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The Finger of God

By William Beatty.

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CHAPTER I.

The dusk of an April night was beginning to deepen into the darkening as three men came into view over the sand hills of the bay of Drum.

A bleak, wet, blustering day—one of those gray days common to the eastern coast of Scotland—but tonight evening's dreary cheerfulness had broken through the thin and hurrying rack of cloud.

"A dirty night," observed the laird of Drum, a handsome but somewhat discontented looking man.

"Aye, aye," returned the captain, "it has been a dull day, sir; but I canna mind that I've ever been at a funeral on a cheery, it's aye a dirty day for a burrying."

"Zounds, I believe you are right," shrugged the laird; "but 'Dewar had always had luck."

"That's true," sighed the third, "but as holy writ hath it, 'Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward.'"

"Aye, just as every craft is built to founder," interposed the captain; "only some do all the sailing, while the others do the sinking."

"Yes, it would seem so," returned the laird, representing a leaning fancy, though he added that our friend must have seen some life before he settled at Drum."

"Well, whether he did or not, he was a good neighbor," said the doctor, coming to a stand. "And his character and abilities were as much beyond dispute as the laird's here, and he is accounted a good man in these parts."

"So I have heard," said Macrae.

"Never heed him, captain," said the laird, with a scarcely veiled air of self-satisfaction. "Leslie's partial."

"It's the truth, all the same," affirmed the doctor. "Though what you've done, he added sardonically, "to merit the character, beats me; you simply don't know what life is, man. But the long and short of it is, laird, there's many a ship held as worthy that has never known a weath'."

"Oh, come, Leslie," protested the laird, "in no perfect, I leave, but if you mean to imply that I should give way to the first temptation, then—"

"But, but, man, it was but a general observation. I had Drum's character and one whom, two years before, in his capacity as magistrate, he had sentenced to a term of imprisonment."

"Maybe," answered Pitullo indifferently, "I might without your knowing it, have seen you and passed word to the preventive men," explained the laird.

"God's true," assented Jan.

"Aye, aye, ye might," nodded Pitullo.

"Well," pursued the laird, "as I did not get the chance and there is no one a bit like you, save me, I suppose you won't object to putting me aboard, and he drew himself stily together, as if he were rising.

"But something—a certain undefined hostility perhaps, or the lowering influence with which he received his request—dissatisfied the laird of Drum and caused the blood to sing through his ears.

"Dot would never do," said Jan at last.

"No," said Pitullo, in a tone of conviction, "it wouldna."

"Not do!" faintly ejaculated the laird, and why not?"

"Weel, ye see, laird," volunteered Pitullo, with a sort of grim satisfaction, "it's this way. Not having been so friendly to us as ye might, it would hardly serve, see ye ashore now—ye ken our muckle."

"But if I gave you my word to forget both you and your trade?" questioned the laird.

"The Dutchman shook his head skeptically, and Pitullo laughed.

"We had better leave it to the laird," suggested the latter.

"Ja, de laids will settle it," nodded Jan.

"Aye, aye, the laird will settle it," mockingly echoed the smuggler, as, without a word of preface, he proceeded, regardless of expostulation, to tie the captive hand and foot.

"State bind, safe bind," he grinned as he turned on his heel and followed Jan.

"For half an hour after that the unfortunate man was left to himself and the noises of the night. At intervals between the swilling of the sheets and the creaking of the cordage he could hear the clatter of the glasses and the argle-bargle of any men, at which last the contention growing stronger with the drunk, a terrible fear oppressed him. He realized that he was in the hands of reckless, lawless men, who bore him little love, and he trembled for the felt that their decision regarding his disposal would be guided by considerations of self-interest rather than by the dictates of humanity.

And his conviction on that head was only too fully borne out when presently the whole crew of smugglers came stumbling upon deck.

"Well," asked the laird, his voice shaking as even a brave man's will at times, "have you settled the matter?"

"We have, laird," nodded Dick Pitullo, who had evidently been deputed by the rest to acquaint him with their decision. "We've settled it. Ye mean either join us or gang quietly over the side."

"Impossible!" he gasped.

"It's the truth, though," insisted Pitullo. "It's either a big shot to your heels or the other thing, laird, no, laird."

"(To be continued.)"

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Fashion Hint for Times Readers A BONNET FOR THE SMALL GIRL. The quaint bonnet styles are especially becoming to pliant young faces, and one of these pretty bonnets may readily be fashioned by mother figure. The shape may be bought ready to cover or an ordinary wide-brimmed mushroom shape may be used, the back being cut away to give the narrow bonnet back effect. A big piece of double-width satin is draped softly over stiff capnet to form the crown. The satin trim is faced with shirred chiffon. At the back are rosettes and streamers of narrow velvet ribbon, several bolts of the ribbon being used to give generously full trimming.

GRAY'S Syrup of Red Spruce Gum A safe, sure and prompt cure for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchial and Throat Affections. 25c. and 50c. a bottle. At all drug stores.

Cowan's "Perfection" Cocoa is the perfect food drink for children. Highly nutritious—easily digested—delicious and economical. The Cowan Co. Limited, Toronto.

COAL CARS PILED ON NORTON TRACK Six or Seven Were Smashed up in an Accident Last Night.

