

lege they share with the greatest. This poor lady has earned the title to that distinction. She was not immune."

"That we understand. She would possess both friends and enemies in the world's common way. But we are here to investigate what we must consider at the moment a very terrible crime. I am compelled to ask you, sir, if you know of any particular circumstance in the life of Lady Anna Maclain which would justify further investigation."

Again Maurevale displayed his displeasure.

"I have no right to speak," he said at last; "it is for the police to do their duty. My generalities will not help you. They may be less than just—they may be criminal."

"By which I take you to mean that you know of nothing which is not in the ordinary circumstance of our daily lives."

"You have put it better than I, sir."

The coroner was highly pleased at the compliment, and signified to the jury that they should thank the prince for his assistance. The next witness called was the local inspector of police, who gave his evidence from a notebook with the sharp clack of discipline and the precision of convinced authority.

"I was called to the river at five-forty by a boy from the Swan Inn. There I found the boat from which they had taken the body of a lady, subsequently identified as Lady Anna Maclain. The doctor who had been the first summoned pronounced her to be dead. He thought it might be heart disease, but was not sure."

"Did you observe any significant fact—anything which might help the jury?"

"Nothing except that the lady's jewellery had not been interfered with, and that a man's walking-stick was in the boat."

This confession, uttered in the hard, metallic voice peculiar to policemen, instantly arrested the attention of every one in the room. Shuffling feet and bent heads denoted the importance of the evidence. The coroner took his pen into his hand again and prepared to write.

"What kind of a stick was it, inspector?"

"It is here, sir—the jury can see it for themselves."