

The WOMAN with TWO SMILES

by Maurice Leblanc

CHAPTER 42

"THERE'S ONE missing," he muttered. "There were six of them . . . and added, after a moment's reflection: 'Yes, I'm certain one is missing . . . the pearl necklace . . . That's strange, isn't it? Surely it can't have been stolen before she hid these in the urn?'"

He did not seem to attach much importance to the question, so impossible of solution did the problem appear to him. But Raoul and Gorgere exchanged looks. The inspector was thinking:

"He took the pearls . . . He's playing the conjurer for our benefit, while really he's searched that urn previously and taken his share of the spoils."

And Raoul nodded back with a meaningful look, as who should say:

"Right in one! That's just what I did. But what can you expect? One must live!"

Guiltless Antonine supposed nothing. She was helping the marquis to clean the jewels and wrap them up in a couple of silk handkerchiefs. This done, the marquis led Raoul to the ruins.

"Go on," he said. "Tell me—what happened? How was she killed? Who killed her? I've never got over my horrible death . . . never got over my grief. I'd give anything to know the truth! Tell me all!"

He flung questions at Raoul as though he alone possessed the truth about all things, as though Raoul at a word could change night into day.

They had reached the upper terrace, and the spot where Elisabeth Hornain had met her death. From here they could see the whole of the chateau, the park and the entrance tower.

Antonine, close beside Raoul, whispered:

"I'm so glad for godfather's sake. Thank you so much. But I'm afraid—'You! Afraid?'"

"Yes . . . of Gorgere . . . You ought to get away quickly!"

He answered gently:

"You can't think how happy you make me! But there's nothing to fear so long as I've still something to reveal, something that Gorgere's dying to hear. You surely don't want me to leave before I've finished?"

He saw she was calmer, and as the marquis plied him with questions, Raoul continued:

"How did the tragedy happen? Now, to discover that, monsieur, I took exactly the opposite direction from that which I made you follow. Since I had concluded that there had been no theft committed, I likewise imagined from the very first that there might also have been no murder. And my reason for supposing that was that the circumstances were such that it would have been impossible for the murderer to have gone unseen. It would be impossible to kill someone in front of 40 people, in broad daylight, without these 40 people seeing one commit the murder. A revolver shot would have been heard. A blow would have been seen. They would have noticed if a stone had been thrown. Therefore it was my business to look outside the realm of purely human causes of death—that is, death brought about by the will of man."

"Then her death was accidental?"

"Exactly, and therefore it was a chance occurrence. Such occurrences are unlimited and can happen in the most extraordinary and exceptional

manner. I was once concerned in a case where the life and honour of a man depended on his finding a certain document hidden on the summit of a very high tower without a staircase. One morning he discovered the two ends of a very long rope hanging down on each side of the tower. I was able to prove that this rope came from a balloon whose passengers had thrown it overboard the preceding night, and fate had so decreed that the rope had fallen exactly in the position necessary for the man to climb up his tower safely. A miracle, certainly, but there are millions of such miracles happening on the earth hourly."

"Then you mean to say that—"

"Elisabeth Hornain's death was caused by a natural phenomenon which is extremely frequent, but which rarely has fatal consequences. This explanation occurred to me when Valthes accused the shepherd of having shot a stone from his sling. It seemed to me impossible for that shepherd to have been there without being detected, but quite possible that Elisabeth Hornain might have been struck by a stone, and that it was, in fact, the only plausible explanation of her death."

"A stone from heaven?" exclaimed the marquis ironically.

"Why not?"

"What nonsense! Who could possibly have sent it?"

"I've already told you, monsieur—Perseus."

"Please don't joke," implored the marquis.

"But I'm not joking," affirmed Raoul seriously. "I'm speaking with proper knowledge of my subject, basing my conclusions on facts, not theories. Every day sees millions of these stones—fireballs, aerolites, meteorites, fragments of dispersed planets—traverse space at a tremendous rate, ignite on their course, and fall to earth. They've been picked up by the million in every shape and size. Every day there are tons and tons of them flying about. If one of them should, through terrible misfortune, but perfectly possible, strike down a human being, it causes death, painless and often incomprehensible."

Raoul paused, and then continued:

"Now, these projectiles fall all through the year, but more frequently at certain definite periods, and the period best known for frequency is that which falls in August between the ninth and fourteenth exactly, and which seems to have originated from the constellation Perseus. Hence my little joke when I say Perseus was the criminal."

Without giving the marquis time to express either doubt or objection, Raoul continued:

"For the past four days, a trusty man of mine has been coming over this wall at night, and searching the ruins until dawn, all round here. I myself searched here to-day and yesterday in the early hours."

"And did you find anything?"

"Yes."

Raoul held up a small round object the size of a walnut, with a jagged surface pitted with holes which had been made by the combustion that had covered the surface with what looked like brilliant black enamel. Raoul went on:

"I've not the slightest doubt that the police saw this projectile when they first searched the place, but that none of them noticed it, because they were all looking for a bullet or some other

human contrivance. For me, the presence of this projectile is absolute proof of the truth. But I have other proofs as well. First, the date of the tragedy: August the thirteenth, which is one of the days when the earth passes under the shower of shooting stars from Perseus. I may mention that the date was one of the first rays of light on the problem for me!"

