

**THE MIDDLE TEMPLE MURDER**

A Detective Story by J. S. Fletcher

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BRETON pulled up on the edge of the crawling stream.

"We've got to get across there," Spargo said. "But as we're all ready soaked to the knee it doesn't matter about getting another wetting. Have you any idea how long we've been walking?"

"Hours—days—years!" replied Spargo.

"I should say quite four hours," said Breton. "In that case, it's well past two o'clock, and the light will be breaking in another hour or so. Now, once across this stream, what shall we do?"

"What have we come to do? Go to the cottage, of course!"

"Wait a bit. No need to startle them. By the fact they're up, I take it that they're up. Look there!"

As he spoke, a figure crossed the window passing between it and the light.

"That's not Elphick, nor yet Cardstone," said Spargo. "They're medium-heighted men. That's a tallish man."

"Then it's the man the landlord of the Moor Cock told us about," said Breton. "Now, look here—I know every inch of this place. When we're across let me go up to the cottage, and I'll take an observation through that window and see who's inside. Come on."

He lingered in the shadow of this house but for a short moment; then came swiftly and noiselessly back to his companion. His hand fell on Spargo's arm with a clutch of nervous excitement.

"Spargo!" he whispered. "Who on earth do you think the other man is?"

**The Whiphand**

SPARGO, almost irritable from desire to get at close grips with the objects of his long journey, shook off Breton's hand with a growl of resentment.

"And how on earth can I waste time guessing?" he exclaimed. "Who is he?"

Breton laughed softly.

"Steady, Spargo, steady!" he said. "It's Myerst—the Safe Deposit man. Myerst!"

Spargo started as if something had bitten him.

"Myerst!" he almost shouted. "Myerst! Good Lord!—why did I never think of him? Myerst! Then—"

"I don't know why you should have thought of him," said Breton. "But—"

Spargo took a step toward the cottage; Breton pulled him back.

"Wait!" he said. "We've got to discuss this. I'd better tell you what they're doing."

"What are they doing, then?" demanded Spargo impatiently.

"Well," answered Breton. "They're going through a quantity of papers. The two old gentlemen look very ill and very miserable. Myerst is evidently laying down the law to them in some fashion or other. I've formed a notion, Spargo."

"What notion?"

"Myerst is in possession of whatever

whither the left followed it. Breton laughed softly.

"That's wise, Mr. Myerst," he said, keeping his revolver steadily pointed at his prisoner's nose. "Discretion will certainly be the better part of your valor on this occasion. Spargo—may I trouble you to see what Mr. Myerst carries in his pockets? Go through them carefully. Not for papers or documents—just now. We can leave that matter—we've plenty of time. See if he's got a weapon of any sort on him, Spargo—that's the important thing."

Considering that Spargo had never gone through the experience of searching a man before, he made sharp and creditable what's going on. But that's impossible—I know that cottage. The only thing we can do is this—we must catch Myerst unawares. He's here for no good, look here!"

And reaching round to his hip pocket Breton drew out a Browning revolver and wagged it in his hand with a smile.

"That's a useful thing to have, Spargo," he remarked. "I slipped it into my pocket the other day, wondering why on earth I did it. Now it's come in handy. For anything we know Myerst may be armed."

"Well?" said Spargo.

"Come up to the cottage. If things turn out as I think they will, Myerst, and he's got what he wants, will be off. Now, you shall get where I did just now, behind that brush, and I'll station myself in the doorway. You can sweep to me, and when Myerst comes out I'll cover him. Come on, Spargo; it's beginning to get light already."

Breton cautiously led the way along the river bank, making use of a small cover as the willows and alders afforded. Together he and Spargo made their way to the front of the cottage. Arrived at the door, Breton posted himself in the porch, motioning to Spargo to creep in behind the bushes and to look through the window. And Spargo, noiselessly following his companion, hid himself among the branches which concealed him looked it through the uncurtained glass.

The interior into which he looked was rough and comfortable in the extreme. There were the bare accessories of a moorland cottage; rough chairs and tables, plastered walls, a fishing rod or two piled in a corner, some food set out on a side table, the table in the middle of the floor the three men sat. Cardstone's face was in the shadow; Myerst had his back to the window; old Elphick bending over the table was laboriously writing with shaking fingers. And Spargo twisted his head round to his companion.

