

MYSTERY OF THE BAYOU WOODS

By WALKER KENNEDY.

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SYNOPSIS.
CHAPTER I.—Herbert Wright goes to chief of police of Niles in great agitation and tells him of his discovery of the murdered body of his father, John T. Wright, a wealthy cotton king, from whom he has been estranged, in the Bayou Woods near the town. The chief questions Herbert, whose answer causes him to suspect him of the murder. The chief, a reporter, Irving Wardle, goes to scene of murder.

CHAPTER II.—Wardle finds body and examines surroundings but fails to discover any reliable clue.
CHAPTER III.—Wardle examines mysterious footprints in the snow and finds Col. Franklin, an old acquaintance of the murdered man, who had been charged with the murder of Herbert Wright.

CHAPTER IV.—Col. Franklin is a brilliant lawyer but he is unable to solve the mystery.
CHAPTER V.—At corner's inquest strange circumstances are noted. Herbert Wright is admitted and the charge of killing his father is made against him.

CHAPTER VI.—Wardle goes to Herbert's sister, Miriam, who believes him innocent, and tells her he will do all in his power to clear her brother. Col. Franklin says he thinks a strong case has been made against Herbert.

CHAPTER VII.—Wardle made to poison Herbert in jail. Wardle deduces with who is trying to poison him, and with who is trying to clear the man's name, in which he is evidently successful.

CHAPTER VIII.—Wardle is forced to a questionable revelation in an attempt to murder him, but he is saved by Fenton, a detective.

CHAPTER IX.
John T. Wright left no will, and the settlement of his estate became involved at once in difficulties that were never anticipated by his family.

Herbert never been a happy family for the reason that Wright was a cold, austere man, who long ago had banished anything like tenderness from his heart. His family were to him merely a part of his establishment.

They were, he knew, against him in the quarrel with Herbert, and he would never permit them to mention the name of his son, while he lived. It is impossible for them to aid a young man in his pecuniary distress.

Mrs. Wright's life did not differ very much from that of a captive who has lived in comfortable quarters and had all that could be wished in the way of clothing and food. Such a thing as amusement never entered her thoughts. As for Miriam, her father's death had made her almost hate her father, and her breast was filled with rebel instincts only awaiting a favorable opportunity to break forth; but the opportunity never came. Her father always treated her as if what she thought was of absolutely no consequence; and as for what she should do, he would determine that. No doubt the time would have come when Miriam would have clashed with her stern father, and as it was the dearest wish of her heart to do so, it is not unlikely that she would have come out victorious.

Such was the degrading, soul-destroying influence exerted by John T. Wright on his family and all those who came in contact with him in business.

The day after the events described in the foregoing chapter Mrs. Wright, a gentle, elderly lady, on whom sorrow had set its seal, and her daughter, Miriam, were in consultation with the Wright place with their lawyer, John W. Everett, regarding the condition of the estate.

Lawyer Everett was a vigorous, brainy man about 45 years of age. A clean shaven face, complexion clear in its outlines, cold, resolute blue eye, and a contour of head which phenologically considered indicated idealism as well as perspicacity, were the salient physiological features of a man who was regarded with respect and admiration in his part of the country.

There was the fullness under the eyes that denotes oratory, and in his case the sign was prominently true. The uprightness of his character was no less conspicuous than the directness of his intellect. In short, he was just the sort of adviser needed by Mrs. Wright and her daughter in the emergency that now presented itself.

These ladies had an unconquerable repugnance to Mr. Wright's life-long legal adviser, Col. Franklin, because in some way he seemed to be identified with the flintiness which was the leading characteristic of the murdered man, and neither had any desire to employ as their lawyer so intimate a friend of Wright as Franklin had been.

The consultation now being held was not the informal business affair which the ladies had anticipated. It grew more and more startling as the lawyer proceeded to unfold what he had discovered. The public impression was that Wright was a very wealthy man, and his wife and daughter shared in this impression; how thoroughly ever they had been deceived Lawyer Everett was now making clear.

"I have examined all of Mr. Wright's papers," said the lawyer, "and I was never more astonished in my life. You are, I presume, under the impression that he left a great fortune."

"I thought my husband very wealthy."

"I dislike to disappoint you, madam, but I may as well tell you that there is no fortune."

"But—" began Mrs. Wright. "And," continued the lawyer, "we will be very fortunate if we can snatch from the estate enough to secure a maintenance for yourself and daughter."

