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THE MESSAGE
By LOUIS TRACY

(Continued.)

These imposters are infinitely worse than a pestilence. They resemble it in their unexpected outbreaks and phenomenal areas of activity, but they scourge Moslem mankind with a virulence unknown to cholera or small-pox. It was Warden's grievous misfortune that he had blundered into Hassan's Tower while the Blue Man of El Hamra was meditating an attack on the chance thus offered of receiving a Christian captive to grace the prophet's return to Lektwa was too tempting to be neglected.

Fate oft chooses her victims with savage recklessness, but Warden felt, as he crossed the Atlas Mountains by way of the Beni Mousa pass, that some influence more far-reaching than fate was leading him along the path trodden by Domestica, across the raby was hidden in the tower. He had no manner of doubt that the Portuguese artist and pirate was taken into the heart of Africa by this very route. The belief sustained him in those too frequent moments when sheer weariness of spirit whispered self-destruction by way of the sufferings in that way. If rabid fanaticism could sway a whole Mohammedan race, he at least gave a certain trust in a higher and holier creed. Not till grim death bade him lay down his arms would he abandon the struggle. Never a day passed that he did not plan a means of escape, but every scheme promised failure, and he did not mean to fail, for failure meant death. So he trudged on manfully, his only friend a stalwart negro who spoke the Hausa language, and ever the road led to the southeast—the desert—to the unknown land.

His boots gave out, his clothes were torn to rags; he was compelled to adopt the garments and many of the habits of those with whom his lot was cast. But he kept the ruby safe, for none thought of searching him now, and he was given a certain measure of liberty once the Atlas range was passed. Towns and villages became more scattered. The country was so wild that any attempt to travel by other road than the long-established caravan track would mean an easy resurrection. To go back was equally impossible. Every community in the Nila Moullah's own territory was gratified by the spectacle of a Christian among the Mahdi's "troops." The people would crowd around him and leer at him, for no better cause than that he was one of the hated white race. Many of them had never before seen a white man, but that did not count—they cursed him roundly for the sake of the legends they had heard of the arrogance with which the Prophet's followers were treated by Nazarenes in their own lands.

Warden bore this contempt with infinite patience. He knew that the desert folk were repaying some of the wrongs their ancestors had endured from generations of Portuguese and Spanish freebooters. But at last he laid to heart the knowledge that he could never return by the way he had come unless he were still a slave. He would be recognized instantly and clubbed to death like a mad dog.

Despite his hardships, he was soon restored to perfect health. The winter season, such as it is in the Sahara, was approaching. The air was invigorating, and the rough food, mainly grains and fruits, was wholesome and nutritious. Yet, when Lektwa was reached, his case looked desperate indeed. Day followed day, and week followed week, without any prospect of relief, and he became more and more a mere appendage of the Nila Moullah's household. It was just when hope itself was yielding to numb despair that the sought-for opportunity presented itself. It came like a meteor falling from the midnight sky, and Warden, ever on the watch, was ready to avail himself of the light it shed on his dark calvary.

Some Mohammedan festival had led to a good deal of revelry and gormandizing when Warden, at the close of a tiring day, found his negro friend sitting at the door of his hut in an attitude of dejection.

"What has happened?" he asked.

The man, moved by the familiar accents of his native tongue, gave way to tears. His plaint was common enough in communities ruled by a truculent savage of the maullah's type. His daughter, a finely-built parasite, and she was summoned forthwith to the despot's seraglio. Now, the negro, who belonged to one of the numerous Hausa tribes, while ready enough to enlist under the prophet's banner, was far from gratified by the prospect of becoming his holiest father-in-law. A doubtful privilege at the best, it was shared by many, and a goodly number had been besetted to

Fashion Hint for Times Readers



HAT OF FELT, WITH GOLD BAND AND SATIN TRIMMINGS.

WANT MORE INFORMATION ON PAVEMENT QUESTION

For two hours yesterday afternoon the general committee of the city council discussed permanent paving and after considering the question in various phases, referred it back to Engineer Murdoch for further information. As the matter now stands the engineer will be required to prepare a specification of what streets permanent work should be done on, the class of the work to be undertaken and its cost.

