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CHAPTER VI.

Then my uncle and Mr. Hardwick turned on Martin Hewitt with doubts and many questions. "Why do you call it suicide?" Mr. Hardwick asked. "It is plain the Fosters were with him at the time, from the tracks. Do you mean to say that they stood there and watched Sneathy hang himself without interfering?"

ing a cigar. "I think I told you that they never saw Sneathy.

Yes, you did; and, of course, that's what they said themselves when they were arrested. But the thing's impossible. Look at the tracks!"

"The tracks are exactly what revealed to me that it was not impossi-ble." Hewitt returned. "I'll tell you how the case unfolded itself to me. from the beginning. As to the information you gathered from the Ranworth coachman, to begin with, the



No. I Don't," Hewitt Replied.

conversation between the Fosters which he overheard might well mean something less serious than murder. What did they say? They had been sent for in a hurry and had just had a short consultation with their mother and sister. Henry said that 'the thing must be done, and at once, also, that as there were two of them it would be easy. Robert said that Henry, as a doctor, would know best what to do. Now you, Colonel Brett, had been saying-before we learned these things from Mr. Hardwick-that Sneathy's behavior of late had become so had as to seem that of a madman. Then there was the story of his sudden attack on a trudesman in the village and equally sudden running away-exactly the sort of impulsive, wild thing that madmen do. Why, then, night it not be reasonable to suppose that Sugathy had become mad-more especially considering all the circumstances of the case, his commercial ruin and disgrade and his horrible life with his wife and her fam-1197 Had become suddenl much worse and quite uncontrollable, so that the fair? Then it struck me suddenlytwo wretched women, left alone with the man was hanged; it was the Hand him were driven to send in haste for Henry and Robert to help them. That would account for all. The brothers your request to see the footprints of arrive just after Sneathy had gone the Fosters on the part of the path out. They are told in a hurried inter- past the watercourse. Here, again, it view how affairs stand, and it is decided that Sneathy must be at once secured and confined in an asyfum before something serious happens. He has just gone out-something terrible may be happening at that moment. The brothers determine to follow together at once and secure him wherever he may be. Then the meaning of their conversation is plain. The thing that must be done, and done at once, is the capture of Sneathy and his confinement in an asylum. Henry, as a doctor, would know what to do-in regard to the necessary formalities. And they took a halter in case a struggle should ensue, and it were found necessary to bind him. Very likely, wasn't

"Well, yes," Mr. Hardwick replied, "it certainly is. It never struck me in that light at all."

That was because you believed to begin with that a murder had been committed, and looked at the preliminary circumstances, which you learned after, in the light of your conviction. But now to come to my actual observations. I saw the footmarks across the fields and agreed with you (it was in- possible path which would not tell the deed obvious) that Sneathy had gone that way first, and that the brothers path through the wood for a had followed, walking over his tracks, ger to take, coming from the high This state of the tracks continued until ground well into the wood, when suddenly the tracks of the brothers opened out and proceeded on each side of Sneathy's. The simple inference would seem to be, of course, the one you made-that the Fosters had here overtaken Sneathy and walked one at each side of him; but of this I felt by no means certain. Another very simple explanation was available, which might chance to be the true one. It was just at the spot where the brothers' tracks separated that the path became suddenly much muddler, because of the closer overhanging of the trees at the spot. The path was, as was to be expected, wettest in the middle. It would be the most natural thing in the world for two well-dressed young men on arriving here to separate so as to walk one on each side of the mud in the middle On the other hand, a man in Sneathy's state (assuming him, for the moment, to be mad and contemplating suicide) would walk straight along the center of the path, taking no note of mud or anything, else. I examined all the tracks very carefully, and my theory was confirmed. The feet of the brothers had everywhere alighted in the driest spots, and the steps were of irregular lengths-which meant, course, that they were picking their way; while Sneathy's footmarks had never turned aside; even for the dirtiest puddle. Here, then, were the rudi-

ments of a theory.

