

A MODERN PARRHASIUS

By FRANCIS LYNDE.
(Continued.)

These preliminaries arranged, he stripped to his shirt and trousers and lay down under the coverlet on the bed, with his fingers touching a keyboard of electric buttons cunningly hidden beneath the pillow, and settled himself to wait with what sang froid there was in him.

In all his imaginings of the culminating moment in his plan he had entirely ignored the factor of personal unheroism, but after a tense half hour of suspense he began to realize that this, too, would have to be reckoned with.

It is one thing to be heroic by proxy in the persons of one's puppets on paper and quite another to face actual batteries of double shotted guns, with flesh and blood enemies ready to jerk the lanyards when the proper moment arrives, or to lie unarmed and alone in an isolated house awaiting the incoming of a desperate criminal, who might be inconsiderate enough not to listen to explanations before putting the apologist out of the running—which is much the same thing in the end.

Leonard came face to face with the reality, lying there in the semidarkness, with his heart drumming in a most unheroic fashion and the perspiration trickling from every pore, making him damp and uncomfortable.

The success of the enterprise—nay, possibly his life—hung upon the chance of a critical moment, the chance of getting speech with the robber before he should have time to commit murder. That point safely weathered and the man given to understand that he was wanted for purposes of mental and moral vivisection and not vengeance, Leonard thought he could see plain sailing beyond.

But while the crucial moment remained in abeyance the agony of suspense grew and waxed until it gave the author a precious glimpse beyond into the region of hysteria—a glimpse which he made sure he could use with telling effect in some future story if he should win through the night's adventure alive and fit.

Luckily for Leonard's fortitude, which threatened more than once to desert him entirely, the time of waiting was not greatly prolonged. The chime of the hall clock was still echoing the double stroke of the half hour after 10 when he heard one of the parlor windows go up with a noise that was anything but creditable to the skill of a professional housebreaker.

Leonard's finger sought the button connecting with the bell in Helen's room while he waited breathlessly for a confirmation of the alarm. It did not tarry. There was a crash, as of some one falling over a chair, followed by a muttered imprecation, and Leonard pressed the bell push.

Now that the battle was fairly on, he felt equal to anything, and he anticipated the next move of the enemy with nerves a-tingle. That, too, came quickly. Ten seconds after the crash the figure of a man appeared at the open door of the bedroom, and Leonard saw that the intruder was carrying his shoes in his hand.

Stocking feet on the dampened metallic matting would simplify matters immensely, and the second signal went to Helen with no uncertain ring.

Cautiously and feeling his way with his free hand the robber crept across to the safe, and when the outstretched hand came in contact with the damp metal Leonard knew that the moment had arrived.

With one touch he sent the third signal to Helen and with another flooded the room with a glare of light from half a dozen electric lamps. The burglar gasped, dropped his shoes and fell back against the safe with many emotions struggling for simultaneous expression on his unbeautiful face. Leonard sat up in bed with his hand still under the pillow and strove to be decently calm and master of fact.

"Good evening," he said hospitably. "Don't be alarmed. You are in no danger so long as you keep perfectly quiet. If you don't, however, you are a dead man."

The robber obeyed the injunction, though his eyes were apparently measuring the distance to the door in connection with the hand under the pillow.

"Wot'er ye givin us?" he growled when the factor of escape seemed to have eliminated itself from the equation.

"Cold facts," Leonard answered affably. "In connection with the hazards of your profession you have doubtless become more or less familiar with the process of electrocution, have you not?"

The burglar nodded. "I inferred as much. Well, the matting under your feet is metallic, and in forms the electrodes of a battery for which the electric light plant of Brankville furnishes the power. By pressing the button under my finger I can—ah, would you?"

While Leonard was explaining the robber crouched for a spring, but before he could launch himself he fell to the floor like one smitten with epilepsy. Leonard was beside him in a moment.

"Get up," he said coolly. "You're not killed. The voltage of that shock was very much less than would be—"

(Continued on page 8.)

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	Reg. price.	Our price
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Fancy do. do.	32	25
Black Cashmere do.	28	20
do. do.	35	28
Special do.	60	45
Weeks' Special	65	50
Colored Dress Goods in large variety at very low prices.		

