guilty of such a crime. Between you and gave notice to the maids to change the

me." looking at his vistor sharply out of rooms, the corner of his eye, "I should not be "Fact is," the porter added, "I've been at all surprised if it turned out that May- bothered so much since yesterday about nard had been killed by some one else, that cab that I haven't had time to think. after Fletcher had left him at the Earls- about much else." wood hotel.

him was that he was most too polite for a

cabby, Touched his hat a bit too much.

wood hotel, for instance. No, he had not.

Finally he went to the manager.

personally known to the manager, who did

not wish to disclose his identity. The de-

vantage and to make the most of it, so that

matter as strictly confidential, to send him

anything of Johnson for nearly a week

was that Johnson was hunting high and

The janitor told him that Mr. Maynard

Being a bachelor, there was no reason

why he should explain his movements to

"Wasn'i the man in the cab a guest of

English style, you know."

What cab was that? "But they never went to the hotel" Why, this here cab No. 46 II was

indeed! How do you know that? That around here that night, and the gent that is a very important piece of evidence if was with it must have been the guy that you can prove H." was killed, or the one that did it. "Couldn't you recognize the man."

This time Hartley turned scarlet. "The fact is." he stammered, thing hard and "Yes, I guess I could, although it was fast, and getting redder, if that were pos- pretty dark and I didn't pay much atten-

sible, every second-"the fact is I was a tion to him. Being new here, I don't know those keen-eyed fellows were to come and the 'phone in the morning. I went up to the driver. As soon as I handed it "Course I mean it. That's why there was ask him some questions about Fletcher the Earlswood, thinking he might still be out that No. 11 was waiting around here there."

that night, the fly cops come up by the some of 'sm took my picture. Today they

decidedly uncomfortable, he concluded to

As he went down the steps he congratulated himself that he had kept his secret the hotel? Didn't he dine here or anyabout Johnson. It was some satisfaction to think that he had found out all that thing-

the doctor knew without telling anything me all that. He went into the potel and himself. It might have hurt his pride somewhat had he known that the doctor was inside half an hour, I suppose When also had his little secret. There was one he came out he went over to have a talk little incident which the doctor had not to the cabby. That's when I remember tell, mentioned to his visitor, probably because ing him his cab was No. 44. That's the he did not think it necessary. This was fast I seen of him, I suppose the guy that that as soon as the false number of the was killed was inside the cab all the time. cab was discovered, and the owner named, already cut up, maybe, the doctor went round to see the man. Johnson went into the lounging room Having hired cabs from that stable many and lift a cigar. After picking out a comtimes, and being a good customer, the doc- fortable chair he sat down and began to for felt at case in taking the stable owner think, turning over in his mind various into his confidence and telling him that possibilities, some of which were very imalthough the cabman was unable to recol- probable. Among these was the possibility lect the house from which the cab had that Mr. Walton might have been the run away or had been stolen, the fact was man with the cab. He got up and went

that cab No. 1141 had disappeared from back to the head porter, and asked him "Now," the doctor went on. "you know Did he think it at all possible that Mr.

him now, he said, as if Maynard had been if this were known, and I don't want any came in the cab? No, he was quite sure of some kind. These views so closely agreed man; one of my best patients. I was out the gentleman.

with Hartley's own that he came very at the time. He went with the driver to Johnson sat down again and did more up again in some other way than through the water, and they were then at work he rang the bell and told the boy to send continued Douglas, wiping his face again, near making the mistake of telling the look for the cab and didn't come back. I thinking. Then he questioned several of the drinks; that is, the cabman did. While they dropped into the hotel for half an hour or the track.

CHAPTER XVI.

across to the other side in the Astoria; Having read over the account and glanced cheeks told of a healthy outdoor life. Mc- and suspicion to yourself at once," ob- it anyway by being allowed to rob him with it. Now, that is not a nice story to slightest attention. took the elevator up to the tenth and then at some other items in the paper which in- Bride was Hartley's confidential secretary, served Hartley, who was nevertheless very of it?"

the doctor slowly. " Ithink that Fletcher, the papers and a mob of loafers round the Jounson felt that something was being again he would have knowed the job I over the minutest details of the cab mys- Hartley had remarked, would make his "I'm going to get Groscup's advice upon must have excited Maynard's suspicions door. Why, it would ruin my practice." door. Why, it would ruin my practice." held back, he gathered that a gentleman The stable owner shook his head, as if had called for Mr. James Walton on Thurs-

hope that his secretary would "steady one. If you do, they will lock you up as go somewhere else. I cannot see how they up his memory any more than necessary, tective was sharp enough to see his ad-

got into the same cab unless that was the and-" "That'll be all right, sir," interrupted the manager finally agreed, on the under-

