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THE MESSAGE

By LOUIS TRACY

Author of "The Wings of the Morning," "The Wheel of Fortune," "The Captain of the Kansas," etc.

(Continued)

He was on his knees when he lifted it in both hands and turned it around to ascertain what it was that had so upset his stout friend. In reviewing his first impressions subsequently, he arrived at the conclusion that close familiarity with the features of the West African negro must have blunted his mind to the true significance of the hideous face that scowled at him from the rounded surface of the calabash. He paid heed only to the excellence of the artist—none to the message of undying hatred of every good impulse in mankind that was conveyed by the frowning brows, the cruel mouth, the beady, snake-like eyes peeping through narrow slits cut in the outer rind. Were not the lineaments those of a pure negro, he would have imagined that some long-forgotten doyen of the Satsuma school had amused himself by concentrating in a human face all that is grotesque and horrible in the Japanese notion of a demon. But there was no doubting the identity of the racial type depicted. Warden could even name the very tribe that supplied the model. A curious crinkled ring that had formed round the gourd near the upper part of its egg-shaped circumference suggested the quoit-shaped ivory ornament worn by the men of Oku. Oku used to be a plague spot in West Africa. It is little better today, but its virus is dissipated by British rule.

Warden's kindling glance soon detected other important details. The raised ring, and certain rough protuberances that might have borne a crude resemblance to a man's face when the gourd was in its natural state, were utilized with almost uncanny ingenuity to lend high relife to the carving. Indeed, the surface had been but slightly scored with the artist's knife. Half-lowered eyelids, a suggestion of parted lips and broad nostrils, some deep creases across the brutish forehead, and a sinister droop to each corner of the month—these deft touches revealed at once the sculptor's restraint and power. The black skin was simulated by a smooth and shining lacquer, the ivory ring by a scraping of the rind that laid bare the yellow pith. No characteristic was over-accentuated. The work offered a rare instance of the art that conceals art.

And Warden felt that none but an artist worthy to rank with the elect could have conceived and carried out this study of some fierce negro despot. That it was a genuine portrait he did not doubt for a moment. It seemed to him that in its creation hate and fear had gone hand in hand in hand with marvelous craftsmanship. The man who exercised such cunning on the inferior material provided by a rough-coated calabash, was not only inspired by the pride of conscious power but meant to leave an imperishable record of a savage tyrant in his worst aspect. A great Italian painter, limning his idea of the Last Judgment, gratified his spite by placing all his enemies among the legion of the lost. This unknown master had taken a more subtle revenge. It was possible that the black chief, had he seen it, would have admired his counterfeit presentment. It demanded a more cultured intelligence than Oku society conferred to enable him to appreciate how plainly an evil soul leered from out a dreadful mask.

In no respect was the truth of the image more convincing than in the treatment of the eyes. A minute mosaic of chalcedony was used to portray white and iris and cornea. Small pieces of clear crystal formed the pupils, and the rays of light glinted from their depths with an effect that was appalling in its realism. Thus might the eyes of a cobra sparkle with vindictive fire. They exercised a diabolical mesmerism. Warden, rapt in his admiration of a general work of art, remained wholly unconscious of their spell till he heard a faint gasp of horror from the girl.

He turned and looked at her in quick dismay. All the roses had fled from her cheeks, leaving her wan indeed. Her own fine eyes were distended with fright. She, like Peter Evans, gave no heed to the consummate skill of the designer. She was fascinated at once by the basilisk glare. It thrilled her to the core, threatened her with immeasurable wrongs, menaced her with the spite of a demon.

"This is the most wonderful thing of its kind I have ever seen," said Warden eagerly.

Though he was not yet awakened to the magnetic influence exercised by the vile visage he could not fail to note the girl's consternation. He thought to reassure her by pointing out the marvelous craft displayed in its contriving.

