JOHN B. SHERRILL, Editor and Publisher.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK.

information to give which might pos-

sibly prove to have some bearing on

the Fairbrother case. I had seen the

man before and recognized him at the

first glance as one of the witnesses

who made the inquest unnecessarily

tedious. Do you remember Jones, the

cial book and expected to have no

trouble in finding the man's name,

James Wellgood, or that of his former

employer, but when he came to con-

employment-March 15.

"I do, indeed," I answered.

those facts?"

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NUMBER 33

and Cabarrus Like the Dew.

THE TIMES Covers

Concord

VOLUME XXXIV.

CONCORD, N. O., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1907.

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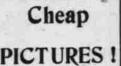
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Ang 20 INO K. PATTERSON & CO

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Mr. Fairbrother himself! The husband of "—

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********* The Woman In the Alcove.

By ANNA KATHARINE GREEN,

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CHAPTER'XIII. patient slept that night, but I did not. The shock given by this sudden cry of "Halt!" at the very moment I was about to make my great move, the uncertainty as to what it meant and my doubt of its effect upon Mr. Durand's position put me on the anxious seat and

I was very tired and must have shown it when, with the first rays of a very meager sun, Miss Grey softly unclosed her eyes and found me looking at her, for her smile had a sweet compassion in it, and she said as she

"You must have watched me all night. I never saw any one look so ired-or so good," she softly finished. I had rather she had not uttered that last phrase. It did not fit me at the moment-did not fit me perhaps at any time. Good-I, when my thoughts had not been with her, but with Mr. Durand; when the dominating feeling in my breast was not that of rekef, but a vague regret that I had not been allowed to make my great test and so establish, to my own satisfaction at least, the perfect innocence of my lover even at the cost of untold anguish to this confiding girl, upon whose gentle spirit the very thought of crime would cast a deadly blight.

I must have flushed-certainly I showed some embarrassment-for her able to fix upon the identity of the new eyes brightened with shy laughter as witness-something which I found myshe whispered:

other of your virtues. You have too many. I have only one-I love my

She did. One could see that love was life to her. For an instant I trembled. How

near I had been to wrecking this gentle soul! Was she safe yet? I was not sure. My own doubts were not satisfied. I awaited the papers with feverish impatience. They should contain Had he detected me playing a part, or news. News of what? Ah, that was were such doubts as he displayed the "You will let me see my mail this

busied myself about her. "That is for the doctor to say." I

"It is so hard for me not to be able

to read his letters, or to write a word to relieve his anxiety." Thus she told me her heart's secret,

and unconsciously added another burden to my already too heavy load.

DOCTORS MISTAKES Are said often to be buried six feet under

their family physicians, suffering, as they imagine, one from dyspepsia, another from heart disease, another from liver or kidney disease, another from nervous prostration, another with pain here and there, and in this way they present alike to themselves and their easy-going or overthemselves and their easy-going or overbusy doctor, separate diseases, for which he, assuming them to be such, prescribes his pills and potions. In reality, they are all only symptoms caused by some uterine disease. The physician, ignorant of the cause of suffering, keeps up his treatment until large bills are made. The suffering patient gets no better by Teases of the wrong treatment, but probably worse. A proper medicine like Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, directed to the cause would have entirely removed the disease, thereby dispelling all those distressing symptoms, and instituting comfort instead of prolonged misery. It has been well said, toms, and instituting comfort instead of prolonged misery. It has been well said, that "a disease known is half cured."

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about my patient's breakfast, when very unsatisfactory explanation. Mr. Grey came into the sitting room and met me face to face. He had a to do so much for us I must set aside newspaper in his hand and my heart my principles a little and do somestood still as I noted his altered looks thing for you. After all, it is only forestalling the reporters by a day. and disturbed manner. Were these due to anything he had found in those Miss Van Arsdale, this is the story columns? It was with difficulty that I | Yesterday morning a man was shown kept my eyes from the paper which he held in such a manner as to disinto this room and said that he had

dared not read with his eyes fixed on "How is Miss Grev? How is my daughter?" he asked in great hasts and uneasiness. "Is she better this

close its giaring headlines. These I

morning, or-worse?" "Better," I assured him, and was greatly astonished to see his brow in-

"Really?" he asked. "You really

consider her better? The doctors say so, but I have not very much faith in doctors in a case like this," he added. "I have seen no reason to distrust them," I protested. "Miss Grey's illkept my thoughts fully occupied till ness, while severe, does not appear to be of an alarming nature. But then, I have had very little experience out of the hospital. I am young yet, Mr.

