PREDERICK A. STORES COMPANY

STREET & SMITH

CHAPTER XXX-Continued.

Just then the boy tapped on the door;

The idea that was uppermost in McBride's the importance of avoiding any mention Hartley had sent over to Groscup, bearing her from this office, only last week." Miss Stewart's name and address. Why

'Mr. Hartley told me that you had followed a young lady from this office one deal more about Mr. Fletcher than be cares had nothing to do. She arrived at the the mystery of Cab No. 4t. Apparently that "He presented forged letters of introduc- did not know at athletic clubs, and all that staring at the unexpected guest. Harriey morning last week," he began, "and had to tell. I'm thinking he knows considerable source of his information with a very few incident was entirely forgotten, so many tion to her father I believe." traced her to a certain address, which you about Miss Stewart, too, sir. It was a let- sharp questions, and then remarked dryly: and much more interesting events had "Then I advise you to tell her that the ter, gave him, I suppose you have established ter of introduction to her I was to get "Another story that Mr. Hartley is mixed happened since. the fact that she is a Mrs. Maxwell?"

The detective was evidently taken aback. He did not know exactly what to say, and not being as ready with subterfuges as Mr. Hartley, he could not find words to conceal his thoughts, so he kept silent. He could not imagine how to account for Mr. Hartley's extraordinary statement that he time." had followed Miss Stewart from that office. Seeing that he was expected to say something, he twisted his slouch hat a little and looked at the floor for fully a minute before he spoke.

"Well, it's not quite clear to me yet, sir." and then he stopped, not knowing what more to say, and not being very clear in his own mind as to what he was talking about. He still wanted to gain time.

"I suppose you have no idea where Mr. Maxwell is now." the young man went on, sparring for an opening. Well, I know where part of him is, sir.

I wish I did." "What do you mean?" inquired McBride in evident autonishment. "Excuse me, sir." the detective said hur-

riedly, "but I supposed that Mr. Hartley had told you my theory of it."

"He did. But you see he didn't agree with it." This was a shot at a venture. McBride had not the slightest idea to what theory the detective was referring to-

"I thought he didn't, sir. But it's pretty clear to me, sir. Part of Mr. Maxwell's is in chemicals at the morgue, and the rest of him is still in the river somewhere."

"But you don't mean to say-" gasped the young man. "Sure I do, sir. I'm as certain of it as I'm sitting here. It was Maynard murdered him, in that cab. Both of 'em disappeared the same night. I traced the cab to May-

'What! You mean that cab they found by the river two or three weeks ago?" "That's the one, sir. Maynard hired that him."

him up. Threw him in the river." Johnson give me no credit for nothing, sir. If there man they really love-the one man in the fooled in my life."

police arrested Maynard long ago? I pers." viotim; much less to the murderer."

him connecting with was Miss Stewart. It's quickly." her address I gave Mr. Hartley, sir. I got was at this office till Mr. Hartley told to be met in this line, you know, sir?"

It was on the tip of McBride's tongue to tell Johnson that Miss Stewart was never in that office; but he caught himself just and then returned with the bills. Johnson

"Mr. Hartley probably told you, sir," watch for Mr. Fletcher at the Earlswood get the proofs of that marriage for him. hotel that Thursday night."

"Yes, I know all about that," said Mo-Bride quickly, seeing that the detective was evidently feeling his way.

had at the Realton, where Fletcher was like a walter. Maynard, And he went away in it," with again. She had dined there last night, another nod. "And no one ain't seen him and had said goodby to him. She was sailsince," with a still more emphatic nod.

"But what has that got to do with Max- the high seas. well or Fletcher? Where does he come in?" 'Maynard sent up his card to him at the hotel, and waited around for him half an

hour. "Did they drive off together?" "Now you've got me, sir. That's the place where my trail is lost. I'm only suring theory. Don't you think so, sir?"

mising the rest of it; but it's a good work-Then you think that Maxwell is murdered? Why don't you explain your theory to the police and let them help you?" "Yes, sir. I think he's the fellow that's

in the river. But I'm not giving my theory away to the police. They would claim all the oredit for it themselves, sir, and throw me out. They're kind of down on private detactives, you know, sir. They hate to have any one smarter than they, is, sir, the police do. There's more money in giving the steer to the papers, sir, than to the police. That's my game when I'm through

What was his motive for murdering him?" McBride asked, not noticing the last part of the detective's remarks.

