



CHAPTER XIV.

TAKER DROPS IN.

It is a scene worthy of an artist's pencil. These two brothers—one, half convinced, half doubting, looking with half-averted face upon the other, now standing erect, truth delineated upon his stern face, with one outstretched arm, with an open hand raised toward the ceiling, calling upon God to witness his protestation of innocence.

The brain of the younger brother is sorely perplexed. He does not know what to think. Is his brother innocent of crime save that of claiming the child of his servant as his own, disowning his own offspring, or is he acting—playing a deep part?

He breaks the silence, now growing oppressive. "And this note-book," he says, "you say you have not got it?"

"No, I never saw it after the doctor left my house."

"Then where is it?"

"That is the only thing that worries me now. I know you will keep your secret, you will not ruin me, for I shall move heaven and earth to save you. I shall engage the best detective service in New York and Philadelphia. You shall be liberated. But that book, God only knows where it is, into whose hands it has fallen. Thinking you had it I felt but little alarm, but now I tremble to think of it. It may turn up at some unexpected time, at some critical moment and ruin all."

His anxiety seems genuine. The brother begins to believe him innocent.

"I shall not mention what I know. My suspicions, now weakened, shall be kept locked in my bosom. I heard this morning that our aunt had died. You are now then at the point of receiving that fortune for which you have plotted. Use a portion of it, Adrian, to prove me innocent. I shall remain silent, trusting in you. Remember, this crime has brought us closer together than we have been in years. Do not forget again that we are brothers." He puts out his hand; Adrian Dyke clasps it.

For a second they stand, hand in hand; then the elder brother turns to go. At the door he stops and returns. "There is much of mystery about this affair," he says in a low tone; "one thing in particular which is not easy of explanation,—who was the burglar who broke into my house, and after robbing me, left his plunder in the recess of the window? This mystifies me."

"Depend upon it, it was not I. You do not have any such idea?"

"No, I believe you entirely innocent. Franklin, I suppose I shall have to put it into a detective's hands. It must be unraveled." He stops a moment, thinks, and then putting out his hand again says, "Once more brother, good-bye." The hands meet again; they are warmly clasped and shaken, then Adrian Dyke summons the sheriff, and leaves his brother standing alone in the center of the apartment, bewildered, confounded!

The sheriff sees his visitor to the door, and returns to his prisoner. "Tingle tangle," sounds the bell.

Another visitor. Silas Watson hurries back to the front entrance. Franklin hears the door open again, hears a voice say, "I must see him for a few minutes," and knows that Taker is at the entrance.

In a minute he enters the room, followed by Silas Watson, upon whose face anxiety and doubt is displayed.

"You need not worry, Mr. Watson. I am an officer of the law, your prisoner is safe with me. It is a matter of vital importance I wish to speak to him upon. Only ask ten minutes."

"Very good, sir. Only you know I must be careful. There is lots of people who would like my place."

"Don't you worry, you're all right. Now leave us alone for ten minutes," and he actually hustles the sheriff out of the room. Then closing the door, he turns to the young man and says, "So he came, did he?"

"Who, he visited me?"

"Oh, yes, he visited me."

"I knew it. I passed him upon the street. I wish I could have overheard that interview, for I suppose you had some conversation."

"Why do you wish you could have overheard it?"

"I should have found out what you are holding from me."

Franklin Dyke starts. "What makes you think I am holding anything from you?"

is a family secret known to my brother and myself. It was concerning that, that I wished to see him."

"So that is all, eh?"

"Yes." A moment's pause. "Dr. Gareau came to see me this morning."

"Did he? He told me he would call. Pretty square fellow that."

"I think so. He gave me to understand that you had made some discovery."

"Did he?" indifferently.

"Yes, he did. What is it?"

"I don't know as I should take you into my confidence. You refuse to do so with me."

"Come, Taker, don't be childish. The secret would not be of any benefit to you. Your discovery may be to me."

