

# The Pelham Affair by Louis Tracy.

(Continued from Yesterday.)

"They will, till disposed of them promptly—be sure of that. I may be able to persuade the home office to deport them quietly. Even now I doubt whether I have taken the right course, but once I have appealed to Scotland Yard there is no drawing back. I take it."

"Oh, yes. It may be shown that Miss Daunt went of her own free will."

"Really, Mr.—"

"Prideaux."

"Your theories both as to cricket and young ladies about to be married require revision."

"I've known stranger things to happen."

Somers rose. Sir Arthur renewed his promise to let him hear without a moment's delay if an appointment were made by either "Vaquero" or "Matazor," and the detectives went to their waiting taxi. Once clear of the gate, Somers bit nearly half an inch off a cigar.

"Why on earth should you butt in with that tosh about cricket?" he began.

"Beware, James!" cooed Prideaux, almost in a whisper. "Fools step in, but in, where angels fear to tread." Sir Arthur Pelham may have been a fool for a few seconds, but you certainly are not nor ever will be an angel.

Long experience rendered the chief wary when Prideaux's utterances silkied.

"All right," he growled, striking a match, "let it off your side in jail!"

Prideaux squirmed around to take a good look at him.

"It's odd," he cackled, "but I've never before noticed how handsome you are in a Rembrandt effect."

"Oh, for goodness' sake—"

"The sad and solemn fact is, James, that during the past half century Eton has always hatted twelve men in their home matches, though they field eleven. Every Eton boy knows that. Sir Arthur Pelham has never been to Eton as a member of the school."

Somers grew quite excited. He grasped his colleague's shoulder in a grip of iron.

"Are you sure of that?" he almost shouted.

"James, you pain me, both physically and metaphorically."

"By Jove, that's great!" chorried the chief. "I was beginning to weaken, I admit. He means to fight, and he has a terrific case. Now, I can go ahead again. Charles, I had practically decided to throw up the sponge. Honest injun, I thought you and I had gone in beyond our depth this time."

"Where't you nearly telling him that we had his friends safe in jail?"

"Of course, I was. But something buzzed inside my head—"

"Moths!"

"Probably. I blamed you. I said to myself, 'That little devil is watching me, and he'll raise Cain if I spoil his pet romance.' Anyhow, I didn't do it. But how in the world did you think of that cricket catch?"

"James, you're incoherent with joy. One cannot think a catch at cricket. It's an agile and rather dangerous bodily effort. However, this is a discussion. I got hold of a barrier; the other day who was at Eton, and asked him to evolve a few posers for a pretender. He began with the Wall range, which uses all sorts of outlandish words, but anyone can read them up. The river, too, has a language and literature of its own. But that little college peculiarity in cricket is just one of those simple things which do not leap to the eye. Of course, if Eton hung a bell on the middle stump, or Eton made the umpire stand behind the wicket-keeper, or did something equally bizarre and humorous, we should hear of it every time the bell rang or the umpire stopped a fast one. But, twelve a side. What of it? What is one more duck among so many? If thirteen are a baker's dozen, why shouldn't

twelve form an Etonian eleven?"

Prideaux's tongue was certainly loose now, sure sign that not only had the scent been good in the chase, but that the quarry was actually in view.

Jameson, the very man for the purpose, was deputed next morning to hunt up two or three officers who had served in Sir Arthur's battalion during the initial stages of the war. He was also asked to trace his own house-master and dame at Eton. Somers had a protracted session with the commissioner and the official head of the criminal investigation department. At its close the latter made appointments for the afternoon with under-secretaries in both the home and foreign offices.

The chief looked very pleased with himself when he entered his private office, where Prideaux awaited him. "I'm learning to like these young officers. I only hope the government is keeping the duifers."

"Never mind the government. We have enough on our shoulders without taking on the whole of Whitehall. Shall we have 'Vaquero' up?"

"Let's."

In due course a lanky, olive-skinned man, still wearing a chauffeur's uniform, was brought in. His escort, waiting in the outer room, pointed to a chair. "How are you feeling this morning?"

Probably his knowledge of Prussian officialdom led him to expect a far less friendly greeting. He sat down, and shook his head despondently.

"All his black," he said. "My country is defeated, yes, and I had lost everything. What is dere left?"

"Well, if that is so, you can make a fresh start. Suppose you begin by telling us your real name?"

"My passport—"

"We have your Dutch passport, but it's a fake—what you call Ersatz. Now, I don't want to frighten you, but I must tell you exactly what will happen if you attempt any further deception. We won't bother about you here. You will be sent to Paris."

The man's skin assumed a greenish tint, and his eyes glistened like those of a trapped animal.

"Eet i dell der drude," he gasped, "weel you sed me vree?"

"I make no promises, but you understand English ways well enough to know that we are generous."

"I am Julius Slavinski, born in Posen, and I vass schoolmader in Hanover undil 1910. Den I Join der German segere service, as I taug French and Italian bedder dan Englich."

When he mentioned Posen, Somers glanced at Prideaux. In one of many filing cabinets against the wall were the Mortlake police inspector's report of Captain Pelham's statement: "I should imagine he hails from German Poland, round about Katish or Posen."

"Very well, said Somers. 'You were trained by the agents of the Hauptquartierstab in Berlin, I suppose?'"

"And were sent to Paris, where you were instructed to mix with the socialist element. Afterwards, you were transferred to Rome, and in 1913 you came to England."

Slavinski was frankly astonished.

