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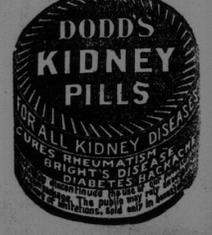
HENRY G. MARR 163 Union Street.

THE WEAPONS OF MYSTERY

BY JOSEPH HOCKING.

Author of "All Men are Liars," "Fields of Fair Renown," etc., etc.

(Continued) "Do you doubt the existence of the forces I have mentioned?" he asked. "Do you think that the matters which I have referred exist only in the mind? Are they, in your idea, no sciences in reality?" "Pardon me, Mr. Voltaire," I replied, "but I am an Englishman. We are thought by foreigners to be very conservative, and perhaps there may be truth in it. Anyhow, I for one, like tangible proof before I believe in anything that does not appear reasonable to my reason. Your story does not appear reasonable, and although I hope I do not offend you by saying so, I cannot accept it as a scientific fact. "Perhaps," said Kaffar, who spoke for the first time, "Mr. Blake would like to see some proof. Perhaps he would like not only to see manifestations of the power of the unseen, but to feel them. All parlor men, ladies and gentlemen, but I cannot stand by and hear the greatest of all sciences maligned, and still be quiet. I cannot be silent when that which is dearer to me than life itself is submitted to the cool test of bigoted ignorance. You may not believe it true, but I would give much to know what this Under-stander one knew and heard the greatest of Egypt's sunny skies; I have lain under her stately palms and watched the twinkling stars; I am a child of the East, and believe in the truths that are taught there. I have only dabbled in the mysteries of the unseen, but I know enough to tell you that what my friend says is true. "Was this a ruse on the part of the Egyptian? Looking at the matter in the light of what followed I believe it was. And yet at the time I did not know. "I am sorry," I replied, "if I have caused annoyance. But we English people possess the right to our opinions. However, I do not wish to bias older minds, and trust that my scepticism may cause no unpleasantness. "But would Mr. Blake like to be convinced?" "I am perfectly indifferent about the matter," I replied. "That he is very convenient for one who has stated his beliefs so doggedly. Certainly I do not think that is English; if I am glad I am not an Englishman." "With this he fixed his eyes steadily on me, and tried to fasten my attention, but did not at the time succeed. "I was asked for my opinion," I said. "I did not force it. But still, since you place it in that light, I should like to be convinced. "By this time the interest manifested in the matter was great. Everyone watched breathlessly for what was to be done or said next, and certainly I felt that I was regarded by the guests in anything but a favorable light. "I saw Voltaire and Kaffar exchanging glances, and I felt sure that I heard the former say in Arabic, "Not yet." "After this the two arranged to give us some manifestations of their power. While they were conversing I went across the room and spoke to Miss Forest, but she was very reserved, and I thought her face looked very pale. "This is becoming interesting," I said. "I wish you had said nothing about his story," was her reply. "Pray why?" "She only shook her head. "Surely you do not believe in his foolish story of conjuring tricks?" I said laughingly. "Mr. Voltaire is a wonderful man," she said, "a clever man. If I were a man I should not make him my enemy." "I have heard of an old saying at my home," I replied, "which ran something like this, 'Brag is a good dog, but Holdfast is better.' " "Still I should have nothing to do with Brag," she said. "I hope you will not," I replied meaningly. "She did not answer me, but I fancied she blushed, and again I felt happy.



Fashion Hint for Times Readers

Some of the smart tailored three-piece suits have a bodice and skirt which, when the handsome coat is removed, make a complete and dainty frock for luncheon, afternoon bridge and similar occasions. Such a little frock, shown here, has the high skirt and small bodice built over a net girdle—a popular style this year. The overcoat of cloth is a smart Frenchton, and is a bit warmer than the entire sleeve of transparent fabric.

A SMART FROCK FOR BRIDE. Some of the smart tailored three-piece suits have a bodice and skirt which, when the handsome coat is removed, make a complete and dainty frock for luncheon, afternoon bridge and similar occasions. Such a little frock, shown here, has the high skirt and small bodice built over a net girdle—a popular style this year. The overcoat of cloth is a smart Frenchton, and is a bit warmer than the entire sleeve of transparent fabric.

GOURDEAU'S REPRIMANDS WERE TREATED AS JOKES

Deputy Minister of Marine's Letters on Extravagance Were Not Taken Seriously—Some Interesting Evidence Before Marine Enquiry.

