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The KING OF DIAMONDS

By LOUIS TRACY

Author of:
"The Wings of the Morning," "The Pillar of Light," Etc.
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(Continued.)

"Queer sort o' kid, that," mused the shopkeeper. "My, but 'e must ha' bin 'ard up afore 'e took on wiv' a Jew. Wot did 'e a'y 'is nyme was? Isaacstein? I've seen that somewhere or other. Now where was it?"

He knew two hours later, for he, too, read the evening paper.

Philip sprang into a 'bus for the Bank. At the Royal Exchange he would catch a green 'bus for the Mile End Road.

It was almost dark when he reached the Bank. Thus far the omnibuses going east were not crowded. Now the situation had changed.

The human eddy in that throbbing center of life was sending off its swirls to all points of the compass, and the east-bound vehicles were boarded by an eager crowd almost before the passengers arriving at the terminus could descend.

A poor woman, greatly hampered by a baby, was struggling with others to obtain a seat in the Mile End Road 'bus. Philip, coming late on the scene, saw her swept ruthlessly aside by a number of men and boys. The conductor jerked the bell-rope several times. There was no more room.

The woman, white-faced and disappointed, looked around with a woe-begone expression. Philip, who would have gladly paid for a cab to take her to her destination, dared do nothing of the sort. But he said:

"Keep close to me. I will get you a seat in the next 'bus."

"Oh, I wish you would," she said, with a wan smile. "I am so tired. I have walked here from Shepherd's Bush."

"That's a long way to carry a baby."

"What could I do? People won't take care of children without payment. I heard I could get work in a laundry there, so I went to look after it. There's nothing to be had down our way, is there?"

"Things turn up suddenly," said Philip.

"Not for the poor, my lad. I fear you known that without my telling you. But you are young, and will soon be a man."

Her wistful tone went to his heart.

"Didn't you succeed at the laundry?" he inquired.

"Yes; I ought to be thankful. I can earn nine shillings a week there. I start on Monday."

"Isn't your husband at work?"

"He is dead. Poor fellow, he caught cold last Christmas, and was buried in January. God only knows how I have lived since. If it wasn't for the kindness of neighbors, baby and I would have starved. I can ill afford this tuppence, but I can't walk any further."

"Well, look out now," he said, cheerily. "Here's our 'bus."

As the vehicle drew up he caught the brass rail with his left hand, and warded off assailants with the bundle under his right arm.

"Quick," he said to the woman, as soon as the people inside had descended. Jump in."

She essayed to do so, but was rudely thrust aside by a young man who had passed on the roof to light a cigarette. Philip sprang onto the step and butted the young gentleman in the stomach with his parcel, causing the other to sit down heavily on the stairs. The boy caught the woman's arm with his disengaged hand and pulled her up. He dived in after her.

"You young——" roared the discomfited smoker.

"'Ere! Come orf of it," said the conductor. "Why didn't ye git dahn before? D'ye want a lift?"

Others hustled the protesting one out of the way.

"Confound the East End, I say," he growled, as he crossed to the Mansion House. "What the deuce Lady Louisa Moreland wants to keep on sending me to that wretched mews for I can't imagine. Anyway, I can tell her this time that the place is empty, and will be pulled down next week."

And thus it was that Philip collided with Messrs. Sharpe & Smith's clerk, detailed by the anxious Lady Moreland to discover his whereabouts. They met and bumped into each other in the Whirlpool of London just as two ships might crash together by night in mid-Atlantic, and draw apart with ruffled feelings, or scraped paint, which in the same thing, without the slightest knowledge of each other's identity.

Within the omnibus the woman was volubly grateful. She had a kindly heart, and timidly essayed questions as to Philip's relatives hoping that she might make their acquaintance.

"I'll be bound, now," she said, "that you have a good mother. You can always tell what the parents are like when you see the children."

"My mother was, indeed, dear to me," he replied sadly, again driven out of himself by the mournful recollections thus suddenly induced, "but she is dead, lost to me forever."

Some people in the 'bus ceased talking. They were attracted by the strong, clear voice of this unkempt boy, whose diction and choice of words were so outrageously opposed to his garments. Luckily, the silence warned him, or his new friend's sympathy might have brought about an embarrassing position.

"Poor thing! And is your father dead, too?"

"Yes. He died long ago."

"Where do you live now?"

"Oh," he said, "I have been staying in North London, but will leave there soon, and I have not settled anything definitely at present. Where is the laundry you spoke of? I will call some day, if I may, and learn how you are getting on."

"I will be so pleased. It is a little place in James street—the only one there. Ask for Mrs. Wrigley."

"It is lucky you understand laundry work, or things might go hard with you."

She laughed pitifully.

