



CHAPTER XXI.

Whether James, alias Mullen, had noticed any signs of curiosity in regard to his movements on the professor's part, and had intentionally misinformed that worthy, whether his suspicions had been aroused by his discovering that he was being shadowed to the hotel, 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.

As for that previous 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 James 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 James really was, for he had 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 James' pay, and had seriously asked myself whether the statement that James would not be having any more letters addressed to the shop and might not be visiting Stanley again would not be a ruse to get me out of the way. But that the professor's surprise and dismay when he found James 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 conclusion that he had, in this instance at all events, told the truth.



In that case I should be wasting time by remaining longer at Stanley. So after arranging with the professor that if James called again, or if any other letters should be for him, the word "news" arrived 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 Stanley, 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 up.

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 tolerably sure to abandon the arrangement, or at all events to change the scene of operations. But if he was unaware of the fact that I had taken up the thread which poor Green had dropped, it was possible that he might assume his secret to be safe now Green was satisfactorily disposed of, and might carry out his original plan, in which event he would walk of his own accord into the trap which I was preparing for him. In any case I should be doing right in making inquiries about Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Burgoyne and their yacht, and with this end in view I purchased a copy of the current Yachting Register.

Turning to the letter B in the list of owners, I found that Mr. Stanley Burgoyne's club was the Royal London, and that he had two boats, one a big steam yacht called the Piona 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.

My next business I decided must be to find the man who had sent the letter to Mullen, and before setting out to do so I had a point of some importance to consider. Every one who has studied criminology knows that each individual criminal has certain methods which are repeated with very little variation in consecutive 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—to be adopted for the purpose of committing a crime, concealing a crime, or of effecting the criminal's escape—has proved successful in the past is to them the strongest possible reason for again adopting the same method. They associate that method with their thoughts with what they call their luck, and shrink from having to depart from it.

Hence the detective psychologist should be quick to get what I may—without a sinister 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 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 effect an escape into means to effect a capture.

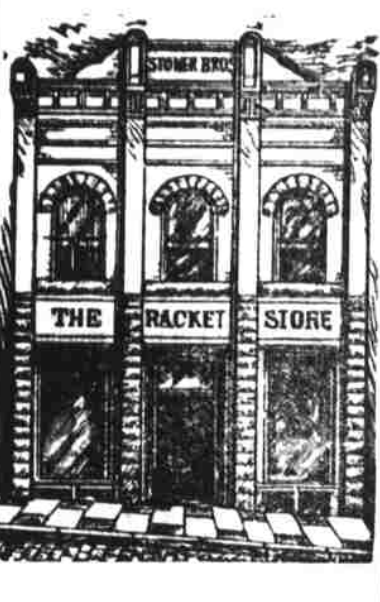
It is not to be pointed out to the observant reader that Mullen's own anxiety to find his movements was to cover up his traces. He could be daring and even reckless at times—as witness this fact of his having gone away in a boat which, should his connection with Mrs. Burgoyne leak out, would, as I have 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 boat.

How he accomplished that particular crime I did not know, but I had the best of reasons for knowing that he had left no sign of himself behind. Carefulness in covering up his traces was indeed the key word to his criminal code, and perhaps was the secret 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 away with him the same evening, I was told, 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 natural and only course, but I was signing myself to 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 question, "What method has he adopted for covering up his traces?"

CHAPTER XXII. 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 necessity," 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 altered by repainting and rechristening her the name you mention, engaging another crew of Norwegians."

Racket Store News, 30 South Main Street Asheville, N. C.



From Headquarters 120 Suits Men's Clothing at a big bargain. 284 All wool Ingrain Carpet Remnants at 25 cents yard. 600 Pairs fresh sample Shoes being opened now. These goods are the cream of the factory. 226 Pairs men and boys' Rubber Leggings at 25 cents. This is half price.

