

Then a peculiar thought struck Cliff Steward. Probably it was the sound of his own voice, or the utterance of the word "steal," that shocked his lulled conscience awake. He looked about quickly, like a guilty man who isn't certain that he has committed a crime without hidden eyes having watched him. He fell back a step and passed a hand across his eyes. On his feet he rocked unsteadily.

"No, not my money," he told himself slowly. "There isn't a cent of it that belongs to me. It's money that thousands have sweated and worked for to provide a nest egg for the days

when they can no longer work. And these dirty whelps tried to steal it." Angrily he looked at the huddled figures at his feet. "Can't be done!" he mused. "Something always happens, then the jig is up."

He threw his head far back. His clear eyes swept the vast trackless vault which was home to him.

"Riding up there lonely in the sky day after day a fellow sometimes gets crazy ideas in his head."

Pilot Cliff Steward said this to himself because, having been fearfully tried, he knew for sure that he was above temptation.

THE END.

### *Islands of Exile*

SEVERAL nations use one of their island possessions as a penal settlement, to which their worst criminals are sentenced. The best known of these is that maintained by the French at Devil's Island near Cayenne in French Guiana, South America. This prison island has been written about time and again in feature articles, and has been used by many authors as a scene for adventure stories. The French also had another convict settlement at the other side of the world, on the Pacific Ocean at New Caledonia. Italy, Portugal, Mexico and Brazil are other countries who send their trouble makers to similar island prisons.

Italy's island of exile is Lipari, an island about fifteen miles in circumference located a short distance north of Sicily. This island is used only for political offenders. The coast is patrolled every hour of the day and night by fast motor boats armed with machine guns.

Portugal sends all its desperadoes to tropical Timor in the East Indies. Once a year the prison ship makes a journey with a new load, stopping on the way at Portugal's African colonies to pick up their criminals.

Mexico, too, is solving the problem of bandits by sending all her most desperate criminals to Las Tres Marias island, located off the west coast opposite Tepic. These islands are of a volcanic nature and small earthquakes are fairly common.

Brazil also has her murderers' colony, Fernando Noronha, an isolated island far out in the South Atlantic, where they serve out their time under the charge of a Brazilian governor and a small guard of soldiers. Hundreds of miles of open sea separate the island from the nearest land.

*John H. Spicer.*

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*Nick made a desperate effort to break free*

## Easy to Kill

*Even Mme. Storey, the famous detective, failed to rouse the police when the idolized but many-faced Nick Van Tassel prepared to shock Newport with another murder*

By **HULBERT FOOTNER**

*Author of "The Death Notice," "The Butlers' Ball," etc.*

### LEADING UP TO THIS INSTALLMENT

**P**REYING on aged millionaires of Newport, a blackmailer known as the Leveller was extorting huge sums of money and making life a hell of fear for a number of timid old men. For the Leveller—whoever he might be—seemed to know every one in Newport, and to have entry to every mansion. And his victims knew only too well that those who would not pay were murdered—frightened to death by some device they could only picture in their tortured minds.

Not one of these victims ever mentioned the Leveller; they were too afraid

of him. But the wife of Howard Van Tassel at last sent for one of the country's shrewdest detectives—Mme. Storey. At once Mme. Storey advised giving the affair full publicity and asking for police protection. They refused, and shortly afterward old Howard Van Tassel was found dead, with an expression of terror stamped on his face. Mrs. Van Tassel discharged Mme. Storey, who decided to carry on the investigation herself, working from the home of a friend, Mrs. Lysaght. Her secretary Bella (who tells the story) was to help.

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