



THE MYSTERY OF THE GREEN RAY

By William Le Queux

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

The outbreak of war sends Ronald Ewart, a young London barrister, to the Highlands to say good-bye to his fiancée, Myra McLeod.

CHAPTER V. Is More Mysterious.

I sat and stared at the old man in astonishment. Obviously he was fully convinced that he was giving me an accurate account of what had happened, and equally obviously he was perfectly sane.

"That is all," he said presently. "The rock came to me." "Good heavens!" I exclaimed suddenly brought to my senses by the sound of his voice.

"For a moment I thought I was mad, and sometimes, when I have thought over it since—and the Lord knows how many times I've done that—I've come to the conclusion that I must have fallen asleep. But even now the fear haunts me that my mind may be going."

"You mustn't imagine anything like that, General," I advised seriously. "Whatever you don't encourage any doubts of your own sanity. There must be some explanation of this, although I can't for the moment imagine what it can possibly be. It is a remarkable thing, and I fancy you will find, when we do know the explanation, that anyone else standing where you were at that time would have seen exactly the same thing."

"The rock stands out of the water; it is just above a deep pool, and probably it was a sort of mirage effect, and not by any means a fragment of your brain."

"To my surprise the old man leaned back in his chair and burst out laughing. "Of course," he exclaimed. "I never thought of that—a sort of mirage. Well, I've begged thanks for your suggestion, Ronald. I've no doubt that it was something of the sort. What a begad ood I am. Let me pray that our poor little girl's trouble," he added solemnly, "will have some equally simple solution."

serted confidently. "And he may have some medical knowledge that will just shake the puzzle into place, and explain the whole mystery to us. It seems to me that these remarkable things that these two strange affairs should have happened in exactly the same place. That it is some strange freak of nature I have no doubt, but I am absolutely at a loss to think what it can be."

"It can hardly be wondered at that, as I have said before, sleep and I were strangers that night, and I was glad enough when the time came for me to get up."

Myra came down after breakfast, wonderfully brave and bright, but there was no sign whatever of her slight returning to her. The leaving-taking was a wretched business, and I cannot dwell on it. Sandy started early to sail to Mallaig with the lugboat, Angus at the engine, old Mary McNiven in the bows, while I took the tiller, and Myra lay on a pile of cushions at my feet, her head resting on my knee, her arm round Sholto's neck; for she had wanted the dog to see her off at the station. The old General managed to keep up a cheery manner as he said good-bye at the landing-stage, but he was looking so care-worn and haggard that I was glad that he had been persuaded not to come up to London with us. He was certainly not in a fit state for the fatigues of a long journey. As we slid out from the side of the shed that harbor which Nature had thoughtfully bestowed on the place.

"I can hear a motor-boat," said Myra, suddenly sitting up. "Yes," I replied. "It's Hilderman's." "Is she ahead of us?" she asked. "I looked round, and saw that the Baltimore was putting out to round the point."

"No she's about level," I answered. "She's evidently making for Mallaig. We are, if anything, a little ahead of her, but they will soon pass us, I should think."

"Oh, Ron," cried Myra, with childish excitement, "don't let them beat us. Angus, put some life into her. We must make the harbor first."

"Angus did his best, and I got her as near the shore as I dared on the treacherous coast. The Baltimore grided out to sea with the easy grace and as we passed the jagged promontory she was coming up about thirty yards behind us."

"Challenge him, Ron," Myra exclaimed; "you've met him."

"I turned, and saw Hilderman and two other men in the boat one a friend apparently, and the other the mechanic. I stood up and waved to him. "We'll race you to Mallaig," I shouted. "It's a bet," he agreed readily at the top of his voice, waving back. It was a ding-dong business across the mouth of Nevis, and the Baltimore was leading, if anything, but we had not far to go, and our opponents had taken a course a good deal farther by the lighthouse, however, the Baltimore drew in at a magnificent pace, house rock, and we slid alongside the distinct at the short distance, stood up in the stern of the Baltimore and looked at us. We were making good time, but we had no chance of outdistancing his powerful boat. But as he looked at us, and was evidently about to shout some triumphant greeting, I saw him catch sight of Myra, lying at my feet, her face hidden in the shade over her eyes. Suddenly, without the slightest warning, again, took the long course round the lighthouse, and we slid alongside the table a good minute ahead of him. Myra was delighted; she had no suspicion that we had virtually lost the race, and the trifling excitement gave her a real pleasure. Angus, I could see, was puzzled, but I signed to him to say nothing. My heart warmed to Hilderman; he had seen that Myra would give her some pleasure to win the race, he had tactfully given way to us. I was really grateful to him for his kindly thought, and determined to thank him as soon as I could. We had nearly half an hour to wait for the mid-day train, and, after seeing Myra and Mary safely ensconced in the Marine Hotel, I went out with Sholto to get the tickets, telegraph to Denner, and express my gratitude to Hilderman. But when I stepped out of the hotel he was standing in the road waiting for me.

