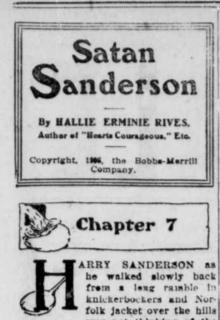
THE SMITHFIELD HEBALD -- PAGE SEVEN



was not thinking of the sights and sounds of the pleasant evening. He had tramped miles since sundown and had returned as he set out. gloomy, unrequited, a follower of baffied quest.

Set back from the street in a wide estate of trees and shrubbery stood a great white porched house. Not a light had twinkled from it for nearly a year. The little city had wondered at first, then by degrees had grown indifferent. The secret of that prolonged honeymoon Harry Sanderson and the bishop alone could have told, for the

1

bishop knew of Hugh's criminal act. He was named executor of the will that lay in the Korean chest, and him David Stires had written the truth His heart had gone out with pity for Jessica, and understanding. The secret he locked in his own breast, as did Harry Sanderson, each thinking the other ignorant of it.

Since that wedding day no shred of news had come to either. Harry had wished for none. To think of Jessica was a recurrent pang, and yet the very

combination of the safe in his study he had formed of the letters of her name! In each memory of her he felt the fresh assault of a new and tireless foe-the love which he must deny.

Outcast and criminal as Hugh was, castaway, who had stolen a bank's money and a woman's love, he was still her husband. Hugh's wife! What could she be to him? And this fevered conflict shot through with yet another pang, for the waking smart of compunction which had risen at Jessica's bitter cry, "You helped to make him what he has become!" would not down. That cry had shown him in one clarifying instant the follies and delinquencies of his early career reduplicated as through the facets of a crystal, and in the polarized light of conscience Hugh -loafer, gambler and thief-stood as the type and sign of an enduring accusation.

But if the recollection of that wedding day and its aftermath stalked always with him-if that kiss had seemed to cling again and again to his lips as he sat in the quiet of his study-no one guessed. He seldom played his violin now, but he had shown no outward sign. As time went on he had become no less brilliant, though more inscrutable; not less popular, save perhaps to the parish heresy hunter, for whom he had never cared a straw. But beneath the surface a great change had come to Harry Sanderson.

Tonight as he wended his way past the house in the aspens, through the clatter and commotion of the evening, there was a kind of glaze over his whole face-a shell of melancholy.

Tomorrow began Harry's summer vacation, and he had

ing eyes, the impassioned enruestness He paused at the curb and listened curiously, for Hallelujah Jones with his evangelism mingled a spice of the zeal of the socialist. In his thinking the rich and the wicked were mingled inextricably in the great chastisement He was preaching now from his favorite text: "Woe to them that are at ease in Zjop.

Harry smiled grimly. He had al-ways been "at ease in Zion." He work sumptuous clothes. The ruby in his ring would bring what this plodding exhorter would call a fortune. At this moment Hede, his dapper Finn chauf feur, was polishing the motor car for him to take his cool evening spin. That very afternoon he had put into the little safe in the chapel study \$2.000 in gold which he had drawn, a part for his charities and quarterly payments and a part to take with him for the exigencies of his trip. The street evanstellat over there proaching paradise and perdition to the grinning yokels often needed a square meal and was lucky if he always knew where he

would sleep. The thread of his thought broke The bareheaded figure had ended his harangue. The eternal fires were banked for a time, while, seated on a camp stool at his melodeon, he proceeded to transport his audience to the heavenly meads of the New Jerusalem.

Two, three verses of an old fashloned hymn he sang, and after each verse more of the bystanders, some in real earnestness, some in implous bilarity. shouted in the chorus:

"Paims of victory!

Crowns of glory! Palms of victory 1 shall wear!"

Harry walked on in a brown study the refrain ringing through his brain At the chapel gate lounged his chauf feur awaiting orders.

"Bring the car round, Hede," said Harry, "and I sha'n't need you after that tonight. I'll drive her myself You can meet me at the garage."

The study was pitch dark, and Rummy halted on the threshold with a low.

ominous growl as Harry fumbled for the electric switch. As he found and pressed it and the place flooded with light, he saw a figure there, the figure of a man who had been sitting alone, beside the empty hearth, who rose, shrinking back from the sudden brilliancy.



