Continued from 1st page

lence, but one of those curious joining ines and crossing of paths, which it of carefully avoided confuse the judgment and mislead you—which makes ruth always so much stranger than fic-

"But he didn't do the deed; and beides, Wessing is not a man who would
pursue any point to death and who could
to deliberate munler; a glance is sufficient to determine that—he is weak. On
the contrary, Fountain would. We have
both agreed to that."
"But." and Tom. "is not your theory
tanciful? There is a great deal to suptones. I admit that, so far as Fountain
to concerned, it is plausible."
"Only plausible above the rest because
too have certain ascertained facts or

"Only plausible above the rest because you have certain ascertained facts or statements of himself and Flora to reason upon. Fountain is proposing to seek a fortune: Pierson's fortune lies waiting to be sought; Fountain inquires here about Pierson's papers, and admits to Flora that he called upon me in reference to that enterprise. Flora is horror stricken at the idea of his coming to me, who saw the murderer at a distance, and who pretended to see more than I did. These are the connecting links which make the reasoning seem plausible as to make the reasoning seem plausible as to Fountain. You seem to stumble over the idea that there must have been some knowledge of Wessing by Fountain, and of Fountain by Wessing."

"It is not necessary to the truth of my theory that they should not have knowledge or that they should. See here: Suppose Fountain did know of Wessing, which I wholly doubt, and that he was an illegitimate son also, it would make no difference in his enterprise of killing Templeton. It would be the legitimate heir he would have to be rid of before an illegitimate son also, it would make no difference in his enterprise of killing Templeton. It would be the legitimate heir he would have to be rid of before he or any other illegitimate heir could pretend to have a claim on the unclaimed fortune."

"Hallo, Tom! Come in. Where have you been this month of Sundays!"

Tom passed into the come and saw an assistant of the district attempt in the chief engaged," asked Tom an adjoining room.

re is a true reasoning in that, in have no basis for supposing as any abandonment of Temple-

ton's mother."

Holbrook had been pacing up and down as he was thus reasoning. Upon Tom's remark he turned quickly around and bringing his hands together with a resounding whack he exclaimed:
"Tes, by Heaven, I have! Mrs. Templeton told me that her father had left her on her mother's death to the care of an aunt, and went to Philadelphia; that subsequently a rumor of his mawriage had reached them, but was never verified. That was after they had heard of his death abroad."

"The facts in this case come out alow.

Iy," said Tom. "The line of inquiry to follow is the Pierson line. Why not push your inquiries with Mrs. Templeton? See if it is not possible to connect the Templetons with Pierson."

"FII do it, and at once. You'll go with me too, won't you?"

"Yes, I'll go with you, and would be read to."

glad to."
"But haven't we already ground enough to begin a judicial inquiry?"
"No; wait until I have established the

of all cases."

Tom hurried off to his friend, the leader writer, who had undertaken to obtain a surreptitious portrait of Foun-

Well, how did you make out?" asked

"First rate. I got two views of him-

"Pardon me," said Tom, "I am in a sperate hurry, and if I do not wait to plain and thank you for them you will use me, I know.'

ur clambake?".
"Bang up, said Tom. "See here, you recollect my asking you if you could identify the man who bought that suit—the man outside of U. S. T.'s?"

"Yea."
"Well, here's the man I suspect. Do you recognize him?"
The clerk took the photographs and examined them carefully.

Tom waited in an agony of impatience, his heart beating with such throbe that he thought the clerk must

"I am certain-positive, that is the

little joke turned upon him. Thank you. I'll tell you all about it shortly. I'll come here to tell you for your kindness."

He hurried out of the store.

"The coil is finally wound about him. Fountain, my boy, there is a surprise in store for you. In two days time, my gentle lad, your name will be the best known in New York town." He hurried off to meet Holbrook.

CHAPTER XXL TOM MEETS WITH A CRUSHER,

with which Tom work was mixed so easily and rapnot seen that the obvious thing to

do was to discover at once where the clothes worn by the murderer were purchased.

It was true, he admitted, that he had had an advantage in determining who the purchaser was, through Holbrook's acquaintance with Flora Ashgrove, but why had not the detectives of the regular force found out, as he had done, where the clothes had been bought?

He was in high glee over his discovery, and much pleased with himself. The facts were indisputable, and were to be recognized at a glance.

"What's the matter brook.

"Harry Fountain murder."

Holbrook could not be surprise if he he evident relief at the "That increased Tor "Why?" asked He know who did it?"

"No."

recognized at a glance.

There was the conversation between Flora and Fountain on the veranda at Mewport, and there was the identification of Fountain with the man who had of Unio per bought by the U. S. Ts. While Holbs

been bought by the U. S. Ta. While these were not conclusive, still they were sufficient to justify the immediate arrest of Fountain, when the facts needsary for proofs before the jury could be easily hought out by judicious inquiry.