"Elphick," he said, "is writing a check. Myerst has another check in his hand. Be ready!—when he gets that second check I guess he'll be off."

Breton smiled grimly and nodded. A moment later Spargo whispered again.

"Look out, Breton! He's coming."

Breton drew back into the angle of the porch; Spargo quitted his protecting bush and took the other angle. The door opened. And they heard Myerst's voice, threatening, commanding in tone.

"Now, remember all I've said! And don't you forget. I've got the whiphand of both of you—the whiphand!"

Then Myerst turned and stepped out into the porch; Spargo saw him confronted by an athletic young man who held the muzzle of an ugly revolver within two inches of the bridge of his nose and in a manly firm and steady grip. Another glance showed him the figure of a second businesslike looking young man at his side, whose attitude showed a desire to grapple with him.

"Good-morning, Mr. Myerst," said Breton with cold and ironic politeness. "We are glad to meet you so unexpectedly. And—I must trouble you to put up your hands. Quick!"

Myerst made one hurried movement of his right hand toward his hip, but a sudden growl from Breton made him shift it just as quickly above his head.

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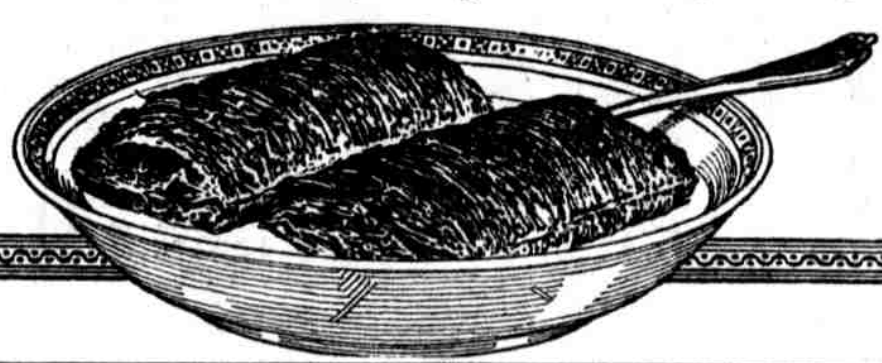
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**April Raindrops**

don't always wait until April to patter down, but in that case they're March raindrops, aren't they? However, March or April, they're wet just the same, which reminds us of raincoats. Gray or tan and some cut in military style, we have them at \$10.50 and \$12.50.

(Gallery, Market)

**Brand-New Hats for the Boys**  
**\$2, \$2.50, \$3**

Tweed, bull dog, Swarthmore, Norfolk and Alpine hats in light and dark Spring mixtures.

Caps in tweed mixtures are \$1.75 to \$3.

(Gallery, Market)

**400 Pair of Boys' New Shoes Special at \$2.90 a Pair**

Sturdy, sensible shoes! They have round toes and are cut in Blucher style. The black leather is durable, the shoes have a good appearance and the soles are welted to give good service. Sizes 10 to 5 1/2.

Other Blucher shoes with round toes are of black and of tan leather and are cut on proper lasts for small, growing feet. Sizes 10 to 13 1/2 at \$4.50 to \$5.50 a pair.

**Shoes in English Style for the Young Man**

The smart English lasts, the black or dark tan leathers and the straight-lace style give them a sure appeal to the older boys. Sizes 1 to 6, \$5.50 to \$6.90 a pair.

**Men's Brogue Oxfords**  
Black, \$10.50. Tan, \$11.50.

Knowing their good-looking full wing tips, broad, low heels, surely you want a pair!

Brogue shoes of dark tan leather are \$12.50.

**Blucher Shoes of Heavy Leather**  
**\$5.65, \$6.90 and \$7.90 a Pair**

These are made especially for hard outdoor work. The leather, black or tan, is tough and pliable and the soles are thickly welted.

(Gallery, Market)

**A Sale of Men's Spring Shirts 1000 at \$2.35**

Bought many months ago, their price represents a saving that makes it worth while to buy a half dozen or so.

The fine madras is in woven stripes—black, blue, lavender, green, brown and pink to choose from—soft collars to match.

Wanamaker shirts, you know, no skimping!