plon," Hartley had remarked to a friend, somewhere. How did you come to know hotel beforehand, so as to be ready to the liveryman, beginning to understand standing that Johnson would consider the rob Maynard as soon as he arrived. They what was wanted of him. athletic fellows get to be champions and "I never saw him before the dinner that probably had words in the cab, and "What I am coming to is this," the up to have a talk with Mr. Maynard. Johnthe girls begin running after them, they're night at Green's. He was Dr. Ramle's Fletcher, seeing the game was up, threw doctor continued, "Your cab was damaged son could then personally confirm some of guests, and an old friend of Maynard's, I off all disguise and grabbed Maynard by quite a bit, I understand, and your driver the things that the manager had taken a fifty to keep McBride from ever being understood. I don't know any more about the throat, or stabled him, or something, was locked up, and all that sort of thing, the liberty of telling Mr. Maynard in ors

"On the contrary, I think it is best for driver, too."

body about nothing.' That's Chuck Confound out Fletcher's real character, do you. Is that fair?" McBride had more than his share of at- "Well, I'm going to get legal advice upon and was afraid to carry out the scheme The liveryman insisted that it was not tention from the girls, but this did not it. If I don't call you up after 2 o'clock we had agreed on? I think perhaps that is the doctor's fault that the cab was "all low for Maynard and had put a relief watch water. The police thought it might have the blood alarm Hartley so much. "As soon as Mias this afternoon, you will know that I'm off why the pocketbook was empty. Maynard mussed up," as he expressed it; but he did to his apartment night and day. may not have liked to trust himself with not like to refuse the \$50, and he promised

Mr. Hartley turned very pale. He saw tomers, and the doctor was a good one.

about where the cab was when the horse be away. He often went away for a week ran away. He always protected his cus- or two without saying anything about it.

CHAPTER XVII,

While engaged in his search for May-As the days passed, the headlines in the nard Johnson had looked up many of the daily papers referring to the cab murder retired broker's old business haunts and became smaller and smaller. All attempts had made minute inquiries as to his habits to find any further portions of the body and his connnections. He had found an old had falled, and no one had recognized the servant that had often waited on him ring as Maynard's; or if they had, they at table and had overheard many things, but nothing that would throw any light had not told the police.

any one.

both client and suspect, and whichever has their own custody, safely locked up in a nard's ring. Didn't know he wore a ring." the most money they skin. Very often police station.

Mr. Hartley simply drummed on the desk they skin them both." This little piece of gratuitous advice made 1144 had been thrown out of a saloon about you (hink-" The only connection we could trace him Hartley wince. While the judge was gone 2 o'clock on the night of the murder, dead to was a proity stunning-looking girl. Her to the telephone, he wondered what had drunk, and had been taken to the nearest no money in that pocketbook. That's why and Maynard. we marked down, and it's lucky we did, prompted the giving of it Johnson was a station house. It was not until he had there was blood on it. That fellow Fletcher The detective turned his hat round in his "Indeed." drawled the doctor. "And dogen and pumped me dry, and all the

girl's a stunner, sir, and if he don't write tain cab last night. It seems they found closely connected with the murder, her a letter, or get to see her before long, a bloody cab at daylight this morning. To an experienced criminologist, the cab- makes you think it's Maynard's ring " he now. he's more'n human. The Ardmore gang's somewhere on the river front. Very in- man's innocence would have been evident asked. man on our list that's just for these jobs, two of the latest afternoon editions you All he knew, he said, was that when the to us?"

saloon to telephone. As it was a cold night, off this morning, Douglas."

man would not look at him so Then after a pause, looking furtively at hard, as if he knew he was lying, Hariley little worried about the pocketbook being the customers at this holel yet, you know. It appeared that this driver of cab No. Douglas: "But you don't mean to say that wondered how he would feel if one of empty, and as I couldn't get Maynard on What I'm sorry for was that I didn't no-

slept off the effects of his spree that he not only robbed him; he killed him. And hands, and seemed not to know exactly where is the hotel? I never heard of H reporters got the story of my life and pick up the trail again. All these chaps A few minutes passed, and the judge re- was able to tell about the loss of his cab. threw him in the river. That's what's what to say. He muttered something about before."

instead of being allowed to go free, as he "Oh, nonsense! You are crazy. What- making a report. In order to relieve the This was a poser. Hartley had not the was after me hot and heavy, and seemed matter where they hide, they always con. "Very sorry, old man." he said, "but it had expected, he was astonished to hear the Fletcher? Iropossible! And yet-" The tension of the situation, Mr. Hartley pulled slightest idea where the hotel was. He more anxious to know if the man had a next sooner or later-write her a latter, or appears the whole force is out on a mur- magistrate commit him to prison as a ma- truth of what Johnson had told him burst out a roll of bills and offered the man \$30, stammered something, about having driven ring on his finger or not. 1 didn't see no ome to see her, or something. Now this der case, trying to find who drove a cer- terial witness, if not something more upon him like a flash; but he tried to keep telling him he was sorry there was nothing there in a cab and not noticing particularly ring. As to the driver, all I noticed about up his appearance of incredulity. "What for him to report. Everything was all right and so forth, and then, beginning to feel

