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A Mysterious Disappearance

By Gordon Holmes

A Great Detective Story

(Continued.)

CHAPTER XXI.

HOW LADY DYKE LEFT RALEIGH MANSIONS.

Mr. White was actually inclined to preserve silence while they walked to Victoria street. The events of the preceding hour had not exactly conduced to the maintenance, in the eyes of his brother officer, of that pre-eminent sagacity which he invariably claimed.

His companion rubbed in this phase of the matter by saying: "I should think, Jim, you will give Raleigh Mansions wide berth for some time to come, after making two bad breaks there."

But it was no part of Bruce's scheme that the detective should be rendered desperate by repeated failures. "It is not Mr. White's fault," he said, "that these errors have occurred. They are rather the result of his pertinacity in leaving no clue unsolved which promises to lead to success. When this case ends, if ever it does end, I feel sure he will admit that he has never before encountered so much difficulty in unravelling the most complex problems within his experience."

"That is so," chimed in the senior detective. "The thing that beats me in this affair is the want of a beginning, so to speak. One would imagine it the work of a lunatic if Lady Dyke herself had not contributed so curiously to the mystery of her disappearance."

"There you are, White, that is the true scent. Find the motive and we find the murderer, if Lady Dyke was wilfully put to death."

"If she was, Mr. Bruce? Have you any doubt about it?"

"There cannot be certainty when we are groping in the dark. But the gloom is passing; we are on the eve of a discovery."

At Bruce's residence White's colleague left him. Soon the barrister and the policeman were sitting snugly before a good fire.

There Claude took him step by step through each branch of his inquiry, as it is known to the reader.

He omitted nothing. The discovery of Jane Harding and of Mensmore, the latter's transactions with Dodge & Co., his dramatic coup at Monte Carlo and its attendant love episode—all these were exhaustively described. He enlarged upon Mrs. Hillmer's anxiety when the tragedy became known to her, and did not forget Sir Charles Dyke's amazement at the suggestion that his old playmate might prove to be responsible for the death of his wife.

He produced the waxen moulds of the piece of iron found on the body at Putney, and the ornamental scroll from which it had been taken.

At this bit of evidence Mr. White's complacency forsook him. Thus far he had experienced a feeling of resentment against Bruce for having concealed from him so much that was material to their investigation.

But when he realized that a powerful link in the chain of events had all along been placidly resting before his eyes his distress was evident, and the barrister came to his rescue.

"You are not to blame, White," he said, "for having failed to note many things which I have now told you. You are the slave of a system. Your method works admirably for the detection of commonplace crime, but as soon as the high region of romance is reached it is as much out of place as a steam-roller in a lady's boudoir. Look at the remarkable series of crimes the English police have failed to solve of late, merely because some bizarre element had intruded itself at the outset. Have you ever read any of the works of Edgar Allan Poe?"

The detective answered in the affirmative. "The Murders of the Rue Morgue" and "The Mystery of Marie Roget" were familiar to him.

"Well," went on Bruce, "there you have the accurate samples of my meaning. Poe would not have been puzzled for an hour by the vagaries of Jack the Ripper. He would have said at once—most certainly after the third or fourth in the series of murders—'This is the work of an athletic lunatic, with a morbid love of anatomy and a morbid hatred of a certain class of women. Seek for him among young men who have pestered doctors with outrageous theories, and who possess weak-minded or imbecile relatives.' Then, again, take the murder on the South-Western Railway. Do you think Poe would have gone questioning bar-tenders or inquiring into abortive love affairs? Not he! Jealous swains do not carry pestles about with them to slay their sweethearts, nor do they choose a four-minutes' interval between suburban stations for frenzied avowals of their passion. Here you have the clear trail of a clever lunatic, dropping from the skies, as it were, and disappearing in the same erratic manner. That is why I tell you most emphatically that neither you nor I have yet the remotest conception as to who really killed Lady Dyke."

"Surely things look black now against this Mensmore?"

"Do they? How would it have fared with an acquaintance of one of the unfortunate women killed by Jack the Ripper had the police found him in the locality with fresh blood-stains on his clothes? What would have resulted from the discovery of a chemist's mortar among the possessions of one of Elizabeth Camp's male friends? Come now, be honest, and tell me."

But Mr. White could only smoke in silence.

"Therefore," continued Bruce, "let us ask ourselves why, and how, it was possible for Mensmore to commit the crime. Personally, notwithstanding all that we apparently know against him circumstantially, I should hardly believe Mensmore if he confessed himself to be the murderer!"