ARRY SANDERSON

stared at the appari-

tion with a strange feeling, like rising from the dead. The aristo-4EC cratic features were ravaged like a nicked blade. Dissipation, exposure, shame and unbridled passion had each set its separate seal upon the handsome countenance. Hugh's clothes were shabby genteel and the old slinking grace of wearing them was gone. A thin beard covered his chin, and his shifty look, as he turned it first on Harry and then nervously over his shoulder, had in it a hunted dread, a dogging terror, constant and indefinable. From bad to worse had been a swift descent for Hugh Stires.

The wave of feeling ebbed. Harry drew the window curtains, swung a shade before the light and motioned to the chair.

under the circumstances" Ills 2075 dropped to his fraved coat sleeve it his craven fear of something that he dared not name even to himself and in his wretched need he remembersa night once before when he had sidled into town drunken and soiled to a lux urious room, a refreshing bath clear linet and a welcome.

'You're the only one in the world dared come to," he said miserably "I've walked ten miles today for haven't a red cent in my pocket, not even decent clothes," he ended

"That can be partly remedied " said Harry after a pause He took a dark coat from its hook and tossed it to him. "Put that on." he said. "You needn't return it."

Hugh caught the garment. In an other moment he had exchanged it for the one he wore and was emptying the old coat's pockets.

"Don't sneak!" said Harry with sud den contempt. "Don't you suppose know a deck of cards when I see it?" The thin scar on Hugh's brow red dened. He thrust into his pocket the pasteboards he had made an instinctive move to conceal and buttoned the coat around him. It fitted sufficiently "Look here, Harry." he began, "you were a good fellow in the old days I'm sorry I never paid you the money I borrowed. I would have but forwhat happened. But you won't go back on me now, will you? I want to get out of the country and begin over again somewhere. Will you loan me the money to do it?"

Hugh was eager and voluble now The man to whom he appealed was his fortorn hope. He had come with no intention of throwing himself upon his father's mercy. He had wished to see anybody in the world but him

"If you will, I'll never forget it. Har ry!" he cried. "Never, the longes day I live! I'll use every dollar of it just as I say! I will, on my honor!" "Honor!" he said "Have you enough

to swear by? You are what you are because you are a bad egg You were

born a gentleman, but you choose to be a rogue. Do you know the meaning of the word honor or right or justice? Have you a single purpose of mind which isn't crooked?

"You're just like the rest, then," Hugh retorted "Just because I did that one thing you'll give me no more hance Yet the base throng I did with that money was to space myself. I paid every debt of honor 1 had. That's why I'm in the hole now But I get no credit for it, even from you. I wish you could put yourself in my place."

Harry had been looking steadily at the sallow face with its hoof print of the satyr, not seeing it, but hearing his own voice say to Jessica: "I was my brother's keeper. I see it now." And out of the distance, it seemed, his volce answered:

"Put myself in your place! I wish I could! I wish to God I could!"

The exclamation was involuntary, automatic, the cumulative expression of every three of conscience Harry had endured since then, the voice of that remorse that had cried insistently for reparation, dinning in his ears the fateful question that God asked of Cain. Suddenly a whirl of rage seized him, unmeasured, savage, malicious, He had despised Hugh, now he hated him-hated him because he was Jessica's husband and, more than all, because he was the symbol of his own self abasement. A daredevil side of the old Satan Sanderson that he had chained and barred rose up and took him by the throat. He struck the oak wainscoting with his fist, feeling a red mist grow before his eyes.

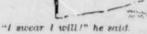
"So you paid every 'debt of honor' you had, ch? You acknowledge a like a double metallic heart. He gamester's honor, but not the obliga-

What a foot Harry wast Harry saw the shrewd, calculating look that came to his eyes. He caugat his wrist.

"Not here" he said noarsely E.F. flung open the chapel door and pushed him ashle He seized one of the aita candles, lit it with a match and stue it upright in its own wax on the small communion table that stood just in side the altar rall, with the cards, the red wafers and the bags of coin. He dragged two chairs forward.

"Now," he said in a strained voice "put up your hand-your right handand swear before this altar, on the gambler's honor you boast of, win or lose, to abide by this game!" Hugh shrank. He was superstitious





The calculating look had fled. He glanced half fearfully about him-at Harry's white face-at the high altar with its vases of August Illies; at the great rose window, now a mass o white, opaque blotches on which the three black crosses stood out with weird distinctness; at the lurking, un-

lighted shadews in the corners. He looked longingly at the gold, shining yellow in the candle light. It fascinated him.

