



Copyright 1895, by Irving Bacheller.

CHAPTER II.—THE KNOT OF RIBBON.

I think I must have fainted away; for presently I found myself upon the floor, and for a minute I could not remember what had happened.

I went first to the front door. It was locked with a key and a bolt. I went next to the north door, and that was locked with a key and a bolt. I went to the north shed door, and that was

locked. Then I went to the little-used east door in the shed, beside which the cat has her little passageway, and that was fastened with an iron hook. It has no latch.

The whole house was fastened on the inside. The thought struck me like an icy hand. "The murderer is in this house!" I rose to my feet then; I unlocked that door and ran out of the house and out of the yard, as for my life.

I took the road to the village. The first house, where Phoebe Dole and Maria Woods lived, is across a wide field from ours. I did not intend to stop there, for they were only women and could do nothing; but seeing Phoebe looking out of the window I ran into the yard. She opened the window.

"What is it?" said she. "What is the matter, Sarah Fairbanks?" Maria Woods came and leaned over her shoulder. Her face looked almost as white as her white hair, and her blue eyes were dilated. My face must have frightened her.

"Father—father is murdered in his bed!" I said. There was a scream, and Maria Woods disappeared from over Phoebe Dole's shoulder—she had fainted. I don't know whether Phoebe looked paler—she is already very pale—I shall never forget. I think she began to suspect me at that moment.

Phoebe glanced back at Maria, but she asked me another question. "Has he had words with anybody?" said she. "Only with Rufus," I said, "but Rufus is gone." Phoebe turned away from the window to attend to Maria, and I ran on to the village.

A hundred people can testify what I did next—can tell how I called for the doctor and the deputy sheriff; how I went back to my home with the horror-stricken crowd; how they flocked in and looked at poor father—only the doctor touched him—carefully, only to see if he were quite dead, but the coroner came, and all the rest.

The pistol was in the bed beside father, but it had not been fired; the charge was still in the barrel. It was blood-stained, and there was one bruise on father's head which might have been inflicted by the pistol, used as a club. But the wound which caused his death was in his breast, and made evidently by some cutting instrument, though the cut was not a clean one; the weapon must have been dull.

They searched the house, but the murderer should be hidden away. I heard Rufus Bennett's name whispered by one and another. Everybody seemed to know that he and father had had words the night before; I could not understand how, because I had told nobody except Phoebe Dole, who had had no time to spread the news, and I was sure that no one else had spoken of it.

They looked in the closet where my green silk dress hung, and pushed it aside, to be sure nobody was concealed behind it; but they did not notice anything wrong about it. It was dark in the closet, and, besides, they did not look for anything like that until later.

All these people—the deputy sheriff, and afterwards the high sheriff, and other out-of-town officers for whom they had sent, and the neighbors—all they hunted their own suspicion, and that was Rufus Bennett. All believed that he had come back and killed my father. They made him do the deed with a long, slender screwdriver which he had recently borrowed from one of the neighbors and had not returned. They made his finger-marks, which were still on my father's throat, fit the red prints on the sitting-room door. They made sure that he had returned and stolen into the house by the east shed door, while father and I sat on the doorsteps the evening before; that he had hidden away, perhaps in that very closet where my dress hung, and afterwards stolen out and killed my father and then escaped.

They were not shaken when I told them that every door was bolted and barred that morning. They themselves found all the windows fastened down, except a few which were open on account of the heat, and even these last were raised only the width of a sixth, and fastened with sticks, so that they could be raised no higher. Father was very cautious about fastening the house, for he sometimes had considerable sums of money by him. The officers saw all these difficulties in the way, but they fitted them somehow to their theory, and two deputy sheriffs were at once sent to apprehend Rufus.

They had not begun to suspect me then, and not the slightest watch was

out; then, with a piteous shriek. "Oh, I've got—reason!" "Maria Woods, go out of the room!" said Phoebe. Her sharpness made me jump, half dazed as I was.

Maria got up without a word and went out of the room, bending almost double with convulsive sobs. "She's been dreadful worked up over your father's death," said Phoebe calmly, going on with the fitting. "She's terribly nervous. Sometimes I have to be real sharp with her, for her own good."

