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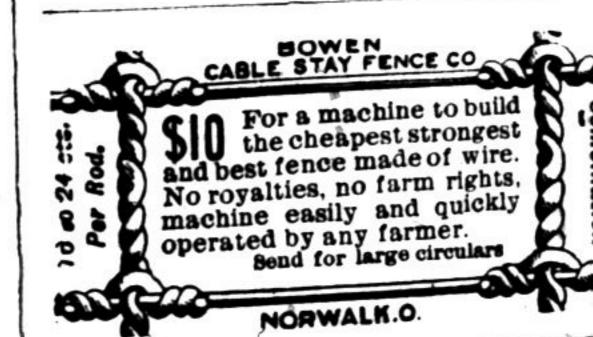
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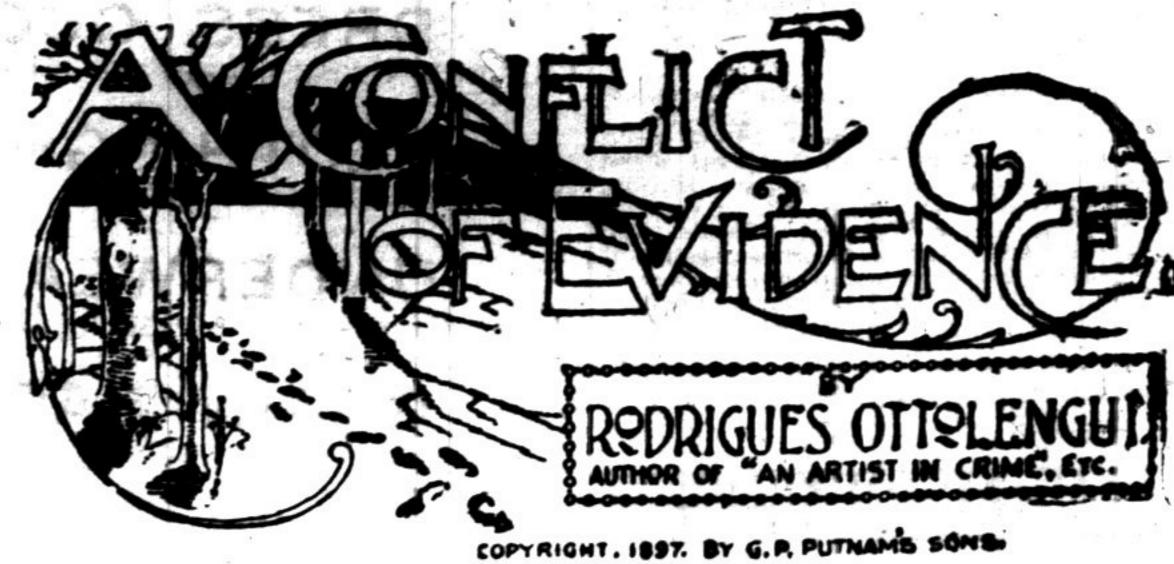
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was deprived of all chance of fresh air. "I will not, as that is my private Fortunately Dr. Snow was present and, calling upon Lucas to assist him. together they bore her from the room. permitting only a couple of women to follow them. vent. First you met a man in the their seats, but the squire requested

the first was Harry Lucas, and, more, Since I have shown you how much know, you will doubtless see the folly Mr. Barnes and Mr. Tupper arose and went on the stand with the "Well, gentlemen," said the squire, I to me at all." thing. Will you please tell us why cartridge-cap in her room, the first 'this is a surprising affair. What shall you asked Mr. Lucas to meet you?" step in which had been to replace the we do now?" "Mr. Barnes," said the lawyer, "you are more conversant with the case.

is evident that Miss Barnes really believes that she killed Mr. Lewis. It is plain to my mind, however, that we should be most careful in accepting such a theory. In the first place, would call attention to the evidence offered by Dr. Snow. He tells us that also know who the other was." he found two wounds, one having passed through the nightdress, and the deal," replied Virginia, coldly. other not. This simple fact proves beyond doubt that the deceased changed not all that we wish to know. You his clothing after receiving the first met Mr. Lucas. Your conversation wound. Therefore it is manifestly was overheard, and we therefore know clear that the shot which Miss Marvel admits she fired at him could not have proved fatal, for if so we would be obliged to believe that the other wound was made by the bullet from the pistol Barnes watched Virginia closely, but of Lucas in order to account for there being two wounds, but these shots fol-

What is your opinion of Miss Marvel's him."

