

THE STURGIS WAGER

A DETECTIVE STORY.
By EDGAR MORETTE.
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SYNOPSIS

CHAPTER I—Scene of story is in New York city. Time, early evening, last day of July. Cabby in conflict with passenger who has thrown to ground cabman and passenger also seated outside. Latter disappears; body, inside the cab, boy, if man shot dead is discovered. Sturgis, reporter, examines cab and surroundings.

CHAPTER II—Later that evening, at dinner party, Sturgis, in impromptu discussion, states from body of circumstantial evidence, Dr. Murdoch, famous chemist, writes in \$5,000 to \$10,000 that from any daily paper he can select an unsolvable murder, Sturgis selects.

CHAPTER III—Case selected is of two mysterious shots fired that afternoon in New York Knickerbocker bank. Man has been seen running from bank with valise, and arrested. Sturgis, in conversation with bank and Sturgis, who has been seen from bank steps and was shot at. Valise contained nothing of interest.

CHAPTER IV—Sturgis's next appointment with Dunlap, president of bank, to visit scene of shooting early next morning. Then induces his friend Dr. Thurston to come to his rooms while he arranges data of the two strange cases.

"True; I forgot you had not followed the steps in the process of induction. Here they are: the dead man's sleeves, on the under side below the elbow, were worn shiny. This shows that his occupation is at a desk of some kind."

"Or behind a counter," suggested Thurston quizzically.

"No. Your hypothesis is untenable. A desk behind a counter occasionally. It is true, leans upon his forearms. But irrelevant counter with the counter leans across the front of his trousers a remarkable line of wear, at a level varying according to the height of the individual. This line was not present in the case of the man in the cab. On the other hand, his waistcoat is frayed at the level of the fourth button from the top. Therefore I maintain that he was in the habit of working at a desk. Now the trousers, although not new, are not baggy at the knees, though frayed at the corners, which would suggest the effect of pressing or of a trouser stretcher. Conclusion, the desk is a high one; for the man stood at his work. Most men who work standing at high desks are bookkeepers of one kind or another. Therefore, as I said before, this man was probably a bookkeeper. Now, as to his salary; I do not pretend to know the exact amount of it, of course. But when the man was seen, he was wearing a hat of imported material, and his line, his hat and his shoes are of good quality, it is fair to infer that the man's income was comfortable."

"I need with the arrangement of my hat."

"The man in the cab died of wounds caused by a bullet fired at very close quarters. Indeed, the weapon used has been held either against the victim's body, or at any rate, very near to it; for the coat is badly burned by the powder."

"On these points at least," assented Dr. Thurston, "I can agree with you. The bullet probably penetrated the upper lobe of the left lung. There is, however, no doubt that it went in."

"What makes you think it passed out? The wound in the back may have been caused by another bullet fired from the rear."

"That hypothesis might be tenable were it not for this."

With these words the reporter pulled out his watch, opened the case, and with the blade of a penknife took from the surface of the crystal a minute object, which he handed to the physician.

"Look at it," said he, pushing over a magnifying glass.

Dr. Thurston examined the object carefully.

"A splinter of bone," he said, at last.

"Yes. I found it on the surface of the wound in the back. How did it get there?"

"You are right," admitted the physician; "it must have come from within, chipped from a rib and carried out by the bullet which entered from the front."

"I think there can be no doubt as to that. Now, the bullet does not seem to have been deflected in its course by its contact with the rib, for, as far as I have been able to judge by probing the two wounds with my pencil, their direction is the same. This is important and brings me to point three, which is illustrated by these diagrams, drawn to scale from the measurements I took this afternoon."

As he said these words, the reporter handed to his friend a sheet of paper upon which he had drawn some geometrical figures.

"The first of these diagrams shows the angle which the course of the bullet made with a horizontal plane; the second represents the inclination from right to left. The former of these angles is nearly and the latter not far from forty-five degrees. The inclination from right to left shows that the shot was fired from the right side of the dead man. Now then, one of two things: Either it was fired by the man himself, the weapon being held in his right hand; or else it was fired by an assassin who stood close to the victim's right side. The first of these hypotheses, considered by itself, is admissible; but it involves the assumption of an extremely awkward and unusual position of the suicide's hand while firing. On the other hand, the dead man is tall—six feet one inch—and lies down, at an angle of sixty degrees, upon a man of his height, his assistant would have to be a colossus, or else to stand upon a chair or in some equally elevated position, unless the victim happened to be seated when the shot was fired."

