# The Mystery of The Yellow Room

By GASTON LEROUX

Copyright, 1908, by Brentano's

SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I—A mysterious attempt is made at midnight to murder Mlle. Stangerson, daughter and assistant of Prof. Stangerson, who is at work on his theory of the dissociation of matter in a pavilion near his chateau. Pistol shots and the young woman's cries for help are heard behind the locked and bolted door of her chamber, the yellow room. The cries are answered by Professor Stangerson and Daddy Jacques, an aged servant. Aided by the concierges, Bernier and his wife, they break open the door and find Mlle. Stangerson swooning and half strangled, with a wound in her temple, but find no trace of her assailant. The only possible outlet from the yellow room is the door. The weird cry of the "bete du bon Dieu," a cat belonging to Mother Angenoux, a recluse, is heard just before Mlle. Stangerson's cries. II—Joseph Rouletabille, a reporter-detective, is introduced to the reader by M. Sainclair, the narrator of the story. Rouletabille declares the revolver was fired by Mlle. Stangerson, wounding her assailant in the hand. Sainclair is to use his friendship with M. Darzac, Mlle. Stangerson's lover, to introduce Rouletabille into the chateau. III—Rouletabille induces M. de Marquet, the examining magistrate, and M. de Maleine, his registrar, to talk about the case. The only posisble point of egress from the pavilion for the murderer has been the window of the pavilion's vestibule, near which bloodstains have been found. The window, however, was found latched after the assassin's escape. A bullet hole is found in the ceiling of the yellow room. IV.— Shortly before the attack the announcement of the engagement of Mlle. Stangerson and M. Darzac had been made. V—Rouletabille and Sinclair are informed by Frederic Larsan, a famous detective working on the case, that the concierges have been arrested. Meeting M. Darzac, Rouletabille utters a mystic sentence, "The presbytery has lost nothing of its charm nor the garden its brightness," which seems to terrify Darzac. VI—The arrest of the concierges is due to the fact that they were seemingly near the the pavilion when the crime was committed. Their denial of guilt is doubted. Rouletabille and Darzac become friendly. A mutton bone such as is used by French assassins, has been found in Mlle. Stangerson's room

CHAPTER VI. (Continued.)

Having said this, M. Darzac knocked at the door of the pavilion. I must confess to feeling a strong impatience to reach the spot where the crime had been committed. It was some time before the door was opened by a man whom I at once recognized as Daddy Jacques.

He appeared to be well over sixty years of age. He had a long white beard and white hair, on which he wore a flat Basque cap. He was dressed in a complete suit of chestnut colored velveteen, worn at the sides; sabots were on his feet. He had rather a waspish looking face, the expression of which lightened, however, as soon as he saw M. Darzac.

"Friends," said our guide. "Nobody in the pavilion, Daddy Jacques?"

"I ought not to allow anybody to enter, M. Robert, but of course the order does not apply to you. These gentlemen of justice have seen everything there is to be seen and made enough drawings and drawn up enough reports"—

"Excuse me, M. Jacques, one question before anything else," said Rouletabille.

"What is it, young man? If I can answer it"—

"Did your mistress wear her hair in bands that evening? You know what I mean—over her forehead?"

"No, young man. My mistress never wore her hair in the way you suggest, neither on that day nor on any other. She had her hair drawn up, as usual, so that her beautiful forehead could be seen, pure as that of an unborn child!"

Rouletabille grunted and set to work examining the door, finding that it fastened itself automatically. He satisfied himself that it could never remain open and needed a key to open it. Then we entered the vestibule, a small, well lit room paved with square red tiles.

"Ah, this is the window by which the murderer escaped!" said Rouletabille.

"So they keep on saying, monsieur; so they keep on saying. But if he had gone off that way we should have been sure to have seen him. We are not blind, neither M. Stangerson nor I nor the concierges who are in prison. Why have they not put me in prison, too, on account of my revolver?"

Rouletabille had already opened the window and was examining the shutters.

"Were these closed at the time of the crime?"