"I am pretty sure it will. Well, I'll tell you. But before I do so, did your brother let drop anything that would lead you to believe him the man?"

"No, I don't believe him the man," as you have put it."

"Believe him innocent, eh?"

"I do, as much so as I am myself."

"Hum! What do you think of this?"

Franklin Dyke takes it. He glances at it.

"The missing note-book," he gasps. "Exactly!"

"Where did you find this?"

"In the bottom of a drawer in your brother's desk."

"My God! Can this be true?"

"True as gospel."

"Then he lied to me," in a low, angry tone.

The detective hears it.

"Who lied?" he asks quickly.

"The young man sees that he has made a bad break. He determines to speak out."



"FIVE DAYS."

had not seen it since the last time he saw it in Dr. Wilbur's possession."

"Did he say that?"

"He almost swore to it."

"Well, he's a good one. He surely lied. I found this book in a locked drawer. He carries the keys in his pocket."

The brother is dumbfounded. Adrian has deceived him, has deliberately lied to him. What an actor! What unsurpassed power for deception!

"Will you speak out now? Come, he has shown you he is not capable of telling the truth, that he is trying to condemn you. Tell me what I wish to know."

A mental struggle is taking place in Franklin Dyke's heart. He does not like to lay bare his brother's crime, but would he hesitate? If he has lied in one particular, perhaps he has in everything. But then before his mental vision comes the sight of his brother with one hand raised to the heavens, his voice, when he has sworn that he was innocent. Perhaps there is some mistake, some horrible mystery. And again, has he not promised that he would keep his brother's secret? Has he not said that he would not reveal it? Will it benefit him to lay bare to this human sleuth-hound these facts, which will only convey positive proofs to the detective's mind of his brother's guilt? Adrian has promised to move heaven and earth to save him. If he tells this man all he knows, will he not, beyond any possible chance, prevent that brother carrying out his ideas? For if it is known that the child is not his son, will he not lose this fortune and become a ruined man, powerless to aid him? But that there is the note-book, how came it in Adrian's possession? His mind is bewildered. He does not know how to act for the best. Taker is watching him. The young man feels his keen eyes upon him. What can he do? How act for the best? He idly turns over the leaves of the note-book, glancing absently at the memoranda written upon each page, seeing it, but not reading it. He comes to the missing leaf. He glances mechanically at the torn edges of the remaining part. He turns over a few blank pages. Then, as if by inspiration, he turns back to the place again. His eyes light up. His face changes. He has struck upon a strong idea. No, he will not tell the detective, not now at any rate. With lightning-like rapidity a plan forms in his mind.

The detective notes the change.

"Well, what are you going to do?" he asks.

"You know there is a leaf missing here, evidently torn out?"

"Yes, I noticed it."

"Have you formed any idea why that leaf is missing?"

the innocence of my brother." He says it calmly, but positively. Taker shows signs of annoyance.

"How? I can't see it."

"If my brother, Adrian Dyke, stooped to the crime of murder, in order to possess himself of this book, does it seem likely that he would merely tear out one leaf,—even if it were an important one to him,—destroy that, and keep the book which could not have been of value to him, running the risk of its being found, to turn up as a silent, but damning witness against him? Would he not have destroyed the book, leaf and all? He has had ample time to do so."

Taker thinks. The same idea (or one much like it) has occurred to him.

"Well," he says, slowly, "I did think of that I put it down that in his hurry, he thought only of the leaf that he wanted, and did not take time to get rid of the book."

"No, I feel that that is not so. I have reasons for thinking so. I have made up my mind, Taker. I can't tell you what you wish to know." The detective's face falls. But he has formed a plan which will enable you to get at the right side of this matter. My brother told me to-day that he had actually believed me guilty. I believe he did; but when he left me he was convinced of my innocence. He expressed a willingness to help me; more than this, he said he would expend large sums of money to prove it. He is going to send to New York and Philadelphia for detectives. You can arrange it so that you can be employed by him. You will then be near him, watching him without risk of suspicion on his part. If you find that he is playing me false, then I will tell you what I know and you can act upon it. If not, and I don't think you will, follow out the leads which he will give you, and I think you will get at the bottom of this."

