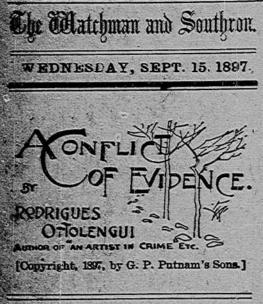
# THE WATCHMAN AND SOUTHRON, SEPTEMBER 15, 1897.



#### CHAPTER I. THE CRIME.

"It's my opinion they won't catch im. Marvel's no fool if he is het headed, and he knows enough to keep under never now that they are after him." "That's all right, Everly, and, as ron say, I guess Marvel can hide away rell enough. But what I want to know is, what's he got to hide for? He ain't one nothing as I can see 'cept to fire off his pistol when he was mad as thunder." "And right he was, too," said anotha loanger in the saloon where this conersation occurred. "I say any man of grit world have done the same. Why, lidn't the old man try to disgrace him right before his sweetheart and a lot of

"Well, anyway," said the storekeepremoving his pipe to speak, "smart or fool, I guess they'll get him. I hear s how the squire is terrible cut up bout this thing, and he's sent down to Boston for a regular detective."

The squire's sent to Boston for a detective?" said Everly. "I wouldn't have believed that the squire would do uch a thing. To set a spy on the track of one of his neighbors! Why, it's dis-

geneefal?', Over in the corner, on chairs drawn up close to the stove, sat two strangers. They had arrived in Lee that morning, and after taking drinks at this the only taxern in the town had apparently set about getting warm. The elder of the

Gentlemen," said he, "if you'll pardon the curiosity of a stranger, I'd the to ask you what crime this young n has committed?"

A pause followed, while the strangers became the object of a close scrutiny by all present. Finally Will Everly stepped forward, and, looking his interrogator steadily in the face, said:

"I am Will Everly, Walter Marvel's

Importance with your father this morning, and I am taking a detective with me to his house."

"A detective!" exclaimed Lewis. He seemed startled, and Tom Burrows, who was watching him, noted that he glanced hurriedly around the room, his eyes resting finally upon Mr. Barnes and himself.

"Oh, you need not be alarmed!" said the squire, observing his agitation. 'It is in your father's interest that I have brought a detective from Boston. I will explain as we go along."

"You must excuse my being startled," said Lewis, "but it rather astounded me to hear that you were taking a detective to my father's house. At the instant the, absurd but horrible idea entered my brain that you meant to arrest him." Tom Burrows thought it a significant fact that at the mention of the word "detective" Lewis' eye should have sought the very men who were detectives. When he imparted this suspicion to Mr. Barnes, the latter suggested that possibly Lewis had seen them before and that their faces attracted him because he partly recognized them. Subsequently he learned that Lewis had seen them, that same morning on the train, but had reached Lee after them, because he had walked from Newmarket, while they had taken the stage.

Without further conversation the four men started on their way toward the home of John Lewis. As they walked the squire enlightened them upon the affair which had necessitated the presence of a detective.

"This business," he began, "is particularly unpleasant because the best people in the town are mixed up in it. John Lewis came to Lee 15 years ago, bringing with him a little girl, then about 6 years of age. Virginia she is named, though her intimates call her Virgie. We knew nothing of Lewis, but he appeared to have money, for he bought Riverside farm, on which he has lived ever since. He made friends rapidly as the townspeople came to know him, and he was reckoned an acquisition. The girl was not his own child, he explained, but an adopted one, the daughter of his sister, who had died. He mentioned having a son"-the squire here addressed Lewis-"but we never saw you. How was that?"

"When my father came to Lee," replied Lewis, "he left me at a military academy in New York, but I chafed under the restraint, and one day very foolishly ran away and shipped for a voyage to China."

