How a Woman Came to be the Ruin of Bonald Cameron's Bank.

"Cameron's bank," as it was known to the commercial world, as a private institution, owned and managed by Donald Cameron, who appeared to be about 50 years old when I entered his employ, and did not look a day older ten years later when the having seen me, while the man remained. I tragedy of which I am about to write took | fell in with him later on and seized him up place. "As good as Cameron's bank" was to his discredit. I let him know after a bit a popular saying. "As honest as Donald | that I was from the town where the Cameron Cameron " was another. "As hard-headed Bank was situated, and in a cautious way and sensible as Cameron" was a third. He he made many inquiries about the banker. was, as a matter of fact, a shrewd, level- I learned at the hotel office that the woman headed Scotchman, as honest as you please | paid him a brief visit about once a fortnight. and as conscientious as you ever find a man Before the week was out I was perfectly in business or out of it. He wanted all due satisfied in my own mind that there was a horribly revolting as to be well-nigh inhim but nothing more.

and Cameron himself did not miss a day for | no proofs, but he was a man who could not twenty years. He was his own cashier, be approached on his private affairs. I was while some of her relatives compress her while I had the place of teller. I don't full of trouble for the remainder of the week | throat until life becomes extinct. The body think there was ever an opportunity to put especially as the stranger made a hurried my hands on over £20,000 had I desired to peparture on Thursday, and the hotel rob the bank, but before I secured the deople then announced that they had lookplace he made himself safe to the amount of ed upon him with considerable suspicion £25,000. Even the janitor had to furnish for many weeks. He left Aberdeen osa bond, although there was no possible tensibly for Dundee, but I accidentally chance of his getting at a dollar. While he | learned that he had bought a ticket clear paid fair salaries, Mr. Cameron had the rep- | through to Liverpool and engaged passage utation of being very tight and close. or two on a steamer to New York. Some people said that he had never married | I returned home feeling sure that somebecause he was too stingy. He did not thing wrong had happened during my abseem to be aware of the existence of woman | sence. I reached town at 8 o'clock on Saturkind except when one of the sex had deal- day evening, and Mr. Cameron was at the

exactly as if she were a man. was with him for ten years. I never got to and gruffness had returned, and I could know him. He never smiled nor joked. detect something beyond that. He looked He never threw off his icy dignity for a mo- | pale and desperate. I asked if anything | ment. He never departed from the first | had gone wrong during my absence, but he | who is mentioned in Admiral Fitzroy's narrules laid down. He had our time figured only answered by a gesture of impatience. down to minutes. If any of us were obliged | We walked side by side for half a mile to remain even one minute over time, we without another word being spoken. The were paid for it. It any one was a minute | bank was always guarded by a watchman late in arriving at the bank, it was charged inside. He had already been sent away. terward kept on board as pilot, and eventagainst him. We had so much stationery | Mr. Cameron locked the door behind him as to last a month, and if one extra envelope he entered, removed his coat and hat, and own son. Bob, during the eighteen months was used it had to be accounted for. He after taking a seat and motioning me to once charged me four cents for accidentally | another, he said : breaking a ruler; he made the book-keeper | "The doors of this bank have been openpay two cents for breaking a pen holder: | ed for the last time !" the janitor fell over his broom and had to ten cents for the broken handle, although

spliced and continued to use it for wee I tell you these things about Mr. Camer not to slur his general character, but th you may thoroughly understand the sort man he was. For nine years there was but one brea

in our routine. We reached the bank at certain hour and moment, and generall left just as promptly. Every one hung v his hat and coat on the same hook select: at the start. There was no change in er ployees, no painting or papering, nothi: new. The break occurred when I cash a forged check for £200. It was a ne piece of work, and I believe Mr. Camere himself would have been duped. When discovered that I had been bitten I hand the banker £200 and the forged check. I made no remark whatever, but at the en of the month he charged me up with the loss of interest on the money for thirt four hours. I made no protest, and th ended the affair. The forger might have been caught, but Mr. Cameron had suffere no loss, and he would have charged n with lost time had I spent even five minute consulting with the police. This was i January, and the beginning of my tent year with him.

