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THE MIDDLE TEMPLE MURDER

A Detective Story by J. S. Fletcher

"I ASKED the police to bring a doctor along with them," answered Breton. "In the meantime, let's put him to bed—there are beds in that inner room. We'll get him to bed and give him something hot to drink—that's all I can think of for the present."

Between them they manage to get something to eat, if you please. Spargo, with a happy thought, boiled water on the rusty stove and put hot bottles to his feet. When that was done they persuaded Elphick to lie down in the inner room. Presently both old men fell asleep, and then Breton and Spargo suddenly realized that they themselves were hungry, wet and weary.

"There ought to be food in the cupboard," said Breton, beginning to rummage. "They've generally had a good stock of tinned things. Here we are, Spargo—these are tongues and sardines. Make some hot coffee while I open one of these tins."

"The prisoner watched the preparations for a rough-and-ready breakfast with eyes that eventually began to glisten. "I may remind you that I'm hungry, too, on the table. And you've no right to starve me, even if you've the physical ability to keep me tied up. Give me some of that bread, please."

"You shan't starve," said Breton carelessly. He cut an ample supply of bread and meat, filled a cup with coffee and placed it before Myerst. "Uta's his right arm, Spargo," he continued. "I think we can give him that liberty. We've got his revolver, anyhow."

"For a while the three men ate and drank in silence. At last Myerst pushed his plate away. He looked suspiciously at his two captives. "Look here," he said, "I think you know a lot about all this affair, Spargo; but there's only one person who knows all about it. That's me!"

"We're taking that for granted," said Spargo. "We guessed as much when we found you here. You'll have ample opportunity for explanation, you know, later on."

"I'll explain now, if you care to hear," said Myerst, with another of his cynical laughs. "And if I do, I'll tell you the truth. I know you've got an idea in your head that isn't favorable to me, but you're utterly wrong, what ever you may think. Look here—I'll make you a fair offer. There are some cigars in my case there—give me one, and mix me a drink of that whiskey—a good 'un—and I'll tell you what I know about this matter. Come on! Anything's better than sitting here doing nothing."

The two young men looked at each other. Then Breton nodded. "Let him talk if he likes," he said. "We're not bound to believe him. And we may hear something that's true. Give him his cigar and his drink."

Myerst took a stiff pull at the contents of the tumbler which Spargo presently set before him. He laughed as he inhaled the first puffs of his cigar. "As it happens, you'll hear nothing but the truth," he observed. "Now that things are as they are, there's no reason why I shouldn't tell the truth. The fact is, I've nothing to fear. You can't give me in charge, for it so happens that I've got a power of attorney from these two old chaps inside there to act for them in regard to the money they entrusted me with. It's in an inside pocket of that letter-case, and if you look at it, Breton, you'll see it in order. I'm not ever going to dare you to interfere with or destroy it; you're a barrister, and you'll respect the law. But if anybody's got a case against anybody I have against you two for assault and illegal detention. But I'm not a vindictive man, and I don't intend to sue. This is quite in order." He turned to Myerst.

Breton took up Myerst's letter-case and examined its contents. And presently he turned to Spargo. "He's right," he said. "This is quite in order." He turned to Myerst.

"You can prove all this, I suppose?" remarked Spargo. "Every word—every letter! But about the Market Milcastrer affair: Your father, Breton, was right in what he said about Chamberlayne having all the money that was got from the bank. He had—and he engineered the mock death and funeral so that he could disappear, and he paid us who helped him generously, as I've told you. The thing couldn't have been better done. When it was done, the nephew disappeared; the doctor disappeared; Chamberlayne disappeared. I had had luck—to tell you the truth, I was struck off the rolls for a technical offense. So I changed my name and became Mr. Myerst, and eventually what I am now. And it was not until three years ago that I found out that Chamberlayne was still in the world. Instead of going abroad, the old fox—though he was a comparatively young 'un, then!—had shaved off his beard, settled down in the Temple and given himself up to his two hobbies, collecting curiosities and stamps. There he'd lived quietly all these years, and nobody had ever recognized him. I sneaked in, and I don't see how they could; he lived such a quiet, secluded life, with his collections, his old port, and his little whims and fads. But I knew him."

"And you doubtless profited by your recognition," suggested Breton. "I certainly did. He was glad to pay me a nice sum every quarter to hold my tongue, and I speedily recognized him and was glad to take it and, naturally, I gained a considerable knowledge of him. He had only one friend—Mr. Elphick, in there. Now, I'll tell you about him."

(CONTINUED MONDAY)

URGES MOVIES ON SUNDAY N. J. Commissioner Favors Cultural and Educational Pictures

Trenton, March 13.—Cities in New Jersey should be given power by referendum vote to authorize the showing of educational and cultural motion pictures on Sunday, such as are recommended by the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, according to a statement today by Commissioner of Institutions and Agencies Burdette G. Lewis.

The commissioner also stated that "it is much better that the family should attend movies than that the men members should be forced to find some gambling hole or some 'stube' in which to spend Sundays."

Will Honor Mastbaum's Memory Exercises in commemoration of the late Stanley V. Mastbaum will be held at the Eagleville Hotel, near Norristown, Sunday afternoon, March 28. Judge Patterson is expected to make an address, and there will be vocal and instrumental music. The Stanley V. Mastbaum Memorial Building was erected at Eagleville by subscription of Mr. Mastbaum's friends.

LE LIVRE CONTEMPORAIN

A magazine devoted to French Literature with application. SCHEENHOF BOOK CO. French Bookshop 15 Beacon St. Boston, Mass.

