



The Mystery OF Carney-Croft

By JOSEPH BROWN COOKE

(Copyright, 1907, by Story-Press Corporation.)

CHAPTER I.

A Mystery Is Started.

That old John Carney dropped dead of apoplexy in his saddle while violently cursing the stable-boy for a trivial delay in bringing his horse to the door...

Young John was in Honolulu, presumably keeping a watchful eye on the family's sugar interests...

She telegraphed immediately to me, I being the youngest and practically the only active partner in the firm of lawyers that managed her father's affairs...

I was astonished, not only by the extent of the place, but at its beauty and almost baronial magnificence. There were acres upon acres of velvety lawns intersected by miles upon miles of well-bedded roads and bridle paths...

The house was even more of a surprise than the grounds, for although it was, in some respects, scarcely finished, it was already moss-grown and ivy-clad...

Miss Carney was watching for me at the entrance, and came running down the steps of the broad terraces surrounding the mansion...

"You were good to come so soon," she said gratefully, extending her hand with winning grace. "I wanted to send a carriage to meet you, but all the stablemen have left since the little boy died..."

I made the best answer I could under the circumstances, for while her recent bereavement was more than enough to excite my deepest sympathy, the fact that her father had been our best client for many years gave me a certain respectability...

Luncheon was served as soon as I returned from my room, and I was seated opposite my hostess at a small round table. I had never seen Miss Carney before and it cannot be denied that the vision of my sweet-faced companion, partly concealed by the palms between us, was in no way unappreciated by my masculine eye...

I had learned from my garrulous driver in the forenoon the circumstances that accompanied Mr. Carney's tragic death, and my interview with his daughter had more to do with the arrangement of her future affairs than with any references to the past.

"I wish Jack were here," she said suddenly; "it is so hard to be alone." "I cabled him as soon as I received your telegram," I replied, "and he can get a ship to-morrow or the day after. But must you be alone? Have you no friends here in the village?"

"Not one," she returned. "You know we live very much by ourselves out here—and—the village people have never taken kindly to father—or—or—to me, for that matter. In fact," she continued, smiling wanly through her tears, "they think us worldly and purse-proud and—'stuck up.' If I must say it, and yet daddy tried to do so much for them, and had out work that wasn't at all necessary and all that—just to give them employment. Why! last winter, when some of the people were nearly starving, he had ice cut in the river and piled up on the banks for weeks at a time to keep the men busy, but as soon as the warm weather came they forgot it all and even said he was a fool who threw away his money. No," she added slowly, "I haven't a friend in the village to whom I could turn."

"But there must be someone," I insisted; "somebody who could come here and stay with you until your brother returns."

She rested her elbow on the chair arm for a moment and pressed her hand against her temple. Then, raising her head quickly with a satisfied air, she exclaimed:

"Why, yes! I could send for Annie

Weston, and she would be delighted to come! It would do the poor girl good, too," she added thoughtfully; "she has been ill so long and is just beginning to improve. That's exactly what I'll do!"

"Who is Annie Weston?" I asked with interest, for the idea seemed to have brought new hope into her eyes, and I was glad that it had come from my suggestion.

"Oh! she was a school friend of mine and is the sweetest girl that ever lived," returned Miss Carney. "Her father and mother are both dead and she is quite alone in the world, so she can come just as well as not, and I know she will love to be here as much as I will to have her. I should have asked her to visit me long ago, but she was taken ill soon after we left school and is only beginning to get back her strength."

The day after the funeral I returned to the city and, rather than subject Miss Carney to any inconvenience by accepting her offer of the only carriage at her disposal since the stable hands had deserted the place, I rode to the railway station in the trap that had brought me down.

"So you're old Carney's lawyer, are ye?" inquired my driver, with rustic familiarity, crossing his legs and leaning one arm carelessly over the back of the seat in front of me.

I admitted that I was, with monosyllabic brevity, and we proceeded in silence for a few rods.

"Spouse he left plenty o' money?" was the next query.

