THE CENTRE REPORTER, CENTRE HALL, PA.

What the Gray House Hid

CHAPTER I -1-

"There's a lady asking for you, Mr. Hanby. She says she won't go away until she sees you.

Hanby looked at Smucker, and sighed. The secretary-he had chosen this designation himself-was a small, thin man with an active Adam's apple, who despised tact as something beneath him. Hanby had often set out for his offices in Leonard street with the intention of letting Smucker go, and of replacing him with a neat, smiling, efficient girl; but invariably some sixth sense informed Smucker of his danger. Invariably he would speak of his vast responsibilities, of his large family, of his invalid father, of the house he was buying on the installment plan, and of the ravages of insects in his little garden.

A neat, smiling, and efficient girl would have known that her employer was busy, and would have found out what the visitor's errand was.

"What does she want?" inquired Hanby.

Smucker assumed his superior air. "She wouldn't say. Ctherwise I should have informed you, Mr. Han-

"What do you think she wanted?" "I suspect she is desirous of selling you a dog."

Hanby brightened.

"That's easy. Explain in well-chosen language that in another incarnation I was a priest of Bubastis. I cannot, therefore, as a one-time worshiper of the Sacred Cat, buy dogs from strange Indies."

Adolf Smucker sighed. His employer's frivolity always saddened him. He would have preferred to serve a sterner, more unbending, portlier, and older man, a man who never made jokes or saw them. Smucker often wondered why it was Hilton Hanby had succeded so well. A swift glance showed Smucker that his employer was looking at the photographs of the splendid estate he was about to buy. Mr. Sinucker passed to the outer office with slow step. The lady who would not go was the sort of person

whom he always surveyed with hostile eyes. She wore too much jewelry and was enwrapped lavishly in fur. "If," said he coldly, "you wish to sell one or more of your dogs, Mr. Hanby says for me to say he's not

in the market." stead of Black sea and Red sea. Of The stranger pressed her three tiny course certain brilliant red fish are beasts so closely to her that they netted daily in the Red sea and likeyelped.

> "Not all his money could buy even one of them !" she snapped. "I must see him. Tell him I shall stay here all day until be comes through that

The Mystery of a Haunted Mansion

- B.v -Wyndham Martyn

W. N. U. Service

Copyright by Wyndham Martyn

be a familiar name. There is the Selenos river."

"And you were named after it? I was born near a big river, too, but I had a lucky escape. Think of me as going through life labeled Housatonic Hanby !"

"The river was named after me," she explained.

Mr. Hanby thought a moment. "Of course California came into the Union late, didn't it? In the forties, I think."

"The river was named after my family, not after me personally; but I did not come here to discuss my family affairs or to listen to yours. You are about to buy an estate near Pine l'lains?"

"I am to complete the purchase this afternoon."

"You must not go there !" she cried dramatically. "I cannot allow it !" Her manner began to antagonize Hanby.

"Why not?" he inquired coldly. "It is sacred ground, and you are

not fit to dwell there. The idea of its



me as you will, but do not go away thinking I have wronged you." "You have wronged me!" she shrieked, her black eyes flashing hate. "Ab, ha !" muttered Adolf Smucker, who had hitherto listened unsuccessfully. Pausing a moment, he opened

the door, as the signal bell had commanded him to. Apparently the strange woman was placing under a comprehensive curse Hanby and all that was his. Smucker gathered that his employer was one of a band of hardened men whose entire energies were expended in keeping Miss Selenos from the Gray house.

"You go there at your peril !" she shouted.

"I accept the risk," said Hanby, quite unruffled. "My vengeance will follow you,"

she added. "Delightful !" Hanby told her. "I shall escape the monotony that my

friends prophesy." Smucker, who was always nervous in the presence of unusual violence, almost admired Hanby for his calm. "This way, madam," said Smucker. He led her to the elevator. Mrs. Smucker in her Weehawken home would enjoy this. When the grille of the elevator door had closed upon Miss Selenos and her pets, Smucker went back to the office smiling. Mrs. Smucker would certainly enjoy this. So would his old father, and the men he talked to on the ferry. As a rule they talked about taxing the rich. Taxing the rich was a passion with Smucker, and be pursued his hobby viciously.

But Smucker did not catch his usual boat. It was late when he returned to his home. By that time the strange visitor and her pets had been driven from his mind by other things. Outside the office a big man, red-faced and jocund, slapped him on the back.

