SENT BY CARRIE A. WOODS, BRANTFORD, ONT.

(coxcurped)

I was still chuckling over the thought of the Land of Propise a lan, of fulfilment. how the thief had been "sold," when once more, there was a footstep on the stairs. No doubt about its being Isaac this time, for I could hear him grumbling, under his breath, at having to mount so high.

I hastily adjusted my wig, which had got disarranged in the scalle, took up the value.

I had packed, and presented myself at the door before he had time to knock.

He started and retreated a step, not recognizing me in the least.
"Did you want me, mensiour?" I

cognizing me in the least.

"Did you want me, monsiour?" I demanded, politely, in an assumed voice "Pardon" he answered, recovering himself, "it is M. Westen I want. I see that I

"This is his room, but you won't find him in it," I returned; and brushing past him, I quietly descended the stairs, leaving him I quietly descended the stairs, leaving him to reconnoitre at his leisure. Apparently he soon discovered the trick, for I had not reached the ground-floor when I heard him hurrying down after me, shouting "Arratez! arretez!" The concierge emerged from his loge as I passed, but, though Isaac called out to him to stop me, he was far too much startled by my appearance to attempt it. I got safely out into the street, hurried along the Quai d'Orleans and over the Pont de la Tournelle, and then proceeded more

de la Tournelle, and then proceeded more leisurely to Delattre's rooms in the Rue des

Ecoles. He was as far from recognizing me as the others had been.

others had been.
My story sent him into such hits of laughter that it was some time before he recovered hir gravity sufficiently to ask, "What do you intend to do now?"
Having divested myself of my theatrical properties, I had taken a seat and a cirar.

cigar.
"Smoke, if you will give me a light.

"Shoke, if you will give me a light. Thanks!"
"What are your plans, I mean? You can't go on dodging Isaac for ever. Sooner or later he'll run you to earth, and after

"The deluge. My good fellow, it's no use asking what are my plans; you might as well put the question to a man ship-wrecked on a rock. Suggest something, and I'll do it.

He looked at me thoughtfully, twisting the ends of his nest little black mous-

"Why not turn 'digger' in real carnest,' ho said, at length, in the coolest way pos-

a started. The idea gave me a galvanic

allock.

"Are you serious?"

"Perfectly. You are not wedded to your profession; or, if you are, it is a 'marriage de covenance' without much affection. Take me covenance without much affection. Take my advice; 'throw physic to the dogs,' as your Shakespeare beautifully says, go out to the new I and of Promise where fortcues are dug up like potatoes, find a monster nug-get, and return triumphant. What do you say?'

"Hurrah for California," I exclaimed, starting to my feet. "I'll go—it's settled.
I'm off to the diggings to-morrow. But
stay," I added, with a sudden change of
tone; "how am I to get there? I have
harely enough cash to take me to Liver-

harely enough cash to take me to Liverpool, and as for my passage and outfit——"
He interrupted ine by going to his
desk and taking out a plump little roll
of notes, which he thrust into my hands.?
"You shall repay me when you have
found the famous nugget. I'll go with you
as far as Liverpool; my father has some
friends there, and it will be r capital
excuse for taking a few weeks' holiday."

And so, in this off-hand fashion, my plans
for t'— future were settled.

for t a future were settled.

We agreed that, under the circumstances, the sooner I was out of Paris the better,

and by noon the next day we were on our way to Calais by the mail train.

Ten days afterwards I found myself on board the good ship Gold-finder, bound for San Francisco.

The curtain falls on the first part of my story, to rise again after an interval of two years.

. I shall not dwell on my sojourn in Cali-fornia. Suffice it to say that, happier than many of my fellow-adventurers, I found

Fickle Damo Fortune, after buffeting me

so long, took to pelting me with nuggets by way of compensation. I was successful beyond my utmost hopes.

For eighteen months I stuck to the spade and "cradle"; then, being heartily tired of hard work and rough living, I resolved to return to civilization

roturn to civilization.

I had more than once written to Delattre, but no letters had reached me in re-

I took ship for Havre, intending to spend a month or two in Paris before returning to settle in England.

I was anxious to acquit myself of debt, and to see whether my old friends would recognize me. I rather doubted it when I looked at the ferocious individual my glass. reflected, bearded, with bronzed skin and unkempt hair. I should scarcely need a false beard and wig now for purposes of dis-

It was a bright spring evening when I found myself once more in Paris, leitering along the familiar Boulevards, and water ing more attention than was qui gree-able, for I had purposely delayed viliz-ing" myself till I had called upon Isaac ing" my Ulbach.

