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A Mysterious Disappearance

By Gordon Holmes

A Great Detective Story

(Continued.)

"Sure, sir. Anyway, I'll try."

"I am greatly obliged to you."

"An' as my yarn bin of any use to you, sir?"

"The greatest. It has solved a puzzle. However, I will see you again. Good-bye. Don't forget to write."

"Cornhill is the direct line from Leadenhall Street," mused Claude, when he was alone. "Any one coming to Sloane Square from Dodge & Co.'s office would pass through it. Upon my word, things look very black against Mensmore. Yet I cannot believe it."

CHAPTER VII.

A POSSIBLE EPLANATION.

Bruce had now several lines of inquiry open.

Apart from the main and vital question as to the exact method of Lady Dyke's death, and the identity of the person responsible for it, a number of important matters required attention.

Why had Jane Harding quitted her situation so suddenly?

Whence did she obtain the money that enabled her to blossom forth as Marie le Marchant?

Who was Sydney H. Corbett?

Why did Mensmore adopt a false name; and, in any case, why adopt the name of Corbett?

Why did Mrs. Hillmer exhibit such sudden terror lest her brother might be guilty?

Whom did Mrs. Hillmer marry? Was her husband alive or dead?

Was the man who conveyed Lady Dyke's body from Raleigh Mansions to Putney responsible also for her death?

Finally, why did he select that particular portion of the Thames banks for the bestowal of his terrible burden?

Many other minor features suggested themselves for careful attention, but the barrister knew that if he elucidated some of the major questions the rest would answer themselves.

The last query promised to yield a good crop of information should it be satisfactorily dealt with. Turning to his notes, he found that the former owner of Putney house was a tutor or the preparatory school-master, named Rev. Septimus Childe.

Could it be that this was the school in which both Sir Charles Dyke and Mensmore were fellow-students. If so, Bruce failed to see why he should not forthwith place the whole of the facts in his possession at the service of the police, and allow the law to take its course.

On this supposition, the case against Mensmore was very black; not, indeed, incapable of explanation—for circumstantial evidence occasionally plays strange pranks with logic—but of such a grave nature that no private individual would be justified in keeping his knowledge to himself.

The deduction was intensely disagreeable; but Bruce resolved to coerce his thoughts, and do that which was right, irrespective of consequences.

He did not possess a Clergy List. No letter came from Mrs. Hillmer, so he walked across the Park to his club in Pall Mall to consult the appropriately bound black and white volume which gives reference to the many degrees of the Church of England.

Septimus Childe was a distinctive, though simple, name. And it was not there. There was not a Childe with a final "e" in the whole book. Without that important letter, as his informant might be mistaken, there were several. Close scrutiny of each man's designation and duties convinced him that though any of these might be one of the particular Childe's children, none answered to the description of the gentleman he sought.

Of course, he could always apply to Sir Charles Dyke, but he dreaded approaching the grief-stricken baronet on this matter. Now there was no help for it. The barrister was beginning to feel impatient at the constant difficulties which barred progress in each direction. After all, it was a small thing merely to ask his friend if he ever knew a reverend gentleman named Childe.

Bruce was sure that Sir Charles would not be acquainted with Mr. Childe, and also with the fact that the Putney house had served as his school, for it would be strange beyond credence if it were so that he had not mentioned it.

The weather was still clear and cold, and a wintry sun made walking pleasant. Claude, on quitting his club, set out again on foot. He crossed St. James's Square, Jermyn Street, and Piccadilly, and made his way to Oxford Street up New Bond Street.

Not often did he frequent these fashionable thoroughfares, and he had an excellent reason. When walking, he was given to abstraction, and seldom saw his acquaintances if he encountered them in unusual quarters. He would thus cut dead a woman at whose house he had dined the previous evening, or, when he was in practice at the Bar, fail to notice the salutation of his own leader.

To Claude himself this short-coming was intolerable; consciousness of it when in the West made him the most alert man in the crowd to note anybody whom he knew, except on the rare occasions when he forgot his failing.