"Why, Mr. Everett, there—there must be some mistake. It is true that I was never my husband's confidante in his business, but I have known of several of his investments. This place which we are now occupying is one of the most valuable in this section of the state—"

since he was a boy and had always taken a warm personal interest in him. Whenever Irving got into any kind of a tangle he consulted Mr. Everett, and it was owing to these consultations that he managed to write correctly about some abstract legal topics and to avoid the shoals of libel. The lawyer had the utmost confidence in the young man and knew that when he unburied himself frankly, but privately, no public use would ever be made of his opinions.

"I came to see you about the Wright case," said Irving. "I have just learned that you will defend him, and I want to tell you what I know."

The lawyer expressed his willingness to listen. Irving gave him an account of the striking incidents with which the reader has already been made familiar.

"In addition," he said, "to the unexplained features of the circumstances, the evidence, you can readily establish the fact that the pistols were changed. It is generally understood that Herbert Wright has a story to tell which will place a new phase on the murder and possibly implicate some one else. So an attempt is made to poison him. I have announced my intention of working at the puzzle, and have made some important discoveries. What is the result? I am lured into a den of crime and tumble into a carefully laid plan to assassinate me. All these things prove to my mind, Mr. Everett, that there is a powerful organization at work. At first the life of John T. Wright stood in the way of its accomplishing some end. He was put out of the way, but not without some telltale evidence being left behind. Herbert Wright having in some way come across these evidences is marked for death; and the attempt made on my part satisfies me that I was on the right track. Mr. Wright's death was, I am convinced, but a part of some far-reaching enterprise, some grand undertaking that had been planned with commercial nicety. His death was not a matter of passion, but business, and the interest that demanded it now wish to close Herbert Wright's mouth, and put a period to my investigations."

"I can hardly believe it," said the lawyer, "because it implies the possession of power almost unlimited. Did it do so? The only answer to this question is that it went 20 years ago to buy him off from the gallows. Have another sip of punch?"

The invitation was accepted, they seated themselves at the table, and the lawyer told his story to two silent, breathless auditors.

"It's a wonderful story, but can it ever be established?" said Irving, helplessly.

Fenton was deeply interested; he was even excited. Here was something worthy of his mettle.

"I think I can do something in this case," he said, quietly, but with something in his tone that indicated a subdued enthusiasm.

The gleam in his eye and the compression of his lips were significant. Fenton had a score to pay off, and it was not in human nature that he would not be glad at having the opportunity to clear his name. He was convinced that he was the victim of too much interest in the Wright case, and he felt his resolution nerved anew in the desire to clear up the affair. In fact, he would have a royal revenge.

"I am convinced of one thing thoroughly," said Mr. Everett as they were about to break up, "and it is this: Herbert Wright's story furnishes the ground work from which we must work to clear up the mystery, and it is useless to follow any other theory; or else there is no mystery, and he is his father's murderer. So would advise you both to keep his story clearly in mind whatever you do."

Irving now took his departure. Fenton remained a few minutes longer to discuss some of the details of his work, and then he, too, left, taking similar partings from the two men who were now thoroughly alive to the importance of working quietly and free from observation.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE ABUSE OF SOCIETY.

A titled Hindu makes a few pertinent remarks on the subject.

The abuse of society is a favorite occupation with most people who cannot force an entrance into it. It is not even new. Cynics and satirists, preachers and writers have waged war on social amoralities since the days of Job. We know how Daniel denounced the Babylonian court and how Horace revealed the profligacy of Augustan Rome. Every leader of a regenerating movement, whether it be St. Bernard exhorting to crusades, St. Francis denouncing the profligacy of the Middle Ages, or preaching reformation, has denounced the easy morals and the easier standard of the toleration of current society.

The reformers of every age denounce their own contemporaries in accents of varying degrees of violence. Rousseau and Voltaire poured out diatribes from different points of view against the frivolous society which was cut off so abruptly by the guillotine, but their denunciations fell on deaf ears. "Nobody," said Tolstoy, "could have any conception of how pleasant society could be if he had not lived before the French revolution."

To reform those who will not be reformed is difficult. The grandmother of Ambrose, holding a scented pocket handkerchief to her nose to keep off the odor of the crowd as she tripped to the guillotine, and Mary, queen of Scots, yawning in the face of Knox, exemplify the attitude of all ages toward the reformer. It is not until the party of society—a Countess in London Outlook.

Two hundred years ago the gardeners thought the flowers imperished if the calyx did not burst, and refractory flowers were knifed into fashion's line. But during the last 150 years the burst calyx has become a defect, yet all efforts to prevent it in large flowers have not been wholly successful.

