old man's side, speaking in high terms

of the beautiful scenery of the valley,

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TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION.

the romantic situation of the chateau and the picturesque architecture of the venerable edifice. Mons. Santigny was pleased, and, on reaching the front entrance, invited his visitor to enter. He In August, 1885, three gentlemen excused himself, however, and waited arrived in Autun, in the Province of outside while the old man delivered the contents of the basket, he was pro-fused in thanks, and Libert said; Bourgogne, France, and put up at an inn. One of them was a large, fairhaired man, about forty, wearing a full blonde beard; another was a man | my friends and myself will come later about thirty-five, also, fair-haired and in the day, before our return to Autun, full bearded, but not over medium and take a look at this splendid old height, and the third was a young man Mona Santigny bowed and expressed of about twenty-three, with dark hair, dark complexion and no beard, standing about five feet ten and well put together. They informed the persons at the inn that they were there for pleasure, and they amused themselves by fishing in a small stream which flowed from the hills to the northward

tion in Paris for having embezzled

a large sum of money. These his

father, who was a respectable man, had

made good, and so the youth had

escaped punishment. He had associ-

ated himself with a band of outlaws

and had been selected by Tibbald and

Jurbise to accompany them on their

present mission, as he was a good

talker, had an attractive face and

form, and bore himself with the air of

In the valley between Autun and the

small town of Lucenay, lying to the

north, was the chateau Arnage, the

residence of an old gentleman named

Santigny. He was wealthy and reputed

to be a miser, and his abode had

been selected by Tibbald as one that

was probably worth robbing. The ob-

ject of the visit of the three men to

Autun was to procure information,

and, if advisable, at once to undertake

the sacking of the chateau. "The

chateau lay near the stream in which

the men professed to fish, and, while

passing as harmless strangers on a

pleasant tour, they endeavored to gain

from the peasants such information

as might be of use in aiding them to

carry out their wicked designs. They

succeeded beyond their expectations,

and after three days' sojourn made up

their minds to put into execution the

plan which they had formed for the

pillaging of the chateau. Early in the

afternoon of the fourth day, Libert

presented himself at the main entrance

of the chateau, and inquired for

Monsieur Santigny. An old woman

informed him that her master was in

an oristocrat.

hope that they would do so, Then Libert departed. As the sun was beginning to dir below the hill, Libert and his two companions presented themselves at the chatesu, and, found Mons. Santigny evidently on the lookout for them. He of the town. They never brought any received them with some cordiality. fish to the inn, but they gave the land-They politely declined his invitation lerd to understand that they caught to enter the chateau, and, after admirplenty and gave them away to the ing the exterior, begged to see his peasants whom they met. These three garden. He led the way thither, and men were expert burglars and thieves. had scarcely entered the garden when The largest of them was an Englishhe was suddenly seized from behind by man, named Tibbald, possessing, how-Tibbald, who pinioned him. At the ever, many aliases, and well known to same time Libert clapped a pitch the police of London and most of the plaster over his mouth, and then drew large towns of England. Latterly he a rope from his pocket and bound him. had been operating in Belgium, and Jurbise in the meantime had returned within the last three months he had to the front entrance of the chateau to been associated with a gang of thieves watch. Presently Tibbald joined him whose headquarters were in Paris. there, and the two entered the dwelling. Going toward the rear, they found the real name was Jurbise, and who had kitchen without difficulty. There the for years been engaged in robberies in old woman was at her work by the various parts of France, having only window, picking to pieces an old dress, recently been released from prison, Before she had time to arise, she was where he had served a term of three in the grasp of Jurbise and was quickly years. The third was likewise t disposed of, for she was much too feeble Frenchman, by name Libert, who had to offer any resistance. Having bound recently been discharged from a situaher and laid her upon the floor, they

> the chateau, where Libert awaited West have you done with the old man? asked Jurbise.

turned toward the main stairway of

"He began to be troublesome," was the shower, "and so I twisted the end of the rope round his neck and quieted him."

Having ransacked every place where money or portable values were likely to be found, the three men departed without releasing either Mons. Santigny or the servant, carrying with them several thousand francs in money and some very valuable jewelry set with precious stones of great worth. The spoil was divided, and Tibbald and Jurbise returned to the inn at Autun and took the train to Paris. Libert took the road to Epinay, where he intended to take an eastern train at Chagny and thence to Marseilles. The excuse he made for not accompanying his associates was that he had relatives near Le Saunier who were wealthy, and that he intended to stay there s while and get into their good graces. The true reason was that he had strangled Mons. Santigny and was surious to get out of the country on ard of some vessel leaving Marseilles.

