

A New Laxative —the best known to modern medicine
—is the active principle which makes

NA-DRU-CO LAXATIVES

so much better than ordinary physics. While thoroughly effective, they never gripe, purge or cause nausea, and never lose their effectiveness. One of the best of the NA-DRU-CO line.

25c. a box. If your druggist has not yet stocked them, send 25c. and we will mail them.

National Drug and Chemical Company of Canada, Limited, Montreal.

CLOSE QUARTERS;

OR, THE HOUSE IN THE RUE BARBETTE

CHAPTER VIII.—(Cont'd)

"I sent for you, Lord Fairholme," he said, "because I felt that I could trust you to obey my instructions implicitly. If my visit fails, there will certainly be some shooting or stabbing, or perhaps an attempt may be made to keep me a prisoner. This latter eventuality renders the presence of the police essential. No matter what has happened to me they will, with your assistance, be able to take up the inquiry exactly where I leave off. In this notebook here, which I am placing in a locked drawer"—and he snatched his action to the words—"you will find details of all that I have done up to the present moment, together with the lines along which future inquiries should proceed. In particular, you will find an elaboration of the theory which I expect to-morrow's visit to confirm. You fully understand me? All this anticipates that after 11.30 to-morrow I shall be personally able to conduct the investigation further."

"But can't you explain matters a little more clearly? Is it necessary that I should be kept in the dark as to the circumstances which have led up to this critical movement to-morrow?"

"Not in the least. It is, indeed, very important that you should comprehend all that has gone before; I only started at the end, so to speak, so as to fix accurately in your mind your part of the business, which now stands separate and distinctly outlined in your memory. What I am going to tell you simply leads up to the expected denouement."

He then recited to the wondering ear the whole of the curious events which had happened during the preceding twenty-four hours.

It was late when they got to bed, but they rested well, and, after the manner of their race, fortified themselves with a good breakfast against the trials of the day, whatever these might prove to be. A few minutes before the appointed hour they quitted a fiacre in the vicinity of the Rue Barbette, and at eleven o'clock Brett passed the concierge, whilst Fairholme took up his stand outside.

The barrister was received with smiling complacency by Hussein-ul-Mulk. On this occasion he was conducted to another room of the flat, and he promptly noted that the windows looked out to the rear of the building, whereas his previous visit he could survey the street.

"This promises badly," said Brett to himself, but he betrayed not the slightest unwillingness to fall in with the arrangements made for his reception, and lounged back in a comfortable chair so easily that not even the quick-witted Turk suspected that the barrister's hip pocket contained a very serviceable revolver.

Hussein-ul-Mulk commenced the conversation. "I have," he said, "a couple of friends here who are interested in the matter you were good enough to mention to me yesterday. With your permission I will introduce them," and he threw open another door with a single Turkish word which Brett imagined was an invitation to enter.

Two men came from an adjoining room. They were Turkish-swarthy, evil-looking customers, but well dressed, and evidently persons of consequence in their own country. The new-comers eyed the barrister curiously, and with no very friendly intent.

A brief conversation in Turkish resulted in Hussein-ul-Mulk addressing Brett.

"I must apologize for the fact that my friends here only speak their own native tongue. Before we proceed to business I wish to ask you a few questions."

"Certainly," said Brett; "go ahead."

"You mentioned to me yesterday that you had no desire to involve the aid of the police in prosecuting the inquiry which interests you."

"Quite right," said Brett. "May I ask if you have adhered to that intention?"

"Absolutely."

"Well, Mr.—Mr.—Hussein-ul-Mulk consulted a visiting card—"Mr. Reginald Brett, I think is your name? It would be idle on my part to compliment you on your bravery, but it would be still more futile to attempt to conceal from you the danger of the position in which you now stand."

"Sit," corrected Brett, still smiling.

"Well," said the Turk, "we will not quibble about words. The fact remains, Mr. Brett, that you have needlessly thrust yourself into an enterprise of such a desperate character that all interlopers can be dealt with only in one way."

"You kill them," said Brett airily.

"Yes," said the Turk, "I deeply regret to inform you that you have guessed the object of my remarks with the singular skill you have already betrayed in reaching the existing position. I can only add that I am surprised that the same skill did not influence you to avoid forcing upon us the only alternative left."

"Am I to be killed at once?" said Brett, speaking with a slight affectation of boredom.

Even the self-possessed Turk could not conceal his amazement at the manner in which his strange visitor conducted himself.