"And fastened with the iron catch inside," said Daddy Jacques, "and I am quite sure that the murderer did not get out that way."

"Are there any blood stains?"

"Yes—on the stones outside—but blood of what?"

"Ah," said Rouletabille, "there are footmarks visible on the path! The ground was very moist. I will look into that presently."

"Nonsense!" said Daddy Jacques. "The murderer did not go that way."

"Which way did he go, then?"

"How do I know?"

Rouletabille looked at everything, smelled everything. He went down on his knees and rapidly examined every one of the paving tiles. Daddy Jacques went on:

"Ah, you can't find anything, monsieur. Nothing has been found. And now it is all dirty. Too many persons have tramped over it. They wouldn't let me wash it, but on the day of the crime I had washed the floor thoroughly, and if the murderer had crossed it with his hobnailed boots I should not have failed to see where he had been. He has left marks enough in mademoiselle's chamber."

Rouletabille rose.

"When was the last time you washed these tiles?" he asked, and he fixed on Daddy Jacques a most searching look.

"Why—as I told you—on the day of the crime, toward half past 5—while mademoiselle and her father were taking a little walk before dinner here in this room. They dined in the laboratory. The next day the examining magistrate came and saw all the marks there were on the floor as plainly as if they had been made with ink on white paper. Well, neither in the laboratory nor in the vestibule, which were both as clean as a new pin, were there any traces of a man's footmarks. Since they have been found near this window outside, he must have made his way through the ceiling of the yellow room into the attic, then cut his way through the roof and dropped to the ground outside the vestibule window. But there's no hole, neither in the ceiling of the yellow room nor in the roof of my attic; that's absolutely certain. So, you see, we know nothing—nothing. And nothing will ever be known! It's a mystery of the devil's own making."

Rouletabille went down upon his knees again almost in front of a small lavatory at the back of the vestibule. In that position he remained for about a minute.

"Well?" I asked him when he got up.

"Oh, nothing very important. A drop of blood," he replied, turning toward Daddy Jacques as he spoke. "While you were washing the laboratory and this vestibule was the vestibule window open?" he asked.

"No, monsieur, it was closed. But after I had done washing the floor I lit some charcoal for monsieur in the laboratory furnace, and as I lit it with old newspapers it smoked, so I opened both the windows in the laboratory and this one to make a current of air. Then I shut those in the laboratory and left this one open when I went out. When I returned to the pavilion this window had been closed and monsieur and mademoiselle were already at work in the laboratory."

"M. or Mlle. Stangerson had no doubt shut it?"

"No doubt."

"You did not ask them?"

"No."

After a close scrutiny of the little lavatory and of the staircase leading up to the attic Rouletabille—to whom we seemed no longer to exist—entered the laboratory. I followed him. I was, I confess, in a state of great excitement. Robert Darzac lost none of my friend's movements. As for me, my eyes were drawn at once to the door of the yellow room. It was closed and, as I immediately saw, partially shattered and out of commission.

My friend, who went about his work methodically, silently studied the room in which we were. It was large and well lighted. Two big windows—almost bays—were protected by strong iron bars and looked out upon a wide extent of country.

The whole of one side of the laboratory was taken up with a large chimney, crucibles, ovens and such implements as are needed for chemical experiments; tables loaded with vials, papers, reports, an electrical machine—an apparatus, as M. Darzac informed me, employed by Professor Stangerson to demonstrate the dissociation of matter under the action of solar light—and other scientific implements.

Along the walls were cabinets, plain or glass fronted, through which were visible microscopes, special photographic apparatus and a large quantity of crystals.

Rouletabille, who was ferreting in the chimney, put his fingers into one of the crucibles. Suddenly he drew himself up and held up a piece of half consumed paper in his hand. He stepped up to where we were talking by one of the windows.

"Keep that for us, M. Darzac," he said.

I bent over the piece of scorched paper which M. Darzac took from the hand of Rouletabille and read distinctly the only words that remained legible:

"Presbytery — lost nothing — charm, nor the gar—its brightness."

