Not Guilty

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Or, A Great Mistake.

easily. "Why, he knows the house regiment, Sterrett. You can pay me nate, or most clever, of you. I thought you come?" where she is even; they have their hands back when you like, or-but we will you had gone long ago." on her! Buy him? Why, I would buy talk of that later on. Is it understood?" a hundred Sterretts to save her little | Sterrett rose, and with another salute, finger. Thank heaven, that it is this moved towards the door. "Quite underman, and that he can be bought."

locked up. It was impossible that he self, as the ex-corporal disappeared, could have guessed Gordon's thoughts, "that I had three hundred pounds! And think they went for you, sir?" he said, Lut probably his expression enlightened new for Mr. Gaunt." him, for he put down his knife and fork with a sigh of relief, and drawing himself up, apparently prepared for Gordon to speak.

"what use would you make of it?"

first. Where's it to come from? some one's pocket, I suppose. If it whereabouts. came, what would you do with it?"

"Go into the inquiry business, sir. It would suit me."

vate inquiry agency business?"

"Yes, sir. Take a little orfice and be show you." my own master. I'd do a lot for that." Gordon hesitaled a moment. "No more humbug, Sterrett," he said, at last, "what's your price?"

al! I wanted on three hundred pounds." past few hours, and in speculating upon long delay before he made use of the "And what have you got to offer?"

you selling?"

lor, here goes!"

and clearly. going to say, sir. It may be that I ner which was peculiar and rather un-It may be that I am wrong in my ideas. He edged a little towards the side of ing before him, so far as Gordon could ed woodland, provided, of course, that

and no harm done, I hope." I won't buy it. That's understood. Go movement and quickly nudged his com-

"Well, sir, you know this Regent Street of Gordon.

murder? "Yes."

affairs or his friends. But two of his tonville Road. friends were known, at least their names | Even while he looked and hesitated he were. A lady, a young lady, and a heard a little click to one side of him. gentleman, her father. When this mur- He guessed the meaning of the sound der came they went off. They had been instantly. One of the men had taken off staying at the Dorian Hotel, and then his belt. them. I was put on the job."

"Well?" "Well, I found 'em. At least, I found his belt. one of 'em. The young lady.'

ain't no doubt she's the one we want to fighter, but he had no weapons but his You was gone, sir, but I got my six- were slopped with buckwheat bran or nights in revelry, until presently this see, and there ain't no doubt she's fists, and these were at a terrible disad- pence changed all right and went out wheat bran mixed with water, making turn came to be "signed on." Then there."

"Well?" "Well, sir, I was here on business: I ticed skill. just dodging about, you know, sir, and He had knocked one man down, and that I knew one of the voices. I passed seeing if I could pick up anything, when he lay with his legs kicking helplessly as close as I could and took a peep, I saw you come to No. 42, and ask for in the gutter, but the other two were turning my head away so they shouldn't the young lady."

alsout."

up in."

affair?" That is, when we find her. In a man- ing a chance to descend. ner of speaking, we haven't found her, because I haven't reported yet."

"You won't find her, Sterrett."

"No, sir?" one else, for a week? I want a week." pearing suddenly at Gordon's side, said thing like: 'Well, you make straight for "A week, no, sir; nor a month either, | quietly, "Can you manage him, sir?" if she keeps quiet, and if I don't report. might call an accident my hitting on Sterrett!"

Sterrelt's strolls, and what they led to. after him. know that it much matters how I did and he staggered back into the roadway. didn't trouble about the Minden Lane with one cock there is always risk of grams per liter of citric acid the bacitit. I ain't left the force just yet, and—" "Now then, Bill Smith," said Sterrett, part of it, till now; then it struck me some eggs proving infertile. On an lus of cholera is killed in half an hour,

that all you know?" coming out of the house, and I came out !

think your office is all right, and per- impetus nearly rolled the fellow on to Minden Lane?" haps something more than the office, his head, but it helped him on his way, too It depends on you. Can I rely on and recovering himself, he sped nimbly

you?

- on you, sir?"

