

THE FATAL REQUEST OR FOUND OUT

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

One member of the household was soon to discover this. Miss Perkins came upon him unexpectedly, as he was stooping, with his back toward her, and apparently engaged in closely examining the keyhole of the door belonging to his master's private room.

"What's that you're doing?" she cried, sharply.

The individual thus addressed started violently, and something fell to the ground with a clink—something which he immediately covered with his feet before he turned and faced her without making any reply.

"You've changed your ways lately," she said, seeing he made no answer, and always hanging about this door. "What's your game, I should like to know. Anyhow, you aren't up to no good. People as gets into respectable houses under false names very seldom is up to any good."

With this Partisan shaft she turned away and left him, looking back once over her shoulder, with that same malicious smile, as she marked the effect it had produced. What did she mean by that remark of hers about a false name? How could she have found it out? The shot was too near the bull's eye to have been fired at random. Good heavens! Was it possible she could have any suspicion of the real truth?

There was no source whatever from which she might have obtained this information—Ah—!

He flew upstairs at a tremendous rate, flight after flight, to the top of the house, to his own room, burst the door open and entered.

There was a modest looking box in the corner of the room—a box which contained his few belongings.

Had he remembered to relock this on the last time when he had occasion to resort to it?

No, the lid offered no resistance to his hand.

He began to turn over the articles which it contained, but could not hit

ment she stood motionless, holding the magazine in one hand, while she looked at the individual before her with a puzzled, searching expression upon her countenance. Then a sudden light seemed to break in upon her—she gave a gasp—her expression changed from curiosity to amazement, and, uttering a little cry, she turned sharply round and ran rapidly up the staircase, leaving the other a prey to the liveliest astonishment. What other remarkable incidents was the day to bring forth?

Meanwhile the young lady had regained the stronghold of her own apartment, locked the door, and, throwing the now despised magazine into a corner, sat down to confide the state of her feelings to the keeping of her faithful diary.

"A most extraordinary thing has happened," she wrote. "My head is in a whirl and I hardly know what I am writing, or what to do, or think. To imagine that I have so often puzzled myself over that young man's likeness to someone else, a likeness which I could never quite fix, though I have often seemed just on the joint of doing so. Very likely I should never have hit upon it but for that, apparently, utterly insignificant action of mine in dropping the book I was carrying. He rushed forward to pick it up and returned it to me—and all at once it struck me like a flash where I had seen him before. It was the same circumstance—the same action—and the same young man!

"It is a most extraordinary thing and takes my breath away even while I write; but there is no mistake about it. There could not possibly be two people so exactly alike and with precisely the same manner—unless—this is a twin brother of the other. But, if so, how is it that one is a gentleman and the other only a servant?"

"Was there ever such a combination met with before, and what—oh, what is the reason for his extraordinary conduct, unless—unless he is the Prince in Disguise, after all!

"What have you done that you are ashamed of your name?"

"Nothing," was the proud reply, given with head erect and defiant; and there was something about the manner and tone by which the other was obviously impressed.

"Why, then, do you refuse to answer the question I have put to you?" he asked in a milder voice.

"There are family reasons," was the answer.

Family reasons! A man servant with family reasons, just as though he were anyone else, instead of being a useful sort of machine, hired out at so much a year, with board and lodging! No wonder there was something incongruous in the sound!

"I have nothing to do with your reasons," was the answer, "and I must absolutely decline to retain any one in my service under a false name."

He knew now that it was coming—notice to leave on the spot. Or might there not be a reprieve? He was entitled to a month's notice in the ordinary course of things. Oh, why had he procrastinated so long and wasted such golden opportunities? A month's warning—that was all he prayed for. A month?—another day was all he asked.

"Then you refuse to give me your proper name? I ask for the last time."

(To be continued.)



"What's that you're doing?"

upon the thing he was in search of. The little shabby prayer book, containing his real name in his father's own handwriting, was gone! Gone! Stolen! That hateful woman, with her sly, cat-like step and hypocritical ways, had taken advantage of his one act of carelessness, in leaving the box unlocked, to pry into its contents and carry off the most compromising article of all.

Well, the damage was done, and could not be repaired. The only thing now, was to try and stave off the discovery of the double part he had been playing a little while longer.

After a time he rose from his groveling attitude with his mind fully made up. There was only one course to pursue, and he would pursue it.

He must appear totally ignorant of the theft, and receive every allusion or insinuation with an affected utter lack of comprehension. Let her suspect what she might, let her act and talk as she would, he must keep up the delusion and try to baffle her for at least one more day. Or else, if she seemed inclined to show her teeth—if she appeared disposed to be dangerous, he must hurry on the matter.

A little later in the day, as he was absent staring out of a window in the hall, he heard a faint, rustling sound, and, looking up, saw Miss Ferrers descending the staircase. He allowed his eyes to rest upon her for an instant, telling himself that his opportunities for doing so would soon be at an end now.

