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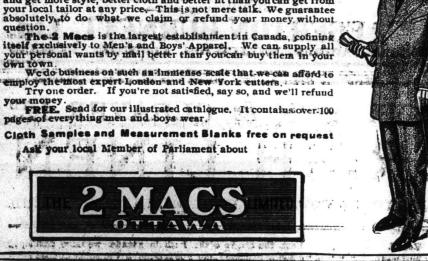
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with th obvious effort, he roused him-

self again.
"If the diamonds are stolen to-night," he said at length in his heavy guttural, precise German-English, "they will be stolen by a middle-aged man about five feet seven inches tall, smoothshaven, with a sunburnt face, a scar on the right cheek, blue-gray eyes, a high broad forehead, and gray hair. He will have long, tapering hands, and will walk with a slight drag of his left foot.
He will be dressed in shabby clothes, of what color I cannot say, but across the bottom of the back of the coat there will be a wide iron-rust stain. When such a man is about, take care of your diamonds; at other times they are quite safe. My fee is five hundred dollars, please."

With which the preventer of crime closed his eyes, and again went peacefully to sleep.

I looked at Dudley and he looked at me. Together, we burst out into an un-controllable fit of laughter. Five hundred dollars! - The whole affair was simply preposterous. "All this is ridiculous!" exclaimed

in all arts to the

Dudley when he had recovered from his

The little man, who had stood watching us in silence, clutched the arm of the preventer of crime, and began wildly shaking it once more. Again this word I spoke there was a reason - a

good reason. Listen! "I told you that the thief would be shabbily dressed, with an iron-rust stain upon the button of the back of his coat. said that because, in order to steal them, he would first have to know that you had removed them from the deposit-vault. Therefore, he was watching the door of the bank. To stand directly in front of the bank and watch would attract attention, so he must have watched from across the street - and across the street from your bank is Trinity churchyard. A well-dressed man could stand in front of Trinity churchyard without attracting attention, so I said that he was shabbily dressed. You have not been to the bank for a long time, and probably he has waited all that time. Waiting is hard work. Naturally, he would lean against the fence to rest himself. The fence is iron; it is a very old fence, and the rain has rusted it; it would stain his coat. There you are-simplicity itself,, is it not?"

He waved his hand once more, and blinked with satisfaction at this convincing demonstration of his own powers. Then he continued:

"I told you that the man would be of middle age. Nothing has ever been published about the Dudley diamonds, so he could not have learned of them in that way. The only time they were ever publicly exhibited was at a convention of diamond-cutters in Amsterdam, some twenty years ago. That is proved ineffectual, and he was com- how he must have become acquainted



pelled to bawl into his employer's ear

before he could awaken him.
"Vell?" asked Herr Schmalz acidly, as he blinked open his eyes. "Vat is it! now ?"

. "They say you are ridiculous," explained his assistant.

A petulant look swept over the great flabby face, and for a moment it seemed that we were to be left to our fate, for the preventer of crime began to lift his heavy bulk. Apparently, however, the attractions of the soft divan were too seductive. After an effort or two, he permitted himself to sink back comfort-

ably among the pillows, turning mean-while a look of sulky disapproval upon Dudley.

"You say I am ridiculous, eh?" he said. "Vell, you are a fool! You would rather vait until the jewels are gone to find out who stole them, instead of finding out beforehand who could steal them and guarding them from himeh?": He paused and waved a fat hand in the air. "If I tell you that one and one make two, you say I am ridiculous," he went on; but if I show you the figures on a blackboard, and add them before you, then it is that I am a genius. A detective deduces for you the personality of a criminal after a crime has been committed, and you say it is marvellous: I do so before, with the same material, and you say I am an idiot. I am not an idiot, but a scien-What I told you was not ridiculousness, but science. For every

with them. Only the gild of diamondcutters were permitted to examine them on that occasion; and no man is allowed into the gild until he is past his twentyfifth year; therefore, this man must be forty-five, at least. He cannot be much more than that. No man has ever committed a daring robbery, as this would be, after the age of fifty-two-statistics will tell you that.

"L said that he would limp with his left foot and have a scar on his right cheek. No man has quitted the diamond gild of Amsterdam for twenty years, except to die or to be imprisoned for thest. Those that were imprisoned had their left legs chained to a ball and their cheeks cut. He will be sun-burnt, because waiting for you all summer mer in front of Trinity churchyard would cause him to become so. He will have blue-gray eyes, because only a man of exceptional daring would conceive such a reckless crime, and men of exceptional daring always have blue-gray eyes. He will be about five feet seven inches tall, because that is the only sized man who can work over a diamond-cutting table in Amsterdam; and I am satisfied that we shall find that at one time he worked there, for the reasons that I have already given. More-over, only an expert diamond-cutter could safely dispose of the plunder, so only such a one would attempt to secure it.

"The thief will have gray hair because of his privations in prison. No man ing a thi possible. ing fing here wa off your none of day. It for him. He ste Dudley 1 was an minded has spok be praise in silence hiding-pl

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