"Gentlemen," said Mr. Barnes, "it

statement ?"

even at this name she did not flinch. Mr. Barnes wondered how she would 'owed in such close succession that act when they would produce the man there was not time for him to have | himself. Mr. Tupper continued :effected the change of clothing. "You had been notified that he "There is, however, a bare possibilwould await you in the woods across ity that he had already received the first wound and was in bed, when, atto the window. In that case he might | clope with him. This you concluded | Looking at the portrait which it conhave been killed by the ball from not to do. Therefore you feared that sained, he asked: however, we have no evidence that decided to have his friend, Mr. Lucas, is 7" would substantiate a suspicion of this opportunely meet him after you left "It is mine. It was taken when I kind. Miss Carpenter and Mr. Ever- 1 im, to see that he did no harm. Now ly would have heard the report if a will you tell us what you feared, he Mr. Tupper was about to pass the shot had been fired earlier. Miss Car- would do?" penter heard shots at nine o'clock, the discover all that Miss Marvel knew. time when Miss Marvel discharged her weapon. There is, however, more con- Will not that suffice?" "We wish to know why you were vincing evidence which I can adduce so fearful of leaving this young man to corroborate me in the stand which at \$12.00 a month is making \$75.00. A lady type-

ing \$6.00 a day. We want more agents. Can- whether by Lucas, either accidentally frame of mind when a woman rejects as he claims to have fired, or with dehim. Was it extraordinary, then, that | LEY-GARRETSON CO., Limited, Toronto, Ont sign. But I am positive that neither should have wished his friend to join of the shots fired at that hour was him at such a time?" She spoke with the one which destroyed the life of considerable feeling. the deceased." " No, Miss Lewis, your action under "You allude to the scrap of paper the circumstances was very commendof which you told me, do you not?" able. But did you not have a deeper asked Mr. Tupper. motive? Did you not think that he "I do," replied Mr. Barnes. "Bu might become desperate enough to take let me explain to the coroner, so that he may be convinced of the necessity of continuing. I found upon the table "I admit that I did." n the parlour a sheet of paper upon which was written, 'If I am dead in the morning, my murderer is'-the sentence being unfinished. This seems to prove that Mr. Lewis recognized his

" Whose-your uncle's ?" "No, no! I thought he might commit suicide: he is passionate and im-I thought that in a moment · despair he might raise his hand against himself. He would never take first assailant at least, and that, fearing death, he meant to warn us as to the identity of the person. True, t name does not appear, but the words are sufficiently significant. I presume her face assumed an expression of the there is no doubt as to the writing : Mr. Barnes handed the paper to the " Miss Lewis." continued the lawyer. squire, who examined it closely and will you kindly tell us about how with great interest. After a moment long you remained at the interview "I recognize this as the handwriting of Mr. Lewis. I am perfectly familiar

"I cannot tell very closely, though know about when I reached the house again. But I will not answer. unless you explain why you wish to Mr. Tupper had recognized at the outset that Virginia was not to be frightened into anything, and he de-Miss Marvel did not inflict the fatal wound, if her shot reached him at all. termined to deal with her openly. There is a break in the plastered ceil- "I will do so willingly," said he. ing of the parlour, showing the fur- | "We have found that you left the summade by Miss Marvel or by Lucas. We after several shots were fired, one at about the piece of paper directly, but

ed your uncle. Now, if you can give

he was alive or dead at that hour.

These matters of time often prove of

"Very well. It was half-past ten

"No. sir. I entered my apartment

"During the night did you hear your

first to do so. Is that a fact?"

the squire and the others arrived?"

"Did you take anything from

Where did you find this pistol ?"

Because it is mine and has my

"Yes, sir; I took a pistol."

"Why did you take it ?"

been unpleasantly suggestive.

was anxious to have ft."

