

# Through the Wall

By  
**CLEVELAND MOFFETT**

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## CHAPTER XVIII.

### THE MOVING PICTURE.

THE detective noticed that the prisoner glanced anxiously at the clock. It was a quarter past 11.

"We will have the visual test now," said Hauteville. "Take the prisoner to Dr. Duprat's laboratory," he directed the guard.

Passing down the wide staircase, strangely silent now, they entered a long, narrow passageway leading to a remote wing of the Palais de Justice.

"I hope this goes off well," whispered the judge uneasily. "You don't think they have forgotten anything?"

"Trust Papa Tignol to obey orders," replied Coquelin. "Ah!" he started and gripped his companion's arm. "Do you remember what I told you about those alleyway footprints—about the pressure marks? Look!" and he pointed ahead excitedly. "I knew it! He has got our rheumatism—just touches that come and go. He had it that night when he escaped from the Ansonia, and he has it now. See!"

The judge observed the prisoner carefully and nodded in agreement. There was no doubt about it. As he walked Groener was limping noticeably on his left foot!

Dr. Duprat was waiting for them in his laboratory, absorbed in recording the results of his latest experiments. A kind-eyed, grave-faced man was this, who, for all his modesty, was famous over Europe as a brilliant worker in psychological criminology.

Entering the laboratory, they found themselves in a large room, quite dark, save for an electric lantern at one end that threw a brilliant circle on a sheet stretched at the other end. The light reflected from this sheet showed the dim outlines of a tiered amphitheater before which was a long table spread with strange looking instruments.

"Everything is ready," said Dr. Duprat. "Is this the—er—the subject?" He glanced at the prisoner.

Hauteville nodded.

"Please bring him over here. That's right—in front of the lantern." Then he spoke gently to Groener. "Now, my friend, we are not going to do anything that will cause you the slightest pain or inconvenience."

For some moments he studied the prisoner in silence.

"Interesting, very interesting," murmured the doctor. "Especially the lobe of this ear! I will leave a note about it for Bertillon himself. Please turn a little for the back of the head. Thanks! I must study this head when we have time. Very remarkable. We must have these off," he pointed to the handcuffs. "Also the coat. Don't be alarmed. There! Now, I want the left arm bare above the elbow." When these directions had been carried out Dr. Duprat pointed to a heavy wooden chair.

"Please sit here," he went on, "and slip your left arm into this leather sleeve."

"Why must I sit in this chair?" asked Groener. "Why do you want my arm in that leather thing?"

"Some pictures of persons and places will be thrown on that sheet, and as each one appears I want you to say what it is. Most of the pictures are familiar to every one."

"But the leather sleeve?"

"The leather sleeve is like the stop watch; it records your emotions. Sit down!"

Groener hesitated. "I want to know how it records my emotions."

The magistrate answered, "There is a pneumatic arrangement," he explained, "by which the pulsations of your heart and the blood pressure in your arteries are registered automatically. Now, then! I warn you if you don't sit down willingly—well, you had better sit down." Then Groener sat down.

Quickly the assistant adjusted the leather sleeve over the bared arm.

Immediately a familiar scene appeared upon the sheet, a colored photograph of the Place de la Concorde.

"What is it?" asked the doctor pleasantly.

The prisoner was silent.

"You surely recognize this picture, look! The obelisk and the fountain, the Tuilleries gardens."

"The Place de la Concorde," answered Groener sullenly.

The picture changed to a view of the Grand Opera House, and at the same moment a point of light appeared in the headpiece back of the chair. It was shaded so that the prisoner could not see it, and it illuminated a graduated white dial on which was a glass tube about thirty inches long, the whole resembling a barometer. Inside the tube a red column moved regularly up and down, up and down, in steady beats, and Coquelin understood that this column was registering the beating of Groener's heart. Standing behind the chair, the doctor, the magistrate and the detective could at the same time watch the pulsating column and the pictures on the sheet, but the prisoner could not see the column.

"What is that?" asked the doctor.

Groener answered at once, "The Grand Opera House."

"Good! Now, another."

"The Bastille column."

"And this?"

"Notre Dame church."

So far the beats had come uniformly about one in a second, for the man's pulse was slow. At each beat the liquid in the tube shot up six inches and then dropped.

The view of Notre Dame the column rose only three inches, then dropped back and shot up seven inches.

The doctor nodded gravely, while Coquelin, with breathless interest, with a morbid fascination, watched the beating of the red column. It was like the beating of red blood.

"And this?"

