

THE CRIMSON BLIND

BY FRED M. WHITE

"I hope to do so presently," Bell said, pointedly; "but not yet. In the first instance I have to prove to you that I have not stolen your Rembrandt."

"Indeed? I should like to know how you propose to do that."

"I shall prove it at once. You were under the impression that you possessed the only copy of the 'Crimson Blind' in existence. When you lost yours and a copy of the picture was found in my possession, you were perfectly justified in believing that I was the thief."

"I did take that extreme view of the matter," Littimer said, drily. "Under the circumstances I should have done the same thing. But you were absolutely wrong, because there were two copies of the picture. Yours was stolen by an enemy of mine who had the most urgent reasons for discrediting me in your eyes, and the other was concealed amongst my belongings. It was no loss to the thief, because subsequent to the theft your own one being restored to you could have been exposed and disposed of as a new find. Your print is in the house."

"It hangs in the gallery at the present moment."

"Very good. Then, my lord, what do you say to this?"

Bell took the roll of paper from his pocket, and gravely flattened it out on the table before him, so that the full rays of the electric light should fall upon it. Littimer was a fine study of open-mouthed surprise. He could only stand there gaping, touching the stained paper with his fingers and breathing heavily.

"Here is a facsimile of your treasure," Bell went on. "Here is the same thing. You are a good judge on these matters, and I venture to say you will call it genuine. There is nothing of forgery about the engraving."

"Good heavens no," Littimer snapped. "Any fool could see that."

"Which you will admit is a very great point in my favor," Bell said, gravely.

"I begin to think that I have done

Advertiser Patterns

DESIGNED BY MARTHA DEAN.



A DAINTY CORSET COVER. (5904).

Well-fitting corset covers are an important consideration in a woman's wardrobe. The illustration shows a simple, dainty model, that is the prettiest little garment possible to wear under a thin lingerie blouse. The square neck yoke may be made from a strip of embroidery, and the other parts of linen, nainsook, longcloth and batiste. The fullness at the waistline is gathered and held in place by ribbon-run heading. For Valenciennes lace or narrow embroidery will all trim such a garment daintily. For 36 inches (bust measure), 1 1/2 yards of 36-inch material will be required.

Ladies' Square Neck Corset Cover, No. 5904, sizes for 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches, bust.

A pattern of this illustration will be mailed to any address on the receipt of 10 cents in silver or stamps.

PATTERN DEPARTMENT OF THE ADVERTISER.

Please send the above-mentioned pattern, as per 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 sent measure 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.

PATTERN DEPARTMENT, LONDON ADVERTISER.

you a great injustice," Littimer admitted; "but, under the circumstances, I don't see how I could have done anything else. Look at that picture. It is exactly the same as mine. There is exactly the same discoloration in the margin in exactly the same place."

"Probably they lay flat on the top of one another for scores of years."

"Possibly. I can't see the slightest difference in the smallest particular. Even now I cannot rid myself of the feeling that I am the victim of some kind of plot or delusion. The house is quiet now and there is nobody about. Before I believe the evidence of my senses—and I have had cause to doubt them more than once—I should like to compare this print with mine. Will you follow me to the gallery, if you haven't forgotten the way?"

Littimer took up the treasure from the table gingerly.

He was pleased, and at the same time disappointed, pleased to find that he had been mistaken all these years, sorry in the knowledge that his picture was unique no longer. He said nothing until the alcove was reached, and Chris drew back in the shadow to let the others pass.

"Now to settle the question for all time," Littimer said. "Will you be so good as to turn on the electric light? You will find the switch in the angle of the wall on your right. And when we have settled the affair and I have apologized to you in due form, you shall command my services and my purse to right the wrong. If it costs me £10,000 the man who has done this thing shall suffer. Please to put up the light, Bell."

Chris listened breathlessly. She was not quite certain what she was about for the light, she heard the click of the switch, and then she saw the brilliant belt of flame flooding the alcove. Littimer paused and glanced at Bell, the latter looked round the alcove as if seeking for something.

"I cannot see the picture here," he said. "If I have made a mistake—"

Littimer stood looking at the speaker with eyes like blazing stars. Just for a moment or two he was speechless with indignation.

"You charlatan," he said, hoarsely. "You bare-faced trickster."

Bell started back. His mute question stung Littimer to the quick.

"You wanted to be cleared," the latter said. "You wanted to befool me again. You come here in some infernally cunning fashion, you steal my picture from the frame and have the matchless audacity to pass it off for a second one. Man alive, if it were earlier I would have you flogged from the house like the ungrateful dog that you are."