"On the floor."

by the door opening into the dining-

when I reached my room."

uncle moving about ?"

cannot determine which." "Mr. Barnes," said the squire, for the lesser wound, and, as you say, even that would be difficult to prove. If you take the same view, Mr. Tup-"I certainly agree with Mr. Barnes | ciliate her as far as possible. "When in all his deductions," said Mr. Tup-"I am confident that we do not yet know who fired the last shot. It

would help us if we could discover what name was meant to complete "Gentlemen," said the squire, ad- ing-room to her own chamber. Re- ter that?"

dressing the jury, "Mr. Barnes, the suming the examination, Mr. Tupper detective in this case, the district at- asked . terney and myself are satisfied that a true verdict cannot be rendered without more evidence. Therefore, notlast witness, we will proceed. nicrely call your attention to the fact that, though Miss Marvel admits that she fired at Mr. Lewis, Dr. Snow testified that he found two wounds. Miss Marvel could not inflict two wounds by firing one shot, and cannot know herself whether or not she has com-JOHN SOMERVILLE mitted a homicide. Call Virginia

Virginia entered and took the stand. Mr. Tupper conducted the examina-"Miss Lewis," he began, "I believe you are the only one, save the deceased, who slept at the farm on the night when your uncle died ?" " I believe that is true." "Did you hear any shot fired while you were in the house ?"

T did not." "Then you have no idea who killed veur uncle ?" "Any idea that I have would be h prcof, and therefore is not worth con"That is, the day before the mur-" Yes, sir."

me, and as I passed through the parbeen testified by Miss Marvel. The for I am a light sleeper." next question was :

"No one's affairs are private when avoid suspicion by hiding the pistol, murder has occurred. However, since you should now be so ready to tell only the first you refuse I will tell you where you the whole story?" "I never intended to conceal the fact and said : summer-house, and then you crossed that the weapon was found by me the river to meet another man." The where it was, but I thought that if I lawyer paused, waiting to note the, ef- offered it in evidence myself I would fect of his words, but Virginia re- avoid the suspicion which might nat- ginia was thrown off her guard. At "Very good. Now tell us why urally enough have been aroused had the first glance she smothered an ex- were so anxious to cross the river so "I will go further and tell you that sry other person made the discovery." clamation and hurriedly put her hand late at night." Mr. Barnes knew this was not true that you invited him to the meeting, and that her first intention had been to destroy all trace of the use of the tistol, as was plainly proved by her having cleaned the barrel. "Since you seem to be so well in- also that she was at present following hands. Now please take it and ex- he had refused to grant it. At the

"I had a private commission to give empty shell by another. Her exam-"Did you remove anything else from "Do you refuse to give us any infermation as to the nature of this the room where the corpse lay?"

"Miss Lewis," said the lawyer, "I to Mr. Barnes. He knew that Mr. coldly. ered the identity of one of the men which, they thought, was written the take that paper, but you have it se-full truth." whom you met that night, and it is name of the murderer, and he was creted about your person at this very "Did you see her when you reached perhaps as well to tell you that we astonished to find that she appeared minute." about to admit its pessession. The "You appear to have learned a great | 1 ext question was : "Will you kindly state what that "We have found out something, but) was, and why you tock it ?"

that also because it is mine." that you sent for him to ask his aid. had admitted taking something, since you expected to meet Mr. Marvel." it was not the pener He was neverasked Mr. Tupper. "I noticed that my uncle had his fist tightly closed, as though holding moved the locket." "Have you it with you?"

"Yes, gir." Taking it from her bosthe stream that night, and you were m, she handed it to him. Mr. Tupper for it in the bosom of your dress." to determine whether or not you would ext.mined it closely, and opened was quite a child."

trinket to the squire, when, as he "I see that you have managed to .----



Virginia was thrown off her juard. tention, and scrutinizing it more care-To this Virginia made no reply, but this belongs to you for some time." "Ah! How was that?" "I had concluded that it was lost,

with Mr. Marvel? I don't expect any exect reply. An approximate one will beve had it." nark by which you would know it ?" know that it is mine, for, as you see, in my possession, except lately, for as once began :-

long as I can remember." said no more on this subject at that at Riverside?" mer-house at or near 9 o'clock. Soon time. Nor did he pursue the point "Most distinctly." least at the deceased. We are not determined to approach that by an- Lewis on that occasion?" "Now, then, Miss Lewis, we will go provocation and in anger. Miss Lewis sure, however, that either of these kill- other method. back to the meeting across the river, struck my arm, and my weapon was be the means of proving whether if you please. Did you meet Mr. Mar- discharged." mitted as much. Tel us whether you out your pistol it was not your intenvel? But, stop-you have already adleft him on the other side or whether tion to fire it?" "We separated before I rowed back was. As I said, I acted under excitehe crossed over with you. "Then you left him across the riv- may or what may not have happened." "Thank you." It was his cue to con- to the farm."