She must have felt his glance, for a certain air of embarrassment seemed to fall upon her, and the color rose in her face.

Then she gave herself an impatient twitch, as though she said to herself, "Stand upon your dignity and do not allow the impertinent gaze of a mere mental to discompose you!"

The young man who had picked up my catalogue at the Royal Academy! One of the effects of the twitch was, that it caused her to drop a magazine which she was carrying, just as her foot was upon the last step.

Before she could stoop to reclaim it, there was a hurried dart across the hall, on the part of the mental in question, and the article was retored to her with, what was not so much the respectful deference of an inferior, as the ordinary and natural courtesy of an equal.

The effect of this simple act of politeness upon its recipient was as singular as unexpected. For a mo-

"How the girls at school would envy me! I am living in the same house with a real live Mystery!"

CHAPTER XXII.

Perkins' Revenge.

Friday morning came, bringing with it, about eleven o'clock, a message which struck a feeling of chill foreboding to the heart of the individual whom it concerned.

The master of the house desired to speak with the young man Edwards at once, in the dining-room. What did it mean? Was it merely some matter of small importance in connection with his household duties to which he wished to draw his attention personally, or—?

Mr. Ferrers was sitting in his place at the head of the table. There was something judicial looking in his attitude and expression, and, standing at a short distance from him, was the housemaid, Perkins.

"Come in and shut the door," was the first sentence addressed to him.

He obeyed noiselessly and carefully, more than ever mindful of his assumed position and grateful for each second's delay, which allowed him the opportunity of searching his brain for some way out of the dilemma.

"Edwards,"—it was the voice of his master and enemy addressing him—"I have one or two very serious questions to put to you."

The young man bent his head deferentially, and seemed to intimate his entire readiness to answer all inquiries.

"It has been brought to my notice—that is, I have reason to believe"—the voice continued, as its owner seemed to experience some difficulty in opening up the subject—"that I have been deceived in you, and—in fact, that the name under which you are at present passing, is not your own. Is that so?"

Ted answered respectfully, "Begging your pardon, sir, but the name I am going under is my own. Might I be allowed to ask you says anything to the contrary?"

"You mean to maintain that your name is Edwards, after all?" he inquired, bending his brows upon Miss Perkins, whose—as he now thought fit to describe it—unwarrantable interference in the matter had subjected him to this annoyance.

"My name is Edward, sir. An 's' at the end makes it sound better, and I

thought there was no objection to my adding the letter."

"Then your name, according to your own statement, is Edward, and you have merely added the final letter. If so, I am sorry."

"This was more than the woman could stand, and she broke in, unceremoniously upon her master's speech, 'Edward! Edward what, I should like to know? He's deceiving you, sir, in trying to make out as that's his surname. Ask him what the other is and why he's had to drop it?'"

Mr. Ferrers turned toward him, wearily. "Is the woman right in asserting that the name you have given is only your Christian name? In which case it would seem that you have added the other letter for the purpose of making it do duty as a surname?"

There was a second's hesitation, during which the housemaid oit her up with impatience, before the answer came, slowly.

"My Christian name is Edward; it did not seem to me to be of any importance which I gave."

Perkins sniffed triumphantly. "So you're going to try and get out of it that way," she thought, "but it won't do."

Something in this last answer had helped to raise him in his master's suspicions.

"I must insist upon your giving me your right name," he said, authoritatively.

"Shall I answer him with a lie?" was the thought which passed through the other's mind. "Surely, one more need not weigh very heavily upon my conscience? And in such a cause!"

But, in the same instant, the face of this man's daughter rose up before him. "How she would despise him, if she knew," he thought, with a sudden reaction and a sense of self-contempt, as he answered, still respectfully enough—

"I should prefer not to mention it." "Oh, you would prefer not to mention it, would you? And what have you done to make you ashamed to own it?" exclaimed Perkins, the housemaid, who was carried away by her feelings at this point, in a tone of triumph.

She had better have remained silent. "Hold your tongue, woman," was the angry reprimand she brought upon herself. "This is no business of yours."

Woman, indeed! A crowning insult! And to be told to hold her tongue!

Her master, turning again to the young man, repeated his question, with the addition of the inquiry suggested by the last remark of the woman Perkins.

"What have you done that you are ashamed of your name?"

"Nothing," was the proud reply, given with head erect and defiant; and there was something about the manner and tone by which the other was obviously impressed.

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"There are family reasons," was the answer.

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(To be continued.)

EXPENSE OF COLLEGE MUSCLE.

Vast Sums Spent by Leading American Universities.

The impressive totals of university funds invested in athletic equipment during the present year make the outlay for developing the "sound body" rival for endowment of classical chairs and foundations, says Collier's Weekly. The University of Pennsylvania is completing an athletic field and a gymnasium in one magnificent quadrangle at a cost of nearly half a million dollars. Harvard has just thrown open a new field called the "Stadium," at a cost of \$250,000.

