MYSTERY OF THE **BAYOU WOODS**

By WALKER HENNEDY.

CHAPTER L-Herbert Wright goes to

CHAPTER III - Wards examines mys ous foolprints in the snow and tells. Frenklin, an old acquaintance of murdered man, of them. Merhert is exted on suspicion of being implicated

Strong dreumstantial evidence against the "alert and tireless jailer," who Herbert Wright is submitted and the had promptly sent for a physician, jury charges him with the murder.

CHAPTER VI - Warde goes to Her. and the young man's life was saved, bert's sister. Minist, who believes him Wright had taken morphine, but the innocent, and tells ber he will do all ill power to clear her brother. Col. physician, who had arrived prompt.

CHAPTER VII.

After supper Warde was busy in his of a guilty conscience, and it would office writing a resume of the facts he uscless to continue his investigabrought out in the Wright case and was employing considerable skill in saking prominent the unexplained car and weat to the init. de of the crime. He knew very well how the other morning paper, the sournal, would treat it; how it would be described as a perfect case of circumstantial evidence; and how the old proverb "murder will out" would Wright, with a smile, be worked into its weary place again for the edification of those who like their crime mulled with a bit of mor- you." alizing. Warde was endeavoring in a really skillful way to emphasize the mystery in which the case was involved, and to create a doubt in young Wright's favor. It was while he was that, encupied thus that he realized fully been wrought around the man he believed to be innocent. How was it possible for an innocent man to have

got himself tangled up in this way? While he was working away at his task. Detective Fenton entered the office and said he had secured some additional evidence in the case, which he had no objection to making pub-

"What is it?" asked Wards, interested at once.

"Late this afternoon the chief instructed me to go to Wirght's house and search it for weapons. I found Mrs. Wright at home and told her what I must do. She made be objection, and led me to the place where she said her husband kept his pistol. There I found this weapon," taking from his pocket a handsome ivory handled pistol, "which, as you see, has one empty cartridge in it.

"That looks ugly for Wright," said Warde, regretfully. "Ordinarily it would, but there is

something behind all this." "What do you mean?"

efternoon that weapon had not been there, for she had examined the one said, to see whether it had been fixed these men. or not. She asserted positively that some one had changed the pistols in

"By Jove!" cried Warne, "this grows exciting."

Judge of human nature," said the detective, "but in my opinion the woman was telling the truth. She led me to the pistol without a particle of hesitation, and I never appropria person's face full as bees did when I took out the shining revolver. I put t up this way, that the man who shanged these revolvers must have s a bitter enemy of young Weight. At any rate, my idea of the case has, thanged considerably since this

"I have an idea," said Marde, "and f you will help me perhaps we can kit on a solution of this riddle."

"I will do anything consistent with my ordinal duty." "I ask nothing more. It is your up any pet theory or anyhody's holeby, but to get at the truth and un-

mask the real criminal"

"Let me make a suggestion to you. So back to Mrs. Wright to-morrow and find out whether the has any resterday morning; if she has not, perhaps some of her neighbors could tell whether anybody visited the house while she was away. If you can find the man who put the pistol.

"I'll go out there to-morrow and

Sence against that young fellow." mused natile before resuming his work. It was indeed singular that while the mystery was deepening, at the same time the visible proofs were secumulating against Wright. He had more reason now than ever to believe that a still darker crime that involved tomething heaides murder lay beyond. the prima facie case that had been made out. For the first time he felt that he was contending with an unseen antagonist, and that while he was endeavoring to clear the name of Herbert Wright some one was fighting him step by step and was trying to fasten the guilt upon the roung man. It could not be the auy doing their duty to the best of their shility and they could not be

expected to yield anything to the tentimental side of the case. From this time on Wards never seased to feel that he and the unseen