In another minute he was alone again, take his leave. famous for getting fine looking women in teresting case, they tell me, and it's all in from his manner, and from the straight- "Why, didn't he show it to us at Green's wishing that Johnson could be disposed tow to push their goods. We've a first rate the afternoon papers. Here, boy, get us forward way in which he told his story, that night? Didn't he explain the design of as easily.

sir. He's expensive, of course; but it pays." can find. Any of the picture papers will cab had disappeared he had gone to the "Don't remember. I think you're a little

Coversions, 1815, By

PREDERICE A. STOKES COMPANY

Convenier, 1998, 2018, By

STREET & SMITH

"Why, to get acquainted with the girl. The two men sat down to enjoy their and his fars had given him \$5, he had "No! That's so! You hadn't come yet. After pacing up and down his office for sir. He's a handsome fellow, and has the cigars and five minutes later both were proceeded to get warm by imbibing hot You didn't notice it. It was just after din- haif an hour, without coming to any congift of the blarney to beat the band. No looking at a picture of a cab, with the door whiskies. In his opinion, the drinks that ner. I think I was the one that asked clusion about anything except to keep his matter how swell she may be, he can get open, the cushions lying on the ground he had taken earlier in the evening were about it. He took it off and handed it to mouth shut, Hartley suddenly determined introduced, and after that, trust him. He's beside it, and a mob of curious people stronger than he imagined. There was no us to look at. The marks on it had some to send for his carriage and drive up to a fine dresser, and the girl that can stand standing round, just far enough from the other way to account for his being knocked Dutch name. The moment | saw it in Dr. Bamie's. If Douglas went to Europe, him off, or keep a secret from him, after vehicle to give the photographer room. out so quickly. He depended on the saloon the paper I recognized it." He stood up he and the doctor would be the only ones he gets his arm round her walst, aln't It appeared that the cab, with the horse keeper to prove an allbi, so far as his and wiped his forehead again. "What I left. They should have an understanding. still in the shafts, had been found at the possible presence at the dock was con- want to know now is: Who is that fellow The doctor took Hartley into his private end of a lonely dock, close to the river's cerned. Fortunately for him, having been Fletcher, and where is he?" room and locked the door. Yes, he had "Well, sir, if you want us to follow this edge, at daylight. There was no driver with gathered up from the sidewalk by the po- "I thought you were the one that was seen the papers and had recognized the thing up, and get track of your man again, it, and nothing in the cab itself; but the lice, he was able to trace the saloon in betting they couldn't find him," remarked ring. He did not seem as much excited it will cost about \$500 to get Frank Doremus cushions were slashed here and there, and which he had passed the time. Where the Hartley dryly, thinking hard at the same about the matter as Hartley had expected, the whole cab was soaked with blood, some house to which he had taken his fare was time. but he was insistent on the importance of

"That's your handsome man with the of which had run out from under the door located he could not remember. It was "Oh, that's all rot and neusense now, their keeping quiet. and frozen on the step and on the ground. either a block above or below the saloon, We've got to find him and shut his mouth Dr. Ramie explained that he had never "Yes, sir. Of course, you know enough The curious thing about the cab was that and to the right or left. He had no idea somehow. When he's caught, the whole scen Fletcher before that dinner at Green's, in front of his own office, and that the if he had heard any directions given to the "Yes, sir. Of course, you know enough The curbon thing wood will all go to and that he knew him only as a friend of cabman's fare, who had given the driver of that cab-to go to the Earlahas to flash the wad to get along easy the police went to look up that number portance to that, apparently, All they Sing Sing for putting up the job with him. Maynard. How long Maynard had known \$5, was one of his patients. with them, sir. Your poor chap has to and find the owner, they discovered that cared for was to satisfy themselves that That's what. Even if we not off, how the him, or where he had met him, the doctor which them, and for plot chap has to man with the cab No. 42 had left the stable that morn- this man had not driven the cab to the boys would guy us for ploking up a crook had no idea. The whole thing looked to it might have been the man that Hartley turned a shade paler at the men- marked for a victim for some time past, notoriety of that kind. The man that came it was not. He knew Mr. Walton by sight.

Judging from the traces of frozen blood Having read all about the case, Hartley tion of Sing Sing. He had not thought of and that Fletcher must be an adventurer to my office in the cab is a prominent and had received a very liberal tip from "I'm going right to my lawyer, Groscup,"

"But aren't you going to find out?"

ners' advice for all such cases."

as a witness."

