"Forty Thousand Dollars of Money That I Toiled and Schemed and Saved For Gone Into the Pockets of Loafing Thieves."

The LASH of CIRCUMSTANCE

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SYNOPSIS.

Abner Hadley, a miserly millionaire, is found dead in his office in the Hadley building in his room. He puts pillow and letter beside his head. The friend of the money to leave to his daughter, Loring Hadley, and the letter to Abner's son, Winston Hadley. Winston Hadley, who is a bond broker, has been trying to borrow $40,000 from his father to save some himself from financial ruin. He has applied to his mother many and to others of the loan but has been refused.

CHAPTER III.—(Continued.)

"By God! My God! Forty thousand dollars of money that I toiled and schemed and saved for gone into the pockets of loafing thieves. Gone! I was going to put it in the bank the first thing Monday morning. It's a terrible—terrible." He fell to rolling his head and cracking the joints of his fingers in his mental agony as the officers looked down upon him in feigned pity and contempt. Presently he recovered himself with a start and demanded to know about his papers; and this time I was glad to be able to tell him that as far as I had observed in my hasty scrutiny, nothing had been taken but the money. He seemed a trifle relieved for the moment at this information, but soon fell back into his lamentings. It was one of the most lamentable sights that I ever looked upon, exhibiting as it did all that was despicable in his nature. The curtain cleared his throat and began his examination.

"We have made a thorough inspection of the premises and cannot find that anything outside of the front room has been tampered with. All the windows of the unused lower portion are nailed down and the shutters fastened from the inside. The burglar alarm is in perfect order and would have notified the watchman had a door been forced open. The locks on the doors have not been touched and are of an intricate Yale pattern that could not have been picked. Everything goes to show that whoever entered did so by means of a key to the front door, since the rear door was bolted from the inside. If he did not unlock the front door it must have been left open, or else he was escorted in the house beforehand." He turned to Mrs. Tebbets. "You are sure that everything was locked up last night when you retired and that no outsider was secreted anywhere? She beat forth eagerly.

"And indeed I am, sir. I was down-stairs after the evening, and if the front door had been open by so much as a crack I would have known it. I all ways section such things. And there was not anybody in the house besides Mr. Hadley and myself, either. I forgot the whole place yesterday afternoon, cleaning and all, so nobody had been under the bed nor in the room would have found him, don't you suppose?" Noting their faces in the interrogation mark, the woman continued dignantedly.

"Then it comes down to this. Whoever did this must have come to the rooms of a key to the front door, for both door is often secretly bolted from the inside. I may have forgot that he was also too good an opinion to use it this way. Therefore, if this gentleman as it was distinctly he until The lower windows are nailed fast from the inside and could not have been forced without making of the broken shutters, and I am sure no one of the master could enter without my knowledge. Unless I'm mistaken, there is only one person who could have done it."

"Who whom?" Inquired. He nodded toward a nearby table at which sat two women and a man.

"Dr. Dick Edward—but I guess you know him already—and the two ladies from the house of Mrs. Dare. If you want good company, you need not look further than that. You'll never get better anywhere." I asked him where the rest of the servants were, and he laughed with what I thought was a little undercurrent of significance beneath it.

"Oh, I haven't time to tell. Widow of somebody who died somehow, which is enough to bust at once. Main thing is she is as beautiful as a heart and generous as an empress, but wise, my boy, wise, wise. Also apparently in possession of some small amount of means represented by X, meaning unknown quantity, source of means problem to higher mathematics very difficult of solution. But matter very difficult of solution. But matter very difficult of solution. But matter