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"Yes," cried my friend Amory, as he rose to go, "the whole world is run by chance, and no one can make me think differently."

We had been spending an evening at whist, and now that the game was over, we four had enjoyed a social cigar before separating.

The talk had turned upon serious matters, and Amory, an Agnostic, had advanced his favorite theory that everything was governed by chance

Clark, who had studied for the ministry, but was now in business, had combated with him for a vigorous halfhour, and as the night was old, and we were about to part, it was evident from Amory's last remark that he had ed customers living at a distance. not been convinced.

"For myself," said I, also rising, "I have listened to you both, and have said nothing; but if you will come to my rooms to-morrow night, I agree to tell you a story that bears upon the matter, and then you can better decide which theory is the right one."

Street, Lower Town. Office hours from It was agreed, and the next night, after a little supper, my three friends settled themselves about my open fire have her. But it's right that everyand told me to begin.

"You will remember my brother-inlaw, Merriam, of the navy? Well, thirteen years ago he was in Paris, on leave. He had a good-looking, smart valet, for he knew but little of the customs of the country, and needed some one to assist him, and he thought he had a most desirable ser-DARRISTER, Solicitor, etc. Office over vant, until one night he woke to see the feliow at his cash-box, with a dark lantern at one side. Any amount of money to loan at 5 per cent.

"Ned did not wait, but springing from his bed he seized the man, and they had a hand-to-hand struggle in DARRISTER, Solicitor, etc. McIntyres the dark, for the lantern was overturn-Agency promptly attended to. Searches made | ed the first thing.

"Merriam is of good size, and it was evident that he was about overpowering the valet when the fellow stabbed him and slipped from his grasp out of the door and escaped. The wound was not a bad one, and as he had in turn given the thief a good pounding he did not follow.

"Upon examining his cash-box, he found that the man had only taken some two hundred francs and a handsome meerschaum pipe that he had recently bought, and feeling himself a stranger in a strange land, he concluded to call the matter square and for half that time not go to the police at all, which conclusion he followed, and never saw his valet in France again.

"When he returned home, naturaled to loan any amount of money on real ly he told of the experience and described the pipe to me, as it was a curious one, and seemed to be the thing that he most regretted losing.

"It was a Turk's head, small, and with flowing hair and beard, with the mouth open, as if laughing, and in the back of the mouth the artist had inserted one small, gold tooth that could only be seen if you knew where to look for it.

"It was just the sort of thing a naval officer would fancy and spend his money for, and, as I say, it was the one article that Ned most seemed to miss by the robbery.

"Five years after the occurrence that I have related, an old client of mine introduced to me a gentleman one day by the name of Dupray. He was a Frenchman, who had come to England to engage in business, and in some that, next to cancer, scrofula is one way had become acquainted with Mr.

"Leroy was a merchant, rich, queer, and with no family but his daughter. Now, this daughter, strangely enough was entirely opposite to her father. taken internally cured Rev. Wm.

"He was homely, she was beautiful; but one, and in that I upheld her wherein gleamed a single small, gold against her father, and to his dis- tooth. would die. Now Mr. H. H. Forest, Windsor Mills, P.Q., states his case

"She wanted to marry a young man who was a doctor in a neighboring town, while her father desired that she should make a grand match with some one who should rase her from the level on which she was born.

"No amount of argument on my part as an old friend, could change Leroy, it?" and the subject had been dropped between us, but I knew that Marcia, for so the daughter was named, seldom the pipe to me, replying: saw her lover, and then only in secret, and that the father waited his chance to capture a rich, or at least, a high- I think it rather a curio in its way born, son-in-law at the first oppor-

odors in her tiny domain. A strong pine in a few moments announced to me in Paris.' packing box has been firmly screw- that the Frenchman was in love with ed to the outside of the window. The his daughter, and would marry her if stant.

"The Frenchman was willing to settar paper. The sides are perforated by the on her all the property that her a thief? holes an inch in diamter, to carry off father might leave her, so that he was odors and steam. On the lower shelf of not after her fortune.

ed to the main pipe through a hole said the old merchant, rubbing his bored in the window sash. This allows hands; 'comes of one of the old familthe window to be closed during the lies, and has plenty of money. I think cooking of the closed during the lies, and has plenty of money of fit cooking. On the upper shelf are the that we shall make a good thing of it

"'Well, I suppose she will, of course, if you demand it,' said I, knowing how strong was his control over her, and wondering whether she had given the young doctor up. What does she

as you know; but she's as stubborn and Merriam, home unexpectedly on

as her old daddy. She refuses, unless I can produce what she calls proofs of the high standing of Dupray, and he has sent to France for the papers.' "I thought for a moment, and then

