

# THE FATAL REQUEST OR FOUNDOUT

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

One member of the household was soon to discover this. Miss Perkins came upon him unexpectedly, as he was stooping, with his back toward her, and apparently engaged in closely examining the keyhole of the door belonging to his master's private room.

"What's that you're doing?" she cried sharply.

The individual thus addressed started violently, and something fell to the ground with a clink—something which he immediately covered with his foot before he turned and faced her without making any reply.

"You've changed your ways lately," she said, seeing he made no answer, "and always hanging about this door. What's your game, I should like to know. Anyhow, you aren't up to no good. People as gets into respectable houses under false names very seldom is up to any good!"

With this Parthian shaft she turned away and left him, looking back once over her shoulder, with that same malicious smile, as she marked the effect it had produced. What did she mean by that remark of hers about a false name? How could she have found it out? The shot was too near the bull's eye to have been fired at random. Good heavens! Was it possible she could have any suspicion of the real truth?

There was no source whatever from which she might have obtained this information—Ah—!

He flew upstairs at a tremendous rate, flight after flight, to the top of the house, to his own room, burst the door open and entered.

There was a modest looking box in the corner of the room—a box which contained his few belongings.

Had he remembered to relock this on the last time when he had occasion to resort to it?

No, the lid offered no resistance to his hand.

He began to turn over the articles which it contained, but could not hit

ment she stood motionless, holding the magazine in one hand, while she looked at the individual before her with a puzzled, searching expression upon her countenance. Then a sudden light seemed to break in upon her—she gave a gasp—her expression changed from curiosity to amazement, and, uttering a little cry, she turned sharply round and ran rapidly up the staircase, leaving the other a prey to the liveliest astonishment. What other remarkable incidents was the day to bring forth?

Meanwhile the young lady had regained the stronghold of her own apartment, locked the door, and, throwing the now despised magazine into a corner, sat down to confide the state of her feelings to the keeping of her faithful diary.

"A most extraordinary thing has happened," she wrote. "My head is in a whirl and I hardly know what I am writing, or what to do, or think. To imagine that I have so often puzzled myself over that young man's likeness to someone else, a likeness which I could never quite fix, though I have often seemed just on the joint of doing so. Very likely I should never have hit upon it but for that, apparently, utterly insignificant action of mine in dropping the book I was carrying. He rushed forward to pick it up and returned it to me and—all at once it struck me like a flash where I had seen him before. It was the same circumstance—the same action—and the same young man!"

"It is a most extraordinary thing and takes my breath away even while I write; but there is no mistake about it. There could not possibly be two people so exactly alike and with precisely the same manner—unless this is a twin brother of the other. But, if so, how is it that one is a gentleman and the other only a servant?"

"Was there ever such a combination met with before, and what—oh, what is the reason for his extraordinary conduct, unless—unless he is the Prince in Disguise, after all!"



"What's that you're doing?"

upon the thing he was in search of. The little shabby prayer book, containing his real name in his father's own handwriting, was gone! Gone! Stolen! That hateful woman, with her sly, cat-like step and hypocritical ways, had taken advantage of his one act of carelessness, in leaving the box unlocked, to pry into its contents and carry off the most compromising article of all.

Well, the damage was done, and could not be repaired. The only thing now, was to try and stave off the discovery of the double part he had been playing a little while longer.

After a time he rose from his groveling attitude with his mind fully made up. There was only one course to pursue, and he would pursue it.

He must appear totally ignorant of the theft, and receive every allusion or insinuation with an affected utter lack of comprehension. Let her suspect what she might, let her act and talk as she would, he must keep up the delusion and try to baffle her for at least one more day. Or else, if she seemed inclined to show her teeth—if she appeared disposed to be dangerous, he must hurry on the matter.

A little later in the day, as he was absently staring out of a window in the hall, he heard a faint, rustling sound, and, looking up, saw Miss Ferrers descending the staircase. He allowed his eyes to rest upon her for an instant, telling himself that his opportunities for doing so would soon be at an end now.

She must have felt his glance, for a certain air of embarrassment seemed to fall upon her, and the color rose in her face.

Then she gave herself an impatient twitch, as though she said to herself, "Stand upon your dignity and do not allow the impertinent gaze of a mere mental to discompose you!"

The young man who had picked up my catalogue at the Royal Academy! One of the effects of the twitch was, that it caused her to drop a magazine which she was carrying, just as her foot was upon the last step.

Before she could stoop to reclaim it, there was a hurried dart across the hall, on the part of the mental in question, and the article was retored to her with, what was not so much the respectful deference of an inferior, as the ordinary and natural courtesy of an equal.