"I don't! They asked me if I was a washer or an ironer. I thought washing required least experience, so I said I was a washer. I am quick to learn, and will watch the other women. If they find me out I may be discharged."

"Oh, cheer up," he said, pleasantly. I don't suppose you'll find it very hard."

Her voice sank almost to a whisper.

"It is not the work I dread, but the surroundings. I was a school teacher before my marriage. My husband was an electrical engineer. We put all our savings into a little business, and then—the end came."

"Not quite the end. I am only a boy, but I've had ups and downs enough to known that the beginning of next week may be a very different affair to the end of this. Good-by."

They were passing the London Hospital, and he thought it prudent to alight at some distance from Johnson's Mews.

"Well, God bless you, anyhow," she said, earnestly.

"'E's got 'is 'ead screwed on tight, that lad," commented a man sitting next to her.

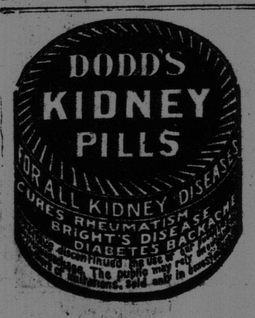
"Better than that, he has a good heart," said Mrs. Wrigley. Most fortunate Mrs. Wrigley—to have encountered Philip in that hour, which she deemed the blackest in her life.

He hastened through the familiar bustle of the busy thoroughfare with heightened expectancy, it is true, but devoid of the least fear that his meteor had been discovered. His mother would take good care of it. Why, the mere chance remark of the woman he had befriended showed that her gentle spirit watched over him wherever he went. Here was a stranger, a sad toiler among the millions, who went out of her way to praise the goodness of one she had never seen. He laughed joyously. Mrs. Wrigley should have further cause to bless his mother's memory.

He passed O'Brien's shop. He saw the old man seated behind the counter. Should he go in? No. Better keep wholly to himself at present. Yet he hesitated. Which was the more judicious course—to remain hidden, unknown, or drop quietly into the groove where he was recognized? With rare perspicacity for one so young, he reflected that only five days had elapsed since he last saw the old prisoner. The period bulked largely in Philip's life; in O'Brien's it would be as naught.

Yielding to the second thought, he entered the shop.

(To be Continued.)



Those interested in the playgrounds are requested to send in their donations of flowers on Friday morning of this week.

Fashion Hint for Times Readers

MAGPIE EFFECTS IN STREET NECKWEAR.

Black and white were never more popular than at present, and to no article of feminine garb do they more readily lend themselves than to street neckwear. All of the finer nets and tulles are employed in the development of the newest runches, some of which suggest the Elizabethan period, so wide-spreading are their many layers of fine box or accordian pleatings of black surmounted by several of white, which are usually brought nearest to the face save in the case of a very blonde woman.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS

LAST TIME FOR QUEBEC PICTURES AT NICKEL

Be sure and see the Quebec Tercentenary pictures at the Nickel to-night, for this will be the very last opportunity the people of St. John will have of doing so. To miss such a historic event would indeed be carelessness on the part of a public-spirited and patriotic Canadian. This morning the institutional orphans of the city saw this picture upon the invitation of the Nickel management. Yesterday everybody was charmed with the show. The wildest enthusiasm was aroused over the Prince of Wales, Lord Roberts, Lord Strathcona, Earl Grey, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, R. L. Borden and others, and the military and naval views were alike enlivening. All the while the orchestra was filling in national airs, English, French, Canadian and American, and the militiamen marched to a stirring tempo. Throughout the Tercentenary pictures were excellently presented. The Humanovo Co. excelled itself in "The Gentleman Burglar," a Raffles story, and Jos. E. Bernard's familiar voice in the leading role was music to St. John theatre-goers. Mr. Bernard was with W. S. Harkins here last year, playing leads.

GOOD PICTURE SHOW AT THE PRINCESS TODAY

The hundreds who visited the Princess theatre yesterday were loud in their praise for the special programme given. Morris Smith, a black-faced comedian from Dockstader's Minstrel Company, kept his audience in constant laughter with his funny sayings. His jokes and songs are up to date and his step dancing in itself a feature. Madame Demby, a sweet-toned mezzo soprano was heard to good advantage in some difficult grand opera, and she easily won a place in the hearts of those who love good singing. Harry Newcome, the favorite baritone, rendered a very pretty solo which was illustrated by some handsome hand painted slides.

The moving picture part of the programme is excellent. "The Girl Nihilist" is the title of a film which shows a Russian drama that presents some very strong acting. The picture shows Russian tyrrany in its true form, and is most realistic. "A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" is a comedy drama and "Follow the Leader" is the title of one of the most amusing pictures yet shown. This excellent programme will be repeated today.