This morning Bond Street was pleasantly full. People were beginning to return to town. Parliament re-assembled in a few days, and he passed many who were on his visiting list.

Outside a well-known costumier's he saw a brougham, into which a lady had just been assisted by the commissionaire.

It is no uncommon thing to recognize an acquaintance by the color of his horse, or the peculiar cut of the coachman's whiskers. This time Bruce knew the driver as well as the equippage, but the lady was not Mrs. Hillmer.

Instantly he was at the door, with his hat lifted; he assumed an expression of polite regret as he saw Dobson, the maid, in her mistress's place.

"Sorry," he said, "I knew the carriage, and thought that Mrs. Hillmer was inside. She is well, I trust."

"Not very, sir," answered the maid with an angry pout.

"Indeed, what is the matter?"

"Madame is going away, and has put us all on board wages."

Dobson had some of the privileges of a companion, and resented this relegation to the servants' hall.

"Going away?" cried Bruce. "A sudden departure, eh?"

The girl was arranging some parcels on the seat in front of her. She was not disinclined for a conversation with this good-looking gentleman, so she smiled archly, as she said: "Didn't you know, sir? I thought you would know all about it."

What he might have ascertained by a longer chat the barrister could not tell, for an interruption occurred. The coachman was more loyal to his mistress than the maid.

"Beg pardon, sir," he cried, "but the missus told us to hurry"; and he whipped his steed into the passing stream of carriages.

"More complications," murmured Claude. "Mrs. Hillmer contemplates a bolt. Shall I pay her another visit and surprise her? No, confound it, I will not. Let her go, and let things take their course."

Not in the most amiable frame of mind at this discovery, he pursued his walk to Portman Square.

Sir Charles Dyke was at home. He always was, now.

"For goodness sake, Mr. Bruce," whispered Thompson in the hall, "try to persuade Sir Charles to quit smokin', and readin', and thinkin'. He sits all day in the library and 'ardly has anything to eat."

Claude reproached himself for having neglected his resolution to stir his friend into something like animation. He was wondering what he should do in the matter, when the baronet rose at his entrance, saying, with a weary smile:

"Well, old fellow, what news?"

The other decided to throw all questioning to the winds for the moment. "I have come to bring you out. I won't hear of a refusal. Let us walk to the club and have lunch and a game of billiards."

Sir Charles protested. He had slept badly and was tired.

"All the more reason that you should sleep well tonight. Come, now, be advised. You will allow yourself to become a hopeless invalid if you go on in this way."

Dyke unwillingly consented, and they left the house. The older man brightened up considerably amidst the bustle of the streets. His color returned, he talked with some degree of cheerfulness, and even laughed as he said:

"I never understood you were a doctor, Claude, in addition to your other varied acquirements. For the first time since—since November last, I feel hungry."

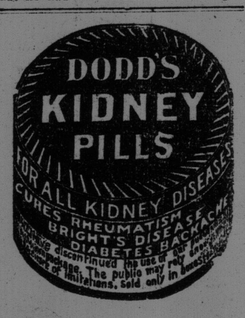
"Why don't you take my advice, and go away for some shooting? It is not too late even now, to go after a hare."

"I will think of it. I wonder who we shall meet at the club."

"Lots of fellows, no doubt. And, by the way, you must be prepared for one little difficulty. Suppose they ask about your wife?"

The baronet's momentary gaiety vanished. He stopped short, and clutched Bruce's arm. "Don't you see," he almost moaned, 'that this is the reason I have remained indoors for so long? What shall I say?"

(To be Continued.)



Fashion Hint for Times Readers

SUEDE SHOES WITH THE AFTERNOON FROCK.

The most decided dress change brought about by the Directoire mode has been in footwear. For dressy wear the high-heeled shoe, of dull suede or ooze leather has almost entirely replaced the boot of polished leather, long the accepted style for ceremonious occasions. These suede shoes come in black, gray and brown, and may be ordered in catawba, steel blue or any of the new shades—for it is imperative that the suede shoe shal match the frock worn with them. Of course, such shoes are most daintily fashioned, with high heels, light soles and other dressy touches, and they are invariably in buttoned style—the accepted model for all formal wear.

