

Shattered Nerves.

Many people complain of shattered nerves. Very frequently this malady is caused by the overwork of body and brain. Bad sleep or no sleep at all is one of the prominent symptoms of shattered nerves.

Romance got something of a setback the other day when, from the steps of the Royal Exchange of London, the common crier made proclamation that after August 1 the doubloon would cease to be legal tender in the West Indies, including British Guiana.

So far as experience goes with the Chicago directory it is a painstaking and truth-telling book. The publishers go to large expense to make it so.

Some years ago Canada decided to observe Thanksgiving in October instead of November, as a more cheerful month for the family gathering and a more suitable time for a harvest festival.

There are three principal kinds of mosquitoes. One disseminates yellow fever, another makes a specialty of malaria and the third is a striped-legged stinging machine that makes its habitation in New Jersey.

A Connecticut man has married his cook, and will shortly discover he has made a horrible blunder if it was his intention to get rid of the servant problem.



SYNOPSIS.

Giles Dudley arrived in San Francisco to join his friend and distant relative Henry Wilton, whom he was to assist in an important and mysterious task, and who accompanied Dudley on the ferry boat trip into the city.

CHAPTER XXI.—Continued.

"Send six men to 8 o'clock boat. Come with one in back to courtyard of the Palace Hotel at 7:40."

Mother Borton's face changed not a whit at the reading, but at the end she nodded.

"Yes," I said. "I must go." "Oh," she wailed; "you may be killed. You may never come back."

"Where are Barkhouse and Phillips?" I asked, as we turned our faces toward the west.

"There was nearly 10 minutes before the boat left, but the hurry for tickets, the rush to check baggage, the shouts of hackmen and expressmen, the rattle and confusion of the coming and departing street cars that centered at the ferry made us inconspicuous among the throng as we stepped out of the hack."

"I am ready for orders," I said with a bow.

"Your orders are in this envelope," said the Unknown, hurriedly thrusting a paper into my hand.

"I believe you are right," said I, peering into the darkness.

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toward the bay, and crossing the street at the next corner followed the main thoroughfare to Broadway.

"I guess we're all right now," he gasped, as we turned again to the west, "but we'd best keep to the middle of the street."

And a little later we were in sight of the house of mystery which fronted, forbidding and gloomy as ever, on Montgomery street, and I was soon in my room and in bed for what sleep I could snatch.

There was a rattle of wagons and a bustle of departing guests as we drove into the courtyard of the famous hostelry.

I stepped out of the hack and looked about me anxiously. Was I to meet the Unknown? or was I to take orders from some emissary of my hidden employer? No answering eye met mine as I searched the place with eager glance.

I glanced at the clock that ticked the seconds in the office of the hotel

he travel with us, ma'am? He's rather young." "He'll go all right," said the elder woman with some agitation.

CHAPTER XXII.

Tracked. "Did you see him?" asked Wainwright, as the hack lurched into Market street and straightened its course for the ferry.

"Who?" "Tom Terrill. He was behind that big pillar near the arch there.

"I didn't see him," I said. "Keep the child between us, and shoot anybody who tries to stop us or to climb into the hack. I must read my orders."

I tore open the envelope and drew forth the scented paper with its familiar, firm, yet delicate handwriting, and read the words:

"Take the train with your men for Livermore. Await orders at the hotel. Protect the boy at all hazards."

Enclosed in the sheet were gold notes to the value of \$500—a thoughtful detail for which I was grateful at the outset of such an expedition.

I had some thought of questioning Wainwright, who was busy trying to make friends with the child, but reflecting that I might be supposed to know all about it I was silent.



TWO WOMEN STOOD BEFORE ME, LEADING A CHILD.

I saw that I had been early, and that it was even now but 20 minutes to the hour.

The minute hand had not swept past the figure VIII when the door opened, there was a hurried step and two women stood before me leading a child between them.

