

The place is a ferry in the day, often perilous, and not much used now, except by prowlers in the night. Used by smugglers then as now from one side or the other, as tariffs of duties vary in Canada and in the States.

Lundy knew a boat lay moored to a rock awaiting his arrival. In the day he had caused it to be hauled to a hidden nook of water.

There he laid the loaf and drinking cup, telling the woman she was to live in that boat on Lake Ontario while the loaf lasted, and if the boat lived through the mad torrent of nine miles, down under Suspension Bridge, and through the whirlpool, through the whirlpool where living thing never went, to pass out alive.

She was gagged and could not speak, but ears and eyes could hear and see. This he knew, and so addressed them.

He lifted this loading into the skiff; and, seeing attempts of unwilling feet to kick, bound the ankles again in the shackle.

They were feet and ankles once admired on London streets for the grace of the stepping; and in dances had revived, in all who saw them, the old delightful thought, "poetry of motion." Rosa was not now a girl, but her form was still comely and graceful, and but for rearing the child Lucy, not her own child, might have lived otherwise than at a paper mill.

And those feet were shackled that she might not run; arms pinioned that she might not fight; mouth bridled that she might not cry for help.

And the oars were cast aside on shore that she might be utterly helpless, even if loose in the boat.

"At last," said the man, "finally, and to be spoken—this word of mercy, never more; if the bridle be removed from your tongue will you now tell where Lucy went with the money? Make a sign by nod of the head if you mean yes. If no, shake the head, or give no sign. Then the skiff is pushed to the current, and down you go to the torrent; a run of nine miles to the whirlpool; to be seen again never more—never more. Do you nod?"

She made a nod. Two, three nods.

"Very well, that assurance of a changed mind is accepted. The impediment in your speech will be removed presently. I don't use more acid, seeing you repentant, but present the phial to your eye; and that loaf your sole and last food now in this life—if not faithful in this final trial. Nod again."

The woman nodded. The bridle bit being removed, she drew long breathings of relief. Then sprang to her feet, yelling aloud in wild despair:

"Help! Murder! Help! Murder!"

The rocks, two hundred feet high overhead, reverberated to the American shore. In the still, moist, dark night—Niagara's moans a mile away, the opposite cliffs returned the echoes of despair.

Hearts of stone to answer a woman's agony and none else! Ears of the rocks to hear and reply, but no other!

Is there no ear to listen but that of the fiend now trying to smother her? Or the hollows of the echoing cliffs?

Again and again the voice of agony ascends in air, mingling with the moans of Niagara.

"Silence, mad woman! Else I drown you. Where did Lucy go with the money?"

Still the wild cry arose:

"Help me, Heaven! Murder! Murder!"

He reached to get one of the oars flung on shore. It floated from his touch and was lost. The other he clutched. It was poised in air to fell her dead with a blow, but his feet slid on the slippery stones, and on the froth seeming to him as a stone. He fell.

And still the voice, in this moment of respite, reverberated from cliffs of Canada, re-echoing faintly from the high American shore. Faintly in the air the echoes came. A whisper in the cloud of night as if Heaven heard.

And Heaven did hear. Philosophy may doubt. Treating of this topic in subsequent debate philosophers demanded to know if antecedents and logical sequences were to be admitted or discarded. "For," said they, "what brought two American prowlers upon the river at 2:20 a.m.?"

Earlier in the evening the prowlers had seen the Lundy skiff in its hiding-place, and, suspecting some operation of interest, lay on their oars within another hiding-place on the Canada shore, about fifty yards from the ferry landing.

Quickly, at sound of the woman's cries, the watchers pushed off, pulled up stream, rounded the outer rocks, and dashed in shore.

Seeing or hearing their paddles, Lundy, now on his feet, swung the oar to push the skiff into a swirling eddy, which might swiftly carry it and the woman away, and so down the river; but the prowlers caught hold, held on, one held on, the other paddling in; and so made safe.

Lundy fled and scrambled to a high ledge. There rocks lay in fragments, which, thrown down, might destroy a ship of strongest form ever built. One, two, three came tumbling over the precipice. But the smugglers, comprehending the danger from what the woman

hurriedly told, made quick despatch away to their own side. Rosa Myther with them.

The fugitive did not hazard time to throw many stones, not seeing the aim; not feeling safe from pursuit.

To his waggon in haste. Drove home fast. Put the horse in stable. Awaited attack in the mill. No attack that night. But a week later, fire and ruin. You may look in vain for the mill now.

Two or more years elapsed before the old trunk, checked from Clifton to Hamilton, went into the lots of the "unclaimed" for sale. The two ladies heard from Rosa Myther all about it, and knew its marks. They knew also De Peri's ways, and amused themselves about dream books, taking care to have in their suite a New York detective who understood the man.

And now De Peri awaits on Windsor shore the return of the smart, small, curly haired boy Dod. That captain from New York said "quits," but De Peri is not sure it is "quits," so remains on the Canada side.

When the Donna Euryria and Lucy opened the trunk at Hamilton, finding the Lillymere marriage certificate and Lundy's clothes, they laughed and wept by turns. At Rosa's sufferings they wept; at the Lundy Sunday suit they laughed.

When they had crossed to Detroit city and met Rosa Myther, who, for some good reason, keeps out of Canada—burning of the Rapids Mill, perhaps—they were uneasy about De Peri.

"What would he say, if knowing how precious that paper is; the Lillymere marriage certificate? And to have missed it and the great reward so narrowly."

"One good thing, he dare not cross the river. Let him stay in Canada, the States are well quit of him. He is too smart by half."

Still De Peri—George Peery of Aberdeen, once upon a time. And at home Dod Peery. Then D. Peery in writing. Now, for the mysteries of detectivism, De Peri—Still De Peri waits and waits at Windsor ferry for little Dod's return. The boy sees wonders and has difficulties. But on the fifth day comes back.

"What kept you so long, Doddy? Done any good?"

"You bet. There, that is the paper. Certificate of the marriage of Eustace De Lacy Lillymere, Major in the army, with Edith Ogleburn. They don't know I got it. Was all through and through the Casa Euryria, a palace of crystal, and marble, and rubies, and diamonds, and gold. Oh, how grand! Would not have come away so soon, only you wanted this paper."

"Well, Dod, this is a caution."

"Guess it is a caution, father. Not many boys in America would have gone and took that paper."

(To be continued.)

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