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Volume XV. The Lone Inn

A STORY OF MYSTERY.

BY FERGUS HUME.

CHAPTER VIII. to Marshminster. My aunts had great- know of no other reason why she should ly resented my sudden departure for Par- look rale and ill." is and announced that they this time My cogitations were cut short by

Briarfield and his flancee.

when the season was on in London," said Aunt Sophia, "but it was all that laid plans. foolish Mrs. Bellin. She chose to consider herself ill and so insisted upon regoes next week."

"She has to arrange about the wedding, Sophia You know it takes place unexpected information. in July. I wonder if Mr. Felix Bria:-

"That I can safely say is impossible," said I dryly. "But why?" exclaimed both the old ladies, scenting news.

"Well, he has gone to Italy and from there goes to the east," I answered, un- night, and you go in the daytime." willing to tell the truth. "I don't see how he can return in time for the wed-

cantly at one another. "What did I tell you, Sophia?" said Aunt Jane, in a tone of subdued tri-

But he behaved very well, and when till midnight." FOR Rates West

> his brother's happiness," said Aunt Sc-I have no doubt his heart is britten. He actually left Marshminster before his spare himself the painful sight of their

I saw by this conversation that my surmise was correct. Polix hodfalled in not to give her up had devised the idea of passing himself of a Francis. With this in his mind lie had good to Paris peared to Marshinitister as I cancis, alleging an earlier return from Chile as-

The suppression of the letters, the sub lainy at his hands. He had committed himself so far that he could not draw

journey to Paris Felix would not have

Felix had ridden out to the Fen inn for the purpose of hiding his brother's body

tive and went off to bed. Instead of turning in, I lighted my pipe and leaned brother's and her lover's death? Moreover, if she was assured of this, she riding back to the inn, "then we will must also have condemned the deception see how much your astuteness will avail at the Hotel des Etrangers. Her con-duct seemed strange, yet I could not It w

in spite of outward semblance she in-The drama of "The Prodigal Son" stinctively feels that Felix is not Franwas enacted over again when I returned cis. Women have their instincts. I

intended to keep me with them for Aunt Jane knocking at the door and some weeks. I had no objection to this telling me not to waste the candles. I arrangement, as I anticipated a long was used to these little idiosyncrasies and laborious task in ferreting out evi- of my aunts, so I answered that I was dence against Felix. The first thing to going to bed and put out the light at be done was to learn all that had taken once, but the rest of the night was passplace in my absence, and the informa- ed in a wakeful state. Truly I had a

seconded by her sister. I inquired about | For the next few days I kept very quiet, as I was unwilling to rouse the "Bellin Hall is to be shut up next suspicions of Felix. At length my aunts, week," said Aunt Jane. "The Bellins | who entertained no suspicion of my deare going to town and with them Mr. signs, informed me that he had gone to London with Mrs. and Miss Bellin. "I wonder they staid here so long The coast now being clear, I ventured

In the first place, I went to Bob Fundy to hire a horse. It was my intention maining here. Now she cen't resist the to ride out to the Fen inn and thoroughattractions of town life any longer and ly examine the rooms, as I fancied Felix might have hidden the corpse in the house. From Fundy I gained a piece of

'Want to ride to the Fen inn, sir,' field will be back in time to be best said be, scratching his head. "Why, whatever's come over that old ruin? Every one seems to be going there." "What do you mean, Fundy?"

"First Mr. Briarfield and now you," said Fundy. "Blest if I can understand t, though, to be sure, he rode there at "Did Mr. Briarfield go to the Fen

inn at night?" I asked, seeing I was on the eve of learning something important. I had not forgotten Merrick's My female relatives looked signifi-"That he did, sir. He rode there two nights over a week ago.'

> of the town." "No, sir," said Fundy decisively.