"That is a point we have not yet decided," he said. "We are strangely unwilling to take the life of such a brave man as yourself. If we were assured of your silence, we would even be disposed to permit you to escape this time, with a solemn warning not to cross our path again. But we feel that clemency is out of the question. There is one hope—a slight one, it is true—which may permit us to gag you and tie you securely in this room, where you will be left in peace for at least forty-eight hours, after which time a telegram can be dispatched to any address you choose to supply us with. But really, owing to unforeseen circumstances this chance of a reprieve is remote. It wholly depends upon the arrival, or otherwise, at this house, of a gentleman whom we expect at 11.15."

Brett leaned forward in his chair and took out his watch. The other misunderstood his movement, and each of the other three promptly produced a revolver.

Brett laughed quite heartily. "Really, gentlemen," he cried "your nervousness is ludicrous."

He saw that he yet had five minutes' grace before his self-constituted judges would proceed to execute their sentence. As for the Turks, they were manifestly ashamed of having betrayed such trepidation, and they replaced the weapons so readily staged.

"That is a point in my favor," thought Brett. "Next time, if I do wish to reach my revolver, I may be able to get the draw on them first."

"During the interval," said Hussein-ul-Mulk suavely, "is there anything you wish to do—any letters to write or that sort of thing?"

"No," said Brett, "I do not think so; it seems to me that you have thoroughly misunderstood the purpose of this meeting. I came here in order to obtain from you particulars which will lead to the release of Mr. Talbot and redeem his character in the eyes of his superiors. I did not come here to be killed, Hussein-ul-Mulk. I am not going to be killed. If you touch a hair of my head you will only leave this house

for a prison, and subsequently for the gallows. And so, you see, you are talking childishly when you dangle these threats and preliminaries to immediate execution before my eyes. It is not you, but I, who will dictate the terms on which we part. It may perhaps interest you to explain this new phase of the situation to your fellow-countrymen, and the matter will also serve to dissipate the few minutes yet that have to elapse before 11.15."

Hussein-ul-Mulk made no direct reply to this remarkable speech. That it impressed him was quite evident from his manner. Forthwith an animated but subdued conversation took place between the triumvirate.

While it was in progress a peculiar knock was heard on the outside door of the apartment.

"Ah! he come," said Hussein-ul-Mulk in French. He left the room in order to meet the new arrival. He returned without delay, bringing with him a man very different from those whom Brett had encountered thus far in connection with the crime. This was a dapper little Frenchman, wizened, yellow-skinned, black-haired, and dressed almost in the extreme of fashion. He at once addressed himself to the barrister.

"They tell me, my friend," he said, "that you have thrust your finger into the pie which the friends of His Majesty the Sultan are preparing for him. It is a bad business. You are too soon for the banquet. The result is that your poor little finger may get burnt, and the pie is still being cooked."

The man smiled maliciously at his feeble witticism, and Brett instantly took his measure as a member of the gang of flash thieves which infest Paris. He knew that such a ruffian was both pitiless and cowardly. Whatever the outcome of the situation which faced him, he would not stoop to conciliatory methods with this despicable rascal.

"I suppose," he said, "that the only part of the affair which concerns you is the robbery?"

"Well, and what if it is?"

"I can only say that your political friends will be well advised to keep a close eye on you, for you would rob them just as soon as the persons against whom they have employed you."

The little thief laughed cynically. "You are right, mon vieux, I would be delighted to have the chance. But this time it is impossible. The stones are too big. They are worth—pouf!—millions of francs, so I must be content to receive my pay, which is good."

"Have you intrusted the Sultan's diamonds to the care of a scamp like this?" said Brett, addressing himself to Hussein, and inwardly resolving that unless the conversation by chance took a turn favorable to himself, he would forthwith open fire on the gang and endeavor to escape.

"Yes," cried the conspirator with a savage laugh. "You have never seen them, Mr. Brett? Here they are. To many men the sight would be a pleasant one. To you it should be terrible, for the arrival of these

7% GUARANTEED 7%
And a Share in the Profits

As a rule our clients get the benefit of all the "certainties" we control. To-day we are making use of "An Absolute Certainty" for the purpose of extending our clientele. Here's the proposition in a nut shell—

—a 7% profit-sharing preference stock on which dividends are paid twice a year—a stock issued by a concern with a record of 25 years' successful and progressive business experience—a concern at present controlling Natural Resources which are bound to double the value of its securities before long.

We guarantee 7% on this investment. We are practically certain that this stock will pay higher profits. It's the best industrial stock, at par, on the market.

