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The Midnight Guest

By FRED M. WHITE

Author of "The Crimson Blind," "The Corner House," etc.

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(Continued.)

"Did anybody ever hear anything so foolish?" Ravenspur cried. "Why, this is your home. Is it your fault that you are utterly incapable of getting your own living? When I brought you here—a child in arms—I gave your father a solemn assurance that you should be my own daughter in future. I have made provision for you in my will. Some day you will be rich, as things go. And now you talk of leaving me in this cold-blooded fashion. Don't you see that I cannot do without you? But let me try and touch that gratitude of which you spoke. Surely, after watching over you so carefully all these years, you are not going to leave me at the very moment when you can make something like an adequate return? You are practically mistress of the house, now, and my welfare is entirely in your hands. Need I say any more after that?"

"Oh, you try me sorely," Vera cried; "and yet my path is quite plain. Even at the risk of incurring your displeasure, I cannot remain here. And now I come to the point. Before I go I want you to tell me who I am, and who my parents are."

"Yes; I think you have a right to know that," Ravenspur said thoughtfully; "but, if you don't mind, we will not go into that to-night. It is too late, and the story is too long. Believe me, you will be the happier for asking no questions. There is a dark tragedy behind your young life which is now forgotten, and I am perfectly sure you would bitterly regret it if you stirred the scandal up again. 'Let sleeping dogs lie,' Vera. Be content to know that you are of good family, and leave the rest alone."

The girl's face grew a shade paler. Her eyes had a suggestion of pain in them as she turned to the speaker.

"I think I understand," she murmured. "If my suspicions are correct, this is a great blow to me; but, having said so much, I think I must know the rest. And now, now, you see how impossible it is that I can remain here much longer."

Ravenspur was silent for a moment. He had forgotten the little scene which he had witnessed some time ago between Vera and Walter Lance. So that was why she was going. She had given her heart to Walter, and only too late she had discovered that a marriage between them was out of the question.

The same subject was uppermost in Vera's mind. They were both looking at the same thing from a different point of view; and it seemed to Vera that if Ravenspur's words meant anything, it meant that she was not even entitled to name she bore. Every drop of blood appeared to have left her heart. She stood there, white and breathless. Yet amidst all her storm of thoughts, one dominant idea possessed her. The time had come to strike now. There must be no further delay. She must leave the house. She must go out into the world to get her own living. She would stay here no longer under these shameful conditions.

"You have spared my feelings," she began. "I almost wish now that I had not asked you any of these——"

Vera broke off abruptly as the door opened, and Walter Lance came into the room. He looked uneasy and anxious. He started to say something to Ravenspur, then he paused, as he saw that Vera was standing there. In spite of the girl's utter misery and dejection, she did not fail to see that she was in the way now.

"I am just going," she said. "I am going as far as the drawing-room. When you have finished with your uncle I should like to have a few words with you, Walter."

"You had much better go to bed," Ravenspur said, with a sudden stern inflection in his voice. "It is getting late, and I am sure that you must be tired, Vera."

The girl made no reply. She walked through the door on the far side of the library and made her way into the drawing-room. Uncle and nephew stood there facing one another; they could hear the sound of Vera's piano softly played.

CHAPTER XXIII

The Next Move.

"Well, and what is it now?" Ravenspur asked. "You look as if you had seen a ghost. Is there anything new in this ghastly business? Have the police solved the problem?"

"On the contrary, the problem gets more bewildering every hour," Walter said. "As you know, I was going to talk over our side of the puzzle with Inspector Dallas, and he gave me some startling information. As soon as ever I mentioned the Flavio business he told me that he had made a discovery which connected it closely with the death of poor Louis Delahay. It appears that there is in England at the present moment an Italian detective, called Berti, who had the Flavio affair in hand."

"I recollect the name perfectly well," Ravenspur murmured.

"It appears that Berti has seen Mrs. Delahay since the inquest. He was rather interested in the affair, and he contrived to get a sight of Mrs. Delahay. And now comes the most extraordinary feature of the story. Berti is absolutely certain that Mrs. Delahay is no other than Carlotta, Countess Flavio."