He lifted his hand. It was trembling. 'I swear I will!" he said. "I'll stand by the cards, Harry, and for every day you win I'll walk a chalk line, so help me God!" Harry Sanderson sat down. He emptied one of the bags at his elbow and

pushed the box of wafers across the table. He shuffled the cards swiftly and cut.

"Your deal!" he said.



had finished his labor for the night. The crowd had grown restive and finally melted w away, and, his audience off the gasoline flare, shut down the lid of his melodeon and trundled it up the street.

grew larger and larger. Harry's face had never changed. Hugh's was the face is turned away!" shaking hand when he discarded the Something in the churchless convulsed features when he scans a gelist bowed to the voice of eccle for a moment fortune seemed to wh word. ver. He had never in his life had such In the study Harry Sanderso luck! He swept his winnings into his pockets with a discordant laugh as he noted that of the contents of the opened bag Harry had but one double engle maining methodically into the safe and eagle remaining.

Harry paused an instant. He snap ped the little gold cross ne worght by his soul; its silken tether and set it upright by his soul; "O God, 1 do not know

next. Hugh hoarded his gold; he staked the red wafers-each one a day! He had won almost a thousand dollars. but the second bag had not yet been opened, and the vampire intoxication was running molten hot in his veins. The untouched bag drew him as the magnet mountain drew the adventurous Sindbad-he could have sustched it in his eagerness.

But the tuck had changed. His red counters diminished, melted. He would soon have to draw on his real winnings. Cold beads of sweat broke on his forehead.

Neither saw the face pressed against the aperture. Neither guessed the wild and terrible thoughts that were raging through the mind of the selitary watcher as he peered and peered.

Scarce knowing what he did, he closed the panel softly and ran across the chapel lawn. On the pavement outside he met a man approaching. It was the bishop. The excited evangelist did not know the man, but his eye caught the ministerial dress, the plain, sturdy piety of the face. In his zeal he saw an instrument to his hand. He grasped the bishop's arm.

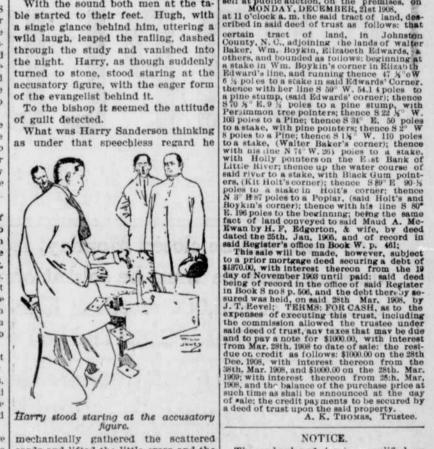
"Quick! Quick!" he gasped. "There's devil work doing in there! Come and see!" He fairly pulled him inside the gate.

The puzzled bishop saw the intense excitement of the other's demeanor. He saw the faint glow in the corner of the rose window. Were there thieves after the altar plate?

He shook off the eager hand that was drawing him toward the window. "Not there. Come this way," he said and hurried toward the porch. He tried the chapel door. It was fast. He preacher at his heels.

What the bishop saw was photo-graphed instantaneously on his mind This 26th day of Oct. 1908 in fiery, indelible colors. It ate into his soul like hot iron into quivering flesh, searing itself upon his memory. The evangelist of the pave had been horri-TRUSTERS A UCTION SALE OF fied, shocked to word and action; the bishop was frozen, inarticulate, im-paled. For any evil in Hugh Stires he was prepared—since the forgery. But Hugh's companion now was the man whom he himself had ordained and anointed by the laying on of hands with the chrism of his holy ministry. An irrepressible exclamation burst from his lips. With the sound both men at the ta-

With the sound both men at the ta-ble started to their feet. Hugh, with a single glance behind him, uttering a



soul of that man from whom God's

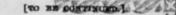
his draw, the desperate anxiety when tical authority. He went without a

closed it. Then he knet by his and said, clearly and aloud-to cold, inner symbol of consciousne

If thou as has been said, a seer of the that is in the bad, and of the bad is in the good, and a lover of both. But I know that I am But I know that I am in ongl ortremity. I can no longer my labor consistently before the wo and before thes. If I am delivered in must be by some way of thins own that Leanhot conserve, dor & cannot help myself. Amen."

He rose to his feet, mechanica put on a coat that was lying or a chair-Hugh's coat, but he did not no tice this-and bareheaded passed to the street. The motor car s there HO took his place in the ward sont and threw on the power Barking forebally Rinning the br spaniel, fore out of the gate, but master did not stop. The little of ture pursued the moving can mad frantic lasp to gain his seat, but n ed, and the huge armored wheel str and hurled him to the gatter.

