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cession that he wondered if his master was going to die, Trehawke attempted to pump Billy about himself. Where did he come from that day? Was he living at home? and did he follow any employment? Was his sister or Miss Carlyon aware of the demand he was making? The three first questions the boy refused to answer; to the last he replied with a curt negative. At length Mr. Trehawke gave him up as a bad job, and Billy resumed his inspection of the humours of the street. At the end of an hour, tiring of the amusement, he waxed impatient and a little suspicious.

"How much longer have I to wait?" he demanded. "Taint more than a step to the police-station."

"You can't expect the Superintendent to hold himself at the disposal of every monkey that thinks he's got a nut to crack," said Trehawke sourly. It was evident that he, too, was chafing at the delay.

The best part of another hour passed, and then a heavy tread sounded on the stairs. Billy turned briskly from the window, expecting to see the familiar features of the genial Grylls. But he who entered after a tap at the door was a huge, black-bearded, seafaring man, clad in a rough pilot coat, and the plain cheesecutter cap of an inferior officer in the merchant service. Without a word he handed a letter to Trehawke, which we will take the liberty of reading over the lawyer's shoulder:—

"Dear T. What a cursed nuisance. Your notion of getting the kid out of the way is the only one. I have been bustling since I got your note. The bearer is the mate of our sailing ship, 'Ecuador,' outward bound for Iquique to-morrow. I have been on board and seen the skipper, who is under obligations. He'll take Master Billy with him and drop him overboard at the first convenient opportunity. The mate is equally reliable, and will relieve you of all trouble. If you agree that this is a bit of all right just tip him the wink.—Yours, W. P."

Mr. Trehawke read the letter carefully, weighing each word, and then obeyed his client's instructions, half closing one of his horrible eyes as he met the saturnine gaze of the mate of the "Ecuador."

Whatever that mate's merits as a seaman may have been, he was a man of extraordinary promptness. He had hold of Billy in a trice, stifled the boy's scream with the palm of his leg-of-mutton hand, and summoning the aid of a negro who had been waiting outside, had him gagged and trussed up in a couple of minutes. The nigger had brought a sack into which the boy was thrust head foremost, and with their living load they presently made their way down to the quay.

Half way through Market Strand they met Superintendent Grylls, strolling about and benevolently supervising the welfare of the citizens and the peace of the town. He knew the mate by sight—had known him from boyhood.

"Well, Symonds," he said in his bluff, hearty fashion, "getting the grub aboard, eh, ready to sail to-morrow?"

"That's it, sir," said the mate. "Potatoes—new 'uns for the old man's table."

The Superintendent passed on with a friendly nod, and so was discarded from the pack the trump card, which was Hilda Carlyon's last asset in the game which she was being forced to play with a bandage over her beautiful eyes.

(To be Continued.)

Reverse Them.—A Detroit alderman says he would like to see the city control the saloons. As it is now the conditions are simply the other way—the saloons doing the controlling.

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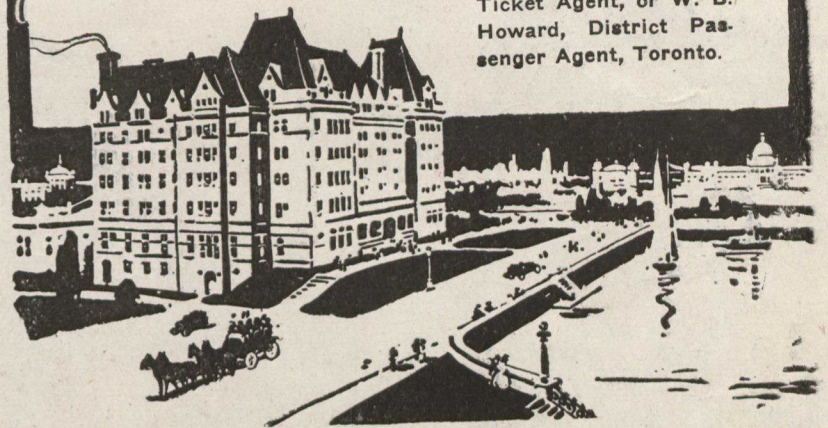
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