

WHEN MY OLD HAT WAS NEW

Don't laugh at my old hat, dear wife. I'm not so young as you think me. Although I've got a better one, I'm loath to let it go.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW

THE VILLAGE MYSTERY

(FROM OUR FRIENDS FRIENDS.)

Industriously the carpenter applied himself to his unpleasant work. A small opening was made through the cottage door, into which a keen saw was inserted and the stout oak bar which served as a fastening upon the inside was severed in twain, and its two parts fell with a crash upon the floor.

The lamp was still burning, but with a dim, flickering light, for the oil within it had nearly gone. It evidently had not been moved or used since I had observed it, for it still stood upon the small shelf above the overmantel table.

The cellar was the next place that I visited. It was accessible through a trap door which was opened by means of a large iron ring. As it opened, there ascended an unpleasant odor of partially decayed vegetables.

The failure to find any trace of the old man's remains, or of his supposed murderer, augmented the public interest and intensified the public feeling. My reputation might have greatly suffered had I been less assertive and respected.

As the investigation proceeded, I was not without a certain amount of excitement. I was not without a certain amount of excitement. I was not without a certain amount of excitement.

She had gone forth into the midnight storm alone and unprotected, and the door had been firmly barred from within. My thoughts were busy with the mystery. My thoughts were busy with the mystery.

the old man's past career, about which little was known in the village, which upon investigation might lead to the apprehension of those who had so mysteriously made way with him.

We turned to descend the ladder. Then, singularly, to relate to me for the first time a dark corner under the rafters contained off from the remainder of the room. A hurriedly pushed it aside, we found a small bed upon the floor.

Some one had retired there early on the previous evening and there were indications of that person having risen hastily. The old quilt that had covered the bed had been thrown back against the board, and the form of the person who had been in the room was visible.

We scanned all these things closely and the officer started to descend the ladder. When he was about half way down, I turned and took a last look at the body of the man, who had been carried to the place of the murder.

The only other person upon the deck was the companion-in-crime of my brutal antagonist. He was the man on watch. He came forward the moment that we were discovered, and he was evidently determined that the opportunity should not be lost for gratifying their long-contemplated revenge.

"I held my peace, I know not why. Some invisible influence seemed to enjoin me from accusing that unknown woman of the crime.

None of the villagers suspected her presence there, for my life had been sealed upon the subject. No eyes but mine had observed the tracks in the dust of the attic, or the footprints in the snow, or looked upon the mysterious handkerchief since I had found it under the faded folds of the curtain upon the attic floor.

Murders are more common now than they were twenty years ago. It is a growing indication of our great national progress. The failure to find any trace of the old man's remains, or of his supposed murderer, augmented the public interest.

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On the following evening, while sitting alone in my room, again ruminating upon the memorable occurrences of the past days, a thought came to my mind that brought me to my feet with a start of sudden surprise.

The old, yellow paper my maid, just where I had left them two days before, unopened and unread. My mind had been so bewildered and exercised by the investigation that no thought of them had occurred to me, strange as it may seem to you. I had utterly forgotten them.

They lay upon me and I opened them. They were the letters that I had written to you, and which you had so kindly returned to me. They were the letters that I had written to you, and which you had so kindly returned to me.

been written many years before, I remember my hand and feet, and the side of the table, and read with indescribable interest the following revelation:

"STATEMENT OF JACK HOWLAND OF THE HARVEST QUEEN. I was first made of the Harvest Queen. I had just returned from my long prosperous voyage and was lying in New York harbor, waiting for a tug to come along-side and tow us into port.

"It was the twenty-third day of June, 1828; I shall never forget the time, the place nor the circumstances. For then and there an incident in life transpired that, living, I shall never cease to remember.

"On board the Harvest Queen were two men who had occasioned much trouble during the voyage now so nearly ended. They had been punished several times for insubordination and insurrection. In one instance I had been instrumental in causing them to be confined in the stocks, and they had subsequently threatened me with personal violence.

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Table with 2 columns: Country, Value. Includes France, England, Spain, Portugal, etc.

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