

MR. DOYLE'S TRICK EXPLAINED IN FULL

Author Fears Jest Will Hurt Important Cause.

POE'S HOME IS VISITED

Lack of Humor Is Said to Have Made American Writer's Nature Sinister.

Our American Adventure, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. (Copyright by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1922, for the United States and Great Britain. Released by North American Newspaper Alliance.)

ARTICLE XI—(Continued). "Sir Conan Doyle, who was introduced by Harry Houdini, president of the club, said in his speech preceding the exhibition of his etheral monsters, that he had a friendly feeling for conjurers because they destroyed the great enemies of true spiritualists, those enemies being the fake mediums."

"On the other hand," he said, "when a conjuror does occasionally attack spiritualism as a whole he deals in a subject which he does not understand."

"Sir Arthur said that it had taken ten years and much laborious experiment to convince himself of the truth of spiritualism, so that he had no right to be indignant with persons who were skeptics. On the other hand, he said, no man showed good judgment in regarding as foolish or easily deceived such great men as the late Sir William Crookes, Lord Rayleigh and Alfred Russel Wallace or men now living such as Sir Oliver Lodge.

Fake Mediums Scored.

"Sir Arthur called the fake mediums 'human hyenas' and deplored the fact that spiritualism was brought into disrepute by a fringe of camp followers who got into the newspapers. The author then asked permission of Mr. Houdini to give his strange exhibition. He gave no idea in advance as to its character, but said nothing to discredit the suggestion that he considered the coming exhibition to be genuine."

"If I brought here in real existence what I show in these pictures it would be a great catastrophe," he said.

"These pictures are not occult," he continued. "In the second place, this is psychic because everything that emanates from the human spirit or human brain is psychic. It is not supernatural in the sense that it is not known to our ordinary senses."

"It is the effect of the joining on the one hand of imagination and on the other hand of some power of materialization. The imagination, I may say, comes from me. The materializing power from elsewhere."

"These pictures are not occult," the originals were shown instead of the counterfeit, but what you will see is a living presentment."

"After this mysterious utterance Sir Arthur said: "I would like to add, to save myself from getting up again, that if permission is granted for me to show this, they will speak for themselves. I will answer no questions regarding them either for the press or the others present."

Explanation Given Out.

"It would have been amusing to leave it all at that point, but the nature of the film partly cleared the matter up, but I reflected that I might cast a doubt on the reality of my own psychic picture, even for a joke, I were to put forward what might be regarded as a misrepresentation. Therefore, before the morning after the banquet I wrote the following letter and handed it to the various press agencies:

"My dear Houdini: My cinema interlude upon the occasion of the magician's dinner should, I think, be explained now that its purpose is fulfilled. That purpose was simply to provide a little mystification for those who have so often and so successfully mystified others. In presenting my moving dinosaurs I had to walk warily in my speech so as to preserve the glamor, and yet say nothing which I could not justify as literally true. Thus I was emphatic that it was not occult, and only psychic in so far as all things human come from a man's spirit. It was preternatural in the sense that it was outside nature as we know it. All my other utterances were, as I think you will agree, within the actual facts."

"The dinosaurs and other creatures have been constructed by pure cinema art of the highest kind, and are being used for the 'Lost World' picture, which represents prehistoric life upon a South American plateau. Having such material at hand, and being allowed by the courtesy of Mr. Waterson Routledge to use it, I could not resist the temptation to surprise your associates and guests. I am sure that they will forgive me for a few short hours, I had them all guessing."

Question Asked Houdini. "And now, Mr. Chairman, confidence begate confidence, and I want to know how you got out of that trunk."

"Yours sincerely, "ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE," June 3, 1922, Ambassador Hotel.

So ended a very amusing episode. It looked for a few days as if the magicians might have the last laugh upon their side, as some disgruntled inventor threatened me with an action in the press, but it all died away, and certainly never gave me a moment's uneasiness.

One continually realizes what a glorious thing is this knowledge of ours. We had two examples of its workings in one day. A shop girl on getting an order from my wife broke out at once as if the effect of our teaching had upon her.

"It makes everything happy again whenever I am down," said she. The same evening I met a man who stood high at the American bar. "It was 2 in the morning when I assured myself that this was true," said he, "and I walked as if on air until 5 and hardly knew where I was."

He had been, like myself, a seasoned materialist and the sudden change was staggering in the relief of happiness and that is what the race needs in these years of darkness. "Joy cometh with the morning," and that morning is surely dawning now. Fear must be dropped out of religion. Love and fear do not go together. The father who is really feared is not really loved. We may fear ourselves and our weaknesses, but love God, who will help us like a wise elder brother to overcome them. Perhaps 'love' is the wrong word. It is, I admit, hard to 'love' a great central creative force. To work in conscious harmony with it is the most one can do. But the Christ is different.

There you have something intermediate, something human, personal, yet nearer the divine. That is why every religion has its Christ, just as each has its God, and they are essentially and spiritually the same Christ; and the same God in such aspect as fits best that stage of human mental development. So, I read the middle, and if the world would read it so how quickly all religious shadowy would vanish.

We have spent one Sunday afternoon hunting out the little cottage at Fordham near New York where Edgar Allan Poe spent the last years of his life. There is a doll's kitchen, a small sitting room, with tea things still upon the table, and the tiny bedroom where Virginia Poe passed away. His face looks at you from every wall, austere, coldly intellectual, cruel in its precise accuracy. He had every quality save humor and of that there was not a trace. But he was surely the greatest originator of various story-types that ever lived.

Poe Praised Highly.

