

mainly concerned in getting out of

the church before her emotions over-

came her. This she succeeded in do-

ing with my help; and, once in the

vestibule, recovered herself so com-

pletely, and met all my inquiries with

such a gay shrug of the shoulders,

that I should have passed the matter

over as a mere attack of nerves, if I

had not afterwards detected in her

face, through all the hurry and ex-

citement of the ensuing reception, a

strained expression not at all natural

to her. This was still more evident

after the congratulations of a certain

guest, who, I am sure, whispered to

her before he passed on; and when

the time came for her to go up-stairs

she was so pale and unlike herself

that I became seriously alarmed and

asked if she felt well enough to start

upon the journey we had meditated.

Instantly her manner changed. She

turned upon me with a look I have

been trying ever since to explain to

myself, and begged me not to take

her out of town to-night but to some

quiet hotel where we might rest for

a few days before starting on our

travels. She looked me squarely in

the eye as she made this request and,

seeing in her nothing more than a

feverish anxiety lest I should make

difficulties of some kind, I promised

to do what she asked and bade her

run away and get herself ready to go and say nothing to any one of our

change of plan. She smiled and

turned away towards her own room,

but presently came hurrying back to

ask if I would grant her one more

favor. Would I be so good as not to

speak to her or expect her to speak

to me till we got to the hotel; she was

feeling very nervous but was sure that

a few minutes of complete rest would

entirely restore her; something had

occurred (she acknowledged this)

which she wanted to think out; would

not I grant her this one opportunity

of doing so? It was a startling re-

quest, but she looked so lovely-par-

don me, I must explain my easy acliescence—that I gave her the as-

surance she wished and went about

my own preparations, somewhat dis-

concerted but still not at all prepared

for what happened afterward. I had

absolutely no idea that she meant to

Mr. Ransom paused, greatly affect-

ed; but upon the detective asking

him how and when Mrs. Ransom had

deserted him, he controlled himself

"Here; immediately after that silent

and unnatural ride. She entered the

office with me and was standing close

at my side all the time I was writing

our names in the register; but later,

when I turned to ask her to enter the

elevator with me, she was gone, and

the boy who was standing by with our

two bags said that she had slipped

into the reception-room across the

hall. But I didn't find her there or

in any of the adjoining rooms. Nor

has anybody since succeeded in find-

ing her. She has left the building-

This from the detective, but very

"Yes. For she was not following

her own inclinations in thus abandon-

ing me so soon after the words which

made us one were spoken. Some influ-

ence was brought to bear on her

which she felt unable to resist. I

have confidence enough in her to be-

lieve that. The rest is mystery-a

mystery which I am forced to ask you

to untangle. I have neither the nec-

essary calmness nor experience my-

"But you surely have done some-

"Oh, yes, I have done all that, but

with no result. She has not returned

to her old home. Her uncle has just

been here and he is as much mysti-

fied by the whole occurrence as I am.

He could tell me nothing, absolutely

whispered to her during the recep-

tion, couldn't you learn anything

pression almost ferocious.

Mr. Ransom's face took on an ex-

"No. He's a stranger to Mr. Fulton;

"At the reception. He was intro-

duced as Mr. Hazen (my wife's maid-

en name, you know), and when I saw

how his presence disturbed her, I

said to her, 'A cousin of yours?' and

she answered with very evident em-

barrassment, 'A relative;'-which

you must acknowledge didn't locate

him very definitely. Mr. Fulton doesn't

know of any such relative. And I

don't believe he is a relative. He

didn't sit with the rest of the family

"Ah! you saw him in the church."

"Yes. I noticed him for two rea-

sons. First, because he occupied an

end seat and so came directly under

my eye in our passage down the aisle.

Secondly, because his face of all those

which confronted me when I looked

for the cause of her sudden agitation.

was the only one not turned towards

her in curiosity or interest. His eyes

were fixed and vacant: his only. That | the White Machine.