> He looked as if he quite agreed with me in this estimate of myself, and, with a brow still clouded, passed into his daughter's room, the paper in his hand. Before I joined them I found and scanned another journal. Expecting great things, I was both surprised and disappointed to find only a small paragraph devoted to the Fairbrother case. In this it was stated that the authorities hoped for new light on this mystery as soon as they had located a certain witness, whose connection with the crime they had just discovered. No more, no less, than was contained in Inspector Dalzell's letter. How could I bear it-the suspense, the doubt-and do my duty to my patient! Happily, I had no choice. I had been adjudged equal to this business and I must prove myself to be so. Perhaps my courage would revive after I had had my breakfast; perhaps then I should be

> self incapable of at this moment. crossed the rooms on my way back to Miss Grey's bedside. By the time I reached her door I was outwardly calm, as her first words showed:

"Oh, the cheerful smile! It makes ne feel better in spite of myself." If she could have seen into my heart! Mr. Grey, who was leaning over the foot of the bed, cast me a quick glance which was not without its suspicion. product simply of his own uneasiness?

I was not able to decide, and with this morning, will you not?" she asked as I unanswered question added to the number already troubling me I was forced to face the day which, for aught smiled. "You are certainly better this I knew, might be the precursor of many others equally trying and un-But help was near. Before noon I received a message from my uncle to

the effect that if I could be spared he would be glad to see me at his home as near 3 o'clock as possible. What could he want of me? I could not guess, and it was with great inner perturbation that, having won Mr. Grey's permission, I responded to his ground. But many times women call on

> I found my uncle awaiting me in a carriage before his own door, and I him summarily, and he felt impelled to took my seat at his side without the hunt up the person who had recomleast idea of his purpose. I supposed that he had planned this ride that he the first time that Wellgood had repaid without fear of interruption. But 1 through the papers with which his file soon saw that he had some very different object in view, for not only did he he sought was not there. This roused start down town instead of up, but his him in good earnest, for he was cerconversation, such as it was, confined itself to generalities and studiously avoided the one topic of supreme interest to us both.

At last, as we turned into Bleecker street, I let my astonishment and per-"Where are we bound?" I asked.

It cannot be that you are taking me see Mr. Durand?" "No," said he and said no more "Ah, police headquarters!" I faltered

as the carriage made another turn and drew up before a building I had reason to remember. "Uncle, what am I to do here?"

"See a friend," he answered as he helped me to alight. Then as I followed him in some bewilderment he whispered in my ear: "Inspector Dalzel. He wants a few minutes' conversation with you."

Oh, the weight which fell from my shoulders at these words! I was to lear, then, what had intervened be- dinary that Mr. Jones grew more and ween me and my purpose. The wearng night I had anticipated was to be ing finally what he surely could not lightened with some small spark of knowledge. I had confidence enough exact address of the party referred to in the kind hearted inspector to be in the paper he had stolen, and which. sure of that. I caught at my uncle's for some reason, the boy remembered. arm and squeezed it delightedly, quite It was an uptown address, and, as oblivious of the curious glances I must soon as the caterer could leave his have received from the various officials | business, he took the elevated and prowe passed on our way to the in-

spector's office. We found him waiting for us, and I experienced such pleasure at sight of ed him, and awaited us when he told his kind and earnest face that I hardly | the result of his search. The name atnoticed uncle's sly retreat till the door tached to the recommendation had

"Oh, inspector, what has happened?" not know of any such man-perhaps I impetuously exclaimed in answer to you do. But when he reached the his greeting. "Something that will house from which the recommendation help Mr. Durand without disturbing was dated, he saw that it was one of ways; that these were not in keeping good news for the great houses of New York, me as that?"

"Hardly," he answered, moving up a member who lived there. But he soon consolatory. "We have simply heard - Eighty-sixth street."

reason he was not there in person, is "I should not, but you were willing his steward and general factotum." "Oh! And it was he who recommended Wellgood?"

"And did Mr. Jones see him?"

"No. The house, you remember, is closed. Mr. Fairbrother on leaving town gave his servants a vacation. His steward he took with him-that is. they started together. But we hear no mention made of him in our telegrams from Santa Fe. He does not seem to have followed Mr. Fairbrother into the mountains."

