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THE WEAPONS OF MYSTERY

BY JOSEPH HOCKING.

Author of "All Men are Liars," "Fields of Fair Renown," etc., etc.

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCE THE WRITER AND OTHERS

My story begins on the morning of December 15th, 18—, while sitting at breakfast. Let it be understood before we go further that I was a bachelor living in lodgings. I had been left an orphan just before I came of age, and was thus cast upon the world at a time when it was extremely dangerous for young men to be alone. Especially was it so in my case, owing to the fact that at twenty-one I inherited a considerable fortune. One thing I saved me from ruin, viz., a passionate love for literature, which led me to make it my profession. I had at the time of my story been following the best of my abilities for two years with a fair amount of success, and was regarded by those who knew me as a lucky fellow. That is all I need say concerning myself prior to the time when my story opens, except to tell my name; but that I will drop very soon. I had not a servant, my landlady prepared for me when I heard the postman's knock, and soon after I had conferred with a letter. One only I had expected at least half-a-dozen, but only one lay on the tray before me.

"Are you sure this is all, Jane?" I asked.

"Quite sure, sir," said Jane, smiling, and then with a curtsey she disappeared. The envelope was addressed in a bold handwriting to—

Justin M. Blake, Esq.,
Gower Street,
London, W.

"Surely I know the writing," I mused, and then began to look at the postmark and a letter were something of very uncommon occurrence. I could make nothing of the illegible scrawl in the corner, however, and so opened it, and read as follows:—

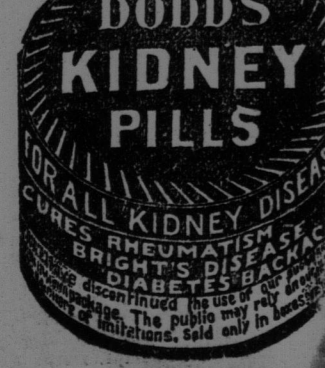
"Dear old Justin Martyr,
"I suppose you have about forgotten your old schoolfellow, Tom Temple, and it's natural you should; but he has not forgotten you. You see, you have risen to fame, and I have remained in obscurity. Ah, well, such is the fate of that community called 'country gentlemen.' But this is not what I want to write about, and I am going straight to the real object of this letter."

"We—that is, mother, the girls, and myself—are contemplating a real jolly Christmas. We are inviting a few friends to spend Christmas and New Year with us, and we wish you to make one of the number. Will you come and spend a fortnight or so at Temple Hall? Of course it is rather quiet here, but we are going to do our best to make it more lively than usual. The weather looks frosty, and that promises skating. We have a few good horses, so that we can have some rides across the country. There are some plenty of shooting, hunting, etc., etc. Altogether, if you will come and help us, we can promise a fairly good bill of fare. What do you say? You must excuse me for writing in this unconventional strain, but I can't write otherwise to my old schoolfellow."

"We shall all be really disappointed if you say 'no,' so write at once and tell us, and we shall know when we may expect you. All the news when we meet.
"Your sincere friend,
"TOM TEMPLE."

"P. S.—I might say that most of the guests will arrive on Christmas Eve."
"Just the very thing," I exclaimed. "I had been wondering what to do and where to go this Christmas time, and this invitation comes in splendidly."
Tom Temple lived in Yorkshire, at a fine old country house some distance from the metropolis of that county, and was a really good fellow. As for his mother and sisters, I knew but little about them, but I judged from the letters his mother wrote him when at school, that she must be a true, kind-hearted, motherly woman.

I accordingly turned to my desk, wrote to Tom telling him to expect me on the



DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS

FOR ALL KIDNEY DISEASES

BRITISH PATENT

DIABETIS, GRAVEL, GOUT, NEURALGIA, RHEUMATISM, MIGRAINE, HEADACHE, INDIGESTION, BILIOUSNESS, AND ALL AFFECTIONS OF THE URINARY SYSTEM.

