

COVET

NEVER COOK UP COLD MEAT WITHOUT IT

THE MYSTERY OF THE GREEN RAY

By William Le Queux

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

The outbreak of war sends Ronald Ewart, a young London barrister, to the Highlands to see good-bye to his fiancée, Myra McLeod. On the train he meets Hilderman, who calls himself an American and a stranger in those parts, but later Ronald finds that he has built a hut on a cliff above the falls opposite General McLeod's lodge. While sitting in the river Myra is suddenly blinded by a flash of green light. The physician advises consulting a London oculist, Gen. McLeod tells Ewart of a curious experience at the Chemist's Rock. At the station they meet Hilderman, who is very curious as to the cause of Myra's blindness. The general telegraphs that Sholto is blind. The London doctor holds out no hope and Ewart, after taking Myra home, goes to Glasgow and brings Dr. Garnesk back with him. Sholto is chloroformed and stolen.

CHAPTER VII.

The Chemist's Rock.

By the time we gave up our hunt for Sholto that night and saw Hilderman into the Baltimore II. at the landing-stage, the harvest moon had splashed the mountain-side with patches of silver and green profusion. But we were in no mood for aesthetics. We applied the moonlight to more practical purposes.

"Show me the river, Mr. Ewart," said Garnesk, as we turned away from the shore. Accordingly I took him up a stream till we came to Dead Man's Foot.

"What do you make of things now?" I asked, as we walked along. "I can't make anything of the stealing of a dog except that someone coveted it and has now got it. Can you?"

"No," I answered thoughtfully. "I can't. But it's an extraordinary coincidence at the least; and who on earth could have stolen it? You see, my one round here would dream of taking anything that belonged to Miss McLeod. And, though Sholto is well enough bred, he's never been in a show, and has no reputation. I can't make it out."

"I'm very sorry it happened just now," said the oculist. "I was in hopes that by experimenting on the animal I could cure the girl. But at any rate that is beyond grieving about now. Is this the place?"

"Yes," I said, "this is Dead Man's Foot. That dim white shape there is the Chemist's Rock. It was there that Miss McLeod lost her sight, and here that the General had his extraordinary experience. It looks innocent and peaceful enough," I added, with a sigh.

"The General was very lucky—very lucky indeed!" murmured my companion.

"Why?" I asked.

"He was down here looking at the rock, and he saw some sort of vision; Miss McLeod was up at the rock looking down at the pool, and she lost her sight. The General might have been looking this way instead of that in which case we might have had another case on our hands."

"Then you think the two adventures are different aspects of the same thing? If only we knew where Sholto was it might give us even more to go on."

"Have you any tobacco?" he asked abruptly. "I've got a pipe, but I left my tobacco in my room."

We were in evening dress, and my pouch and pipe were in the house; so I left him there while I ran in to fetch them. When I returned he was nowhere to be seen, and for a moment I half suspected some new tragedy; but as I looked round I caught the gleam of the moonlight on his shirt-front. I found him kneeling on the Chemist's Rock, looking out to sea.

"Many thanks, Mr. Ewart," he said, as he handed me back my pouch and took the light I offered him. "Ah! I'm glad to see you smoke real tobacco. By the way," he added, "have you a friend—a real friend—you can trust?"

"I have, thank God!" I replied fervently. "Why?"

"I should like you to send for him. Do anything you can to get him here at once. Go and drag him here, if you like—only get him here."

"But why this urgency?" I asked again. "I admit that we have some very horrible natural phenomena to deal with; but, apart from the fact that some wretched poet has stolen a dog, we have no human element to fear. I don't see how he can help, and he might run a risk himself."

"Never mind—fetch him or send for him. If you could have seen yourself start when you returned to the pool yesterday to find me missing, you would realize that your nervous system would be the better for a little congenial companionship. Frankly, Mr. Ewart, I don't like the idea of your being left alone here during the next few days with a blind girl and an old man—if you'll pardon me for being so blunt."

