

The Daily Short Story

ON THE EVE OF A WEDDING

Mistaken Identity Caused a Complication.

(By John Y. Larned)

ARTHUR MACKNIGHT left his office at the conclusion of business hours and went to his bachelor apartments with a light heart. He would sleep that night in those departments for the last time, for he was about to be married.

MacKnight's love came at first sight. He had made a flying trip abroad the summer before, had seen an American girl in the Kursaal in Lugano, Switzerland, had followed her to Lucerne and had secured an introduction. After two weeks going about in the same party he became engaged to her and the day after his engagement was obliged to leave her at Montreux to catch a steamer for America.

His fiancée, Miss Leona Denton, remained abroad three months longer. Her home was in a different city from that of MacKnight, and since he was very closely confined to business the lovers saw very little of each other. Therefore when he succeeded in arranging for a wedding to take place in the near future he was made a very happy man.

Consent that their daughter should ally herself with a man of whom she had seen so little and about whose antecedents so little was known was given by Miss Denton's parents with reluctance. MacKnight had been able to give no information about his family, had not a relative that he had ever seen, and his statements about his childhood were conflicting. The truth was that the poor fellow was a foundling, he knew he was a foundling and shrank from admitting the fact. Nevertheless he finally did so to his fiancée. But she who had come to love him with as much fervor as he loved her did not dare to communicate the fact to her parents lest they insist upon her breaking off the match. Consequently he was to be married with this secret kept by himself and Miss Denton from those who had a right to know it.

MacKnight reached the city where the Dentons lived too late to see his fiancée till morning. Before going to bed he sat smoking in the lounging room of the hotel where he stopped. It was not a first class house by any means. He had chosen it because it was the only hostelry that was not at a considerable distance from the Dentons. While he was smoking a man entered the room and looked about him uneasily. His gaze fell upon MacKnight, and he seemed surprised. Between the two men there was a striking resemblance. Their complexion, hair, height, build were the same. Their clothes were entirely different. MacKnight's being plain, those of the other flashy.

The man passed out of the room, and soon after MacKnight went upstairs and to bed.

He was awakened by a knocking at his door. Rising, he opened it, and there stood a couple of policemen. They entered the room and directed MacKnight to dress himself. He asked what it all meant, but the only information he received was that he was wanted for various offences. There being nothing for him to do except to obey, he turned to a chair on which he had left his clothes and began putting them on. He was so rattled that he did not for a few moments notice that the clothes were not those he had taken off. Then he saw that the suit was the exact counterpart of the one worn by the man he had seen in the lounging room.

Gradually it came into his head that this person had been hunted by the police and, having noticed the resemblance between himself and Mac-

Knigh, had conceived the idea of throwing the officers on a false scent. The supposed criminal could easily have learned the number of his room, opened the door with a skeleton key when all in the house were asleep, purloined MacKnight's clothes and left his own in their place.

Holding up the suit he was ordered to put on, MacKnight gave the policemen the above explanation. They looked at each other as much as to say, "Have we been fooled?" Then, without even consulting, they ordered MacKnight to put on the clothes, first taking the precaution to go through the pockets, in which they found articles to identify the owner with a prominent criminal. The prisoner was taken to a police station and locked in a cell.

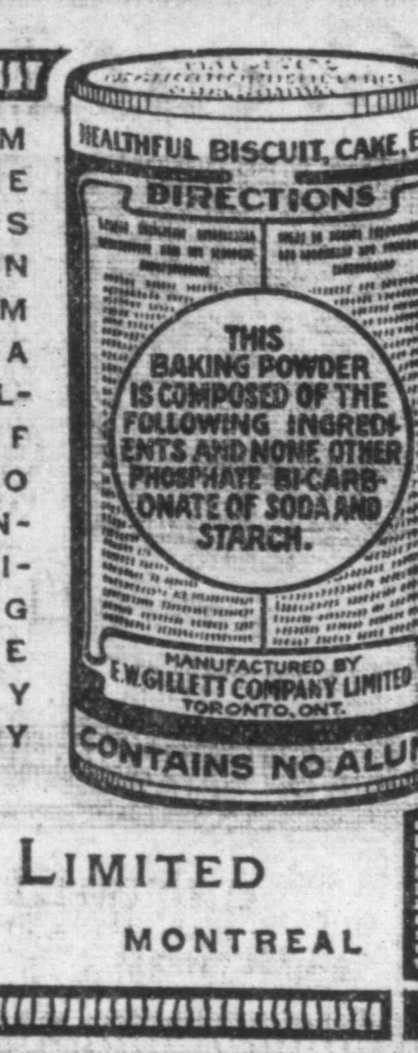
To be placed in such a position only a few days before his expected wedding was, to say the least, distressing. MacKnight, who had had no experience in criminal law, did not doubt that he could prove his identity as soon as given an opportunity. What he dreaded was that the episode would strengthen the doubts concerning him held by his fiancée's parents and that they would withdraw their consent to the marriage.