"Say," the stranger said, "ain't you Mr. Hanby's confidential clerk?" Smucker looked about him. No

member of the office staff was visible. "Yes," be said with confidence. "I am, but you have the advantage of

me." "I want you to fix it so I can get a word in private with the boss. I

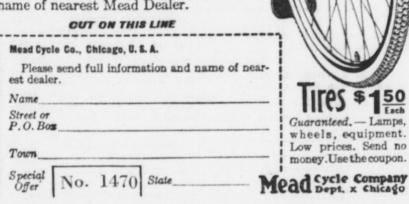
want to see him right away." "He goes home at half past four.

I stay till six." "I guess you have to, being his confidential man." The stranger was evidently pondering over something of importance.

"Do you happen to know if he's considering purchasing a big estate up in Dutchess county?"



NERVOUS HEADACHE



"He completed the purchase this | Hard to Shake Belief

names were to a large degree subject to Mongolian or Chinese influence. The old Chinese used to consider black as symbolic of north and red symbolic of south. Except for the fish and the aforesaid deposits, the tourists are not left with a leg to stand or.

Makes Life Sweeter

Too much to eat-too rich a diet-

or too much smoking. Lots of things

cause sour stomach, but one thing can

correct it quickly. Phillips Milk of

Magnesia will alkalinize the acid.

Take a spoonful of this pleasant

preparation, and the system is soon

Phillips is always ready to relieve

distress from over-eating; to check all

acidity; or neutralize nicotine. Re-

member this for your own comfort;

for the sake of those around you.

Endorsed by physicians, but they al-

ways say Phillips. Don't buy some-

thing else and expect the same re-

Milk of Magnesia

as Indicated by Name

Tourists who have returned with

stories of how red was the Red sea

and what a lovely coal color was the

Black sea should listen to French

philologists and historians who have

just discovered that the seas in ques-

tion are neither red nor black. It ap-

pears that the word for major in

Turkish is the same word as black,

according to Dr. Jean Brunhes, mem-

ber of the institute. Minor and red

are also the same word. Furthermore

the maps that Marco Polo used were

all marked Major sea and Minor in-

wise there is in the water of the Black

sea a carboniferous deposit which

makes it look a little black. The

Turks who gave these seas their

Waters Not Colored

sweetened.

sults!

A man is usually as anxious to get away from a baby as a woman is to get to it.



made from roots and herbs, sold by druggists, in both fluid and tablets.

Mrs. W. O. McCraw, 1502 Rugby Blvd., banoke, Va., ssid:--"Following mother-Boanoke, Va., said 'Following mother-hood I was so run-down and nervous that I was barely able to get around. I had severe bearing pains and at times I would suffer such pains and distress that I was compelled to give up for several days—it seemed that I had pains and aches all thru my body. But siter taking the 'Favorite Prescription' my trouble was at an end. Prescription' my trouble was at an end. It quieted my nerves and I have never since suffered any more distress.'

Send 10c for trial pkg. tablets to Dr. Pierce's Invalids Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y.







FLORESTON SHAMPOO-Ideal for use in FLORESTON with Parker's Hair Baisam. Makes the hair soft and fluffy. 50 cents by mail or at drug-rists. Hiscox Chemical Works, Patchogue, N. Y.



follow thorough colon cleansing. Take N -Nature's Remedy - to regulate and strengthen your eliminative organs. Then watch the transformation. Try NP instead of there layaring.

Mild, safe, purely vegetable --



duor." "Madam, I suggest telephoning from a pay station."

"My darlings will not enter a telephone booth, and I dare not trust them to anyone else. Tell him I do not want to buy or sell. I have some thing to say of vital importance, and

he will be wise to see me at once." Mr. Smucker, who had all the nas tier little curlosities about life which dwell so frequently with his sort. wondered if here at last he was to learn some bidden details of his employer's past. Hanby was a handsome and generous man. Women liked him, Perhaps this singular creature had a daughter who had trusted too well.

"Something about his past?" Mr. Smucker suggested. "Something about my past," flamed

the caller.

Mr. Smucker turned on his beel and re-entered the private office.

"It isn't the dogs," said he. "What she wants is a private conversation about the past. I may be wrong, Mr. Hanby-1 hope I am-but I think she knows something about your past which may not be creditable to you." "Thank you, Smucker!" said Han-

by. "I can always trust you to take the kindly view. You are quite right. My past was blacker than night. If I had my deserts, I should long ago have been electrocuted. Bring the lady in. I trust she is beautiful !"

Smucker went out, offended. As usual, Hanby had laughed at him. Well, the day was not so far distant when Adolf Smucker would have his turn! He wasted a lot of office time dreaming of what he would do when he was in power.