"But you'll be here," I said; "and I hope you will have something to say to us that will put nerves out of the question when you have examined Myra."

Garnesk rose to his feet and laid a friendly hand on my arm.

"aghost," you won't leave us like that. We hoped for so much from your visit. You can't realize, man, what it may mean to us all! You see—"

"My dear chap," said my companion, cutting me short with a laugh, "it is just because I do realize that my presence here may be dangerous to Miss McLeod that I propose to leave."

"Dangerous to her?" I gasped.

"What on earth do you mean now?" The whole world seemed to have taken leave of its senses, and I mentally vowed that I should wire for Dennis first thing in the morning.

"I say that because her dog has been drugged and taken away."

"But some fool of a poacher was responsible for that!" I cried.

My companion looked at me thoughtfully as he puffed at his pipe.

"I was the cause of the dog's disappearance," he said quietly.

"I see what you're driving at," I said. "You pretended to steal the dog because you were afraid Myra would make overwhelming objections to your vivisectioning him, or whatever you want to do. Of course, now I see you would be the only person about Invermullach Lodge likely to have chloroformed. But even then I don't see what you mean by saying that your presence here would be dangerous to Miss McLeod."

"That's my very ingenious construction to put on my words, my dear fellow," he said; "but in my mind I was relying on you to overcome my patient's objections to any experiments that might be deemed advisable on her dog. I meant something much more serious than that. I have known you only a few hours, Mr. Ewart; but nobody need tell me you are anything of a fool, unless he wants a very flat contradiction. You are looking at this affair from a personal point of view—and no wonder, either. But if you were not so worried about your fiancée your brain would have grasped my point at once. That is why I want you to send for a friend."

"Will," I promised solemnly. "Now tell me what did you mean?"

"When I said I was the cause of the dog's disappearance, I meant that if I hadn't arrived on the scene the dog would never have been touched. The dog was taken by someone who knew he was blind, who knew that I would expect him, on him, who was determined to get there first."

"But," I exclaimed, "that would be carrying professional jealousy a bit too far—if that's what you mean!"

"It would be carrying it so far that we can rule out of court," he answered. "So that's what I don't mean. Let's go back and analyze the occurrence. I say the dog was not stolen by poachers, because of the chloroform; you said the same yourself. I say that the thief knew the dog was blind, because he knew he was in a darkened room above the coach-house, and he stole him from there. A poacher would have gone to the kennel and found it empty—and that would have been the end of that. But the man who knew the dog was in a special room must have known why he was there; and it seems to me that the man who steals a blind dog steals him because, for some reason or other, he wants a blind dog—that very one, probably. Have you got me?"

"Yes," I said. "I follow you so far. Go on." And I was surprised to find how relieved I was at this suggested complication. I felt that if we could only attribute this amazing week of mysteries to some human agent I should be able to grapple with it.

"Now I come to my main point," Garnesk continued, "and it's this: The man who wanted Sholto because he was blind wanted him to experiment on. No professional man would do a thing like that, even supposing there to be one about. That motive again is ruled out of court. There remains one possible solution—"

"Well?" I asked breathlessly, for even now I failed to grasp the conclusion my scientific companion could be coming to. "Go on!"

"If this thief did not want Sholto to experiment on himself, he stole the dog in order to prevent me from experimenting on him."

I laughed aloud from sheer excitement at the relief of finding some tangible thing to go on, for the oculist's argument struck me as very nearly perfect.

"You ought to be at Scotland Yard," I said, "you seem to have hit the nail on the head."

"The two calling are very closely allied," he said modestly. "Detectives deal with murderers and thieves, and with nerves and tissues. It is all a question of diagnosis."

"I must say I think you've diagnosed this case very well, Mr. Garnesk," I said, "though we are just at the beginning of our troubles. The first thing to do is—"

"To find the man who stole the dog," I cut in.

