

The RED LAMP



By
MARY ROBERTS RINEHART

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WNU Service

July 29.

Today has been quiet. Those constant reminders of the latest tragedy, the boats dragging the bay, have disappeared, and once more we see gay little picnic parties chugging across the water to Robinson's point or thereabouts, laden with hampers and, I dare say, with flasks.

Jane and I took a brief walk this afternoon, and noticed a man clearing the woods on Nylie's farm, across the road. We stopped and watched him for a time, and he seemed curiously inept at the job. But perhaps I am too ready to suspect Greenough's fine hand in everything I see.

Young Gordon, although still confined to his room, is up and about again.

Today I asked Hayward, who had been to see him, if I might visit him. But he shook his head.

"He is still in an excitable condition," he said. "Better give him a day or two more."

As, however, Annie Cochran reports him in excellent shape, although moody and irritable, I can only feel that the doctor has his own reasons for keeping me away from him. At the same time, I must be careful not to allow suspicion to carry me too far. Mr. Bethel states flatly that the boy has no idea of who attacked him and himself suggests Thomas!

My talk with Mr. Bethel last night was interesting and not without an unusual quality of its own. He chose to be civil, and rather more than that I felt that the alarm of my entrance over, he not only greeted me with a sense of relief, but kept me as long as possible. My last impression of him is of a helpless and yet indefinitely militant figure in a dimly lighted room, sitting upright in its chair, one withered hand palm upward, on his knee, and the other not too far from a revolver.

I am puzzled over that picture, as I am over the one which I saw from the terrace window, as I approached. He gave the same impression then as he did when I left, of a man sitting waiting for something.

As I looked in at him, he was facing toward the hall and the dining-room door, directly across, with a concentration so great that my light tap at first did not reach his ears. And during the entire conversation which followed, every now and again I was conscious of a sudden abstraction on his part, an intent listening, that made me nervous in spite of myself.

I gather that, like young Gordon, he has heard certain sounds in the house at night, but does not intend to be stampeded by them, to use his own words. He has some theory of a disturbance of molecular activity, by some undiscovered natural law, which I could not follow closely. But in the discussion of superstition in general which followed, I was a trifle disconcerted to find him laying much of it to the Christian religion; that our present theology had given birth to the widespread belief in evil spirits and in sorcery.

Strangely enough, I had at that moment one of those curious sensations which I have heard referred to as a failure of the two sides of the brain to synchronize.

I had the feeling that sometime, somewhere, eons ago, I had sat in a dimly lighted room and heard those same words. And that I had had the same instinctive revolt from them.

But the impression was fleeting, and seeing perhaps that our views did not coincide, he added that I must not believe that he disregarded the spiritual side of the individual, or of the universe.

"Soul animating matter!" he said. "It is a great thought, Mr. Porter. And I have reached that time in life when what is to come is assuming more importance than that which has gone."

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Then he dismissed the subject, and went back again to the local situation, this time taking up the crimes themselves. He sees no necessary connection between the disappearance of Maggie Morrison and the tragedy of Carroway, on this I did not enlighten him.

As to the strange affair of the attack on Gordon, he himself with Annie Cochran's assistance, examined the gun room the next morning. The lock of the window was broken, but he fancied that was a matter of old standing. He was having it repaired.

"The boy's story seems to be borne out by the facts," he said. "There were indications, as you probably know, that some one had entered by the window. But what strikes me as strange is that whoever did so should have known his way so well. Gordon says no light was turned on, yet this fellow puts his hand on the only weapon about, the poker, without difficulty." He turned and glanced at me. "How long have you known Thomas, the gardener?" he asked.

"Too long to think he would do a thing like that," I said, rather warmly. "I dare say. And, although I think Thomas is not fond of Gordon, that would be carrying a distaste rather far, I imagine."

He has no anxiety for himself, or at least so he said; I am personally not so certain. For as I looked back from the terrace on my way out, he was once more facing toward the hall, and—I somehow felt—watching it.

(CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

NOTICE OF SCHOOL ELECTION

NORTH CAROLINA:
CHATHAM COUNTY:
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
JUNE 3, 1929.

In accordance with the petition duly filed, as provided by law, and as more specifically provided by Article 17 of the Codification of the School Laws of North Carolina, wherein one-third, or twenty-five, of the qualified voters, who have resided at least twelve months in the proposed school district, have petitioned the Board of Education of Chatham County, to request the Board of County Commissioners of Chatham County to call a special election for the purpose herein mentioned, and an election is hereby called to be held at the residence of C. P. Teague in the district hereinafter described on

Saturday the 3rd day of August, 1929, for the purpose of voting a special school tax, not to exceed twenty cents on the one-hundred dollars valuation of the property in said district, to supplement the public school funds which may be apportioned by the County Board of Education in case such special tax is voted, in the following described territory, to-wit:

BEGINNING in the Randolph County line near Staley in the public road leading from Staley by (not including) L. C. Siler's and C. C. Cooper's, thence east along the north boundary of Staley local tax district in Chatham County (formerly Woodsdale district) to the bridge at the head of Albright's mill pond, thence east with the courses of Rocky River (including) the lands of Luther Bridges and Harvey Cotner to the west boundary of the Garfield Swain lands, thence along the east boundary of Harvey Cotner's lands to the east boundary of (including) R. D. Teague's land, thence north along the west boundary of (not including) W. J. Thompson's land to the (including) A. J. Clarke lands, thence north along the east boundary of lands of A. J. Clarke lands (including) the Cotner heirs, W. B. Teague, the Widow Thomas, to the Alamance County line; thence west with Alamance County line to Randolph County line, thence south along Randolph County line to the beginning.

