

THE FATAL REQUEST OR FOUND OUT

By A. L. Harris Author of "Mine Own Familiar Friend," etc.
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CHAPTER IX—Continued.

It was rather strange, but the moment he put this question the little doctor shifted his glance, and merely answered, "Humph!" while he seemed to be looking at nothing in particular. "You know what I mean?" was the somewhat impatient response. "Did my father meet his death through the shock of the collision or by the—?"

"Your father was not killed in the railway accident at all," was the paralyzing reply, as the giver of it still avoided the eye of the questioner. "What!" shouted the latter, leaping to his feet. "What do you mean? For Heaven's sake, explain yourself and do not talk in riddles!"

"What I mean is this," was the answer given with great confidence and decision, as he once more allowed himself to meet the other man's eye: "Your father was not burnt to death, as you feared, and he did not perish through the shock of the collision, which you hoped might be the case, as being the more merciful death of the two. Your father was shot!"

Had the young man received a bullet wound himself, he could not have started more violently than he did on hearing these words.

"Shot!" he cried—"shot!" Then, passing his hand across his forehead—"I'm not dreaming, am I?"

Dr. Cartwright shook his head.

"No, my boy, you're not dreaming, except inasmuch as life itself is a dream. Your father, I repeat, met his death by foul play—that is putting aside the question of suicide."

"Suicide!" cried the young man, snatching at the word, as it were.

"Suicide! My father! Oh, you must be mad!"

The doctor shook his head again. "I discovered, on examining the body after you had left the church, that death had resulted from a bullet wound in the right temple, which had

"Of course you did," interrupted Dr. Cartwright; "and quite right of you, too. Always make game of this sort of thing whenever you come across it. I always do myself, on principle. If I didn't, I should have half the parish sending for me whenever they had the nightmare. At the same time," he added, in a tone of concession, "I admit that it certainly was a coincidence. Anything more I can't acknowledge—my reputation won't allow it."

"Yesterday morning," resumed the young man, "we received a telegram. It said—Here it is—you can see for yourself."

Dr. Cartwright brought his spectacles to bear upon the document. "Humph! Ha!"

"Am returning to-day by the 4:30 train. Shall be home to dinner. Friend accompanies me."

He read it through twice before returning it. "And you say you have no idea what the name of this friend your father went to meet was?"

"To my knowledge I have never heard it mentioned. I thought I knew all my father's friends, but this one must have been an entire stranger to me, and my father must have had some reason for—"

He stopped abruptly, respect for his dead parent held back the words upon his tongue. But Dr. Cartwright apparently guessed the remainder of the sentence.

"You mean, your father must have had some reason for concealing the fact of his previous acquaintance with the man he went to meet at Dover?"

The young man's face flushed. "I tell you, no! I won't believe it! I won't even listen to such a supposition for a moment! I tell you—but there, you never knew him!" And he turned his head away.

"To return to our subject," said the doctor. "You insist on connecting this same unknown personage with the

its walls the materials for such a funeral sermon as, in all its ancient history, it had never before seen gathered together there.

The remains, now all decently inclosed in coffins, still lay within the precincts of the church, where they must remain until after the inquest on the following day.

The church, which was of no great size, was filled to overflowing. For not only were there many mourners present, who had come post-haste from all parts of the kingdom, but strangers for miles round, attracted by the morbid curiosity which draws crowds as with a cart-rope, wherever there is a prevalence of the ghastly element, blocked the aisles, filled the porch, and even occupied the pulpit stairs.

People who came to gape and gaze, and then, going home to the Sunday dinner, exchanged experiences over the shoulder of mutton and baked potatoes, remarking, as they wiped their mouths, that it was a sad sight, but one they wouldn't have missed for anything you could have offered them. At the same time they were compelled to own that there were not so many bodies as they had confidently expected, but then, nothing ever did come up to your expectations in this world.

Ted Burritt had a seat assigned him in one of the front pews. A glance at his face, on the part of the functionary who discharged the office of ushering the people into their places, seemed to be sufficient to show to which portion of the congregation he belonged.

Ted Burritt knew that his father's body now lay there within the chancel rails, in one of those hastily constructed coffins, which had been roughly put together to meet the sudden and unprecedented demand.

It was evident that a certain number of seats had been reserved for those who, it was felt, had the greatest claim to them, for he observed, after a short time, that the same pew into which he had been ushered also contained two of his fellow passengers on that ever memorable journey—a poor widow and another woman.