Harry did not hear the sharp of pain. His hand was on the lever pushing it over, over, to its inst noich, and the great mechanism, reaponding with a leap, sped away, faster and faster, through the night.



Bees Laxative Cough Symp alw brings quick relief to coughs cou hoarseness, where he dough a all bronchial and chrone for Mothers especially recommend it children. Pleasant to take get laxative. Sold dy Hyad fires

NOTICE.

J. A. The undersigned having qualified Executrix on the estate Price deceased, hereby of J. all persons having claims against estate to present the same to me had a key to this in his pocket. He in-serted it with caution, opened the door noiselessly and went in, the street in bar of their recovery; and all perso indebted to said estate will make

MRS. L. Jane Price

Executr

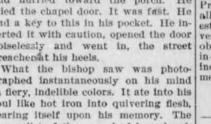
TRUSTEE'S AUCTION SALE OF



Chapter 9 0 ALLELUJAH JONES

gone, he folded the camp stool, turned

As he pushed up the street he came to a great motor car standing at the curb under the maples. There was no one in it, but somewhere in its interior a muffled whirring throb beat evenly stopped and regarded it inquisitively.



planned month's pedestrian outing through the wide ranch valleys and the farther ranges, and this should set him up again.

Now, however, as he walked along he was bitterly absorbed in thoughts other than his own needs. He passed more than one acquaintance with a stare of nonrecognition. One of these was the bishop, who turned an instant to look after him. The bishop had seen that look frequently of late and had wondered if it betokened physical illness or mental unquiet. More than once he had remembered, with a sigh, the old whisper of Harry Sanderson's early wildness. But he knew youth and its lapses, and he liked and respected him. Only two days before, on the second anniversary of Harry's ordination, he had given him for his silken watch guard a little gold cross engraved with his name and containing the date.

At a crossing the sight of a knot of people on the opposite side of the street awoke Harry from his abstraction. They had gathered around a peripatetic street preacher, who was holding forth in a shrill voice. Beside him on a short pole hung a dripping gasoline flare, and the hissing flame lit his bare head, his thin features, his long hair and his bony hands moving in vehement gestures. A small melodeon on four wheels stood beside him, and on its front was painted in glaring white letters:

HALLELUJAH JONES. Suffer me that I may speak, and after that I have spoken mock on. -Job xxi, 3.

From over the way Harry gazed at the tall, stooping figure pitllessly betrayed by the thin alpaca coat, at the ascetic face burned a brick red from



"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion." exposure to wind and sun, at the flash said. "You wouldn't either, probably

"Sit down," he said.

Hugh looked his old friend in the face a moment; then his unsteady glance fell to the white carnation in his lapel as he said, "I suppose you wonder why I have come here."

Harry did not answer the implied question. His scrutiny was deliberate. critical and in-

> quiring, "What have you been doing the last year?" he asked "A little of ev erything," replied Hugh. "] ran a bucketshop with Mo reau in Sacra mento for awhile. Then I went over in the mining country. I took up a claim at Smoky

Mountain That's wortl something or may be some-time." "Why did you

U

some

"Why did you leave leave it?"

itt Hugh touched his parched lips with his tongue. Again that nervous, sidelong look, that fear ful glance over his shoulder.

"I had no money to work it. I had to live. Besides, I'm tired of the whole thing."

The backward glance, the look of dread, were tangible tokens. Harry translated them.

"You are not telling the truth." he said shortly. "What have you done?" Hugh flinched, but he made sullen answer: "Nothing. What should 1 have done?"

"That is what I am now inquiring of myself," said Harry. "Your face is a book for any one to read. I see things written on it, Hugh-things that tell story of wrongdoing. You are afraid.

Hugh shivered under the regard. Die his face really tell so much?

"I don't care to be seen in town," he

tion of right action between man and A rich man's property, to be sure! man! Very well. Give me that pack of cards. You want money-here it is!"

He swiftly turned the clicking combination of the safe, wrenched open the door and took out two heavy canvas bags. He snapped the cord from the neck of one of these, and a ringing stream of double eagles swept jingling on the table. He dipped his hand in the yellow plle. A thought mad as the hoofs of runaway horses was careening through his brain. He felt an odd lightness of mind, a tense tingling of every nerve and muscle.

"Here is two thousand dollars-yours if you win it-for you shall play for it, you gambler, who pays his debts of 'honor' and no other! You shall play fair and straight, if you never play again!"

