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GENERAL DIRECTORY.

County Officials.

Judges of the Circuit Court—James A. Pearce, Chief Judge; Edwin H Brown and William R Martin, Associates Terms—jury, 1st Monday in April and October; non-jury, 2d Monday in January, 4th Monday in June.

Clerk of the Circuit Court—Thomas L. Day.

County Commissioners—Wesley Jarrell, Pres.; James B. Wright, Franklin P. Medford.

Judges of the Orphans' Court—John F. Dawson, Chief Judge; J. Olan Clark, Wm. H. Deen, Associates.

School Commissioners—Thomas W. Jones, President; Henry C. Fisher and Albert W. Sisk.

School Examiner and Secretary—W. S. Crouse.

Register of Wills—Robert J. Jump.

States Attorney—T. Alan Goldsborough.

Sheriff—Wm T. Hignutt, of E.

Professional and Business Cards.

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ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Denton, Md.

T. PLINY FISHER,
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OSCAR CLARK,
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WRITE ME TO DAY.

H. S. GOLDEY, President, Goldey College, Wilmington, Del.

MYSTERY OF THE BAYOU WOODS

By WALHER KENNEDY.

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SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—Herbert Wright goes to chief of police of Nilus in great agitation and tells him of his discovery of the murdered body of his father, John T. Wright, a wealthy cotton king, from whom he has been estranged, in the Bayou Woods near the town. The chief questions Herbert, whose answers cause former to suspect him of the crime. The chief, with a reporter, Irving Warde, goes to scene of murder.

CHAPTER II. They find body and examine surroundings but fail to discover any reliable clue.

CHAPTER III.—Warde examines mysterious footprints in the snow and tells Col. Franklin, an old acquaintance of the murdered man, of them. Herbert is arrested on suspicion of being implicated in the murder.

CHAPTER IV.—Col. Franklin is a brilliant lawyer, but says he is unable to solve the mystery.

CHAPTER V.—At coroner's inquest strong circumstantial evidence against Herbert Wright is submitted and the jury charges him with the murder.

CHAPTER VI.—Warde goes to Herbert's sister, Miriam, who believes him innocent, and tells her he will do all in his power to clear her brother. Col. Franklin says he thinks a strong case has been made against Herbert.

CHAPTER VII.—An attempt is made to poison Herbert in jail. Warde deducts that he has a shrewd person to contend with who is trying to prove the charge of murder against the dead man's son, in which he is evidently succeeding.

CHAPTER VIII.—Warde is lured to a questionable resort and an attempt made to murder him, but he is saved by Fenton, a detective.

CHAPTER IX.—When Mrs. Wright's

CHAPTER IX.

John T. Wright left no will, and the settlement of his estate became involved at once in difficulties that were never anticipated by his family.

It had never been a happy family for the reason that Wright was a cold, austere man, who long ago had banished anything like tenderness from his heart. His family were to him merely a part of his establishment. They were, he knew, against him in the quarrel with Herbert, and he would never permit them to mention the name of his son, while he made it impossible for them to aid the young man in his pecuniary distress. Mrs. Wright's life did not differ very materially from that of a captive who has lived in comfortable quarters and had all that could be wished in the way of clothing and food. Such a thing as amusement never entered her thoughts. As for Miriam, her life was deeply embittered. Her sympathy for her mother had made her almost hate her father, and her breast was filled with rebel instincts only awaiting a favorable opportunity to break forth; but the opportunity never came. Her father always treated her as if what she thought was of absolutely no consequence; and as for what she should do, he would determine that. No doubt the time would have come when Miriam would have clashed with her stern father, and as it was the dearest wish of her heart to do so, it is not unlikely that she would have come out victorious.

Such was the deadening, soul-destroying influence exerted by John T. Wright on his family and all those associated with him in business.

The day after the events described in the foregoing chapter Mrs. Wright, a gentle, elderly lady, on whom sorrow had set its seal, and her daughter Miriam, were in consultation at the Wright place with their lawyer, John W. Everett, regarding the condition of the estate.

Lawyer Everett was a vigorous, brainy man about 45 years of age. A clean shaven face, conspicuously firm in its outlines, a cold, resolute blue eye, and a contour of head which phrenologically considered indicated ideality as well as perspicacity, were the salient physiognomical features of a man who in his day was a celebrity in his part of the country. There was the fullness under the eyes that denotes oratory, and in his case the sign was prominently true. The uprightness of his character was no less conspicuous than the directness of his intellect. In short, he was just the sort of adviser needed by Mrs. Wright and her daughter in the emergency that now presented itself. These ladies had an unconquerable repugnance to Wright's life-long legal adviser, Col. Franklin, because in some way he seemed to be identified with the flintiness which was the leading characteristic of the murdered man, and neither had any desire to employ as their lawyer so intimate a friend of Wright as Franklin had been.