The Harbor Road

By Sara Ware Bassett A story of homely folk on Cape Cod—with humor and pathos and a dramatic love story. All Bookstores. \$1.75 net. Penn Publishing Company, Philadelphia

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Author of "The Yellow Dove."

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A LANDSCAPE PAINTER

By HENRY JAMES, the Great American Novelist Professor William Lyon Phelps, of Yale University, in a long article in The New York Times, says the following: "They [the stories] are the work of an absolute master of plot and style. . . . All four of these are love stories—stories white-hot with passion."

"I hope Mr. Thomas Hardy will read these tales, for even he can hardly dramatize the irony of life more powerfully than it is set forth here. "I regard this book as a truly great addition to American literature."

N. P. D. in The New York Evening Globe says: "The characterizations are fresh and vivid, the dialogue is fascinating. The stories are interesting, and the story is the thing." E. N. Teall in The Chautauque Weekly says: "Many readers will give the publishers a vote of thanks for this book."

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SCOTT & SELTZER 5 West 50th Street, New York

SALVATION ARMY NOW 40

Anniversary of Organization to Be Celebrated Over Nation

The fortieth anniversary celebration of the Salvation Army in this country will be celebrated with exercises beginning this evening at Broad street and Fairmount avenue and continuing Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Colonel William Peart, of New York, chief secretary of the Salvation Army in the United States, will be one of the chief speakers. There will be music this evening by the national staff band and chorus, of New York, the crack musical organization of the Salvation Army.

At 3 o'clock tomorrow there will be an anniversary service in the Memorial Auditorium, in the Exhibition Building, now being in the exhibition at Fine Arts.

Park Board Pays Painting Announcement is made today that the Fairmount Park committee have purchased for the Wilstach collection, Memorial Hall, the canvas by Daniel Garber entitled "The Quarry; Byron now hanging in the exhibition at Fine Arts.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Owing to paper shortage and pressure on space it is necessary to defer the publication of the customary book reviews.

Poetry and Drama

THE ARMY WITH BANNERS. By Charles Rann Kennedy. New York: B. W. Huebsch. \$1.00. THE HESITANT HEART. By Winifred Welles. New York: B. W. Huebsch. \$1.00.

Fiction

THE SUBSTANCE OF A DREAM. By F. W. Bain. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.00. POOR DEAR THEODORA. By Florence Lewis. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.00. THE BROTHERS. By George Barton. Boston: The Page Co. \$1.00. GREEN SLIPPER. By George Wallace. Boston: Small Maynard & Co. \$1.75.

THE WORKER AND HIS WORK. Compiled by Stella Center. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.00. CURRENT SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL FORCES. Edited by Lionel D. Edie. New York: Boni & Liveright. \$2.50.

RASPBERRY JAM

A "Fleming Stone" Detective Story

Sanford Embury refused his wife an allowance. He is found dead in bed. Was his wife a party to the murder? The clue that discovers the criminal is one of the strangest in police annals. RASPBERRY JAM will hold you spellbound until the surprising finale.

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In a little over a century beginning with 1799 and ending with June 10, 1918, some eighty odd controversies between states have been argued. As a result practice has been settled and procedure adopted that is as applicable to States of the Society of Nations as to the States of the American Union.

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A Handbook of Currency, Banking and Trade in Peace and War By J. A. TODD. Net \$3.75

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What would you do if you married a man and he confessed that he already had a wife living? Would you hold your head up and retain the respect of your friends? Miss Lulu Bett did. How she did it—how she silenced the small town gossips—and how she achieved happiness, is told in this absorbing new story of Zona Gale's. An unusual novel of high literary quality; certain to be most widely discussed.

The Blower of Bubbles

By A. Beverley Baxter

A new book by a new author. Stories filled with charming humor and tender philosophy. "The Blower of Bubbles" is a remarkable new book by a Canadian author.—London Bookman.

The Mystery at the Blue Villa

By Melville Davison Post

Seventeen thrilling mystery stories in one volume by a writer of whom the New York Sun has said: "A collection of stories by Melville Davison Post means a notable book."

The Splendid Outcast

By George Gibbs

The story of a brave gentleman who took a coward's place and lived a lie for love. "The action is rapid . . . furnishes many thrills . . . a most fascinating story of love triumphant."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

ELsie SINGMASTER

"MISS SINGMASTER has crowned the tradition which she has created for herself by a novel that has every good quality. The plot is fresh, and it has an absorbing appeal—consummately wrought and filled with suspense and surmise."

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will take as high, and in most respects a far more satisfying place in the regard of the American reading public than is occupied by even the most vaunted of British novels.—Philadelphia North American.

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THE SILENCE OF COLONEL BRAMBLE

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This book has run through seventeen editions in the original French. It is an extremely amusing account of an English regimental mess by a young French officer who was attached as an interpreter.

AND

1920's "Best Seller" THE HOUSE OF BALTAZAR

By WILLIAM J. LOCKE Author of "The Rough Road," "The Beloved Vagabond," etc., 60th thousand. Cloth, \$1.50

"A novel worthy to rank with William J. Locke's best is 'The House of Baltazar.' This novel has in it the same gratifying qualities that made 'The Beloved Vagabond' and 'The Morals of Marcus Ordeyne' literary gems of extraordinary brilliancy."—Philadelphia Record.

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Then Jimmy Ladd told him, "There's an Eileen one doesn't meet at first—she has more than beauty, than brains, than charm. She sticks to a friend the way a man does." And he lost a thirty-five hundred dollar pin Blackmar had given her and took money which did not belong to him to replace it. And he found out that what Jimmy said was true.

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