'Now you've got me again, sir. I can't find out much about this Maynard, except that he shot and killed a man once before. Wasn't never tried for it, seemingly. These fellows that are in society are pretty hard to trace when it comes to their private lives, sir. What the papers print about them is mostly guess work. The motive, as you say, sir; that's what stumps

"Then the whole police force of New York are looking for a dead man." Mr. Mc-Bride remarked musingly, as if talking to

himself. "There's no one looking for him, sir. The police don't know nothing about it Mr. Hartley's paying me to keep quiet about my views, sir. But it's hard, sir. It's very hard, with the papers ready to pay big lic cafe. There seemed litle doubt that he coming more apparent every day; but he "But I sent out a general alarm for Mil-

mercy's sake, sir! And what did you say crossed her path. But Helen Ohlstrom was snatched her from her home and carried he was wanted for? Did you tell them he obstinate to exasperation. Now he could her off to some ancient fortress in some

you that he was one of that gang?"

put his head in and said: "Not downtown his head, "that's too long a story to go and proofs against her faithless lover Bride had advised Mr. Hartley that unless know so much about what Miss Oblistrom next day. Something within her, one of with his hand extended. "Just in time I yet, sir." McBride nodded that he under- over again now. But if you'd have told seemed incredible; but that she would hold he had any further use for Johnson, it believes, and how she is? Been here again, those curious presentiments that we all see," he said. "How do, Douglas? Hello. mind was to discover, if possible, how Miss for a dead man, and they having parts of her mind, McBride felt that he would not at all bashful about drawing money fess that he had met her acidentally at the dinner as she could get, She could feel with fright, Maynard turned to Dr. Ramie.

McBride turned over several things in his better. of Miss Ohlstrom. That would immediately mind and started on a new tack, "You will He called on her that evening, and ap- the person for whose benefit he was em- "Why, then she must be a respectable be, and when he told her, it flashed across After the introduction, which Groscus put the detective on her track; perhaps excuse me; Mr. Johnson; but I cannot proached the explanation as gently as he ployed had disappeared from the scene. with unpleasant consequences. He had not quite reconcile your statement that it was could; because he did not want a repetition. Mr. Frank Douglas arrived at quarantine ishment. the slightest idea what the letter promised in following Mr. Fletcher, or Maxwell, of the scene at the Athletic club, He did on Friday night, too late to land; but he "I wish you to understand, sir," replied wished to see. What if Mr. McBride could vacant places at the table and tried to Mr. Hartley should have referred to, nearly three weeks ago, that you came not tell her that Maxwell was murdered found letters for him, telling him that Mr. McBride with some warmth, 'that Miss be persuaded to take her to that theater, appear at case, although it was evident so he could not begin on that clue. The across Miss Stewart; and Mr. Hartley's That could come later. It would be enough Groscop and Dr. Ramle would be at the Ohistrom belongs to one of the best fam- and bring her the news from the dinner? that he was very nervous. The slience for only thing upon which he was at all sure statement, that the first time you ever to say that he had fallen into the river, dock to meet him in the morning, and ad- liles in the city, and that I esteem it an It would be dreadfully unconventional for a minute was painful. of his ground, was the slip of paper that saw Miss Stewart was when you followed and that his body had only just been ding that everything was quiet on the honor to consider her a personal friend her to go to a theater with him without a "Nothing wrong. I hope?" he asked,

> chance we have to find out anything more did not believe a word of it. Mr. Paul Maynard."

"The deuce you can, sir!" But I don't know where his head is, sir.

enough. Well, it wouldn't do for me to tackle next world for the explanation. would be what Mr. Hartley's been after seemed to him to be a sin. for some time, sir."

laughing in his sleeve at the same time.

Well, sir, it's hard to prove it, you was to go no further. And," he added know; but that's my theory, Mr. Hartley, slowly, glancing at his desk; "if you want he engaged me on this job to follow Mr. any money, you are to have whatever you Fletcher two weeks ago Monday, as you call for for yourself and Doremus. It might know, sir. We shadowed him for three be worth a little extra if you could get days; but the only person we could find the proffs of that marriage in my hands

"Thank you, sir. Of course, sir, a little it following Fletcher. I never knew she cash always comes in handy. Expenses has

"How about a couple of hundred?"

"Thank you very much, sir." McBride excused himself for a minute stuffed them into his pocket, and promised there should be no mistake about the meet. booking at him inquiringly, that we was to ing next night at the cafe. He would soon

Johnson himself appeared at the appointed time, Mr. Doremus was sick, he said, but Johnson would pass the introduction along. He was dressed for the oc-"But he never showed up. No one hasn't casion, and McBride could not help smilling seen him since, Nor Maynard neither." at the change in his appearance, although These statements were each accompanied he was evidently very ill at ease in a by emphatic nods. "I followed up a clue dinner coat, and looked for all the world

stopping, and I made up my mind by put- The head-waiter approached them and ting this and that together that this here bowed very low to McBride, who whispered Cab No. 44, which was at the hotel that a question to him. The waiter was very night pretty late, was brought there by sorry; but madam would not be there lived. ing for Europe today, and was already on

CHAPTER XXXI.

The next morning, MoBride lay back in Heien Ohistrom being the central figure round which his reflections revolved. The departure of Mrs. Stewart had been quite blow. She had undoubtedly gone to join Mr. Maxwell. The hoped for proofs of that marriage seemed a long way off now.