"It is amazing in every sense," he went on, bringing the gourd nearer for her inspection. "Although the calabash is of a variety unknown in West Africa, the face gives a perfect likeness of an Oku chief. There is a man in Oku now who might have sat to the sculptor, though he is far from possessing the power, the tremendous strength, of the original. Yet it seems to me to be very old. I cannot, for thel ife of me——"

A loud crash interrupted him. Chris, removing the remains of the feast, had gazed for an instant at the astounding object in Warden's hands. The boy backed away, and tripped over a coil of rope, with disastrous result to the crockery he was carrying.

Warden's voice, no less than the laugh with which he greeted Chris's discomfiture, restored the poise of the girl's wits.

"You obtained that for me, did you not?" she cried with a curious agitation.

"Yes, of course," said he.

"Then give it to me, please."

He was certainly surprised, but passed the gourd to her without further comment. She half averted here eyes, took it unhesitatingly, and tried to pitch it into the water. or its size, it was astonishingly light. Were it as heavy as she imagined, it must have dropped into the Solent several yards from the vessel. As it was, it flew unexpectedly high, struck a rope, and fell back on deck, whence it bounded, with the irregular bounce of a Rugby football, right into Warden's hands gain

"That was a mad trick," he said almost angrily,

"Oh, please throw it away," she pleaded.

"Throw away a rare and valuable curio! Why?"

"Because it will bring you nothing but ruin and misery. Can you not see its awful meaning? Throw it away, I implore you!"

"But that would be a crime, the act of a Vandal. It may be the chiefest treasure of a connoisseur's collection. Would you have me ape some fanatic Mussulman hammering to atoms a statue by Phidias?"

"There is no beauty in that monstrous thing. It is—bewitched."

"Oh, really, Miss Dane—we are in England, in the twentieth century."

He laughed indulgently, with the air of an elder brother who had forgiven her for an exhibition of pettish temper. He held out the calabash at arm's length and viewed it critically. He saw immediately that the crown inside the ring was misplaced.

"Hello!" he muttered, "you did some damage, then!"

Closer inspecition revealed that the fall had loosened a tightly fitting lid hitherto concealed by the varnish used as a preservative. He removed it, and peered within.

"A document!" he announced elatedly. "Perhaps, after all, your unaccountable frenzy was a blessing in disguise. Now, Miss Dane, we may learn what you termed its 'awful meaning.' But, for pity's sake, don't yield to impulse and rend the manuscript. You have cracked his chiefship's skull — I pray you spare his brains."

CHAPTER III.

Wherein a Strong Man Yields to Circumstances.

Curiosity, most potent of the primal instincts, conquered the girl's fear. As it happened. Warden was still kneeling. He sat back on his heels, rested the calabash against his knees, and withdrew a strip of dried skin from its cunningly devised hiding-place. It was so curled and withered that it crackled beneath his fingers when he tried to unfold it. Quite without premeditation, he placed the calabash in such wise that the negro's features were hidden, and this fact alone seemed to give his companion confidence.

"What is it?" she asked, watching his efforts to persuade the twisted scroll to remain open.

"Parchment, and uncommonly tough and leathery at that."

He did not look up. A queer notion was forming in his mind, and he was unwishful to meet her eyes just then.

"It looks very old, she said.

"A really respectable antique, I fancy. Have you any pins — four, or more?"

She produced from a pocket a small hussif with its store of sewing accessories.

"A genie of the feminine order!" he cried. "I was merely hoping for a supply of those superfluous pins that used to lurk in my sister's attire and only revealed their presence when I tried to reduce her to subjection."

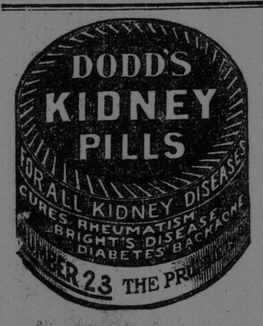
"Oh, you have a sister?"

"Yes — married — husband ranching in Montana."

(To Be Continued)

A meeting of the council of the board of trade will be held on Friday to consider the subjects to be taken up for discussion at the meeting of chambers of commerce of the empire in Australia in September. The delegates from here will be W. F. Hatheway, M. P. P., and James Pender. Mr. Hatheway will leave on the 29th inst. and Mr. Pender about a week later.