MONTREAL HAS NEW METHOD OF FIGHTING WHITE PLAGUE

Col. J. H. Burland, One of the Pioneers in the Movement for "Class Treatment of Tuberculosis," Tells of It—21,000 Sufferers and Three Deaths a Day in Montreal From Dread Disease.

(Montreal Witness)

Colonel Jeffry H. Burland and Dr. E. S. Harding last evening delivered addresses before the Young Men's League of the American Presbyterian Church, on 'Class treatment of tuberculosis,' Mr. George R. Lighthall, B. C. L., occupied the chair.

Colonel Burland said it was with much pleasure he accepted the invitation of the secretary of the league to speak on the subject chosen, which was meeting with a sympathetic reception wherever introduced to the churches, and philanthropic organizations in the city. The cause of the suppression of T. B. C., with which I have identified myself, and in which I am very much interested, is one of the utmost importance, said the lecturer, "that whilst under other circumstances I would hesitate to address you, yet I feel impelled to speak when I am asked, in such a manner as I may be able, if only it may secure the support and co-operation of those whom I address. The tuberculosis exhibition recently held in Montreal did a great deal to spread a knowledge of its nature and its cure."

The mortality in the city of Montreal, last year, due directly to tuberculosis, the speaker remarked, was 1,040, or three deaths per day. Physicians of experience estimated that there were from ten to twenty living persons affected to every one who died. According to this calculation there would be in Montreal 21,000 persons affected. To treat and cure as many of these as possible was the task before the Anti-Tuberculosis League and citizens in general, and the system of class treatment was being introduced as the most economical method yet evolved of dealing with the plague, and a very effective one according to the reports of experimental classes.

Tuberculosis might be termed a social disease. It was a disease of the household, and its prevalence indicated the presence of many factors tending to the degeneracy and destruction of the race. The consequence was we must have homes for incurables; sanitoria for those who can afford to go to them; day camps and home or class treatment for others before any permanent victory over the foe could be achieved.

The class system, Colonel Burland explained, came into being through the necessity of treating patients who could not leave their homes and go to the sanitoria. It was suited only to cases in the earlier stages of the disease, because the classes could not provide homes for the patients such as advanceed cases would require. The chief factors of a successful class were explained to be as follows:

(1) Patients who are willing and anxious to be cured, and who will obey, implicitly, the instructions of the class doctor or nurse; and such home conditions as may be utilized or modified to meet the requirements of the treatment.

(2) A doctor who is willing to give sufficient time to the work.

(3) A sympathetic and capable trained nurse; or, in some cases, a friendly visitor.

(4) The funds necessary to provide the salary of the nurse; milk, chairs, rugs, assistance towards rent or in other ways, as may be necessary where the patient cannot afford to provide them.

(5) Class books, charts and forms.

The treatment consists in keeping the members at rest in a recumbent position without work of any kind, even without reading when high temperature exists; providing good nourishment and plenty of fresh air; living on galleries or in tents, as much as possible. Charts are provided for recording temperature, weight and number of hours in the open air daily.

Colonel Burland added that he had requested Dr. Harding, of the Tuberculosis League, to select a number of cases, suitable for a class, and the Victorian Order had arranged for the services of a nurse, Miss Davidson. The first class started on Christmas eve with five members; there were now six patients in the class, and others were seeking admission. Quite a large number of applicants were found to be in a condition too far advanced or for other reasons ineligible for admission. This class had been taken over by Emmanuel Church. It was the first class of the kind in the city, and had been called the Alpha class, after a similar one in Boston. Colonel Burland described the progress of the patients, which he declared to be very satisfactory. The expense connected with this class for the eight weeks, including nurses' salary, chairs, blankets, milk, mattresses and incidentals had amounted to about $133.