Twice since the morning these same meaningless words had struck me, and for the second time I saw that they produced on the Sorbonne professor the same paralyzing effect. M. Darzac's first anxiety showed itself when he turned his eyes in the direction of Daddy Jacques. But, occupied as he was at another window, he had seen nothing. Then, tremblingly opening his pocketbook, he put the piece of paper into it, sighing, "My God!"

During this time Rouletabille had mounted into the opening of the fire grate—that is to say, he had got upon the bricks of a furnace—and was attentively examining the chimney, which grew narrower toward the top the outlet from it being closed with sheets of iron fastened into the brickwork, through which passed three small chimneys.

"Impossible to get out that way," he said, jumping back into the laboratory. "Besides, even if he had tried to do it he would have brought all that iron work down to the ground. No, no; it is not on that side we have to search."

Rouletabille next examined the furniture and opened the doors of the cabinets. Then he came to the windows, through which, he declared, no one could possibly have passed. At the second window he found Daddy Jacques in contemplation.

"Well, Daddy Jacques," he said "what are you looking at?"

"That policeman who is always going round and round the lake. Another of those fellows who think they can see better than anybody else!"

"You don't know Frederic Larsan, Daddy Jacques, or you wouldn't speak of him in that way," said Rouletabille in a melancholy tone. "If there is any one who will find the murderer it will be he." And Rouletabille heaved a deep sigh.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

# Proceedings Of County Court

[CONTINUED.]

Thursday, Jan. 7, 1909.

Court met pursuant to adjournment when were present the same as on yesterday. The journal of yesterday having been read and approved the same is here now signed.

The following proceedings were had, to-wit:

In the matter of appointing road supervisors:

Now at this time the court considers the matter of appointing road supervisors for the year 1909 and after being duly advised in the matter,

It is ordered that the following named men be appointed for the respective districts:

Dist. 1, Wallowa, J. B. Pace.
Dist. 2, Lostine, F. W. Hammack.
Dist. 3, Enterprise, W. J. Hammack.
Dist. 4, Joseph, Wm. Newby.
Dist. 5, Prairie Creek, O. W. Chambers.
Dist. 6, Divide, R. L. Scott.
Dist. 7, Fruita, S. C. Himmelwright
Dist. 8, Imnaha, Tom McCarthy.
Dist. 9, Pine Creek, George W Harris.
Dist. 10, Trout Creek, T. C. Bunnell.
Dist. 11, Paradise, O. L. Berland.
Dist. 12, Lost Prairie, Wm. Murrill.
Dist. 13, Grouse, Lafayette Wilson.
Dist. 14, Promise, W. I. Sanner.
Dist. 15, Flora, H. Mench.
Dist. 16, Mud Creek, S. B. Warnock
Dist. 17, Powwatka, Olof Anderson.
Dist. 18, Smith Mountain, Peter Kuehl.
Dist. 19, Eureka, Joe Clemons.
Dist. 21, Eden, George Courtney.
Dist. 22, Leap, G. H. Lathrope.
Dist. 23, Butte, Frank Sargeant.
Dist. 24, Pittsburg, J. A. Grimes.
Dist. 25, Wallowa Canyon, J. N. Riggle.
Dist. 26, Swamp Creek, George W Wright.

In the matter of correcting the tax roll and remitting and rebating the tax on the sw¼ se¼ e half sw ¼ sec 31, 1 s, and lot 6, sec 6, 2 s 1 44 e W. M.

Whereas, in the year 1900 the county assessor of Wallowa county, Oregon, assessed the sw¼ se¼ e½ sw sec 31 t 1s and lot 6 sec 6 t 2s, r 44 e W. M. to owners unknown and the same was extended on the said 1900 tax roll at line 16, page 81 thereof, and

Whereas, in the year 1901 the county assessor of Wallowa county, Oregon, assessed the same land to owners unknown and the same was thereafter extended on the said 1901 tax roll at line 14 page 81 thereof, and

Whereas, that during both the years 1900 and 1901 the state of Oregon was the owners of said land and said assessment was erroneously made.

