ACQUIRING EXPERIENCE

A Father Puts His Son's Shrewdness to the Test

By THOMAS R. DEAN

"My son," said Nathan Mayer, jeweler, "I am getting old and have de cided to give up my business to you I shall leave enough capital with you to enable you to carry the same amount of stock I have always car ried Before turning over the munagement, however, i desire that you prove yourself fitted to assume it."

Why, father, have I not been in What need I of proving myself fittedto manage the business?

"I admit, Isaac, that as a judge of gems, especially diamonds, you are a en your with by explaining to you the erty from me without paying for it in good money. I shall go away on a will consider you one to be attacked my return you have withstood their efforts and have kept the business up to its present prosperous condition ! will turn it over to you."

Never fear father I will increase the sales and will not get awindled get my bracelet." either. How long will you be absent?"

Nathan Mayer gave his son, Isaac. went abroad for change, rest and recreation. Isaac was only twenty-two years old. but was considered one of the smartest young men in the jewelry lishman. "I will not claim the brace. There was something in that cold I worked half an hour with it, pry-trade. He was very anxious to show let till my check for it is pronounced gray eye of his as he spoke the last lag and bending the bars of the gate not only done a larger business than the concern had ever done before, but had made no losses. Five months of had been but few attempts to get gems that any one could have taken him for such a fool as to be deceived by

Two weeks before his father was to return, in figuring his profits since the old man's departure. Isaac Mayer no

A few days later a gentleman who. an English marquis, stepped into his store and asked to be shown some bracelets. The stranger's daughter was with him. She examined the jew els with her father, and it was evident that any purchase he might make with a ruby between two large fet set with a ruby between two large was unwilling to spend so much money for her in this way. Mayer heard her appeals and the reply of her father, who told her that if certain securi ties he had ordered sold in London in ties he had ordered sold in London in 850. case the market price on the Stock Exof the bracelet and Le would gladly countenance. buy it for her. Instead he purchased one she fancied, set with a sapphire. worth \$150. Drawing a check book from his nocket he wrote a check for the amount, saying that he would send some one, in whose knowledge of gems

store, looked at the bracelet, pronounc on the dinner by mourning over your ed it genuine, the check was found to loss." be good, and the bracelet was sent to the customer's hotel.

A few days later the stranger's claimed, bubbling with excitement. Papa got a cablegram from London

couldn't wait till the bracelet had been father for playing a trick on you. lest the purchase should be delayed fully. pending the sending of funds from her was that her father had once his warmly. bought a jewel and an inferior article had been substituted on delivery. She feared there would be a lot of red would be patient, and she departed apparently numerolat counterful.

tel. He found the gentleman some what indisposed, which was given as a reason for not going to his store instead of requiring him to come to his hotel. The man who had pronounced on the supphire was telephoned for and was some time coming. Meanwhile issue was entertained by the young tady very agreeably. He took occasion to pump her about her father's anticedents, his home and at fairs in England and other matters in order to satisfy himself that his cu. tomer was a gentleman from whom he had nothing to fear She ingensously told him many things that gave

him confidence. When the expert came in he examlishman:

the price asked for them. But one attractive because it is wicked. If in this transaction you come into so solely from this motive. possession of similar stones of less

said, "and will never be so imposed so to one of the territories, look about that are perpetrated by swindlers on ble is two sided," he went on presently and plays of western life, jewelers. I have endeavored to sharp "I don't ask Mr. Mayer to trust me I brought up in Coconino county at her that if she did not I would be sure different methods that have been at him. It is a purely business transact to make an observation tour through welling up in her eye, and hed hope. tempted upon me, but my reputation ition. If I had the price of the brace- the surrounding country. I found the I can't. Pop's gone to get the country. for shrewdness has been such that few let right here in gold coin and could region much as it has been depicted mittee, and may she's some over he attempts have been made to get prop exchange the bracelet for the gold we in theatricals, barring the stage of Aunt Sarah's. Pop he's got the ket would both be satisfied. Unfortunately fects. I got into a little play of my s this door with also I must wait for funds to be cabled own, and it came very near being a trip, and during my absence you shall from London, which will require sev-tragedy. have charge of the business. Since eral days. I fear we shall have to go

> funds arrive. you," said the expert. "I am leaving low and cheerfully gave me the direc time.'

