

mind had started off in other directions and you didn't get their correct valuation as circumstances bearing on the case.

"When I had talked with Stan and found out about the letter—proving by its postmark that Bennet Hemingway could have been in Karnak on the ninth . . . because he was in Columbia on the eighth—I confess that I hoped that was the right scent. But later Hemingway was easily disposed of. In seeking to convict him I established for him as perfect an alibi as I have ever run across; an alibi written large and unmistakably on the registers of three hotels.

"So much for Bennet Hemingway. Carter was automatically cleared when Miss Esther admitted that she had approached the Lodge from the road before the commission of the murder. Sullivan's idea, Sheriff, had been that Carter might have returned from Karnak, killed Mrs. Forrest, hidden in the woods until the arrival of Mr. Forrest and then entered the house. Had that been the case Miss Esther would have seen him.

"An investigation of the scene of the crime indicated to me that either Carter and Forrest both lied on the same point or else Stan was