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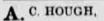
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ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Continued from page 3.

He stole a glance at the pair, who had drawn a little to one side and were talking in low tones and with the Intimacy of long acquaintance. He owned they were wonderfully well Ongaos suited to each other. Ryder was no mean rival, had it come to that. The world had given him its rub. He knew perfectly the Ufe with which Miss Emory was familiar. His people had been the right sort. He was well born and well bred, and he showed it.

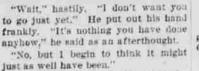
It dawned upon the unwilling Oakley slowly and by degrees that to Con-Onnoon stance Emory he must be nothing more or less than the son of a murderer. He had never quite looked at it in that light before. He had been occupied with the effect rather than the cause, but he was sure that if Ryder had told her his father's history he had made the most of his opportunity. He wondered how people felt about a thing of this kind. He knew now what his portion would be. Disgrace is always vicarious in its consequences. The innocent generally suffer indiscriminately along with the guilty.

The doctor talked a steady stream at Oakley, but he managed to say little that made any demand on Dan's attention. He was sorry for the young man. He had liked him from the start, and he believed but a small part of what he had heard. It is true he had had the particulars from Ryder, but Ryder said what he had to say with his usual lazy indifference, as if his interest was the slightest and had vouch-

He would hardly have dared admit that he himself was the head and front of the offending Dr Emory would not have understood how it could have been any business of his. It would have finished him with the latter. As it was, he had been quick to resent his glib, sneering tone.

But Dan's manner convinced the doctor that there were some grounds for the charges made by the hands when they demanded Roger Oakley's dismissal, or else he was terribly hurt by the occurrence. While Dr. Emory was reaching this conclusion Dan was cursing himself for his stupidity. It would have been much wiser for him to have remained away until Antioch quieted down. Perhaps it would have been fairer, too, to his friends, but since he had blundered he would try and see Miss Emory again. She should know the truth. It was characteristic of him that he should wish the matter put straight, even when there was no especial advantage to be gained.

Soon afterward he took his leave. The doctor followed him down to the



Dr. Emory regarded him earnestly. "My boy, I'm awfully sorry for you, and I'm afraid you have got in for more than you can manage. It looks though your troubles were all comg in a bunch. Dan smiled.

"My antecedents won't affect the situntion down at the shops, if that is what you mean. The men may not like me any the better or respect me any the more for knowing of them, but they will discover that that will make left his hotel the next morning he was no difference where our relations are quite himself again. concerned."

' To be sure. I only meant that publie opinion will be pretty strong against you. It somehow has an in-fluence," ruefully.

'I suppose it has," rather sadly. "Do you have to stay and face it? It might be easier, you know-

don't mean exactly to run away"-"I am pledged to put the shops and road on a paying basis for General Cornish. He'd about made up his mind to sell to the M. and W. If he does it will mean the closing of the shops, and they will never be opened up again. That will wipe Antioch off the map. Not so very long ago I had a good deal of sympathy for the people who would be ruined, and I can't chauge simply because they have, can I?" with a look on his face which belonged to his father.

The doctor stroked his beard meditatively and considered the question. "I suppose there is such a thing as

duty, but don't you think, under the metamore your responsibility is

") didn't islagine you would be the

"I wouldn't ordinarily, but you don't know Antisch. They can make it very unpleasant for you. The town is in a fever of excitement over what has happened today. It seems the men are not through with you yet."

"Yes, I know. My father should have gone back. It looks as if I'd yielded, but I couldn't ask him to when I saw how he felt about it."

"You see, the town lives off the shops and road. It is a personal matter to every man, woman and child in the

"That's what makes me so mad at the stupid foois!" said Oskley, with dusty order books from a dark closet, some bitterness. "They haven't the He felt that if excitement was what brains to see that they have a lot more at stake than any one else. If they could gain anything from a fight I'd have plenty of patience with them, but they are sure losers. Even if they strike and the shops are closed for the next six months it won't cost Cornish a dollar-indeed, it will be money in his pocket."

"I don't think they'll strike," said the doctor. "I didn't mean that exactly, but they'll try to keep you on a strain.

"They have done about all they can in that direction. The worst has happened. I won't say it didn't bruise me up a bit. Why, I am actually sore in every bone and muscle. I was never so battered, but I'm beginning to get back, and I'm going to live the whole thing down right here. I can't have skeletons that are liable to be unearthed at any moment."

He took a letter from his pocket, opened it and handed it to the doctor. "I guess you can see to read this If you will step nearer the street lamp."

The letter was an offer from one of the big eastern lines. While the doc-

"Just as you prefer. Oakley extended his hand. "I won't keep you standing any lon-

ger. Somehow our talk has helped me. Good night." "Good night."

The doctor gazed abstractedly after the young man as he moved down the street, and he continued to gave after him until he had passed from sight in the shadows that lay beneath the whispering maples.

> CHAPTER XIII. ERHAPS it showed lack of prop-

er feeling, but Oakley managed to sleep off a good deal of his emotional stress, and when he

His attitude toward the world was the decently cheerful one of the man who is earning a good salary and whose personal cares are far from being numerous or pressing. He was still capable of looking out for Cornish's interests, and his own, too, if the need arose.

