

THE FATAL REQUEST OR FOUND OUT

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CHAPTER XI.—Continued.

"Know me? Of course he does!" was the reply. "Didn't I buy him of a drunken old Irish woman, and mend his broken leg for him? And do you think he's going to forget that, though he is only a duck?"

They remained pacing up and down the garden paths until it was quite dusk; the doctor persistently conversing on cheerful subjects, and refusing to allow the conversation to take a morbid turn.

At nine o'clock supper was served, consisting of boiled fowl and sausages.

"You'll take a leg and a wing and a bit of the breast," said the hospitable little man, as he piled his visitor's plate. "You've got a trying day before you to-morrow."

CHAPTER XII.

The Other Passenger.

The inquiry into the death of Mr. Elias Burritt was held at the "Whetstone," in the long, low room usually dedicated to the flowing bowl and the promotion of social intercourse.

The same routine having been observed as on that previous occasion, Dr. Jeremiah Cartwright was called to prove the finding of the body—its position, appearance and subsequent removal to the vestry of the old church, and his explanation of the remains—resulting in the discovery of a wound, with two edges, showing that the bullet which had caused it had traversed the skull completely.

Other scientific evidence followed, which is unnecessary to detail.

Mr. Edward Burritt was then called, and went through the form of identifying the accused as his father, Mr. Elias Burritt, merchant of Timber Lane, Cleveland. He entirely agreed with the theory of self-destruction, stating that his father, to his certain knowledge, had not only never possessed anything in the shape of fre-

arms, but had always been remarkable for an unusual amount of nervousness, almost amounting to horror, with regard to anything of the kind, in consequence of an accident, with a tragical termination, which he had once witnessed, Dr. Jeremiah Cartwright, recalled at this juncture, here stated his firm conviction that the wound had not been self-inflicted, which he proceeded to prove, to his own satisfaction and the entire bewilderment of everybody else present, by the aid of a great many polysyllabic expressions and a torrent of professional phraseology, which swept everyone off their feet, but which, on being filtered down for the benefit of the unlearned, merely amounted to the following facts, viz., that the edges of the wound, by which the bullet had made its entrance, were torn and lacerated, as well as blackened and burnt by the action of the gunpowder, that the skin in the vicinity of the wound was blistered, the bleeding exit, and chiefly from the orifice of exit, and the two openings in the scalp nearly opposite each other.

Dr. Cartwright, having brought his evidence to a conclusion, now gave place to another witness, and one in whose power it might be to help to unravel the mystery. This last was the guard of the 4:30 train—an intelligent looking man, who, with a bandage round his head and one arm in a sling, bore tokens of the injuries he had received in jumping from the train while it was in motion.

On being questioned as to what he knew of the matter, he replied, without any hesitation, that he remembered the fourth carriage from the engine well, and the passengers that it carried in that particular compartment.

Dr. Burritt asked that there was more than one carriage referred to?

"There was only one," he could swear to. "I don't know of any other carriage that they might have the carriage to themselves for the journey?"

"And did you lock them in, and are quite sure that they were both together in the carriage when the train started?"

"Certain sure he was. He sees them both together in the compartment as the train passed him, just before he swung himself into his van."

Being asked whether there was any-

thing about either of them that helped to draw his attention upon them, he answered that "the taller and thinner of the two—though they were both of them tall and well-grown—seemed uncommon pertickler about picking out a carriage to his mind. He noticed him looking into several before he fixed upon that identical compartment; and when he had, he beckons to him (the guard) and says, 'Look here!' he says, 'me and my friend, we don't want nobody else getting in here. We want this here carriage to ourselves till we get to London. Take this,' he says, 'and don't you let nobody else in whatever.' So I says 'All right, sir,' and locks the door, and thinks to myself, 'Anybody would think as it was a couple of honey-moosers instead of two elderly gents.'"

"Could he identify the body of the gentleman who had been shot as the companion of the other?"

He both could and would; except that there had been a sort of a smile on his face then and he looked very different now. In fact, he had struck him (the guard)—in spite of the tip which the other party gave him—as being by far the agreeable and most pleasant-spoken gentleman of the two; and he had been most uncommon sorry that he had, on recognizing the body, because, you see, he had quite made up his mind that he had escaped as well as the other one.

Being asked to explain himself, said he didn't see much what there was to explain. What he meant was that he thought that if one gent got off scot free, the other might have done the same.

"What did he mean by the other having got off scot free, and what was his authority for speaking as he did?"

"Why, it was simple enough. Being in the rear of the train, he was conscious of nothing until he found himself thrown violently on the floor.

Recovering himself, he jumped from his van and alighted on his feet, but was struck by a fragment of something and knocked down. He rose to his feet again, though suffering from wounds in the head, hand and knee, and saw a sight the like of which he had never seen before. With his keys in his hand, he ran up and down the line, hardly knowing what he was doing. As soon as he began to get his senses back, which had been pretty well knocked out of him, he unlocked all the doors of the carriages that he came to, though they were already unlocked on one side. After he had done all he could, he went and sat down by the side of the line, for he began to turn faint and dizzy.

While he sat there he saw a tall, rather thin, elderly gentleman making his way slowly towards him, who limped a little as he walked. As this latter came nearer he recognized him as being the same individual who had given him the tip, and told him to keep anyone else from getting into the carriage.

