

Through the Wall

By CLEVELAND MOFFETT

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"Then why did you quarrel with Martines?" demanded the judge.

"Because he was interfering with a woman whom I did love and would fight for."

"For God's sake, stop!" whispered the lawyer.

"Then you consider your love for this other woman—I presume you mean the girl at Notre Dame?"

"Yes."

"You consider your love for her a fine, pure love in contrast to the other love?"

"The other wasn't love."

As Hauteville listened his frown deepened, his eyes grew harder. "That's all very fine," he objected, "but if you hated this woman why did you risk prison, and worse, to get her things? You knew what you were risking, I suppose?"

"Yes, I knew."

"Why did you do it?"

Kittredge hesitated. "I did it for— for what she had been to me. It meant ruin and disgrace for her, and— well, if she could ask such a thing I could grant it. It was like paying a debt, and—I paid mine."

"The judge turned to Mrs. Willmott. "Did you know that he had ceased to love you?"

Pussy Willmott, with her fine eyes to the floor, answered almost in a whisper, "Yes, I knew it."

"Do you know what he means by saying that you would have spoiled his life and—and all that?"

"N-not exactly."

"You do know," cried the American.

"You know I had given you my life in sacred pledge, and you made a plaything of it. You told me you were unhappy, married to a man you loathed, a dull brute. But when I offered you freedom and my love you drew back. When I begged you to leave him and become my wife, with the law's sanction, you said no, because I was poor and he was rich. You wanted me, but you wanted your luxury too. Love! What did you know about love? You wanted me along with your ease and pleasures, and you couldn't have me on those terms. No!"

"On the whole, I think he's guilty," concluded the judge an hour later, speaking to Coquell.

"Queer!" muttered the detective. "He says he had three pairs of boots."

Coquell had drawn two squares of shilly paper from his pocket and was studying them with a magnifying glass. Suddenly his face lighted, and he sprang to his feet. "Great God of heaven!" he cried in excitement, his eyes glued to the magnifying glass, his white soul concentrated on those two pieces of paper, evidently photographs.

"What is it? What have you found?" asked the judge.

"The alleyway footprints are not identical with the soles of Kittredge's boots."

"But you said they were. The experts said they were."

"We were mistaken. They are almost identical, but not quite. In shape and size they are identical. In the number and placing of the nails in the heel they are identical. In the worn places they are identical, but when you compare them under the magnifying glass this photograph of the footprints with this one of the boot soles you see unmistakable differences in the scratches on separate nails in the heel, unmistakable differences. There are slight differences in size, in position, in wear. They are not the same set of nails. It's impossible. Look for yourself. Compare any two and you'll see that they were never in the same pair of boots."

"It seems true; it certainly seems true," Hauteville grumbled, "but how do you account for it?"

Coquell smiled. "Kittredge told you he had three pairs of boots. They were machine made and the same size. He says he kept them all going, so they were all worn approximately alike. We have the pair that he wore that night and another pair found in his room, but the third pair is missing. It's the third pair of boots that made those alleyway footprints. I think we shall have found Martines's murderer when we find the man who stole that third pair of boots, unless Kittredge lied when he told that girl he had never suffered with gout or rheumatism."

CHAPTER XIII.

"FROM HIS KEY."

"Part of a day's work M. Paul had taken steps for the finding of the angle dropped into the Seine by Pussy Willmott, and betimes on the morning after that lady's examination a diver began work along the Concorde bridge under the guidance of a young detective named Bobet, selected for this duty by M. Paul himself. Another man was circulating in and out among friends of Martines, whom he must study one by one until the false friend had been discovered. And another thread was harrying still another man along the trail of the fascinating Anita, for Coquell wanted to find out why she had changed her mind that night and what she knew about the key to the alleyway door. Somebody gave that key to

CONTEMPT CASE 21 YEARS OLD

Interesting Paper Dug Up in Court— House Files of Josephine County— Man Cited Decides Case in His Own Behalf.

(Courier.)

Contempt of court in these times is considered a serious proposition and if a person is summoned to appear before any court and fails to do so they are liable to a heavy penalty. However, such matters were evidently not looked upon so seriously 51 years ago in this county, according to the following letter on file in the county clerk's office and which explains itself:

"Leland, Oregon, March 28, 1859— To the Hon. George E. Briggs, Judge of Probate for Josephine County.

"Sir: This is to inform you that I will not make my appearance at court on the first Tuesday in March (for it will not pay to go sparring a man in these wet times). My presence before your honorable court is not required any more, and all our former proceedings except my taking out letters of administration are (in the beautiful language of the poet) null and void for the following reasons, viz:

"First. The deceased had not lived his time out and, according to law, the land claimed under the Donation Act falls to the heirs.

"Second. The probate court has no right to grant an order of sale nor can the administrator give any title to the land whatever.

"Third. Any lawful deed to said land must necessarily, according to the donation act, come from the heirs of the deceased, else if there be no heirs living it has to escheat to the territory. (Therefore our courting is at an end and no more business to be did, except you sue me for breach of promise.)

"There is no news in these parts worthy of note; it rains or snows all the time and we have not got in any grain yet.

"Respectfully, your obedient servant, JAS. H. TWOGOOD."

It will be seen by the above that Mr. Twogood refused to appear before the court when cited to do so, and practically tells the court that it is off its base and has no jurisdiction in the matter at issue and indulges in some levity at the court's expense.

There is no further record that anything was done with Mr. Twogood, and again it is possible that he knew more about the case than the court did. In looking over the old documents in the courthouse some very interesting papers come to light.

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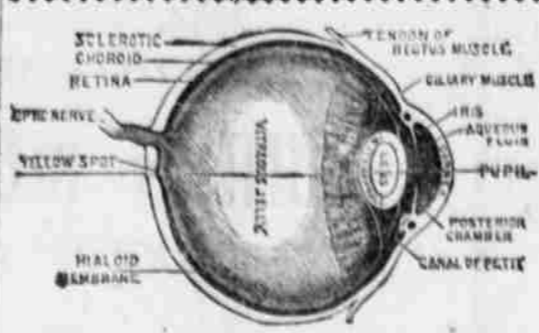
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