When trouble goes to sleep don't set the alarm clock.



Fashion Hint for Times Readers

COOL AND PRACTICAL TENNIS COSTUME.

This is a sensible get-up for all kind's of summer outing wear. The linen crash skirt buttons all the way down the front and may be opened and spread out flat on the ironing-board. This skirt is quite short, so that it may well escape the ground even when heelless tennis slippers are worn. The blouse is a simple, roomy garment of crossbarred lawn, the neat turnback collar and cuffs of linen being particularly dainty and neat in effect. The collar is finished by a little pleated lawn tie—washable, like all the rest of this trim costume.

CANADIAN MARKSMAN MAY LAND BIG PRIZE

Bisley Camp, July 21—Albert Sprinks, of Toronto, who is not on the Canadian team, but is a brother of Sergt. Sprinks, who is on the team, tied with Pte. McCae, of the 97th Argyle Highlanders, for the first place in the first stage of the King's prize with a score of 103. They will shoot off tomorrow.

Sprinks made 35 at 200 yards, 35 at 500 yards and 5, 5, 5, 5, 4, 4, 5—33—at 600 yards.

Of the Canadians, eleven made the second stage and five shoot off for places. Those who go to the second stage are: Freeborn, Huggins, Mitchell, Morris, Russell, Jones, Marsdon, McVittie, Creighton, Stack, McInnes.

These five shoot off with ninety-six others for places on the three hundred: Sergt. Smith, Gougeon, Bayles, Blackburn. Their scores were 95.

In the last nine years a score of 103 has won the first stage of the King's. In 1901 and 1904 the winning score was 101 and in 1906 a score of 100 carried off the prize. In 1902, 1903, 1907, 1908, 1909, the score was 103.

There are about 1,300 entries for the King's prize and of these all but 300 are thrown out at the end of the first stage. These 300 shoot the second stage and the best 100 of these shoot the third stage.

With a winning score of 103 last year, the lowest score to make the second stage was 94 and there were nine 94's counted out. This year the last score into the second stage was 95.

As the Duke of Connaught was passing along the 600 yard range he inquired of Freeborn: "Is that the Ross rifle you are using?"

Freeborn, not knowing the identity of the speaker, answered: "Yes, sure."

"May I look at it?" he was asked.

"Sure you can," was the reply and he explained the mechanism.

The duke's comment was: "It is a very heavy rifle."

The scores of the Canadians in the King's prize were:

	200	500	600	T'l.
*A. Sprinks	35	35	33	103
Freeborn	32	33	34	99
Huggins	32	33	34	99
Mitchell	32	33	34	99
Morris	35	32	32	99
Russell	33	35	31	99
Jones	34	34	31	99
Marsdon	35	30	33	98
McVittie	30	33	33	96
Creighton	31	32	33	96
Stack	33	31	32	96
McInnes	35	29	32	96
Sergt. Smith	32	31	32	95
Gougeon	33	30	32	95
*Blackburn	32	34	29	95
*Bayles	33	35	27	95
Kelley	32	32	31	95
*Brown	33	31	30	94
Lieut. Smith	32	34	28	94
Richardson	31	31	31	93
Sprinks	34	29	30	93
Kerr	33	32	28	93
Forrest	31	29	29	89
Copping	31	26	30	87

*Not on the team.

Yesterday produced another first place for the Canadians. Staff Sergt. Richardson, of Victoria, won the All-comers' aggregate, which is one of the coveted honors at short ranges. It is the aggregate of the Alexandra, 200 and 600 yards; the Daily Graphic, 500 and 200 yards; Graphic 500 yards and the Daily Telegraph 600 yards. Richardson's score was 167 out of a possible 175.

The prize is a challenge cup valued at £250 which Sergt. Richardson will not bring with him.