The former, it was impossible to doubt, had found her worst fears realized, for she still cried silently and ceaselessly behind the shelter of her veil. The other woman, whom he now guessed to be about forty years of age, and who was good-looking in a sort of hard-featured way, was also clothed in deep black garments, but there was a suppressed glitter in her eye, and that same restless movement of the fingers, as she perpetually rustled the leaves of her prayer-book, which betrayed the existence of some strong but suppressed feeling, which seemed to be more like excitement than grief.

But, then, we are all at liberty to show our grief in our own peculiar way.

In the other pews round him he recognized other faces—those of fellow-travelers or others whom he had seen at the station or in the church in the early morning of the day before. Among these there were, of course, happy exceptions to the general rule. There were those who had found the living where they had looked for the dead, and who, after a few hours of torturing suspense, had discovered the one they sought, either in the village or in some of the neighboring hamlets, and were present on that morning with a chastened joy and gratitude unexpressed.

(To be continued.)

School Children Saved.

In but few of the cities of the world are school children examined on entrance or subsequently to determine which are defective with reference to applying the remedy. Examinations of nearly nine hundred pupils in an American school of the better class during the last year showed that 34 per cent were near-sighted, 12.9 per cent had functional heart disorders, 5.6 per cent had spinal curvature with some vertebral rotation, 41.2 per cent more had a symmetry of spine, hips, or shoulders, 14.6 per cent had adenoids or chronically enlarged tonsils. In over 10 per cent of the cases letters were sent to parents, recommending that medical attention be given to some physical condition. Examinations of 40,000 school children by school physicians in the duchy of Sax-Meiningen, Germany, showed that 23 per cent were near-sighted, 10 per cent or more had spinal curvature, and 60 per cent had teeth which needed attention.

Protecting School Children.

The Minister of Public Instruction in France has taken the lead of all the world in measures for the prevention of consumption in the schools. A new law requires that an examination of every pupil shall be made once in three months, and the height, the weight, the chest measure and the general physical condition of every one shall be entered on the pupil's report. The schoolrooms receive the same preventive attention. Carpets are prohibited, curtains must be of cloth that may be frequently washed; no dry sweeping is allowed, and dust must be removed by wet cloths; all school furniture must be often scoured; books are regularly disinfected, and no book that has been used by a consumptive child may be used by another person.

Colleagues at Oute.

Years ago when Lord Anglesey was lieutenant of Ireland he said once of the Irish secretary of that day: "Mr. Stanley and I do very well together as companions, but we differ so totally about Ireland that I never mention the subject to him." Just how they transacted official business remains a mystery.

CHAPTER X.

The Fourth Carriage From the Engine.

The next morning, being Sunday, everyone from far and near repaired to the church, which contained within

EXPECTING TROUBLE

The United States Looking for a Row With Colombia

PATROLLING THE COAST

Reported That 1,100 Colombians Have Landed at Atrato River and Will Go Over Mountain Pass to Isthmus

The United States cruiser Atlanta is patrolling the eastern end of the San Blas coast and is keeping an outlook for any attempt on the part of the Colombian government to land troops on the isthmus. The Atlanta is endeavoring to ascertain if the Isthmians know anything of the movements of troops from the interior across the frontier and is seeking information concerning the alleged concentration of Colombian troops at the mouth of the Atrato river, on the Gulf of Darien. The Atrato river, being in Colombian territory, the Atlanta could not interfere with any movements of Colombian troops there.

The report brought to La Guaira, Venezuela, by the French steamer Versailles from Savannah, that Colombian steamers have landed 1,100 men near the mouth of the Atrato river to open a way over the Darien mountains to the isthmus, cannot be confirmed.

The movements of the Atlanta are entirely of a precautionary nature and for the purpose of securing information.

The United States gunboat Bancroft left Colon to patrol the western end of the San Blas coast in co-operation with the Atlanta. It is expected that the Bancroft will return to Colon in a day or two to report.

AN ASTOUNDING RECORD

Three Hundred and Twenty-One People Killed in Railroad Accidents in 1902

The Railroad Gazette has published the following comparison of railroad casualties for the year ending June, 1903, kept by the government, with the record kept by the Gazette for the year ending June, 1902:

	1902.	1903.
Collisions	6,167	5,042
Damages	\$5,615,746	\$1,285,683
Derailments	4,476	3,633
Damages	\$3,981,231	\$3,359,728
Total damages	\$9,596,977	\$7,645,466
Passengers killed	321	262
Passengers injured	6,973	6,089
Employees killed	3,233	2,516
Employees injured	39,004	33,711

The increase in the number of persons killed and injured is ascribed in the government bulletin to the increase in number of railroad employees, the large percentage of unskilled employees, the increased number of trains, the working of men too long without sleep, and the neglect of some roads to send in their reports in 1902. The railroads of Great Britain were operated in 1901 without killing a single passenger.