Copyright, 1998, by A. N. Kellogg Newspaper Co. were engaged in a desperate game, in which a human life was involved. He silently accepted the unwritten some time talking to the prisoners, challenge to battle and made up his but he did not pay any particular at mind that he would not be defeated, tention to him. He evidently got The pext morning Nilus was treat- hold of the name of one of the prisoned to a sensation, the startling evi- ers and then carried out his scheme dence obtained by the authorities be- with another of them, if, indeed, he ing supplemented by an exclusive is the man who put up the poisoning

piece of news published in the Jour- job. nal. When Warde sat down to breakfast and picked up that paper he was cold with amazement at what he read, for in large, glaring headlines, he saw that Herhert Wright, "stung HAPTER IV.-Cel. Franklin is a brit. by a guilty conscience, had endeas says he is unable to ored to take his own life." The attempt, it seemed, was discovered by

> strong case ly, administered an emetic, and so checkmated the would-be suicide. Wards was in despair when he read this It was the virtual confession

> > there. As soon as he bad swallowed his breakfast he jumped on a street Wright was very glad to see him. and the jailer allowed the newspaper

terriese in the rotunda of the jail. "You have read the Journal?" said

"Yes, and it knocked me cold!" "But I am prepared to astonish

"What do you mean?" "Why, that account is a lie from be-

ginning to end." "Well, I am certainly glad to hear

"The fact is, an attempt was made how strong a chain of evidence had here in the jail last night to poison

> "Yes, to poison me. The drug was put into my food, and of course I ate I noticed a peculiar taste, and shortly afterward found invself growng very drowsy. I called for the after at once and told him I thought

had been drugged. Fortunately he had a doctor here in five minutes who detected the evidences of morphine and immediately took steps to relieve me. The eructation was preserved and examined at my request, and the loctor found that the poison in it would have rendered me a corpse in

ess than an hour." "Have you found the man who made

his attempt?" "No, and I fear it will be impossiole. It was agreed by the jailer, the loctor and myself to say nothing about it until a thorough investigation could be marie. The poison could not have been put in accidentally by the cook, for no one etse in the fail was effected. The food must have been poisoned after it was put into Mrs. Wright was dumfounded for a gruel-and it must have been done moment. Then she daclared that it by the man who handed me my bowl. was not her husband's pistel, and that I could not tell who did this, as sevwhen the had left the house this aral of the prisoners columner each day to act as waiters."

"Of course," said Warde, "you could that was-an old affair-in order, she not have a personal enemy among "Certainly not."

"It is evident that this poisoning scheme was designed outside of the jail, and that some one of the prisoners was bribed to slip the drug into your portion of the food."

"It looks that way beyond a doubt." Irving Warde felt that the unseen antagonist was again at work. He shivered when he thought of the reources of his adversary, who could affect the changing of the pistols in the suburbs south of the city, and the attempted murder of a prisoner the town. He realized now that it was no ordinary foe that young Wright had to fight. Shrewd intelligence, an abundance of money, a command of ready tools, perfect un scrupulousness, and murder itself

were all pitted against the man. The attempt on Weight's life had ne reassuring quanty, it convinced Wards that the mind engineering these operations was not satisfied with the case already made out futy, as I conceive it not to holster against the young man, otherwise the how might have been allowed to lake its course. There were flave in the roidence, fatal wealnesses which "You are right. I agree with you might lead to the discovery of the real iminal; and somehow the life of Berbert Wright stood in the way of the accomplishment of a veiled pur-The same motive which deproof that the old pistot was there manded the life of John T. Wright new demanded that of his son; Warde could not help thinking that tome treno mious issue was at stake, or some in that the programme was in jeopardy from Herbert's being Fonton, laughing.

> These thoughts were enough rapid of news," replied Wards. ly through his mine while wright continued to discuss the affair of the night before, and finally the reporter

"If you three made up your minds the torzette gets it exclusively." to keep this thing secret, how did it

the only person who left the jail last night was the doctor. The doctor, it abouted on the river. Commerce who was here quite early, tells a rather curious tale. He says that at the nearest corner he was saluted by rough looking fellow who were a covered with stubble. 'Is he dead, ductor?' asked this man. 'Who?' said the doctor. 'Why, Wright. I heard a nigger say that he had taken poison.' No, he is not dead,' replied the docaid not occur to the doctor till afterward that it would have been impossible for any news to have got out when all the prisoners were in their cells and the jailer alone could have communicated it to the outside

some here to get the facts?"