Furthermore, we guarantee to buy it back at par, plus 7%, in one year from date of investment, if desired. Write at once to,

NATIONAL SECURITIES CORPORATION, LIMITED
Confederation Life Bldg., TORONTO 303 Beard of Trade Bldg., MONTREAL

diamonds at this moment means that you must die."

So saying, he produced from an inner pocket of his frock-coat a large, plain morocco case. The pressure of a spring caused the lid to fly back, revealing to the eyes of those in the room a collection of diamonds marvelous by reason of the size and magnificence of each stone.

In the center reposed the Imperial diamond itself. For an instant Brett reflected that whilst the other men were fascinated by the spectacle he would have a good opportunity to shoot some of them without mercy and make a dash for liberty.

But at the same moment there came to him an odd thought. His friend the jeweller of the Rue de la Paix had not given him a lesson in vain during the previous afternoon.

The barrister suspected—in fact, he was almost sure—that the gems now flaunting their half-revealed glories in the light of the day—for not one of them had undergone the final process peculiar to the diamond cutters trade—were not the real stones stolen from Albert

Gate but well-fabricated substitutes.

(To be continued.)

THE SUPREME TEST.

"There never was Amos's equal for up-an'-down good nature," said Mrs. Clifford, in speaking of her deceased husband to the new boarder. "My son Joe always said pa was more patient than Job."

"I tell you," she continued, "you can figure for yourself how patient Amos was by this. Our old horse, Dandy, would get the rein under his tail, an' keep it there off'n' on for ten mile without Amos's getting mad."

When you can see through a man it doesn't necessarily mean that he has a clear conscience.

"Do you think women should propose?" asked the passe-lady. "I don't know," mused the young thing. "Have you tried everything else?"

HEALTH IN PURE SUGAR

Sugar is one of the best, and most widely used foods. Would you risk your health for the sake of a few cents on a hundred pounds of sugar? Buy only

Redpath

EXTRA GRANULATED SUGAR

Its Purity and Quality cannot be questioned. Compare it with any other and note the difference in color.

PARIS LUMPS

When buying Loaf Sugar ask for Redpath Paris Lumps sold in RED SEAL dust proof cartons, and by the pound.

The Canada Sugar Refining Co.,
MONTREAL, CANADA. Limited

Established in 1854 by John Redpath

SAVE OVER \$25 WHEN BUYING YOUR RANGE THIS FALL.

\$41.00 TO \$49.00 AND WE PAY THE FREIGHT

You Can Buy "DOMINION PRIDE" RANGE At Factory Price
Direct From The Largest Malleable Range Works in Canada

If you want to save from \$25 to \$30, and at the same time get the most satisfactory kitchen range made, write for our Catalogue and look into the merits of the "DOMINION PRIDE," at from \$41 to \$49. If we sold you identically the same range in the usual way, through a dealer, you would have to pay from \$69 to \$78 for it. You would be paying two extra profits—to wholesaler and retailer—which would add \$25 to \$30 to the cost of your range, but absolutely nothing to its value.

Besides costing much less than other ranges in its class, the "DOMINION PRIDE" is much more satisfactory. It is made of tough, strong, malleable iron and the best blue polished steel—materials which will not warp, crack or break.

The polished steel does not need blacking—simply rub it over with a cloth. With its cold rolled steel plate oven—sectional iron fire-box lining, with air chambers—and double-walled flues lined with asbestos—the "DOMINION PRIDE" is the most economical range you can buy. Actual tests have proved that it saves over 30% of fuel, burning either wood or coal.

WE PAY THE FREIGHT

A "DOMINION PRIDE" Range, with high closet shelf and elevated tank or flush reservoir, with zinc sheet to go under range, 8 sections in blue polished steel pipe and two elbows, will be delivered to any station in Ontario, Quebec or the Maritime Provinces for fit, or to any station in the four Western Provinces for \$49-\$55 to be sent with order and balance to be paid when the Range is delivered at your station. If not convenient to pay cash we will arrange to accept your note.

Canada Malleable & Steel Range Mfg. Co., Limited, Oshawa, Ont.

When writing it will be a distinct favor to us if you will mention this paper.



"The Evolution of the Cook Stove"

Tells about cooking from the time the Cave Dwellers dropped hot stones into the pot to boil it. It also tells all about "Dominion Pride" Ranges. Whether you need a Range just now or not you will enjoy reading this book. Write for Free Copy.