

trains in unimportant stations like Grover. My writing had been rubbed out by a moist hand, for I could see the finger marks clearly, and in place of it was written in blue chalk simply:

C. B. & Q., 26387.

"I sat there drinking brandy and muttering to myself before that black board until those blue letters danced up and down, like magic lantern pictures when you jiggle the slides. I drank until the sweat poured off me like rain and my teeth chattered, and I turned sick at the stomach. At last an idea flashed upon me. I snatched the way bill off the hook. The car of wool that had left Grover for Boston the night before was numbered 26387.

"I must have got through the rest of the night somehow, for when the sun came up red and angry over the white plains, the section boss found me sitting by the stove, the lamp burning full blaze, the brandy bottle empty beside me, and with but one idea in my head, that box car 26387 must be stopped and opened as soon as possible, and that somehow it would explain.

"I figured that we could easily catch it in Omaha, and wired the freight agent there to go through it carefully and report anything unusual. That night I got a wire from the agent stating that the body of a man had been found under a woollack at one end of the car with a fan and an invitation to the inaugural ball at Cheyenne in the pocket of his dress coat. I wired him not to disturb the body until I arrived, and started for Omaha. Before I left Grover the Cheyenne office wired me that Freymark had left the town, going west over the Union Pacific. The company detectives never found him.

"The matter was clear enough then. Being a railroad man, he had hidden the body and sealed up the car and billed it out, leaving a note for the conductor. Since he was of a race without conscience or sensibilities, and since his past was more infamous than his birth, he had boarded the extra and had gone to the ball and danced with Miss Masterson with blood undried upon his hands.

"When I saw Larry O'Toole again, he was lying stiff and stark in the undertaker's rooms in Omaha. He was clad in his dress clothes, with black stockings upon his feet, as I had seen him forty-eight hours before. Helen Masterson's fan was in his pocket. His mouth was wide open and stuffed full of white cotton.

"He had been shot in the mouth, the bullet lodging between the third and fourth vertebrae. The hemorrhage had been very slight and had been checked by the cotton. The quarrel had taken place about five in the afternoon. After supper Larry had dressed, all but his shoes, and had lain down to snatch a wink of sleep, trusting to the whistle of the extra to waken him. Freymark had gone back and shot him while he was asleep, afterward placing his body in the wool car, which, but for my telegram, would not have been opened for weeks.

That's the whole story. There is nothing more to tell except one detail that I did not mention to the superintendent. When I said goodbye to the boy before the undertaker took charge of the body, I lifted his right hand to take off a ring that Miss Masterson had given him and the ends of the fingers were covered with blue chalk."

"Can you tell me what time it is, my boy?" said a gentleman to aurchin he met on a country lane.

"Twelve o'clock, sir."

"H'm," said the stranger. "I should have thought it was more than that."

"It never is more than that here, sir," replied the child. "It always begins again at one!"

THE HORRORS OF ST. DOMINGO.
It Was Just a Hundred Years Ago That They Occurred.

An hundred years ago the island of St. Domingo was the fairest and richest in the western hemisphere, says the Hartford Courant. For fifty years it had been growing in production and wealth more rapidly than any other European colony in America. It was the emporium of the western world. It filled the coffers of Europe from the exuberant fertility of its soil and well earned its title of "La Reine des Antilles."

The French portion—one third only—was the most productive, and the value of its products was estimated at 175,000,000 francs—an increase of 100,000,000 francs in a quarter of a century—a sum which represented the measure of toil exacted by human slavery. The population of the colony was 570,000. Of this number 40,000 were whites of all classes, 30,000 were mulattoes or free people of color, 500,000 were negro slaves. Among the white was a class of vagabonds scattered throughout the colony, a worthless set on which the mulattoes bestowed the epithet of "les petits blancs." The African slave trade was at its height at this period. More than 300 vessels left the coast of Africa laden with their human freight in chains; 15,000 annually perished on the passage; 20,000 yearly found their way into the slave marts of Saint Domingo.

The revolution in France created political disturbances and differences among the whites in the colony. The people of color claimed equal rights with the whites; their claims were rejected, their leaders were arrested, tried, and put to death. They turned to the negroes for aid. These had been quiet witnesses of this war of caste. They were now wakened by a sense of their own condition. They joined with the people of color, and insurrection began on the night of Aug. 21, 1791. Incendiary fires broke out in several plantations in the plains of the north. The negroes, under the lead of one of their number, a fearless giant named Boukman, now commenced to plunder and burn indiscriminately. By the 26th one-third of the plantations in the great plain were in ashes. In a week the whole plain was swept by fire. The desolation and ruin was almost complete from the sea to the mountains. The soil ran with the blood of the unhappy planters and their families. Thus began that series of events and disasters known in history as the "Horrors of Saint Domingo," events and disasters which resulted in the loss to France of her richest colony and the establishment in 1804 of the free black government of Hayti.

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