"'Was the wedding to have been at once, before she made this demand?" "'That's it, I wanted her to have him, and he wanted her at once, for we were to go to the Continent togeth-

er-and make the wedding trip a sort of business trip, too. But-confound it-you know the girl, and she has simply backed out until the papers come. It's all right, though, and in two weeks the matter will be arranged.' "I cognitated a little, and then

"'Better have the settlement drawn while you are waiting. I suppose you intend to give Marcia everything, and day!" " you might make the will, and then have Dupray sign the settlement, or at least have it all drawn up so that it can be signed when the time comes. I am free to tell you that I want to draw that paper, for while your foreign son-in-law may be the best fellow in the world, and willing to promput British law about his neck, so that he will have to keep his promise byand-by if he should want to change

his mind.' "The old man laughed. "'I knew you were always in favor of that young doctor, and he's a good enough fellow, but now that a better man has come along and wants, my girl, and she is willing, he's going to thing should be done in proper form, and I'll bring Dupray down in a day or two and we'll fix the things up.'

"Three days later, one afternoon, Leroy and the Frenchman came into the office. Dupray wass as polite as one lation to the papers to be executed; but, somehow as I began to write, I felt that he was not friendly with me, and that he laid it at my door that these papers were being brought to a head so certainly before the marriage.

"You may be sure that when that idea took possession of my mind, I was stubborn enough to determine that the papers should be drawn and signed that day; and when Leroy propossmoke, I said:

"'No, smoke here; and then when I want you to sign I shall not have to run after you.' "And they sat down again.

"Leroy took out some cigars, and offered one to the Frenchman and one declined, saying that he preferred a ed to fill and light it.

contracting parties. out of the money, I felt pleased to think that it was so, and perhaps my face showed a trace too much of that

"As I began to read, the man replaced his pipe in his mouth, and from time to time blew clouds of soft, aromatic smoke in my face,; but as I was a smoker myself, I determined not to allow this to disconcert me, as I had no doubt he intended it to do, but read steadily on. When an agreement had been covered, I would pause and look at Leroy for his approval, then con-

tinue to read "At one of these pauses, for no known reason, my eyes turned upon the pipe held loosely in the Frenchafter many prominent physicians he was queer and rough, she was one man's hand as he sat listening at my of the sweetest women that I ever had side, and my heart leaped into my very the good fortune to meet; he wanted | mouth as I saw that it was a Turk's Crewson's Corners, Ont., perman- everything his way, and she was will- head, small and with flowing hair and ently, when everyone thought she ing to do his will in every particular beard, with an open, laughing mouth,

"It was the pipe that my brother-inlaw had described to me as having been stolen by his valet.

"'May I see your handsome pipe?" said I, extending my hand, while my eyes studied the face of the Frenchman. 'It certainly is a beautiful one, and very odd. Where did you find

"For an instant the fellow hesitated; his mouth twitching, then he handed

"'I purchased it in Paris some years ago, from a friend who imports them. "'It surely is,' I said, 'for I never

"A few days after my first meeting saw but one like it, and that belonged with Dupray, Leroy came to my office to a naval officer, Lieutenant Merin a most merry frame of mind, and riam. It was stolen from him, I think "The man's face flamed in an in-

"'What !' he cried, 'do you accuse me of stealing this pipe? Do you call me

"As he spoke the door of the outer "'He's a fine man, too, Hamilton,' office swung slowly open, and a man group. I looked up in surprise, but before I could speak, the newcomer "'No, Felix, he does not; but I do.

This is my pipe, and this is the man who stole it from me five years ago! And with a quick motion he seized the article in question. 'And now will you kindly call the police?

"It was unnecessary. With a single, startled curse, the Frenchman "'That girl's the apple of my eye, fled before I could rise from my chair,

a laugh, saying: "'How I frightened that rascal!

What was he doing here?" "'Only some business with my friend, Mr. Leroy, here, said I, with a meaning look at the old merchant; failed through the wrong rope breakbut I think we are well rid of him, ing. In the third attempt the machine and shall not seek to follow him. Was had traversed 200 years, and attained it not strange that you should have an altitude of between 40 feet and 50 happened to come in at the very mo- feet, and was beginning to descend ment when I had told him that the when a derangement occurred. The appipe was similar to the one which you paratus was precipitated to the

rupted Mr. Leroy, but an act of Pro- poor aeronaut, entangled among the vidence direct to prove to me that I cordage, the framing and the silk, had am an old fool, and to save my girl. both legs fractured and his skull con-Hamilton, you may tear those papers tused, so that he never recovered conup. My Marcia will marry the man of sciousness and died on Monday mornher choice, if she marries at all. Good- ing.