He spent a night of torture, and the next morning early sent for an attorney, who assured him that he could secure an examination at once and, by giving bail for his appearance when the case came to trial, he would be liberated. This was done and before noon the prisoner, having signed his own bail bond, was released from custody. Calling a cab, he drove at once to his fiancée's.

He had been expected much earlier, and his not coming had occasioned some worry. He proposed to give his explanation to Leona privately, and



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to her the risk she ran in marrying a man she knew so little about, who had no family connections and whose childhood he had failed to account for. She dreaded lest they would now refuse to permit the wedding to come off as had been arranged.

The pair, after consultation, joined Mr. and Mrs. Denton and made a clean breast of what had occurred. It was evident that both the father and mother regarded the matter as a confirmation of their fears. MacKnight was informed that the wedding day must be put off indefinitely, by which he understood that it would not take place at all with Mr. and Mrs. Denton's consent. After further consultation between the lovers, they agreed that the wedding as arranged must be abandoned. Leona was too distressed to talk about the future, but she surely would not go back on her lover without the best of reasons.

The next morning MacKnight went to the office of his lawyer and was

much surprised and disheartened to learn that it would be difficult to prove that he was not the man he was supposed to be. True, if he were the criminal, MacKnight must be accounted for. But might not MacKnight be both himself and the criminal? Persons had been known to lead double lives before, and why not in this case? At any rate, there must be a trial, which would attract a great deal of attention, and even if the prisoner were acquitted, many persons would believe him guilty.

Leona had an interview with her parents, in which her father expressed the opinion that there was something wrong about her lover and that his arrest was fortunate in that it had saved her from a union with a criminal. The girl came from this interview feeling that no matter what verdict a jury might give with respect to the charge against her lover, her father would believe him guilty.

Such was the situation of this young couple on the eve of the wedding day that had been set, with all the attendant expected happiness. But three days intervened before the intended nuptials. A compromise had been effected between Leona and her parents that the invitations should be recalled the next day. The lovers went for a final conference with the lawyer. He advised his client to jump his bail, go to a foreign country under an assumed name and begin life anew.

MacKnight, heartsick over the affair, dreading a trial and his inability to account for his past child hood, decided to act on this advice. It therefore remained with Leona whether she would share his fate or endure a lifelong separation from the man she loved. It was a question which suffered the more, MacKnight or the girl, whose life would be wrecked if she stood by him and would be blighted if she gave him up. A few hours of deliberation were sufficient for a decision. She agreed to marry her lover secretly and to go into oblivion with him.

MacKnight was leaving her home after receiving this decision when he met a man coming up the steps. The corner said he was looking for one Arthur MacKnight. "I am Arthur MacKnight," "I desire to confer with you." The two went back into the house, and the man said:

"I am John Eldredge, of Barker, Smith & Eldredge, attorneys, of your city. A few years ago a matter concerning you was left with us, you not to be informed of it till you came to be twenty-five years old. But this charge against you which we have seen printed in the newspapers has seemed to warrant our communicating with you earlier. You were born in wedlock, but your father and mother are dead. Circumstances stood in the way of your mother's knowledge of you. Shortly before she died she left a will in our care leaving you her property, you to be paid a part on reaching the age of twenty-five and the rest at thirty. If you need money for your defence of this charge against you I think we can enable you to borrow of our prospects."

Leona, who had heard her lover return to the house, at this juncture entered the room, curious to know what brought him back. MacKnight sprang toward her, folded her in his arms and covered her with kisses. "The tide has turned," he cried. "All will come out as we wish. This gentleman has solved the mystery of my childhood."

It appeared that MacKnight was the son of persons of refinement and that he was heir to an estate of some \$50,000. The mystery of his birth having been solved, Mr. Denton's suspicions were allayed, and he sympathized sincerely with the young couple. Considerable money was spent on detectives for the purpose of hunting down the real criminal, and he was found before the date fixed for the trial.

But long before this the lovers were married, for the invitations to the wedding were not recalled, and it occurred on the day that had been fixed.

