

THE FATAL REQUEST FOUND OUT

By A. L. Harris Author of "Mine Own Familiar Friend," etc.
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CHAPTER VII.—Continued.

A dreadful railway accident has taken place on the Southern Railway. A goods train from London, Maidstone, which contained two wagons loaded with petroleum barrels, through some mistake in the signal, ran into the 4:30 up train from Dover, at the point where the lines cross. The engine, tender, and three first-class carriages have been smashed up and burnt by the petroleum. Twenty-three passengers are either dead or dying.

The perspiration stood upon his brow as he read this grim and ghastly paragraph over and over again. "How could I possibly let them see this?" he groaned to himself. "They would not go out of their minds with the horror of it. At least they would not strike him, what is to prevent them from reading it all, and more besides, in the morning paper. Through the course of the day there must be a gleam of hope. Some must have escaped. How slow this train is. Why should I want to wait for it? How do I know what news I get at my journey's end?"

When the train reached London through a little breeze from the south it was hot and oppressive. The news of the accident had spread like wildfire, and a momentarily increasing throng of spectators, and a few irritable besieged the officials, at the telegraph office and hurried him and his father, backward and forward in search of something definite in the shape of information. Ted Burritt forced himself through the throng which was rather roundly rebuffed in authority, and put the same questions which burst from many lips at once.

"What anything more known about the accident? When would the train be cleared, and when would a train be allowed to run to the scene of the disaster?"

"The answers, repeated over and over again, and passed from mouth to mouth, were—'Nothing.' No further details of the accident had been ascertained, and no names of the victims had yet been published. As the telegraph lines had been broken, the first train to Hammersmith Bridge, the scene of the disaster, would be from as soon as the signal was cleared, but that could not be for some hours longer. The unfortunate people who were allowed to know what might be the fate of some of their nearest and dearest, could do nothing but wait, hour after hour, every minute of which seemed an eternity.

And so, at last, the hours were away, and very early in the morning a train started, bearing its weary, haggard load of men and women, hoping that God had at least been merciful to him, or her, whoever else he might have bereaved.

Ted Burritt sat in his corner of the carriage, and let his thoughts wander where they would. All at once the accident occurred, and he became the cause of the friend? What had his father wanted to meet, and who was to return with him? But what did it matter about him? He had been for him, though the accident would have taken place all the same, it would have had nothing to do with that pleasant, peaceful life at Dulwich?

By the time he had recovered himself he saw that the day was beginning to dawn. Surely they must be very near the scene of the disaster. Even in the faint early light, which was all they had to illumine, the scene, signs of the recent catastrophe were to be seen. It was the side of the railway, the way in which the ruined carriages, and the train dived up at the pteignous little country station, which had now been converted into a temporary death-house. The mournful, wide-eyed cavalcade, which alighted at the platform, more met by the stationmaster, who merely motioned with his arm, and said, "In there."

The whole crowd, with one accord, poured in the direction indicated. A dreadful sight met their eyes. In the waiting room and looking over a dozen charred remnants of human beings were laid out on tarpaulins, each one of which had been a semblance to human. There was no chance, no possibility of recognizing or identifying any.

Ted Burritt approached and looked down upon one; then staggered and nearly fell.

"Is this Alice?" he asked, in a dreadful whisper. The man who was in charge of this ghastly detachment answered, briefly, "There is a heap here on 'em in the church yonder!"

JONES PAID THE FRIED

Clergymen's Use of Slang Was Unfortunate in This Case.

A few days following a recent wedding, the officiating clergyman requested a friend to insert an advertisement of the marriage inserted in the papers. The friend first drafted the cost, and then wrote to the cleric for instructions. The cleric replied: "Put it in. Jones will pay the freight."

"But I thought she might have been 'Bled.' She was such a good girl and look at her 'three!' and he gesticulated toward the paper coffin.

"I can't stand much more of this," murmured Ted Burritt, as he wiped the great drops of perspiration from his forehead.

They left the bereaved parent moving over his child's remains and again passed on. The next three coffins were buried, and the cleric, who had the mutilated corpses which contained tossed, either feet or hands. They could never have been buried, and the cleric, who had the mutilated corpses which contained tossed, either feet or hands.

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TEA WAS TO BLAME.

Colored Youth's Ingenious Explanation of an Accident.

The cook was the best that could be had in the way of a servant. Most had been cautioned over and over again not to touch anything on the table, but she had done so. She was sitting at the table, and she had been told not to touch anything on the table, but she had done so.

They were "Dandy-Lions." Ted Burritt and his father had been to the Park. Ted Burritt had been to the Park, and his father had been to the Park.

One night after he had finished reading a book, he had been to the Park. Ted Burritt had been to the Park, and his father had been to the Park.

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Practical Toys. Ted Burritt and his father had been to the Park. Ted Burritt had been to the Park, and his father had been to the Park.

How the Telegram Rode. Ted Burritt and his father had been to the Park. Ted Burritt had been to the Park, and his father had been to the Park.

Thought Ade Needed Schooling. Ted Burritt and his father had been to the Park. Ted Burritt had been to the Park, and his father had been to the Park.

Just About the Same Thing. Ted Burritt and his father had been to the Park. Ted Burritt had been to the Park, and his father had been to the Park.

Sale of Victoria Cross. Ted Burritt and his father had been to the Park. Ted Burritt had been to the Park, and his father had been to the Park.

Real Estate Exchange

Of Whitehead & Mitchell at the Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

The following is a partial list of farms, city and village lots and real estate generally which we have for sale. As we let it constantly changing, we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list:

1. Farm of 90 acres, well fenced, well watered, never failing stream, 100 acres timber, 100 acres pasture, 100 acres woods, 100 acres orchard, 100 acres garden, 100 acres fruit, 100 acres vegetables, 100 acres flowers, 100 acres other things which will suit you, and a fine view of the country.

2. Twenty-five and twenty acres of land with Irish chert in Rock Hill township. It is an excellent place for a farm, and is well watered, and has a fine view of the country. It is well fenced, and has a fine view of the country.

3. No better farm in the State of Michigan is to be found in the township of Southfield. It is a fine place for a farm, and is well watered, and has a fine view of the country. It is well fenced, and has a fine view of the country.

4. The following is a partial list of farms, city and village lots and real estate generally which we have for sale. As we let it constantly changing, we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list:

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