Triumphs of M. Jonquelle

by MELVILLE DAVISSON POST

BEGIN HERE TO-DAY.

It as evening and a group of men were seated on the porch of the Executive Mansion listening to M. Jonquelle, greatest of French detectives, tell the story of Chauvannes, the explorer who was killed in Africa, and who left the record that caused everyone to believe he was mad. "But he was not mad," exclaimed Jonquelle, turning to the chief Executive.

Then Jonquelle told how Chauvannes had gone into the Congo with three worthless white men, had found the precious emeralds and had then begun to write the diary which caused every reader to doubt his sanity—particularly when he wrote of the creature which entered his tent—that strange creature which he alone could see.

GO ON WITH THE STORY.

CHAPTER III.

"It was on the third night, after the two men had departed and he was alone in the tent with the sleeping Leturc, that Chauvannes saw this creature. He says it was about 3 o'clock in the morning. He had been awake through the entire night, his eyes usually closed. He does not know how he happened to open them. It was precisely 17 minutes to 3, by the watch which he wore on his wrist.

He opened his eyes precisely at the moment when the creature entered the tent—a thing it did without disturbing the flap and without making any sound whatever.

"Chauvannes says that he saw it distinctly. It paused for a moment after it had entered, remaining for some seconds quite motionless. He says that in proportion to the other parts of the creature's body, the head was enormous. It was cubical in contour. The outline was perfectly clear, but what we would call features were hardly distinguishable. The thing seemed to lack features. That was one of the distinguishing horrors of it—a head big in proportion to its body, cubical in outline and lacking features! The chest and abdomen were also big, estimating the creature by its own proportions. The limbs were long, narrow and jointed. The whole creature was of a repulsive, reddish color, and without any of the usual covering of animals with which the human race is familiar. The body seemed to be of some hard, red substance, Chauvannes said—frozen and polished flesh, after the skin had been removed, was the idea he got.

"The creature remained only a coment visible to him; then it disappeared. It seemed to Chauvannes that it disappeared merely by turning about. He was unable to see it again, although the doorway where it entered was clear in the moonlight, and there was only the grass floor of the tent."

Monsieur Jonquelle stopped here in his nafrative, like one who would wish a hearer to grasp the whole conception of the story before he went on. But he did not seek a comment. The man beyond him waited for him to go on, and he presently continued:

"I shall not follow the detail of all the experiences noted down by Chauvannes, and which, finally, brought him to the conclusions at which he at length arrived. He was able, after this night, to observe the creature and a number of its companions, although the man Leturc, who was always with him, seems never to have observed it.

"He was also able to discover, although he does not give all the details of that discovery in the journal, that these creatures lived underground, and that one of their underground cities was very close to the camp. He had, in fact, by some sinister hazard, put down his camp almost at the doorway of the underground habitat of these extraordinary beings—if one could call a creature of this character a being in our sense.

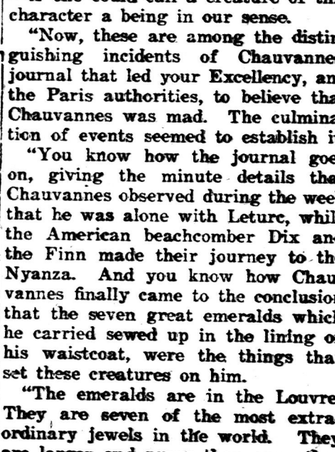
"Now, these are among the distinguishing incidents of Chauvannes' journal that led your Excellency, and the Paris authorities, to believe that Chauvannes was mad. The culmination of events seemed to establish it.

"You know how the journal goes on, giving the minute details that Chauvannes observed during the week that he was alone with Leturc, while the American beachcomber Dix and the Finn made their journey to the Nyanza. And you know how Chauvannes finally came to the conclusion that the seven great emeralds which he carried sewed up in the lining of his waistcoat, were the things that set these creatures on him.