"You say that in a peculiar way,"

caterer, who had only two or three remarked. facts to give and yet who used up the "Because it has struck us peculiarly. whole afternoon in trying to state Where is Sears now? And why did he not go on with Mr. Fairbrother when he left home with every appar "Well, he was the man, and I own ent intention of accompanying him to that I was none too delighted to see the Placide mine? Miss Van Arsdale, him. But he was more at his ease with we were impressed with this fact when me than I expected, and I soon learned



we heard of Mr. Fairbrother's lonely sult this book he was astonished to find his mine outside of Santa Fe, but we that nothing was recorded against this have only given it its due importance man's name but the date of his first since hearing what has come to us to-

"Had he hired him without a recom- "Miss Van Arsdale," continue the mendation? He would not be likely to, spector as I looked up quickly, "I am smile." yet the page was clear of all reference; only the name and the date. But the learned about this Sears. As I have not know why." date! You have already noted its sig- said before, it is but forestalling the nificance, and later he did too. The reporters by a day, and it may help day of the Ramsdell ball! The day of | you to understand why I sent you such the great murder! As he recalled the peremptory orders to stop when your incidents of that day he understood whole heart was fixed on an attempt why the record of Wellgood's name by which you hoped to right Mr. Duwas unaccompanied by the usual referrand. We cannot afford to disturb so ence. It had been a difficult day all round. The function was an traportant have under your eye, while the leastone and the weather bad. There was, hope remains of fixing this crime elsebesides, an unusual shortage in his where. And we have such hope. This number of assistants. Two men had man, this Sears, is by no means the that very morning been laid up with simple character one would expect sickness, and when this able looking,

self confident Wellgood presented him-"Considering the short time we have self for immediate employment he took had (it was only yesterday that Jones him out of hand with the merest glance found his way into this office), we have at what looked like a very satisfactory unearthed some very interesting facts n his regard. His devotion to Mr. "Later, he had intended to look up Fairbrother was never any secret, and this reference, which he had been carewe knew as much about that the day ful to preserve by sticking it, along after the murder as we do now. But with other papers, on his spike file. the feelings with which he regarded But in the distractions following the Mrs. Fairbrother-well, that is another untoward events of the evening he thing-and it was not till last night we had neglected to do so, feeling perheard that the attachment which bound fectly satisfied with the man's work no account of youth or age, fitness or different thing. The man had left unfitness. He was no Adonis, and old enough, we are told, to be her father; but for all that we have found several mended him and see whether this was persons who can tell strange stories of chance threw them together during the time she remained under her husband's roof, and others who relate, with even more avidity, how, after her removal tain that he had not removed it himto apartments of her own, he used to self and there was no one else who had the right to do so. He suspected to catch a glimpse of her figure as she the culprit, a young lad who occasionally had access to his desk. But this and from her carriage. Indeed, his boy was no longer in the office. He senseless, almost senile passion for this had dismissed him for some petty fault magnificent beauty became a byword the previous week, and it took him in some mouths, and it only escaped several days to find him again. Meantime his anger grew and when he finalspect to Mr. Fairbrother, who had never ly came face to face with the lad he accused him of the suspected trick and from its lack of visible connection with so much vehemence that the inwith her horrible death and the stealevitable happened, and the boy coning of her great jewel. Nevertheless, fessed. This is what he acknowledged. ing how many witnesses we can scare but only to give it to Wellgood himup by a little effort, who never thought self, who had offered him money for it of coming forward themselves-who When asked how much money, the can swear to having seen him one night boy admitted that the sum was ten shaking his fist at her retreating figure dollars-an extraordinary amount from as she stepped haughtly by him into a poor man for so simple a service, if her apartment house. This witness is the man merely wished to secure his sure that the man he saw thus gesticureference for future use; so extraorlating was Sears, and he is sure the woman was Mrs. Fairbrother. The more pertinent in his inquiries, elicitonly thing he is not sure of is how his own wife will feel when she hears that have hoped for in the beginning-the he was in that particular neighborhood on that particular evening, when he was evidently supposed to be some-And the inspector laughed.

