

Millheim on the I. C. S. S. C. R. R. has population of 6-700, is a thriving business center, and controls the trade of an average radius of over eight miles. In which the Journal has a larger circulation than all other county papers combined.

Doctor Deane.
The December night was bitter cold with a clear sky above, the moon and stars shining brightly.

Doctor Deane sat before the fire. He was a young man of about thirty and twenty years of age, with a pleasant and good looking face of florid complexion, and as yet unmarried.

He sat, this freezing winter's night with his feet resting upon the brace fender, a small book in his hands, and a pipe dangling from his mouth.

The contents of the book did not seem to entirely enchain his attention for every few moments he would raise his eyes and glance up at the clock on the mantel.

The clock struck twelve. "Midnight," muttered the doctor aloud. "The men are fully an hour behind their appointed time. What can delay them?"

The words had scarcely left his lips when the bell pealed loudly. Doctor Deane laid down his book upon the table.

He unlocked and opened the front door, and beheld two men standing before him in the clear moonlight, carrying between them something long and heavy, which was concealed in a canvas bag.

The two men immediately entered with their strange burden, and Doctor Deane followed them into his private room.

They laid the heavy canvas bag upon the long table, which stood behind a green lace curtain, that was hung by rings on a brass bar running from one end of the room to another.

Without uttering a word, the men slowly drew off the great bag covering and a human form half nude was disclosed to view upon the table.

"The fellow said to the last that he was the wrong man, sir," exclaimed one, wrinking his eye, "said and swore that he was innocent. He died like a man, sir."

A moment later the two body bearers bade "good night" to the physician, and were out in the cold street.

Deane shuddered. "You will not give me up to the cruel law again? You will not have me taken back to prison? My God! will you not be merciful?"

"You were found guilty of murder, George Leighton. You were brought to the scaffold to-day, and by a most clumsy mistake, were cut down before life had entirely left your body. By giving you up to the justice from which you have for a time escaped, I only do an imperative duty," said Deane.

"As I am now a living man, as there is a Heaven above, I am an innocent man!" cried George Leighton, fervently. "I never committed the deed of which I am accused—never, never! I was condemned upon evidence which was purely circumstantial, and no murder rests upon my soul."

Something in the look of the man, something in his voice and manner, caused Deane to think that, after all this being might be the victim of circumstantial evidences.

"Don't give me up," pleaded Leighton. "Don't let them kill me in earnest. Give me my freedom. Allow me to leave this place a free man, and the mercy which you will show to an unfortunate man this night shall ever remain as close a secret with me as with you. You may live to bless the hour when such mercy was shown you: for if the old saying that 'murder will out' is ever a prophetic one, it shall be in my case, doctor. I say again, I am an innocent man; and the time will come when you and all the world shall be firmly convinced of the fact."

"I will be merciful. I do not know why it is, but I am strangely forced to believe your declaration that you are an innocent man. I have an old suit of clothes here—Arise and dress yourself, and let the coming of another night see you upon the ocean. Remember faithfully the belief I have in you, and never abuse the mercy thus shown you."

The man, descending from the table, fell upon his knees before the young doctor.

The clock struck the hour of two in the morning as a man, wrapped up almost to the very eyes, passed out from the warmth and shelter into the fierce coldness of the silent street.

And Doctor Deane, sitting before the fire, asked himself again and again, whether he had done right or wrong in allowing that man to go forth free.

Seven years passed. It was Christmas day. In the high room of a miserable, poverty stricken old house, situated in a narrow, dirty street, not far from the water-side, a man sat by the bedside of his wife and child.

The woman and child were asleep, and on their pinched faces the stamp of poverty and privation was plainly discernible.

It is a haggard looking man who sits there gazing at the two beings upon the bed was Doctor Deane.

Six years before he had married, and thinking that a splendid opportunity lay before him to make money and reputation in a distant city, the young doctor with his wife had set forth full of the brightest hopes.

The money acquired by the practice of his profession was one day swallowed up in a speculation which had held out the gayest promise of success.

newspaper both of which he handed to the wondering doctor. "Before you open the box, sir, which is not locked," said the stranger, "you must read the marked piece of news on the first page of that paper. And now, Doctor Deane, good-night and good-bye."

Laying the box upon the table, Deane hurriedly opened the paper, at the first glance beheld the marked article, and with a beating heart read the following piece of news:

"A DYING MAN'S CONFESSION.—Hiram Wood, an aged man, passed away last evening, and two hours before that event he made a terrible confession. In this confession he declared himself a murderer; said that he alone was the man who committed the dark deed some seven or eight years ago, and for which crime a young man, named George Leighton, died upon the scaffold, sent there by what then appeared to be the strongest circumstantial evidences."

The newspaper fell from Doctor Deane's quivering hands, he pulled open the tin box and saw a folded sheet of paper lying on the top of something firm and heavy.

And this is what he read: DEAR DOCTOR DEANE.—You are now convinced that the man who swore to you that he was 'innocent, seven years ago, spoke God's holy truth. I glory in the thought that in this, your dark hour, I can be of service to you. In the tin box you will find the sum of ten thousand dollars, a present from him who owes you his life. Blush not to take it, for it was all procured honestly. As much more money is at your disposal. When the morning comes I shall pay you and your family a pleasant visit, when we can chat together and be joyful.

"From your life long debtor," "GEORGE LEIGHTON." The contents of the box were emptied out upon the table. Doctor Deane instantly awoke both wife and child to hear the happy tidings.

The sick wife and child of the doctor rapidly recovered, and Deane became a rich and prosperous physician.

Life Illustra. It was in a Summit street dry goods store, only yesterday, that three women with eyes glistening, as they survived the piles of dress fabrics lying all around and about them, were holding a sort of consultation over a dress pattern which had struck the fancy of one of them.

"How do you think it will make up?" "What are you going to trim it with?" "Are you going to have a polonaise?" "I don't know; would you?" "Well, if I was getting as good a loss as that I'd want it made right."

"Who are you going to get to fit it for you?" "Oh, I hardly know; who do you think is the best?" "Don't get Mrs. — she spoiled that black alpaca of mine so that it was hardly fit to be seen."

"Yes; and see how Mrs. — spoiled my silk. I could just sit down and cry every time I look at it." "Of course I don't know whether it's true or not, but I've heard say that she never uses half the trimmings you give her."

"Well, there's no telling. She dresses mighty well for a person that ain't no better off than she is." "Seems to me if I hadn't any more, she has I wouldn't be quite so stuck-up and independent."

"Did you see that new dress of Mrs. —?" "Yes, and it is 'not fit for anything. The waist is cut too long, and it puckers across the back, and it's high in the neck, and I don't know what all." "Who made it?" "Guess she made it herself. She's too stingy to pay for getting anything decent."

"Good for the old thing." "I'm glad her dress is spoiled." "How many yards do you think I'd better get?" "I had twelve in that black alpaca, but it was wide stuff."

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