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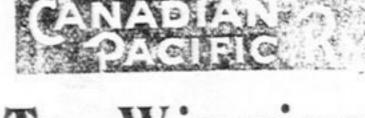
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The Lash of **Gircumstance**

Harry Irving Greene Author of "Yosonde of the Wilderness"

Supplied Exclusively in Canada by The British & Colonial Press Service,

The next morning another strange thing had happened. I was dressing for the day at my customary hour for arising, when suddenly the housekeeper's knuckles fell upon the door in a series of nervous taps. She almost never came to the upper floor before the breakfast hour, and therefore searched her face with some curiosity as I told her that she might enter. She immediately burst forth

in an excited volley. "Oh, Mr. Tom, the house has been burglarized again in the night. What on earth are we coming to with such people prowling all around in the GEO. SPOTTON - PRESIDENT darkness? I never was so frightened in my life. I declare I nearly fell in a faint when I discovered it. Please come with me and I will show you. Dumfoundedly, and with my necktie still dangling from my hand, I followed her squat figure as she climbed down the front stairs, waddled through the dining-room and kitchen and then, one foot at a time, descended the steep stairs that led to the New Pumps, Pump Re- basement. There was only one door entering from the outside into these pairs, Cement Curbing or lower regions, and that was never used-in fact, had been bolted ever since my occupancy of the premises. through which the coal supply was George Whitmore through which the coal supply was dumped from the drive into the bin which was always carefully locked after such an operation, and the low windows which admitted light to the furnace room had fixed iron bars on the outside. The police, LeDuc and myself had gone over this region thorthe gratings disturbed; the dust and the rust had proven that beyond contention. Now, to my amazement. I saw that the door had been forced by some powerful instrument that had torn the receiving socket for the bolt bodily from its fastenings. My hair arose with a cold tingling of my scalp, much as it might have done had I been suddenly confronted by some uncanny object in the dead of

"And the door at the head of the stairs which leads from here into the kitchen, was that disturbed?" I asked her, as my first sensations faded. She was panting from excitement and the

haste of her movements. "No, the door was locked and just as I left it last night with the key still on the inside. He could not have gone up higher than the head of the basement stairs. I just happened to remember that I had left a broom down here yesterday, and when came down after it I noticed this door right away. Who on earth do you suppose could have done it?" She was wringing her hands weakly, the

Abner as usual. But an hour later

his reply for perhaps 30 seconds.

night-the thunder awoke me. It is

not unreasonable to assume that some

about my daily work.

own. You look surprised. That's the way I felt when I first found this out." ruminated. "But certainly he perspiration of nervousness popping would not be fool enough to openly from her forehead. and notoriously and under our very Being in total darkness myself, noses begin the use of money dishonmade no attempt to enlighten her as estly obtained almost the day after I carefully examined the place. Outthe commission of a crime of which side of the scanty supply of coal that he knows he has not absolved himself remained from last winter's supply, of?" I cried. LeDuc looked at me the basement contained little save an accumulation of odds and ends and an old chest of mine that contained articles that I had stored away years before. However, I still retained the you are dealing with criminals you

"That is what almost anyone would think under first impulse. But when case of Catarrh that cannot be cared by Hall's key to it, and I now opened it and must remember that they do not reaa minute scrutiny the articles within liberty in his hand and commits a it had remained untouched since I had desperate crime, he is of necessity last placed them there, and satisfied more or less regardless of conseagain without having as yet received strong pressure. And in nearly all the faintest ray of light to assist my cases it is because of this recklesssearch. I must have spent at least ness that we catch him. He may comhalf an hour in my examination of the mit the crime i tself with a skill and place, and my questions of the house- caution that is almost more than hukeeper, but at the end of that time, man, yet the next day, is apt to go was compelled to give up with abso- out and do something so foolish that lutely nothing learned that I had not it instantly attracts attention to him. known to start with. Another thing For instance, having had no money that perplexed me somewhat was as before he now begins to spend it to whether or not I should inform my lavishly; or becoming under the inuncle of this new crime. I did not fluence of liquor, boasts or lets things see that anything would be gained by drop that sound queer. If it were not Winniped telling him, while it would most cerfor these peculiarities of the criminal tainly agitate him and lead to further make-up, and the fact that he genleave him in ignorance of it, and re- man, who betrays him, the road of the quested Mrs. Tebbetts to do the same. criminal would be comparatively safe I also decided to see LeDuc and get and that of the detective an unhappy his opinion on the matter, and repair- one.'

manner of a nursery dragon.

astonished, and told him so.

on his operations under some name

which does not sound at all like his

ing the outraged doors as best I could "But I cannot believe that there is with hammer, boards and nails, and anything crooked about Bruce. Desoothing the housekeeper by my as- ceit is foreign to his whole nature." surances that the incident was a triv- My friend thrust one hand in his iality to which she need pay no fur- pocket.

ther attention, I went upstairs and . "Does he ever smoke cigarettes?" sat down to my breakfast with Uncle he smiled.

"Frequently."

