

The Midnight Guest

By FRED M. WHITE

Author of "The Crimson Blind," "The Corner House," etc.

(Continued.) The dreary song came to an end at length; then it was followed by two so-called sisters, who, in short skirts and large picture hats, discoursed of the joys of country life in a peculiarly aggressive Cockney accent.

All Walter's apathy had vanished, as he turned to the stage and scrutinized the scowling and carefully so far as the scowling capacity, Valdo felt the Englishman could judge, Valdo felt the Englishman with a foreign name, but a genuine foreigner, presumably of Italian birth.

The performer flattered down again from the wings as lightly as an eagle, and he had risen, and a tremendous outbreak of applause followed. When the dim hall lights were extinguished, the stage manager came forward, and the audience was invited to give themselves chase and come up and see for themselves that everything was fair and legitimate.

Let's have a chat with him," Venables whispered. "Apart from the thing being decidedly interesting, there properly were some good copy here. Oughtn't we to get some good copy here. Oughtn't we to get some good copy here."

It was made their way behind the stage to a dingy little room, insufficiently lighted with one gas lamp, and the light stage was in a turmoil. It was almost impossible to see for the dim. Then very briefly and modestly, he had found out his peculiar powers by a series of experiments with the parachute.

There was no doubt whatever about it, Delahay. There was no mistaking that white, stern face. It was only for a moment, but that moment had been enough for Lane.

CHAPTER IX. The Confidential Agent. All that evening and most of the next day Walter brooded over his startling discovery. He said nothing to anybody about it, though he had attempted the night previously to follow up the clue. The attempt had failed, however, for though Walter had waited outside the theatre, he saw no more of Mrs. Delahay. And as to the man Valdo he eventually went off by himself. There was nothing for him now but to wait and see what was going to happen.

Meanwhile, public interest in the Fitzjohn Square tragedy had not abated in the least. Everybody was waiting eagerly enough for the inquest, which was to be held at four o'clock on the day following the mysterious attack upon Lord Ravenspur. The latter had come down somewhat late in the morning, looking but little the worse for his adventure. It was not expected that the inquest would be more than formally opened, and it was generally known that Lord Ravenspur would be an important witness.

In view of the extraordinary interest taken in the affair the proceedings had been moved to a public hall. Long before the time arranged for opening the enquiry the hall was packed to its utmost capacity. After the police and medical evidence had been taken, the first witness called was Lord Ravenspur. His fine, picturesque figure stood out in the strong light. He gave his evidence clearly and well, though his voice shook from time to time with emotion which was only natural, seeing that the dead man had been no close a friend of his.

After all, he had little to tell. He described his late visit to Fitzjohn Square, and how he had been at work on a picture there until such time as the picture was extinguished and he was forced to abandon his task. "You thought nothing of the lights going out?" the coroner asked. "You saw nothing suspicious in that?" "Well, no," the witness replied. "You see, it is no unusual occurrence for the supply of electric light to fail. The thing so easily happens, as is the house has been empty for some time it occurred to me that perhaps there was a fault somewhere or, perhaps, the workmen had not quite finished their job."

"Quite so," the coroner observed. "Tell me, did you hear any noise in the house, or any suspicious sounds?" "Nothing whatever. Until the light went out there was nothing whatever to disturb me. In fact, I was so intent upon my work that I was quite lost to everything else."

ST. DAVID'S CHURCH TENNIS SEASON OPENS. For some days men have been at work getting the croquet and tennis courts in shape for St. David's Sunday School Tennis Club. Last evening the tapes were laid on the tennis court, and it is now in good condition for play. For more than a week, members of the club who enjoy croquet have been playing during the evenings.

SOUTH AFRICA A LAND OF MANY PLAGUES

The Jigger Flea for Humans and the Tsetse Fly for Cattle.

Profound Depression Throughout Rhodesia and Central Has, Apparently, Lost All Confidence in the Country.