I crossed the Scing and made my way to a certain cafe in the Rue Soullot, where I knew that the money-lender was in the habit of taking his petit verre in the even-

ing.
It was a dull and dincy little place, chief

ly frequented by lawyers' clerks, small tradesmen, and the like.

The mistress of the establishment was a plump Jewess, who looked up from her crochet with a startled air when I sauntered Indeed, the entrance of such a formidable stranger made quite a sensation in the place; the habitues glanced at me districtfully, and the garcon—an overgrown youth, with a shock of frizzy hair like a black mop—backed away from me apprehensively when he took my order, as if he feared I might assault him.

A glance round the room showed me that the Jew was not there, but before I had fin-

ished my coffee he came in, nodded to the dame du comptoir, and taking a seat with his back to me, was soon deep in the Monitur de la Bourse.

There was a large mirror opposite to him which reflected my figure at full-length, and presently, as he raised his glass to his lips, he looked up, and our eyes met.

The change in his face was semething to

remember.

He started, but down his glass untasted stared at my reflection a moment, as if fus-cinated, then wheeled round in his chair and looked me in the face. There was something in his expression that puzzled me. It showed not only recognition, but a sort of horrified astonishment. Refore I had time to address him, herose,

Ilefore I had time to address him, herose, and approaching the proprietress, whispered an enquiry which evidently referred to me, to which she replied by shaking her head and shrugging her plump shoulders. After another keen glance at me, he leaned over the counter and whispered to her again. The words he uttered were few, but their effect were leaving the property of the state o effect was electrical

She dropped her crochet, and uttered an exclamation which caused the habitues to ook up from their cards and dominoes, and the garcon to stand transfixed with a coffee-por ir one hand and a cognac-bottle in the

"Monsicur Ulbach, what do you tell mo?"

she cried.
"The truth, and I am ready to prove it, he answered aloud, and turning round he pointed full at me. "That man is an assassin!"

I started to my feet. Was he out of his senses?

"Why, Isaac," I exclaimed, "whom do you take me for? Don't you know

"I know you very well," was his empha-"I know you very well," was his empea-tic reply, as he shook his foreinger at me, "though I have only seen you once before, and that was on the evening of Mardi-Gras, two years ago, at a house in the Rue St. Louis, where you had just robbed and mur-dered's client of mine."

There was a general exclamation of hor-

ror. I looked at him in stupofaction. He doubt, astonishment succeeded each othe was perfectly serious, and evidently believed rapidly, giving place by degrees to a by what he said.

"I remember sooing it in the papers, put in soveral voices, quickly; "the first in soveral voices, quickly; "the Mysterious Disappearance of a Medical Student." A man was arrested on suspicion of having tracked the young fellow home from your shop, M. Ulbach, but as there was no evidence against him, he was sot at liberty, and the real murderer was nover found

"Till this moment." put in the Jew. I hurst into an uncontrollable fit of laugh-ter; i. was too ridiculous. Never, surely, had a man been placed in a situation so gro-tesque and improbable; accused of having

teque and improbable; accused of having murdered—my solf!

"It is no joke, as you will soon find," said Isaac, grimly. "Garcon, fetch a sergeant do ville."

"Wait a moment," I interposed. "I want to ask yousomething. Was the 'body' ever found?"

"No; it was thrown through the window into the Seine; a boatman heard the splash, but as the river was swollen by rain, the current was unusually strong, and must current was unusually strong, and must have carried it away.

"I see; that accounts for it. The victim was a friend f yours?"
"He was a client of mine," he answered sharply, "and owed me money, a great deal oney, which I should have had that

"" oney, which I should have had that night it you had not robbed him of the cheque—brigand!"

"Gently, Isaac," I said, as gravely as I could; 'just put on your spectacles and take a good look at me. Supposing your late lamented client had chosen, for reasons of his own, to disguise himself in a 'digger's' interest of the county of the dress, and a false board, might he not have

coked something like me?"

He started, and looked at me closely, but the next moment he shrugged his shoulders with contemptuous incredulty.

"The force of audacity can go no farther!
To assume the name and identity of the very man whom you—That is enough," he broke off; "out of this place you shall not go except in custody."

The others murmured their approval, and

gathered round with the evident intention of detaining me, by force if necessary, till the waiter returned with a police-

"Come, come," I said, "you can't be in creest. Let me have a few words with ariest. you in private and I'll soon convince you of Liy identity."

I was moving towards the door when he seized me by the arm. I shook him off with so little ceremony that he staggered backwards into the arms of the plump proprietress, who had left her throne behind the con, and joined the group. At the

clothes.
"That is the man," the waiter said, indi-

er ing me.

'Yes, that is the man—the robber and assassin!" cried Isaac, excitedly. "He has just assaulted me, as measieurs here can

Upon that, all the tongues were let loose at once. In vain I endeavoured to explain. I could not even make myself heard, much less understood.

