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COLLINS & Leaders in the Clothing Trade of Scranton.

HACKETT,



(These short serial stories are copyrighted by Bacheller, Johnson & Bach eller, and are printed in The Tribune by special arrangement, simultaneous with their appearance in the leading daily journals of the large cities).

CHAPTER II. At a sign from Hewitt the loaf was moved. Then Hewitt pulled the small table closer to the Frenchman, and pushed the pen and sheets of paper toward him. The manoeuvre had its result. The man looked up and down all into his coat pocket, with the exthe room vacantly once or twice, and then began to turn the paper over From that he went to dipping the pen in the inkpot; and presently he was scribbling at random on the loose sheets. Hewitt affected to leave him entirely alone, and seemed to be absorbed in a contemplation of a photograph of a police division brass band hanging on the wall; but he saw every

scratch the man made. At first there was nothing but mean ingless scrawls and attempted words. Then rough sketches appeared of a man's head, a chair or whatnot. On the mantelpiece stood a small clock, apparently a sort of humble presentation piece, the body of the clock be ing set in a horseshoe frame with crossed whips behind it. After a time the Frenchman's eyes fell on this, and he began a rude sketch of it. That he relinquished, and went on with other random sketches and scribblings on the same plece of paper, sketching



Howlitt Turned at Once and Seized the Papers on the Table.

and scribbling over the sketches in a half mechanical sort of way, as of one who trifles with a pen during a brown study. Beginning at the top left-hand corner of the paper be traveled round it till he arrived at the left-hand bot-tom corner. Then, dashing his pen to fasten a watchguard to, and it was

| hastily across his last scratch, he dropped it, and with a great shudder turned away again, and hid his face by the fireplace.

Hewitt turned at once and seized the papers on the table. He stuffed them ception of the last, which the man had been engaged on, and this, a facsimile of which is subjoined, he studied earnestly for several minutes.



Hewitt wished the man good day, and made his way to the inspector. "Well!" the inspector said, "Not much to be got out of him, is there?" The doctor will be sending for him presently."

"I fancy," said Hewitt, "that this may turn out a very important case. Possibly-quite possibly-I have not guessed correctly, and so I won't tell you anything of it till I know a little more. But what I want now is a messenger. Can I send somebody at once in a cab to my friend Butt at his cham-"Certainly . I'll find somebody. Want

to write a note?" Hewlit wrote and dispatched a note which reached me in less than ten minutes. Then he asked the inspector; 'Have you searched the Frenchman?" "Oh, yes; we went all over him when we found he couldn't explain himself, to see if we could trace his friends or his address. He didn't seem to mind,

but there wasn't a single thing in his pocket-not a single thing, barring a rag of a pocket handkerchief with no marking on It." "You noticed that somebody had

stolen his watch, I suppose?"
"Well, he hadn't got one."
"But he had one of those little verti-

watch, and it is gone." "Yes, and everything else, too, eh? Looks like robbery. He's had a knock

or two in the face-notice that?" "I saw the bruises and the cut, of course; and his collar has been broken way with the back button-somebody has taken him by the collar or throat. Was he wearing a hat when he was

"No." "That would imply that he had only just left a house. What street was he found in?"

"Henry street, a little off Golden Square. Low street, you know." "Did the constable notice a door open near by?"

The inspector shook his head. "Half the doors in the street are open," he said, "pretty nearly all day." "Ah, then there's nothing in that. I lon't think he lives there; by the bye, fancy he comes from more in the Seven Dials or Drury Lane direction.

Did you notice anything about the man that gave you a clue to his occupation, or, at any rate, to his habits?" "Can't say I did." "Well, just take a look at the back of his coat before he goes away-just over the loins. Good day."

As I have said, Hewitt's messenger

was quick. I happened to be in, having lately returned from a latish lunch when he arrived with this note: "My Dear B.: I meant to lunch with you today, but have been kept. I expect you are idle this afternoon, and I have a case that will interest you-perhaps be useful to you from a journalistic point of view. If you care to see anything of it, cab away at once to Fitzroy Square, south side, where I'll meet you. I will wait no later than

M. H." I had scarce a quarter of an hour, so seized my hat and left my chambers at once. As it happened, my cab and baving low chimneys, on one of which Hewitt's burst into Fitzroy from opposite sides almost at the same noment, so that we lost no time.

