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PART I.

I was not out from choice that night, not a bit of it, for it was one of those nights that when one has to be walking about outside, his principal idea is to get in again, to take off his wet shoes and warm himself before the great fire.

Because my work kept me out very late, sometimes far into the morning, I had a shirt that once moved down town, so that I could walk home instead of having to depend on the uncertainty of the night cars. That is the reason, together with the fact that I had my makeshift buttoned up to my waist, and my hat pulled far down, that I went to my room and walked a block out of my way before I discovered it. It was long after midnight. The street I did turn down was particularly dark and narrow and the houses were mostly small, two-and-a-half-story affairs, of brick that had once been red, with dirty marble steps protected by rusty iron railings. They were all equal in grim and desolation.

As I hurried along, very much disgusted with myself for having come out of my way on such a night, the heavy tones of an organ suddenly made themselves felt under the noise of the storm, low and solemn. I stopped full of wonderment. I looked about for some structure large enough to contain the sound. There was no church of heavy masonry with solid stone doorways, with strong arched windows, which would have properly framed the music, and it did not seem possible that it could come from any of the small buildings ahead of me.

A heavy rush of wind drove the sound. It came from one of the little houses. I stopped in front of it still more amazed. The sombre tones of the second movement in Chopin's famous sonata—his funeral march—came out to me. I got under the shelter of the tree and listened, leaning against the trunk. The shutters were open and there were no curtains to the windows, but I could see no light. The last part of the march was being played. It swelled, it rose, it thundered and crashed, and then it humpered and rumbled and died down and ceased.

I drew in a long breath and sighed, and then wondered why I had done so. For the moment I forgot to be surprised that an organ was in such a place and that it was being played at such an hour, for instead of the funeral march who it was who got such human tones out of it. I gazed at the windows eagerly, hoping to see the one who had been playing.

A veiled face appeared at one of the windows—that of an old man, with long, white hair that grew at the back and sides of his head only. His skin seemed almost colorless. He opened the window and pulled in the shutters; did it slowly, regardless of the storm. I heard the bolt slide into its socket, and then he appeared at the other window and closed in the shutters there, but he did not seem to notice me.

Next morning I began to speculate as to why he was playing the march at that hour. I was my curiosity worked up to such a pitch that I made up my mind to know all about the old man with the colorless face. Who

man ever played. Being but newly come to the city, I had few acquaintances, and for that reason, if for none other, I derived considerable satisfaction from the powerful piece.

One afternoon, I must have been about six months after I first heard him play. I was passing through his street whistling the middle part of the march when I suddenly looked up at his windows and saw the old man looking at me. I stopped short in my whistling and was ashamed of myself because I had an indefinite idea that the march belonged entirely to him and that I was doing wrong to whistle it, especially when he could hear me. But he looked at me so pleasantly that I smiled back and bowed to him, and he also nodded his head. A few days later he was standing on his steps as I was passing, and I nodded to him again. I should have gone on, but he looked as though he wished to speak to me, and I paused as I reached his steps.

"You like my march?" he asked. I said I did, very much, and wondered how he knew that I had heard him play.

"Come in," he said, after looking me over keenly.

"I hope I'm not disturbing you," I said, apologetically, "but I've heard your march several times from outside and I felt that I must know the man who played it."

"Yes, he said, and then led the way to the parlor, for the organ was built up to within ten feet of the windows.

