

# DR. HOUGHTON RESCUED

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## Rector of Church of Transfiguration in Dangerous Runaway.

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### Lieut. Fortisque of Fourth U. S. Cavalry Coolly Stops Frightened Horse, Then Quietly Walks Away.

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Lieut. G. R. Fortisque, attached to the Fourth United States Cavalry, stopped a runaway in Fifth Avenue last evening and saved the Rev. George Clarke Houghton, rector of the Church of the Transfiguration, from possible injury or death.

Dr. Houghton had been shopping in Broadway and Fifth Avenue during the afternoon, ending at Fifth Avenue and Fortieth Street, where he telephoned for a cab from the Calumet Club, of which he is a member. A hansom cab driven by John McMorrow of the Calumet Stables answered the call, and Dr. Houghton started down the Avenue for his residence, in Twenty-ninth Street. At Thirty-fifth Street the breast strap broke, and in an instant the horse had the bit in his teeth and was dashing blindly down the Avenue.

The cab swayed from side to side, in imminent peril of upsetting or striking other vehicles. The driver tugged at the reins, standing up in his seat to get a better purchase.

Dr. Houghton opened the door of the cab and seemed to be meditating a jump, but pedestrians yelled "don't jump." In desperation he seized the reins stretched taut above him, and added his strength to the driver's, but the horse was terrified at the uproar, while spectators and policemen seemed unable to act.

A tall young fellow in a silk hat and frock coat was at Twenty-eighth Street, walking down the avenue with a friend, when he turned and saw the runaway approaching. In the next instant he was out in the street and had the horse by the bridle. He checked the horse gradually, and finally ran it into a lamppost. All escaped unhurt.

"Mr. Fortisque must have a wrist of steel," said the doctor in discussing the incident later. "He guided the runaway with his arm outstretched, and never let his body come near the animal. And when it was all over he tried to slip into the crowd, but I would not let him go until I at least knew his name.

"I am Dr. Houghton of the Church of the Transfiguration," said the doctor to his rescuer, "and I would like very much to know your name."

"It was nothing. I am an officer of the United States Army," he said, handing the other his card. "I am here on a leave of absence."

Then, according to Dr. Houghton, the soldier set his high silk hat firmer on his head, brushed his kid gloves, and strolled away.

It was learned later that Lieut. Fortisque was stopping at the Army and Navy Club during a leave of absence from Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The Rev. Dr. Houghton lives at 1 East Twenty-ninth Street, and is a member of the Calumet Club. His church is known as "The Little Church Around the Corner."

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