Chris checked down the cry that rose to her lips. She saw, as in a flash of lightning, the brilliancy and simplicity and cunning of Henson's latest and most masterly scheme.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

The Frame of the Picture.

After the first passionate outburst of scorn Lord Littimer looked at his visitor quietly. There was something almost amusing in the idea that Bell should attempt such a trick upon him. And the listener was thoroughly enjoying the scene now. There was quite an element of the farcical about it. In the brilliant light she could see Littimer's dark, bitter face and the helpless amazement on the strong features of Hatherly Bell. And, meanwhile, the man who had brought the impossible situation about was calmly sleeping after his strenuous exertions.

Chris smiled to herself as she thought out her brilliant coup. It looked to her nothing less than a stroke of genius, in fact, as will be seen presently. Before many hours were over Henson's position in the house would be seriously weakened. He had done a clever thing, but Chris saw her way to a cleverer one still.

Meanwhile the two men were regarding one another suspiciously. On a round Chippendale table the offending Rembrandt lay between them.

"I confess," Bell said, at length, "I confess that I am utterly taken by surprise. And yet I need not be so astounded when I come to think of the amazing cunning and audacity of my antagonist. He has more foresight than myself. Lord Littimer, will you be so kind as to repeat your last observation over again?"

Littimer replied, "For scientific purpose of your own, you desired to make friends with me again. You tell me you are in a position to clear your character. Very foolishly I consent to see you. You come here with a roll

of paper in your possession purporting to be a second copy of my famous print. All the time you knew it to be mine—mine, stolen an hour or two ago and passed instantly to you. Could you actually go farther? And then you ask me to believe that you come down from town with a second engraving in your possession."

"As I hope to be saved, I swear it!" Bell cried.

"Of course, you do. A man with your tenacity would swear anything. Credulous as I may be, I am not credulous enough to believe that my picture would be stolen again at the very time that you found yours."

"Abstracted by my enemy on purpose to land me in this mess."

"Ridiculous," Littimer cried. "Pshaw! I am a fool to stand here arguing. I am a fool to let you stay in the house. Why, I don't believe you could bring a solitary witness to prove that your picture was yours."

"You are mistaken, my lord. I could bring several."

"Credible witnesses? Witnesses whose characters would bear investigation?"

"I fancy so," Bell said, quietly. "Two nights ago, for instance, I showed the very picture lying before you to a lady of your acquaintance, Miss Enid Henson. I couldn't have had your picture two nights ago, could I? And Miss Henson was graciously pleased to observe that I had been made the victim of a vile conspiracy."

"Why do you insist on mentioning that name?" Littimer said, hoarsely. His face was very pale, and some anger smoldered in his eyes. "Tell me you showed the thing to my wife next."

"I did," said Bell, coolly. "Lady Littimer was in the room at the time."

"Something like a groan escaped from Littimer's paler lips. The smoldering light in his eyes flashed into flame. He advanced upon Bell with a quivering, uplifted arm. Chris slipped swiftly out of the shade and stood between the two men.

"Don't speak the truth," she said. "And I am going to prove it."

Littimer dropped into a chair and gave way to silent laughter. His mood had changed utterly. He lounged there, a cynical, amused man of the world again.

"Upon my word, I am vastly obliged to you for your comedy," he said. "I hope your salary as leading lady in Bell's company is a handsome one, Miss Lee."

"Let us hope that it is more handsome than your manners, my lord," Chris said, tartly. "I beg to remark that I have never seen Dr. Bell before. Oh, yes, I have been listening to your conversation, because I expected something of the kind. The Rembrandt was stolen some time before Dr. Bell arrived here, and in due course I shall show you the thief."

"Not here," Chris said, firmly. "Stone walls have ears. I tell you the Rembrandt was stolen just before Dr. Bell reached the house. Also I tell you it is imperative that nobody but ourselves must know the fact for the present. You trust me, Lord Littimer?"

"I trust you as implicitly as I do anybody."

Chris smiled at the diplomatic response. She approached the panel of the wall on which the Rembrandt had been fastened. She indicated the long steel stays which had been clamped on to the iron frame. "Look at them," she said. "It was my suggestion that the stays should be attached to the picture to prevent anything like this robbery. I made the stays secure myself. And what happened to justify my suggestion? Why, the very same night somebody came here after the picture."

RICHARD O'BRIEN DEAD

Former City Editor of the Montreal Herald Passes Away.