"Madam, I have persuaded the boss to see you," he said loftily. Then he jumped back. "That black dog nearly bit me!"

"I can rely on his instincts," she said. "You stand convicted as one whom no woman should trust. Do not attempt to deny it, and don't move your throat in that impudent man ner!"

She swept past him into his employer's room.

If he had expected youth or beauty, Hanby was disappointed. It was a tall, gaunt old woman who faced him. He judged that some day, now long distant, she had been beautiful. He could see that she was richly dressed. and that the jewels she wore were costly. There was a look of tragedy in her smoldering dark eyes. "I'm afraid you were kept waiting."

Hanby began pleasantly. "I have been kept waiting for thir-

ty years," she said. "At least you cannot blame me for

that." He observed that her eyes were fixed on the photographs of the house he had made arrangements to buy. "I don't think you sent in your card."

"My name is Selenos," she said. "Selina?" Hanby asked.

"Selenos, Selenos," she repeated. "If you were a Californian, it would

"I Suspect She Is Desirous of Selling You a Dog."

being desecrated by a large family is intolerable !"

"Really, Mrs. Selenos-" he began. "Miss," she said. "Above all else 1 despise and loathe men. Men have always oppressed me. How they have liea and perjured themselves to keep me from the Gray bouse! But at last I am in a position to buy their silence. What did you give for the place?"

"That, my dear lady," he said suavely, "is entirely my own affair." "I expected you to lie," she said. 'A man of your type would." Miss Selenos took out her check book. "Well, what profit do you decide to make? I wish to buy the place from

you." "It is not for sale."

"You dare to refuse to sell?" Her voice rose so that the dogs barked furiously. "After all my years of waiting, of persecution, of bitterness and exile, you dare to refuse?"

"It is not for sale. I am sorry, but my heart is set on the place as a home. You have had plenty of time. It has been empty for some years."

"I am only now able to buy it. If you will not sell, will you cent it?" "I am going to live there as soon as it is ready."

"I despise and loathe men." she cried, "and of all men I loathe and despise you most! Of the innumerable houses in this country you dellberately choos, this one because it will burt me!" She raised her right hand to heaven. "Those who have tried to kill me in the past have perished. You and your family and all that is yours I put under a curse. You are going to a house of tragedy, a house wherein walk ghosts of those foully murdered !"

"I'm afraid that's the wrong tack," he said soothingly. "I am not to be frightened away like that. You are not fair to me. A house was for sale, and I bought it. Loathe and despise

ternoon. said Smu CECT.

The news brought dismay to the red face of the stranger. Almost it seemed as if he suffered.

"My G-d!" be cried. "And him with a family !" "Why shouldn't be buy it?" Smuck-

er asked. "He's got the money, as I happen to know." "I can't tell you here," the other replied; "but I'd like you to give him a message from me before it's too late.

Had your dinner?" "Not yet."

"How about a bite to eat now?" Smucker considered the matter with the deliberation that a confidential clerk might be expected to show. He was a heavy eater when another man footed the bill, but he was also prudent. He did not feel drawn to this big, coarse stranger. Furthermore, he wished to be sure that this was a genuine invitation. It would be of no advantage to pay for a meal while in fair Weehawken a pot roast simmered for him.

Perhaps the stranger sensed the economic struggle. "This is on me," he explained.

"Why?" Smucker demanded "Because I guess you have your boss' interests at heart, and 1 want you to tell him something. I'm pulling out for Chicago tonight, or I'd tell him myself. It's a warning." "Some reference to a disgraceful past?" Smucker demanded eagerly.

"Some reference to a h-1 of a future. There's a place down here run by a pal of mine-not much to look at ,but the planked steaks, oh, baby ! And there's some real beer that the sailors smuggle in."

"If it is really important, I suppose I must consider the welfare of my colleague before my own convenience."

Planked steak and real beer! Out, d-d pot roast!

Mr. Smucker ate with the pecullar ferocity that is sometimes seen in thin, undersized men.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Limit to Train Speed Under Best Conditions

as nearly perfect as possible; when the lines have been straightened and when the best types of locomotives

creased almost three times. It is evident that when we are whirled across the country at the rate of 100 miles an hour "a clear track" will become a far more important ne-

The indescribable quality lingering in old gardens is the outward evi-150 feet a second, be stopped? The dence of the spirit of love in which reply is that under the most favorthey were made .-- Woman's Home able conditions a distance of nearly Companion,

in Good and Bad Luck

It is hard to overcome such inbred myths as the "thirteen" superstition. To any reasonable person you can demonstrate in two minutes that there is nothing in it. But these beliefs in good and bad luck are not ing trees), but not all conifers are kept going by people capable of reason. They are the beliefs of the unthinking mass with whom it is useless to argue.