Hugh gazed at Harry in a startled way. This was not the ministerial Harry Sanderson he had known-this figure with the white, infuriate face, the sparkling eyes and the strange, velled look. This reminded him of the reckless spirit of his college days, that he had patterned after and had stood in awe of.

"How can I play," he said, "when you know very well I haven't a sou markee?"

Harry stuffed the gold back into the bag. He snatched the cards from Hugh's hand and a box of waxen envelope wafers from his desk. There was a strange light in his eye, a tremor in his fingers.

"It is I who play with money!" he said. "My gold against your counters! Each of those hundred red disks represents a day of your life-a day, do you understand-a red day of your sin! A day of yours against a double eagle! What you win you keep. But for every counter I win you shall pay me one straight, white day, a clean day, lived for decency and for the right!"

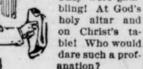
Hugh's eyes were fastened on the gold in Harry's fingers. Two thousand dollars! If luck came his way he could go far on that-far enough to escape the nameless terror that pursued him in every shadow. Money against red wafers? Why, it was plenty if he won. and if he lost he had staked nothing

He looked up. It was at the gate of the chapel. No doubt it belonged to the fashionable rector who had been pointed out to him on the street the day before. He remembered the young, handsome face, the stylish broadcloth. Yet it was a beautiful edifice that wealth had built there for Christ. He saw dimly the stone angel standing in the porch and, leaving his melodeon on the pavement, entered the gate to examine ft.

He noticed now a dim flicker that lit one corner of the great rose window Moving softly over the cropped grass, he approached, tilted one of the hinged panels and peered in. Two men were there, behind the altar railing, seated at the communion table.

Hallelujah Jones started back. There on the table was a bag of coin, cards and counters. They were playing-he heard the fall of the cards on the hard





He craned his neck. Suddenly he gave a smothered cry. The player facing

him he recog-Suddenly he gave a nized-it was the smothered cry. rector himself: He bent forward, gazing with a tense

Jonis

and horrified curiosity. Five times, ten times, the cards had changed hands, and with every deal Harry lost. The gold disks had slip ped steadily across the table. But he had seemed to be looking beyond the ebb and flow of the jettons and the pale face opposite him that gloated

mechanically gathered the scattered cards and lifted the little cross and the unopened bag of double eagles from

wood, saw the possessed him? The spindles in his present the same to me duly verified on or before the 20 day of November 1909, gleam of a gold plece, the smear brain had stilled, and an algid calm of melted wax had succeeded as abrupt as the quiet, deadly assurance with which his mind to said estate will make immediate pay marring the polished oak. The now saw the pit into which his own ment. reddish glow of feet had led him.

He blew out the candle, replaced it carefully in its altar bracket, made shift to wipe the wax from the table and slowly, half blindly and without a word, went into the study.

The bishop came forward, drew the key from the inside of the study door, closed it and locked it from the chapel closed it and locked it from the chapel side. Harry did not turn, but he was on or before the 20 day of November actually conscious of every sound. He heard the door shut sharply, the bar of their recovery; and all persons in-harsh grate of the key in the lock, and debied to said estate will make immedthe sound came to him like the last sentence-the realization of a soul on

whom the gate of the good closes forever. In the dark silence of the chapel Hallelujah Jones smote his thin hands

together approvingly as he followed the bishop to the outer door. There the older man laid his hand on his shoulder.

"Let him that thinketh he standeth," he said, "take heed lest he fall! Let not this knowledge be spread abroad that it make the unrighteous to blaspheme. When you pray for over its yellow pile. Though that pile your own soul tonight pray for the other times at The Bank of Smithfield.

NOTICE.

The undersigned having qualified as Executor on the estate of Levin Cole, Sr. the table? Where was the odd excite-ment, the strange exaltation, that had having claims against said estate to or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery; and all persons incebted

> This 14 day of November, 1908. EDDIE COLE. Executor.

> > NOTICE.

The undersigned having qualified as Administrator on the estate of Henry Holt deceased, hereby notifies all per-sons having claims against said estate 1909 or this notice will be pleaded in iate payment. This 17 day of November, 1908

CHAS. H. HOLT, Admr.

DR. G. A. HOOD,

TREASURER OF JOHNSTON COUNTY,

Will be in his office at The Bank of Smithfield, every Saturday until 1:30 o'clock and every Jrst Monday and Court Week. Parties having business with him can get it attended to at