

# Through the Wall

By CLEVELAND MOFFETT

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"On these sheets," he explained, "M. Coquell and I have written down about a hundred words, simple, everyday words, most of them, such as 'house,' 'music,' 'tree,' 'baby,' that have no particular significance. Among these words, however, we have introduced thirty that have some association with this crime, words like 'Ansonia,' 'billiards,' 'pistol.' I shall speak these words slowly, one by one, and when I speak a word I want you to speak another word that my word suggests. For example, if I say 'tree' you might say 'garden.' If I say 'house' you might say 'chair.' Of course you are free to say any word you please, but you will find yourself irresistibly drawn toward certain ones according as you are innocent or guilty.

"For instance, Martinez, the Spaniard, was widely known as a billiard player. Now, if I should say 'billiard player' and you had no personal feeling about Martinez you might easily, by association of ideas, say 'Spaniard,' but if you had killed Martinez and wished to conceal your crime then when I said 'billiard player' you would not say 'Spaniard,' but would choose some innocent word like table or chalk. That is a crude illustration, but it may give you the idea."

"And is that all?" asked Groener, in evident relief.

"No. There is also the time taken in choosing a word. If I say 'pen' or 'umbrella' it may take you three-quarters of a second to answer 'ink' or 'rain,' while it may take another man whose mind acts slowly a second and a quarter or even more for his reply. Each person has his or her average time for the thought process, some long or some shorter. But that time process is always lengthened after one of the critical or emotional words—I mean if the person is guilty. Thus if I say 'Ansonia' to you and you are the murderer of Martinez it will take you one or two or three seconds longer to decide upon a safe answering word than it would have taken if you were not the murderer and spoke the first word that came to your tongue. Do you see?"

"I see," shrugged the prisoner, "but it never would carry weight in a court of law."

"Never is a long time," said the judge. "Wait ten years. We have a wonderful mental microscope here, and the world will learn to use it. I use it now."

"Do you really think," Groener asked presently, "that if I were guilty of this crime I could not make these answers without betraying myself?"

"I'm sure you could not."

"Then if I stood the test you would believe me innocent?"

The magistrate reflected a moment. "Yes, I should think you innocent."

"Let me understand this," laughed the prisoner. "You say over a number of words, and I answer with other words. You note the exact moment when you speak your word and the

exact moment when I speak mine; then you see how many seconds elapse between the two moments. Is that it?"

"That's it, only I have a watch that marks the fifths of a second. Are you willing to make the test?"

"Suppose I refuse?"

The magistrate's face hardened. "If you refuse today I shall know how to force you to my will another day. Did you ever hear of the third degree, Groener?" he asked sharply.

"After all," Groener said carelessly, "what does it matter? Go ahead with your little game. It rather amuses me."

The test began, Hauteville speaking the prepared words and handling the stop watch, while Coquell, sitting beside him, wrote down the answered words and the precise time intervals.

First they established Groener's average or normal time of reply when there was no emotion or mental effort involved. The judge said "milk," and Groener at once by association of ideas said "cream." The judge said "smoke," Groener replied "fire," the judge said "early," Groener said

"late," the judge said "water," Groener answered "river," the judge said "tobacco," Groener answered "pipe." And the intervals varied from four-fifths of a second to a second and a fifth, which was taken as the prisoner's average time for the untroubled thought process.

"He's clever!" reflected Coquell. "He's establishing a slow average."

Then began the real test, the judge going deliberately through the entire list, which included thirty important words scattered among seventy unimportant ones. The thirty important words were:

1. Notre Dame; 2. eye hole; 3. watchdog; 4. photographer; 5. gullotine; 6. Champs Elysees; 7. false beard; 8. Brussels; 9. Gibelin 10. sacristan; 11. Villa Montmorency; 12. Raoul; 13. dreams; 14. auger; 15. Ju jitsu; 16. detective; 17. Brazil; 18. canary bird; 19. fire; 20. red sky; 21. assassin; 22. boots; 23. Mary; 24. coaching party; 25. Japanese print; 26. charity bazaar; 27. footprints; 28. Margaret; 29. red hair; 30. Fourth of July.

They went through this list slowly, word by word, with everything carefully recorded, which took nearly an hour; then they turned back to the beginning and went through the list again, so that to the hundred original words Groener gave two sets of answering words, most of which proved to be the same, especially in the seventy unimportant words. Thus both times he answered "darkness" for "light," "tea" for "coffee" and "clock" for "watch." There were a few exceptions, as when he answered "salt" for "sugar" the first time and "sweet" for "sugar" the second time.

It was different, however, with the important words, as Hauteville pointed out when the test was finished. In over half the cases the accused had answered different words in the two questionings.