"Impossible," Ravenspur cried. "The man is mistaken."

"He is prepared to swear to his statement, any way," Walter said. "And, after all, I don't see why it should be impossible, and I'll tell you why. After this amazing thing came out I thought it my duty to go back to the hotel and see Mrs. Delahay. I told her what Berti said, and taxed her with being a principal in the Flavio tragedy."

"And she denied it promptly, of course?"

"She did. She told me quite calmly that she had never heard of the Flavio affair. I confess her words staggered me, because they were so calm and selfpossessed. I watched her narrowly when I was speaking, and she never so much as changed color. Even when I told her the story she appeared to be as mystified and puzzled as ever. She said, as she has always said, that for the best part of her life she has been more or less a recluse, and altogether out of touch with the world's happenings. You see, Berti was so confident, and Mrs. Delahay so selfpossessed, that I was utterly puzzled."

"There is nothing to be puzzled about," Ravenspur said. "The Italian detective has made a mistake. His recollections of Carlotta Flavio's features after eighteen years have become blurred. For goodness sake, don't let us harp upon this absurdity. Surely there are enough complications without this!"

"So I thought at first," Walter said. "But you will recollect telling me the story of your friend Count Flavio and his unhappy marriage. There were two Descartis—Carlotta, who married your friend and Maria, who disappeared and was not heard of for years. Now isn't it rather significant, bearing in mind what Berti says, that Mrs. Delahay's name should be Maria?"

Ravenspur looked up with a startled expression.

"Well, yes," he exclaimed. "But I see you have more to tell me. Will you please go on?"

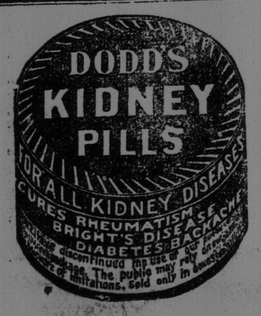
"I am coming to the interesting part now," Walter said. "Though I was prepared to believe that Mrs. Delahay knew nothing of the Flavio affair, I was by no means satisfied. I felt that there must be something in the Italian's story. I was certain of it when Mrs. Delahay admitted that her maiden name was Descarti. Oh, please let me finish. It was Mrs. Delahay's sister Carlotta who was the wife of your friend the Count. Hence the very natural mistake made by Berti. He had not seen the Countess, but her sister. The strong likeness between them would account for the misunderstanding."

"And this is really a fact?" Ravenspur cried. "Strange that it should not have come out before."

"But why should it, my dear uncle? You say that you never saw Count Flavio's wife. You have not the slightest idea what she was like. All you know is that she was an exceedingly bad woman and that you rescued her child from a questionable future. On the other hand, Maria Delahay is secluded from the world for eighteen years. She is told by her parents that her sister is dead. She knows nothing of the terrible Flavio scandal. This is a fact, because she told me so herself. Indeed, we had it all out. She has to come back to the world again when her parents die. She is compelled to get her own living. It is only natural that she should change her name, and there you are."

Lord Ravenspur pondered over the matter for some time in silence.

(To be Continued.)



A Boon to the Bilious

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and all annoying symptoms will soon disappear. They settle the stomach, regulate the liver and exercise the bowels. Their good effects are felt immediately.

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Beecham's Pills should be taken whenever there is sick headache, furred tongue, constipation, sallow skin or any symptoms that indicate an inactive liver.

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HOME MISSIONS DEALT WITH

Unite Work in Three Provinces Under One Board--This View of Sixth Baptist District.

The concluding sessions of the annual meeting of the sixth district of the United Baptist church in New Brunswick were held yesterday at Gondola Point. A resolution was unanimously adopted that on account of the cost of administration being out of all proportion to the revenue, home mission work should be taken back into the maritime convention, and that this department in the three provinces should be united under one board. A committee was appointed to assist in securing pastors for the pastorless churches in the district. Several addresses were delivered and other business transacted.

