

MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES,

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

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THE MYSTERY OF THE "GLORIA SCOTT."

(Continued.)

"I dare say my face looked as bewildered as yours did just now when first I read this message. Then I re-read it very carefully. It was evidently as I had thought, and some secret meaning must lie buried in this strange combination of words. Or could it be that there was a prearranged significance to such phrases as 'fly-paper' and 'hen-peckers'? Such a meaning would be arbitrary and could not be deduced in any way. And yet I was loath to believe that this was the case, and the presence of the word Hudson seemed to show that the subject of the message was as I had guessed, and that it was from Beddoes rather than the sailor. I tried it backwards, but the combination 'the pheasant's hen' was not encouraging. Then I tried alternate words, but neither 'the of for nor supply game London' promised to throw any light upon it.

"And then in an instant the key of the riddle was in my hands, and I saw that every third word, beginning with the first, would give a message which might well drive old Trevor to despair. It was short and terse, the warning, as I now read it to my companion: 'The game is up. Hudson has told all. Fly for your life.'

"Victor Trevor sank his face into his shaking hands. 'It must be that, I suppose,' said he. 'This is worse than death, for it means disgrace as well. But what is the meaning of these "head-keepers" and "hen-peckers"?'"

"It means nothing to the message, but it might mean a good deal to us if we had no other means of discovering the sender. You see that he has begun by writing: 'The * * * game * * * is,' and so on. Afterwards he had, to fulfil the prearranged cipher, to fill in any two words in each space. He would naturally use the first words which came to his mind, and if there were so many which referred to sport among them, you may be tolerably sure that he is either a ardent shot or interested in breeding. Do you know anything of this Beddoes?"

"Why, now that you mention it," said he, "I remember that my poor father used

to have an invitation from him to shoot over his preserves every autumn."

"Then it is undoubtedly from him that the note comes," said I. "It only remains for us to find out what this secret was which the sailor Hudson seems to have held over the heads of these two wealthy and respected men."

"Alas, Holmes, I fear that it is one of sin and shame," cried my friend. "But from you I shall have no secrets. Here is the statement which was drawn up by my father when he knew that the danger from Hudson had become imminent. I found it in the Japanese cabinet, as he told the doctor. Take it and read it to me, for I have neither the strength nor the courage to do it myself."

"These are the very papers, Watson, which he handed to me, and I will read them to you, as I read them in the old study that night to him. They are enclosed outside, as you see. Some particulars of the voyage of the bark Gloria Scott, from her leaving Falmouth on the 8th of October, 1885, to her destruction in N. Lat. 15 degrees 20 minutes, W. Long. 25 degrees 14 minutes, on Nov. 6th. It is in the form of a letter and runs in this way: 'My dear, dear son, now that approaching disgrace begins to darken the closing years of my life, I can write with all truth and honesty that it is not the terror of the law, it is not the loss of my position in the county, nor is it my fall in the eyes of all who have known me, which cuts me to the heart; but it is the thought that you should come to blush for me—you who love me and who have seldom, I hope, had reason to do other than respect me. But if the blow falls which is forever hanging over me, then I should wish you to read this, that you may know straight from me how far I have been to blame. On the other hand, if all should go well (which may kind God Almighty grant!), then, if by any chance this paper should be still undestroyed and by all you hold sacred, by the memory of your dear mother, and by the love which has been between us, to hurl it into the fire and to never give one thought to it again.

"If then your eye goes on to read this line, I know that I shall already have been exposed and dragged from my home, or, as more likely, for you know that my heart is weak, be lying with my tongue sealed forever in death. In either case the time for suppression is past, and every word which I tell you is the naked truth, and this I swear as I hope for mercy."

"My name, dear lad, is not Trevor. I was James Armitage in my younger days, and you can understand now the shock that it was to me a few weeks ago when your college friend addressed me in words which seemed to imply that he had surprised my secret. As Armitage it was that I entered a London banking house and as Armitage I was convicted of breaking my country's laws, and was sentenced to transportation. Do not think very harshly of me, laddie. It was a debt of honor, so called, which I had to pay, and I used money which was not my own to do it, in the certainty that I could replace it before there could be any possibility of its being missed. But the most dreadful ill-luck pursued me. The money which I had reckoned upon never came to hand, and a premature examination of accounts exposed my deficit. The case might have been dealt leniently with, but the laws were more harshly administered thirty years ago than now, and on my twenty-third birthday I found myself chained as a felon with thirty-seven other convicts in the 'tween-decks of the bark Gloria Scott, bound for Australia."

