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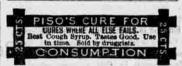
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ABSOLUTELY PURE



She was pacing the room slowly Two months had gone by since Mar ms Gray had intimated to Mary Lumsden his intention of seeking an interview with her father on the morrow, and our two young peope had seen nothing of each other in the interim.

The tragic circumstances connected

with Mr. Lumsden's death had put an end to all lovemaking for the time being, and now the period Gray had allotted to hinsself for the English portion of his tour was nearly at an end. A week hence if he carried out the ar-rangement agreed upon with his father before leaving home, he would be due in Paris. But his love for Mary had in powise cooled for luck of fuel to feed itself on, and he was determined on no account to quit London till he should come to an understanding of some sort with 1er mother. In this contingency he decided to take his Uncle Orde into his condence and claim the benefit of his advice in the affair. It was the wisest

conclusion he could have cone to.

Mr. Orde listened wile.

Toyenrows to I is nephew's recition as all news to lim. Nothing has 50.5 ten or sus-

"I congratulate you, my dear boy, on at Emission . Leucorrhos. Dizziness, Weak Mem. having made such an excellent choice," ory. Less of Power and Impotency, which if no he said heartily when Gray had come to an end "Mary Lumsden is a girl in a words. Price \$1.00 a tox. 6 boxes for \$5.00 Sent b; thousand. But tell me exactly what it

> He had not seen her since the night before her futler's death, and he was wishful to a certain whether she still looked to him to carry out the promise he had then um le ber, and, in short, to satisfy himself-not that for one moment he doubted her constancy-that she remained as unchanged to him as he did

Mr. Orde readily undertook his nephew's commission—a week never passed without finding him at Oakdene once, if not oftener-with the result that Mary sent word she would meet him next afternoon at three o'clock, on the road leading from Oakdene in the

direction of Tooting Common. Well, they met, and Mary proved to her lover's satisfaction that she was in nowise changed. "I don't know how my mother will receive you." remarked the girl. "There has been a great change in her since poor papa's death. It is a dreadful thing to say, but there are times when I fear for her reason."

"I must appeal to my uncle for the second time. If any one can induce Mrs. Lumsden to grant me an interview, he

"Mrs. Lumsden has consented to see you at two o'clock tomorrow," said Mr Orde to his nephew three days later. "although what kind of a reception she will accord to your suit it would be futile to prophesy. I must confess that in some of her moods I altogether fail to

understand her." Marcus Gray lacked nothing of that easy self possession which seems to be the birthright of so many of his conntrymen, but it must be confessed that hen, on being ushered into the drawing room at Oakdene, he found himself outrouted by a tail, white faced woman, with hollow cheeks and bair which a few short weeks had abundantly streaked with gray, and with a strange steely glitter in her deep set eyes he felt for o that his tongue re. to do his

"Pray be seated, Mr. Gray," said the widow. "I have consented to see you in deterence to the with of your nucla. who was my dead husband's dearest friend, as he is now mine. He tells me that you have conceived an affection for my daughter, and that you wish me to esaction an engagement between your-

self and her. "That is the dearest wish of my life. "And do you consider. Mr. Gray, that this is a fit time to dream of lovemakthis is a fit time to dream of loveling ing and giving in marriage, while the blood of my poor murdered husband cries out from the grave for vengeance on his assassin? If you think so, I cer-

Gray knew not what to reply. Never

knowing or suspecting him for the vile wretch that he is. Every day that passes lessens the chances of his detection. Already at Scotland Yard my husband's death is looked upon as merely adding another item to the long catalogue of mysterious crimes which have never been brought home to their perpetrators. The task has been given up as hopeless, other interests have come to the front. the reward remains unclaimed and soon the name of Edward Lumsden will have faded from the minds of all, save a few who were nearest and dearest to him." She had risen, and was pacing the

ressed tightly to her bosom, as if to rush down the surging emotions at ork below. Gray had no words at ommand. For a little while the silence remained inbroken; then Mrs. Lumsden stopped bruptly in her walk, and fixing her

oom slowly, with something of the air

of a caged animal, her clinched hands

large, dark eyes, luminous with a somber fire, full on the American, she said: "You ask me, Mr. Gray, to give you my daughter's hand. My answer to you s, first do something to prove yourself worthy of the gift. You are here in London, idling away your time, with no object beyond the amusement of the hour, and yet the assassin of the father

of her you would make your wife is still untraced, his crime goes still unpun-ished and you have never so much as lifted your little figger in the effort to track him down. Oh, that I were reman instead of 'the weak, helpless creature I am. Oh, that I had a son