The effect of this simple act of politeness upon its recipient was as singular as unexpected. For a mo-

"How the girls at school would envy me! I am living in the same house with a real live Mystery!"

## CHAPTER XXII.

### Perkins' Revenge.

Friday morning came, bringing with it, about eleven o'clock, a message which struck a feeling of chill foreboding to the heart of the individual whom it concerned.

The master of the house desired to speak with the young man Edwards at once, in the dining-room. What did it mean? Was it merely some matter of small importance in connection with his household duties to which he wished to draw his attention personally, or—?

Mr. Ferrers was sitting in his place at the head of the table. There was something judicial looking in his attitude and expression, and, standing at a short distance from him, was the housemaid, Perkins.

"Come in and shut the door," was the first sentence addressed to him.

He obeyed noiselessly and carefully, more than ever mindful of his assumed position and grateful for each second's delay, which allowed him the opportunity of searching his brain for some way out of the dilemma.

"Edwards,"—it was the voice of his master and enemy addressing him—"I have one or two very serious questions to put to you."

The young man bent his head deferentially, and seemed to intimate his entire readiness to answer all inquiries.

"It has been brought to my notice—that is, I have reason to believe"—the voice continued, as its owner seemed to experience some difficulty in opening up the subject—"that I have been deceived in you, and—in fact, that the name under which you are at present passing, is not your own. Is that so?"

Ted answered respectfully, "Begging your pardon, sir, but the name I am going under is my own. Might I be allowed to ask who says anything to the contrary?"

"You mean to maintain that your name is Edwards, after all?" he inquired, bending his brows upon Miss Perkins, whose—as he now thought fit to describe it—unwarrantable interference in the matter had subjected him to this annoyance.

"My name is Edward, sir. An 's' at the end makes it sound better, and I

thought there was no objection to my adding the letter."

"Then your name, according to your own statement, is Edward, and you have merely added the final letter. If so, I am sorry—"

This was more than the woman could stand, and she broke in, unceremoniously upon her master's speech. "Edward! Edward what, I should like to know? He's deceiving you, sir, in trying to make out as that's his surname. Ask him what the other is and why he's had to drop it?"

Mr. Ferrers turned toward him, wearily. "Is the woman right in ascribing that the name you have given is only your Christian name? In which case it would seem that you have added the other letter for the purpose of making it do duty as a surname?"

There was a second's hesitation, during which the housemaid lit her up with impatience, before the answer came, slowly.

"My Christian name is Edward; it did not seem to me to be of any importance which I gave."

Perkins sniffed triumphantly. "So you're going to try and get out of it that way," she thought, "but it won't do."

Something in this last answer had helped to raise him in his master's suspicions.

"I must insist upon your giving me your right name," he said, authoritatively.

"Shall I answer him with a lie?" was the thought which passed through the other's mind. "Surely, one more need not weigh very heavily upon my conscience? And in such a cause!"

But, in the same instant, the face of this man's daughter rose up before him. "How she would despise him, if she knew," he thought, with a sudden reaction and a sense of self-contempt, as he answered, still respectfully enough—

"I should prefer not to mention it."

"Oh, you would prefer not to mention it, would you? And what have you done to make you ashamed to own it?" exclaimed Perkins, the housemaid, who was carried away by her feelings at this point, in a tone of triumph.

She had better have remained silent. "Hold your tongue, woman," was the angry reprimand she brought upon herself. "This is no business of yours."

Woman, indeed! A crowning insult! And to be told to hold her tongue!

Her master, turning again to the young man, repeated his question, with the addition of the inquiry suggested by the last remark of the woman Perkins.

"What have you done that you are ashamed of your name?"

"Nothing," was the proud reply, given with head erect and defiant; and there was something about the manner and tone by which the other was obviously impressed.

"Why, then, do you refuse to answer the question I have put to you?" he asked in a milder voice.

"There are family reasons," was the answer.

Family reasons! A man servant with family reasons, just as though he were anyone else, instead of being a useful sort of machine, hired out at so much a year, with board and lodging! No wonder there was something incongruous in the sound!

"I have nothing to do with your reasons," was the answer, "and I must absolutely decline to retain any one in my service under a false name."

He knew now that it was coming—notice to leave on the spot. Or might there not be a reprieve? He was entitled to a month's notice in the ordinary course of things. Oh, why had he procrastinated so long and wasted such golden opportunities? A month's warning—that was all he prayed for. A month?—another day was all he asked.

"Then you refuse to give me your proper name? I ask for the last time."

(To be continued.)

