"Why to my mind, it is very simple. Mr Gray, failing to obtain the opal from his wife by fair means, reserted to a trick. He removed the oil from the lamps and charted out a course for his apacht which would take her over then have been merely to cover his crime by insisting upon a thorough search, and even sending for a detective, he make even sending for a detective, he make the impossible for those who were prosent to accuse his hereafter. I'ndoubt-Mr. Cortlandt's opinion will be the one generally adopted. Now, what do you think?"

you suspect, see an in barnes anguery irritated.

"Oh, that is immaterial," said Mr. Mitchel calmly preparing for the street.

"I do not suspect Mr. Gray, so if you are correct you will have shown more ability than I. Come let us hurry."
On their way to the dock, from which they were to take the little steam launch which was waiting to earry the detective back to the yadnit, Mr. Barnes asked Mr. Mitchel the following question:

asked Mr. Mitchel the following question:

"Mr. Mitchel," said he, "you will note that Mrs. Cortlandt alluded to you as 'a crank who collects geins.' I must admit that I have myself harbored a great curicisty an to your reasons for purchasing jewels which are valued beyond a mere conservative commercial price. Would you mind explaining why you began your collection?"

explaining why you began your col-lection?"

"I seldom explain my motives to others, especially when they relate to my more important pursuits of life. But in view of all that has passed be tween us I think your curiosity justifi-able, and I will gratify it. To begin with, I am a very wealthy man. I in-herited great riches, and I have made a fortune myself. Have you any cou-ception of the difficulties which harass a man of means?"

a driving hyear. Hars you any conception of the difficulties which harass
a man of means?"
"Perhaps not in minute detail,
though I can guess that the lot of the
rich is not as free from care as the
pauper thinks it is."
"The point is this: The difficulty
with the poor man is to get rich, while
with the rich man the greatest trouble
is to prevent the increase of his wealth.
Some mun, of course, make no "furin that direction, and those men are
a menace to rociety. My own idea of
the proper use of a fortune is to
manage if for the benefit of others as
well as for one's self, and especially to
prevent its increase."
"And is it so diffice't to do this?

cannor money be spent without limit?"

"Yes, but unlimited evil follows such a course. This is sufficient to indicate to you that I am ever in search of a legitimate means of spending my income, provided that I may do good thereby. If I can do this, and at the same time afford myself pleasure, I claim that I am making the best use of my money. Now, I bappen to so constructed that the mest interesting studies to me are social problems, and of these I am most entertained with the ceuses and environments of simme. Such a problem as the one which you brought to me to-day is of immense attractiveness to me, because the anytronment is one commonly the arrivances to me, because the arrivance attractiveness to me, because the arrivance of the terminal supposed to preclude rather than to invite orime. Yet we have seen, despite the wealth of all concerned, some one has stooped to the commonest of all orimes—theft."

enchas stooped to the commonest of all crimes—theft."

But what has this to do with your collection of jewels?

"Everything. Jowels, especially those of great magnitude, seem to be a special cause of crime. A hundred carat diamond will tempt a man to theft as surely as the frise beacon on a rocky shore entices the mariner to wreek and ruin. All the great jewels of the world have murder and crime woven into their histories. My attention was first called to this by acidentally over-bearing a plot in a ball-room to rob the lady of the house of a large ruby which she wore on her breast. I went to her, taking the privilege of an intumate friend, and told her enough to persuade her to sell the stone to me. If astened it into my scraf, and then sought the presence of the plotters, allowing them to see what had cocurred. No words passed between us, but by my act I prevented a crime that night."

"Then I am to understand that your condensition of the plotters with that and in view?"

and I trust the enclosed obeque will remunorate you for your trouble."

Mr. Barnes not quite comprehending it all, had attempted to protest, but Mr. Mitchel had taken him by the arm, and hurried him off. In the cab which bore them to the club the detective asked for an explanation, but Mr. Mitchel only replied:
"I am too honger to talk pay. We

"I am too hungry to talk now. We will have dinner first."

The dinner was over at last, and nuts and coffee were before them, when Mr. Mitchell took a parcel from his pocket and Landed itto Mr. Barnes.

his puenes saying:

"It is a beauty, is a not?"

Mr. Barnes removed the tissue paper, and a large opal fell on the tableoloth, where it sparkled with a thousand colors under the electric

iableoloth, where it sparkied with a thousand colors under the electric lamps
"Do you mean that this is—" oried the detective.
"The Azteo opal, and the finest hark quin I ever saw," interrupted Mr. Mitchel. "But you wish to know how it comes to be in my possession? Principally so that it may join the collection, and cease to be a temptation in this world of wickedness.
"Then Mr. Gray did not steal it?" asked Mr. Barnes, a touch of chagrin in his voice.
"No, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Gray did not steal it. But you are not to consider yourself very much at fault. Mr. Gray tried to stral it, only he failed. That was not your fault, of course. You read his actions aright, but you did not give enough weight to the stories of the others."
"What important point did I omit from we advantation?"

did not give enough weight to the stories of the others.

