

# COMPLETE CHANGE AT THE POPULAR STAR TO-DAY

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## "THE WAY OF A MAN"

THE PICTURE WITH THE PEP.

MONDAY:—D. W. Griffith's Masterpiece—"FEET OF CLAY" in Twelve Parts.

### Father Tells How Prince Escaped

Egyptian Party Fearing Pursuit Kept Moving in Paris—Beard Shaved—Fugitive From English Asylum Hopes to Live in Constantinople.

Constantinople, Sept. 24.—A circumstantial story of the escape of Prince Ahmed Self el Dine of Egypt from the asylum in England, in which he had been held for 24 years, and his subsequent journey to Constantinople has been related here by Feridoun Pasha, father of the Prince, who up to this time has not appeared in connection with any of the sensational accounts of the Prince's escape.

The party then went to Paris and there believing themselves to be fol-

lowed they changed hotels often and never made a journey, in the city without changing taxicabs several times each trip. The father continued: "Once when we were at the Hotel Des Pyramides in Paris we heard that detectives were about to raid the hotel, so at 4 o'clock in the morning we aroused Prince Ahmed, shaved his beard and successfully dodged his pursuers.

(Press dispatches soon after his escape said the Prince was in Paris disguised as a woman.)

"The matter of passports was finally adjusted and we went by automobile to Marseilles, where the Prince embarked on a steamer as a second-class passenger. We were greatly indebted to a French personage, who helped us in every way. Although we realized that there was no necessity of concealing the Prince's identity in France or aboard the steamer, we feared that a delay might be caused by a medical examination.

"After his confinement in England, Prince Ahmed is now anxious to live in Constantinople."

Feridoun Pasha in a statement severely criticized the treatment given the Prince while he was confined in

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sept 30, oct 1

the English asylum. He alleged that the Prince was not allowed to see anyone, was not even told of the World War, or of the death of his brother. He said that on other occasions Prince Ahmed was offered assistance if he would try to escape, but he was so depressed and lethargic that he would not lend himself to any such plan.

When the escape finally was effected, Feridoun Pasha said, Prince Ahmed "was so feeble that he faltered and stumbled during the first few days of his liberty." The father says that he has now regained most of his strength in spite of the excitement attending the escape.

### The Dickman Murder Case

UNKNOWN WRITER CONFESSES TO THE CRIME.

It is pretty generally known that murders which make a great public sensation, especially when followed by inquests and other legal proceedings that give wide publicity to the details of the evidence, often lead to bogus confessions of guilt. Now and then some individual goes to the police and "gives himself up"—it may be for a murder committed long years previously—with the result that he is speedily found to be suffering from a delusion. Such delusions are often stimulated by drink; but even in that case it may be that the drink only brings out an idea that has been lurking somewhere at the back of a morbid mind. Written confessions of the same kind, but usually anonymous, are frequently addressed to the authorities or to the lawyers engaged when a sensational murder trial is in progress. This statement could be corroborated by Home Office and police officials, solicitors, counsel, and even judges.

I have recently been exercised over a confession which is, I should think, one of the most extraordinary of its kind ever known. It reached "Truth Office" by post a few weeks ago, with an illegible postmark and no clue to the writer's identity, unless this could be obtained from internal evidence by somebody who happens to know him. The man claims to have murdered a Mr. John Nisbet in a train in Northumberland on March 18, 1910, for which deed John Dickman was tried and hanged a few months later. To explain why after concealing his crime so long, he has now made a clean breast of it, he states that he is now dying of cancer, and desires to ease his mind before he dies and make the small reparation he now can, by relieving Dickman's family of the stigma of their connection with a convicted murderer. Incidentally, he hardly seems to have taken the most effective course for that purpose by sending his tale anonymously to a newspaper office, where the chances are that it would go more or less expeditiously into the wastepaper basket. His procedure savours at the outset of abnormal mentality. However, he tells his story with a wealth of circumstantial detail, and as he writes quite lucidly and with a certain amount of literary skill, the effect is plausible; in fact, anybody reading the tale without other information about the circumstances might pronounce it convincing. It aroused so much curiosity in this office that, before consigning it to the receptacle above mentioned, I thought it worth testing by reference to the original records of the case. Having done this, I have no hesitation in saying that I think Dickman was rightly hanged, and that my anonymous friend's claim to the honour associated with a scaffold is unfounded.

