

THE GHOST OF LOCHRAIN OR THE UNDERGROUND SYNDICATE

By Mrs. C. N. Williamson, author of "The Princess," "The Lightning Conductor," etc.

CHAPTER V. Tangled Threads.

A second glance at Captain Oxford assured Elspeth that, despite the haunting likeness of some other face, she had certainly never seen him before. He was not a young man to be easily forgotten, and the girl did not wonder that he had attracted Lady Hilary. Not only was he remarkably good to look at, but it seemed to her that, with such eyes—brilliant, like his hair, and only a few shades darker than the unburned skin—he must be honest and sincere. If there were a mystery about his advent last night, she told herself that it could be nothing of which he need be ashamed.

But at the thought of that sketch, something which had been puzzling Elspeth was made clear. The likeness which had so bewildered her was between Captain Oxford and the boy in the portrait. It was not so noticeable now, for the young man was looking grave to sombreness, while the face of the boy was bright and smiling still. Elspeth could see it, and it was marked enough to seem rather odd. But, after all, what could it mean? The boy, who was by this time either an old man, or dead, had been one of the same type with Captain Oxford, perhaps not an extraordinary one, although she had not happened to see any others, save these two. She was half inclined to speak of the portrait as a coincidence, but she did not wish to be called upon at present for an explanation of the pink stain, as she probably would if she showed the sketch to Captain Oxford.

As she mentally compared the real features with the pictured features, the young man spoke again. "Naturally, Mr. McGowan would prefer to suggest that you had been attacked by some poacher, while straying about in lonely places, where I had no business to be after dark. Any other idea—any more sensational idea—would be bad for the hotel."

"Why?" asked Elspeth. "If there is such an association as the Underground Syndicate, it is very mysterious—so mysterious that it has puzzled England in general, and Scotland Yard in particular, for years. It's supposed to know, to be an association banded together to commit crimes for important clients who don't wish to commit themselves. Several famous murders have been set down to the account of the Underground Syndicate, but though there have been clues and traces, there have never been enough to help the police to make arrests, or even actually suspect any one person. They have, as it were, heard stirrings behind a veil, but the veil has never been lifted. Now, if I were a very rich man with millions to leave to relatives, or if I were in any one's way, I should say to myself, because of certain things that have happened—'Ah, the Underground Syndicate has put a black mark against my name.' But there is absolutely nothing to suggest that you are connected with the matter, and I don't think you would be the better off for my death; and poor Lady Lambert, even if she were prepared to go to such lengths to wipe out a world's sin, couldn't afford to pay the Syndicate's price. They charge thousands, so the story goes. And they are very rich—according to the same stories—for they often bring off a fortune on their own account, such as relieving people of their jewels. I often warn Kenneth that he had better look out."

"It sounds too extraordinary," said Elspeth. "I don't believe there is such a syndicate really, do you?" "No, I don't," replied Captain Oxford. "As you say, it is too fantastic. People will get up any theory to account for crimes which remain mysterious; and I believe that rather a sensational morning paper is responsible for suggesting the idea that there was a syndicate. After a murder that baffled the police last year, the editor published a series of extraordinary anonymous letters that served the object of selling the issues in which they appeared, if no other."

At this moment the resident doctor appeared to see how his patient was getting on, and Elspeth was banished from the room. It was now her hour of freedom, and she was glad of it, for she had much to think of. She went to her room, where tea was sent to her, and rested luxuriously on the old-fashioned sofa. What a wonderful day it had been, she thought. More had happened in it than happened in weeks in her old London life, where one day told another, and she forgot whether it was Monday or Saturday. She seemed to have been plunged into the midst of many lives, and to have some influence, large or small, upon each one. It was almost as if she, an insignificant young girl, a paid employee of a hotel, were watching the performance of a play in a theatre to which she alone had the right of entrance.

She tried hard to join all the different loose threads, which she felt vaguely ought somehow to match together, but she could not find the way; and at last the effort culminated in an absurd jumble which was a dream.



careful, that's all," Elspeth thought she heard her say; and Elspeth's expression was not quite so pleasant as it had been, though he forced a smile to greet the stenographer. "Fine looking woman, that," he said, as he ushered Elspeth into the room. "Countess Radepolski, I mean. She and I only met her a short time ago, but she was of other people had proved still more absorbing and dwelling upon them had proved her from giving much attention to the mystery of the night's disturbance. But when darkness came again, and a second night had to be faced in the tower room, on the romantic love troubles of Lady Hilary Lambert and Captain Oxford faded into the background of her mind. The one absorbing question was whether a trick had really been played upon her, or whether, in spite of her firm conviction to the contrary, there were such things as ghosts, which haunted places on earth that they had lived or loved."