Now, therefore, it is adjudged and ordered that the sheriff of Wallowa county, Oregon, and tax collector thereof, correct the tax roll of the year 1900 on page 81 and line 16 by remitting the amount of tax thereof, to-wit $11.88, and by making the same show that said tax was erroneously assessed and also that said sheriff correct the tax roll of 1901 on page 86 at line 14 thereof by remitting the amount of tax, to-wit, $11.20 and by making said roll show that said tax was erroneously assessed. It is also ordered that the county clerk of Wallowa county, Oregon, make the necessary and proper entry in his account with said sheriff so that said sheriff shall receive proper credit on his account for the aforesaid taxes so remitted.

Whereupon court adjourned until tomorrow at 9 a. m.

Friday, Jan. 8, 1909.

Court met pursuant to adjournment, when were present the same as on yesterday. The journal of yesterday having been read and approved, the same is here and now signed.

The following proceedings were had, to-wit:

In the matter of collecting the bond of C. O. Knodell et al for the location of a county road:

Now at this time the matter of the expenses of viewing and surveying the C. O. Knodell road, which are now unpaid coming on to be heard,

It is hereby ordered that the matter be referred to the district attorney with instructions to collect the same on the bond filed therein.

In the matter of collecting the bond of Earl Childers et al for the location of a county road:

Now at this time the matter of the expenses of viewing and surveying the Earl Childers road, which are now unpaid coming on to be heard,

It is hreeby ordered that the matter be referred to the District Attorney with insrucions to collect the same on the bond filed therein.

In the matter of establishing a new road district:

Now at this time F. H. Brownlee and others petition the county court for the establishing of a new road district, and after the court being fully advised in the matter,

It is hereby considered and ordered that said petition be allowed, the district shall be numbered 25, and the boundary line shall be as follows, to-wit:

**Road District No. 25.**

Beginning at the northwest corner of Sec. 19, in Township 3 North, of Range 41 E., running thence east 3 miles; south 1 mile; east 1 mile; south 1 mile; east 1 mile south 1 mile; east 2 miles; south 3 miles; east 1 mile; south 2½ miles; west 3½ miles; north ½ mile; west to the center of the main channel of the Minam river; thence down the center of the main channel of said river in a northerly direction to the center of the main channel of Wallowa river, thence down the center of the main channel of said Wallowa river, in a northwesterly direction to a point due west of place of beginning, thence due east to place of beginning.

In the matter of changing the boundary line of Road district No. 1:

Now at this time the court considers the matter of changing the boundary line of Road District No 1, and after being fully advised in the matter,

It is hereby considered and ordered that the boundary line shall be as follows, to-wit:

**Road District No. 1.**

Commencing at the northwest corner of Sec. 33 in Township 2 North of Range 42 E, thence south 6½ miles; west 3½ miles; north ½ mile; thence west to the center of the main channel of the Minam River; thence in a southerly direction up and along the main channel of the Minam river to the southwest corner of Sec. 34 in Township 1 South of Range 41; thence east 9 miles; north 6½ miles; east 1½ miles; thence north 1¾ miles; thence east 1 mile; north 2¾ miles, east 1½ miles; north 1 mile; east 2 miles; north 5 miles; west 6 miles; north 2 miles; west 4 miles to place of beginning.

In the matter of changing the boundary line of Road District No. 10:

Now at this time the court considers the matter of changing the boundary line of Road District No. 10, and after being fully advised in the matter,

It is hereby considered and ordered that the boundary line shall be as follows, to-wit:

**Road District No. 10.**

Commencing at the southwest corner of Sec. 9 in Township 1 south of Range 44 E., east 5½ miles, north 2 miles; west 1 mile; thence north 15 miles; thence west about 5½ miles; to Mud Creek, thence in a southeasterly direction up and along Mud Creek to the southeast corner of Sec. 33 Twp. 3 north of range 44 E., thence east ½ mile; south 11 miles; west 1½ miles; south 3 miles to the place of beginning.