Taker shakes his head.

"I think you are way off," he says. "How can he spend large sums of money when his property is mortgaged up to the hilt, when he could not give you \$50 to help you out of the hole?"

"How do you know his property is mortgaged?" sharply.

The detective looks at him reproachfully.

"What do you suppose I have been doing?" he says. "I went to work to find a reason for your brother's action toward you, a cause for the crime. I didn't think he did it for fun, nor for the money and jewelry of the murdered man. I found out that he has lost big money in the past two years, that his property was mortgaged. I went to his house to get it out of him. I got it. He said as much as admitted it and more; he said that when his mortgages came due he would lift 'em."

"And if he expects to have money to do this, he will surely have it to carry out his plans for my salvation."

"Perhaps."

"You know where he expects to get this money?"

"Well, I have an idea. His aunt has just died. She is pretty well fixed."

"You have struck it, Taker. That is where he expects to get it. That much I will tell you. He expects to fall heir to the money of his dear aunt."

"I believe Dickens wrote a book called 'Great Expectations.'"

"Yes."

"People don't always get what they expect."

"That is true. But I don't think there is any doubt about it in this case. I told you my secret was a family one."

"Yes."

"It concerns this. I won't tell you any more. You follow my advice. Do as I say, and you will find that I am right."

Taker remains silent. He is thinking. If this secret concerns the fortune of his aunt, there must be something strange about it, that the particulars should be kept hidden. Perhaps there was some chance of the money not coming to Adrian Dyke; something, but what?

"The will is to be read to-morrow," he thinks. "I'll be on hand to hear it. If he won't tell me I'll ferret it out for myself." Aloud, he says:

"All right, Franklin. I'll follow out your plan. I think you're mighty foolish. I believe if you would tell me, you would be out of here before night, and your brother would be in your place."

"Taker, what put me in this jail?"

"The evidence at the inquest."

"It seemed to be sufficiently strong to cause suspicion to fall upon me."

ENGLAND'S LAST MOVE

SAID TO HAVE BOUGHT DELAGOA BAY.

The Harbor is of Great Importance in the Transvaal Controversy, and Its Control by England Would be Resisted by Germany.—Second Squadron Ordered Out.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—In spite of all denials, it is believed that Great Britain has purchased Delagoa Bay from Portugal. If this be true the political situation assumes a different complexion and the purchase may prove to be the excuse for the assembling of such a powerful British fleet as the one which will be anchored off Port Natal on Tuesday next. As it is understood that the government of the Transvaal has demanded that Great Britain forego her right to obtain possession of Delagoa Bay and as Germany may look upon this as a move which will seriously threaten the future of the Transvaal, the situation, if the report is true, will become more critical. Efforts are now being made to obtain a confirmation or a denial of the reported purchase.

In the Transvaal the Uitlanders of the Rand, numbering about 30,000 more or less well armed men, have been given until six o'clock this evening in which to disarm, and all those who do so, except the leaders of the recent disturbance, will be pardoned. As the Uitlanders are surrounded by about 20,000 well armed Boers, it may be presumed that the surrender will take place before the hour specified.

President Kruger sent the following through Sir Hercules Robinson, the governor of Cape Colony: "It is my intention to hand over the prisoners so that Dr. Jameson and the British under him may be punished under Her Majesty's government. I will make Majesty's government my final decision in the matter as soon as Johannesburg shall have reverted into a condition of quietness and order. In the meantime, I request Your Excellency to assure the Queen of my high appreciation of her words and in preferring my respectful good wishes to express my thanks for the same."