"Felix Briarfield," said Aunt Jane. so himself, as I noticed his horse was his brother to death. As early as I pearance." 'When his brother went to America, done up. Look here," added Fundy, could I went to Bellin Hall to satisfy he was always with her and no doubt opening his daybook. "See, on the loved her dearly. I can scarcely wonder 10th of June he had a horse and on the at that, as she is so beautiful a girl. 11th. Both at night and did not return I mounted my horse and rode away,

the Fen inn on the 10th, then I felt sure that he had actually murdered his brother. Hitherto I believed that Strent to the evidence of Fundy, I saw that brother arrived from America, so as to Felix had committed the crime. He had also ridden to the inn on the 11th in order to conceal the body. Merrick's theory was thus proved to be correct. Link by link I was putting the chain together. I had proved that Francis had not arrived in England till the 6th of June and so made certain of the identity of Felix. I had discovered that Felix was at the inn on the fatal night, and pretended to say there, then reap and also that he had concealed the body. Now I wished to discover how the murder was committed.

The Fen inn was quite deserted and as evil looking as ever. In spite of my searching, I discovered no signs of the dead body of my friend. The clothes, which I had seen folded on the chair bewas not the slightest thing left to excite

"He must have hidden the body in the marshes," I thought after a vain search. "I'll see if he has left a trail." Struck by the feasibility of this idea, I went out at the front door and examined the ground. It was moist and muddy owing to the incessant percolation of marshy water. The path leading from Marshminster was marked confusedly with horses' hoods, so it was quite useless to look for a trail in that direction. Looking from the door of the inn, the path trended to the right, but on the left, where there was no path, I noticed hoof marks; also that the lush grass was trodden down.

"Here is the trail," said I, mounting my horse. "He took the body to the Following the trail carefully, and it

was plainly discernible owing to the dampness of the ground, I rode straight



Following the trail carefully. out for some considerable distance. The spungy marsh jetted black water under the feet of the horse, and it seemed as could go I could follow. across his saddle and ridden with it in this direction. I wondered at the nerve

Unexpectedly the trail turned off at "Then, Mr. Felix Briarfield," said I,

It was late in the afternoon when

bring myself to believe that she knew got back to the inn, and the cold vapors surprise and remained silent for a few the truth. If she did, she was as bad as of the marsh made me shiver. As I am minutes. subject to rheumatism, I was afraid of "But you said yourself that Felix 'She must think that he is really future sufferings, so, having some bran- never came to the inh on that night," Francis and that Felix is in Paris," I dy in my flask, determined to light a he objected. thought. "Surely she would not will- fire for the purpose of heating water "So I thought, but it appears that I ingly go to the altar with a man whom and comforting myself with a hot drink. was mistaken. Fundy, the livery stable she knows to be a villain. No! He has There was plenty of fuel about, and I keeper, told me that Felix hired a horse

> gotten as I stood with that in my hand. | cealment of the body." It was an arrowhead. I handled it gingerly, for I knew well that if was steeped in poison, and that with this Francis had been murdered.

I saw at once what had taken place.

Felix had arrived and had gone up to his

brother's room. Holding the flint with Francis was killed.' the razorlike edge outward, he had shaken hands with his brother and so picking up the arrowhead. "With suc wounded him. A quarrel had ensued, but Francis, not thinking he was poisoned, never dreamed of his danger. Then he had fallen dead, and Felix, placing the body on the bed, had returned to the dining room and flung the poisoned arrowhead into the fire. The most astounding thing was that I out and began to work out my carefully had not been awakened by the outcry of Francis, but I suppose I was quite worn out by my walk and in too deep a

sleep. Nevertheless it was strange that I had heard neither the arrival of Felix nor the struggle which must have taken place. Possibly I had been drugged. cause of death, as there was neither

I feared the poison for myself, I rode head in the fireplace of the dining room This puzzled me greatly.

out making any remarks, and thorough- mission to the hall. ly tired out went early to rest, still puzzling over that arrowhead. Before firm your suspicious?" dawn I solved the mystery. In the cutrance hall of the Bellins' house a per- been removed from the wall." "Curious," said I, with assumed care- fect armory of savage weapons was arlessness. "It is not an attractive place. rayed against the wall. There were clubs, arrows, bows, mats and myself on this point.

sessed a fine picture gallery, so I had little difficulty in gaining admission from the woman in charge. Requestin thinking deeply. If Felix had gone to permission to examine the warriorlike implements patterned against the hall wall, I narrowly observed the arrows. It was as I thought-one of the arrows was the guilty party, but now, thanks was missing, and Felix had stolen it in order to kill his brother. I did not take much interest in the pictures after such a discovery, and the talk of the housekeeper fell unheeded on my ears. Finally I gave her a sovereign and left the ble to find Rose Strent or her father." house, impatient to be alone and think