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—Several interesting features were elicited at the afternoon session of the marine inquiry before Judge Cassels today. The sale of a yacht that used to belong to the deputy minister to the department, though the latter disclaimed that he was buying the yacht, was one thing brought out. Referring to the purchase of a yacht, he admitted that the minister's instructions about tender had been departed from, so that the staff asked for could only be supplied by the Williamstown company of Ottawa. This was done in Fraser's office. In regard to Gregory, he wrote reprimanding him and as the agent was not written to you lately and which will probably be written again, they are simply to save the department in the eyes of the public, although at a distance, correctly described it. A look of wonder began to settle on the faces of the guests, and exclamations of surprise and bewilderment were apparent. It was apparent that nearly all were converts to his beliefs, if beliefs they might be called. After a number of articles were shown and described, Kaffar was recalled, and was loudly applauded. "You see," said Voltaire, "the evident truth of this. Certainly this is a very simple affair, and my old friend Abou al Phadre would have smiled at its littleness. Still it must convince every unprejudiced mind that there is something deeper and more wonderful than those things which are constantly passing before your eyes." Miss Staggles, who had been almost as silent as an sphinx, spoke now. "We are convinced that you are a wonderful man," she said, "and what I have seen tonight will be ever a matter of marvel as well as thankfulness that I have been privileged to see it." This was evidently the opinion of every one in the room. Even Gertrude Forest was carried away by it, while Miss Edith Gray was enraptured at what she termed "a glorious mystery." "I should like," said Miss Staggles, "to hear what Mr. Blake, the Thomas of the party, has to say to it." There was an ugly leer in the old woman's eyes at the speaker, and she thought struck me that Voltaire had been making friends with her. "Yes," said Voltaire, "I am sure we should all like to know whether Mr. Blake is convinced." "I am convinced that Mr. Kaffar has a good memory," I said. "Good memory! What do you mean?" "Why, Mr. Voltaire and his friends have come a few years too late to make a good impression. I have not only seen a better performance at a dozen entertainments, but I have found out the secret of what is called 'thought-reading.' " "Do you mean to say that you have seen similar feats before?" asked Voltaire, savagely. "At least a dozen times," I replied. "In a few years' time, we shall see you performed on the sands at our fashionable watering-places." "I am glad," said Kaffar, "that the education of your country has so far advanced." I went on talking, not realizing that I was all the time forging a chain about his neck. "I am afraid it says very little for our education," I replied. "Some clever fellow has invented a clever system for asking and answering questions, and those who have taken the trouble to learn it have been able to deceive a credulous public." "Voltaire's eyes flashed fire. All the malignity and cruelty that could be expressed in a human face I thought I saw expressed in his. And yet he wore his old fascinating smile; he never lost his seeming self-possession. "I must deny Mr. Blake's statement," he said, "and further, I would defy him to find or produce such a code of questions as he mentions." (To Be Continued)

HON. MR. LEMIEUX CONFIDENT CHEAPER CABLES WILL COME

New York, Dec. 22.—Not only cheaper, but very much cheaper rates for cablegrams across the Atlantic are near at hand, was the confident assertion of Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, the postmaster-general of Canada, today, on the eve of his departure for Canada. "The reform has been accomplished on the Pacific," declared Mr. Lemieux, "and it will soon come about on the Atlantic." Mr. Lemieux said the movement had recommended itself to influential interests in the United States also, but he declined to be questioned as to whether this government had been or would be approached by Canada or Great Britain in the matter. It was regarded as significant, he said, however, when in London, at a dinner given to Mr. Lemieux in that city, declared in a semi-humorous way that the United States would not stand idly by and see Canada alone enjoy the great boon of low cable rates to Europe. "If the cable companies would make the reductions that would satisfy the government, according to Mr. Lemieux, then there would be no new cable laid across the Atlantic, and he believed that that was what was likely to happen. In any event, he added, he had received such assurances in London that he felt almost

A MONCTON CHILD IS BURNED TO DEATH

Seven Year Old Leone Weir Poured Oil in the Fire and Was Not Rescued in Time.