One of the women was young, the other older—perhaps middle-aged. Both were tall and well-made. I looked eagerly upon them, for one of them must be the Unknown, the hidden employer whose task had carried Henry Wilton to his death.

"Here is your charge, Mr. Wilton," she said in a low, agitated voice.

"I am ready for orders," I said with a bow.

"Quite likely," I admitted as we

turned the jutting corner of the building and came under shelter by the ticket office. "But keep a close watch."

The other four retainers were in the passageway, and I called to the ticket seller for the tickets to Livermore. By the price I decided that Livermore must be somewhere within 50 miles, and marshaling my troop about the boy, marched into the waiting room, past the doorkeeper, through the sheds and on to the ferry boat.

I saw no sign of the enemy, and breathed freer as the last belated passenger leaped aboard, the folding gangplank was raised and the steamer, with a prolonged blast of the whistle, slid out into the yellow-green water of the bay.

"Keep together, boys," I cautioned my retainers. "Has any one seen signs of the other gang?"

"Well, Abrams, will you slip around and see if any of them got aboard? There's no such thing as being comfortable until we are sure."

In the hurry and excitement of preparation and departure the orders I had given and received, and the work that filled every moment, I had been conscious of the uneasy burden of a task forgotten. I had surely neglected something. Yet for my life I could not see that we lacked anything.

"Great Scott!" I thought. "It's Dorrville Knapp. That little engagement in the stock market is casting its shadow before."

It seemed likely indeed that the demands of my warring employers would clash here as well as in the conflict over the boy.

Yet with all the vengeful feeling that filled my heart as I looked on the child and called up the memory of my murdered friend, I could but feel a pang of regret at the prospect that Dorrville Knapp's fortune should be placed in hazard through any unfaithfulness of mine.

"Not for all day." "Well, he hasn't been seen since you told him to find out who's aboard."

"All right," said Wainwright, lifting the child in his arms. "It will take a good man to get him away from me."

"Where's Abrams?" I asked, noting that only six of my men were at hand.

"Not for all day." "Well, he hasn't been seen since you told him to find out who's aboard."

"It's no use to wait for him," I growled. "But the next man that takes French leave had better look somewhere else for a job, for by the great horn spoon, he's no man of mine."

We marched off the boat in the rear of the crowd, I in no pleasant humor, and the men silent in reflection of my displeasure.

The train was the east-bound overland, and it seemed hours before the baggage was taken aboard and the signal given to start.

Use of Adjectives.

Certain adjectives are reserved for men and others for women. A man is never called "beautiful." Along with "pretty" and "lovely" that adjective has become the property of women and children alone.

Even cremation has been made to subservise the purposes of the brigand in a manner in which those interested ought to take note.

House Fly a Common Enemy. Although the mosquito specializes on yellow fever and malaria and is universally recognized as an enemy to be fought outright, scientists have come to regard the common house fly as the more dangerous.

Just a Thought. We needn't worry about who is going to plant flowers on our graves; lots of people would do it gladly, no doubt.

AVOID RISK IN BUYING PAINT.

You take a good deal of risk if you buy white lead without having absolute assurance as to its purity and quality. You know white lead is often adulterated, often misrepresented.

A Doctor's Disadvantage. "In one way," said a collector, "it is easier to get money from a doctor than anybody else who is slow pay. It is more difficult for him to swear that he hasn't been able to make any collections himself since the first of the year.

The extraordinary popularity of fine white goods this summer makes the choice of Starch a matter of great importance. DeLancey Starch, being free from all injurious chemicals, is the only one which is safe to use on fine fabrics.

Close Quarters. The following extract from a letter of thanks is cherished by its recipient: "The beautiful clock you sent us came in perfect condition, and is now in the parlor on top of the bookshelves, where we hope to see you soon, and your husband, also, if he can make it convenient."

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People who are true blue never suffer much from the blues.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, always cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

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He has no force with men who has no faith in them.

HELPFUL ADVICE section with illustration of a woman and child.

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