

THE DIAMOND BUTTON

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

By BAROLAY NORTH

(Continued)

CHAPTER XXXIII

THE SETTING OF THE TRAP.



HE noise which had started the party was caused by the return of the detective who had accompanied O'Brien and Annie.

"Heaven!" cried Tom, "he didn't take her to the street?"

"Yes, that's what he did," replied the chief's assistant.

"What happened! I didn't want him to do that! He might have been seen by the parties who abducted her."

"I don't think there was. He ran her up to the next corner and caught the cab there, and was off in a jiffy. They attracted attention from nobody; I was behind them all the way."

"All right; if the alarm has been given it can't be helped now. I say, chief, station two men at each door opening from the middle door, one in each room."

"Now," said Tom, "to place the table and chairs where they were. When this was done, he added: 'Now to your places, and out with the light.'"

When that took place, the relation with Marian became an impossibility. The girl was loath—it is a mild word for her feeling to break up the relation, and she parted in high passion, but she had secured certain papers of mine, of exceeding great value and of great damage to me in any other person's hands.

"Mr. Fountain," he said, "with this statement of the matter than you do, I think I see through it all. I think I could even tell you the nature of your mother's statement. You are the victim of the same plot which has murdered Templeton and the abducted girl for victims. It touches the effort to secure old Pierce's—"

"The shadow put his head in the door and said: 'Hist. Some one is coming up the stairs.'"

"The door swung open and in walked—Harry Fountain! He was dressed in the same kind of a suit as that the U. S. T.'s had made their uniforms."

"Fountain could not have been more astonished when he viewed the scene before him than was Tom. Tom was sure, also, that the man on the floor was quite as much astonished as the chief. Evidently he was not expecting Fountain, and it was also clear that he did not know who he was."

"Take that man into the other room," said Tom, "and don't let him utter a sound. Gag him. Then we'll make sure."

"He obeyed. The man attempted to make resistance, but he was quickly overpowered and forced into the other room, where the gag was applied."

"Fountain looked upon the scene with undisguised amazement. Tom waited for him to speak. Finally, having recovered from his astonishment, he said: 'May I ask the meaning of this strange disguise, Mr. Fountain?'

"Fountain blushed, but did not reply. 'I will relieve your astonishment,' continued Tom sternly, after a moment's silence. 'This is a rescuing party. These men are detectives. A girl was abducted in broad daylight this morning and taken here. She has just been taken away, having been rescued by myself and friends. Her name, Mr. Fountain, is Annie Templeton—a sister of the murdered Templeton.'

GENERAL BUSINESS.

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GENERAL BUSINESS.

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The man had evidently determined

in this place, and in this connection,

W. S. SMYTHE.

W. S. SMYTHE.

Geo. F. Searle.



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