The investigation of the affair, however, has been extremely interesting, and I think it may prove equally so to others. The Dickman case itself offered a fascinating problem in circumstantial evidence; the present confession offers quite an interesting study in psychology. I will, therefore, give an account of the whole affair, so far as space permits, it being understood at the outset that in my judgment there is no ground in this anonymous communication to a newspaper office for discrediting the report of a long and careful trial, subsequently reviewed by the Court of Criminal Appeal.

#### THE CASE OF JOHN DICKMAN.

The murder of Nisbet and the subsequent trial of Dickman excited great public interest at the time; and the trial is included in the "Notable English Trials" series of Messrs. William Hodges & Co., to which I am much indebted for particulars of the trial. On the day in question Nisbet left Newcastle-on-Tyne by a slow train for Alnmouth, starting at 10.27 a.m. He was a colliery pay-clerk, and the day being Friday, he had with him a locked handbag containing £370 9s. 6d. in cash for the payment of wages at his colliery, which was near Widdrington Station, on the further side of Morpeth from Newcastle. On the arrival of the train at Alnmouth his body was found under the seat of an empty third class compartment in the front passenger coach of the train, with five bullet wounds in his head. The bag was gone. Another colliery clerk named Hall, who knew Nisbet, travelled in the compartment in front, and having his head out of the window before the train started, saw Nisbet come up the platform in company with another man and enter the compartment with this man. At Heaton, two or three stations from Newcastle, Nisbet's wife came to the station to speak to him, and saw and spoke to him at the window of this compartment. She also saw another man seated at the other end of the carriage. At Stannington, the next station before Morpeth, Hall got out of the train accompanied by a fellow clerk named Spink. They had to wait till the train started before they could leave the platform, and as they stood there, both of them saw and nodded to Nisbet, who was then sitting next to the

window with his face to the engine. Spink also saw another man in the carriage, but Hall could not speak as to this. On the arrival of the train at Morpeth, a platelayer who lived further down the line, was waiting to join it. He was at the engine end of the train when it pulled up, and walked along the platform looking casually into the compartments. He saw one passenger whom he recognized in the first compartment of the first carriage, the next two were empty, and he got

into the first compartment of the next carriage. There was no evidence as to any unknown passenger entering or leaving the first carriage during the rest of the journey. The inference from these facts was that Nisbet was shot between Stannington and Morpeth by the man who had been seen to enter the compartment at Heaton and Stannington, but not at Morpeth, when, on the evidence of the platelayer, the compartment was apparently empty. The man must, therefore, have pushed the body under the seat and either got out immediately the train came into Morpeth, or (as the defence suggested) have jumped out before the train reached the station, and made his escape across country. As to this, it is to be noted that the distance between Stannington and Morpeth is less than three miles. The question, therefore, was: Who was this man? J. A. Dickman was identified as the man by as complete a chain of evi-

(Continued on page 16.)

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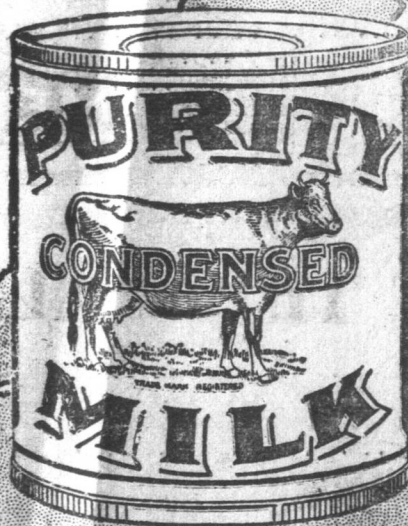
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