"Any particular brand?"

when I had reached my office I tele phoned the detective with the request I paused to reflect. "I think so. As tion with a serrated gilt band for a He met me at luncheon, and I et mouthpiece. What is your reason for plained the matter to him without asking me that?" He withdrew his prelude. He looked serious minded as hand from beneath the table and I finished. "What do you think of it?" tossed a half-smoked specimen of the I asked. In his abstraction he delayed species which I had been describing on the table before me. I looked at

"It seems peculiar. But I am more him inquiringly. inclined to consider it as a separate "I found that in the hallway of your and distinct offence rather than as house near the closet where your unan aftermath of the original happen- cle had been confined. Perhaps you ing. Further than that I don't be noticed at the time that I picked up lieve I have any theory to advance as something that I did not show you." pays.

yet. However, it may all come out Silently I sat trying to read his may look upon it in this light. If I shades were drawn. remember, we had a sharp shower last

back-yards prowler, caught in the Duc, the stock which I had margined building. storm, may have forced his way in began that series of kangaroo leaps stock in that explanation, and so in- terest, watched the marvel. I proba- week after money. Taxes are high him for guidance will soon beformed him, I added, that being in a bly called my broker up not less than this year causing a murmur from come bewildered and benighted. receptive mood, I would file it in my half a dozen times a day during this the farmers. mind for future reference, and then period, and i' 's seldom indeed that

ting skyward in the eccentric gs with which a kite mounts in a gale, and within a fortnight I found myself richer by thousands added to thousands. The glittering heights of fortune seemingly hung close over me; the end of the rainbow with its great bag of gold was within mathematical striking distance; and taking

.If an hour before. It

greater chances than ever for the sake of greater gains, I plunged wildly as I restaked my winnings on every throw. And day by day the Midas touch was mine, and I won, won, won. Then, grown money reckless by my constant success, I permitted myself another piece of extravagance for the allurement of the woman I loved and the greater opportunities it would give me began interrogating him as to his own to be with her. I bought a handsome movements since we had last fore- motor-car upon which I had had my gathered. But when it came to that eyes for some time, housing it in a he had little to say, and at first seem- public garage, and telling nobody but

ed disinclined to part with even that. her that I had purchased it. Later on, as we ate, however, he be- I took Mrs. Dace out on the first came a trifle more communicative. evening after I had mastered my new Under the warming influence of to- acquirement for a long ride countrybacco and coffee he began to make ward. The weather was ideal, the more satisfactory replies to my quiz- roads in splendid condition, and we zings, but if he had learned any sped along to the low whir of the thing of importance he did not betray machine, with the soft night air fanit. Since the day upon which he had ning our faces. It had long been untaken an active interest in the case derstood between us that she was to and I had heard his low whistle at the carefully guard all my confidences, mention of Mackay's name, curiosity and I kept few things from her. Exhad filled my mind as to what his re- ultantly I spoke of my increasing searches would be in that direction. wealth and magnificent prospects. I had gone to Mrs. Dace's with the Her arm slipped under mine.

mention of LeDuc's name that she "Good, good," she cried, with a might understand why I had repeated schoolgirl's enthusiasm. "I congrato him conversations which had oc- tulate you from the bottom of my curred between herself and myself, heart. It makes me happy to know that she might not feel that I had about it. I told you that I should extattle-taled our private talks without ercise my sorcery to command your explaining the reason to her. But success. When you win I feel that I though I had paved the way by have won also.

which he might have had a confiden- Her tacit confession that she contial business chat with her, if he had sidered herself as a close partner of availed himself of the opportunity, it mine, and that she was backing me to had not come to my knowledge. That the winning of a prize which we LeDuc might now have full informa- should share together in the long tion of what I had done, and feel at time to come, combined with the deliberty to interview her should he de- licious sense of comradeship awaksire, I now told him of my talk upon ened by her arm pressure, became as the subject with her; telling him that an intoxicant. In that moment I she had denied absolutely having re- would have pawned my soul to have peated my half confidences to any one, possessed her. I threw my arms about and had seemed to be amused at the her and pressed her to my breast alidea that Janet was anything more most flercely. "My God, how I love than an automaton. This information you, Matie. Tell me that you will he received without comment, beyind marry me-you must," I cried, as I the paradoxical remark that he could found her lips and drained them as a not remember that he had forgotten drunkard drains his cup. Her arms anything. "What else have you got hung upon my shoulder; her upturned to tell me?" I urged in finishing. He lips seemed to be clinging to mine; I closed his lips so tightly around his could feel the ebb and swell of her cigar that it resembled a nail driven bosom so closely was she drawn to into a crack, and appeared to be fill- me, and in that position I held her ing himself to his toes with smoke as until a slight warning swerve of the he reflected. Presently he expelled machine temporarily restored my the smoke from his mouth, after the sanity. I quickly removed my right arm and clutched the wheel, but still "I don't know whether I am acting kept the other round her waist, as I wisely or not, but under your prom- begged her in the name of my great ise to divulge nothing you may learn passion to make me the happiest man from me without my consent, I am go- on earth by her answer. Impasing to risk it. I know that you be- sionedly I recalled to her my long lieve in your cousin Bruce's honesty." nights and days of torture when I was half sick with despair of ever "But do you happen to know that possessing her. For the first time

he has somehow or other managed to since our acquaintance began she was visibly agitated by my pleadings. come into active control of enough "You say that you love me with all money to resume his operations on this great love and tell me that I must 'Change on a rather liberal scale?" he queried with a thin smile. I was answer your question, Tom, dear," she said, very softly. "Very well, I will answer you. I will marry you "Well, he has," he pursued, asserupon one condition." tively. "Furthermore, he is carrying