The morning session opened with devotional exercises led by Rev. H. G. Kennedy. In the absence of Rev. Samuel Howard, who was to have addressed the meeting on Our Vacant Churches, Rev. J. W. Kierstead continued the subject on Our Depleted Ministry. In the course of his remarks he brought to the attention of the meeting many practical problems connected with country churches, showing that in all parts of the province the smaller churches were weak and that unless some remedy should be applied soon it would come too late.

The city churches, he said, had reported a creditable increase, but with only five exceptions in the whole district, the country churches showed a decrease. While this was going on, one third of the annual income was being spent on administration which, as results had proved, did not administrate.

Regarding the subject of the depleted ministry, Rev. Mr. Kierstead said he thought the situation was not so critical and had been somewhat exaggerated.

The sentiments in the address were heartily endorsed by Rev. D. Hutchinson, Rev. E. J. Grant, Rev. Mr. Kennedy, R. March and others. A committee consisting of Rev. Mr. Hutchinson, Rev. Mr. Grant, John E. Slipp and N. Hughson, was appointed to draw up a resolution making a recommendation to the provincial association regarding changes in home missions. The committee submitted the following resolution:—

Well as the administration of our home mission work in New Brunswick has been carried on, it is costing a sum out of all proportion with the revenue for this purpose and with the work that is being done.

Therefore, it is the consensus of opinion of this 6th district meeting convened in annual session at Rothesay, that the time has come to take our home mission work back into the maritime convention and to unite the home mission work in the three provinces under one board.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

At the closing session in the afternoon, after devotional exercises led by Rev. C. W. Townsend, an excellent address was delivered by Rev. W. W. McMaster, on the principal purpose of a Sabbath school. A permanent committee consisting of Rev. Mr. McMaster, Rev. Mr. Hutchinson and Rev. Mr. Kierstead was appointed to assist the pastorless churches in the district to secure pastors and also to assist pastors to effect a settlement.

Michael Kelly, of St. Martins, delivered an eloquent address on temperance, in which he stoutly advocated the enfranchisement of women. It was not, he said, a case of women's rights, but of human rights.

After passing votes of thanks to the Rothesay people, for the hospitable manner in which they had entertained, the delegates and to the press for the space given to the sessions, the meeting adjourned to convene at the call of the executive.

NEW BRUNSWICK YOUNG LADIES PROMINENT

The closing exercises of the Halifax Ladies' College are of more than usual interest this year as it has been one of the most prosperous years in the history of the college from every point of view and as it has attained its majority, having been twenty-one years in existence.

The closing exercises will take place in the following order: Friday evening, 19th, Miss Susie Sylvester, of New Glasgow will give a graduation pianoforte recital. On Saturday evening a graduation elocution recital will be given by Miss Jennie Irving, of Buctouche (N. B.); Miss Nina Murray, of Chatham (N. B.); and Miss Amy Witter, of Dartmouth (N. S.). The anniversary sermon will be preached by Rev. George Wood, of Chatham on Sunday morning in St. Matthew's Church. On Monday evening Miss Mary B. Stewart, of Andover (N. B.), will give a vocal graduation recital. Miss Stewart is a fine vocalist and has received excellent training. She has already been appointed to the staff of the conservatory and will enter on her duties next September. On Tuesday evening, 16th, there will be a general musical recital and on Wednesday afternoon the commencement exercises will be held.

Fashion Hint for Times Readers

THE CAPRICE CHAPEAU.

Small tailored hats of horsehair braid are exceedingly useful for general runabout purposes. Among the most attractive models recently designed are those having medium-high puffed and Tam crowns, in white, taupe or burnt braid swathed with twisted taffeta ribbons. They are further trimmed with quills, wings or flowers in a harmonizing shade. The narrow brims are edged with black or dark braid and bent capriciously in whatever manner is most becoming to the individual face. The fancy for using one huge flower is novel. This may be a rose, poppy or chrysanthemum of shaded silk attached to the hat with a cabochon heart. The picture model is of white braid trimmed with red ombre taffeta and a single poppy.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS

HOWARD'S FAREWELL THIS EVENING

Tonight will be the last opportunity of hearing the great Howard at the Princess, and those who have not yet heard the wonderful ventriloquist, should avail themselves of this opportunity. Howard will give what he calls his number one show, the best of all the sketches, and brings into use the three figures: Major, Jimmy, and the McGreggor. The Princess management have induced Mr. Howard to appear this afternoon for the children, and he has arranged a special programme. Uncle Tom's Cabin will also be shown in motion pictures, together with four other attractive subjects.

