

I assumed to be studying the matter over very deeply, but, in reality, I had already decided to do as the man wished ; for I knew that Messrs Hunt and Bosworth would be only too glad to have the matter followed up so closely. Finally I said : "I'll do it, Craig ; but it won't answer for you to be seen hanging about here. Where shall we meet, and when ?"

"Easy enough," said he, grasping my hand warmly. "I won't go over to old Crane's at all. If he wants any of the stuff after this, he'll have to come to you. I only let Smith have about one hundred dollars in the bills, and that out of mere friendship, you know. When he wants more, I'll make him come to you too. Now, I'll go right back down there, and you can meet me at Smith's this evening."

"Oh, no ; no, you don't, Craig !" I answered, with an appearance of deep cunning. "I'm willing to take the whole business into my hands, but I don't propose to have every Tom, Dick and Harry understand all about the business from the beginning. I'll find my own customers," I concluded, with a protesting shake of my head.

"Well, that is best. You're right and I'm wrong. Where'll we meet ?" he asked.

"I've a capital place," I replied. "Do you know where the unfinished Baptist Church and University are down at Elgin ?"

"Let me see," he said, smiling. "I ought to know. I'm a splendid Baptist when I'm in Vermont—one of the deacons, as sure as you live ! Are they up on the hill ?"

"Yes, the same," I answered. "It's a lonesome enough place to not be likely to meet anybody there ; and we can arrange everything in the basement."

"All right," he acceded, laughing heartily, "and the next time I write my wife, damn me if I don't tell her that I dedicated the new Baptist Church at Elgin, Illinois !"

I joined in this little merriment at the expense of the Elgin Baptist Church ; and then Craig, who had begun to feel very cheerful and friendly, went into quite a lengthy account of himself and his mode of operations.

As before stated, he said that he was located in Fairfield, Vermont. This location was chosen from the ready facility it offered for getting into Canada, should danger at any time present itself. He owned a large and fine place, and was legiti-

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