While these events were in progress, Mons. Stanislas Valery was on his way from Marseilles to visit his two maiden aunts, who resided near Le Pont d'Ouest, in one of the valleys at the west of Cote d'Ore, in Bourgogne. The father of Stanislas was the half brother of the ladies in question, who were known as the Misses Beauja. Stanislas was born in Ceylon, where his father was a merchant, and, being an only child his father had never permitted him to visit Europe except once, when he went thither with his mother, at the age of 12 years. His mother died soon after her return to Ceylon, and Stanislas was educated by private tutors. Toward the close of 1884, the elder Valery died, and his son, who had reached the age of 22, came into possession of all his property, which was large. As soon as possible he wound up the estate and resolved to return to France. He notified his aunts of his intention, and, on his arrival at Marseill's the previous day, had telegraphed his intention of reaching Pont d'Ouest by the last train leaving Epinay. He reached Epinay shortly after nine, and had to wait for the train going north to Le Pont d'Ouest. Scarcely had he alighted from the train coming from the direction of Chaguy, when Libert reached the station. Valery's luggage was lying on the platform, and Libert observed the name, "Stanislas Valery." For a long time

most of his life in Ceylon, and was was rented on the banks of the Seine, one cherper than you can get if anywhere.

about to see his aunts at Le Pont d'Ouest, for the first time in ten years. "It will be quite interesting," he added; "for they will certainly not recognize me, and I almost wish I had not telegraphed to them, but taken them by surprise instead." As the time for the arrival of the denly the sound of an approaching lived a fast life, but he was too cau-

train going east drew near several passengers came on the platform. Sud-"With your permission, monsieur, a locomotive was heard, and speedily it came round the curve at great speed and darted through the station. As it did so a loud report was heard, something shot into the air, and the next moment descended on the head of Valery, crushing in his skull and killing him instantly. A crowd gathered around the spot where the corpse of the young man lay, and the officials were among the first there. Libert was all alive and in an instant decided he course he would take.

> "It is terrible," he said; "this is my valet. I am Mons. Stanislas Valery. and was on my way to visit my relatives at Le Pont d'Ouest. It is no use sending for a doctor, but if you will remove the body to a more suitable place I will consider it a favor."

The railway officials were thoroughly deceived and the corpse was carried to a small office adjoining the main station and laid upon a rug. Libert directed the door to be locked and took possession of the key. While the officials were busy dispatching the train from the west, Libert entered the office | ment at Vitry by two elderly ladies and rifled the pockets of the corpse, removing papers, pocketbook, card case and everything except a small sum in money. He unclasped the gold repeater from the chain and substituted his own After the train had been dispatched,

he directed the baggage bearing the name of Valery to be removed to a hotel and went thither himself, under the name of Stanislas Valery. In the meantime the authorities had taken possession of the corpse of the real Valery. The next day an inquiry was held and a verdict in accordance with the facts was rendered. Libert, who had telegraphed to Le Pont d'Ouest, saw that the body was properly interred, and then made arrangements to assume the character as well as the name of the dead man. From letters and other documents found in the luggage he had procured information which he thought would enable him to personate Valery, at least for a time, and, having by the same means ascertained the name of the unfortunate man's aunt, he put a bold face on it and went to Le Pont d'Ouest. His good looks and gentlemanly address and the clothes belonging to the dead man, which fit him admirably, aided him in carrying out the deception. The ladies received him without suspicion, and with the utmost cordiality, and he was installed as temporary master of the beautiful residence which they inhabitated. He devoted his time with great care to examining all the papers which he found in the trunks which he had appropriated, and in practising so as to imitate with great acuteness the dead man's writing. He had obtained several thousands of francs from the pocket-book found on the corpse. One thing, however, puzzled him; though there were documents showing that large deposits had been made by Valery previous to quitting Ceylon, there was nothing that gave any authority to draw this money from the Bank of France. In the course of three weeks, however, his mind was set at rest on this subject, as he received by mail, addressed to Mons. Stanislas Valery, letters of credit

which empowered that gentleman to draw upon the bank. Then he grew anxious to get the spoils into his possession, and debated with himself the advisability of going to Paris. Suppose he went thither and was identified? He turned this over in his mind, and came to the conclusion that the change in his dress, and some alterations which he could readily effect in his personal appearance, coupled with the fact of his being possessed of wealth, and a careful exercise of prudence as to the places where he showed himself, would prove a pretty certain safe-guard against recognition and detection. Having settled this question with himself, he broached the subject to the Misses Heauja. They were pleased with the idea, and at once suggested that they should accompany him, as they had not visited Paris for pearly twenty years. This was not displeasing to Libert, for he saw that the presence of the ladies and their recognition of him as their nephew would be an additional safeguard against his being identified. He therefore readily agreed to the proposal and in a few days the ladies and their supposed relitive were in the metropolis. After a few days' stay at a hotel, apartments

pear Vitry, a few miles from Paris. Libert, under the name of Valery, became acquainted with a gay circle of young men, and spent the money's which he had so nefariously acquired with freedom. He treated the Misses Beauts with marked respect and attention, making them presents of elegant dresses and jewelry, and accompanied them to the theatre and the opera. Ho tious to be led into any extravagence that might attract public attention to him. Thus things went on for some time until retribution came.

