

THE UNDOING OF A DOUBLE

BY HUGO ST. FINSTERRE, M.D.
AUTHOR OF "WHO'S WHO'S WHO" (LIT.)
CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

...as at night, but it was an extraordinary act, which must have been purely accidental, that held him to a mathematical line until he came directly opposite me with only the paling fence separating us.

I had the advantage, inasmuch as the dim light beyond gave me a partial glimpse of his gigantic figure, but his eyes were closed and he saw me before attempting to leap the obstruction between us. That keen vision, too, showed my revolver leveled at his head.

"Hands up!" I commanded in a voice whose earnestness could not be mistaken. Cy Walters was unquestionably a brave man, and it is such who know when to fight and when to surrender. Up went both huge hands, one grasping the Winchester, so that it was interposed like a rude cross against the faint background.

"Drop that gun!"

Down it went with a thump to his feet.

"My man, as you see, I have the drop on you. It would serve you right if I have never committed murder and don't intend to begin now. You take me for Hank Beyer. If I were he, there would be no sense in denying it when it would bring me no danger, but I repeat that I am another person. Everything that I said at the hotel tonight was true. I was never in this part of the country until yesterday. The real Hank Beyer was that young man whom I pointed out standing by the door of the dining room. He had made himself look different by shaving off his mustache, and he also disguised his voice. What do you think of my statement?"

"It's all a damned lie!"

Mr. Walters was evidently a man of convictions. I had not shaken his belief in my identity with the detested horse thief.

"Very well, believe as you choose, but it won't be long before you will learn that you and your friends are the biggest fools in Mississippi."

"No and Archie Hunter have showed that already in allowing you to climb out of the window while we slept and after you had took Archie's pistol from his lap; that's a little the worst yet—"

It was clear he had no suspicion of the part played by the young woman, and it was not my place to enlighten him.

"It was a piece of tomfoolery, Cy, and the boys will have the laugh on you both when you tell them how I gave you the slip and got out of the country."

"You hadn't got out the kentry yet," was his significant comment.

"Not just yet, but I soon shall, thanks to you and your steppen. You see I have Archie's revolver, and now I shall take your Winchester. Since you persist in looking upon me as a horse-thief you may as well include the theft of weapons."

He emitted a blistering imprecation, but saw there was no help for it. He was still reaching for the stars when I commanded:

"Face about toward the hotel!"

He complied with surprising promptness.

"If you stoop or attempt to pick up your gun, I'll shoot. It won't be the first time I fired a revolver, and you are in good range."

Despite my watchfulness and readiness to use my weapon the fellow outwitted me.

"March," I added, "and don't pause or look around until you climb back through the window."

He began moving, but his foot seemed to become entangled in the vines that had partly retarded my steps. He advanced slowly, tripped, swore and struck his toe against some obstruction. Then he straightened up and stumbled onward with the same difficulty.

The cunning veteran was kicking his Winchester along in front of him, and I had no suspicion of it.

In this manner he advanced for fully a rod, when, like a flash, he stooped, snatched up his rifle, and, wheeling with the same amazing quickness, let fly at me. I felt the ball graze my temple and snip off a bit of hair. Dazed for the moment, I discharged two chambers of my revolver, but in the flurry missed, as he had just done with his Winchester. Before I could pull myself together for another shot he was beyond fair range, while he, knowing the uselessness of firing at me, refrained from the attempt.

I had safely emerged from my prison, but my full escape remained to be made. It would not do to stay at Aldine, nor indeed anywhere in that section. It was 20 miles to the steamer landing, and I could hardly feel safe until aboard of one of the boats and steaming up or down the Mississippi.

I was tempted to try a devilish thing. That was to steal into the barn, remount the horse I had honestly bought and lie away at headlong speed. Reflection, however, convinced me that such an act would invite my own rats. My escape was known to Cy Walters and Archie Hunter, and they would be on the alert for anything of that nature.

Standing just outside the garden of the old inn, I decided that my best course was to push inland until I reached some town or village where I was unknown or could communicate with the authorities should it prove necessary. It would seem that the facts being as I have given it should be an easy matter for me to escape the punishment due another man, but unfortunately

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SHARP NOTHER WIT.

The family of Rothschild were not od during their first years of success, not only for their impeccable honesty and financial ability, but for a sharp mother wit. In great or little emergencies, it was not easy to get the better of a Rothschild.

During the firing of the Commune riots in Paris, one of the leaders of the crowd, cried out: "To the Rothschild's bank! What right has he to roll in luxury while we starve?"

Baron Rothschild went out and faced the mob, calm and grave.

"What do you wish?" he asked.

"Bring out your gold!" was the reply.

"The people in France are going to have all things in common."

"Ah, true!" he said, quietly, and paused a moment, as if considering.

"There are so many millions of people in France. There are so many thousands would give to each person two sous. If you can on this basis make a satisfactory arrangement, you shall each be paid your share now."

The mob was not with a sense of humor. They saw they were outwitted, and retreated laughing.

Baron Anselin, of the English house, had once a quarrel with the bank of England, which refused to discount his notes, saying that they "could not discount the bills of private persons."

"Private persons!" exclaimed the angry banker. "I'll teach them what kind of a private person I am!"

He spent a month in buying up five-pound notes of the bank, and one morning presented himself at the counter and offered one.

The cashier gave him the gold, with a little surprise that the great financier should have himself come to cash the bill. But he presented another and another, until hours passed, while nine of his clerks were employed in the same way at other counters.

When the hour for closing came, he retired, and the cashier laughed at his angry freak. But when he and his nine clerks arrived the next morning, with vehicles to carry away the money, they did not laugh, and when the Baron remarked that he "meant to keep them busy for two months," the managers consulted.

The next day the papers announced that the bank would discount bills of the Messrs. Rothschild, and the fight was over.

Senator Hoar is for the immediate recognition of the independence of the Philippines. Turning the islands over to complete anarchy would be easy, but the country does not agree with Mr. Hoar that it would be right.

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