Ohlstrom, she had regarded him chiefly as agine he is." some one who sould talk about Hary Maxwell; or who would bring her news about Helen to her senses by teiling her that it upon his being so tall and handsome.

have said any girl would throw a man she would listen forever." over if she found he had run away from "Very good of him to make a martyr her without a word of farewell or explana- of himself that way, just to please her. now. tion. If that was not enough, the knowl- don't you think?" edge that he was a well known criminal "Well, I told him I did not care to hear doubt about that, she certainly could not that he could talk to me about anything he withstand the blow of finding that he had liked. And, would you believe it, all he been paying attention to another woman- could talk about was Helen! I really think

he had been making love to her. These little things did not seem to affect questionably been seen with another we- met Miss Right. man; he had dined with her often in a pubwhy Miss Ohlstrom should not cease to he saw her he became more madly in love ton Fletcher last night. I gave the police speak of him even. She should hate the with her. Sometimes as he sat looking at Mr. Johnson gave a violent start, "For forget that such a creature had ever the middle ages, when he could have go to her and tell her that Mr. Maxwell lonely forest, bidding defiance to her fam-

asked them to find him. What proof have and she would probably come to her senses. Mr. Groscop was quite satisfied that the forget it." He got up and cut the end off a Hardy Maxwell, and she was selzed with

identified.

"That's his business, sir, it's my private were talking about something that had searched all the newspapers that came on running with a profesional forger?" Hart- to get some news of Hardy-going to men's Hartley and Douglas finally summoned opinion, sir, that Mr. Hartley knows a good happened to some one else, with which she board, to see if there were any frem about ley answered testily.

"I can introduce you to Miss Stewart any to that question by suggesting that his The fact that two known men and an un- to learn the result of her letter of inseize this oportunity to obtain the proofs didn't believe he was married to her. Fi- and many people drop out of sight every the rest of his record." which would set all doubts on Miss Ohl- nally she said she didn't care if he was mar- day without exciting as much comment as strom's part at rest? No matter whether ried; she didn't care if he was dead. She a stickful in the papers.

been trying to get acquainted with her for ment at such mad infatuation, especially ness; and put him in the way of making day, downtown, and she felt that there two weeks, If you would introduce him, it when wasted on such a worthless object. It a great deal more every year than that was no chance now. She was evidently

"No, it is not a sin," she said slowly, sign of him?" man's not having been very wide awake easy chair, and gazing into the fire. "We doctor with a laugh, "Eh, Groscup?"

without even saying goodby, even if he the one of which they knew.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Three weeks had passed since the bloody cab had ben discovered on the dock, and the fourth week began. On Saturday the thirty days would expire; but so far from there being any sign of the solution of the mystery, both the public and the police seemed to have forgotten all about it. All Johnson's efforts to locate the fugitive Paul Maynard had failed, and he had to be content to nurse his pet theory of the cab irder in his own bosom. In spite of such additional information as McBride cared to give, the police professed to be unable first cop that looks at me." to find any trace of Milton Fletcher, Mo-Bride had not thought it advisable to follow out Johnson's suggestion by asking them to find Mr. Paul Maynard.

Helen Ohlstrom still refused to believe that Hardy Maxwell was either dead or married, or had ever been in love with another woman while she knew him, or had ever committed any forgeries, or belonged to any gangs. He had met with some accident, probably in another town, and when he was able to write to her he would. No matter how unreasonable that theory might be, it was hopeful, and on that hope she

Madge was no longer so anxious, apparently, to impress upon her friend the desirability of forgetting Hardy Maxwell. Perhaps the reason for his change in her attitude was that she had met McBride.

"These lovers are really very tiresome," she remarked to a girl friend one day. "The his easy chair and thought things over, keep from yawning Mr. McBride was there, last time I was at Helen's, I could hardly and the one absorbing topic of conversation seemed to be speculations as to what might have happened to that scamp Max-Wall."

"What is Mr. McBride's interest in Mr. Maxwell? I should not think he would care He had been particularly annoyed by ob- to discuss the Englishman so much if he serving that in all his meetings with Miss was as fond of Helen himself as you im-"Goodness knows! I used to try to bring

Maxwell; or who would help her to find was ridiculous to believe that a man could Maxwell. He was especially hurt when he not find some means of writing a note or thought of the eagerness with which she sending a message if he was alive. But had described Mr. Maxwell for the benefit the only effect was to make Helen go of the police, and how she had enlarged over all the absurd possibilities again. When I asked him why he humored Helen so He had found the task of cutting out his much Mr. McBride told me that the only rival much more difficult than he had ex- way he could make himself agreeable to pected. If any one had asked his opinion her was to talk about Hardy Maxwell. As week before, he would unhesitatingly long as he kept to that subject, he said,

would have decided her. If there were any anything further about Mr. Maxwell and was probably married even-all the time he is just as much in love with her as she is with Mr. Maxwell."

