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"My dear Sterling, you are the most impractical man I ever met. If you give him warning, he'll merely leave you in the lurch, as he did me."

"Do you mean to disguise yourself?"

"I shan't need to. I understand that class of Englishman better than you do. He will not even see me, and I don't know that I shall call myself to his attention at all. My own idea is to let the deal go through, claiming only the privilege of being your adviser; keeping quite in the background. He will regard me as a servant, and unless I said to him: 'Lord Stranleigh of Wychwood, why did you bolt so suddenly from New York?' he would never have the least idea who was sitting beside him."

"Lord Stranleigh?" echoed Sterling, in amazement.

"Yes; that's the man you're dealing with, and he's worth untold millions. I'll go to his hotel now, and see him, if you prefer that I should do so."

"No, no; take him out tomorrow, but say nothing to him about me or my business. Whatever arrangement we come to, you shall be recompensed for your share in the negotiations."

PARKES' prediction regarding Stranleigh's non-recognition of him proved accurate. The young man simply said: "We will cross the ferry, and run up along the Canadian shore as far as Lake St. Clair."

The road continued along the river bank, with no fences on the left side, and although residences were fairly numerous, there was little traffic on the highway. The car was running at a moderate pace when the chauffeur suddenly diverted it towards the river, and with an exceedingly narrow margin escaped tumbling down the bank.

"I say," murmured Stranleigh, "I don't like that, you know."

"There's worse to come," said the chauffeur, menacingly. "Promise to pay me a hundred thousand dollars, or I will dash you and the car into the river. If you consider your life worth that sum, speak quickly."

"Ah, it's you, is it, Parkes? I hope you realize you will dash yourself over at the same time?"

"I know that, but I'm a desperate man. Just get that into your head."

"You are aware that a promise given under duress is not binding?"

"Stow talk," roared Parkes. "Say 'yes' or 'no.'"

"I say 'no,'" replied Stranleigh, so quietly that the other was completely unprepared for the prompt action which followed. Stranleigh flung his arms round the man, and jerked him backward from his wheel. His lordship was in good athletic condition, while the ex-valet had looked too much on the highball when it sparkled in the glass. He was helpless as a child.

"Now," said Stranleigh, "I'll lay a wager that this car tumbles off the bank before five minutes are past."

Stranleigh, with his heels, was working the two outside pegs, and the car acted as if it were drunker than a lord.

"In God's name," cried Parkes. "Let me go! We shall be wrecked! I implore you, Lord Stranleigh!"

"Well, I'll save your life, but I'll give you a lesson against attempted blackmail."

He steered to the edge of the bank, then pressed the middle peg, and stopped the car. Rising and carrying Parkes with him, he hurled him headlong over the slight earthy precipice into the water, which was shallow at that point. Parkes arose spluttering, and found Stranleigh had turned the car around, and, with a smile, was looking down at his dripping victim.

"You'll suffer for this!" cried Parkes, shaking his fist at him. "We're in a country, thank God,

(Continued on Page 14)



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