He went down to the office alert and vigorous. As he strode along he nodded and smiled at the people he met on the street. If the odium of his faon the street. If the odium of his fa-ther's crime was to attach itself to him it should be without his help. Anhim it should be without his help. Antloch might count him callous if it liked, but it must not think him weak. His first official act was to go for Kerr, who was unusually cantankerous, and he gave that frigid gentleman a scare which lasted him for the better part of a week, for Kerr, who had convinced himself overnight that Oakley must resign, saw himself having full swing with the Huckleberry and was disposed to treat his superior with airy indifference. He had objected to hunting up an old order book Dan wished to see on the score that he was too busy, whereat, as Holt expressed it, the latter "jumped on him with both feet." His second official act was to serve formal notice on Branyon that he was dismissed from the shops. He was even harsh with Miss Walton, and took exception to her spelling of a typewritten letter which he was sending off to Cornish in London.

He also inspected every department in the shops and was glad of an excuse he discovered to reprimand Joe Stokes, who was stockkeeper in the carpenter's room, for the slovenly manner in which the stock was handled. Then be returned to the office and as a matter of discipline kept Kerr busy all the rest of the morning hauling He felt that if excitement was what was wanted he was the one to furnish it. He had been too easy,

Naturally the office force gave a deep sigh of satisfaction when Oakley closed his desk and announced that he was going uptown and would not return. Miss Walton confided to Kerr that she just hoped he would never come back. It was a little before 3 o'clock when Dan presented himself at the Emorys' The maid who answered his ring usiered him into the parlor with marked trepidation. She was a timid soul Then she swished from the room, but returned almost immediately to say that Miss Emory would be down in moment

When Constance entered the room he advanced a little uncertainly. She extended her hand quite cordially, however. There was no trace of embar rassment or constraint in her manner As he took her hand Dan said sim

ply, going straight to the purpose of his call: "I have thought a good deal over

what I want to tell you, Miss Emory." allies Emory instantly took the alarm id was on the defensive. She



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Dan lang" . " softly. first to advice the to shirk it."

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"No, I con't deny it outright."

gate. There was a certain constraint broke silonce with.

"For God's suice, Onkley, what is this"

But

"But" "No, I can't deny if ourright, much as I'd like to" "You don't mean - Pardon use, for, "You don't mean - Pardon use, for, great rate." as I'd like to?"

of course, I have no right to ask?"

know any one who has a better right mease of rectifude. to ask," he said

"Well, I shouldn't have asked if I'd heathquing Were 1 submitted was a word of froth in the story 1 had based 1 could deay.
¹⁴ was coing to say if there was any thing i could do?
¹⁵ stor son. Thus was all?
¹⁶ stor and ?
¹⁷ stor and ?
¹⁶ store and ?

source the line, not study subort. before, that has an entropy of the man of

for knew very little of railroads, he veloced herself in that species of in understood that the offer was a fine scrutable feminine reserve men ded one and was impressed accordingly.

little thanks' you'll ever get."

declined, but I wanted you to see the firmly determined not to hear. fetter

"I am mitty for your without int you dist. "You are sure to have more from gravely, ble."

"So much the more reason why 1 stionld sury.

"I am quite frank with you! Onliney in the manner of the two men, now Some straig influence is at work. No, an elbow on the mantel. There was that they were alone together As it has a to an end our influence you an awkward pause. At last he said they pulsed by the gate Dr. Emery can't well be built accountable for his slowly:

Byder's faughter roach. I diem as he I hear about your father? I'd like spaces chicker court as him faintly and I have been saddled with a matter your assurance that it is all a pack of any and in the incomigni, where he sat | between Constance Emory and her A hump came tato Dan's threat, and method. The induce a was there. It will as much as if I were." primitics in worked this wayshoe

quite different from the necount you through any cinvatrons sense of duty. continued the doctor "Turbook and ner myself

"Well, what's the use of saurificing Dan turned away life face. 'I don't onesoff? You possess a most hornible

"I would like to ask a favor of you."

would now or a have dived in the fur the part is have been been tour from affects and 14 coll about 2-that

"Ace The put the for som"

12 In string world for any second stranger. In the downer had minimulerstand. The scient downer in the test stranger. If famer as I can see now, if you would be the second second stranger. Arcials."

so difficult to penetrate. She coan "I'd lake it," he said. "I wouldn't not imagine what he had to tell her fritter away soy time here. Precious that was so pressing. He was certainby very curious and unconventional "I can't homorphy break with Gen-ral Cornish. In fact, I have stready might want to tell her which she was There was one thing she feared he

Onkley drew forward a chdir. "Won't you sit down?" he asked

"Thank you, yes." It was all so formal they both stated

Dan stood with his back to the fire place, now filled with ferns, and rested

"It seems I've been the subject of a lot of talk during the last two days. for which I am in no way responsible. though it appears to reflect on me

"Ready, Mr. Oakley," began Constance, scenting danger alsead. But "I wouldn't be made a marter ber visitor was in no mood to temps THE

"One moment, please," he said hasti-"You have heard the story from Mr. Ryder

"I have heard it from others as well

"It has influenced you"-

"No. I won't say that," defiantly, She was not accustomed to being catectineod:

"At least it has caused you to seriously doubt the wisitom of an ac-qualitaneer blurted dataley.

"You are very unfair," rising, with Intent anger

"You will greatly oblige me by sitting down again."

And Constance, astonished beyond monsure at his tone of command, such back into her chair with a little smothered support surprise. No one had ever vontured to spent to her like that before It was a new experience.

I finer as from any new new, if you explained Dan, with one of his frank. "As short. 1'D you'r in the chance of est smiles, and there was a gental sinplicury about his smills which was very

From ansat: next to compute Gonation

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