Witness noticed that his face was ghastly, and that he breathed like a man who had been running a race, but naturally put it down to the terrible shock and the fright caused by the accident. As he came up to him, he (the guard) spoke to him and said, "Glad to see you're safe, sir! hope the other gent is the same?" But he only stared at him in a queer, dazed sort of way, without making any answer, and passed on down the line.

At last, after some debate, the verdict agreed upon was: "Willful murder against some person or persons unknown."

Ted Burritt and his friend the doctor left the place together.

"What will be your next step in the matter?" asked the latter.

"First, to take my father's body home—then to look for his murderer!"

CHAPTER XIII.

Coming Home.

Early in the evening of the same day Dr. Jeremiah was bidding his new friend "good-bye" as he saw him off from the station.

The train puffed slowly out of the station, and the last view Ted had of the little man showed him standing at the end of the platform and waving his spectacles after him. He gave him a parting salute out of the



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LAND FOR THE LANDLESS

Fort Randall Reservation to Be Opened for Homesteading

Congressman Kinkaid's bill to restore to homesteaders on the Fort Randall military reservation their homestead rights will be read with interest by every resident of Boyd county, Neb. Here it is:

"Whereas those who made entry under and by virtue of the homestead laws of the United States upon the agricultural lands of the Fort Randall military reservation in the states of Nebraska and South Dakota, abandoned as such military reservation and opened to settlement by the government, such homesteaders were and are required in order to acquire title thereto both comply with the homestead laws of the United States and to pay the appraised value of said lands to the government; therefore,

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, that Congress assembled, that all persons who under and by virtue of the homestead laws and other statutes of the United States have made entry and perfected title to any of the agricultural lands upon the Fort Randall United States military reservation, abandoned as such and opened to settlement, situated in the county of Boyd, in the state of Nebraska, and in the county of Gregory, in the state of South Dakota, and all persons who so made entry upon any of said lands but have not perfected their title thereto and who may hereafter perfect their title thereto, be, and they are hereby, given the right to take another homestead under the laws of the United States and perfect title thereto, as if there homestead rights had not been exercised upon any of the lands aforesaid. Provided, that commutation under section twenty-three hundred and one of the revised statutes or any amendment thereto, or any similar statute shall not be permitted of an entry made under this act. Provided, that no person desiring to make another entry under this act shall make affidavit to be transmitted with the other filing papers now required by law, giving the description of the tract formerly entered, date and number of entry, and name of the land office where made, or other sufficient data to admit of readily identifying it on the official records."

Judge Kinkaid has long believed that this bill will not encounter the slightest opposition and may reasonably be expected to pass congress in due time.

MEXICO DOING BETTER

Will be More Careful in the Matter of Arresting Americans

Complaints having reached the state department from many sources during the past few years that American citizens employed in various capacities on the railroad of Mexico frequently had been arrested and imprisoned in that republic on the charge of crime and negligence in railroad wrecks, homicides, etc., and held for long periods without trial, the United States ambassador to Mexico was directed by Secretary Hay to examine into these cases and bring the subject to the attention of the Mexican government, with a view to ameliorating the conditions which appear to exist. As a consequence of Mr. Clayton's representations to the Mexican foreign office an important circular letter has been issued by the Mexican department of justice and sent to the district and circuit courts throughout the republic, advising against the arrest and imprisonment of such railway employees except on a strong presumption of guilt and directing them in all cases to expedite the judicial proceedings as rapidly as possible.

Another Rockefeller Gift

It was announced at the forty-ninth convocation of the university of Chicago that donations amounting to \$1,850,000 had been received from John D. Rockefeller, founder of the university. Of this amount \$1,500,000 is in real estate, improved and unimproved in the immediate vicinity of the university, which was formally transferred by Mr. Rockefeller. For current expenses of the university during the year beginning July 1, 1904, \$245,000 was given; \$55,000 was donated for the completion of the power plant and improvement of the grounds and \$50,000 is given by Mr. Rockefeller for the work of excavation and exploration in oriental lands.

Postmasters Must Make Good.

The auditor for the postoffice department made an important ruling today affecting a Nebraska postoffice, that all postmasters are responsible for every dollar of public money received at office. This covers all shortages or embezzlements by subordinates who may have been employed. Though the operation of the civil service law. In other words, the postmaster is not permitted to employ his subordinates, yet must stand responsible for their acts. It will require an act of congress to reimburse Postmaster Crow of Omaha for the \$2,000 embezzled by Stamp Clerk Olson.

Ohio River in Dangerous Condition

With the Ohio river frozen over and great gorges at many places, the rise of nearly three feet threatens danger for all kinds of craft. Several steamers are icebound at Cincinnati and vicinity, and if a thaw comes and a sudden rise, great damage will be done.

Typhoid in Pittsburgh

Typhoid fever is rapidly increasing in Pittsburgh, Pa., and threatens to take on the character of an epidemic. For the first twenty-two days in December there were 410 cases and during the last twenty-four hours nine new cases were reported. This breaks all previous records. The disease is virulent and a large proportion of those taking sick are dying.

Some men make enemies instead of friends because it is less trouble.

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