

CHAPTER XXI.

HOW I STRUCK JAMES MULLEN'S TRACK. Whether Jeanes, alias Mullen, had noticed any signs of curiosity in regard to his movements on the professor's part, and had intentionally misinformal that worthy; whether his suspicions had been aroused by his discovering that he was being shadowed to the hetel, or whether his change of plans was entirely accidental, I had no means of knowing, but that my adversary in the game of chess I was playing had again called "check" just when I had hoped to come out with the triumphant "mate" was not to be denied. The only additional information I succeeded in eliciting from the professor was that Jeanes had visited the shop a month or so ago and had arranged that any letters sent there for him should be kept till be came for them. He had left half a sovereign on account and had called four times, receiving three letters, including that which had been handed to

him by the professor. As for that precious rascal, I need scarcely say that I placed no reliance whatever upon what he said, and had seriously considered whether the story of his giving Jeanes the letter on the stairs and then shadowing his customer to the hotel might not be an entire fabrication. I did not for a moment believe that he knew who Jeanes really was, for hed he done so he would, I felt sure, have lost no time in securing the reward by handing the fugitive over to the police. But I quite recognized the possibility of his being in Jeanes' pay, and had seriously asked myself whether the statement that Jeanes would not be having any more letters addressed to the shop and would not be visiting Stanby again might not be a ruse to get me out of the way. But that the professor's surprise and dismay when he found Jeanes gone from the hotel were genuine no one who had witnessed them could have doubted, and as the circumstances generally tended to confirm his story I was forced to the con clusion that he had, in this instance at all events, told the truth.

In that case I should be wasting time by remaining longer at Stanby. So after arranging with the professor that if Jeanes called again, or if any other letters arrived for him, the word "news" should at once be telegraphed to an address which I gave I packed my bag and caught the next-train to town.

Mullen had called "check" at Stanby. it is true, but I was not without another move, by means of which I hoped eventually to "mate" him, and what that move was the reader who remembers the contents of the intercepted letters will readily surmise.

In one of those letters the person to whom it was addressed was told that the steam yacht by means of which he was to escape would be lying just off the boatbuilder's yard, where the little yacht was laid up. Any one who did not know from whom the letter was or under what circumstances it had been written would not be any the wiser for this piece of information. But to one who knew, as I did, that the writer was the wife of Mr. Stanley Burgoyne, it would not be a difficult thing to ascertain the name of any small yacht of which that gentleman was the owner and the place where it was likely

to be laid un. Whether Mullen intended to abandon or to carry out the plan he had formed for making his escape by the help of his sister I had no means of knowing. If he suspected that his letters had been intercepted, he was telerably sure to abandon the arrangement, or at all events to change the scene of operations. But if he was unaware of the fact that Green had dropped, it was possible that now Green was satisfactorily disposed his own accord into the trap which I should be doing right in making inquiries about Mr. and Mrs. Stanley the current Yachting Register. Turning to the letter B in the list of

owners, I found that Mr. Stanley Scott Burgoyne's plub was the Royal London, and that he had two boats, one a big steam yacht, called the Fiona and the other a little five tonner named the Odd Trick. It was no doubt in the former that Mr. and Mrs. Burgoyne had gone to Norway and by means of which Mullen was to fly the country, and it was probably to the latter that Mrs. Burgoyne had referred in her letter. No one can be led to talk "shop"

more readily than your enthusiastic yachtsman, and it did not require much diplomacy on my part to ascertain by clubbouse in Savile row-in company with a member-that Mr. Burgovne's little cruiser was laid up at Gravesend. in charge of a man named Gunnell.

Him I accordingly visited, under the pretext of wanting to buy a yacht, and after some conversation I remarked

casually: "By the bye, I think you have my friend Mr. Stanley Burgoyne's five tonner, the Odd Trick, laid up here,

haven't you?" "I did have, sir," was the reply, "but Mr. Burgoyne he telegraphed that I was to let his brother-in-law, Mr. Cross, have the boat out. That there's

the telegram wot you see slipped in bebind the olm'nack." For the second time in the course of

this curious enterprise the information I was in need of seemed to come in search of me instead of my having to go in search of it. I had felt when I started out to pursue my inquiries about Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Burgoyne by interviewing the waterman Gunnell that it was quite possible I might learn something of importance, but I had not expected to strike the trail redhot and so spon, for Cross, as the reader may perhaps remember, was the name by which Mullen was known to his family. Mullen this mother's name, and the only name to which he had ac-