"Ah! That explains matters. About five years after Lewis settled here the Marvels came. At first it was only for the summer months, but finally they been permanent residents. Naturally young Walter Marvel-an only sonmet Virgie, and from boyhood he has been attached to her. But while she has not rejected his attentions she has never acted so that any one, even her most intimate friends, could be sure that she loved him. There are two others connected with what I am about to tell you-Alice Marvel, Walter's sister, and Harry Lucas, Walter's friend, currently supposed to be in love with Alice, though there are some who claim that were it not for the friendship between him and Walter, Lucas would court Miss Lewis himself. That is probably only gossip. However, these four young people are fast friends. "They are constantly together and are partners in many enterprises of a social or charitable nature. Another fact which has a not unimportant bearing upon the subsequent events is that all four of these young people are expert shots with a pistol. Some two or three years ago a circus appeared in this neighborhood, the star attraction of which was a young girl who was wonderfully clever with a pistol. Virgie declared that she, too, could learn to shoot, and the result was that pistols were bought, and, I may say, a sort of shooting club was formed, though only these four were members. "Recently Virgie attained her majority and arranged to celebrate it with a festival for all of her friends. As it was during the nutting season the guests were invited to come for the day, the many nut trees near the river banks promising occupation to those who cared for that sort of amusement, while tennis nets and croquet were set upon the lawn. In addition it was announced that there would be a shooting match in which all could take part. "All went merrily during the morning, and a sumptuous dinner, served upon tables in the open air, had been enjoyed by all, after which the party dispersed about the farm in small groups. I was sitting on a bench chatting with Lewis when Virgie and Walter Marvel approached. The latter asked permission to speak to Lewis privately, and I therefore walked a little way from them with Virgie. At the time I had no idea of Marvel's object in seeking the interview with Lewis and was startled a few moments later to hear them talking in angry tones; but that you may better understand the affair I will relate just what occurred, as it was told to me afterward by Lewis himself. "It appears that the shooting match that day had a greater prize at stake than the trophy which had been offered. Marvel had asked Virgie to be his wife and begged permission to speak to her adopted father. With a smile and womanlike, desiring to keep him in suspense as long as possible, her reply had been, 'Beat me at the target, and you may speak to father.' This he had accomplished, though by only a single point, and it was to ask for the hand of Virgie

crowd of people about us. As we approached Marvel said hotly:

"'Virgie, Mr. Lewis refuses his consent and will not give his reasons.'

"Why do you object, uncle?' asked Virgie. She strongly emphasized the word 'uncle,' a title by which she had never addressed him before. This incident will give you an insight into that girl's character-cool, self possessed and withal willful and determined, though by willful I do not mean that she is unrestrained by reason, but rather that once having formed a project she will carry it into effect at any cost. For a familiarity and seemed much annoyed moment Lewis seemed staggered by her words, but he quickly recovered himself and replied:

"'Because I will not allow my daughter to marry into a family of jailbirds.'

"' 'What do you mean by that?' fairly screamed Walter, trembling with barely suppressed anger.

" 'What do I mean?' retorted Lewis, speaking rapidly and as though actuated by intense hatred. 'I mean that your uncle, the man whose vile name you bear, is a convict and that he caused the death of an innocent girl.'

"With a wild cry of rage Marvel drew his pistol, which he had reloaded after the shooting match, and fired at Lewis. The sequence of events had been so startling and so rapid that none of us made a move to save Lewis except Virgie, who exhibited her usual presence of mind. With a quick upward motion of her hand she diverted her lover's aim so that the ball went into the air. Having thus saved the life of her adopted father, she turned to Marvel and said the single word 'Go.' Walter looked at her a moment with despair upon his face; then, as she made no answer to his mute appeal, he threw his weapon from him and rushed from the place, threatening Lewis with his vengeance.

"He had scarcely departed when Lucas pushed through the surrounding circle and upbraided Lewis for what had occurred. Lewis, by this time beside himself with rage, ordered Lucas to leave the premises, and threatened to set his dog upon him if he would not do so, or if he ever should return. Lucas muttered some threatening words, but prepared to leave, whereupon Alice Marvel pressed forward and said:

"You are a coward to have insulted two gentlemen while they were your guests. I almost feel that I could kill you myself.'

