"But Pridson persists that it was clear myself, he went on, but he saw."

"O counterfeit of you. Depend upon it, it was not the work of a fool. We must find him, and you must prove where you were at that hour. Come, I'll walk home with you."

We were a few yards from my

One morning a shabby young fellow who looked a typical ne'erdo-will called on me to beg. I had great difficulty in recognizing him as Robert Emmerton, the only son of a wealthy corn factor who had been one of my church-wardens at Weymouth. On questioning him I found that he had squandered his wealth by the most riotous living and for the last two years had been carning a most precarious living as hanger-on at race courses and professional tipater, and, I fear, at other employments more shady still. I did all I could for him, for his father's sake; found him related to the place and there left me to see my wife. And thus, for the first time in my life, I was a prisoner.

Fells came to see me early next morning. "It's all over the place, Adamson, and your parishoners are highly indignant. I have set Lester, the private detective, to work, and he s a good man, I well know. Now, where were you that afternoon?"

"I haven't the least idea. I have been racking my brains for the is father's sake; found him respectable lodgings and got a business friend of mine to take him into his office. But, as I feared, my friend had to dismiss him in less than a month, and I lost sight of him. What his gratitude was like I was to learn a few weeks later.

I was sitting in my study one

I was sitting in my study one

son and myself have searched your diary and engagement book, but there are only two entries that week in December, preparing a lecture. I hope."

I was atting in my study one Tuesday morning, the first week in December, preparing a lecture. I hope."

It was a to deliver to our literary society, when I was handed the card of a visitor who wished to see me. The name was "Mr. L., Pridson," and for the moment I could not recall any duch person to my mind. But when he was shown in, I instantly recognized him as the cashier of the Manchester City Bank. He was a portly and tather a pourpous man, and now he looked decidedly nervous."

"Good morning, Mr. Pridson," I said. "A wretched morning, is it not? Take a seat, please."

He sat down, but made no response to my greeting, and I waited for him to speak.

"Mr. Adamson," he said, "I have called upon very unpleasant business. It will be a great relief to us if you can clear yourself, sir."

"Glear myself! Why, Mr. Pridson, what do you mean?"

On the atternoon of the 3rd of Noysmber, Mr. Adamson, you came to the bank and requested us to cash a £750 check, drawn in your avor and signed by Sir James Garel. This morning the check was returned by Sir James, with the intimation that it was a forgery. On minutaly examining the signature."

When I was again before the Maristrate the first witness was a forgery. On minutaly examining the signature.

"You know what it will mean—
prosecution? Think again of your
position, your wife."

The world wife woman begun
speaking than the whole incident
came to me. If I had only remembered it at first, what trouble I
might have been speaking.

position, your wife."

"I have told you the truth, I replied, and he left, truly sorry for me, I believe.

I called my wife in, and as gently as I could told her the whole business. I knew what a terrible thing it was for her, but, thank God, she has ever shown the noblest God, she has ever shown the noblest at ten minutes past six, and here's the same day of November, at ten minutes past six, and here's the same day of November, and the same day of November and the same day of Novemb courage and sublimest faith in the worst extremities

He was the minutes past six, and here's Betsy Snill, who seed the parson Betsy Snill, who seed the parson seed the parson between the same to smeak and could bring

"In all probability I shall be

and told him the whole story.

it is a double forgery—your name and easy job, the scoundrel airly remarked. No doubt I could easily elear myself, he went on, but he

This morning the check was returned by Sir James, with the intimation that it was a forgery. On minutely examining the signature this morning we found that, though a clever imitation. Sir James was right. You will admit that this is a serious business, sir."

"Very serioua," I said, "but it does not concern me. I simply know nothing about the check."

"Mr. Adamson," he exclaimed with severity.

"Mr. Pridson," I said, a little heated.

He shook his head impatiently. "Mr. Adamson, about 3.45 on the afternoop of November 3, you came to the bank muffled up, on account of the fog, you said, and youn's Siddell attended to you. You produced this check, which you had condersed, and asked him to cash it. Siddell brought the check to me.

Siddell brought

Siddell stiended to you. You produced this check, which you had endormed, and asked him to cash it. Siddell foreight the check to make and spoke to you. Alarge amount, Mr. Ademson, I represented and poor tinds. I will stike the seven hundred in fifty or hundred-pound notes and the odd fifty in gold. Of course under the circumstances I never questioned the genutineness of the check or your representations. In the ordinary course of beainess the check came before Sit James yesterday, and this morning was returned to us, as I have said. There is an fouth it is a forgery. Teaw that there had been a forgery somewhere, and that I was in an unpleasant position, but my conscience was quite clear. "Mr. Tridson." I said, "you are under a delusion. I never had a check of Sit James Garels and I never brought it to the bank to cash it. There have been a check from first to last."

His took the document from, his pecketbook and held it between his fingers. It pained me to see that he would not treast it into my hands. "Here is the check." and a turning it over, "is that nor your signature?"

Learntlinised it closely. "If carstlinised it closely. "It have never seen such a check from first to last."

His took the document from, his pecketbook and held it between his fingers. It pained me to see that he would not treast it into my hands. "Here is the check." and an inches the complete on the representations of the complete on the representations of the complete of the complete on the representations of the complete on the representations of the complete on the first produce of the complete on the state of the complete on the first produce of the complete on the first produce of the complete on the state of the complete on the first produce of the complete of the complete on the first produce of the complete of the complete

kind, I am sure," I said, speak-ing steadily, though my limbs trembled, "but your appeal is an let him go' y' wusshup; you've got the wrong horse this time."

No sooner had the woman begun

"What shall you do, my dear?" theer, to speak, and could bring two or three more."

There was a good deal of muttered shortly. I am going to see

Fells at once.

There was a good deal of muttered conversation between the Magistrate, Fells and his opponent,

"God help you, my dear," she "God help you, my dear," she said simply, as I kissed ret.

Mr. Fells was one of the best known solicitors in Manchester, and a man I was proud to call a personal friend. I found him in his office

and told him the whole story.

He looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It may be an insult, Adamson, but I ask you as a legal adviser, do you know anything about that check?"

"Nothing," I said.

"Thank you. Then, of course, It had been a very simple the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to a suitable purchaser or tepant. It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at me keenly when I had done then said: "It had been a very simple to the looked at the looked a



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