

THE CRIMSON BLIND

BY FRED M. WHITE

CHAPTER XI.

After Rembrandt.

"Before we go any farther," Bell said, after a long pause, "I should like to search the house from top to bottom. I've got a pretty sound theory in my head, but I don't like to leave anything to chance. We shall be pretty certain to find something."

"I am entirely in your hands," David said, wearily. "So far as I am capable of thinking out anything, it seems to me that we have to find the woman."

"Cherchez la femme is a fairly sound premise in a case like this, but when we have found the woman we shall have to find the man who is at the bottom of the plot. I mean the man who is not only thwarting the woman, but giving you a pretty severe lesson as to the advisability of minding your own business for the future."

"Then you don't think I am being made the victim of a vile conspiracy?"

"Not by the woman, certainly. You are the victim of some fiendish counterplot by the man, who has not quite mastered what the woman is driving at. By placing you in dire peril he compels the woman to speak to save you, and thus to expose her hand."

"Then in that case I propose to sit tight," David said, grimly. "I am bound to be prosecuted for robbery and attempted murder in due course. If my man dies I am in a tight place."

"And if he recovers your antagonist may be in a tighter," Bell chuckled. "And if the man gets well and that brain injury proves permanent—I mean if the man is rendered imbecile—why, we are only at the very threshold of the mystery. It seems a callous thing to say, but this is the prettiest problem I have had under my hands."

"Make the most of it," David said sadly. "I don't say I should see the matter in a more rational light if I were not so directly concerned. But, if we are going to make a search of the premises, the sooner we start the better."

Upstairs there was nothing beyond certain lumber. There were dust and dirt everywhere, save in the hall and front dining-room, which, as Bell pointed out, had obviously been cleared to make ready for Steel's strange reception. In the room, a keeper's room was a large collection of dusty furniture, and a number of pictures and engravings piled with

Advertiser Patterns

DESIGNED BY MARTHA DEAN.



A NATTY STYLE FOR THE LITTLE BOY—1612.

Little Boy's Dress, with Knickerbockers—SIZES for 3, 4, 5, 6 years. The 5-year size will require 2 1/2 yards of 36-inch material. This smart little model consists of a blouse and knickerbockers. It would be very becoming to the little man developed in white or colored pique, trimmed with braid. It is also suitable for checked gingham and the woolen materials.

A pattern of this illustration will be mailed to any address on the receipt of ten cents in silver or stamps.

PATTERN DEPARTMENT OF THE ADVERTISER.

Please send the above-mentioned pattern, with directions given below, to:

Name

Street Address

Town

Province

Measurement: Bust..... Waist.....

Age (if child's or misses' pattern)

CAUTION.—Be careful to inclose above illustration and send size of pattern wanted. When the pattern is received you need only mark 32, 34, or whatever it may be. When in waist measure, 22, 24, 26 or whatever it may be. If a skirt give waist and length measure. When misses' or child's pattern write only the figure representing the age. It is not necessary to write "inches" or "years." Patterns cannot reach you in less than one week from the date of order. The price of each pattern is 10 cents in cash or in postage stamps.

Address: PATTERN DEPARTMENT, LONDON ADVERTISER.

their faces to the wall. Bell began idly to turn the latter over.

"I am a maniac on the subject of old prints," he explained. "I never see a pile without a wild longing to examine them. And, by Jove, there are some good things here. Unless I am greatly mistaken—here, Steel, pull up the blinds! Good heavens, is it possible?"

"Found a Stistine Madonna or a stray Angelo?" David asked. "Or a ghost?"

"What is the matter?" Is it another phase of the mystery?"

"The Rembrandt," Bell gasped. "Look at it, man!"

Steel bent eagerly over the engraving. An old print, an old piece of china, an antique jewel, always exercising a charm over the novelist. He had an unerring eye for that kind of thing.

"Exquisite," he cried. "A Rembrandt, of course, but I don't recollect the picture."

"The picture was destroyed by accident after Rembrandt had engraved it with his own hand," Bell proceeded to explain. He was quite coherent now, but he breathed fast and loud. "I shall proceed to give you the history of the picture presently, and more especially a history of the engraving."

"Has any particular name?" David asked.

"Yes, we found that out. It was called 'The Crimson Blind!'"

"No getting away from the crimson blind," David murmured. "Still, I can quite imagine that to have been the name of the picture. That shutter of blind might have had a setting sun behind it, which would account for the tender warmth of the kitchen foreground and the deep gloom where the servers are seated. By Jove, Bell, it is a magnificent piece of work. I've a special fancy for Rembrandt engravings, but I never saw one equal to that."

