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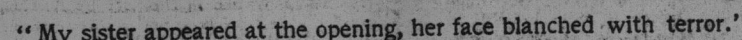
(Continued.)

forget. "Oh, my God! Helen! It was the band! The speckled band!" There was something else which she would faintly have said, and she stabbed with her finger into the air in the direction of the doctor's room, but a fresh convulsion seized her and choked her words. I rushed out, calling loudly for my stepfather, and I met him hastening from his room in his dressing-gown. When he reached my sister's side she was unconscious, and, though



"My sister appeared at the open-

he poured brandy down her throat and sent for medical aid from the village, all efforts were in vain, for she slowly expired and died without having recovered her



...announcements, such was the dreadful
of my beloved sister."

"One moment," said Holmes, "are you
sure about this whistle and metallic sound?
Could you swear to it?"

"That was what the County Coroner as-
signed me at the inquiry. It is my strong im-
pression that I heard it, and yet among
the crash of the gale and the creaking of
an old house, I may possibly have been
deceived."

"Was your sister dressed?"

"No, she was in her nightdress. In her
right hand was found the charred stump
of a match and in her left a match box."

"Showing that she had struck a lig-



...ing, her face blanched with terror."

...and looked about her when the al-
... took place. That is important.
... what conclusions did the Coroner c-
...er to?"

[illegible]

"Miss Roylott, you have not. You are screaming your stepfather." "Why, what do you mean?" "He is dead," I pushed back the fringe of black which fringed the hand that lay upon our visitor's knee. Five little, round, pink marks of four fingers and a thumb were printed upon the white wrist.

"He has been cruelly used," said Holmes.

The lady colored deeply and covered her face with her hand. "He is a hard man," she said, "and perhaps he hardly knows his own strength."

"How long has this been?" during which Holmes rapped his chin upon his hand and stared into the crackling fire.

"This is a new business," he said.

"There are a thousand details which I should desire to know before I can decide upon the matter to lose. If we were to come to Stoke Moran today, would it be possible for you to furnish me with the necessary knowledge of your stepfather?"

"As it happens he spoke of coming into town today upon some important business. It is probable that he will be away all day, and that I shall have nothing to tell you. We have a housekeeper now, but she is old and foolish, and I could easily get her to say anything to suit my purpose. You are not adverse to this trip, Watson?"

"By no means."

"Then I will visit him to-morrow. What are you going to do yourself?"

"I have one or two things which I wish to do now that I am in town. But I shall return by the 12 o'clock train so as to be there in time for your coming."

"And you may expect us early in the afternoon. I myself have some small business matters to attend to. Will you wait for us at the Marlborough?"

"No, I must go. My heart is lightened already since I have confided my troubles to you. I shall be home this afternoon."

She dropped her veil over her face and angled from the room.

"Think of it all, Watson," asked Sherlock Holmes, leaning back in his chair.

"It seems strange to me to be a most dear and sinister business."

"Yet if the lady is correct in saying that the windows are always closed and that the door, window and chimney are impossible, then her sister must have been under some strain when she made this mysterious end."

"What besides, then, of these nocturnal visitations?"

"The dying woman."

"I cannot think."

"When you combine the ideas of white gipsies who are on intimate terms with this old doctor, the fact that he has every reason to be afraid of the very daughter he is endeavoring to prevent his daughter's marriage, the dying situation of a band, and, finally, the metallic clank which might have been caused by one of these metal balls which secured the door from falling in place, I think that the good ground to which this mystery may be cleared along these lines."

(To be continued).

Love may be blind, but unfortunately it neither dead nor blind.

Pres
Dr. Charles's Ointment
The manufacturer has written and ask you to write him back if not cured. Go to him. Dr. Charles's Ointment

Quite Improbable that McArthur and McVey Will take the \$15,000 Bonus Offered.

It is not probable that McArthur McVey will accept the city's proposal of \$15,000 and no extras. In an interview with the *Journal* he said he was inclined to think that the agreement would be signed. He said that while the matter was under consideration he had had a conference with the contractors he, for one, did not think he could be getting on with them and section 2—so far as Ellendale block, but from there they had planned the—last pits and borings being completed. He said that he had completed that portion unless they received some on the material taken out.

McVey said that he had been on the part of the section on account of the road encountered. The proposed payment of \$15,000 was not a very large sum for the contract and come out without a loss.

Mr. McVey was not prepared to say whether they would be able to get the new proposal. They were willing to shoulder some of the cost, he said, but they would not be able to pay the full price for the enormous amount of additional work they had to do.

McVey said that the work by Nov. 1, the state of the weather would greatly affect the progress made. He said that it would be impossible to get through, especially when the right class of men, for the work were not hard to find.

Mr. McVey spoke earnestly and in evident good faith of this year. "We are living to do all we can," he said. "I have had 25 years experience in this business and I know I have always made success. I see by the papers that one of the men," he said, "has been a failure." "I am sorry to say, it is difficult to do. We don't seem to get any credit for our work. It is a very hard business. The most advanced section of the four, at the middle of September 1 estimate it was 100 feet, but now it is 150 feet of the woodstave pipe now in position and we are making rapid progress. I am sure that the city will have a new agreement. Mr. McVey said: "The city seems to have hung their heads and it is a little probability of reaching it."

**New Orleans is Convinced
That the Disease is Check-
ed In That City and Regards
the Situation as Encour-
aging.**

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 22.—With the fever checked in the city, and plans under way to prevent further reinfection from the country, the local situation in the city is somewhat better. The disease centers either are above Canal street, one in Rosa Park, a fashionable residence in the city, and another in the city, a well known citizen and member of Governor Blanchard's staff being the victim. Another case is at a boy's college farm, and one at the employees' home, which is struck.

Rev. Father Aveillon, pastor of St. Maurice church, is another person who has been stricken. The deaths, only one occurred up town.

The news from outside the city shows the continuing serious nature of the situation. The following information was received from Dr. J. A. Devron, the State Board physician sent to Levee, at the mouth of the Mississippi, on the 19th inst. His report shows that the first news received from there was not exaggerated. During two days of work he found 60 positive cases, 150 suspicious cases, and 145 cases of dengue.

Patterson reports 15 new cases and no deaths.

Johnson city reports six new cases.

Kenner one, and Sarpey plantation two.

There was one death on Elizabeth plantation.

At Lakeview, on Lakeview, there were two cases, and one is dead.

Corrine plantation in St. Bernard parish has one case, and reports one death.

At that of an Italian boy.

Mississippi city reports three new cases, and states that the disease has been declared to have subsided. The fever epidemic there is unfounded.

Moncton, Aug. 22.—(Special).—The council tonight decided to take steps to purchase a property at the lower end of the city for "Bore Park." Legislation authorizing the council to purchase property for park purposes will be introduced in the next session. The city has already received a vote of \$7,500 toward the proposed park, providing \$4,500 in private subscriptions is secured.

The street pavement question was up for discussion, and a committee that visited New York favored Hastings Asphalt block pavement, but the majority of the board, including Ald. Givan, the member from the board, favored the macadam pavement. The board will refer the question to the city engineer and chairman of the board of works to report on the most suitable roadway.

Halifax, Aug. 22.—William Chittick, St. John, was found guilty of breaking into buildings and stealing on three counts and was sentenced to two years in the Chester penitentiary on each charge, sentences to run concurrently.

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