

Through the Wall

By CLEVELAND MOFFETT

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CHAPTER VII THROUGH THE WALL.

THE detective entered the room of the tragedy and turned up the lights, all of them, so that he might see whatever was to be seen. He walked back and forth examining the carpet, examining the walls, examining the furniture, but paying little heed to the body. He went to the open window and looked out; he went to the yellow sofa and sat down; finally he shut off the lights and withdrew softly, closing the door behind him. It was just as the commiserate had said with the exception of one thing.

Papa Tagnol entered to say that he had finished the footprint molds. M. Paul motioned his associate to a chair. "By the way," he asked, "what do you think of that?" He pointed to a Japanese print in a black frame that hung near the massive sideboard.

"Why," stammered Tagnol, "I don't think anything of it."

Coquell laughed. "All the same, it has a bearing on your investigations."

"Doubt!"

M. Paul reached for his glasses, rubbed them deliberately and put them on. "Papa Tagnol," he said seriously. "I have come to a conclusion about this crime, but I haven't verified it. I am now going to give myself an intellectual treat."

"What?"

"I am going to prove practically whether my mind has grown rusty in the last two years. You understand that we are in private room No. 7, don't you? On the other side of that wall is private room No. 6, where a man has just been shot. We know that, don't we? But the man who shot this man was in this room; the little hair brushing old maid saw the pistol thrown from this window; the dog found footprints coming from this room; the murderer went out through that door into the alleyway and then into the street. He couldn't have gone into the corridor because the door was locked on the outside."

"He might have gone into the corridor and locked the door after him," objected Tagnol.

Coquell shook his head. "He could have locked the door after him on the outside, not on the inside, but when we came in here it was locked on the inside."

"Then how, in heaven's name—"

"Exactly! How could a man in this room kill a man in the next room? And I believe I have solved it. Listen. Between these rooms is a solid wooden partition with no door in it—no passageway of any kind. Yet the man who there is dead; we're sure of that. The pistol was here; the bullet went there—somehow. How did it go there? Think."

The detective paused and looked exactly at the wall near the heavy sideboard. Tagnol, half fascinated, stared at the same spot, and then, as a new idea took form in his brain, he blurted out, "You mean it went through the wall?"

"Is there any other way?"

"But there is no hole—through the wall," he muttered. "It might be back of that sideboard."

But M. Paul disagreed. "No man as clever as this fellow would have moved a heavy piece covered with plates and glasses. Besides, if the sideboard had been moved there would be marks on the floor, and there are none. Now you understand why I'm interested in that Japanese print."

Tagnol sprang to his feet.

"You're mocking me; you've looked behind the picture."

Coquell shook his head solemnly. "On my honor, I have not been near the picture. I know nothing about the picture, but unless there is some flaw in my reasoning—"

The old man stepped forward quickly and took down the picture.

"Tommeur de Dieu!" he cried. "It's true! There are two holes!"

Sure enough, against the white wall stood not one but two black holes about an inch in diameter and something less than three inches apart. Around the left hole, which was close to the sideboard, were black dots sprinkled over the painted woodwork like grains of pepper.

"Powder marks!" muttered Coquell, examining the hole. "He fired at close range as Martinez looked into this room from the other side. Poor chap! That's how he was shot in the eye."

"Asses! Idiots! That's what we are," muttered the old man. "For half an hour we were in that room, Gibbs and I, and we never found those holes."

"They were covered by the sofa hangings."

"I know; we shook those hangings, we pressed against them, we did everything but look behind them. See here! Did you look behind them?"

"No, but I saw something on the floor—some yellowish dust. There!" He unfolded a paper and showed a few grains of coarse brownish powder. "You see, there are only board particles between these rooms, so a sharp angler would make the holes wickler. But there would be dust and



"IT'S TRUE! THERE ARE TWO HOLES." chips. The woman probably threw the chips out of the window."
"The woman!"
Coquell nodded. "She helped Martinez while he bored the holes."
"You think Martinez bored those holes?"