"and I'm going to tell him the whole thing, doctor that he was quite right. Catching want to be candid with you and tell you clerks and other persons who were on "He's an old hand, sir. He can lose a time the tragety had occurred, it was dif- McBride was a tall, handsome young fel- And then, if they don't pinch me before himself just in time, he went to the other the whole story. It appears that he invited watch Thursday night, to see if any of shadow better than any man I ever fol- ficult to may whether the tide had been low, with blond curly hair. He had a de- 2 o'clock I'm off to Europe by the first extreme, and tried to put the doctor off the driver inside, and they had several them could recollect a man that had

"But if you make any such extraordinary "But why should Fletcher kill Maynard were inside filling up with whiskey the so, it would seem that hundreds of men and mind. His clear blue eyes and red move as that you will attract attention for the money, doctor, when he was to get cab horse ran away, or some one ran off might have done so without attracting the

man was a little too fond of athletics. don't know where to go to ask about him." end, you know, and Maynard may have The doctor went on: "Take my advice, and don't ask any become alarmed. He may have wanted to "Now I don't want your driver to freshen

"But there must be something wrong case. I thought Fletcher was to be at the

He must have had a confederate on the Now let me pay you \$50 toward the damage to put him on his guard. box, driving the cab, unless he killed the to the cab, and if there is anything left. Johnson rejoiced inwardly. He is

"But what would excite Maynard's sus- driver; but give him to understand that knew Mr. Walton.

"A forger! What do you mean?"

men are not so quick at giving up their looking forward to being nabled the mo- the slip he had made. " I didn't mean a hauled off to an English prison to await derstand. I was thinking that we had

make a Christmas present of it to the up another clue. He had found it will

picions? You don't suppose that he had he is to forget where he went that night. So the reason that Hartley had not seen

"I wouldn't do it," advised Hartley, who so much money in the company of a the doctor that nothing should be said had left no word as to how long he would

head over it.

The room was empty.

unless he were an accomplice himself.

down's in time. "As long as he doesn't get to be a cham-"he is all right. But the moment these him?"

hoped to find Dr. Ramie or Maynard. Neither of them was there, and when he called up the doctor at his office, he no good for business. I gave the trainer found that the doctor had been out all afternoon and was not expected to return good enough to enter for the champion- him than you do." ships, and just to make things sure, I al-

Several of the men at the club were latest news was that the result of dragging championships come off." the river was the finding of a man's leg. The dredgers had also fished up a demijohn, which was full of reddish colored on the empty pocketbook now. He was de-been used in an attempt to catch the blood Right comes along," he used to say, "James to Europe until this thing blows over." bating with himself whether it would be coming from the cab, or in carrying water

Fletcher had been at Green's restaurant Their theory was that the cab had been Fletcher had been at Orten a the theory was that the tab abandoned because of the tell-tale frozen a man's married you've got him. Married being a week without any kind of news, sooner the better for me; because once face the trouble should it come. "Fancy

CHAPTER XIV.

dough can get her anything or take her ing at 8 o'clock and was on the rank at dock where it was found. The riddle for like that and taking him to dinner!" anywhere she wants to go. Theaters and the Central Station, with its proper driver, them to solve was: Who had? things like that, you know." "Then you think you have lost track of that led to the edge of the dock, whatever stuffed the newspaper into his pocket that before. him? Don't you think you could pick him had been in the cab had been thrown into After he had looked over his morning mail.

do.'

dredging the river. As no one knew what in Mr. James McBride.

the elevator to the ninth floor; walked thrown in. walked down to the seventh. I seen him terested him more, Hartley went back to and had better prospects than any man in much in the humor to cut and run for it "That is what is puzling me." answered I should have pictures of my place in all After considerable sparring, during which just in time to dodge. Course if he met me his office, leaving the judge still poring the office. His appearance and his abilities, himself. was on, and I might as well go home tery. At parting, the judge promised that fortune if he would only attend a little it. What I want to know is: Who is this at the last moment. These fellows often and take off my clothes. You can't shadow one of the central office men should call more strictly to business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher? How did you meet him? I get too eager when the game is near an he realized that it was a bad business; but the young fellow Fletcher?

gang's clever."

"But wasn't there any row at the Earls-"Nothing out of the ordinary, sir. What osity, and awaited the answer with his until late.

Ramic and ask him if he had seen May-nard that morning, and, if so, whether the stable in order to see how it was that

Mr. Hartley did not appear to be paying

scription. He was pacing up and down the little sanctum puffing at his cigar.

wood last night? Did nothing happen?" was you expecting to happen?" Mr. Johnson asked this question with evident curi-

ears wide open. "Oh, nothing!" flicking the ashes from talking about the murder in the cab. The to in Denver or St. Paul the day the us to keep cool, and say 'nothing to nohis cigar. "But it is certainly extraordinary. Do you think you could pick up the trail if-you knew any place he was at late last night?"