-1 311 advance you three hundred at the first sound of Sterrett's voice, but going down there alone at this time of for winter use in the hen house. Some am already engaged."

slood, sir," he said. As he reached this point, Sterrett "Thank heaven!" said Gordon to him- again, after a second or two.

CHAPTER XVII.

of money you speak of," said Gordon, warrant the night was dark. The street Smith, who was dodging about, waitin which he found himself was a small ing to get home with that belt of his, "Oh, lor, sir, I ain't likely to get it one, and badly lighted; and for a mo- could have had all you'd got on you ment he stood still looking about him, long before you'd done punching the "That's hardly the question; from and rather uncertain of his immediate other chap. But he was looking for a

passed him; and, making after them, he wasn't what they were playing for. inquired his way to Pentonville Road.

with him. suddenly hesitated. His mind was busy nizant of his knowledge. The gambler "Well, sir; I've calculated I could do engaged in reviewing the events of the would be aware that Gordon would not what he should say to Mr. Gaunt, but address; might he not even have guessed the long time in Rothville had trained that Gordon would go straight from the "Don't humbug, Sterrett. What are his senses to a high pitch of acuteness, hotel to Charles Street? If he were and his quick observation was always at playing the game which Gordon suspect-"Welll, sir, I don't quite know-but, work even when his brain was engaged ed him of playing, Gordon's communicain other pursuits. It had suddenly tion with both Mr. Gaunt and his daughdon's, and bending down spoke low between the two men at his side, and him. Was it possible that he had upon such soil it will invariably thrive, that there was an air of tension and "You mustn't take offence at what I'm watchfulness in their walk and man-

If so, you must tell me, and I'll clear out, the pavement away from them, and instinctively buttoned up his coat.

"Certainly. If you've nothing to sell, The man nearest to him noticed the panion, who slepped to the other side

Gordon looked round him. He had let the men lead him on a little way "There was a gentleman murdered in without taking much heed of the road his own rooms; not for robbery, but for they went, and he saw that they were some reason which no one knew any- now in an almost deserted part of the thing about. There was nothing much town; one of the narrow, badly-lighted known about this gentleman or his crescents which lead off from the Pen-

they disappeared. It seemed likely they | "Hooligans!" he thought, and quick might tell us something we might like as lightning he sprang out into the midto know, and we started looking for die of the road, but even as he did so la third man appeared from the opposite side, and struck savagely at him with

one wound,

you stayed some time, and thinks I, you the swing of the belt, he seized him by he won't do.' must be a friend of the young lady's, the throat. "The other one will do for and this business may be a very unplea- me now," he thought rapidly, "but I quickly, sant one for a young lady to be mixed will give this one something he won't

punching him with his disengaged hand, "Oh, no, sir; we don't know any- but he heard the third man's hurried locked like a toff." thing about that yet; but the young lady | breathing almost on his shoulder and may have to prove she hadn't, sir. felt that the deadly belt was only wait-

a thud in the roadway.

like you, Bill, and I'll give you a two together.'

down the road without a word.

"Yes, sir; quite sir. And I can rely on Sterrett gazed after him for a mo-

helpless in the road.

Gordon and Sterrett leaned over him and looked at him, and the ex-corporal smiling. "And I don't suppose it will be loaded down with germ life. You with a grunt arose again.

"He'll do in a minute or two. He's coming around. We'll leave him to him-

ought to be punished," he said. "It won't do to let such brutes off scot on?

ain't hurt badly, are you?"

"He must know a let," he thought un- glad to help anyone belonging to my old turned up, Sterrett. It was most fortu-

"Yes, sir," replied Sterrett, but to Road. which remark Gordon did not know. "But, really, I don't see why the brutes should go, Sterrett," Gordon said

Sterrett hesitated. "Why do you

"The usual thing, robbery, I suppose." "I don't, sir. Why, if they had wanted your watch and chain, or your money, they would have had them long before "And if you had this money—this bit When Gordon passed out of the res- I hit that chap down there. Why, Bill chance to knock you out. They might