"Undoubtedly. The spirals from the auger blade inside the holes show plainly that the boring was done from No. 6 toward No. 7."

Tagnol studied the hole. Then he turned. "You're a fine detective, M. Paul, but I was a carpenter for six years before I went on the force, and I know more about auger-holes than you do. I say you can't be sure which side of the wall this hole was bored from. You talk about spirals, but there's no sense in that. They're the same either way. We'll see on the other side."

They went around into No. 6. The old man drew back the sofa hangings and exposed two holes—the same holes. "You see," he went on, "the edges are clean, without a sign of chipping. There is no more reason to say that these holes were bored this side than from that."

M. Paul, going to the sofa, knelt down by it and, using his magnifying glass, proceeded to go over its surface with infinite care.

"Turn up all the lights," he said. "Ah!" he cried presently. "You think there is no reason to say the holes were bored from this side. I'll give you a reason. Take this piece of white paper and make me prints of his boot heels." He pointed to the body. "Take the whole heel carefully, then the other one; get the nail marks, everything. That's right. Now cut out the prints. Good! Now, look here. Kneel down. Take the glass. There on the yellow satin by the tail of that silver bird. Do you see? Now compare the heel prints."

Papa Tagnol knelt down as directed and examined the sofa seat.

"Sapristi! You're a magician!" he cried in great excitement.

"No," replied Coquell, "it's perfectly simple. These holes in the wall are five feet above the floor. And I'm enough of a carpenter. Papa Tagnol," he smiled, "to know that a man cannot work an auger at that height without standing on something. And here was the very thing for him to stand on, a sofa just in place. So, if Martinez bored these holes, he stood on this sofa to do it, and in that case the marks of his heels must have remained on the delicate satin. And here they are."

(To Be Continued.)

SUMMONS.
In the circuit court of the state of Oregon for the county of Jackson.
Pacific & Eastern Railway, plaintiff, vs. I. J. Phipps and C. P. Phipps, his wife, and C. B. Wolverton, defendants.

To C. B. Wolverton, defendant: In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed in the above entitled court and action, within six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, to-wit: On or before May 25, 1910, and if you fail so to appear and answer, plaintiff will demand judgment that an assessment be had of the damages which will result to the defendants herein from the taking and appropriation for right of way of a strip of land sixty feet in width, being thirty-seven feet wide upon the easterly side and twenty-three feet wide upon the westerly side of the center line of the railroad line of plaintiff as the same is now located and established over and across the lands of said defendants in Jackson county, Oregon, the course of said center line

being described as follows: Beginning at a point in the north boundary of said lands, which point is 1322.82 feet east of the inside "L" corner of donation land claim number 42, in township 37 south of range 2 west of Willamette meridian, and running thence south 13 degrees 46 minutes east 385 feet; thence 290 feet on a 2 degree curve to the west; thence south 7 degrees 55 minutes east 600 feet, more or less, to the center line of Washington street, extended, in the city of Medford, Oregon, and that by the payment by the plaintiff into court of the damages so assessed judgment be given appropriating said right of way to this plaintiff.
WILLIAMS, WOOD & LINTHICUM, WITHINGTON & KELLY,
Attorneys for Plaintiff.

NOTICE TO BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS.
And All Whom It May Concern:

Notice is hereby given that the county commissioners' court of Jackson county, Oregon, will receive sealed bids for the building and constructing a steel bridge across Bear creek at Phoenix, Oregon, according to the plans and specifications now on file at the office of the county clerk of Jackson county for the information bidders; each and every bid filed must be accompanied with a certified check of 5 per cent of the amount of the bid, and the commissioners court reserves the right to reject any and all bids filed, all bids to be filed on or before 10 o'clock a. m. Thursday, May 5th, 1910.

By order of the county court,
W. R. COLEMAN,
County Clerk.
Dated this 13th day of April, 1910.