Knotty Coal Problem to Settle

A meeting of the coal operators and coal miners of all districts of Ohio, Pittsburg district, West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois will be held in Cleveland.

The meeting will seek to learn if some method cannot be devised whereby the output of coal need not be curtailed. It is understood that the miners will be asked to accept a reduction in wages so that the price of coal may be reduced and the demand stimulated. The miners will probably be represented by their national and district leaders. The operators are said to have outlined a plan to submit to the workmen. If the men accept the proposition of a reduction in wages without protest the operators will endeavor to continue running their mines at full capacity. If the proposition is not accepted it is said that the operators will reduce the output equal to a month's production from all the mines in the districts named.

The Red Light Must Go

A new scheme of reforming Chicago's "red light" district has been suggested by Dr. Walter Dill Scott, professor of psychology in Northwestern university, in an address to his class. "Change the color of illumination in those sections," said he, "and there would be a change in the morals of the community. Red light has a peculiar effect upon those constantly in its presence. Professor John Quincy Adams cites instances where a photographic flash in France, illuminated with red light, became so demoralized by the hilarity of the workmen and women that the color of the light had to be changed with the result that all became orderly at once."

84,000 People in Indian Territory

The annual report of the United States inspector for Indian Territory says that the five civilized tribes in the territory, including Indians and freedmen, number 84,000 people, who hold over nineteen million acres of land. The report announces a material increase in population in the territory and calls attention to the duty imposed on the government, under legislation and agreements, to allot in severalty "the lands of the five civilized tribes after town sites and other reservations have been made, and to wind up the tribal affairs, limiting the life of the tribal governments to March 4, 1906.

Denver Against Municipal Ownership

Returns from 197 out of 204 precincts in Denver show that in the election for charter delegates the lowest candidate on the combination ticket opposed to the civic ticket received 19,299 votes as against 9,879 for the highest candidate on the civic ticket. The civic ticket was supported by the regular republican organization and the Honest Election league and three out of the four local newspapers. The candidates were pledged to municipal control and ownership of public utilities.

NEW FOREIGN POPULATION

Immigration Statistics Show 208,307 More Arrivals Than in 1902

The annual report of the commissioner general of immigration shows that there arrived in this country during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903, 457,016 aliens, traveling in the steerage, an excess over the corresponding figures for the preceding year of 208,307, or 32 per cent. Of these 894,546 arrived at United States continental ports, 16,670 at insular ports, either Hawaii or Porto Rico, and 25,230 at Canadian ports.

Of the total steerage immigration, 814,507 were Europeans and 29,962 Asiatics, while 12,573 came from all other sources.

In addition to the steerage aliens, there arrived 61,263 cabin passengers, making an aggregate immigration of 513,315, or 105,043 in excess of the greatest number heretofore reported for any year.

The ratio of increase of aliens from countries of northern and western Europe, as compared with arrivals from the same countries for the preceding year, was about 47 per cent, while from the countries of eastern and southern Europe it was only about 27 per cent. In spite of the more rapid increase from northern and western Europe, the great bulk of European aliens, number 572,726, came from the three countries of Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia.

Grand Jury Indicts Twenty-Two

The United States grand jury at Omaha which has been in session for some time investigating postoffice bribery cases and the alleged illegal fencing of government lands in western Nebraska, made a partial report to the court, returning twenty-two indictments.

One is against former State Representative Elliott Lowe, charging bribery in connection with the appointment of a postoffice at Alma, Neb.; ten are against ranchmen charging illegal fencing and the others were Indian cases, mostly of a minor character. Those against ranchmen include true bills against Bartlett Richards, president of the Nebraska Land and Feeding company; W. G. Comstock, vice-president of the same company, and Secretary Charles C. Jameson, all of Ellsworth, Neb., and former State Senator Frank M. Currie, a large individual cattle owner of Sargeant, Neb. The other seven indictments are against extensive ranchmen of Cherry and Custer counties.

Civil Service People Meet

The national civil service reform league began its twenty-third annual meeting in Baltimore. Daniel C. Gilman, president of the league, opened the convention with a few appropriate remarks. The session was taken up chiefly with the reading of reports and discussion upon the same. Among these were the annual report of the council and reports from the women's auxiliaries.

Among the notable delegates present were Carl Schurz, Edward Wheeler, Homer Folks and Edward Carey of New York, James R. Garfield and W. E. Cushing of Ohio, Richard Henry Dana, Charles J. Bonaparte, John R. Proctor, Charles Richardson, Elliott H. Goodwin, Alfred W. Cooley, Henry F. Greene, Henry W. Farnam, and William D. Foulkes.

