



BEGIN HERE TODAY

Sir Charles Abingdon calls upon Paul Harley, criminal investigator, and tells him he is much disturbed because of constant surveillance by parties unknown to him.

When Abingdon returns home he tells Harley of a false message sent to call him to the home of the sick friend.

Doctor McMurdoch's expression remained utterly blank, and he slowly shook his head. "I haven't an idea in the world," he declared.

"Possibly," said Harley, conscious of some disappointment; "yet from the way he spoke of him I scarcely think that he was a patient."

"None ever came to his home," replied Doctor McMurdoch. "He had all the Anglo-Indian's prejudices against men of color."

"I will tell you in a moment," said Harley, rapidly, "but I have one more question to put to you first. Does the term 'Fire-Tongue' convey anything to your mind?"

Doctor McMurdoch's eyebrows shot upward most amazingly. "I won't insult you by supposing that you have chosen such a time for joking," he said, dourly.

"Harley's manner was almost fierce. "When I tell you why I ask these questions—and I only do so on the understanding that my words are to be treated in the strictest confidence—you may regard the matter in a new light."

"Perfectly satisfied," replied the physician, looking up with a start; "perfectly satisfied. It was unexpected, of course, but such cases are by no means unusual, remember. 'Tis often so. Surely you don't suspect foul play? I understood you to mean that his apprehensions were on behalf of Phil."

Paul Harley stood still, staring meditatively in the other's direction. "There is not a scrap of evidence to support such a theory," he admitted, "but if you knew of the existence of any poisonous agent which would produce effects simulating these familiar symptoms, I should be tempted to take certain steps."

"What had he eaten?" "Nothing but soup, except that he drank a portion of a glass of water. I am wondering if he took anything at Mr. Wilson's house."

"I sympathize with your suspicion," said Harley, "and it is maddening to think that he died before he could acquaint me with their nature. But I have hopes that you can help me in this. For instance—again he fixed his gaze upon the gloomy face of the physician—'who is the distinguished Oriental gentleman with whom Sir Charles had recently become acquainted?'"

"I shall accept your offer," returned Harley, smiling. "The 'N. B. cocktail' has a reputation which extends throughout the clubs of the world."

"I take it," said Mr. Brinn, suddenly, "that you are up against a stiff proposition."

"I understand absolutely," replied Nicol Brinn. "These are dull days. It's meat and drink to me to smell big danger."

"I have come to you tonight, Mr. Brinn," he said finally, "to ask you a certain question. Unless the theory upon which I am working is entirely wrong, then, supposing that you are in a position to answer my question I am logically compelled to suppose, also, that you stand in peril of your life."

"Good," said Mr. Brinn. "I was getting sluggish." In three long strides he crossed the room and locked the door.

hair, a sallow complexion, and the features of a Sioux. There came a tap at the door. "In!" said the tall man. The door opened silently and a manservant appeared. He was spotlessly neat and wore his light hair cropped close to the skull.

"In!" repeated the tall man, looking down at the card. His servant silently retired, and following a short interval rapped again upon the door, opened it, and standing just inside the room announced: "Mr. Paul Harley."

The door being quietly closed behind him, Paul Harley stood staring across the room at Nicol Brinn. Harley, after that one comprehensive glance, the photographic glance of a trained observer, stepped forward impulsively, hand outstretched. "Mr. Brinn," he said, "we have never met before, and it was good of you to wait in for me. I hope my telephone message has not interfered with your plans for the evening?"

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KANNAPOLIS DEPARTMENT

Kannapolis, N. C., Dec. 19.—The A. R. P. Christmas exercises will be rendered on Monday evening, December 21, at 7:30 o'clock. Everybody is invited.

Master Rayon Lisk, eight years old son of Mr. W. E. Lisk returned Monday from the Concord Hospital, where he had been rushed Saturday after being run over near his home on North Main street by a car, driven by Mr. Moser.

Mr. Sam Harmon, who is in the government hospital at Knoxville, Tenn., is spending the Christmas holidays with home folks.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Harley will leave Christmas eve for Orangeburg, S. C., where Mrs. Harley will spend about ten days with home folks.

Mr. Fred Nance returned Monday to the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, after spending a few days here with home folks.

Mr. J. T. Nance, Jr., of A. and E. College, is expected home Thursday to spend the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lomax are now rooming at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Roberts.

Mr. Mike Koontz, he is boarding at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Propst, will spend the holidays with home folks in Hickory.

Miss Laura Chandler, one of the teachers, will leave Friday for her home in Maxton, where she will spend the holidays.