"The inquiry business? Oh, the pri- "Right you are, guy-nor, we're just He remembered Usher's attempt just appearance. Humus or decomposed going there," said one of the two. "I'll now upon his life, after he had suc- vegetation is an essential element in ceeded in getting the letter which con- productive soils. It improves the tex-Gorden thanked him, and turned along tained Vivienne Gaunt's address. He ture so that the soil is better able to still had that letter; he knew the young retain heat moisture and plant food. They had not gone far when Gordon girl's whereabouts, and Usher was cogter would be highly exasperating to best adapted to new land. Indeed,

> affair of the revolver? distinguish in the darkness, with a the location and mechanical condition

blank, expressionless face. "And what could they want to knock

me out for?" he asked quietly. Sterrett shook his head. know, sir." he said. "Do you happen to know a street called Minden Lane?" Gordon started. "Minden Lane. Yes,

i do. What about it?" "Might it be anything to do with that,

Gordon stared at him with an unpossible that this man had discovered frequently a crust will form on the known and dreaded of all skippers the whereabouts of Vivienne's father, surface, or the soil become baked, trading to the Pacific ports. His in-"I don't know, Sterrett," he said, "but up.

you are a most extraordinary fellow. What on earth do you know about Minden Lane, and how do you come to

know about it?" Sterrett allowed what was almost a

smile to cross his unexpressive face. "Well, sir, I don't mind telling you. clever. It ain't cleverness that gives us ground from corn, rye and oats. They an up-to-date palace hotel and a medirapid glance at the first man. They most of our chances. It's just accident were also given all the hay they could eval Oriental harem. Here, before the "Yes, sir. At No. 42, Charles Street." were upon him already, and in a second and dodging about. When I went out leat. The cows were kept in the barn- earthquake levelled it to the ground, a', three were slashing at him silently. of the restaurant just now, I found that yard day and night with an open shed "Jack," was decoyed, and given the "Oh, yes, sir. That's sure enough. Gordon had, fortunately, not been the waiter had given me a bad six- to go under when it stormed and were time of his life for a week or so. His Miss Gaunt, the young lady is. There taken by surprise, and he was a good pence, and I went back to change it. fed cornstalks and hay for fodder and days were spent in carousing, his vantage against the cruel buckles which again. When I got a little way down a "slop," which was so thin that the a heavy dose of laudanum-loaded rum his opponents swung with such prac- the street I passed two men talking to- cow could almost drink it. Sometimes was given him, and next day he woke gether at a corner; and it struck me a little chop was added to make it rich- up to find himself at sea, with three pressing him hard, and he felt the blood | see me. But, as it happened, they were "You weren't there. There was no one trickling down his face from more than too busy talking to notice. The chap whose voice I heard was a bad lot, sir; airy, talking to the cook. Well, sir, ly at the nearest ruffian, and escaping us, I can tell you—and there ain't much dry the cows would have been obliged for turning out bogus sailors. Old,

"Ah!" "Well, I couldn't wait to listen, they would have precious soon tumbled to But to his surprise nothing happened, me, but I just caught a few words as I and suddenly he heard a cry and then passed:. It was Jeff who said them, and they sounded like 'He's all right; he's His own antagonist gave a groan and gone on, and they're after him.' And "No. But the question is, will any ceased to struggle, while a man ap- then I thought the other one said some-

Minden Lane. "Rather," said Gordon cheerily, "but I | "I know Jeff pretty well, and I guessed You see, sir, it was quite what you think he's had enough. Why, it's you, there was trouble where he was concerned. Someone having gone on in her. I was just taking a stroll one "Yes, sir, it's me. But who's this front, and 'they' being after, smelled to you've got here? Oh, Bill Smith, it's me very like trouble for someone, and Gordon smiled, as he remembered you, is it? Let him go, sir; I'll look I look a stroll down the street in case for the season, hence one gobbler will serves its reputation. Monsieur Riegel, I might happen to see what was going suffice for twenty or more hens.