Will Heed Marriage Laws In Porto Rico

Governor Hunt has pardoned Father Felipe Vilapoz, the Catholic priest convicted of violating the civil marriage law at San Juan, Porto Rico. Attorney General Sweet advised against the governor extending clemency, but Governor Hunt based his action on assurances given by the priest and by Bishop Blenk that there would be no further violations of the law. The priest was convicted of having performed a marriage without a license.

Pure Food Law in Iowa

The state board of agriculture of Iowa has formulated a pure food law and recommended its passage by the legislature. Iowa has no such law. It will compel the labeling of all foods, and all mixtures will have to have the ingredients noted. Patent medicines are included under the heading "foods," so that patent medicine firms will have to note contents and ingredients of medicines upon bottles.

Court Friend of the Jewish Murderers

Counsel for the defense in the trial at Kishineff, Russia, of the persons charged with being concerned in the massacre of Jews there last April, have thrown up their briefs and the prosecuting counsel are expected to follow their example in consequence of the refusal of the court to interrupt the trial and undertake a fresh preliminary investigation in order to discover the real culprits.

Chinese Smugglers Caught

A United States revenue cutter overhauled a sloop with five contraband Chinese and two white men on board, near Port Townsend, Wash. One of the whites was a man named Wilkes, who is one of the most troublesome Chinese smugglers in the northwest. The prisoners were placed in jail.

Democratic National Call

James K. Jones, chairman of the national central committee has issued a call for the committee to meet at the Shoreham hotel in Washington Tuesday, January 12, for the purpose of deciding upon the time and place for holding the democratic national convention.

Timber Thieves Terrorize Residents

Investigation by the government officers show that reign of terror exists on forks of the Coeur d'Alene river in Idaho. The settlers have been driven from their homes and settlement discouraged, while millions of feet of fine pine have been stolen from the government and sold to the mills. Special Agent Schwartz of the general land office was sent there and has secured affidavits from persons who have settled on the lands and warrants for the arrest of the alleged timber thieves have been issued.



Adam's Grave. The greatest news story since the whale swallowed Jonah has evolved in Missouri.

THE GRAVE OF ADAM HAS BEEN LOCATED! Like unto the cat, thereby hangs a tale!

Once upon a time Joseph Smith, he



WHERE ADAM SLEEPS? Of superfluous matrimonial creed, at one undomestic mince pie and had not the stomach-ache, but a revelation.

In the divine confidence extended, he learned where the bones of the daddy of us all lie interred.

Least unbelievers scoff, a photograph of the historic spot has been taken. To be sure the skull and cross bones of Adam are not discernible on the face of it, but a descendant of the great Mr. Smith that lives in the vicinity assures us all that is necessary to prove their presence is to dig—not in the photograph, but in the earth itself.

The grave of Adam is in what is known as "The Garden of Eden," five miles from Gallatin, Daviess county, Missouri.

Here a Mormon colony once thrived and Ichabod Crane-like, heard weird noises and saw strange apparitions. Joseph Smith was one of the settlement.

The grave of the father of Cain and Abel is under a spreading chestnut tree and naught but a goodly scattering of igneous cinders, that look in the photograph suspiciously like apples, marks the hallowed ground.

Several of our yellow newspaper are greatly interested in the matter



ICHABOD-CRANE-LIKE NOISES. and one has telegraphed the country editor of Gallatin:

"Rush us 5,000 words on whether or no you can find Eve in the vicinity."

A suggestion to comb the grass feverishly with a fine-tooth comb in an effort to locate the apple would seem to be in order.

Lullaby to a Pug Dog. Cradle Song to a Nineteenth Century Baby.

Rock-a-bye, tootsie, you're mamma's own pet. Sweet little doggie—your nose is quite kiss, wet!

Kiss, muzzler, Puggie; you cuss little thing! Snuggle up close now and hear mamma sing:

"Sleep, sleep, little doggie baby! Sleep, sleep, slumber ship 'Aho!' Sleep, sleep, little doggie baby—Mamma's little pug-dog boy!"

Lullaby, Puggie; your hair is like moss. Licked with your tiny, red tongue to a gloss.

Kiss mamma, deary—oh my, what a smell! Gnawing a bone, sir! Indeed, I can tell.

Rock-a-bye, darling; those bad little fleas. Are really quite naughty my angel to tease!

But lullaby, precious, and kiss me once more—Now to the sandman in slumber you soar!

"Sleep, sleep, little doggie baby! Sleep, sleep, slumber ship 'Aho!' Sleep, sleep, little doggie baby—Mamma's little pug-dog boy!"