LYNN STRIKE LIKELY TO CLOSE SHOE FACTORIES

Lynn, Mass., July 21.—Every department in the James Phelan & Son shoe factory, employing approximately 800 hands, will close by the end of the week and two other factories are expected to follow suit within ten days because of the strike of the packing room employes, which was declared today. One other factory, it was rumored tonight, will make an effort to fill the places of the strikers. While the fight of the packing room employes for a new stand scale of wages is concentrated upon the factories of Phelan & Sons, V. K. & A. H. Jones, Joseph Caunt and P. J. Harney, a general strike in the shoe industry of this city will be considered, it is said, at a mass meeting of the packing room employes tomorrow night.

V. K. & A. H. Jones and Joseph Caunt said tonight that they have not yet decided what they shall do as to the operation of their plants. P. J. Harney throws some light upon his attitude by the declaration that "a cornered rat will always fight."

A. E. Little and Mr. Harney say that they have been receiving offers of factory sites in different parts of the country, especially Norwich (Conn.), and Baltimore (Md.), with the promise of being free from labor difficulties, ever since the disappointing issue of the recent peace plan movement, but nevertheless neither man intends to leave Lynn.

James Phelan & Son have decided to resort to lockout methods in handling the dispute with their packers, the following notice having been posted in every room of their factory today:

"A factory is similar to a fine machine. If any one wheel of the machine is broken or missing every other wheel and part is affected. So it is with a shoe factory organization. When any department cannot or does not do its part, all the other departments must of necessity, stop. It is regrettable that all departments must suffer by cessation from work, but the non-action of one department has necessitated this. When the missing part resumes its place in the organization, we can start."

Although there has been no violence thus far, a demonstration shortly after 6 o'clock this evening in the vicinity of the Harney factory on the part of the strikers and sympathizers against several employes who are said to have refused to fulfill the conditions of the union's ultimatum has caused the police to be in readiness to handle any outbreak. This afternoon the strikers were encouraged by the appearance on the public platform at one of the strikers' meetings of Michael J. Tracey, business agent of the Lasting Machine Operators, who was the leader of the successful general strike of last fall. Mr. Tracey warned the strikers not to resort to violence and advised them to stay away from the factory buildings altogether while their officers engaged in the work of organizing of other shops and prepared arguments for presentation to the public on the issue involved.

PILES Dr. Chase's Ointment is a certain and guaranteed cure for each and every form of itching, bleeding and protruding Piles. See testimonials in the press and ask your neighbors about it. You can use it and get your money back if not satisfied. 60c, at all dealers or EDMANSON, BATES & CO., Toronto.

DR. CHASE'S OINTMENT.

Almost Choked to Death

Mr. Lionel E. Schartz, a commercial traveler, writing from Winnipeg, Man., says: "Catarrhozone cured me of Asthma after the doctors had despaired of my recovering. I seldom slept through a whole night without waking up in a fit of coughing. Sometimes I almost choked to death. I have not been bothered since using Catarrhozone. It has cured me entirely. Catarrhozone is the only remedy I have ever met to give such good results.

The dollar outfit of Catarrhozone contains two months' treatment and invariably cures. Small trial size, 50c. All dealers or The Catarrhozone Co., Kingston, Ont.

ONTARIO'S NEW CROP OF WHEAT IN MARKET

Toronto, July 21—Ontario's first 1909 wheat was marketed yesterday at $1.10, ten cents lower than the present quotations for old stock. A car load was ordered by a Toronto dealer at that price from Norfolk county, where threshing is now proceeding. A sale of flour for export was made at the new quotations by W. B. Browne. Mr. Browne's advices are that the yield throughout western Ontario will be forty bushels to the acre of wheat, which is considerably better than last year. The acreage, however, is short.

The tax assessor thinks he has an excuse for being a pessimist.

JULY 22, '09.

To Every Man or Boy Who Needs Clothing and Furnishings

Oak Hall's Mid-summer Sale Means a Matchless Money-saving Opportunity

It's not the price you pay—it's what you get for your money that counts. But when you buy "Oak Hall" clothes **you not only pay less, but you get the best** that the successful experience of over twenty years can produce. You get clothes of assured satisfaction—none are better made and none can give more satisfactory service.