One day in May a strange lady called an had a long interview with Mr. Cameron i his private office. It was only at rare inter vals that a strange lady entered our place This one was about 25 years of age, richly dressed, and as handsome a woman as you would find in a week's travel. We learned after a bit that she was a Scotch Canadian who had returned to the mother country to assert her claims to a large estate. I suppose the object of her call was purely business, but it had a queer effect on Donald Cameron. You'll think it funny that a man as many as 150 packages, 101 like him and at that date fully 60 years old owners held receipts. While he read off should be upset all of a sudden by a woman, | the names from our books I made an inbut such were the facts in the case. When vestigation to see if the box or parcel was the hour's interview was ended and Mr. all right. Nothing whatever was missing Cameron returned to the counting room he or mislaid. was a changed man. He was actually trying to smile. When he attempted to pick up to this date," said Mr. Cameron as we up the routine business he was nervous and uneasy, and when he put on his hat and went out upon the street without saying when he would return we looked at each other with something like consternation.

"Well, we had queer times in the Cameron bank for the next few months, and the public did a good deal of sly gossiping about the banker. We got the news from outsiders that the woman was a widow and very well off; that she expected to get | worth?" about £60,000 out of an estate; that she was staying at a fashionable hotel, and that the most famous law firm in Scotland had about the true value under the hammer, for her case and were sure of success. A wellknown estate was then in litigation, and the papers had something to say almost daily. Mr. Cameron could have found out all the inside particulars by paying a lawyer £5 but I doubt if he would have parted with a "bob" for full information. After events proved that he accepted the widow's statements and documents without question, though he would not have taken the note of a millionaire for £10 without an endorser. Within a month after the widow's appear-

ance Mr. Cameron got a new business suit. He had worn the old one four years. This new suit, as we all agreed, was the finest thing pay dollar for dollar even if the news gets he had ever worn. He also got a new hat, went to the barber to be shaved, and there was such a change in his general demeanor about the office that the head bookkeeper, who had been with him eighteen years, seriously thought of tendering his resignation. When a grocery man came into the bank one afternoon at 2 o'clock and solemnly asserted that he had seen Donald Cameron out riding with the Widow Stirling, the routine business was interrupted for fully twenty minutes. When the banker came in half an hour before closing time, looking very happy and humming a tune, we were knocked so completely out that the book. keeper made the first mistake of his life in adding up figures, and my count of the funds on hand was wrong by nearly £100.

From May to September we were "standing on our heads," as the saying is, and every day brought some new surprise. On the No one know what had happened. I did first Monday of September I started off for not see the banker nor hear of his being a week's vacation. That had always been seen, though he was a man who never missthe rule. Mr. Cameron insisted that each ed his church. At 8 o'clock on Monday

Stirling in confidential conversation with a very keen-looking, well-dressed man whom I took to be an American. Without any management on my part I overheard enough of their conversation to make me suspect morning. It read: "This bank closed for some conspiracy against my employer. His name was frequently mentioned, and I caught something about "plans," "money,"

"old fool," and "America." The woman left in the afternoon without conspiracy afoot to victimize the banker, There were four employees in the bank, but my hands were tied. I not only had

ings with the bank, and then he treated her | depot to meet me and asked me to accompany him to the bank. He was not the man While I fell into his ways after a bit and | had left the week before. All his sternness

There were some written instructions to me, by following which every depositor would be paid in full and beside them a notice to be pasted on the front door that Monday morntwo days, after which all depositors will be paid in full."

About the woman? She simply walked off with the man I had seen at Aberdeen and the banker's money, and neither the police nor the public were ever told of the cause of failure, though many shrewdly suspected what had brought it about.

Cannibals.