Mr. Fulton's niece introduced him to

"A relative? When was that?"

"Indeed! and the man, the one who

thing," protested Gerridge. "Tele-

phoned to her late home or-"

"You want her back again?"

leave me."

sufficiently to say:

left me, and-"

dryly.

self."

nothing."

about him?"

me as a relative.'

in the church."

## FOREWORD.

Shifting from New York City to in little Connecticut town of Sitford. he main thread of THE CHIEF LEGATEE is there unwound through a makitude of perplexing personalities and amazing phases. You come to e and then disbelieve in Mrs. Rancom's suicidal plunge into the Devil's Cauldron; you believe and then believe that Mrs. Ransom's deaf win sister, Anitra Hazen, is really Mrs. Ransom herself; you are dismated by the apparent utter selfishness and brutality of Alfred Hazen, and then astounded by evidences of his bravery and complete unselfishness; you durre the affection of Roger Ransom his wife, and his loyal determination not to believe her lost to him so ang as there is the slightest sign of hope: you are enmeshed in doubt by which on one day clearly point to certain conclusions, and then on the sent day puzzled more than ever by ther equally reliable signs which point the severe way. The ending of the is satisfactory enough, but the of this foreword is free to say hat, if he had prepared the last chapter, a would have made a still more satisfactory conclusion, in his judgment, by simply destroying the will made in war of the unknown Auchinches, thus ing The Cause of chance either do harm to anyone or to acquire an ed fortune.

CHAPTER L A Bride of Five Hours.

This from the manager of the Hotel -- to his chief clerk. "Something wrong in

Tes, sir. I've just sent for a deve. You were not to be found the gentleman is desperate. But anxious to have it all kept quiet; y anxious. I think we can oblige there, or, at least, we'll try. Am right, sir?"

Of course, if-" Oh! it's nothing criminal. The dy's missing, that's all; the lady e name you see here."

The register lay open between m; the cierk's finger, running along he column, rested about half-way

The manager bent over the page. "Roger J. Ransom and wife," he out in decided astonishment. Why, they are-"

"You're right. Married to-day in see Church. A great wedding; the pers are full of it. Well, she's the They registered here a few fautes before five o'clock and in ten nates the bride was missing. It's queer story Mr. Ransom tells. You'd otter hear it. Ah, there's our man! Perhaps you'll go up with him."

"You may bet your last dollar on that," muttered the manager. And pining the newcomer, he made a mificant gesture which was all that sed between them till they stepped out on the second floor.

"Wanted in Room 81?" the manager

"Yes, by a man named Ransom." "Just so. That's the door. Knock or, rather, I'll knock, for I must hear his story as soon as you do. The

reputation of the hotel--"Yes, yes, but the gentleman's wait-

ing. Ah! that's better." The manager had just knocked. An exclamation from within, a hurried step, and the door fell open. The figure which met their eyes was startling. Distress, anxiety, and an impatience almost verging on frenzy, dis-

torted features naturally amiable if not handsome. "My wife," fell in a gasp from his

writhing lips. "We have come to help you find her," Mr. Gerridge calmly assured him. Mr. Gerridge was the detective. Relate the circumstances, sir. Tell us where you were when you first missed her."

Mr. Ransom's glance wandcred past him to the door. It was partly open. The manager, whose name was Looms, hastily closed it. Mr. Ransom showed relief and hurried into his

story. It was to this effect: "I was married to-day in Grace Church. At the altar my bride-you probably know her name, Miss Geordan Hasen—wore a natural look, and was in all respects, so far as any one mid see, a happy woman, satisfied with her choice and pleased with the Half-way down the aisle this all anged. I remember the instant perstly. Her hand was on my arm and I felt it suddenly stiffen. I was not armed, but I gave her a quick look ad saw that something had hapmed. What, I could not at the medetermine At the didn't answer

made him conspicuous and when I saw him again I knew him." "Describe the man."