"And you never will," Bell replied. "Save in one instance. The picture itself was painted in Rembrandt's modest lodging in the Kezerskroon Tavern after the forced sale of his paintings at that hostel in the year 1658. At that time Rembrandt was painfully poor, as his recorded tavern bills show. The same bills also disclose the fact that 'The Crimson Blind' was painted for a private customer with a condition that the subject should be engraved as well. After one impression had been taken off the plate the picture was destroyed by a careless servant. In a sudden fit of rage Rembrandt destroyed the plate, having, they say, only taken one impression from it."

"Then there is only one of these engravings in the world? What a find!"

"There is one other, as I know to my cost," Bell said, significantly. "Until a few days ago I never entertained the idea that there were two. Steel, you are the victim of a vile conspiracy, but it is nothing to the conspiracy which has darkened my life."

"Sooner or later I always felt that I should get to the bottom of the mystery, and now I am certain of it. And, strange as it may seem, I verily believe that you and I are hunting the same man down—that the one man is at the bottom of the two evils. But you shall hear my story presently. What we have to find out now is who was the last tenant and who the present owner of the house, and incidentally learn who this lumber belongs to. Ah, this has been a great day for me!"

Bell spoke excitedly, a great light shining in his eyes. And David sagely asked no further questions for the present. All that he wanted to know would come in time. The next move, of course, was to visit the agent of the property.

A smart, dapper little man, looking absurdly out of place in an exceedingly spacious office, was quite ready to give every information. It was certainly true that 218, Brunswick Square, was to be let at an exceedingly low rent on a repairing lease, and that the owner had a lot more property in Brighton to be let on the same terms. The lady was exceedingly rich and eccentric; indeed, by asking such low rents she was doing her best to seriously diminish her income.

"Do you know the lady at all?" Bell asked.

"Not personally," the agent admitted. "So far as I can tell, the property came into the present owner's hands some years ago by inheritance. The property also included a very old house, called Longdean Grange, not far from Rottingdean, where the lady, Mrs. Henson, lives at present. Nobody ever goes there, nobody ever visits there, and to keep the place free from prying visitors a large number of savage dogs are allowed to prowl about the grounds."

Bell listened eagerly. Watching him, David could see that his eyes glinted like points of steel. There was something subtle behind all this common-place that touched the imagination of the novelist.

"Has 218 been let during the occupation of the present owner?" Bell asked.

"No," the agent replied. "But the present owner—as heir to the property—I am told, was interested in both 218 and 219, which used to be a kind of high-class convalescent home for poor clergy and the widows and daughters of poor clergy in want of a holiday. The one house was for the men and the other for the women, and both were furnished exactly alike. In fact, Mr. Gates' landlord, the tenant of 219, bought the furniture exactly as it stands when the scheme fell through."

Steel looked up swiftly. A sudden inspiration came to him. "In that case what became of the precisely similar furniture in 218?" he asked.

"That I cannot tell you," the agent said. "That house was let as it stood to some sham philanthropist whose name I forget. The whole thing was a fraud, and the landlord only avoided arrest by leaving the country. Probably the goods were stored somewhere or perhaps seized by some creditor. But I really can't say definitely without looking the matter up. There are some books and prints now left in the house out of the wreck. We shall probably put them in a sale, only they have been overlooked. The whole lot will not fetch £5."

"Would you take £5 for them?" Bell asked.

"Gladly. Even if only to get them carted away."

Bell gravely produced a £5 note, for which he asked and received a receipt. Then he and Steel repaired to 218 once more, whence they feigningly returned the keys of the house to the agent. There was an air of repressed excitement about Bell which was not without its effect upon his companion. The cold, hard lines seemed to have faded from Bell's face; there was a brightness about him that added to his already fine physical beauty.

"And now, perhaps, you will be good enough to explain," David suggested.

"My dear fellow, it would take too long," Bell cried. "Presently I am going to tell you the story of the tragedy of my life. You have doubtless wondered, as others have wondered, why I dropped out of the road when the goal was in sight. Well, your curiosity is about to be gratified. I am going to help you, and in return you are going to help me to come back into the race again. By way of a start, you are going to ask me to come and dine with you tonight."

"At half-past seven, then. Nothing will give me greater pleasure."