"Enough for the needs of his family," I replied.

"Pshaw!" he returned, in evident disgust, "that's all ye'd say if he was worth ten thousand dollars!"

Another short period of silence elapsed, and then he began abruptly: "Powerful strange to me how a drinkin' man like him could accommodate so much money an' hold to it so tight."

else fur 'em to do; but naow, it's comin' on hayin' time, an' I s'pose they'd rather work at hayin'."

The man had turned his back on me completely and was urging the horse forward at a rapid gait.

"Very generous of them to accommodate him when they had nothing else to do, and then leave his daughter as they have, just because haying time is here," I commented. "But you said there were two reasons. What is the other?"

We rode on in silence for quite a distance until, at length, the fellow responded in a gruff voice and without turning his head.

"Wal! it may be true an' it may be not! All I know is what I heerd up to Hoskins'. I don't take no great notice o' ghosts an' sich. But them men knows what they seen the night after the Widder Bruce's boy 'died, an' I know that ye couldn't git one of 'em on the place again with a team o' steers! No, sir! knowin' as they do, the character o' man that ole Carney was, an' the way he as good as murdered that poor lad with his cussin' an' quarrelin' an' fallin' off his boss, 'stead o' goin' to the stable an' saddlin' up himself, like any man would that wa'n't too lazy to take off his coat when he et, it ain't no wonder they believed what the Widder Bruce tole 'em more'n a year ago!"

He paused here and flicked a fly from the horse's neck with a dexterous cast of his whip.

"What did the Widder Bruce tell them?" I asked anxiously, fearing that his communicative mood would leave him.

"Wal, she come over here from England with her boy 'bout the time ole Carney was a-buillin' his 'aouse, an' she sez, as soon as she seen it, that it was goin' to be jest like them places over in England where them dooks an' sech fellers live, that sooner or later someone 'ud die a v'lent death

HAUGH DIES.

Electric Chair Claims the Murderer of Three.

IN THE PEN ANNEX.

Dayton Doctor Who was Convicted of Killing His Parents and a Brother Is Electrocuted.

Columbus, O. — Dr. Oliver C. Haugh, the Dayton physician, was electrocuted early this morning for the murder of his parents and brother. He manifested an apparent indifference to his fate. All visitors were excluded from the annex at the penitentiary Thursday and Haugh saw no one outside of the prison officials except Father Kelley, his spiritual adviser.

Dr. Haugh never admitted the crime for which he was sentenced to death. He never discussed it, so his attendants say, after he entered the annex. He is reported, however, to have protested his innocence.

The murder of his parents and brother occurred on the night of November 4, 1905. The house in which the Haughs lived at Dayton was burned and when search of the ruins was made the bodies of the elder Haugh, his wife and a son were found. All circumstances indicated that the family had been murdered and the house burned to conceal the crime.

Dr. Haugh claimed he had barely escaped from the house with his life, and though he denied that he had committed any crime, suspicion pointed toward him and after his arrest a strong circumstantial case was made. His defense was insanity, but he was legally declared to be sane. It was brought out, however, that he was addicted to the use of a subtle drug known as hyoscine-hydro-bromate.

Later attempts were made to connect him with the murder of several women at Cincinnati who were mysteriously strangled. He was also said to be involved with a Mary Twohey, who died under suspicious circumstances at Lorain, and with a Mrs. Annie Patterson, who died mysteriously at Chicago. Haugh was married and his wife, now divorced, and two children are living in Dayton.

During the early part of the night a break in the machinery at the Columbus public service plant threw the big prison into temporary darkness. The break did not interfere with the electrocution in any way, however, as the current for that purpose is supplied by the prison dynamo.

Gov. Harris received a great many letters from sentimental persons asking that the execution be stayed, but no attention was paid to them.

TEN IN THE RACE.

A Warm Contest for the Wisconsin Senatorship Made Vacant by John C. Spooner's Resignation.

