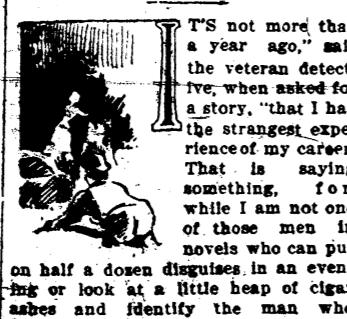


Great Hood's Sarsaparilla

Sales naturally result from the great merit which makes the thousands of wonder cures by

A MYSTERY IN WHITE.



"I T'S not more than a year ago," said the veteran detective, when asked for a story, "that I had the strangest experience of my career. That is saying something, for, while I am not one of those men in novels who can put

on half a dozen disguises in an evening or look at a little heap of cigar ashes and identify the man who smoked the cigar, I've seen a great deal that's way out of the common."

"An old gentleman named Denzil called at my office one afternoon to employ my professional services. I knew him by reputation as a stern, grasping, money-making man who loved nothing but his possessions and his beautiful daughter. On her he had lavished wealth, but had saddened her life by preventing her marriage to a manly young chap who was a fitting match for her in appearance, attainments and disposition. He was fast making a record in the world of business, but it was a rich old bachelor who had passed the years of romance and enjoyment that Denzil had elected to have as a son-in-law. Even under the threat of disinheritance that girl would not yield to this mercenary arrangement, the result being a strained state of neutrality which left both aspirants for her hand without any apparent hope of getting her."

"My caller went direct to business. I'm a constant and heavy loser because of the theft of money and jewels from my own house," he told me. "Things that are of the most value constantly and mysteriously disappear. Now don't start off with the usual questions about the servants. I have taken pains to test their honesty for years and they are above suspicion. I am completely in the dark, without any theories to embarrass you or any explanations to help. You have the whole job without a ray of light thrown upon it, and if you find the thief there will be no haggling over the fee. It will be worth much to me to get this worry off my mind. Burglars that make no noise or marks and leave one's house shut up as tight as a drum tend to shatter a man's nerves."

"I went at once into the country and neighborhood where Denzil lived, pretending to look for a bit of land where I could build within easy reach of the city. I put up at a little roadside tavern much frequented in the evening by farm hands. I was soon interested in their gossip about a ghost which they declared had been seen at different times and by different people. Their awed tones and scared faces fitted the subject, and there seemed to be some substantial foundation for the

one to her and the strange mentor of her unconscious action prompted her visits to the old spot.

"My next important discovery explained the mystery. I was employed to watch secretly in the hallway I saw old Denzil, with eyes wide open and set, come out of his chamber, climb the stairs to the attic, unlock an old desk stored there, open a secret drawer and deposit money as well as jewels. His action showed me that his daughter's habit of moving about at night was an inherited one. The next morning he gave me a terrific blow up as a careless, incompetent and worthless detective who could not catch a thief when in the house with him. I was more interested in that charming daughter of his than in cases, and a scheme flared into my mind as I inspired.

"'Mr. Denzil,' I said, 'can you stand the shock of knowing that your daughter is seriously threatened with the loss of her mind because of brooding over separation from the man whom you say she shall never marry, and that because of her mental infirmity she is innocently robbing you under a delusion that in no other way can she provide for the future happiness of herself and that young chap, she honestly thinks, poor girl, she is going to marry?'

"'It's a lie,' he roared, a miserable plot. You're discharged.'

"I did not take Miss Denzil into my plans. I secretly transferred all the stolen wealth to the old stump, had a trusted officer on guard and then told the old gentleman I could prove all I had said and insisted on the right to vindicate myself. He and I watched at the primitive postoffice till it became evident, and repeated the conduct I have described. Then we brought out the concealed treasures. Denzil was beside himself for fear he might act too late. He sent post haste for the young lover, made a handsome settlement, insisted on an immediate wedding and had me as one of the guests. Did ever matchmaker do a slicker job than I did?"

HANDEWING.

Fashion for Fine Needwork Has Taken Possession of Women.

It is a curious and pretty reversal to the customs of our grandmothers that assails the woman of today. Not only do we find knitting usurping a place long occupied by lace and embroidery, but what generally goes under the name of plain needlework is now taking its place alongside the fine arts. Machine sewing is no longer to be thought of in connection with lingerie. Indeed, it is quite impossible for the silk garments so much affected by the smarter women of today. After so long a lapse of plain needlework in desuetude, some extra stimulus was necessary to bring women back in to good old ways; and one of these clever women who foresees the signs of the times grasped the situation and started classes in sewing, thus inaugurating the fashion. The prices demanded for these lessons are on a level with those paid for music, dancing, painting or any other art, \$150 for a half hour's private lesson being the least that is paid. Classes for teaching sewing as a fine art to the little daughters of the fashionable set are also in vogue.

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