"No: he must have obtained them utside of the jail."

"This man in the red finned shirtwas nothing further heard from

"Nothing. But the jailer remembers that such a man had applied for admission to the jail vesterday to see a prisoner named Billy Maloney." "Have you questioned Maloney?"

"Yes, and he tells a pretty straight story. He says that he never saw the stranger before, and that the man told him of a friend named Bill Ma oney, and he came to see if this was the same fellow, but it was not. Maloney says the man hung around

Wright asked that Warde should publish the facts in the Gazette and place him right before the public, the miler corroborating all he had said.

During the afternoon Warde ran softer of the Journal, and asked him how he got the points about the sui-

Jim laughed and said: "I seconed you badly on that, didn't I, old man? That Item was a bird." "But I have some curiosity, Jim, to

know how you got it. Who gave it

"I can't tell you that. The party who put me on made me promise not to give him away. He also made me promise not to go to the jail for it. Said he thought the authorities were trying to keep it dark, as it occurred shortly after supper, and nothing was known of it at least not for publication at the station house at mid-

"He made a great guy of you, who-"What do you mean?"

"Why, there is scarcely a word of truth in his story from beginning to end. The man did not try to commit suicide, and your report that he is not expected to recover is all bosh. I found him sitting up in the jailer's

office smoking a cigar this morning." "Well, I'll be damned! If I find out that I have been imposed upon in that way I'll wring the neck of that little skunk!"

"Who is that?" "Why no; that won't do, Warde I won't give him away until I've given

him a chance to explain himself." Helcombe departed in a brisk dudgeon and Warde sought the office. where he found Fenton awaiting him. "I got what I wanted this morn-

he said:

Tell me," said Warde. placed. The ivory-handled revolver taking either property or life. was not the weapon she had seen. The acmosphere in the saloon was

"Did she describe the man?"

"I'll help you any way that I can." "Then we will win the game yet."

CHAPTER VIII.

The next evening at nine o'clock, Warde was working in the office when n negro boy brought him a note. He opened it casually and read the fol-

give you a great story for the Ga- Inlly as though Warde had been a zette. His name is William Jackson.

"A Friend." like this, and it occasioned him no surprise. Peter's Rest had a reputster; still be was often called to such 13 the name of William Jackson, thought. He tinished the work upon which he was engaged, and at 11 o'clock started for the choice locality to which he had been called.

house, Fenton, the detective, joined him and asked whither he was going. "To Peter's Rest," said Warde.

"I was called there to get a piece

"I will go with you," sald Fenton; "it may be something in my line,"

mine, and if there's anything in it

The locality which the two men "That I cannot say. The jailer says were about to visit was a considerable sturdy looking fellows, who were distance from the station house, and slightly better dressed than their as of these treacherous stepping stones street originally can parallel with the river but the current of the Mississippi, which is ever making some excuse for a change, had eaten away a red flanel shirt and whose face was large part of the bank so that the which had been very eleverly celeupper end of the street ran almost into the water. The rear end of sev- name of Old Tom, which they had eral houses on the west side were ac- given him. His companion was an tually suspended over the stream, and it was only a question of time munhood. The micror revealed the fact that when they would topple into the swirling waters; but it is rather a these men were watching Warde with pastime to him, and he crept from venerable observation that because an intensity-it seemed to him a ma- pile to pile with the cat-like agility

fondly expecting that somehow they could move out a day or two before the crash came and the river claimed | jamp was suspended from above. The a lot of refuse not its own. That portion of the city Wards and torial selections from the ilustrated