And being manufacturers our prices are always 25 to 30 per cent. lower than other stores.

But during our annual mid-summer sale our lowest prices are reduced so in buying at this sale **you really save half, or more.**

Here's a partial list of prices—but come see the clothes, that's the only way to appreciate the unequalled values.

Boys' Clothing-Really Reduced

2-Piece Suits that were $3.00 now	$2.45
2-Piece Suits that were 4.50 now	3.60
3-Piece Suits that were 3.50 now	2.85
3-Piece Suits that were 5.00 now	3.95
3-Piece Suits that were 8.00 now	6.40

Reefers and Overcoats at great reductions.
Washable Suits reduced one-third and less.

Men's Clothing-Really Reduced

$6.50 Fancy Tweed Suits reduced to	$4.30
7.50 Fancy Tweed Suits reduced to	5.15
10.00 Fancy Tweed Suits reduced to	7.85
12.00 Fancy Worsted Suits reduced to	8.35
15.00 Fancy Worsted Suits reduced to	10.65
8.00 Raincoats reduced to	5.95
12.00 Raincoats reduced to	9.45

Great Savings in Men's Furnishings

Soft Negligee Shirts, regular price 75c., 85c., $1.00—Sale price	59c.
Hard and Soft Bosom Shirts, regular price, $1.25, $1.50—Sale price	79c.
Hard and Soft Bosom Shirts, regular price, $1.75, $2.50—Sale price	$1.13
Workingmen's Shirts, regular price, 50c., 65c.—Sale price	37c.
Balbriggan Shirts and Drawers, regular price, 30c.—Sale price	19c.
Natural Wool Shirts and Drawers, regular price, 75c., 85c.—Sale price	59c.
Black and Tan Cashmere Hose, regular price, 35c.—Sale price	19c.
Cotton and Flanelette Nightshirts, regular price, $1.00—Sale price	59c.
All-Wool Sweaters, regular price, $1.00—Sale price	79c.
30c., 35c. and 40c. Suspenders, during this sale	19c.
Neckwear, silk four-in-hands, regular price, 35c.—Sale price	19c.
Umbrellas, regular price $2.00—Sale price	$1.19

All Straw and Felt Hats greatly reduced.

King Street Cor. Germain **GREATER OAK HALL**

SCOVIL BROS. LIMITED, St. John, N. B.

DIAMOND ROBBERY IN OTTAWA STORE

Strangers "Lift" Two Trays of Fine Diamonds from Ottawa Jewelry Store

Ottawa, July 21—Several hundred dollars worth of diamond rings were stolen by four strangers about noon today from the jewelry store of Alex. McMillan, Sparks street.

Two of the strangers engaged the attention of the clerks in the store at the time while the other two men leaned over the counter and lifted out two trays of rings and hurriedly escaped.

The police were notified and two men who boarded the Winnipeg train shortly afterwards were followed by detectives.

One of them, who gave the name of James Howard, was arrested as the train neared Hull but the other when he saw the detective place his companion under arrest took a flying leap from the train and escaped. The man under arrest declares he knows nothing of the robbery, but is held by the police pending further investigation.

LOWELL'S MAYOR HAS BIG AMBITION

George H. Brown, Policeman Mayor Wants To Be Governor of the State

Boston, July 21—Mayor George H. Brown, of Lowell, the former policeman who is now the chief executive of that city, is a tentative candidate for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in 1911, according to his own statement.

"Is it true, Mr. Mayor, that you have gubernatorial aspirations?" asked a reporter. Mayor Brown smiled. Then he said: "Well, I have been thinking of that. In fact, I have made up my mind to be a candidate for governor in 1911 if my health holds out. Just now I am not in the best of health and it is a question if I shall be able to withstand a campaign for governor. I shall certainly seek another term as mayor. I realize full well that in seeking to become governor I shall be up against the state machine. But I have had experiences with cliques, combines, machines or whatever you may wish to call them and they no longer have terror for me."

