

are affected with homicidal mania; of which Farnam is patently not a victim. But once a chance remark dropped by Porter Devarney put the idea of Farnam in my mind, the rest became fairly clear; and I merely awaited substantiation before arresting him.

"I can thank Porter Devarney for his sister's happiness and the establishment of Stanford Forrest's innocence; and this is what he said—

"In discussing the case with him, he mentioned that he had come from Averyt—whom he called Heston—with a message to his sister. Averyt wanted to see her. He says he met Esther on the road walking toward the cabin and presuming that she knew he was at the cabin, he did not mention to her that there were strangers at the Lodge and she subsequently went there.

"But the telling point that Porter makes was his statement that he walked farther down the road toward the village where his folks and Mart Farnam live, and that he was walking in the woods hoping to get a shot at some sparrows. And he said quite naïvely that he saw Mart Farnam—*walking toward the Lodge!*

"His casual statement was so vital that it