"Is the steward's disposition a bad one," I asked, "that this display of ceeded to the specified street and numfeeling should impress you so much?" "I don't know what to say about that "Miss Van Arsdale, a surprise awaitret. Opinions differ on this point. His friends speak of him as the mildest kind of a man, who without native executive skill could not manage the been 'Hiram Sears, Steward.' He did great household he has in charge. His enemies-and we have unearthed a few -say, on the contrary, that they have

never had any confidence in his quiet

with the fact of his having been a Cal

though he could not at the instant reifornia miner in the early fiftles. chair and seating me in it with a fa- found out. The first passerby told nearly where we are ourselves. Nor therly air which under the circum- him. Miss Van Arsdale, perhaps you do I see why I should not add that stances was more discouraging than can do the same. The number was this passion of the seemingly subdued but really hotheaded steward for a of a new witness, or, rather, a fact "-!" I repeated, quite aghast. "Why, woman, who never showed him any-

I was on my way to give some orders | no intention of adding anything to this at the inquest, though for a very good | we sent late last night to the nurse New Mexico.' He handed me a small yellow slip, and I read:

> Moro. He has not heard from him since ANNETTA LA SERRA. For Abner Fairbrother. "At El Moro?" I cried. "Why, that

The stoward left Mr. Fairbrother at El

was long enough ago"-"For him to have reached New York before the murder. Exactly so, if he took advantage of every close connec-

CHAPTER XIV.

CAUGHT my breath sharply I did not say anything. I felt that I did not understand the inspector sufficiently yet to speak. He seemed to be pleased with self of my presence without injury to my reticence. At all events, his man- my feelings, he suddenly pushed open ner grew even kinder as he said: quested me to step inside while he talk "This Sears is a witness we must

have. He is being looked for now, high and low, and we hope to get some clew to his whereabouts before nightthat is, if he is in this city. Meanwhile we are all glad-I am sure you are also-to spare so distinguished a gentleman as Mr. Grey the slightest annovance."

"And Mr. Durand? What of him in this interim?"

"We will have to await developments." see no other way, my dear." It was kindly said, but my head

drooped. This waiting was what was killing him and killing me. The inspector saw and gently patted my "Come," said he, "you have head enough to see that it is never wise to force matters." Then, possibly with an

intention of rousing me, he remarked: "There is another small fact which may interest you. It concerns the waith my unbounded relief, were sufficiently er, Wellgood, recommended, as y will remember, by this Sears. In my talk with Jones it leaked out as a matter of small moment, and so it was to him, that this Wellgood was the walter who ran and picked up the diamond after it fell from Mr. Grey's hand."

"This may mean nothing—it meant it because there is a question I want to put to you in this connection. You It was in the house in Eighty-sixth

This was not true. I had been wait-

almost with his thoughts. Now I saw He desired something in return. "You were on the scene at this very moment," he proceeded, after a brief

contemplation of my face, "and you ed the jewel and handed it back to Mr. Grey. Did you remark his features?" "No, sir: I was too far off. Besides.

"That is a pity. I was in hopes you

my eyes were on Mr. Grey."

"What point is that, Imspector Dal

"Whether be answered the following description." And, taking up another paper, he was about to read it aloud to me, when an interruption occurred. A man showed himself at the door whom the inspector no sooner recognized than be seemed to forget me in his eagerness to interrogate him. Perhaps the appearance of the latter had something to do with it. He looked as if he had been running or had been the victim of some extraordinary adventure. At all events, the inspector grose as he entered and was about to question him when he remembered me, and, casting about for some means of ridding himthe door of an adjoining room and re-

ed a moment with this man. Of course I went, but I cast him an appealing look as I did so. It evidently had its effect, for his expression changed as his hand fell on the doorknob. Would he snap the lock tight, and so shut me out from what concerned me as much as it did any one in the whole world, or would be recognize my anxiety-the necessity I was under of knowing just the ground I was standing on-and let me hear what

this man had to report? I watched the door. It closed slow ly, too slowly to latch. Would be catch it anew by the knob? No; he left it thus, and, while the crack was hardly perceptible, I felt confident that the least shake of the floor would widen it and give me the opportunity I sought. But I did not have to wait for this. The two men in the office I had just left began to speak and, to intelligible even now to warrant me in giving them my fullest attention.

After some expressions of astonishment on the part of the inspector as to the plight in which the other presented himself, the latter broke out:

"I've just escaped death! I'll tell you about that later. What I want to tell you now is that the man we want nothing to Jones-but I inform you of is in town. I saw him last night or street, the house they all think closed.

He came in with a key and"-"Wait! You have him?" "No. It's a long story, str"-"Tell it!"

The tone was dry. The inspector was evidently disappointed. "Don't blame me till you hear," said the other. "He is no common crook, This is how it was: You wanted the suspect's photograph and a specimen of his writing. I knew no better place to look for them than in his own room

in Mr. Fairbrother's house. I accordingly got the necessary warrant and (Continued on last page.)

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