"And?" he said. "Well, sir, I dont Gordon released the half-choked man, on Then I heard you going it, sir. I

"That's nearly all, sir. I thought you chance, besides, you've had a hiding al- "Like most wonderful things, it's very might like to hear it, when I saw you ready. This gent hils hard. You clear simple when it's explained, Sterrett. on and the chickens and poultry are perishes in five minutes and the fy-But I am very grateful to you for turn- more closely housed, clean out your phoid bacillus in two hours. after you. No harm done, I hope, sir " And seizing the amazed Bill by his col- ing up when you did. And now you chicken houses, give the roosts, walls "There's some good, I daresay, Sier- lar and giving him a twist around he have just possibly done me a greater rell. I am very glad you did come. I sent him flying with a hearty kick. The service still. Tell me, do you know

> "Down by Jamrack's, sir?" "Yes."

"Yes, sir, I know it."

"Then tell me my quickest way to get ment, and then turned to look around there at once. I have no time to lose." "Certainly. If you come to my place him. The man Gordon had knocked "Your best way would be to take the greatly diminished. te-morrow-I will give you my address down first had recovered and vanished Tube from the 'Angel,' sir; but you ain't

+++ the victim of the ex-corporal's stick lay night? It's a bad part of London for- writers advocate the use of road-dust. for a gentleman."

worse than a night at Rothville." "It won't be so bad, sir, we'll hope; on this question. The main thing is but if you'll excuse me, sir, I'll come

along, too, if you don't mind." Gordon laughed. "I am not quite sure Gordon stared. "But the scoundrels if I want you, Sterrett," he said. "I am not quite sure yet which side you are

"Well, sir, in a manner of speaking," Sterrett shook his head. "Better let said Sterrett, "I might say I was on the 'em go, sir," he said. "You don't want side that pays me best, and that's you. to go giving evidence against 'em. You Of course, that is, so long as there's nothing illegal going on."

Gordon rubbed himself all over, and | "I don't think there will be anything wiped away the blood from his face. | illegal," said Gordon, "and if there is, I No, I am not hurt much," he said. expect I shall have to pay you more, be given a little extra food. "They never got a real blow in, luckily. that's all," he continued to himself. pounds to start your office with. I am But they would have done if you hadn't "But," he said out loud, "I shall certain- strength of the ewes in the spring de-

And they turned into the Pentonville

To be continued).

CROPS ADAPTED TO NEW LANDS.

New land because of the large quan-Presently two men, walking slowly, have robbed you afterwards, but that tity of vegetable matter it contains is exceedingly locse. The leaf mold also Gordon thought deeply for a little. gives the soil a dark color and fertile

New land is so aerated that usually crops growing on it suffer much from lack of moisture. It will generally produce a good growth of stalk but the yield of grain will be poor. If not overlaken by a severe drought the fodder will likely grow to a good size while the ears will be small and faulty. Among the grasses clover seems this attack was but the sequel to the may be difficult or impossible to secure à stand.

of the soil are suitable. For vegetable growing new land is very desirable, Gedart, who made so sensational an not only because of its comparative escape at Falmouth, England, the other "I don't freedom from foul growth, but because day from the vessel on board of which such soils contain a large supply of he had been illegally lured, was, it organic nitrogen, the most necessary now transpires, the victim of one of It is light and porus, thereby enabling "Shanghai Johnson," of San Francisthe tender sprout after germination to |co. more readily push its feeble form This "King of the Kidnappers," as he canny feeling of amazement. Was it through the surface. Upon old land has been not inaptly christened, is thereby preventing seed from coming fluence extends from Asia to Magellan

WET OR DRY FEED.

An old method of feeding cows and the whole of the shipping of Mazatworking oxen was to feed about half lan, an important Mexican port. a bushel to each of cut straw wet with | The principal boarding-house at Sanwater and mixed with chop or meal Francisco was a sort of cross between er. It was fed in swill pails and months' "advance wages" to be worked wooden boxes, and the cows did well off.

compass or compadt heap, whereas taining to true seamanship they were, ; meal or contracted food should be fed of course, totally ignorant. ir such a manner as to fill the stomach se the organs of digestion can easily lay hold upon it.

POULTRY NOTES.

