

AUNT HANNAH'S SECRET.

CHAPTER V.

"Who has the key to the attic of the house?" asked the detective, when they had descended from the piazza.

"Miss Hattie, master; she asked me for it yesterday morning."

"Is there more than one?"

"No, master, only one."

"Come round here on the east side of the house. Is that you, Calban?"

"Yes, Mars Lang, it's Calban."

"No one has left the house, save those you know?"

"No, Mars Lang."

"Now, Hannah, who murdered your master?"

"I don't know that, Mars Lang."

"You do know who rang the door bell; but do you mean when Robert Campbell sounded it?"

"No, Mars Lang, no. I didn't know Mars Robert was in de house till after I heard de bell; but he must have been, for it was he that went to de door, and not five minutes after, when I went to de door of de library, dar he stood, with de bloody knife in his hand, and Mars Herman 'cusing him of murderin' master."

"Was that the first you knew of his being in the house?"

"Wait, Mars Lang. I had been dozin' in de kitchen. Millie had gone upstairs to bed, and when I wake up I thought I'd see if ole master had gone to bed, and put out de lights in de hall. You see, I knowed, one' Duke had gone to bed, so I passed through de dining room and out into de hall. Somehow, I happen to look up. I spose I was lookin' at de hangin' lamp; but I seed someone standin' on de stairs, about five steps down. Da had on a long white night gown. At first, I thought it was Miss Hattie; but then I seed it was too tall and big for her, and de hair on her head was too black and short. I was jest about to speak when de person on de stairs bent ober, sideways like, and reached out one arm, and wid de hand seized hole of de wire dat leads to de bell at de lower end of de hall and pulled it. He pulled it several times, and as he was bent ober, I saw his face."

"It was the face of Herman Craven?"

"Yes, Mars Lang, and he was as white as death. I didn't know what to do. A tremblin' seized me, and I was that skeered I lak to fall down. Suddenly, I heard ole master's voice, and someone started for de door from de library. I thought it was ole master. Mars Herman had dodged back upstairs, and I ran through de dining room and into de kitchen."

"Then you did not see Herman Craven descend the stairs?"

"No, Mars Lang. Mars Herman was in his night shirt, and he ran back after he had pulled de bell wire."

"Did he see you, Hannah?"

"I can't be certain; but I don't think he did, Mars Lang."

"If he did, your life may be in peril, not that he would fear your testimony, but that you might give me information. You must be on your guard, and watch him closely. You must never be alone—never leave the house by yourself. He must have committed this murder."

"How could he, Mars Lang? I hadn't been back in de kitchen no time when I heard a groan. I ran back to de dining room door, and was standin' there tremblin', when Mars Robert pushed open de front door and ran in. He was bare-headed, and I dodged back, as he entered de library door. The next thing I heard his cry: 'Help! Murder!' then I hear Mars Herman knock on Miss Hattie's door and call her, and saw them come down stairs together."

"Robert Campbell, you say, pushed open the front door and ran in? It must have been unfastened, then?"

"The door was standin' ajar, Mars Lang, lak he left it, when he went out to see who was dar."

"Then you do not think Herman descended the stairs after you saw him pulling the wire, until after the murder had been committed?"

"No, Mars Lang, he hadn't time."

"Do you know when Herman entered the house to-night?"

"No, but I know he was in de library, and I was in de dining room, when he passed through de hall and went up to bed."

"How long was this before he pulled the wire?"

"Oh, a long time, Mars Lang, before I was dozin'—perhaps an hour."

"Did you hear loud voices, as though your master and Herman were quarreling to-night?"

"No, Mars Lang. Ole master nebbber quarrel. He say what he mean, but he nebbber quarrel, and I heard no loud voices until I heard Mars Robert's cries of 'Help! Murder!'"

"For a moment the detective stood there in the darkness, in thoughtful silence. Suddenly he said: 'You know, Hannah, that it would not have taken Herman Craven long to run down the stairs, strike the bell and dash up them again.'"

"I know that, master; but he couldn't have done it. If he had already been down stairs when de bell sounded, and hid in master's room, or in de library, he might have had time after Mars Robert went to de door to have killed ole master and dashed up de stairs before I heard that groan and got back to de dining room door. He didn't run up after that."

"You forget," said Sellars, "that if he is the murderer of your master who he was on stairs at the time you heard that groan."

"He couldn't have been, Mars Lang. Mars Herman is not the murderer of ole master."

"Why did he pull the wire and sound the bell? He must have known that Robert was in the house, and it must have been for the purpose of calling him to the door."

"Either he or ole master, Mars Lang. He must have thought I had gone to bed."

"Yes, either Campbell or your master. You say that when you finally advanced to the library door Robert was standing with the bloody knife in his hand?"