"Happened to be seated?" exclaimed Thurston, astounded, "why, of course he was seated, since he was in the cab."

"That brings up point four, which is not the least puzzling of this interesting case," said Sturgis, impressively; "the shooting was not done in the cab."

"Not done in the cab?"

"Of course the bullet would have remained in the cushions; and it was not there."

"It might have fallen out into the street at the time of the collision," suggested Thurston.

"No. I searched every inch of space in which it might have fallen. If it had been there I should have found it, for the spot was brilliantly lighted by an electric light, as you remember."

The physician pondered in silence for a few minutes.

"With all due respect for the accuracy of your observations, and for the rigorous logic of your inductions, Sturgis," he asserted at last with decision, "I am positive that the man died seated, for his limbs stiffened in that position."

"Yes," asserted Sturgis, "and for that matter, I grant you that he breathed his last in the cab; for in his death struggles he reached in his left hand the cushion of the seat, and a pile of which remained in his dying grasp."

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"Certainly not," agreed Thurston.

"Point five," resumed Sturgis, "the right arm was broken just above the wrist."

"Yes," said the physician, "I thought at first that the arm might have been broken by the collision with the cable car; but the discoloration of the flesh proves conclusively that the fracture occurred before death."

"Precisely. Now, it is possible that the man broke his arm when he fell, after being shot; but the contused wound looks to me as if it had been made by a severe blow with some blunt instrument."

"Possibly," admitted Thurston.

"This broken arm, if we can place it in its proper anatomical position, may prove to be of some importance in the chain of evidence," mused Sturgis. "If the fracture occurred before the man was shot, that, of course, excludes the possibility of suicide; but, on the other hand, it also brings in an obstacle to the hypothesis of murder."

"How so?"

"Because we have settled, you will remember, that the shot was fired from the right of the victim and close to him. Now, if he did not fire the shot himself, the person who did must have reached over his right arm to do so. In that case, unless the victim was asleep or unconscious, he would not instinctively have raised his arm in self-defense, and thus deflected the weapon upward?"

"Evidently."

"Well, it is idle to speculate on this line for the present. Let us come to point six. You remember I called your particular attention to the cabman. Do you still think he was only drunk?"

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Dairy and Creamery

Is a semi-monthly newspaper published the 1st and 15th of each month and is devoted to the dairy, creamery and stock interests.

Remember, every old and new subscriber who pays all arrears and one year's subscription in advance to the DEMOCRAT, is entitled to receive his choice of either one of the above Premiums.

If Sent By Mail.

Eighteen cents in addition to the subscription price is required to prepay postage on "Famous Frontiersmen, Pioneers and Scouts," and ten cents for postage on each of the other books, except the Code of Iowa.

Periodicals.

We will also furnish to our paid-in-advance subscribers at reduced rates (at actual cost to us), almost any of the leading newspapers and magazines published.

The readers of THE DEMOCRAT are rest assured that we will, during the coming year, maintain the high standard of excellence it has attained and continue to be, as it has been for many years past, the leading newspaper published in this country.

Starvation never yet cured dyspepsia. Persons with indigestion are already half starved. They need plenty of wholesome food. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure digests what you eat so the body can be nourished while the worn-out organs are being reconstructed. It is the only preparation known that will instantly relieve and completely cure all stomach troubles. Try it if you are suffering from indigestion. It will certainly do you good.—H. C. Smith.

Another Chance.

On the first and third Tuesday of May and June, homeseekers' tickets will be on sale at rate of a single fare plus one cent for the round trip to the various parts of the country.

For rates, limits, territory, etc., call on nearest agent or address J. G. FARMER, A. G. & T. A., Cedar Rapids, Ia.

House For Rent.

A good, well located house with city water; rent for rent, Equipped with all modern conveniences. W. G. KENYON, 1517.

Reports show that over fifteen hundred lives have been saved through the use of One Minute Cough Cure. Most of these were cases of grippe, croup, whooping cough, bronchitis and pneumonia. It is early use prevents consumption.—Smith Bros.

Farm for Sale.

The Clark farm, consisting of 200 acres of cultivated land and 20 acres of timber is for sale. It is located about 6 miles south of Des Moines on the Des Moines River. For particulars address or call on Bronson & Carr, Architects, Iowa.