Fenton entered knew no such luxuries as lamplights, and depended entire! upon such illuminations as a complacent moon would furnish. On this particular night the moon was the same interest that a scraph might contending intermittently with a sea of crested clouds. To the right as sending with the river bank, several cotton sheds spread their huge dimensions in solid blackness. The houses were mostly old and dilanida-

ted and peopled with the city's dregs, it was here that thieves, rough boatmen, idle plantation hands, and that great herald of the trausient and the snifting known as the tramp, were fond of congregating. And it was apparent that the accommodations were ample for this kind of population. There were dens of various shades of iniquity; rainshackle sheds where the tramp could readily find free accommodations for the night; greasy corner groceries sgainst John Holcombe, the city where stale vegetables and riot-breeding liquors were sold, together with have a tote-a-tote with these brawny the certainty that one would take up the trail of death where the other about it, a trap of some sort had left off; bearding houses where river been laid for him. and plantation hands were packed Chinese fashion. In short, one could see here every sort of building, ex- couple of gentlemen, are you?" cent the church and the school house.

> As the two men continued their walk the houses became less namer- time is up, anyhow, very gleum of the river.

At last they came to Peter's Best of the handsomest residences in the city; for, in the early days of Nilus, this congeries of filth, crime and degredation had been the most eligible dreamed at the time of this story banked in studious to the north.

women. It was here that under the equaled in otheress, all sorts of coil paets were struck, crimes were planned and new lessons of decentty were learned. Just this side of the Rest was a theant lot, stretching down to the river. Here beater said "Mrs. Wright said that her pearest he would stop while Wards went in. neighbor, a kind-hearted widow by Before they separated Feston handed the name of Mrs. Anderson, bad been bim a police which, and it was there at noon to take care of her agreed between them that if Warde child while she visited her husband, should blow it, the detective would dust as Mrs. Anderson was about to know that he was in danger and xamined the pistol and called Mrs. ton was not at all satisfied with this Anderson's attention to the fact that adventure of Warde's, but he did not it had not been shot off for a long communicate any of his unusiness. time. I then went to see Mrs. Ander- He merely cautioned him to be on his She remembered the pistol very guard, as the erowd he was going well, and knew where it had been among was not very particular about

there. But Mrs. Anderson had some so heavy and malodorous that the other facts. She had seen a man Hebrs barned danly and reluctantly. present. He replied that he had heavy black no stacke, small unimal found that out and would drop in eyes and a profusion of cheap jewelagain when Mrs. Weight was at home, ry admirably fitted Billy Metee to feebly out of the clouds and he tion of Mr. Meter's note. Then so commany." Mrs. Anderson had thought nothing be the hero of a bloody melodramu further of it until she was told about or a prominent character in a Lon-"Yes: she said he was a rather fore Hilly, who watched the result stoutly built man with probably a with the interest of a dispassionate. couple of weeks' beard on his face, referee. A number of persons cus-and that he were a red finned shirt." bodying various degrees of discenutahodying various degrees of disceputa-"Fenion, you have done splendidly, billity were congregated about the and if you will agree to help me fur- tables, some handling greats deals of ther, we will unravel one of the deep cards, some "shooting craps," some est-laid crimes ever planned in this drinking whisky and other congenial phere. There were also on hand a voice ery, few faded parones of womankind, "Then h whose efforts to be gas and migraful were of a piece with their glastly rear.

good-looking young man was seen in "Mr. Warde-Come as soon as you have occasioned some surprise, but it moree street. A river man there can and devious occupations as reposeregular feature of the establishment.

> transacting before him. and asked if there was present a man | i. ;

You'll have to throw again, Dock,

of those present.

sat at a table drinking. They were to make any headway. startling in the prominence of evil ing back, he saw to his horror that It very muscular man, whose strength He looked at the swirling river be him merely a part of his establishhad a certain cat-like element in it. low him, and the world was reeling brated by his associates in the nickalmost perfect specimen of physical

a thing did not happen yesterday lignity of interest for which he people are inclined to think that it could not account; but he betrayed will not happen to-morrow. And so, no surprise, nor did he give any evi- had now made some headway, and street continued to reside above the Taking from his pocket a eigar he "Then the Journal reporter did not river, knowing full well that there lighted it coolly, and then nonchalantwould be an end to it some time, but | ly entered the parter.