Moncton, Dec. 22.—Leone, the seven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Weir, was burned to death at her parents' home on Telegraph street between 2 and 3 o'clock this afternoon. The mother had gone out to neighbors for a few minutes, leaving in the house her three children—Leone, aged seven years and two younger sisters. Shortly after one of the children ran from the house crying and Jack Jonah, ascertaining the trouble, rushed into the house to find Leone with her clothes on fire. Weir, seeing the child in blankets, carried her from the house, smothering the flames, but not before she had received burns which caused her death two hours later. It seems the child had put paraffin oil in the stove and her clothes caught from the flames. Mr. Weir was only absent from the house about fifteen minutes but this was long enough for her little daughter to sustain her fatal injuries. The child was removed to the hospital and medical aid did all possible to relieve the little one's suffering, but she was relieved by death about 4.30. The father of the child, John Weir, is a well known base ball player and was absent from home at the time.

MR. FOWLER TESTIFIES IN HIS OWN DEFENCE IN THE ACTION BROUGHT BY MR. A. B. PUGSLEY

Ex-M. P. on the Stand Yesterday Afternoon Was Sharply Questioned—He Considered It a Favor to Get Into Western Land Syndicate.

In the A. B. Pugsley vs. George W. Fowler and Rufus H. Pope ex-M. P.'s, which was before Chief Justice Barker in the equity court all day yesterday, only two witnesses were examined. The plaintiff and Mr. Fowler were the witnesses. On the resumption of the case after luncheon, Mr. Teed concluded his cross-examination of Mr. Pugsley. In answer to questions, Mr. Pugsley said he never understood that the only option on the land secured by the defendants from the C. P. R. was a verbal one. He was not aware either that the purchase price of \$250 was not finally agreed on till the fall of 1902. Mr. Wilson then commenced the re-examination. "You mentioned in your previous evidence a Mr. Parlee who offered to purchase your interest in the syndicate. Who was he?" "That was H. H. Parlee, who was at that time partner with Mr. Fowler." "Did Mr. Parlee tell you he had an interest in the land?" "Yes."

MAY BE INQUEST IN DOYLE DEATH

Nine Cases of Carbolic Poisoning in Two Years—Inquest May Be Held on Grounds of Looseness of Selling.

Mr. John Doyle, of Westmorland road, who drank carbolic acid on Monday afternoon, died at 10.30 o'clock Tuesday morning when he died in the General Public Hospital. Coroner Berryman had not decided whether or not an inquest would be held. He said that as far as the circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs. Doyle were concerned, he did not know that an inquest would be productive of any good. He intended, however, to look into the matter generally. There had been so many cases where carbolic acid was sold without any record being made that it seemed the drugstore were not prepared to carry out the law, which provides that a record of the sales of all kinds of poisons be kept. It was now, however, a case of carbolic acid and other poisons without any trouble. In the past two years, the coroner said, there had been nine cases of carbolic acid poisoning, and something must be done to stop it. It was just a question in his mind, if it would not be desirable to have an inquest for that reason.

STOMACH COMFORT

When the Stomach Rebels, Headache, Indigestion and Nerve Pain Follows—Mi-o-na Brings Relief.

Just as soon as you are done eating the healthy stomach commences to churn the food around and mixes it thoroughly with the juices of the stomach. If the food is not churned, it lays heavily on your stomach, turns sour and causes all kinds of distressing symptoms, such as headache, indigestion, stomach pain and dyspepsia. Mi-o-na helps the stomach to properly mix the food. John S. May, of Isabella Street, Belleville, Ont., says: "For over seven months I was in constant agony with a case of nervous dyspepsia and indigestion that medical skill could not relieve. My meals were weak and had lost much weight through loss of appetite and suffering. My meals would fill me with gas and a feeling of oppression across the stomach and all up the left side, left me in a miserable condition. I was restless at night and as tired and unrefreshed in the morning as if I had gone through a long day's work. My throat was always constant when lying on my side, and my heart seemed to flutter and pound as though it were coming out through my side. I was benefited from the first two days' use of Mi-o-na. I began to feel like myself again, my appetite returned and the depressive feeling left me. I can enjoy my meals without the least worry of after suffering. I have gained in weight and can sleep the night through in comfort. Go to Chas. Watson, the druggist, 100 King street, and get a 50-cent box of Mi-o-na Tablets. Money back if Mi-o-na does not cure."

Advertisement for ROYAL BAKING POWDER. Text: "From Grapes, the most healthful of fruits, comes the chief ingredient of ROYAL BAKING POWDER. The only baking powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar. Absolutely Pure." Includes an image of a tin of Royal Baking Powder.

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The Times Daily Puzzle Picture



HIS WAY. He was learning to skate, and now every cold day, when seeking for him, you'll find him. Find someone looking for him; also his dog.