COMING ATTRACTIONS AT THE OPERA HOUSE

The sale of seats for Wednesday's concert by the Worcester Glee Club opened at the Opera House yesterday morning and the demand was significent of a bumper house when the famous club make their appearance here. Popular prices prevailed.

The Miss Petticoats Company will give three performances in this city at the Opera House, opening Thursday, August 14. The play and company made a distinct hit at the Academy of Music, Halifax, last week. Seats are now on sale.

The Selman Stock Company will begin an extended engagement at the Opera House, August 24. This company is justly called one of the best on the road and the St. John playgoers will be able to see some of the New York successes by a clever and capable company at summer prices.

The prospect of Grand Opera in St. John by the Boston Opera Singers is causing considerable excitement to lovers of music, and the subscription list is meeting with a good reception. This indicates a hearty appreciation of a worthy attempt to present to the public a company of the highest character. Upon the completion of the subscription list depends the future of the company here.

Painters and decorators have just completed a three weeks' job, refreshing and repainting the interior of the Opera House lobby and auditorium. The proscenium and boxes, balcony fronts and outer lobby have been finished the same colors as before, while the inner lobby assumes brighter tints.

TRUANT LAW STRICTLY ENFORCED IN HALIFAX

J. Boyd McMann Home From a Trip to Halifax Tells of the School Law.

J. Boyd McMann, truant officer of this city, returned from Halifax last week where he had been inquring into the working of the compulsory school law. He found that the law had been in force there for fifteen years. R. J. Anderson is the truant officer, having held that position for eleven years. At the time of his visit Mr. Anderson was engaged in taking an enumeration of children of school age in the city. This is done annually, and includes all boys and girls between the ages of sx and sxteen years.

The police magistrate and the truant officer in Halifax work together most harmoniously. When a child is summoned to court for non-attendance at school a nominal fine of $2 is always imposed on the parents. In those cases in which it is deemed expedient to allow the boy to go he is held under suspended sentence for one year. If the boy during the period again becomes a truant he can be at once arrested, and on his appearance in court is sentenced to the industrial home.

Mr. Anderson is very strict in the performance of his duties, and results are as a consequence satisfactory. Last year's enumeration showed that there were in Halifax 8,032 children of school age. During the year eight were sent by the police to the Industrial Home, and ten to St. Patrick's home, while fifteen were out on probation or suspended sentence.

On the whole Mr. McMann found conditions in Halifax very similar to what they are here, and that the compulsory school law is worked along the same lines.

The mayor received a communication yesterday from Hon. Wm. Pugsley, Minister of Public Works, announcing that the specifications for the proposed extension of the new wharf are now in the hands of the printers. As soon as they are completed tenders will be called for and the work proceeded with.

THRESHING WHEAT AT LETHBRIDGE NOW

Welcome Rain in Some Places but Others are Dry.

Winnipeg, Aug. 10.—Threshing of winter wheat began at Lethbridge this morning, and the sample is excellent. Spring wheat is ready for the binders here, and the same is true of all the winter wheat in this section. Copious rains have fallen in various parts of Manitoba during the past two days, relieving the drought, but there are still many sections suffering greatly for lack of moisture, which is needed to fill the grain.

The tops of heads are drying up, thus cutting down the yield and spoiling the sample. Cutting will be general within three or four days in all the country south of the C. P. R. main line.

The board of management of the Seamen's Institute will meet tonight at 8 o'clock. The new building is now about completed and they will consider the question of taking it over. Manager S. L. Gorbell, desires to acknowledge the gift of a large bunch of sweet peas from Mayor Bullock.

The big labor strike in Paris called yesterday was a failure.

TOUR OF INSPECTION ON ELECTRICAL WORK

T. H. Day Delivers His Concluding Address Before the Board of Trade.

The concluding lecture by Thomas H. Day, electrical inspector of the Hartford Board of Fire Underwriters, was given in the board of trade rooms, last evening. By means of dissolving news, Mr. Day took his audience on a tour of electrical inspection, which was both entertaining and instructive. Ald. H. H. Pickett presided.

Before beginning his address Mr. Day expressed his acknowledgments to the press to F. P. Vaughan and F. R. Fairweather for the publicity and assistance given him in connection with the lectures. Taking up his subject he showed on the screen a copy of the first rules issued for the safe insulation of wires. They were published in 1881, and he showed how insufficient and incomplete they were compared with the elaborate requirements today.

Mr. Day then spoke at length on the hazard of the moving picture machine analyzing the parts and showing how film was ignitable at 180 degrees Fahrenheit. He emphasized the need of operating machines within fire resisting enclosures.

Taking his audience on a tour of inspection, he showed imperfect surface entrances and how copper wire was used instead of fuses. A number of home made devices which had resulted in fires were contrasted with fittings made according to code requirements.