The hall was a show place, as it pos-

over my discoveries. side the bed, were also gone, and there | evidence against Felix was clearly sufficient to hang him. Still I did nothing nication with Rose Strent," queried rashly, and before taking further pro- Merrick half to himself. ceedings returned to London to consult

venting all kinds of theories in connec-

tion with this matter. By the way, my idea of searching the shipping list was a good one."

cis did not arrive in England until the "No! Therefore it was Francis whom I met at the Fen inn, who was killed

by his brother, and it is Felix who now passes himself off to Olivia Bellin as Francis. "Does she not guess the imposture?"

to the Fen inn and hide the body, as I surmised?

return till midnight. "During which time he disposed of his brother's body?"

marks to the pool wherein I am convinced the body lies hidden." "Egad! You are a wonderful man, Denham. Did you have the pool dragged for the body?"

"Not yet. I wished to tell you all my discoveries before doing so." "Many thanks. I am so interested in this case that it is a great pleasure for

"I wish no thanks from you, Merrick," said I heartily. "It is rather the other hand would be sufficient to insure his did not arrive from Chile till this month, the crime. and, third, that Felix himself hid the | Firmly convinced of this man's guilt, right angles and led toward a broad corpse. By myself I should never have I was determined he should not marry discovered so much. But I have made one most famous discovery."

"Yes? And that is?" "I know how the crime was committed and by whom." "You don't say so!" exclaimed Merseen Strent?"

"No. It was not Strent who killed Francis Briarfield." "You don't mean to say is was Rose extradition treaties were in force.

thrown dust in her eyes and made her had matches in my pocket. I began to from him on the 10th and 11th of June. believe what he pleases. I must save rake the dead ashes out of the dining On both occasions he did not return till the poor girl from such a fate. Perhaps room grate when I disturbed an oblong midnight. Now, Francis was murdered piece of flint, which rattled onto the on the 10th, and his corpse disappeared on the 11th. Felix is therefore respon-All ideas of lighting a fire were for- sible for both the murder and the con-"That is purely circumstantial evi-

I laid down the arrowhead on the "This is proof positive," I said tri-

umphantly. "With that piece of flint "Really," said Merrick skeptically, a clumsy instrument he must have bun-

"Not at all. That arrowhead is steened in virulent poison, ' "The deuce!" cried Merrick, dropping it hastily. "Why did you not

warn me of its danger? I might have cut myself and gone the same way as poor Francis Briarfield. How do you know the murder was so executed?" "I told you about the discolered wound in the palm of the right hand." Merrick nedded.

"Well," I continued, "that was the With this damning piece of evidence scratch nor violence on any other part in my pocket, wrapped up in paper, for of the body. I picked up that arrow-

mittal of the crime." "Where did he get the arrowhead?" "That is just what puzzled me for a weapons. I made an excuse of looking I returned the horse to Fundy with- at the picture gallery and so gained ad-

> "Did you find anything likely to con "Yes. I found that an arrow had

"How could you tell that?" "Because the weapons were arranged heathen gods. Doubtless Felix, linew- incomplete. Moreover, on comparing ing the arrows to be poisoned, had tak- that arrowhead with those on the wall "He went to the Fen inn. He told me en the flint head of one in order to put I found it was precisely similar in ap-

"Humph," said Merrick thoughtfully. "There is only one deduction to be taken from all this. Felix stole the arrowhend, and knowing it to be peisoned rode to the Fen inn to kill his brother. He is a clever scoundrel." "Very clever indeed," I answered dry-

"But for you, Merrick, he would have baffled me altogether.' "I think you have him this time," said Merrick, laughing. "Now, what do you intend to do next?"

"Have the pool dragged for the body and Felix Briarfield arrested." "Before doing so it would be advisa-"Because they only can give positive

crime. Failing them, Felix may slip "They won't show up or give evi-"In that case they must be found and quickly. "And what about Felix and

"They are now in town-Mrs. and Miss Bellin in Swansea square and Fe-"I wonder if Felix is still in commu-"It's not impossible. Whatever Rose

Merrick. His advice, I knew, would be Strent was or is, she is not a waiting maid. I believe some guilty bond unites the pair, and Rose assisted Felix in his scoundrelly schemes out of pure "Hardly," responded Merrick.