But at this juncture the door was "Dr. Hynton, ma'am," said the parior

maid Gray rose as the doctor entered. The widow gave him her hand, and with a smile that had in it much of her old

sweetness, said: "You will excuse me now, will you not, Mr. Gray? You must come and see me again a few days hence. It may be that I have talked a little at random to-

Gray bent and touched her fingers with his lips and withdrew. He had scarcely been ten minutes in the house and had not spoken more than a dozen

Without professing to be actuated by before. Mr. Orde was by nature a mar of caution and reserve, and not even to his nephew had he heretofore confided the particulars in connection with Eustace Crake, nor how his suspicions, unsupported though they were by any direct evidence, pointed unequiv ocally to him as being the criminal. Today, however, he told his nephew everything. It was as though the latter had brought away from his interview with Mrs. Lumsden a pass key to the secret chamber of his uncle's mind.

self: "Tomorrow I will seek out and make the acquaintance of Mr. Eustace Crake.'

As he left the house he said to him



Yesh, but you won't see me tomorrow. It was three weeks later. Marcus Gray had been as good as his word. Not only had be made Crake's acquaintance in the interim, but by this time the two. to employ an expressive location, had become as "thick as thieves." He had sought out Crake at the billiard room of the Flagon and Cask, the tavern which Inspector Fountain's report to Mr. Orde had mentioned as being his favorite house of call Gray's role had been that of a simple young American over in London for a holiday, with no lack of money to fling away, and not caring much how he got rid of it so long as he saw plenty of "life" in return. It was a part he played to perfection, and Crake clung to him like a leech from the moment he found that the supply of sovereigns to be squeezed out of him in one way or another had no apparent

limit. They got into the way of meeting regularly about two o'clock in the afternoon, when Crake, who was really a crack player, would for the next two

he American's expense. For the present there was only one thing that Gray stuck out against. He

would have nothing to do with the bet-ting on the turf, but Crake by no means "I can quite despaired of being able by and by to overcome a prejudice so puritanical and absurd and one at the same time so himical to his own interests.

On the night to which we have now

ome Gray and Crake left the Flagon and Cask together, as they had done everal times before. It was half past welve and closing time, and no sooner twelve and closing time, and no sconer had they crossed the threshold than the door was shut and bolted behind them.

They had been playing billiards together since eight o'clock. Crake of that name. But what is the content of the first place of that name. But what is the content of the first place of that name. But what is the content of the first place of that name. But what is the content of the first place of that name. But what is the content of the first place of that name. But what is the content of the first place of that name. But what is the content of the first place of that name. But what is the content of the first place of that name. But what is the content of the first place of that name. But what is the content of the first place of that name. But what is the content of the first place of the first plac course giving his opponent a certain was a Mr. Parkinson who paid the late number of points, notwithstanding Mr. Lumsden a certain sum in bank which the American had lost every game but two. Tonight, too, he had insisted on backing his play for half a covereign a game and as he covere sovereign a game, and as by some mis-chance—it was a thing which had never "Ahr" was all that Crake could find happened before-he had fallen short of to say for a moment. Then, after moisready money, the result had been that tening his lips with his tongue, he added by the time they left off play Crake held. "You will pardon me if I fail to see in his I O U for three pounds fifteen borrowed cash, as to which he was not at
all uneasy, feeling sure he would be recouped on the morrow. It was evident
that Gray, who was ordinarily most abstemious, had been drinking more than of the missing notes were not known, was good for him. He staggered slightly Now, if that be the case how" - His

panion's coat. together he said: "I suppose I had better hall the first

hansom we come across?" To which Gray, who had left his On that point I can speak most posi-uncle's house some time before and was tively," was Crake's reply. now in lodgings at the west end, re-

carbby with." Here he gave a lurch which carried Crake and himself half across the pavement.

"I have a cab waiting at the corbave a cab waiting at the corbaby with." Here he gave a lurch on their arrival at Scotland Yard inspector Fountain ushered his charge into a room where two officials in uniform

renceachfully.

an unsteady halt.

"Can't see it, my boy. What is it that you have done?"

owe you, while all the time I've a twenty pound note in my pccketbook."

ter? You can redeem your bit of paper when I see you tomorrow." "Yesh, but you won't see me tomor-

over till I come back." For a full minute or more Crake stood

in silent thought. The chances were, nothing more than a few meaningless he argued, that if the American once dots and scratches in faded ink on the mail on receipt of price.

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> two and then he said: manage to change your note."

