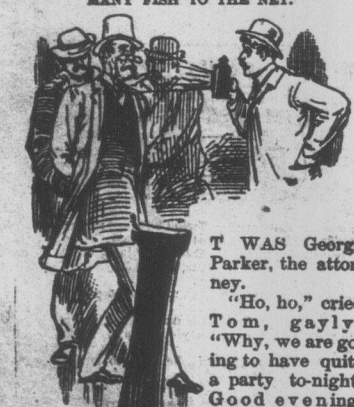


THE DIAMOND BUTTON

FROM THE PLANT OF A LAWYER AND THE ROOTS OF A REPORTER.

By BARCLAY NORTE.

CHAPTER XXXV. MANY FEEL TO THE NET.



It was George Parker, the attorney. "Ho, ho," cried Tom, "you are gayly."

"What in the name of all the fiends do you mean by this outrage?" cried the old man, thoroughly enraged. "Release me."

"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 arrangements for his staying and spending the evening with us, put a pair of handcuffs on him!"

"Fountain, at ten," said the old man, completely thrown off his guard. "I know, I know," said Tom, with elaborate politeness. "You wrote eleven, but you should write more plainly. He read it then. The error on his part was excusable."

"The old man saw he had made a fatal admission. He repressed himself by saying, 'Come you for an independent dog.'"

"Good evening, Mr. Parker, Jr.," said Tom, dropping his haughty tone, he said earnestly. "Who in great God! Alford?"

"You had been started by the look of wild terror and horror that came over the young man's face, and he knew that it was caused by the sight of Fountain."

"The young man had recovered sufficiently from the fright and consternation into which he had been thrown on seeing Fountain, and began to realize that he had been saying—the confession he had made—and so would not reply."

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," whispered the old man. "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, not 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 musical voice of a man, ascending the stairs, singing: "When girls are kind and wise is wiser. Oh, where's the harm, oh, where's the harm? You want to possess his love to possess."

"The old man lifted his head quickly and murmured: 'The fool's been drinking again.' He attempted to call out, but by reason of his emotion, or something else, his throat refused to give forth sound."

"What a queer case it was!" commented Tom. "If those two women had been conveniently abducted, we wouldn't have hit on the murderer, or tried to tell the truth, it was a lucky stumble, as most great discoveries are. Then to think that Fountain's charming sister, Marian, should have turned out to be his cousin. The sins of the father shall be visited. Do you notice that not a clear proof was made?"

"I say, Tom, what about the diamond button?" "As what? How much we expected from it, and how little came of it! Ken Noble, the owner, says that on the night of the murder he was passing from Fourth street to Broad street, and when midway of the Madison Square Garden a man rushed across the street, and he was struck 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 robbery."

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

"Four years have passed since the events occurred recorded in our narrative. Mrs. Templeton is dead. She never recovered from the exposure, and the nervous shock received on the day of the abduction of her son, and Annie, following so closely upon the murder of her son, but she did not die until she had laid out a fortune of \$75,000."

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

"I charge this man Parker with having murdered Henry Holbrook 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 her mother, this day, by his own confession."

"I charge this man, Scar Tom 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 during her life."

"And I," said Chief Hanford, "charge him to being the abettor of the same in Hartford, and claim the reward of \$3,500 offered for him."

"But," said the officer, "what are the details?" "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 a 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 the envy of the detective force. One thing, on the morning of publication, he had not conveniently recovered his papers, the girl Marian having delivered them over as the price of her liberty."

"Tom," said Holbrook, "the regular police had the case of the U. S. of Templeton was killed under the belief he was some one else."

"That's right, Tom," said the chief, "and the great story that it all. Yes, Holbrook, your theory was not so 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 had been conveniently abducted, we wouldn't have hit on the murderer, or tried to tell the truth, it was a lucky stumble, as most great discoveries are. Then to think that Fountain's charming sister, Marian, should have turned out to be his cousin. The sins of the father shall be visited. Do you notice that not a clear proof was made?"

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Bargain No. 2.—17 pieces Dress Goods, in fancy stripes—only 30cts. No. 3.—A manufacturer's stock of Overcoats & Reefers, purchased at 50cts. on the dollar.

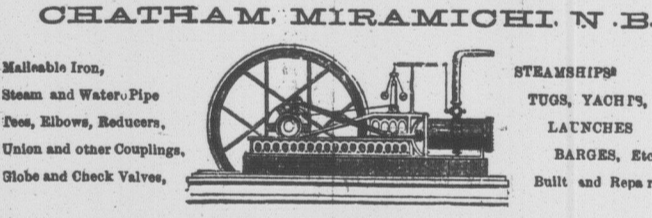
If you desire genuine bargains, visit our store before buying your fall clothing. M. F. NOONAN. Chatham, Nov. 13th, 1889.

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