FEBRUARY 4, 1915

tion into a crime, or she would not be thanking him for something that he had never done. This talk of Jack's could only have been a ruse to keep her up her spirits and give her false strength until she had passed through the agonizing ordeal of the funeral-he accepting all her delusions as true—as one does when an insane person is to be coaxed when an institle person is to be could back into a cell. These thoughts went whirling through his mind, as Peter watched her face closely, wondering what would be his course. He had not met her often, yet he could see that she was terribly changed. He noticed, too, that all through the interview she had not shed a tear. Yes-there was no question that her mind was unbalanced. The best plan would be to bring the interview to an end as quickly as possible. so she would not dwell too long on her sorrow.

"If I have done anything to help you, my dear lady," he said with gentle courtesy, rising from his chair and taking her hand again, "or can do anything for you in the future, I shall be most happy, and you must certainly let me know. And now, may I not ask you to go upstairs and He down. You are greatly fatigued-1 assure you 1 feel for

But his mind was still disturbed. Ruth and Jack wondered at his quiet as he sat beside them on the way back to MacFarlane's-gazing out of the carriage window, his clean-shaven, placid face at rest. his straight thin lips close shut. He hardly spoke until they reached the house, and then it was when he helped Ruth alight. Once inside, however, he beckoned Jack, and without a word led him alone into MacFarlane's study-now almost dismantled for the move to Morfordsburg-and closed the door.

"Mrs. Minott has just told me the most extraordinary thing, Jack-an unachevable story. Is she quite same?"

Jack scanned Peter's face and read the truth. Corinne had evidently told hum everything. This was the severest blow of all.

"She supposed she knew, sir," answered Jack quietly, further concealment now

"Knew what ?" Peter was staring at tim with wide-open eyes.

"What she told you sir," faltered

The old man threw up his hands in

"What ! You really mean to tell me. Jack, that Minott has been stealing ?" Jack bent his head and his eyes sought the floor. He could hardly have been more ashamed had he himself been

God bless my soul ! - From whom ?" The church funds-he was trustee. The meeting is to-morrow, and it would

broke over Peter-as

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when a window is opened in a darkened room in which one has been stumbling.

'And you have walked the streets trying to beggar yourself, not to help Mac-Farlane but to keep Minott out of Amazement had taken the place of horror.

"He was my friend, sir-and there are Corinne and the little boy. It is all over now. I have the money—that is, I have got something to raise it on." Who gave it to you?" He was still

groping, blanded by the revelations, his eves staring at Jack, his voice trendling, heads of prespiration moist-gring his forchead,

Isuac Cohen. He has given me ten tovernment bonds. They are in that drawer behind you. He overheard what I said to you vesterday about wanting some manay, and was waiting for me when I want downstairs. He gave them the localse he loved you, he said. te the him my ore property as a although I told him it was of

is a step forward, stretching as if to steady himself. His white then suddenly flushed.

emed to have left him. on did this !" he gasped-Fr Minott! Why-whyit him in his arms, thinkshout to fall.

be continued.

to

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