Montreal, Que., May 28.—The death took place this morning at the Royal Victoria Hospital of Richard N. O'Brien, at one time a well-known newspaperman, but having of late years dropped out of sight in that connection. Twenty years ago he made his mark as city editor of the Herald, then a morning paper. He was correspondent for several United States papers, and at the time of the visit of Prince George (now the Prince of Wales) some seventeen or eighteen years ago, got into trouble for sending a story out to the effect that the prince got into a fight in the east end after a club dinner. O'Brien was tried and found guilty, but sentence was suspended. The deceased was born in Halifax about 50 years ago, and was a half-brother of the late Rev. Gregory O'Brien, a well-known Jesuit educationalist. He leaves a wife and children. O'Brien was suffering from pneumonia, and was on his way to the hospital for treatment, when he fell off the car platform going around a curve, and sustained severe injuries, which hastened his death.

LONG-LOST FISHERMAN FOUND KILLED BY BOLT

Plattsburg, N. Y., May 28.—Search for Caleb L. Chesbro, a well-known farmer of West Beekmantown, who disappeared last Tuesday, revealed the fact last night that he was killed by lightning. Chesbro went fishing early Tuesday and when he did not return at night search was begun by the neighbors. Last night his body and that of his dog both badly burned and disfigured by lightning, were found on the bank of the stream under a clump of trees. The lightning, Chesbro left a widow and five children. He was 46 years old.

LISBON STUDENTS KILLED

Procession Attacked on Its Way To Do Homage To King.

Lisbon, May 28.—A procession of students of Columbia University on its way to present homage to the king was attacked last night while passing through certain quarters of the city. Five of the students were instantly killed. The police arrested 28 of their assailants and a vigorous investigation has been ordered.

TRUNK FULL OF TIARAS

Eloping Austrian Princess Carried Off Large Quantity of Gems.

Geneva, May 28.—Princess Amelie Louise of Fuerstenburg and Gustav Koziar, an employee of an automobile firm, with whom she eloped recently from Vienna, have been traced to Zurich by detectives. Learning that their whereabouts had been discovered, however, they immediately left, and Monday last for some unknown destination. It is said that the princess had with her a large quantity of jewelry, including several valuable tiaras, a description of which has been sent to the principal jewelers of Europe with a warning not to purchase.

PLAYGROUNDS BEING PUT INTO SHAPE

The playgrounds committee is fast getting the grounds at Gerry Plats ready for the "kiddies" this summer.

Already a great deal of material for swings, and the like have arrived and are being installed.

"We have a lot of material on hand," said Parks Commissioner Pearce, "but the park will not be opened for a few days, probably some day next week. There are a number of playthings being manufactured in the city, and when they are ready we will open the park. The boys are using the C. P. Park for baseball and other games, and also have Queen's Park every afternoon. I think the plan will be most successful when we get all the parks going."

Dr. J. H. Strong, who has taken a great interest in the playground Association, has donated several swings, a wooden horse and many other articles of value to the children. He is most optimistic of the success of the playgrounds of Gerry's Plats and is confident that several more will be started next year.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS

Headache, jaundice, and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their most noticeable success has been shown in curing

CURE SICK HEAD

Headache, jaundice, and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their most noticeable success has been shown in curing

ACHE

Is the base of so many lives that here is where we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while others do not.

These are the great Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and preventing this annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cure the bowels, but after attack head

ache they would be almost priceless to those who suffer from this distressing complaint; but fortunately the great Little Liver Pills cure it while others do not.

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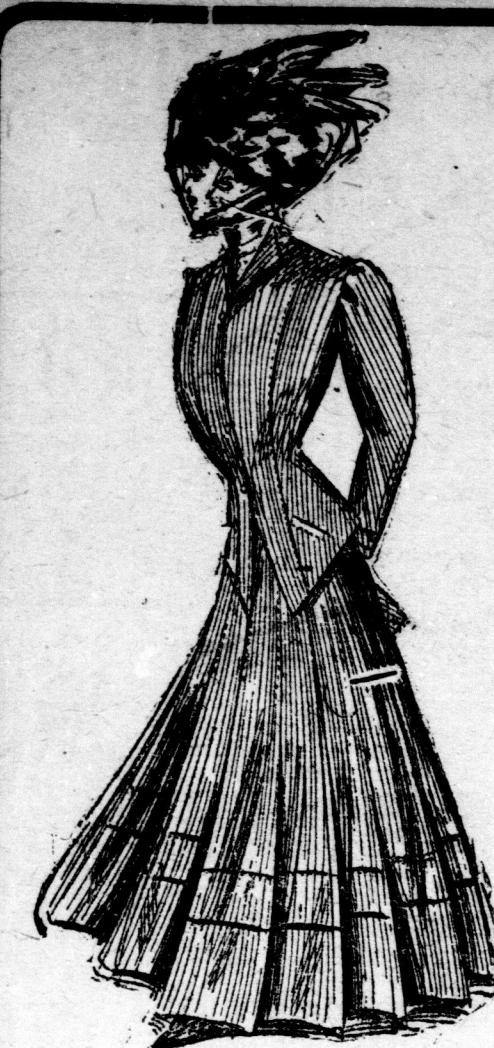
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Saturday Suit Clearance