you went in, did you pass through the er? "Did he say where he meant to go?" This seemed doubtful to Mr. Barnes Barnes believed that this was in the face of the fact that he had the farm that night?" true, for he had traced her footprints found Marvel at Portsmouth, but then from the steps of the piazza by the he remembered that Joseph Harrison The squire then announced that the dining-room, and returning they reach- had testified to meeting Marvel at Ep-"Did he say where he would go at- at the turn of events, and in sheer have entered the house at that point, der. and naturally passed through the din-"He did not lay out a route and gunning." furnish me with a complete plan of his movements for the future. did, however, mention that he would return to Epping, from which place

the discovery he had come that night." You will recall that "Do you think that he proceeded t when the detectives accidentally dis- that place immediately after leaving turbed you in your room, the morning you?" after, you admitted that you had al- Virginia was very cautious, now that ready found out that your uncle had the subject involved information about been murdered. Thus you were the her lover. "How should I be able to reply defi-'I believe so. At least it is true nitely?" said she. that i knew of the death of my uncle "Do you know, then, whether crossed the river and visited the house "Exactly. You had gone into the after parting with you?" parlour, and you had found the body,

which you recognized as that of your boat." uncle, or I may say stepfather, before the "I mean to say that I have not seen; "Then, why should he have crossed "What makes you think that he did continued -"I do not think; I know." You cannot know unless you saw,

him, and that is impossible." Miss Lewis, there was snow on the straightforward reply. found by anyone else it might have I ground, and not only do I know from

"I use it constantly, and therefore it is quite possible that I fired at something on Saturday."

Mr. Barnes reflected a moment, and ed ulster, which completely concealed the summer-house at nine o'clock, grant-summer-house at nine o'clock, grant "That Mr. Marvel should have sought ing her fifteen minutes to cross the pearance of your face in any way?" my uncle at that hour is preposter- river, and as many more in returnous. You say that he did come to the ing, this statement of Marvel's, that

"If so, how is it that he did not fore, satisfied him that he had the further, because I did not wish to leave that this was the pistol used by Mr. and did not hear anyone enter after lawyer. "please tell us what you did whole lot, and as I crossed over the Lewis when he fired at Lucas, as had me. That is why I doubt your theory, after Miss Lewis left you?" Taking the paper which Mr.

> could be read. Approaching Virginia, he suddenly held it up before he eyes crossed." Did you ever see this before?" This was so unexpected that Vir- swim." to her breast. Instantly, however, her agitation passed, and she replied

quite calmly. "I believe you, for had you done so it would never have reached my me without her uncle's consent, since She did so, and then said, "It looks more than promise to send me a defin- Marvel hesitatin, , asked: like my uncle's writing, and it would ite reply the next day by letter. After "Why do you wish to know seem that he tried to communicate to she had left me I could not help thinkus the name of his assailant."

Virginia answered by a half scornful smile. Mr. Barnes showed some little

excitement. He was accustomed to deal with wary criminals, but had and as far as the door of Miss Lewis' "It was a medallion locket. I took never met with a woman so provokir gly self-possessed as this one. Mr. Barnes now understood why she "Come, Miss Lewis," said Mr. Tup- retired, and I left the house as I had it was not the paper. He was, never-theless, curious about this new point. I set a trap for you deliberately, and Mr. Tupper spoke in his usual mea-fured tones, and both he and Mr. "Where did you find this locket?" strength of will. When I showed you strength of will. When I showed you that paper, I well knew you had no you a question?" idea that it existed, and therefore my object was to see what you would do, make you think it was the other paper. to make some admission which might replied : mething, and, forcing it open, I re believing that your first glance would As I expected, you at once feared that connect me with the murder?"

you had lost it, and instinctively felt "Did I?" with a shrug of the shoul-Mr. Tupper looked at her a moment

CHAPTER XI. THE VERDICT.

