PROGRESS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1892.

THE SHADOW OF A SIN.

I. many thanks." "A gentleman to see you, sir," announc-ed Mr. Meredith's clerk, holding the door

'his master's room on the swing. There was just the least little hesitation in his manner of saying the word "gentle-man," and Mr. Meredith's practised ear caught it. He looked up sharply from the

pile of big blue folios on his table. "What name, Matthews?"

"He wouldn't give any name, sir; but he said that you'd see him as soon as-well, as soon as you saw who he was, sir." "All right; Mathews; ask him to come

in, will you ?"

The man who entered the room was tall, spare, and apparently of about fifty or five and fifty years of age. His face was thin and sallow, with very prominent cheek bones, and dark, blood-shot eves He wore a drooping, black moustache and long black hair, carefully oiled and brushed very smooth. His trock coat, buttoned tightly across his chest, and his silk hat, which seemed to have undergone much the same treatment as the hair and the mous-

"Oh, no, you won't. You're a clever man, Mr. Meredith, and a shrewd man, and Lidny't think L as I don't think their married life had been perfectly and I don't think-I say I don't thinkhappy; with a monotonous. unimpassioned you'll do anything so unwise, so childishly happiness, certainly, but happy notwithimprudent, as to provoke a row with me." standing. Mr. Meredith took off his gold-rimmed

and you will admit the reasonableness of my request—in the first place,—that my—hm (-salary be henceforth doubled, and that he new arrangement be made, to a certain extent, to operate retrospectively. You grasp my meaning?"
"You mean that you want a lump sun at once. How much?"
"Well, let's say—five hundred ?"
"No, sir."
"Nery well. If any one calls, I am not the determine see and for all. Tam going to put a stopt of the operation of the exist of the starger had not move a muscle, and a dattred bus thit had at tracted but little notice, more dasined of, use a strong in the room above them is a data to attree the integration of the exist of the move and the prisoner's connection with the grassion of the exist of the start be had that the question of the exist of the start be had that the start of the move one powers and in the start of the move one powers and in the start of the move one powers and in the start of the move one powers and and will not endure this vib blackmailing and on the termine muscle and appearently respectable, and while move and start of the s five hundred pounds' worth of notes here in | could be little doubt, for a heavy stick, chambers. And I suppose you want notes ?" stained with blood, was lying beside the "Notes, if you please, Mr. Meredith. corpse, and there was no question as to its There's a certain negotiability about Bank | having been the instrument with which the of England paper which a cheque-even deed had been perpetrated. A man, on your che amount, might fail to commaxd. But I am noticed coming out of the room shortly after not in any immediate hurry. To-morrow- the time when deceased was last seen alive ;

"Good-atternoon, Mr. Meredith. I will occurred to recall him to a sense of what see that your name duly appears on the list of subscribers. Good-afternoon, sir, and many thanks." was happening around him, he would start and look round with a puzzled expression on his face, and then recollect himself sudon his face, and then reco Leonard Meredith, Q. C., was not a popu-lar man. Standing, as he did, in the front politeness. Also, he would sit for hours rank of his profession, a brilliant talker, a alone in chambers. Matthews, entering politician of no small celebrity, there was yet a certain something about him—an insincerity of speech, a curious secretiveness the wide expanse of the Temple Gardens

sincerity of speech, a curious secretiveness of manner, that had always set up an im-passible barrier between himself and those who might have been his friends. "When old Meredith says that he thinks so-and-so," one of his juniors had once re-marked, "vou may be quite sure he's think-ing something else." Not that this characteristic of the law-yer's was cofined to his relations with mere professional acquaintance. His own fam-

professional acquaintance. His own fam-ily, his children, even his wife, would have had to confess, if questioned on the subject, that they knew little or nothing of him. He was affectionate, sympathetic, appreci-ative—nay, more, he was intensely unsel-fish. But how much genuine sentiment, no one could have told. And the man's appearance bore out his character. Squarely built and hard feat-ured, with a singular immobile face and As time drew near, however, to the professional acquaintance. His own fam-

same treatment as the hair and the mous-tache, were both of the fashion of several years ago. And the state of his linen was such as to justify the clerk's hesitation in announcing him as a gentleman. He walked deliberately to the nearest chair, drew it up closer to Mr. Meredith's table, and seated himself. Then there was a moment's silence before Mr. Meredith's table, solwly and in a tired, constrained sort of voice. "Haven't I toid you, over and over again, that I will not have you coming to my chambers?" "Yea, you've told me, and you may go dustry had supplied. There was many

chambers?" "Yes, you've told me, and you may go on telling me as many times as you please; but it doesn't tollow that your telling will keep me away." "Then I shall order my clerk not to admit you." "No, you won't, Mr. Meredith." There "No, you won't. You're a clever man, Mr. Meredith, and a shrewd man, Mr. Meredith, and a shrewd man, "No, you won't. You're a clever man, Mr. Meredith, and a shrewd man, "Yes you're a shift to the the the transition of the the transition of the transiti

II.