In reaching this conclusion Madge was Helen Ohistrom. The man on whom she perfectly correct. Mr. Hartley's wish had had wasted her afections was clearly a liar, been fulfilled, and the mortgage he hoped traveling under a number of false names. for on his confidential clerk's stention was He was undoubtedly a forger. He had un- ready for foreclosure. Mr. McBride had

was a married man. McBride could not see could not tear himself from it. Every time very memory of him, and do her beat to her be would long for the good old days of was dead. That would be a non sequitur, ily and her feelings at the same time.

That any woman could be proof against storm had blown over, and he had cabled eigar. After a pause he asked: Well, sir," said the detective, shaking such an accumulation of accumulation o the police to find Maynard, sir, you'd have on to him after he was dead was impossi- would be just as well to stop that drain on has she?" some fun. To have the whole force looking ble. Once this rascal Maxwell was out of his finances; because the said Johnson was McBride blushed, He might as well con-voice seemed to tell her, to be as near that their mouths open, their hands trembling Stewart had been mistaken for Miss Ohl- him in chemicals at the morgue. Why, have a clear field. The sooner that for the "expenses" of himself and the Athletic club reception and had been intro, herself drawn towards it like a magnet. "A friend of yours doctor" he said, nodatrom; but at the same time he realized that's positively funny, sir; that is." state of afairs could be brought about, the handsome Mr. Frank Doremus, who seemed duced to her; had called on her once or She asked McBride where the dinner at ding toward the lawyer, "May I have the State of afairs could be brought about, the handsome Mr. Frank Doremus, who seemed duced to her; had called on her once or She asked McBride where the dinner at ding toward the lawyer, "May I have the

> Potomac. He knew what that meant, and of mine. Mr. Johnson shrugged his shoulders. She did not cry. She listened as if he he was giad to hear it. He had eagerly "Then what on earth was she doing conventional things lately in her anxiety a cocktail.

> > death was the simple and only explanation known cab driver, could completely disap-quiry."

Maxwell were dead or alive; if he were a said she was going to stick to Hardy Max- "And that fellow Fletcher," Douglas went married man, that would be more than well until he told her those things him- on, as they strolled up and down the dock, self, even if she had to wait until the waiting for the baggage to come ashore, o'clock; but no letter had arrived from her myself, sir. We have a man that's McBride frankly expressed his amaze- know. I could have used him in my busi- foreign mall by that boat earlier in the paltry \$5,000 he killed Maynard for, No very much depressed about it, and stood

McBride made some remark about the playing with the tassel on the arm of her "No. Not even a suspicion," said the darkness, wiping off the window pane ocif it took him two weeks to make that cannot all be good, Mr. McBride, any more The lawyer did not quite agree. He called acquaintance, when he knew of some one than we can be great or clever. Our natures the doctor's attention to the fact that Mr.

"I don't care what you say against him, may commit murder. We can't judge him expose the Englishman. box. He called for Stewart, or wanton, or hope you won't say anything about my
Fletcher, or whatever you call him, at his theory of the cab business to any one, sir; as the tears rose in her eyes, "some women if that fellow Fletcher was a thief or a he returned, and she flew to the door to boquets at each plate. hotel and took him away in that cab. Cut especially to the police. They wouldn't go through life without ever meeting the forger, I'll own up I never was so badly let him in. What a change two hours had

man go one of two ways; to heaven with least he has only about ten hours more to ter in her hand.

said Douglas, rather emphatically. "I citement; her face half smiles and half my manners, boys," should have a blue funk if I went in there tears. again. I have never been able to forget the door with his watch in his hand, tell- Ohlstrom's cousin and read; ing us not to move for twenty minutes. My! It gives me the shivers yet. I know I'll be like Maynard. Remember that yarn of his? Yes, I'll fall into the arms of the

"But you must come to Green's tonight at 8, as agreed. Hartley will be there, and Mr. Groscup has promised to come up, as he is interested in the case. I have reserved the room."

Not the same room, I hope?" "Yes, the same room. Why not?"

"Can't stand it, my dear doctor. I should say or do something that would give the whole thing away, I know. I believe if I saw a spot on the tablecloth I'd shriek. Too much of Hanquo's ghost about that place for me. Come up to my club, or some other restaurant. Anywhere but that room of

Green's." But the doctor insisted on Green's. That was the agreement, and even if he stayed only long enough to hear the clock strike eight and get Mr. Hartley's acknowledgment that Fletcher nad not been found within the time specified, he must come. Finally, after both men had argued him into it, he agreed to be at Green's on time that evening.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Upon Hartley's return, which was on Friday, he had been in no hurry, apparently, to dispense with Johnson's services. He seemed rather anxious, however, to discover how much his confidential clerk had learned about the mission upon which Johnson had been originally engaged, and how much they had exchanged confidences.