I nodded. Maria Woods has always been considered a sweet, weakly, dependent woman, and Phoebe Dole is undoubtedly very fond of her. She has seemed to shield her and take care of her nearly all her life. The two have lived together since they were young girls.

Phoebe is tall and very pale and thin; but she never has a day's illness. She is plain, yet there is a kind of severe goodness and faithfulness about her colorless face, with the smooth bands of white hair over her ears.

I went home as soon as my dress was fitted. That evening Henry Ellis came over to see me. I do not need to go into details concerning that visit. It is

enough to say that he tendered the fullest sympathy and protection, and I accepted them. I cried a little, for the first, and he soothed and comforted me. Henry had driven over from Digby and tied his horse in the yard. At 10 o'clock he lies me good-night on the doorstep and was just turning his buggy around when Mrs. Adams came running to the door.

"Is this yours?" said she, and she held out a knot of yellow ribbon. "Why, that's the ribbon you have around your whip, Henry," said I. He looked at it. "So it is," said he. "I must have dropped it. He put it into his pocket and drove away."

"He didn't drop that ribbon tonight!" said Mrs. Adams. "I found it yesterday morning out in the yard, and I remember seeing him have a yellow ribbon on his whip."

[To Be Continued.]

CHAPTER III.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER IV.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER V.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER VI.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER VII.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER VIII.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER IX.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER X.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XI.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XII.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XIII.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XIV.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XV.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XVI.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XVII.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XVIII.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XIX.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XX.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XXI.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

CHAPTER XXII.—THE MURDER IN THE BED.

THE WORLD OF BUSINESS.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

New York, Aug. 3.—The stock market opened practically unchanged for the leading issues. Subsequently American Sugar was sold down to 112 1/2, but the weakness of the stock had no effect on the general list. This rather disconcerted the bears and in the last hour of business a disposition was manifested to cover short contracts. Sugar, as usual, was a feature and sold up to 115. The Grangers and Canada Southern were also in demand and recorded fair gains on the day. Speculation closed quiet and firm, and net changes show advances of 1/4 to 3/4 per cent, sugar leading. Erie lost 1/4 and Manhattan 1 per cent. The total sales were 110,000 shares.

The range of today's prices for the active stocks of the New York stock market are given below. The quotations are furnished The Tribune by C. A. H. Dime, manager of the Williams, Linn, Allen & Co., stock brokers, 412 Spruce street, Scranton.

Table with columns: Am. Tobacco Co., Am. Cot. Oil, Am. Sugar Ref. Co., etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Table with columns: September, October, November, December, etc.

Pittsburg, Aug. 3.—Oil opened and high, 128; lowest and closed, 125.

GAYETTES IN VERSE. Th poet sings in glowing rapture. While the white clouds in airy grace unfurl; 'Now is the winter of our discontent Made glorious summer by the summer girl!'

He'd witnessed football and was sane. Seen football teams kick off; But did from softening of the brain Brought on by games of golf.

There was a man in our town. And he was wondrous wise; He never bragged to his dear wife About his mother's pies.

She put her little hand in mine And put it there to stay, So very small it was, that I Was eucheried right away.

The Kaiser stood on the war ship deck. Whence all but him had fled. Because there was no standing room Alongside Wilhelm's head.

WHO IS IT? That insists upon keeping a stock of Radway's Ready Relief.

Why, the wise mother? Because, when taken internally it cures in a few minutes Cramps, Spasms, Sour Stomach, Heartburn, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Sick Headache, Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Summer Complaint, Colic, Flatulency and all internal pains.

Used externally, it will cure Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Mosquito Bites, Stings of Insect, Sunburns, Bruises, Burns, Scalds, Coughs, Colds and all throat troubles.

Radway's Ready Relief, aided by Radway's Pills, will cure Fever and Ague, Malarious, Bilious and other Fevers.

RADWAY'S PILLS. Purely vegetable, mild and reliable. Cause perfect digestion, complete assimilation and regularity of bowels. Cure constipation and its long list of unpleasant symptoms and rejuvenate the system. 25 cents a box. All drug stores.

Spring House U. E. CROFUT, Prop'r, Heart Lake, Pa.

GOOD BOATS, FISHING TACKLE, Dancing Pavilion, Swings, Croquet Grounds, etc., FREE to Guests.