direction of the dock. But this momentary discomposure passed unnoticed; and, if there was a slight tremor in Mr. Meredith's voice when he first rose, every vestige of it disappeared as the trial proceeded. At no time had Mr. Meredith been what is tormed a transactional's meaker. The

Mr. Meredith took off his gold-rimmed glasses and laid them down, with a gesture of resignation, on the table at his elbow. "Well," he said, "I suppose I must list-en to you. What is it that you want with me? Money, as usual, I have no doubt." "You have guessed it, Mr. Meredith; you have guessed quite correctly. Money is the object of my visit. To put the case concisely, and in a business-like way, 1 find it quite impossible to keep up, on such a beggarly allowance as you make me, the position which my talents and inclinations entitle me to claim. I demand, therefore —and you will admit the reasonableness of my request—in the first place,—that my— hem !- aslary be henceforth doubled, and,

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ot you, but to attract your attention to our NEW CLOTHING AND GENTS' FURNISHING STORE just opened opposite the Golden Ball Corner. We intend making a lasting impression on you of its location, also of its advantages over all other Clothing Stores. It being our own, means light expenses, with results in your favor of good goods at lowest prices. Our plan of impressing you is that we i WILL GIVE AWAY FREE \$100,00 WORTH

of Clothing, Gents' Furnishings, and a variety of Novelties on the first day of March, 1893. To give you a chance of getting a portion of the \$100.00 we invite you to come to our New Store opposite the Golden Ball Corner and allow us to place your name and address on our register. The street cars pass our door every five minutes, so that many can ride for a five-cent fare. If you cannot find it convenient to come, drop us a postal card with your name and address written plainly and we will register ok, and send you a list of the articles to be given away free with our plan of distribution. We cannot accept more than one name on each letter or p card. Remember it will cost you nothing. The gifts are free.

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R. W. LEEFFICER, PROD., St."We are?"
"Do you find the prisoner guilty, or—"
"Stop? Stop!" Mr. Meredith had, st addenty, started to his fact which in gviolently, his voice harsh and strangely agitated. "My lord, there has been some—The prisoner is not—I mean, I—I—AN!"
In an instaat the court was in an uproar of excitement, which the usbers tried in yain to suddue. Mr. Meredith broke of the outbulking, scarcely knowing what i lice has been one continual struggle, my conscience urging me to make a full conformation bis seat, striking his head heavily against the ledge of the desk behind him."
"Were?! Bring some water! My lord the rester of the crown was pushed back, and a till more to my fain to the judge's private to for. Meredith's side. But all the doce to ris I London could have done nothing. The regulity's and, on his returning into court, the prisoner's coursel asked matter which had just come to his known comnection with the question of the prisoner's course tasked bads work the witch had just come to his known connection with the question of the prisoner's coursel asked and may Heaven belp me to go the coursel asked. The have put off the ingr found the prisoner's coursel asked to the restore. "Not fully." **RALEWAYS. RALEWAYS. Matter Which had just come to his known connection with the question of the prisoner's coursel asked as an which had just come to his known connection with the question of the prisoner's coursel asked as an off the stop of the coursel asked. The prisoner's coursel asked in the fully off the prisoner's coursel asked as an off the prisoner's coursel asked astop the prisoner's coursel asked as an off the prisoner's c**



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posite N. B. & Intercolonial Railway station. Baggage taken to and from the depot free or harge. Terms—\$1 to \$2.50 per day. J. SIME, Propriets r. FREDERICTON, N. B.

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let me think—yes, to-morrow atternoon 1 shall be disengaged. About this time tomorrow, then, I will give myself the plea- in circumstances which certainly did not sure of calling on you, again, and by that time, no doubt—" point to any attempted concealment, he

"No, no, not here !" exclaimed the lawmitting that the stick was his property, and yer. "I will send you the money. Or, stop; what is your address? I will bring it." had been at once committed for trial. was the man. Ernest Vale, whom Mr. Perhaps that would be the most con- Meredith had been selected to prosecute, venient way. My present place of abode is and the sight of whose name had so affected

No. -. My place of abode may have the lawyer. People noticed-or so, at least they said changed before to-morrow evening. Meet me at Cambridge Circus, in front of the theatre; and I shall then have the pleasure Mr. Meredith during the few days that ot personally conducting you home. And elapsed before the trial came on. True, he

at what hour may I expect you? "Oh, late in the evening-nine; half All his [social engagements were fulfilled past nine."

all his professional duties carried out with "Hall-past nine will suit me admirably. his usual skill and conscientiousness. To-Till then-Ah! you are not well? Heart? | ward his own family he showed himself even For the lawyer had sunk into a chair, one more affectionate, if that were possible, than he had ever been before. hand pressed against his side. "You

should be more careful. Mr. Meredith. But it all [seemed to be something of an effort to him. At dinner, for instance, when he was not actually joining in the conversation, he would become, all in a Lat me recommend you to take life rather more easily; not to overwork yourself; and, above all, to avaid any sort of excitement." Then opening the door and speak-ing aloud for the benefit of the clerk- and if'any one spoke to him, or anything an l if any one spoke to him, or anything