Mr. Hartley's thoughts were running safe to tell Mr. Johnson that Mr. Milton to the cab in an attempt to wash it off. the engagement will be a long one. The did not like the idea of being left alone to forger."

a man like that, sir. All that Ardmore on Hartley next day or the day after.

lowed. Why, he went in the Waldorf one running up stream or down at the time cidedly good face and a certain look about steamer. She sails at 2." evening. Thirty-third street corner; took the body, if there were a body, had been him that suggested cleanness, both in body

this girl?"

CHAPTER XII-Continued.

sir, because that's our chance now to private detective!

have some woman on the string, and no turned.

and pulled harder at his clear.

"What jobs do you mean?"

born, sir, But he's expensive.

started on the job."

blarney, ch?

"What do you mean to do, then?"

much attention to this last piece of de-

Hartley, however, always expressed the

That evening after having dined at home, Hartley drove down to the club, where he

Even without being a champion, James

outer office and had a talk with the docpect to until dinner time.

Hartley went over and spoke to the cashter. Going back into the private office, he handed Johnson \$200 in bills, and told him to go ahead with the Doremus end of it, the lamps. but on no account to mention his employer's connection with the matter to any of the stable out of curlosity, pointed out one outside.

"No matter what they find out about this Fletcher, or whoever he turns dut to be; 46.11 not a word about my having anything to do with him, remember," Hartley repeated with emphasis.

You can trust me for that, sir," said Johnson, drawing himself up, and stuffing to the cab, the crowd having made way the bills into his pocket.

'Here's \$59 for your self," Hartley added. 'Keep me posted; but not a word about anything to any one. I'll pay the costs, but keep it quiet. That man must be found. if money will do it. I should thing if he was light, while the diagnol stroke was light one of the Ardmore gang the whole police instead of being heavy. The crowd did force would be after him.

"They don't know R. sir. If there's anything in the job of pinching him, I want It for myself. I'm the only one that seen to say so. that bag, sir. That is, to recognize it." "Where is it now?"

"I'm going up to the Realton to find out, sir. Course I expected to see it come round to the Earlswood last night."

"Would it help matters any-I mean. would it save time in locating him, if the was never done by a sign painter, nor police were informed about that bag? Per- with paint; but with some sort of Hquid haps the Finkertons would like to know it." Johnson did not seem to like the suggestion, but he pulled himself together after a moment and answered slowly: "I don't think so, sir. The Pinkertons ain't no good for jobs like this, sir, they not having seen him, like I have. I think you'd better trust me and Doremus to work the girl. sir. In a week that chup will get word to her somehow. If he don't, as I said before, sir, he ain't human. Good-day, sir."

CHAPTER XIII.

After attending to the signature of a few letters, Hartley felt that it was time to run over to the Downtown club forluncheon. While there he took occasion to ask one of his friends, Judge Windom, whom he knew to be familiar with such matters, how a person could get a few tive.

"You know," he added hastly, seeing the curious look on his friend's face, "we have missed some important papers from the office lately, and I thought if I could as there was no sign of the doctor or Mayjust have a little advice from one of those nard, he drove to the theater and saw the fellows, on the quiet, you understand-not last acts of the latest play. Then he went a word about this to any one, if you, home. please-why, it might be useful.

"Nothing simpler, my dear fellow. I'll just call up a friend of mine at Mulberry

see an officer. Where shall I say?"

here. Say in half an hour."

"You are right to call on the regular an arm and hand with the same evidence nard's ring?" polloe in all these things. Some people don't of rough-and-ready surgery in the separa- For a moment Hartley feit a cold chill told him what it was. like the idea of it, and go to private de- tion.

street and tell him you would like to The next morning Hartley was at his ture of the ring. Can't you see it?" office at 10 o'clock sharp. On his way "Perhaps it would be better to meet him downtown he had looked over the morn- Say, what's the matter with you"

him the telephone book, and while he in the cab murder case was the finding and the snake's head at one side and the shield. Hartley had never seen one bewas gone for it remarked to Hartley: of some other part of the body; this time fish at the other? Don't you see it's May- fore, and did not know it from a fire

the owner came to have two cabs bearing the same number, only one of which tor over the telephone. The doctor had was registered. The two cabs had stood required Hartley's personal attention; all to me," he added, with an attempt to not tried to find Maynard yet. Did not ex- there together for several hours; they had been gazed at by hundreds of persons, and had been photographed by dozens of newspaper men before any one had noticed would offer him one of his 50-cent cigars. longed to Maynard."