As the picture changed there was a quiver in the pulsating column, a hesitation with a quick fluttering at the bottom of the stroke; then the red shot up full nine inches. M. Paul glanced at the sheet and saw a perfect reproduction of private room No. 6 in the Ansonia. And slowly as they looked two holes appeared in the wall. Then a dim shape took form upon the floor, more and more distinctly until the dissolving lens brought a man's body into clear view, a body stretched face downward in a dark red pool that grew and widened, slowly staining and wetting the polished wood.

"Groener!" said the magistrate, "do you recognize this room?"

"No." But the column was pulsing wildly.

"You are lying, Groener," accused the judge. "There!" He signaled the lantern operator, and there leaped forth on the sheet the head of Martinez, the murdered, mutilated head, with shattered eye and painted cheeks and the greenish death pallor showing underneath, a ghastly, leering cadaver photographed at the morgue.

"Who is it?" demanded the judge.

"I don't know," declared the accused.

Again the picture changed.

"Who is this?"

"Queen Victoria."

Here suddenly, at the view of England's peaceful sovereign, Groener seemed thrown into frightful agitation. Up and down in mad excitement leaped the red column as if the frightened heart were trying to burst the tube with its spurting red jet. The doctor put his mouth close to Coquelin's ear and whispered, "It's the shock showing now, the shock that he held back after the body."

"There! Do you know these faces?"

As he spoke there appeared the fake photograph that Coquelin had found in Brussels—Alice at the age of twelve with the smooth young widow.

"Look at the girl in this false picture which you had cunningly made in Brussels!" cried the judge. "Who is she? There is the reason for your killing Martinez?"

Now the prisoner's pulse was running wild, faster and faster.

"Martinez knew the truth," he went on; "Martinez held your secret. How had Martinez come upon it? The whole aim of this investigation has been to get the secret, and we have got it! Groener, you have written this secret for us in words of terror. We know what Martinez knew when you took his life; we know the story of the medal that he wore."

"I know nothing about this man or his medal," flung back the prisoner.

"No? Then you will be glad to hear the story. It was a medal of solid gold awarded Martinez by the city of Paris for conspicuous bravery in saving lives at the terrible charity bazaar fire. Have you forgotten the details of the charity bazaar fire?"

"I am not interested in the subject," answered the accused.

"Ah, but you are, or you ought to be. Hundreds burned to death—think of that! Cowardly men trampling women and children! Duchesses burned to death! Rich women burned to death! Think of it, Groener, and—"

He signaled the operator, "and look at it!"

As he spoke the awful tragedy began in one of those extraordinary moving pictures that the French make after a catastrophe. Here before them leaped redder flames than ever crackled through the real charity bazaar; here were women and children perishing in more savage torture than the actual victims endured; here were horrors piled on horrors. Coquelin had seen this picture in one of the boulevard theaters, and straightway after the word "test" he had sent Papa Tignol off to his posthouse. If the mere words "charity bazaar" had struck this man dumb with fear, what would the thing itself do—the revolting, ghastly thing?

Then suddenly the tension snapped; the prisoner sprang to his feet, and, tearing his arm from the leather sleeve, he faced his tormentors desperately.

"No, no, no!" he shrieked. "You

dogs! You cowards!"

"Put the handcuffs on him," ordered Hauteville.

"What does all this prove?" the prisoner screamed in rage. "Nothing! Nothing! You make me look at disgusting, abominable pictures, and why shouldn't my heart beat? Anybody's heart would beat if he had a heart."

The judge went on in a tone as keen and cold as a knife: "Before you go to your cell, Groener, you shall hear what we charge against you. Your wife perished in the charity bazaar fire. She was a very rich woman, probably an American, who had been married before and who had a daughter by her previous marriage. That daughter is the girl you call Alice. Her true name is Mary. She was in the fire with her mother and was rescued by Martinez, but the shock of seeing her mother burned to death and perhaps the shock of seeing you refuse to save her mother—"

"It's a lie!" yelled the prisoner.

"All this terror and anguish caused a violent mental disturbance in the girl and resulted in a failure of her memory. When she came out of the fire she did not know her own name. She was helpless, and she was a great heiress! If she lived she inherited her mother's fortune; if she died this fortune reverted to you. So you destroyed her identity; you gave it out that she, too, had perished in the flames, and you proceeded to enjoy her stolen fortune, while she sold candies in Notre Dame church."

"You have no proof of it?"

"No? What is this?" and he signaled the operator, whereupon the lights went down and the picture of Alice and the widow appeared again.

"Now watch the woman, your Brussels accomplice; watch her carefully." The smooth young widow faded gradually, while the face and form of another woman took her place. "Now we have the picture as it was before you falsified it. Do you recognize this face?"

"No," answered the prisoner, but his heart was pounding.

"It is your wife. Look!"