When Tibbald and Jurbise reached

Paris, after the robbery of Mone. Santigny, they went into hiding. It was three days after the perpetration of the crime before the dead bodies of Mons. Santigny and his domestic were found. The former had been strangled and lay in the garden; the latter was found dead from exhaustion on the floor of the kitchen. It was soon discovered that a robbery had been effected and after sufficient time had elapsed to enable the authorities to look around, suspicion at once fell upon the three visitors to the hotel at Autun. Two of these were traced to Paris, but what had become of the third was not ascertained. In course of time all this was known to Tibbald and Jurbise. After a time they metamorphosed themselves and ventured forth into their old haunts. The formation of a well-ordered establishand a young gentleman, evidently with wealth at their command, was not likely to remain long a secret from the gang to which Tibbald and Jurbise belonged. The place was inspected and means used to ascertain whether it was worth robbing. Jurbise, disguised as a peddiar, made his way to the villa and, having sold some trifles to the servants, was returning to the road when he met a gentleman enterg the grounds on horse-back. Libert might deceive even his own father and mother, but he could not clude the keen eye and instant recognition of Jurbise. He didn't know Jurbise, but

When Jurbise communicated to Tibbald what he had discovered, the supposition was that Libert, had successfully ingratiated himself with the relatives whom he told them he was going to visit after the affair at Mons. Santigny's. They were bitter at the thought that he should have deserted them and never in any way sought to benefit them by his good fortune. They determined to pay him a visit, for they were out of funds, and they felt it was his duty to assist them, so next day they called at the villa, having first ascertained that Mons. Valery—as they heard the gentleman was called was at home. They sent in assumed names, and "Valery" fell into the trap. The start that he gave instantly showed that he knew them, though the next moment he recovered himself and dis-

Jurbise knew him instantly, though he

made no sign that would reveal that'

claimed all knowledge of them. "It is no use, Libert," said Tibbald; "we are tired of this thing. We didn't murder Mons. Santigny, and we have made up our minds to give information to the police who did."

Libert turned deadly pale. He saw there was no escape, and conducting them to a private room, told them the the history of his life since he quitted them at Lucenay, as it is known to the

Now it so happened that this was the first time of Tibbald and Jurbise's going into company since their return to Paris after the Santigny crime, and a detective, who had long cherished the hope of getting the reward offered for the capture of the perpetrators of that deed, seeing the two men together, connected them in his mind with the offense and determined to watch them. On their entering the villa, he awaited their return and followed them unperceived until he loas a resort of outlaws on the rue Lebrun, near the avenue des Gobelins, So sure was the officer of their being the men wanted for the crime near Lucenay, that he asked for and received the assistance of other officers and made a raid upon the house, capturing the two men. When they found that they were to be sent to Autun, and felt that their identification by the people at the hotel and by villagers was beyond question, they not only confessed their connection with the erime, but also implicated Libert, and disclosed also the facts relating to the death of Valory and Libert's personation of him. Libert's arrest speedily followed, and the confederates were sent to the galleys for life.

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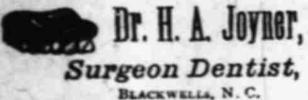
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dishawaka Indiana.

beyond your domain." Libert removed the fishing-basket

> Let me take the basket and give the fish to my cook."

"Perhaps you will accompany me to the door of my poor residence." Libert assented and walked by the

the garden, and pointed out to him the way thither. "Do you mean to say, ma'amselle," Libert said, using the last word to tickle the lold lady's vanity, "that monsteur, at his age, works in the

garden?" "Indeed, he does," was the answer, for he's got no one else to do the

"Why, one would have thought be would have left the labor for one of his servants!" said Libert.

old lady. "Why, I'm the only living This was just what Libert wanted to

ascertain, and, politely bowing to the woman, he turned toward the entrance to the garden. On passing within the enclosure, he at once saw Mons. Santigny. Approaching him, he bowed with much politeness, and said:

" Mons. Santigny, I and my friends, who are visiting this lovely spot, desire to present you with this basket of fish, which we caught in the stream a little

from his shoulder and held it forward. Mons. Santigny looked surprised and then said: "Ah, well, my thanks, monsieur.

Libert handed the basket to the old gentleman, who hesitated for a moment and then said:

sion."

many years. "That is singular," said Valery, "for I am bent on precisely the same mis-

"One of his servants!" exclaimed the

the two young men were the only occupants of the station, except the officials. Naturally enough, they got into conversation, and Valery offered Libert a cigar. Libert volunteered the information that he was going to visit relatives whom he bad not seen for

Then Valery told how he had spent