"Alice is usually a quiet girl, but she is somewhat hysterical, and as the two men were the one her brother and the other her sweetheart she was much overwrought. She and Lucas left simulbought a place and since then have taneously. Then Virgie, still maintaining her dignity, said:

which served as a knocker. This bold

entry was not destined to go unresented, however, for a huge mastiff appeared, coming from an inner room, and growled ominously. At a word from the squire the dog assumed a less hostile demeanor and prowled about the party, sniffing at their persons as though to make their acquaintance. When he reached Lewis, who was the last to enter, he raised himself up on his hind legs, and, planting his fore paws on his breast, tried to lick him on the face. Lewis resented the animal's as he brusquely pushed him down with an exclamation of impatience.

"Why, Mr. Lewis," said the squire, "the dog acts as though he knows you. Can it be possible that he remembers you? I know that your father brought him here when he first came, but that is years ago, and he was a mere puppy then."

"I remember him well enough now, but I doubt if his recollection spaus the interval between now and the time when I gave him bread and milk in his puppy days. I receive that kind of attention from nearly all dogs. Some of the fiercest have favored me at sight. Once at a bench show in London I bet that I could pat the head of any dog there. I won the wager, though the animal selected was a ferocious looking bulldog, over whose kennel was conspicuously displayed the warning placard: 'Dangerous. Do not handle.' They say that a dog knows a friend instinctively, and I am certainly a friend of the canine species, ranking dogs next to human beings. But let us seek my father. I am anxious to meet him."

"Well, come in here," said the squire, leading the way into a room on the left of the hall. "This is the parlor. Remain here while I hunt up Lewis."

The squire had barely passed the doorway when he uttered a cry of alarm and hurried across the room. His companions hastened after him and beheld the prostrate form of a man lying upon the rug in front of the fireplace. The squire leaned over the body for a moment and then jumped up, with horror depicted on every feature.

"There has been a terrible accident," said he. "My friend Lewis is here, dead!"

The others pressed forward. They saw the motionless body of a man. He lay on his side, with his head near the fireplace, in which were the remains of a log fire. This fire roast have been a hot one, as the face of the dead man, which had been covered in life with a heavy beard, was now scarcely more than a mass of charred flesh and therefore entirely unrecognizable. In spots there remained the burned stubs of the hair on the face and more on the head, but in many places it was burned entirely away, exposing the flesh, a blackened human charcoal. Lewis gazed in a dazed and semiconscious way at the awful sight and in a low, hoarse whisper asked:

when the finale came there was quite a of using the great brass non's paw | bending over the body, rose and said in a low voice:

"Gentlemen, my father has been murdered." The squire sank into the nearest chair. His last hope was gone. Lewis continued: "I repeat he has been murdered. There is a bullet hole in his left side, where it is almost impossible for him to have shot himself; therefore suicide is out of the question."

At the words "bullet hole" Mr. Barnes became all attention. Here was something tangible. Here was real evidence. The position of the wound, too, that was quite important, and Lewis' conclusion seemed logical enough. But he had used the correct words when he said "almost impossible." Mr. Barnes was a careful man in forming opinious, and experience had taught him that the seemingly impossible often occurs. Still, in the line of thought suggested by Lewis' words, ho turned to Squire Olney:

"Can you tell us whether your friend was left handed?"

"Yes, I am sure he was not."

"Then it is probable that he was shot by some other party than himself. Squire, the affair is now serious. It becomes cur duty to try to find the guilty party."

At the word "duty" the squire recovered himself instantly and was all attention. Mr. Barnes continued: "The coroner should be notified at

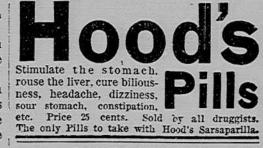
once."

