

duration. It was again broken by the chaplain. "Don't you think, Mr. Paley, that we had better send for this man?" Apparently Mr. Paley did.

"Murray," he said, "go and see that he is sent here."

Oliver Mankell was again in the charge of Warden Slater. Warden Slater looked very queer indeed—he actually seemed to have lost in bulk. The same phenomenon was observable in the chief warden's heels.

Mankell seemed, as ever, completely at his ease. There was again a suspicion of a smile in his eyes and about the corners of his lips. His bearing was in striking contrast to that of the officials. His self-possession in the presence of their uncouthness gave him the appearance of a man of sense, of being a giant among pigmies; yet the Major, at least, was in every way a bigger man than he was. There was silence as he entered, a commotion of that nature which had prevailed until he came. The governor fumbled with a paper-knife which was in front of him. The inspector, leaning forward in his chair, seemed nervous.

"Your name is Oliver Mankell?" The prisoner merely smiled. "You are sentenced to three months' hard labor?" The prisoner smiled again. "For—pretending to tell fortunes?" The smile became more pronounced. The chaplain cleared his throat. "Oliver Mankell, I am a clergyman. I know that there are such things as good and evil. I know that, for causes which are hidden from me, the Almighty may permit evil to take visible shape and walk abroad upon the earth; but I also know that, though evil may destroy my body, it cannot destroy my soul. The chaplain smiled. His words and manner, though evidently sincere, were not particularly impressive. While they evidently had the effect of increasing his confidence, they did not seem to have the effect of enlarging the prisoner's smile. When he was about to continue the governor interposed.

"I think, Mr. Hewitt, if you will permit me, Mankell, I am not a clergyman. The prisoner's smile almost degenerated into a grin. "I have sent for you, for the second time this morning, to ask you frankly if you have any reason to complain of your treatment here?" The prisoner stretched out his hands with his familiar gesture. "Have you any complaint to make?" "The only thing which troubles me is the prison rules, you would wish me to order for you?" Again the hands went out. "Then tell me, quite candidly, what is the cause of your behavior?"

"When the governor ceased, the prisoner seemed to be resolving in his mind what answer he should make. Then, inclining his head with that almost agonizing gravity which one may only witness when accompanied every movement by made— "Oh, what I have done?" he asked. "It is—well, I don't dwell upon that. The question is, What did you do for?"

"It is perhaps within your recollection, sir, that I have my reputation to redeem, my character to save, and my honor to maintain. If you character? What do you mean?" "In the first interview with which you favored me, I ventured to observe that it would be my endeavor, during my sojourn in this prison, to do nothing to attract the notice of the magistrate tendered me."

"What—was the governor rather faltered— "what advice was that?" "The only advice which I received was to be a magician. He advised me, for my character's sake, to prove it during my sojourn here."

"I see. And—and you're trying to prove it by your character's sake?" "For my character's sake! But I am not beginning, you perceive?"

"Oh, you're not beginning! You call this but beginning, do you?" "May I ask if you are a magician?" "Oh, sir, I have had a very busy time these three months in front of me! Until my term expires, I will go on, with gathering strength, until the end."

"As he said this Mankell drew himself up in such a way that it almost seemed as if some inches were added to his stature. "You will, will you? Well, you seem to be a pleasant kind of man!" The criticism seemed to have no effect upon the governor, almost against his will. He got round upon his colleagues with what could only be described as a ghastly grin. "Have you any objection, Mankell, to being transferred to another cell?"

"Sir!" the prisoner's voice rang out, and his hearers started—perceptibly. Perhaps that was because their nerves were already in a state of tension. "It is here, I see, it is here I must remain—until the end."

"The governor took up his handkerchief and wiped his brow. "I am bound to inform you, Mankell, judging from the experience of the last two days, if this sort of thing is to continue—with gathering strength—the end will not be long."

The prisoner seemed lost in reflection. The officials seemed lost in reflection, too; but their reflections were probably of a different kind. "There is a suggestion I might offer."

"Let's have it by all means. We have reached a point at which we shall be glad to receive any suggestion—from you."

governor handed it to the inspector. The Major shrank from taking it. "I'd rather not," he mumbled. "I think that'd better read it," said the governor. Thus urged the Major did read it.

"Good Lord!" he gasped, and passed it to the doctor. The doctor, having read it, passed it to the chaplain. "I will read it aloud," said Mr. Hewitt. He did so, or the benefit, probably, of Slater and Mr. Murray.

"Supposing we were to sign that document, what would you propose to do with it?" "I should convey it to Colonel Gregory."

"Indeed! In that case he would have as high an opinion of our characters as of yours. And yourself—what sort of action might we expect from you?"

"I should go."

"The governor's jaw dropped. "Go? Oh, would you?" "My character required, for what have I to do?" "Exactly. What have you? There's that point of view, no doubt. Well, Mankell, we will think the matter over."

"The prisoner dropped his hands to his sides, looking the governor steadily in the face. "Sir, I conceive that answer to convey a feeling of respect to pierce through the ceiling to what there was beyond. The room grew darker. There was a rumbling in the air. The ground began to shake. The chaplain, who was watching the hand which had been scorched by the flames, burst out with what was for him a passionate appeal—

"Mr. Mankell, you are over this. I was about to explain that I should esteem it quite an honor to sign your testimonial."

"So would I—upon my soul, I should!" declared the Major. "I should like to oblige you, Mr. Mankell," stammered the chief warden.

"Same here!" cried Warden Slater. "Your signature, Mr. Mankell, is arriving at conclusions. Mr. Mankell," remarked the governor. "I do beg you will not suppose there was any negative intention."

The darkness, the rumbling and the shaking, nothing as suddenly as they began. The prisoner smiled. "Perhaps I was too hasty," he confessed. "It is an error which can easily be rectified."

He raised his hand. A piece of paper fluttered from the ceiling. It fell upon the floor. It was the testimonial. "Your signature, Major Hardings, should head the list."

DEFERRED TAX LIST.

Continued from Eighth Page.

Table listing property owners and tax amounts for the Fourth Ward-1890. Includes names like Foster, Mary B., Evans, and tax amounts.

Table listing property owners and tax amounts for the Fifth Ward-1890. Includes names like Biggert, Thos., and tax amounts.

Table listing property owners and tax amounts for the Sixth Ward, 1890. Includes names like Armstrong, Charles H., and tax amounts.

Table listing property owners and tax amounts for the Seventh Ward-1890. Includes names like Denny, Roy H. C., and tax amounts.

Table listing property owners and tax amounts for the Eighth Ward-1890. Includes names like White, Elizabeth S., and tax amounts.

Table listing property owners and tax amounts for the Ninth Ward-1890. Includes names like Denny, Roy H. C., and tax amounts.

Table listing property owners and tax amounts for the Tenth Ward-1890. Includes names like Denny, Roy H. C., and tax amounts.

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