He was so sure of himself that he never troubled to work out a reef but he just picked a nugget or two and then turned away to prospect elsewhere. He was the real father of the detective story, of the buried treasure story, of the purely morbid story, and of nearly every other sort that we now use. If every man who owed his inspiration to Poe was to contribute a title of his profits therefrom he would have a monument greater than the pyramids, and I for one would be among the builders.

But his nature was sinister. A nature without humor is always sinister. But he had glamor to make amends—even as a youngster he had this glamor. Did ever schoolboy write such lines as those which speak of "the glory that was Greece, the splendor that was Rome"? They haunt the mind. There was a suggestion of the rarified literary atmosphere in which he lived in the desk and the book shelves, with a little written criticism in his exquisite script in which he accused Cagliostro of plagiarism from Schiller—with very complete proofs.

(To be continued.)

WIFE-BEATING CHARGED

DOUGLAS COUNTY HOME-STEADER IS ARRESTED.

A. R. Kennedy Said to Have Fired Shots at Auto, Then Dragged Out and Beat Mate.

ROSEBURG, Or., Nov. 13.—(Special.)—A. R. Kennedy, a homesteader residing 15 miles from Roseburg on Willis creek, was arrested today and fined for carrying concealed weapons. He was then held in jail while he is investigated by the grand jury on a charge of snooting at his wife and a neighbor, Earl Lucas, and also of beating the woman quite severely.

Kennedy and his wife have been having some trouble, according to information received by the officers, and he returned only a few days ago from Klamath Falls, where he has been working. Mrs. Kennedy came to Roseburg with Lucas and his mother. On the way back Lucas left his car at the house and went on with Mrs. Kennedy alone. As they neared the Kennedy home the husband darted out from the bushes, firing several shots from his revolver, and leaped on the running board of the car, which was traveling slowly because of a muddy road. He fired two or three shots into the car and the bullets struck none of the occupants. He told the officers he fired into the air to frighten the woman and her companion.

Kennedy is then alleged to have dragged the woman out of the car and to have beaten her about the face and head with the gun before the Lucas could interfere. The woman was brought to the Roseburg hospital, where she was found to have been badly beaten. She refused to bring a charge against her husband, however. The grand jury made a thorough investigation today.

MAN DIES IN FIREBOX

Chinker in Windpipe Causes Death of Boilermaker.

ROSEBURG, Or., Nov. 13.—(Special.)—The death of Tony Mosca, Southern Pacific boilermaker, while making repairs to a locomotive firebox Saturday night, was caused by a chinker lodging in his windpipe, according to Dr. F. R. Menne of Portland, who performed an autopsy today. A fragment the size of a marble was broken loose from the firebox and caught in Mosca's throat.

Mosca had partaken of a heavy meal just before going to work and as a result felt a need for more air in the firebox in which he was working. He sent his helper to connect on another locomotive to provide more air and when the helper returned he found the boilermaker unconscious on the firebox floor and death ensued shortly after he was removed.

TWO ROBBERS GET \$800

Bunkhouse at Independence Logging Camp Held Up.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Nov. 13.—(Special.)—Two masked robbers obtained about \$800 in cash when they held up a bunkhouse at the Independence Logging company's camp Saturday night, according to word received here.

No clue to the identity of the men was found.

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POWER PLANT EXPANDS

\$150,000 TO BE SPENT ON TILLAMOOK IMPROVEMENTS.

Coast Power Company Proposes to Rebuild to Handle Increasing Needs of County.

TILLAMOOK, Or., Nov. 13.—(Special.)—The Coast Power company in this city has closed for three months pending improvements, entailing an expenditure of more than \$150,000 in the building of a new and up-to-date plant. The improvement concerns the whole county, for the company will be in a position to furnish electricity to every part of the county, and with the assurance that all new industries will be able to obtain power at reasonable rates.

While the new buildings are being erected and the new machinery installed, power is now supplied by the Whitney company at Garibaldi. The Coast Power company having had to send one turbine and other machinery there to take care of the present needs. In the past few months the power company increased the capacity of the line between this city and Garibaldi three times its former capacity. The capacity of the present plant of the Coast Power company was 800 kilowatts. This will be increased to 2500 kilowatts, and the power company has made arrangements with the Whitney company for an additional 600 to 800 kilowatts, which will give the new plant a capacity of about 3200 kilowatts.

The machinery that will be installed in the new plant in this city

will consist of a 1500-kilowatt condensing steam turbine and two 420-horsepower Sterling type water tube boilers, carrying 200 pounds pressure and 100 degrees superheat.

The new plant will be located on Hoquarton slough, on the south side of the water front, in the city, and the new building will be of heavy mill type construction. C. J. Edwards is at the head of the Coast Power company, and since he has been connected with it many improvements have been made owing to the increasing demand for electric power.

Crews at Work on Highway. WHITE SALMON, Wash., Nov. 13.—(Special.)—Work on the new North Bank highway between Underwood and Blingen is now under way. The engineer's camp has been established at Blingen. Four construction camps have located on the route. Forty teams soon will be at work west of the Standard Oil plant at Blingen. This stretch of highway should be open in 60 days, weather permitting. The steam shovel at work just east of Underwood is making splendid progress.

Seized Silk to Be Auctioned. ABERDEEN, Wash., Nov. 13.—(Special.)—One hundred and ten yards of silk, seized by customs men on the Japanese steamship July 6, will go on the auction block at the United States customs department in the federal building here tomorrow at 2 o'clock. The silks were seized because they were not declared in the manifest of the Ypres Maru when she arrived here. The silk is in five pieces, ranging in length from nine to 44 yards.

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