Fashion Hint for Times Readers



SCINTILLATING ORNAMENTS FOR THE HAIR.

Sequins sewed to gauze ribbon are one of the features of American opera hair-dressing this season. Black is much used just as with the French furor for the sombre color and the black gauze outline ribbon-spagged with silver sequins makes the all black frock extremely chic. A band of the ribbon passes, fillet fashion, under the knot of puffs at the back of the head.

travel alone. However, you will have a chaperon; so, the delicacy will be more than remedied—and there was a grin of satisfaction in the woman's voice.

"There was no satisfaction in the young lady's face, however, and she turned with what I thought an angry look towards the scrawny duenna, who had claimed guardianship over her, and said:—
"No, I have not; but your aunt had, poor silly creature, and so, for duty's sake, I am breaking the rules of etiquette. Those five people you are about to visit did not think it worth their while to visit your aunt's late husband's step-sister—perhaps because she is poor; but she has a soul as brave as mine, and so determined to come and take care of her niece."
The young lady made no reply.

"You will be thankful, Gertrude Forrest, some day that I do care for you," Miss Staggles continued, "although I never expect to get any reward for my kindness."
By this time the train was going rapidly down the line, and I felt it safe to speak only without distinguishing any words. I was very glad I could not. It was by no means pleasant to have to sit and listen to her hostile voice, so I pulled down the laps of my travelling cap over my ears, and, closing my eyes, began to think who Gertrude Forrest was, and where she was going.

I did not change carriage as I intended, and so there was relief in that quarter. My seat was most comfortable, and I did not want to be disturbed. Hour after hour passed by, until night came on; then the wind blew colder, and I began to wonder how soon the journey would end, when the collector came to take all the tickets from the Leam passengers. She had my ticket, and I was truly thankful. I did not wait there long, as I stood in the aisle, when I saw a man in a station some two miles from Tom Temple's house. By this time there was every evidence that the holiday season was on, and I was glad to get in at all, unmindful of comfort.

(To Be Continued)

WAS IN BED FOR THREE MONTHS.

PEOPLE SAID SHE HAD CONSUMPTION.

Read how Mrs. T. G. B. Brockbridge, Ont., was cured. I had also my little boy by the use of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup.

She writes: "I thought I would write and let you know the benefit I have received through the use of your Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. A few years ago I was so badly troubled with my lungs people called me 'consumptive' and I would not live through the Fall. I had two doctors attending me and they were very much alarmed about me. I was in bed three months and when I got up I could not walk, and I was so weak I could not get up to go to my hands and knees for three weeks, and my lungs seemed of no use to me. I gave up all hopes of ever getting better when I happened to see in B. B. Almanac that Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup was good for weak lungs. I thought I would try a bottle and by the time I had used it I was a lot better, so got more and it made a complete cure. My little boy was also troubled with weak lungs and I cured him. I keep it in the house all the time and would not be without it for anything."

Price 25 cents at all dealers. Beware of imitations of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. Ask for it and insist on getting the original. Put up in a yellow wrapper and three pins cross the trade mark.

HEAT AND COLOR

A new color scheme, consisting of orange colored underwear and hat linings, is to be tried by the United States Government for the benefit of its soldiers in the Philippines. It is well known that black and red absorb the heat of the sun and in the warmth of persons wearing garments dyed white, blue and green disintegrate the rays. Orange, it is asserted, acts as a barrier to heat, even as orange glass in a photographer's dark room arrests the chemical action of light while the development of the plate is in progress. The experiment in the Philippines will continue for a year, with a view to testing the theory that orange is heat proof. If such is shown to be the fact, a simple and inexpensive means of contributing to the comfort of the soldiers in tropical regions will have been discovered. Incidentally, averting humanity here at home may find relief in orange garments during the midsummer season.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Readers of the "News" from Cold LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine, the world-wide Cold and Grip remedy removes cause. Call for full facts. Leaf for signature. E. W. Greig, Esq.