anything peculiar about the numbers on his wind, and he considered his ability to shrug his shoulders as he left the room, A sign painter, happening to stop in front do a quarter in fifty-four seconds much nodding a hasty good-bye, putting the

more important than the enjoyment of a pieces of his glasses in his pocket. that while one cab had the numerals "44" eigar. It was the wind that Hartley was on the lamp, the other was marked "No. anxious to break up. This led the few drivers and stable-About ten minutes after the morning's began to walk up and down the office. men who were standing around to comconference was finished and McBride had Then he took out a fresh cigar and set pare notes, and to concur in the opinion returned to the outer office, he tapped at himself to think out a course of conduct. that no cab ever had the lettering "No." the door, and put his head in with a smile. in front of its number. After getting closer phone, sir, to know if you were in. Says more gaug had picked up an acquaintance for him as if he were an authority, the

sign painter remarked that the lettering ened, as if the news were a good joke. was never done by a man who had learned "You don't mean Frank Douglas?" the trade; because both the downstrokes "Yes, sir," still smiling, of the "N" were heavy, instead of being for?' "I thought it rather curtous myself sirnot attach much importance to this critic-He hasn't been in this office since that to the Earlswood hotel. Then they had

ism; several men thought the lettering little stock transfer about two years ago, knocked him on the head. If the story was all right, and they did not hesitate What shall I say when he comes? That ever came out, Hartley, the smart busiyou will see him?"

This made the painter angry, and he went close up to the lamp. A glance told him that the right number of the cab was 1144, Douglas was very much excited was evi- it that some men fear ridicule more than and that the 11 had been turned into an dent. He strode into the private office imprisonment? N and a small "o" had been put between without even asying good morning. Once To ens thing Hartley quickly made up the 11 and the 44. He said the alteration glue, mixed with ink. Upon hearing this Hartley's desk, and fumbled in his pocket. Fletcher, He would deny that he had ever opinion, the policeman in charge took it He did not even take off his hat. upon himself to remove both lamps, after Pulling out a newspaper, and thrusting that he called in Johnson. But perhaps it getting the sign painter's name and address, and getting three stablemen to witheadline excitely with his forefinger. ness that the lamps with the altered numbers came from the bloody cab.

With this information at hand, the police fish had lost no time in finding the owner of the cab registered as No. 1144. The owner of the vehicle said the cab had left the failure, or what had happened? stable the evening before, and the driver had telephoned that, while he went into house for a minute with a fare. the up about something. What's the matter?" horse had run away. Where the telephone message came from they did not know, and the driver had not returned. The police again lost no time in going to the cabby's home; but he had not been seen since the night before.

minutes' chat with a central office detec- the details and looking at the pictures He of the dock, and the dredges, and the thing in this that interests me particularly, could not help that now, He was in a hole, stable, and the house where the cabman i read it all in the morning paper." lived. Then he began to feel restless, and, "That wasn't in the morning paper." gasped Douglas, pointing a shaking finger never seen Johnson, at one of the pictures.

CHAPTER XV.

ing papers with a sort of idle curiosity. judge called for the boy to bring and had seen that the latest development Don't you see the star-shaped business, opened his cost, disclosing a detective's

last?"

"Yess! A ring! Look at it! There's a pic No! Stop a minute. Yes, Send him in-What am I talking about? "Why, of course I see it. What of it? The man entered, closed the door behind "Don't you see the ploture of that ring? mentioning his name. At the same time he

glanced down the column carelessly.

with a ring on one finger. I read that be-

run down his back. Douglas took off his "I am very sorry," he began, thinking of nal judge, lot me advise you never to have driver of the cab was an accomplice, and he knocked off his glasses and broke smoothly as possible, "but we found it anything to do with privit dotective agen. that the story of the horse's running away them. He picked up the pieces with un- was all a mistake. Something got filed ing. Go to Mulherry street or Pinkerton's, was a lie, pure and simple. All their efforts printable comments. Hartley looked up away wrong. Important document you in has worried me quite a bit. Still, I Walton. The head porter did not think and stroked his chin. There are so many skins and blackmail- had been directed to tracing the driver, from the paper.

crime was to be committed.

McBride took his instructions carefully. There's some mistake about something. If thing of that kind."

and went over briefly some matters that what you think is so one thing is clear . The doctor evidently did not understand. He looked at his vistor so critcally that in a very businesslike way, which evidently laugh: "you will lose your little bet, all Hartley winced, but could not think of pleased Hartley so much that he said he right. The police will have that fellow anything further to say. It flashed across was sorry James did not smoke, or he inside twenty-four hours, if the ring be- Hartley's mind to take the doctor into his confidence as to his dealings with Johnson; McBride thought smoking interfered with Doughas could only spread his hands and but that would at once betray the fact that he had acted in shockingly bad faith with regard to the wager,

"Well, doctor," he said at length, "what are you going to do about it? It seems to Left to himself. Hartley's coolness disappeared. In a disturbed frame of mind he me that we are all in a nice mess."