To construct the chain of evidence which would convict Fountain in court was work for the authorities, not for him. He had detected the criminal, and that was all that could be demanded of him, and all that he had set out to do, it was thus filled with triumph that It was thus filled with triumph that a sought Hulbrook to consult with him sought Holbrook to consult with him as to the next step—the placing of all the facts before the district attorney. To his a price no less than to his indignation, he found the lawyer loath to go further in the matter.

So long as there was a question of doubt involved in the investigation, Hole "Unless" said Tom "(Flowatic him).

"Unless," said Tom, "Fountain hired

but now, when all question of doubt had vanished—when the identification was complete, he hesitated, "baulked," as Tom said, "right at the finish."

The fact that Flora Ashgrove would be inevitably drawn into the matter distinction with the control of the contr

done the deed. If her manner and words the theorems with which be had formerly regarded her was wholly dissipated, still it seemed a horrible thing to him, that ahe should be dragged to the witness stand and compelled to give the evidence which would send to the gallows the man she had shown she so deeply, and even wildly, loved. He shrank from the idea that he should be instrumental in putting in the control of the contro that he should be instrumental in putting her in such a position.

her in such a position.

With these sentiments Tom could not, or at least would not, sympathize. It might be hard for her, but it was hard also for Annie Templeton that her brother should be struck down and killed, and it was one of the inevitable consequences of crime that the innocent suffered no less than the guilty, and while it was unfortunate that Miss Ashgrove was in the position in which she was, yet justice must be done.

must be done.

To all of this argument Holbrook had no reply, and he realized he could make none. In the end, however, he gave a reluctant consent that everything should be laid before the district attorney, but he positively refused to go with Tom to that official. If he appeared at all in the matter, it should only be as an unwilling witness, to tell how his suspicions of matter, it should only be as an unwilling witness, to tell how his suspicions of Fountain had been aroused, and he sincerely hoped that even that much would not be required of him. So Tom was compelled to go alone. On his way he dismissed Holbrook's scruples as fanciful to the last degree, and busied himself with the order of the narrative which he was to submit to the prosecuting officer. On entering the office he saw the door of the private room was closed, and he was about to send in his card, when a

was about to send in his card, when a voice called out from an adjoining room:

"Tes." was the reply, "but only for a short time. Come in; I was just telling the boys some of my adventures while rachting. We were out in Teddy Braham's racht—only a small party. Jack Bandaw, Fred Cox, Harry Fountain and myself."

"Who! Fountain!"

"Tes. Harry Fountain. Do you know half. A fine fellow."

"Whet. Fountain!" asked Tom, somewhat interested; "Fountain of the Union and the Lambs—athlete."

"Oh, nothing particular. When was this!"

"Oh, let me see. We were out the

We went on board the 14th at night, and safled early the next morning."

"Of August," said Tom, with sudden alarm. "Hold on; where were you on the 17th?"

"You are sure of that date?" queried

Tom earnestly.
"Why, yes. Certainly. What's the

identification of Fountain with the man who purchased the clothes. "The go about it now and then meet you."

"But I say, Tom, if Fountain don't the entry. See," and he held it up for Tom to read.

"I'll be hanged if I can tell—that is one of the puzzles in this most puzzling us get this straight. When did that murder in Union square occur?"

"Ask Jim there; it's his case."

"Ask Jim there; it's his case." "You mean Templeton's?" asked the one referred to. "On the morning of the eighteenth, an hour after midnight.

They all stared at him. speaker.
"Was this the man—the Fountain who

"The very same. These are good pictures of him?"
"Was he never away from you during "Never, from the time he joined us on

The fourteenth."
Tom stood like one rooted to the spot,
In the meantime the others looked
upon him amazed. Finally Tom said:
"I do not think I want to see the district attorney after all."
He turned on his heal without a word.

He turned on his heel without a word and walked out, leaving them wondering at his strange manner and questions, "He's been drinking," he heard one

"One would suppose he thought Founanother.

He paid no heed, but passed on and descended the stairs like one who had met with a distressful blow of misfor-

heedful of all about him. Without knowing just how he had gotten there he found himself in Broadway, opposite His emotions were difficult to analyze.

His emotions were difficult to analyze. Heartfelt gratitude and thankfulness that the story had been told him before he had gone in to the district attorney possessed him, but dominating every other sentiment was his feeling of keen and bitter disappointment. His quest had ended in failure, his triumph had turned to ashes. turned to ashes.

brook. The lawyer was engaged with a client, and Tom paced the outer office in a fever of disappointment, thankfulness, humiliation and even anger. How could he have been such an idiot as to have he have been such an idiot as to have supposed Fountain could have been guilty of such a crime? he saked himself, and then in the most illogical way he and then in the most illogical way he found himself growing angry with Fountain for going off on that yachting trip, and thus making it impossible for him idly trapped.