Historic bachelors. Many eminent men whose names are household words and who have left their impress upon the world were bachelors. Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Ciorrao and Diderot, all great German musical composers, were bachelors. John G. Whittier, our American poet, was a bachelor, Kant, the great philosopher; Erasmus, the scholar and philosopher; Leibniz, the German mathematician; Humboldt, the philosopher; Gallie, who discovered the application of the penitentiary and the earth revolves; Hicgen, the German astronomer who discovered Saturn's ring and one satellite; the chemist; Dr. Hahnemann, the originator of homeopathy; Dr. Franz Joseph Gall, the originator of phrenology; and Guericke, the inventor of the air pump, were all bachelors.

It makes The Will. "I wonder why they always call them the wild waves?" says the thoughtful one.

"I don't know, but I think I know what makes them wild," says the cynical one.

"What?"

"So many fools happen along, and as soon as they see the waves they ask 'What are the wild waves saying?'"

A recent report shows that 2,599 Christians were murdered in 1901 by the Turks. In only 61 cases were the murderers punished, and then with not more than four years' imprisonment.

Warning. If you have kidney or bladder trouble and do not use Foley's Kidney Cure, you will have only yourself to blame for your suffering. It cures all forms of kidney and bladder disease. Denton & Ward.

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The records left by the Phoenicians, Assyrians and ancient Persians show that among all those nations the use of perfumes was very common.

From a Cat Scratch on the arm, or the worst sort of a burn, sore or boil, DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is a quick cure. In buying Witch Hazel Salve, be particular to get DeWitt's—this is the salve that heals without leaving a scar. A specific for blind, bleeding, itching and protruding piles. Sold by Smith Bros.

A melon patch in a cornfield will sometimes neutralize the work of the local Sunday school.

Little Early Riser now and then, at bedtime will cure constipation, biliousness and liver trouble. DeWitt's Little Early Riser is the famous little pills that cure by arousing the secretions, moving the bowels gently, yet effectively, and giving such one function, the strength lets down the stomach and liver that the cause of the trouble is removed entirely, and if there is any continued for a few days, there will be no return of the complaint. Sold by Smith Bros.

The largest dose in the world is that of the Lutheran church at Warsaw. Its interior diameter is 200 feet. That of the British museum library is 130 feet.

The X Rays. Recent experiments, by practical tests and examination with the aid of the X Rays, establish it as a fact that Catarrh of the Stomach is not a disease of itself, but that it results from repeated attacks of indigestion. How Can I Cure My Indigestion? Kodol Dyspepsia Cure is curing thousands. It will cure your indigestion and dyspepsia, and assimilate all of the wholesome food that may be eaten into the kind of blood that rebuilds the tissues and protects the health and strength of the mind and body. Kodol cures indigestion, Dyspepsia and all stomach troubles. It is an ideal spring tonic. Sold by Smith Bros.

The Waste of the Body. Every seven days the blood, muscles and bones of a man of average size loses ten pounds of worn-out tissue. This waste cannot be replenished and the health and strength kept up without perfect digestion. When the stomach and digestive organs fail to perform their functions, the strength lets down, health gives way, and disease sets up. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure enables the stomach and digestive organs to digest and assimilate all of the wholesome food that may be eaten into the kind of blood that rebuilds the tissues and protects the health and strength of the mind and body. Kodol cures indigestion, Dyspepsia and all stomach troubles. It is an ideal spring tonic. Sold by Smith Bros.

They Differ Much. "Ancum—Say, a 'bibliophile' and a 'literateur' are the same, aren't they?" "No, they're not much! A bibliophile is most pleased with first editions, but a literateur struggles to achieve twenty-fifth or fiftieth editions.—Philadelphia Press.

If every man's mind was geared to work a little faster than his tongue, many rash things would be left unsaid.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

He Left the Stage at Here. At an auction sale that lasted for the best part of a week the auctioneer's throat began to trouble him greatly, and to save himself as much as possible he had one of his employees read off the number and name of each article as it came up for sale. The assistant's pronunciation of such words as "marqueterie," "Francos," "Sevres," "Delacroix" and "Beauvais" was so wild that the audience "got on to him," and all those who were not too badly engaged in making bids were reading their catalogues to follow the assistant's blunders. He met his Waterloo when he started to read "Bronze and ornamental clock, set of three, French, with figures by Deshayes, chased." And as he came to a full stop the catalogue readers burst into a roar of laughter that was inexplicable to the rest of the audience. The word after "chased" which the assistant had mispronounced to have a "y" as "microtyphoides."—New York Press.

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