"To find the man who knew the dog was blind," he corrected. "By that means we may come to the man who stole the dog; then we may get his reason from his own lips, if we are exceptionally lucky. But I fancy I can supply his motive, failing a full confession."

"You can?" I cried. "Let's hear it."

"You've thought of one yourself, of course?" he asked.

"The only motive I can think of is too fantastic altogether. It is to work

enough to presuppose that someone has a grievance against Miss McLeod or the General, and that someone took advantage of the extraordinary circumstances to steal Sholto, and if possible prevent Myra getting her sight back. Oh, it's too ridiculous!"

"We have to remember," my companion suggested, "that our unknown quantity not only knew that the dog was blind, but also knew that I was coming or had arrived, and would probably experiment on the beast. It argues a very terrible urgency that the animal disappeared within an hour or two of my arrival. From all that I deduce what seems to me the only possible motive. The dog was stolen by the man who made Miss McLeod blind."

"Made her blind!" I cried. "You don't seriously mean that you think someone—some fiend of hell—deliberately blinded her?"

"Not deliberately," my companion replied. "But I believe it was through some human agency that she was blinded. I think some person or persons were anxious that Miss McLeod should remain blind, in case we should, in the process of recovering her sight, hit upon the cause of her losing it."

In silence I sat for a few moments, thinking over this extraordinary new outlook. I must certainly wire for Dennis in the morning.

"Mr. Garnesk," I said presently, "you are bringing a very terrible charge against some human monster whom we have yet to discover. But I must admit that you seem to have logic on your side. It remains for me to discover who these people are—if there are more than one."

"Yes," he mused; "that is what we must discover."

"We," he exclaimed. "Then you're not going away?"

"Yes," he said. "I think it would be fairer to you all if I left you. I think my arrival has done some good—I assure you, Mr. Ewart, I shall not give up this case till Miss McLeod recovers her sight. I give you my hand on that."

I shook hands with him warmly.

"Thank you," I said, as I noticed the eager look on his handsome face. "But I don't even know the name of the man who knew Sholto was blind."

"I only know of one outside the General's household," he answered.

"But I don't know that," I cried, forgetting Dennis for the moment. As for Olverly, he had gone clean out of my mind. "Who do you mean?"

"The American," said my companion.

(To be continued.)

Basuto Bridals.

We people who live in civilized surroundings have much to be thankful for, although perhaps we may not realize it. Our girls, for example, enjoy a freedom which might well be the envy of the maidens of other lands.

Take the Basuto girl. In her case she is not allowed by custom to have anything to do with the choice of a husband. What usually happens is this: The dusky male sees a maiden who pleases him, and he goes to the girl's father and states his desire for marriage. After this the matter is taken up by the heads of the family and relations, the girl herself being in ignorance of what is actually happening.

The principal point for discussion is the dowry, which usually takes the form of cattle, to be banded by the prospective bridegroom to his prospective father-in-law. Once this is arranged, the custom is to pay a deposit of so many beasts, the balance being handed over at the time of marriage.

Meanwhile, the girl is informed who her husband is to be, and she must whether he be young or old, good looking or ugly, the girl has to do as her father bids her.

This custom, however, does not apply rigidly throughout Basutoland, for those natives who are living near the borders of civilization have discarded the dowry part of the business, much to the bride's father's disgust.

In these cases, the wedding-party wear European clothes, and return from the church by wagon to the bride's father's hut, there to feast on freshly-killed sheep and drink much on. As a general rule, the feasting and merry-making lasts for two days.

Automatic Calculator.

An automatic calculating device has been invented to figure the pressure required in metal stamping.

The miracles of civilization have been performed by men and women of great self-confidence, who had unwavering faith in their power to accomplish the tasks they undertook. The race would have been centuries behind what it is to-day had it not been for their grit, their determination, their persistence in making real the thing they mentally saw and believed in, things which the world often denounced as chimerical or impossible.