Rose loved Felix, she would not assist him to marry Olivia, and Ly removing Francis she certainly did so.' "How would it do to see Felix at his

chambers and bully him into confes-"You won't manage that. Your man is too clever. "He can't do much against the proofs

in my possession." "He'll deny anything." "At all events, I'll try, Merrick. This evening I'll call on Felix and swear

that I am going to have him arrested for the murder of his brother. That will bring him to his knees." "'It might, and it might not. Better look for Rose Strent."

"If any one knows where she is to be "No. So far as I can see, she firmly found, it is Felix. I can't do better than see him." "Try it by all means," said the doctor

doubtfully, "but I'm afraid you won't get much satisfaction out of him. First find Rose Strent, have the pool dragged and the body found. Then, what with the evidence of Fundy and that arrow-"He did. I have the cvidence of the head, you will have no difficulty in getlivery stable keeper to prove that he ting a warrant for his arrest. At preshired a horse on the 11th and did not ent Felix will simply order you out of his rooms.

"I'll run the risk of that," I answered and shortly afterward took my de-

I could not now complain of lack of interest in my life. It took me all my time to keep the many details of this case in mind. There was no doubt that I had already solved the mystery, and that Felix was guilty of his brother's death. Yet, as Merrick said, it would be necessary to find the body and thus establish conclusive proof of the crime before the murderer could be convicted. When this was done, the evidence in dently placed the body of his brother way, as your reasonings have led me to condemnation For my part, I believed these important discoveries: First, that that he would be driven into a corner Felix was in Paris; second, that Francis and forced to confess his complicity in

Olivia. The crime had been committed for her sake, and seeing that he had behaved in so cowardly a fashion it was a fit retribution that he should not fatal night of the murder. achieve his purpose. It was no use to warn Olivia as to the true character covered the imposture? If so, why did if the pool were dragged the body would rick in much excitement. "Have you of Felix, as she firmly believed him to be Francis and would decline to believe my story. Under these circumstances I judged it advisable to see Felix at his chambers and warn him that I knew all. Terrified by the predicament in

England, and thus Olivia would be saved from lifelong misery. His punishment for the crime would occur later on, as, notwithstanding his flight, he could be arrested on the continent while

After dinner I therefore went to call on Felix. His rooms were in Jermyn street, and as mine were just around the corner in Duke street I had not far to go. My visit was paid on the chance of the same rooms, I could not but wonder at the nerve of Felix in coming back to the apartments where every familiar object would remind him of his fratri-

It was just at 8 o'clock when I reach. The flesh of cattle infected with con-To him I addressed myself. He was an

Felix is in Paris." out his plans. Doubtless in the end, when amination showed clearly that they his brother did not return, or rather were thoroughly infected with consumpwhen his pretended self did not reaption. You can't tell unless you cut pear, he would account for it by an ac- open the glands, the lungs, etc. This cident in the eastern deserts. However, my business was with Felix, alias Fran- And the likelihood is that half the cat-

"Ah, but doubtless he is engaged Meanwhile no one ought for any reason

biguously. "Is the lady a friend of yours, sir?" ed to Rose Strent, but then the chances were that it might be Olivia.

rare steak.

Wilmington Messenger.

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ness and deep-seated savagery there has

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sands of sheep are reported to have per-

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masters there fear the loss will amount

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their stock during the severe weather.

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low me to congratulate you on the mer-

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missionary work. The total number in

the so-called church is 259,000. There

will not be so heavy, as owners had

"Yes. Miss Bellin." "That's the young lady, sir, to whom Mr. Briarfield is engaged?" asked the caretaker, who was a confirmed gossip.

by sight, as she has been here with Mrs. Bellin. It's another lady." My surmise was right, and I felt confident that while I stood there Felix was having an interview with his accomplice. I could not disturb them, yet wished to assure myself of the identity of Rose Strent. When I found out all

case. "I'll see Mr. Briarfield another time."

"Will you leave your name, sir?"

