flow a Woman Came to be the Ruln o Donald 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 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 him 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 I had the place of teller. I don't full of trouble for the remainder of the week 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. Comeron was at the ings with the bank, and then he treated her | depot to meet me and asked me to accompany 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 | Mr. Low, the Captain of a small vessel 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. against 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 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 pay two cents for breaking a pen holder; ed for the last time!" the janitor fell over his broom and had to pay ten cents for the broken handle, although he spliced and continued to use it for weeks. I tell you these things about Mr. Cameron not to slur his general character, but that you may thoroughly understand the sort of man he was.

ployees, no painting or papering, nothing | Stirling. a forged check for £200. It was a neat the banker £200 and the forged check. He | ere this. made no remark whatever, but at the end 'But the police-she can be tracked-I of the month he charged me up with the know he confederate-there may be time loss of interest on the money for thirty- | to stop them at Liverpool !" four hours. I made no protest, and that "Nay! Nay! I shall do nothing of the ended the affair. The forger might have sort. It would be ruin to me, even if I been caught, but Mr. Cameron had suffered got every dollar back. Come and count no loss, and he would have charged me the cash Andrew." January, and the beginning of my tenth value of loans and notes and bonds.

year with him. This one was about 25 years of age, richiy | the figures. dressed, and as handsome a woman as you would find in a week's travel. We learned | vault," he said as he lighted the way. after a bit that she was a Scotch Canadian | We were a safe deposit company or inwho had returned to the mother country to stitution, as well as a bank. Being the assert her claims to a large estate. I sup- only one for a long distance around, we had pose the object of her call was purely busi- many customers. Many had private boxes ness, but it had a queer effect on Donald and carried their own keys, but yet we had Cameron. You'll think it funny that a man as many as 150 packages, for which the 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 try- "Now Andrew, figure up the rents due ing to smile. When he attempted to pick up to this date," said Mr. Cameron as we up the routine business he was nervous and returned to the office. 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 say land, building, and belongings are 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 her case and were sure of success. A well- we have the best location in town Now, known estate was then in litigation, and | there's my land on the hill." 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, my board. Here is your salary for next though he would not have taken the note of | week, Andrew.' a millionaire for £10 without an endorser.

Within a month after the widow's appearance 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, out that we are shaky and brings a run. went to the barber to be shaved, and there | And why should the news get out? It is was such a change in his general demeanor known only to you and me. You have the about the office that the head bookkeeper, confidence of hundreds of good men, and who had been with him eighteen years, can raise all the money you want to go seriously thought of tendering his resigna- ahead on." tion. When a grocery man came into the bank one afternoon at 2 o'clock and solemn- dropped his chin into his hands and sat ly asserted that he had seen Donald Cameron | thinking for a long time. out riding with the Widow Stirling, the routine business was interrupted for fully and I'll almost guarantee her capture and twenty minutes. When the banker came | the return of the money." in half an hour before closing time, looking very happy and humming a tune, we were not speak for five minutes. Then he said : blood purifier known." Mrs. H. D. West, knocked so completely out that the book. "You can go now" I'll think it over. Church street, Cornwallis, N. S. keeper made the first mistake of his life in | Come at the usual hour on Monday morning.

very keen-looking, well-dressed man whom | by following which every depositor would be I took to be an American. Without any paid in full and beside them a notice to be management on my part I overheard enough | pasted on the front door that Monday mornof 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 a popular saying. "As honest as Donald | that I was from the town where the Cameron conspiracy afoot to victimize the banker, There were four employees in the bank, but my hands were tied. I not only had

him to the bank. He was not the man I While I fell into his ways after a bit and had left the week before. All his sternness

"The doors of this bank have been open-

"Why, what do you mean?" I asked. "Simply that I am a ruined man.

haven't £20 to my name!" "But the paid-in capital of the Cameron

bank is £20,000."