Rock-a-bye, Puggie—My! Look at those feet! Where have you been in such mud, little sweet?

Burrs in your tail, and your ear, I declare. Has axle-grease on it, all stuck in the hair!

Rock-a-bye, Puggie; forget all your woes. Muzzler just loves you from tail-tip to nose!

Kiss me, my sweetheart, and close those dog-eyes. Lullaby, lullaby—off to the skies!

"Sleep, sleep, little doggie baby! Sleep, sleep, slumber ship 'Aho!' Sleep, sleep, little doggie baby—Mamma's little pug-dog boy!"

A Beautiful Thing. "Love is a beautiful thing," said the lover, leading his innamorata to a hillock by the river side.

"As we sit here in the gloaming, hand in hand—(what's the matter, Virginia?). As we sit here hand in hand and dream of a long voyage down the Utopian river of life together—(what is it, dear? What's bothering you, honey?)"

"Down the river of life together, does it not" (fidget)—er, does it not (slap) do—does it ('wow!)

"What's the ma—(slap! scratch)—ter, Virginia?"

But just then he got a bite himself and the bite let in the light, as it were.

They had been courting on an ant hill!



"I knew the man," he cried.

traversed the head completely, and must have caused instantaneous death."

"I can't realize it," groaned the other. "Who could have done it?—unless he was robbed."

Dr. Cartwright shook his head.

"His watch and chain and valuables were taken charge of, like those of the other passengers, and a considerable amount of money was found upon him. Whatever the object, it was not that. The thing will be to discover if he had a traveling companion, and who that traveling companion—"

Ted Burritt brought down his hand upon the table, with a force that made that article of furniture shiver.

"I know the man!" he cried. "Or, if I do not know now, I will never rest until I have found out!"

"Pshaw!" whistled the doctor. "Then you know something about the affair? You have your suspicions?"

"Suspicious!" cried the young man; "more than suspicious! I see it all—if I only knew the man's name."

"What man's name?" asked the doctor.

"What man?" was the impatient reply. "Why, the murderer, to be sure."

"I wish you would just begin at the beginning and tell me all you know about it."

"I will tell you all I know, as well as what I only guess. Two days ago my father received a letter, which appeared to have a peculiar effect upon him. It is evident to me that he was expecting the letter, and that it was that which made him nervous and fidgety and unlike himself. At breakfast the next morning, to our surprise, he announced his intention of taking a short journey; giving no other explanation than that he was going as far as Dover, partly on business—though we had reason to believe that the business was only an appointment with a friend."

"And the friend's name?"—of course he told you?"

"No," was the answer, "that was just what he did not do."

"Humph!" said the doctor, "that was rather—Well, never mind. Go on!"

"The night after my father left home, I was awakened suddenly in the middle of the night, by his voice calling me. And I answered him back. The next morning my sister May came to me in trouble about a dream she'd had the same night. She dreamt that something dreadful had happened, or was about to happen, to her father. Of course, I made game of it—"

mysterious circumstances of your father's death?"

"Who else could it be?" exclaimed Ted. "You yourself have put the motive of robbery out of the question!"

"Certainly," was the reply. "But having disposed of that motive only makes it the more necessary to provide another."

"And there again you supply it yourself," burst out the other. "You hinted of the possibility of my father having something discreditable in connection with his past life—"

"Not discreditable," interrupted the doctor, "only indiscreet."

"Now," proceeded the other, "reverse your implication. Apply what you have said of the one to the other, and there you have your solution of the mystery—your motive, and what ever else you require."

He paused, breathless with the vehemence with which he had pronounced these last words.

"Well," said the doctor, wagging his head sagely, "I don't deny it. There you have a motive of a sort—not a very strong one. But, before you can proceed further with it, you have to establish the important fact as to that other occupant of the carriage. And, when you consider that the individual in question, even if he did travel by that same train and in that same carriage, was actually the recipient of an invitation to your own house, there seems to be something so improbable, so cold-blooded about the whole concern that—"

"And is not that exactly what it is? A cold-blooded, dastardly outrage upon one who never injured a soul, and who was one of the kindest and best of men. Oh, Lord! I can't stand the thought of it."

"Now I've started him off again," murmured the doctor, remorsefully. "Why couldn't I have left well alone? Anyhow, I must be going now."

So, drawing himself up and squaring his shoulders in his most military style, he remarked, falling back into his ejaculatory manner, "Must be off now. Found the wound in your father's head to-day. To-morrow look for the bullet that made it. Good-bye. Can't stop another moment," and he was gone.

"The Fourth Carriage From the Engine.

The next morning, being Sunday, everyone from far and near repaired to the church, which contained within