



# The Mystery OF Carney-Croft

By  
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CHAPTER XX.

### Innocence Established.

Miss Carney was not at breakfast, nor did she show herself during the day, and my inquiries concerning her elicited the information that she was constantly with Miss Weston, whose condition had become truly alarming.

I wrote to John Carney, as his sister had asked me to do, telling him all that I knew of Miss Weston's condition and of her strange connection with the mystery of Carney-Croft which, for the first time, I related to him in full. Moreover, on the bare chance that he might, through his previous intimacy with Miss Weston, be in possession of knowledge that would give me a clew if not actually explain the present inexplicable occurrences, I asked him to cable me immediately any facts that might help to clear up the situation and put me on the right track in my war against the Bruce woman and her allies.

I did this, hardly thinking that he could be of any material assistance to me in my investigations, but, rather than leave any stone unturned, I related in detail the events of the last few months, not omitting my experience of the morning in the little hill-side graveyard, and I closed by urging him most earnestly to return home by the first steamer.

This letter I posted at once, so that it would catch the next mail boat for England, and, to make sure that it would reach him promptly, I cabled to his bankers that an important letter was on its way and asked them to recall him at once to London if he was at any distant point.

When these matters were attended to I again set to work to organize a plan of campaign against the Bruce gang, and, as a preliminary step, I went into the village and made all the inquiries that I judiciously could concerning her and her character.

To my surprise I found that she was respected and held in the highest esteem by the townspeople, and prominent in all the good work of the parish. Some of the people even said that she gave so much of her meager income to charity that she often suffered herself for the ordinary comforts of life.

As to Jenks, I could only learn that he was an honest, trustworthy fellow, that he was ardently devoted to the widow Bruce, but, with it all, I could not find a soul to say a word against the character of either; unless Jenks' keenness in striking a bargain, and the businesslike way in which he brought home the intoxicated frequenters of Hoskins' hotel when they had the money for their fare, and left them to get home as best they could when they had not, could be laid up against him as a crime.

His own occasional potatoes seemed to be entirely overlooked by the townspeople in general, or else wholly unknown to them, and, taking everything into consideration, Jenks seemed to be regarded by the community as a pretty fair sort of a citizen.

With these facts in my mind I tried to reconcile the doings of the early morning, as well as the other happenings of which I was cognizant, with the reputations borne by Jenks and the Bruce woman, and I freely confess that I soon became completely bewildered.

It must be admitted that I had no positive assurance that the little graves up on the hill contained the bodies of infants, except that their general appearance suggested as much, and the fragments of bone that I had seen served as a mute witness of some ghastly crime.

MacArdel, too, had identified the floor of the rags beyond all question of doubt, at least as far as he was concerned, but it still must be remembered that I had not opened the parcel and that I had no way of knowing that it contained anything more than rags, as did the one that we had examined so carefully in the summer.

The more I thought of it the less I was able to make out of it, and, finally, as I had determined to take a walk, and was leaving the house for this purpose, my astonishment was increased by meeting the widow face to face in the hallway as I descended the stairs.

She was dressed neatly in freshly laundered calico, with an immaculate apron of generous proportions, and, in her hand, she held a tray with a cup and some plates on it. We gazed at each other for an instant and then I said, in an unconcerned tone as I could muster up for the occasion:

"Good afternoon, Mrs. Bruce. Do you remember me? I am Mr. Ware, you know."

"Oh, yes, sir," she replied, bowing

pleasantly as she spoke, "I remember you very well indeed, sir."

I smiled at this in spite of myself and stopped her as she would have passed me and gone up the stairs.

"What are you doing here, Mrs. Bruce?" I asked. "I had no idea of meeting you in this way."

"Why you know, sir, I was a nurse in the old country, sir," she returned, in the same sweetly modulated voice that I had noticed before, "and when the young lady took so bad, sir, they sent for me to take care of her until the 'ospital nurses came from town."

