

writers. I sought the advice of a very practical publisher and he tells me the following is the best order in which to arrange the narratives (I shall follow his counsel) :

1. Prologue by John Gibson Hume.
2. The Story of the Crime and its Investigation up to the Arrest of Mr. Molson. By John Gibson Hume.
3. Personal Diary of Herman Molson.
4. Sickness and Death of Mark Ashton.
5. Strange Happenings at Ashton Hall. By John Gibson Hume.
6. Miss Lucille's Narrative.
7. The Solving of the Mysteries.
8. The Story of the Midnight Ride. By John Eben Williams.
9. The Strange Disappearance of Herman Molson.
10. The Rose Arbor on Chestnut Island (Molson's Diary resumed).
11. Later Happenings at Ashton Hall.
12. The Day of Revelation.

This will be, then, the order of the story and I wish to say before closing this Prologue that all the narratives are given precisely as they were written with one exception. It is this: In Miss Lucille's Narrative she alludes to her father's "resurrection," and I could not, as a strictly orthodox man, allow that to pass. I changed it to "resuscitation," a word which will not excite controversy or arouse opposition. I am glad to say that my wife and my minister both approve the change, the minister most warmly, because he thought the term "resurrection" was a sacred and scriptural word, employed almost solely in connection with the Lord himself and his miracles, and the use of the term here would, in his opinion, be almost blasphemous.

I humbly submit my work to the reader who will judge how faithfully and impartially I have performed my task.

JOHN GIBSON HUME.