MISS PETERS AND THE PLAYGROUNDS

(Victoria Colonist.)

Among the guests of the Women's Councils in Victoria on Monday was a Canadian lady who has been very active in a good cause. This was Miss Peters, of New Brunswick. The work in which Miss Peters has been active is the establishing of playgrounds for children in the cities. Before this matter had attracted the attention which is now everywhere given to it, two terrible accidents to children in her home city of St. John, N. B., drew the attention of Miss Peters to the need of places where the children could play in safety. At first her proposal was laughed at as the plan of an amiable but unpractical enthusiast. Now she has seen it taken up, not only in St. John, but in most Canadian cities.

Now that playgrounds are opened in St. John, Miss Peters and her associates are endeavoring to get the schoolboard to undertake their care. She insists that not only in the cities, but in country districts much good would be done if the play-ground belonging to the schools were used not only during school hours, but in the evenings and on holidays. Miss Peters is a great believer in the virtue of organized healthy play as a preparation for citizenship. It is the children, and in all cities there are too many of them, who do not know how to play that in after life become loafers and criminals.

In our own cities, Miss Peters thinks, it is the part of wisdom to prepare for the future by setting aside space for playgrounds while land can be procured cheaply.

SOME DOUBT YET AS TO WHO WILL BE PREMIER

Leon Bourgeois to be Offered Position of Prime Minister of France, But it is Doubtful if He Will Accept.

Paris, July 21—President Fallieres tomorrow will offer the premiership to Leon Bourgeois, former minister of foreign affairs. This decision was reached late tonight, but as M. Bourgeois is not expected to reach Paris from Hamburg until tomorrow his actual attitude with regard to the appointment is not known. Parliamentary circles, however, foresee that he will decline the honor as his health is far from robust. Nevertheless, the cabinet crisis promises to be of short duration.

M. Clemenceau, the late premier; M. Dubost, president of the senate, and M. Brisson, president of the chamber of deputies, as a unit have counselled President Fallieres that M. Briand, minister of justice and worship, is the most available man after M. Bourgeois and it is understood that M. Briand is the president's second choice.

The parliamentary leaders of the majority told President Fallieres today that M. Clemenceau's defeat was a personal reproof directed against the premier for his attack upon M. Delcasse and that it would not check the policies of government which should be continued.

M. Briand, after Clemenceau, is the most conspicuous member of the retiring cabinet. Although the temper of the senate is described as rather cold to the elevation of M. Briand, the attitude of the chamber is said to be sympathetic. If he is named as premier it is expected that he will immediately reconstitute the Clemenceau ministry with Clemenceau omitted and commit himself to following up the programme of reforms laid down by the Clemenceau cabinet.

The entire political world remains completely stupefied at M. Clemenceau's action yesterday. No one can believe that an old campaigner like Clemenceau did not realize what he was doing and for this reason many advance the theory that he deliberately planned his own downfall. The general opinion is picturesquely summed up by Henri Rochefort, editor of the Patrie, who says:

"Clemenceau had overthrown so many ministers that he believed it proper to overthrow himself. He committed suicide yesterday by firing several phrases at his own head."

WHEAT IS CHEAPER

It Declines Three Cents Per Bushel in the Chicago Market

Chicago, July 21—Wheat declined nearly three cents per bushel on the board of trade today because of profit-taking by leading longs based on a free movement of the new crop. At the close prices were 1⅝ to 2⅝ below the closing figures of the previous session. Corn and oats also slumped sharply on favorable crop reports. Provisions were steady.

The best tea can be utterly spoiled by exposure to contaminating influences, as bulk teas so often are. The sealed lead packets of the "Salada" Tea Company give you tea fresh and fragrant from the gardens to the teacup. 62

SURE THING.

Little Boy—Say, uncle, when you were traveling through the west did you scalp any Indians?

Uncle Dick—No, but I scalped many a railroad ticket.

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture

A DARK SECRET.

What care I how fair she be
If she be not fair to me.
Possibly she fain would hide
Brunette locks with peroxide.

Find him.

Circular.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE.