

A Detective's Reminiscence

By M. QUAD
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When I retired from detective work after an experience of sixteen years a public press and my friends were pleased to say that I had done excellent service. On the whole, this praise is deserved, but at the same time, one case at least, I had shown a stupidity worthy of the greenest policeman on London's police force. I had been at Scotland Yard for three years when I removed my family to Queen street. It was to an apartment house, and we took the second floor. On the floor above were a married couple named Hadan. The man, as I came to understand, was a manufacturing jeweler in a small way. The Hadans lived very quietly and made no display, and the wife kept very much to herself. Not as a detective, but as an occupant, I learned that the husband was home only two nights a week.

At about the time of my removal I was set to watch in a general way a certain dealer in bric-a-brac named Saunders. His shop was a good three miles from Queen street. He dealt in all manner of art goods, secondhand, and it had been pretty well established that he bought goods without asking any questions. In watching him I assumed another identity and became a customer. We came to be on quite friendly terms, and I flattered myself that he had not the slightest suspicion of the part I was playing. At one time and another I was the means of enabling a number of householders to recover stolen goods Saunders had bought, but the man always evaded the law. I got to know that he lived in Jane street, only a few blocks away, where he had a wife and one child. One of our men occupied a room in the same house, and in a casual way he had learned that Saunders was home only two nights a week. He came and went as did my neighbor Hadan.

A year after I began watching the bric-a-brac shop there were complaints made about a certain merchant tailor named Davison. He was making suits to order so cheap that other tailors declared the goods must be stolen. As a matter of fact, several bolts of cloth stolen from a tailor in a town fifty miles away were found in his shop, but he proved himself clear of the law by a narrow margin. I became a customer of his, as I had been of Saunders. There were times when we had a glass of ale and a pipe together, and from the very outset I used my best efforts to get on to his little game. He continued to make suits to order far cheaper than his rival, but though his shop was searched again and again no more suspicious goods were found. Davison was full of talk and seemed to be without suspicion, but I got no information from him to help my case. I early ascertained that he lived in Montgomery place and had a wife and two children. By the merest accident I further learned that Mr. Davison was at home only three nights a week.

Now, then, for six years I knew these three men, and two of them were under espionage. I talked with them, ate with them, drank with them and never imbibed the faintest idea that I was the biggest fool in the world. One day a man who was in a machine shop not far from detective headquarters was killed by accident. I happened to be almost the first one on hand. I recognized him at once as the tailor, and the body was taken home. While doing his work the undertaker found that the black hair and mustache and wart that he wore were all false. This was a revelation even to the wife. The affair was published in the papers, and in less than two days it was found that Hadan, Saunders and Davison were one and the same man. He had padded his body to increase his size and apparent weight, and a false tooth, whiskers, mustache and a wart had done the rest. You will say I ought to have detected the cheat by the voice. In an ordinary case, yes, but this man had made a study of disguising his voice.

You will say that a good detective ought to penetrate such shallow disguises as false whiskers. In answer to that let me say that whiskers or mustache can be made to look so genuine that no living man can detect the cheat. The wart was a new dodge and one I was not up to. It was so well done that I had seen the man pick it with a pin and cringe a little as he did it. I should have felt bad enough at being fooled even had there been no case in it, but there was a case. The silver-smith was a "fence" for thieves, the bric-a-brac man was another, and the tailor was a third. He was married to three different women; he lived in three different parts of the city; he carried on three occupations; he represented three different men. All this he did successfully for six or seven years and but for the fatal accident might have gone on for years more. During his career he had made a fortune, and never a person had suspected the disguises. It seems as if a wife should have detected them, but the three did not, or at least so claimed. Yes, I was made a fool of, but fortunately I was the only one who knew it, and I may give the fact away now without my identity being suspected. It would have added more glory to my record to have caught up the sly rascal, but now and then the sharpest of our profession are outwitted, and if I made a stupid blunder in the one case I have offset it a dozen times over in making successes of others.