## EXPENSE OF COLLEGE MUSCLE.

### Vast Sums Spent by Leading American Universities.

The impressive totals of university funds invested in athletic equipment during the present year make the outlay for developing the "sound body" rival for endowment of classical chairs and foundations, says Collier's Weekly. The University of Pennsylvania is completing an athletic field and a gymnasium in one magnificent quadrangle at a cost of nearly half a million dollars. Harvard has just thrown open a new field called the "Stadium," at a cost of \$250,000.

A movement is under way at the University of Chicago to endow athletics in order to remove certain objectionable features of an admission fee system to struggles for college honors, and a half million dollars is the amount needed to provide sufficient capital to maintain the varied sporting interests of the institution. Columbia has recently purchased real estate valued at \$2,000,000, a part of which will be used for an athletic field, according to present plans. Princeton is building a gymnasium which will rival in cost and elaborate equipment any of her collegiate halls. There are several preparatory schools whose gymnasiums and fields added within the last three years represent an outlay of \$50,000 each.

### He Knew Him.

Hicks—Gayman seems to be very happy to-night. He must have money. Wicks—Why do you think so?

Hicks—Because of the way he's cracking jokes.

Wicks—Nonsense! If he had money he wouldn't be happy unless he was cracking bottles.—Catholic Standard Times.

## WASHINGTON.

BY JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

From "Under the Elm," read at Cambridge, July 3, 1875, on the hundredth anniversary of Washington taking command of the American army.

Haughty they said he was, at first, severe;  
But owned, as all men owned, the steady hand  
Upon the brittle, patient to command.  
Prized, as all prize, the justice pure from fear,  
And learned to honor first, then love him, then  
revere.

Such power there is in clear eyed self restraint,  
And purpose clean as light from every selfish  
taint.

O man of silent mood,  
A stranger among strangers then,  
How art thou since renowned the Great, the Good,  
Familiar as the day in all the homes of men!

The winged years, that winnow praise and blame,  
Blow many names out; they but fan to flame  
The self renewing splendors of thy fame.

Soldier and statesman, rarest union;  
High poised example of great duties done  
Simply as breathing, a world's honors worn  
As life's indiffering gifts to all men born;

Jealous for himself, unless it were to God,  
But for his barefoot soldiers eloquent,  
Tramping the snow to oval where they trod,  
Hold by his awe in hollow eyed content;

Modest, yet firm as Nature's self, unblamed  
Gave by the men his nobler temper shamed;  
Not honored then or now because he wooed  
The popular voice, but that he still withstood;

Broad minded, higher souled, there is but one  
Who was all this, and ours, and all men's—  
Washington.



## THE IMMORTALITY OF WASHINGTON'S NAME

On every hand in this land and in the uttermost parts of the earth, is shown the respect in which the great name of Washington is held. There is no name in all the world so honored by its geographical use. At the extreme north of Greenland is Washington Land, and a little east of it is Cape Washington. Then there is a Washington in Oxford county, Ontario. In the mid-Pacific, south of Hawaii, is Washington Island, and further south, on one of the Fiji islands, is Mount Washington. In Paris is the Rue Washington, opening into the Avenue des Champs Elysees.

Turn to the United States and you will find 296 Washingtons, which means more than five for each state, District, territory and each of the foreign possessions. Of these, the first that comes to mind is the national capital, then the great northwest state, and after these the numerous subdivisions of the various states. In Alabama there is a Washington county; in Arkansas, a county and a town; in California, a county, two towns, three townships, and to these are added Washingtontown and Washington Corners; in Connecticut there is a town and a Washington Depot; in Florida a town; Georgia, a county and town; Idaho, a town; Illinois a county, a town, two townships, and to these are added Washington Heights. In this list the word "town" is used in its broadest sense so as to embrace everything from a hamlet to a city.

Indiana has a county, two towns, and forty-three townships; Iowa, a county, a town, forty-one townships, and to these are added Washington Mills and Washington Prairie; Kansas, a county, two towns, six townships, and a Washington Creek; Kentucky, a county, a town and Mount Washington; Louisiana, a parish and a town; Massachusetts, a town and Mount Washington; Maine, a county, a town and Washington Plantation; Maryland, a county, a town, Washington Junction, and also Mount Washington, Michigan, a town, two townships, Washington Island and Washington Harbor; Minnesota, a county, a town, a township, and Washington Lake; Mississippi, a county and a town.