Sizes 13 1/2 to 17.

(Gallery, Market)

**Some Tippy New Polo Coats at \$25**

have arrived with the first Spring sunshine. The material is soft to the touch and is in delightful shades of tan, Pekin blue and green. The lines are quite manly and the coat is half lined and belted.

The other coat sketched is a good knock-about coat of tweed in gray or brown mixture with a leather belt and is marked \$29.50.

**Many Other Interesting Spring Coats at \$25 to \$45**

are of tinseltone and goldtone, polo cloth, velvet, poplin and serge. There are sports coats and full length coats and some capes with graceful lines. All the bright and pretty Spring colors, as well as plenty of navy blue and black, are among them. The coats are lined with silk.

**Finer Coats**

including Bolivias, camels' hair, tinseltone, Pointe twill and peach-bloom, are luxuriously lined and soft of color. Particularly fine value will be found among some sample coats, individual models, that are in the group between \$49.50 and \$97.50.

(Market)

**Taffeta Frocks for Springtime or, Perhaps**

it may be, as the taffeta frocks seem to think, that Springtime is coming for their especial benefit. However, when dresses are as charming as these in our Dress Store, one doesn't mind their slight vanity.

**Even at \$15**

one may get a delightful frock with puffs at the sides, short sleeves and, sometimes, a pretty vestee. The taffeta gleams and rustles and one wonders how it is possible to produce such attractive frocks at such a small price.

**At \$22.50, \$25 to \$35**

Light Spring shades of taffeta are used, as well as navy and black, and styles—well, you will appreciate their unique charm and great diversity much more if you see them for yourself. But, we can promise you, the seeing will be a pleasure!

**Serge and Tricotine**

The soft, fine wool materials are well tailored, and it will not be so very long before we shall be wearing tailored frocks without coats. Of course, navy blue is the favorite and straight lines prevail. \$12, \$16.50, \$18 to \$25.

(Market)

**Printed Georgette Crepe Special \$2 and \$2.50 a Yard**

Mostly in light grounds with floral, figured or delightful all-over printed patterns, they are 40 inches wide.

(Central)

**Children's Sleepers at \$1.25**

Cunning, comfortable, one-piece pajamas are of soft white muslin, buttoning down the back. Each one has a pocket, which is sure to please the boy or girl of 2 to 6 years!

**Princess Slips \$1.65 to \$3**

Sizes 6 to 16 years—fine white nainsook princess slips are trimmed with lace or embroidery and have ruffles at the bottom.

(Central)

**Embroidered Pillow Cases \$2 a Pair**

They were bought several months back and we expected them long before this. Of fine quality muslin, 45x36 inches, they are scalloped or hemstitched and embroidered in pretty designs. And, to bring the design out more clearly, they have been washed and ironed and look so fresh in their boxes.

(Central)

**Announcing: A Sale of New Spring Hats at Special Prices for Saturday**

Many women wear black almost exclusively, not necessarily for mourning, and, coming to our shop of black hats, have commented upon the variety of shapes, the good styles and general attractiveness of the showing. Other women may be glad to know of it. Prices begin at \$5 and \$6.

(Market)

**Terry Cloth at \$1.25 a Yard**

Many Yards Many Patterns

It is reversible, you know, which makes it doubly nice for curtains and draperies. Some wholesalers are asking this price for it, so you see there is a real saving. 36 inches wide.

(Central)

**New Coats for Girls of 8 to 14 at \$15**

Two attractive styles are marked at this price. One is a sports coat of brown tweed mixture with large pockets, nicely belted. 10 to 14 years.

The other is a dark blue serge, lined throughout, with a detachable collar of white silk poplin. 8 to 12 years.

**A Dainty Voile Frock at \$4.50**

In 8 to 14 year sizes. It has an embroidered bodice, a satin sash and a tucked skirt.

(Market)

**1500 Petticoats at \$1.25 and \$1.50**

The \$1.25 petticoats have black percale tops and printed flounces or are made entirely of cotton foulard in several color combinations.

The \$1.50 petticoats are of plain black sateen with pointed, ruffled flounces; of plain-color cotton taffeta in purple, navy, emerald, French blue, rosead; or of cotton taffeta in printed patterns.

All have elastic waistbands and deep flounces.

(Central)