COLD SPRING WATER AND PLENTY OF MILK. RATES REASONABLE. Write for circular.

MT. PLEASANT COAL AT RETAIL. Coal of the best quality for domestic use, and of all sizes, delivered in any part of the city at lowest price.

PENNYROYAL PILLS. Cholesterol's English Diamond Brand. Guaranteed to Give Relief.

DR. LOBB'S BOOK FREE. To all sufferers of ERRORS OF YOUTH, LOST VIGOR AND DISEASES OF MEN AND WOMEN.

French Injection Compound. Causes positively, quickly (not merely checks) relief.

DR. LOBB'S BLOOD POISON. Have you Bone Pain, Rheumatism, Cough, Croup, Sore Throat, Hoarseness, Stomach Troubles, Headache, Dizziness, Nervousness, etc.?

Chicago Live Stock. Chicago, Aug. 3.—Cattle—Receipts, 500 head; market dull and steady; common to head, \$4.00; best, \$4.50; heavy, \$5.00.

Chicago Live Stock. Chicago, Aug. 3.—Cattle—Receipts, 500 head; market dull and steady; common to head, \$4.00; best, \$4.50; heavy, \$5.00.

Chicago Live Stock. Chicago, Aug. 3.—Cattle—Receipts, 500 head; market dull and steady; common to head, \$4.00; best, \$4.50; heavy, \$5.00.

The Only Remedy in the World That Refunds Purchase Price if it Fails to Cure the Tobacco Habit in 4 to 10 Days Is



It Cures While You Continue the Use of Tobacco.

The greatest discovery of the age! A certain, pleasant, permanent cure. A lifetime's suffering ended for \$5.00.

Why smoke and spit your life away? Why suffer from dyspepsia, heartburn, and drains on your vital forces?

Stop using tobacco, but stop the right way! Drive the nicotine from your system by the use of this wonderful remedy.

NARCOTI-CURE is warranted to remove all desire for tobacco in every form, including Cigar, Cigarette and Pipe Smoking, Chewing and Snuff Taking.

Use all the tobacco you want while under treatment, and in four to ten days your "hankering" and "craving" will disappear—the weed won't taste good.

NARCOTI-CURE is entirely vegetable and free from injurious ingredients. It never fails to give tone and new vigor to the weakest constitution.

Remember NARCOTI-CURE does not deprive you of tobacco while effecting a cure; doesn't ask you to buy several bottles to be entitled to a guarantee; doesn't require a month's treatment; and, finally, doesn't enable you to stop tobacco only to find yourself a slave to the habit of habit chewing.

IRON AND STEEL. Bolts, Nuts, Bolt Ends, Turnbuckles, Washers, Rivets, Horse Nails, Files, Taps, Dies, Tools and Supplies. Sail Duck for mine use in stock.

SOFT - STEEL - HORSE - SHOES. And a full stock of Wagon Makers' Supplies, Wheels, Hubs, Rims, Spokes, Shafts, Poles, Bows, etc.

BITTENBENDER & CO., SCRANTON, PA.

MINE PROPS AND TIES OAK BILL STUFF.

THE COMMONWEALTH LUMBER CO., 23 Commonwealth Bld'g, Scranton, Pa. TELEPHONE 422.

RESTORE LOST VIGOR. Serrine Pills. When in doubt what to use for Nervous Debility, Loss of Sexual Power in either sex, Impotency, Atrophy, Varicocele and other weaknesses, from any cause, use Serrine Pills. Brains checked and full vigor quickly restored.

ROBINSO'S LAGER BEER BREWERY. Manufacturers of the Celebrated Pilsener Lager Beer.

REVIVO RESTORED VITALITY. Made a Well Man of Me.

AYER'S CATHARTIC. The Great Remedy produces the above results in 24 hours. It acts powerfully and quickly.

AYLESWORTH'S MEAT MARKET. The Finest in the City. The latest improved furnishing and apparatus for keeping meat, butter and eggs.

THE SCRANTON VITRIFIED BRICK & TILE MANUFACTURING CO. MAKERS OF SHALE PAVING BRICK AND BUILDING BRICK.

ROOF TIRING AND SOLDERING. All done away with by the use of HARTMAN'S PATENT PAINT, which contains a certain and permanent waterproofing.