"Who sent for you?" I continued curiously, again impeding her progress up the stairs.

"Miss Carney, of course," she rejoined. "She asked the rector and he recommended me most 'ighly, sir. You know I do most of the nursing in critical cases 'ereabouts, when I can find the time for it, sir."

She caught her breath at this last clause, as if she would have wished it unsaid, and blushed violently as I remarked: "You are very busy most of the time, I presume?"

"Yes, sir, I am, sir," she retorted, defiantly, "and my business is my own, sir, and it'll become outsiders to meddle with it!"

With these remarkable words she swept past me and proceeded to Miss Weston's room with all the importance of an idealized Sairy Gamp from whom the objectionable qualities had been eliminated.

As I watched her ascend the stairs with a little self-reliant poise to her head and a manner of absolute nonchalance, I came to the sudden and positive conclusion that the woman had not a bad trait in her make-up, and that the only way to deal with her was to approach her frankly and in all honesty of purpose. I was convinced, too, that Miss Weston had played no small part in persuading Miss Carney to send for her as a

"What!" she gasped, seizing him by the arm, "did he open the parcel and see what was in it or—take it away with him, Sam?"

"No," said the man, "he didn't do nuthin' to it, 'cept scratch th' dirt off th' top, an' when he got a whiff of it I guess he wuz all he wanted, 'for when I seen him he was a-comin' daown th' hill like th' old Nick wuz after him. I surmised what he'd been up to, an' so I went back an' covered it up again."

"Thank God for that," she murmured, "and you did not touch it or open it yourself, did you, Sam?"

"No," he replied. "I jest left it lay, like you've allus told me to do, an' covered it up again 'thaout askin' no questions, one way nor t'other. But I tell ye, Matilda, it's all goin' to be known 'fore long, an' I do wish ye'd tell me naow, 'fore it's too late."

"Yes!" I exclaimed, stepping suddenly before them, "and I wish you'd tell me, too, Mrs. Bruce."

They sprang back in amazement, and for an instant I thought that Jenks was going to strike at me, but I continued earnestly:

"I have come here as your friend to-night to ask and beg of you an explanation of this mystery that is upsetting the whole place. I know, Mrs. Bruce, that you can put everything to rights if you will, and I am prepared to do almost anything that you want me to if you will only make a clean breast of the whole business. I don't believe there's been any very great wrong on your part, Mrs. Bruce, although I must admit that I did think so at one time, and I want to say now that I am sincerely sorry for the manner in which Dr. MacArdel and I treated you both last summer."

They said nothing, and after pausing for a moment, I continued:

"As I say, I come here as a friend to ask you to explain this-matter once



nurse, and I wondered how and through what sort of argument she had been induced to admit to her house a woman whom she had every reason to suspect of bearing her no great amount of good will.

From the housekeeper, who chanced to pass through the hall, I learned that the nurses from town were expected on the evening train, and that Mrs. Bruce would go home as soon as they arrived, and I determined to see her and talk with her that very night at her cottage.

Shortly after dinner, which, like all the other meals of the day, had been conspicuous by Miss Carney's absence, I again started out in the direction of the widow's house, and arrived just in time to find her and Jenks in heated arguments at the gate.

I slackened my pace as I saw them standing in the light of the doorway and, feeling that the circumstances warranted me in playing the part of eavesdropper, I stepped stealthily forward in the shadow of the shrubbery until I was within hearing distance.

"Wall!" Jenks was saying doggedly, "th' hull thing's baout t' come aout 'fore long an' ye might's well tell me naow an' hev done wit' it!"

"I'll tell you when the time comes, Sam," she said, soothingly, and then she added something in a tone so low that I could not hear.