"Spoken like a man and a brother. We will dine, and I will tell you my story after the house is quiet. And I ask you to accompany me on a midnight adventure you will not say me nay?"

"Not in my present mood, at any rate. Adventure, with a dash of danger in it, suits my present mood exactly. And if there is to be physical violence, so much the better. My diplomacy may be weak, but physically I am not to be despised in a row."

"We will try and avoid the latter, if possible," Bell laughed. "Still, for your satisfaction, I may say that it is just the chance of a scrimmage, and now I really must go, because I have any amount of work to do for Gates. I'll half-past seven, au revoir!"

Steel lit a cigarette and strolled thoughtfully homewards along the front. The more he thought over the mystery the more tangled it became. And yet he felt perfectly sure that he was on the right track. The discovery that both those houses had been furnished exactly alike at one time was a most important one. And David no longer believed that he had been to No. 219 on the night of the great adventure. The fact found himself thinking about Ruth's pale, gentle face and lovely eyes, until he looked up and saw the girl before him.

"You—you wanted to speak to me?" he stammered.

"I followed you on purpose," the girl said, quietly. "I can't tell you everything, because it is not my secret to tell. But believe me everything will come out right in the end. Don't think badly of me, don't be hard and bitter because."

"Because I am nothing of the kind," David smiled. "It is impossible to look into a face like yours and doubt you. And I am certain that you are acting loyally and faithfully for the sake of others who are in need."

"Yes, yes, and for your sake, too. Pray try and remember that. For my sake, too. Oh, if you only knew how I admire and esteem you! If only—"

She paused with the deep blush crimsoning her face. David caught her hand, and it seemed to him for a moment that she returned the pressure. "Let me help you," he whispered. "Only be my friend and I will forgive everything."

She gave him a long look of her deep, velvety eyes, she flashed him a little smile, and was gone.

(To Be Continued.)

POCKET FULL OF GEMS

American Arrested at Toronto on Charges of Larceny and Forgery.

Toronto, May 6.—Sheriff Williams, of Batavia, arrived this morning to take back Roy S. Cogswell, who was arrested last night on a charge of larceny and forgery. While Cogswell has been living at 9 Oaklands avenue with his wife, young son and mother-in-law, when arrested he was just stepping out of the King Edward Hotel to enter an automobile in which was a lady. While Cogswell had only about \$11 in money on his person when arrested there was found in his trousers pocket a pair of large diamonds and sapphire earrings and a gold pocket watch with precious stones. Cogswell was taken before the extradition commissioner this afternoon and will probably go back without making any legal fight.

During their visit to Lord Rosbery at the Durdans, Epsom, recent host of the Queen and the Dowager Empress of Russia planted lime trees on the lawn.

INVALID LADIES

This Is For You.

There are thousands of females who suffer untold miseries common to their sex. This is largely due to the peculiar habits of life and fashion, and the improper training of girlhood. Then, too, the physical changes that mark the three eras of womanhood (the maiden, the wife, and the mother) have much to do with her sufferings, most of which are endured in silence, unknown by even the family physician and most intimate friends.

To all such whose hollow cheeks, pale faces, sunken eyes, feeble footsteps, indicate nervousness, palpitation of the heart, weak, faint and dizzy spells, we would earnestly recommend a course of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills.

Mrs. Jos. Sharp, Brighton, Ont., writes: "I was troubled with palpitation of the heart, weak spells and nervous trouble, and found no relief until advised to try Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. I got one box and that helped me so much I sent for five more. I am now cured completely."

Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills are 50c per box or three boxes for \$1.25, at all dealers or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

EAT ORANGES

IF YOU WANT TO KEEP WELL.

Careful tests have proved beyond question that orange juice has clear, well-defined medicinal virtues. Those who suffer with indigestion—are compelled "to diet"—find that after eating oranges regularly for breakfast there is no distress, no palpitation.

Where there was a tendency towards constipation, the eating of oranges regulated the bowels.

In skin troubles, those who began the morning meal with an orange were noticeably improved.

There is, however, a quicker way to get better results. This is to take one or two "Fruit-a-lives" tablets at bedtime in addition to the juice of an orange before breakfast the next morning. "Fruit-a-lives" are the juices of oranges, apples, figs and prunes, in which the medicinal action is many times intensified by the special way of combining them. Valuable tonics are then added.