"Now, why on earth do you say that, Mr. Bruce?"

"Because Mensmore is normal and this crime abnormal. Because the man who would blow out his brains on account of losses at pigeon-shooting never had brains enough to dispose of the body in such fashion. Because Mensmore, having temporarily changed his name for some trivial reason, would never resume it with equal triviality with this shadow upon his life."

"Then why have you told me all these things that tell so heavily against him?"

"In order that, this time at least, you may feel that the production of a pair of handcuffs does not satisfactorily settle the entire business."

"I promise there shall be no more arrests until this affair is much more decided than it is at present."

"Good. I shall make a detective of you after my own heart in time."

"Yet I cannot help being surprised at the very strange fact that his own sister should seem to suspect him!"

"Ah! Now you have struck the true line. Why did she have that fear? There I am with you entirely. Let us ascertain that and I promise you an important development. Mrs. Hilmer and Mensmore are both concerned in the disappearance of Lady Dyke, yet neither knew that she had disappeared, and both are deeply upset by it, for Mrs. Hilmer flies off to warn her brother, and the brother posts back to London the moment it comes to his ears through her. There, you see, we have a key which may unlock many doors. For Heaven's sake let it not be battered out of shape the instant it reaches our hands."

But Mr. White was quite humble. "As I have told you," he said, "I have done with the battering process."

"I am sure of it. And now listen to the most remarkable fact that has yet come to light. Lady Dyke's body was taken from Raleigh Mansions to Putney in a four-wheeler. The cabman was forthwith locked up by the police and clapped into prison for three months. He was released yesterday, and will be here within the next quarter of an hour."

The detective's hair nearly rose on end at this statement.

"Look here, Mr. Bruce!" he cried, "have you any more startlers up your sleeve, or is that the finish?"

"That is the last shot in my locker."

"I'm jolly glad! I half expected the next thing you would say was that you did the job yourself."

"It wouldn't be the first time you thought that; eh, my friend?"

White positively blushed.

"Oh! that's chaff,' he said. "But why the dickens did the police lock up this cabman—the only witness we could lay our hands upon? Why, I myself questioned every cabman in the vicinity several times."

"Because he got drunk on the proceeds of the journey, and subsequently thought he was Phaeton driving the chariot of the sun. But, there, he will tell you himself. I met him yesterday morning outside Holloway Jail, and persuaded him to come here tonight, provided he has not gone on the spree again with disastrous results."

The entrance of Smith—obviously relieved to see his master and the "tec" on such good terms—to announce the arrival of "Mr. William Marsh," settled any doubts as to the cabman's intentions, and his appearance established the fact of his sobriety. Three months "hard" had made the cab-driver a new man.

Recognition was mutual between him and Mr. White.

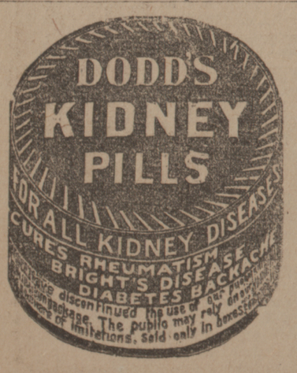
"Hello, Foxey," cried the latter. "It's you, is it?"

"Me it is, guv'nor; but I didn't know there was to be a 'cop' here"—this with a suspicious glance at Bruce and a backward movement toward the door.

"Do not be alarmed," said the barrister; "this gentleman's presence implies no trouble to you. We want you to help us, and if you do so willingly I will make up that lost fiver you received for driving two people to Putney the night you were arrested."

The poor old cabman became very confused on hearing this staggering remark. Up to that moment he regarded Bruce as the agent of a charitable association, and there was no harm, he told his "missus," in trying to "knock him for a bit."

(To be Continued.)



Fashion Hint for Times Readers



A FRENCH TAILORED DRESS FOR SPRING.

From Bernard, the clever Paris tailor, comes this frock which is cut on the new straight lines and which is intended for street wear when the weather is warm enough to dispense with an outer wrap. This costume is of khaki brown serge and is trimmed with wide silk braid of the same shade, the only strong color note being given by the bit of Egyptian embroidery which crosses the bust. In this embroidery are dull reds, bronze, green and black, and the trimming is laid over the guimpe of tucked cream net. The hat is one of the jaunty "pill box" turbans, which set well down over the hair and are trimmed only with a sparkling ornament and cocade at one side.