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> and let drop, I steeped as if to flick a ophasic of mind from my trousers leg before replying.
> "Ab, yes," I said at length, straightming myself and bending forward in-

ow ruportant was the information he

lolently to look at the telegram, which I rend aloud. To Gunnell, Graves and:

"Get Odd Trick ready and affoat. Mr. Cross will come for her, "BURGOYNE

"Windsor Hotel, Scarborough."
"Of course," I went on, "I had quite orgotten Mr. Cross telling me, when I aw him last, that he was going to ask his brother-in-law to lend him the Odd Trick for a cruise. Whom has he got on

"No one, sir. Mr. Cross was sailing er himself; said he was only going as far as Sheerness, where he expected a friend to join him who would help him to handle her. "

"He's a good sailor, isn't he?" "No, sir, that's just what he isn't, and that's why I wanted him to let me go with him until his friend turned up



".1h, yes," I said. But, bless you, sir, he got that huffy there wasn't no holding him. And him a very pleasant mannered gentleman in

the usual way, and free with his money

Our conversation was interrupted at his point by the entrance of another waterman with the key of the shed where a boat that was for sale was laid up. The craft in question was a pretty little cutter named the Pastime, and I of course made a great pretense of inperting her narrowly and was careful

put the usual questions about her

draft, breadth of beam, findings and the

like which would be expected from any

intending purchaser. "Isn't she rather like the Old Trick?" said casually, being desirons of get ing a description of that vessel without oppearing to be unduly inquisitive.

"Lord bless you no, sir!" answered he bonest Gunnell. "She's about the same size right enough, but the Pastime scutter rigged and the Ola Trick's a Besides, the Paston the olate and the Odd Trick is white sicked out gold."

This was just the information I required. So after telling Commell that I would let him known we decision when I had seen another not which was in the market I slipped bull a sovereign into his hard, as "e mai nee money" for taking up his time when I had no intention of becoming a parolliser, and ade him "Good day, and thenk you.

The result of my inquiries though by no means presatisfactors, had, I must confest, put me sona what out of my I had taken up the thread which poor reckoning. I had all: be a been of opinion that Mulleu's histing place was on he might assume his secret to be safe water, as the reader is a serve, but I had not supposed he would be so rash as to of, and might carry out his original trust himself on a vessel which, if his plan, in which event he would walk of connection with the Burgeynes should reach the cars of the police, would be was preparing for him. In any case I almost the first object of their inquiries, I could only account for his doing so by presuming that he was convinced that Burgoyne and their yacht, and with the secret of his relationship to Mr. and this end in view I purchased a copy of Mrs. Burgoyne-being known only to them and to him-confe not by any means one to lig! t, and that, taking one thing with another, he considered it safer to make use of Pargoy ne's heat than to ran the risk of purchasing or hiring what he wanted from a stranger. Or is might be that as no fresh cutrages had occurred for some time the vigilance of the police had been resementative laxed and that Muller.-knowing it to be so and that the hue and cry had subsided -felt that his own precentions might be proportionately besenred.

Perhaps, too, the case with the ich he had Intherto cluded pursuit 1 ad 6 aded to make him c n less, over a clear and inclined to an ferrate the addits of means of a visit to the Royal London | English detectives. But what we his reason, the fact trainined that if Gunnell's story was to be believed—and I saw no cause to doubt it—Mc11 or had contrived to got presenter of the Odd Trick by notains of a telegram which, though purporting to come from the owner of the Loat, Mr. Burgoyne, had in reality been dispatched by Mullen himself.

That he was the sender of the telegram was evident from some inquiries which I afterward made at Scarborough. These inquiries I need not here enter upon in detail, but I may mention that I was able by a little diplomacy to get a photograph of the original draft (it is not generally known that the first drafts of telegrams are retained for a considerable time by the postal authorities), and so became possessed of a piece of evidence which might one day prove valuable-a specimen of what was in all probability Mallen's own handwrit-

But as a matter of fact I bad good cause, quite spart from the inquiries which I instituted at Scarborough, to feel satisfied that the telegram had been sent by Mullen, or by his instigation, and not by Burgoyne, as I knew by the date of the letter which Mrs. Burgoyne had sent to Mullep-the letter which I had intercepted-that her husband was in Bergen upon the very day on which

he take and to a tomac ough has felt that to go in search of the Odd men districted il Trick before I had satisfied myself that My tout tusines. I recided trust be nothing of the sort had occurred would to find the present whereabouts of the be to start on a fool's errand, and I de-Odd Trick, but before setting out to do cided at last to hire a small sailing beat so I had a point of some importance to from a waterman and to sail down the consider. Every one who has studied river as Mullen had done and then to criminology knows that each individual beat back past Gravesend and toward

London.

criminal has certain methods which are repeated with very little variation in usecutive crimes. The circumstances may so vary as to cause the features of the crime to have a different aspect from the feature of any previous crime, but the methods pursued are generally the same.

