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THE MYSTERY OF THE INN BY THE SHORE

Florence Warden,
Author of "The House on the Marsh," etc.

CHAPTER XVI.

Continued.

The cold drive home of George Clark and his wife began in silence. They were already in sight of the little group of buildings of which the Blue Lion was the principal, when the girl, turning suddenly to her uncle, asked: "Uncle George, what is the matter? Why are you different, different to me?"

There was a pause. A struggle was going on in the man's breast; a struggle pitifully keen, between the love he had always borne toward his Nell and the attacks of doubt and suspicion. It was in a husky, unnatural voice that he presently replied, parrying the question:

"Different? How different?"

"You know, you know," Nell whispered back.

George Clark looked at her. And for a minute the old trust came back into his heart, and he told himself that he was a fool, a miserable old fool, to allow a doubt of her absolute goodness and truth to enter his mind. And then again the ugly thoughts which had begun to darken his mind, subtly justified by the doubt and suspicion in all the minds around him, crowded over him once more. He could not give her an open answer, although he felt that it would have been better if he could have done so. He heaved a sigh and answered without looking.

"Ah, well my girl, it's not so easy to be lively and cheerful with such things as these," and he vaguely indicated the recent occurrence, looking his whip back in the direction of Strom, "especially under one's very windows, almost."

And then they both were silent, both conscious at the same moment that they were close to the spot where the body of Jim Sticks had been found on the previous night. Both mind and body looked curiously at the spot, easily discernible by the trodden-down condition of the way-side grass. And then quite suddenly, their hurried glances sought each other's face, and for a moment their eyes met.

"Uncle," said Nell, in a whisper, "was the gun that fired the bullet found?"

George Clark shook his head in a no.

This, indeed, was the chief difficulty with which the local police, put on their mettle by the pressure in their minds of Hemming, the London detective, had to contend.

The bullet found in the head of Jim Sticks had evidently been fired from an obsolescent weapon, being of large size and of obsolete pattern. And no weapon had been found in the neighborhood, after a diligent and exhaustive search. The theory of the doctors was that the bullet had been discharged from a pistol at a distance of at least some yards; but at present this theory had borne no fruit except in the brain of the detective, Hemming.

That astute person had been revolving in his mind an idea, which he took care to keep to himself, and which led him, within an hour of the conclusion of the inquest, in the direction of Sling End.

Where would Nell be so likely to find a weapon with which to commit the crime which freed her from the fear of Jim Sticks as at the house of an old soldier? Somewhere about the house, and probably in a place with which she, an inhabitant of the house, was well acquainted, the old colonel would be sure to keep some mementos of his soldiering days, an inspection of which Hemming felt very likely to give him the clue he wanted.

It was, as usual, Miss Bostal who opened the door to him. Her prim face seemed to light up on seeing who it was.

"Come in, do come in," said she, throwing the door wide open, and inviting him to enter the drawing-room. "I do hope you have got some more news for us. Do you know I hope more from what you will find out than from all these country policemen? If they were to sit and talk till midsummer, I don't believe they would be any nearer to finding out who did it than they are now."

The detective smiled.

"I think you are too hard upon them, man," said he. "They think they've got a pretty good clue already. And they quite expect to make an arrest before many days are over."

Mrs. Bostal, who had followed him into the drawing room, and was proceeding to light a candle or two, after the hospitable custom observed by little, thin-skinned maid-servants.

"They always say that. But when do you think?"

The detective did not answer at once. And when she turned to inquire the reason of this, she perceived by the expression of his face something had startled him.

"What is the matter?" she asked quickly.

"I suppose these dolts have made me nervous like the rest in them, man," answered he, holding down his hat, and breaking it gently with his hands. "For I fancied I saw some body looking in at the window."

Miss Bostal looked at him as if he were crazy.

It seemed to her that from what he

had said of the circumstances he had been in, he might have been a soldier.

Clifford did not let go his hold, however, but held him fast, while with his right he gently caressed her golden head. So she quieted herself, and then less bitterly, until the pressure of her nose, misery relieved, suddenly sprang back, snatched her hands away and dried her eyes.

"Now, Nell, do you feel better?" asked Clifford, as a faint smile began to hover on the girl's face.

"Yes, I do much better," answered she, in a more self-assured tone. "Now I can tell you something. My uncle thinks I did it."

"Shut your mouth!"

"Well, what you want is to be tortured?" It was with a doleful tone. She walked to the window, she after the other, and looked out.