"The emeralds are in the Louvre. They are seven of the most extraordinary jewels in the world. They are larger and purer than any other known emerald. They are cut in a manner of which we have no knowledge, and the backs of them are covered with a hieroglyphic writing that antedates any language that we know, and which, so far, has baffled every egort to translate.

"At any rate, although the Frenchman Leturc was with Chauvannes all the time—on the very day before the return of Dix and the Finn, the emeralds risappeared!

"Chauvannes wrote it down in detail in the journal.



The men were convinced that he was mad.

"He was certain, accurate, without any trace of doubt: the emeralds—no longer in his possession—were in the nuderground habitat of these creatures! And the opening to this habitat was close beside the very place of the camp.

"It was hardly any wonder that the men with him considered him mad, especially when one reads the closing pages of the journal. He takes, in writing, an elaborate and tender farewell of the three men. He thanks them in detail for their courage, their unfailing kindness to him and their devotion to the expedition. No man could have written a higher testimonial of the fidelity of his companions. He points out that his death is impending and certain. He begs that the journal may be carried to France, and he urges the French government to send out an expedition to recover the emeralds which he says are concealed in the first underground dwelling of the creatures, which he has described, as though he were aware of the fact that there were other dwellings of these creatures about. The emeralds are in the one closest to the camp, and they can be recovered! He is persistent on this point, as he is insistent on the fact that his death is near and inevitable, and as he is insistent on the fidelity of the three men with him.

"And when on the following day, as Leturc reported, he seized the Finn's rifle and shot himself, the men were, of course, convinced that he was mad."

There came a sudden vigor into Monsieur Jonquelle's voice.

"But he was not mad! Don't you see, Excellency, that the whole narrative of the journal was an immense cipher? Don't you see what the man was doing?"

The voice beyond Monsieur Jonquelle, in the darkness of the portico, boomed in a sudden big expletive. There was the sound of a doubled fist crashed into the palm of a hand.

"Wonderful," he cried. "It's clever beyond words. Think of the man in that deadly position working out a clever thing like that. He knew what was going to happen to him. He knew it as soon as he picked up those jewels under the overturned stones on the Congo. He knew he would never come out alive, and he worked out the cipher in this journal to show where the emeralds were concealed, so the French authorities could recover them. And he worked out all the details to be sure that the journal would finally get into Paris. It's wonderful! It's amazing!"

He beat his leg with his big hand, thumping it as one might thump grist in a bag.

"I never dreamed that that was what the man was after. I thought he was mad!"

"Surely," replied Monsieur Jonquelle. "It was the first impression of everybody. But he was not mad. He was merely making a great cipher with all the details of this journal.

"He knew there was no chance that he would ever come out alive! But he wished to rob these assassins of the treasure which they coveted, and he wished the record of his expedition and these incomparable emeralds to reach France. He therefore prepared a journal in which was concealed, as in a code, all the atcual facts connected with his expedition and his assassination, and at the same time would disclose the place in which the emeralds were concealed. It would also bring the assassins to that justice which they deserved. He foresaw that Dix and the Finn would assume that Leturc had stolen the emeralds. He knew that the Apache Frenchman was shrewder than these two, that he would realize their suspicion and that he would forestall it by their murder—a thing we know immediately happened after the assassination of Chauvannes on the morning of their return. This was established by the fragmentary confession of the Apache Leturc, shortly before he was executed."

Monsieur Jonquelle stopped.

"I maintain, Excellency, that this whole journal is the finest example of code writing that was ever undertaken in the world."

He paused. And his voice took on a note of profound courtesy.

"You know, Excellency, what the creature was that Chauvannes described, and where the emeralds were hidden?"

Again the big voice boomed.

"Surely," it cried. "Our conception of a thing depends on the manner in which it is described and the mental state which has been prepared to receive that description. It was the ant! The red ant! and the emeralds were concealed in the ant-heap nearest to the point where the camp was located."

(Another M. Jonquelle story will follow this.)

