

THE ST. JOHN EVENING TIMES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1904.

Two Blooming Two Criminals. Bay Trees.

BY DOUGLAS WINTON. 'I have seen the wicked...'

(Continued.) 'I knowed 'im at once, I did; I seed 'im when pore Bill were in 'is dock. Calls 'isselt Williams at 'is doos-house; but, bless yer 'ee's lost 'is self-respect, 'ee as-got squiffy of 'arf a pint o' gin, an' 'to' me all 'sabout 'it. Now, talkin' o' 'toffs, what I 'hic-says, in a 'hic-manner o' speakin'—'

which he yielded without seeking to understand it. An' 'nigh' I henc-quire—' 'The worky' said Piggy, antic- ipating the question. 'Oh! a mere nothing; just to drive a cab. ' 'One of us has to be near that brute all day, Childs-Gordon,' con- tinued Piggy as they quitted the room, while Mr. Peachey was giving himself his matutinal scratching and doing up his braces. 'We mustn't let 'im out of sight an' instant, till 't's time to steal the cab. I'll stay by 'im now, if you like, while you go off and get shaved and a bath, and buy clothes, and so on. Don't be more than an hour or so, as I have lot's to do myself. When you come back, you'll find us either in that little coffee-shop across the way or at the corner pub. Oh, never fear! our friend will be strictly mod- erate in his potations to-day, I'll see to that. Remember, a regular detective rig-out, suit of dittoed, bil- ly-cock, plain stick, square-toed boots, everything neat but not gaudy, you know. And, I say, Childs- Gordon, try to cultivate 'the military carriage a bit; your misfortunes have given you a regular crook to your back. ' 'It's awfully good of you, Porson, Childs-Gordon replied, 'and I'm all at a loss to know why you do it. I suppose, strictly speaking, according to the Sunday School books, I ought to reproove you for leading me into sin; but you see I was there be- fore, without any leading, so I don't. But how you found me, or why you picked me out for such a chance, I'm hanged if I know. Now you speak of it, I do remember see- ing you at your father's long ago; but you were only a schoolboy then, and—' 'I'll explain later on,' said Piggy, laughing. 'But I'll tell you this much now, we have met since then; in what has proved a very lucrative career. Ugh! here comes that big- infested beast for his breakfast. Cut away and get rigged out, while I feed 'im.' CHAPTER XIX. The Final Cup. At ten to the minute, a four-wheeled cab drove up to the door of 591, Park Lane, and a tallish clean-shav- en man jumped out, ran up the steps and rang the bell. He handed in a card, which the man-servant took away, returning directly to say that his master would see him at once. The interview took place in the same study in which Piggy had kept his 'vight' behind the curtain. Mr. Van Courtvoelt was evidently in a state of some excitement; his overcoat was on the table. He was just completing the loading of a small revolver, which he dropped into the pocket of his overcoat as his visitor entered. 'Thought it as well to have a gun, Sergeant,—or—Crossty,' he said, glancing at the card. 'Seems, though, these London tailors don't make no hips pockets no more.' 'I don't think there will be any need of it, sir,' said Sergeant Crossty, with a smile; 'but of course it can do no harm. By the way, sir, Inspector Mackay gave me a message for you.' 'An' how is the Inspector? Head all right again?' 'Well, no, I'm afraid I can't say that, sir,' replied Sergeant Crossty; 'he's pretty bad yet, but he'll see this through, whatever happens. That was a pretty nasty knock he got.' When Sergeant Crossty—that is, Childs-Gordon—said that Inspector Mackay was pretty bad, he spoke as a regular doctor. As a res- pectful disregard of the doctor's orders to drop work and lay up, he was at that moment occupying a bed at the Charing Cross Hospital, with erysipelas feared. 'The message sir,' he continued, 'was that he wants you to bring a cheque with you, ready written out and signed, for one hundred thou- sand pounds to bearer.' 'Why, what in thunderation—' he so palpably right and above-board; but in money matters it was in his nature to be cautious. 'I'm not altogether in the Inspec- tor's plans myself, sir,' said Ser- geant Crossty; 'but I think that his scheme is something like this: There are two men in this business, and to have a complete success, we want to collie both. B't, as only one of them will turn up at Vauxhall Viaduct, the Inspector has some scheme in which your cheque plays a part to get hold of the other.' 'Wa-all!' said the millionaire, who by this time had his cheque-book op- ened and his pen in his hand; 'the British police are to be trusted, an' I trust them; but I tell you, sir, I'd think a good many times afore I let any 'fob' of a N'York roundsman git away with a cheque for that amount in his pocket, to fool armine catchin' crooks with. Yes, sir, I've a sort o' notion it'd be good-bye crook well. Here's the bell. He handed in a card, which the man-servant took away, returning directly to say that his master would see him at once. The interview took place in the same study in which Piggy had kept his 'vight' behind the curtain. Mr. Van Courtvoelt was evidently in a state of some excitement; his overcoat was on the table. He was just completing the loading of a small revolver, which he dropped into the pocket of his overcoat as his visitor entered.

by, diving a hand into the million- aire's pocket, had possessed himself himself of the revolver. At the same instant Piggy gagged him with a hand over his mouth. Then, with cords and a gag, previously provided they proceed to bind and gag him scientifically. 'Any difficulty?' said Piggy laugh- ing. 'Difficulty!' replied Childs-Gor- don, 'he came like a lamb. Talk about abducting schoolgirls! A king of finance does as he's told, and don't even scratch. All right, sir,' he continued, patting the little man's shoulder; 'nobody's going to hurt you; but we'll talk later on; at pre- sent the conversation would be all one-sided. Now, Porson, got a light?' Piggy flashed his tiny electric torch, which was about the only tool of the trade which he was about to quit that he still carried. 'This,' said Childs-Gordon, taking it from his pocket, 'is the letter of warning to the bankers. I'll tear it into small pieces, see! Now, sir, an going to trouble you for your bankers to honour an overdraft, and here is the letter telling the bankers to honour an overdraft, open, as we arranged. Read it, Por- son, before I eat it up.' Piggy took it. 'Why, good God, Childs-Gordon!' he cried suddenly, 'this is the wrong letter; you've torn up the one we needed. This letter is to warn the bankers on no account to pay a cheque that will be presented, for a hundred thousand.' Childs-Gordon tore the gag from the millionaire's mouth and shook him savagely. 'You miserable little abortion!' he cried; 'did you mean that?' (To be continued.)

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