There are some individuals whose markably strong-willed girl. She had passed through a flery ordeal bravely, that fact." and I might say successfully, until at last the unexpected had come to destroy all her powers of control. Nevertheless she was not one to give way, like her friend Alice Marvel, and

though she certainly started very percalled, she looked like a frightened person, which I am equally unwilling animal who, though awaiting a death-As she stood, expectant and defiant, she won the admiration of all the men fully, he dropped it into his pocket sequence when it is remembered that twelve of these composed the jury. "Miss Lewis, I think you said that There was a painful silence until the entrance of the next witness. At last "Yes, sir, though I have not had it he came, and when Virginia saw him and knew that this was no trick that revealing that which she had deterbut now I see that my uncle must mined to conceal, she could not repress a slight cry as she stepped from the "Hew can you be sure that this is stand and dropped into the nearest seat. Then she assumed a stolid ex-

Marvel cast one hasty glance in her it is of peculiar pattern. I have been direction, and with his lips a little told that my mother had it made spe- firmly compressed, he took his place cially for my picture, and it has been on the witness-stand. Mr. Tupper at "Mr. Marvel, do you remember the Mr. Tupper pondered a second, but day of the fete given by Miss Lewis "I drew out my pistol under great

"I cannot tell what my intention But did you not threaten Mr. Lewis . as vou left the lawn?" "Perhaps. It would have been but

"I was disheartened and disgusted desperation I arose early and went off hour?" "After a day's shooting I went on to Epping, where I have a house." "That place was searched a few be wet." days later, and no trace of you was "I only staid there one day, and across the river ?" then went to Worcester."

"Why did you do that?" Because I knew of the plot which a dry suit. Mr. Lewis was forming against me. "How could you know that, since you left Lee before any steps had been insugurated?" "A friend warned me by letter." was it not ?" Marvel remained silent, Tupper did not press the point, but

"Where were you on the night upon which Mr. Lewis was murdered?" "I was at the farm." The lawyer was pleased at "What were you coing there?" "Is it essential to go into that ?"

house, which I doubt, but even though she talked with him an hour, would Tupper went on. not more probable that it was his to the effect that she reached the guise when you changed your things?" house at half-past ten. "Now, then, Mr. Marvel," said the "I started to walk to the Epping road, but before I reached it I retraced

> Never mind. Tell us how you meant to wade the stream an looked for a shallow place, but I stepped into a hole, and was obliged to

"It is a delicate matter, but as this seems to be of importance I will frank and tell you the whole story. My first object in visiting the farm was to persuade Miss Lewis to marry

Lewis, the second paper is in your pos- Portsmouth to wait for her letter. I must I must. I centess that I did thought of some arguments which I what many men have done. I stole This reply was a complete surprise "You are mistaken," she replied, had not used, and returned, hoping to the medallion, and "find her still up, and so make one more Virginia uttered a cry and started have intimated that we have discov- Tupper was alluding to the paper upon "I am not. I say not only did you attempt to win her. That, sir, is the up as though about to speak, but the

> "I did. I went into the dining-room room, but as there was no light in her apartment, I concluded that she had While in the house, did you see locket?" "Before I answer that, may I ask about me at all times."

" Did you enter the house ?"

Lewis, are you not trying to get me again stopped her. Marvel promptly Mr. Tupper was a little confused at this direct question, and hesitated a moment before he replied :-"Mr. Lewis has been murdered, and ... there are suspicious circumstances with a cry of surprise and exclaimed Thus far, he would become desperate, and you "Do you know whose likeness this and then, with his eyes still intently which seem to implicate you. I are that decided to have his friend. We I would be the friend who implicate you are opportunity to vinupon her, he said, "Call Walter Mar- only giving you an opportunity to vin-"You are very kind," said Marvel, ly searched his other pockets, but with a smile. "but it seems to me that it is the other way, and that you are

simply hunting for the criminal. Now, if I admit that I saw Mr. Lewis that night, whether I killed him or not, strain without giving evidence of the that might be who saw him alive, and ment of the first might be Losed. Virginia Lewis was of this dence of guilt. I believe I have the kind. There is, however, in all probability, no force in nature that has not self, and I will not reply to the ques-"You are virtually admitting what, you seem to wish to deny, since if you had not met him there would be no you could see it?" reason for your hesitating to proclaim, "You are wrong. If I say that I did not see him, that will be giving you a

positive point. If I did not meet him. would be proof presumptive that did not fire the fatal shot. This might "It is your duty to tell everything that may lead to the discovery of the