SCOTT'S EMULSION

builds up and strengthens overtaxed, emaciated women and anemic girls, renews the vital forces, gives rich, warm blood

All Druggists

BOSTON CLIPS LICENSE VOTE

Increase of Prohibition Sentiment Shown by Decreased Majority Recorded for License in Yesterday's Election

Boston, Dec. 15.—The usual Democratic majorities in the board of aldermen and common council were found to be maintained tonight at the conclusion of the count of the election returns, while the Democrats also succeeded in electing their candidates, street commissioner by a comfortable majority, the street commissioner's ship fight being the principal contest of the election in the absence of a contest for mayor.

The strong fight put up by the no-license advocates in the suburbs of the city resulted in reducing the license majority of last year by 4,500, the city going license by 11,088.

Captain John H. Dunn, of South Boston, was elected street commissioner, receiving 37,635 votes, to 23,849 for Milton C. Fudge, the Republican candidate. There were 43 candidates for the thirteen aldermanic offices to be filled at large, and the election resulted in the reelection of seven Democrats and six Republicans. The entire ticket of the good government association who endorsed the Republican and pro Democrat was elected.

The complexion of the next common council will be 48 Democrats and 27 Republicans.

The vote on the license question was: Yes, 24,787; no, 22,796, a majority for license of 11,988, as compared with 16,400 last year.

The election was an unusually quiet one and only about 45,000 votes were cast out of a total registration of over 111,000.

The license majority last year was 18,000 and the year before 24,300.

"WOMEN!"

"Are You Nervous?"

The results of modern civilization are evidenced in an increase of nervous disorders. It could not be otherwise with the way we eat, drink, lose sleep, and keep up a continual round of excitement. The work, the worry, the excitement, all tell upon the nerves till they cry out in revolt, and will not be pleased till a remedy such as—

MILBURN'S HEART AND NERVE PILLS

comes along with their nerve-strengthening and energizing properties, and restore them to their normal condition.

Mrs. Wm. Levi, Markdale, Ont., writes: "I had for several years been troubled with nervousness, and, like many others, spent lots of money on medicines that did me no good. I was so bad that the least noise would make me jump and my heart would thump so you could hear it plainly and I could not lie on my left side at night. I saw a few testimonials of others and decided to try Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, and to my great joy and surprise they completely cured me and I can do all my boxes to do it. I have a neighbor, Mrs. Bickett, and I induced her to try them and they cured her, too. I can endorse their use for anyone afflicted as I was."

Price, 50 cents a box, 3 boxes for \$1.25, at all dealers or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

A CHRISTMAS NUMBER

In the 1926 Christmas number of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" articles of general interest from the pens of leading Canadian authorities treat a pleasing variety of topics in a comprehensive and readable manner. Dr. B. G. Fernow of the University of Toronto, in a sweeping survey of the timber situation in Canada, impresses the necessity of interest in forestry. Turning the pages, one's interest is arrested by Frank Yeih's picturesque portrait of a Norwegian agriculturist, and a few testimonials of others and decided to try Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, and to my great joy and surprise they completely cured me and I can do all my boxes to do it. I have a neighbor, Mrs. Bickett, and I induced her to try them and they cured her, too. I can endorse their use for anyone afflicted as I was."

NOTED AUTHOR DEAD

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 15.—Donald Grant Mitchell, 84 years old, the well-known author, who wrote under the nom-de-plume "The Marvel," died at his home "Marblewood," in Edgewood, a suburb of this city, tonight. His illness dates to August last, when he suffered an attack of acute indigestion, from the effects of which he rallied so that he was able to walk about his home at times, unattended, until two weeks ago, when he began to fail slowly. Sunday his condition became rapidly worse, until the end came shortly after 9 o'clock tonight, due to the gradual breaking down incident to old age. Mr. Mitchell was born in Norwich, Conn., in April, 1822.