After his marriage MacKnight took pains to hunt up more minute information of his parents and the reasons why he had been abandoned. All he could learn was that there was a secret marriage, with circumstances that prevented his acknowledgement till those nearest of kin to him were dead. His inheritance came from his mother, who lived under her maiden name.

WANTED.

For the Methodist Superior School, Channel, a Male Teacher holding A.A. Certificate. Salary \$220, and school fees. Also for Primary Department, a Female Teacher. Salary \$75, and fees. Inclose testimonials and apply to Chairman. —jy27,3w, m,w,f,t,th

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FOR LESSChildren's
and Misses'
Tan Sandals.

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Sizes 8, 9 and 10 \$1.08 pair
Sizes 11, 12, 13 and 14 \$1.28 pair

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SAILOR CAPS

Made of fine White Canvas, with embroidered band. Just a nice size in the regulation shape. Reg. 35c. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 26c

MARKET BAGS

A simple, serviceable and strongly made Bag for shopping, made entirely of strongly knitted twine, will carry quite a lot of parcels; double handles. Special for Pre-Regatta Sale. . . 8c

AMERICAN SCRIM

10 pieces of Art Dordered American Scrim in Cream and White; all the rage in New York to-day for window drapes; wears much better than Curtain Nets; last longer and washes perfectly; 36 inches wide. Regular 25 cents per yard. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 20c

LADIES' TAN
KID GLOVES

Assorted makes, very fine Kid, all with perfect stitching; 2 dome fasteners. Regular \$1.25. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 1.04

LUNCH KITS
FOR REGATTA DAY

These little Kits come in Gladstone shape, covered in Black Morocco, double brass clasps and strong handles; an all round serviceable carrier. Don't be without one. Regular 35 cts. Pre-Regatta Sale . . . 28c

PILLOW CASES

Size 36x45. A very dainty lot, finished in serviceable Pillow Cotton with broad band of heavy embroidery at end. Something new in art Pillow cases. Reg. 35c. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 31c

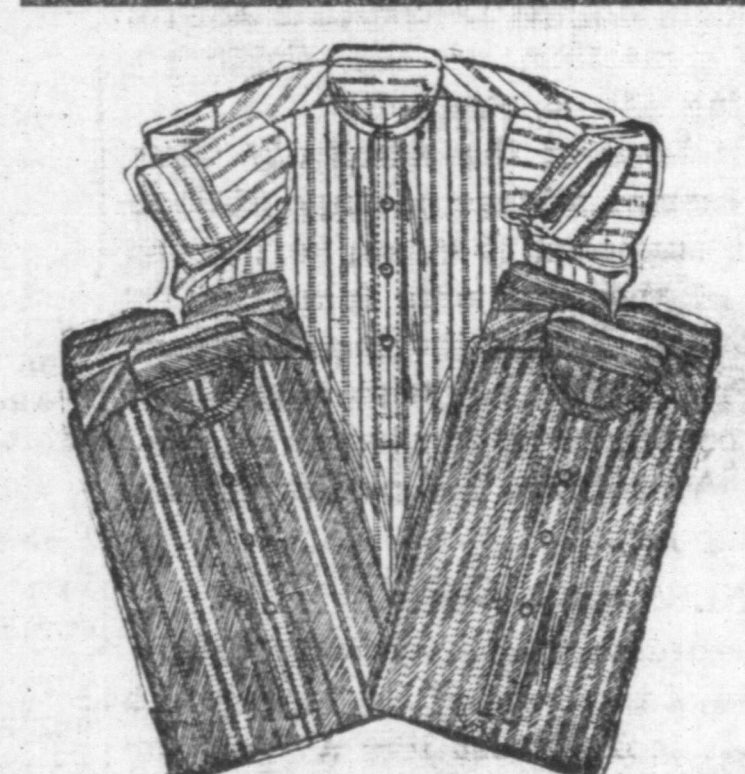
LADIES' SILK GLOVES

These come in White, Cream and Black, 2 pearl buttons, very fine silk, perfect stitching, perfect fitting. Regular 65c. Pre-Regatta Sale . . . 56c

Prices on Summer Apparel knocked to pieces by this great "VALUE-GIVING" SALE. COME EARLY FOR CHOICE.



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A Shirt Sale involving many dozens of Stylish and Serviceable holiday Shirts. Surprising values. Many Shirts in the heavier makes suitable for the working man, in light and dark shades. Dainty Negligee Shirts, showing all the latest stripe effects and a host of other makess with and without collars. Sizes from 14 to 16½. Values to 80c. Pre-Regatta Sale Price

49c.