"You know," he cried.

"Of course, I know. What am I here for? Where did you live in this country?"

"I begane barbare, und wass send to Aidershot?"

"Yes. Blenny of officers dere."

"But British officers don't discuss military affairs with the man who cuts their hair."

"Nod ad firad. Dey wand to hear about Chermany, und I dell dam, Den dey dalk about Eenglant."

"I see. You swapped notes. You understand that?"

"Oh, yes. I know mosd of de words."

"You certainly do. Carry on."

"In May, 1914, I wend to Amerika. In October I returned wim an Ameri-

can passport."

"Excellent! So you were then an American citizen."

"Dad's ez. Id wass ad dat dime I came under the orders of Karl von Helling, who is now Sir Ardur Penham."

"That's too big a stride. Did you work a wireless station in Hull?"

"No. I haif no technique."

"Who did work it?"

"I don't know. Von Helling wrode somedimes from Hull. My specialite can papword."

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Pretty bags with a cleverly made filigree frame; this will solve your Christmas gift troubles; at only, **15.00**  
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Some of the Special Items for Thursday

For months our buyers scoured the markets of the world for merchandise to supply the Christmas demands of the people of Omaha and vicinity, the fruits of which labor we now present to you in this wonderful array of new, novel and desirable Jewelry, Leather Goods and Silverware—the cream of the products of the master craftsmen of Europe, Asia and America.

For the girl there are the Dingly Dangly Earrings with Necklace to match; smart trinkets so dear to the feminine heart—or if you prefer, a "Swagger Bag" will make her heart thrill. For mother or sister you may select an exquisite Wrist Watch—the low prices will surprise you. Father would like nothing better than a Fine Leather Bill Fold which you may have engraved, free of charge, with his initials. Mother will find her gift problem for little brother solved very beautifully in the wide selection of dandy Pocket Knives, or, if he's getting old enough, buy him a Fine Elgin Watch. Little sister, too, will be "tickled pink" with one of the Nickel-plated Wrist Watches made especially for little ones.

**Pin Seal Hand Bags**  
A wonderful value; in many colors and assorted leathers; just the thing for Christmas; special, **5.00**

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In many leathers and styles; envelope, draw string; pouch shape and many others; very specially priced for this sale at only **5.00**

**Leather Hand Bags**  
Cordovan calf, with hand laced edges; beautifully lined; a well made bag that will stand wear and always appear attractive; special at, **7.50**

**Swagger Bags.**  
Smart, snappy bags; in seal and walrus; leather lined and solid gold trimmed; very special, **10.50**

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In taffeta and fancy silks; all taffeta lined; pretty shapes and styles; specially priced at, **5.00**

**Crystal Beads**  
In exquisite shades; beautifully cut, evenly graduated; a lovely gift for Christmas; special, **5.98**

**La Tausca Pearls**  
The famous brand; 24 inches long; solid gold clasp; beautiful luster; a bargain at only, **5.98**

**Victor Pearls**  
With diamond clasp; guaranteed, exquisite luster; 24, 27 and 30 inches long; a lovely gift for Christmas; special—**6.75, 7.75 and 8.75**

**Pretty Bar Pins**  
Of sterling silver and platinum; rhinestone set; lovely assorted designs; a sparkling bit of jewelry; specially priced at, **1.98**

**Cameo Brooches**  
Set in solid gold; beautiful filigree settings; exquisite carving; very specially priced at only, **10.00**  
Others to 35.00

**Filigree Necklaces**  
In green gold finish; assortment of stones in beautiful colorings and designs; these are gems and must be seen to be appreciated; special, **3.98**

**Filigree Earrings**  
To match necklaces; in the same lovely colors and designs; in hoops and long drops; very specially priced at only, **1.98**

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On gold filled chains; pretty cut crystal beads; these are beautiful and reasonably priced at, **1.00**  
Others 59c to 6.00

**Dainty Bracelets**  
Of sterling silver; set with rhinestones; beautifully made, in flexible style; specially priced at, **5.98**

**Garnet Brooches**  
Beautiful imported designs set in solid gold; these are very beautiful and will make delightful gifts for Christmas; specially priced, **35.00**  
Other Pieces for 3.98 to 60.00

**Men's Gift Sets**  
Combination set of cuff links and scarf pins; in a gift case; just the thing for him; per set, only, **3.98**

**Men's Cigarette Cases**  
Of sterling silver; very heavy and designed in combinations of engraving and engine turned; gold lined, **22.50**  
Others From 10.00 to 35.00

**Ladies' Cigarette Cases**  
For ladies; of sterling; pretty engraving; chain handle; specially priced for this sale at, **10.00**

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Sheffield plate; a beautiful ornament as well as a necessity; specially priced; per pair **4.75**

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With Dutch cover; complete with spoon; a dainty little jar. Makes a lovely gift; this sale price; each, **1.50**

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1881 Roger Bros. Silverware. 26 pieces complete; 25-year guarantee; a lovely gift; special, **8.59**

**Mahogany Clocks**  
Sessions 8-day; white or silver dial; strikes on the hour and half hour; guaranteed; this sale price, **8.50**

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Pierced or plain designs. A beautiful gift for the home; specially priced at **3.50**

**Salts and Peppers**  
Of hammered and other designs of silver; in tall, graceful style; a gift appreciated by any housekeeper **2.98**

**Silver Tea Set**  
Five pieces complete; quad cuple plate; a lovely set for a Christmas gift; specially priced **6.00**



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