

The Unlatched Door

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

Finding himself with an hour or more free before his appointment with Roy and Barbara on the following morning, Inspector Kenway decided to pay the visit he had proposed to the estate agent who managed Darnley Mansions. He had no difficulty in persuading this gentleman to talk—what would an estate agent be worth if he were not a free and fluent talker?—but it did not seem that there was much of any significance to be told. Mr. Garvin, of Garvin, Garvin and Fowles, described the personal appearance of the vanished tenant and related all he knew about him; but it amounted to very little.

The missing man had given the name of James Matthews; a branch of the Corporate Bank had written in reply to a query made on Mr. Matthews's authority that he had an account with them and so far as they knew, was financially safe; the address Matthews had given was the Mervin Hotel, a small but highly respectable establishment in the West End, to which letters had been sent and from which replies from Mr. Matthews had come. There had been no reason for doubting the man's bona fides, and the fact that he had paid three months' rent in advance had made the granting of the tenancy a matter of course.

Mr. Garvin described Matthews as a man well past middle age. He was tall, probably somewhat

over six feet, of impressive appearance, with a strong, deeply lined face and thick, purely white hair. His clothes were good and there was a general air of authority and prosperity about him.

"I don't think I can tell you any more than that," said Mr. Garvin. "Everything about him seemed perfectly straightforward—that goes without saying. I should not have entertained him as a tenant if it had been otherwise. He even insisted on a trifling alteration in the terms of our usual agreement, which looked as if he was genuinely intending to occupy the flat. I can show you that. The office copy of the agreement, with his signature, is here."

He produced a foolscap sheet and handed it to the inspector. Kenway glanced over it casually. Suddenly his attention became concentrated and he sat for a long time staring at the signature at the bottom of the page.

"Nothing wrong with it, is there?" inquired Mr. Garvin with a shade of anxiety.

"No, no. Nothing wrong at all, but—I was wondering if I haven't seen this writing before and trying to remember where and when it could be."

"There's nothing very distinctive about it, is there?" said the estate agent, leaning over to examine the signature. "Come to think of it, it's more shaky than I should have expected from a man who looked so hale and had such a decided manner. But it's his signature, all right. I saw him write it myself in this office."

"I'm not doubting that, I'm just trying to remember... can't get it, though. Would you mind letting me have this for a day or two?"

"Well, I'd rather not part with that particular document, unless it is absolutely necessary. You see, the position is rather unusual. The agreement is still ac-

tive; the notice stipulated for terminating it hasn't been given; Mr. Matthews is legally the tenant of the flat and we don't know what steps we may have to take about it. But, if it's only his signature you want, I can let you have that on a letter—"

"That will do quite as well."

"Then here you are—let's see; ah! a note arranging to be here for the final settlement of the agreement. That's better for your purpose than the document, as it's all in his writing."

"Thank you," Kenway took the note which was on a sheet of paper with the heading of the Mervin Hotel. He examined it closely but, beyond the dim feeling that he had seen the writing before, he gained nothing fresh from it. He folded the sheet and put it in his pocket case; then with thanks for the information he had received, he left the office and went to interview the manager of the bank which had guaranteed the solvency of James Matthews.

There, after using his official position to surmount the usual, and quite proper, difficulties with regard to "disclosure," he got interesting information. Mr. James Matthews had opened an account at this branch some eight months ago. It was never really large, but was always satisfactory and was replenished from time to time principally by dividends from Government Stock, held in the form of bearer bonds. Mr. Matthews had placed a locked despatch case, contents unknown, in care of the bank's strong room. But on the morning after Roger Borden's death, he had cashed a cheque which reduced his balance to three pounds, fourteen shillings, and seven pence, and removed his despatch box from the custody of the bank. Nothing more had been heard of him.

To be continued

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

To kill a cow is just about the worst sin one could commit in India. The cow is holy and all good Indians like to die holding on to her tail to their last breath. When the late Maharaja of Kashmir was on his death bed, the appointed cow refused to mount to his chamber, so they carried the dying prince to the cow.

Hindus resort to the disgusting practise of washing their faces in cow's urine to wash away all external uncleanness. And they drink it to cleanse all internal impurity.

The pawnbroker's symbol (three balls) derived from the Medical coat of arms. Before they were bankers the Medis were doctors. From this you may be able to guess what the three balls were originally intended to suggest. If you can't, here's the answer: pills.

England means "Angle-land." And Los Angeles means "lost Angels."

Believe it or not, but the Shirley family of Eltington, England, are the twenty-tenth generation to hold land granted to their forefathers by William the Conqueror.

ly happened that the hillbillies stood up for the wrong National Anthem!