REV. DR. TORREY MADE MANY CONVERTS IN MONTREAL CRUSADE. 2,372 Persons Expressed Conversion, and Collections Were \$3,700. Evangelist Got 81,000, and His Three Assistants \$700, and Church \$850—Presbyterians Led in Responses to Invitations to Stand Up. Montreal, May 8.—The support accorded by Montreal to the Torrey mission may be gauged from the following summary figures: Dr. Torrey received \$1,000, while \$700 was divided between his three assistants, Messrs. Jacoby, Butler and Parker, and \$850 was paid for the use of St. James' Methodist church. The amount of the collections was \$3,700 and the expenses of the mission, in addition to the sum paid to the evangelist and his helpers, were \$2,200. As regards the religious results, it is announced that the revival invitation to accept Christianity had brought responses from 2,372 persons, who stood up publicly and were afterwards dealt with by the mission workers, their names being subsequently entered in the local clergy list of future spiritual care. It is notable that, though the mission services were held in a Methodist church, the largest number of responses to the invitations came from Presbyterians, 831 of whom stood up in profession of their desire to accept Christ. The second largest number of responses came from the Church of England with 363, while the others were divided as follows: United Methodists, 161; Baptists, 151; eighty Congregationalists, twenty-five Roman Catholics, sixteen Brethren, nine Salvation Army, six Lutherans, four Jews, five Christian Scientists, one Episcopalian and ninety-nine non-denominational.

WANTED, Agents-Rev. W. S. Harris' New Book... WANTED-Male or female second class teacher...

BIRTHS, OBORN-In Toronto, May 8, the wife of James Oborn, general superintendent of C. P. R. of a son, still born... MARRIAGES, HENDRICKS-HALL-On May 8, in St. John's (Stone) church...

DEATHS, COLSTON-At the rectory, Three Rivers (Que.), May 7, Elizabeth Colston, mother of P. H. Colston, Westford... MARRIAGES, HENDRICKS-HALL-On May 8, in St. John's (Stone) church...

SHIP NEWS, PORT OF ST. JOHN, Arrived, Tuesday, May 7, Sch James Barber, 80 Tons, from Bath...

FOR SALE, POLING INDICATOR locates all mineral and buried pipes... CANADIAN PORTS, Fort Mulgrave, May 4-Passed north by steamer...

Equity Sale, There will be sold at Public Auction at 3 o'clock on Thursday... MONEY TO LOAN, MONEY TO LOAN on City or Country property at low rate of interest...

POWER TO EARN, depends largely upon your education. We give you the power to earn... ST. JOHN MARKETS, The markets of the present season and the persistent unfavorable crop reports...

COUNTRY MARKET, Beef, western, 0.08 1/2 to 0.09 1/2... BUTTER, Prime, 1.00 to 1.02... EGGS, White, 1.00 to 1.02...

FRUITS, ETC., New walnuts, 0.11 to 0.13... GRAPES, 0.10 to 0.12... VEGETABLES, 0.08 to 0.10... CANNED GOODS, The following are the wholesale quotations...

PROVISIONS, Pork, domestic, 1.25 to 1.50... LARD, pure, 0.18 to 0.20... FLOUR, ETC., Standard granulated, 0.40 to 0.45... SUGAR, Standard granulated, 0.20 to 0.25...

FISH, Large dry cod, 0.45 to 0.50... OILS, Pratts' Astral, 0.00 to 0.02... TRAINS BURNED, On Monday, April 29, the train from St. John to Miramichi was burned...

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson. In Use For Over Thirty Years. GASTORIA.

Dr. J. Collis Brown's CHLORODYNE THE ORIGINAL AND ONLY GENUINE. Colds, Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis. is admitted by the profession to be the most wonderful and valuable remedy ever discovered.

Save All Your Cream U.S. Cream Separator. Has only 2 parts inside bowl - easily and quickly washed. Low supply tank - easy to pour milk into - see picture.

THOS. W. MACHUM JERUSALEM, N. B. RIVER FALLING FAST AND MANY DRIVES UP. BANGOR AND AROOSTOOK STATION BURNED.

WRECK OF C. P. TRAIN; FIVE PEOPLE INJURED. Winnipeg, May 9-Mixed train No. 154 had two coaches derailed two miles east of Pettipiece on the Brandon-Minnetonka branch of the C. P. R., yesterday morning...

C. P. R. TO RUN ANOTHER TRANSCONTINENTAL TRAIN. Ottawa, May 9-(Special)-Three transcontinental trains will, in all probability, be operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway this season.

ST. JOHN'S S. Kerr & Son. No Summer Vacation This Year. The demand for proficient bookkeepers and stenographers increases as the summer months draw near...