A movement is under way at the University of Chicago to endow athletics in order to remove certain objectionable features of an admission fee system to struggles for college honors, and a half million dollars is the amount needed to provide sufficient capital to maintain the varied sporting interests of the institution. Columbia has recently purchased real estate valued at \$2,000,000, a part of which will be used for an athletic field, according to present plans. Princeton is building a gymnasium which will rival in cost and elaborate equipment any of her collegiate halls. There are several preparatory schools whose gymnasiums and fields added within the last three years represent an outlay of \$50,000 each.

He Knew Him.

Hicks—Gayman seems to be very happy to-night. He must have money.

Wicks—Why do you think so?

Hicks—Because of the way he's cracking jokes.

Wicks—Nonsense! If he had money he wouldn't be happy unless he was cracking bottles.—Catholic Standard Times.

BOATS ARE SUNK

THREE JAPANESE VESSELS GO DOWN.

WITH GREAT LOSS OF LIFE

Japanese Attempt a Landing Near Bedzero—Come Into the Harbor Flashing Russian Signals as They Advance.

CHE FOO.—Out of the four Japanese torpedo boats which made the first attack on Monday night at Port Arthur, three were sunk with great loss of life. The fourth was a 26-knot boat and escaped. The Japanese tor-

CAPTURE BY JAPS.

They Take Prisoners Two Thousand Russians.

LONDON.—Special dispatch from Tokio says the Japanese have captured three Russian transports, having on board about 2,000 troops.

Dispatches to the Daily Mail from Tokio and Nagasaki, dated February 10, report the arrival at Sasbo, Japan, of two large Russian steamers. One is the volunteer Fleet association transport Ekaterinoslav, which recently landed troops and arms at Port Arthur, and the other is the steamer Argun, belonging to the Chinese Eastern Railway company. Both were captured by the Japanese cruisers Sai Yet and Hei Yen in the neighborhood of Fusan Corea. The Ekaterinoslav

IT IS LEAP YEAR YOU KNOW.



And Single Men Had Better Take "To the Brush."

—Boston Herald.

pedo boats effected an entrance into the outer harbor by using the Russian signal flash-lights. Consequently the Russians did not fire on them.

The following of the first surprises is from a Russian naval officer: "The battleship Pallada was on the outside edge of the Russian fleet and on watch duty that night. The chief artillery officer noticed four torpedo boats approaching, with full lights and in all respects like Russian torpedo boats."

"The officer informed his captain that the approaching boats were Japanese. The captain denied this and said they were built in Port Arthur. The artillery officer insisted that they were Japanese and the captain became angry, saying:

"I am in command of the ship, sir." "Despite this the artillery officer gave orders to prepare for action."

It is reported now that the Japanese attempted a landing near Bedzero, eighty miles north of Port Arthur, but were repulsed with heavy loss. They again tried to effect a landing at Tallenwan, under the shelter of the fleet, but owing to the strong fort firing, they were unable to succeed.

It is said that one Japanese ship has been torpedoed.

The British merchant ships in Port Arthur have repeatedly applied for permission to leave port, but this has been refused.

The Tsaravitch was towed into the harbor here at 3 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. It is said only its outer bottom was penetrated by the Japanese torpedo and the Russians are now busy repairing it. It can be repaired in two or three days.

The Pallada is still outside and beached. It must be seriously injured, but it is now also being repaired. It is the only one of the torpedo vessels now outside.

A shell struck a hospital ship outside the basin during the bombardment. The captain's cabin and the chart room were blown off, but there was no loss of life, as the ship was only recently purchased and was un-manned.

Reports of Heavy Firing.

TIEN TSIN.—It is reported from Ching Wang Tao, about 150 miles northwest of Tien Tsun, that heavy firing has been heard at sea and it is inferred that another engagement has taken place.

Iowa Man a Big Loser.

WEBSTER CITY, Ia.—George H. Reinecker, the Webster City millionaire, lost a quarter of a million dollars in the Baltimore fire. He owned the steel structure next to the Hurst building, in which the fire started. He carried but \$4,000 insurance.

Wants Legation Archives.

CARACAS, Venezuela.—The Colombian government has sent notice to W. W. Russell, the American charge d'affaires here, who has in his possession the archives, safe and books belonging to the Colombian legation at Caracas since diplomatic relations between Colombia and Venezuela were severed, to transmit this property to Bogota. It has been learned here that large quantities of provisions recently have been bought at Curacao and Trinidad, to be sent to Savanilla and Cartagena, Colombia.



FOR RENT OR SALE

On Crop Farms, SEVERAL GOOD FARMERS, Send for list. J. MULLHALL, Sioux City, Iowa.