NURSES

The Toronto Hospital for Incurables, in affiliation with Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, New York City, offers a three years' Course of Training to young women, having the required education, and desirous of becoming nurses. This Hospital has adopted the Nightingale System. The pupils receive uniforms of the School, a monthly allowance and travelling expenses to and from the Hospital. Further information apply to the Superintendent.



Brightening Old Hats.

Soft felt hats can be cleaned by washing in a mixture of one tablespoonful of household ammonia and two tablespoonfuls of borax to every gallon of water. Mix the ammonia, borax, and about one tablespoonful of soap jelly, with the water when quite hot, but let cool until lukewarm before using. Rinse in water of the same temperature.

For white felt hats which cannot be washed, use white powdered magnesia. This is sprinkled on the hat and is rubbed in a little with the fingers, then thoroughly the way of the nap and rub brush. For light brown hats, oatmeal or Fuller's earth is used in the same way. For gray felt, hot bran is used.

When cleaning velvet hats brush thoroughly the way of the nap and rub the same way with a cloth dipped in ammonia or benzine.

Flowers and feathers may have their colors renewed by dipping into a solution of oil paint and gasoline. Tubes of paint may be bought at any art or paint store for ten cents. The paint is mixed with enough gasoline to dissolve it and the flowers are dipped into the mixture. The amount necessary will depend on the size of the article dipped. If it is large the whole tube may be required. The color of the mixture should be just a little darker than the desired color of the flowers when dry. With the use of a brush, flowers may be shaded or tinted two or more colors.

Home-made flowers are easily made and are always pretty. Roses are used a great deal not only on hats but also on dresses. To make the petals, cut out pieces of silk about two or three inches square; fold diagonally and gather around the two straight edges. Pull up to make petals and fasten on a small piece of buckram or silk. The size and number of petals depends on the size that you wish to have your finished rose. For a double rose a row of smaller petals can be placed just inside the outer circle of petals and then the centre is inserted. Centres may be made by folding a straight piece of ribbon about two and one-half inches long and two inches wide—depending on the rose you are making—lengthwise through the centre. Then gather all edges except the folded one, pull up tightly.

Life's Jewels.

"These are my jewels!"—thus she nobly spoke.

Of her dear sons—the Roman mother fond—

Compared with diadem of costliest make,

In value infinitely far beyond!

Nor ever yielded ocean depths, nor lake

Aught half so rich—not e'en the diamond!

Thus doth each mother's heart to her respond:

"Ye are the jewels!—treasures truly great!"

My children—gems!—bright pearls both pure and fair!

Oh, Father, may I rightly estimate Their priceless worth and guide their minds with care,

That they may fill with virtue what e'er state Thou mayst appoint! And, when their life is o'er,

Oh, may they be the jewels of Thy store!"

Caring for the Family Meat Supply.

A highly recommended method of pickling hams and shoulders preparatory to smoking includes the use of molasses. To four quarts of fine salt and two curries of pulverized saltpetre, add sufficient molasses to make a paste mixture. The hams and shoulders having been in a dry, cool place for three or four days after cutting up, are to be covered all over with the mixture, move thickly on the flesh side, and laid skin down for three or four days.

In the meantime make a pickle of the following proportions, the quantities here named being for one hundred pounds of meat: Coarse salt, seven pounds; saltpetre two ounces; potash, half an ounce; soft water, four gallons. Heat gradually, and as the scum rises remove it. When scum ceases to rise, allow the pickle to cool. When the hams have remained the proper time in the paste mixture, cover the bottom of a clean, sweet barrel with salt about half an inch deep, pack in the meat as closely as possible, cover it with the pickle, and place over it a follower with weight to keep the meat down.

Small hams and shoulders should remain in the pickle for five weeks, larger ones will require six or eight weeks, according to size. And they should be allowed to dry well before smoking.

The meat should be smoked in a small building suitable for the purpose. One which is as near air-tight as possible is the best, as no more smoke should be wasted than is necessary.