The whole discussion hinged upon the recommendation of Engineer Murdoch on the paving of a section of Germain street and of Paradise Row. In his recommendation he estimated that the Hassan paving was good value for the money but he favored paying a higher price and securing a better article. Three motions were before the committee and all were voted down. Finally, when the committee resolved itself into the council to hear its report, Ald. Kelley's motion was put and carried and the council adjourned.

Mayor Bullock presided and there were present Ald. Scully, Frink, Baxter, McGoldrick, Lewis, Likely, Hayes, Colner, Potts, Wilson, Elkin, Sprout, Vanwart, Kelley and Engineer Murdoch. Col. E. T. Sturdevant, L. G. Crosby and Charles Peters were also present during the discussion representing the residents of Germain street.

The engineer was not present when the council opened and as it was important that his views should be obtained he was sent for.

The petition of the residents of Germain street, already published, asking for permanent paving on that street between Princess and Queen streets, was read. The following recommendation from Engineer Murdoch as to the paving question was then read:

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of St. John:

Gentlemen,—In compliance with instructions received I beg to report concerning the recent tenders for permanent paving on that street between Princess and Queen streets. As there has been but one tender for the work in response to the advertisement of

permanent paving going on but he wanted the engineer to take the responsibility for saying that the pavement was the best to be had for the price. The question of permanent paving had been discussed time and again but nothing had been done, consequently when the opportunity offered, now the work should be undertaken at once. I certain streets were paved and the effect seen he thought other streets would also be paved later.

Ald. McGoldrick moved that Germain street be paved in accordance with the proposition made by the residents of that street. In reference to Paradise Row it would be necessary to give thirty days notice so as to allow one-third of the residents to protest against it if they wanted to. In Germain street this would not be necessary as two-thirds of the people there had already decided in favor of it. He had seen the Hassan pavement in Fredericton and had found it to be very good. People of Fredericton also praised the pavement. He would like to see it in St. John, for instance on Prince William street from King street to the Three Lamps. The company would give a ten-year guarantee as to the quality of the pavement and the rate offered by the engineer would be slightly in excess of the actual figures. It did not, however, include repairs to the water pipes but only in the surface work. The repairs to the water main would cost about \$1,700 or in all about \$14,500.

Ald. Elkin seconded Ald. McGoldrick's motion. The Hassan paving he thought was good for the level streets, and he would favor it.

Mr. Paterson, who had inspected the pavement in Fredericton, was asked for his opinion of it, and replied that he considered it very fine.

Ald. Baxter thought there was no need for any long discussion. The city had asked for tenders for the paving and only one had been received. Engineer Murdoch's opinion had been that it was good value for the money, and as he had no other suggestion to make, the tender should be accepted and the work proceeded with.

Ald. Potts wanted more information. Engineer Murdoch's report was very indefinite, and for that reason he moved an amendment that the question should be referred back to the engineer.

Engineer Murdoch said the cost of the work would be about \$12,750, made up as follows:

4,000 square yards paving at \$2.40.....	9,600
1,000 feet of curbing at 42¢.....	420
Setting stone at 30¢ per foot.....	300
1,000 yards sidewalk at \$2.40.....	2,400
	\$12,720

Of this amount one-half or \$6,360 would be paid by the residents of Germain street which would make the cost figure out at about \$2.80 per lineal foot of paving.

Ald. Potts again objected to the proposition. If permanent paving were regarded as an experiment to see if it would give value for the money spent, Germain street was the last place in the city to put it on. Pavement such as that proposed might be laid on a street where the traffic was heavy, but it was altogether a waste of money to put it where the traffic was not heavy. At the present stage there is a first mortgage of \$275 to \$300 against every piece of real estate in the city, because of the very heavy debt, and now the proposition of paving would add another ten-year mortgage. Permanent paving was all right if the people could not afford it. As the guardians of the public money the chairman had no right to spend it in this way. They could accomplish more by devoting their energies toward placing the city affairs upon a sound business basis. It had been said that the company would give a bond guaranteeing the pavement to remain in good condition for ten years. This bond would probably be secured from a guarantee company, and he asked how the city would collect it if it was forfeited.