"Do"" said the doctor, as if coming ou of a dream about something. "Do nothing. Keep absolutely quist. Ask no questions. Make no mention of either Fletcher or What had happened was pretty clear to "Mr. Dougias just called up on the tele- him. Some shrewd member of the Ard- Maynard to any one. None of our friends knows that we have ever met Fletcher. ha'll be right down;" and the smile broad- with Maynard, somehow, and had marked You met him as my guest only. Ever see 'him anywhere else?" him for a plucking. The little after-dinner

"No. How about your part of it? If the bet was selzed upon and cleverly worked whole thing comes out, where do you up as an opportunity. The man that drove "What the dickens is he coming here the cab must have been a member of the stand ?"

"I am not worrying. I have your checks gang, and the two of them had found that in the safe there, and I expect to collect Maynard resisted when they would not go \$100 from you on the side."

"Oh, you do, ch? I guess not."

"I certainly do, Look here, Hartley, You are unnecessarily excited about this affair ness man, the director in fifty companies. "Oh, yes. I suppose I'll have to see him." the president of the Hardware trust, would because you have a guilty conscience. That

Hartley had not long to wait. That Frank be the laughing stock of the town. Why is makes you forget how little other people know. I never lose sight of the fact that trouble must find you, unless you go hunting for it. What is it that you are so inside, he shut the door behind him very his mind. He would not consult any law- alarmed about? They have found a cab carefully, and looked as if he wished to yers, and he would refuse to say a word and parts of a body. The body has not lock it. Then he took rapid steps to Mr. to uny one about either Maynard or even been identified yet-"

"Why, that ring gives the whole thing known either of them. He was sorry now away,"

"Did you recognize it the moment you it under Hartley's nose, he jabbed a big was lucky that he had not called in the "aw the picture of it?"

"Well, Douglas won't tell any one else. Pinkertons. They would haul him up at anxious to lose sight of Hartley. He called me up on the 'phone and asked "Read that." he gasped under his once when they found the clue. So would breath. "By gad! this is a pretty kettle of the regular police. Still, he felt uneasy about Johnson. To put a private detective Hartley was quite taken aback by his on the track of a thief, or one who he knew at once, because you never know who is listening at a telephone. I sent him a vistor's manner. Was there a big bank would turn out to be a thief, was one note immediately, warning him to keep thing. To have set a detective to watch his mouth shut." "Sit down, my dear fellow," he said re- a man who, it furned out, was deliberately

'He's going to Europe this afternoon assuringly. "You seem to be all worked planning a cold-blooded murder, was "it does not matter where he goes. We something class. The masty part of it was morning. are going to stay here. At least I am. We Matter? Read that," was all Douglas that he, Hartley, would appear to have must remember that the police have not could say, jabbing his finger into the paper known the very hour, almost, that the yet established the fact that it was Maynard that was killed in the cab. They are Hartley glanced at the paper and found He would have to stop Johnson's activity also a very long way from finding out that the part indicated was under the somehow, and also to stop the detective's who it was that was in the cab with him ouble headlines of the cab murder case. mouth. It would cost a pretty penny, prob-If it were not for the pocketbook I should ably, and would perhaps expose him to be willing to bet that Fletcher did not "Well, my dear fellow. I don't see any- blackmall for the rest of his life. But he know anything about the cab. I have read the newspaper accounts very carefully. and he knew it. He would have given \$10,000 twice over that minute if he had and what I. as a doctor, cannot for the life of me understand is why a murderer should stop to cut up a body in a cab. His meditations were interrupted by Mc with the thermomenter below freezing, in "I see they found an arm and a hand, Bride, who put his head in the door again. stead of throwing the whole thing into the "Man to see you, sir. Says confidential river. To back off the head would have desiroyed the identity. I have had some 'I don't want him now. Send him away experience in amputations, and that, job on the dock, if it was done on the dock. must have taken an hour. Then I cannot are how a man in a call could carry out such a piece of work without the knowl-

> other thing is that Fletcher would surely never have been so foolish as to return to badge, but the connecting circumstances Green's to deliver an emply pucketbook effects. if he had just committed a murder."

must have been an accomplice. Then an-

thought Fletcher had cut his finger."

know. Thought some one had stolen cannot think that Fleicher, knowing even he had left ine hotel, as guesis always ers among these little fellows. They watch and, strange to say, they found him in "I confess I did not recognize it as May- them. Aufully sorry to trouble you." He as little of the man as I do, could be gave up their keys, and the office then,

What was stranger still, according to the on his probable destination, if he went papers, was that there was not the slight- off on a trip by himself.

