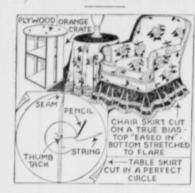
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Gregorian Calendar Not Readily Accepted in 1752

When England adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, thousands of her people could not believe that they had lost 10 days and looked for some sign of confirmation or denial from God or nature, says Collier's. As Christmas (new style) approached and no sign had appeared, many persons journeyed to Glastonbury to see if a famous thornbush there but Bee Dewain for an audience to would blossom on this day as it witness his triumph over Tope. He had on other Christmases.

Failure of the bush to flower briskly. was, therefore, considered adequate proof by them that the date was the 14th and not the 25th and they did not accept the new calendar for some time afterward.

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FBI operator, Inspector Tope and Mrs. Tope met in the Maine woods. Tope found a man murdered, who was at first dentified as Ledforge, head of New England utilities. Mrs. Kell was found mur-dered in Ledforge's car, and Kell committed suicide. Joe Dane, assistant D.A., accused Tope of bungling the case, so took charge. Tope arranged for Eberly to keep a fishing date with the man who was said to be Ledforge. While they were in the canoe, Ledforge upset the canoe Tope and Bruce, in a motor boat, went out and brought the men to shore. Ledforge told about his twin brother and how thought Holdom had done the mur

CHAPTER XV

He spoke so simply that his acsusation lacked reality. Ledforge cried: "I can't believe you're serious?

"Why, yes," Tope assured him, "I'm serious."

The door from the hall opened, and they all looked that way; saw Bee Dewain. For a moment no one spoke; and Bee said: "Go on, please. May I listen?"

Tope answered her. "We're just trying to make Mr. Ledforge admit that he was the man in Little Bear last Friday night," he explained, and turned to Ledforge again. "If you weren't," he challenged, "how did you know it was a dog blanket that they wrapped him up in? I said 'blanket,' but I never mentioned a dog."

"Why, I've been in Holdom's garage many times. When you said 'blanket,' I thought of the police dog sleeping on his blanket in the

"Well, maybe," Tope agreed; but before he could speak again Joe Dane took a hand. Here was, it seemed to him, not only his cue, strode a little forward, and spoke

"Come, Tope," he said with a mocking kindness, "I guess you've gone as far as you can, haven't you? Maybe you've got at the truth, all right; but Tope, it isn't enough for me to know the truth. I have to be able to prove it. I have to get something that will pass as evidence n court.

Tope looked at him thoughtfully. 'That's so, son," he agreed. "You do have to try the case, don't you?" Joe nodded. "So while you've been reading dream-books, and telling fortunes by the cards," he derisivey explained, "I've been collecting few facts-just plain facts. And, of course, one particular fact! One good fact that can't be shaken is all we need, isn't it?"

Adam Bruce demanded: "Joe, do you have to be a fool twice in one

But Tope touched Adam's arm, nushed him. "Now, Adam," he protested, "you let Joe set off his fireworks! It wouldn't surprise me a bit if he had something. Joe's a smart young man."

Then he ought to know better-Joe said resentfully: "Now, wait a minute, Bruce! After all, this case is my job. This old man hasn't in ounce of evidence, but I have. can prove that Rufus Ledforge, here, was in Little Bear that night, Friday night," he said exultantly.

"Rufus was, all right," Tope assented. "I know that too." "But you can't prove it?"

"Why, that depends! Maybe not!" "Well, I can," said Joe proudly. While you've been chasing will-o' the-wisps, I've found a witness. I've got a man who heard Mrs. Kell, in he cottage that night, call Ledforge here by name."

Tope exclaimed: "Well, if you have, that's something, sure!" Dane laughed exultantly. "You

bet it is!" he cried. "It's worth all your guess work." "Called him by name, did she?"

Tope reflected. Joe cried in a hot triumph: "Yes, he did!" And he explained carefully: "I think she was begging him

not to leave poor Christopher there to die. But at any rate she said: 'Oh, no, please don't, Rufe! Don't, 'Rufe,' eh?" Tope echoed. "Sure. Rufus. Rufus Ledforge!