J. M. Stoner, Mgr.

NOTICE—Trustee's Sale—By virtue of the power of sale vested in the undersigned trustee by deed of trust executed on the 10th day of April, 1891, by G. F. Clontz and Hattie E. Clontz, his wife, for the purpose of securing certain indebtedness, as therein fully set forth, which deed of trust has been registered in the office of the Register of Deeds for Buncombe county, North Carolina, in book 24, on page 415 et seq., to which reference is hereby made, and default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness so secured, and having been requested by the said trustee therein named to sell the land and premises in said deed of trust described and conveyed for the satisfaction of the said indebtedness, and all interests and costs, in accordance with the provisions of said deed of trust, I will on Wednesday, the 24th day of March, 1897, sell for cash, at public outcry, to the highest bidder, at the front door of the court house in Asheville, N. C., all that certain piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the county of Buncombe and State of North Carolina, and in the French Broad township, and bounded and more particularly described as follows: Adjoining the lands of Jacob Clontz, John M. Clontz, William Hunter and others: Beginning on a white oak corner of Sarah J. Clontz on top of the ridge; and thence running south 28 degrees west 18 poles to a black gum; thence south 30 degrees east 14 poles to a black gum; thence south 10 degrees east 15 poles to a white oak; thence south 25 degrees west 15 poles to a black oak; thence south 63 degrees west 11 poles to a black oak; thence south 28 degrees west 29 poles to a post oak; thence south 8 degrees west 24 poles to a dead black oak; thence south 10 poles to a stake; thence north 58 degrees east 22 poles to a black oak; thence south 50 degrees east 24 poles to a stake; thence north 50 degrees east 48 poles to a Spanish oak; thence north 84 1/2 poles to Sarah Clontz's lickory corner; thence north 60 degrees west with the line of Sarah J. Clontz to the place of beginning, containing 50 acres, be the same more or less, it being the same tract of land upon which the said George F. and Hattie E. Clontz now live, and also the same tract of land as set forth and described in a deed of conveyance executed by M. A. Tillghabst and her husband (Thos. H. Tillghabst) to George F. Clontz in fee simple, on the 20th day of February, 1897. L. P. McNEELY, Trustee.

Asheville Boarding Houses. TRYON N. C. South of Asheville. Climate very mild; dry and invigorating; beautiful mountain scenery; pine woods. For circulars address Beulah, box 31.

101 COLLEGE ST. Centrally located; one of the best; car line, rooms successful. furnished terms reasonable. Mrs. A. L. Starr.

CALIFORNIA HOUSE 34 Grove Street, private furnished; boarding; location unsurpassed for convenience; steam heat; car line on application.

BOARDERS May find a pleasant house with a Northern lady, in a fine location, reasonable rates. 31 Grove St., City.

COR FRENCH BROAD and Patton Ave. Visitors to Asheville. car line, rooms successful; newly furnished rooms; first class table board; Northern comfort; large, light and sunny piazzas. Mrs. Olive L. Neville.

EUROPE. You are cordially invited to join a select limited party of ladies and gentlemen for travel through Europe in the coming summer. I am very much interested in your case. Switzerland, Italy, Germany (the Rhine) and Holland. Apply at once for membership and full particulars to W. M. CRUIK, 131-133 W. Main St., Asheville, N. C.

ONLY A FEW Packages of nice clean Citizens for sale at 5 cents per package. Just thing for shelves or to put, under carpets; they make good wrapping paper. Call at once, they sell quickly.

The Citizen Co. Business Office.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY CITIZEN AND AMERICAN WEEKLY AGRICULTURIST BOTH ONE YEAR ONLY \$1.25 INCLUDING THE Farmers' Almanac DESCRIBED BELOW.

By special arrangement with the publishers we are enabled for the first time to offer the AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST, the leading agricultural weekly, in connection with the CITIZEN. The AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST is remarkable for the variety and interest of its contents, and is the oldest, best and most practical paper of its kind.

Farmers' FREE To all sending their subscription immediately, we include the AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST, WEATHER FORECASTS AND FARMERS' ALMANAC.

1897 THE SUN 1897 THE BALTIMORE, MD. THE PAPER OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE AND WITH THE PEOPLE.

THE LIVING AGE. Founded by E. Littell in 1844. A Monthly Magazine of Foreign Periodical Literature. Giving yearly 3,500 double column octavo pages of matter (making four large volumes) unequalled in quality and quantity.

THE NEW YORK WORLD, Thrice-a-Week Edition. 18 Pages a Week, 150 Papers a Year.

THE LIVING AGE COMPANY, P. O. Box 5206, Boston. CHEAP FIREWOOD! In burning newly cut wood one-third of the consumption is required to evaporate the moisture. In other words, you lose, when using green wood, one-third of its heating capacity, and therefore one-third of its cost.

THE LIVING AGE COMPANY, P. O. Box 5206, Boston. CHEAP FIREWOOD! In burning newly cut wood one-third of the consumption is required to evaporate the moisture. In other words, you lose, when using green wood, one-third of its heating capacity, and therefore one-third of its cost.

THE LIVING AGE COMPANY, P. O. Box 5206, Boston. CHEAP FIREWOOD! In burning newly cut wood one-third of the consumption is required to evaporate the moisture. In other words, you lose, when using green wood, one-third of its heating capacity, and therefore one-third of its cost.