"And yet every pound of it is gone !" I sat for a time like one stunned by a For nine years there was but one break | blow. The Cameron bank has been noted in our routine. We reached the bank at a for its conservation. Its checks were as certain hour and moment, and generally good as gold all over Scotland and England. left just as promptly. Every one hung up | There had been no panic, and the failure of his hat and coat on the same book selected no other bank could drag it down. For at the start. There was no change in em- | the moment I had forgotten the Widow

new. The break occurred when I cashed "And the cause of your failure?" I asked. "That woman !" he quietly answered. piece of work, and I believe Mr. Cameron | "She has not only made a fool but a victim himself would have been duped. When I of me. By loans and forged drafts she has discovered that I had been bitten I handed | bankrupted me, and is out of the country

with lost time had I spent even five minutes | I opened the safe, and he assisted me to consulting with the police. This was in count the gold and bills. Then took the

"Now check all the deposits," he said as One day in May a strange lady called and I announced the figures on the above. I had a long interview with Mr. Cameron in | couldn't help but notice how nervous he his private office. It was only at rare inter- | was while I was engaged in this work, but vals that a strange lady entered our place. his face brightened up when I announced the vintage of other years, and command

"We will now overhaul the safe deposit

In about afteen 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

"About £1,000."

"A good guess, my lad. That will be about the true value under the hammer, for

"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 ananother £30. The hands are all paid up and I owe nothing for either pew rent or

"But-but what are you going to do, sir?" I stammered.

"Going away, my lad."

"But there is no need of that. You can

"That woman!" he whispered, as he

"Give me authority to go to the police,

He shook his head in a sad way and did

adding up figures, and my count of the I left him sitting in his chair, but as I funds on hand was wrong by nearly £100. | paused for a moment outside I heard him From May to September we were "stand- lock the door behind me. I was about a ing on our heads," as the saying is, and every | good deal on Sunday, but there was no gossip. 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 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 In 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.

Stirling in confidential conversation with a | There were some written instructions to me, two 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 tain of life-the blood-upon which all such police nor the public were ever told of the cause of failure, though many shrewdly Golden Medical Discovery. The makers of 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 horribly revolting as to be well-nigh incredible. The oldest woman is seized upon, dragged to a green-wood fire, and held with her mouth and nostrils over the smoke, while some of her relatives compress her throat until life becomes extinct. The body 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.

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 afterward kept on board as pilot, and eventually he was adopted by Mr. Low as his own son. Bob, during the eighteen months which he spent on board, learned to speak English fairly well, and one day during the course of ordinary conversation he gave an account of the horrible custom above described, which tallied in all particulars with the independent account given by Jemmy Button. Mr. Low's boy said that he had frequently been an eye witness of such scenes, and he imitated, for the delectation of his listeners, the shricks and groams of the unfortunate victims. He added that during such periods of extreme want the old women well knowing the fate in store for them, would hide themselves in the woods, but were quickly discovered and dragged toward the fire, begging for mercy from their inhuman relatives.

Unlike Jemmy Button, the boy Bob did not appear to regard such proceedings as in any degree reprehensible, being much surprised as well as hurt at the disgust which his story excited among the crew; so much so that he could never afterwards be induced to refer to the subject. I mentioned this account to the German Captain, and he assured me that it was perfectly accurate, and that, furthermore, to his own personal knowledge, the same horrible custom prevails at the present day. -[The Fortnightly Review.

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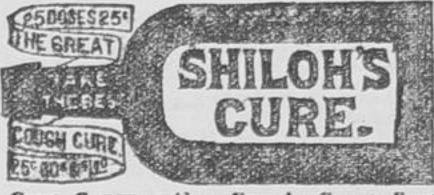
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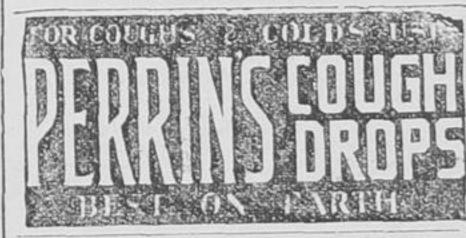
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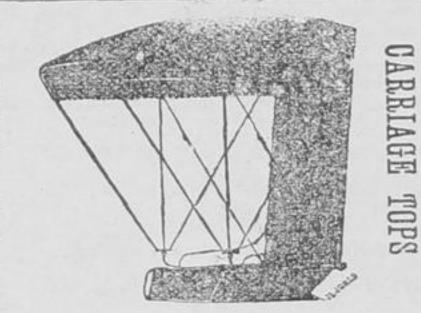
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