

The Arncliffe Puzzle

By GORDON HOLMES, Author "A Mysterious Disappearance."

Mr. Angier rose to his feet with well-simulated indignation. "Surely, sir," he protested, "it is not extraordinary that Lord Arncliffe should give so paltry a sum as three hundred pounds to the lady he had chosen to inherit his vast wealth?"

"Not at all, Mr. Angier," returned the coroner. "Nevertheless, we must remember that he took pains to prevent Miss Holt from anticipating any such conclusion. I presume, Miss Holt, Lord Arncliffe was not in the habit of giving you such amounts of money?"

"No."

"Nor anything approaching such an amount?"

"No. I had my salary, sixty pounds a year, and Lord Arncliffe occasionally gave me a check for ten or fifteen pounds. I had to entertain such guests as visited him, and it was his wish that I should dress suitably. The three hundred pounds were given at my earnest request. I required the money urgently, and Lord Arncliffe was the only person to whom I could turn."

"Very well. I have here a canceled check of Lord Arncliffe's for three hundred pounds, dated six weeks before he died. Would this represent the payment to you?"

A more skilled hand than the coroner's revealed itself. Detective Inspector Hobson was beginning to move.

"Yes."

"You collected the amount personally from the Alnwick branch of the Great Northern Bank?"

"Yes."

"All in gold?"

"Yes. I required it in gold." She was all spirit now. Those myosotis blue eyes had a glint of steel in them.

A rather cumbersome method, I should imagine," commented the coroner. He had been friendly disposed hitherto, but he began to feel nettled by the haughty indifference which had taken the place of maiden timidity.

"If you are suggesting that I asked for gold so that the money could not be traced," she said disdainfully, "I can only say that each attendant at the bank is acquainted with me."

The weather-cock sympathies of the crowd instantly veered towards Edith. The coroner, rather at a loss, pretended to busy himself with his papers, and a murmur of comment relieved the tension of the audience.

"She has some reason," said the coroner. "A thousand-a-year manner" was the common thought.

Yet each complacent critic asked: "Why did she, then a poor girl, want so much money?"

Edith's examination might have reached an abrupt conclusion, had not the watchful Hobson sent the coroner another note. The official tones became ominous again.

"Pray do not misunderstand me, Miss Holt. I mentioned the matter because I understand that on another occasion you cashed a check of Lord Arncliffe's for two hundred and fifty pounds, which was also paid in gold."

"Yes. It was distributed by Lord Arncliffe to relieve the winter distress in the district, and I fetched the money because Mr. Warren, the agent, was suffering from a riding accident."

"So the bank officials would not think this second application for a large sum of gold in any way strange?"

"I have not considered the possibility of the bank people presuming to comment upon any act of mine."

"No doubt. The signature to the check is presumably that of Lord Arncliffe; but the amount was filled in by yourself, was it not?"

Steel was striking flint now, and the sparks were flying.

"Angier had thought it wise that Edith should avoid the least appearance of concealment; but he thought it high time to protest."

"If your object is to prove that the check for three hundred pounds was improperly obtained by Miss Holt," he said severely, "I shall strongly advise her not to answer any of my questions. You must be perfectly aware, sir, that such a line of cross-examination as you have pursued should have been preceded by a caution."

"What is your name?"

"William Lincoln Bradshaw."

"Understand you are able to give certain material evidence regarding Lord Arncliffe's death?"

"I don't know anything about Lord Arncliffe's death, beyond what I have read in the newspapers," rejoined Bradshaw. "Indeed, I am on the lookout for some information in that direction myself."

"Yes, yes!" cried the coroner, impatiently. "But the object of this inquiry is to elicit information, not to impart it. You bear the same family name as the late Lord Arncliffe. Am I to understand that you are a relative?"

"Yes, sir. Lord Arncliffe was my uncle."

"What Angier sprang up promptly. Hobson had prepared him for this staggering statement, but he felt that a legal veto must be registered forthwith."

