

THE UNDOING OF A DOUBLE
BY HUGO ST. FINSTERRE, M.D.
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Continued from first page.

Early—at your service, gentlemen. And the unaccountable sounder dived his hat and bowed to the right and left with the suavity and blandness of a Chesterfield.

"If you are a stranger like myself, what business brought you to Aldino?" "I explained all that to you on the boat. My uncle sent me here to look up some valuable cotton land that is in the market, but," he added, shrewd enough to perceive the tangle in which I was likely to involve him, "I decline to be questioned any further by you, though I am ready to give these gentlemen any information they desire."

Nothing could have been cleverer than his manner and words. His announcement that he was after cotton land was a passport to the good will of the countrymen, most of whom were eager to sell their unproductive property. His glib story of our traveling together on the steamer was accepted as truth.

"Then you deny selling me that horse yesterday?" I said, floundering in the wordy mire into which I had stepped.

"Oh, I don't deny anything," he answered with a bored air. "Tell your story to these gentlemen. You make me excessively weary."

It was vain to dally with him. Staggered for the moment, I was about to address my words to those around me, when Squire Gager, who had not yet spoken, interposed. He was a conscientious man, and, though he undoubtedly sympathized with me, did not sympathize with the frightful fiction which he believed I was trying to weave.

"I wish to ask this man a few questions," he said, and the universal respect felt for the officer of the law caused a hush to fall upon the angry throng. I bowed, suspecting what was coming.

"You don't deny that you rode up to this hotel this afternoon on the chestnut gelding which Mr. Balfinch put into his stable at your request?"

"I have already admitted that. I afterward crossed to the postoffice and got a letter which was mailed from New York and addressed to me, Edward Kenners."

"And any of us might have done the same by asking for it, having arranged that little matter beforehand," said the squire, brushing aside this cobweb, "but when you came and sat down on the porch and talked with me and Mr. Balfinch we both addressed you as Hank Beyer."

"You did," I replied, and the landlord nodded his head in acquiescence.

"You talked with us as if you were Hank Beyer. You spoke about your father and asked questions of us. Why didn't you deny you were Hank Beyer at that time?"

"It was driving a nail into my coffin, and I knew my explanation would not be accepted by a single one of my hearers."

"I did a foolish thing. I was amused by the mistake, and by way of fun I humored it. You will recall that my questions showed my ignorance, not only of your affairs, but of Hank Beyer."

"I believe you pretended something of the kind."

The squire mournfully shook his head. He was through, having sentenced me, as may be said, to capital punishment.

"I do not deny, gentlemen, that the case looks bad against me. You have noticed that the man whom I pointed out by the door resembles me, except that I wear a moustache and he does not. He had one today, but shaved it off after we parted, probably foreseeing something like this. But I have the right to ask that before executing me you make sure that I am really Hank Beyer, the horse thief."

"Which the same is what we have done with the help you have given us," replied Jim Dungan, with a significant grin in which the others joined.

"It looks that way, but you are in error. Now, it is easy for you to telegraph to certain parties whom I know in New York and by whom I can establish my identity. You will do me that justice. If I fail to convince you that I am what I claim, then do with me as you wish."

"That request sounds fair," interposed the squire, "but I'm sorry to say that the nearest telegraph station is at Southfield and with our bad roads it will take two days to go there and back. I'm afraid," he added, looking round at the savage countenances, "that my friends will not be willing to wait that long."

"No, no!" came from nearly every one in the room. "A good deal might happen in that time."

"He wants a chance to give you the slip," added the real Hank Beyer from his station by the door. "Why not let him have a chance for his life?"

At that moment nothing was more evident than that every man crowded into the room was my enemy. I looked around into the un pitying faces and braced myself for the final struggle, which I believed could not be deferred. The mob were impatient that they had



and been rebuffed. At this apparently hopeless juncture, when I stood mute, not knowing what to say, but ready to go down with others flying, the unexpected occurred. The good angel appeared in the last person to whom I looked for support. He was Jim Dungan, the leader of the vigilantes.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The corner's inquest over the remains of Thomas Webber, who was found dead near Champog a few days ago developed the fact that Webber, in company with a butcher named Fred Smith had been on a spree at Champog and on the way home had fallen off a narrow roadway into a stream where he became thoroughly drenched. Later he fell into a wire fence and finally managed to cross a field going in the direction of his home where after climbing a rail fence he fell. It was supposed he died from exposure occasioned by falling into the ice-cold water.

An eastern paper contains a clever cartoon representing Uncle Sam addressing these words to Carnegie: "When you say about expansion is all right, Carnegie, but what are you doing over in Scotland?" The millionaire has been investing in real estate and castles in the land of "Bonnie Doon."

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat notes that, the Porto Rican will pay \$1.70 tax where he paid \$1.10 under Spanish officials. That island is finding no fault with American military rule.

In April the Spanish called an American a "pig" and in December "an upstart conqueror." The epithets are not polite, but they give a glimpse of history.

The Tillamook authorities are still looking for Ed. Knight, who is wanted for criminal assault. Knight escaped from Constable Ford some time ago.

During the heavy snow storm Friday the driver of the stage between Primeville and The Dalles missed the road near Bake Oven and was lost for several hours.

Stockmen in the vicinity of Gardane have been feeding cattle for 30 days and expect to feed for 60 days more.

La Grippe Successfully Treated. "I have just recovered from the second attack of la grippe this year," says Mr. Jas. A. Jones, publisher of the Leader, Mexico, Texas. "In the latter case I used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and I think with considerable success, only being in bed a little over two days against ten for the former attack. The second attack I am satisfied would have been equally as bad as the first but for the use of this remedy as I had to go to bed in about six hours after being 'struck' with it, while in the first case I was able to attend to business about two days before getting 'down.'" For sale by The Delta Drug store.

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