



She Was on Time!

The motor comes at eight and horrors!—it's five to eight now. You mustn't keep him waiting! Such a quandary! There's no one to hook you up. Blackest despair! But a happy thought. That new gown—it fastens with Koh-i-noor. Good—you can fasten yourself up in half a minute. The day is saved!

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said Stranleigh. "Miss Armstrong gave it to me to assist me in my search."

Drawing the letter from his pocket, he showed the date to the lawyer, who, consulting his file, said: "It's just as I expected. That letter was written ten days later than the one I received. Sorry I am unable to give you any assistance, Mr. Stranleigh."

Stranleigh rose. "I am sorry, also. I suppose there wouldn't be much use telegraphing to the address he gives in Chicago?"

"I see no object in that, since he's not there now."

"Thank you, Mr. Ricketts. Good morning."

Reaching the sidewalk, Stranleigh almost fell into the arms of Jim Dean. Here, then, was the man who had been following him.

"Good morning, Mr. Dean."

"Mornin'" snarled Jim, briefly.

"I've just been up to see Mr. Ricketts, expecting to get from him some information about Mr. Armstrong, but he doesn't appear to know very much."

"Well, your the first man I ever heard say that S. A. Ricketts doesn't know very much, but I think by-and-by you will find that others know a good deal."

"Oh, there's a lot of superfluous knowledge lying around loose."

"Very likely," remarked Jim, laconically, as he turned on his heel, and walked away, while Stranleigh went to enlist the services of a telegraph operator.

A MESSAGE was written, giving the New York detective particulars in detail as far as he possessed them asking that no expense be spared, and requesting that Armstrong, when found, should be presented with two hundred dollars, with instructions to take the first train home where his presence was urgently needed.

"Great Scott!" cried the operator, "is that all one message?"

"Yes," said Stranleigh.

"Well, stranger, you'll have to dig up a pretty big wad to pay for this."

Stranleigh passed over the amount finally named.

"About what time shall I call for the reply?"

"Oh, you won't need to call, Mr. Stranleigh. When it comes, I'll lock up the office, and find you if you're in town."

"I'll be over at the tavern."

"All right; you'll get it."

"Thanks. Good morning."

Stranleigh took the next train to the nearest town east, and from there did more telegraphing, but this time the message was in cipher, and it was addressed to his agent in New York. Translated, it read:

"Send me at once by express, registered and insured, twenty thousand dollars in currency, made up of five-dollar, ten-dollar and hundred-dollar bills."

The address was fully written out. He found there was time for lunch before the west-bound train arrived, and he adjourned to the chief hotel, whose accommodation was superior to that of the Bleachers tavern.

ON HIS return to Bleachers, he called at the telegraph office. The young man in charge, at once recognizing him, announced: "Nothing doing. The moment anything comes, I'll bring it over to you. Say, was there anything secret about that telegram you sent this morning?"

"No; why do you ask?"

"Ricketts, the lawyer, came in about ten minutes ago, and described you; wanted to know if you had sent a telegram."

"What did you say to him?"

"I said nobody had sent a telegram, and that I knew nothing about you. He seemed powerful anxious about it, and offered me a dollar to let him know if you telegraphed. I went over to tell you about it, but they said you hadn't been in since breakfast."

"Ah!" slowly ejaculated Stranleigh.

"Ricketts is always mighty curious about any stranger who arrives in



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