"It was the year '55, when the Crimean war was at its height, and the old convict ships had been largely used as transports in the Black Sea. The government was compelled, therefore, to use smaller and less suitable vessels for sending out their prisoners. The Gloria Scott had been in the Chinese tea trade, but she was an old-fashioned heavy-bowed, broad-beamed craft, and the new clippers had cut her out. She was a five-hundred-ton boat, and besides her thirty-eight convicts she carried twenty-five of a crew, eighteen soldiers, a captain, three nurses, a doctor, a chaplain, and four wardens. Nearly a hundred souls were in her, all told, when we set sail from Falmouth."

"The partitions between the cells of the convicts, instead of being of thick oak, as is usual in convict ships, were quite thin and frail. The man next to me, upon the aft side, was one whom I had particularly noticed when we were led down the quay. He was a young man with a clear, hairless face, a long, thin

nose, and rather nut-cracker jaws. He carried his head very jauntily in the air, had a swaggering style of walking, and was, above all else, remarkable for his extraordinary height. I don't think any of our heads would have come up to his shoulder, and I am sure that he could not have measured less than six and a half feet. It was strange among so many sad and weary faces to see one which was full of energy and resolution. The sight of it was to me like a fire in a snowstorm. I was glad, then, to find that he was my neighbor, and gladder still, when in the dead of the night, I heard a whisper close to my ear and found that he had managed to cut an opening in the board which separated us."

"Hullo, chummy!" said he. "What's your name, and what are you here for?"

"I answered him, and asked in turn who he was talking with."

"I'm Jack Prendergast," said he, "and by God! you'll learn to bless my name before you've done with me."

"I remembered hearing of his case, for it was one which had made an immense sensation throughout the country some time before my own arrest. He was a man of good family and of great ability, but of incurably vicious habits, who had by an ingenious system of fraud obtained huge sums of money from the leading London merchants."

"Ha, ha! You remember my case!" said he, proudly.

"Very well, indeed."

"Then maybe you remember something queer about it?"

"What was that, then?"

"I'd had nearly a quarter of a million, hadn't I?"

"So it was said."

"But none was recovered, eh?"

"No."

(To be continued.)

SHE CUT HER THROAT

PRESCOTT, Ont., Oct. 12.—(Special)—Mrs. William Gladstone, wife of a well-to-do blacksmith of Donville, four miles north of here, committed suicide this morning by cutting her throat from ear to ear with her husband's razor. She got up about three o'clock. Her husband becoming anxious started to hunt for her, and found her lying over a fence a few yards from the house. The deceased was about 55 years old.

see manual training but he thought it should not be implanted on the present curriculum.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, W. S. Fisher; vice-presidents, Ald. Bullock, Miss M. Reynolds, Mrs. F. Stetson, Rev. G. F. Scovill; treasurer, G. A. Knodell; board of management, Canon Richardson, J. B. Cudlip, Rev. G. A. Kuhring, Mrs. Robert Thompson, Mrs. T. D. Walker and Mrs. J. W. Brittain.

Dr. A. A. Stockton, who is retained in the case of Robertson vs. Fairweather, which is to be heard by the privy council will leave for England this day week, when he will sail from Rimouski on the Tunisian. It was Dr. Stockton's original intention to start today, but as there is some uncertainty as to when the case will be put down for hearing he has decided to defer his departure until next week.

A. H. Hanington is the opposing council.

At a joint meeting of the board of management and trustees of the local Y. M. C. A., held yesterday afternoon in the office of the president, L. P. D. Tilly, it was unanimously decided to obtain the services of a competent man to organize and complete the building fund. A committee was appointed to deal with the matter and it is very probable that they will communicate with the international committee with the idea of securing a good man.

MANUAL TRAINING AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Discussed at Last Evening's Meeting of the Board of Associated Charities—"Too Much Schooling and Not Enough Education" Said One Member.

The annual meeting of the Associated Charities last night in the C. of E. Institute was attended by a large and representative body of citizens. In the absence of the president, Rev. G. F. Scovill took the chair.

