THE STANDING ALIBI OF H. STANLEICH STORME

(By Wm. Hamilton Osborne)

(Continued)

long breath and prepared to start re He glanced just once at the pr. soner.

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The prisoner again rose to his f and ittempted to address the con But the court again put up his Lar and the man's own counted put nim back into his chair.

He submitted for the time to out kept his eyes fixed upon the ener, as though he intended late be heard.

"Proceed," exclaimed the patiently.

CHAPTER : The Testimony of Warburton

"Mr. Warburton." utor to the witness, tell the jury all y Warburton east in the direction cont egan in a low, cle He seemed now nervouchess or

one is the court ter crimer. that '

not of an . ral public has been facted. , but I have been fooled m the rublic. And I am able state now, that it ends there-I a as interent of any complicity in t

"I tell you briefly that I come of a good family. The Warburtons are well known in Hannaford country. I am but a few years older than thirty. though both myself and that other man have the appearance of oldermen. I am a railroad man, and ever since I attained my majority have held a responsible position in the office of an influential road in the town whence I came.

series of crimes as is his honor who

sits in judgment in this court.

"Some time ago my road consolidated with another larger road. The ∢mployees of the larger road took out places. I was turned out of my position in the cold.'

The prisoner all this time had continued to show signs of great excitement. He again rose to his feet, and again addressed the judge - he was persistent, and yet he didn't seem exactly to have the courage to insist upon being heard. The court gave him one lock, and he once more de-lain." sisted and again fell back into his

He apparently decided that he

would bide his time. "Gentlemen," continued the witness, "I hope that none of you has ever been thrown out of employment -if eary has, he will know just what it means. I did not know. I asof a few days or weeks to obtain another situation.

I found to my surprise that it was difficult to obtain a position anywhere. Where I expected to be suca few days, I discovered that I could not obtain remunerative employment in months. My surplus dwindled to my last dollar-to my last cent.

"Gentlemen" he continued with Towered voice, "I starved-literally starved. I, who all my life had been at least in prosperous circumstances, found myself without the food where with to sustain life.

"Have you ever been through itdo you know what it means? The nan who starves will do anythingwill commit any crime, to get food He cannot help it—he must have food Thank heaven, I did not have to mmit crime, though, after all, it night have been better to have done I was tired, hungry, desperate.

"What happened? Unutterable good ortune fell upon me and like a thunerbolt out of a clear cold winter's ky. I picked up in the street one orning this copy of a nswpaper." "You lie!" cried out the prisoner ere, again leaping to his feet.

A court official sezzed him and forced him back.

"I have marked with blue pencil," resumed the witness, disregarding the outbrust, "the advertisement that I read that morning. I afterwards disovered that the defendant in this are the prisoner at the bar had aused it to be inserted."

He handed the paper to the prose-cutor. It was marked in evidence

over the stremous objections of the e endant's counsel.

The prosecutor read it to the jury. ran as follows: IMPORTANT TO ACTORS. Actor roducing play with dual role wants double; must be about 5 feet 11 inches all, broad shouldered, slender, dark, warthy complexion, and naturally trong beard. Must be refined and ducated — this is important. Salary rge; work light. Apply at once.

X 13, this office. "I wrote," resumed the witness, and received a letter in response directing to call on M. Madigan, top floor, 83 River street, this city.

"River street, as you may know, is : obscure neighborhood. I called there, however. I saw M. Madigan. and found a crowd of dark-complexioned men in waiting. No explana-tion was made to any. We sat and

"Out of all these men three were finally selected by Madigan. He had weeded them out rapidly. I was one of the three. The other two men seemed to be as refined and educated as I felt myself to be; but they were that to say, and his argument was shabby also. Madigan finally showed shabby also. Madigan finally showed to each of us the photograph of a while. Dut, after all, a considered knew me man with a black Van Dyck beard." that there was no have in it, and yet who The witness paused and looked at |.

black Van Dyke beard. "Madigan told us to grow beards just like that. He gave us twentyrive dollars apiece and told us to report to him as soon as our beards

"You will note that my appearance, my height, and my complexion answer in a general way the description contained in the advertisement. other two of the three also answered the description in a general way

"Gentlemen, I do not believe I have ever been as grateful in my life as I was to M. Madigan on the day he gave me that twenty-five dollars. It was salvation - it was comparative prosperity.

