may be hauled by two or four horses, according to the condition of the roads. In more inaccessible places, one wagon may be required to furnish service for a number of herders, who sleep in tents, near the night camping ground for the sheep. Under such conditions each herder establishes a camp at some location, protected from storms and conveniently near water, fuel and grass.

The Ohio Swine Breeders' Association.

Had an interesting and instructive meeting at Columbus, Ohio, January 12th. Officers elected were: President, J. J. Snyder, Paris, Ohio; vice president, S. S. Puckett, Yellow Springs, Ohio; secretary-treasurer, Carl Freigau, Dayton, Ohio; executive committee: For the term of three years, W. A. Eudaley, Middletown, O.; for two years, E. S. Tussing, Canal Winchester, O.; for one year, J. L. Beringer, Marion, O.

Marine Hospital Service.

The public health and marine hospital service costs \$1,000,000 a year.