Take the juice of an orange before breakfast—take "Fruit-a-lives" at night—and you will quickly be rid of indigestion, stomach troubles, constipation and biliousness. "Fruit-a-lives" are sold by all dealers at 50c a box—for \$2.50. Sent on receipt of price by "Fruit-a-lives," Limited, Ottawa.

MONTREAL HORSE SHOW

The Ninth Annual Exhibition Opens at the Big Arena.

Montreal, Que., May 6.—The ninth annual horse show opened at the Arena this morning under favorable auspices, entries being very large, including many horses from the best-known Ontario stables. In the hackney stallion class, Terrington Cete-way, exhibited by Hon. Robt. Belth, of Bowmanville, got a blue ribbon.

The classes judged included heavy draught horses, thoroughbred stallions, mares or geldings, three to four years old, likely to make harness horses, hackney stallions and preliminary trial of forty-one jumpers.

MOUNTED POLICEMAN

TO GO 2,400 MILES

Leaving Edmonton He Will Travel Through to Hudson Bay.

Ottawa, May 6.—During the present season the authority of the Northwest Mounted Police will be extended to a part of the Canadian Northwest of whose resources and conditions but very little is at the present time known. This will carry the police patrol as far north as the line drawn from Great Slave Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, on Hudson Bay, and as a preliminary step in the matter Inspector A. Pelletier will set out from Edmonton this season on a trip of 2,400 miles, greater or less, of which will have to be made by canoe.

From Edmonton he will proceed to Athabasca Landing, and thence by water to Great Slave Lake. From the latter he will strike eastward until he reaches the Athabasca River, which, thence, empties into Chesterfield Inlet, and thence into Hudson Bay. There is a mounted police post at the mouth of Chesterfield Inlet, from which he will make his way to Fort Churchill and thence to Winnipeg.

Inspector Pelletier, to whom this hazardous enterprise has been assigned, is one of the younger members of the force, and saw active service in South Africa with the first Canadian contingent. During the past winter the American whalers operating in the Arctic Ocean adjacent to the mouth of the Mackenzie River and eastward along the coasts of the islands of what is known as Beaufort Sea have, for the first time on record, acknowledged Canadian authority in these remote regions by the payment of customs duties. The amount collected has been comparatively small, but the principle is important, as establishing in the region in question what has already been limited in Hudson Bay. The undoubted ownership of these northern lands by the British crown.

BLENHENIM MAN DROWNED

Was Prospecting in New Ontario and Capsized in Rapids.

Cobalt, May 6.—The first drowning accident of the Montreal River this season is reported in the camp from Red Pine Rapids. Everett May, a young man from Blenheim, Ont., met a watery grave there. He was going up the rapids, which are very dangerous at this time of the year, and his canoe was swept over by a log thrown out and pulled under by the current. His body has not yet been recovered. A companion who was with him in the canoe, managed to save himself, and was just communicating with May's people at Blenheim. May was unmarried and had come to the district on a prospecting tour up the Montreal.

ADVICE FROM WISE WU

Tells the Chinamen of New York to Drop the Factional Fights.

New York, May 6.—The Chinese minister to the United States, Wu Ting-feng, today delivered to his countrymen in this city some wise counsel drawn from the teachings of Confucius. His address, which was delivered in the picturesque Chinese theater in the heart of the most crowded and picturesque neighborhood of the city, was intended to promote the erection of a 100,000 temple of Confucius in this city. Incidentally the proposed temple is to be a kind of a gymnasium, to be equipped with a gymnasium, reading rooms, lecture rooms and a hall for the Chinese people.

"There should be no more factional fights among you," said Minister Wu, when he arose to address the assembled Chinese.

"You must have charity for one another and live together without distinction as to race or condition. Abolish your factions, and build up an organization according to the teachings of the great philosopher Confucius. Be sure to learn American ways, and its language, and associate with the American people when



"Dad says: 'No Pills needed as a spring medicine when Malta-Vita is regularly taken.'"—The KID.

Malta-Vita is a food with true medicinal value—it tones and strengthens the system and gives renewed energy to the entire body. It's the whole wheat, malted, in crispy, brown flake form—wholesome and delicious as well as nourishing. The malt's a tonic and there's no better time to try it than now. At all Grocery Stores.

Malta-Vita 10¢

You can and take great interest in what concerns all. A good way to learn the language and American ways is to attend Sunday school.

BRIBED BOTH SIDES

New York Street Railway Contributed to Both Political Parties.

