

AT DEATH'S DOOR

Believed that would question me... What things the parting soul said...

THE "ISIS" MYSTERY.

The Story of a Missing Ship.

By LEON LEWIS.

CHAPTER XV.—[CONTINUED].

"How did this man look?" asked Jack.

The old pilot described the stranger, and it was singular how truthfully Jack was reminded of Glugg.

"The man was just as you described," added the pilot, "and the boat had just been cleared when the stranger came."

"Why, that stranger was Glugg?" he cried, in a sudden glow of excitement.

"All right," said the pilot, "but the soul of our hero thrilled to its centre as he looked seaward in silence."

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Improved rapidly upon acquaintance...

"And you shall have a front room, Mr. O'Leary—the one directly over the parlor."

"That will be very nice," commented Glugg, "and here is the cash for two weeks in advance. Will it be too much trouble for you to show me the room?"

"I have changed my mind upon several things, and am anxious to see it."

He was soon installed and left to his reflections. The room proving to be more comfortable than he had expected, he congratulated himself upon securing it, and then opened one of the front windows and looked into the street.

"Horrors of horrors! Jack March was upon the front steps in the very act of slipping up the dimly lit black, and of asking for Mrs. Ray."

"The purpose of our hero was to take a glance, he too, was in quest of lodgings."

"Thunder!" ejaculated Glugg, mentally. "Is this a misfortune, or is it a sign in my favor? How fortunate is it that my real name is hidden."

Looking down into the street until Jack had entered the house, Glugg slipped from his room to the landing at the head of the main staircase, taking a position from which he could hear every word that passed between Mrs. Ray and her prospective boarder.

"The old proverb is certainly true," cried Mrs. Ray to her assistant, as soon as they were again by themselves. "It never rains but it pours. Here are five as good boarders as ever set foot in my house, and all in less than an hour!"

"Steamer in!" exclaimed the Hostess, from his post at the door.

And with this he vanished at a rate of speed that soon took him beyond the sphere of Mrs. Ray's observation.

The announcement was all that was necessary for Mrs. Ray's complete bewilderment.

"If that is so," she said, lifting her forefinger oracularly, and shaking her head in a sort of awe-struck joy, "we may have several boarders from her, and so fill up the house entirely. Will not that be grand?"

The assistant's black eyes sparkled. A full house meant for her plenty of small silver pieces that would be otherwise well to be wanted.

"It is safe to say that neither mistress nor maid hardly drew a full breath during the next half hour. Every cart that passed their door went into fits, and the more they passed without stopping the longer became the facial outlines of the good widow. But at length there was heard the rattle of a cart that meant business—a rattle that moved in a full stop announcement in front of Mrs. Ray's door.

"I thought we should not be entirely neglected," murmured the good widow, triumphantly, as she hurried to the door.

The new-comers were two in number—a young lady and a middle-aged gentleman who appeared greatly exhausted with their long voyage. Their words were few and to the point. They would be a quiet place to sleep more than anything else in the world. They said nothing of themselves beyond mentioning that they were father and daughter, and would like rooms adjoining. There was something said and interesting about them that instantly put Mrs. Ray upon her mettle, and she decided to do all she could for them, installing them in her best apartments upon the ground floor.

"A little tea and toast is all we want at present," said the young lady, on taking possession of the room placed at her disposal. "My father is far from well, and both of us have suffered greatly from want of sleep."

The situation was one that appealed to the best instincts of Mrs. Ray's heart, and she lost no time in doing all she could for the new-comers, serving them with her own hands. In the course of the few further remarks that followed, she learned that they were Mr. John Ryell and his daughter, from New York.

Yes! The young lady was Lidie, and the gentleman her father.

"Very fortunately for their peace of mind, the gentleman was in the mood to be very friendly, and was most kind. With the first announcement of the steamer, he had left the house on a stroll toward the post-office, and had not yet returned. And when he at length came back to his lodgings, after an absence of two hours, his face was singularly gloomy and disgusted.

"Not a line from Faxter," he said. "I had not the light upon all the questions I have asked him. Where can he be?"

He slipped to his room as quietly as possible, and gave himself up to the sad review of his situation and prospects. His return was unnoticed by anyone save Mrs. Ray, as the shades of evening were now falling.

"I shall have to get out of this," he said to himself, "to avoid being kept up by March, or else I must keep up by March as my only resource. The fact is for my best interest to go to sea. If March and his friends force me out, they can make me trouble. On the other hand, if I can catch them without being seen, it will be a great point in my favor."

A knock upon the door interrupted his musings.

"Are you not coming to supper, Mr. O'Leary?" asked the widow, as she responded to his bidding to enter.

"Excuse me, madam—I have the least appetite," replied Glugg.

"I am so sorry," insisted the widow. "I was in hopes of finding you unusually happy, as I am. You have no idea what a good run of luck your arrival to day has opened for me. Next to your name Captain March, and then his friends, Soter, Glensing and Ryell, and his daughter, from New York, who came in the steamer."

She interrupted her glib rejoicing, as her eyes encountered the wild stare that suddenly beamed from Glugg's eyes.

"You are ill, sir," she said.

"A mere speck!" gasped Glugg. "Can you give me a drop of whisky?"

The widow hastened to produce the article from her private stores. By a strong effort of his will Glugg succeeded in mastering his emotion during the temporary absence.

"Heavenly King!" was his sole ejaculation, in the interval.

It was enough, however. It afforded the best degree of excited amazement.

"I am better now," he murmured, after swallowing the kindly liquid.

"A—A thousand thanks, madam. I think I will retire, as early as I can."

Left to himself, he drew his feet

underneath with open, loosened his cravat, lighted a cigar, and nestled himself in such a position that he could watch the entrance of the dwelling.

"They here!" he gasped. "How very strange! What can be the secret of the movement? Has March found out anything? Have they got any clue to my proceedings? Certain it is that I must dig out of this before daylight! But how can I prevent March and Ryell from getting together? How? How?"

He was still asking himself this question, in a scared and anxious manner, when a man came along the sidewalk and stopped in front of Mrs. Ray's door, knocking for admittance.

A suppressed yell burst from Glugg's lips at sight of the new-comer—and well it might.

The new arrival was GAZAM PAXTER!

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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W. S. SULLIVAN, Agent for the Company, Jan. 21, 1886.

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W. F. BERT, Dom. Analyst, St. John, N. B., reports:

Pure Gold—Contains Crystals of Tartar, Carbonate of Soda and Flour—fresh and pure. (Nov. 10, 1885—Not analyzed.)

Woolly's—Contains a mixture of Bicarbonate of Soda and Flour—fresh and pure. (June 4, 1884—Fresh and pure.)

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