"Then I have another irrefutable proof, which is not merely the outcome of logic and reasoning, but is also a scientific fact. I took this stone yesterday to a research laboratory . . . They discovered fragments of carbonized human skin adhering to the outer glaze . . . yes, minute fragments of skin and flesh, torn from a living human being, fragments that were scorched at contact with the burning projectile, and stuck to it so closely that they have been there ever since. Those fragments are at the laboratory, and will form part of a more or less official report which will be handed to you, Monsieur d'Erlemont, as well as to your friend Gorgere, if it interests him."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Suggests Another Contractors' Scheme

Proposed New Route from Schreiber to White River Roundly Condemned for Trans-Canada Road.

Last week The Advance made editorial reference to the suggestion that the trans-Canada highway had been approved from Schreiber to White River. The Advance questioned the economy and practicability of this strip of rock. Last Saturday The Sudbury Star spoke editorially in no uncertain way on the matter. The following is the editorial in The Star:

"It is announced that the Ottawa and Toronto governments are in agreement on the proposal to proceed at once with that portion of the trans-Canada highway between Schreiber and White River, a distance of 125 miles along the rocky shore of Lake Superior. To anyone who has travelled this route and has an open mind on the subject, the announcement is inconceivable. The location has many times been dubbed the graveyard of the C.P.R., and well it might be, for outside of the Rocky Mountains it was the most expensive to construct, and still more expensive to operate than any other section of the great transcontinental railway system. It is 50 years since the C.P.R. blasted its way through this territory, and in that 50 years, according to the last census of Canada, only 2,000 souls, men, women and children, now inhabit that 125 miles of territory, including the railway centres of Schreiber and White River."

"And now it is proposed to parallel the C.P.R. with a motor highway through this same Godforsaken country, as though we did not have the history, the example and the experience of the C.P.R. to guide us in this colossal blunder to project a trans-Canada motor highway through the same territory."

"Hon. Peter Heenan, in trying to explain where the route will finally land, doesn't know whether it will be south of the C.P.R. or north of the C.P.R. At Blind River, on May 16, speaking at a public meeting, when asked about the trans-Canada, Hon. Peter said 'he did not know any more about the trans-Canada than a truck driver . . . which is probably correct.'"

"It is less than six months ago that Hon. Wesley Gordon, speaking for the Dominion government, referred to the north shore of Lake Superior as a 'contractors' paradise.' And he referred to it as such in no uncertain terms, with the added remark that not a dollar of Canada's money would be wasted on the trans-Canada project around the north shore of Lake Superior."

"But strange things come to pass in politics, and who can tell but what the contractors have sold the idea in a big way, both at Ottawa and Toronto. There is a grave suspicion in the North that that is the crux of the matter. 'Groaning under the burden of three parallel transcontinental railway lines which have brought Canada almost to



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About the List of Honours for the King's Birthday

In the following editorial from The Toronto Mail and Empire the King's Birthday Honour List for Canada is well covered, with the possible exception that Dr. Dafoe, the medical man in charge of the Dionne quintuplets, is not mentioned. Dr. Dafoe was given an O.B.E. The following is the editorial article from The Mail and Empire:

"The King's Birthday Honour List released last night, has been awaited with considerable public interest. It was felt that His Majesty on the advice of the Canadian Prime Minister would mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of his accession to the throne by bestowing special favours upon Canadians who have served the public in a notable manner. It will be noteworthy that the present honour list includes no recognition of mere wealth or political endeavour."

"Sir Thomas White's promotion to a higher order of knighthood than that which he previously held is due to the heavy and gratuitous labours which he has performed in the public interest since he retired from active politics. Sir Edward Beatty has become a Knight of the Order of the British Empire because of his constant and long continued efforts on behalf of education, and the Boy Scout Movement and in Community Service. Sir Herbert Marler, Canada's Ambassador to Japan, to which post he was appointed by the Mackenzie King Government, has been made a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George because of his faithful labours in that field and in recognition of Canada's Foreign Service. In like manner Sir Arthur Doughty's knighthood is based upon his own personal services. It is also a tribute to the Federal Civil Service."

"Sir John McLennan's knighthood is traceable to his eminent achievements to science. He is one of the outstanding physicists in the world. He performed immense services to Canada and the Empire during the war and since then in peace-time. While he is at present controller of England's chief cancer research laboratory, he is still professor emeritus and visiting professor of physics at the University of Toronto. Literature is honoured in the knighthood accorded to Sir J. A. T. Chapais of Quebec, who already holds honours from the Government of France and Rome. There will be general approval that the list of Canadian knights includes Sir Ernest MacMillan, Canada's distinguished musician. Sir Charles Roberts is known everywhere throughout the Dominion and abroad as a Canadian poet, author and historian. Sir James MacBrien has a splendid military record behind him, and is at present Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Canadian world of art is fittingly honoured in the knighthood awarded to Sir Edmond Wyly Grier."

