

enormous chest development, but he went up to him with all the arrogance of a conqueror.

"Now then," he said sharply, "where is Dr. Lester? No, no, sit quiet, my friend, or this time I'll kill you for keeps!"

Leigh was thoroughly cowed. He had not forgotten that merciless blow, dealt him when he lay helpless on the ground. This slightly built man, with the thin mouth and unflinching eyes, was a revelation to him.

"Don't be hard on a poor chap!" he whined. "The doctor is up-stairs, as

well as you are. I'd just taken him a bit of grub when you came."

"You're a liar!" was Bradshaw's uncompromising retort. "I've shouted myself hoarse without obtaining any reply."

Leigh almost chuckled. "By gum!" he cried, "I told Maister Warren the doctor was a real gentleman! He gave his word he wouldn't utter a sound if we didn't gag him, and I trusted him."

"Here," said Bradshaw, "go up ahead of me and let him out. No nonsense, mind, or I'll brain you!"

Thus politely adjured, Leigh led the way to Lester's prison-room, and in a minute rescued and rescuer were clasping hands.

"Why in thunder didn't you answer when I called just now?" asked Bradshaw. "I could not," answered Lester simply. "I had given my word."

"Say," with some disgust, "you are too good to be true. However, it's all right now, and the sooner I restore you to your sorrowing friends the better. Do you know that Miss Holt is worrying about you just about a million times more than you deserve?"

"Miss Holt?" "Yes, of course, Miss Holt. But come along—you can ride behind me on my horse—and tell me about things on the way. As for you, my friend," to Leigh, "I guess the British policeman will get hold of you whenever you are wanted."

"I give up, sir," said Leigh calmly. "I saw Mr. Warren knock the old gent on the head, and he's been bribing me ever since to keep quiet. But I've got the books he did it for, and I'm ready to hand them over whenever they're wanted."

"I have settled all that," interposed Bradshaw. "I suspected you directly Dr. Lester disappeared, and by this time Detective Brading has been through your place with a search-warrant. Anyway, you can vamose now; but if you take my advice you will stay and face the music."

Lester and Bradshaw mounted the horse and left Leigh to consider the situation. Their horse was a fine up-standing animal, and entirely capable of carrying double weight for at least a fair portion of the journey. Luckily, however, they fell in with a farmer driving into the village when they reached the main road, and so Lester was given a lift.

Bradshaw was naturally eager for details of the kidnapping of Lester; but strangely enough the subject seemed utterly uninteresting to the young doctor, who kept delicately engineering the conversation round to Edith. What he heard filled his heart with happiness. Edith was true, after all! And then came the despairing thought—would she forgive him?

Phyllis was right. Lester was going to be abject indeed.

To be concluded next Sunday

THE REAL LUNATIC

AMONG the various institutions for the care of the insane in the Dominion of Canada there is one whose superintendent has great faith in the remedial value of outdoor recreation for his patients. He accordingly is indefatigable in the promotion of wholesome sport, and the games follow the round of the seasons—cricket and lacrosse in summer, football in spring and autumn, skating and curling in winter. By virtue of this policy a number of expert players have been developed, and the cricket club in connection with the asylum is particularly renowned.

One winter the curling was especially good, and three of the patients, whose mental troubles were of a harmless type, acquired such skill that the superintendent was tempted to take them off with him to play a match in a neighboring city. To his keen chagrin, however, they were seized with stage-fright at the rink, and curled so badly as to be ignominiously defeated.

On the conclusion of the match one of those blundering creatures whose curiosity makes them blind to considerations of courtesy went up to the superintendent and asked him if it was true that all the members of the team were lunatics.

"No," responded the superintendent grimly, as the iron of defeat was thus driven in deeper by this clumsy hand, "I am the only lunatic."

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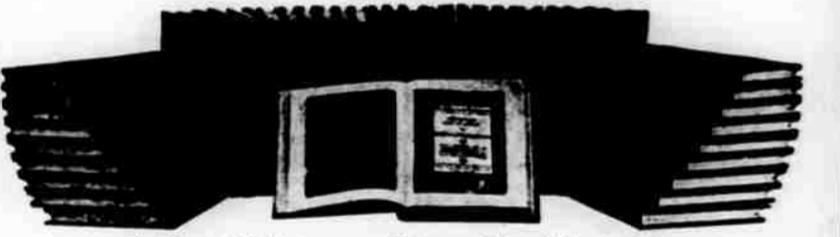
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