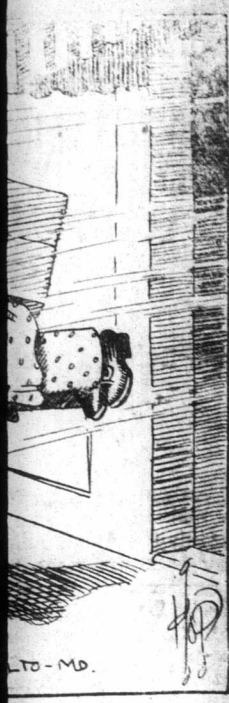


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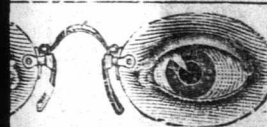
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USE "COURIER" WANT ADS

"The Mystery of Agatha Webb"

By KATHARINE GREEN

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"It's the saddest thing I ever heard of," said he. "These men must have been driven wild by misery. This room is suspicious in comparison to the ones at the back, and as for the pantry, there is not even a scrap there a mouse could eat. I struck a match and glanced into the flour barrel. It looked as if it had been flocked. I declare it makes a fellow sick." "The constable with a shudder with- drew toward the door, as if he were stid- ing." "The atmosphere here is stid- ing," said he. "I must have a breath of outdoor air." But he was not destined to any such immediate relief. As he moved down the hall the form of a man darkened the doorway and he heard an anxious voice exclaim: "Ah, Mr. Fenton, is that you? I have been looking for you everywhere."

It was Sweetwater, the young man who had previously shown so much anxiety to be of service to the coroner. Mr. Fenton looked displeased. "And how come you to find me here?" he asked. "Oh, some men saw you take this road, and I guessed the rest." "Oh, ah, very good. And what do you want, Sweetwater?" The young man, who was glowing with pride and all alive with the enthusiasm which he had kept suppressed for hours, slipped up to the con- stable and whispered in his ear: "I have made a discovery, sir. I know you will excuse the presumption, but I couldn't bring myself to keep quiet and follow in that other fellow's wake. I had to make investigations on my own account, and—and"—stammering in his eagerness—"they have been suc- cessful, sir. I have found out who was the murderer of Agatha Webb!" The constable, compassionating the disappointment in store for him, shook his head with a solemn look toward the room from which he had just emerged. "You are late, Sweetwater," said he. "We have found him out our- selves, and he lies inside there, dead." It was dark in this narrow passage- way and Sweetwater's back was to the moonlight, so that the blank look that must have crossed his face at this announcement was lost upon the con- stable. But his consternation was evi- dent from the way he thrust out either hand to steady himself, against the walls, and Mr. Fenton was not at all surprised to hear him stammer out: "Dead! He! Who do you mean by he, Mr. Fenton?" "The man in whose house we now are," returned the other. "Is there any one else who can be suspected of this crime?" Sweetwater gave a gulp that seemed to restore him to himself. "There are two men living here, both very good men, I thought. Which of you do you mean, and why do you think that either John or James Zabel could have killed Agatha Webb?" "For reply, Mr. Fenton drew him- toward the room in which such a great heart tragedy had taken place. "Look," said he, "and see what can happen in a Christian land, in the midst of Christian people living not 50 rods away. These men are dead, Sweetwater, dead from hunger. The loaf of bread you see there came too late. It was bought with a \$20 bill, taken from Agatha Webb's cupboard drawer.

Sweetwater, to whom the whole scene seemed like some horrible night- mare, stared at the figure of James lying on the floor, and then at the figure of John seated at the table, as if his mind had failed to take in the con- stable's words. "Dead!" he murmured. "Dead! John and James Zabel. What will happen next? Is the town under a curse?" And he fell on his knees before the prostrate form of James, only to start up again as he saw the eyes of Knapp resting on him. "Ah," he muttered, "the detective!" And after giving the man a Boston close look he turned toward Mr. Fen- ton. "You said something about this good old man having killed Agatha Webb. What was it? I was too dazed to take it in."