At the watercourse, of course, the footmarks ceased, because of the hard gravel. The body lay on a knoll at the left-a knoll covered with grass. On this the signs of footmarks were almost undiscoverable, although I am often able to discover tracks in grass that are invisible to others. Here, however, it was almost useless to spend much time in examination, for you and your man had been there, and what slight marks there might be would be undistinguishable one from Under the branch from which the man had hung there was an old tree stump, with a flat top, where the tree had been sawn off. I examined this, and it became fairly apparent that Sneathy had stood on it when

the rope was about his neck-his muddy footprint was plain to see; the mud was not smeared about, you see as it probably would have been if he had been stood there forcibly pushed off. It was a simple clear foot

print-another hint at suicide.

"But then arose the objection that you mentioned yourself. Plainly the brothers Foster were following Sneathy "No, I don't," Hewitt replied, light- and came this way. Therefore, if he hanged himself before they arrived, it would seem that they must have come across the body. But yow I examined the body itself. There was mud on the knees, and clinging to one knee was a small leaf. It was a leaf corresponding to those on the bush behind the tree and it was not a dead leaf, so must have been just detached. After my examination of the body I went to the bush, and there, in the thick of it, were for me, sufficiently distinct knee marks in one of which the knee had crushed a spray of the bush against the groundand from that spray a leaf was missing Bohind the knee marks were the in dentations of boot toes in the soft, bare earth under the bush, and thus the thing was plain. The poor lunatic had ome in sight of the dangling rope, and

the temptation to suicide was trresign ble. But at that moment he must have heard the steps-probably the voicesof the brothers behind him on winding path. He immediately hid in the bush till they had passed. It is probable that seeing who the pien were and conjecturing that they were following him-thinking also, perhaps, of things that had occurred between then and himself-his inclination to selfdestruction became completely ungovernable, with the result that you saw "But before I inspected the bush I

noticed one or two more things about the body. You remember I inquired if either of the boothers Foster were lefthanded, and was assured that neither was. But clearly the hand had been cut off by a left-handed an with c large, sharply pointed knife. For well away to the right of where the wrist had hung the knife-point had made a ting triangular rent in the coat. So that the hand must have been held in the mudilator's right hand while he used the knife with his left-clearly a left-handed man.

"But most important of all about the body was the jagged hair over the right ear. Everywhere else the hair was well cut and orderly-here it seemed as though a good piece had been, so to speak, sawn off. What could anybody want with a dead man's right hand and certain locks of his of Glory!

was muddy in the middle, and the two brothers had walked as far apart as before, although nobody had walked between them. A final proof, if one were needed, of my theory as to the three lines of footprints.

"Now I was to consider how to get a the man who had taken the hand. He should be punished for the mutilation. but beyond that he would be required as a witness. Now all the foot-tracks in the vicinity had been accounted for. There were those of the brothers and of Sneathy, which we have been speaking of; those of the rustics looking on, which, however, stopped a little off, and did not interfere with our sphere of observation; those of your man who had cut straight through the wood when he first saw the body and had come back the same way with you: and our own, which we had been careful to keep away from the others Consequently there was no track of the man who had cut off the hand; there fore it was certain that he must have come along the hard gravel by the watercourse, for that was the tale, Indeed, it seems quite a likely by the Shepperton road



Brett and I left you and traversed the

watercourse, both up and down. We found a footprint at the top left lately by a man with a broken shoe. Right down to the bottom of the watercourse where it emerged from the wood there was no sign on either side of this man having left the gravel. (Where the body was, as you will remember, he would simply have stepped off the gravel on to the grass, which I thought t useless to examine as I have explained.) But at the bottom, by the ane, the footprint appeared again. This then was the direction in which I was to search for a left-handed man with a broken-sole shoe, probably a gypsy, and nost probably a foreign gypsy-because a foreign gypsy would be the most likely to hold still the belief in the Hand of Glory. I conjectured the man to be a straggler from a band of gypsles-one who probably had got beaind the caravan and had made a short cut across the wood after it, so at the end of the lane I look for a patrin. This is a sign that gypsies leave to ROSES OF SUMMER.



times it is a heap of dead leaves, some times a few stones, sometimes a mark on the ground, but more usually a couple of twigs crossed, with the longer wig pointing the road. Guided by these patrins we came in the end on the gypsy camp just as it was setting down or the night, We made ourselves agreeable (as Brett will probably describe to you better than I can), we left them, and after they had got to sleep we came back and watched for the gentleman who is now in the lock-up. He would, of course, seize the first opportunity of treating his ghastly trophy in the prescribed way, and I guessed he would choose midnight, for that is the time superstition teaches that the hands should be prepared. We made a few small preparations, collared him and now you've got him. And I should think the sooner you let the brothers Foster go the better."