It is declared in Berlin that President Kruger appealed by cable simultaneously to Germany and to the United States at the time of the first news of Jameson's raid. His message to the President of the United States asked for the moral support of the American republic against what he considered as a British plot to subvert the independence of the South African republic.

The day after the alleged dispatch of this message to President Cleveland Ambassador Bayard called at the foreign office here.

The impression here is that the invasion of the Transvaal was a plot of Cecil Rhodes, with the ultimate object of the establishment of a general South African republic, and it failed because his ability is over-estimated. A formal official inquiry seems certain. The British South African company has asked that the invasion be investigated.

A SECOND SQUADRON.

England Said to Have Ordered Fast Cruisers Prepared for Short Orders.

PORTSMOUTH, Jan. 11.—It is reported here that a second special squadron of warships, consisting of fast cruisers, has been told off and will be held in readiness for commission at a moment's notice.

Arrested for High Treason.

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 11.—Twenty-two members of the reform committee, including Colonel Rhodes, brother of Cecil Rhodes, Sir Drummond Dunbar, Lionel Phillips and Dr. Sauer were arrested last evening on a charge of high treason and conveyed under escort to Pretoria.

VENEZUELAN COMMISSION.

It Will Effect Permanent Organization and Get Down to Business.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The Venezuela boundary commission will meet in the diplomatic room of the State department at 10 o'clock to-morrow to perfect its organization for business, so far as possible at this time. The office of secretary is regarded as the most important one to be filled, as the secretary will act as the chief administrative officer of the commission and will be expected to relieve that body of all business of a purely routine and perfunctory character.

Among those mentioned for the office of secretary are Mr. William E. Curtis, formerly director of the bureau of American republics, and Mr. Partridge of Vermont, formerly solicitor of the State department and minister to Venezuela under President Harrison.

ARBITRATION IN FAVOR.

British Sentiment in the Venezuelan Controversy is Undergoing a Change.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—The movement in favor of arbitrating the Venezuelan question with the United States is growing day by day. The Westminster Gazette, after having interviewed statesmen of all parties, bankers and others having important interests at stake, says this afternoon: "Everywhere there were enthusiastic expressions in favor of the proposal to establish a permanent court of arbitration."

There is a decided change of sentiment in the foreign office and the unbending antagonism to arbitrating the Venezuelan boundary dispute has almost completely disappeared.

All the Officers Re-Elected.

UNCLE SAM'S WISE MEN.

Proceedings in the Two Legislative Bodies at Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—During the morning hour in the Senate today, on motion of Mr. Voorhees of Indiana, a resolution was adopted appropriating \$250 for the purchase of a portrait of the late Allen G. Thurman.

Mr. Prichard (Republican) of North Carolina called up the amendments he offered to the revenue bill to increase the duties on certain kinds of clay, marble, iron ore, timber, live stock, cereals, fruits, wool and coal for the purpose of addressing the Senate thereon. He favored the enactment of the McKinley law and the free coinage of silver. He denounced the Southern Democrats for their recalcitancy to their own section. The tariff law had brought unexampled prosperity to the New England manufacturers and bankruptcy and ruin to the farmers and producers of the South.

When Mr. Prichard had finished, Mr. Hill chided him for the inconsistency of his State. North Carolina, he said, occupied a peculiar situation in Congress, and he did not see how her people could be gratified. Some time ago the same legislature in North Carolina had elected two Senators by the same combination. A few days ago one of them (Mr. Butler) had denounced the Democratic party for being false to its pledges of tariff reform. To-day the other end of the combination told the Senate that he favored the re-enactment of the McKinley law.

The Senate, on Mr. Hale's motion, agreed to adjourn until Monday when adjournment was taken today.

Mr. White (Democrat) of California consumed the remainder of the time before the expiration of the morning hour with a speech in favor of some practical modifications in the Senate rules. The great evil which he especially inveighed against was that which permitted irremediable debate on any question and placed it in the power of a single senator to hold the Senate at his mercy so long.