The manner in which the ground seemed have opened and swallowed Milton write often. Fletcher was a never-ending source of wonder and comment with Hartley. How the police could have completely dropped that murder mystery, when it seemed to him that it should have been such a simple affair, if they had only exercised a little common sense, was another thing he never ceased talking about. At the same time, he was very glad that there was apparently ao danger of his being drawn into the case

"Mr. Groscup says you will never hear anything more about it," McBride told him, "unless Maynard comes back, or makes a deathbed confession somewhere, "Maynard come back! How can a dead

man come back? You mean Fletcher. Oh! Of course! Yes! I understand. You have got that theory from Johnson. Yes, yes!" and he laughed it off, ading quickly, so as manded Helen, smiling radiantly, taking to change the subject, "and how is Miss the letter from him and holding it tightly "Let's start in, Five minutes to eight now.

McBride's color changed instantly: "She real. is very well, thank you. Doesn't believe a word of it though." "Deesn't believe a Word of what?" "Doesn't believe he's a forger, or a mar-

ried man, or a dead man, or anything." "Sticks to him, ch? Fine girl that. But you say he never wrote her a line? Never tried to see her, or anything?" "I don't see how a dead man can do anything like that very wel, sir."

"That's so! Of course not! Of course not! So he's dead, is he? What am I talking is. Perhaps detectives do not give their soon as he saw it shut he observed: "That about? Johnson's theory, of course. Well, real names to the police. Suppose you ask fellow was no good a couple of weeks ago

to be still engaged on the case, although twice and found her very agreeable.

sooner she looks them up the better." to be in the river, and he tried to lead her that no one had recognized Maynard's ring, call on Miss Ohistrom tomorow afternoon, her during her journey.

of her not hearing from him. But she did pear at the same time that the tragedy hap- "indeed! Weil, just let me know how it I could laugh and cry and no one would troll himself. 'Yes. What Mr. Hartley wants more not seem to care what explanation might pened, and no one even notice the coinci- comes out. I shan't come down tomorrow; notice me. I should like to go to the theater than anything else at present, he tells me, be offered to account for his being drowned dence, was beyond him. The lawyer told but I have a dinner engagement at Green's and see a play. Some play where the lov- what happened to you? to establish beyond question the fact She didn't care if he had run away, she him that it was nothing but his guilty at eight with Douglas and Ramie. If you ers have a dreadful time, you know, but "Why, my dear fellow, I've been down in that this Mrs. Stewart, as she calls her- said, and she did not believe he was dead. knowledge that supplied the connection learn anything of importance, you might everything comes out right in the end, the West Indies, Had to take a boat home self is really Mrs. Maxwell, or Mrs. She didn't care anything about his change which no one else had even dreamed of drop in there and let us know. We'll be Only I'm afraid I should shout out to the that got here on Thursday, so as to be in Fietcher, whichever you please." Mr. Mc- of name; and she didn't believe he was a Even if they knew that two men and a there for an hour or two. If it turns out heroine not to be discouraged, and not time for tonight, you know. So I ran down Bride gasped at his own temerity in mak- forger. She did not care if he did dine cab driver had disappeared, which they that he has presented forged letters of in- to pay any attention to what people told to Atlantic City until this afternoon. New ing this statement. But why should be not with another woman every night; but she didn't be said, New York was a large place, treduction, there should be no doubt about her. I'm sure I should do something silly. York is just the same old place. I see.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

McBride called upon Helen about four "pity he turned out to be a wrong-un, you England. Her father had received some at the window looking at the gathering can get tickets?" he inquired eagerly. casionally with that peculiar nervous move. ment which forebodes a fit of tears.

McBride had seen enough of that sort that had done it in a few hours. Had he do not admit it. But there is one virtue we Douglas was not aware of the later devel- of thing, so he thought it best to take his known that the handsome Mr. Frank Dore- may all possess if we will only cultivate it. opments with regard to Mr. Fletcher's past, leave and to promise to call later in the mus, who was supposed to have that matter. We can at least be loyal to our friends," and then he proceeded to explain briefly evening as the last mail would not be dein hand, had no existence outside Mr. "But you surely do not call one a friend to Mr. Douglas that Mr. Fletcher could livered until after 8 o'clock. He was disap-In hand, had no existence outside Mr. Douglas' pointed himself of Mr. Douglas' pointed himself that the letter had not glance at her letter, and she ran upstairs, las, almost below his breath. son himself was not wasting any time on given you a false name; who has filrted good intention to make use of him in a come, and he hoped it would arrive soon. Miss Stewart, he might have spared John. with another woman; who has shown him- business way, as the police were after him He felt sure that when one prop fell, and son the necessity of blushing slightly, and self a coward and a cad by running away for crimes only a little less serious than Mr. Hardy Maxwell's heartless deception was exposed by the discovery of his forged Three men assembled at Green's about away to the police." Hartley turned a

"Dear Helen: Mamma asks me to an- did not even take off his hat. swer your letter, as she is not very well. "What's the matter now?" demanded driver supplied the demijohn and the limbs, We are so glad you like Hardy Maxwell, the doctor, astonished at his manner. -so tall and handsome.

