

L. M. GRIST'S SONS, Publishers.

ESTABLISHED 1855.

VICTIM OF HIS OWN PLOT.

Police Officer Who Expected to Profit By Murder of a Shylock Is Himself Slain.

Old Vishnuadas, grain merchant and money lender of Talagum, having recovered his monthly dues from clients in the surrounding villages, was riding homeward, well satisfied with his day's work. The proceeds of his collection were contained in a number of small bags cunningly concealed within the folds of his voluminous garments; and the melodious chink, chink of the silver rupees, as they jostled each other with every movement of his pony, sounded gratefully in the ears of the rider. Plump and bulky was the equestrian, as became a man of substance; lean and scraggy was the steed, as befitted the drudge of the most notorious skintiff in the district. Vishnuadas prided himself on his honesty and rectitude—he owed not to any man; on the contrary, many men owed to him. He posed as a public benefactor, as a friend of the widow and orphan, always ready to relieve the poor in time of necessity. Relieve the poor he certainly did—of all their cash, spare or otherwise. Who to the luckless wight whose name should once become inscribed in the book of the usurer. Then it was likely to remain till his dying day. Far better would it have been for him to have handed or drowned himself than to have signed a bond condemning himself and his dependents to life-long misery. Every man has his own interest at heart, which, in the case of Vishnuadas, figured out a trifle over 200 per cent. Too much? Not a bit of it. He would have his bond to the last farthing, or the Sarkar (government) would live the Sarkar! Might the shadow of its omnipotence never grow less. Why had law and justice been instituted in India if not to enable Vishnuadas and others of his kidney to drain the life blood from the hearts of the Indian ryots (cultivators). Let the human scarecrows toil and mow all day and every day, till the sweat streamed down their emaciated frames! What else were they created for? According to the philosophy of Vishnuadas, the peasant was made to work, and the usurer was created to enjoy the fruits of the peasant's labor. Thus pleasantly mused the man of metal, over whose obese countenance there stole a smile of smug complacency, as he made a rapid mental calculation of the interest that would accrue to him on unpaid loans at the end of the year, and decided on the terms of renewal he would exact in the next spring. On the occasion of his town by his munificence; the feast to the Brahmins should be for quantity and quality on a scale hitherto unparalleled; the name of Vishnuadas should become—perhaps in the land. And who knows?—perhaps some day he might be elected a municipal councillor.

Absorbed in these reflections, and forgetful of his surroundings, he was proceeding leisurely with slackened rein, when his pony stumbled and fell, and he became aware that the hour was late, that darkness was rapidly settling in, and that Talagum was still a good six miles distant. The district, he knew, was infested by dacoits, always well informed by the villagers of the movements of wealthy travelers. Money lenders were their natural prey. It was more than likely, therefore, that some of these wily robbers were ready to drop from exhaustion; there was no possibility of reaching home before nightfall. How he cursed his stupidity for not starting earlier and accomplishing his journey in broad daylight!

Skintiff though he was, Vishnuadas nursed his own hide with tender solicitude, and would rather have given two annas (now 2d) in charity than have parted with a single shred of his precious cuticle. Although armed with a tulwar (sword) incased in a wooden sheath covered with gaudy velvet, he felt little inclination to test the temper of his flimsy weapon against the broad blades of the gentlemen of the road. In this perplexity he suddenly behought him that there was a small chauki (police guardhouse) on the roadside close at hand, where he might perchance obtain a night's shelter. Whipping up his steed to a slow, shuffling amble, he gained the chauki without mishap, and found the two constables in charge, Faiz Ahmad and Sheikh Hoosein, cooking their evening meal under a clump of mango trees. Faint and hungry, having fasted since morning, he would have asked for food; but, prohibited by the rules of his caste from breaking bread with Mohammedans, he merely asked permission to sleep in the chauki, explaining that he dared not continue his journey through fear of the dacoits.

"You are welcome to such accommodation as our humble dwelling affords," said Faiz Ahmad, rising and saluting the newcomer. "The sacred laws of hospitality shall be respected. You may rest with an easy mind, for not a hair of your head shall be touched. My comrade and I will give you a good account of the dacoits should they dare to molest you." Say, Sheikh Hoosein, have not I spoken well?"