"But why didn't you tell me all the conclusions you had arrived at, at the time?" asked Mr. Hardwick.

"Well, really," Hewitt replied, with a quiet smile, "you were so positive, and some of the traces I relied on were so small that it would probably have meant a long argument and a loss of time. But more than that, confess-If I had told you bluntly that Sneathy's hand had been taken away to make a medieval charm to enable a thief to pass through a locked door and steal plate calmly under the owner's nose

what would you have said?" "Well, well, perhaps I should have been a little skeptical. Appearances combined so completely to point to the Forters as murderers that any othe explanation, almost would have seemed

This is a sign that gypsies leave to drowned as a sacrifice in Walluchia in guide stragglers following up. Some-order to bring rain? And that was not

done by gypsies, either. Even in England, as late as 1865, a poor paralyzed Frenchman was killed by being 'swum' for witchcraft-that was in Essex. And less atrocious cases of belief in wizardry occur again and again even now.

Then Mr. Hardwick and my uncle fell into a discussion as to how the gypsy in the lock-up could be legally punished. Mr. Hardwick thought it should be treated as a theft of a portion of a dead body, but my uncle fancied there was penalty for mutilation of a dead body per se, though he could not point to the statute. As it happened, however, they were saved in trouble of arriving at a decision, for in the morning he was discovered to have escaped. He had been left, of course, with free hands, and had occupied the night in wrenching out the bars at the top of the back wall of the little prison-shed (it had stood on the green for a hundred and fifty years) and climbed out. 'He was not found again, and a month or two later the Foster family left the district entirely.

[The End.] Evidently Not.

From the Washington Star.
"Talk is cheap," observed the man who believes in proverbs "Humph!" replied the man who doesn't a lawyer or rented a telophone.

WEAK MEN YOUR ATTENTION Great English Remedy. explanation, almost, would have seemed unlikely to me, and that—well no, I confess, I shouldn't have believed in it. But it is a startling thing to find such superstitions alive nowadays."

"Yes, perhaps it is. Yet we find survivals of the sort very frequently. The Walfachlans, however, are horribly superstitious still—the gypsies among them are of course worse. Don't you remember the case reported a few months ago in which a child was drowned as a sacrifice in Walfachla in order to bring rain? And that was not in sold in Seranton by Matthews Broa.



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Timer Table In Effect March 25,

Trains leave Scranton for Pittston,
Wilkes-Barre, etc., at 8.20, 9.15, 11.20 a.m.,
12.36, 2.00, 2.05, 5.00, 1.25 p. m. Sundays, 9.00
a. m., 1.09, 2.15, 7.10 p. m.

For Atlantic City, 8.20 a.m.

For New York, Newark and Elizabeth,
8.20 (express) a.m., 12.45 (express with furfet parlor car), 8.05 (express) p.m. Sunday, 2.15 p.m.

For Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton and Philadelphia, 8.20 a.m.,
12.45, 3.05, 5.00 (except Philadelphia) p.m.

Sunday, 2.15 p.m.

For Long Branch, Ocean Grove, etc., at
8.20 a.m., 12.45 p.m.

For Reading, Lebanon and Harrisburg,
via Allentown, 8.20 a.m., 12.45, 5.00 p.m.

Sunday, 2.15 p.m.

For Pottsville, 8.20 a.m., 12.45 p.m.

Returning, leave New York, foot of Liberty street, North river, at 2.10 (express)
a.m., 1.10, 1.20, 4.20 (express) with Buffet
parlor car) p.m. Sunday, 4.30 a.m.

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Express for Easton, Trenton, Philadelphia and the south, 5.15, 8.00 and 9.55 a.m., 12.55 and 3.50 p.m.

Washington and way stations, 3.55 p.m.
Tobyhanna accommodation, 6.10 p.m.
Express for Binghamton, Oswago, Elmira, Corning, Bath, Dansville, Mount Morris and Buffalo, 12.10, 2.35 a.m. and 1.34 p.m., making close connections at Buffalo to all points in the West, Northwest and Southwest.