Parnell, the famous Irish statesman, was one of the many prominent politicians who have been afraid of 13. His mother was responsible for it. Yet she was a woman of character and intellect. One day she was getting into a train at Dublin when she noticed the number of the coach was 39. "I won't go in that," she declared flatly; "it's unlucky." The lord mayor, who was seeting her off. asked why. "Because of multiple of 13," she said, and climbed into another carriage-a third-class one, although she had a first-class ticket. There was no other first-class coach but the "unlucky" one.

Busy Human Heart

The adult heart-the only organ in the body whose muscles never rest nor sleep during life-makes an average total of 108,000 beats every 24 hours! How does this busy organ find time to "eat" and fortify itself for its arduous labors?

Prof. Y. Kato of the Okayama Medical college, Japan, says in Popular Science Monthly that nature has provided what he described as little "dinner pails" from which the muscle fibers of the heart are ingeniously "fed." These "pails" are tiny, disklike organs between the muscle fibers, and their duty is to collect food materials from the blood and pass them around to the heart muscles.

Arab Flute Players

Masters of Melody

The flute is the most interesting of all the Arab instruments and the hardest to play. It consists of a long reed hollowed out, about half an inch in diameter and from two to three feet long. It has eight stops,

but there is no sort of mouthplece. The sound is produced by the player blowing across the top of the flute at some particular angle which I have never been able to discover, and producing the softest, saddest, deep-

To the most unmusical, the sound of the long flute must appeal, and when accompanying one of those love ballads of the South it is enchanting.

These flutes are used to accompany all kinds of songs, but chiefly those concerning the exploits of heroes and the love lays which hold such a big place in all Arab melodies. Occasionally it is used to follow religious chants, but not always .--- R. V.

Warm and Cold Zones

An evergreen is a tree which stays green all winter-that is to say, the leaves do not fall in autumn, as do the leaves of deciduous trees. Many evergreens are conifers (cone-bearevergreens. The larch is a conifer. but is not an evergreen.

Evergreens Found in

Spruce is a familiar evergreen. It was so named because it was first known as a native of Prussia-French "prusse" and middle English "pruse" or "spruce." Spruce is an old name for Prussia. Fir is an old word, long in the language, always used for the tree; pine is Latin, also the name of the tree which it designates today. The hemlock has also been long in the language.

There are evergreens which are not trees. Almost all tropical plants, botanically speaking, are evergreens. The holly is an interesting northern evergreen, much used for decoration purposes at Christmas.

The rhododendron is an evergreen shrub. Its name, according to Webster's New International dictionary, comes from Greek words meaning literally "rose tree." It was so named because of its large flowers.

Other evergreens of the north include certain varieties of the cedar, ivy, laurel, etc. The words are all "old"-that is, they have been in the language for centuries, often nearly in the forms we know today as the names of these plants or similar plants.

One of the Band

Saturday afternoon was a day set apart for the village band to indulge in its weekly practice march.

On this particular day they happened to halt outside the local justice of the peace's house. The latter was a very irritable man who hated bands. Consequently, he was far from pleased when the sound of martial music fell upon his ears.

"Look here!" he cried, rushing up to the bandmaster. "If you don't stop that infernal din, I'll go and fetch our policeman !"

But the bandmaster was equal to the occasion.

"You can't do that, sir," he smiled. "That's 'im playin' the trombone."--London Tit-Bits.

Speed Hog

Armed with pencil and notebook, a reporter attended a certain meeting and took up a position below the platform.

He worked very quickly, and occasionally the speaker glanced at him rather nervously, afterwards speaking at greater and greater speed.

But the faster he spoke the quicker the reporter's pencil glided over the paper. Finally, the orator could stand It no longer.

"Not so fast," he should: "not so fast! I can't keep up with ye."

distance required for bringing the train to a standstill would be inest note one can possibly imagine.

C. Bodley in "Algeria From Within,"

When rallway beds have been made | balf a mile would be required. A train running a mile a minute can be stopped, it is estimated, within a disas far as practicable leveled, and tance of 900 feet. By adding only two-thirds to the speed, therefore, the

and cars have been devised, how fast will steam be able to carry us? An answer to this question, based

on a scientific examination of the conditions involved, is furnished by an authority on facts relating to railroads. Cue hundred miles an hour is about the limit of speed suggested. Another very important question growing out of the first is: Within what distance can a train running 100 miles an hour, or but little less than

In Spirit of Love

cessity even than it is today.