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Timber on Indian Reserves

The total quantity of timber cut for sale on Indian reserves in Canada in the fiscal year 1926, was approximately ninety million feet board measure and in addition to this the Indians cut for their own use about seven million feet of timber for building and fencing purposes and twenty thousand cords of wood for fuel, besides an unreported quantity of ash, maple, hickory, etc., for the native manufacture of snowshoes, baskts, axe handles, and similar products.

Bewhiskered by Bees.

George Biggers, of Pasadena, places about ten pounds of bees around his cheeks and gets away without one sting.

A NEW FROCK FOR SCHOOL OR PLAYTIME.

Smartly simple is this chic frock having a two-piece skirt shirred to the bodice. In View A the high neck is finished with a round collar and the long sleeves are gathered to narrow wristbands, while in View B contrasting material is used for the patch-pockets, overfacing on the square neck and cuffs finishing the short sleeves. No. 1642 is in sizes 4, 6, 8 and 10 years. Size 6 requires 1⅞ yards 36-inch, or 1½ yards 54-inch material, and ¼ yard additional 36-inch contrasting for View B. Price 20 cents the pattern.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Busybody or Boss

Everybody in the industrial and commercial world, even to the humblest employee, is a boss. Whatever one's task may be, intelligent direction of effort is required. Despite the organization of industry to make routine labor automatic, every individual must be a boss in the application of his personal energies to the task at hand. When this principle is understood, many minor executives who waste time as "busybodies" in directing the efforts of others, will achieve true executive calibre by limiting their bossing to the co-ordination of one worker's task with the efforts of the entire organization. Old-fashioned bossing, which is one part "driving," one part "snooping," and one part "busybodying," receives no approval in modern organizations.

Canada's National Museum

Long before the days of confederation, in 1844, the first Director of the Geological Survey, Sir William Logan, commenced a natural history museum which has existed continuously since then and is now known as the National Museum of Canada. Each year this institution sends out field parties to widely separated parts of the Dominion to make investigations in natural history and ethnology, and to augment the already vast collections of specimens housed in the Museum at Ottawa. Eleven parties are in the field this summer, five for anthropological work, five for biological, and one for mineralogical, in addition to the field parties of the Geological Survey, whose work is so closely associated with that of the Museum.

Careful

Two young ladies visiting a small town decided to go for a ride into the open country.

In answer to their inquiry for a gentle horse the livery man said, "Yes, I have one, the only trouble is he does not like the rein to touch his tail."

The young ladies started out promising to be careful.

On returning the man asked, "Well, did you enjoy your ride?"

One of the ladies answered: "Oh, yes, it did rain a little, but Flossie held the umbrella over his tail while I drove."

Self-Sustaining Air Services

Probably the only two self-sustaining air transport routes operated during 1926 in the Empire were in Canada—those from Haileybury to the Rouyn and from Sioux Lookout to the Red Lake mining fields. These are on the absolutely commercial bas's and have had no Covernment subsidies.

Beware of the human who rarely laughs.

Scientist Explains Rollers in Calm Sea

Lays "Slapping" of Liner to the Coincidence of Wave Phases of Distant Storms

Washington—Navy hydrographers who have studied reports of the sudden arising of huge waves out of apparently calm seas off the North Atlantic Coast in recent days have advanced three possible explanations, although the data at hand was too scant to permit definite conclusions.

The liner France was slapped by a big wave off Ambrose Light at the entrance to New York Harbor on Aug. 23, and a somewhat similar experience was met by the steamer Saugus off the Delaware Breakwater the next day.

G. W. Littlehales, U.S. navy hydrographic engineer, says the most likely explanation was that the wave phases of distant storms in the Atlantic coincided, generating much larger waves which "slapped" these ships. It is plausible also, he said, that this sudden coincidence was as abruptly terminated, restoring the sea to relative calm.

"Such an occurrence might also have been caused when a fast incoming tide-stream formed what is known as a "tide scar" near inlets," he continued. "This means that the friction of land underneath would hinder the tide at lower levels, causing a steep reverse incline.