He marveled to have committed the deed.

Unable to contain himself

He looked wonderingly at Tom, who bore the visible traces of his crushing defeat.

"Harry Fountain didn't commit the his surprise if he had desired, nor his evident relief at the information. That increased Tom's bitterness.
"Why?" asked Holbrook. "Do they

"He was not within a hundred miles of Union square when the deed was Holbrook told him to wait a moment

Pierson inquiry."
"Until we get near the finish, when I

GENERAL BUSINESS.

"Let us have it, then." "See. The Ashgrove girl thinks Foun-tain did the murder. She hasn't told him

under that belief. You can go to he and earn her undying gratitude by dis-abusing her mind of that error." Well, what then?" "Incher joy at finding that the object of her love is not a guilty man, she will

tell you her reason for supposing he was."
"You have an idea, Tom."
"Yes, and besides, she'll tell you who was the owner of the diamond button."
"Surely. But she is still in Newport. "No." said Tom, "I saw in this morn

returned to the city."
"Then I'll go to her this very day." "Do. And while you are on that line il seek out Fountain, tell him my I'll seek out Four former suspicions, and ask his assistas in our effort."
"He won't talk to you."

ing's papers that the Witherspoons have

"Well, I can try all the same." Having agreed to this plan, and ap-cointed a place of meeting, they parted. CHAPTER XXII.

ANOTHER VISIT TO THE "HANDSOME FLORA." ROM the manne

in which Flore had received him on the night he had met her at the Casino, Holbrook had no reason to suppose his visit would be met with much cordiality. Therefore, when turned after he

the servant recard, with the information that the lady was not at home, he was not surprised If that means," he said to the ser

mat, "that Miss Ashgrove is denying meself to visitors this afternoon, please say to the lady that Mr. Holbrook calls upon business of the utmost important and of unusual interest to her." The servant went away a second time leaving him seated in the reception room and returned to say that the lady would see him in a few moments.

He did not wait long, for Flora, still

in morning toilet, followed the servant closely. She was cold and haughty in She saluted Mr. Holbrook, and without waiting for a return, she said to the

servant: "I am not at home to any other callers no matter who they may be."

She closed the door after her, and sa down in such a position that the light was upon Holbrook's face, while her own was in the shadow. She waited for Holbrook to speak, turning upon him with a polite look of inquiry.

Her manner conveyed that the call wa to be regarded as one purely of business.
Holbrook felt it, and was stung by her manner. Upon her part she felt that the blow she dreaded so much was about to

Holbrook accepted the situation, feeling that in the end he must win
"I beg you will excuse my u of etiquette or custom. The last time I had the honor of calling upon you, the conversation was wholly, if my memory serves me, upon the then recent mur-der of Mr. Templeton. I desire to renew it."

"The subject is not an agreeable one, but I suppose you have a purpose in re-newing it."

"I have, and also a confession to

"A confession!" she repeated in sur ner and from your words at that time, and subsequently from your manner at the Casino, where I met you some days afterwards, I arrived at the conclusion that you suspected Mr. Fountain of having committed the murder."
"The dreaded blow has fallen," she

thought, as she gasped out, her face ghastly white, "but you did not know him; he told me so." "I learned who he was that night at the Casino," he replied calmly.

"I feared so," she said, with a low moan. "And yet he went to you the next morning. Fool, fool, fool, that he

He made his way hurriedly to Holorook. The lawyer was engaged with a blient, and Tom paced the outer office in

came to me in my professional capacity, after it was all over, and without my Unable to contain himself longer, ne sent his card, on which was scribbled "Important. All the fat's in the fire," to Holbrook.

Holbrook came out immediately.

Tom who wrong. I hasten to inform you that Mr. Fountain did not commit the deed." "Did not!" The revulsion of feeling was too great. She sank back in her chair, and for a moment Holbrook

thought she would swoon. He started up hastily to go to her as sistance, but she waved him back, and after a supreme effort regained control

"How-he is innocent?" "Yes, innocent. He was not within a hundred miles of Union square when "And why do you come to me with all

Having repossessed herself, she took refuge in haughtiness, while her manner was an assumption of extreme indiffer

ence.
She made Holbrook angry, and it was with difficulty he could control himself.

"You will pardon me, Miss Ashgrove,
I hope, if I remark that your tone and
manner are particularly offensive to me, and neither wise nor just. It is far from my purpose to descend so low as to threaten a lady, but prudence should suggest to you that it is not wise to show such contempt, whatever you may feel, toward a man who is in possession of such knowledge as you know I am." "And pray, what may that be?"

[To be continued] Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria

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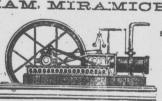
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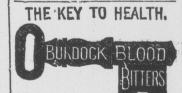
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