THE MIDDLE TEMPLE MURDER A Detective Story by J. S. Fletcher

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waved his hand.

"That is what I know, Mr. Elphick, and if I choose, all the world shall know it tomorrow morning!" he said firmly. "Ronald Breton is the son of the murlered man, and Ronald Breton is enged to be married to the daughter of the man charged with the murder. "Do you hear that? It is not mater of suspicion, or of idea, or of consequence, it is fact—fact!"

"In the time what I know, Mr. Elphick, and before Spargo could reply a loud insistent knocking came at the outer door. Elphick started nervously, but presently he moved across the room, walking as if he had received a blow, and opened the door. A boy's voice penetrated into the sitting room. "If you please, sir, is Mr. Spargo, of the Watchman, here? He left this address in case he was wanted." ged to be married to the daughter of the man charged with the murder.

"Do you hear that? It is not matter of suspicion, or of idea, or of confeture, it is fact—fact!"

Mr. Elphick slowly turned his face of Miss Baylis. He gasped out a few

You-did-not-tell-me-this!" Then Spargo, turning to the woman, aw that she, too, was white to the ips and as frightened as the man.
"I—didn't know!" she muttered.
"He didn't tell me. He only told me this morning what—what I've told tou."

"All right," answered Spargo. "I'm coming what—what I've told on."

Spargo picked up his hat.

"Good-night, Mr. Miphick," he said. But before he could reach the door at and seized him with trembling air and seized him with trembling ands. Spargo turned and looked at ms. He knew then that for some reas or other he had given Mr. Septimus phick a thoroughly bad fright.

"Well?" he growled.

"Well?" he growled.

"Well?" he growled.

"I shall have to go," he said. "I may be kept. Now, Mr. Elphick, can I come to see you tomorrow morning?" replied Elphick eagerly. "Tomorrow morning, ertainly, At 11—11 o'clock. That will do?"

"I shall be here at 11," said Spargo. "Eleven sharp."

He was moving away when Elphick eaught him by the sleeve.

"I didn't mean that — indeed I didn't" he almost wailed. "I—I don't know what I meant. Stay, young gentleman, stay a little, and let us—let us talk. Let me have a word with you—as many words as you please. I implore you!" Elphick wrung his hands.

Spargo made a fine pretense of hesitation, "If I stay," he said at last, "it will only be on the strict condition that you answer—and answer truly—whatver questions I like to ask you. Other-

He made another move to the door and again Mr. Elphick laid beseeching bands on him.

"Stay!" he said. "I'll answer any-thing you like!"

swered Spargo. "That's certain."

Elphick released his grip on the young man's arm.

"Come—at 11 tomorrow morning."

he said, and drew back and closed the door.

orious effect. And he recognized as is looked at them that, while they were soth frightened, they were frightened in different ways. Miss Baylis had liready recovered her composure; she how sat somber and stern as ever, renow sat somber and stern as ever, re-trains Spargo's look with something Rat f indifferent defiance; he thought he ould see that in her mind a certain

fear was battling with a certain amount of wonder that he had discovered the AR. ELPHICK laughed slightly and secret. It seemed to him that so far as she was concerned the secret had

MR. ELPHICK laughed slightly and II waved his hand.

"My good young gentement." he said.
"More than he man John Marbury was look from his chair.
Spargo suddenly rose form his chair.
I le looked the old barrister tull in the said.
"My le looked the old barrister tull in the said.
"Mr. Elphick." he said, "you are widenly unaware of eal that I know.
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"Mr. Elphick." he said, "you are widenly unaware of eal that I know.
"I so I will tell to my office, and I will do. I say the will be to my office, and I will do. I say the will be the will do. I say the will be will do. I say the will be will do. I say the will be will do. I

the Watchman, here? He left this address in case he was wanted."

Spargo recognized the voice as that of one of the office messengers boys, and jumping up, went to the door.

"What is it, Rawlins?" he asked.

"Will you please come back to the office, sir, at once? There's Mr. Rathbury there and says he must see you instantly."

instantly. "All right," answered Spargo. "I'm

"I shall be here at 11," said Spargo.

"Bleven sharp."

He was moving away when Elphick caught him by the slever.

you a thousand pounds!"

Spargo shook him off.

"That's enough!" he snarled. "Now.

am off! What, you'd try to bribe

Mr. Elbhick.

"I shall be here at 11," said Spargo.

"Eleven sharp."

He was moving away when Elphick caught him by the slever.

"A word—just a word!" he said.

"You—you have not told the—the boy—Ronald—of what you know? You haven't?"

"I shall be here at 11," said Spargo.

"Eleven sharp."

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"A word—just a word!" he said.
"You—you have not told the—the boy—Ronald—of what you know? You haven't?"

"I shall be here at 11," said Spargo.