NICKEL SHOW AMAZED EVERYBODY

What may be truthfully termed an amazing picture was put on in the Nickel last evening and will be shown for the last time today. It was Pathe Freres' latest extravaganza, "The Legend Of A Ghost," a whole reel of colored film which for spendthrift splendor and intricate scenic effects, as well as natural settings has never been equalled. It's the legend of a re-incarnated lover who must gain the fabled black pearl from the nether regions. Fire and electrical effects, grotesque beings and ever-changing views as the mystic autos descend to the other world make a splendid picture. A Wierd Symphony was exceedingly funny and The Fish Curing Industry in Astrakan, Russia, an instructive travel trip. In the afternoon hundreds of children chattered and giggled with glee as the famous Edison version of "Silverlocks And The Three Bears" was put on as an extra. The antics of the Teddy Bears were a revelation. This feature will be put on today at the matinee.

FAUST AT THE OPERA HOUSE

Charles S. Silk and his company presented Goethe's Faust to a fairly large audience at the Opera House last night. Mr. Silk's conception of Mephisto was not unlike that of the late Lewis Morrison and met with favor from St. John theatre goers. He possesses a magnificent physique, a very expressive face and powerful voice.

Miss Mabel Frost's portrayal of Marguerite was very acceptable.

The other members of the cast did excellent work and the production taken as a whole proved a success.

Faust will be repeated this afternoon and evening.

MARY EMMERSON

In His Majesty and The Maid, there is much literary merit. The principal character is Alicia. The Maid, who has been reared in the forest by Martha, the king's old nurse, the girl being ignorant of her real birth and standing. To the forest come the king and General Chantry, the king incognito, to see his daughter. Charmed by her personal attractiveness, and by love for his child, he induces her to go to court with him, without, however, disclosing his identity. With no one knowing who she really is, numerous complications arise, the situation being made more trying by the fact that the queen is anxious to usurp the throne and is plotting with the minister of war against the king. Alicia learns of this plot at the tavern of The Golden Lion, whither she goes in the guise of a boy. The last act finds her at the palace again, where she thwarts the conspirators and takes her rightful place; altogether a story well and consistently told and well played. His Majesty and The Maid will be played during the first half of the engagement and Will O' The Wisp, the latter half. The engagement will open on Monday, June 15 at the Opera House.

BIG MILITARY CHURCH PARADE TOMORROW

It is expected that the annual military church parade to Trinity church, tomorrow afternoon, will be one of the best in years. All the active militia corps and cadet companies of the city will be in attendance. The South African Veterans have signified their intention of turning out in force. Col. Buchanan of the St. Stephen cadet company has been making efforts to organize a pipe band for the occasion and it is likely that seven pipers and a drummer will be in the procession.

The parade will fall in on the barrack square at 3 o'clock, under command of Lt. Col. H. H. McLean, and Lt. Col. E. T. Sturdee, as brigade major. After inspection, Col. G. R. White, D. O. C., ill assume command. The line of march will be by Carmarthen and Broad streets to Charlotte, to Germain. After the service the troops will form up in Germain street under command of Lt. Col. McLean and will proceed by Germain to Union and Charlotte. Col. White will review the troops as they march past King square.