"Good morning, Mr. Ewart," he said, coming forward to offer me his hand. "Is there anything the matter with Miss McLeod?" "She's not very well," I replied. "She has something the matter with her eyes. It was very good of you to let us win our little race. Every little pleasure that we can give Miss McLeod just at this time is of great value to us."

CANADA'S PROBLEMS REVIEWED BY OFFICIALS OF BANK OF MONTREAL

The addresses of the President and General Manager of the Bank of Montreal, at the annual meeting of shareholders of that institution, were the authoritative pronouncements of men of international standing in matters of finance, and as such they will undoubtedly be followed with much interest both in this country and abroad. Every year the addresses at this annual meeting are looked forward to with keen anticipation by merchants and manufacturers because of the comprehensive analysis that they provide of financial conditions in Canada, and because they afford guidance in the general business policy to be followed during the coming year.

Must Deal With Railway Situation

In the view of Sir Vincent Meredith, the way to sustained improvement in trade is not yet clear, but when labor realizes that it is not to be continued, and that more efficiency and greater production are absolutely necessary in order to bring prices down to a level that will stimulate consumption and thus provide increased employment. His warning as to the evil effects of heavy taxation in stifling industry and enterprise is one that will be cordially endorsed by all thinking men, and one which those who direct our public affairs surely will not dare to ignore. And Sir Vincent merits public thanks for the courageous way in which he dealt with the railway problem; in particular for his uncompromising declaration that no marked im-

provement can be expected in the present business conditions so long as the roads continued under public ownership, as he said, means political ownership and operation. Both Great Britain and the United States have realized the financial chaos inseparable from such ownership and operation, and have adopted the only remedy.

Retail Forces Out of Line.

Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor undoubtedly placed his finger on one of the weak spots in our present trade conditions when he said that while on the one hand the purchasing power of the products of our natural resources was at the lowest level reached for several years past, in other directions we still had high prices, and retail prices were conspicuously out of line. It is on the purchasing power of the products of our natural resources that we must place our main dependence for a revival in trade and it is obvious that there can be no sustained improvement until the price of other commodities are commensurate with that purchasing power.

Summed up, the most obvious needs of Canada at the present time, in the opinion of these two eminent financiers, are drastic economy in the conduct of public affairs, a solution of the railway problem on the basis of private as against political ownership and operation, a vigorous immigration policy for the peopling of our waste spaces by diverting to Canada the stream of immigrants that formerly flowed elsewhere, and deflation in the cost of labor.

rible manner. We are just taking her up to London to see a specialist. "Had she any pain?" he asked, "or any dizziness or fainting, or anything like that?"

"No," I said; "there is absolutely nothing to go by. It is a most extraordinary affair, and a very terrible blow to us all."

"It must be," he said gently, "very very terrible. I have heard so much of this, deeply grieved. He spoke very sympathetically, and I felt that it was very kind of him to take such a friendly interest in his unknown neighbor."

"I think you'd better join me in a brandy and soda, Mr. Ewart," he said, "suppose you know it, but you look ten years older than you did yesterday! Good heavens! Had all this happened in a day? I was certainly feeling far from myself, and I accepted his invitation readily enough. We turned into the refreshment room outside the station and I had a stiff whisky and soda, realizing how far away from London I was when the man gave me the whisky in one glass and the soda in another."

"Tell me," said Hilderman, "if it is not very rude of me to ask, or too painful for you to speak about, what was Miss McLeod doing when this happened? Reading, or what? I gave him a rough outline of the circumstances, but in view of what the General had told me the night before, I said nothing about the mystery of the green ray. We wanted to retain our reputation for sanity as long as we could, and no outsider who did not know the General personally would believe that his astonishing experience was anything other than the strange creation of a nerve-wrought brain."

"And that was all?" he asked thoughtfully. "Yes, that was all," I replied. "I suppose you haven't decided what specialist you will take her to when you get her to London?" he queried. I was about to reply when I heard Sholto in a heated argument with some other dog, and bolted out in. As I returned, with my hand on his collar, the harbor-master greeted me, and told me we might have some difficulty in reaching London, as the train service was likely to be disrupted owing to the transport of troops and munitions. When I rejoined Hilderman I was full of this new development. It would be both awkward and unpleasant to be turned out of the train before we reached London; and every moment's delay might mean injury to my poor Myra. "I don't think you need worry at all, Mr. Ewart," he said, "the trains will run all right. They may alter the services here they are not likely to do so. Thank heavens I shall not be travelling again for some time. I hate it, although I have run about a good deal. I have a few modest investments that take up a considerable portion of my time. I figure on one or two boards, you know."