Mr. Fenton, not understanding the young man's eagerness, but willing- ton, told him what reasons there were for ascribing the crime in the Webb cottage to the mad deed of these starv- ing men. Sweetwater listened with open eyes and confused bearing, only controlling himself when his eyes be- came fastened on the quiet figure of the detective, now moving softly to and fro through the room. "But why murder when he could have had his loaf for the asking?" re- monstrated Sweetwater. "Agatha Webb would have gone without a meal any time to feed a wandering tramp. How much more to supply the necessities of two of her oldest and dearest friends?" "Yes," remarked Fenton, "but you forget or perhaps never knew that the master passion of these men was pride. James Zabel ask for bread! I can much sooner imagine him stealing it, yes, or striking a blow for it, so that the blow forever shut the eyes that saw him do it."

"You don't believe your own words, Mr. Fenton. How can you?" Sweet- water's hand was on the breast of the accused man as he spoke and his man- ner was almost solemn. "You must not take it for granted," he went on, his green eyes twinkling with a curious light, "that all wisdom comes from Boston. We in Sutherlandtown have some sparks of it if they have not yet been recognized. You are satisfied— here he addressed himself to Knapp— "that the blow which killed Agatha Webb was struck by this respectable old man?" Knapp smiled, as if a child had asked him this question; but he answered him good humoredly enough. "You see the dagger lying here with which the deed was done, and you see

the bread that was bought from Lofon with a \$20 bill of Agatha Webb's money. In these you can read my answer."

"Good evidence," acknowledged Sweetwater; "very good evidence when we remember Mr. Crane's story of the old man he met rushing from the gate- way with something glittering in his hand. I never was so best in my life, am I not?—and yet—if I could have a few minutes of quiet thought all by myself I am certain I could show you that there is more in this matter than you think. Indeed, I know that there is, but I do not like to give my reasons till I have conquered the difficulties presented by these men having had that \$20 bill."

"What fellow is this?" suddenly broke in Knapp. "A fiddler, a nobody," quietly whis- pered Mr. Fenton in his ear. Sweetwater heard him and changed in a twinkling from the uncertain, half- baffled, wholly humble person- a they had just seen to a man with a purpose strong enough to make him kick his head with the fist. "I am a musician," he admitted, "and I play on the violin for money when- ever the occasion offers, something such as you wish to reach the root of this mysterious and dastardly crime. But that I am nobody, I deny, and mean that this fellow shall agree with me before this very night is over. Only give me an opportunity for con- sidering this subject and the per- mission to walk for a few minutes about this house."

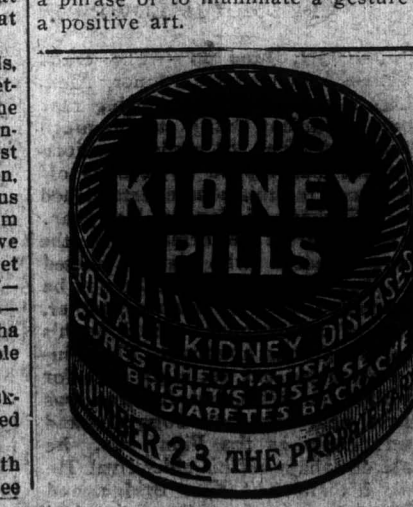
"That is my prerogative," protested the detective firmly, but without any display of feeling. "I am the man, the place may present." "Have you picked up all that are to be found in this room?" asked Sweet- water calmly. Knapp shrugged his shoulders. He was very well satisfied with himself. "Then give me a chance," prayed Sweetwater. "Mr. Fenton," he urged earnestly, "I am not the fool you take me for. I feel, I know, I have genius for this kind of thing, and though I do play the fiddle, I swear there are depths to this affair which none of you have as yet sounded. 'Sirs, where are the \$90 in bills which go to make up the clear thousand that was taken from the small drawer at the back of Agatha Webb's cupboard?" "They are in some secret hiding place, no doubt, which we will present- ly come upon as we go through the house," answered Knapp.

"Umph! Then I advise you to put your hand on them as soon as possi- ble," reported Sweetwater. "I will confine myself to going over the ground you have already investigated." And with a sudden ignoring of the others' presence, which could only have sprung from an intense egotism or from an overwhelming belief in his own theory, he began an investigation of the room that threw the others' more commonplace efforts entirely in the shade. Knapp, with a slight compression of his lips, which was the sole expres- sion of anger he ever allowed himself, took up his hat and made his bow to Mr. Fenton.