Travelled 200 Yards and 60 Feet When the Machine Collapsed.

Mr. Percy S. Pilcher, a young Engise everything now, I am going to lish inventor, has just met his death, like the German, Otto Lilienthal, to elevate the fore end, which supthrough the collapse of a flying ma- ported the weight of the man, it sudchine. He was only 30 years of age, denly pointed earthward and fell had been an officer in the Royal Navy, feet. There are other hypotheses put and, for some time, had been Mr. Hir- forward to explain the accident in deam, S. Maxim's assistant in his ex- tail; after considering them all, we periments in aerial navigation, Mr. think what is here stated is what did Pilcher had already made several machines, on the lines worked upon by Lilienthal, before the one that proved fatal to him, and had worked out plans for propelling them by oil engines. His experiment was made at could ask, and yielded a quick consent Lord Braye's country place near Marto all the suggestions I made with re- ket Harborough, in the presence of several persons, and demonstrated, though at the cost of his life, that in Engineering.

propulsion of the machine was effect- efforts should be made to endeavor ed by a line dragged by a running to reduce the number of accidents to writing, while they went and had a horse, with a losing purchase to gain railway servants." No specific reproach velocity. The experimenter at first ran, is made against the railway companies, carrying the soarer, and as the velo- whose opposition led to the withdrawcity increased he was elevated along al of the Couplings bill of last session. with the soarer. He had command of The statistics are allowed to tell their a life rope which he could slip if ne- own tale. Last year no fewer than cessary and then soar down to the 2,293 men were killed or injured while smoke and work, and the Frenchman ground. The source consists of two engaged in shunting operations. Shunstrong wind-like concave membranes ters invariably stand at the head of pipe, produced from his inside pocket of spinnaker silk, called aeroplanes, the tables of railway mortality. For edge of these is slightly raised, to in- every 15 employes one was injured, a handsome meerschaum, and proceed- stretched on cane frames. The fore "Remember that this was more than sure lifting force when advancing. In while the proportion of killed was one five years since my brother-in-law had addition there is a smaller tail plane, in 197. The number of passengers told me of his foreign experience, and also framed on cane, with a contrary killed in train accidents was only 25, I doubt if I had thought of it even slope to be really a rudder, but act- while the proportion of killed to the ing in the vertical plane. There were number who travelled was about one "Well, the two men smoked and I six cordage guys from the upper edge in 7,000,000. A singular feature of the wrote, but all the time with that un- of the tailpiece to the heads of two year's mortality, was the number of easy feeling that sometimes comes masts, which rose from the framed suicides which were committed on the when you are not in accord with your body of the soarer. When in flight railway. As many as 126 persons surroundings, and it was with satis- the legs and body of the aeronaut were chose this method of quitting life. faction that after an hour I complet- quite free, and his weight was suped the first draft of the paper and laid ported on his elbows only. The proper down my pen to read it to the high lengths of the guys for the tailpiece were determined and fixed unalter-"As I turned in my chair with the ably before leaving the ground, and The reformed prize fighter, who was agreement in my hand, Leroy threw any modification of slope required dur- conducting a Sunday School concert, away the stub of his third cigar, while ing flight was effected by the aeron- rose to announce a duet. the Frenchman removed his pipe from aut muscularly altering the position The next event, he said, will be a his lips and drew nearer to me to iis- of his centre of gravity in relation to little go between Miss Clarissa Bond ten carefully to the legal bars that the soarer. The weight of the man and Miss Virginia Purdy, entitled. he knew I was preparing to keep him and the vertical pressures on the aero- Consider the Lilies. Time!

leave, turned to grasp my hand, with plane and on the upward tail formed a continuously balanced, but also continuously varying set of forces, and all the time there was the horizontal pull of the propelling rope.

"On Saturday two attempts to start lost? At lucky chance, I call it- ground, the fore edge striking and en-"'No, sir, it was no chance,' inter- tering the soil and turning over. The

"What really occurred is supposed to be that, desiring to descend, Mr. Pilcher shifted himself forward to depress the fore edge of the aeroplanes, and a greater surface of the tail was thus suddenly exposed more directly to the force of the air. The soarer being still under propulsion, the increased pressure on the tail broke the tail guy cords, and there being now no force without resistance through about 30

Proportion of People Killed Upon English Railways.

A pious hope is expressed at the close of the annual report of the British Board of Trade of railway accidents, that the recommendations of his machine could be started from the the Royal Commission, which is now ground and would stay up in the air considering the subject of automatic for a time. A description of the ap- couplings and kindred matters may paratus and of the accident is given | " do much to satisfy the desire often expressed during recent years, both "In the soaring experiments the in and out of Parliament, that the best

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