Love can neither be bought nor sold, but it may be exchanged.

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

Take care of your enemies and your friends will take care of themselves.

IF YOU USE BALL BLUE, Get Red Cross Ball Blue, the best Ball Blue. Large 2 oz. package only 5 cents.

A moral, sensible and well-bred man will not affront me—and no other can.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. SAMUEL, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1900.

It ought to be a pleasure to live right.

DR. COFFEE

Discovers Mild Remedies That Restore Sight to Blind Eyes.

Dr. W. O. Coffee, a noted oculist, 300 Good Block, Des Moines, Iowa, has discovered mild remedies that people can use in their eyes at home and cure Cataracts, Squabs, Granulated Lids, Ulcers on the Eyes, Weak Sore Eyes and any kind of eye trouble.

Dr. Coffee has just printed 50,000 of his famous 80-page book on Eye Diseases and wants to send a copy free to every reader of this paper. This book tells how to cure the eyes and prevent blindness and how his mild treatment cures all diseases at home at small expense. Write Dr. Coffee to-day for his book. Don't wait to go blind.

The Hour to Die.

Englishmen in Queen Elizabeth's time dined at 11 a. m., and Shakespear ring up the curtain at the Globe theater at 1 p. m., the performance ending between 5 and 6 o'clock. By the time of Charles II. dinner had advanced to 1 o'clock, and the play began at 3 p. m., as Peppys records. A century later Horace Walpole complained of dinner being as late as 4 o'clock, and evening not beginning until 6 o'clock. Up to the middle of the last century the theaters opened at 6:30, dinner being proportionately earlier.

He Asked for "Razors."

"Please send me six razors at once and charge to militia account of the state," telegraphed Adjutant General Drain, of Washington, to the war department. "How did you get the idea that the war department furnished razors to the militia?" telegraphed the chief of ordnance to Adjutant General Drain. Then there was a lot more telegrams, and it was discovered that Adjutant General Drain wanted sight "raisers" for guns, not implements for shaving.

Three Doctors' Opinions.

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 15th.—Physicians have accepted Dodd's Kidney Pills as the standard remedy for diseases of the Kidneys and kindred complaints. R. H. Dunaway, M. D., of Benton, Ill., says:

"Dodd's Kidney Pills cured me of Diabetes after everything else had failed and I was given up to die. I have since prescribed them in my regular practice for every form of Kidney Trouble and have never as yet known them to fail."

Jesse L. Limes, M. D., St. John, Kansas, says:

"I prescribed Dodd's Kidney Pills for the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McBride of this place who suffered from Epileptic fits following Scerletina; results were miraculous; I have never seen anything like it."

Leland Williamson, M. D., Yorktown, Ark., says:

"Dodd's Kidney Pills are the best medicine I know of for all forms of Kidney Disease. I believe in using the remedy that relieves and cures my patients, whether ethical or not and I always prescribe Dodd's Kidney Pills and can testify that they invariably accomplish a permanent and perfect cure of all Kidney Complaints."

Pity the laden one; the wandering woe may visit you or me.—George Eliot.

Where to insure my property and why. Losses will occur, that is why I insure. The Mutual has only losses, and expenses to pay. An Old Line Company has losses, expenses and dividends on its capital stock, and the more capital the more expense. A good Mutual Company is absolutely secure, and the cost is little over one-half the other. Then I should insure in the STATE FARMER'S MUTUAL INSURANCE CO. of South Omaha, Neb., B. R. STOFFER, Secretary.

The woman who poses as a professional beauty must lead a strenuous life in order to hold her job.

FARMERS ORGANIZE.

What promises to become a most powerful factor in the produce markets and from which farmers will reap immense benefit, took life in the organization of the Farmers' Grain and Live Stock Commission Co., at Chicago, Ill. This Company will handle shipments of grain and stock at all the primary markets, will have feeding stations for stock, and will operate elevators, etc. The project has a strong backing from influential farmers and business men and will no doubt receive universal endorsement.

I never knew a man in my life who could not bear another's misfortunes like a Christian.

80 Bu. Macaroni Wheat Per A.

Introduced by the U. S. Dept. of Agr. It is a tremendous cropper, yielding in good land 80 bu. per acre, and on dry, arid lands, such as are found in Mont. Idaho, the Dakotas, Colo., etc., it will yield from 40 to 60 bu. This Wheat and Speltz and Hanna Barley and Bromus Inermis and Billion Dollar Grass, makes it possible to grow and fatten hogs and cattle wherever soil is found. JUST SEND 10c AND THIS NOTICE to the John A. Salzer Seed Co., La. Crosse, Wis., and they will send you free a sample of this Wheat and other farm seeds, together with their great catalog, alone worth \$100.00 to any wide-awake farmer. (W. N. U.)

When a man is holy he will not need a certificate to the fact.