### THE DIAMOND BUTTO

FROM THE DIARY OF A LAWYER AND THE NOTE BOOK OF A REPORTER.

By BARGLAY NORTH. [Concluded ] CHAPTER XXXV.



"Why, we are going to have quite a party to-night. Good evening, Mr. Parker. You see now why I couldn't meet you this evening. I had this engagement. But since we have met, let us exchange our confidences now. Mr. Parker."

"Gag him," he said to a man who came to his assistance.
"It is my own son," said the old man. "He is not to blame for anything; let him go free."

"We'll see about that," said Tom. "Take him into the other ream, while we receive the new visitor. Take that candle back again."

now, Mr. Parker."
"What in the name of all the fiends do you mean by this outrage?" cried the old man, throughly shraged. "Release "No," said Tom, "we can't do that.

We're too glad to see you. We are afraid you would leave us. Boys, to make sure of his staying and spending the evening with us, put a pair of handouffs on him!"

This was done at once.

"Now," said Tom with ineffable sweet-

ness, "shall we have our exchange of confidences? Give the gentleman a chair, boys. Take a seat, Mr. Parker." The old man fairly fumed with rage. "Sit down," said Tom. The old man

refused.

Tom pushed him down, saying:

"When I offer courtesies to a gentleman I intend he shall accept them. I am
sorry Miss Annie Templeton could not
await your coming. She had pressing
engagements elsewhere. She has gone
with Mr. Holbrook. Had she only inown
the tender solicitude you manifested
toward her, I am not quite certain but
she would have remained."

The old week was repained.

The old man was speechless with rage.

"Your other friend is here, however—
Mr. Scar-Tep Johnny. But just now he is with two of my friends in an adjoining room. They are engaged in an argument on the value of filegre. The argument is enforced by my friends, and Mr. Scar-Tep Johnny is just now a living exponent of its truth. And also there is Mr. Fountain—he is here too."

"Fountain—he is here too."

"Fountain—he is here too."

"Fountain—at ton," said the old your.

sion. He revenged himself by say-

"Curse you for an impudent dog."
"Oh, mank you, thank you," returned
m, bowing. "You are entirely too

"Tell yeu! Yes, if you will tell me why you maltreated Annie Templeton by abducting her."
"Oh, I think you will have to prove

leaped to the conclusion he now entertained on seeing Parker enter. While he was certain he was right, still the thought flashed across his brain that the will old man had procured the abduction while covering his own tracks.

He rallied, however, in a moment, and all the more quickly as he saw from the success and the look of triumph in the wicked old eyes that Parker had realized what was passing through his mind.

"My old man," returned Tom, "I'm not at loss for reasons for taking you to the police. If not for the abduction, why then for falsely personating a clergyman and marrying an assumed Mr. Fountain, if not for that, then for falsely personating a clergyman again and marrying the assumed Mr. Fountain under the name of Simpson to another woman."

The young man had recovered sufficiently from the fright and consternation into which he had been thrown on the had been saying—the confession he had made—and so would not reply.

Tom repeated the question, but received to his wer.

The chief, Hanford, said: "All right, my man, but you've confessed, and silence won't save you now."

"Well," said the murderer doggedly. "I thought Templeton was his right name and Fountain a false one he used among the girls."

"By Jover" said Tom, "I never thought of it before. Doyou know, Mr. Fountain, the police is a strong resemblance between you and Templeton?"

"I have heard it noted before," said name of Simpson to another woman."
"In the name of all the fiends, how do you know all this, boy?" screamed the

"And then," continued Tom, "there is the blackmailing of Mr. Pierson for

"And then there is the fraudulent affi-davit and subornation of perjury in the claim of Preston against the Pierson

The old man quailed before Tom. The lation of charges was beginning

"Stop, stop," cried the old man, "have you got her too?" "It was as easy to find her," replied Tom unblushingly, "as to find the daughter. And then"—

"Stop, stop!" cried the old man, over-whelmed. "Have pity on a poor mis-guided old man." There is just one thing more I should

ke to mention"——
"Stop, stop," moaned the old man.
—"And that is the murder of Temple-

The old man looked up.
"I never did that. Heaven knows that is the truth. I never did that. I confess the rest. I confess the abduct tion of Annie Templeton and her mother -but blood has never stained these death of Templeton, not until after I had heard of it, and knew what its effect was, that I conceived the idea of seizing ing Preston's claim. No, I'm not guilty

'You old rascal, don't lie to me. cried Tom angrily. "I know the whole plot. Why, you hoary headed villain, if we could go back to the dark days of English vengeance, and not only hang but draw and quarter you, you would not get half the punishment you deserve."