Mr. Ransom's face lightened up with an expression of strong satis-

"I am going to astonish you," said he. "The fellow is so plain that children must cry at him. He has suffered some injury and his mouth and jaw have such a twist in them that the whole face is thrown out of shape. So you see," continued the unhappy bridegroom, as his eyes flashed from the detective's face to that of the manager's, "that the influence he exerts over my wife is not that of love. No one could love him. The secret's of another kind. What kind, what, what, what? Find out and I'll pay you any amount you ask. She is too dear and of too sensitive a temperament to be subject to a wretch of his appearance. I cannot bear the thought. It stifles, it chokes me; and yet for three hours I've had to endure it. Three hours! and with no prospect of release unless you-"

"Oh, I'll do something," was Gerridge's bland reply. "But first I must have a few more facts. A man such as you describe should be easy to find; easier than the lady. Is he a tall man?"

"Unsually so." "Dark or light?" "Dark." "Any beard?"



"Is he what you would call a gentleman?"

"None. That's why the injury to his jaw shows so plainly." "I see. Is he what you would call

a gentleman?" "Yes, I must acknowledge that. He shows the manners of good society, if he did whisper words into my wife's ear which were not meant for mine." "And Mr. Fulton knows nothing of

"Nothing."

"Well, we'll drop him for the present. You have a photograph of your

"Her picture was in all the papers to-night.'

"I noticed. But can we go by it? Does it resemble her?"

"Only fairly. She is far prettier. My wife is something uncommon. No picture ever does her justice." "She looks like a dark beauty. Is

her hair black or brown?" "Black. So black it has purple s! des in it."

"And her eyes? Black too?" "No, gray. A deep gray, which look

black owing to her long lashes." "Very good. Now about her dress. Describe it as minutely as you can. It was a bride's traveling costume, I suppose."

"Yes. That is, I presume so. I know that it was all right and suitable to the occasion, but I don't remember much about it. I was thinking too much of the woman in the gown to notice the gown itself." "Cannot you tell the color?"

"It was a dark one. I'm sure it was a dark one, but colors are not much in my l'ne. I know she looked wellthey can tell you about it at the house. All that I distinctly remember is the veil she had wound so tightly around her face and hat to keep the rice out of her hair that I could not get one glimpse of her features. All nonsense that veil, especially when I had promised not to address her or even to touch her in the cab. And she wore it into the office. If it had not been for that I might have foreseen her intention in time to prevent

"Perhaps she knew that."

"It looks as if she did." "Which means that she was meditating flight from the first."

"From the time she saw that man," Mr. Ransom corrected. "Just so; from the time she left her uncle's house. Your wife is a

woman of means, I believe." "Yes, unfortunately." "Why unfortunately?" "It makes her independent and of-

a millionaire.

like him.' "Her fortune is large, then?" "Very large; larger than my own." Every one knew Mr. Ransom to be

fers a lure to irresponsible wretches

"Left her by her father?" "No, by some great-uncle, I believe, who made his fortune in the Klon-

"And entirely under her own control?" "Entirely so."

(To Be Continued.) Your sewing vanish when you use stipation.

BUYING SUPPLIES.

IMPORTANT DECISION BY GOV. ANSEL ON PURCHASES.

Affects Coming Election—Counties Voting Out Dispensaries Must Dispose of Their Stock Before Novem-

Columbia, July 2 .- Gov. Ansel has given an important opinion in the matter of purchasing goods for the county dispensaries in connection with the August election on dispensaries in 21 counties. This opinion was given at the request of Dispensary Auditor West and states that under the act no goods may be purchased or any order filled after the August election in those counties that vote out the dispensaries.