Among the advantages of the class system mentioned were the education of the patients and all associated with them regarding the living conditions that would be beneficial or curative. A patient should not return cured, from a sanatorium, to the home conditions that produced the original affection. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that tuberculosis in the early stages could be cured.

In conclusion, Colonel Burland expressed the hope that the American Presbyterian Church would undertake the management of such a class among its many good works in the interest of the community. St. George's church, it was stated, has arranged for conducting a class.

Dr. Harding briefly touched on the medical work of the class, and described the conditions of the patients, who applied for admission to it. He had examined at the Tuberculosis Institute, Belmont Park, 62 cases. Eighteen of these were not strictly tuberculosis; forty-four were; ten were in an advanced stage; fifteen were regarded as curable by class treatment, and the rest should be sent to sanatoria. By the class system, also known as Dr. Pratt's method, seventy per cent. of the cases undertaken were reported cured. Montreal needed a place to which incipient cases could be sent.

A gentleman in the audience asked whether the Tuberculosis League could do anything to enforce sanitation in the homes of the city and public meeting places. He explained that the Young Men's League of their church had carried on an investigation in a certain district and had found one hundred dwellings which they considered unhealthy. They had also found a hall, seventeen by eleven feet, with practically no ventilation, occupied as a mission room, and containing, at the time of their visit, 65 children. These conditions had been reported to the civic authorities who had made a partial investigation, and issued orders requiring ventilation for the mission hall, but little had really been done to improve the living conditions in the neighborhood.

Colonel Burland replied that the leading citizens of Montreal were asking for a radical change in the administration of civic affairs, including the appointment of a board of control. If this was secured there would be some hope for better sanitary conditions, and many other reforms, and he urged the league of this church to support the movement for the reform of the City Council and administration. The water system and the drainage system needed improving. There was an agitation no now, and this was the time to get something done. Montreal had a habit of sleeping for about ten years, and then being rudely awakened by some sort of alarm clock or nightmare. Something would be done and another somnolent period would follow. He hoped the citizens would remain awake long enough to accomplish some substantial reforms this time.

The flavor, fragrance, purity and deliciousness of "Salada" Tea commend it to the favor of every lover of good tea. Every year has but served to demonstrate more emphatically its superiority.

OVERWORKED.

"Have you heard the latest story told by Lincoln?"

"No! who wrote it?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Only One "BROMO QUININE," that is Laxative Bromo Quinine

Cures a Cold in One Day, Grip in 2 Days

E. W. Grove on every box. 25c

EXEMPT INCOMES UP TO $600 A YEAR

Legislation Committee of Moncton City Council Reaches This Decision — Difficult to Tax Non-Residents.

Moncton, N. B., Feb. 24.—The semi-annual meeting of the general executive of the I. C. R. Employes' Relief and Insurance Association was held here, today, but only routine business was transacted. Among the delegates present were L. R. Ross, W. H. Kingston and M. McAdoo, of St. John.

The legislation committee of the city council tonight discussed proposed legislation in regard to taxing or licensing outsiders working in the city of Moncton, similar to the St. John act. The committee found the problem a difficult one to deal with, and deferred the matter for further consideration. Legislation exempting income assessment to $600 and authorizing the council to appoint a deputy city clerk was recommended.

A meeting of the representatives of the I. C. R. employes from different parts of the road, was held here this afternoon to discuss proposed amendments to the provident fund act. The meeting appointed a committee composed of H. W. Sharp, J. Bouchard, Levis; H. H. Ayer, Moncton; T. W. Hennessey, Truro; W. H. Kingston, St. John, to deal with the question. The committee held a lengthy conference tonight, but would give out no information as to what is likely to be done.

R. Colclough, of General Manager Pottinger's office, received word tonight that his mother was dying, and left on the Maritime express for Bic, Quebec.

Polling among the I. C. R. employes for representatives on the provident fund board will close March 1. A big vote is being polled.

Boils and Pimples

Are caused entirely by the blood being in an impure condition, and the quickest and simplest way to get rid of them is to take a few bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters.

This purely vegetable remedy has cured thousands of cases of these painful and unsightly troubles during the past thirty years.

