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The Secre Old Ch

By DAVID W

CHAPTER I.

The Soldiers of Fortune.

The Soldiers of Fortune.

The front door of No. 9 Mortimer Terrace, Regent's Park, shut to with a bang that was muffled in the fog which had descended upon the metropolis in the early morning of November 14, 1907, and two dejected looking men made their way down the little box-bordered path and beneath the dripping branches to the garden gate. Their coats were buttoned tightly up over their evening dress, for the early air of a November morning is apt to strike chill to those whose night hours have been spent in the heated atmosphere of the card room. At the end of the terrace, where it joins the outer circle of the Park, the men stopped.

"I believe he's playing the same game as we are." one of them said sourly as he puffed angrily at his cigar, which had gone out.

The other gave a little laugh.

"Looks like it. A hundred and ten thursday and eighty-four to-night. If I hadn't had that 'flush' at the end it would have been a good deal more. I can't say, Eddie, that I congratulate you on your 'pigeon.' You used to be able to pick 'em out better than this."

"There's nothing like feeding your bird up before you pluck him, Vivian, and it's best to—"

"—Make sure that he isn't a crow, eh?"

The elder man shivered slightly, and having relit his cigar, held out his

Hubert took up the notes, changing the gold into other notes to make up the amount, enclosing them in the envelope, and scaled it. The odd fifteen shillings he put aside to give to the crossing-sweeper at the corner in the morning. Personally he did not intend to benefit by so much as a penny piece. "Out of evil," he quoted, "cometh why, what's that?"

The young solicitor wheeled round in his chair as he heard the front gate open and the crunching of steps on The young solicitor wheeled round in his chair as he heard the front gate open and the crunching of steps on the gravel. Then were

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There's a man out in front who he wants to lick you," said the e urchin of the Chiggersville Clari-

How large is he?" asked the edi-, who was in the composing room king a proof of an editorial on the this of a free people.

"He's a great big fellow, sir."
"All right," replied the editor, as whipped off his collar and tie. mpled his hair, disarranged his ess and smeared ink on his face, k, ears and arms. "Go back and the obsteperous visitor that there nobody on the premises now but galley boy.'

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"There's nothing like feeding your bird up before you plack him, Vivian all its best of that he sin't a crow, the?" Make zore that he sin't a crow, the?" Make zore that he sin't a crow, the?" The elder man shivered slightly, and having relit his cigar, held out his way. I leave you here, don't !? I'mper held the strain of the strain of