Mr. West wrote Gov. Ansel as fol-

"In the event of the disestablishment of any of the county dispensaries as a result of the coming election, it is quite probable that there will be a considerable portion of the awards made at the last purchase of the boards unfilled on August 17, and I am asked to get an opinion as to whether or not the county dispensary beards will be obligated to receive the unfilled portions of the awards, or whether or not it is legal for them to receive any goods whatsoever after the election, if the result of the election is against the dispensary. I most respectfully submit this matter to your excellency that I may be able to properly advise county dispensary boards as to what action they will take in the matter.

The Governor's Ruling.

Gov. Ansel, after consulting the iaw, made the following ruling:

"Your letter of the 30th ultimo, asking as to where awards have been made at the last purchase of the county dispensary boards, which are unfilled on August 17, the date the election is to be held, the county boards would be allowed to receive the unfilled portions after that time is ar hand and in reply will say that I do not think they will.

"The act prescribes in the first section that the election shall be held or the third Tuesday in August, and in those counties voting against reopening their dispensaries, the stock shall be taken, and the act also says they shall continue to sell the stock on hand at retail or wholesale until November 15, and further provides that no purchase of liquor shall be made after the thid Tuesday in Au-

"So my opinion is that in all those countles refusing to vote in the dispensaries, no liquor can be purchased or received after the third Tuesday in August, even though the awards for the same had been made at the previous time of purchase.

"The act to which I refer is on page 423, act of the general assembly of 1909, being an act to provide for the closing of the several dispensaries in this State and for the sale of all stocks of liquors, beverages, fixtures and other property belonging to the several dispensaries.

The Act.

The act referred to by Gov. Ansel s, in part, as follows:

"Be it enacted by the general assembly of the State of South Carolina. That immediately after the election to be held on the third Tuesday in August the county dispnsary board in each county which may vote against reopening the dispensary or dispensaries, shall reopen said dispensary or dispensaries and continue to sell the stock on hand at retail or wholesale until November 15, 1909. immediately after which day said county dispensary board shall dispose of all remaining goods and property belonging to the said dispensary then on hand, in the manner hereinafter provided: Provided, That no purchase of liquors shall be made after the third Tuesday in August, 1909."

The act goes on to provide for the taking of inventories and the disposition in other respects of the stock on hand. The whole matter hinged, it appears, upon the word "purchase" which is now construed to mean delivery of the goods.

Set your sail according to your wind.-Italian.

DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition; hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condtion of the mucous sur-

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X-Ray Traps a Liar.

for charity? I am an awfully poor in great demand, there is not a sinwoman and have heart trouble Won't gle soda fountain. you please examine my heart with the X-Ray free of cost?"

This plea was made today by a poorly-dressed woman of about 65 to Dr. George Hermann, of Corryville. Happening to look a little lower than the heart, he discovered two \$20 gold pieces in a chamois bag under the wo- T. D. Atkinson, Proprietor.

"How is my heart, doctor?"

"Your heart is pretty bad," he ejaculated with a tinge of sarcasm. "Is there any hope for m ?"

"Not if you keep on this way" he declared as the third \$20 gold piece came into view. "I really mean that you had a bad heart. You lied when you said you were poor. Take that money out of your waist and pay me

The woman nearly collapsed, but she took out the \$60 in gold and from another part of her raiment drew out a purse containing bills .- Cincinnati Letter.

To Investigate McLendon Case.

Atlanta, Ga., July 1.-Investigation of the suspension of Chairman Mc Lendon of the State railroad commission by Gov. Smith was assured today by the action of the house in authorizing the appointment of a joint com-

mittee for the purpose. The senate already has taken similar action. The house resolution provided also for investigation of charges that Mr. Mc-Lendon had dealt in railroad securi-

criminal attack on Mr. C. L. Townsend, a prominent farmer near Ninety-Six last Teusday, was captured Wednesday and located in the jail at Greenville. Mr. Townsend reproved Aiken's wife about her work. Aiken got offended and struck Mr. Townsend with a hoe.

Syria and Palestine have an inordinate appetite for imported drugs. In "Doctor, do you ever do anything Beirut, a city where soft drinks are

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