When geese have plearly of room they do best when allowed to forage and select their own food provided always that there is plenty of grass.

sufficient.

and roof a thick coaling of whitewasn and then with your sprayer spray every-

Good poullrymen says this is undesir-"I am certainly going," said Gordon, able because it lacks vitality and is are at liberty to have your own views! to provide the dirt. The hen needs her dust bath, and if she is deprived of it she will not do her best. A little insect powder or mite destroyer scattered in the dust will help keep the hens free from lice. Many poultry raisers prefer ashes for the dust bath.

MUTTON CHOPS.

Ewes that are safely in lamb should

The quality of the lambs and the

The demand for lembs in midwinter

is growing rapidly. The supplying of these lambs is a high art branch of sheep breeding, and is well worth the attention of persons who are adapted to the business. Dry beds are indispensable to sheep.

A damp pen will invite all kinds of

Dry cold is health for sheep; wet or

damp is death. A feed trough with a wide bottom is always preferable. The grain is then thinly spread over the bottom and the sheep must eat it slowly in consequence.

A bushel of mangolds or turnips a day for forty ewes is an excellent appetizer to supplement the other food. Any ewes in your flock that will not bear lambs this season- Weed them out and get them off to market.

A good many farmers still follow the practice of feeding their sheep on the ground out of doors. It is a costly way of doing. Not many of us can afford it, and none of us ought to afford

Lumber is high in price, but hay and grain is higher. A few boards will make a good rack for feeding out of. Put a tight bottom in these racks and save grain. In arranging for the winter quar-

ters the flock should be divided according to age, size, etc. Not more than twenty-five or thirty should be kept in one pen.

A KING OF KIDNAPPERS.

He looked at Sterrett, who was star- Fruit of all kinds do well upon clear- Notorious "Shanghai Johnson," of San Francisco.

The "shanghaied" Russian sailor and expensive of vegetable fertilizers. The many agents of the notorious

Straits, and no vessel is safe from his machinations. He has been known to steal entire crews, and on one occasion, as an act of revenge, he laid up

But Johnson's pet enterprise was his It may be objected that the mess "Seaman's Training College," as he was eaten too fast to produce the best grandiloquently called it. This was results—that if the feed had been given nothing more nor less than a factory to eat it more slowly, and the saliva broken-down tramps were lured to the "And the other?" asked Gordon from the mouth would have become "college," and there transformed in a mixed with it, which is supposed to few days into very good imitation sea-"I don't know, sir; and what's more, aid digestion. There is not much men. That is to say, their hands were I couldn't see him. It was more know- doubt that animals will do better when roughened with pumicestone soaked in "But, great heavens, you don't think He had a good grip of the man's ing Jeff's voice that made me recognize obliged to eat their meal slowly than walnut juice, they were clothed in sailshe had arything to do with the the throat, and he squeezed it tight while him, for it was nearly pitch dark. But when allowed to gobble it down hast ors' togs plentifully daubed with tar, the other was a tall, thinnish man, ily in slop. In either case the meal and they were taught a smallering of lies in the animal's stomach in a small salt-water lingo. But of everything per-

> Many a good ship has been lost, owing to her skipper having been palmed off with one of Shanghai Johnson's counterfeit crews.

SUNSHINE AND LEMONADE,

The hygienic qualities of lemonade have long been popularly celebrated, A single union of male and female and recent scientific research shows fertilizes all the eggs the hen will lay that this pleasing summer drink dewriting in the Archives of Hygiene, If too many hens are allowed to run says that in a lemonade containing six "I understand," replied Gordon. "Is "there'll be trouble about this. But I that you might be able to put two and average one cock to a dozen hens is and that of typhoid in 24 hours. But Now that the bad weather is coming with sunshine, the cholera bacillus

He adored her, but his pride was thing with kerosene. If once a flock has | very great. "Elsie," he faltered, "do become thoroughly infected with lice in you love me?" Above the boom of the the fall it is next to impossible to era- sea her voice sounded clear and colds dicate them during the winter when "No," she said. "No, Mr. Mannering," they will be mostly valued, will be He laughed unpleasantly. "Well," his said. "I feared you did, that was all, Provide a liberal supply of fine earth and I just wanted to warn you that I