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THE FOURTEENTH GUEST

R. BANKS - My dance, I believe, Miss Waddington. Do you care to-

Miss Katie Waddington, her pretty roguish face flushed with indignation, flushed that you venture to speak to me—you know I couldn't refuse, with that horrid Lady Houghton introducing you, and looking over my shoulder at my card. He (pulling his waistcoat a little, because his shirt front pointed too much)—is that why you pleaded for me in the conservatory? No, please don't go—let's sit it out. Miss Katie sits down again and begins pulling a rose to pieces. "You've treated me shamefully, haven't you?" "Not a bit."

"Indeed you have; and don't fidget with your necktie."

"Now, which of your pretty white teeth have you against me?" "Can't you speak in plain English, instead of using your French phrases? Come, now, didn't you at once go down to the conservatory? Oh, it's just like you to hint that we weren't properly introduced; but we were afterward."

"Never mind the fashion of the introduction," said he, hiding a smile behind his glove. "You know such introductions are almost the fashion at the seaside."

"You mean such almost introductions are quite the fashion?" he observed; "but suppose we did, and suppose we took walks together, and dances together, and went fishing together, and I put on the—, and suppose I was in earnest?" "Never mind what you suppose," she said, sharply. "You know quite well that at the seaside—"

"By the sea a maiden's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of flirtation." "I shall leave you at once if you're so flippant and rude," said Miss Katie, and she got up and then sat on another seat with the light at the back—a very pretty white back—not the seat's. "Didn't you pretend you were a barrister?" "No, certainly not."

"How can you tell such a—?" "It isn't a— I didn't pretend I am a barrister."

"Well, even if you are, you needn't quibble, and, besides, there are lots of barristers who don't earn as much—"

"As much as a shoeblack. There's your Cousin Jack—but he plays billiards splendidly—you should see him at Carr's during term time."

"Butter Jack! And besides he is a good sort, and I like him much better than you. Oh! how could you deceive me so? Why, that horrid Glendower girl who drove me home in her brougham—I know it's only hired—the moment we got in said: 'Really, dear, that man you so affected yourself with at Eastbourne is quite decent for one of Whiteley's young men! Ugh! a hired guest!'"

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About this time Holmes, who had assumed the name of Harry Gordon, visited Denver, and there met Minnie R. Williams, an elocutionist, at the Fifteenth Street theater. Early in 1893 Miss Williams came to Chicago and was installed as Holmes' private secretary. She was possessed of property at Fort Wayne, Ind., valued at \$20,000, part of which Holmes afterwards secured either through forged deeds or undue influence. Soon after her arrival at Chicago, Minnie sent for her sister Nannie to make her a visit. Nannie left her home hurriedly with instructions that if she did not return at a certain time her trunk should be sent after her. Her trunk was shipped to Chicago, but was never taken out of the express office. Holmes is said to have stated that Nannie became attached to him, which aroused Minnie's jealousy and led her to kill her sister. Nannie Williams disappeared in July, 1893. One night soon after Nannie's murder the castle, which had been insured for \$50,000, was burned out. The insurance companies, suspecting arson, refused to pay the loss, and for three months tried to get Paul of Holmes, who desired about from point to point in Chicago until December 15, 1893, when he left together with Minnie Williams and Benjamin F. Pitzel. Minnie was never seen after December 15. Holmes afterward visited Indianapolis where he secured the release from jail of Pitzel, his alleged accomplice. At the same time he had the Minnie Williams property in Fort Worth transferred to Pitzel under the name of Benton F. Lyman. He then went to Franklin, Ind., and there married Miss Georgiana Yoke. On January 12, 1894, Holmes is reported to have appeared in Fort Worth, under the name of O. C. Pratt.

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On November 17, 1894, Holmes was arrested in Boston charged with conspiracy to defraud the Philadelphia insurance company. The work of the detectives caused a belief that the body found in the Callowhill street house was really that of Pitzel and that he had been killed by Holmes. The discovery of the bodies of the Pitzel children in the Toronto cellar led to a thorough examination of the Holmes "castle" at Chicago. The police department concluded to search the premises from cellar to attic, and ghastly discoveries followed each other in quick succession. On July 22 blood-stained garments were found in the cellar; on July 24 parts of a child's skeleton, supposed to be that of Pearl Conner, were unearthed; on July 27 one M. G. Chappell, a somewhat dissipated mechanic, stated to the police that he had articulated four skeletons for Holmes, two of which he produced a few days later. On July 29 detectives discovered a secret vat in the basement of the castle. This vat is buried five feet under ground and is twelve feet in length. It was probably used for quicklime the bodies. A vault large enough to hold two persons and supplied with gaspipes is another startling feature of the castle. The police theory is that Holmes persuaded his girl victims to enter the vault, which is absolutely sound-proof. He would then close the door, turn on the gas and expiate them. After they were dead he would place the bodies in a chemical solution so as to prevent identification, and finally have the skeletons articulated. Since Holmes has been found guilty of the murder of Alice Pitzel by a coroner's jury in Toronto, he is reported to have made several statements explaining how he came in possession of the skeletons articulated for him by Chappell. He said he procured the dead bodies for the sole purpose of selling them to physicians, a business which, he claims, never fails to return a good profit. Police officers at Chicago and Philadelphia—Holmes is now in jail at the latter place—ridicule his explanation.

Should evidence continue to accumulate, the state's attorney soon hopes to be in a position to prove that Holmes murdered in cold blood Mrs. Julia Conner and her daughter, Pearl; Miss Emeline Cigrand; Minnie and Nannie Williams; Benjamin F. Pitzel and his three children, Howard, Alice and Nellie. To these must be added Miss Emily Van Tassel, who was employed in a candy store on Milwaukee avenue, Chicago, where a man, supposed to be Holmes, made her acquaintance. After he had visited her a few times, she, too, disappeared, and has been seen no more. Other victims and suspects of, but the ten persons mentioned are probably all whose mysterious disappearance can be established. It is a singular fact that all of Holmes' alleged girl victims were decidedly pretty and possessed of more than ordinary intelligence.

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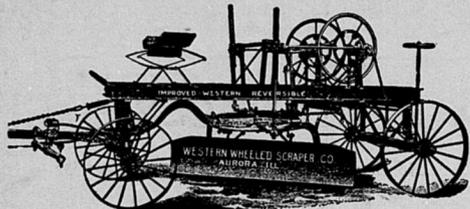
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