Ald. McGoldrick—"How did we collect the bonds from clerks and others who had defaulted?"

Ald. Kelley—"You didn't collect them."

Ald. Potts—"Thanks, I didn't know that but now I believe you never collected."

Cured His Rheumatism In Three Weeks.

James LeB. Johnstone, a prominent member of the Citizen's Band, of Chatham, writes:

"I contracted rheumatism by exposure five years ago, and was ailing for two months and in great pain at the time. I got Father Morrissey's No. 7 Tablets and took them for about three weeks, when the rheumatism all left me and I have had no return of the pains since."

Father Morrissey's "No. 7" Tablets have cured thousands of this terribly painful disease.

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WEST INDIES COMMISSION TO HOLD SESSION HERE

Montreal, Aug. 20.—A London cable says: The West Indies royal commission to which Honorables W. S. Fielding and William Paterson were appointed held a meeting for organization today at the colonial office. Lord Balfour, of Burleigh, president and all the members were present except Mr. Paterson.

The British commissioners, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, and Sir John Dickson Poynder, Bart., will sail for New York Sept. 11, being unable to secure accommodation by Canadian lines.

It is expected that the first meeting will be held at Ottawa on Sept. 21, and meetings will follow of commercial bodies, if they so desire, at Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, Halifax and St. John. Two or three weeks will be occupied in these hearings.

The commission will then adjourn for several months and resume hearings in the West Indies during one of the winter months.

Ald. McGoldrick—"Oh, we got all that was coming to us."

Ald. Potts—"I don't believe it. You started, but you didn't go far enough."

Ald. McGoldrick—"If we pressed every case to the end there would be a good many men in the penitentiary."

Ald. Potts—"So they should be if they defrauded the city." Continuing, Ald. Potts said the permanent paving in Halifax had added that city with an expenditure much heavier than they could afford.

Ald. Likely announced that he was in favor of permanent paving. Residents of Germain street had expressed their willingness to pay half the cost, and he would agree to the pavement going down there.

Ald. Lewis delivered a lengthy address against the idea. There had been, he said, a deep laid scheme to oust the representatives of the South End wards from the board of works, and they had never got square treatment.

Ald. Sprout seconded Ald. Potts' amendment. He thought local men could be secured to do the work more cheaply.

Ald. Kelley declared himself in favor of permanent paving, but not in favor of doing the Germain street work until Engineer Murdoch had made a definite statement that he considered the Hassan paving the best for the purpose. This Mr. Murdoch had not done. In fact his whole report seemed to have the effect of curing the Hassan pavement with faint praise.

He moved in amendment to the amendment that the report be laid on the table and the engineer be asked to prepare specifications for such streets as he recommended for permanent improvements.

Ald. Baxter seconded this.

Ald. Frink accused Engineer Murdoch of juggling with words by submitting a report which said nothing.

Engineer Murdoch disclaimed any intention of this kind, and when asked by Mayor Bullock to express an opinion as to the Hassan paving, said he thought it was good value for the money, but he would prefer to see a higher priced article used.

Ald. Hayes said he would oppose the

SAYS HE GAVE BRIBE TO ALDERMAN

Montreal, Aug. 20.—A new phase was given to the work of the civic royal commission this afternoon when a representative of the contractors who put in the new elevator at the city hall stated that he had given a bribe of \$500 to Alderman Lesperance, chairman of the city hall committee, in order to secure the contract for the new elevator.

The witness was Julius H. Burritt of Cote Bros. & Burritt and in the course of a good deal of cross-examination he admitted that he had at one time laid \$200 on Alderman Lesperance's desk and later on had deposited \$300 in the same place.

According to Burritt there had been no word of money between himself and Alderman Lesperance but he had considered that he ought to give something to the alderman for services rendered, so he put the \$200 on his desk. The money went in some way. Later on Mr. Burritt said it occurred to him that he ought to give Alderman Lesperance some more, so he again put \$300 on his desk and again the money went.

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BRIGGS' RHEUMATISM PILLS

223 THE PRINCE

A DIFFERENCE.

Mr. Wilson—Which do you think is the better talker, he or his wife?
Mr. Wilson—Do you mean for quality or quantity?