And that's proof enough to convince any jury-with the rest of what we've got-that Rufus Ledforge was in Little Bear that night,"

Tope rubbed his mouth with his hand; he was ded his head. "Why, Joe," he said, "Rufus Ledforge was in Little Bear that night, all right. Or right handy. But the woman, Mrs. Kell, she wasn't talking to him and if she had been, he wouldn't have heard her. Rufus was out in the car, under the rumble seat, sick and unconscious, with the drugs in him. No. Rufus couldn't hear her!" Joe stammered: "What are you

talking about?" This man here isn't Rufus Ledforge, son," said Tope. "This-what was his brother's name?-this here

is Christopher." And while they were all for a mo-ment silent. Bee Dewain—as though she had heard what she came to hear-quietly slipped away.

Bee had departed; but no other moved. Only Ledforge laughed, appealing to young Joe Dane, to big Mat Overland.

"Who is this-aged jackass?" he rotested. "Our best friends couldn't fistinguish between us, so you may have to take my word for it; yet I assure you I am Rufus, not poor Christopher."

'Who was your dentist?" Tope inquired. "Doctor Loud?" "No Doctor

Ledforge smiled. Loud was Christopher's. I went to a New York man." There was a mocking triumph in him. "Oh, I assure you we covered all points, In-

"Just the same," Tope insisted, 'you're bound to be Christopher. Rufus wouldn't have any good reason to kill Christopher; but Christopher figuring he could step into his brother's shoes, take over the money and the power that his brother had accumulated-he'd have plenty of reason to kill Rufus. Yes, you're Christopher. It don't make sense any other way."

Ledforge started to speak; but Tope said implacably: "That's why you tried to drown Mr. Eberly. Because he told you that you didn't look like Rufus. I figured you'd try to kill him, if he did suspect; and when you invited him to go fishing, and I found out he couldn't swim, I guessed how you'd do it. You had tried to find out, two weeks ago, whether he'd notice anything-tried to see him, but he was away. You were checking up ahead of time. with him and Mrs. Kell, to see if they'd realize you weren't Rufus. Must have had this idea in mind before Rufus got sick and gave you the chance to pull it off. You fooled her, then; so you took a chance on being able to fool Eberly."

And he explained: "So I told him to pretend to see a difference in you today; and he did; and you tried to drown him!"

"Ridiculous! He imagined that!"
"And Mrs. Kell," Tope added re-lentlessly, "in Little Bear the other night, finally realized you weren't Rufus. That was why you killed

Ledforge said harshly: "Man, you're-

Tope cut in: "Well, if you weren't there, how did you happen to think of Kell's shoes with the heel-plates on them? I mentioned footprints, but not Kell nor his heel-plates."

Ledforge licked dry lips. "Just a guess! It would be natural for Holdom to put on some one else's shoes; and Kell's were available.'

"Mr. Ledforge," he confessed, "I laid some traps for you awhile ago, when I was telling you the story. I didn't tell you that the sweater was gray. You stepped into that one. I didn't say the wires were ignition wires, or that it was electricians' tape, or that it was the dog's blanket. You dodged the wires and the tape, but you stepped right into the dog one. I didn't mention that your brother was drugged, but you did. I didn't say anything about Kell's shoes, but you did. I didn't say your brother's body was in the umble, but you did.'

He added calmly: "And there was one more, the worst of all. You put your neck right into that one, Led-You knew it the minute you did it!"

"You're crazy!" Ledforge cried

"I mean," Tope explained, "that I didn't tell you Mrs. Kell was strangled. Oh, she was, all right! But how did you know?"

Tope as he spoke turned toward the door. Now, before Ledforge, terribly shaken, could reply, the old

"Oh, hello, ma'am!" They all swung that way. Here were Mrs. Tope and Bee, and between them they supported Miss Ledforge. The little old woman, white as a wraith, came uncertainly into the room. She looked from one to another till her eyes fastened on her brother's face; and then she

"Christopher!" she whispered. 'Christopher!"