The troops on the march will be as follows:—

Col. G. R. White, D. O. C.
District Staff.
Brigade Staff.
Officers, R. O. and Retired List.
Band 3rd Regiment Artillery.
3rd Regiment Artillery.
South African Veterans.
Ordnance Corps.
Pipers.
St. Stephen's Cadet Company.
St. Andrew's Cadet Company.
St. Mark's Cadet Company.
St. David's Cadet Company.
Band 62nd Regiment.
62nd Regiment.
No. 7 Co., C. A. S. C.
No. 8 Field Ambulance.

The St. Stephen Scots company cadets, will form up tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock in Hazen avenue near the library and headed by the pipers' band, will march to the Barrack square.

SOLD LIQUOR TO G.T.P. MEN

Commissioner Farris Hears His First Case.

St. Stephen, June 12.—(Special.)—On Tuesday last one of the contractors on the G.T.P. construction work laid before Chief of Police Foster information against Baptiste Theriault, of Salmon River, Victoria County, charging him with selling liquor to the Italian workmen. A hearing was held today at Perth before G.T. Police Commissioner Hon. L. P. Ferris. Joseph Lorry and Hans Christiansen were the witnesses and on their evidence Theriault was proven guilty of seven offences. Commissioner Ferris fined him $50 or three months for each offence. The liquor was seized and ordered to be destroyed. Hon. W. P. Jones, K.C., prosecuted.

The chief work of the new G.T.P. police is to prevent the sale of liquor in the construction camps and it is hoped that the firm manner in which Commissioner Ferris has handled this the first case of the kind, will have a wholesome effect.

Hon. Mr. Ferris arrived in the city from Perth last evening and will leave for Chipman this morning.

The Carleton Cornet Band turned out to their band concert in Market square Carleton, last evening in their new uniforms and many favorable comments were heard on the fine appearance they made. The programme was particularly good and the large crowd enjoyed the music greatly.

Misses Cora and Florence Mildred Wesley, who have been visiting their brother, F. C. Wesley, for some time, left last evening for their home in Toronto. During their stay they, by their urbanity and geniality, made many friends who will await with pleasure their return.

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NO ALUM—NO LIME PHOSPHATES.

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture

Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn,
The sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn;
Where is the little boy that minds the sheep?
He is under the haystack fast asleep.

Find the sheep and cow.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE.

Upper left corner down in waistcoat.

TEMPERANCE MEN PLEASED

The amendments to the Canada Temperance act debated in the senate on Thursday caused gratification to the local temperance men. A prominent temperance man here, speaking of the matter yesterday afternoon said the proposed alterations to the law are just what is wanted.

He expressed the opinion that the Scott act is the best piece of temperance legislation ever introduced into Canada. The case, however, with which liquor could be transported from a license into a no license county had always interfered with its proper enforcement. It is true that the provincial legislatures might pass legislation to cover this point as had been done in New Brunswick but the proposed amendments introduced into the Dominion act would make it very much easier to enforce the law.

Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Ferris of Dickinson (N.D.), are visiting Mr. Ferris' sister, Mrs. H. W. Parlee, 38 Victoria street. Mr. and Mrs. Ferris will also visit their old home at White's Cove, Grand Lake, before returning to North Dakota. Mr. Ferris is a cousin of Hon. L. P. Ferris, commissioner of the G.T.P. police in this province.

TO FEATURE DRIVING HORSES AT EXHIBITION

What promises to be one of the best features of the St. John Exhibition is the class for driving horses. Additional prizes have been devoted to this class, so that the inducements held out this year are sufficient to attract the attention of all who own good horses and handsome turnouts.

The exhibition management are arranging for the accommodation of these turnouts, so that the exhibitors will not be placed at the disadvantage of removing their traps from the grounds. Better facilities for washing the carriages and looking after them in every particular will be provided, and in fact everything possible will be done to make this feature of the exhibition stronger and better than ever.

Applications for space and privileges are coming in very rapidly and there is every prospect that the exhibition will be more varied than it has ever been.

Rev. Neil McLaughlin will address the temperance meeting in the Every Day Club hall tomorrow night at 8.30. There will be special music.

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d—Chemical Engineering.
e—Civil Engineering.
f—Mechanical Engineering.
g—Electrical Engineering.
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j—Power Development.