Our Showroom Filled to Overflowing with Snaps for Regatta Day

BLOUSES
A Special Offer

About 8 dozen of smart American Blouses in fine quality White Lawn, dainty stripes; also others in Voiles, prettily trimmed with fine lace and insertion, silk and pearl buttons, high and low necks, long and short sleeves. Higher priced Blouses cannot excel these in appearance; in fact we can confidently say there is not one Blouse in the lot worth less than \$2.00. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . \$1.28

Sleeping Garments
FOR THE CHILDREN

Made of fine American Flannellette, a one-piece garment with feet attached, well finished. Reg. 40c. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 35c

NIGHTDRESSES

Embroidery and insertion trimmed, made of finest grade lawns, ribbon beading down front, turned down collar, long sleeves; full sizes. Regular to \$1.10. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 87c

Colored
Underskirts

These are much favored, showing pretty stripes and plaids, in Mercerized Cottons and Satens, some with Bulgarian hand at foot of skirt; also a nice showing of plain Saten Underskirts, all thrown in at one all round price. Reg. to \$1.50. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 84c

JOB LINE
of American
Camisoles.

A very dainty lot, every garment perfect in fit, beautifully finished, made of fine quality American White Lawn, embroidery and lace edging at neck and arm holes, draw string at neck; sizes 34 to 44. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 32c

SNAP
SALE!

A SNAP SALE OF CHILDREN'S AND MISSES' DRESSES

Made of fine White Embroidery, showing square neck and ¾ sleeve, trimmed with Swiss and lace insertion, neck and sleeves trimmed with fine lace, beautifully cut; to fit girls from 6 to 14 years. We offer these at a special price for Pre-Regatta Sale . . . 1.59

Special for Regatta Day!
Chairs 35c. Stools 25c.

We offer the balance of our stock of these at further reduced prices; about 4 dozen altogether; either can be carried conveniently under the arm. At these special prices 4 dozen won't last long. Come early.

BOYS' COTTON SUITS
To Fit from 3 to 8 Years

A nice assortment of styles, some with deep Sailor Collar and Scarf, others in Buster Brown and Russian Blouse style, knicker pants, mostly striped, Blue and White, Black and White, Tan and White, with plain and fancy collars, belted. Values in the lot running up to \$1.80. Special all round price for Pre-Regatta Sale, per suit . . . 1.33

MEN'S AMERICAN
SOFT FELT HATS, 79c.

These are very neat, not too large a shape, nor yet too small; pretty mole shade, fine soft felt, extra lightweight. Try one for Regatta Day. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 79c

CHILDREN'S SHOES

46 pairs of these in Tan leather, very soft finish, having one strap over instep; sizes 6 to 10 only. Reg. up to \$1.10. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 98c

QUILTS

'Tis worth your while to see this lot of American quilts, one of the specials our American buyer picked up whilst in New York; each Quilt measures 6 feet by 7 feet; very handsome designs. The makes vary in weight and are a grade between the ordinary honeycomb and marcella quilts; will wear better than either. If you would have a nice White Quilt, don't pass this assortment during our Pre-Regatta Sale, each \$1.59

Window Screens

3 dozen of each size, small and large. You will appreciate these at this season keeping out the flies and admitting the fresh air to your rooms.

Small . . . 22c. each
Large . . . 32c. each

LADIES' TAN BOOTS

44 pairs of these, Blucher style, high heel, block toe, in fact a boot possessing all the style of a much higher priced boot. Special Price Pre-Regatta . . . 2.08



LADIES' HANDKERCHIEFS

Fine White Muslin, with pretty colored borders in Pink, Lavender, Saxe, and others in all White with hemstitched border. Regular 8 cents each. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 2 for 13c

CHILDREN'S
AMERICAN KNICKERS

Made of superior quality White Lawn, hemstitched frill at legs, strong cotton band at waist, with buttonholes for attaching to corsets on waists; to fit children from 2 to 10 years. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 17c

LADIES' COAT COLLARS

Turned down style, in fine lawn, lace trimmed, very effective; others in "Robespierre" style, in Black Saten, with Not Jabot, and a host of other attractive makes, showing values up to 50c. Pre-Regatta Sale Price . . . 34c

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Nineteen months I have been suffering with heart disease, until I hear of A.I.C. I took a pint bottle and now I am perfectly cured. I tried all doctors and medicine, but A.I.C. was the only cure I could find.

MRS. HENRY ARON.

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MRS. MARY FRENCH.

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