"Yes, and right over ole master's body, as though he had just pulled the blade from his breast. There was blood on his hand and sleeve, and horror on his face. Mars Herman denounced him as master's

murderer, but Mars Robert did not kill ole master. He was not in the house when that blade was driven to his heart and I heard that cry."

"Did you see anything of a bag of coin when you entered the library, Hannah?"

"Nothing, Mars Lang."

"Has Herman any personal friends, whom he sometimes brings to the house? Young men, probably?"

"No, Mars Lang; none have ever accompanied him here."

"Do you think your master had a high regard for his nephew?"

"He take him in when he come to him, Mars Lang, because he was his sister's son; but ole master had no use for his father, who led Miss Mattie a sorry life, and broke her heart before she died. I don't think he had much use for his son."

"You don't think he would have given him his daughter's hand in marriage?"

"Never! He know Miss Hattie love Mars Robert, and I often hear him praise Mars Robert up."

"Well, that is all to-night, Hannah. Not a word, you understand, to anyone of our conversation. If Herman speaks to you, do not seem to doubt the guilt of Robert Campbell. To your mistress, say that I will see her to-morrow. Tell her further, that if she has suspicions, to keep them to herself. I do not think she believes Herman guilty; but she must not seem suspicious of him. She must try and act as though she believed the right party had been apprehended. Tell her that Robert Campbell, though in custody, is under the protecting care of Lang Sellars, and your return to the house without your absence having been noted by Herman?"

"Easily, Mars Lang."

"Then do so, and watch closely. Do not sleep alone. Your young mistress will have many lady friends here in her trouble. Keep Millie as near you as you can. Good-night."

"Good-night, Mars Lang," said the negress, and she had started along the side of the house for the rear entrance when the detective called her back.

"Are Adam, the coachman, and Herman on friendly terms?" he asked.

"Adam rather see the devil than Mars Herman," said the negress. "Mars Herman 'speak more of ole master's niggers than he do himself."

"I understand," said Sellars. "That is all, and as the negress again started off he joined Calban."

"You can go home now, Calban," he said. "It must be 3 o'clock in the morning."

"I 'speak it is, Mars Lang," said the negro, as he made off in the darkness.

"Another mystery to unravel," muttered the detective, as he passed out the gate. "Herman Craven's hand must have guided the keen blade of that sheath knife, notwithstanding the fact that Hannah states that it could not have been he. Not a drop of blood on his spotless garments. Not a stain on his white hands, but a damnable one on his guilty conscience. Whether or not he struck the blow, his was the hand that planned the murder. He pulled the wire and sounded the bell that for a moment left the coast clear, Campbell was the one man he wished removed from his path. But the bag of coin? Clearly he had a confederate, and that confederate struck the blow and escaped with the coin. Why, Herman had no knowledge of the fact that Campbell was to be there with the coin to pay that note to-night—I mean last night, now—until after he had entered the house and the banker had informed him in the library—and then he did not know that he would bear with him a bag of coin. Not a living soul witnessed that blow, save the one who struck it—not even Herman Craven—unless, perchance, he struck the blow. Hannah alone saw his blanched face when he pulled that wire, and her oath would not be admissible in a court of justice. Lang Sellars, you have solved some intricate cases. Solve this, and bring the murderer or murderers of Banker DeRosette to justice. Hump! Not a doubt of it!" the detective exclaimed aloud.

"Why," he thought, "I can place my hand, any minute, on the formulator of this tragedy. Now for the evidence that will condemn him. Now for the unknown accomplice—if he had one—and the bag of coin. I wonder," he thought, suddenly coming to a full halt, "if I have his full motive. Was this murder planned after he had arrived at the house last night, and was his sole object to get possession of that money? If so, he had a confederate, sure. He might have abstracted a much larger sum from the bank. Ah, yes, but certain detection would have followed. One thing is certain: The object was to get rid of Banker DeRosette. I think that had been determined in your mind before to-night, Herman Craven, and if before to-night, why, then the securing of this bag of coin was no part of your motive; but Robert being there with his bag of coin as a circumstance, though not counted on, yet to be taken advantage of, and shrewdly the matter was managed. The banker is murdered, the bag of coin disappeared, and the man who stood in the nephew's way is in the custody of Sheriff Cobb—presumably a murderer. And I am left to solve the mystery that surrounds the taking off of a good man. I wonder if Mr. DeRosette left a will, and what that document will reveal? A little time will tell; and now for the grieving mother and sister of the innocent victim of circumstances, who is pacing with anxious stride the floor of a cell in the county jail."

Sellars had reached the widow's residence on Walnut street.

A bright light shone forth from the front windows, and as he stepped on the piazza a low moaning sound reached his ears from within.