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	Reg. price.	Our price
Single width cambric	7	6
Percalines	16	14
Linettes, best quality	16	13
Surah Twill	18	15

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	Reg. price.	Our price
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Black Taffeta	18	16
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Above guaranteed.	
100 Pairs Special Laced and Buttoned, Black and Colored	82c., regular \$1 10 & \$1 35.
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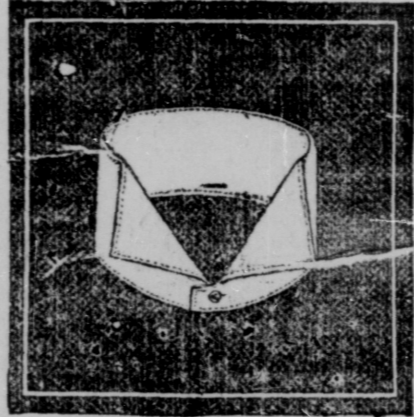
White Hemstitched	5c ea 6 for 2
do. do.	9c ea 6 for 4
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All sizes 10c and 14c per pair
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Sizes 14½ to 17½, all newest shapes.
Special 4 ply linen 15c ea. 2 for 25c
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Weeks' special 25c. pair 2 pairs for 45c



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	Reg. price.	Our price
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do. do.	70	55
Our Special, Reinforced back and front \$1 for 75		

LAUNDRIED SIZES.

	Reg. price.	Our price
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Good value	60	50
Extra value	85	70
Business Mens	\$1 00	85
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Large assortment in newest shapes. Knots, Four-in-hand, Puffs, Graduate Bows, American Tecks, Straps etc. Also a large variety in Black. Washing ties a specialty.



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	Reg. price	Our price
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do do do	12	9
do do rib	15	12
do do do	19	17
Black Cashmere, 2-1 rib seamless-foot, special	40	32

Ladies' Belts.

	Reg. price	Our price
Leather Belts, all colors	28	20
White Duck & Pique	28	20
Belt buckles and Blousesettes, large assortment.		



Corsets.

	Reg. price	Our price
Special	30	25
Our Leader	50	42
Beauty	65	50
Princess	75	65
All leading make at lowest prices in stock.		

Ladies' Blouses.

Fancy Cambric	48
do Muslin	60
do Colored Muslin	68
Fine Swiss Check	1.00
Scotch Gingham	1.20
Black Sateen	1.00

Black Sateen Detachable collars and cuffs) 1.60

UMBRELLAS.

Ladies Twill Cotton	40
do do do large size	55
do half Silk	55
do do do	72
do Gloria do	90
do do do	1.00
do do do	1.25
Better grades, up to	4.00
Gent's Umbrellas, all prices up to	4.50
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do do Paramatta 4.70
do do do 6.90
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Gent's Black Paramatta 9.50
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TOWELS.

Pure Linen, 20x36, 14c each; 2 for 25c
do do 22x42, 20c each; 2 for 35c
A full line of best Irish Linen Towels always in stock.

Table Linens.

	Reg. price	Our price
Unbleached Linen, 58 in. wide	26	30
do do 72 in.	55	38
do do 85 in.	55	38
Bleached Linens, 56 in. wide	42	35
do do 65 in.	72	47
do do 66 in.	85	72
do do 72 in.		

Table Napkins.

Union—5/8 & 3/4 size.
Prices—65c, 75c, 85c, 95c.
Pure Linen—5/8 & 3/4 size.
Prices \$1.00, 1.15, 1.25, 1.45, 1.65, 1.85 and up to 5.00.
Colored Napkins, all prices.

Sheetings.

	Reg. price	Our price
Unbleached, 72 in.	15	13

do	72 "	20	17
do	81 "	24	20
do	81 "	30	25
Bleached,	72 "	29	25
do	72 "	33	30
do	81 "	31	28

Pillow Cottons.

Plain,	42 in.	15	12
do	42 "	18	15
do	44 "	16	13
do	20 "	20	17
Circular,	42 "	17	14
do	42 "	18	15
do	44 "	23	20
do	46 "	24	21



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