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THE MYSTERY OF AGATHA WEBB

By Anna Katharine Green,
Author of "The Laramie Case,"
"Lost Man's Lane," "Hound
and Ring," Etc., Etc.

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CHAPTER XXIV.

FATHER AND SON.

But Frederick's day of trial was not yet over. There was a closed door to open, a father to see (as in his heart he still called Mr. Sutherland). Then there were friends to face, and foes, under conditions he, better than any one else, knew were in some regards made worse rather than better by the admissions and revelations of this eventful day—Agnes, for instance. How could he meet her pure, gay, But it was his father he must first confront, his father to whom he would have to repeat in private the tale which robbed the best of men of a past and took from him a son, almost a wife, without leaving him one memory calculated to console him. Frederick was so absorbed in this anticipation that he scarcely noticed the two or three timid hands stretched out in encouragement toward him and was moving slowly toward the door, behind which his father had disappeared so many hours before, when he was called to the interests of the moment by a single word, uttered not very far from him. It was simply, "Well?" But it was uttered by Knapp and repeated by Mr. Gourtney.

Frederick shuddered and was hurrying on when he found himself stopped by a piteous figure that, with appealing eyes and timid gestures, stepped up before him. It was Amabel.

"Forgive me," she murmured, looking like a pleading saint. "I did not know, I never dreamed you were so much of a man, Frederick; that you bore such a heart, cherished such grief, was so worthy of love and a woman's admiration. If I had!"

Her expression was eloquent, more eloquent than he had ever seen it, for it had real feeling in it, but he put her coldly by.

"When my father's white hairs become black again, and the story of my shame is forgotten in this never forgetting world, then come back and I will forgive you."

And he was passing on when another touch detained him. He turned, this time in some impatience, only to meet the frank eyes of Sweetwater. As he knew very little of this young man, save that he was the amateur detective who had by some folly of his own been carried off on the Hesper and who was probably the only man saved from its wreck he was about to greet him with some commonplace phrase of congratulation when Sweetwater interrupted him with the following words:

"I only wanted to say that it may be easier for you to approach your father with the revelations you are about to make if you knew that in his present frame of mind he is much more likely to be relieved by such proofs of innocence as you can give him than overwhelmed by such show the lack of kinship between you. For two weeks Mr. Sutherland has been bending under the belief of your personal criminality in this matter of Mrs. Webb's death. This was his secret, which was shared by me."

"By you?"

"Yes, by me. I am more closely linked to this affair than you can readily imagine. Some day I may be able to explain myself, but not now. Only remember what I have said about your father—pardon me, Mr. Sutherland—and act accordingly. Perhaps it was to tell you this I was forced back here against my will and best interest by the strongest series of events that ever happened to a man. But," he added, with a sidelong look at the group of men still hovering about the coroner's table, "I had rather think it was for some more important office still. But this the future will show, the future which I seem to see lowering in the faces over there."

And, waiting for no reply, he melted into the crowd.

Frederick passed at once to his father.

No one interrupted Frederick after he had shut that door behind him, but the large crowd that in the hall and on the steps of the building awaited his reappearance showed that the public interest was still warm in a matter affecting so deeply the heart and interests of their best citizens. When, therefore, that long closed door finally opened and Frederick was seen, according to Mr. Sutherland on his arm, the tide of feeling which had not yet subsided since Agatha's letters were read, vented itself in one great sob of relief for Mr. Sutherland's face was calmer than when they had last seen it. His step more assured, and he leaned or made himself lean on Frederick's arm, as if to impress upon all who saw them that the ties of years cannot be shaken off so easily and that he still looked upon Frederick as his son.

But he was not contented with this dumb show, eloquent as it was. As the crowd parted and these two imposing figures took their way down the steps

to the carriage which had been sent for them Mr. Sutherland cast one deep and long glance about him on faces he knew and faces he did not know, on those who were near and those who were far, and, raising his voice, which did not tremble as much as might have been expected, said deliberately:

"My son accompanies me to his home. If he should afterward be wanted, he



"My son accompanies me to his home," will be found at his own residence. Good day, my friends. I thank you for the good will you have this day shown us both."

Then he entered the carriage. The solemn way in which Frederick bared his head in acknowledgment of this public recognition of the hold he still retained on this one faithful heart struck awe into the hearts of all who saw it. So that the carriage rolled off in silence, closing one of the most thrilling and impressive scenes ever witnessed in that time worn village. (To be continued.)

SAVING THE PALACE.

Kong and Queen Send Gifts; Anonymous Offer of \$30,000.

The fund which the Lord Mayor of London, England, has opened for the preservation of the Crystal Palace has been enriched, by contributions of £200 from the King and £100 each from the Queen and Queen Alexandra.

The sum still required to complete the purchase is £90,000. The Lord Mayor has received a letter from "A Private Citizen," whose name at his request must not be disclosed, in which he makes the following munificent offer:

"As a private citizen I am willing to contribute half a sovereign for every sovereign subscribed from to-day by my fellow-citizens or by public bodies, and I am prepared to contribute altogether the sum of £30,000 (thirty thousand pounds) if double that amount (£60,000) shall have been subscribed on or before July 31 next."

The Earl of Plymouth has subscribed £5,000, the Duke of Westminster £1,000, and Mr. W. P. Bull, K. C., a member of the Canadian bar, £1,000 in celebration of the anniversary of the Canadian Confederation. The total sum standing to the credit of the fund up to 6 p.m. on Wednesday was £49,431 17s. 6d.

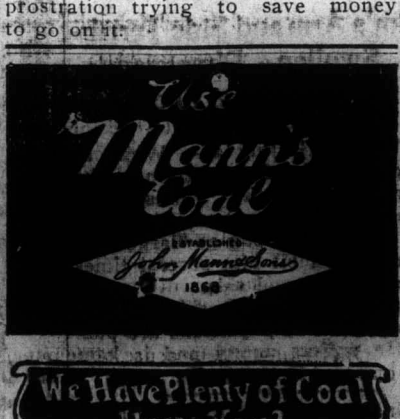
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The saddest thing in the world isn't a funeral on a rainy day. Just watch a chicken who is wearing a rummage sale hat, a 1907 coat and a pair of run-down shoes rubber after a perfectly-dressed princess and note the expression on the face of the chicken.



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Neighborhood

MOUNT ZION

(From our own correspondents)

Quite a number from here at the Harley garden party on the and report a good time.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Howe, daughter of Brantford, have been daying at the latter's home place.

Miss Marjorie Pamplin of is spending her holidays with parents here.

Miss Nellie Swears of Hamilton is the guest of her cousin, Miss Swears.

Mr. Henry Dawes of Wood was the guest of his brother W. Dawes for a few days last week.

Mrs. S. Hammershaw and children of Bay City, is visiting brothers Messrs. Thomas and Hanson of this place.

Mrs. Maudie Stickle, Miss, a guest of Miss Cora Giles on last.

Mr. Wm. Brown of Grand Mich., and sister, Mrs. Geo. H. heimer of Harley spent Saturday with their sister, Mrs. J. Sw.

Mr. Frank Pamplin has taken himself a wife, in the person of Lillis Force, Woodbury, and going to the West in the near.

Miss Mable Carter of Brantford, the guest of her cousins, Miss and Eva Read, a few day week.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Read Sunday with the latter's sister Princeton.

Mr. Elmer Secord and friends Brantford, spent Sunday in the neighborhood.

A few from this neighborhood taking in the excursion to Stanley on the 23rd.

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