"Poor souls," he thought, "I will soon dispel your agonizing fears, and ere long, I trust, restore to you your son and brother." And he rang the door bell.

CHAPTER VI.

Roger, an old family servant, to whom the detective was well known, opened the door, and as he saw the tall form of Sel-

lars before him, the exclamation: "Thank God!" fell from his lips.

"Your mistress and her daughter know of the murder, and that Robert is held in custody of the sheriff?"

"Yes, Mars Lang, yes; Sheriff Cobb brought Mars Robert here, before he take him to jail. There was a scene, Mars Lang, a scene, and my old mistress and Miss Jennie is distracted. Dat boy ain't no murderer, Mars Lang. I trot him on my knee when he was a child, and I oughter know. Rascality don't run in de Campbell blood, Mars Lang."

"Tell the ladies I am here, Roger, and ask them—"

At this moment the sitting room door opened and Jennie Campbell stepped into the hall, with a handkerchief to her eyes.

"What is it, Roger?" she asked.

"One who has called to bid you banish all fear as to any peril your brother may be in because of this sad case," said the detective, as he advanced towards her.

"Lang Sellars?"

"Oh!" cried Jennie. "The great detective. But—but Robert said that even you believed him guilty of that terrible crime—that you remarked that Sheriff Cobb had apprehended the guilty man. Surely, surely, sir—"

"It is sometimes necessary, Miss Jennie, to divert suspicion from the perpetrators of crime, in order that they may deem themselves secure, and in their fancied security to let them rest until they are thoroughly entangled in the network of their own crime, and a chain of evidence be woven about them that will leave no doubt as to their guilt when they are arraigned before a bar of justice. Such a case is this. So, though seemingly I acquiesced in Sheriff Cobb's opinion and approved of your brother's apprehension, I assure you that even then I was fully aware that he had an innocent man in custody. Robert Campbell was not the murderer of Alvin DeRosette."

"Bless you, sir! Bless you! Your assurance will give my mother comfort that the words of no other could. Not but that she knows Robert to be innocent, but that you, a man whose fame as a detector of crime, and who, it is said, reads men's lives, their motives and their thoughts, in their eyes and features, as we ordinary people would in a printed book, have pronounced him innocent. Please come to my mother, sir."

"You father me, Miss Campbell," said the detective, as he followed her.

"I can scarce speak unnumbered words of flattery, sir, of the man who saved the life of Herbert Russell."

The mother of Robert Campbell sat bowed in grief in a rocker near a table in the center of the room—the most bitter grief she had ever known, for her loved son lay incarcerated in Wilmington jail, and the foul crime of murder was charged against him.

"Mother!" exclaimed her daughter, "here is one who will drive away your agonizing fears, one who will assure you of my brother's innocence."

"If I could have the assurance of one man alone in all this broad land," said the widow, "that he believed my son innocent of a foul crime of which I know him to be not the perpetrator, my heart would be comforted. But alas, he also has condemned my boy. You know of whom I speak, daughter—the great Southern detective."

"Madam," said Sellars, deeply moved; "he whom you indicate, from motives now known to your daughter, or partly so, it is true, did seemingly approve of the apprehension of your son, but let me assure you that in his heart there rests not a single doubt of your son's innocence. To assure you of that fact, and in a measure relieve you of anxiety, he is here."

At the first sound of the detective's voice Mrs. Campbell had raised her tear-stained eyes to his face, and now a deep sob burst from her breast, and for a moment she seemed choking with emotion; she extended one hand to the detective.

"The Lord be praised!" she exclaimed. "Lang Sellars! With him assured of my boy's innocence, with Robert under his protecting care, all is well. My daughter, we have nothing to fear. We will banish our tears and moans. God bless you, sir!"

(To be continued.)

EDWARD THRING—HEAD MASTER

A Most Remarkable Man in the Science of Education.

Soon after the death of Edward Thring, thirty-four years head-master of Uppingham school, a member of Parliament said to his biographer:

"Thring was the most remarkable Christian man of this generation. Because he was the first man in England to assert openly that in the economy of God's world a dull boy had as much right to have his power, such as it is, fully-strained as a boy of talent, and that no school did honest work which did not recognize this truth as the basis of its working arrangements."

When Thring became head-master of Uppingham, a "faire, free grammar school," founded in 1584. It had twenty-seven pupils. On his departure from his life-work the school numbered over four hundred pupils. The schoolmaster, as he called himself, had a passionate conviction that education was, in a special sense, a work of God. That conviction was his starting-point for school work.

One night he had the gratification of hearing a statement that cheered him greatly because it disclosed the formative influence of his teachings. A gentleman, lecturing in the schoolroom on "Education," told an anecdote illustrative of the value of a teacher's influence.