"What important point did I omit from my calculation?"

"I might mention the bare arms which Mrs. Gray said she felt round her neck. It was evidently Mr. Gray who looked for the opal on the neck of his sister-in-law, but as he had not bared his arm he would not have done so later."

so later.'
"Do you mean that Miss Living-stone was the thief?"

stone was the thief?"

"No. Miss Livingstone, being hysterical, changed her seat without realizing it, but that does not make her a thief. Her exottement when with you was due to her suspicious, which, by the way, were correct. But the us return for a moment to the bare arms. That was the clue from which lworked. It was evident to me that the thief was a man, and it was equally plain that in the hurry of the few moments of darkness no man would have rolled up his sleeves, risking the return of the attendants with lamps and the consequent discovery of himself in such a singular disarrangement of costume."

"How, then, do you account for the re arms?"

bare arms?"

"The lady lied; that is all. Tho arms which encircled her neck were not bare. Neither were tley unknown to her. She told you that he to shield the thief. She also told you that he husband wished to sell the opal to me, but that she had refused. Thus she defity led you to suspect him. Now, if she wished to shield the thief, yet was willing to accuse her husbrad, it followed that the husband was not the thief."

followed that the husband was not the thief."

"Very well reasoned, Mr. Mitohel. I see now where you are tending, but I shall not get ahead of your story."

"So much I had deduced before we went on board the yacht. When I found myself alone with Mr. Gray I candidly told him of your sespicions and your reasons for harboring them. He was very much disturbed and pleadingly asked me what I thought. As frankly I told him that I believed he had tried to take the opal from his wife—we can scarcely call it stealing, since the law does not—but that I believed that he had faited. He t.-en confeszed, admitting the emptying of the lamps, but denied running the boat on the sand bar. That was purely accidental. But he assured me that he had not reached his wife's chair when the lamps were brought in. He was therefore much astonished at missing the gem. I promised him to find the jewel upon condition that he would sell it to me. To this he most willingly acceded."

"But how could you be sure that you would recover the opal?"

"But how could you be sure that you would recover the opal?"

of the plotters, allowing them to see what had occurred. No words passed between us, but ymy act I prevented a crime that night."

"Then I am to understand that you but yewels with that end in view?"

"After that night I conceived this idea—if all the great jewels in the world could be collected together and put in a place of safety, hundreds of crimes would be prevented, even before they had been conceived. Moreover, the search for and acquirement of these jewels would necessarily afford me abundant opportunity for studying the crimes which are perpetrated in order to gain possession of them. Thus you understand more thoroughly why I am anxious to pursue this problem of the Atec opal."

Ses. cal hours later Mr. Mitchel and Mr. Barnes were sitting at a quiet table in the corner of the diming-room at Mr. Mitchel had acted rather mysteriously. He had been closeted awhile with Mr. Gray, after which be had had an interview with two or three of the others. Then when Mr. Barnes had begun to feel neglected and tired of waiting alone on deck, Mr. Mitchel had come towards him, arminarm with Mr. Gray, and the latter sald:

"I am very much indebted to you, Mr. Barnes, for services in this affair,"

seriously injured if not ruined him Why have you done it?"

"How did she receive that?" asked Mr. Barnes, admiring the ingenuity of Mr. Mitchel.

Mr. Matchol.

"She began to sob, and between her tears she admitted that the opal and been taken by the man whom I suspected, but she carnestly declared that she 'and harboured no idea of injuring her husband. Indeed she was so agutated in speaking upon this point that I believe that Gray never thoroughly explained to her why he wished to sell the gom. She urged me to recover the opal, if possible, and purchase it, so that her husband might be relieved from his pecuniary embarrassment. I then sent for the thief. Mrr. Gray told me his name, but would you not his to hear how I had picked him out before we went aboard? I still have that but of paper upon which I wrote his name in confirmation of what I say?"

"Of course, I know now that you mean Mr. Livingstone, but I would like to hear your reasons for suspecting him.

"From your account, Miss Living

mean Mr. Livingstone, but I would like to hear your reasons for suspecting him.

"From your account, Miss Living stone suspected some one, and this caused her to be so agitated that she was unaware of the fact that she had changed her seat. Women are shrowd in these affairs, and I was confident that the girl had some reason for her conduct. It was evident that the person in her mind was either her brother or her sweetheart. I decided between these two men from your account of your interviews with them. Moore inpressed you as being homest, and he told you that one of the ladies suspected him. In this, of course, he was mistaken, but his speaking of it to you was not the act of a thief. Mr. Livingstone, on the other hand, tried to throw suspicion upon Mr. Gray." "Of course, that was sound reasoning after you had concluded that Mrs. "That was easier than I expected. I rimply told Mr. Livingstone when I got him alone what I knew, and saked him to hand me the opal. With a perfectly impeturbable manner, understanding that I promised secrecy, he quietly took it from his pooket and save it to me, saying:

"Women are very poor conspirators. They are too weak."

"What story did you tell Mr. Gray?"