This was a simple room with a table and several chairs in it. A swinging walls were covered with choice piecriminal weeklies. A few sensational papers suitable to the clientele at l'eter's Rest were on the table, and Wards idly scanned these with about

take in reading the London Times. He had been there barely five minthey traversed the rounded street utes when the door opened and Old Tom entered the room. At first he seemed a bit embarrassed before Warde's cool and searching gaze and then he said: "You come here to see Bill Jackson, did vou?"

Yes; has he come back?" "No, but maybe my pardner can tell

on something about him. "I'm not particular about that. he does not come soon I shall go. Have you any idea what he wants with me? I'm a newspaper man." "Wait till I call my pardner.

think he knows something about it." "Never mind your partner. I do not care to know what he has to say," Warde's suspicions were now aroused, and he did not propose to

ruffians. There could be no doubt

"See here, young feller," said Old Tom, "you ain't atraid to talk with a "I am not," said Warde, "but I have

ous, and they passed vacam lots, be- He arose as he said this, but Old youd which they could see the sil- Tom stood before the door leading into the saloon, and there was som thing in his face that frying had not It was a two-storied house, which seen before. The word "murder" was in its day had been considered one written upon it as plain as could be, Warde say that not a moment was to be squandered. He took the whistle from his pocket and was raising it part of the town. Yet noticely ever toward him and wat one sweep of his platent blusself up and with mechanicat resonner of mind he closed the

> At that he could not tell where he porch shut in with lattice work,

In the salson there was a great only find an opening he could cross ton began to pull away. If was a second him:

He flung is open and was about to of page and disappointment, and ing is one of the most valuable in plunge out, but for a moment he wises who looked as if he might have taken ness ben ath blue; then he heard his her pursuers coming, and a moment later. Tomon stopped long chough to five enught its slower below. A cold hors bent to the ours with all his might "But my husband owned several

indeed. Just below he saw the head the strange shots that were seat were sold to the same company at of some black object projecting from the water, and as he gased eagerly these dark objects leading away to-The object seemed solid, and withliquors and some talking apart in out moment's hesitation he leaped

"He has gone!" he heard a hoarse

"Then he's in the river," came the and there was a rush toward the

It was not often that a well-dressed, lighted was a ball sunken pile, and been sunk deener than others, and they stood out from the water like

Billy Meter dia not even book up these irregular columns be might Irving received a great many notes from the important ousiness that was beach the ingleast. This would place where he could perhaps secure Warde at once strode up to the bar | uch or where he could defend him-

> "Four dences," said Mr. Metice. "It circle in the hank under the Rest will be hard to wat that. William? and the current ediled and circled Oh, yes. Bill was here about half an around therein with silent but treboar ago. Are you the gent he was mendous power. Your but an expert "He said if you come to tell you to pool. The price had served the purwait for him. He'll be back d'rec'ly. nose of protecting the bank from the further encroachments of the river, Take a scat in the partor," continued and the line began under the Rest Mr. Metice to Warde, waving his hand and extended away from the shore.

> toward the door of an adjoining At first Wards leaped from one to another of these pillars without much As Wards stood before the bar trouble, but to climb up to one a he was somewhat startled to find that little bigier than the others and his coming had not been without then let himself down to one far hesome interest to at least one or two neath it was a dangerous task, and the further he got out into the river In one corner of the room two men | the more difficult it became for him

Hardly had he traversed a dozen sociates, but their faces were aimest when he was discovered, and, gland he was being followed by Old Tom. into the river and end the suspense. Old Tom, however, was at home in this kind of an enterprise. It was which had won him his name. It was a fearful race. The moon

many persons on upper Commerce dence that he had observed them, its light fell upon the black river

something bright in Old Tom's hand. It was a long, sharp knife.