"He must be allowed to say, sir," he exclaimed with impressive slowness, "that I enjoyed Lord Arncliffe's confidence for the last twenty-five years, and during that time he told me repeatedly that he had no relatives in existence, with the exception of the most distant cousins. Indeed, he has often deplored the fact."

"The New Yorker shrugged his shoulders. 'I guess I am here,' he pointed out."

"What are the facts, Mr. Bradshaw?" demanded the coroner. "Have you never made yourself known to Lord Arncliffe?"

"Why, yes—and that is what is puzzling me. I wrote Lord Arncliffe from New York nearly two months ago, introducing myself, but received no reply. I wrote again ten days ago, saying that I was coming to Europe and would call on him. It appeared to me," added the witness, dryly, "that as I neither wanted nor asked for any favor, beyond a mere acquaintance, Lord Arncliffe might be reasonably glad to meet the son of his only brother."

The coroner bent his brows in a legal frown; the inquiry had reached bounds he had never foreseen.

"I suppose, Mr. Bradshaw," he said, "you are prepared to substantiate your claim to be Lord Arncliffe's nephew?"

(To be Continued.)

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STARTS FRIDAY, JULY 10

Why popular? Because, during these "once-in-six-months" sales of ours we plan to give the purchasing public of London and vicinity **GENUINE BARGAINS IN SEASONABLE GOODS**. Shoes you may wear during the summer season, knowing you are correctly shod. **NOTHING OLD--NOTHING PASSE--NO FAKING PRICES**—new, bright, up-to-the-minute productions of America's cleverest shoe men. You ask, why do we give such price reductions? Not because we like to, but Old Necessity—the mother of them all—drives us to it. We need the room—room for Fall Goods—by August 15. We need the money. And lastly, we plan to

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ASHPLANT'S--Down the Steps.

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Lot 1—Regular \$2.00 Patent Colt, Goodyear Welt, Blucher Ox. Sale price	\$2.18
Lot 2—Regular \$3.00 Patent Colt, C. D. E. widths. Sale price	\$2.08
Lot 3—Regular \$2.50 Patent Colt, Extension Sole, Blucher Ox. Sale price	\$1.78
Lot 4—Regular \$2.00 Patent Gibson Tie, Military Heel. Sale price	\$1.48
Lot 5—Regular \$2.00 Tan Calf, Extension Sole, Blucher Ox. Sale price	\$1.48
Lot 6—Regular \$1.75 Chrome Patent, Four-Hole Gibson. Sale price	\$1.28
Lot 7—Regular \$1.50 Dongola Kid, Patent Tip Oxfords. Sale price	\$1.18
Lot 8—Regular \$1.50 Chocolate Vici, Turn Sole, Oxford. Sale price	\$1.18
Lot 9—Regular \$1.50 Dongola Kid, Self Tip Oxford. Sale price	\$1.08
Lot 10—Regular \$1.75 Women's Patent Strap Slippers, 19 pairs only. Sale price	\$1.08
Lot 11—Regular \$1.25 White Canvas, some white heels. Sale price	98c
Lot 12—Regular \$1.25 to \$1.75, odd sizes, new Oxfords. Sale price	78c

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Basket No. 13—Chocolate Kid Blucher. Regular \$2.00	\$1.68
Basket No. 14—Chocolate Kid Oxfords. Regular \$2.00	\$1.58
Basket No. 15—Chocolate Lace Boots, good soles	\$1.38
Basket No. 16—Box Calf Bluchers, sizes, 3, 4, and 5	\$1.58
Basket No. 17—Mixed lot, Laced Boots, at	\$1.28
Basket No. 18—Gray Canvas, lace, with toe cap	68c