Six or seven coal cars left the track at Norton about 7:45 o'clock last evening and piled up across the main line, blocking the road for a time. No one was hurt. A special freight train from Moncton on the way to St. John, in charge of Conductor Gibson, was taken on the coal cars at Norton and kept them to St. John. Leaving the freight train, the engine went on the siding and coupled on to the coal cars. In shunting, however, and due to the brakesman not giving proper signals, the cars went off the track at an open switch and piled on to the main line. The engine did not leave the rails.

HINDOOS REFUSE TO MOVE FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA They Are Not in Favor of the Proposition That They Should Locate in British Honduras and Would Not Listen to the Report of Federal Commissioner.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 7.—J. B. Harbin, the federal government's commissioner to arrange for the sending of 1,000 Hindoos to Honduras, has decided that his task is impossible and that the Hindoos will not move from British Columbia. Harbin and several investigators, who were in the city last night, were threatened with bodily attack by a band of stalwart Sikhs.

Having returned from Honduras, yesterday was set by Harbin for an explanation of his immigration scheme in detail. In company with Dr. Alex. Monroe and J. H. MacGill, of the immigration department, and several other officials, he was in the city last night, being threatened with bodily attack by a band of stalwart Sikhs.

CRACKED HIS HEAD WITH AN IRON BAR One Sailor Severely Injures Another During a Fight on Board Ship.

New York, Dec. 7.—In a rough-and-tumble fight last night aboard the schooner James Lamphere, from Philadelphia, anchored at Ellis Island, between mate George Bailey, N. C., and one of the crew, August John Dekraus, a big Portuguese sailor, Dekraus is alleged to have hit the mate over the head with an iron bar and cracked his skull. Bailey is in a hospital here in a critical condition. Dekraus was overpowered and taken to the police station. He is being held to await the result of Bailey's injuries.

CHRISTMAS GAMES FOR BRITISH TOTS Many Novelties in Toys Placed on the Market for the Expectant Youth.

London, Dec. 7.—Already the shops are beginning to wear a Christmas aspect. The bulk of the orders for Christmas goods has been placed with the large wholesale houses, and they are now chiefly concerned with delivery to the retailers.

SUFFERING DROVE HIM TO SEEK DEATH Patient in New York Consumption Hospital Shot Himself Yesterday.

New York, Dec. 7.—Louis Evans, 19, shot himself dead yesterday in the Riverside Hospital, North Brothers Island, where he had been under treatment for consumption for four months. He was found by a nurse, and an orderly who had heard two shots, lying on the floor of the ward bathroom, with a revolver in his right hand. From the position of the body it is believed that Evans stood in front of a mirror when he fired the fatal shot into his left breast.

JOHNSON L. O. L. ELECTS OFFICERS Johnson Lodge, No. 24, L. O. A., elected the following officers last evening: J. L. Cogswell, W. M.; Jas. McKinney, sr., D. M.; John Barnes, chaplain; M. A. Seaton, recording secretary; W. Simpson, financial secretary; Jas. Holman, treasurer; John T. Howe, D. of C.; Charles Myers, lecturer; Walter Mumford, deputy lecturer; Henry East, foreman of committee; D. V. Webster, D. W. Dunham, J. G. Sullivan, Thomas McAfee, members of committee.

AN INTERESTING DAY IN STEEL-COAL CASE Argument is Finished and Both Sides Are Now Confident of a Favorable Judgment.

Montreal, Dec. 7.—A London correspondent cables that arguments in the Steel-Coal case ended today. Judgment was reserved and there is a possibility that it may not be delivered until early February.

REPORT THAT FACTORY INSPECTOR MUST GO It is Definitely Stated That Capt. McMulkin Must Give Up His Place to John Kenney, Jr.

The story that Capt. John McMulkin, factory inspector, is to be relieved of his position to make way for a Conservative worker, John Kenney, jr., who is now employed in Haley Bros' factory, published in the Telegraph some weeks ago, is now being denied. It is now learned on good authority that Mr. McMulkin is to be asked to retire after the first of the year.

PANAMA CANAL BONDS SOLD WELL ABOVE PAR Washington, Dec. 7.—Secretary Cortelyou of the U. S. treasury today announced that the Panama Canal bonds had been sold at an average of 102.980. The lowest accepted bid was at \$102.278. The total number of regular bids received was 831 and the total amount of the bonds was \$102,800,000.

BRIGHT LITTLE GIRL A teacher, after patiently defining words in a spelling lesson, gave the word "gruesome" from among them, to be put into a sentence, with this result from the bright little girl at the head of the class: "I cannot wear my last summer's dress, because I grew some."—Life.

THE TIMES DAILY PUZZLE PICTURE Mary, Mary, quite contrary, How does your garden grow? Silver bells and cockle shells, And pretty maids all in a row. Find the gardener. ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE. Right side down, at left arm.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS SMALL KIDNEY DISEASES. CURE FOR RHEUMATISM, BRUISES, BURNS, SCALDS, AND ALL OTHER AFFECTIONS OF THE KIDNEYS.

WHY HE WONDERED A certain county police inspector was reviewing a R. I. O. station, the sergeant of which was a very bad speller. Looking through the books, he came on a entry: "Found a pig wonderin on the public square." "Sergeant," said he, "what was the pig wonderin?" "I don't know, sir," said the bewildered man. "Well," said the inspector grimly, "I do. He must be wondering why I promoted you."

Only One "BROMO QUININE" that is Laxative Bromo Quinine & Co. on every Carve a Cold in One Day, Grip in 2 Days.