One Day Only

Suits Worth Up To \$10.00 For \$10

The story is short and concise. Suits worth up to \$18.00—about fifteen in all—are marked \$10.00 for one day's selling.

We must have a reason for so great a sacrifice, so here it is:

Summer is smiling on the threshold, and our Garment Department is filling up with summer goods. We need the room for their display, and we want to devote our entire time and whole energy to their sale.

So out go the Tailored Suits, regardless of price, unmindful of loss. Suits worth up to \$18.00 for \$10.00. Think of it!

No need to tell you of the up-to-date style, the expert tailoring, the fine fabrics. You know that already. They are regular stock suits, which means they are perfectly desirable in every respect.

Remember the sale is for one day—Saturday—and remember that fifteen Suits, worth up to \$18.00, are priced at \$10.00.

2 Big Specials for Saturday's Selling

Ladies' White Lawn Dotted Swiss Muslin Waists, pretty designs and dainty trimmings. Regular selling price is \$4.00; selling at \$2.50

Ladies' White Cambric Underskirt, with under-flounce and dust ruffle; deep flounce of embroidery. Another line of hemstitched muslin, with three rows of lace insertion and lace on bottom. Selling Saturday at \$1.38

GRAY & PARKER

PHONE 1182

150 DUNDAS ST., and CARLING ST



"Is your money a fair exchange for commodities? Then see that the commodities you get are a fair exchange for your money."

Few men willingly throw away money. Yet the man who pays \$16 for what he could get for \$12, is throwing away \$4.

To get down to business—our business—the man who wears other clothing, instead of Progress Brand, is paying from 20% to 30% TOO MUCH. What can be

saved by wearing Progress Brand, can be invested in more clothes or better grades of Progress Brand garments. Progress Brand Suits and Overcoats enable every man to dress well, and save money.

Look for the label that protects. It is in all genuine



Progress Brand Clothing

Sold and Guaranteed by J. H. Chapman, & Co. London

SAVING HISTORICAL LANDMARKS OF CANADA

Work of the Royal Society—A New Division of Year Proposed.

Ottawa, May 27.—An interesting session of the local branch of the Royal Society was held today in the course of which the society passed a resolution in favor of dividing the year into months of four weeks each. The most important feature of the proceedings was a report of the Historical Landmarks Society, which is a branch of the Royal Society, which has done much towards preserving sites connected with the early history of Canada.

The old fort, Prince of Wales, at the mouth of Churchill River, has been saved from almost total destruction through the efforts of the society.

The officers for the ensuing term were elected as follows: Visitor, Earl Grey; honorary president, Sir Wilfrid Laurier; president, Col. Wood, Quebec; vice-presidents, Dr. Casgrain, Quebec; Dr. James Hannay, St. John; Dr. Bryce, Winnipeg; Earl of Cumberland, Toronto; secretary, Col. Cruikshank, Niagara Falls; assistant, Benjamin Suite, Ottawa.

During part of the afternoon the members were guests of President Dr. S. E. Dawson and in the evening a popular lecture on "Circulation of Atmosphere" was delivered by R. F. Stupart, of the Dominion Astronomical observatory.

W. T. Strong is positive that in Ml-o-na stomach tablets he has an absolute cure for indigestion and the many disagreeable symptoms that follow this disease, such as distress after dining, coated tongue, bad taste in the mouth, dizziness, flatulence and nervousness. They sell Ml-o-na with satisfaction guaranteed or money back. They believe in it and so may you.

AS OTHERS THINK

Everyone in London Has a Right to His Own Opinion.

While everyone has a right to his own opinion, yet it is wise to always consider what others think and profit by it.

Nothing makes life so miserable, or interferes so widely with the usefulness of the average person, as indigestion, and it is well for us to give fair consideration to what others think about this remarkable affliction.

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