"You made up your mind, Groener," said the judge as he glanced over the sheets, "that you would answer the critical words within your average time of reply, and you have done it, but you have betrayed yourself in another way, as I knew you would. In your desire to answer quickly you repeatedly chose words that you would not have chosen if you had reflected longer; then in going through the list a second time you realized this and improved on your first answers by substituting more innocent words. For example, the first time you answered 'hole' when I said 'auger,' but the second time you answered 'hammer.' You said to yourself, 'Hole is not a good answer because he will think I am thinking of those eye holes, so I'll change it to 'hammer,' which means nothing.' And when I said 'watchdog' you answered first 'scout' and then 'tail,' when I said 'Brazil' you answered first 'ship' and then 'coffee.' You tried deliberately to get as far away as possible from associations with the crime."

"Not at all," contradicted Groener. "I made the changes because every word has many associations, and I followed the first one that came into my head. When we went through the list a second time I did not remember or try to remember the answers I had given the first time."

"Ah, but that is just the point," insisted the magistrate. "In the seventy unimportant words you did remember and you did answer practically the same words both times. Your memory failed only in the thirty important words. Besides, in spite of your will power, the test reveals emotional disturbance. It is true you kept your answers to the important words within your normal time of reply, but in at least five cases you went beyond this normal time in answering the unimportant words."

"The words are unimportant, and so are the answers."

"Then explain this. You were answering regularly at the rate of one answer in a second or so when suddenly you hesitated and clinched your hands and waited four and two-fifths seconds before answering 'feather' to the simple word 'hat.'"

"I was bored."

The magistrate leaned nearer. "Yes, and perhaps you were inwardly disturbed by the shock and strain of answering the previous word quickly and unconcernedly. I didn't warn you of that danger. Do you know what the previous word was?"

"No."

"It was gullotine!"

"Ah?" said the prisoner, absolutely impassive.

"And why did you waver and wipe your brow and draw in your breath quickly and wait six and one-fifth seconds before answering 'violin' when I gave you the word 'music'?"

"I'm sure I don't know," Groener stared at the judge.

"Shall I tell you why, Groener? It was because your heart was pounding, your head throbbing, your whole mental machinery numbed by the shock of the word before, by the terror that went through you when you answered 'worsted work' to 'charity bazaar.'"

The prisoner bounded to his feet with a hoarse cry. "My God, you have no right to torture me like this!" His eyes were staring.

"Sit down!" ordered the judge. The prisoner dropped back weakly

on his chair.

"You can save yourself a great deal of trouble," continued Hauteville, "by confessing your part in this crime. Answer me!"

With an effort the man straightened up and met the judge's eyes.

"I—I feel faint," he gasped. "Could you give me a little brandy?"

The guard put a flask to the prisoner's lips, and Groener took several swallows.

"Thanks!" he whispered.

"I told you it wouldn't be amusing," said the magistrate grimly. "Either you confess or we go ahead."

"I have nothing to confess."

"Then what was the matter with you just now?"

With a flash of his former insolence the prisoner answered: "Look at that clock. It's after 10. You've had me here for five hours, and I've had no food since noon. Coquell was skeptical. Several times he fancied he had caught Groener's eye fixed anxiously on the clock. Was it possible the fellow was trying to gain time? But why? As the detective puzzled over this there shot through his mind an idea for a move against Groener's resistance. He turned quickly to Hauteville and said, 'I think it might be as well to let him have some supper.'"

The judge directed the guard to take the prisoner into the outer office and have something to eat brought in for him.

"Well," he asked when they were alone, "what is it?"

Coquell talked earnestly, while the magistrate listened.

"Possibly—possibly," reflected the judge. "Anyhow, it's worth trying," and he gave the necessary orders to his clerk. "Let Tignol go, he directed. 'Tell him to wake the man up if he's in bed and not to mind what it costs. Tell him to take an auto.'"

(To Be Continued.)

## CITY NOTICES.

### NOTICE OF ELECTION

Be it resolved by the city council of the city of Medford, Oregon: That notice is hereby given that a special election in and for the territory hereinafter described, has been ordered by said council to be held, and the same will be held on the 24th day of May, 1910, between the hours of 9 o'clock, a. m. and 5 o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of said city at said election the following question:

Shall the boundaries of the city of Medford be altered by including therein the following described territory, to-wit:

Commencing at the northeast corner of section 36, Township 37, range 2 west of the Willamette meridian; thence south on the east line of said section 36 to the north line of donation land claim No. 85, in said town and range; thence west along the north line of said donation land claim No. 85 and donation land claim No. 84, of said town and range to the northwest corner of said donation land claim No. 84; thence north to the north line of said section 36, being the present boundary of said city of Medford; thence east along said north line of said section 36 and the present boundary of said city, to place of commencement; all in Jackson county, Oregon.