> if to say "I teld you see I shall never lag note of my height, weight, the co

"I can suggest a way out of the mat. of my face. "Six months. I think that long ter," continued the expert. "Seal the sough for the teal."

— bracelet in the box in which it came to you with your seal. Let Mr. Mayer power of attorney to manage the bust-take it back to his store and keep it ness, to sign his name to checks and till you are ready to pay for it. Then if I stay here I'll probably adopt the she had helped me to escape. She said to use his capital; then the old man break the seal yourself and you may costume of the country." be sure you have the gems I have pronounced upon."

"That's a good idea," said the Enghis father on his return that he had good. Would that satisfy you, Mr Mayer

ly hoping that the funds would arrive his trial passed, and so far he had and the sale he effected before his famade good both his promises. There ther's return. There was \$900 profit from him without payment, and there make up the \$5,000 excess he desired before I could have got my own re the locality. Of course I would be in it, and Issac needed the amount to had seemed so palpable he wondered to show during the old man's absence. the other of those present. At Issuer him and, taking off mine, handed it "Yes."

Mayer's assent-the-Englishman-took-it from his daughter. Mayer, who was keeping an eye on it, glanced at it as it passed from father to daughter and though they were at some ideas of called for my belt and pistol and though they were at some ideas of called for my belt and pistol and it has a tennily a seen and his hoofs would leave tracks." those of the previous six months. He though they were at some distance gave me all his extensive armament in from him, saw the lid go on the box determined to strain every nerve to containing the bracelet. Wax was promake up the remaining 1800.

There's a boat. Your might drop gave me all his extensive armament in down the creek. Pop keeps a blood-netwent. The exchange having been hound in the barn to track folks with:

In though they were at some distance gave me all his extensive armament in from him, saw the lid go on the box mished, he rode on.

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Never in the previous six months. He though they were at some distance gave me all his extensive armament in down the creek. Pop keeps a blood-netween the previous six months.

Never in the previous six months. duced and the box scaled with a ring Never in my life have I felt so con the purchaser wore on his little finger from his appearance might have been Then it was handed to Mayer, who, without resistance, and now I was rid either. The boat would be missed

change should rise to a certain figure arrived from abroad and instead of as the one I had met, but with weap-In less than a week Nathan Mayer

> "What's the matter, Isaac?" he ask ed quickly. "Anything gone wrong?"

been victimized with a hanging head. "Well. my boy." said the old man. "you've learned what I have long he had confidence to look at the set known—that it takes a lot of expeting, and if he pronounced the sapphire rience in the jewelry business to keep have invited some friends I met abroad The next day a main came into the to dine with us. Don't put a damper

This did not comfort Isaac, but he managed to get into dinner dress to help entertain his father's friends. daughter entered the Mayer store, evi What was his astonishment when he dently in very high spirits, and told went from his room down to the draw Issue to send the bracelet she had ing room to see the Englishman and coveted to her father at his hotel his daughter who had swindled him. The shares have been sold," she ex On a table lay the bracelet they had

nade away with.
"This is my friend, Mr. Ackerman made away with. of London," said Nathan Mayer, "and The girl was very pretty and very Miss Ackerman Tou've met before. charming in her frankness She eh? Well, you must forgive your old some one else." sent home, but must have a look at it laid the plan myself. We talked it When it was being shown her she over in London, and they, coming over manifested a great deal of trepidation ahead of me, carried it out beauti

"Forgive me," she said.