COUNCIL FAVORS THE TRANSFER TO C. P. R.

Aldermen Yesterday Stood Ten to Seven for the Exchange of West Side Properties

Mayor Bullock Appoints a Committee of Seven Members to Carry on the Work of the Transfer—Ald. Baxter Strenuously Opposes Plan and Proposes a Plebiscite, but Afterward Withdraws It

The opposition in the council failed at the adjourned meeting yesterday afternoon to prevent the adoption of the report of the harbor facilities' committee which recommended the exchange of property on the west side between the city and the C. P. R. As forecast in The Telegraph the report was adopted by ten votes to seven.

Ald. Baxter offered an amendment to refer the question to a plebiscite at the next civic election, but subsequently withdrew it. The only other speaker in opposition to the proposal was Ald. Kelley. The mayor and Ald. Frink spoke strongly in favor of the report. It was subsequently decided that a committee of seven should be appointed by the mayor to arrange the details of the transfer as recommended in the report. The mayor presided and the full council was present with the common clerk.

The mayor, after calling the meeting to order, asked the common clerk to read a resolution received from the board of trade.

Ald. Baxter objected on the ground that under the standing order all communications had to be in the hands of the common clerk two days before a council meeting.

The matter was dropped.

As the previous meeting broke up for want of a quorum and did not formally adjourn Ald. Frink again moved and Ald. Scully seconded the adoption of the report of the harbor facilities committee as follows:

"Your committee, after hearing the report of the delegates appointed to interview the honorable the minister of public works of Canada, with reference to his communications to his worship the mayor under date of the 14th and 26th of January last respectively, and which communications are attached hereto, would recommend that the council do favorably consider the transfer by the city to the crown of the portion of land asked for by the C. P. R. company (as shown on the plan hereto attached) upon the C. P. R. company at the same time conveying to the crown the 1,600 feet of property on the harbor front acquired by it with the Carleton Branch Railroad and the crown transferring to the city the wharf property of the C. P. R., which lies to the southward of berth No. 1; also that the details of the proposed arrangement be referred to a committee to make further report upon."

Ald. Kelley said in order to discuss the matter more fully he would move an amendment that the council go into committee of the whole. Ald. Holder seconded this.

Ald. Frink said from past experience the same order did not prevail in general committee. There was a tendency to run loose. If they remained in common council he did not think any one would be deprived of a full opportunity to discuss the report.

The amendment was lost.

Ald. Baxter moved an amendment that the action of the council be deferred until a vote of the people on the question of the proposed transfer be taken by civic ballot at the next election.

Ordinarily, he said, he disliked plebiscites but the subject was of immense importance and owing to the way it had been placed before the public by the press he thought such a course would be in the public interest. He did not know whether there was any scheme to carry the proposition through. He could not be so narrow minded as to say that, but he did not intend to be held up to obloquy by future generations. The danger was too great for him to accept the responsibility.

The agreement with the C. P. R. in 1893 was considered for three years and it was now proposed to rush this thing through when there were hardly the same safeguards as formerly. A government ought to be able to grapple with the C. P. R., but everyone knew that the private interests of a great corporation were interwoven with the party in power, no matter what the politics of that party might be. It was one of the drawbacks of government by party, and the C. P. R. would do practically as they liked. So momentous was the question before them that he would leave it to the citizens to decide. If they concurred in the report he would have nothing to say.

Ald. Holder seconded the amendment.

The mayor said the amendment was in order but personally he objected to it as if it passed it would mean further delay and placed the responsibility upon the people. The aldermen should vote as representatives of the people, who had entrusted them with the management of the city's affairs and whom the people could trust. He doubted if he could measure up the reasons behind such a resolution as moved by Ald. Baxter at the present time. Their decision meant either progress in the development of the port or allowing everything to remain at a standstill. The city had done something in the past in bringing the C. P. R. to St. John but no one could say there had been extravagance. They had received dollar for dollar in return.

To hear some remarks which had been made it would appear as if millions of dollars had been thrown away to the C. P. R. but for all the money spent the city retained an asset in the wharves on the west side. It was true they had given the C. P. R. the Carleton branch railway and assisted with the elevator but the question of regaining possession of the 1,600 foot strip on the Beacon bar was outside monetary considerations. Of what value was the Beacon bar to anyone unless developments went on?