Warde shivered. On went the two figures leaping and uncertain steps, the other with the easy confidence of one to whom the way was familiar. Old Tom was gaining steadily upon

could not escape. Suddenly he remembered his pis- have come out victorious.

killed anybody the mob would have torn him to pieces with joyous unanhad for the time forgotten it.

ton should come to his assistance. front his adversary. The latter was dition of the estate. approaching him confidently and resolutely. His one grim object was the brainy man about 45 years of age. A

death of the reporter. The shadowy houses on the shore were rising and falling as if they eye, and a contour of head which were about to plunge into the stream. The eilear lines of light played over the face of the water. He could see the salient physiognomical features the great steamboats, with their red of a man who in his day was a coleand green lights and their trailing brity in his part of the country. benners of black smoke, rounding the There was the fullness under the ever bends or putting into the wharf. All that denotes oratory, and in his case else was silence. Even the crowd of the sign was prominently true. The reckless criminals, craning their unrightness of his character was no necks from the back door, were less conspicuous than the directness dumb with excitement as they wait- of his intellect. In short, he was ed the duel between the men upon just the sort of adviser needed by

these black stumps.

pistol, his hand trembled so that the some way he seemed to be identified weapon, catching in his clothing, with the flintiness which was the slipped and fell into the river.

dered in a vague way? Had he en- sire to employ as tered the Rest and been disposed of? Intimate a friend of Wright as Frank-Warde called to him several times, iin had been, but received no response; but he had no time now to look toward the was not the informal business affair shore. Old Tom was nearly upon which the ladies had anticipated. It him, and he determined that if he grew more and more startling as the had to die, it should only be after a game fight. He braced himself had discovered. The public impresas tirmly as he could upon his pile, stop was that Wright was a very prepared to use his fi-ts upon his an- wealthy man, and his wife and daugh prombing antagonist, and drag him ter shared in this impression; how down to death with him.

Old Tom had just lighted on the ceived Lawyer Everett was now maknile next to him and was getting ing clear. rendy to leng.

ery of mingled pain and disgust, and then eroughed down and held to his fortune. commution, and he lower that he was pile to prevent himself from falling into the river, but his strength was wealthy." not great enough, and he slipped into "I dislike to disappoint you, madthe swirling water and was dragged

In the meantime a skiff which had therefolly be felt with ansleady hand Featon had Warde safely within it, secure a maintenance for yourself along the lattice work. If he could Getting outside the line of piles, Pen-

-natering shots were fired. and pulled for the wharf, which was plantations in Arkanas and Missisabout a mile away. It did not take sippi, Now his pursuers were upon him him long to get beyond the range of

by the tense strain again his physical in Arkansas, which your husband the preceding conversation, and nervous system, and he say in purchased three years back. So far "I can't give you an opini stupor. Gradually, as they ap- are all the assets in sight." his life, his faculties began to fully of land in Texas, and he invested in

the whistle, he concluded that the Everything that your husband then noise in the saloon was only some owned was sold." Bacchanals inside. He had heard the the money?" The skiff was tied up, but with his

knife he had cut the rope, and successfully made the rescue, Warde re-entered the Gazette office.

At one o'clock the police raided Peter's Rest, but the easy Mr. McGee with his mutilated nose and all his at I can make out." guests had mysteriously disappeared boy, who was acting as barkeeper, and several individuals who had straggled into the Rest when the fracas was over, and the real disturbers of the peace had fled.

CHAPTER IX.

John T. Wright left no will, and the settlement of his estate became involved at once in difficulties that It had never been a happy family for the reason that Wright was a old, austere man, who long ago had hanished anything like tenderness from his heart. His family were to ment. They were, he knew, against about him. A cold perspiration stood him in the quarrel with Herbert, and upon his face. He became nervous, be would never permit them to mention the name of his son, while he made it impossible for them to aid the young man in his pecuniary diser very materially from that of a parters and had all that could be hished in the way of clothing and never entered her thoughts. As for Miriam, her life was deeply embittered. Her sympathy for her mother and made her almost hate her father, nel her breast was filled with rebel-

opportunity to break forth; but the opportunity never came. Her father always treated her as if what she from pile to pile, one with trembling | 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 him, and Warde, with some reeling her stern father, and as it was the and despair in his heart, saw that he dearest wish of her heart to do so, it is not unlikely that she would

fol. He did not want to use it as | Such was the deadening, soul-delong as he had been in the saloon, stroving influence exerted by John for he knew very well that if he had IT. Wright on his family and all those associated with him in business.