Having thus baffled the inquiries of the caretaker, I strolled into the street. and taking up my station at the corner kept my eyes on the door. If Rose Strent was with Felix, she must certainly come out in a short time. Then

field, I might possibly extort a confession from the v. eaker vessel. In about a quarter of an hour the able indeed. Her face wore a trium if it becomes a law. The measure was phant expression, as though she had been successful with Felix. I guessed the interview had been for the purpose of extorting blackmail. With her knowl-

Following her up at some little distance, she went down the Haymarket and turned down one of the side streets,



It was Rose Strent and name other. finally disappeared into a swing door over which was a lamp inscribed with some letters. I looked up and saw written thereon, "Stage door,"

"An actress," said I and went round to the front of the theater to inspect the play bill. It was the Frivolity theater, and they were playing the burlesque of "As You Don't Like It." Glancing down the list of characters, I saw that Orlando was played by Miss Rose Ger-

"A leading lady," I thought, trans-

fixed with astonishment. "A burlesque

actress doubtless, in the receipt of a

good salary. What in heaven's name took her to the Fen inn?" This question I was of course unable to answer, but I guessed it had something to do with love and Felix Briarfield. Leaving the matter alone for a few moments, I secured a stall and entered the theater. When Orlando came on, I was thoroughly satisfied. Rose Strent was Rose Gernon, and I had seen her play the part of waiting maid at the Fen inn on the 10th of June, that

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The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Cl apped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents a box. For sale by P. B. Fetzer.

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Only one herd of cattle in North Carolina has been tested for tuberculosis; and that was so infected that the entire herd was killed. Experts say that it is hardly likely that there is a herd in the State which is not infected. Toberculosis is consumption; consumption is the deadliest of diseases. It is infectfinding him in, as I did not wish to put lous. Consequently the scientists know him on his guard by notifying him of my | not what to do but to speedily kill and wish for an interview. As the twins, in bury all cattle that are found to have spite of constant disagreement, occupied consumption. The milk of a consumptive cow may contain the tubercles of consumption, and it may not; it depends upon what part of the animal's

system is affected. When it does con-

ain these tubercles it is good poison.

ed the door of the chambers. At the foot sumption is liable to contain these w. H. LILLY, M. D. of the stairs I found the caretaker en- germs. But neither the flesh-that is and sconced in a glass box like an insect. the muscular tissue—nor the milk is so liable as the lungs, glands, liver and old friend of mine and rather an oddity other organs. Nevertheless, the fact offer their professional services to the that the muscular tissue may be infect. citizens of Concord and vicinity. All "Is Mr. Briarfield within?" ed is sufficient to warn us to have it "Mr. Francis Briarfield is in his cooked thoroughly, and to work for a Office and residence on East Depot ones" said the correction. We saw two cet. tle slaughtered recently. One seldom Of course I guessed that this would sees handsomer animals; they were the DR. W. C. HOUSTON

> you can't do when you buy meat. tle that are slaughtered for market have W J. MONTGOMERY. J. LER CROWEL consumption. There is but one way

better. All dairy-farms should be test-"I can't take it up now," said the caretaker civilly. "Mr. Briarfield is engaged and gave particular orders that he was not to be disturbed."

Detter. All dairy-larins should be test ed; all cattle for market ought to be slaughted at one place, and there ought to be a public inspector to pass the meat before it is prepared for sale.

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will not be so heavy, as owners had been preparing for several years to feed Concord National Bank.

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tion was ably supplied by Aunt Jane, bad attack of detective fever.

Briarfield.

ding if it takes place in July."

man! I thought my self he loved Olivia."
"Who loved Olivia?" I ask disharply.

Whether he intended to kill Francis ar any disease caused by impure or to merely explain matters I could not murdered, and I firmly believed that Felix was morally guilty of the crime. stitution of himself as Francis and the dexterous manner in which he had rid himself of the corpse, according to Merrick's theory, all showed me that I had a dangerous and reckless min to deal with. But after the clover way in which he had baffled me in Paris by resuming his name I was prepared for any vil-

> back and was compelled to follow crime intention of evading me. Doubtless he thought that, deceived by the episode at the Hotel des Etrangen, I had quite abandoned all idea of meddling in the affair. But for Merrick I should cortainly haveidone so. Now that Marrick saw the matter in the same light as I did I was determined to 1,0 op. Bat resolved to give no link of this to Felix.

been put on his guard and buffled me so piece of information which in itself The passenger list of the Copland proved conclusively that Francis had not reach ed England before the 6th of June, and this shown to Olivia would show that Felix was passing bimself off as her lover. With such proof I could stop the marriage immediately, but preferred to wait until I gained further evidence implicating him in the murder of his brother. I believed Merrick's theory to be true and quite expected to find that

in one of the bog holes.