"If I had to be swindled," he replied tape about that. Issue assured her charming a young lady. I must com that all would go satisfactorily if she pliment you on hour ability as a de-

"You ros

AN IDEAL **PERSONAGE**

He Begame Unpleasant on Acquaintance

By SAMUEL E. BRANT

I grew up under the influence Ined the braceler with great care, us takes of western life. The desperade rived I had every chance of ing a microscope for the purpose, and of the plains was to me a fascinating hanged. And yet I was appalled by when he had done so said to the Eng person, and the wickeder he was the his threat, but not so make so as to more I admired him. It is a curious prevent my looking about for a look "These stones are genuine and worth psychological fact that wickedness is thing I wish distinctly understood—I question if young persons who enter am approving them, and them alone, spon a life of crime do not often do It was getting dusk when I saw a siri

your employ four years? Am I not value don't blame me. That is your for getting out to the wild west, not door of the jailer's house and take appropriate to make a desperado of myself, but to an armful of firewood. I called to her. At this the young lady looked trou- gratify my curiosity as to what the she dropped the wool and came to the bled and her father seemed pussied. life out there really was, and after door of the jail, "I was caught that way once." he finishing my education I concluded to "What d'ye w

you are a young man, the swindlers over this inspection again when my day when I met a man on horseback and pop'll be home by their of whom I asked the way. He was a "I shall not be here to make it for quiet looking, quiet spoken young feltown tomorrow to be gone for some tions I asked for. We were about to part when I noticed him looking at crowber in the house. She didn't re-The girl looked ruefully at Issac as me critically. He seemed to be tak

> "You look like me," he said. "Do II"

> "Except the clothes."

"I haven't got an Arizona outfit ye! "I reckon we'll swap,"

"Swap what?" Well, we'll trade hats first."

words that rendered any enforcement mear the lock, and at last succeeded in of them unnecessary. Though they leasuring the bolt from the catch were a command, he did not even put There was also a chain am an anxillary. "Perfectly," said the jeweler, secret his hand to his pistol. He carried also but with a thick but alta feet long a pair of revolvers in holsters slung got a big leverage on it and broke it. across his saddlebow, either of which Then I was free. The next question he could have grasped and used long was what I should do to get away from Meanwhile the box containing the brought it to bear upon him. I under "Got any horses here?" I saked the bracelet had been passing from one to stood that I was to change hats with girl.

ing away armed to the teeth, while he But I'll take to the creek. How can I

I rode on as mild mannered a man change should rise to a certain usual arrived from abroad and instant of had been realized upon it would have finding a hearty welcome from his given him a profit three times the cost of the bracelet and the would gladly countenance.

The would provide from abroad and instant of one innumerable. What the fellow I drew her to me and kissed her. The would you like to go east to a countenance. soluble mystery. But it didn't re her, quire a long time to find out. After Her face lighted up. "Can I go now ed quickly. "Anything gone wrong?" awhite I met several men riding on the with you?" road together. They were chatting and paid no attention to me till I came and the mistake is rectified I will write very near them. Then one of them your father a proposition to do some looked at me and started. We made thing for you to reward you for what the usual salute of strangers meeting you have done for medin a new country, and I thought no I held her hand and genuine Mayer was to send the brace out of the toils of sharpers. You'll more of the encounter. But I had not let to his hotel. The seller would have make it up some day. Don't worry more of the encounter. But I had not mine, indicating the emotion she felt ample time to discover if the check about it now. I've just got home and command from behind:

"Hands up!" I put my hands above my head and I put my hands above my head and bend to look back and throw her a waited. The men who had passed me kiss. Her eyes were fixed on me returned and relieved me of my arms, when I disappeared. ment.

"Dead easy, wasn't it?" said one of them to the others. "You bet. I never thought he'd b

inform me what all this means?" you mean by being thus taken un never captured, but he was shot when awares?"

"L wonder if you don't think I'm "We don't think you're any one. We ed to satisfy me, and I left by the know you're 'Jimmy the Kid,' one of first train for the east. The girl who

sheriff do the job?" I would prefer to be swindled by so and arms with him. The story affect I am educating a girl to make my ed one of the three, but the other two wife, but I don't care for their immun laughed at it. Nevertheless since one does, for I am paying her for my very of them doubted my identity the other existence. I only wish there was more two gave in and co

is a small town built on the bank of a stream. The sheelf told in explorthat I or, rather, the minut hard best mistaken for was full of fricks and miteld of beginne wor selfdoob saw one of them. He would call the rigi tried and hanged as soon as it could be reached. Meanwhile he thought it be mile in the stone full back of looks. If I tried rie. If I tried to exempe be would more the committee the trouble, beard him my this indeed he intend ed that I should.