"It is your business, not mine, to we can believe Miss Lewis, for it was Mr. Barnes could not but admire the man's cool logic under the trying cir- rible " flashed acreoss his mind that Marvel and Virginia were a well-matched pair. the importance of this latest develop-It piqued him somewhat to notice the ment, and how, by accidental circum

"I killed my uncle myself!" seemed to have completely recovered, "Where did you go when you left her self-control. It was a question in of grief. The latter remained almost the detective's mind whether Marvel as unmoved as Virginia herself. was shielding himself, or someone else. "Did you return to Epping

"How did you get there at that late "I walked. It is but five miles." "Five miles over a country road through the snow, and at night, is no Lewis' statement had subsided short walk, especially if one's clothing what, Mr. Tupper resum "Mine were dry, however." "Did you not say that you swam

"Yes, but after leaving the farm went to my own home and changed t "Then you walked to Epping ?" "Why did you go to Epping ?" "I expected a letter to reach me

there at that time." "Who was this obliging friend, and This corroborated the story told by self of murder?" Virginia bit her hip "I should say not, as I took the how did he know where a letter would young Harrison. At this point Bur- and was silent. "Before I left I told him where I paper, on which he suggested a questhe the stand again and repeat under oath examination he had been thinking of what you have just declared." not see him after you left him at the meant to go. It is immaterial who he tion. During the latter part of the and as Marvel claimed that he had the girl, scornfully. "You would not "I presume this was Mr. Everly, the story told by the station agent, Mr. been in Worcester it seemed like a stranger had come from that city. Mr. it." She stepped upon the platform Tupper next asked : "Mr. Marvel, will you tell us how this you were dressed on the night of your visit to the farm ?" "I wore a disguise that I bought in

Mr. Tupper had not quite understood he object of the question, but the rehe pursued the subject.

This answer gratified Burrows. "What did you do with the dis-Riverside and Wadley's Falls 'Yes, sir. I crossed the river again. as that is the shortest way from my "Mr. Marvel, did you ever see a me-

house to the Epping road. Mr. Tupper now sought information on another point. dallion locket owned by Miss Lewis which contains her portrait? Marvel coloured considerably at this question, and seemed confused. After a moment, however, he stammered out. "Y-e-s, sir, I have seen it. "When was the last time that you

the floor, seemed all anxiety. Marvel remained silent so long that Mr. Tupmeeting between us she would not do per at length repeated his question.

"Sit down, Miss Lewis, You must not interfere now." And she obeyed with a groan. Mr. Tupper turned to the witness, who was evidently amaz ed at this little episode, and resume, " I had my initials put on. " Precisely. Now let us return to the question. When did you last see this

cannot say exactly. I have it "Have you it now ?" Virginia made another movement as "Why certainly." "Please let me see It." Marvel at once put his hand in an inner pocket of his vest, but after a

ence for a moment, and Marvel rapidvain. At last it seemed that an idea "I am a fool and have been very had it with you that night?" " Did I not tell you that I have always had it with me since it has been

"Is this it?" He handed Marvel the locket given to him by Virginia. Mar-

" Miss Lewis found it ? Th was that this young girl, who had .

The thoughts of all were suddenly turbed by the voice of Virginia herse. who stood up defiantly, and with mark of strong resolve stamped up ber features. She spoke in measure only like an echo of her natural tones. "Stop!" said she. "This has gone "What do you mean?" asked the squire, quickly, foreseeing that some I startling development was at hand. I mean that you are wrongfully weaving a web around an innocent "Ah, then you know who is guilty. "I do! I killed my uncle myself! This statement naturally caused the

wildest excitement. present seemed not to be surprised These were Marvel himself and Mr smile of satisfaction, however, see that to play about her features. Bur who kept his eye intently on the face of his superior, while immenfact that Mr. Barnes had only heard what he had all along expected

"Miss Lewis," said he, "you have just made a most astounding conf. sion. But you may not know that v are not the first who has done so to-This being the case, ho we cannot but accept your words cau Do you mean that you doubt my veracity ?" "How can I be sure that you are telling the truth when you accuse your-

"Do you refuse to swear?" "Oh, no, since you make a point of

"She will stop at nothing Mr. Tupper asked "Do you still persist ment that you killed your uncle?"

When I returned from my meeting with Mr. Marvel, I attracted the notice but I should say about an nour. The me on the charge trumped up by Mr. he asked me where I had been.

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