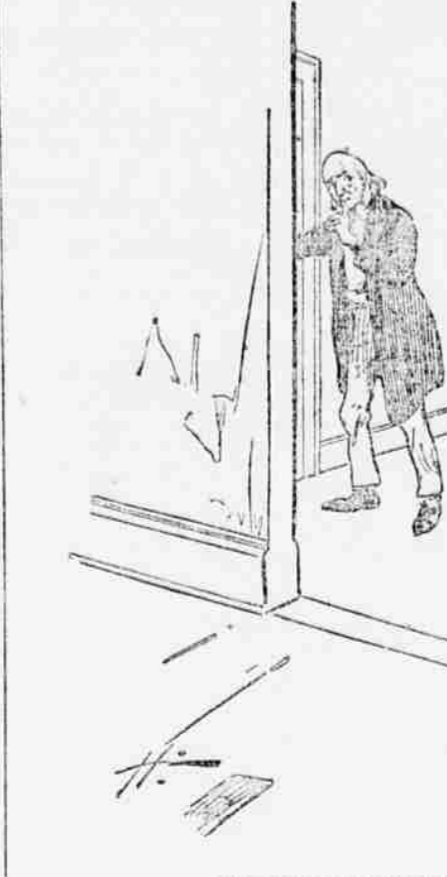
"Take a chair," he said, pointing to the only one in the room, and he sat upon the organ bench and eyed me critically.

"You, too, have a sorrow. I knew you would come! I saw you under the tree in the storm. But why didn't you come sooner?"

"You knew I would come!" I exclaimed.

upon as a miser. He lived with an old colored woman who did his work and had lived in his dreary little house for a great many years. His name was Landis, but it was not known that he did anything but play on his organ and piano—it was said he had very many pianos. That was all the information I could get.

I made it a point, after the rainy night when I first heard him play, always to pass his house going to and from my rooms, and now and then when I would hear his organ, I would stop and listen to the march. It seemed to be the only piece the old



HE PUT HIS FINGER TO HIS LIPS.

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"Yes, of course they all do. They find a crazy old miser, and then they forget the march."

He laughed a low laugh at my astonishment that he had seen me. I studied him curiously. He was very old, not in years, perhaps, but in misery and sorrow. His skin was wax-like and seemed transparent. I almost thought that I could see his skull through it. But the eyes—there was the man! the body vanished. It seemed that the soul was eating up the body. What does a soul eat when one has a soul? I forgot that I was sitting in front of him and he was wondering why he was a miser when I realized that he was talking.

"They do not know what love or sorrow is, everything is earth to them. They looked at my house and my body and said I am a fool, and they went away. My name is Landis. What's yours?"

"I told him."

"Perhaps you may understand," he said, "around on the bench and started to play his divine march. He straightened up and seemed to fill out the clothes that hung loosely on him before his arms seemed strong and active. The player and the emaciated old man were two separate and distinct beings."

When he stopped playing and softly pushed in the stools, the spell was not broken; the spirit of the march was still in the room and when he swung round on the bench again, his face light, I forgot that I was in a dingy little apartment containing no furniture but one chair and a stool, with one old engraving decorating the walls, the paper on which was stained and peeling off.

"Can you blame me for starving for that?" he asked, softly, when the time for sneaking came.

"No, I said, 'I do not blame you.' There was another silence which he disturbed by crossing the floor and throwing the shutters wide open, letting the sunlight into the room. I roused myself and tried to say something in praise of his playing, but he cut me off by laughing aloud, his face beaming, reminding me of a baby with

SLEPT HALF THE YEAR.

Death of Jack Teller, Nova Scotia's Famous Anapoliis--Ineffective Efforts of Doctors to Master His Case and Keep Him Awake.

From the Sun.

John Teller, who died at Moschelle, Annapolis, Nova Scotia, recently, at the age of 70 years, was, perhaps, the most notable instance of a hibernating human being of which there is any record. For the last twenty years his life had been a record of almost continuous sleep, and for fully fifteen years no effort was made by his family to prevent him relapsing into his annual stupor, his case having been abandoned as hopeless. Many physicians had tried their hand with Teller, and one after the other gave him up. The public curiosity which the case attracted at first died away after two or three years, and Teller's neighbors paid little attention to his morose letter to the station. When he died the newspapers of the vicinity reported the fact briefly, and only one gave any account of the strange man's history.

Teller's mother was English. His father had served in the British army, of which he was a pensioner. The only evidence of heredity in the sleeper's mental peculiarity is the fact that his father, the old soldier, committed suicide. The elder Teller was a colorist, and he had killed himself the son had begun to get strangely. He would sit for hours at his father's bench, laughing and talking to himself. At times he would break into immoderate fits of laughter, and again in flighting imaginary foes he would work himself into a frenzy of rage.