Mrs. J. H. Helms has returned from a Charlotte Hospital, where she underwent an operation. Mrs. Helms' friends will be glad to know that she is getting along fine.

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DINNER STORIES

A farmer was having his house re-covered. The old tin roof had been torn off and rolled up in a heap in the corner of the yard.

"I am not going to talk long this evening," said the speaker. "I've been cured of that. The other night I was making a speech when a man entered the hall and took a seat right in the front row. I had not been talking an hour when I noticed he was becoming fidgety. Finally he arose and asked: 'Shay, how long you been lecturing?'"

"The office was crowded with the wedding party. All were silent while the bridegroom filled in the blanks. For the purpose of this story we'll call him Smith, says the New York Times.

The secretary looked over the marriage license. It gave the groom's name as 'John Enough Smith.'

"The clerk at the license bureau has made a mistake; see what a ridiculous middle name he has given you—'Enough.'"

An innocent good time. A colonel who was a stern disciplinarian gathered his officers about him and issued orders for the regiment's forthcoming train journey to the coast.

"I don't object to an innocent good time on the men's part during this journey," he said, "but you will see to it that there's no sweating, no sky larking, no card playing, and no little cigarette smoking as possible."

"Pardon me, colonel," said a timid voice, "but would you object if I took a little plain sewing to occupy my company and myself?"

The speaker waxed eloquent, and after his peroration on woman's rights, as they threaten, away from the educational, what will follow? What will follow, I repeat?"

And a loud masculine voice in the audience replied, "I will."

Holy Smoke! She coughed and sputtered. And let go an awful wail: "Twas only the preacher's daughter trying to inhale!"

As Usual. Father—"What did you do with the cheque I sent you?" Student—"Alma Mater took it all, Dad."

Father—"And I told you to keep away from the women!" A man went to the university town to visit his son, a first-year student. He called at the young fellow's boarding house and said to the landlady: "You have a Mr. Jones, a student, staying here, I believe."

"Student?" said the landlady. "Is young Mr. Jones a student? My goodness, I always understood he was a night-watchman."

College Grad (proud of his Spanish) De me usted ma cigareta? Native: Me no comprehend English.

Professor (explaining magnetism)—Jack how many natural magnets are there? Jack—Two, sir. Professor (surprised)—Yes, and what are they? Jack—Blondes and Brunettes.

Rastus: "Gal, did you get them flowers I sent you?" Hasette: "Didn't get nuthin' else?" Rastus: "Gal, did you wear them flowers I sent you?" Hasette: "Didn't wear nuthin' else." Rastus: "Then what did you pin 'em on?"

"Speaking of bathing in famous springs," said the tramp to the tourist, "I bathed in the spring of '86."

Cold Storage. Newedd (arriving home)—Mr. Naybor just told me he'd sent over a live chicken. Where is it? Mrs. Newedd—I put it in our new ice box to keep it fresh until it is killed tomorrow.

The tramp knocked at the farmhouse door and asked for the farmer. To that worthy he presently recited a tale of woe and asked for a job. "Yes, you can have a job," said the farmer. "You can gather eggs for me if you are certain you will not steal."

Christmas Cantata Sunday Evening. The choir of Trinity Reformed Church will render a Christmas cantata Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. The title is "The World's Redeemer," music was composed by Fred B. Holton, and the libretto is by various composers.

1. He Shall Reign Forever—Chorus. 2. Neath the Starry Heavens—Soprano and Alto Duet and choir. 3. Arise and Shine—Choir. 4. From Lands Afar—Men's Chorus and Choir.

5. The Gates of Heaven Unbar—Bass Solo and Choir. 6. I Bring You Good Tidings—Contralto Solo and two-part women's chorus. 7. Glory to God in the Highest—Tenor Solo and Choir.

8. The Song and the Star—Soprano Solo and Choir. 9. Christmas Memories—Choir, soprano Solo and Choir. 10. Christmas Memories—Choir, Soprano and Alto Duet, Tenor and Bass Duet.

11. He Came to Redeem the World—Soprano and Alto Duet, Tenor and Bass Duet, Quartet and Choir. 12. Come, Let Us Adore Him—Choir. The choir will be assisted by Mrs. J. B. Womble, Mrs. Gales Pickard, Fred L. Peck and Mr. R. E. Ridenhour, Jr. Sopranos—Mrs. H. A. Goodman, Mrs. W. E. Swinson, Miss Velma Lyles, Miss Evelyn Goodman, Mrs. M. B. Fuller, Miss Addie Barrier, Mrs. W. C. Lyerly and Mrs. J. B. Womble.