"I didn't see anybody," said she. "I may have been one of the means of getting people in out of curiosity. This room is not much used, and the girls may have intended him."

"Very likely, indeed."

"And now what is there we can do for you, now that you have come in?"

"Why, yes, indeed. Things look very black against your young lady friend,"

and he nodded in the direction of the door.

"Now, Mr. Hemming, I will not hear a word against that girl," said Miss Bostal, with sudden warmth. "I tell you the nation is abashed that the child should have had anything to do with it. And I am surprised to hear such a professing son say such a man of virtue deserves."

The detective held down at his hat, "We do your credit no harm to take your part," he said, rather dryly. "Still, you are some questions. I must ask you, indeed, if we will give me five minutes. And then I shall be glad enough to help you."

Nell had been very white, green eyes as she looked at him.

"You mean that you suspect me?"

"Yes, child, of course not. But I think you gave your evidence very briefly, and that you therefore can't expect to be pained. Now tell me why you didn't want to be fed to the extension of other grains." Indianapolis News.

AGRICULTURAL

Feeding Corn to Hogs.

There is much written against the plan of feeding corn to hogs when the animals are young. The evils which result from such feeding come from using corn to the exclusion of other grains. If, then, corn is fed to proper proportions with the other grains suitable to the age of the pigs, there is nothing bad for the animal. With the young pig on the range it is naturally safe to make half its daily ration corn, using it in the form of meal. With bean or other ground grains, it considerable value is given. In the other grains, the results will be better. If the young pig is confined and has little or no green feed during the summer, then corn must be used with caution, and certainly ought never to be fed to the extension of other grains. Indianapolis News.

How and When to Plant Sweet Peas. By Elton P. Ford, in Indianapolis Magazine. (See some respects, and requires treatment, unlike that given other plants.) If we would have it do its best, it must be planted very early, as soon as the ground is fit for sowing.

Phosphate meal is an excellent substitute for a portion of the nitrate of soda, although at present it is extremely high-priced. Dried fish, finely ground, may also be used.

Phosphate meal is in great demand by the cuts, especially at periods of its growth. To supply this need phosphate plants to be recommended, both on the score of its cheapness and its availability. If the young pig is confined and has little or no green feed during the summer, then corn must be used with caution, and certainly ought never to be fed to the extension of other grains. Indianapolis News.

Modern Mother-in-Law.

A charming creature that any Sunday evening may well be proud of.

The early years of the twentieth century with their ultra-civilization, common sense and delight in novelty, will be known to history as the period of the humiliation of ancient traditions and superstitions. Through long centuries the obligation of the mother-in-law was a firmly established article in the code of every married man. He held it as an utter impossibility that his wife's mother could be other than an aggressive, interfering, ill-tempered creature whoumbered the earth, and most particularly his own threshold.

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I have had good success with the following mixture. It seems to give good results, as well as conforming to the theoretical conditions of the case. Nitrate of soda, 100 pounds; dried blood, 500; di-phosphate, 200; manure, outside 200. Apply 100 to 200 pounds an acre in the drift. If drift is used in place of the blood the manure will not be so expensive. The fertilizer will cost about \$2 a ton, and will analyze 4 per cent nitrogen, nine per cent phosphoric acid and five per cent animal potash.—Great Days, in New York Tribune, Farmer.

Modest Poultry Fences.

When for any reason a fence does not serve to me the expense of permanent fences around the poultry yard, especially fence posts, are shown in the cut may be used to advantage. They cost but little, and are made with the hands in several sessions. The fence posts are the same as those used in the garden, and the fence posts are easily driven into the ground.

When the fence is up, it is to get its strength, not to be strong, we need not be afraid to let it sag a bit, and these may be used in the soil, where they will remain under and over, so as to expose the stones and a great many of them, but if we give it a slight pull, it will stand, and a fence of this kind is to get its strength, not to be strong, we need not be afraid to let it sag a bit, and these may be used in the soil, where they will remain under and over, so as to expose the stones and a great many of them, but if we give it a slight pull, it will stand, and a fence of this kind is to get its strength, not to be strong, we need not be afraid to let it sag a bit, and these may be used in the soil, where they will remain under and over, so as to expose the stones and a great many of them, but if we give it a slight pull, it will stand, and a fence of this kind is to get its strength, not to be strong, we need not be afraid to let it sag a bit, and these may be used in the soil, 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