The consultation now being held was not the informal business affair which the ladies had anticipated. It grew more and more startling as the lawyer proceeded to unfold what he had discovered. The public impression was that Wright was a very wealthy man, and his wife and daughter shared in this impression; how thoroughly everybody had been deceived Lawyer Everett was now making clear.

"I have examined all of Mr. Wright's papers," said the lawyer, "and I was never more astonished in my life. You are, I presume, under the impression that he left a great fortune."

"I thought my husband very wealthy."

"I dislike to disappoint you, madam, but I may as well tell you that there is no fortune."

"But——" began Mrs. Wright.

"And," continued the lawyer, "we will be very fortunate if we can snatch from the estate enough to secure a maintenance for yourself and daughter."

"Why, Mr. Everett, there—there must be some mistake. It is true that I was never my husband's confidante in his business, but I have known of several of his investments. This place which we are now occupying is one of the most valuable in this section of the state——"

"Very true; but it did not belong to your husband."

"Not belong to my husband?"

"It was sold many years ago to the Shelby Real Estate & Investment company."

"But—my husband owned several plantations in Arkansas and Mississippi."

"That is also true; but all those were sold to the same company at the same time, with the exception of one plantation in Mississippi and one in Arkansas, which your husband purchased three years back. So far as I can see, these two plantations are all the assets in sight."

"I remember a good many years ago my husband bought a large tract of land in Texas, and he invested in some mining lands in Colorado."

"Very true; but all of that property was sold. The former to the same real estate company, and the latter I judge from some imperfect memoranda left by your husband was sold to some mining company organized under the laws of Colorado. Everything that your husband then owned was sold."

"But what could have become of the money?"

"That is the question I asked myself. The answer I got from the old records in part. You are, of course, aware of the fact that your husband many years ago was tried on the charge of killing Baxter, his foreman. By referring to the records I discovered that his property was transferred just after that event and before his trial took place. The property was sold at an enormous sacrifice, only $30,000 being realized so far as I can make out."

"What became of that?"

"I called upon Col. Franklin, who was one of your husband's lawyers at that trial, and asked if he could give me any idea as to the disposition that had been made of the cash. He smiled rather significantly and said he could. 'Do you know,' he said, 'what it cost to clear John T. Wright?' 'Of course not,' I answered. 'It cost a cold $25,000, and he had to have the money ready. Of course,' he went on, smiling, 'I cannot say anything about where it went, nor need I account for the fact that certain officers, by dealing very gingerly with the law and the facts, made it comparatively easy to bring in a verdict of acquittal.' I need hardly tell you, madam, what I think of such an admission coming from a member of my profession. Franklin's explanation, in short, is that Mr. Wright had to sell off his property to raise ready money for the purpose of buying an acquittal. But there are some aspects to this case which will render further investigation on my part necessary."

"If my husband did not own this place and the plantations to which he was constantly making visits, why did he show so much activity in improving and supervising them?"

"You have struck, madam, a hard question to answer. It may be he was in the employ of the company that bought him out; but what I cannot account for is the fact that he should have spent nearly all the profits of his business in improving and clearing up these plantations in Arkansas and Mississippi. I intend ascertaining if there is any law for claiming the value of these improvements, and in this way I shall probably make the real estate company show its hand. During my partial investigation of your husband's papers I came across a memorandum upon which you can perhaps throw some light."

"What is it?"

"This paper, as you will observe, is a map or plot of a piece of land." The lawyer here handed Mrs. Wright a paper, evidently of secret design, with a drawing upon it.

"On the back of this paper," said he, "you will observe the memorandum which I cannot understand."

Mrs. Wright turned the paper over and read the following:

"See schedules in agreement with Franklin."

"Can you tell me what agreement it is that is referred to in this memorandum?" asked the lawyer.

"I have no idea whatever," said Mrs. Wright.

"That is strange. In the examination of your husband's papers I have come across several references to papers which I cannot find, hints of something hidden in his business. Papers which I am satisfied are important are missing."

"You may not remember it, but my husband was robbed by one of his clerks a few months ago. The thief, who has never been caught, took several hundred dollars in money and he may have accidentally disarranged or carried off some of the papers."

"Or he may have done so purposely. Among Mr. Wright's last correspondence I find an unaddressed and unfinished letter. It is dated a few days before he was killed. Let me read it to you."

Mr. Everett then read the following fragment:

"Dec. 18.—.