"By no means," replied my aunt solemnly. "She looks ill and miserable. But that I know this marriage with Francis is a love match I should say she of the scoundrel. disliked the idea of becoming his wife." "No doubt," thought I, "no doubt Olivia mistrusts Felix already." I said good night to my elderly rela-

"By the way," I asked Aunt Jane as though I were in danger of being bogged. we parted for the night, "how does Nevertheless, as the trail continued in me to follow it step by step." Miss Bellin look? Like a happy bride, front of me, I followed it. Where Felix

pond of water slimy and sullen in appearance. On the verge of this the trail ceased, and then I knew that I saw before me the tomb of Francis Briarfield. out of the window, thinking deeply. Into these black waters the murderer Could it be possible that Olivia had dis- had hurled his victim, and doubtless she tamely submit to marry a man be found. This I determined to do bewhom she must know was guilty of his fore taking further steps in the matter.

gled the job considerably.'

back to Marshminster, wondering how of the Fen inn, where it had doubtless Felix had hit upon such a terribly in- been thrown by Felix after the comgenious fashion of removing his brother. So far as I knew, he had not traveled much and would not be likely to have any savage weapons in his possession, long time. Fortunately I remembered yet he could not have owned a flint ar | that the entrance to Bellin Hall was rowhead in the ordinary run of things. | decked with a perfect armory of savage

I had now sufficient evidence to prove evidence as to the committal of the that Felix had killed Francis and sufficient to warrant having him arrested. If the pool were dragged, the body would be found with the ragged wound of the dence for their own sake. flint arrowhead on the right hand. I could prove the finding of the arrow- forced into confession," said the dector head in the ashes and how it had been taken from Bellin Hall. Fundy could Miss Bellin?" give evidence to Felix having taken a horse to the Fen inn on the 10th and also on the 11th. And altogether the lix at his chambers in Jermyn street."

judicious. CHAPTER IX. Dr. Merrick was delighted to see me again so speedily and assured me that he had thought of nothing else but the lone inn crime. The peculiar circumstances of the case fascinated him greatly. "Decidedly I should be a detective." he said laughingly. "I have been in-

"Excellent. You received my letter?" "I did, with much pleasure. So Fran-

believes Felix to be Francis. You were also right about the hiding of the "You don't say so?" cried Merrick, highly delighted. "Did Felix ride out

"Precisely. I tracked his horse's hoof

"No. It was Felix himself." Merrick uttered an exclamation of in his way.

rooms," said the caretaker, "but Mr. system of inspection. We saw two catbe the answer and secretly admired the picture of health; butchers were anxidexterity with which Felix had carried ous to buy them. A post-mortem ex-

cis, so I made no comment on the caretaker's remark. "Pray take up my card to Mr. Briar- out, and that is public inspection. We field," I said. "I want to see him at must come to this, and the sooner the

with a friend of mine," I hinted am-A lady! My thoughts at once revert-

"It is not her, sir. I know her well

about her, there might be a possibility of solving the mystery.
"Well, no matter," I answered carelessly, stuffing the card back into my

"No, it doesn't matter. I'll call about 9 on the chance of finding him I intended to follow her up and speak to her if I got a chance. Failing Briar-

woman came out. She were no veil, and as it was still fairly light I had no county, introduced in the Legislature FIRST * CLASS * SERVICE tative Charles W. Parker, of Cuyahoga difficulty in seeing her face. She passed to-day a bill requiring all persons applyhurriedly by me in the direction of the ing for license to marry to pass medical Haymarket without observing me, and examinations. Persons having any I recognized her at a glance. It was, as form of insanity, hereditary tuberculosis Capital, I thought, Rose Strent and none other. In place of the waiting maid's linen from marriage by the bill. An examidress, she was arrayed in a smart tailor nation board of three physicians in made costume and looked very fashioneach county will be created by the bill

edge of his secret Felix was certainly at her mercy.

