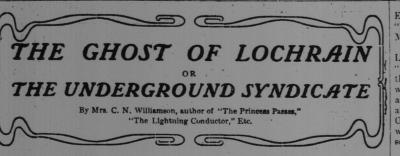
POOR DOCUMENT

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH. ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1907



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bo this morning."
"What? You been talking together this morning? I was going to try and pump you, without letting you find out what I was doing, but now I begin to see it isn't a continue there is the theory of theory of

"Shall I tell all the truth?" "Why, of course." At this encouragement Elspeth proceed-ed to give Captain Oxford a short sketch of the journey; how she had heard his name mentioned by Mr. Kenrith; how Lady Lambart had not seemed pleased with the news that he was staying at Lochrain Hydro; and how she (Elspeth) had fancied from the look on Lady Hill ary's face that her emotion was very dif-terent. "I didn't try to listen," the girl apolo-gized, "but I couldn't help being inter-ested because it seemed such a romance, and Lady Hilary is such an ideal heroin for a love story." "Bless her, I should think she was!" ex-claimed the young man. "The only heroin

"Bless her, I should think she was!" ex-claimed the young man. "The only heroine possible for a love story of minc, even if I were banished to some far country, and knew that I could never see her again. She knows that I love her, of course, and I do think she likes me a little, but I am afraid she will never go against her inother's wishes, and marry me. Perhaps I oughn't even to wish it, for she is go lovely, she could have anybody, and I'm a poor man, heavily handicapped in many ways. But I can't rise to such heights of unselfishness."

Oxford's side now.

ways. But I can't rise to such heights of inurder that baffied the police last year, the editor published a series of extraord-inary anonymous letters that served the object of selling the issues in which they appeared, if no other."
"Do tell me why you think so—or do rou only say it to be kind?"
"I think so because of something that the mean later and later and later and the mean later and later "I think so because of something that happened this morning." And then she told him how Lady Hilary had been as one struck with a blow, on hearing from the gossip of Lady Ardcliffe that he had been dangerously wounded. She told also how she had managed to give the girl news of the real state of his health, when she heard of it from Mr. Grant. "You really do seem to have been sent here by Providence, Miss Dean." said Captain Oxford, half laughing, half seri-ous. "Of course, you guessed why I asked that I might have you to write letters for "You hoped that, as I had seen Lady"



face of oak, there was no door or any means of opening the wainscot there. When she was satisfied that, if the wall hid any secret, it was not to be found out oy her that night, she sat for a time, out oy her that night, she sat for a time, and Collections Ware \$3,700

hid any secret, it was not to be found out oy her that night, she sat for a time, and waited, so still she scarcely breathed, for any repetition of the sounds. But nearly an hour passed, and all quiet. Noth ing could be accomplished by waiting long er, Elspeth decided, and shivering with the night chill, she crept back to bed. She did not expect to sleep, but fatigue overcame fear, and from puzzling over the mystery in waking thoughts, she began heavily striving to decipher it in a tangled maze of dreams. As before, she slept un-till board daylight; but it was earlier than on the previous day, and when she had dressed hastly, she thought that she would have time before the coming of the servant with breakfast, to venture on some explorations. But they were even more brief than she expected, for a she had supposed, there was no way of above, had been built up with brick, which formed a solid wall. On the floor below, the door of the room under hers was not locked, and a glance showed that there was no mystery there. The ways coting had been prepared long ago by

below, the door of the room under hers was not locked, and a glance showed that there was no mystery there. The ways coting had been prepared long ago by some person of bad taste, and not being renewed evidently, for many years, it had fallen into a bad repair A few pieces of old furniture, and some empty packing boxes and rolls of carpets, were the sole contents of the room, and all were plain by sible in the bleak light which stream d through the two uncurtained windows. From the room on the ground floor, came sounds of hammering, and Elspeth guessed that the carpenter who, according to the housekeeper, had his quarters there, was already at work. It was more than im-probable that there should be any visible means of communication with the upper floors, in a room used as a carpenter shop, and if there were a secret one, if would not be possible for her to seek it while the girl's exploring expedition did not last ten minutes, and she gleaned nothing from it, save one thought, which struck he as somewhat significent. Why, she asked herself, had this one room—the one she occupied—been kept in repair, while the