"Well, on a certain day we all attended at Madigans again, and Madigan inspected us with a critical eye. Finally he gave the other two men twenty-five dollars more apiece for their trouble and sent them off. He told me to stay. He thought I would suit. He opened the door of another

room and ushered me in. "I have never seen M. Madigan from that day to this. I never expect to see him. I believe him also to be an innocent man, an unsuspecting in-

The court room was still as death The witness glanced around upon the crowd and then resumed his narra-

tive. "In that room was a man. That time I had ever seen him. I assumed that he was the actor who had advertised.

I entered he arose. He seemed startled at my appearance. I certainly was at his - the likeness was so striking.

"He invited me to take a seat, and then he told me first that he was not an actor. He said that he was man of wealth, and admitted that he He repeated that several times: seem ed to force it upon my mind the fact

"He told me of some peculiar no ions he had-they were ridiculous. laughed at them. He seemed anxie that I should lau; h at them. ii. peculiar notions were not aimed the important things of life. 1: rather at things immaterial.

"So cleverly did he imbue me wit the idea of his queerness that I was quite prepared for the proposition which he finally made to me. It was

known in society and in the town and that it was necessary for him to keep his end up; that he was a sor of social lion, and had great pride in keeping social engagements and making himself generally agreeable but that it tired him to death. He said that it was a very wearisom necessity for him to attend forms receptions and dinner parties, func tions and clubs, but there were many demands upon him, and the was ofter forced to meet people and to be seen at places when he was literally bores

"He explained that he was a sort of the press that I assumed he particular friends with whom he prerred to devote most of his time grounded reason for his request. and this, he emploined was just where I came in

"He stated that he had e sived the peculiar and unheard of Mea, for the ture and consistent also with eccentricity of which he apologized profusely, of employing some gentle num of refinement and grace — and pasionately in judgment apen th here he was very any and flatter-ing — to take his flate at the un-pleasant, uncongenial affairs that took up so much of his time. This self as he woule.

"He confessed frankly that he so the idea from one of the local dramas experiment and wished to know if I was willing to aid him in vhat could be termed merely a harm less deception. He said that it could not possibly hurt me-he was a man of first class reputation, and had no entanging allances and he put it to me straight, whether I would marially increase his enjoyment of the by helping him play his part in the orld of fashion.

"It was a queer proposition, gen tlemen," continued the witness, "on at first it staggered me. I though it over a long while before accepting but two things decided me. One hing was top love of adventure harmless practice: jelew: and other was my desperate strait.

"It may be, took that my will materially weakened by the priva-tions I have suffered—it undoubt dig wes. At any rate, I heard what he hat if it did involve embarrassment Storme himself. the prisoner. The crowd looked at I could drop the thing at any time

the scheme-and more than all, it and he asked only that I keep life ight, and probably would, lead to formed of their names and of my m cirething better. "You must renember, that I had reached the end of my

tether-that notwithstanding the fact that I was a good business man, I followed his instructions implicitly could not command employment, and His special instructions were alway there was nothing before me but abeccept his proposition.

man well known in the town and in deception than it would have been for very way reputable and refined. ven I, who had been here but a hert while, recognized that fact. If ation before, it distributed with the mention of his name.

"That, gentlemen, was my first acquaintance with the prisoner there-/Mr. H. Stanleigh Storme.

The speaker inclined his head once nt. The prisoner again sprang from s chair, where he had been sitting ontinuously, in the same extraordinary state of excitement.

Your honor," he exclaimed met be heard. This man-"

down, sir. Your counsel will speak many people and enjeved myself." Two officers stepped to the back of

the prisoner's chair, and there took have kept these written instructions man was the defendant in this case— H. Stanleigh Storme. It was the first "Gentlemen," continued the

nonths ago, and never until recently jury have I had occasion to suspect for an instant that this man was other than the gentleman whom he made preensed to be.