New York, May 6.—During the course of the proceedings today in the investigation before Commissioner Hand of the charges against District Attorney W. T. Jerome, in connection with the conduct of his office, Mr. Jerome made a statement of what he said was the custom of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company to contribute to the campaign funds of both Tammany Hall and the local Republican organization.

"It was a matter of policy," said Mr. Jerome, "for the Metropolitan to get on the right side of the politicians in the city here all motions as to street opening have to be countersigned by the commissioner of water supply, gas and electricity, and by the borough president. Before the days of these contributions work often was delayed at great annoyance and expense, until the proper person had been seen."

He declared that every conceivable step was taken to bring the facts in the Metropolitan case to light.

THE BOY KING CROWNED

King Manuel of Portugal Takes the Oath of Allegiance.

Lisbon, May 6.—Manuel II., the boy king of Portugal, today solemnly took the oath of allegiance to his people, and all the traditional courtly observances were proclaimed the ruler of the nation.

The ceremonies occurred in the presence of a brilliant assemblage, made up of peers, deputies, court functionaries, members of the diplomatic corps and their wives, the delegates to the international telegraph conference now being held in this city, the Patriarch of Lisbon and all the prelates of Portugal, as well as a large gathering of women of the nobility. Holding the scepter in his left hand, the King placed his right hand on the sacred book of the Gospels and swore to maintain the Catholic religion and the integrity of the realm, and to observe the constitution and laws of Portugal.

After the oath had been taken, King Manuel read the following discourse: "My ideal is the nation's prosperity, and my ambition is the winning of my people's love."

WAITING FOR MONEY

Grand Trunk Will Rush Ottawa Line When Finances Improve.

Kingston, May 6.—Just as soon as money is available, General Manager Hays, of the G. T. R. system, says the Kingston, Smith's Falls and Ottawa Railway will be pushed through. Just now the G. T. P. is taking all the finances of the capitalists. Then, also, very extensive and important improvements will be made at Kingston to the railway system. This communication was made public at the annual meeting of the board of trade here.

H. W. Richardson, grain and mineral merchant, chosen president of the board in succession to W. T. Minnes, wholesaler, who had been in office for two years.

GILLET'S

HIGH GRADE

CREAM TARTAR

ABSOLUTELY PURE.

SOLD IN PACKAGES AND CANS.

Same Price as the cheap adulterated kinds.

E. W. GILLET COMPANY LIMITED

TORONTO, ONT.

"Silver Plate that Wears"

Any Jeweler

Can Supply You With

spoons, forks, knives, fancy

serving pieces, etc., marked

"1847 ROGERS BROS."

The beauty and quality of this

brand of silver is unrivaled.

SOLD BY LEADING DEALERS

Trays, tea sets and silver dishes

that impart elegance to the table

are made by

MERIDEN BRITA CO.

Take the Crimp

And Take a Good Look at It.

Make sure it's the crimp that insures easy washing and few destroyed linens.

In other words, make sure you are getting one of

Eddy's 2 in 1 Washboards

Your Grocer Has 'Em

And Eddy's Matches

D. McLEAN, Agent. 426 Richmond Street

Executor

Where is there an individual who is as capable to act as the executor of your will as this Company, which was organized and developed especially for this purpose?

This Company will carry out to the last letter the terms of your will. It will manage the estate efficiently and economically, and avoid legal entanglements.

It will not be tempted, as an individual might, to speculate with the funds held in trust. It is debared by law from speculation.

This Company cannot die, get sick or take a holiday—always ready to faithfully perform its trust.

Charges are never greater, but usually less than the remuneration allowed individuals.

Services of Family Solicitor always retained.

Correspondence receives prompt and careful consideration.

Managed in connection with the Huron & Erie Loan and Savings Co.

Canada Trust Co.

LONDON, ONTARIO.

Two Words Each From

25 "Sunshine" Testimonials

We would like to have you read the many nice things spoken about the

SUNSHINE FURNACE

but space forbids it. Therefore, we have glanced over just 25 testimonials and taken two words from each one. Here they are:

Easily shaken. No gas. Decidedly economical.

Very complete. Works perfectly. Best system.

Fuel saver. Real comfort. Admire it.

Endorse it. Many features. Fully appreciated.

Quickly operated. Effective flues. Big door.

Strong grates. Even heat. No dust.

Like water-pan. Labor saver. Best yet.

No other. Proven meritorious. Every satisfaction.

We're pleased.

TESTIMONIAL BOOKLET ON REQUEST

LONDON TORONTO MONTREAL WINNIPEG

McClary's