The criminal classes are almost invariably creatures of habit. The fact that a certain method-be it adopted or the purpose of committing a crime, concealing a crime, or of effecting the riminal's escape—has proved successful in the past is to them the strongest posable reason for again adopting the ame method. They associate that methd in their thoughts with what they all their luck, and shrink from having o depart from it. Hence the detective psychologist

should be quick to get what I maywith no signster meaning in regard to after events-be allowed to call the 'hang' of the criminal's mind and to discover the methods which, though varying circumstances may necessitate their being worked out in varying ways, are common to most of his crimes. The detective who can do this has his antagonist at a disadvantage. He is like the hunter who knows that the hare will double, or that this or that quarry will try to set the hounds at fault and seek to destroy the scent by taking to the water. And just as the hunter's acquaintance with the tricks of the quarry assists him to anticipate and to forestall the poor beast's efforts to escape, so the detective who has taken a criminal's measure and discovered the methods upon which he works can often turn the very means which are intended to ffect an creape into means to effect a

I need not point out to the observant reader that Mullen's one anxiety in all his movements was to cover up his traces. He could be daring and even reckless at times—as witness this fact of his having gone away in a boat which, should his connection with Mrs. Burgoyne leak out, would, as I have already said, be the very first object of inquiry. It would seem, in fact, as if, so long as he had satisfied himself that he had left no "spoor" behind, he preferred adopting a bold course to a timid one, as, for instance, when he openly proclaimed the murder of Green to be the handiwork of Captain Shannon by leaving a declaration to that effect folded up in a bottle which was attached to the body.

How he had accomplished that particular crime I did not know, but I had the test of reasons for knowing that he had left no sign of himself be hind. Carefulness in covering up his traces was indeed the key word to his criminal code, and perhaps was the seeret of the success with which he had hitherto carried out his designs. Given any fresh move on his part, and some cunning scheme for obliterating the trail he had left behind might be looked for surely and inevitably.

I had-more by luck than by subtlety -traced Mullen to the boatyard at Gravesend, but there I lost sight of him completely. He had taken the Odd Trick way with him the same evening, I was old, and had gone down the river, but what had become of him afterward there was not the slightest evidence to show. To go down the river in search of him seemed the patural and only course, but I was beginning by this time to get some insight into my adversary's methods, and felt that before asking myself, "Where has Mullen gone?" I should seriously consider the

CHAPTER XXII.

question, "What method has he adopted

for covering up his traces?"

THE ARTFULNESS OF JAMES MULLEN. "What method has Mullen adopted for covering up his traces?" I asked myself, and as I did so a passage from the letter which had been sent to him by Mrs. Burgoyne—the letter which I had fortunately intercepted-flashed into

my mind. "I do not see any peressity " she had written, "for doing as you say in regard to sending the present crew back to England under the pretense that we are not likely to be using the yacht for some time, and then, after getting the ship's appearance aftered by repainting and rechristening her the name you mention, ngaging another crew of Norwegians.

If Mullen had considered it necessary to take such precautions in regard to the steam yacht, he would, beyond all question, consider it even more necessary to his safety that a similar course should be adopted in regard to the boat which, until opportunity came for him to leave the country, was to carry "Clesar and his-fortunes." That boat had been described to me by Gunnell as a five ton yawl, painted white, picked out with She had by now, no doubt, been entirely metamorphosed, and before I in it. set out to continue my search for Mullen it was of vital importance that I should know something of the appearance of the boat for which I was to look. According to the waterman Gunnell. Mullen had gone down the river when he left Gravesend that evening, and indeed it was in the highest degree unlikely that he had gone up the river toward London in a small sailing vessel. Every mile traversed in that direction would render his movements more cramped and more likely to come under observation, whereas down the river meant the open sea, with access to the

entire scaboard of the country, and, if necessary, of the continent. But should the authorities by any chance discover Mullen's connection with the Burgoynes and learn in the course of their subsequent inquiries that he had gone down the river in a five ton yawl, painted white, belonging to Mr. Burgoyne, it would in all probability be down the river that they would go in earch of a boat answering to that description. Mullen was not the man to onlit this view of the case from his calculations, and, knowing as I did the methodical way in which he always set to work to cover up his traces after every move. I felt absolutely sure that he had taken some precaution for setting possible pursuers upon the wrong tack.