For smoking a small quantity of meat a large cask or barrel may be used. To make this effective a small pit should be dug, and a flat stone placed across it, upon which the edge of the cask will rest. Half the pit is

beneath the barrel and half is outside. The head and bottom may be removed, or a hole can be cut in the bottom a little larger than the portion of the pit beneath the cask. The head or cover is removed while the hams are being hung upon the cross-sticks. The cross-stick rest upon two cross-bars made to pass through holes bored in the sides of the cask. The head is then laid upon the cask and covered with moist sacks to confine the smoke. The fire is put into the pit outside the cask and may be regulated by a piece of tin which may be removed when more fuel is put on.

Pine and other strong woods should not be used as it will taste in the meat. Corn cobs, hardwood chips or fine brush may be used with safety and they will make a good smoke.

If Your Child Stammers.

That stammering is a mental fault often caused by fear, imitation or improper speech training is the claim of Dr. Frederick Martin, an educational expert. Much of it could be corrected in the public school, he claims.

AGENTS WANTED EVERYWHERE

ONE MAN wanted in each district. You are in line to earn from \$2,000 to \$4,000 annual net return if you have the ambition to manage a sales branch for our first class sales in your district. Exclusive territory. Article well advertised. No competition. You may appoint your own dealers and sub-agents. This being a repeat business you have an easy permanent business once established. \$2,400 to \$4,000 and more a year can be easily made by local district agents in any country town or farming district. This is a veritable gold mine for one man in each locality who is alive to his opportunity. Must have at least a couple of hundred dollars capital to finance himself and carry small local stock on hand. Our sales manager will arrange an interview with you by wire and will come and see you. As before going fully into the proposition with you, he will send you to prove to him that you have sufficient capital, do not write unless you have \$200 or more ready cash. Ambitious men who have the required funds are heartily invited to correspond in strict confidence with Sales Manager, 27 Yonge Street, Toronto.

Be a Good Listener.

If you wish others to be interested in you, you must be a good listener. Listening, itself, is a fine art. There is nothing more flattering to a person than to feel that you are interested in what he is saying. To be a good listener is next to being a good talker. But if you seem indifferent, if your eyes wander about the room and you seem bored when others are talking they will lose interest in you. It is not absolutely necessary to be a great talker in order to be popular, but it is necessary to be a good listener. If you will just make up your mind that there is something interesting in everyone you meet, and that you are going to find it, you will be surprised to see what facility of speech you will acquire.

How Did You Take It?

"Did you tackle the trouble that came your way?"

With a resolute heart and cheerful? Or hid your face from the light of day?

With a craven soul and fearful? Or a trouble's a ton, or a trouble's an ounce.

Or a trouble is what you make it. And it isn't the fact that you're hurt that counts.

But only, how did you take it?"

Fur Bearers Vanish.

The muskrat, formerly held in small esteem, is to-day recognized as the most important of American fur-bearing animals. Its pelt, having become fashionable, commands an over-increasing price.

Thereby the pursuit of the little beast has been stimulated, with the result that its numbers nearly everywhere are rapidly diminishing.

Minard's Liniment for Colds, etc.

WILAYERS

Every hen should lay. Make yours pay in eggs for the feed you give them.

Tone them up. Keep them healthy and vigorous.

Get eggs by adding to their feed Nature's egg-making tonic found in Pratt's Poultry Regulator.

ADVISE FREE. Tell us your trouble.

PRATT FOOD CO., OF CANADA, LIMITED, TORONTO.

CORNS

Lift Off with Fingers

Doesn't hurt a bit! Drop a little "Freezone" on an aching corn, instantly that corn stops hurting, then shortly you lift it right off with fingers. Truly!

Your druggist sells a tiny bottle of "Freezone" for a few cents, sufficient to remove every hard corn, soft corn, or corn between the toes, and the calluses, without sores or irritation.