In Missouri is a great nest of Washingtons; a county, a town, twenty-one townships, Washington Centre and Mount Washington; Montana, Washington Bar, Washington Gulch and Mount Washington; Nebraska, a county; North Dakota, a North and south Washington lake; New Hampshire a town, a township and Mount Washington; New Jersey, a town, five townships, Washington crossing, Washingtonville, Washington Corners and Washington Place; New York, a county, two towns, Washingtonville, Washington Mills, Washington Hollow and Washington Four Corners; North Carolina, a county and two townships.

Then comes Ohio, with a remarkable display, a county, four towns, forty townships, Washingtonville, Washington Station and Mount Washington; Oregon, a county; Pennsylvania, a county, three towns, twenty-one townships and Mount Washington; Rhode Island, a county and a town; Vermont, a county and a town; Virginia, a county, a town and "Washington's Birth Place," in Westmoreland county, Washington, Washington lake; Wisconsin, a county, six townships, Washington Island and Washington Harbor; Wyoming, Mount Washington.

When one thinks of the monuments to Washington, the first that comes to mind is the mighty shaft in the capital. Then there is the celebrated marble statue in the central hall of the Capitol at Richmond, by Jean Antoine Houdon, and not far away the imposing monument in Baltimore, surmounted by a colossal statue of the patriot. There is no state, in fact there is no city of any considerable size, where Washington is not continually kept in mind by the same tablet to his memory, and they are increasing now more rapidly than ever before, since the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution, the Colonial Dames and the various other patriotic organizations have begun their work. These are seen in the granite tablet under the Washington Elm, in Cambridge, commemorating that event of July 3, 1775, when the great general took command of the first American

army, and in some statue or tablet in nearly every town known to the thirteen colonies, and in the hundreds of towns and great cities that are now the centers of prosperous communities in what were then unknown lands.

Here are some answers from little school children when they were asked the question "Who was George Washington?" "He was a great general who whipped the British," "He was the first president," "He was a good man, who fought for his country," "He was the father of his country," "He was a brave man who said that this country should be free," "He was the greatest man, and Lincoln comes next." So it went, as the question was put to a score of children, and from not one came an answer that showed ignorance.

## EARL OF BUCHAN'S TRIBUTE.

Sent Washington a Box from the Wallace Oak.

The New York Times published an article in reference to the disposal of the box made of the oak that sheltered Sir William Wallace after the battle at Falkirk, and giving the letter of presentation in which the Earl of Buchan presented the box to Washington. It seems that the Earl of Buchan, friend and patron of Robert Burns, was so delighted with the heroic part that Gen. Washington took in the American War of Independence that he showed his appreciation in the manner described.

The letter and box were intrusted to the care of a Mr. Robertson, a Scottish artist. Robertson arrived in New York in October, and in December went to Philadelphia to fulfill his mission. This was in 1791.

On Friday, Dec. 13, of that year he presented the box to the president. "He was much embarrassed," he said, "on being introduced to the American hero, but was soon relieved by Washington, who entered into familiar conversation with him, and introduced him to Mrs. Washington." The Earl of Buchan expressed the wish that he might have a portrait of Washington and that Robertson might be the artist. Washington sat to Robertson for the portrait in miniature, and when that was finished the artist painted a larger picture from it in oil for Lord Buchan.

This picture was painted at the close of May, 1792, when Washington wrote to Lord Buchan thanking him for the present of the box, and saying of the portrait: "The manner of the execution of it does no discredit, I am told, to the artist." The picture was sent to Europe by Col. Lear, and Robertson received the thanks of the Earl of Buchan.

In his letter of thanks to Buchan, Washington said: "I will, however, ask that you will exempt me from compliance with the request relating to its eventual destination. In an attempt to execute your wish in this particular I should feel embarrassed from a just comparison of relative pretensions and fear to risk injustice by so marked a preference."

The box was taken to Mount Vernon at the close of the session, where it remained until Washington's death, when he committed it to the Earl by the following clause in his will:

"To the Earl of Buchan I commit the box made of the oak that sheltered the great Sir William Wallace, after the battle of Falkirk, presented to me by his lordship in terms too flattering for me to repeat, with a request to pass it, on the event of my decease, to the man in my country who should appear to merit it best, upon the same conditions that have induced him to send it to me. Whether easy or not to select the man who might comport with his lordship's opinion in this respect, it is not for me to say; but, conceiving that no disposition of the valuable curiosity can be more eligible than the commitment of it to its own cabinet, agreeably to the original design of the 'Goldsmiths Company' of Edinburgh, who presented it to him, and at his request consented that it should be transferred to me, I do give and bequeath the same to his lordship and in case of his decease, to his heir, with my grateful thanks for the distinguished honor of presenting it to me, and more especially for the favorable sentiments with which he accompanied it."