The very fact that he had told Gunnell he was to call for a friend at Sheerness and had started off in that direction made me suspicious. What was to hinder him. I asked, from running back past Gravesend under cover of darkness and going up the river in search of a place where he could get the boat repainted or otherwise disguised? The more I thought of it the more certain I

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This 1 did, working the river thoroughly and systematically and missing no boatyard or other likely place for effeeting such a purpose as that with which I credited Mullen. It was a wearisome task, for the inquiries had to be made with tact and caution, and it was not until I had reached Erith that 1 learned anything which promised to repay me for my pains. There I was told that a small gacht had recently out int a certfin boatbuilder's yard for repairs, but what these repairs had been my in formant could not tell me. The yard in question was higher up the river, and thither I betook myself to pursue my inquiries. The man in charge was not a promising subject and deggedly denied having executed any such job as that indicated. Mullen-if it were he-had no doubt paid him, and paid him well, to hold his tongue, and I thought none the worse of the fellow for being faithful to his promise, especially as I was able to obtain elsewhere the information I needed. The boat which had put into the yard for repairs had come by night and had left by night, but every water side place has its loungers, and the less legitimate work your habitual lounger does himself the more incumbent upon him does he feel it to superintend in person the work which is being done by other people.

From some of the loungers who had witnessed the arrival of the boat which had been put in for repairs I had no difficulty in ascertaining that her hulk was painted white when she entered the yard and chocolate brown when she left and that the time of her arrival coincided exactly with the date upon which the Odd Trick had left Gravescud. Nor was this all, for two different men who had seen her come in and afterward had watched her go out were absolutely sure that, though she went out a cutter, she came in a fawl. This was an im portant difference and would so alter the appearance of the boat that the very skipper who had been sailing her might well have been pardoned for not know ing his own craft.

I had played my cards sometimes wisely, but more often foolishly, while conducting my search for Captain Shannon, but the wisest and the luckiest deal I made throughout the business was my determination to spare no pains in ascertaining what step the fugitive had taken to cover up his tracks before I set out to look for a five ton yawl, painted white, picked out with gold and bearing the name of the Odd Trick.

But for that determination and the iscoveries which resulted from it I saw lying at anchor to the west of Southend as I passed by in the small



As I payed for in the small strain branch steam launch which I mred for the pur pose of carrying on my investigation And had I passed that entter unnoticed Captain Shannon would in all probabil ty have reached America or Australia in safety, and it is more than likely that this narrative would never have een written.

To the comment, "And small loss, oof" which may rise-and not unreasonably -- to the lips of some critics Lean a ly reply that I undertook my scarch or Captain Shannen to please myself and in search of excitement. It is the dain story of the adventures which Le ell me and not a literary study which bere set forth, and I am quite content to have it written down as such and authing more. The one thing Lean safey assert about it is that it is not a story caling with the new woman. If it has my peculiarity at all, it is that it tells if one of the few pieces of mischief which have happened in this world since he days of Eye concerning which it may, without fear of contradiction, be offirmed that no woman had a hand in t, for, with the exception of the mere neution of Mrs. Stanley Burgoynewho never ence comes upon the scene in person-this is a story without a woman

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Average Age of Doctors. It has been discovered by a French statistician that the average age of doctors s hanch higher than that of any other call-It is no less than 56. When we con ider that doctors are probably more reck ess than any other diners out—habitually ake the things they tell other people are 'i dson"—this is very creditable to the redession. The reproach, "Physician, heal thy off," would appear to be unfounded, for it seems they do heal themselves, or at all events manage to hang on to life longer than the rest of the world. They probably know more about antidotes and "polsons than we do. Where their great pull con ists, however, is no doubt in their oppor tunities of observing what treatment is nost efficacious with their patients. certain physician is said to have let this particular cat out of the bag to one to shom he was paying marked attention e said, "because I have the same con plaint myself, and if this medicine really loes you good I shall try it. "-James Pays

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unnoticed the little brown cutter that I J. M. Stoner, Mgr.

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