"'I have misplaced my copy of the agreement. All danger is now past and it is time that we should carry out the terms of the contract; and I would like for you to appoint a day for a consultation. Recent advices have satisfied me that the Colorado——'

"This fragment as you will see refers to a contract or an agreement. The memorandum also refers to an agreement with Franklin which contained a schedule. It seems reasonably certain that this letter was intended for Franklin, and that there was some kind of an agreement in writing between them. For some reason Mr. Wright did not send the letter, and without knowing anything about the provisions of the agreement, I should commend his prudence in not sending it. If he had lost his copy of the contract he was practically at the mercy of the other party to it, and to notify that party of the fact would have been very poor judgment. I have not gone through Mr. Wright's correspondence yet, and I hope it will throw some light on the dark places. I half suspect that there is something of a most important character behind the surface, and I hope I shall be able to get at it."

Mrs. Wright remembered that shortly after the killing of Baxter she had signed some sort of a real estate transfer, which she did not understand, but which her husband had told her was a mere matter of form. Mr. Everett was of the opinion that this must have been the transfer to the Shelby Real Estate company.

"And what do you think of my brother's case?" asked Miriam, who had been an unmoved auditor during the preceding conversation.

"I can't give you an opinion on it," said Mr. Everett. "You know I have been in the case only a day, and I have done no work on it at all. I have told Herbert to keep his mouth shut. To-morrow we are to have an interview, and he is to give me his case."

When Mr. Everett reached his office Irving Warde was waiting for him. The lawyer had known Irving ever since he was a boy and had always taken a warm personal interest in him. Whenever Irving got into any kind of a tangle he consulted Mr. Everett, and it was owing to these consultations that he managed to write correctly about some abstruse legal topics and to avoid the shoals of libel. The lawyer had the utmost confidence in the young man and knew that when he unbosomed himself frankly, but privately, no public use would ever be made of his opinions.

"I came to see you about the Wright case," said Irving. "I have just learned that you will defend him, and I want to tell you what I know."

The lawyer expressed his willingness to listen. Irving gave him an account of the striking incidents with which the reader has already been made familiar.

"In addition," he said, "to the unexplained features of the circumstantial evidence, you can readily establish the fact that the pistols were changed. It is generally understood that Herbert Wright has a story to tell which will place a new phase on the murder and possibly implicate some one else. So an attempt is made to poison him. I have announced my intention of working at the puzzle, and have made some important discoveries. What is the result? I am lured into a den of crime and tumble into a carefully laid plan to assassinate me. All these things prove to my mind, Mr. Everett, that there is a powerful organization at work. At first the life of John T. Wright stood in the way of its accomplishing some great end. He was put out of the way, but not without some telltale evidence being left behind. Herbert Wright having in some way come across these evidences is marked for death; and the attempt made on my life satisfies me that I was on the right track. Mr. Wright's death was, I am convinced, but a part of some far-reaching enterprise, some great undertaking that had been planned with commercial nicety. His death was not a matter of passion, but business, and the interest that demanded it now wish to close Herbert's mouth, and put a period to my investigations."

"I can hardly believe it," said the lawyer, "because it implies the possession of power almost unlimited, not to speak of the money necessary to hire all the agents."

At this juncture the door opened and Detective Fenton entered the room.

"I am glad to find you both here," he said.

"You've struck something new in the Wright case?" asked Irving.

"Yes; I have been discharged from the police force on account of my activity in the case."

"How do you know that?" said Mr. Everett. "Do you mean to say that the chief of police has lent himself to a plot to prevent the truth from coming out?"

"Not at all. The chief is my friend, and he did not want to see me go. I have been on the force 15 years and have never had a complaint lodged against me. The chief has no more power to retain me than I have myself."

continued on page eight.

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you how it quiets the tickling throat, heals the inflamed lungs, and controls the hardest of coughs.

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Be sure that this picture in the form of a label is on the wrapper of every bottle of Emulsion you buy.

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Would like to exchange a one horse wagon for a light covered hack; address, X. Y. Z, AMERICAN UNION office.

Autoharp to exchange. What have you to offer? Address 666 AMERICAN UNION office.

I have a single barrel breech loading Cresent shot gun. What do you offer for it? Address, Box 102.

I have a lady's silver watch which I would like to exchange for a Reniassance collar. Address, X X X AMERICAN UNION office.

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STOCKHOLDERS MEETING.

A meeting of the stockholders of the "Anklam Manufacturing Co.," of Caroline County, will be held at the office of Fred. R. Owens in the Law Building, in Denton, Caroline County, State of Maryland, on

Monday, March 14, 1904,

at 2 p. m for the purpose of considering a proposition to increase the capital stock of said company from one hundred and twenty shares to four hundred and eighty shares at the par value of $25 each.

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J. KEMP STEVENS,
FRED R. OWENS,
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