"Yes, brother," replied the other constable; "on our heads be it to answer for the safety of our guest," adding, "the illustrious one, who is the mirror of kindness and the soul of generosity, will not forget that we are poor men."

Vishnuadas, accepting the hint, found himself in his clothes until he had found the smallest of his money bags, extracted therefrom two rupees, and gave one rupee to each of his hosts.

"Make it five, master of millions," said Faiz Ahmad, extending his palm with the solitary coin lying on it, and winking at his comrade. "The dacoits carry very sharp swords."

"They do indeed," corroborated

Miscellaneous Trading.

MAY BE ISRAEL'S LOST TRIBE.

Circumstances Showing the Hebrew Decent of American Races.

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These people committed the record of their travels and subsequent history in America to painting. These paintings have been gathered, or at least some of them have, and are contained in the Boturini collection and published by Cameth Carer and others.

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All Americans should take active interest in the history of their country and of all the races that have ever inhabited it. As I said before, it does not matter what one's religious belief is, or his lack of a belief, the subject is one that should interest all, purely for scientific and historic reasons, if for no other.

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It is possible to finger print very young babies? An experiment just performed has shown that the tiny fingers of the baby in the earliest days of life afford well defined impressions.

Finger print impressions were taken recently in the baby ward at Bellevue hospital. Baby C, two weeks old, was concerned in the finger printing process; Baby McD, however, who had been in the world five weeks and six days, waited at the intrusion of unexpected guests, but was quieted by the assurance that only in the interest of the mother was his impressions wanted.

All the features which characterize the adult finger print, loops, whorls, and arches with clearly defined ridges, deltas, terminals, etc., are distinct in the smallest baby's fingers and thumbs. Finger printing each baby required less than two minutes, and all in the ward could have been accomplished in an hour or two. These impressions can be taken by anyone with a little practice. Classification and identification require special knowledge, but are not difficult to learn. Only an expert, however, is familiar with the thousand ways in which two finger impressions may be distinguished.

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The Signature Broker.—The passage of the initiative and referendum amendment at the last election has given rise to a new business in Denver and in Colorado.

This is the business of the signature broker. According to the constitution as it stands now any law to be initiated that is offered to the people direct, without the intervention of the action of the legislature, must have signatures to the number of 10 per cent of the number of votes cast for governor at the last state election.

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Miscellaneous Trading.

MAY BE ISRAEL'S LOST TRIBE.

Circumstances Showing the Hebrew Decent of American Races.

It is set down in the Book of Exodus, in the Apocrypha of the Bible, that ten of the tribes of Israel journeyed northward one and a half years into a far country, where they might have been found, had they not been discovered by the coast of Yucatan, with their records and histories, will have been unearthed and that the true origin of America's ancient races will be made known by the discovery of some key to their hieroglyphics, an Aztec "Rosetta Stone."

These people committed the record of their travels and subsequent history in America to painting. These paintings have been gathered, or at least some of them have, and are contained in the Boturini collection and published by Cameth Carer and others.

Here we have, in these paintings, almost unimpeachable evidence of the fact that, so far as the Aztecs were concerned, they knew all about the Biblical version of the creation and those other events of which I have spoken. All these records were made hundreds of years before Columbus was born.

All Americans should take active interest in the history of their country and of all the races that have ever inhabited it. As I said before, it does not matter what one's religious belief is, or his lack of a belief, the subject is one that should interest all, purely for scientific and historic reasons, if for no other.

If it can be established so clearly as to leave no room for doubt that a great branch of the ancient Hebrew race came to America, and are really the progenitors of the Indian tribes, it would be a discovery of tremendous importance.

To my mind the Hebrew origin of the Indian is already established. Ever since I can remember I have had a great curiosity to know about the ancient people of America. And there was one race that captivated my imagination. This was the Aztec. I read everything I could get my hands on that dealt with them in any way, and the more I read and investigated their history the more impressed I became with their essentially dramatic characteristics.—Baltimore Sun.

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