"Course I'll trust ye, Matilda," said Jenks earnestly and in evident response to her last remark. "Hain't I allus trusted ye from th' start; an' got them pesky bundles for ye, an' buried 'em, too, 'thaout never askin' no questions? But I tell ye, Matilda, th' hull thing's comin' aout 'fore long, an', what's more, that lawyer cuss wuz up on th' hill this mornin' right after we left, an' dug up th' last one we planted."

"Wall!" Jenks Was Saying Doggedly. and for all, or at least go away and leave us in peace."

"Oh, I can't go away, sir!" exclaimed Mrs. Bruce. "I can't do that, sir, whatever you ask, and I can't tell you anything, either, for the present, sir."

"Oh, nonsense!" I cried impatiently. "You can tell me just as well as not, and I give you my word that you can trust me in every way if you will only take the right view of this thing and side with me in helping to rid Carney-Croft of all further annoyance."

"No," she returned, weeping silently. "I can't tell you anything now, sir, although I say it with no disrespect. As you are a friend of Miss Carney and the other lady, don't ask it of me, I beg."

"The other lady?" I exclaimed in amazement, and with some sudden suspicion in my tone. "Do you mean to say that you don't remember her name when you know her well enough to have written her so many letters that she is perfectly familiar with your hand, and you have even had her here in your house?"

"Written her letters?" cried Mrs. Bruce in a bewildered tone. "Why, sir, I—"

Here she was interrupted by Jenks, who suddenly broke out into guffaws of uncontrollable mirth.

Mrs. Bruce eyed him in a puzzled way for a moment, as if she thought he had lost his mind and then, coming to my side, she drew my head toward her and whispered in my ear:

"In God's name, sir, trust me as you would yourself and ask no questions about the letters or anything else. Do this, for pity's sake, and for the sake of the sweet young lady you love."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



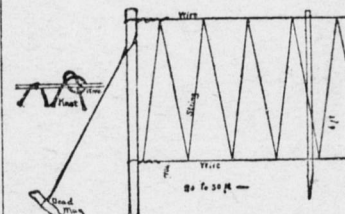
### TRELLIS FOR GARDEN CROPS.

Is Easily Constructed and Provides Ample Support for Plants.

After using bean poles, slat frames, and wooden trellises of one kind or another for years; until the supply of poles was exhausted and prices for wooden frames became prohibitive, I began using a combined wire and string trellis, such as is shown by the drawing, says a writer in Farming. This arrangement serves equally as well for either beans, tomatoes, peas, cucumbers (under glass), or other climbing plants, being especially desirable for sweet peas, nasturtiums, fancy gourds, etc. It is desirable, too, because all of the material used in its construction, with the exception of the string, may be used year after year.

Those who have never trellised up their tomatoes, either for home use or for a select market supply, do not realize what a very considerable gain in yield and quality is secured by this method. I do not hesitate to say that under ordinary conditions I have been able to more than double the yield, and in some cases triple the marketable product, over the bush method, to say nothing of the increase in quality, which invariably secures for the grower the top of the market, it being possible to secure an earlier and more even ripening and greater uniformity in the size of the fruit; all of which are desirable factors in gardening for profit. In tying up, many of the bloomless laterals may be cut out, giving the main vine more strength and allowing the sun readier access to the fruit to hasten ripening. Trellised fruit is always bright and clean, and almost exempt from blight and rot. In planting tomatoes for trellising the plants are set at less than half the distance usual when grown in the ordinary way.

This trellis may be made to cover almost any length of row; the longer the "run" the stronger the end posts and the "dead-man" or guy post will need to be. The end posts should be solid and about nine feet long, so they may be set two and a half or three



Combined Wire and String Trellis.

feet in the ground, or even deeper, depending on length of row, with at least six feet above ground—this height applies especially to the tall growing lima and string beans. It is best to sharpen and drive the post, but if set in hole tamp firmly, and plant a dead-man eight or ten feet from post in line of row. This may be a large stone or chunk of wood, buried deep enough to hold the strain. The dead-man and top post are connected by two doubled strands of heavy wire, that may be twisted with a stick in the center to take up any slack remaining after wires are stretched and remedy any sag from strain after vines grow heavy.