At length the "agent" in plain clothes, who had listened to it all without comment, turned to me and said civilly: "Monaicur will have an opportunity of explaining him-self before the Commissaire de Police," which I took as a polite intimation that I might consider myself in custody until further notice.

"If monsieur prefers it, we can have s "If monsieur prefers it, we can have a carriage," he added, considerately. I certainly did prefer it, under the circumstances. So the shock headed gareen was despatched for a fiacre, which I entered, followed by Isaac and the policeman in plain clothes; he of the cocked hat and sword returned to his beat.

The Commissary of the quarter was a little, yellow, high-dried man, like a rusticated mummy, who took snuff incessantly during the interview.

during the interview.

Having listened in silence to the agent's statement and Isaac's charge, he turned to

me for my explanation.
In response, I related the story of my escapade pretty much as I have written it here, glancing from to time at Isaac, as I proceeded, to see what effect it had upon apado fretty much as I have written it done, out came forward at once, what effect it had upon im.

"Weston, old fellow, is it you?"

"I think so," I answered, cautional; ally cures was a study. Incredulity, wouldn't swear it. But 'if this ks, as a study wouldn't swear it.

But when I told of my brilliant succession But when I told of my brilliant success California, and added that I had returned to Paris for the express purpose of parismy old debt, his expression changed will ludierous abruptness.

As if a flood of light had sudden burst upon his mind, he started to the factor.

feet.

feet.

"It is himself!" he exclaimed, rapteressly, seizing my hand. "Ah, cher monier, can you ever forgive me for having ben se blind?—so—Monsieur le Commissaire, he broke off, "I ask a hundred parlons; I was mistaken. This is indeed my long-lost was inistance. It is is indeed my long-lon and respected client,"
"That remains to be proved," was the

quiet reply.

quiet reply.

"How! proved? but I have proved it by recognizing him. I am ready to swear a his identity—"

"And a few moments ago you were ready."

to swear exactly the reverse—a coments sudden conversion, M. Ulbach," drily remarked the magistrate, to whom Isase wa

"But I had not heard his tory then,"
he explained engerly; "I did not know

"That it would be to your own interests "That it would be to your own interests acknowledge him—just so," put in the other, with a smile. Turning to me, be added: "I forbear to comment on you statement, till I have made further enquines. The friend you mention will be conmunicated with at once; meantime it is, decourse, my duty to detain you."

course, my duty to detain you."

This was pleasant; however, I submitted meli—"
with a good grace to the inevitable and "Enough!"

Enough!" having obtained permission to send and to Delattre, I bowed to the Commission and, with a friendly nod to Issae, wh was loudly protesting against my ince ceration, I followed my conductor from the

was loudly protesting against my ince ceration, I followed my conductor from a partment.

He led me down a short passage itself them, it off duty were lounging about the st.ve; a here an official at a desk entered my main the charge-book. Thence I was conducted to one of the cellules de detention-cheerful retreat, with a stone floor and barred window commanding an uninterrupt view of a blank wall opposite. He kindled and, having politely hinted that smolin was forbidden, left me to my reflections. Forbidden or not, directiv I was slow lighted my pipe, and, that, is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that, is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that, is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that, is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that, is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that, is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that, is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that, is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that, is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that, is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that is to the secil lighted my pipe, and, that is to the secil lighted my pipe, and the is to the secil lighted my pipe, and the state of the secil lighted my pipe, and the state of the secil lighted my pipe, and that is a state of the secil lighted my pipe, and the secil lighted my pipe

me, 110

It was now long past dinner-time, as ternal sensations warned me. Recollect the proverb, "Qui dort, dine," I strate myself on the pallet-bed in one command endeavoured to forget hunger sleen. aleen.

sleep.

I succeeded at length in dropping and all and, though ray dozo could not have the many minutes, I had time for a long. Tooke lace complicated dream, in which I was the found gunlty, sentenced, and I do to seaffold. I felt the grasp of "Mensiert to the king Paris," I heard the click of the fatal in advocation.

There was a cheerful sound of room feet effect the passage outside, the door was the open, and there stood Delattre, with the commissary and his satellites in the build infirm ground.

I may explain here that my his delay in coming was caused by his but been out when the messenger arrived. He started when he saw me, as Isaat done but come to the saw me, as Isaat

He started when he saw me, as lead done, but came forward at once, with

the building a ters I"
"Parbleau ! nice? Then I wrote I gav rdar account ru the first er return to Farland, As

think it be.

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"And now.

"Perfectly.

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otel, and we nless you hav I my identity: "If he has, t implified them," v "And you w

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