

was up: he returned to the attack with blood trickling down his face. "You're caught!" he shouted. "Give it up and come with me, or you'll be sorry."

And he flung himself on his huge antagonist with blind fury, striking right and left with a strength which seemed superhuman. As they rolled over and over on the grassy slope running down into the ravine, the excursion train thundered over the bridge. Those hateful cans had not disclosed their secret. They sat harmlessly on the ledge of cement.

Once the big foreigner got a grip on Tony's wrist and twisted it till it cracked; then he bit him through the hand, all to compel his youthful antagonist to let go a determined hold on his windpipe. It was plain that the giant was as much in fear of this small fury which had descended on him, as a crow is of kingbird.

Presently a voice called from the bridge above.

"Hey, there! What's all the racket about?"

Tony knew it was the guard, who had been forced to believe the truth of his report and come to his aid. A moment later that able official had separated the combatants, and with great sternness addressed himself to the disturber of the peace.

"I will give you just one minute to explain what you are doing here," said the guard, as important as all such petty officials usually are after the danger is past.

The foreigner shrugged his heavy shoulders, and maintained a stolid silence.

"If explosives are found in your possession," the guard continued, "it will go mighty hard with you, fellow."

Anxiously Tony waited to see the lids of the cans removed. The guard approached them cautiously, the while a slow smile was seen to deepen on the fat face of the foreigner. Then the guard held them up in contempt, at the same time closing his nostrils from the stench they contained.

"Fishworms!"

Then the foreigner spoke. "I haf planned to fish. I know spot in the river below where fish pite shust like plazes. Night goot time—quiet. I say to mine friends, 'Stay away—you make too much noise—I go alone.' Dey say, 'All right—see you later!' Den dis midget come—I know not where from he haf dropped. Of course I fight him!"

The guard turned to Tony with a withering smile. But that fleeting newborn grin died in infancy. Tony had fainted; and all at once the guard realized that he was wounded.

"The kid really thought he was helping save his country!" he muttered.

Presently the guard heard the boy say, as he came out of his state of incoherent muttering:

"I know now what it is to be hurt—it's not so bad—"

Suddenly Tony's eyes fell on his injured hand. The little finger was badly bruised and torn from the foreigner's bite; but the white ring that he noted—was gone!

"It's covered!" he cried.

Indulgently the guard examined the injured member. He had heard the story of the "Scar of Dishonour" frequently from the boys.

"Covered it is, son!" he said.

The Limit of Lying.—"You may not believe it, gentlemen," said one of the group who, having dined at a free-lunch counter, were smoking their cigars in front of a hotel. "You may not believe it, but I have used a fountain pen constantly for four years and have never had the least trouble with it."

"That's remarkable," said another. "Still, I am the father of six children, and never had to walk the floor at night with a single one of them."

There was a silence of a minute or two, and another spoke up.

"I don't doubt it," he said, "for I can testify to something stranger still. I have a bright little four-year-old boy at my house, and I never told any of his smart sayings to my friends."

"Gentlemen," remarked a fourth, after a painful pause "I'm fond of hearing young women practise their scales on the piano after I have retired to rest. It lulls me to sleep."

One or two persons in the group made feeble attempts to say something, but gave it up. It seemed to be felt that this reached the limit.



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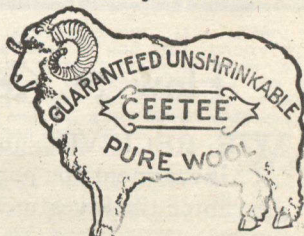
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