Minard's Liniment Used by Veterinaries

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Do the Stars Move?

People often wonder why they see no change in the arrangement of bright stars when the winter nights come round again.

We are told by the astronomers that all these stars are moving faster than any express train, or even than any aeroplane—faster, indeed, than anything is ever likely to do on the earth—and yet they do not appear to have shifted a hair's breadth from the place they occupied twenty—nay, even fifty—years ago; as long ago, in fact, as the very oldest living person can remember.

Mysterious! Not at all. The secret is summed up in one single word—distance.

It is all a matter of distance. The familiar form of the seven stars, known as the Great Bear, or the Dipper, remains unaltered, because the stars are so far away. So it is with the other well-known figures in the sky.

If they were as near to us as, say, the bright planet Jupiter, or Venus, or Mars—if they were merely millions of miles away instead of billions, then we should very quickly see a change in their form, even from one night to the next.

As it is, however, though an average star would cover a distance of fifty miles in two and a half seconds, none has appeared to the naked eye to have moved during the past 5,000 years or more. In all that time the forms of the star-groups have remained unchanged to the casual observer.

What makes this circumstance more stupendous still is the fact that, in addition to the star moving at such an appalling speed our own star, which we know as the sun, is travelling at the respectable rate of about twelve miles a second, or more than a million miles a day.

It is journeying (luckily, taking the earth with it) towards certain well-recognized stars, but the supremely impressive fact is that, after all this bustling, there must be an interval of at least forty or fifty thousand years before the star-figures will have so altered their appearance as to be noticeable to the naked eye.

The very earliest man, if he could return to this much-troubled world, would be able to notice a difference in the Dipper's seven brilliants, or in the majestic form of the giant Orion, which, with his starry belt, is so prominent in the northern sky during the winter months.

The Dipper stars, readers may care to know, are mostly travelling in the same direction. The one at the top of the handle, and the one of the two "pointers" nearest to the Pole Star, are moving in exactly the opposite direction from the other five. Despite this fact, the form of the Dipper (or Great Bear) will still be recognizable 40,000 years hence.

The "pointers," it should be explained, are so-named because they "point" to the Pole Star.

Education and Ignorance.

There are only two really deep-seated and influential enemies of human happiness and human order—ignorance and selfishness.

Those do pretty much all the damage that is done in the world, and they are the always present obstacles to improving the condition of mankind.

It is the province of intellectual education to address itself to the first of these, and it is the task of moral education to deal with the other.

If men's eyes could only be really opened to an understanding of how the civilization of the world has been won, if they could be brought to see the significance of each step, taken however long ago, on the upward path of man's development; if they could recognize that the perplexities of to-day are due chiefly, if not entirely, to lack of adjustment between the ruling principles which are at work in human life and the circumstances of the moment, and not to the imperfection of unwieldy dogmas which they would be able to pass juster and wiser judgments upon the questions submitted for arbitration to them as citizens.

If men could only be led to appreciate the distinction between selfishness and selfhood; to see the richness and fullness of nature which come from service; and to realize that the highest expression and the greatest conquest which a human personality can attain is through finding its ideals and its satisfactions in promoting the happiness and the interests of its kind, the task of government would be easily indeed.

Persia has no old maids.

Dutch children are dressed in exactly the same styles as their parents. Bread is the daily food of less than one-third of the world's population.

Paris charwomen have formed a union and adopted a wages scale and new conditions of work.

Jumpers made of woven wool and laced up the front were worn by women many centuries ago.

The most treacherous animals to deal with in captivity are said to be jaguars and black panthers.

Do you try to be as good as your children think you are?

One pound of phosphorus is sufficient to tip 1,000,000 matches.

Originally a carol was a glee accompanied by a dance.

The region of greatest cold is near Verkhoyansk, in Siberia, on the Yana river, but a short distance north of the Arctic Circle, between the meridians of 130 and 140 deg. east longitude. A temperature of 92 deg. below zero has been observed.