(To be continued.)

Canada's forests are estimated to contain eight hundred billion feet of commercial timber and one billion cords of pulpwood.

Sir James Cantlie, a noted English surgeon and physical culture authority, is seventy years old and as supple as an athlete. He conducts a physical culture class for men who are close for their eightieth year, and a class for elderly women. Some exercises he prescribes are the same as those used by the Chinese 5,000 years ago.

STAMMERING THE AMBERTON METHOD

Words.

Words are colored beads I string upon a chain. Some are gold with sunshine. Some are bright with rain.

Words are splendid pictures Hanging on the wall. Some are big with mountains. Some are hushed and small.

Words are waxen candles Shining on a tree, For the dark to see itself And wish a wish for me.

Words are whisper-thoughts I think of in the night. That walk about with gladness Soon as it is light.

Words are gay balloons Bright against the snow. I loose their strings and watch them Sailing high and low.

Words, words, words— How I love you, words! I'm the nest from which you fly. You're my singing birds.

—Louise Ayres Garnett.

The Empire Looks to Canada's Forests.

In the British Empire Forestry Conference in London, the fact was brought out that Canada is pre-eminently the source of softwood supply in the Empire. Some people are inclined to regret that Canada is not a country of fine hardwoods such as mahogany, ebony, and rosewood, but when it is remembered that the Conference also brought out the fact that nine-tenths of the timber brought to market all over the world is softwood, then the importance of Canada as a source of timber supply is appreciated. This is why the Conference laid such stress upon the need of forest conservation in Canada. Canada's coniferous or softwood timber is a great source of strength both to the Empire and to herself.

How Tom Sawyer Did It.

You remember how Mark Twain's popular hero, the resourceful Tom Sawyer, got all the boys in his neighborhood to compete for the privilege of doing his distasteful job—whitewashing a fence—by telling them what fun it was? He made the disagreeable task so enjoyable, that they gave up to him their marbles, their tops, and other toys for the pleasure of being allowed to take a hand in doing it. Each of the boys took a turn at whitewashing until the fence was finished to Tom's satisfaction.

Many employers have the happy faculty of so enthralling their employees that they easily turn hard work into play. It is a great business asset.

Tunnel-Digging Machine Also Lays Walls.

Digging a tunnel, removing the earth, and lining the walls with concrete blocks as the tunnelling advances, are all accomplished by a single machine. Four revolving arms at the front of a cutting head, mounted in a steel drum, carry the cutters which remove the earth. It is deposited by buckets, on a conveyor belt, which carries it to cars, brought up from the rear. Behind the cutting head are the gearing of the cut. Back of this is the lining constructor, which lays concrete blocks designed so that when they are pushed into place they expand and fit in spiral courses, giving a forward motion to the machine, which keeps the cutting head in contact with the tunnel heading.

Canada has water power equal to 20,000,000 horsepower; 90 per cent. is still running to waste.



Woman's Interests

Health and Beauty.

Toothache is a warning and may cause you pain, loss of sleep, loss of work or study, indigestion, bad breath, and always does injury through pain to the nervous system. There are two principal kinds of toothache. One kind is where there is a cavity in the tooth and the nerve within becomes inflamed from irritation due to food particles getting into the cavity, or by heat or cold affecting the nerve. The other form of toothache is called an abscessed tooth. In this case the tooth usually has a cavity (or hole). Substances also get into the tooth and irritate the nerve until it dies and decays. The dead nerve substance is filled with germs, which get out through a little opening in the end of the root and cause the tissue or gum about the root end to swell and pain severely. If teeth in this condition are not cared for by the dentist they may cause serious constitutional trouble.

Pyorrhoea (or Rigg's disease) begins as an inflammation of the edge of the gum. The inflammation at this point is caused by bacterial growth on the teeth, and by injury. Bacterial growth on the teeth drifts under the gum edges and sets up inflammation. If the teeth are kept free from bacterial and food coats and the gum is kept in a hard, firm, pink condition so that it can not bleed, inflammation of the gum edge and pyorrhoea can not occur. Heavy, vigorous rubbing of the gums and teeth with a clean brush or dry linen greatly aids in the prevention of gum-edge inflammation and consequently pyorrhoea.

Two things make teeth decay: First, sickness in childhood, like scarlet fever, diphtheria, and other diseases. Such diseases make the teeth decay by weakening the body, and softening the teeth. Accordingly, children should be spared these diseases by having an adequate system of community health supervision. Second, when the teeth are not kept clean and smooth they get rough and dirty, food collects between and about the teeth and clings to all their surfaces where it ferments, forms acid and injures the enamel and causes cavities to form. Because germs develop and multiply on this decaying substance, it is well to see your dentist at least twice a year if you wish to safeguard your teeth.