"Ohl he would not be likely to longirs too closely into what is hould

"Women are very poor conspirators. They are too veak."

"What story did you tell Mr.
Gray?"

"Oh! he would not be likely to
inquire too closely into what 'should
tell him. My cheque was v hat he
most cared for. I told him nothing
definitely, but I inferred that his wife
had secreted the gem during the darkness that he might not ask her for it
again, and that she had intended to
ful it again at some future time, just
as he had meant to pawn it, and then
pretend to recover it from the thief
by offering a reward."

"One more question. Why did
Mr. Livingstone etail it?

"Ah, the truth about that is an
other mystery worth probing, and
one which I shall make it my business
to unravel. I will venture two prophecies. First, Mr. Livingstone did
not steal it at all. Mrs. Gray simply
handed it to him in the darkness.
There must have been some powerful
movive to lead her to such an act,
something which she was weighing,
and decided impulsively. This brings
me to the second point. Livingstone
used the word 'conspiratore,' which
is a clue. You will recall that I told
you that this gem is one of a pair of
opals, and that with the other the
two would be ass interesting as any
jewels in his world. I am confident
now that Mr. Livingstone knows
where that other opal is, and that he
has been urging Mrs. Gray is give or
lend him hers as a means of obtaining the other. If she hoped to do
this, it would be easy to understand
why she refused to permit the sale of
the one she had.
This, of course, is
guesswork, but I'll promise you that
if any one ever own both it shall be
your humble servant, Leroy Mitchel,
jewel collector."

## Dying Man Grasps at a Straw.

"Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart has done so much for me that I feel I owe it to sufforing humani.y to give testing spells, pains in my left side, and swell-dankles. When I took the first dose of Dr. Agnew's Heart Cure my friends thought I was dying; it gave me almost instant relief, and six bottles entirely oured me."—Mrs. F. L. Lumsden, Scranton, Pa.

A soldier was one morning brought before the commanding A soldier was one morning brought before the commanding officer, charged with the offence of telling a lie to the captain of bis corps. After the Colonel had heard the ovidence, he said to the defaulter: "Do you know what will become of your downpany?" To which the soldier promptay replied: "Yes, sir; I shall go to hell." "Worse than that, sir; worse than that," said the commanding officer. "You will be tried by a regimental court-martial."

How different the church appears on this Easter morning from the sadness and mourning of Good Friday! How coverything peaks of yoy and gladness! The sanetuary is articitically adorned with masses of beautiful flowers whose delicate tinted blossoms send up their subtle odor like incense around the altar of the Most High. Tall Easter lilies, chaste and beautiful, bend their subtle odor like incense around the altar of the Most High. Tall Easter lilies, chaste and beautiful, bend their stately heads as if in adoration before lim whe to-day has broken the fetters of death and risen triumphant from the silence of the tomb. Glorious geraniums, with their blood-red blossoms, whisper of that redemption—pannfully, butterly pur chased by the precious Bloods of freely shed on Calvary. Colored lights are everywhere—gicaming in the rich foliage of the plants, glowing midst the Easter lilies which form an arch around the beautiful statue of the Sacred Heart, and especially effective in furning a luminous cross above the high altar, reminding us of the cruel tragedy of the Cruenfixon. And a feeling of sadness mingles with our joy when we think of the awful price paid for our redemption. High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Morris who preached an instructive sermon on the Gospel of the day. The beautiful Easter music was well rendered by the choir, under the direction of Mr. Kelman. At 7 p.m. Veepers were sung, followed by Benediction of Mr. Kelman. At 7 p.m. Veepers were sung, followed by Benediction of Mr. Kelman. At 7 p.m. Veepers were sung, followed by Benediction of the most Blessed Sacrament, and as the glad "Regina Coelt" hursts forth one's heart goes out to that Blessed Mother—our Mother—bequeathed to us from the Cross Bitter, indeed, were the swords that pierced thy loving heart, O Queen of Heaven! Rejone, rejoice and be glad for He hath arison!"

The beautiful sermon by Father Morris, on the Resurrection, brought vividly forward the two truths, the Divinity of Ohrist and the Resurrection of the Body; and as we lis

There is no death, what seems so is transition;
This life of mortal breath
Is but the prelude to that life elysian,
Whose portal we call Death.

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Sisters of St. Joseph.

Sisters of St. Joseph.

The annual convention of the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph commenced its session at the convent of St. Joseph commenced its session at the convent of St. Joseph's, St. Alban street, on Wadnesday morning. About 80 of the Sisters who are engaged in the work of teaching in Separate Schools throughout the Province are in attendance. The sessions continued until Friday Among those who were present at the opening of the convention were Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Minister of Education; Archbishop Walsh, Vicar-General McCann, Rev. Dr. Tresay, Dr. MacQabe of Ottawa, Dr. Dwyer of St. Michael's Hospital, Laspectors Soott and Tilley of the Normal School, Mr. Similar of Undon, Reparate School Inspectors White and Prendergasi. A number of lectures upon educational topics by leading professional gentlemen of acknowledged ability form an attractive feature of the programme.

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