"Lesser honours which do not carry the title, Sir, have been conferred upon Col. J. H. Woods, managing director of the Calgary Herald; Mr. H. S. Southam, Chairman of the National Gallery at Ottawa; Hon. Geo. H. Sedgewick, Chairman of the Federal Tariff Board; Letter in London Observer:—In your issue of April 7 you printed a letter from me stating that a robin had built a nest on the mantelpiece in my bedroom. It may interest your readers to know that later she laid five eggs in the nest, and now the young ones are hatched out, and both parents are very busy feeding them. The room has been occupied as usual all the time.—Mrs. E. L. Fisher, Yao Croft, Bushey Heath, Herts."

"The brink of bankruptcy, it is now proposed to parallel one of these lines with a motor highway, at a cost of more millions, through a country that in fifty years has scarcely produced a dollar in natural wealth. If the development of Canada and the opening up of Northern Ontario had been given any consideration in this matter, there is the example of the T. & N. O. Railway and the Ferguson highway from North Bay to Cochrane, which have given to Canada and to Ontario Cobalt, Kirkland Lake and Timmins in the past 30 years. A trans-Canada highway from Blind River to Oba and continuing west from Oba would traverse the great pre-Cambrian Shield, with unquestioned possibilities of more mining centres, because it would be on the 'main break' of mineralization which has made history for Canada in the past quarter century. But such a trans-Canada would not be a 'contractors' paradise.' And perhaps therein is the rub."

"But maybe, after all, it is well to remember that the dear old Welland Canal is completed, that you couldn't sell the idea of building another mile of railway in Canada for love nor money, that the contractors and the politicians have to rig up some new stunt to keep the ball rolling. And they have picked the one spot in all Canada for a contractors' and politicians' paradise."

Some Recipes for Making Fillers for Sandwiches

If you lack imagination in the matter of school lunch sandwiches try some of these.

Grated carrot and chopped raisins mixed with mayonnaise.

Baked beans mashed with catsup and chopped pickle.

Deviled meat mixed with hard cooked egg and mayonnaise.

Peanut butter, chopped dates and mayonnaise.

Chopped corned beef, pickles, celery and mayonnaise.

Tuna fish, hard boiled egg, pickle and mayonnaise.

Hard cooked egg mashed with 1-8 teaspoon each salt, pepper, mustard, vinegar and sugar and 1 tablespoon mayonnaise.

Cream cheese with chopped nuts and strawberry or pineapple preserves.

Maple sugar, powdered fine, mixed with butter and chopped nuts.

Boiled egg and sardines mashed together.

Raisins and nuts ground together and mixed with mayonnaise.

Cottage cheese and crushed pineapple.

NEW NURSE APPOINTED FOR THE DIONNE QUINTUPLETS

Dr. A. R. Dafoe, physician to the Dionne quintuplets, has announced that Miss Cecile Lamoureux, Montreal, has been appointed to the nursing staff of the Dafoe hospital, and has taken up her duties.

She replaces Madame Louise de Kirilme, chief of the nursing staff, who leaves within a few days for the United States, to be connected with a large newspaper syndicate.

Washington Post:—The best thing to do for spring fever is nothing.

BEE HIVE GOLDEN CORN SYRUP

A GREAT ENERGY FOOD

Rev. Charles William Gordon, who is known to the book reading public as Ralph Connor; Mr. G. S. H. Barton, Deputy Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa; Dr. Charles Cassell, Deputy Minister of Mines, Ottawa; and Mr. W. C. Clark, Deputy Minister of Finance, Ottawa. Such recognition of eminent civil servants will carry general approval, as will also the honour conferred upon that great Canadian, Mr. Edward Johnson, who has recently been appointed director of the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Mrs. H. D. Warren, of Toronto, has become a C.B.E. because of her notable public services, and among others who have obtained this honour are Mr. William Lash Miller of Toronto, and Col. H. C. Osborne of Ottawa.

"There will be universal agreement that His Majesty has been well advised in his selection of Canadians for inclusion in the Jubilee Honour List. Ever since the King, on the advice of the present Prime Minister, renewed the exercise of his prerogative, that prerogative has been used in a truly admirable manner. It has been employed in the proper recognition of Canadians who have done great public services—services which could not be rewarded in any monetary or other material sense."

North Bay Nugget:—A seer is one who is wise enough not to believe all he sees.

Letter in London Observer:—In your issue of April 7 you printed a letter from me stating that a robin had built a nest on the mantelpiece in my bedroom. It may interest your readers to know that later she laid five eggs in the nest, and now the young ones are hatched out, and both parents are very busy feeding them. The room has been occupied as usual all the time.—Mrs. E. L. Fisher, Yao Croft, Bushey Heath, Herts."

Dunlap Observatory at Richmond Hill Opened

One of the important events of last week was the formal opening of the Dunlap observatory at Richmond Hill near Toronto. It was formally opened with a golden key. It is the second largest observatory in the world. Mrs. Jessie Donald Dunlap, widow of David Dunlap, one of the founders of the Hollinger Mine, erected the observatory in memory of her husband. The opening took place before a distinguished gathering of astronomers and scholars. Mrs. Dunlap formally opening the institution.



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