Some Snaps for Men and Boys

SPECIAL Lot No. 13

17 pairs of \$3.50 patent Colt Bluchers, Goodyear welted, Swager shape, at

SPECIAL Lot No. 14

19 pairs of \$3.50 patent Colt Blucher Oxfords, made in Boston, at

\$2.48

Lot No. 15—Men's Choc. Blucher. Regular \$2.50	\$1.88
Lot No. 16—Men's Patent Colt Blucher Oxford. Regular \$2.50	\$1.88
Lot No. 17—Men's Velour Calf Oxford, Regular \$3.00	\$2.08
Lot No. 18—Men's Box Calf Lace. Regular \$2.50	\$1.88
Lot No. 19—Men's Box Calf Lace, plain toe. Regular \$2.25	\$1.68
Lot No. 20—Men's Dongola Kid Black Oxford. Sizes 6, 7, 8	\$1.68
Lot No. 21—Men's Chocolate Kid Oxford, extension sole	\$1.58
Lot No. 22—Men's White Canvas Oxfords and Bluchers	\$1.38
Lot No. 23—Men's Gray Canvas Lace, with strap	\$1.28
Lot No. 24—Men's Gray Canvas Lace, with toe tap	78c

Look, Mothers! For the Children

Basket No. 1—Boots for the Baby, sizes 2 to 6	28c
Basket No. 2—Canvas Sandals, sizes 7 to 11	42c
Basket No. 3—Canvas Sandals, sizes 12 to 2	52c
Basket No. 4—Brown Canvas Ties, sizes 6 to 10, 1 to 2, 48c and	58c
Basket No. 5—Black Kid Slipper with bow, sizes 5 to 7	58c
Basket No. 6—Choc. Kid Slipper with bow, sizes 5 to 7	68c
Basket No. 7—Black Kid Slipper with bow, sizes 8 to 10	68c
Basket No. 8—Choc. Kid Slipper with bow, sizes 8 to 10	78c
Basket No. 9—Mixed lot Mixed Oxfords and Slippers, sizes 11 to 2	88c
Basket No. 10—White Canvas Ties, sizes 6 to 10	68c
Basket No. 11—Dongola Kid Lace Boot, extension soles, sizes 11 to 2	98c
Basket No. 12—Choc. Kid Lace Boot, odd sizes, 11 to 2	\$1.28

For the Smaller Boys

Basket No. 19—Choc. Vici Bluchers, extra good	\$1.58
Basket No. 20—Box Calf Bluchers, all solid	\$1.48
Basket No. 21—21 pairs only, Patent Lace and Bluchers	\$1.58
Basket No. 22—Choc. Lace Boot, good sole	\$1.28
Basket No. 23—Box Kip Lace, welted soles	\$1.28
Basket No. 24—Gray Canvas Lace with Tie, for	58c

REMEMBER THE PLACE—Cor. Market Lane and Dundas St.

ASHPLANT'S The Shoe Store Down the Steps

CANADIAN

New streets in Three Rivers are to be 66 feet wide.

Miss Lillie E. Simons, of Hamilton, is dead, aged 21.

The iron moulders' strike at Longueuil has been settled.

St. Thomas police are to be lectured for their lax discipline.

The G. T. P. will carry grain from Edmonton to Winnipeg this fall.

Mr. H. Cleaver will build a rubber factory at Granby to fight the merger.

Mrs. C. L. Preston, of Brandon, who was severely burned at Cupar, is dead.

The C. P. R. are beginning their campaign for 25,000 hangers for the west.

"Go ahead, judge," he said.

Business houses closed early in Montreal Tuesday on account of the heat.

Lustil Bouk's barn, near Walsingham Center, was destroyed by lightning.

Two-year-old Ethel Crow, of Niagara Falls, was drowned in a tub of water.

John McGaw, charged at Ingersoll with cattle stealing, was again remanded.

A man of about 60 years old jumped to his death from the lower arch bridge at Niagara.