est clue to the driver of the cab. That any During the vigils of these two or three man should stop a runaway horse in the days Johnson had done a great deal more street, or should steal a horse and cab thinking and had constructed and rejected and drive it all over New York without a number of theories. What bothered him leaving a trace, was something that the was to reconcile Mr. Hartley's knowledge detectives could not understand. The mur- of Mr. James Walton's intended movedered might be a shrewd and intelligent ments and the fact that the movements man, they said, but any one in the cab- had not taken place. That Mr, Hartley driver class should be easily traced; if by was very much astonished at Mr. Walton's nothing elese, through the betrayal of his failure to arrive at the Earlswood hotel confidence, by his friends. He would be was clear. That he did not know what had sure to talk of the exploit to some one prevented that arrival was also clear. By putting this and that together, Johnson

As there were no new developments, at came to the conclusion that it was Mr. least none that were given out to the Maynard that had interefered with or prepress, the whole thing seemed to be pass- vented Mr. Walton's arrival at the Earlaing from the public mind. All that was nec- wood hotel. Consequently Maynard probessary to blot it out entirely was another, ably knew the direction in which Mr. Walbig sensation. On the fifth day that sensa- ton had actually gone. What he would tion came, and all the news about cab very much like to know was, whether No. 44 was tucked away in the inside or not Mr. Hartley was acquainted with pages of the papers without even a sub- Mr. Maynard as well as with Mr. Walton. if so, is was just possible that he could

Hartley was congratulating himself on throw some light on the matter if he the success of his policy of silence. Nothing knew that Mr. Maynard and Mr. Walton had happened to disturb his peace of mind were together at the time that one of so far. The only thing that worried him them should have gone to the Earlswood was the non-appearance of Johnson. He hotel, The idea was gradually becoming had not seen the detective since he ad- a conviction in Johnson's own mind that vanced the money to engage the services Mr. Walton and Mr. Maynard were toof the charming Mr. Doremus. Nothing gether in cab No. 44 on Thursday night.

would have pleased Hartley better than Johnson had carefully noted the time to know he had seen the last of Johnson; of the cab's arrival at the hotel, as given but that astute individual was not at all him by the head porter. He found that it agreed exactly with the time of the call

When they had parted at their last in- that was afterward canceled, but still me if I had seen the picture of the ring terview Johnson had carried out his avowed stood on the stub, for Mr. James Walton. intention of going back to the Realton to When the manager's description of Mr. see what had become of that hag. A cigar Maynard was repeated to the head porter. to the head porter and a little casual talk without giving the porter the slightest about nothing in particular led to the hint that it was the manager's, he admitted proposition to have another look at Mr. that it was pretty close to the appearance James Walton's toom. That was on Friday of the man that got out of the cab when it arrived at the hotel that night.

Having fully satisfied himself that both Johnson was worried. The porter assured Maynard and Walton had completely dishim that no baggage had been taken from appeared on the same night and at about that room on a call from the office, but the same time, Johnson made up his mind he suggested that a guest might take to put his theory to the test. If he were hand-baggage down and put it in the check- correct, he was fairly on the way to make room, A careful search of the checkroom a name for himself as the greatest deould not be undertaken until some time tective in New York. If his were wrong, between i and i in the morning, unless he had nothing to lose.

Johnson wanted to get out a search-war- The difficulty would be to get the truth rant, but for a slight consideration the from Mr. Hartley, if there were anything head porter managed things so that the of importance to conceal. He realized that detective could look over the bags that had knowing the psychology value of complete been checked since Wednesday. surprise, he determined that he would not

Neither that search nor the one that took approach Mr. Hartley with any roundabout place in the early hours of the morning questions as to whather he was acquainted showed any trace of the bag. Nevertheless, with Mr. Maynard or not, but would put it was there. In devoting his attention to a question to him that would be answered the Ardmore bag, Johnson had not obby his manner, truthfully, completely, and served another very ordinary bag which at once.

was under Walton's hed at the time of Accordingly, next morning Hartley found edge and assistance of the cabman. There the detective's first visit to the room. The the detective pacing up and down the corbug that was under the hed was now in ridor watting for him.

the checkrooni, and the Ardmore bag was "Hello, Johnson! Where have you been inside it with some of Mr. James Walton's all this time? Come right in."

They went in, and it was Johnson that Finding himself off the scent of the bag suggested their going into the inner and "But there was blood on the pocketbook liself, Johnson strolled round to the hotel most private office. Having carefully shull tective agencies. As an experienced crimi- The theory of the police was that the hat and wiped his forehead. In doing it the best way to get rid of his vistor as when you got it, you remember. You again in the afternoon and tried to gather all the doors behind him and having made some information as to the movements sure that they could not be overheard, ha "Yes, I remember that very well, and of the bag's owner. No one had seen Mr. sai down, laid his sloutch hat on the dool,

(To Be Continued.)

him quietly and walked up to Hartley.

fore. What's the matter with you, Doug- business, Sent here by Judge Windom."