Ald. Willet interrupted his worship at this point to say that he was not in order in making a speech from the chair. He would move that he give way to the deputy mayor if he wished to continue.

The mayor, amid cries of "go on, go on," replied that he saw no other way of getting his views before the citizens. The Beacon bar, he continued, was practically useless and must be removed as the wharves were built. It was necessary that it should be dredged away. There would, it was true, be no difficulty in expropriating it but why should the government be asked to tax the people of the dominion when it could be had for nothing? They were even doing better than that. They would get a wharf property which one of the citizens had already offered to rent for $1,800 a year. He believed it would be worth more if put in the market.

The flats would be useless to the C. P. R. unless the company developed them. They proposed to construct a retaining wall, fill in behind it and make their yards at an estimated cost of $200,000 or $250,000. No new industry which might come to St. John with such an offer would be refused. There would have, of course, to be an understanding with the C. P. R. that they were going ahead.

The mayor then gave figures showing that the city at the present time received from water taxes and rentals an annual revenue of $7,280.02 from the C. P. R. The government, he said, were prepared to develop the west side and the city should be willing to take the risk of any other railway coming in. In any case it would be a good many years before that would happen. With regard to the agreement of 1893 it would be well to let bye-gones be bye-gones or they could never do business with the C. P. R. He knew what a plebiscite would lead to. They would be no further ahead and it meant further delay. He could see clearly what was at the back of it.

Ald. Willet opposed the amendment on the ground that a plebiscite at the civic elections meant turning down for another twelve months what the committee had reported. Another council would have to go over the same ground again. It was nothing more nor less than shifting the responsibility. He moved an amendment to the amendment that the plebiscite should be taken on March 30. "I have heard a report," he concluded, "that the C. P. R. held a caucus at which members of this council were present. If that is true I want to know it."

The mayor—"I never heard of it."

Ald. Frink—"Name your informant."

Ald. Willet—"He's here, and can answer. That's one of the things I won't stand for."

The matter dropped.

Ald. McGoldrick said he had been opposed to the proposition at first, but on looking into the matter more closely he failed to see how the city could lose by transferring to the government, who were going to spend $450,000 on the harbor, and were quite capable of holding any corporation in check, the C. P. R. included. The press had said politics had been introduced into the discussion. He would not like to think that was the case. They were elected to do a legitimate business for the taxpayers. He did not think much of the suggestion for a plebiscite. They had one last year and half the taxpayers did not vote. He believed that if the C. P. R. secured the flats it would establish the company more firmly here and that the transfer was in the best interests of the city.

Ald. Lewis said the city could deal with a government where it could not deal with the railway. He would vote for the motion.

Ald. Baxter said in moving for a plebiscite he did not doubt the sincerity of those opposed to him but the council was being unduly pressed and he had no alternative but to seek the people so that they could kill the scheme. It had been misrepresented to the citizens. The cry had been raised that the Conservatives in the council were going to kill the proposition. He had not been influenced in any way by his political views. He believed a great injury would be done to the port.

Ald. Baxter went on gravely to express his displeasure at the attitude of The Telegraph and the Times in regard to the transfer. The delegation, he said, had gone to Ottawa opposed to the scheme and had come back in favor of it but had not been able to give a reason for the change. He thought it would be better to wait and see if some other way could not be found for the transfer. He would rather tie the whole situation up for a while than give the flats to the C. P. R.

Ald. Frink said he noticed at the previous meeting that Ald. Baxter looked at him when making reference to the delegation getting cold feet. He could assure the alderman he was not one of that kind but it certainly looked to him as if the alderman for Brooks ward was himself suffering from frigidity at his pedal extremities when he wanted to go to the people.

Ald. Baxter's statement was directly contrary to his record as a public man. His strictures on the delegation were uncalled for. The report asked the council to favorably consider the proposition. It was not final. The details would be left to a committee and would have to be approved. Politics should be kept out of the council but he could not help feeling that some gentlemen present had allowed their political feelings to have the upper hand. The delegations went up with two suggestions—that the inshore development should be carried out by the government and that the C. P. R. should not be given exclusive rights.

(Continued on page 7).



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SEE SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN SATURDAY'S ISSUE OF THE EVENING TIMES.

BAIRD & PETERS, Wholesale Distributers, St. John, N. B.

DR. CARMAN CRITICISED BY THE TORONTO NEWS

And Rev. George Jackson Warmly Defended—The Workman Case Recalled—Says Dr. Carman is "Something of a Clerical Bully"

(Toronto News.)