Mark Twain Still Weak.
REDDING, Conn., April 19.—Mark Twain passed a fairly comfortable night. He appeared to be considerably refreshed this morning, but is still weak today.

Haskins for Health.

Wright's Investments

7-room house, modern conveniences, furnished, and two-room light housekeeping apartments, furnished, close in, on fine street, income \$70 per month; \$4300, liberal terms.

5-room cottage, modern conveniences, some shade trees, cement walk, on good street, close in; \$2150.

8-room house, close to Jackson and Riverside streets, modern conveniences, a good investment; \$3300, \$1000 cash, easy terms on balance.

5-room bungalow, fine, large lot, 100x165, with 18 fine oak shade trees, a lovely home buy; \$2350, \$650 cash and liberal terms.

5-acre orchard tract, of full bearing apples with peach fillers, only one mile from Medford; a money-maker; \$4600, good terms.

5 acres, adjoining city, set to berries, trees, vegetables, new 5-room house, barns, chicken house, gasoline engine, land piped for irrigation; \$4200, \$2500 will handle it.

10 acres, just east of town, beautiful view of Medford and valley, a fine subdivision proposition; \$500 per acre, easy terms.

We have some fine 10-acre tracts in A No. 1 locality for \$175 per acre.

We also have some BARGAINS in city investments.

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\$150 AN ACRE—270 acres, foothill land, about 6 miles from Medford; there are about 85 acres on this place now planted to fruit, which includes about 26 acres in bearing. The bearing varieties are Newtown and Spitzenberg apples and Comice pears. There are 25 acres of Newtowns in their second year with peach fillers and about 6 acres of Newtowns just planted; also 20 acres of Jonathans and 10 acres of Bartlett and Anjou pears just planted. About 200 acres of first-class fruit land on the place. There are many springs on the place and considerable water could be developed for irrigation; two houses, good barn and other buildings. Would subdivide nicely. Easy terms.

\$2500—Sixty acres, 6 miles from Medford, about 15 acres cleared and partly planted; small buildings.

\$250 AN ACRE—70 acres, about 4 miles from Medford, free soil; 25 acres planted to Newtown and Spitzenberg apples, mostly 3 years old; in addition, about 25 acres under cultivation, balance easily cleared; good new 3-room plastered house, new barn; also set of old buildings. Could be subdivided into two or three tracts nicely. easy terms.

\$5500—Six miles from Medford, good new buildings, about 8 acres planted to Newtowns, Spitzenbergs and pears, 1 and 2 years old; about 7 acres additional cleared, balance not hard clearing; good team, wagon and machinery goes with the place. This is a 40-acre tract.

\$15,000—A first-class fruit and alfalfa ranch, 185 acres, 5 1/2 miles from railway station, practically all bottom land, 140 acres now under cultivation, water right with place; fair house, two barns, schoolhouse on the place, for \$15,000, which is only \$81 an acre; \$6000 cash will handle, and easy terms can be had on the balance; this is a fine chance to get a first-class tract of low-priced land for development purposes. We don't think this will last long, and if you are interested, come in and see us about it.

\$12,525—Eleven acres in Comice pears, 10 years old; 9 acres in Bartlett and Anjou pears, 1 to 3 years old; close in; good soil; terms.

\$12,000—Eleven acres in Comice and Bose pears, 14 years old; these trees are in full bearing and will pay a good income on the price asked.

\$15,000—Twenty acres, fine new modern bungalow, buildings easily worth \$4000; about 13 acres of apples in full bearing; trees are 16 years old; balance planted to apples 2 years old; good soil; slightly location; close to market; an assured income from the beginning; a fine home.

\$150 to \$200 PER ACRE—Stewart acre tracts; 2 miles from Medford; tracts are from 10 to 25 acres in size; fine building spots on all; can all be irrigated; cheapest tracts in Medford neighborhood; easy terms.

\$300 PER ACRE—Finest 5 and 10-acre orchard and garden tracts in the valley; easy terms.

W. T. YORK & CO.