SUBJECT TO TRIANCES.

Before his first entire winter's sleep, Teller had passed through several attacks of several days' duration, and those who knew him were thus in a measure prepared for it. But the case attracted widespread interest among scientific men, many of whom went long distances to see and study the man, and make a study of it. None of them ever had any great success in attempts at effecting a cure, although the catalogue of known treatments for cataplexies seems to have been exhausted, and in some cases the remedies adopted were so brutal a nature as to be decidedly disagreeable, at least to the members of Teller's family if not to the unfortunate sleeper himself.

About the end of August Teller would go to bed after eating his evening meal as usual and would exhibit anything out of the common in his manner, or giving any reason for supposition that he was out of sorts in any way. On the following morning he would not get up, nor would he show any more vitality than a sleeping man. Twice in every twenty-four hours he would be taken up, a person supporting him on each side. About 11 o'clock every night he seemed to show rather more life than at other times, and advantage was taken of this to pour a little bit of oatmeal gruel, beef tea or soup down his throat, he opened his lips to allow the attendant to do so and slowly swallowing it. He took a very little each time, and if urged to take more simply kept his mouth shut and would not open it for days, during the evening generally he would get up, but soon would return to bed.

THE DOCTOR'S STORY.

One of the physicians who had tried his hand with Teller's case—Dr. Robertson of Annapolis—gives this account of his experience:

"My first visit to Teller was about twenty years ago, when I first came to live and practice in Annapolis, and it came about in this way. Of course, there was a talk about the new doctor and what he could do. So I was called to see this queer case. I got all the particulars from the family and the neighbors, and what means had been tried by other doctors, and then I promised to try what I could do. On the following day I went again, accompanied by my brother, also a physician. We took with us a pair of forceps, a battery of Teller's hands and bound closely to the finger with wet bandages. We put on the full power of the instrument.

"Poor old Jack was out of bed in an instant, and I shall never forget the yell he uttered. 'Damnation, what's that?' I can also well remember my own feeling of satisfaction and complacency when the natives congratulated me on my success in this, my first case. I walked off as if exulting in my success. I knew I could do it. Well, Jack remained awake about three days, and then I got a message that my patient was dead again. I went up and tried the battery a second time, with only one of my eyes open, and making him squint, and grunt out 'Eh, in a querulous manner, and after looking about him for a half hour or so, he lapsed into his former condition. Next day I tried the battery, but without the slightest effect, so I gave it up as a hard case."

A LONG NAP.

Teller's sleep usually lasted from September to May. During the summer months he did exactly the work he was told to do, but he had to be told over again every day, although the work was the same day in and day out. The only thing he did without being told was to get his meals. He would talk quite rationally when spoken to, but he recalled most of the incidents of his childhood. He would hold animated confab, however, with the cows, dogs, trees, or any other object which happened to be in his way, and might be seen at times leaning over a fence, talking to the trees, and occasionally into unprofitable fits of laughter.

JUST REVERSE THINGS.

One French Doctor Says Sleepers Lack the Proper Position.

Another homoeopath! The rampant reformer of the day has now invaded bedrooms. The orthodox fashion in making up the beds, so as to gently slope toward the feet, and having a good-sized pillow or two under the head is all wrong. A prominent French doctor, M. Vilhain Plischer, is responsible for this statement. He asserts that after a long series of experiments he has proved conclusively that the sleep in a bed prepared in the ordinary way is likely to induce ailments of all kinds. He advocates a complete reversal of things. You must have your head on a level with or lower than your feet. If pillows are to be used they must be under your feet instead of under the head. The result, he claims, will be amazing, being a sure cure for insomnia, as well as a preventive for the nightmare. Dr. Plischer says further that sleep in the new position "will always be interrupted by the most profound, the entire nervous system ameliorated, while people inclined to lung and kidney trouble will be vastly benefited by sleeping in this position." To prevent any inconvenience by a sudden change, he says, "the pillow should be gradually reduced and finally placed under the feet."

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