

CONVICT NO. 4,820.

Convict No. 4,820 was down on the prison register as Charles F. Johnson, aged 38 years, single, native born, and by occupation a public lecturer. He was a professor of phonology, a spiritualist, a mesmerist, and a queer, strange man. He has been sentenced for fifteen years for assaulting a woman, but it finally came about that even the jury who brought in the verdict believed him an innocent man. Indeed the woman partly confessed that it was a put up job to blackmail the man, and before he had served two years she was in prison herself. From the first day that No. 4,820 entered the prison he exerted a peculiar influence over officials and prisoners alike. The latter nicknamed him "The Mystery," and the title was well bestowed. He was a quiet gentleman, with a voice as soft as a woman's, but when he looked you square in the eyes you felt that he was a mystery with a strange power behind him. He had large blue eyes, with long lashes, and if you looked into them for ten seconds you forgot where you were and felt confused. There is very little sentiment to be found in a prison, and yet the idea of most of them is to control the prisoners entirely by means of time and space. Cooking utensils had been moved about without the aid of human hands, and eight men solemnly declared that a batch of bread, consisting of fifty or more loaves, just taken from the oven, moved at least fifteen feet along a table while all were looking.

We laughed at their stories, but took "The Mystery" out of the dining room and put him in the fat-shed. He made no objections, and after a couple of days the man in charge of that department reported that he was an adept with both shears and needles. In the course of a week, however, we had a different report. There were seven or eight men in the shop, and every one of them was making a pair of trousers. Some other department, the foreman was a free man and a very intelligent one, and I could neither ridicule nor contradict him. He said that several of his men had fallen asleep while at work, while all of them had acted strangely and spoiled more or less work. Needles, thread and pieces of cloth had taken flight, and in one instance a coat which was lying on the table before him suddenly disappeared and was found on the floor twenty feet away. If I had not personally experienced the fact that No. 4,820 possessed of a strange power, I should have laughed these stories to scorn. But as it changed him to the storeroom as an assistant to the official there.

A curious thing happened when this change was made. After breakfast "The Mystery" was returned to his cell to wait for the transfer. The cells were three tiers in height and thirty-two cells in a tier. The man had the first cell from the entrance on the ground floor, and was in plain sight of the official having charge of the corridors. The corridor was being cleaned as usual, and No. 4,820 was not locked in. Ten minutes after the prisoner's arrival in the corridor and two minutes after the official had glanced at him the man disappeared. There was the cell, with the door wide open, but it was empty. The official was not alarmed, as it would be impossible for the man to get out of the corridor, but he was surprised and mystified, and called up all the men at work. Not one of them had seen him leave his cell. The stairway leading to the upper tier was right there, and the official was sure No. 4,820 could not have passed up.

A search was made, and he was found seated in the last cell on the upper tier. There were six or seven men to affirm this, and, though I was skeptical, it could not have been just a coincidence. The official in charge of the storeroom was a young man of strong character and had heard nothing whatever about the strange prisoner. The assistant warden took No. 4,820 over and turned him over with a brief remark in the office. The entrance and exit of the storeroom were in the main yard, within the walls.

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BORN.

Digby, Sept. 7, to the wife of H. Vantassel, a son. Pictou, Sept. 6, to the wife of W. F. Tanner, a son. Halifax, Sept. 10, to the wife of Thomas Curran, a son. Skerville, Sept. 1, to the wife of Capt. P. Hanson, a son. Kentville, N. S. Aug. 12, to the wife of A. L. Corey, a son. Gagetown, Sept. 5, to the wife of Thos. H. Gilbert, a son. St. John, Sept. 11, to the wife of Frank S. Scamell, a son. North Sydney, Aug. 31, to the wife of Dennis Connell, a son. Amherst, Sept. 6, to the wife of James E. Lushy, a son. Wolfville, N. S. Sept. 4, to the wife of Geo. Tibbets, a daughter. New Horton, Aug. 29, to the wife of Joseph Keiver, a daughter. Lunenburg, N. S. Aug. 21, to the wife of Chas. Bertranger, a son. New Glasgow, Sept. 5, to the wife of John G. Thompson, a daughter. Point Tupper, N. B. Sept. 6, to the wife of H. K. McDonald, a son. St. Margaret's Bay, Sept. 5, to the wife of Isaac Dauphinee, a son. Middle Sackville, Sept. 2, to the wife of Lawson Smith, a daughter. Baxter's Harbor, N. S. Sept. 8, to the wife of John Baxter, a daughter. Lunenburg, N. S. Sept. 1, to the wife of Robert Truro, Sept. 2, to the wife of Alex. Grant, a son. Mount View, N. B. Sept. 2, to the wife of Arthur Thompson, a daughter. New Horton, N. B. Sept. 5, to the wife of Fletcher B. Cannon, a daughter.

MARRIED.

St. John, Sept. 7, Thomas Price to Emma McMillan, Annapolis, Sept. 6, Alexander Ritchie to Ada A. Buckler. St. John, Sept. 7, Rev. Dr. Wilson, William Foster to Ella Johnson. St. John, Sept. 12, by Rev. Geo. Bruce, Robert Reid to Maggie Wilks, a daughter. Windsor, Sept. 5, by Rev. J. K. McClure, David D. Hill to Mary E. Artz. Lunenburg, Sept. 6, by Rev. J. L. Batey, George H. Black to Harriet Sturman. Carleton, Sept. 13, by Rev. Mr. Gordon, Brazil McLean to Lizzie Harset. Halifax, Sept. 8, by Rev. C. Carmody, William E. Leary to Alice M. Fobner. Campbelltown, by Rev. W. C. Matthews, Stephen W. Turner to Jane Skene. St. John, Sept. 7, by Rev. Canon DeVeber, Samuel Lord to Mary H. Lord. Newfort, Aug. 31, by Rev. J. W. Falconer, James Harvey to Jessie Harvey. St. John, Sept. 6, by Rev. Fisher Weigel, Jos. Corkery to Maggie Lloyd. St. John, Sept. 6, by Rev. Dr. Wilson, Samuel A. Frederick to Sarah J. Cronk. Fredericton, Sept. 6, by Rev. Canon Roberts, Thos. Dyer to Fanny R. Maxwell. 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