The following are hereby designated as the places in said city at which the polls will be open within said city:

First ward—Commercial Club rooms.

Second ward—Naah hotel.

Third ward—City hall.

The following is hereby designated as the place in the territory above described at which the polls will be open:

Fourth ward from south city limits, on west side of county road extending south from the end of Newtown street in said city.

The following have been and hereby are, appointed and designated as judges and clerks of said election:

First ward in said city—L. L. Damon, judge; G. P. Lindley, judge and clerk; C. W. Davis, judge and clerk.

Second ward in said city—L. B. Warner, judge; J. Bellinger, judge and clerk; William Ulrich, judge and clerk.

Third ward in said city—M. F. McCown, judge; Scott Davis, judge and clerk; H. B. Cady, judge and clerk.

In the territory heretofore described—C. W. Rinsberger, judge; R. A. Johnson, judge and clerk William Murray, judge and clerk.

The electors of said city of Medford, and the electors of the territory hereinbefore described, are hereby invited to vote on said proposition by placing upon their ballots, "for annexation" or "against annexation" or words equivalent thereto.

Resolved further, that this notice be published in the daily Mail Tribune, a newspaper of general circulation in said city of Medford, and in territory above described, for a period of four weeks prior to such election, and also four copies thereof be posted in four public places in said city, and four public places within the territory above described, for a like period, by the city recorder or under his direction.

The foregoing resolution was passed on the 19th day of April, 1910, by the following vote: Merrick, aye; Emerick, absent; Wortman, aye; Elfert, aye; Demmer, aye; Welsh, aye.

Approved, April 20, 1910.

W. H. CANON, Mayor.

Attest: ROBT. W. TELFER, City Recorder.

Medford, Oregon: This certifies that we have sold Hall's Texas Wonder for the cure of all kidney, bladder and rheumatic troubles for ten years, and have never had a complaint. It gives quick and permanent relief. Sixty days' treatment in each bottle. Medford Pharmacy. tf

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Duluth, via Council Bluffs	\$67.50
St. Louis	\$67.50

Tickets will be on sale May 2d and 9th; June 2d, 17th and 24th; July 5th and 22d; August 3d; September 8th.

The above rates apply from Portland only. From points south of Portland, add ONE WAY local rate to Portland, to make through rate via Portland. One way through California, add \$15.00 to above rates. Except that fares to St. Paul and Minneapolis one way via California will be \$2175 higher, and fare to Duluth \$24.75 higher than fares via direct routes.

Ten days provided for the going trip. Stop-overs within limits in either direction. Final return limit three months from date of sale, but not later than October 31st.

Inquire of any S. P. Agent for complete information or

WM. McMURRAY

General Passenger Agent,  
Portland, Oregon

## Live Deals

NO. 52. 50 ACRES—All free soil, level and fenced, close in; 42 acres under cultivation, 20 acres alfalfa, balance grain; 7 acres woodland, family orchard of 65 bearing trees, 8-room house, 2 barns, other outbuildings, R. F. D. Price \$375 per acre; good terms.

NO. 45. 80 ACRES—Seven miles from Medford, free soil, 23 acres cultivated, 50 acres fenced with woven wire, 3 good springs high enough to water the buildings, 3-room house, 8 acres apples in bearing, 8 acres apples 4 to 6 years old, 1 acre 1 year old, 60 Bartlett and Winter Nelis pears in bearing, a few peaches, apricots and prunes; tools. Price \$5250, half cash, balance time.

NO. 44. 6 ACRES—Two blocks from street to be paved this year, 5 acres creek bottom and under ditch, all in small fruit and garden, 3-room house, barn, woodshed; place all fenced. Price \$5000, half cash, balance terms. This is a snap.

NO. 58. 6 ACRES—Five miles from Medford, all red free soil, lays nice, 5-room house, 1 1/2 acres Newtown and Spitz apples, Bartlett pears and peaches in bearing; 1 1/2 alfalfa, 2 acres partly cleared, \$90 worth of chickens and hogs and some tools; all for \$1400, half cash. If you want a small place, this is it and a bargain.

NO. 39. 122 ACRES—Half mile from station, 5 miles from Medford, good house, new barn, woven wire fences, spring water piped to the house and barn, splendid well and family orchard; 80 acres in apples and pears 1 year old, all commercial varieties; one of the prettiest and best places in the valley. Price \$37,500, one-third cash. We have other good deals in ranch and city property. Call and see us.

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