The large and increasing circulation of THE IOWA HOMESTEAD in this county is a matter for congratulation to the publishers and to good farming, for, of all the papers of its class in the country, it is easily the best and most helpful. Its Special Farmers' Institute editions, issued with the regular edition for the first week in each month, have been for years the admiration of all practical farmers. Written wholly by farmers, they are full of actual experience, and small of the soil. We have been fortunate enough this season to secure a farm in the Homestead and its Special Farmers' Institute Editions, together with The Poultry Farmer and The Farmers' Mutual Insurance Journal, four of the most valuable farm publications in the country, that enable us to offer the four in connection with our own paper for \$1.00 for the entire five year term. This is emphatically a good thing, and no farmer in this county should fail to take advantage of it. For a large line of thoroughly practical farm reading nothing has ever been offered before that equals it. A county paper, a farm paper, a poultry paper, a farm insurance paper and the Special Farmers' Institute, all for \$1.00. Come in and order them.

CYCLONE AND TORNAIDO

Insurance in first class companies written and policy issued by BRONSON & CARR.

Neglect is the short step so many take from a cough or cold to consumption. The early use of One Minute Cough Cure prevents consumption. It is the only harmless remedy that gives immediate results. It cures all throat and lung troubles. Children all like it and mothers endorse it.

The original paintings valued at \$5,000.

Baker's Monaca Coffee Pictures Free!

One picture given away with every two pound purchase of Coffee. They are mounted on artistic mats of dark neutral tint 11x15. This is the season's opportunity to decorate your home. Many people have already collected the series 8.

Ask your Grocer for them!

These pictures will positively not be a sold.

For Sale By J. HARRY STEWART, 17417.

F. P. PETERSON

Manufacturer of **WAGONS** and Repairer of all kinds of Vehicles, and general repairer of all kinds of Wood Work.

For Farming Implements and Machinery

Shop on Franklin Street, near the bridge, with Art Sederholm in building lately occupied by Peter Meyer. Have had several years experience the past three with Kenney Busby Co. Work Guaranteed. F. P. PETERSON.

BEING HELD UP

The person who pays his money out for poor lumber is in a worse situation than the one who hands it over to the footpad. A graver injury has been done him than the mere loss of money represents. Be sure you invest your money at the right lumber yard. To make assurance doubly sure come to the

Hollister Lumber Co.

When you want

Fine Furniture AT Fair Prices GO TO

Werkmeister's AT Earlville.

Undertaking Solicited.

F. WERKMEISTER, Earlville, Iowa.

Take a Vacation.

Special excursions to Colorado and Utah on June 20, July 9, 17 and August 1. On above dates round trip excursion tickets, limited for return on October 31, will be sold to Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Fort Collins and Ogden at the low rate of a SINGLE FARE plus 25c.

Call on any agent of the B. C. R. & N. Ry. for full and full information, or address J. W. G. FARMER, A. G. & T. A., Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Residence Properties for Sale.

Several fine residences in desirable portions of the City of Manchester for sale cheap. Brokers at the office of Manchester Democrat.

Free of Charge.

Any adult suffering from a cold settled on the breast, bronchitis, throat or lung troubles of any nature, who will call at Wm. Donnelly's, Ryan, Iowa, will be presented with a sample bottle of Boschee's German Syrup, free of charge. Only one bottle given to one person, and none to children without orders from parents.

No throat or lung remedy ever had such a sale as Boschee's German Syrup in all parts of the civilized world. Twenty years ago, millions of bottles were given away, and your druggist will tell you that its success was marvelous. It is really the only Throat and Lung Remedy generally endorsed by physicians. One 15 cent bottle will cure or prove its value. Sold by dealers in all civilized countries.

Housecleaning Hints

Housecleaning is hard enough without making it needlessly hard. Use borax or ammonia in cleaning woodwork or windows and you lighten the labor and get better results.

While you're at it

there are many little things that can be improved in appearance. Furniture can be polished, dingy spots painted, stained or varnished. We have paints, stains, etc., all ready for the brush and put up in handy little cans. Everything made bright and new by the use of these little things that cost so little.

W. A. ABBOTT

THE LEADING DRUGGIST.

To Be Strictly Swell

You must indulge in colored shirts this season. Our line of spring and summer goods is simply elegant.

Negligee—and starched bosom Cheviots, French Percalés, Madras and Grass Cloth are the correct things. To put the whole matter in a few words we will simply say: See our stock and you will wear a Colored shirt.

Price \$5.00 to \$15.00.

J. H. ALLEN,

The Leading Clothier.