"I am the coroner of the county," replied the squire. "In this town we have not needed such an officer within



"I think that the murderer fired from the outside."

the memory of man. However, in this instance the duty devolves upon me. Therefore I am in charge of the case. Mr. Barnes, as you came down to serve me in a matter now at rest I suppose you can place yourself at my disposal



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Before I answer any or you attions I must know who you are and why you wish to know this story." "Your talk aroused my curiosity,"

said the stranger. "Will you deny that you are a detective?" Everly eyed his man closely, but not a sign indicated that the question had caused surprise. He was disappointed, for he had expected him to be disconcerted. The reply was simple.

"I shall not deny it, for I never lie." He handed Everly a card upon which was neatly engraved, "John Barnes, Detective, Boston."

After reading it, conciliated by the detective's honesty, Everly said:

"I thank you for your candor. I suspected you, for we seldom have strangers in Lee. As I am Marvel's friend, and as you have come here to make trouble for him, you will pardon me if I give you no information which will be of use to

you." "No need, young man. We'll get along well enough without you." Everly recognized the voice of Squire Olney, who had just entered, and he turned away. The squire shook Mr. Barnes cordially by the hand, saying:

"You are Mr. Barnes, the man sent down by the Pilkingtons, I presume? I am glad you are so punctual. I expected to find you here, as I received a dispatch from your chief last night. As soon as you are ready I shall take you up to Mr. Lewis' house, for it is in connection with his affair that I sent for yon."

"I am ready to go with you at once," said Mr. Barnes in an undertone, "but first let me introduce to you my friend Mr. Burrows. He is a young man in whom the, chief is interested, and he works with the older men that he may acquire experience. He is a beginner, but he is shrewd and promises to become a first class detective."

Burrows arose, and the squire shook hands with him, whereupon the three men exchanged a few words in an undertone. Meanwhile another stranger appeared upon the scene. This was a man dressed in the garb of a sailor. He ordered a hot drink, for which he paid in advance. Then he asked one or two questions, whereupon the storekeeper called out:

"I say, squire! Here's a man you may as well see."

Thus summoned, the squire left the detectives and approached the newcomer.

"Well, my man," he asked, "what can I do for you?"

"My name is John Lewis," was the reply. "I have been at sea for several years, but have at last reached home again, or rather I should say my father's home, for this is my first visit to Lee. I was asking to be directed to my father's house when this gentleman told

only too often, and therefore when he proceeding. You are right, too, as to the squire, offering his hand to Lewis your first conjecture. Marvel is high finds a dead body under anything like No \*32 No. 156 in cordial recognition. "I have often spirited, and I should not be surprised P. M. peculiar circumstances, such as these, A. M. heard your father speak of you, and as that he had impatiently sought the pri-4 55 if he surrenders as soon as he learns for example, his suspicions are aroused Ly Deumark, I know that he loves you and longs for vate conversation with Lewis. Lewis more quickly perhaps than might be Ly Orangeburg, 5 25 that he is wanted. That is why I have your return it will be a pleasure to me | confessed to me that he had not susthe case with other men. But if you Ly Pregnails, 10 00 been worried by his disappearance. But pected that there was any ottachment Ar to restore his son to him. here we are at the farm. think your young friend, the son, may 5 47 8 [] Ly Creston, "You can't think how your words between them, and he was therefore The house was an elegant frame now have sufficiently recovered from Ar Samter, 6 43 surprised by Marvel's request. He asked gladden me," said Lewis, apparently his shock we will go into the room Ly Sumter. building of the Queen Anne style of 6 55 whether Virgie had given her consent, overcome by emotion. "I ran away again. An examination of the body Ar Elliott, 7 40 architecture. The grounds were on the and, receiving the affirmative reply, from home when I was a youngster, south side of the road, so that the dwellmay remove any deabts on this subject." Ar Darlington 8 30 and now that I have come back it is after a moment's hesitation he in-P. M. P. M. Mr. Barnes then started toward the ing faced the north. It was recessed formed Marvel that he would not sancgcod news to hear that a welcome about 50 feet from a picket fence, and next room, and the squire followed, ·Daily. tion his suit. Marvel of course urged his fDaily except Sunday. the party entered through a neat, paintawaits me." hardly during to think of what they Trains 32 and 35 carry through Palimet "Welcome? Yes, indeed. Your father cause, and Lewis made some angry reed gate, a brick paved walk leading might be about to discover. Pal-ce Euffet Sleeping Cars between Nev has often said to me that he would | marks, which at last were loud enough Appreciating the fact that the busithem up to the main door. This was York and Macon via Augusta. J R. KENLY, cheerfully forgive your foolish escapade to attract my attention. Virgie and I standing invitingly open. Squire Olney ness before them was very sericus, the T. W. EMERSON, H. M. EMERSON, if you would but return. But come. We then went quickly toward the two Gen'l Manager, seemed entirely at home, for he led the three men entered the parlor quite Ass't Gen. Pass. Az Traffic Vanager. must start at once. I have business of men, and others did the same, so that J. R. KENLY, Gen'l Manager way straight in without the formality gravely. As they did so Lewis, who was