The first mill to use steam was one in Nottingham, England (1785). Four years later the new motive power was turning industrial wheels all over England, and a new era of working, thinking and living was ushered in.

At least two important wars were named for flowers. Namely, the wars of the Roses which lasted for 100 years, and the Chrysanthemum war (1336-1392), so called from the flower used as the imperial emblem.

The only survivor of the ill-fated company on board the Veraguas, captured by a Spanish man-of-war during the Cuban revolution, was General Cook, once the ranking officer in the Cuban army, but an American.

A few days after their capture, the men were taken from prison and shot in pairs, until Cook's turn came. Bound and blindfolded, he was led before the firing squad. Quickly the English consul in Cuba rushed to his side and wrapped the British flag around him. "Fire, if you dare!" he shouted to the Spanish commander, "and I'll have you torn to pieces."

Thus the life of an American was saved by the good old British flag.

Barring agriculture there is no other profession in India which can claim more members than beggars. Every twenty-fifth man in this country is a beggar.

Although India is preeminently an agricultural country, they never fertilize their soil; and be-

ing under religious taboo against handling of dead animal substance, the majority of farmers will not use the bones of cattle of limited supply, but, instead, sell them to be exported to other countries.

It is estimated that seventy odd millions of unprofitable cattle roam at will across the plains and cities of this poverty-stricken land.

The deaths of India annually number 7,000,000, which, incidentally, is nearly the population of Greater London. While death must come to all men, all men do not have a fair share of life. For instance, the Indian's expectation of life is about twenty-three years during the first year of life. At the age of five it is thirty-five years, the highest expectation at any age.

Here's a very old proverb which lazy men love:

"It is better to sit than to walk, to lie down than to sit, to sleep than wake, and complete idleness is the best of all."

The great evangelist Charles G. Finney was walking in his garden close by the church where he had preached for forty years. The evening service had begun. Pres-

CHILD DROWNED
SAINT JOHN, N. B., Aug. 27.—(CP)—A tumble from a raft while playing today on the Kennebec River near Summerville resulted in death by drowning for Donald A. G. Ring, 11, West Street. His body had not been found tonight.

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- Campbell's Tomato SOUP—2 tins 25c
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- PORK LIVER, tender, sweet, lb. 29c
- CORNED BEEF, lb. 49c
- BACON, lb. 39c; by the slab, lb. 35c
- PICNIC HAM (smoked), lb. 53c
- CORNED SPARE RIBS, 4 lbs. 59c
- CHICKEN, lb. 45c
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ST. ANN'S, LOT 65, C. W. L.

The monthly meeting of St. Ann's, Lot 65, Sub-division of the C. W. L., was held July 27th, with an attendance of twenty-nine members and several visitors.

The meeting opened with the League prayer by the president, Mrs. Patrick Clarkin. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted as read. The treasurer's report followed, which showed that the funds had been increased by the sale of candy at a play, also at the Scotch concert.

The convener of membership reported that there are now fifty-five members in the Sub-division. In the report given by the convener of education, she stated that they would resort to study groups in the fall. She referred to an article in the July issue of the Sacred Heart Messenger, advising all to read it. Due to the absence of the convener of retreats, a report on the retreat held at Notre Dame July 18th-20th was given by the president. A "thank-you" letter was read from a member for treats received.

Discussion took place concerning the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic which was to be held in Lot 65 hall, Thursday, August 31st. The following ladies were appointed for the different duties: To register, Mrs. Patrick Clarkin; to escort donors, Mrs. William Cullen, Mrs. Maurice McCloskey; to clean need-

les and tubes, Tena McCloskey, Ethel Callaghan; to serve refreshments, Mrs. Matthias Murray, Mrs. Vincent McCloskey, Mrs. Tobias Murray, Mrs. J. T. McQuaid, Mrs. F. J. Trainor, Mrs. Walter Coady.

It was decided to hold a lawn party, July 31st, and Mrs. Michael Murphy volunteered to donate a blanket for the lottery to be held at the lawn party. It was also decided that six women be appointed every two weeks to clean the church. It was moved and seconded that Mrs. Patrick Clarkin be sent as the voting delegate to the Diocesan Convention to be held August 25th to 27th.

The meeting was then adjourned, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament by Rev. Father McCormac.

Prior to the meeting a very interesting and educational talk was given by the Mother Superior from Notre Dame, the topic being "The Rural Youth Conference." A vote of thanks was moved by Mrs. Matthias Murray and seconded by Mrs. Mrs. Patrick Clarkin; to escort to Mother Superior by the pres-

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