## \$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials, and if you are afflicted with Catarrh, write to—  
Address F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O.  
Sold by all Druggists, 5c.  
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

When a woman knows she is home by she isn't ashamed to boast of her ability to cook.

## The Editor of the Rural New Yorker

Than whom there is no better Potato Expert in the Country, says: "Salzer's Earliest Potato is the earliest of 38 earliest sorts, tried by me, yielding 484 bu. per acre." Salzer's Early Wisconsin yielded for the Rural New Yorker 736 bu. per acre. Now Salzer has heavier yielding varieties than above. See Salzer's catalog.

## JUST SEND 10c IN STAMPS

and this notice to the John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., and receive lots of farm seed samples and their big catalog, which is brim full of rare things for the gardener and farmer, easily worth \$100.00 to every wide-awake farmer.

It describes Salzer's "Rosette," yielding 160,000 lbs. per acre, of rich green fodder. Salzer's Victoria Rape, yielding 60,000 lbs. of sheep and hog food per acre, together with Salzer's New National Oats, which has a record of 300 bu. per acre in 30 states, so also full description of Alfalfa Clover, Giant In-carnat Clover, Alsike, Timothy and thousands of other fodder plants, Grasses, Wheat, Speltz, Barleys, etc. (W. N. U.)

Tibet, "the roof of the world," is a tableland three times as large as France.

## Cheap Excursions to the South.

On February 16, March 1 and 15, the Kansas City Southern railway will offer to the public the extremely low rate of \$10.00 for the round trip to all points on the Port Arthur Route, including Beaumont, Port Arthur, Lake Charles, Shreveport, Texarkana, Fort Smith, Mena, De Queen and all intermediate points. The return limit on these tickets will be twenty-one days from date of sale, with stopover privileges at all points south of Kansas City on the going trip. Any information desired by the public relative to these cheap excursions will be cheerfully furnished upon application to S. G. Warner, G. P. and T. A., Kansas City, Mo.

Heavenly bread is never blessed until it is broken.

## FRAUDS IN A BALE OF HAY.

### Frauds in Watch Cases.

According to an article in the Cincinnati Commercial, a fifty-one pound stone was recently found in that city secreted in a bale of hay of eighty pounds.

This is not as bad as finding a lump of lead of nearly one-half the weight of the solid gold watch case secreted in the center of the case.

Gold watch cases are sold by weight, and no one can see where this lead is secreted until the springs of the case are taken out and the lead will be found secreted behind them.

These cases are made by companies who profess to be honest, but furnish the means to the dishonest to rob the public. It is not pleasant for anyone to find that he has lugged a lump of lead in his watch case.

Another trick the makers of spurious solid gold watch cases is to stamp the case "U. S. Assay." The United States does not stamp any article made out of gold and silver except coin, and the fakir, by using this stamp, wants to make the public believe that the government had something to do with the stamping or guaranteeing the fitness of watch cases.

Another trick of the watch fakir is to advertise a watch described as a solid gold filled watch with a twenty or twenty-five year guarantee. These watches are generally sent C. O. D., and if the purchaser has paid for the watch he finds that the Company which guaranteed the watch to wear is not in existence.

The Duober-Hampden Watch Company of Canton, Ohio, who are constantly exposing these frauds, will publish the names of the manufacturers who are in this questionable business.

A man's greatness is seen in his recognition of goodness.

## To Wash China Silk Dresses.

China silk dresses may be quite successfully washed. Remove all spots with benzine. Then wash in warm soapsuds, rubbing between the hands, rinse through several waters. Use Ivory Soap and do not rub the soap on the dress. Wring as dry as possible, wrap in a sheet or clean cotton cloth and, when partially dry, iron. ELEANOR R. PARKER.

Some men are so easy-going that after: awhile they cease to go at all.

## Largest growers of ONION

and Vegetable Seeds in the World.

LARGE RED and GLOBE Our Prices range from 60 cents to \$1.50 per pound, and no better seed is found on earth.

How to grow 1,200 bushels Onions per acre with each ounce order.

Pkg., 10c.  
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John A. Salzer Seed Co., LA CROSSE, WIS.

## \$500 Given Away

To a certain number of consumers buying ALABASTINE and sending us before October 15, 1904, the closest estimates on the popular vote for the next President. Write us or ask a dealer in Alabastine for the easy conditions imposed in this contest, which is open to all.

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is the only sanitary wall coating. Anyone can apply it. Mix with cold water. Not a disease-breeding, out-of-date, hot-water, glue kalsomin.

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