"Since my uncle has acted so churlishly to three of my guests, I advise the rest of my friends to retire lest he should humiliate us further.'

"That she spoke of him as uncle maddened Lewis, and he retorted angrily: "'Go, all of you, but'-picking up

Marvel's pistol-'I call you all to witness that this is Walter Marvel's weapon and that with it he attempted to take my life.' "

The squire paused a moment and then resumed:

"I was an eyewitness of this scene, and I assure you that I have not exaggerated it in the least. On the following day Lewis applied to me to procure



"A detective?" exclaimed Lewis.

a warrant for him. As I was once a justice of the peace he knew that I understand such matters. I tried to dissuade him from his purpose, but he was determined to have Marvel arrested for assault with intent to kill. He procured the warrant, but thus far Marvel has kept out of the way. After several more unsuccessful attempts to persuade Lewis to abandon his object I was obliged to give up the task. Then the continued absence of young Marvel began to worry me, and I feared that he might return and kill Lewis. Therefore I have decided that it will be best to find him before any such calamity can occur, this as much for his sake as for the safety of Lewis. So I have sent for you, Mr. Barnes, taking a step of which Lewis is ignorant. And now may I ask you what in your judgment will be the chance of apprehending Marvel?"

"Oh," said Mr. Barnes, "there will be no difficulty in finding him. I do not think he is hiding from the law. If at all, it is from the disgrace which he fancies that Mr. Lewis has cast upon him. But if he really loves Miss Lewis the thing is simple. We have but to watch her. He is sure to seek an interview sooner or later."

Ar Orangeburg, "There," said the squire admiringly; "Squire Olney, I cannot say that I 6 30 Ar Denmark, me that you were about to go there and 'see how quickly you get at it. I should have really formed such an opinion, but A. M. P. M. connection for all points North. might be willing to take me with you." never have thought of such a mode of a man in my profession sees such things "I shall be delighted to do so," said TRAINS GOING NORTH

"Is this my father?"

The squire started at the question, and at once realized all the horror of the situation. He did not reply, but beckoned to the two detectives to follow him and quietly left the room. Accompanied by them, he led the way across

the hall into the library, and then repeated what he had exclaimed at first sight of the body-that it was that of John Lewis, in whose interest they had come to the house.

"But," continued he, "I cannot understand how it is that we find him dead and in such a position. It looks at first sight like heart disease or apoplexy. How terrible that he should have fallen into the fire and have been so dreadfully disfigured!"

"Did you ever fancy that your friend had any physical ailment of the kind?" asked Mr. Barnes.

"Why, no. I always considered him the stoutest, heartiest man of my acquaintance."

"Is it not singular, then, that he should be taken away so suddenly as this?"

"Now that you suggest the idea, it does seem so. The whole thing has been so startling and so unexpected that I have not collected my thoughts sufficiently to analyze the situation. I find my friend dead on the floor of his own house after having seen him alive and well only last evening, and I suppose I have adopted the first theory which presented itself."