Madison, Wis. — A deadlock exists in the contest for the seat in the United States senate occasioned by the resignation of Senator John C. Spooner. After several caucuses by the republican members of the legislature, who are in the majority, and the taking of two formal ballots in joint session, there appears no sign of an election.

There are ten candidates, five of whom lead with about an equal number of votes. Isaac Stephenson, the wealthy lumberman of Marinette, who has been a staunch supporter of United States Senator La Follette, both on state and national issues, in Thursday's joint ballot received 19 votes, being tied with Congressman John J. Esch.

Irvine L. Lenroot, ex-speaker of the assembly and also a strong adherent of La Follette, received 18 votes, as did also Congressman H. A. Cooper. William H. Hatten, of New London, came next with 15 votes. Emil Baensch, of Manitowoc, and F. C. Winkler, of Milwaukee, both so-called "Stalwarts," received six and three votes respectively, with the remaining republican votes scattering.

The democratic votes, 24 in number, have thus far been cast for George W. Bird, of Madison, while the social democrats have been supporting Assemblyman J. P. Rummel, of Milwaukee.

Mr. Stephenson at the outset of the contest issued a statement declaring that he was a candidate only for the unexpired term and would not seek re-election in case the honor were accorded him. Several conferences have been held with Senator La Follette in the interest of Stephenson, but not enough strength could be mustered to carry out the plans to seat the Marinette man. Friends of Congressmen Esch and Cooper are standing by their candidate without any indication of a break.

While considerable gossip has connected Gov. Davidson's name with the contest, he has as yet received no votes.

Found the Stolen \$25,000. St. Paul, Minn. — The \$25,000 stolen from the office of the Northern Express Co. at the Union depot Tuesday night, was on Thursday recovered. John Gunderson, the robber, who was arrested Wednesday, confessed to the police where he had hidden the money.

Three Lives Lost in a Fire. Montreal. — Fire on Thursday afternoon in the plant of the Canada steam laundry caused the loss of three lives, two men and a woman, and the injury of 12 others.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



"I'm A-Gittin' to That," He Replied.

"I never knew that Mr. Carney was a drinking man," I replied, with a sudden interest in my companion's gossip. "I mean," I continued, "I never knew that he drank to excess."

"Drink!" exclaimed the man. "Why! they wa'n't nuthin' he wouldn't do! Drink, smoke, gamble an' cuss, besides throwin' away his money on most wasteful things! When Sam Hoskins' boy was workin' up to the place he seen him an' another feller from the city, a friend o' his'n, a-playin' poker one day, an' one o' 'tother of 'em, I fertigit which 'twas, lost seven dollars an' 80 cents! An' as to drinkin', while he done most of it in the 'aouse, he wa'n't above takin' a glass at Hoskins' hotel every naow an' then, too!"

"I rec'lec', one day, a-settin' on the stoop at Hoskins' waitin' fur a shower to blow over, when I was a-gittin' in my hay, an' ole Carney drove up in his buggy. We was all a-talkin' about Freemasons, an' as he climbs about I sez to him, sez I, 'Be you a Freemason?' sez I, 'No, sez he, 'I hain't,' sez he, 'but I'm a free thinker,' sez he, 'an' I think I'll take a drink,' sez he. 'Ye won't be a free drinker,' sez Hoskins, under his breath and winkin' at me, as he follers him into the barroom to wait on him, an' sure enough, he tole us afterwards, he charged him reg'lar city prices, an' the ole man never knew the difference."

"By the way, what made the men leave the place so suddenly?" I asked, cautiously, thinking to divert the fellow's gabble into more profitable channels. "You know they have all gone, except the servants that were brought from the city."

"Wal," said the man with deliberation, slapping the horse's back with the reins and wriggling uncomfortably in his seat, "they left fur two reasons, I guess. In fac', the folks 'bout here ain't over anxious to work up to the place anyway, though they was allus willin' to be obligin' an' accommodate ole Carney when they wa'n't nuthin'

there, an' then the place 'ud be ha'nt ed same's the dooks' places mostly is."