In the prisoner's favour. Unless he point-ed out to the jury, they believed the evi-dence against Vale to be absolutely con-clusive, they ought to give the prisoner the benefit of the doubt, and to acquit him And levethem remember, he concluded, that the duty which had been laid uncen the you please, Mr. Meredith. ain negotiability about Bank uper which a cheque—even -drawn for so large an t fail to commaxd. But I am ediate hurry. To-morrow— yes, to-morrow afternoon 1 yaged. About this time to-I will give myself the plea-i will give myself the plea-i will sign and there was no question as to its baving been the instrument with which the deed had been perpetrated. A man, on noticed coming out of the room shortly after the time when deceased was last seen alive; but he had disappeared, and had evaded the police for several days. When found, I will give myself the plea-

III Twilight had begun to fall before the judge's charge was ended; and the court during the first halt hour of the jury's ab-sence was in comparative darkness. Then the gas was lit, and its yellow glare fell upon the densely packed rows of white faces, all turned in one direction—that of the door by which the jury must return. The Judge had retired, and most of the counsel had also left the court; but Mr. Meredith sat on still in his place—his eyes closed, his features set in a hard, indiffer-ent expression, as though he were quite unconscious of what was going on. Halt an hour passed—three quarters—a whole hour; and still no sign of the jury. The suspense was becoming almost in-tolerable. III

made no alteration in his manner of living.

The suspense was becom tolerable.

At last a low, "Hush" and a murmur of

At last a low, "Hush?" and a murmur of "Here they come?" ran along the crowded benches; and, led by their toreman, the jury filed back into the box one by one. The judge resumed his seat, and an ush-er stood by and commanded "Silence," though there was no need for the admo-nition, so intense was the stillness. Then, the prisoner having been put back in the dock-

dock-"Gentlemen, are you all agreed upon your verdict ?"

attentively to the document, which I am about to read to you, and which will, I be-lieve, leave no doubt in your minds as to what verdict you will bring in." And he read-

a bout to read to you, and which will, 1 be-lieve, leave no doubt in your minds as to what verdict you will bring in." And he tread— ..., I conard Meaedith, being aware that my death may take place at any moment, make this statement, in case I should be prevented, by any accident, from substance of the facts contained in it. The prisoner, Ernest Vale, is my brother. Ac-cused, twenty-five years ago, of a crime, which, if proved against him, would have enabled him to penal servitude for lite. The escaped from the country, with my as-istance, and returned only a tew months ince to England, changing his name, and hoping that the lapse of time would have enabled him to evade discovery. What that crime was, and whether, in my opinion, be had actually committed it, are matters of no moment now. For a couple of weeks he "remained in safety. Then his identity was discovered by the man formerly, and who now threatneed to ex-pose him. From that time began a most instructionals Burke, who had known him formerly, and who mow the samily in the structure as my chambers, demanding in the safet, five hundred pounds. Thereup-on the shat my be had yet received. I made an appointment with him. He took me to his room, and there I paid him what he as appointment with him. He took me to his room, and there I paid him what he as appointment with him. He took me to his room, and there I paid him what he asked, five hundred pounds. Thereup-on he told me that my brother was in Lon-don, in that very building, and that, unless I was prepared to pay over a further au communicate with the police. What then followed I am mable to describe accurate-ity. I can recollect striking him, in a blind

J. A. EDWARDS, Pro Seattle, Wash. Fine sample room in connection. Also, a first-ch as Livery Stable. Coaches at trains and boats. HOTEL DUFFERIN. Pacific Cost. ST. JOHN. N. B. Every Saturday at II.45 a.m. FRED A. JONES. Minneapolis and St. Paul. BARKER HOUSE, Holders of Second-Class Passage Tickets to or hrough these points, will be accommodated in these cars, on payment of a small additional charge per berth. Farticulars of ticket agents. D. McNICOLL, C. E. MOPHLEBON, Gen'l Pass. Agent, MORTBEAL. ST. JOHN, N. B. FREDERICTON, N. B. Most beantifully of arge, light, cheerful f Livery and Hack stal tifully situated in the centre of the city, WESTERN COUNTIES R'Y CONNORS HOTEL, CONNORS STATION, MADAWASE. Fall Arrangement. JOHN H. MOINERNEY, Proprieto On and after Monday, 17th Oct., 1892, trains will rundaily (Sunday excepted) as follows: Opened in January. F Handsomest, most spacious LEAVE YARMOUTH_Express daily at 8.10 12.10p.m; Passenger and PraightMonday, Wedneway and Friday at 1.46p.m.; arrive at Annapolis at 7.00 p. m. Tueeday, Thursday and Saturday as 1.46p.m.; arriving at Weymouth 4.82 p.m. LEAVE ANNAPOLIS_m.; arrive at Yarmouth 4.56p.m.; Passenger and Freight Tueeday, Thury day and Saturday at 6.00 a.m., arrive at Yarmouth 11.15 a.m. "Vivat Berna." Queen Hotel, LEAVE WEYMOUTH Passenger and Fre HALIFAX, N. S. riday at 8.23 s.m., arrive at Yarmouth at 11.18 ONNECTIONS—At Annapolis with train Windsor and Annapolis 1