Bath accommodation, 9 a.m.

Bath accommodation, 9 a.m. Binghamton and way stations, 12.37 p.m. Nicholson accommodation, at 5.15 p.m. Binghamton and Elmira Express, 6.55 Express for Cortland, Syracuse, Oswego Itica and Richfield Springs, 2.35 a.m., and Utica and Richfield Springs, 2.35 a.m. and 1.24 p.m.
Ithaca, 2.35 and Bath 9 a.m. and 1.24 p.m.
For Northumberland, Pittston, Wilkes-Barre, Plymouth, Bloomsburg and Uanville, making close connections at Northumberland for Wilhiamsport, Harrisburg, Baltimore, Washington and the South.
Northumberland and intermediate stations, 6.00, 9.55 a.m. and 1.36 and 6.07 p.m.
Nanticoke and intermediate stations, 8.08 and 11.20 a.m. Plymouth and intermediate stations, 3.50 and 8.52 p.m.
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For detailed information, pocket time tables, etc., apply to M. L. Smith, city For detailed information, pocket time tables, etc., apply to M. L. Smith, city ticket office, 328 Lackawanna avenue, or depot ticket office.

Nov. 18, 1894.

Train leaves Scranton for Philadelphia and New York via D. & H. R. R. at 7.45 a.m., 12.05, 2.85 and 11.38 p.m., via D. L. & W. R. R., 6.00, 8.08, 11.20 am., and 1.30 p.m. Leave Scranton for Pittston and Wilkes-Barre, via D. L. & W. R. R., 6.00, 8.08, 11.20 a.m., 3.50, 6.07, 8.50 p.m.

Leave Scranton for White Haven, Hazleton, Pottsville and all points on the Beaver Meadow and Pottsville branches, via E. & W. V. R. R., 6.40 a.m., via D. & H. R. at 7.46 a.m., 12.95, 2.38, 4.60 p.m., via D. L. & W. R. R., 6.00, 8.08, 11.20 a.m., 1.23, 3.50 p.m.

Leave Scranton for Bethlehem, Easton,

R. R. at 7.46 a.m., 12.05, 2.38, 4.60 p.m., via D. L. & W. R. R., 6.00, 8.08, 11.20 a.m., 1.20, 3.56 p.m.

Leave Scranton for Bethlehem, Easton, Reading, Harrisburg and all intermediate points via D. & H. R. R., 7.46 a.m., 12.03, 2.38, 4.00, 11.35 p.m., via D., L. & W. R. R., 6.00, 8.08, 11.20 a.m., 1.30 p.m.

Leave Scranton for Tunkhannock, Towanda, Elmira, Ithaca, Geneva and all intermediate points via D. & H. R. R., 8.45 a.m., 12.06 and 11.35 p.m., via D., L. & W. R. R., 8.08, 9.55 a.m., 1.30 p.m.

Loave Scranton for Rochester, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Detroit, Chicago and all points west via D. & H. R. R., 8.45 a.m., 12.05, 9.15, 11.35 p.m., via D., L. & W. R. R. and Pittston Junction, 8.08, 9.55 a.m., 1.30, 8.50 p.m., via E. & W. V. R. R., 3.41 p.m.

For Elmira and the west via Salamanca, via D., L. & W. R. R., 8.45 a.m., 1.20, and 6.07 p.m.

Pullman parlor and sleeping or L. V. chair cars on all trains between L. & B. Junction or Wilkes-Barre and New York, Philadelphia, Buffalo, and Suspension Bridge.

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From Montreal, Saratoga, Albany, etc., at 4.55 and 11.23 p.m.
From Wilkes-Barre and intermediate, points at 2.15, 2.04, 18.05 and 11.55 a.m., 1.17, 3.16, 2.29, 5.10, 6.86, 7.20, 9.03 and 11.16 p.m.

Eric and Wyoming Valley. Trains leave Scranton for New York and intermediate points on the Eric railroad at \$25 a.m. and 224 p.m. Also for Honesdals, Hawley and local points at \$25 a.m. and 3.24 p.m. All the above are through trains to and from Honesdale.

Trains leave for Wilkes-Barre at \$40 m. and \$41 p.m.