At said election of the qualified voters in said territory who shall have registered shall be entitled to vote, those who are in favor of the levy and collection of said tax or taxes, shall vote a ballot on which shall be written or printed the words "For Special Tax," and those who are against the levy and collection of said special tax or taxes shall vote a ballot on which shall be written or printed the words "Against Special Tax." For the purpose of carrying out said election C. P. Teague is hereby appointed registrar, who shall keep his books open from Saturday, the 29th day of June, 1929, until Saturday, the 27th day of July, 1929, both dates inclusive, for the registration of the voters within said district or territory, and a new registration is hereby ordered; the registration and the election shall be conducted

as nearly as possible under and in accordance with the General Election Laws for the election to the General Assembly. David Lashley and C. R. Thompson are hereby appointed poll-holders to aid in said election.

After closing the polls on election day the registrar and poll-holders shall proceed to count the votes for and against said election, declare the results of the same, and certify the same to the Board of County Commissioners of Chatham County.

This the 3rd day of June, 1929.

R. J. JOHNSON,
Chairman, Board of County
Commissioners, Chatham County
C. C. POE,
Clerk ex-Officio to said Board
of Chatham County Commissioners.
(June 27, July 4, 11)

FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST

UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF the power of sale contained in that certain deed of trust executed by Alliance Manufacturing Company, to the undersigned Trustee, dated February 9th, 1929, and recorded in the Registry of Chatham County in Book GU, pages 119-20, and default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness therein secured and demand having been made upon the undersigned Trustee to foreclose for the satisfaction of said indebtedness; the undersigned will on

Saturday the 20th day of July, 1929, at twelve (12) o'clock noon in front of the Courthouse door at Pittsboro, North Carolina, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, the following described property:

BEGINNING at an iron corner 50 feet from center of Southern Railway tract, M. F. Morris corner; thence south 47 degrees west, his line, 18 poles to an iron in Cheek's line; thence South with Cheek's line 8 poles to a stone, I. P. Coggins' corner; thence east with Coggins' line 19 poles to stone and pointers; thence north 47 degrees east 13 poles to an iron Southern Railway right of way; thence with said right of way 21 poles to the BEGINNING, containing 2 acres, more or less, and being the lot of land conveyed to the party of the first part by J. W. Emerson, and to J. W. Emerson by S. J. Emerson estate, it being the same lot of land upon which is now located the Gin property of the party of the first part. Also all the gin, presses, machinery, motive power, beltings, shaftings, tools, etc., used with and in connection with the operation of the cotton gin located upon said lot, whether the same be fixed to the real estate or not.

This the 18th day of June, 1929.

WADE BARBER,
Trustee

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Default having been made in payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain deed of trust to me as Trustee for the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company by V. B. Elkins and wife, Willie Jordan Elkins, on the 16th day of June, 1924, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Chatham County in Book GH of Deeds, page 405, et seq., I will, under and by virtue of the power of sale vested in me by said deed of trust, and at the request of the cestui que trust, and for the purpose of discharging the debt secured by said deed of trust, proceed to sell to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Courthouse door, in Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, at 12 o'clock M. on

Monday, July 22nd, 1929, the following described land, to-wit: Beginning at a stake, corner of Raleigh and Jordan Streets, and running South 25 degrees East with Jordan Street 175 feet to a stake, on West side of Jordan Street; thence South 65 degrees West 125 feet to a stake; thence North 25 degrees West 175 feet to a stake on the South side of Raleigh Street; thence with Raleigh Street, North 65 degrees East, 125 feet to the beginning, and containing 21,875 square feet. Same being the land conveyed to "Mrs. Willie Elkins" by Cattie M. Jordan, by deed dated November 4, 1920, and registered in Book F'W at page 458.

This the 14th day of June, 1929.

JULIAN PRICE,
Trustee

Brooks, Parker, Smith and Wharton,
Attorneys,
Greensboro, N. C.

Miss Flora McKinnon's Strawberry Ice

1 quart strawberries,
1 cup sugar,
Juice of 1 lemon,
1 cup boiling water.
METHOD—Stem, wash and crush berries. Cover with sugar and boiling water and let stand several hours. Strain through cloth add juice of one lemon and freeze.

BARGAINS? BARGAINS?

Yes, we have sold hundreds of bargains, but plenty more have we at a greater saving still.

We will show you some real bargains Saturday, June 29th, when we put on that AUCTION SALE from 2 to 4 o'clock P. M. Be sure to be here and be here on time for this auction sale will only last two hours. If you come on time you will make money.

J. J. JOHNSON & CO.

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