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Maple Leaf Amateur Reciter

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For PARLOR SCHOOL and EXHIBITION

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Robinson's Book of Modern Conundrums Sent Postpaid for Twelve Cents in Stamps

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Water!!

is demanded by the system. Thirst follows. If the water you drink contains all the qualities necessary to satisfy the demands of nature the thirst is quenched. That's the reason

MAGI WATER

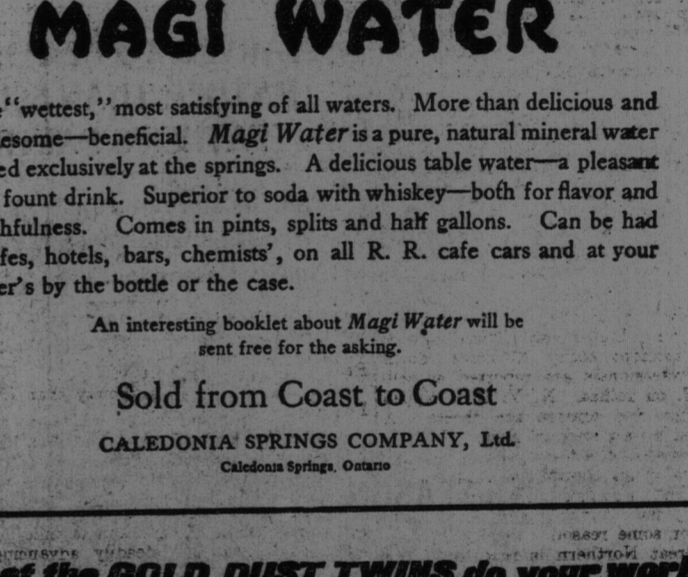
is the "wettest," most satisfying of all waters. More than delicious and wholesome—beneficial. **Magi Water** is a pure, natural mineral water bottled exclusively at the springs. A delicious table water—a pleasant soda fountain drink. Superior to soda with whiskey—both for flavor and healthfulness. Comes in pints, splits and half gallons. Can be had at cafes, hotels, bars, chemists', on all R. R. cafe cars and at your grocer's by the bottle or the case.

An interesting booklet about **Magi Water** will be sent free for the asking.

Sold from Coast to Coast

CALEDONIA SPRINGS COMPANY, Ltd.
Caledonia Springs, Ontario

"Let the GOLD DUST TWINS do your work"



The Dog and The Shadow

You remember the fable of the dog who dropped a real bone for its shadow which he saw in the water. "Beware in mind that all is not Gold Dust that glitters under the name of washing powder. Don't accept a shadowy substitute; get the real

Gold Dust Washing Powder

with the Gold Dust Twins on the package."

OTHER GENERAL USES: Scrubbing floors, washing clothes and dishes, cleaning wood-work, oil cloth, silverware and tinware, polishing brass work, cleaning bath room, pipes, etc., and making the finest soap-gold dust.

Made by THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Montreal, P. Q.—Makers of FAIRY SOAP.

GOLD DUST makes hard water soft.

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture



How would you like to be cool man? Find a consumer. ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE. Left side down, at lady's elbow.

Have You Pains? Try This.

Many have aches and pains that for years have defied all treatment. But once "Nervine" is used, doubt turns to belief that noaches, pains, or bruises exist that "Nervine" won't cure. Greasy liniments stay on the outside—they can't penetrate—but "Nervine" sinks right in, gets where the nerves and muscles are sore, and applies its healing, soothing properties and away goes neuralgia, rheumatism, lumbago—any ache of pain that needs curing.

EASY TO ANSWER.
(Boston Record.)

Frederic R. Conroy, of the Symphony, is a capricious story-teller, and one of his latest tales to a republican party he attended in general breaking down incident to old age. Mr. Mitchell was born in Norwich, Conn., in April, 1822.

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