"The three prisoners would be far more welcome if some one else than more welcome if some one else than more welcome if some one else than more welcome in the electron of the central office. The play is over and the lights are out." if we could go back to the dark days of

The old man lifted his hands appeal-

"Don't I know the whole story," continued Tom. "You were a tool of Pierson's; you knew his previous life, his You, I, and another man behind." change of names; that the Templetons were the rightful heirs; that by killing one and imprisoning the others the two defenseless women—you could begin to make that old drunkard's claim good.

and divide the property in equal shares, one-half for yourself. You old rascal, you have the agreement drawn and signed now in your possession."

"You are the devil incarnate," whimpered the old man.

"Then you feared that Man Threath's

"Then you feared that Mrs. Fountain's

"Then you feared that Mrs. Fountain's son could raise a good claim, and so you enticed him here to-night with the intention of doing him too."

"No, no! Heaven hear and help me, I have never committed murder. I only meant to confine him until I could get the matter settled and disposed of. He was interfering."

"Oh, that was all you"-Through the open door came the mu-sical voice of a man, ascending the stairs, singing:

T WAS George
Parker, the attorney.

"Ho, ho," cried
T o m, gayly.

"Why, we are going to have quite limited his hard over his mouth.

"Why, we are going to have quite limited his hard over his mouth.

"Why, we are going to have quite limited his hard over his mouth.

"Cap him," he said to a man who came to his assistance.

CHAPTER XXXVL



OUNTAIN had come from the adjoining room, and his usual im-passive face bore the evidence of his agitation

ing the warning of the approach of another comer, had closed the door after him.

"Fountain—he is here too."

"Fountain—at ten," said the old man, completely thrown off his guard.

"I know, I know," said Ton, with elaborate politeness. "You wrote eleven, but you should write more plainly. He read it ten. The error on his part was excusable."

The old man saw he had made a fatal admission. He was a very powerful man.

Tom turned the light upon him. He did not know him.

was, in fact, the young man who had chloroformed and abducted Annie in the

Tom, bowing. "You are entirely too complimentary."

Then, dropping his bantering tone, he said fiercely:

Throw up your hand, you white haired rascal. I know your whole game.

You've got a deal to answer for, but you've got this consolation, that your punishment for the greater orime will make that for the rest impossible."

"Oh, indeed!" the old man at last found voice to say. "Young sir, will you tell me why you maltreat me thus?"

The man was evidently horror stricken and did not know what he was doing.

fountain replied:

"I am alive: you did not kill me."

"But they buried you!"

"Put the handcuffs on him," ordered "Oh, I think you will have to prove that. These gentlemen do not seem to be officers of the law. Perhaps you will show me your warrant for these proceedings. I am attail, young sir, you will find it difficult of proof that I have abducted any young lady."

Tom was staggered by the coolness of the old scamp. It was true that the last man he expected to see there was Parker. Only that morning he had proved to his own satisfaction that Parker was not concerned in the plot, and had won Hobrook to his way of thinking. He had leaped to the conclusion he now entertained on seeing Parker enter. While

you and Templeton?"
"I have heard it noted before," said

Fountain. "It is not strange; the same blood ran in our veins." The old man Parker had been struggling and making unintelligible sounds in the other room. Tom ordered the removal of the gag.

He struggled to his son.
"Unhappy boy! What made you com-"I don't know that your hands are so hite that you can afford to throw

"Reproaches you, yes. Shut up. We played a big game for a big stake, and we've lost. Well, stand game to the

"But this murder, boy, this murder; that was not in the game."

"No, it wasn't," replied the son with a bitter laugh. "It was a side issue of my own. That man Fountain, curse him, stole my girl from me—Marian—and I had it in for him. That's all. Now that I'm done for, I'd give every day I yet have to live to get at him once."
"Marian. What Marian? The Marian who lives in Hudson street now?"

"The same," said the son.
"What tangle is this?" moaned the old man. "She has the girl Annie's mother in her keeping now, and she herself is a daughter of James Freston." "The number in Hudson street, please?" said Tom.

"There's little use in concealing anything now. It's No. —."

"Let me handle that part of the case, "Let me handle that part of please?" asked Fountain. "I'll guarantee to return Mrs. Templeton safely."
"As you will," said Tom. "You will "As you will," said Tom. "You will do well to take some of the chief's men

with you. We can spare two."
Fountain departed with them at once,
"Now, chief," said Tom, "I think it
would be well to take our bag of game

ourselves were to bring them," sardonically remarked the chief,
"Undoubtedly. But let us go. Hand-As they moved out in this order, a dis-

appointed voice commented: "Dey only hit him onct." At the Central office the three prisoners were arraigned, and Tom said briefly:

"I charge this man Parker with having murdered Henry Holroyd Templeton on the morning of the 18th of last August, by his own confession.
"I charge this man, George Parker, with having been the aider, abettor and instigator of the abduction of Annie Templeton and he had the chart while a state of the charge the state of the state Templeton and her mother, this day, by

"I charge this man, Scar Top Johnny other name to me unknown, as being the aider and abettor of the abduction of Annie Templeton, and of having kept her in confinement contrary to her will." "And I," said Chief Hanford, "charge him with being the abductor of a child in Hartford, and claim the reward of \$2,500 offered for him."