Altos—Miss Mildred Suther, Mrs. Fred L. Peck and Mrs. Gales Pickard. Tenors—Mr. B. F. Waggoner and Mr. R. E. Ridenhour, Jr. Basses—Mr. J. A. Peck, Mr. J. H. A. Holsboer and Mr. C. T. Barrier. Pianist—Miss Ethel Lippard. Director—Mrs. J. B. Womble.

During the past year the California State Bureau of Labor handled nearly 15,000 complaints and collected over \$350,000 in wages for complaining workmen.

MORE "OPPORTUNITIES"

So Far Seventy-one Families or Individuals Needing Help for Christmas Have Been Found. The list of Christmas "Opportunities" is growing. The following additional ones are announced today:

Opportunity No. Sixty. Two old people—a man and his wife who have no children. The old man is doing his best to earn a living, but makes very little.

Opportunity No. Sixty-one. A hard working, deserving widow with four children—Christmas bags and toys.

Opportunity No. Sixty-two. Boys, four and seven years old; little girl thirteen years old—Christmas bags and toys.

Opportunity No. Sixty-three. Boy, seven and twelve years old. Christmas bags and toys.

Opportunity No. Sixty-four. A desiring widow who works hard. Has daughters eleven and thirteen years old, and a son fifteen years old. Food, fuel and bags for the children.

Opportunity No. Sixty-five. A feeble old lady and her grandson, aged thirteen. Food, fuel and Christmas bags.

Opportunity No. Sixty-six. A widow with two children—a girl nine years old, and a boy four years old, and a younger child. Christmas bags and toys.

Opportunity No. Sixty-seven. A widow whose only child is very ill with tuberculosis. Food, fuel and fruit.

Opportunity No. Sixty-eight. Two sisters who live alone, one is sick. Four, hard bread, prunes and fruit.

Opportunity No. Sixty-nine. A desperately poor family—mother has no means of livelihood. Four children under twelve years. Food, clothing of all kinds and bags for the children.

Opportunity No. Seventy. A man, his wife and six children, who need everything. Girls are fourteen, seven and four years old. The boys are eleven and nine years old. Baby one year old—clothing, and food and bags for the children.

Opportunity No. Seventy-one. A widow with one little boy, eight years old. They both need clothing, which the mother is not able to buy with her small earnings. A warm coat for the mother who is a large woman. The boy also needs warm clothing. We also want him to have a Christmas bag with a toy a boy would love.

ANOTHER REPORT THAT RAIHULI HAS PERISHED

Message Says It Is Probable That Notorious Bandit Chief Was Poisoned. London, Dec. 18.—Another report of the death of Mulai Ahmed Raihuli, the notorious brigand chief of Morocco, reached London today from the Tangiers correspondent of the Daily Mail. There is a suspicion, says the telegram, that Raihuli was poisoned.

TWENTY GOLD HILL LOTS IN TRANSFERS

Total of Twenty-Four Pieces of Land Changed Hands in Rowan Tuesday. Salisbury Post. Of the real estate transfers listed with the register of deeds for Rowan county yesterday the bulk of the transactions related lots in "Miller Heights," Gold Hill township, twenty of these being sold. There were four other deeds filed, two for city home lots and two pieces of county property. The listings were as follows: John S. M. Miller to J. A. Misenheimer, two lots in Miller Heights, Gold Hill township, to J. A. Misenheimer, \$845; four lots in same place to Irwin Wagner, \$149; three lots to L. R. Fisher, \$172.50; two lots to Carl L. Peshman, \$250; three lots to A. T. C. Morgan, \$150; four lots to J. N. Weaver, \$100; and two lots to C. A. Texler and W. S. Brown, \$400. All of these lots are in "Miller Heights," Gold Hill township. Vase B. Miller to James W. Eagle and wife, small tract of land on national highway, between Salisbury and China Grove, adjoining J. L. Bostian lands, \$1, and other considerations. Leo Gillespie and wife to A. B. Wilson, undivided interest in 38 acres land adjoining the J. T. Goodman land, \$271.43. J. E. Younce and H. L. Arey and wife to James P. Mattox, lots on Mocksville Avenue, being lots 2 and 3, block 72 "Confederate Park," \$100 and other considerations. Granite Realty and Insurance Co., to Grover Saunders, lot on Thomas Street, former Guler property, \$5 and other considerations. The Italians, bred turkeys by the thousands, but they are intended chiefly for export, very few being eaten in that country.