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QUESTIONS THAT A GOOD CITIZEN SHOULD KNOW

- D. Have you read the Constitution of the United States?
- R. Yes.
- D. What form of Government is this?
- R. Republic.
- D. What is the Constitution of the United States?
- R. It is the fundamental law of this country.
- D. Who makes the laws of the United States?
- R. The Congress.
- D. What does Congress consist of?
- R. Senate and House of Representatives.
- D. Who is the chief executive of the United States?
- R. President.
- D. How long is the President of the United States elected?
- R. 4 years.
- D. Who takes the place of the President in case he dies?
- R. The Vice President.
- D. What is his name?
- R. Thomas R. Marshall.
- D. By whom is the President of the United States elected?
- R. By the electors.
- D. By whom are the electors elected?
- R. By the people.
- D. Who makes the laws for the state of Pennsylvania?
- R. The Legislature.
- D. What does the Legislature consist of?
- R. Senate and Assembly.
- D. How many State in the union?
- R. 48.
- D. When was the Declaration of Independence signed?
- R. July 4, 1776.
- D. By whom was it written?
- R. Thomas Jefferson.
- D. Which is the capital of the United States?
- R. Washington.
- D. Which is the capital of the state of Pennsylvania?
- R. Harrisburg.
- D. How many Senators has each state in the United States?
- R. Two.
- D. By whom are they elected?
- R. By the people.
- D. For how long?
- R. 6 years.
- D. How many representatives are there?
- R. 435. According to the population one to every 211,000, (the ratio fixed by Congress after each decennial census.)
- D. For how long are they elected?
- R. 2 years.
- D. How many electoral votes has the state of Pennsylvania?
- R. 38.
- D. Who is the chief executive of the state of Pennsylvania?
- R. The Governor.
- D. For how long is he elected?
- R. 4 years.
- D. Who is the Governor?

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Society who teaches to disbelieve in organized government?

- R. No.
- D. Have you ever violated any laws of the United States?
- R. No.
- D. Who makes the ordinances for the City?
- R. The board of Aldermen.
- D. Do you intend to remain permanently in the U. S.?
- R. Yes.

ALABAMA OFF FOR ROADS

Battleship Will Force Respect For Neutrality When Eitel Leaves.

Washington, March 29.—It was announced at the navy department that Rear Admiral James Helm, commanding the Atlantic reserve fleet at Philadelphia, was on board the battleship Alabama when she started today to begin patrol duty in Hampton Roads in connection with the imminent departure of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich. The Alabama's instructions are to prevent any violation of the neutrality of the United States government in connection with the Eitel.

While officials are still of the opinion that the German cruiser will eventually interne rather than face British cruisers waiting for her outside the Virginia capes every precaution is being taken as if it were a certainty that the Eitel will venture out. It is believed also that neither German vessel nor the British warships will fail to observe all the neutrality of the United States, but it was felt that precautionary measures should be adopted to care for any contingency.

When the time allowed the Eitel has expired the vessel must leave Newport News and the jurisdiction of the United States within twenty-four hours or else interne for the war.

KILLED IN BATTLE.

Methods of Different Nations For Identifying the Dead.

When a German soldier falls in battle he is identified by a little metal disk which he carries. This disk bears a number, and this number is telegraphed to Berlin. There the soldier's name is determined. This system is as effective as everything else connected with the German army.

The British use an aluminum disk that contains, besides marks of identification, the soldier's church affiliation. The Japanese system is similar, each soldier wearing three disks, one around his neck, another on his belt and the third in his boot. The Russians wear a numbered badge.

The United States army uses a cloth tab woven into the shoulder strap of the tunic. The French use identification cards stitched inside the tunic. The French once made use of metal identification badges, but these proved an irresistible attraction to the savages whom the French faced in Africa, so the cards were substituted. Austria still uses a badge of gun metal in the form of a locket with parchment leaves inside.

Turkey has no identification badges for her soldiers. Edhem Pasha once explained this omission as follows: "A dead man is of no use to the sultan. Why, therefore, trouble with him?"—Baltimore American.

MOVING PICTURES IN JAPAN.

Straps Are Dropped at the Door, and Spectators Sit on the Floor.

Many of the motion picture theaters in Japan, particularly in Tokyo, where there are over 100, are quite as elegant as some to be found in any American city. You can secure admission for as low as 5 cents up to as high as 50 cents. In the cheaper portions of most theaters the natives sit crosslegged on the floor in characteristic Japanese fashion. They remove their shoes before entering, and an attendant takes charge of these.

Both American and European pictures are shown, but the principal attraction is a long Japanese play, which is presented in a very unique fashion. In fact, it may be said that the Japanese have real talking pictures. The film is produced in the same manner as a stage play, with every portion of dialogue spoken.