The report of Mrs. Hall, secretary, showed that the past year has been a very busy one. There were 1,363 applications received. Five hundred were for work, 310 relief and 183 advice. No less than 106 ladies applied for maids and were referred to the employment bureau. Two hundred and sixty-four cases were investigated. Relief was procured for 185 of the number, 15 were found unworthy, the like number masquerading under assumed names. Twenty friends who had been in the city other seasons were detected and 15 were found in receipt of sufficient relief already. Twenty-nine failed to respond when work was secured and 100 were strangers from the other side. A number of them asked only for night's lodgings. More than 1,000 visits were made during the year and 180 letters written in connection with the visits. Returns were secured for admission to the hospital and almshouse, and children were put in orphanages. Employment was found for 29 boys and 26 girls.

The treasurer, G. A. Knodell, then read his report, which showed: Received from Mrs. Hall, \$393; disbursements, \$365; balance on hand, \$19.41.

At this point Rev. Mr. Scovill was called away and he asked Ald. Bullock to take the chair.

He called on Rev. G. A. Kuhring to speak. Mr. Kuhring told of the work of the associated charities in Toronto. He thought the work here was as fully developed as in upper Canada.

J. B. Cudlip, thought one great cause of chronic idleness in St. John was the indiscriminate giving of the churches. There are a great many people, he said, whom he knew for the last four years had lived on nothing else. He spoke of the slovenly habits of some of the girls employed in the cotton mills and said he believed some of them, if it were not for the overseer, would waste in dirt up to their knees. He thought this was owing to a lack of proper training in the home. He went on to speak of the extravagance of the laboring class. It was the man who was making the smallest wages, he said, who thought he could afford a week off and there were many who would rather lie in the sun than work for thirty cents an hour. We have, he said, too much schooling and not enough education in St. John today, and if technical training is to make the laboring class more industrious, by all means let us have it. If St. John laborers can be better educated the city can become a formidable rival of the west in manufactures, but not otherwise.

In answer to a question from the chairman, Mr. Cudlip said he approved of compulsory education and fixing the age at which children can go to work at sixteen years.

Canon Richardson said it was inconceivable that we did not have compulsory education. The matter has again and again been discussed by the local house, but nothing came of it. He suggested that a movement be organized the coming winter to push the matter. He thought ninety per cent. of the ratepayers of the city would vote for it.

While there was a great deal of indeterminate charity he contended that it could not well be helped. The average

pay of the unskilled laborer in St. John, he said, was \$1 a day, and he scouted the idea of a man being able to bring up a family and keep them comfortable on that. Referring to taxes, he said it was a shame that men earning \$300 or \$400 should be taxed. He related an incident of a man who had applied to him for help last winter. He had been shovelling snow on the streets for the corporation and all he had to show for it was a receipt for \$5 taxes and \$1.50 cash. He spoke of the housing problem and said that as land was scarce and dear in the city it was not probable much could be done in that direction. Last winter floods of respectable Englishmen were brought out here by the lies of agents. As a result there were sometimes fourteen applicants for relief at his door in one day. He paid a high compliment to Mrs. Hall in connection with her work and made some suggestions to facilitate the work

of relieving deserving cases.

After Rev. G. A. Kuhring had again briefly addressed the meeting the chairman called on Adjutant Thompson, of the Metropole. He said that during the last twelve months they had accommodated 8,000 people. He thought, however, that were it not for the winter port business there would be no need for the shelter. In Halifax, on the other hand, conditions are as bad in the summer as in the winter.

Canon Richardson here recalled that the city had offered St. George's Society or any other body who would operate the gentlemen's shelter \$200 but when the Salvation Army took hold of it and asked for a small grant they were turned down. With all due respect to the city council, he thought there ought to be men in it with enough backbone to see that they lived up to their pledges.

Dr. T. D. Walker spoke of the people who made use of dispensaries and hospitals who were quite able to pay for a doctor. He spoke of the beggars who come to doors, and characterized them as dead beat Englishmen who should not have been allowed to land. As to manual training, he hoped those people who were agitating for its introduction into the schools would see that the curriculum was first revised as there were entirely too many subjects. The public school system of forty years ago was better calculated to produce men and women who could make their way in the world than the present. Personally he would be glad to

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