The day after the events described imity; and in his effort to escape be in the foregoing chapter Mrs. Wright. It a gentle, elderly lady, on whom sorwas now his only hope unless Fen- row had set its seal, and her daughter Miriam, were in consultation at He turned about upon the pile on the Wright place with their lawyer, which he was standing so as to con- John W. Everett, regarding the con-

Lawyer Everett was a vigorous.

clean shaven face, conspicuously firm in its outlines, a cold, resolute blue phrenologically considered indicated ideality as well as perspicacity, were Mrs. Wright and her daughter in the The stars were silent, and they emergency that now presented itself. were cold, too. Warde felt that they These ladies had an unconquerable repugnance to Wright's life-long legal adviser, Col. Franklin, because in leading characteristic of the mur-Where could Fenton be, he won- dered man, and neither had any de- ly. Among Mr. Wright's last corre-

> The consultation now being held lawyer proceeded to unfold what he thoroughly everybody had been de-

"I have examined all of Mr. A pistol shot broke upon the air, Wright's papers," said the lawyer, the gleaming knife dropped into the "and I was never more astonished in stream and Old Tom gave a terrible my life. You are, I presume, under the impression that he left a great

"I thought my husband very

am, but I may as well tell you that there is no fortune." "But " Legan Mrs. Wright. "And," continued the lawyer, "we will be very fortunate if we can smatch from the estate enough to

the back yard and join Fenton in the shrowd move on his part, for the most be some mistake. It is true ment, I have not gone through Mr. execut lot just to the south of the growd within the saloon had surged that I was never my husband's con-Rest. At last he found a done in the back through the front done, and full didante in his business, but I have skiff. Then followed mingion once. This place which we are now occupy-

to your husband."

"Not belong to my husband?" a light flushed through the north, back at the crowd and we it turned. "It was sold many years ago to the she had signed some sort of a real Just then the moonlight fluttered out, casually shot away a small over Shelay Real Forgits & Investment estate transfer which she did not un-

> "That is also true: but all those the Shelly Real Estate company. the same time, with the exception of brother's case." asked Miciam, who Warde was completely exhausted one plantation in Mississippi and one had been an unmoved suditor during

proached the wharf, and as he real- "I remember a good many years sed that he had, indeed, escaped with ago my husband bought a large tract

some mining lands in Colorado." When they reached the wharf, and "Very true; but all of that prophe began to feel more like himself, crty was sold. The former to the he gave lienton an account of his same real estate company, and the adventures. The latter was profine latter I judge from some imperfect in his regrets that he had not gone inemorands left by your husband was to Warde's help sooner; but he ex- sold to some mining company organplained that as he had not heard ized under the laws of Colorado.

extra jollification on the part of the "But what could have become of

"That is the question I asked myriver's edge through the vacant lot, self. The answer I got from the old records in part. You are, of course, aware of the fact that your husband many years ago was tried on the 11. was 12 o'clock when Irving charge of killing Baxter, his foreman. By referring to the records I discov-He had been gone but an hour, and ered that his property was transferred just after that event and before his trial took place. The properry was sold at an enormous sacrifice, only \$50,000 being realized so far

"What became of that?"