Elphick tightened his grip on Spar-go's sleeve. He looked into his face

Promise "Promise me—promise me, Mr. Spargo, that you won't tell him until you have seen me in the morning!" he implored. "I beg you to promise

Spargo hesitated, considering mat-

ters.

"Very well—I promise." he said.

"And you won't print it?" continued
Elphick, still clinging to him. "Say
you won't print it tonight?"

"I shall not print it tonight." answered Spargo. "That's certain."

Elphick released his grip on the

thing you like."

CHAPTER XXVIII

Of Proved Identity

SPARGO sat down again in the chair the two people upon whom his startling announcement had produced such a curious effect. And he recognized as the looked at them that, while they were the followed by the following the content of the con

Rathbury laughed. (CONTINUED TOMORROW)

DREAMLAND ADVENTURES THE LONG-AGO CHARM

By DADDY

Time Flies Backward (The Wild Goese, flying to the torth, bring to Peggy and Billy a harm in the shape of a coin. Billy tubs the charm to see what will hap-

the question in Billy's eyes. Billy quickly gave the charm a harder rub than before.

The rub did the business. At once the

charm in the shape of a coin. Billy tabs the charm to see tohat will happen.)

PILLY'S first little rub on the curicus coin which the King of the Wild cese had brought from the South weathet. The warm spring day suddenly turned to winter cold, then to autumn crispness, then to summer heat. It was as if the seasons were being turned back like a clock.

This made Peggy think of her wrist watch, and she glanced at it. To her surprise the hands were spinning backward so fast she could scarcely see them.

"Geewhillikers, we've jumped to the seasons began to spin backward faster than the bands on Peggy's watch had done, while the watch hands whirled themselves out of sight. Spring, winter, autumn, summer, year after year and year after year flicked by like a rapidly running motion-picture film. They went so swiftly they were just a blur, but in that blur Peggy and Billy could see wonderful changes coming over the country. Houses, schools, churches, factories, all were vanishing as if being turned into flame and smoke by fires that had been the old. There was just a flash of log cabins set in the midst of a clearing and then they saw only woods, woods. easons began to spin backward faster

ward so fast she could scarcely see them.

"Geewhillikers, we've jumped to the middle of last year," shouted Billy.

"Honkle! Honkle! Honkle! You wished to live among the Indian boys of the olden day. Rub. rub the Long-Ago charm and you shall have your wish," bonked the King of Wild Geese.

"Honkle! Honkle! Princess Pergy said she wanted to roam the wild great when all this country belonged to Birdland. Rub. rub the Long-Ago charm and Princess Peggy shall have her wish," honked the Beautiful Blue Geose.

Billy looked at Peggy as if to ask her if be should rub the charm. The effects of the first rub had been so astonishing that there was no telling what another rub might do. It might turn time back to far that they would not be there at all.

But Peggy noticed that Billy didn't took a day younger than before, neither fill Balky Sam, nor the King of the Wild Geese, nor the Beautiful Blue Goese. Apparently the charm had no effect upon their agos.

Now Peggy was very eager to see if the charm really could take them hack a Indian days as the nodded two the hery saw only woods, woods.

As suddenly as it had begun, the whirling back of the years stopped. Peggy and Billy looked about them with woods woods, woods.

As suddenly as it had begun, the whirling back of the years stopped. Peggy and Billy looked about them with woods woods and sully spring days and the woods were filled with melody as hundreds of birds warbied their sunset songs.

Peggy was about to give a cry of joy, everything in this forest was so lovely, when of a sudden, the songs of the birds supped. Something had frightened them and they fied away or crept silently out of sight.

The King of the Wild Geese hissed a sharp warning.

"House of the years stopped. Peggy as about to give a cry of joy, everything in this forest was so lovely, when of a sudden, the songs of the birds supped. Something had rightened them and they fied away or crept silently out of sight.

The King of the Wild Geese hissed a sharp warning.

"Hide! Hide! Wild red men are coming!"



By C. A. Voight -:-PETEY—Every One He Knew Passed by Just Then -:--:--:-HERE IS IT, MISTER IT BLEW IN-

The Young Lady Across the Way



The young lady across the way says foreign exchange will right itself in time and the English pound will soon be worth the full 16 ounces again.

THE TOONERVILLE TROLLEY THAT MEETS ALL THE TRAINS-By Fontaine Fox THE SKIPPER COULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR THE POOR POWER TILL HE HAPPENED TO LOOK BACK IN THE CAR AND DOGGONE IF ONE OF THOSE NERVY VACUUM CLEANER SALESMEN HADN'T CONNECTED THE THING TO A LIGHT SOCKET AND WAS "DEMONSTRATING" TO A LADY PASSENGER.

"CAP" STUBBS-Pa's a Good Disciplinarian



By EDWINA



SOMEBODY'S STENOG-The Last Word Is Not Always Woman's