(Victoria Colonist.) Rhodesia cannot be a particularly nice place to live in, according to the opinion of John Glickman, a Russian who has spent a great many years in Southern and Central Africa and knows the country thoroughly. Mr. Glickman, who has been through both the Matibele campaigns as well as the South African war, in the latter he was in the Imperial Light Horse, receiving two wounds. Rhodesia, just now appears to be in a state of profound depression, according to Mr. Glickman, and he estimates that the British investment in the country is about \$100,000,000. Nearly all the mines have been abandoned by the companies as they are not profitable, or else not sufficiently rich to pay for mining on a large scale. The London market for Rhodesia securities is practically dead. There has been a great deal of wild talk in Rhodesia, it is estimated that the gold mines have been sunk in mining. The Globe and Phoenix and one other lately, but only two companies have returned. The Globe and Phoenix and one other lately, but only two companies have returned. The Globe and Phoenix and one other lately, but only two companies have returned.

There are a number of ancient ruined cities in Rhodesia, which some say are of Phoenician origin and date from the time of Solomon. They are supposed to have got their gold from there. There are remains of places which were once very important. They are all worked out and the latter are worked down to the water level, when the shafts are abandoned. These have been opened up, but the mining has not proved remunerative except for prospectors. Many of these are doing well. They use a portable stamp mill, with batteries of five or ten stamps, supplied by Frazer & Chalmers, and work at a given place till the pocket gives out, and then move on. They are making good money in a small way by this method.

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LESS IMMIGRANTS' BUT OF BETTER QUALITY. Montreal, May 21.—There has been a marked falling off in the number of immigrants coming to Canada during the present year, despite a general impression that the number was, if anything, increasing.

ST. JOHN CIVIL SERVANTS APPEAL HEARD AT OTTAWA. Ottawa, May 21.—In the supreme court today, the appeal of Abbott vs. the City of St. John was taken up. The question raised on this appeal is whether or not the municipality of St. John had power under the provincial legislation to assess the income of the officials of the Dominion government.

2 More Days Left 2

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PLAYS AND PLAYERS

GREAT LAUGH AT NICKEL. Variety, the spice of life, is one of the distinguishing features of the Nickel's shows these fine spring days, and the new programme, which commences at noon, is a continuation of a first-class line of varied pictures.

AT THE PALACE. An exceptionally fine bill is being presented at the Palace theatre (formerly City Hall, Carleton) today. Harrison and Moffatt will be seen in their greatest comedy success, 'Tommy Atkins.' Fourteen excellent motion pictures have been secured in 'A House to Let,' 'The Drunken Student,' 'The Explosive Call' and 'The Farmer's Daughters.'

HOOLIGAN IN NEW YORK. 'Hooligan in New York' was the play presented at the Opera House last evening, and was well received by a fairly large audience.

AMHERST AMATEURS COMING. The Emerald Dramatic Club of Amherst, N. S., will appear at the Opera House on Tuesday, the 27th inst. The Amherst amateurs scored a big hit in their native town.

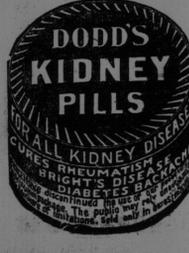
ALONG THE KENNEBEC. 'Along the Kennebec,' a New England comedy drama, now in its third successful season, will be produced at the opera house Monday and Tuesday next, May 23, 24. The play is moulded along the same idea as 'The Old Homestead,' 'Shona Acres' and 'York State Folks,' and deals with country life.

ON THE BILL OF FARE. 'Well, what's on the bill of fare to-day?' inquired the gen. drummer. 'Beg pardon, sah—ah sussa dey's fry-specks. Ah'll git 'em sauder, sah.'—Judge

FROM THE OUTSIDE. Little Margie (after watching her grand brother devouring several large sections of chocolate cake).—'Mamma, isn't it funny how much larger Jimmy really is than he appears to be from the outside?'—Judge

NOT ENCOURAGING. 'Do you ever buy poetry?' 'Well, I admit I bought a copy of Tennyson's 'Once,' I admitted the editor—Philadelphia Ledger.

FIRE ON TUGBOAT. The fire department was called out at 11 o'clock this morning by an alarm from No. 28 for a fire on the tugboat Neptune, lying in the harbor. The tugboat was in danger, the boiler caught fire, but the blaze was extinguished before much damage was done.



EMPIRE DAY IN SCHOOLS. To-day was observed in the city schools as Empire Day. Lessons of a patriotic nature were taught and in several of the schools a programme of exercises appropriate to the day were carried out.