A boy, travelling on foot in France, full of spirit and life, had been asked by his companions to start early on Sunday to have a long day. The boy refused. Being pressed, he said:

"No, I will not do it; the head-master will not like it."

The other boys laughed, and said that the head-master was five hundred miles away; his excuse was nonsense.

But their jeering did not change his purpose. Then the lecturer turned round toward Mr. Thring, and said:

"That boy was from Uppingham; that head-master was you, sir."

The school cheered. The head-master, greatly moved, rose and said, "I am sure you will all thank the lecturer; you must feel what I feel deeply. I thank the school for giving one such boy. I think there are many such boys among you."—Youth's Companion.

HEROIC EXPLORER'S MEMORY.

Honored by the Erection of a Monument to Gen. Pike.

A lofty monument, dedicated at Kansas City, marks the spot in Republic County, Kan., where Gen. Zebulon M. Pike first raised the flag in Missouri. The dedication was marked by interesting ceremonies, and the gallant soldier and heroic explorer was handsomely eulogized.

The Pike family were New Jersey people, and Zebulon Montgomery was born in the outskirts of what is now Trenton, in 1779, while his father, a captain in the Revolutionary army, was fighting the British. While the son was a child, his father removed with his family to Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and thence in a few years to Easton, where the boy was educated. He was appointed an ensign in his father's regiment, March 3, 1799, first lieutenant in November, and captain in August, 1800. While advancing through the lower grades of his profession he supplemented the deficiencies of his education by the study of Latin, French and mathematics. After the purchase of Louisiana from the French, Lieut. Pike was appointed to conduct an expedition to trace the Mississippi to its source, and leaving St. Louis Aug. 9, 1805, he returned after nearly nine months' exploration and constant exposure to hardship, having satisfactorily performed the service. In 1806-7 he was engaged in geographical explorations in Louisiana Territory, in the course of which he discovered Pike's Peak in the Rocky Mountains and reached Rio Grande River. Having been found on Spanish territory he and his party were taken to Santa Fe, but, after a long examination and the seizure of Pike's papers, they were released. He arrived at Natchitoches on July 1, 1807, received the thanks of the government, and in 1810 published a narrative of his two expeditions.

Capt. Pike was made a major in 1808, a lieutenant colonel in 1809, deputy quartermaster general April 3, 1812, colonel of the Fifteenth Infantry July 3, 1812, and brigadier general on March 12, 1813. Early in 1813 he was assigned to the principal army as adjutant and inspector general and selected to command an expedition against York (now Toronto), Upper Canada. On April 27, the fleet conveying the troops for the attack on York reached the harbor of that town and measures were taken to land them at once. Gen. Pike landed with the main body as soon as practicable, and the enemy's advanced parties falling back before him, he took one of the redoubts that had been constructed for the main defense of the place. The column was then halted until arrangements were made for the attack on another redoubt. While Gen. Pike and many of his soldiers were seated on the ground the magazine of the fort exploded, a mass of stone fell upon him and he was fatally injured, surviving but a few hours.

HERMAN O. ARMOUR.

The Multimillionaire Packer Who Died Recently.

Herman Ossian Armour, the multimillionaire packer of Chicago and New York, who died at Saratoga recently, was a brother of the more famous Philip D. Armour, whose death occurred some time ago. Herman was born a 1 Stockbridge, Madison County, N. Y., March 2, 1837, and from the farm went to Milwaukee in 1855.

After a few years' business training there he embarked in 1862 in the grain commission business in Chicago. His younger brother, Joseph, joined him there, and in 1865 took entire charge of the Chicago establishment, while Herman O. Armour removed to New York and organized a new firm under the name of Armour, Plankinton & Co. His new enterprise was a great success from the start, and the firm grew until it became recognized throughout the country. Mr. Armour's ability won for him an enviable reputation as one of the foremost among the merchants and financiers of the metropolis. The business which he was instrumental in establishing now employs 15,000 hands.

He Had the Money.

A Western millionaire, who has made a fortune out of mines, and who is remarkable alike for his liberality and for his ignorance of his bank account, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, was asked one day to contribute to an object of charity. The canvasser suggested that one thousand dollars would be an acceptable contribution.

"That isn't enough," replied the capitalist. "I will give you five thousand if I have the money in the bank. Wait until I call up and inquire."

He summoned a clerk and told him to telephone to the bank to inquire if he had five thousand dollars on deposit, as he desired to contribute that sum, if possible, to a worthy object. The clerk advised that he had three hundred and eighty thousand dollars in the bank.

"Dear me," cried the capitalist, "as much as that! Well, make out that check for five thousand dollars."

Length of Facial Features.

The proper length of the forehead is one-third of the length of the face; the nose should also measure one-third, the mouth and chin together the other.—Ladies' Home Journal.

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