Half an hour later Marcus Gray was on his way home in a hansom. All June the eighth, the very day, in point of signs of inebriety had vanished. He was fact, before the murder of Mr. Lums his usual self-keen, alert and quietly den." self possessed. In exchange for his twenty pound note Crake had given him officer's lips before Crake fell backward three five pound notes, his IOU and

the balance in cash. Eustace Crake was sented at breakfast next morning, with a sporting newspaper dorsement. The remaining five had supported against the hot water jug in front of him, when the door of his sitting room was unceremoniously opened was committed for trial in due course. and two men, entire strangers to him,

"You are Mr. Eustace Crake?" said curred the following passage:
he elder of the two interrogatively.
"It is true that I killed my cousin. but the elder of the two interrogatively. Crake nodded

Yard," added the officer. On the instant every vestige of color faded out of Crake's face, leaving it of a gray, corpselike pailor. For a few mo-ments he was like a man suddenly smit-brated in a certain suburtian church. To ten with the loss of speech; then, with a the reader who has seen iit thus far to grimace which he evidently meant for a follow the fortunes of the personages

"To what may I attribute the honor

of this visit, Mr. Inspector?" "Last night, or rather at an early hour Year Round. this morning, you changed a twenty pound note for a gentleman of the name of Gray, giving him as part of the change three notes of five pounds each. Can you oblige me. Mr. Crake, by in-

two, as if the pain might help him to keep down the nervous trembling that was beginning to overmaster him. Then

"Really, you ask me more than I am in a position to tell you. In my profession, which is that of a betting man, such a number of notes pass through my such a number of notes pass through my such a number of notes pass through my hands in the course of a month that it is present.

out of the question for me to keep any record of their numbers or to remember from whom I may have received this one

Crake considered awhile and then shook his head.

"I have no recollection of having been introduced to or done business with any one of that name. But what is the ob

as he came out into the cool night air eyes finished the question. and clutched at the lapel of his com-"It is quite true. Mr. Crake, that the number of the stolen notes are not Crake drew the other's arm within his known," said the inspector gravely own, and as they strolled up the street "but that does not imply that there may

not be other means of identification. "Not one of the notes paid by me to Gray bore an indorsement of any kind.

ow in lodgings at the west end, replaced:

"In any case I must ask you to accompany me to Scotland Yard," said Fountain. "I have a cab waiting at the cor-

across the pavement.

"My dear fellow, as if my purse were busy writing, with one of whom wasn't at your service?" exclaimed Crake he held a brief colloquy in a low voice. epsycachfully.

A second or two later Gray came to not know it, Marcus Gray and Mr. Parkinson were in waiting, in case any fur-"Crake," he said with tipsy gravity, ther evidence beyond that which they re-

quired.

Their colloquy at an end, one of the on have done?"

"I've given you I O U for the money I three notes given by Crake to Gray a few hours before and handed them to Fountain, who proceeded to straighten them out on the smooth surface of the "That's no good tonight, old man. them out on the smooth surface of the There's no place open where you could desk. They were old and crumple's get it changed. But what does it matmuch service and were grimy with the contact of many fingers. As they lay there, face downward, no sign of an in row," answered Gray with another dorsement or memoranding of any sort lurch and a hiccough. "Going to Paris was visible on the back of any of them, by morning train. Telegram. Forgot Fountain had beckened to Crake, who all about it till now. Mush go. Be with gray set face and straining eyes, back in a fortnight or three weeks. If you can't change note, I O U mush stand it was not till the former with his forefinger had drawn attention to what even when closely examined looked like

"And now, sir, if you will look through this you will see that on each of "If you like to come with me as far the notes is plainly to be read in phoas my lodgings, I think I can perhaps nographic characters—that is to say, in shorthand—the indorsement, William Parkinson, together with the date of June the eighth, the very day, in point of

Scarcely had the last words left the in a swoon. A careful search of his lodgings brought to light two more notes bearing a similar phonographic inprobably been passed away by him in the ordinary course of his business. He but before that event took place he conwalked in and shut the door behind trived to commit suicide in his cell. In a paper which he left behind him oc-

I asseverate most solemnly "I am Inspector Fountain of Scotland | was wholly unpremeditated and was the result of a moment of ungovernable

Some three months later one of the concerned in this narrative it would be superfluous to mention the name of either the bride or bridegroom.—All the

forming me when and from whom the notes in question came into your possession?

Crake bit his lip hard for a moment or two, as if the pain might help him to

G. A. R. Dorsos -On the 21st, Raw lins Post (i. A. R, will install their efficers for the ensuing year at Laberty school house. The post meeting or the afternoon at 1 o'clock will be foll wed. a camp fire in the evening. A grand

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