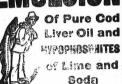


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CHAPTER IX.

ADDRINGES THE JUEX—ARGUS SHAW'S DRMENTRES.

"He spoke to me about the letter, and
told me what it meant—that he had by
accident got connected with the numbered
masks; that they had imposed a horrible
duty on him; and that he was to ask his
father's assistance to free himself from
the entanglement. I heard nine o'clock
ring on one of the hig clocks before we
parted. He said he wished a little time
by himself to collect his thoughts before
facing his tather, but I was to see him
siter the meeting in Queen Street and
learn the result."

"Did he say he expected to meet his
father in the office after that hour in the
evening?"

"He did, my Lord."

"Was Ewan Shaw usually in the office
alone as late as that hour?"

"No, my Lord; but Angus told me he
was to be there that eyening."

"Yos he said that Jamis Lambert had
told him in the etteranco, and that he had
heard it from Hitchie Munro, for whom
Mr Shaw was to wait in the office until
after ten."

"Absen," observed his Lordship thoughtfully, "Is Lambert a witness for you,
privous ?"

"He is not," replied Angus, promptly.

risoner ?"
"He is not," replied Angus, promptly.
"You did not call him either, Mr Advo

"You did not call him either, Mr Advocate Depute?"
"No, my Lord; I had no intimation of
any evidence he could give."
"His evidence would be important if it
confirmed the fact that the prisoner went
to the office in the full expectation of
meeting his father."
"I can, if your Lordship wishes, recall
Mr Munro," replied the Advocate Depute,
"and he can upeak as to whether he mentioned such a thing to Leas bert."
"Yes, shat will be a step in the
direction of confirmation," said the Judge.
"Meanwhile this winess will proceed."
"After you left me where did you go?"
asked Angue.

"After you left me where did you go?"
asked Angus.
"Ue to Queen street."
"Ue to Queen street?"
"An empty room, right opposite Mr
Shaw's office."
"What was your object in going there?"
"To study my recitations. I had been
ill for a place where I could be by myself,
and I discovered this room empty about a
week before the murder. I had some suid
keys in my pocket and ane o' them fitted
the door. So I could go out and in when
I liked. I used there every afternoon and
night to go over what I was to try afore
Davie Broon. I had juist to be swfu. 'ay
no to les onybody see me go out or in."
"Well, that explains your object in
going. Now, the window of this empty
room commands a full view of my late
I tabler's private room?
"There was no blind left on the window?"
"None."

ow !"
"None."
'Now tell us what you saw on this parloular night."

"When I went into the empty room it seemed more light than usual, and when I looked right across the street I saw that the window blind of Mr Shaw's room was not pulcid down, and that the light in it was striking right over to where I was. I saw that ghe grow of the Shaw's room was not pulcid down, and that the light in it was striking right over to where I was. I saw the figure of Mr Shaw's room was not pulcid fown, and the chair, but I did not think much of that, as I believed he had either dropped, asleep or that he had leaned back to rest. I, however, made up my mind to watch the room for the appearance of Angus, thinking I would be able to note from the manner of the two what the result of the interview was likely to be.

"I had heard ten ring before Angus made his appearance. I saw him nit he street against a lighted window; I saw him enter the street door leading to the office; I saw him enter the room where his father was sitting; I saw him cross with a rapid step to the figure on the chair. I saw him souch it, but it did not move. I saw Angus rates his hands-from which something dropped—as if in horror, and stagger back, and hold on to the wall for support; I saw him approach and gase at the still figure in the chair; then, throwing up his arm as if he had been given unterance to a cry of despair, he dashed from the room, and the still figure remained in the chair. "For minute or perhaps two I stood where I was, so steriled by what I had seen that I could not move. I had been watching for Angus to come on at the street door, but he had never come. Than I saw two figures re-eater Mr Shaw's room, and I recognised Hitchie Munro along with Angus Shaw. I saw the startled and excuted appearance of the two flavors was the street door, but he had never come. Than I saw him approach and seen the stored had person the stopped.—Oh, Spider, he cried, 'I am undone now. What is a surfaced more come on the time I saw him, and I shen knew when I had seen him first he was no silver and one could note that the tide of f

"Weoause I was shroughisher, and be-ause I didna want onybody to hen about se bein' in the empty room."
"Oh. When did you first speak of it?"
"To Maister Angus, when I saw him in he calls."

the cells."
"Now, Silas Raxatower, remember you are on your oath and remember what are the consequences of perjury, and answer me this trathfully—Did not the prisoner then induce you to come here and make that statement?"

that statement?"

Angus flushed red at the Advocate—
Depute's suggestion, but hit his lip and said nothing. Billas fidered a little, then horse out blunsty—"Ye're a least fit ye think onything o' the kind. Angus Shaw bade me tell the truth I've been tellin'! But I'll answer nae mair questions o' that kind."

but, faint as it was, it was immediately suppressed.

"That will do," said the Advocate Depute to Silas, who at once, with an alacrity as it he had been playing at leap frog, boiled from the witness box.

Hitchie Munro was recalled at the request of the judge. Asked it he had said any thing to James Lambert about his intention to visit Mr Shaw late on the night of the nurder, Hitchie replied.

"Worl, my Lord, I generally sees a bird of a say neathing; but this was a sort o' unusual, an' I did mention it of Maister Lumbert when he looked in for his midday dram."

"Ondranation so far," observed his Lordship, and he made a note in his book. Then the counsel, collecting his papers

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