"I called upon Cel. Franklin, who

was one of your busband's lawyers at that trial, and asked if he could give me any idea as to the disposition that had been made of the cash. He smiled rather significantly and said he could. 'Do you know,' he said, what it cost to clear John T. Wright? 'Of course not.' I answered, 'It cost a cold \$25,000, and he had to have the money ready. Of course,' he went on, smiling. I cannot say were never anticipated by his family, anything about where it went, nor need I account for the fact that certain officers, by dealing very gingerly with the law and the facts, made it comparatively easy to bring in a verdict of acquittal.' I need hardly tell you, madam, what I think of such an admission coming from a member of my profession. Franklin's explanation, in short, is that Mr. Wright had to sell off his property to raise ready money for the purpose of buying an acquittal. But there are some aspects to this case which will render further investigation on my part necessary.' "If my husband did not own this

place and the plantations to which ie was constantly making visita, why did he show so much activity in mproving and supervising them?"

cannot account for is the fact that he should have spont nearly all the profits of his business in improving and clearing up these plantations in Arkaneas and Mississippi. I intend ascertaining if there is any law for claiming the value of these improved ments, and in this way I shall probe ably make the real estate company show its hand. During my partial investigation of your husband's papers I came across a memorandum upon which you can perhaps throw some

What is it?"

"This paper, as you will observe, is a map or plot of a piece of land." The lawyer here handed Mrs. Wright a paper, evidently of secret designwith a drawing upon it.

"On the back of this paper," said he, "you will observe the memorane dum which I cannot understand " Mrs. Wright turned the paper over and read the following

"See schedules in agreement with Franklin." "Can you te'l me what agreement It is that is referred to in this megio-

randum?" asked the laweer "I have no idea whatever," ead Mrs. Wright.

"That is strange. In the examination of your husband's papers I have come peross several references to papers which I cannot find, bints of something hidden in his business, Papers which I am satisfied are inportant are missing

hushand was robbed by one of his clerks a few months ago. The thief. who has never been caught, took several hundred dollars in money and he may have accidentable disagranged or carried off some of the pa-

"You may not remember it but my

"Or he may have done so purpose spendence I find an unaddressed and untinished letter. It is dated a few days before he was killed. Let me

Mr. Everett then read the following fragment:

" Dac 18 --"I have mi-placed my copy of the acreement. All danger is now past out the terms of the contract; and I would like for you to appoint a day for a consultation. Recont adviews have satisfied me that the Colo-

"This fragment as you will see refers to a contract or an agreement. ably cortain that this letter was intended for Franklin, and that there writing between them. For some letter, and without knowing anything about the provisions of the agreement. I should commend his prudence in not sending it. If he had lest his to it, and to notify that party of the

"Very true: but it did not belong "the Wmoht remembered that shortly after the killing of Baxter berstand, but which her husband had old her was a mere matter of form.

this must have been the transfer to "And what do you think of my

"I can't give you an opinion on it." ward where a toglost lay moored, the bottom of the bout in a sort of as I can see, those two plantations said Mr. Exercit. "You know I have shut. To morrow we are to have any

> When Mr. Everett reached his office Irring Wards was waiting for him. The lawyer had known Irving ever since he was a boy and had always taken a warm personal interest in him. Whenever Irving got into any land of a rangle be consulted Mr. Eve erett, and it was owing to these consultations that he managed to write correctly shout some abstruce legal topics and to avoid the shoals of libel. The lawyer had the utmost confidence in the young man and knew that when he unbosomed himself frankly,

> ever be made of his opinions. "I came to see you about the Wright case," said Irring. "I have just learned that you will defend him, and I want to tell you what I know." The lawyer expressed his willingness to heten. Irving gave him an account of the striking in midents with which the reader has already been

made familiar. "In addition," he said, "to the unexplained features of the circumstantial 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 implicates some one clse. 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 dea 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 great end. He was put out of the way, but not without some felltule evidence being left behind. Herbers Wright having in some way come neross these evidences is marked for death; and the attempt made on my life 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 great undertaking that had been planned with commercial nicety. His death was not a matter of passion, but "You have struck, madam, a hard business, and the interest that demanded it now wish to close Herwas in the employ of the company bert's mouth, and put a period to my

uestion to answer. It may be he