inspector told papa he was the most prom- warrants. ising man they had, and would be made an "What's that got to do with us?" asked directed by my confederate, and just there inspector when he got back. He went to Douglas biuntly. America after some bank robbers or some- 'Do with us? Why your man Fletcher thing, and he was very lucky, I think is Ardmore, Didn't you know that?" papa said the chief of the robbers happened to be on the same ship, and Hardy "Say, you're getting nutty, Hartley," re- they had examined it carefully they would got put in the same cabin with him, and marked Douglas. "Sit down and compose have found it was colledion and ink, and the captain was very kind, and took the yourself." Groscup approached Hartley and they would have known that it was a docrobber's bag into the captain's room on gave him a nudge, whispering in his ear, tor that had done it. By tracing the cab the last day, so that Hardy could get it "You forget that these gentlemen did not to the house in front of which it was stolen, afterwards, and he found all the robber's employ Johnson." something. Papa says she and Hardy man- tonished at his conduct. aged things so cleverly that they can arrest all the robbers any minute, and a demanded. "Only four of us, and a table doctor, "we had an amputation that afterman is going over this week to bring them set for six." back; but I suppose Hardy has told you "We took the room as it was," explained all about it himself. Give Hardy much love and tell him to suppose they thought it would look better

Your affectionate cousin,

AGNES." McBride was speechless. His first thought plates, which he was placing on the side was of Johnson and his theory of the distable. "Bring in two more cocktails. I recognized that ring," persisted Douglas. appearance. Could it be possible that some drank two of these already." of the gang had waylaid Hardy Maxwell "That fellow's no waiter," remarked but you and Maynard. It was knocking and finding Maynard with him and in the Hartiey. "He's only an omnibus. Wait un- around in a drawer in my office ever since way, had killed them both? That would ac- til George comes." Nevertheless, the man I can remember. Fletcher saw it, and it count for the disappearance of the two dissappeared and brought in two more was Fletcher's suggestion that Maynard men. He had not the heart to throw a cocktails, and then stood with his nap-should put it on and call your attention cloud over the happy face before him just kin over his arm, as if waiting to receive then, if that were the solution of the any further orders, tragedy in the cab, it would come to light in time. But after reading the letter he Hartley, rather sharply. The waiter bowed, that you would think it was Maynard that could see no earthly reason why Hardy "Then you are a full-fiedged waiter now, Maxwell should not have written at ch?" The waiter smiled. least a line, unless it were true that he was lying at the bottom of the river. "Now what have you got to say?" de- bowing again.

in both hands as if to be sure that it was Got that check with you, doc " The doc-"I am sure I do not know what to say." MoBride faltered, beginning to feel sick had taken. "unless it is to go and tell the this stuff on the table?" police to look for a detective named Max-

what his name is?" ished, "but tell me what you think best the door softly behind him. to be done. Some one must know where he Hartley sat facing this door, and as

them if there is an Engitah detective in when we were in here. Surprising how town, and where he is?" McBride could not help smiling at the smoke. What's that" simplicity of the suggestion, but at the Hartley had started from his seat with same time he was turning over in his mind his eyes fixed on the slowly opening door. several possibilities that might be clues. A look of absolute terror was on his face. Prominent among them was the fact that The others instantly followed his gaze and Mr. Hartley was to be at Green's that night behald a tall man with a grey mustache. with Douglas and Dr. Ramie, and the bust- who stood just within the door and greeted

Mr. Maxwell was the object of that wager, gave a jump that shook everything on the As soon as he explained the situation to table, while the doctor simply gripped the Helen she felt intuitively that in some back of his chair. Groscup alone remained way or other they would have news of unmoved until Douglas found his voice. a feverish anxiety to learn what took place holy!" have sometimes, seemed to urge her, some Hartley." As the two men stood there

which he was to see Mr. Hartley was to pleasure?" girl!" exclaimed Hartley in evident aston- her mind that there was a theater just seemed to look upon as some unexplained round the corner and a play that she joke, Maynard sat down at one of the

"Do you know what I should like to do?" but saved your life." about Fietcher, who he was and where McBride went over all his arguments on his fine apearance. Of course Douglas' morrow. I see the boat is reported at stopped and looked up at him hesitatingly, ghost. he come from in the meantime, I'm doing again. It was perfectly useless. He hoped first question was about the cab, and he Nantucket Shoals, and should be at Sandy he feit that he would be willing to take all I can on my own account to locate she would ask him how Mr. Maxwell came could not help expressing his astonishment blook some time tonight. I am going to her anywhere on earth, if only to be with about that, my dear fellow." said May-

where it is all life and gaity, and where equanimity, in spite of his efforts to conout all right."

"I am sorry to say I do not know of "But what about Fletcher, and the cab, any such play," he remarked, without any and the-" Hartley stopped suddenly, and particular show of enthusiasm.

naming the theater. from Green's!" he exclaimed. "I promised

she fairly skipped along the floor to the agreed." Don't mind dressing for the evening, and have it in my pocket now." I won't either. You look very nice in that "But the body in the river, and the blood

CHAPTER XXXV.

