

session, was the cause of the nocturnal raid. The transfer had been made, it seemed, only just in time. Dick had said it was no longer safe in his hands, that one attempt had already been made on the preceding day to rob him of it; the second had followed with a promptitude truly appalling. Where would it end?

The fresh morning breeze flowing freely into the room caused a sort of tremor to run through Dick's frame; his eyelids fluttered, lifted, and he looked vacantly round without, it was clear, recognizing those surrounding him. Then his eyes closed again, and he relapsed into unconsciousness.

"Oh, he is dying," wailed Enid, clasping her hands despairingly.

"Not a bit of it," replied her father, with cheery optimism. "He will come round all right, but his brain is saturated with chloroform. I think it will be best, Alston, to lift him up bodily and take him into another room. He will recover quicker in an altogether fresh atmosphere." Ted nodded acquiescence, and the Colonel, turning to the two trembling women, issued his orders with military peremptoriness.

"One of you go to the doctor and bring him back with you; the other to the police, and bid them follow hot-foot on these miscreants' track. Find that London chap and set him at work. Tell him here's a chance for him to show what he's made of. We will see to Dick; I promise you he will be pretty well himself in an hour's time."

Enid and her mother fled precipitately to carry out their allotted tasks; and the Colonel, having thus secured a free field, raised the limp, inert form in his strong, wiry arms, and carrying him into the next room laid him on a bed close by the open window.

As he prophesied, the effects of the drug soon passed; and by the time the doctor arrived on the scene the sufferer was able to speak and understand the questions addressed to him. He complained of headache and a deadly feeling of nausea; but as the day advanced, these symptoms gradually wore off. To his great annoyance he had to submit to another interview with Mr. Sreed; but this time, Ted and Enid, by his special request, remained with him.

"You have come to inquire about last night's affair, of course," Dick began, as the detective entered with his usual polite bow and scrutinizing glance round. "Well, it is really a waste of time on your part to question me, for I know less than anyone else of the matter. I went to sleep last night rather earlier than usual. I always have my window open top and bottom at night." ("It was tight closed when we entered," interposed Ted, and Mr. Sreed gave a quick nod of comprehension.) "And I never lock my door, so which way my assailant of last night entered, or if there was more than one of them, you will have to discover for yourself."

"I have already," remarked Mr. Sreed briefly. "There was but one; he has left his footprints in the damp mould in several places round the house. He seems to have searched for an easy mode of entrance and found it in the library-window, which, it appears, had not been properly closed last night. Whether he had a confederate amongst the servants, or the omission was due to simple carelessness, I don't yet know. I am inclined to believe the latter, as the footprints did not lead straight to the weak point. You neither saw nor heard your midnight visitor, then, Mr. Emberson?"

"No; the chloroform pad must have been pressed on my face whilst I was sleeping, for I know nothing and remember nothing till I came to, feeling deadly-sick, and found my friend here and the Colonel bathing my face and head with cold water."

"How do you account for the curious circumstance that your room was the only one visited? Do you keep anything of value here? And is the fact generally known?"

Enid's eyes and Dick's met for a flash, only to be again quickly diverted; but Mr. Sreed intercepted the glance and made a mental note of it.

"It is pretty generally known, no doubt, that I had my father's safe brought up here," replied Dick slowly; "an ordinary thief might expect that to contain valuables, and think perhaps to



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