"By prearrangement, I called upon people. him before we concluded our negowas eccentric and peculiar, and that dye until early on the evening of sired me to conform which to me are familiar. This may seem the pon which he must insist.

had always discouraged any attempt leigh Storme myself - and I read on the part of any of his friends to nothing of them. discuss with him his own private af-fuirs—he preferred never to be the ture the opinion that if anyone of the subject of conversation. He desired july men should fail to read the loca

"He made me promise, gentlemen that while I was associated with hir in this way I would never read the cally papers, and that I would never liscuss the daily news. I asked him why, and he gave some reason - said than in a fit of anger once he had -on the night after it took place. It sworn to forswear the reading of the was the night of the Dreddlington press: he had had some violent quarrel, or some bitter experience-said that his antipathy to the daily papers attend that dinner. I made up my was well known among his friends, that they all laughed at it, but respected it; said that newspapers were the most monumental liars, that they youd all reparation—that I would excould make or unmake a reputation pose him. I found him in a state of in an hour—in short, se became so drendful agitation, which I know to

(some well graunded distilis and pleasure; that he had a circle of promised lightly, and I found ou later that he had indeed a well-

"Gentlemen, I entered into a con-pect with this man that I would of anything consistent only with close. that he should ask me to do. It mr fellow, and indirectly upon myselfit may seem queer that I could consistently impersonate man, even as a practical joke; bar would leave him free to easily him- at that time it seemed perfectly consistent to me, and I agreed to attensuch functions as he might reques and be to all intents and purpose At any rate, he wanted to try the on such occasions H. Stanleigh Storme himself.

"It required not a little preparation and expense. He furnished me with mency and with clothes of the same cut and pattern as his own. I live in case and luxury at the other end of com with a suite of rooms all to myself; he had rorme there which h cecesionally loceupind; the name

function in his stead he handed m people and I soon became acquaintee with them and with seme became better acquainted than dis Storme himself.

"In fact there are ein this town—I know of a cular,"-here he flushed slightly a stopped in an embarraced way-" knew me as H Stanleigh Storme, an

"Storme directed me to tanke no prisoner. The prisoner had a There was adventure and excitement accumintances, as many as 1 ecc. as with them, whether corolal of

He flushed again.

"I obeyed him to the very letter 1 written and generally mailed to me olute starvation. I determined to they were minute as to octail, stating when and where to go, what to do an "When he told me his name I rec- say, and all about it. It seemed to me gnized it at once as the name of a more trouble to arrange all this mil sterme to go himself, but that was his

"I found when I entered secter had had any reluctance, any hesis that Storme had been in town for about three years and that everytody understood and I proved his harmles eccentricities, which were attributed rather to his ancient strain of aris tocracy than to anything about the man himself. Storme was regarded, I prore in the direction of the defend- found, as intellectual and refined; he was brilliant and popular-extremely

so, and with all classes of people "I was honest with him, for I con sidered him a benefactor, peculiar and whimsical and exacting enough, but this time almost imperiously, "I - I still my benefactor I attended on Ar everage one or two functions a week roared the judge. "Sit I ran the round of the clubs. I met

The witness paused og tin. that he gave me. There are a great any of them; there they are.

He passed them down to the prose cutor, who offered them in evidence ess, "all this happened about eight They were admitted and read to the

were, therefore, two H. Stanleigh Stormes ,but that these two were never seen together or by the same "And I say to you, gentlemen, solations, and conce or etwice that a county, that I never knew what this dozen times. He stated that he de-man's real motive was, I never know sired to emphasize the fact that he that he was a criminal of the deeper ie had some ideas to which he de- Dreddlington Claner, with which ye strangest of all strange things, but pon which he must insist.

"He said in the first place that be —I who was supposed to be II. Stan-

me, whenever and wherever I might dallies for a week, he will never hear of some of the most important co This seemed reasonable carrences that happen nere. I did enough, but the request that followed hear something, but little, and in a way that never excited my suspicions of the former trial that took place as solemnly as though I took an cath here; but as all that I heard was accompanied with boisterous laughter, and had all the carmarks of a joke

I paid no attention to the talk. however, was of the Dumont robbery

dinner. "I had been requested by Storme to mind that I would not do so aought Storme out and upbraided him —told him he had wronged me be-

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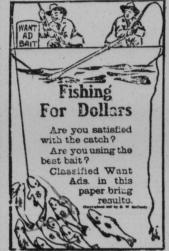
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