NIT OF THE DARKNESS

(Continued from Last Week)

police out to the home of the who had been arrested. It seems the state police had taken them helr own homes and allowed one the men to change his coat betaking him to jail. The local wanted to search the coat had been left behind. It was that the chauffeur had his first of planting the evidence. He re that the challed had no first the original of planting the evidence. He had the the corner off the paper, and at a man's house managed to slip the wayapper into the pocket of the coat tore the police examined it. Later, Slyke's, he threw the little torn

of paper on the floor so that

ye could find that, too,

ye could find that, too,

yhen he had finished, I wondered
the boy had not been right when
thought that the man had been
pluy fooling him. But if it were
e, his story, taken with the dying
ds of the chauffeur, would be to free the men in prison. I d to take him with me to the station and let him tell his

ory to Roche.

On our arrival in Saratoga we were cky enough to find both Roche and ack together. Without any coment on my part, I had the boy repeat a story to the two officers. They tened with a good deal of interest. I have the course, had handled the robry, and knew more about it than ack; but Black, I knew, believed at Briffeur was the murderer of yke, and the boy's story confirmed a belief.

he taking the view that the chaur-might have been fooling the boy, Black that the chauffeur had told truth and was too drunk to-real-what he had said. oche elinched his argument by de-ding, "Why, under heaven, should be owe Briffeur a large sum of say?"

was, we all agreed, the weak a the story.

in the story.

**Lord," Roche exclaimed as a lit occurred to him, "do you that it was Brifferr that found rn pieces of cloth on the rose the piece that fitted into the nants?"

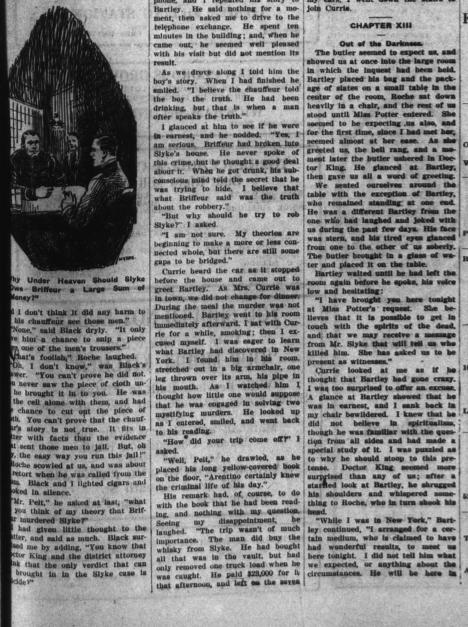
stronishment I asked, "It was?" sure was. He came into the station a few days later with it

ever in the cell with those ck asked, with a glance at

several times. Slyke asked let him go in and talk to

nck threw out his hands in dis"My G—, Roche, one would
t you kept a hotel. You let anygo in and out that wanted to."

che flushed, and replied angrily,
il, Siyke had lots of pull here,



Black's remarks asionished ma. True, I realized that if was almost impossible to present convincing legal proof that Slyke had been murdered, but there was still the chauffeur's death to be explained. If he had been killed, as Bartley thought, because he knew too much about Slyke's death, then it seemed to me that to bring in a verdict of suicide would be impossible. I told Black of Julis objection, and he agreed with me.

Then he rejterated his belief is Briffeur's guilt. According to him the story the chauffeur told the boy fitted in well with his own theory. True, there was little to base it on so far as evidence went; but, assuming that Slyke and the chauffeur had quarreled about money, his strongest bit of evidence was Briffeur's coming to the vault where the missing revolver was hidden. No one else, so far ss we knew, had quarreled with Slyke, or had any reason for wanting to kill him. Black explained the chauffeur's death by saying Miss Potter had killed him: I told him this last disproved his first theory, that like the was silent for a magnent, his face grave. Then he said siowly, "Yes, Pelt, it does. If the chauffeur's death, he would be suspected of causing Slyke's death.

ter had killed him: I told him this last disproved his first theory, that whoever had killed the chauffeur had done so because he knew too much about Slyke's death.

I found that it was nearly four o'cloc!, and as I had had no luncheon I decided to get something to eat before l'artley's train came in. Just as I reached the door Black called after me, "Say, Pelt, what does your chief want us all over for, to Slyke's to-night:"

might?"
This was the first time that I had heard we were expected to go there; and, seeing my astonishment, he added that Bartley had sent word for Roche and himself to be at Siyke's promptly at eight o'clock. I was forced to admit that I did not know as mitch about it as he did.

as much about it as he did.

I went to a little tes room on the main street, and had almost finished my meal when someone called my name, and a reporter from the Record, whom I knew, rose and joined me. He mentioned the Slyke case and said that everyone was waiting for Bartley to "spring something." He complained that there was little enough information to be gotten about it. All he had been able to do had been to interview the men that had been at Slyke's home the night of his death. One of them told him, however, that three or four times during the evening Slyke had tried to reach someone on the 'phone—just who, he did not know.

had not been killed himself, he would be suspected of causing Slyke's death. But there is one thing—"
"And what is that? I saked ea-

"And what is that? I saked eagerly,
"Briffeur said some one else was implicated in that robbery. What I want to know is, who was that other man." He paused, then added; "There is no doubt, Pelt, that Slyke had been selling whisky for some time. Where he got it, and who was in on it with him, we don't know. Maybe tonight we can find out."
Currie's voice called from below that the car was waiting to take us to Slyke's house, and we rose. As I started for the door, Bartley handed me a package and gave me a playful.



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