"I see," said he, "that the sympathy of those present is with the local talent. Let local talent work, then, sir, and when you want me send to the tavern on the docks, where I will be found till I am notified that my services are no longer required." "No, no!" protested Mr. Fenton. "This boy's enthusiasm will soon evaporate. Let him fuss away if he will. His petty business need not interrupt us." (To be continued.)

\$100 REWARD \$100 The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address F. J. CHENEY and CO., Toledo, Ohio.

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A MESSAGE FROM A WOMAN TO WOMEN

"Every Woman Should Take 'Fruit-a-tives'"

LAKELT, ONT., MAY 13th, 1913 "Kindly publish this letter of mine if you think it will benefit other women who might be afflicted with the disease I have had in the past, but am now, thanks to "Fruit-a-tives", completely cured of. It is my firm belief that every woman should take "Fruit-a-tives" if she wants to keep herself in good health. Before taking "Fruit-a-tives", I was constantly troubled with what is commonly known as "Nerves" or severe Nervousness. This Nervousness is brought on the most violent attacks of Sick Headache, for which I was constantly taking doctors' medicine without any permanent relief. Constipation was also a source of great trouble to me and for which the Doctors said "I would have to take medicine all my life", but "Fruit-a-tives" banished all these troubles and now I am a well woman." Mrs. FRED. GADKE, age 50, box 6, for \$2.50—trial size, 50c. At dealers or sent prepaid on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

LANGFORD

(From our own Correspondent) Captain Fennell had charge of the service on Sunday morning. Mrs. L. Langs and her daughter, Mrs. Vanorman, Saginaw, were the guests of Mrs. Trueman Westbrook part of last week. Mr. Weldon had his aunt visiting him last week. Mr. and Mrs. Hedley Shaw, Toronto, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Westbrook one day last week. Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Day are spending a few days with Mrs. S. Day. Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Cavers, St. Catharines, spent part of last week with Mrs. M. E. Vanderlip. Mr. and Mrs. T. Westbrook are spending part of this week in the city. The Sunday school is to be re-organized next Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. All that are interested, try and be present.

WATER WORKS NOTICE!

HOURS FOR SPRINKLING LAWS

No person or persons shall be allowed to sprinkle, or use in any manner whatsoever, the water supplied by the Board of Water Commissioners upon Lawns, Gardens, Yards or Grounds of any description, except between the hours of six and eight-thirty o'clock p.m., and any person wishing to use the water on their Lawns or Gardens in the morning in place of the evening may do so between the hours of six and eight o'clock a.m., by giving notice to that effect in writing to the Secretary. It must, however, be clearly understood that the water cannot be used on Lawns or Grounds both morning and evening. FRED W. FRANK, Secretary. Water Commissioners' Office, Brantford, June 14, 1913.



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UNRESERVED AUCTION SALE OF MARKET GARDENERS' OUTFIT, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, ETC. W. Almas & Son have received instructions from Mr. Robert Legacy to sell by auction at his residence, situated in the Village of Cainsville, adjoining the residence of Mr. D. Hanley, on Monday, June 23rd, at one o'clock sharp, the following:— 1 chestnut horse, 3 years old, city broken. This is an extra good driver, and a grand individual, perfectly quiet, any lady can drive him. 1 bay horse, 5 years old, by Dr. John, city broken. This is a grand road horse; 1 sow, due to farrow in July; one Berkshire boar, 10 months old. Poultry—About a dozen pure bred white leghorn hens and 1 rooster. 1 top buggy, good as new, 1 open buggy, 1 top buggy, new, 2 dem- crats, 1 onehorse light dray, 1 cutter, nearly new, 1 pair light bob-sleighs, 1 walking plow, 1 set iron harrows, 1 cultivator, 1 garden seeder, new; 1 hand-cutting box, 1 set light single harness, 1 set single harness, rubber mounted, new; 1 cider mill com- plete, in perfect working order; about 110 gallons cider vinegar; 2 tree trimmers, large number of carpenter's tools, rakes, hoes, shovels, chains, forks, saws, and everything found on a well equipped garden property, cider barrels, large number of fruit baskets, bags, etc.

REMOVAL SALE

This is our last week at the old stand. After this week we will be located at 97 Colborne street, now occupied by Mr. A. W. Daniels, where we will carry the most new and complete lines of coal and gas ranges, furniture, baby carriages, builders' hardware, fishing tackle, paints, oils, glass, e. c. It will pay you to get our prices.

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