In the matter of changing the boundary line of Road District No. 15:

Now at this time the court considers the matter of changing the boundary line of Road District No. 15, and after being fully advised in the matter:

It is hereby considered and ordered that the boundary line shall be as follows, to-wit:

**Road District No. 15.**

Commencing at the southeast corner of Sec. 16 Twp. 3 North of Range 45 E., thence north 6 miles; east 3 miles; north 6 miles; west 8 miles; north about 6½ miles to state line; thence w 1½ miles; thence south about 4¼ miles; west ¼ mile; south ¾ mile; west ½ mile; south ¾ mile; west ¼ mile; south ¾ mile; west to the main channel of Courtney Canyon; thence in a southeasterly direction up and along Courtney Canyon to the northeast corner of the northeast quarter of the south east quarter of Sec. 35 in Township 4 North of Range 44 E., south 1½ miles; thence west about 5½ miles to Mud Creek, thence in a southeasterly direction up and along Mud Creek to the southeast corner of section 18 in Township 3 North of Range 44 E., thence east 8 miles to place of beginning.

In the matter of changing the boundary line of Road District No. 18:

Now at this time the court considers the matter of changing the boundary line of Road District No. 18, and after being fully advised in the matter:

It is hereby considered and ordered that the boundary line shall be as follows, to-wit:

**Road District No. 18.**

Commencing at the southwest corner of Sec. 18, township 3 north of Range 41 E., thence east 8 miles; south 1 mile; east 1 mile; south 1 mile; east 1 mile; south 1 mile; east 2 miles; south 3 miles; east 1 mile; north 4 miles; west 2 miles; north 5 miles; west 2 miles; due north to the middle of the channel of the Grande Ronde river, thence in a southwesterly direction up and along the main channel of the Grande Ronde river to a point due west of the place of beginning, thence east to place of beginning.

In the matter of changing the boundary line of road district No. 22:

Ordered that the boundary line be as follows:

**Road District No. 22.**

Commencing at the northwest corner of Sec. 6 in township 2 north of range 44 E. W. M., thence south 6 miles; west 2 miles; south 1 mile; west 1½ miles; south 1½ miles; east 2 miles; south 1 mile, east ½ mile; south 1½ miles; east 1 mile; south ½ mile; east 2 miles north ½ mile, east 1½ miles; north 11 miles; thence west 3½ miles to place of beginning.

Saturday, Jan. 9, 1909.

In the matter of the Clairemont addition to the town of Wallowa:

Approved and ordered filed and recorded in the county records This plat is approved in lieu of the one heretofore approved, the former being found defective.

* * *

In the matter of establishing a new road district:

Ordered that said new district be established, the district shall be numbered 26, and the boundary line shall be as follows:

**New Road District No. 26.**

Commencing at the northeast corner Sec 21 in Twp 3 North, 45 E., running thence west 2½ miles; south 15 miles; east 1 mile; south 2½ miles; east 6½ miles; north 6½ miles; west 2 miles; north 8 miles; west 3 miles; north 3 miles to the place of beginning. .

In the matter of changing the boundary line of road district No. 9:

Ordered that the boundary line shall be as follows:

**Road District No. 9.**

Commencing at the southwest corner of Sec 7 in township 1 North of range 45 E. W. M., running thence east 2 miles; north 2 miles; east 1½ miles; north 3 miles; east 9½ miles; thence due north to the center of the main channel of Snake river; thence down the main channel of Snake river in a northwesterly direction to the state line; thence about west about 3 miles; thence south 12½ miles; thence west 9 miles; thence south 9 miles east 3 miles; south 8 miles; to place of beginning.

In the matter of changing the boundary line of road district No. 8:

Ordered that the boundary line shall be as follows:

**Road District No. 8.**

Commencing at the southwest corner Sec. 19, Twp. 1 south of range 48 E., W. M., running thence east 2 miles; north 6 miles; east 10 miles; north 4 miles; west 8 miles; north 3 miles; west 6 miles; south 5 miles; west 1 mile; south 3 miles; east 3 miles; south 5 miles to place of beginning.