It was certain that Rev. Dr. Carman would attack Rev. Geo. Jackson. It is surprising that the General Superintendent held his hand so long. There is a touch of the spirit of the Inquisition in Dr. Carman. Its flavor is in many of his utterances. He has been encouraged to persist in ecclesiastical abuse and denunciation by the curious timidity with which the church has submitted to his methods.

Dr. Workman was one of the victims of the Carman spirit. A scholar of ripe attainments and of fine intellectual courage, his life has some of the aspects of a tragedy. It is well known that there are leaders in the Methodist Church equal in intellectual strength and in Christian service to Dr. Carman, and far more than his equal in Christian charity, who have sympathized throughout with Dr. Workman as they now sympathize with Rev. George Jackson. But for the sake of peace they have kept silence and have allowed Dr. Carman to put the mark of narrowness and illiberality upon the church of which he is the official head.

With all his gifts, with all his long service to the church, with all his devotion to religious and humanitarian objects, Dr. Carman is something of a clerical bully. His letter to Mr. Jackson shows throughout an utter want of charity and suggests a mere wanton desire to wound Mr. Jackson's feeling and to hold a great scholar and a simple, sincere Christian up to the contempt of the community. [illegible] of clerical buccaneering, we imagine, has gone far enough, and it is to be expected that those who hold Mr. Jackson's opinions will unite, as they should have united long ago, to resist such attacks and to allow the air of freedom to blow freely through the Methodist church.

The truth is that Dr. Carman is living out of his time. He would have fitted conditions of fifty or one hundred years ago. Few scholars now believe in the absolute, literal, verbal inspiration of every word of the Bible. Few think that in order to be Christians it is necessary to believe the story of the creation, exactly as it is told, as they maintain a similar attitude towards certain other features of the Scripture. What Mr. Jackson teaches is the faith of the world's best Christian scholars and of a vast number of worshippers who sit in the pews of the churches. Most clergymen in the freedom of personal intercourse admit that they have gone as far as the pew and yet Sabbath after Sabbath and week after week they practically conceal the fact from their congregations.

In this very want of candor is lack of power and danger to religion. Men never were so little affected by the denominational spirit as now, they never were so careless of dogma, they never set so little store by the considerations which are paramount with Rev. Dr. Carman. Fortunately it is equally true that the influence of the Bible and of Christ's teaching in the New Testament never was so influential with men. Never were Christians so simple, so tolerant, so good and so active in the service of their fellows. Never indeed, did men in the mass think more freely and act more nobly. If the church is to continue to increase its power in the world and to be the inspiration of all the great forces which make for goodness, for social and industrial progress and for the regeneration of waste human material, it will be because the pew has been reconciled to the pulpit by the sane and practical teaching of men like Mr. Jackson rather than made doubters and skeptics by the narrower beliefs and the unintellectual fulminations of the Carmans and the school to which they belong.

Don't Diet for Fat

You have no appetite for gruel, have you? By the same token, if you scale in excess of 150 pounds, I know you have no great liking for gymnastic stunts. As a rule fat folks are neither athletic nor ascetic, except under compulsion, and nowadays they are not under compulsion to be either, no matter how necessary it is for them to reduce. There is a third, better, and surer way of getting rid of superfluous flesh.

The trouble with both dieting and exercise is, first, the trouble; second, the danger (fatty heart); third, wrinkles; and, fourth, stomach disgust. You are liable to all four if you exercise or diet. On the other hand, you can sidestep all four, and still reduce as much or little as you please, even up to losing a pound a day if you see fit, by taking a teaspoonful after meals and at bedtime of the following simple home receipt: One-half ounce Marmola, 3-4 ounce Fluid Extract Cascara Aromatic, and 4 3-4 ounces Peppermint Water.

Any druggist will fill this prescription for you cheaply, and you may take it with perfect confidence that it will do no manner of harm. Instead it almost invariably improves the health and, likewise, the complexion.

LECTURE ON JAPAN

In spite of the inclement nature of the weather last night there was a good attendance in Trinity church school house at a lecture on Japan given by Rev. Heber J. Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton, who is a missionary in Japan, illustrated his lecture with many beautiful views of the country and the modes in which agriculture and industrial enterprises are carried on. The social life of the people was also well illustrated and described. Rev. Mr. Hamilton was closely followed and at the conclusion a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to him.

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