When driven to extremes by famine durng an exceptionally long and cold Winter, these wretched Fuegians have recourse for satisfying their hunger to an expedient so credible. The oldest woman is seized upon, dragged to a green-wood fire, and held with her mouth and nostrils over the smoke, is then divided and eaten, no portion being rejected. The authenticity of this account can hardly be doubted, for it rests on the testimony of some of the Fuegians themselves. It was first narrated by "Jemmy Button," one of the four Fuegians whom Admiral Fitzroy brought home to England, and who was so named because he had been sold by his people for a few buttons. This lad learned to speak English very fluently, and he gave the above details, which were corroborated by his three companions. It is, however, but fair to state that Jemmy Button, as soon as he had become moderately civilized, expressed his disapproval of these proceedings, and added that, rather than again partake of such a feast, he would eat his own hands.

Mr. Low, the Captain of a small vessel rative of the cruise of the Beagle, had on board for eighteen months a Fuegian boy called "Bob" by the sailors. This boy was originally taken as a hostage, but was afually he was adopted by Mr. Low as his which he spent on board, learned to speak English fairly well, and one day during the course of ordinary conversation he gave an

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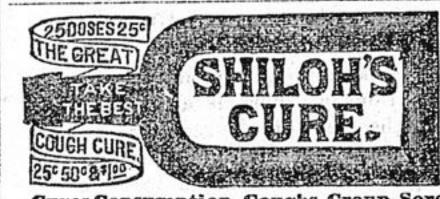
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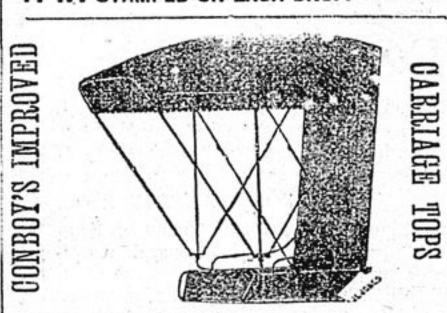
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often coughs enough Hereditary to make him sick at Consumptionhis stomach. When-

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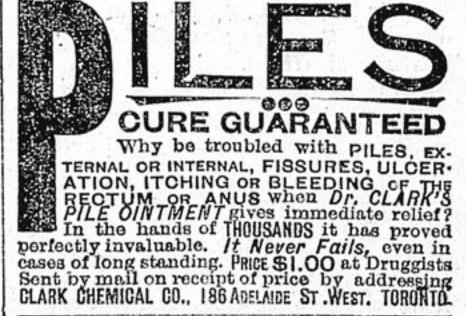
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"Now Andrew, figure up the rents due

returned to the office. In about fifteen minutes I gave him the

sum in gross. "Now how much do we owe depositors?" "Not over £2,000 sir." "Be exact, Andrew, I must know to a

penny. Give me exact figures." "Well, then, it is £1,800 10s. 7d."

"Ah! that is better. What should you say land, building, and belongings are "About £1,000."

"A good guess, my lad. That will be we have the best location in town Now, there's my land on the hill."

"That's good for £500." "And my half of the woollen mill."

"That ought to bring up the balance." "So it will, and my watch will make an-another £30. The hands are all paid up and I owe nothing for either pew rent or my board. Here is your salary for next week, Andrew."

"But-but what are you going to do,

sir?" I stammered. "Going away, my lad."

"But there is no need of that. You can out that we are shaky and brings a run. And why should the news get out? It is known only to you and me. You have the confidence of hundreds of good men, and can raise all the money you want to go

ahead on." "That woman!" he whispered, as he dropped his chin into his hands and sat

thinking for a long time. "Give me authority to go to the police, and I'll almost guarantee her capture and

the return of the money." He shook his head in a sad way and did not speak for five minutes. Then he said: "You can go now" I'll think it over.

Come at the usual hour on Monday morning. I left him sitting in his chair, but as I paused for a moment outside I heard him lock the door behind me. I was about a good deal on Sunday, but there was no gossip. of us take a week every year, though each morning we had to summon the police to had to lose his salary for that week. I put break open the door of the bank. Donald fn my week at Aberdeen. On the first day | Cameron lay dead on the floor, having fired of my arrival I caught sight of the Widow a bullet into his head with his own hand. SLOCUM & CO., 186 West Adelaide Street, Toronto, Ont



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