At the conclusion of Mr. White's speech, Mr. Morgan of Alabama, ex-chairman of the committee on foreign relations, introduced a joint resolution congratulating the republic of Transvaal in Africa for the stand for liberty which it had taken and directing the President of the United States to transmit the action to the republic of Transvaal. The resolution was referred.

Mr. Jones of Arkansas then took the floor and made a speech on the free coinage substitute for the House bond bill.

PAY DURING ABSENCE.

The House Quashes a Motion to Deduct Salary for Non-Attendance.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—In the House to-day Mr. Tawney, Republican, of Minnesota, offered a resolution relating to pension claims. It recited that it was frequently charged by pensioners and applicants that the medical division of the pension bureau fails to properly regard the reports and findings in pension claims made by various surgeons and declared that it was due to the officials of the department, to pensioners and to the public that the truth, or falsity of the charges be made known. It called upon the Secretary of the Interior to furnish copies of the reports and findings by boards of examining surgeons, irrespective of locality in the first fifty claims for original invalid pensions rejected on medical grounds after November 1, 1891, after September 1, 1892, and October 1, 1895.

An objection to its consideration was made by Mr. McClellan (Democrat) of New York.

Mr. Odell (Republican) of New York offered a resolution to direct the committee on banking and currency to report an amendment to the general banking laws, giving power to banking associations to invest not to exceed fifty per cent of their lawful reserves in bonds of the United States, to be hereafter issued under the acts of June 14, 1875, and May 31, 1878.

Objection was made to Mr. Odell's resolution and it was referred to the committee.

The changes in the House rules recommended by the committee on rules were reported by Mr. Henderson and were debated section by section. Mr. Dearmond, Democrat of Missouri, offered an amendment providing for deduction from members' pay for absences not due to sickness, or sickness in the family.

Mr. Stone assured him that this only effect of the enforcement of the rule in the last House had been to increase the sick list. Although Mr. Dearmond tried to obtain the yeas and nays, his request was refused—39 to 182—and the amendment was lost by about the same vote, several Democrats voting against it.

Christian Endeavorers Are for Peace.

BOSTON, Jan. 11.—President F. E. Clark of the Y. P. S. C. E. has received a letter from F. E. Belsey of Rochester, England, president of the British National Council of Christian Endeavor, in which the latter deplores the recent international complications between England and the United States, and says that Christian Endeavorers in both countries should do all in their power to avert war.

Damages Awarded Missourians.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The court of claims has awarded \$217 damages to Cornelius Boyle of Cass county, Missouri, and \$385 to Thaddeus Snyder of Greene county, Missouri, for corn furnished to United States troops during the war. Boyle asked for \$1,400 and Snyder for \$750.

A Costly Fire at Spring Hill, Kansas.

OLATHE, Kan., Jan. 11.—Fire at Spring Hill, this county, last night, destroyed nearly a block of business houses on the west side of Main street. The heaviest losers are: C. D. Flinders, butcher, \$1,000; Jesse Hickson, \$200; Mike McClaren, building, \$500; Masonic Hall building, \$2,500; Fred Palmer, bakery and confectionery, \$1,000; Charles Wiley, tin shop, \$1,000; D. Curtis, shoe shop, \$250; Gus Beck, harness, \$300; William Evans, grocery.

A County Fire at Spring Hill, Kansas.

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CLEVELAND IS INDIGNANT

Replies to Attacks Made on Him by the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The debate on the Eldins resolution in the Senate last Friday when the administration was accused by several Senators of having entered into an agreement with a syndicate to float the expected issue of bonds, is the subject of a letter written by President Cleveland to Senator Caffery, of Louisiana. The knowledge that such a letter had been addressed to Mr. Caffery was obtained last night, and the letter was made public by the latter. It is in the handwriting of the President and covers six pages of closely written note paper. It is in full as follows:

Executive Mansion, Washington, D. C., Jan. 5, 1896. My Dear Senator:—I have read to-day in the Congressional Record the debate in the Senate on Friday, concerning the financial situation and bond issues.