When the picture is projected an actor and actress stand on each side of the screen and repeat the dialogue in full view of the spectators. The two reciters share the parts played by the different characters. As their spoken words keep strict time with the lip movements of the silent artists, the result, as may be imagined, is very effective.—Popular Electricity.

Knew Traveling Men.

"She's a sensible girl," said the first traveling man.

"You bet she is," said the second.

"Last night when I took her to dinner before ordering she asked me if I was going to pay the check myself or work it into the expense account."—Detroit Free Press.

A BAIL JUMPER

By DONALD CHAMBERLIN

Horace Mansfield, attorney-at-law, was one night preparing for bed when he received a message summoning him to police headquarters to a client who was waiting for him to advise and assist him in obtaining bail. Mansfield went to the police office, where he found a man about twenty-five years old and apparently a gentleman. Lawyer and client were permitted to talk together apart from the others, and the client said:

"My name—that given at the desk—is Lambert. William Lambert. I am charged with entering a gentleman's residence for the purpose of stealing. Being caught in the act, I was arrested. I desire that you secure my liberty on the smallest possible amount of bail. It must be not more than \$3,000, for that is all I can raise."

"But surely," replied the lawyer, "you are not guilty of the charge?"

"Whether I am or not, if the case comes to trial I shall plead guilty."

Mansfield looked at his client in surprise. He would have as soon believed himself guilty of pilfering as the young man before him.

"Any defense would do in your case," he said. "No juror would believe you to be a thief. What is the value of the articles you are accused of stealing?"

"A bracelet, a brooch and a lady's watch. I doubt if they are worth altogether \$100. I shall not make a defense."

"How would you like me to get you off on a technicality?"

"Your services in any such line will not be required. I shall forfeit my bail."

"Forfeit your bail?"

"That is my intention."

Mansfield succeeded in getting the bail bond made \$2,000, and his client produced the funds himself. Then he paid his attorney's fee and went forth a free man. When called for trial he did not appear, and his bail was forfeited. An elderly gentleman appeared to testify against him, and Mansfield, who was present as the accused's counsel, asked him something about the case. The only information he received was that the thief had effected an entrance to the old gentleman's dwelling by climbing a lattice near a second story bedroom window. The gentleman said he was not surprised that the bail had been forfeited, for the thief was evidently well connected, and the money for his bail had doubtless been furnished by his family.

Ten years passed. One day Horace Mansfield was at work in his office when a middle aged man entered and asked for a private interview. When the two were alone together the man said:

"You don't remember me?"

"I confess that I cannot place you, though there is something about you that leads me to think I have seen you before."

"Do you recall a client of yours named William Lambert, who jumped his bail?"

"I do."

"I am that man, but my name is not Lambert. I am about to be married and before the ceremony is performed I wish to know if there are any records identifying me with Lambert that can be eradicated."

The lawyer informed the gentleman there was nothing worth removing. If recognized as Lambert he might be arrested and tried, but ten years had so changed him that he would likely not be recognized.

"There is now," replied the stranger, "no one living to appear against me."

"In that case you run no risk whatever."

"I am to marry a widow who has inherited some property from her late husband. There are some papers to be drawn before the wedding, and I should like to have you draw them. Can you conveniently call at her house?"

"I can."

The gentleman threw a card on a table bearing the name of Mrs. Elizabeth Tracy with her address.

The next day Mansfield went to the address given and was received by a lady under thirty years of age and beautiful. Having executed the papers he was about to withdraw when Mrs. Tracy said to him:

"Both myself and my fiance deem it best that you should receive an explanation of what must seem to you to be a mystery. When I was nineteen I left home on a visit. While away I met the man I am to marry tomorrow. An attachment sprang up between us, and he begged me to engage myself to me."

"I had been brought up from a child to understand that when I married my husband must be wealthy. I told Edgar—Edgar Stanfield is his name—that I knew my father would not consent to my marriage with him and he must give me up. He seemed very much broken down by this, and after my return I feared that he would do something rash. A match had already been made for me with Mr. Tracy, who was then more than forty years old. Edgar came to this city the night before I was married and, in the hope of persuading me to elope with him, climbed a lattice under my window and obtained access to my room. My father came to the room while he was there. I slipped into an adjoining room, and Edgar, to save me from the consequences of his rash act, seized certain articles of jewelry from my dressing case. You know the rest."