Under the picture came the inscription, "To my dear husband Itoal, with the love of Margaret and her little Mary."

The prisoner was seen limp and white, sprawling over a chair.

"He has faltered," said the doctor. Hauteville hurried to the open window, there listening. Just below him in the courtyard he made out the flashing helmet of a mounted gendarme. And he caught some quick words that made him start.

"A messenger from the prime minister," muttered the judge, "on urgent business with me."

(To Be Continued.)

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**MISCELLANEOUS.**  
Old Carpets Made into Rugs—Rug Rug Works, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Write for booklet. Do this immediately.  
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**IF YOU LOVE FLOWERS,**  
and will send you your own address and two of your friends who will buy flowers, enclosing 10 cents for postage, we will send you one of our beautiful asparagus or sword ferns worth 25 cents, together with our catalog of beautiful flowers. Jos. Bancroft & Son, Cedar Falls, Iowa.  
**CUT RATE SHIPPING.**  
Cut rates on household goods to Pacific coast and other points. Superior service at reduced rates. The Boyd Transfer Company, Minneapolis, Minn.  
**MARSHALLTOWN EMPLOYMENT OFFICE**  
Over 101 East Main Street.  
Stenographers and all other kinds of help furnished on short notice. Try us.  
T. M. WEST, Office Manager.  
Phone 783. Marshalltown, Iowa.

**For Sale**  
Two store buildings that rent for \$146 per month; well located on Main street. A full lot with seven room house on paved street, within one one-half block of court house, at a bargain. Other bargains that will bear investigation.  
M. J. ALLARD W. R. MOON  
**THE FAMOUS JAMES RIVER VALLEY LAND EXCHANGE**  
Phones: Office 513 A. D. WOODS, Gen. Mgr. Room 3  
Residence, 842 Yellow MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA. Treatment Building  
Lands in the James River Valley of South Dakota Where Corn is the Farmer's Mainstay. Improved and Unimproved Farm Lands at Reasonable Prices and Good Terms.  
Get our special rates to homesteaders, we make a specialty of locating homesteaders, special low rates every day, expenses refunded to purchasers. Write today for particulars.

**WANTED—**  
**FOUND—**  
**LOST—**

**WANTED.**  
Wanted—Washing at 1008 Iowa street.  
Wanted—Leave your wants at the Marshalltown Employment Agency, Phone 783.  
Wanted—At once, first class barber, steady job, good wages. George Klebenstein.  
Wanted—To buy a soda fountain, Sam Bernstein, Marshalltown, Iowa.  
Wanted—To buy a pony, unbroken, Stead age, color and size. W. E. Carter, Gladbrook, Iowa.  
Wanted—All the farmers to know I am still in the horse breeding business, in my new barn at 804 East Main street, Marshalltown, Iowa. Sherman Wolfgang.  
Wanted—You to know that D. A. Moore cleans wall paper. Phone 1261 green.  
Wanted—Boarders and roomers, Center Hotel, two doors south of post-office, \$5, \$4.50 and \$4 per week. A. Holl, proprietor.  
Wanted—Let your wants be known. Carl's Employment Agency, Phone 850.  
Wanted—City salesman, \$20 per week.  
Wanted—Dry goods store. Head waiter, \$10 per week. Two men for a ranch. Painter and paper hanger. Carl's Employment Agency.

**HELP WANTED—MALE.**  
Wanted—Carriage trimmers on automobile work. Highest wages paid. Address Box 1143 Sta. A, Waterloo, Iowa.  
Wanted—A first class automobile repair man. Eldridge-Beebe Automobile Company.  
Wanted—Boys for automobile top work. Gates-Osborne Mfg. Company.  
Wanted—First class painter. Call or address 607 West Linn. A. L. Gillette.  
Wanted—Number of skilled machinists and bench men. Permanent employment. Only sober and steady men need apply. Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company, Waterloo, Iowa.  
Wanted—Three boys over 15 years of age at Pilgrim Hotel. Good wages and steady jobs for reliable boys.  
Wanted—Men to learn barber trade. Few weeks completes. Time saved by steady practice. Careful instructors, tools given, diplomas granted. Wages Saturdays. Positions waiting. Splendid demand for graduates. Write to day. Moler Barber College, Chicago, Ill.  
Wanted—Men to learn automobile business. We teach by mail, and get you a job at \$25 weekly. Rochester Automobile School, Rochester, N. Y.  
Wanted—Mechanics and laborers wanted. For all kinds of plow-shop work. Machine blacksmiths, punch men, fitters, grinders, polishers, erectors and laborers. City work, good pay. Competent men will find unusual opportunities to secure permanent position at good wages. Apply in person to the employment agent, Deere & Co., Moline, Ill.