"You say you saw your friend last evening?" asked Mr. Barnes in a quiet voice, keeping his eyes steadily fixed on the squire.

Something in his tone or in his manner of askin the question attracted the squire, and he turned and faced his interrogator as he replied:

"Yes." "Where?"

"There-in the very room where we now find his corpse. I came to talk about this business once more and to

try to dissuade him from pursuing it further." 'Can you tell at what time you left him? Is there any circumstance by which you can fix the time accurately?

Think well. It may be important."

"Important?" echoed the squire. "Why, man, what are you getting at: Surely you cannot think that -- Merciful heaven! Do you suppose that my friend has been murdered?'

and assist in finding the murderer?"

"Certainly," replied Mr. Barnes. "I Fet. 28 will simply notify the chief of the facts, and he will grant me more time than I should have asked for before. Do you object to my having Mr. Burrows as PROVISIONS AND GROGERIES my assistant?"

"Of course not. I want to see you commence your work at once. No time is to be lost. I may have been anxious to hush up the other matter, but I am alive to the seriousness of this. Whoever he may be and at whatever cost the murderer must be found and brought to | MOTT'S CIDER justice."

"Very well, sir. From this moment we act under your orders. As you say, no time must be lost. The murderer has several hours' start of us now, and we must catch up our end of the trail as quickly as possible. The first thing to be done is to examine the room and premises minutely for clews. I therefore suggest that you and Mr. Lewis leave us to work alone while you summon men to form your jury."

"A very good suggestion. I will act on it at once. Come, Mr. Lewis, a walk in the open air will help you after the shock which you have sustained." Taking Lewis by the arm, the two left the room.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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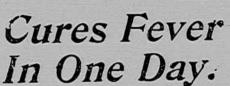
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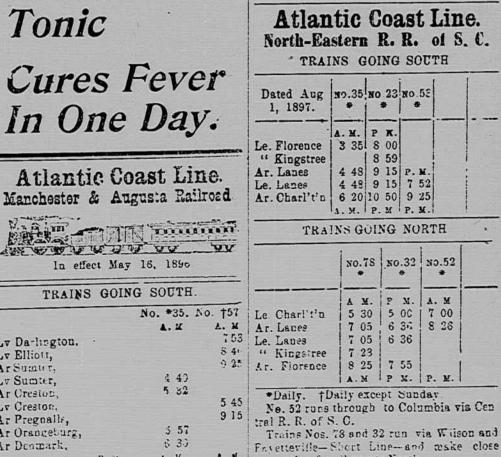
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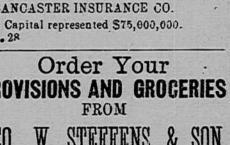
Ly Creston,

Ar Pregnalls,





Trains on C. & D R. R. leave Florence 8 55 a m, strive Darlington 9 28 a m, Cheraw 10 40 a m, Wadesboro 2 25 p m Leave Florence, daily except Sunday, 8 10 p m, arrive Darlington 8 40 pm, Hartsville 9 35 p m, Becnettsvilie 9 36 pm, Gibson 10 00 pm. Leave Florence, Sunday only 900 pm, arrive Darlington 9 27 a m, Hartsville 10 10 Leave Git son daily except Sunday 6 15 a m, Bennettaville 6 41 a m, arrive Darlington 7 40 mm. Leave Hartsville daily except Sundav 630 am, arrive Darlington 7 15 am, leave Darlington 7 45 a.m. arrive Florence S 15 a m. Leave Wadesboro, daily except Sunday 3 00 pm, Cheraw 5 15 pm, Darlington 6 29 pm, Florence 7 00 pm Leave Hartsville, Sunday only 7 00 a m , Darlington 7 45 a m , arrive Florence 8 10 a m. JNO. F. DIVINE Gen 1 Sup't r M EMERSON. Traffic Maosver



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