Stretch the bottom wires first, ten to 14 inches from the ground, and securely fasten. Next stretch the top wire five and a half to six feet from ground, taking extra care to have it as taut as it can be made. Drive stakes or strips one by two inches firmly in the ground along the line of wire every twenty to thirty feet and staple both top and bottom wires to them. These serve to support the weight of crop and hold the trellis against winds.

Just before the vines are ready for the first tying put on the string, or trellis proper. I prefer some soft string, such as wool twine, which affords the tendrils of the plant a firm hold beside being cheap. The distance that these strings are spaced apart at top and bottom will depend on the crop to be trellised; ten to twelve inches for beans, when plated in drills and 18 to 20 inches for tomatoes, for which a heavier twine should be used. In passing over the wire the twine must be knotted to make it cling to one place, else the first gust of wind will blow it into bunches and so make it worthless. The knot that I use is simple, after one gets the "hang" of the twist. Pass the twine up over the wire, carry the ball over the opposite side and down, then up and over both the wire and the string just laid over, then down and through the loop left large enough for the purpose and draw taut, when you will have a simple crossed knot on top, not under the wire, that will depend for its security on the tautness of the string. The same sort of knot is made at bottom, except that the movement is reversed. Since I have had considerable trouble caused by the slipping of the string as a result of careless workmen, I suggest that enough pains be taken with this part of the work to insure the permanency of the twine when once placed. If you will try one of these easily made trellises you will find that the satisfaction and ease with which you are able to gather the crop will more than pay for the trouble and slight expense in putting it up.

### HEADS OF APPLE TREES.

Locality Has Much to Do with Style of Growth.

Whether the heads of apple trees should be compact or sparsely formed depends to some extent on the locality in which the trees are grown. There are lands of sunshine and there are lands of cloudy skies. In the states where much cloudy weather exists during the growing season it is necessary for the trees to catch as much sunshine as possible, for the ripening of the fruit and especially for its coloring. In some of the states it is advisable to prune severely and thin out the branches to make it possible for the sun to get at the fruit. That condition is true of parts of New England and parts of the Pacific states toward the northwest. Even in the eastern part of the United States it pays to keep the heads of apple trees fairly well thinned out.

As we go west toward the Rocky mountains the conditions change in favor of the dense and compact heads. The sun shines eternally during the day time in several of the states west of the Missouri. The heat injures the fruit where it pours upon it unobstructed, and the sunlight is so abundant that it colors up the fruit with little or no trimming of the limbs.

The question of high and low heads is generally settled in favor of low heads, especially in the western states where the wind blows with great force. The low heads protect the fruit from being switched off and where the trees are close together the wind that blows upon an orchard is deflected upward by the thick, low heads, while if the heads are high it passes under the trees and through them to a great extent. This greatly increases the danger of the trees being broken by the wind.

There was a time when the whole sentiment was in favor of high headed trees, says Farmers' Review. The farmers wanted enough room under the trees so they could plow about them and drive about them easily with the farm team and with the farm implements. For several generations, therefore, the farmers planted their trees so they could use the ground for gardening. Those that remember the old New England orchards remember the tall-trunked trees, some of them so long that a good sized ladder was required to reach the first limbs. There was no danger of the horses hitting their heads when they plowed about them.

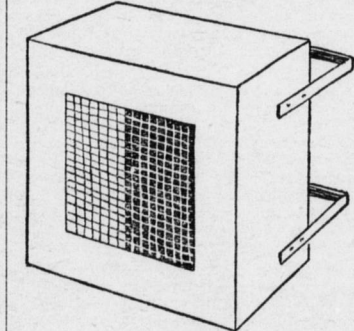
But few of those orchards are seen now. They passed away with the coming of a more intensive agriculture. Science pronounced them too expensive in the way of time required for harvesting their fruit. The High-Top Sweeting that bore apples at a long distance from the ground no longer has to be climbed and shaken to get the fruit. It is no more, but in its place stands a tree with head close to the ground and with a trunk so short that there is not room enough between it and the ground to do any climbing.