"Come," said Hewitt, taking my arm and marching me off, "we are going to look for some stabling. Try to feel as black. though you'd just set up a brougham and had come out to look for a place to put it in. I fear we may have to delude some person with that belief pres-

And why make me your excuse?" were open, and a butcher's young man "As to what I want the stables for— who, with his shiny bullet head, would really, I'm not altogether sure myself. have been known for a butcher's young As to making you an excuse—well, even man anywhere, was wiping over the humblest excuse is better than new-washed wheel of a smart butchnone. But come, here are some stables. Not good enough, though, even if any of them were empty. Come on." We had stopped for an instant at the some stabling to let here. Now wher entrance to a small alley of rather should I inquire about it?" dirty stables, and Hewitt, paying ap-

about him, with his gaze in the air. "I know this part of London pretty grand." well," Hewitt observed, "and I can | only remember one other range of on little more than conjecture, though I shall be surprised if there isn't some-

"I have heard of it, of course, though I can't say I remember ever knowing "I have seen one today-very curi-

much worn and frayed. So that he ous case. The mass's a Frenchman, shouldn't think so," he said doubtfully: policeman. The only thing he can all the room themselves. My guv nor say that has any meaning in it at couldn't do nothink, I know. These all is 'Je la nie,' and that he says me- 'ere two stables ain't scarcely enough chanically, without in the least know- for all 'e wants as it is. Then there's ing what he is saying. And he can't Barkett, the greengrocer 'ere, next write. But he got sketching and scrawl- door. That ain't no good. Then next ing various things on some paper, and to that there's the little place as is to his scrawls, together with another let, and at the end there's Griffith's at thing or two, have given me an idea. the butter shop." We're following it up now. When we are less busy, and in a quiet place, I



'Good Day," Hewitt Said Pleasantly to the Young Man.

will show you the sketches and explain things generally; there's no time now, and I may want your help for a bit, in which case ignorance may prevent you spoiling things, you clumsy ruffian. Hullo! here we are, I think." We had stopped at the end of an-

other stable yard, rather dirtier than the first. The stables were sound but inelegant sheds, and one or two appeared to be devoted to other purposes an old basket was rakishly set by way of cowl. Beside the entrance a worn-out old board was nailed, with the legend, "Stabling to Let," in letters formerly white, on a ground formerly

"Come," said Hewitt, "we'll explore." We picked our way over the grassy cobblestones and looked about us. Or the left was the wall inclosing certain back yards, and on the right the sta-"Why, what do you want stables for? bles. Two doors in the middle of these

"Good day." Hewitt said pleasantly to the young man. "I notice there's "Jones, Whitfield street," the young parently but small attention to the man answered, giving the wheel a final stables themselves, had looked sharply spin. "But there's only one little place

to let now, I think, and it ain't very "Oh! Which is that?"
"Next but one to the street there. stabling near by; we must try that, chap 'ad it for wood choppin', but 'c As a matter of fact, I'm coming here chucked it. There ain't room for more'n a donkey an' a barrow."
"Ah, that's a pity. We're not parthing in it. Do you know anything of theular, but want something big aphasia?"

thing in it. Do you know anything of theular, but want something big aphasia?" fair price. Perhaps we might make arrangements with somebody here who has a stable."

The young man shook his head.

Made a FRENCH REMEDY

"And those the other way?"

"Well, this 'ere first one's Curtis',

Euston road-that's a butter shop, too

an' 'e 'as the next after that. The last

one, up at the end-I dunno quite

whose that it. It aim't been long took

but I b'lieve it's some foreign bakers

I ain't ever see anythink come out o

it, though, but there's a 'ouse there, know-I seen the food took in."

Hewitt turned thoughtfully away

"Thanks," he said. "I supposed w

(To be Continued.)

PARTICIA SI

can't manage it, then. Good day."

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