To clean the teeth properly, the space between the teeth should be swept with dental floss, which can be purchased at any drug store. Care should be exercised in pulling the floss between the teeth; the gum should not be injured and made to bleed. Next use a proper brush and use it correctly. Brushing across the teeth only does very little good; you should brush from the gums toward the biting edge of all the teeth, giving the brush a quarter turn while it is being moved up or down.

Choose tooth brushes with care. They should be small for children, larger for adults. The brush should be of medium texture, neither soft nor stiff. The bristles should be arranged in wedge shape, in order to reach between the teeth.

Avoid the family tooth brush holder and keep the individual tooth brushes from touching one another. As the germs of pyorrhoea are so easily transferred from one person to another through the contact of tooth brushes, it is also possible that other diseases might be transmitted by the same means. Careful people sterilize new tooth brushes before using, especially such brushes as have been exposed to dust in the shops.

Once a day, preferably before retiring at night, use a good tooth-paste or powder. Tooth powders have their place in that they are usually abrasive,

Old Foes in New Places.

The rat is a great danger to the airship and the aeroplane; the mechanism is so delicate that one rat on board can do serious mischief. If it bites through woodwork, or tears the fabric of the wings, it may cause the vessel to collapse.

There is a remarkable story of a large aeroplane that during the war was flying over mountainous country on the Western front. Pilot and observer were much disturbed at discovering traces of a rat on board, but they had no means of capturing it. They thought of landing, but they knew that their hidden foe might bring them disaster before they could reach the earth. Suddenly a bright idea came to the pilot, and he began to mount higher and higher in the alt until he had almost reached an altitude higher than any that man has attained. Both men found breathing extremely difficult; their ears felt as if bursting, their breath came in tearing gasps; but they were waiting for something they knew must happen. They knew that their enemy must succumb before they succumbed themselves. Presently, with a feeble scamper, a large rat emerged from some secret nook of the aeroplane and fell panting and dying on the floor. It was the work of a moment to fling it overboard.

that is of use in polishing, thereby assisting in checking the formation of tartar.

Good tooth-pastes usually contain some ingredient which tones up the gums, and a paste is easier to handle than a powder. There are numerous excellent tooth-pastes on the market and it pays to buy a good brand. The pastes come in tubes and if carefully handled, a tube of paste will last a long time.

Family Portraits.

Have the players—of whom there can be any even number—sit in two straight lines, facing each other. Give each player a pencil and a piece of paper and tell him to draw a picture of the person opposite him. No matter whether he can draw or not, he must make an attempt. Of course if everyone were an artist there would be no fun. It is often the pictures that are drawn by those who know least about art that are the most amusing.

After the pictures are finished, collect the papers and display them for all to see. The picture that is voted to be the best likeness wins the game and the prize, if there is one.

Caring for Your Piano.

Although most people try to take every care of their pianos, especially in these days of high prices, they do not always succeed. Pianos, like human beings, are very sensitive to their immediate surroundings, and must be properly "placed" in order to retain their proper volume of tone.

A very common, although pardonable, weakness is to regard an instrument first of all as a beautiful piece of furniture, quite overlooking the fact that its chief function is to produce perfect musical notes, chords, harmonies, and nuances.

The chief materials used in making a piano are highly-seasoned wood, steel, iron, brass, and various kinds of felt and cloth, each having its exact relationship to the instrument as a whole. In consequence, a piano is susceptible to atmospheric influences, which can, however, be avoided by careful "placing" in the room.

Never keep your piano in a drafty room also never have it near an outside wall, or near a window conservatory. Avoid draughts; a "conservatory" position is nearly always better than against a wall.

These are the chief conditions to be observed, and the rest can be left to the discretion or taste of the owner. Not only should every care be taken to preserve your piano from damp, but it should be occasionally ventilated by opening the top. Condensation of the air can take place inside a pianoforte on the cool metal parts just as easily as on the window-pane. It does not always follow that your piano is out of order if some of the notes don't sound true. Very often this is due to some object in the room vibrating in sympathy with certain notes when struck. The object left in the lock of the piano will give such an effect, or it may be due to the instrument not being properly placed on the floor.

Heavy ornaments, flower bowls, books, etc., should never stand on a piano. The lightest ornaments only should be allowed on a pianoforte, and even these should stand on a soft mat. Preferably leave the pianoforte quite bare of any decoration.

Finally, never neglect to have your instrument tuned at regular intervals. Avoid inexperienced tuners, as you would the plague. More often than not, they strain the tuning-pins so that the instrument will never again remain properly in tune.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands is an expert linguist. She is an expert horsewoman, draws cleverly, is a fairly accomplished musician, and has an intimate acquaintance with all of the details of practical housework.

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