Another important matter touched on was the method of installing electrical lighting fixtures. In showing a slide of perfect work, Mr. Day said that he knew of no industry offering equal opportunities to those connected with electricity. The foot of the ladder was crowded but there was room at the top.

All the pictures shown were of the application of electricity in buildings in process of erection. The lecture concluded with a number of views of the work of the life saving corps of the Boston fire department, showing scaling ladder, life line and net.

At the close a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Day, moved by Theodore Cushing, and seconded by Peter Clinch, was carried with much applause. Mr. Day briefly replied, expressing his appreciation of the way his address had been received.

The moonlight excursion of the Outing Club of the Young Men's Society of St. Joseph held last evening on the steamer Victoria could not have had finer weather. The night was perfect and the hundreds of young people who made the trip thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The return was made about 12 o'clock. The affair was a success in every way.

Robbers stole 14 infected rabbits from a Paris hospital.

CARPENTERS ARE GREEDY IN THE BURNED DISTRICT

They Want Big Pay to Rebuild Fernie---Prohibition Enforced---Relief is Still Wanted.

Fernie, B. C., Aug. 10.—Hundreds of workmen have been busy clearing away the wreckage and preparing the ground for rebuilding. This is particularly noticeable in the business section, where merchants and others are determined to lose no time in resuming operations. The Canadian Pacific has built a large temporary station near the site of the old one, and many of the leading concerns have made arrangements to put up structures at once. There are nearly 200 tents in various parts serving as homes, stores or offices.

The relief department has moved from the coal company's offices and grounds to the school property, where temporary buildings have been erected. Relief work is expected to continue for two or three months yet, but the heaviest part will be over by the end of August.

One satisfactory feature of life in Fernie since the fire has been the preservation of excellent order. There has been little or no trouble, and with a mixed population this means a great deal. One reason, of course, has been the fact that every citizen has taken an active part in the work of overcoming the difficulties which followed the disaster. With more than two hundred energetic men directing their whole attention to distributing relief, it is scarcely a matter for surprise that great results have been accomplished.

Another factor in the maintenance of order has been the introduction of drastic prohibitionary law. The city soon after the fire occurred passed an ordinance cancelling all the liquor licenses and interdicting the importation of alcohol. The entire stock in Fernie was destroyed by fire, and for five days the citizens have gone dry. Nothing shows that anyone has suffered. On the contrary, the work of restoring the city has proceeded without interruption of any kind, and the citizens who discuss the situation agree that the prohibitory ordinance has been a good thing.

There is a likelihood of trouble from the union carpenters, who are about to reap a harvest. They have demanded a scale of fifty cents per hour, with an eight-hour day, time and a half for overtime, and double time for Sundays. They also demand that every man who works on the erection of a building shall join the union, the fee for which is $25. Many men who are constructing their own buildings look upon these terms as too steep and declare they will not pay them. There is a movement on foot to deport anyman who will not work, but the more moderate method is to ask for two weeks' truce, during which the carpenters must work at normal wages. In this period it is hoped to erect enough shacks to furnish homes for the majority of those who will require them.

The question of giving necessary relief to the thousands of homeless men and women continues the principal concern in Fernie. Money and supplies have flowed in from all parts of Canada and several points in the United States, but more is needed.

The total cash distribution so far amounts to $47,698. In addition, there are offers of large amounts from two or three cities, made up in cash and supplies. The generosity of the people in the large cities and towns of the Dominion has been in evidence since the news of the disaster went out, and this applies particularly to western communities. Merchandise, including provisions, flour, bread, fruit, clothing, have been coming every day, and more is on the way.

Practically all Western Canada is covered in the list of communities making contributions. Cities and towns further east have been asked what form their assistance should take, and the reply has been sent that cash would be most acceptable.

The procedure is to devote the money as far as possible to assisting the people to establish roofs over their heads as the first step towards securing new homes. Goods are distributed almost as fast as they arrive, and several carloads have already been absorbed. Every applicant is required to show need, and it is a subject for congratulation that very little imposition has been practiced. Most of the stuff has gone where it was needed, and there have been no complaints of anyone having been overlooked. With the weather as warm as it is now, little concern is felt about clothing, and eatables have been the first call.

The women and children are beginning to come back now, which means that bedding and other accommodation must be provided. It is likely that until homes have been erected for the majority of the working population that the women and children will not be encouraged in their desire to return. Nearly all those who were sent away during the fire excitement were directed to Cranbrook, and that hospitable town has done wonders in looking after them. If they can be kept out of the way for a short time longer, the work of restoring the town will likely proceed more smoothly.

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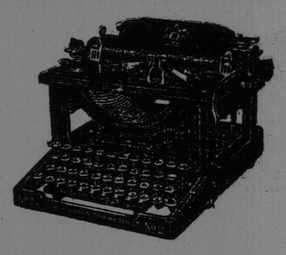

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