"Contact of waters of different physical qualities, such as density and temperature, has also been known to cause such an abrupt disturbance. I hesitate, however, to give any definite reason for the occurrences, other than to say that some natural explanation exists and that the big wave was not a spiritual manifestation."

He—"What do you say to getting engaged?"

She—"Do you know some nice looking fellow with money?"

Lloyd George Mistakes Servant For Official

An incident in one of David Lloyd George's visits to Switzerland, while he was still Prime Minister of Great Britain, has become classic. At a certain station, where his train was to stop for a few minutes, he was awaited by a State Councillor of the Confederation, attended by a servant, who carried a large basket of grapes, to be presented to the distinguished visitor. The Councilor was plainly clad, in black; but the servant wore a three-cornered, plumed hat, scarlet cloak and a massive gilt chain.

The train stopped and Lloyd George alighted. Seeing the resplendent personage, he greeted him, accepted the basket of grapes, thanked him effusively, and began to eulogize the country. The lackey listened imperturbably while the sober-garber Councilor stood by.

When one of the train attendants whispered to him the identity of the two men on the platform and the mistake he had made, the resourceful statesman flung open his carriage door and stretched out his hand to the abashed Councillor, exclaiming:

"A thousand apologies, my dear sir! But in my country our greatest noblemen dress exactly like your doorkeeper!"

International Boundery Survey

Almost every known method of survery has been made use of in the work of surveying the International Boundary between Canada and the United States. In its length of 5,500 miles, the boundary passes through country greatly varying in nature—through arms of the sea, through the great lakee, through rivers, lakes, and forests, and over plains, snowfields, glaciers, and mountains.

Canada's Water Power

During the calendar year 1926 hydro-electric installations in Canada amounted to 266,000 horse-power, bringing the total installation to date in the Dominion to 4,556,000 horse-power.

Gracious Gift

"Golden Book" for Britain as Token of France's Gratitude

Paris.—For months French artisans and statesmen have been busy preparing a "golden book" which recently Foreign Minister Briand and other Government officials presented to Sir Austen Chamberlain when the British Secretary of Foreign Affairs was received at the Hotel de Ville.

The book, which bears the title "France to the British Empire," followed by the words "Amici amicis in memoriam gloriae communis," bears three prefaces by MM.M Briand, Poincare and Clemenceau, respectively.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs explains the motive of the gift—gratitude of France for British sympathy and aid. The Premier stresses the importance to world peace of Anglo-French co-operation and at the same time expresses French admiration, sympathy and affection for Britain. M. Clemenceau, the wartime Premier, writes: "To love consists not in the telling but in the proving."

The book contains views of the most interesting sites in France and the colonies and is autographed by outstanding French statesmen, soldiers and diplomats.

200,000 Pilgrims Journey to Mecca

Despite the fact that the holy city of Islam is controlled by the Wahabites, headed by Ibn Soud, King of the Hedjaz, the number of pilgrims making the journey to Mecca this year broke all records, according to reports published in Europe.

The tension between the Egyptian Government and Ibn Saud over the refusal of the former to send the "holy carpet" to Mecca, under the conditions laid down by the King of the Hedjaz in May, caused talk of a boycott of the pilgrimage this season, but none occurred, and in the last week of the ceremonies there were present 15,000 pilgrims from Egypt alone.

The total attendance is estimated at more than 200,000, of whom 70,000 came from Persia, Iraq and Afghanistan and 50,000 from the Dutch East Indies. Among the last arrivals were 30,000 pilgrims from British India, who had been delayed because the League of Islam disputes the right of the Wahabites to rule over the city of the Prophet.

Mounted Police Patrol Ship

An auxiliary schooner, 95 feet long, is being built for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for patrol work in the western Arctic. This ship will also facilitate the changing of personnel and the transport of supplies to the police detachments along the Arctic coast of Canada from Herschel Island eastward to Coronation gulf.

That one is always pursuing his studies doesn't necessarily mean that he is behind in them.

The cost of army shoes has gone up eigthy-six cents. Can the fact that they are now equipped with rubber heels have caused this "boost" in price?