J. P. Groves, a Winnipeg broker, lost \$150,000 in trying to corner "rejected" oats.

Richard Dewey, in the Kent County House of Refuge, is reported to be the heir of \$90,000.

Rev. Crawford Tate, of Delhi, has been called to Harnes Presbyterian Church, St. Catharines.

Thos. MacFarlane, coachman at Toronto for Sir John Macdonald, died yesterday, aged 75.

July 24.—Empress of Ireland.—July 15 Aug. 1.—Lake Erie.—July 15

RATES—According to steamer: First cabin, \$72.50; second cabin, \$42.50; steerage, \$27.50 and \$28.75. All sailings filling rapidly. Book early and secure choice locations.

Further information, apply any ticket agent.

OCEAN STEAMSHIP TICKETS

WHITE STAR LINE.
New York—Queenstown—Liverpool.
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LEYLAND LINE.
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E. DE LA HOOK, SOLE AGENT.

AMERICAN LINE.
N. Y.—Plymouth—Cherbourg—Shampon.
Philadelphia—Queenstown—Liverpool.

ATLANTIC TRANSPORT LINE.
New York—London Direct.
Royal Mail Steamers.

Montreal—Quebec—Liverpool (Summer).
Philadelphia—Queenstown—Liverpool (Winter).

RED STAR LINE.
New York—Dover—Antwerp.
E. DE LA HOOK or W. FULTON, Agts.

at Montreal, tore all the steps from the cars of a passing passenger train.

Pticon Conservatives are to select either C. E. Tanner, M.P.P., or A. C. Bell, ex-M.P., as their Federal candidate.

The Hamilton, Waterloo and Guelph Railway Company has been granted permission to extend its bonding powers to \$37,500 a mile.

There are 35 banks in Canada with Dominion charters, and these banks have 1,929 branches. The total paid-up capital of these is \$95,827,992, and the surplus or reserve account is \$69,827,992.

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The Ocean Limited

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QUEBEC

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Direct connection for Prince Edward Island.

From June 1 to Sept. 15 the Wabash will sell round trip tickets at very low rates to points in Arizona, California, British Columbia, Mexico and all Pacific coast points. Tickets will be sold via all direct routes, and good to stop over, with final limit Oct. 31. This will be a grand opportunity to see the Great Golden West in all its glory. All tickets should read over the Great Wabash Line the short and true route between the east and the west. For tickets and other information see Wabash agents, or address J. A. RICHARDSON, district passenger agent, No. 63 Yonge street (Traders' Bank building), Toronto, and St. Thomas, Ont.

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BERMUDA.
Summer excursions, \$40 and upwards, by the twin screw S. S. BEHRENDIAN, 5,500 tons, sailing from New York to Bermuda, from 2nd June to 5th October. Temperature, cooled by sea breezes, seldom rises above 80°. The finest trips of the season for health and comfort.

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New Twin-Screw Steamships.
First Cabin, \$42.50 and \$72.50.
Second Cabin, \$22.50 and \$42.50.
Third-Class, \$12.50 and \$22.50.
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RETURN LIMIT AUG. 3

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TRAVELERS' GUIDE

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY. SARNIA TUNNEL TO SUSPENSION BRIDGE AND TORONTO.

Arrive from the east—*2:50 a.m., 10:56 a.m., *11:12 a.m., *11:23 a.m., *6:30 p.m., *8:00 p.m., 10 p.m.

Arrive from the west—*12:09 a.m., *2:41 a.m., *11:28 a.m., 1:10 p.m., *4:10 p.m., 6:25 p.m.

Depart for the east—*12:14 a.m., *3:40 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., *11:38 a.m., 2:05 p.m., *4:25 p.m., *6:53 p.m. (Eastern Flyer).

The trains leaving at 7:30 a.m. and 2:05 p.m. stop at all stations.

Depart for the west—*4:00 a.m., 7:40 a.m., *11:18 a.m., *11:35 a.m., 1:40 p.m., *8:18 p.m.