In the matter of changing the boundary line of road district No. 7:

Ordered that the boundary line shall be as follows:

**Road District No. 7.**

Commencing at the northwest corner of Sec. 28, Township 1 North of Range 48 E. W. M., running thence east 10 miles; south 2 miles; east to the center of main channel of Snake river, thence in a southwesterly direction up and along the center of the main channel of Snake river to the Baker county line; thence w 6 miles; thence north 23 miles; thence east 2 miles; north 1 mile; west 2 miles; east 2 miles; north 6 miles to the place of beginning.

In the matter of changing the boundary line of road district No. 23:

Ordered that the boundary line shall be as follows:

**Road District No. 23.**

Commencing at the southeast corner of Sec. 36 in Township 1 South of Range 47 E. W. M., running thence north 7 miles; west 3 miles; north 3 miles; east 1 mile; north 5 miles; west 6½ miles; south 3 miles; west 1½ miles; south 8½ miles; west 3 miles; south 4½ miles; east 3 miles; north 1 mile; east 10 miles to place of beginning.

In the matter of changing the boundary line of road district No. 5:

Ordered that the boundary line shall be as follows:

**Road District No. 5.**

Commencing at the northwest corner of Sec. 2 in Township 2 south of Range 45 E., W. M., thence running south 3½ miles; west 1 mile; thence due south to the Baker county line; thence east 5 miles; thence north 23 miles; thence west 3 miles; north 1 mile; west 1 mile to place of beginning.

In the matter of changing the boundary line of road district No. 3:

Ordered that the boundary line shall be as follows:

**Road District No. 3.**

Commencing at the northwest corner of Sec. 18, Township 1 south of Range 44, running thence south 6cmfwy cmfwy mfwy nfwymfwypshrdl 7¼ miles; east 4 miles; north ¼ mile; east 2 miles; north 1 mile; east 1 mile; north 1 mile; east ½ mile; north ½ mile; east 1 mile; north ½ mile; east 2½ miles; north 3½ miles; west 3½ miles; north ½ mile; west 7½ miles to place of beginning.

**Information Concerning Eighth Grade Final Examinations.**

I. Dates:

Three examinations annually. Each county superintendent to select months for his county.

(a) January 21-22, 1909.
(b) May 13-14, 1909.
(c) June 10-11, 1909.
(d) September 2-3, 1909.

2. Program:

(a) Thursdays—Arithmetic, Writing, History, and Civil Government.
(b) Fridays — Grammar, Physiology, Geography, and Spelling.

3. Sources of Questions:

(a) Civil Government —United States Constitution.
(b) Geography — State Course of Study: Redway and Hinman's Natural School Geography.
(c) History—List of topics from History Outline in State Course of Study and Current Events.
(d) Language—Buehler's Modern English Grammar, no diagramming.
(e) Reading — The teacher will send to the County Superintendent the applicant's class standing in reading, which shall be taken by such superintendent as the applicant's standing on the subject
(f) Spelling — Eighty per cent from Reed's Word Lessons, and twenty per cent, from manuscript in Language.
(g) Writing — Specimens of penmanship as indicated in copy matter and from manuscript in Language.

Respectfully submitted,
J. H. ACKERMAN,
Supt. Public Instruction.

The first Eighth Grade examination for the year 1909 will be held January 21-22.

Teachers preparing classes for this examination will please report to this office the number of applicants at least thirty days before above date.

Respectfully,
J. C. CONLEY.
Supt. of Schools.

**Applications for Grazing Permits.**

Notice is hereby given that all applications for permits to graze cattle, horses, and sheep on the WALLOWA NATIONAL FOREST for the season of 1909, must be filed in my office at Wallowa, Oregon, on or before March 1. Full information in regard to the grazing fees to be charged and blank forms to be used in making applications will be furnished upon request.

2415 HARVEY W. HARRIS, Supervisor.


# Don't

LET your subscription expire If you do, Uncle Sam will bar your paper from the mails. Look at the label and don't

# FORGET