McBride wrote the name of the Second is not a forger and rascal that he seems Douglas did not seem inclined to believe it. letters, the whole fabric of the girl's in- a quarter to eight, and went into the pri- shade paler, and toyed nervously with his McBride wrote the name of the second to be? Why, I should think you would "I liked that fellow," he said frankly. "He fatuation would fall; and then, at last, his vate room in which two of them had direct fork, "But he said that if it looked like avenue cafe on a slip of paper, and handed to be the real stuff. I make patience would be rewarded. He had not together more than a month before. The a murder, no matter what financial interit to the detective. "Bring your man there touched the very thought that enter a patience would be rewarded. He had not together more than a month before. The a murder, no matter what financial intertomorrow night at six, and I will introduce had ever held a place in your affections my money sixing up the men I meet with been able to keep his promise to find Maxthree were Dr. Ramie, Frank Douglas and est any one might have in the result, and the yarns they spin on me. Any man well for her. But he could keep his vow to Mr. Groscup, Hartley had not apeared yet. he would probably keep his mouth shut cab, or stole it, and had his pal on the "All right, sir. In the meantime, sir, I "I don't care what you say against him, may commit murder. We can't judge him expose the Englishman.

The table was already set, with pretty red after he had consulted a lawyer."

The table was already set, with pretty red after he had consulted a lawyer."

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made! She was radiant. She was a picture. las, as his eye caught sight of the cock- ing livid, and was conscious that the dochim up. Threw him in the river. Johnson give me no credit for nothing, sir. If there made appropriate motions with his hands is anything in that job when Mr. Hartley's whole world that has that subtle fascinaThe doctor smiled. "You're not fooled on He had never seen her so beautiful be- tail's standing by the plates, for one of tor's eye was upon him. He could not trust through with me, sir; I'd like to make a tien for them that ne woman can feel more one thing, Mr, Douglas," he said, "Fletcher fore, as she rushed into the parlor and which he promptly reached. "Nothing like himself to speak. "You must be crass. Why haven't the bit out of it for myself through the pa- than once. Those that do meet the right was smart enough not to be caught. At then turned and faced him, waving a let- this abroad, you know. Nothing but beastly thought there was no clue whatever to the "You can trust me. In fact, Mr. Hartley him; to the other place without him. If stay hid, and you get your money all right. "There!" she said, "I knew where, and all the people yapping about cab came to be all bloody and how the told me that anything you might tell me the first path is not open to me, I will Your judgment was good enough to pick it! Read that! No: I'll read it to you. No. fresh air and coughing their heads off at body came to be found in the river at that the winner in that little bet. Come up to You can read it yourself," forcing it into the same time. Nothing like this outside precise spot?" Green's tonight at 8 e'clock and I'll hand his hand. "Oh, I'm so glad that I never be- little old New York," holding the cocktail over the stakes. This is the day, you lieved any of those horrid things," she up to the light, and then draining it at john, and as for the body, I believe there said, as she stood facing him while he read, a guip, "Tell the walter to fill that up were only parts of a body. We threw them "You don't catch me going near Green's," her hands clasped and trembling with ex- again. The temptation was too much for in the river after we had soaked the cab.

> It was a simple letter, which just filled room, trembling with excitement. He did thing that I have lain awake nights thinkthat bloody pocketbook, and that fellow four sides of the sheet, closely but neatly not even say good evening; and although ing about. Who drove that cab? Why could Fletcher, pale as a ghost, backing out of written in a girl's hand. It was from Miss Douglas greeted cordially and extended his not the police find him, even if they didn't hand, he took it as if he did not see it. He catch any one else?"

We got a long letter from him about a "Read that, will you?" Hartley ex- Ramle, who was turning very red in the week before yours came. He said some aw- claimed, pulling out the latest edition of face as he found every one at the table fully nice things about you; in fact, the afternoon paper, and slamming the gazing at him. mamma thinks he must have intentions door behind him. "Caught him; on my "I may as well own up, gentlemen," But I suppose you know all about that, I word! At the eleventh hour, Caught the said the doctor, smiling, "I drove the cab." think he would be a perfectly splendid lover whole gang. Here it is in the extra, just Groscup relieved the situation by bursting out."

England; but he said he had something of the whole Ardmore gang, and all their peared again, the doctor resumed; more promising on hand in America, and paraphernalia. There was no particulars, "Yes, I stole the cab from in front of that he wanted to stay there for other except that the leader was arrested in my own door, after a confederate had reasons. We could almost guess what the New York, and three others in Philadelphia coaxed the driver inside to have a drink. other reasons were, after what he said and Boston. All the arrests had been made it cost me fifty to fix that up with the about you. You know he was chief of the almost simultaneously with the arrival of stable; but when I collect that hundred foreign service at Scotland Yard, and the officers from England with extradition from Hartley, I shall still be fifty ahead.