"And that?" I cried wudly, feeling myself grow weak in the suspense. "That you will not importune me now to fix the date. You must leave that entirely to my discretion. When I think the right time has come I wil manage in some way to let you know that I am ready. Until then you must be patient with me like the dear

boy that you have always Continued on page 7.

How' This? We offer One Hundred Pollars Reward for any

F J CHENEY & CO. Toleda O. made a careful inspection of its in- son and act just as do honest men. for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly terior. So far as I could discover by When a sane man takes his life and honorable in all business tansactions and finan-

WALDING. KINNAN & MARVIN. Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. on that point, I shut and locked it quences, as well as being driven by Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting again without having as yet received strong pressure. And in nearly all directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimorials sent free Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

CORNER CONCERNS

the second concession at lot 19 | Mrs. Brown on Saturday last. near Holstein.

sion 2. The contract was let in plying us with free kindling, and outbursts; therefore I decided to erally makes a confidant of some wo- June and will be completed some a news item into the bargain. The time, health and weather permit- stormy weather last week gave

a severe kick from a horse in his they must all turn out on the 11th, pain and soreness. For sale by that he meet me at the noon hour. I remember, those that I have seen conscious for a time and raised a the opposite might be the result. He readily assented, and I then went were invariably a Turkish abomina- large lump on his head as well as

spent the past few months.

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The Ice Cream business is again with us and we are better prepared than ever to cater to the trade in this line. We also keep stocked with Cooked Cured and Salt Meats Green Vegetables and all Fruits in season. In our Baking Department we use nothing but first-class material and can guarantee everything appetitising and wholesome.



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Months ago we began thinking about our holiday stock and now you can come and see what the result of the thinking has been. Our line this year is much larger and more varied than last season, and you know how ample our stock was then. The present display means choice picking for you and our large buying means satisfactory prices.

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goes out to Mr. James Brown and about it, but presume they would A snow fence is being erected on family on account of the death of have an enjoyable time. Most of

Your Priceville correspondent Tile is laid on the ground for thinks things have been coming he new bridge at lot 6, conces- our way of late. by the Globe suphim a great lift. with his budget, As the price of hogs again last but didn't provide the heating.

Thursday reached \$6.55 it caused | Election matters are very quiet a large delivery in Holstein. Sheep here. Everybody seems to calmly and lambs were also in abundance. realize that we have a good Gov- strengthening plasters. We were all very sorry to hear ernment. and a right good rep- lain's Liniment is cheaper of our efficient township clerk and resentative in Dr. Jamieson, and ter. Dampen a piece weigh master at Holstein receiving feel that everything is o.k. But with it, and bind it over the afstable. The blow rendered him un- and express it by ballot, or exactly all dealers

The Orange brethren of Varney rupturing a couple of veins. We L.O.L. were down to Holstein last hope to soon hear of his recovery. week and organized a lodge Mr. Archie Baird returned from there. A number of right good the West last week where he has citizens joined, who will do credit to the Order.

Mr. James Matthews sold the The Blyth's Corner scribe says spring colt he had advertised in those wild geese that were down the Chronicle to Mr. E. Johnson his way had not the Gander for a of Holstein. He thinks advertising leader. No, unfortunately for them they had not, but when they California Mr. Jas. Eden has secured the passed us about two o'clock, they is one, and in the meantime I would lay behind them I might as well have contract for building a new barn looked as if they could go safely dismiss it from my mind if I were the for Mr. Jas. Atkinson, of Glenelg. themselves, but they went down you. If you find that difficult, you gazed at windows back of which the He has also got prospects of to Normanby, and took a few other barns in the surrounding turns around with the Weathercountry, and it looks as if next cock of that place, and returned Directly after this seance with Le- year will be an active one for again in a more wandering kind Return tickets at reduced rates now of way, and that too, just at Tax collector, J. Adams, has night. Which convinces us more to sleep." While I did not take much by those who, by reason of their in- been on his rounds for the past than ever that anything going to

> Mr. Ben. Woods held his annual or address A. E. Duff, D. P. A. 'as not higher than | The sympathy of all this part raffle a week ago. As we were Toronto.

the company was from a distance. The news announcing the death

of Mrs. Thos. Whitmore, of Oak ville. Man., was received with sadness by all who knew her. The kindly disposition she possessed. and genuine hospitality to all who came under her roof, will not soon be forgotten.

fected parts, and it will



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