I am amazed at the intolerance that leads even excited partisanship to adopt, as a basis of attack, the unfounded accusations and assertions of a maliciously mendacious and sensational newspaper.

No banker or financier, nor any other human being, has been invited to visit Washington for the purpose of arranging in any way or manner for the disposition of bonds to meet the present or future needs of the gold reserve.

No arrangement of any kind has been made for the disposition of such bonds to any syndicate or through the agency of any syndicate.

No assurance of such a disposal of bonds has been, directly or indirectly, given to any person. In point of fact, a decided leaning towards a popular loan and advertising for bids has been plainly exhibited on the part of the administration at all times when the subject was under discussion.

Those charged with the responsibility of maintaining our gold reserve, so far as legislation renders it possible, have anxiously conferred with each other and as occasion permitted with those having knowledge of financial affairs and present monetary conditions as to the best and most favorable means of selling bonds for gold.

The unusual importance of a successful result if the attempt is again made, ought to be apparent to every American citizen who bestows upon the subject a moment's patriotic thought.

The secretary of the treasury from the first moment that the necessity of another sale of bonds seemed to be approaching, desired to offer them if issued to the people by public advertisement if they could thus be successfully disposed of. After full consideration he came to the conclusion, to which I fully agree, that the amount of gold in the reserve, being now \$30,000,000 more than it was in February last, when a sale of bonds was made to a syndicate, and other conditions differing from those then existing, justify us in offering the bonds now about to be issued for sale by popular subscription.

This is the entire matter and all those particulars could have been easily obtained by any member of the Senate by simple inquiry.

If Mr. Morgan or anyone else, reasoning from his own standpoint, brought himself to the belief that the government would at length be constrained to again sell bonds to a syndicate, I suppose he would have a perfect right, if he chose, to take such steps as seemed to him prudent, to put himself in condition to negotiate.

I expect an issue of bonds will be advertised for sale to-morrow and that bids will be invited not only for those now allowed by law, but for such other and different bonds as congress may authorize during the pendency of the advertisement.

Not having had an opportunity to confer with you in person since the present session of Congress began and noticing your participation in the debate of last Friday, I have thought it not amiss to put you in possession of the facts and information herein contained. Yours very truly,

GROVER CLEVELAND.

Mr. Harrison Goes to New York.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 11.—Ex-President Harrison left for New York this afternoon. His private secretary says that he goes to consult with other attorneys in the California irrigation cases. From New York he will go to Washington for the argument before the United States supreme court. His secretary refused to talk of Mr. Harrison's rumored prospective marriage.

NEWS NOTES.

Bartley Johnson & Co., and the Belle of Nelson Distilling Company of Louisville, Ky., assigned.

J. W. McDonald, who held Lawyer Cottle of Buffalo, for ransom, was sentenced to the reformatory.

The 9,000 miners of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company have had their wages reduced five cents per ton.

General Campos resigned his command in Cuba, but the Government refused to accept his resignation.

Chief Justice Snodgrass of Tennessee was indicted by the grand jury for shooting Colonel Heasley December 16.

A stone thrown through the window of a Santa Fe car fractured the skull of William Mann of Dallas, Tex. He may die.

Corrigan is making war on the California pool rooms, and has closed the telegraph office at his track to shut them out.

The chairman of the Republican State Committee of Alabama thinks Reed will secure the delegation from that state.

At Creston, Iowa, the chorister and pianist of the First Methodist church quarreled and the entire congregation became involved.

Henry J. Mitchell of Chicago has begun suit at Oklahoma City for divorce from his wife, a prominent Christian Scientist.

Mrs. Davidson who is charged with blackening Rev. C. O. Brown of San Francisco, could not remember if she had served a term in prison.

The famous Yule log, which was burned in the White House this morning, and his store is in the hands of...