He soon left the place, and I mive myself over to thoughts of no pleasunt character. If a made no effort to rel out and away when the committee ir

The jull was an old atone amoke house, with a door made of from burk somewhere between fifteen and seven-As I grew older I began to lay plans teen years old come out of the back

"What d'ye want? she asked." "Have you any feeling?" I saked. better man than I, who have been in upon again. Let me see." And—he me and, if I found a place to suit me, Instead of replying she, stood looking the business more than forty years. It appeared to be thinking of some plan settle and grow up with the country at me, allent, and I went on I told is not having passed on you spurious by which he might feel sure he would I selected Arisons; which has since her my story as I have told it here and stones that I fear, but the many tricks get the article he paid for. "The troug furnished the scene of many novels maked her if she could and would find a way to aid me to escape, anouring any more than I am willing to trust a small town from which I proposed ly hauged by mistake. I waw sympathy

> "How long will they be gone?" "Maw she told me to wit supper and I was riding through the country one have it ready at 8 o'clock. Reckon al

"Is there any one else in the house! "No."_

There was a good hour in which to act - I asked the girl If there was a member any such implement, but she Supply Hotel of the harm intended the or of my hair and eyes and the shape the door of the jail was in the wood house. I asked her to gret it for me She started to do so, and it occurred to me that she would sifter by siding me. and I called her back to ask her what they would do with her if they knew she didn't know, but she wasn't afrild of her pop, though everybody else with He wouldn't hart her. Then she went on and brought me the but.

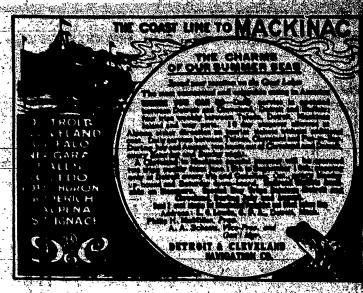
"Goodby?" I said. "Goodby!"

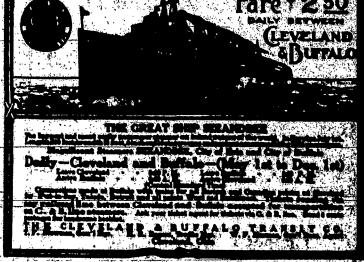
"No. but if I get out of this ally

time in releasing it, then waded down the creek, turning before coming to a

I learned afterward that the jailer was completely baffled at the direction I had taken since there was no indi taken without blood spilling," where I was known, and my recent "My friends," said I, "will you kindly jailer was notified that he had held th the wrong person. "Jimmy the Kid," "And will you kindly inform us what as the real desperado was called, was not suspecting an enemy was near. My brief experience in the west with

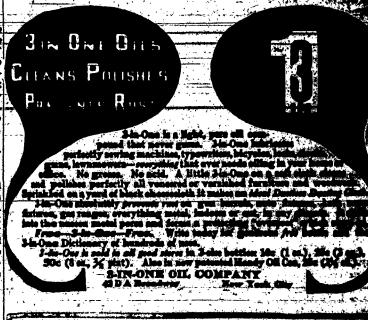
my previously admired desperado serv the most notorious desperadoes in I am almost sure saved me from Arizona, and we'll see that you don't hasty execution is now at school in do any more murders. What do you New England. She has been there two pending the sending of funds from Miss Ackerman advanced, smiling say. boys? Shall we string him up years, and you should see the change London. Another thing that troubled put out her hand to Isaac and grasped right here or take him in and let the in her from the wild thing she was when she brought me the bar that I told them of the man I had met and pried me out of jail to what she is to how he had forced me to change clothes day. My friends twit-me, saying that that I could do in the for the price seems infinitely small.

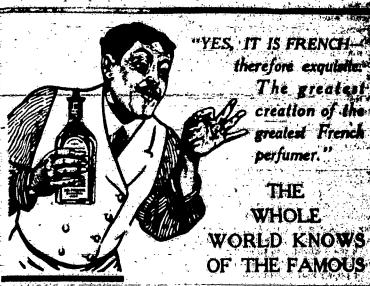




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