

ONE WONDERFUL NIGHT

BY LOUIS TRACY.

"Now for it!" roared Steingall, and over went table and crockery with a crash. Of course, this added to the turmoil, and some women in the cafe began to shriek. Not knowing in the least what was causing the commotion, the crowd surged into that particular corner, and Steingall, apparently frenzied, sprang to the window, opened it, and said to Count Vassilani:

"Get out, quick! They'll be knifing you in a minute!"

The Italian girl screamed at that, so that the street was filled with the safety of the street. Vassilani followed, or rather was practically thrown out, and the young Hungarian could have climbed after him, but he was too busy trying to get out of the crowd, and pinning his arms, forced him head foremost over the sill, but not so rapidly that Steingall should be unable to "go through him" scientifically for the note.

"Be off, you two! Take the car and go home!"

It was no time for argument. Both Curtis and Devar, realizing that Steingall's muttered injunction the belief that the hunt had ended for the night. They knew that the detectives could take care of themselves, and they had scrambled through the window and made off rapidly in the direction of the waiting automobile before the despoiled Hungarian regained his feet. The hour yet wanted nearly ten minutes of being one clock, so the chauffeur had not budged from his post in the park. Devar told him to start the engine and be ready to jump off without delay. Then they waited, and watched the corner of the square intersected by East Broadway, but neither Steingall nor Clancy appeared, so they judged it best to obey orders and make for the police headquarters. There they washed and resumed their own clothes, an operation which consumed another quarter of an hour. Still there was no sign of the detectives, and they decided, somewhat reluctantly, to do as they had been bidden and go home.

"What sort of witches' shibboleth was that which you brought off in Sigmund's?" asked Curtis, while the car was humming placidly on Broadway.

"Oh, that was an inspiration," chuckled Devar.

"An inspiration founded on a solid basis of fact. Now, out with it!"

"Well, I was a year at Heidelberg, you know, and a fellow there told me that one evening, in a safe at the university, a student kicked up a shindy by singing that song. In less than a minute an officer had been stabbed with his dagger, and the student was shot, and it took a squadron of cavalry to clear the street. He learned the blessed ditty out of him, curiosity, and I picked it up from him."

"What is it all about?"

"I don't know, I believe it tells the Austrians their real name, but I couldn't translate a line of it to save my life. Curtis leaned back and laughed.

"You are by way of being a genius," he said. "I have seen a child go stark, staring mad because some idiot waved a black flag, but that was a symbol of the Boer rebellion, and it means something. In this instance, among people so far away from their own country, one could hardly expect."

He broke off suddenly, and leaned forward.

"The car had just entered Madison Square, at the junction of Broadway and Fifth avenue, south of Twenty-third street. A Columbia avenue street car had halted to allow traffic to pass, and a gray automobile which was coming out of the tunnel had been held up by a policeman stationed there. Curtis's attention was caught by the color and shape of the vehicle, and in the flood of light cast by the powerful lamps and brilliant electric devices concentrated on that important crossing, he obtained a vivid glimpse of the chauffeur's face.

"Devar," he said, and some electrical quality in his voice startled his mercenary companion, "tell your man to overtake that car and run it into the sidewalk. The driver is 'Anatole,' and it is our duty to stop him."

At that instant the policeman signalled the uptown traffic to move on.

CHAPTER XI.

One O'Clock.

Devar had the nimble wits of a fox, and the blood which raced in his veins was as volatile as quicksilver. The same glance which showed him the gray automobile stealing softly across the network of car lines of one of the city's main thoroughfares revealed a roundsmen crossing the square.

"Friend Anatole may be heeled," he said. "Let's get help."

Leaning over the back seat, he shouted to Arthur, whose other name was Brodie:

"Pull in alongside the cop. I want to speak to him."

The chauffeur obeyed, and the policeman turned a questioning eye on the car, thinking some idiot meant to run him down.

"Have you heard of the murder in 27th street, outside the Central Hotel?" he said, almost bewildering the man by his eager directness.

"Of course I have," came the answer, quickly enough.

"Well, the car mixed up in it is right ahead. There it is, making for Fifth avenue. Jump in! We'll explain as we go."

The roundsmen needed no second invitation. Obviously, unless some brainless young fool was trying to be humorous, there was no time to spare for words. He sprang inside, and Devar could see the surprised chauffeur.

"Follow that gray auto. Don't let anybody, but hit up the speed until we are close behind it, and then I'll tell you what next to do."

Little recking what this order really meant, for it was his own hidden wish at the moment from the ken of those far better versed than he in the tangle of events, Brodie changed gear and touched the accelerator, and the machine whirled past Admiral Paragat's statue at a pace which would have caused even stoutly "Old Salamander" to blink with astonishment.

While four pairs of eyes were watching the fast-moving vehicle in front, Curtis gave the policeman a brief resume of the night's doings since he and Devar had gone with Steingall to the police headquarters. There was no need to say much about the actual crime, because the man had full details, with descriptions of the man-slavers, in his notebook.

He was a shrewd person, too. His name was McCulloch; his father had emigrated from Belfast, and a man of such ancestry seldom takes anything for granted.

"I suppose you are not quite certain, Mr. Curtis, that the chauffeur driving that car ahead is the 'Anatole' concerned in the death of Mr. Hunter?" he asked.

But Curtis was of a cautious temperament, too.

"No," he said, "that is more than I dare state, even if I had an opportunity to look at him closely. As it is, I merely received what I may term an 'impression' of him. That, together with the marked similarity of the car to the one I saw outside the hotel, seems to offer reasonable ground for inquiry, at any rate."

"Did you notice the number of this car?"

"No, not exactly. I believe it differs from that which I undoubtedly did see and put on record."

"Of course, the plate must have been changed, or he would never venture in this locality again. If you are right, sir, the fellow must have been in the good luck because he is just passing Twenty-seventh street, within a few yards of the hotel."

Somewhat, the fact had escaped Curtis's remembrance; excellent though his topographical sense might be, he was still suffering from the shock of the night's events, and he was not to appreciate the bearings of particular localities with the prompt discrimination necessarily displayed by the policeman.

To Be Continued.

Ingersoll Woman Was Awarded \$50

Ingersoll, June 24.—His Honor Judge Finkle, of Woodstock, presided at a sitting of the division court here yesterday, when a number of cases were on the docket. The most interesting was that of Ingersoll vs. Snively. This was an action brought by Miss Wood, of Ingersoll, for services rendered for a period of eight weeks. The work for which she claimed compensation was not disputed, but it was contended by the defendant that the plaintiff could not recover at all, because it was claimed there had been an infringement of an act respecting the profession of medicine, which was not conceded by the plaintiff. A settlement was eventually reached, the plaintiff being allowed \$50.

Rev. Father O'Connell, of the parish of St. Patrick, presided at a meeting of the clergy of the diocese.

That the summer carnival held last Thursday night under the auspices of the Church of the Sacred Heart was a pronounced success was evidenced by the proceeds, which after meeting all expenses, amounted to \$550.

ASKS REMOVAL OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL

President Will Secure a Report Before Taking Any Action.

[Canadian Press.]

San Francisco, June 23.—Attorney Clayton Herrington, a former judge, who aided United States Attorney McNab in the preparation for the trial for the Diggins-Caminetti case, sent a telegraphic request to President Wilson early today that Attorney General McReynolds for a report or all the circumstances leading up to the postponement of the Diggins-Caminetti white slave cases in California, because of which United States Attorney McNab wired his resignation. The President said he had no knowledge of the affair until he read it in the newspapers.

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