BOILS.

Mr. S. J. Weir, Riverview, Ont., writes:—"Last summer I had nineteen boils on my neck and back. I was off work for over two weeks. I took everything I could think of but to no effect. I got a bottle of Burdock Blood Bitters and before I had used half the bottle the boils were gone. I took the rest of it, however, and I have not had a boil since."

PIMPLES.

Mrs. W. J. Crandon, St. Mary's, Ont., writes:—"I was troubled with pimples on my face for a couple of years and tried a good deal of patent medicine, but they were not of much use. Finally I used four bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters and am now entirely cured."

For sale by all dealers.

The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

ANGLICAN COLLEGE WANTED IN THE WEST

London Churchmen Plan to Raise £30,000 for a School in British Columbia

Montreal, Feb. 24—A special London cable says:

A big Mansion House meeting was held today to commemorate the jubilee of the Church of England's work in British Columbia and to further the appeal to establish St. Mark's College for the purpose of training the clergy, to be attached as a hostel to the provincial university, which is to be under the control of representatives of each diocese in British Columbia at a likely cost of £30,000.

The Archbishop of Canterbury emphasized the importance of the work in British Columbia, which in fifty years, he said, possibly would be part of the hub of the universe, and was bound to be the meeting place of the east and west. He paid a great tribute to that remarkable man of God, Bishop Hills, and his work in the province.

Lord Strathcona and Mr. Burdett-Coutts, M. P., also supported the appeal.

It is expected that Hon. W. S. Fielding will be one of the two Canadian members of the royal commission to proceed to the West Indies early in the summer to arrange for a reciprocal tariff scheme with Canada and for improved shipping and telegraphic communications.

A tickling or dry cough can be quickly loosened with Dr. Shoop's Cough Remedy. No opium, no chloroform, nothing unsafe or harsh. Sold by all druggists.

GOVERNOR TWEEDIE SPRAINED HIS ANKLE

As a Result He May be Laid Up for the Next Ten Days

As Lieut.-Governor Tweedie was leaving the train at Chatham Junction yesterday on his way home from St. John he sprained his ankle very severely.

The ankle quickly became greatly swollen and it was yet impossible to tell whether or not any of the bones are broken. It is probable that the governor will be unable to leave his residence for at least ten days. He was stepping from the parlor car when the accident occurred.

CASTE PROTECTED HIM FROM VIOLENCE

Vancouver, Feb. 24.—Two hundred Hindoos, who complain that a fellow countryman has kept their wages back, are on strike at New Westminster (B. C.) The men are employed in the Fraser mills, and their leader is Urdah Ram, a high caste Hindoo.

The strikers say they dare not molest him because of his caste. They have appealed to the police for assistance. The wages are $1 per day.

ALL RECIPES

Calling for milk or cream will be more successful and satisfactory if you use

BORDEN'S

PEERLESS

BRAND EVAPORATED

CREAM

(Unsweetened)

Convenience, Economy, Purity,—Commend Peerless Milk for all Culinary Purposes.

SEND FOR RECIPE BOOK

Borden's Condensed Milk Co.

LEADERS OF QUALITY.

Wm. H. DUNN, Agent, Montreal.

SEND BABY'S PHOTO to **The Evening Times**, St. John, N. B. for entry in **Borden's Baby Competition.** Write name and address on back of photo, and attach a label off a can of **"Eagle Brand."** After St John Competition, photos will be sent by us to **Toronto Sunday World** for entry in Grand Contest. Open to all children of Canada under 3 years of age.

20 Valuable Prizes—20 Diplomas—Contest closes March 13th. See special announcement, Saturday issue.

RIBBON SALE

All Silk Ribbons and Satin and Silk Ribbons

Good values at 30c per yard. Our price for a few days

19c per Yard

And no charge for making the bows when the ribbon is purchased from us. Colors, black, white, cream, leghorn, navy, tabac, maroon, mexique, reseda, Saxe or Alice blue, myrtle, lotus, moss, champagne, sky, rose, cardinal, rosewood, turquoise, wine, paon, coral, gold, coquelicot, argent, lilac, prue and castor.