"O' course, we didn't pay no special attention to her."

"When her boy went up to the place to work, 'bout a year ago, she took on terrible, an' allus said no good 'ud come of it, an' that somethin' would surely happen. But they wa'n't no other way out of it, fur they didn't have a bite to eat nor a rag to wear, an' if the boy hadn't decided to accommodate Carney's folks I guess they'd ha' starved."

"Ye see," he continued, in explanation, "ole Carney wouldn't never give a cent to anybody that was able to earn it, an' when the parson come to him an' ast him to help the widder, all he sez was, 'Send that big hulk of a boy up here an' I'll give him a job an' good pay so'z he kin support his mother like a man,' he sez, 'but I won't give her a damn penny so long as he's able to work an' earn it,' he sez."

"But you haven't explained yet why the men left," I persisted, for we were nearing our destination and my time was growing short.

"I'm a-gittin' to that," he replied. "Ye see, Carney was such a mean, stingy cuss that, what with his drinkin' an' gamblin' an' other vices, the widder allus claimed he'd never rest easy in his grave. When the boy was killed she carried on like a crazy woman, an' swore the place would allus be ha'nted 'less the estate did the honest thing by her an' give her enough to pay her fur the loss of her son. That night, more fur fun than anything else, a lot of the fellers that was a-settin' down to Hoskins' went up by the 'aouse 'round midnight, but they didn't see nuthin'. The nex' night—that's after you come—they all went up again, an' I tell you they all come back a-flyin'."

"What did they see?" I asked, with renewed interest, as a sudden idea entered my head.

Balcom & Lloyd.

WE have the best stocked general store in the county and if you are looking for reliable goods at reasonable prices, we are ready to serve you with the best to be found. Our reputation for trustworthy goods and fair dealing is too well known to sell any but high grade goods.

Our stock of Queensware and Chinaware is selected with great care and we have some of the most handsome dishes ever shown in this section, both in imported and domestic makes. We invite you to visit us and look our goods over.

Balcom & Lloyd.

LOOK ELSEWHERE BUT DON'T FORGET THESE PRICES AND FACTS AT

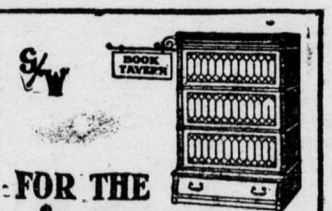
LaBAR'S

We carry in stock the largest line of Carpets, Linoleums and Mattings of all kinds ever brought to this town. Also a big line of samples.

A very large line of Lace Curtains that cannot be matched anywhere for the price.

Art Squares and Rugs of all sizes and kind, from the cheapest to the best.

Dining Chairs, Rockers and High Chairs. A large and elegant line of Tufted and Drop-head Couches. Beauties and at bargain prices.



FOR THE COMFORTABLE LODGING

of fine books in a choice library select the Ideal pattern of Globe-Wernicke "Elastic" Bookcase. Furnished with bevel French plate or leaded glass doors.

FOR SALE BY GEO. J. LaBAR, Sole Agent for Cameron County.

Table with 4 columns: Item description, Price, Item description, Price. Includes: \$30 Bedroom Suits, solid oak at \$25; \$40 Sideboard, quartered oak at \$30; \$28 Bedroom Suits, solid oak at \$21; \$32 Sideboard, quartered oak at \$25; \$25 Bed room Suits, solid oak at \$20; \$22 Sideboard, quartered oak at \$16.

The finest line of Sewing Machines on the market, the "DOMESTIC" and "ELDRIDGE." All drop-heads and warranted. A fine line of Dishes, common grade and China, in sets and by the piece. As I keep a full line of everything that goes to make up a good Furniture store, it is useless to enumerate them all. Please call and see for yourself that I am telling you the truth, and if you don't buy, there is no harm done, as it is no trouble to show goods.

GEO. J. LaBAR. UNDERTAKING.