The other men laughed.

papers and things in it. A Mrs. Stewart. The hint had an immediate and subdu- especially as I still had some of the mixture that papa says is the cleverest woman de- ing effect on Hartley, who cast about for on the mantel. But the smartest detectives tective in the world, was with Hardy, and something to distract their attention from sometimes overlook important clues, she got the robber to make love to her, or him, as he saw they were evidently as- "Of course they do," Interrupted Doug-"What are all these places set for?" he

to dress it as usual."

"Are you going to wait on us?" demanded

"I think se gentlemen will be pleased laughed Douglas, slapping the lawyer on with me," he said, showing his teeth and

tor said he guessed he had everything with him, and the four men sat down. "Let's clear some of these things off." at heart and discouraged at the turn things said Hartley. "What's the use of having all swer," said Maynard, with another ner-

"It looks nice, I think," said Dr. Ramie well. I suppose you still hold me to my quietly, "but the walter can remove them promise to find him for you, no matter if you like." Then, turtning round, he said, "You can bring up the soup now, John," "Now don't be disagreeable," she admon- upon which the waiter disappeared, closing

nulck they learn. Great country for- Holy

"Paul Maynard! By all that's good and

ness of that little wager with Mr. Douglas, them with a nervous little laugh. Douglas

chaperon, but she had done so many un- looking around at them all and tossing off

business offices, meeting young men she courage enought to sit down again, still sort of thing, that one more did not mat- was the first to recover himself, "So you're alive, ch? Lost your money

here this morning, sir. She's the only up in." She shook her head and said she The doctor was very glad to see the re- "She has done so, sir. She expects a letter she began, looking at McBride archly. "I "How about that ring?" blurted Dougturning capitalist, and congratulated him by the mail that is due from England to- should like to go somewhere." As she ins, assured that he was not talking to a

"You will have to ask some one else pard, with the same pervous little laugh.

"But where on earth have you been, and

and I know I should cry when it turned And then he gave another nervous little taugh:

winked at the others as the waiter en-"But I do," she said, enthusiastically, tered the room, When the waiter had disappeared again, Hartley repeated his ques-"Why, that is right round the corner tion, adding, "And the stolen pocketbook?" "Why, you see, the fact is, there was to take Mr. Hartley a message at Green's, some delay in getting started. And then some time between 8 and 10 o'clock. Would Fletcher had some explanations to make you really go with me? Shall I see if I in the cab before proceeding. As these were perfectly satisfactory, I gave him the "Oh please do! I will be very nice to pocketbook, and we went on to the dock you tonight, you know; you have been so where the cab was found, I supposed he kind to me. Oh. won't it be jolly?" and would bring the pocketbood here as

plano. "I will be ready in haif an hour. "So he did." remarked the doctor. "I

black suit." A handshake, a smile, another in the cab, and all that?" demanded Doug-"That was all a put-up job, my dear fel-

low. You see Fletcher had an idea that perhaps some one might give the thing

laz, "Eh, olu man?" slapping Groscup on "Good old New York!" exclaimed Doug- the back. Hartley was gradually becom-

> "Most interesting," remarked Grescup, "We had the blood with us in a demi-

"Yes, egad!" exclaimed Douglas, inter-A moment later Hartley burst into the rupting, "And that reminds me of some-Maynard gave another little laugh "The

I believe," and he looked hard at Dr.

into a loud laugh, and before any one "Paps was a little worried because Hardy Groscup took the paper and found that could say another word the waiter entered wrote that he had resigned his position in the scare headlines announced the capture the room with the fish. When he disap-

I changed the number on the lamps, as I made a big slip, which I thought at one time would spoll the whole thing. The detectives said the numbers were changed with a mixture of liquid glue and ink. If they would have had me dead to rights,

las. "That's what I was betting on." "By a fortunate chance," continued the

noon at the hospital. Arm and leg run the doctor, "and as the table is large, I taking off the limbs, I had an idea, and I over close to the hip and shoulder. After just hacked of the injured parts and put the rest in a bag. These went into the "Here, walter." shouted Douglas to a cab with the demijohn. That was human waiter who had just entered with some blood in the cab, all right."

"But I can't understand why no one to it that night at dinner. Then he gave it to me, and I put it on the arm we was murdered, and keep mum about it." "We kept mum, all right. Eh, Groscup?"

the back again. Groscup smiled, and looked at Hartley, who was very quiet. "This is very interesting, gentlemen." he remarked, "but as lawyer it seems to me that the kernel of the matter has not yet been touched upon. Where is Fletcher himself?"

yous little laugh. "He did not make a confidant of me. Perhaps the doctor knows. He was with Fietcher most of the time we were hatching up our little scheme." "Give you my word of honor, gentlemen

haven't seen him nor heard of him since the moment he went out of this room after handing me that pocketbook."

(To Be Continued.)

a complete description of him." "Not at all, I just described the man, and