THE BEST RIBBON VALUES EVER OFFTRED.

Marr Millinery Co.

Corner Union and Coburg streets, and 687 Main street, North End.

SAME VALUES ALSO AT MONCTON, N. B.

THE BAR-ROOMS

The Time at Hand When They Must All Disappear, Says the Montreal Witness

(Montreal Witness.)

Manitoba temperance people have been concentrating their demand on the abolition of the bar-room. Premier Roblin hesitates to comply, on account of the difficulties in the way of enforcement and of the regulation of the retail trade. The license system, its advocates contend, creates a strong body of vested interests, who take care there shall be no invasions of their privileges by the unlicensed. Abolish the bar-rooms, they say, and the "blind tiger," the "speak-easy" and the "boot-bottle" tramp will flourish in their stead. This is not in accordance with facts. We have never known the licensed trade active in suppression of the unlicensed. For one reason those who live in glass houses do not throw stones. No one knows better than the shebeen how to retaliate on the licensed house. For another thing, the highly respectble bar needs some low place to which to consign its finished product. In another way this misrepresents the facts. Few find their way to the dive who are not already victims, whereas where bar-rooms are wide open, constant temptation leads the unwary and the unhabituated on the road to acquiring the drinking vice. A young man invited to take a drink will go into a saloon where everything is bright and alluring, but he would recoil with shame and disgust from taking a swig from a bottle in a latrine, or in a dark cellar dive. Confirmed topers have no such feeling. They are always ready for a drink anywhere or anyhow they can get it. Most of them are beyond curing and their number would become quite small in time, were the bar-rooms, the drunkards' recruiting stations, abolished. In old times, bar-rooms were furnished with chairs. These were removed long ago and alcoves substituted, because loafers took possession of them, waiting to be asked up to the bar. The primitive custom of asking all hands to dring has gone out of fashion. Now the alcoves are disappearing, for bar-keepers are opposed to boozing, and like to see their customers move on. Men are busy in these strenuous days. They take their drinks, as they do everything else, in haste, and many would not drink often were bar-rooms not so convenient for completing a deal under the softening influence of John Barleycorn. But day by day this custom is growing obsolete. All business habits and influences are opposed to it, and the feeling is growing that it is disreputable to be seen in a saloon at any time. It is the floating population in cities that give most support to bar-rooms. As the habitues become less and less respectable, the popularity of the bar-rooms will decline. In fact, it has declined enormously, and the time is near when their closing will be a necessity.

Catarrh Cannot be Cured

with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quack medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O.

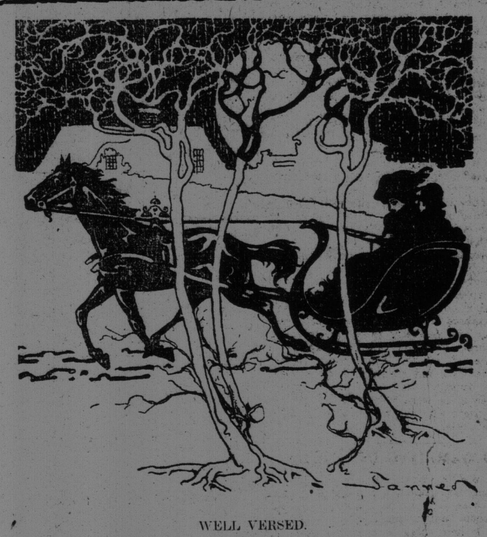
Sold by Druggists price 75c.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

MUSH.

"A soft answer turneth away wrath," quote the Wise Guy. "But never a book agent," added the Simple Mug.—Philadelphia Record.

The Times Daily Puzzle Picture



WELL VERSED.

When we go sleighing, one can see
She knows what thereto appertains
Without a single word from me
She smiles and slyly takes the reins.

Find an old man watching them.

ANSWER TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE.

Right side down in decorations