The modern mathematician has figured out that the low-headed tree costs far less to care for and gives as good general results, though its fruit may not be so highly colored. It is easy to trim, for the trimmer can reach about all the limbs from the ground. It is easy to spray, and less spraying material is thrown away than in the case of the taller tree. It costs little to gather its fruit, and the fruit is less bruised when gathered.

### GOOD VEGETABLE BOX.

The Sieve Bottom Aids in Getting Rid of Dirt From Roots.

Make an opening in the bottom of a grocery box, writes a subscriber to Farm Journal, and cover it with the stout wire screening used for cellar windows, having about a half-inch mesh. Nail on two handles made



Box With Screen Bottom.

from old hoops, that will swing down out of the way at the ends. Use this box when gathering vegetables from their garden and wash these by immersing in a tub of water or by pouring water over them.

Care in Feeding. If the hogs are in a dry pen, start in by feeding them a little green clover at once. As soon as the corn is hip high, give them a little of it to eat. It may not add a single ounce of flesh to their carcasses, but it will accustom them to eating it so they can be fed a great deal of green corn when it becomes large enough. The one great mistake in feeding green corn is that the change from dry feed to it is made too quickly. By starting in gradually now with corn and green clover, this rapid change can be avoided.

Spray. Do not forget to attend religiously to the spraying. The air and soil are filled with all kinds of insects and fruit disease germs and the only way the grower can combat these diseases is by the use of the spray pump.

### Is Pe-ru-na Useful for Catarrh?

Should a list of the ingredients of Pe-ru-na be submitted to any medical expert, of whatever school or nationality, he would be obliged to admit without reserve that each one of them was of undoubted value in chronic catarrhal diseases, and had stood the test of many years' experience in the treatment of such diseases. **THERE CAN BE NO DISPUTE ABOUT THIS WHAT-EVER.** Pe-ru-na is composed of the most efficacious and universally used herbal remedies for catarrh. Every ingredient of Pe-ru-na has a reputation of its own in the cure of some phase of catarrh.

Pe-ru-na brings to the home the COMBINED KNOWLEDGE OF SEVERAL SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE in the treatment of catarrhal diseases; brings to the home the scientific skill and knowledge of the modern pharmacist; and last but not least, brings to the home the vast and varied experience of Dr. Hartman, in the use of catarrh remedies, and in the treatment of catarrhal diseases.

The fact is, chronic catarrh is a disease which is very prevalent. Many thousand people know they have chronic catarrh. They have visited doctors over and over again, and been told that their case is one of chronic catarrh. It may be of the nose, throat, lungs, stomach or some other internal organ. There is no doubt as to the nature of the disease. The only trouble is the remedy. This doctor has tried to cure them. That doctor has tried to prescribe for them.

**BUT THEY ALL FAILED TO BRING ANY RELIEF.**

Dr. Hartman's idea is that a catarrh remedy can be made on a large scale, as he is making it; that it can be made honestly, of the purest drugs and of the strictest uniformity. His idea is that this remedy can be supplied directly to the people, and no more be charged for it than is necessary for the handling of it.

No other household remedy so universally advertised carries upon the label the principal active constituents, showing that Pe-ru-na invites the full inspection of the critics.



### Poor Paint is Expensive

If one is rich enough to repaint his buildings every year for the pleasure of having a change of color scheme, the quality of the paint used may cut little figure. But if it is desirable to cut the painting bills down to the least amount possible per year, it is of the utmost importance that the paint be made of Pure White Lead and the best of Linseed Oil. There are imitations in the form of alleged White Lead, and there are substitutes in the form of ready-prepared paints.

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