

MIRAMICHI ADVANCE

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GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS

The London Times nominates H. M. Stanley for administrator of the East African Government.

THE DIAMOND BUTTON

FROM THE DIARY OF A LAWYER AND THE NOTE BOOK OF A REPORTER.

BY BAROLAY NORTH

Holbrook meditates on the uncertainty of life. The man Templeton was young, strong in health, and in a moment he had been struck down and was dead.

CHAPTER III. A NEW CHARACTER ENTERS.

HELEN HOLBROOK left the station house the coroner and the sergeant entered into a consultation as to the best method of procedure.

CHAPTER IV. CUTT FLAVAGAN'S REMARKS.

HE diamond button first thought of the coroner and the sergeant.

CHAPTER V. THE CORNER'S REMARKS.

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CHAPTER VI. A BIT OF RETROSPECTION.

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"Yes," he replied shortly, and though annoyed and astonished he did not fail to appreciate that she was greatly agitated and seemed to make efforts at self-repression.

"I know the murdered man," she continued. "Indeed he was somewhat of a relative; I was much shocked."

"Very naturally," he replied. "Who committed the murder?"

"Oh, that is wrapped in mystery. The authorities are at a complete standstill; they have not yet discovered any clues."

"But you saw the man, according to the newspaper account?"

"Yes, at a distance. Indeed, I saw him closely, but did not then observe him with attention. I was looking from my window, and was dimly conscious of a man standing on the pavement beneath, and of his stepping off the curbstone and walking across the street."

"I was awakened to full consciousness of his existence by seeing him strike the man by the arm, and then striking him down; the next moment he fled through the park. I was not aware murder was done until I heard the cry from a third."

"Was the third man connected with the attack? I saw he was arrested."

"The lady drew back and gave an account of herself, and her statements have been verified by the police; he was released after a few days' confinement."

"A shade of vexation passed over the face of his charming companion, and Holbrook's astonishment was further increased by the fact."

"Were not the authorities foolish in letting him go?" she asked, after a brief moment of silence.

"Impossible," said Holbrook. "I saw the man strike his victim and then run into the park, and saw the other twenty feet away crying murder."

"You will be a witness, then, in his favor?"

An angry flush spread over Flora's face, and her gray eyes glittered.

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The police adopted the theory that the man had been struck in mistake, and that another victim had been struck by the same man.

A large reward for the detection of the criminal was offered by the authorities. And the affair faded from the newspapers.

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Apparently the tragedy was of one act, and the drop curtain was down. Holbrook's law office was on the seventh story of one of those tall buildings which in recent years have become a conspicuous feature of lower New York.

His private office was a corner room, and from the window his eye could roam over the roofs of adjacent buildings, across the Hudson river and beyond to the houses on the Jersey side to the green hills back of them.

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In fact, he was reviewing that strange interview with Flora Ashgrove the day after the murder.

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What connection, if any, had she with the murder? What did she know, if anything? What relation had existed between herself and the dead man? Did she want to know particularly the appearance of the murderer? What was the bottom of the intense anxiety she displayed? And for whom was this anxiety displayed? She was tall and slim, or would be if dressed in men's clothes, could possibly have been mistaken for the kind of a woman whom jealousy would impel to such a crime?

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