She tottered weakly. took one step toward her; and she seemed to collapse upon a great divan there beside her. Mrs. Tope eased her as she fell; the old woman lay with eyes closed, breathing heavily.

Ledforge strode briskly toward her. "Careful, gentlemen," he said warningly. "My sister's heart cannot withstand a heavy shock!" He came to where she lay, and his hand caught up her wrist, his fingers pressed the pulse; he stood intent and listening.

Then without a word he took from his vest pocket a small vial, poured half a dozen pellets into his hand, selected one, replaced the others. 'Some one get water," he whispered. "Here, Alice, swallow this." His hand touched her cheek. Her lips opened, received the small pellet. She seemed to swallow. And Tope said softly, behind Leaforge:

"Doctor, will she die?"
"Oh, no," Ledforge assured him; and then he whirled to face the other man, and his cheek was ashen. 'I'm not a doctor!" he cried desperately.

"You took her pulse like one." said Tope. He added: "And you answered to the name of one. And your sister is like me. She thinks you're Christopher. And Christoher's a doctor!"

Ledforge said rapidly: "No, listen! I must explain, gentlemen, my sister has hallucinations. Has been for years a little dim-witted; and she's frightfully upset now. She always worshiped Rufus!"

Tope looked past Ledforge at the roman on the couch. "So it's Rufus that's dead, not Christopher?" Ledforge stammered: "No, no! I

meant Christopher-" But Miss Ledforge spoke, behind him. Her voice was faint, yet strong: "If Rufus is dead, you killed him, Christopher.'

Ledforge whirled on her in incredllous surprise; he appealed to them all. "How can she hear? Withou! her ear-phone? She is deaf as a "I can read your lips, Christo-

pher," said Miss Ledforge. "I have done so for years, have thus known many secret ugly things about you.' "You mustn't talk, Alice!" Ledforge cried. "Your-"

But Tope said calmly: "Oh, she won't die, Doctor Christopher. She graceful panelled skirt. Use a didn't swallow the pill you gave her. If you could have killed Eberly and your sister, you might have taken On to the Next your brother's place with no one to prove you weren't Rufus. But Eberly's alive, and so is she.'

heart attack."

nite pellet into Mat Cumberland's great hand. But Ledforge laughed; he wid briskly:

"Of course it is." He lifted that small bottle from his pocket again, poured the pills out into his palm. "I kept a supply always ready," he mah name." she said. said. "They've helped her before. "But you learned that They're all the same. Like this

And he selected one, and suddenly lifted it toward his mouth. But Adam Bruce, long since forewarned, was ready. His smashing blow stretched Ledforge prone and senseless. The pills went flying all across the floor.

(THE END)

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And he spoke to Mrs. Tope. "Give Mr. Cumberland that pill Miss Led- A SUPERINTENDENT of schools visited a night-school for Negro forge didn't swallow, my dear. He'll adults. He was called upon to conwant to have it analyzed, to see if gratulate an old Negress. She had it's the right medicine to give a enrolled at the start of the course weak old woman when she has a with a single, avowed intent-to learn to write her name. She had Mrs. Tope obediently dropped the succeeded, and the course was at end, and she was leaving

> The next year the superintendent visited the same school. The old womanhadenrolled again. "Why?" he asked her.

"Ah's goin' to learn to write

"But you learned that last year." "Ah knows dat. But now Ah gone got married."

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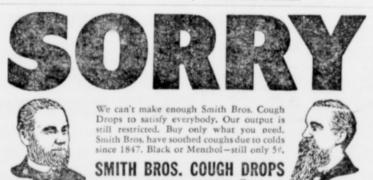
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TURNING POINT

By Mary Imlay Taylor

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Look for 'TURNING POINT' IN THIS PAPER

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