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What was worth his salt? I never did. Look at that bear, Slater, great fat brute, what a man three days bread-and-water as soon as look at him. A little bread and water'd do him good. Look at old Murray, call a man like that chief warden. I wonder what a chief fat-head's like for the governor—as for the governor—as-for—the governor—

The chapel was in confusion. The officers rose in their seats. Mr. Paley stood up in his pew, looking whiter than he went to do. It seemed as though the chaplain was struggling with an angel. He writhed and twisted, contending, as it were, with something—or some one—which appeared to be in front of him. His sentence remained unfinished. All at once he collapsed, and sinking into a heap, lay upon the steps of the altar-still.

"Take the man out," said the governor's quiet voice. "The men were taken out. The school-master was already at the chaplain's side. With him were two or three of the prisoners who sang in the choir. The governor and the inspector came and looked down at the senseless man.

"Seems to be in a sort of fit," the school-master said. "Let some one go and see if the doctor has arrived. Ask him to come up here at once." With that the governor left the chapel, the inspector going with him. "It's no good our staying. He'll be all right. I don't feel quite well."

Major Hardinge looked at him already out of the corner of his eyes. "Does he drink?" "Not that I am aware of. I never heard of it before. I should say certainly not."

"Is he mad?" "No—he has his peculiarities—but he certainly is not mad." "He has no other peculiarities?" "I have not known of his having one before."

When they reached the office the major began to pace about. "That chaplain of yours must be stark mad." "If so, it is a very unusual attack." "Did you hear what he said?" "Very well indeed."

"Never heard such a thing in my life! Is he in the habit of using such language?" "Hardly. Perhaps we had better leave it till he has had a good sleep. Possibly there is some simple explanation. I am afraid the chaplain is unwell."

"If he isn't unwell, I don't know what he is. Upon my word, Paley, I can't congratulate you upon the figure of your days. I don't know what sort of report I shall have to make." The governor winced. When, a few minutes afterwards, the doctor entered, he began upon the subject at once.

three half-pints. He was quite himself till he got near the gate, when all of a sudden he went queer all over.

"Possibly the ale was drugged," suggested the doctor. "I don't know nothing about that, but I do know that the same hand that played that trick was the same hand that played the tricks with the collar."

"Consider a moment what you are saying, Murray. How are three hundred looks to be tampered with in the middle of the night by a man who is himself a prisoner. One moment. But even that is nothing compared to the feat of carrying three hundred men fast asleep in bed—and all—through three hundred closed doors, under the very noses of the officers on guard,—think of doing all that single-handed!"

"When the chief warden said this, Major Hardinge exploded. "Witchcraft! The idea of the chief warden of an English prison talking about witchcraft at this time of day! It's quite time you were superannuated, sir."

"The man, Mankell, certainly bewitched me." "Bewitched you!" As the major faced the chaplain he seemed to find it difficult to restrain his feelings. "May I ask what sort of ideas you mean to convey by saying he bewitched you?"

"I will explain so far as I am able." The chaplain paused to collect his thoughts. All eyes were fixed upon him. "I intended to say something to the men touching the events of yesterday and this morning. As I came down to the altar-rail I was conscious of a curious anomaly—though I was being fascinated by a terrible gas which was burning into my brain. I managed to pronounce the first few words. Involuntarily looking round, I met the eyes of the man Mankell. The instant I did so I was conscious that something had passed from him to me, something that made my tongue his slave. Against my will my tongue uttered the words you heard struggling with all my might. I momentarily regained the exercise of my own will. It was only for a moment, for in an instant he had mastered me again. Although I continued to struggle, my tongue uttered the words he bade it utter, until I suppose my efforts to repel his domination proved of a kind of fit. That he laid on me a spell I am assured."

"There was a pause when the chaplain ceased. That he had made what he supposed to be a plain and simple statement of facts was evident. But then the facts were remarkable ones. It was the doctor who broke the silence.

"Suppose we have the man in here, so that we can put him through his paces?" The governor stroked his beard. "What are you going to say to him? You can hardly charge him with witchcraft. He is here because he has been pretending to be mad."

"No! Is that so? Then I fancy we have the case in a nutshell. The man is what old-fashioned people used to call a mesmerist—hypnotism they call it now—a slave, and all sorts of things." "But mesmerism won't explain the cells."

"I'm not so sure of that—at any rate, it would explain the policeman who was suddenly taken queer. Let's have the man in here." "The whole thing is balderdash," said the major with solemnity. "I am surprised, sir, to see a man of sense and healthy mind to hear such stuff talked in an English prison of to-day."

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