TUCKERS NOT IN HURRY TO LEAVE SOUTHERN PINES

Will Remain There Until "Good and Ready" to Go, They Say. Southern Pines, Dec. 19.—Mr. and Mrs. Burton S. Tucker are still in Southern Pines, and they intend to remain here until they get good and ready to leave," they declared here today. Both freely discussed their marriage and the publicity that has been centered on them as a result of their indictment in New Jersey courts on charges of conspiracy to violate the marriage law and perjury. Tucker is said to be 17 years old and Mrs. Tucker 51. Mr. and Mrs. Tucker earlier in the day had been reported to have checked out at a hotel at which they had been stopping since their arrival here several days ago. Mr. Tucker, discussing the connection of John McInnis, jointly indicted with him and his wife, declared that McInnis merely was a friend who was casually invited to act as a witness to the marriage. McInnis, he said, had nothing to do with his marriage to the wealthy New York widow other than that. The Tuckers declared that they were not worrying about the New Jersey indictment, adding that their attorney was looking after that end of the affair. Mr. Tucker admitted that in obtaining the marriage license he gave his age as 21, which at that time was five years over his real age. He asserted that charges made by his mother regarding his wife were untrue. The Tuckers appeared thoroughly contented and happy when seen here today. Mrs. Tucker, although said to be 51 years old looks to be about 35. Clemency For Tucker But None For Bride. Jersey City, Dec. 19.—Assistant

Prosecutor Aloysius McMahon announced tonight that, while clemency might be extended to Burton S. Tucker, aged 17, indicted yesterday on charges of conspiracy to violate the state marriage laws, of perjury and of subornation of perjury in connection with his marriage October 2 to Mrs. Susan Simpson, many years his senior no leniency would be shown to his wife, who was indicted for conspiracy and perjury.

The prosecutor indicated that if Tucker would come into court voluntarily, plead guilty, and present proof that he has taken steps to have the marriage to Mrs. Tucker annulled, the state might recommend a suspended sentence.

It was stated that no leniency would be shown Mrs. Tucker.

Ray McCoy, of North Carolina, Believed Dead, Is Found Alive. Philadelphia, Dec. 19.—Ray McCoy, 28, believed dead for 12 years by his aged parents in North Carolina, was temporarily detained at City Hall today while word was sent to his home.

His father is the Rev. C. Daniel McCoy, of the Iola Baptist church, Franklin, N. C. The detective who located McCoy, stated that "it might do the old folks good to know their boy was this side of the grave."

McCoy, however, said he would not returned even though money for the journey might be forwarded. "I set out to make my fortune," he said, "and so far have met nothing but failure."

Salisbury Store Damaged By Smoke and Water.

Salisbury, Dec. 19.—Salisbury this morning had her second fire of the month in the business section when a blaze that is supposed to have started around a stove caused damage of several thousand dollars at the Council street clothing store of A. Nurick.

The fire itself did little damage but the great volume of smoke that obtained from the time the blaze was first discovered made fighting it very difficult and required the throwing of an immense amount of water, which practically ruined the stock of goods whose value is estimated at from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

Mr. Nurick had \$6,000 of insurance. The second floor was occupied as a storage place by the Robertson Grocery company and stock here was damaged by water.

Christmas Exercises at Georgeville High School. On Friday afternoon, December 21st, beginning at 1 o'clock a nice program will be rendered by the pupils of the Georgeville school.

Patrons and friends are invited to attend. A first step towards an amalgamation of the railway and transport workers in England has been taken by a joint conference of the Transport Workers' Union and the National Union of Railwaymen. The combined organizations will have a membership of nearly 1,000,000.

New York is to have a skyscraper church.

It will be located in the upper part of the city and the cost is expected to be about \$4,000,000. Atop the temple, rising to a height of fifty-four stories, will be a thirty-two foot cross, the loftiest thing in New York City.

S. S. BROWN SHOE STORE. FEATURING GIFTS OF TRUSTWORTHY QUALITY. SHOES, HOUSE SLIPPERS. These are Enduring and Useful Gifts That Denote a Thoughtful Giver. Come to our Great Holiday Sale. We have just received many New Styles in the Most Wanted Shades of Suede and Buck, that we are going to sell at Remarkably Low Prices. All this week we present Quality Merchandise at prices you cannot duplicate elsewhere. S. S. BROWN SHOE STORE. QUALITY FIRST.

Headquarters for Boys Christmas. We Have a Big Stock of Gifts That Will Please the Boys. Guns, Rifles, Skates, Pocket Knives, Flash Lights, Boys' Axes, Velocipedes and Coasters. Ask Mr. Deaton About Our Rubber Tire Roller Bearing Coaster Wagons. Also Many Useful Gifts For Men and Women. Largest Dealers in Hardware. Yorke & Wadsworth Company. Phone 30 Phone 30.