"Lock them up, inspector, and read The Sol to-morrow morning," said Tom.
"I can't wait; it's after 11 now, and I've long story to write."

Tom enjoyed his "beat" hugely, and was for several days the hero of his office, the wonder of his competitors, and

"But," said the officer, "what are the

the envied of the detective force One thing, on the morning of publica-tion, marred Tom's full enjoyment. He had announced the rescue of Mrs. Tem-pleton without knowing it to be an ab-Accordingly he early sought Holbrook to learn the result, and was told that Fountain's expedition had been crowned

with success. He had also recovered his papers, the girl Marian having delivered them over as the price of her liberty.

"Tom," said Holbrook, "the regular police had the true theory after all. Templeton was killed under the belief he was some one else." he was some one else." "True," replied Tom; "but we caught the murderer and they didn't; they had

no conception of the great story behind it all. Yet, Holbrook, your theory was not so far wrong after all."
"Except in the essential thing," laughed Holbrook. "The motive of the murder had nothing to do with Pierson's

property."
"What a queer case it was!" commented Tom. "If those two women hadn't been conveniently abducted, we wouldn't have hit on the murderer after all. To tell the truth, it was a kacky stumble, as most great discoveries are. Then to think that Fountain's chere amie, Marian, should have turned out to be his cousin. The sins of the father shall be visited, 'etc. Do you notice that not a clew proved worth a snan?" not a clew proved worth a snap?"
"I say, Tom, what about the dian

"Ah, what? How much we expected from it, and how little came of it! Ken Noble, the owner, says that on the night Fourth avenue to Broadway, through Twenty-sixth street, and when midway of the Madison Square Garden a man rushed across the street, grasped him by the arm and pulled him to the light and then dropped it, saying, 'You're not the man.' Afterwards, when he found his button gone, he thought it was rela-

"It was young Parker watching for ountain. The button was probably detached in the struggle, to be carried away unintentionally in his clothes, to be lost in Union square."

ecovered from the exposure and the

nervous shock received on the day of the abduction of herself and Annie, folthe abduction of herself and Annie, following so closely upon the murder of her son. But she did not die until she had faithfully carried or every expressed wish of her father.

James Prestons peedily realized the benign; hope of his brother, and drank himself to death in six months.

Young Parker was never brought to trial. Five days after his arrest he was found dead in his cell—dead by poison supposed, is have been supplied by one of his brother members of the U. S. Ts, of which he was a popular member.

His figher and Scar Top Johnny are serving long sentences in the state prison.

serving long sentences in the state prison.

Wessing is still living in Philadelphia, prosperous and respected, and does not dream that he was ever suspected by Holbrook and Tom of having committed a murder or that he was in danger of

Holbrook and Tom of having committed a murder or that he was in danger of arrest.

The origin of the birth of Fountain has never been made public. He and Flora Ashgrove were married two years ago, and his friends and acquaintances have ceased wondering over his mysteridus accession to a fortune.

They count Mr. and Mrs. Holbrook as their dearest friends.

So Mr. Holbrook is married? To Annie? Of course. Could there have been any other result after the scene at the reacus in Mott street? Married, too, before Mrs. Templeton died.

Two children, a boy and a girli make music in the house. The name of the boy is—Thomas Bryan Holbrook.

There is another boy in, the house whose name is Maurice McNulby, whom Mrs. Holbrook loves with all the wealth of her affectionate nature.

There has been song difficulty in civilizing the boy, but he begins to show the results of the humanizing and refining influences he is surrounded by. Indeed, the only time he shows any of his old savagery is when a rollicking, rattling young man with a cheery smile and bright blue eyes, and who is welcomed with great shouts and warm kisses, and who is greeted as "Uncle Tom," makes his appearance, which is nearly daily, and wants Maurice to tell whether he has that day "wholloped any one right we and down and gin him black eyes, I golly!"

And Tom? Oh, Tom is still the old Tom of stperthuruan energy and intense enthusiasm; still the keenest newspaper

Tom of superhuman energy and intense enthusiasm; still the keenest newspaper man in New York as when he led the search for the owner of "The Diamond THE END.

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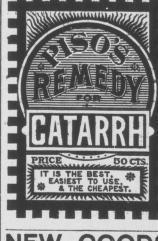
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