

AUTHOR OF "The Leavenworth Case." AGATHA WEBB. By ANNA KATHARINE GREEN.

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters.

Just after a ball at the Sutherland mansion Agatha Webb and her servant are found dead, and Philomena Webb, Agatha's husband, who for years has been growing demoralized, is discovered in the dining room. A trace of blood on his sleeve indicates him as the murderer and knew the niece of the Sutherland housekeeper, persists in remaining about the Webb premises and disposes of the money drawer. The money drawer is found to be empty and robbery is added to the mystery. Frederick Sutherland, a wayward youth, tells his father to witness his determination to be a better man and promises not to marry Miss Page, by whom he has been fascinated. Miss Page tells Frederick that she followed him the night of the murder and knew what the knife did to her.

though he might almost as well have been, for the captain was playing cards in a private room and would not submit to any interruption in his game.

"He will submit to mine," retorted Sweetwater to the man who had told him this. "Or wait; hand him back this letter and say that the messenger refuses to deliver it." This brought the captain out, as he had fully expected it would. "Why, what?" began that gentleman in a furious rage. "You are a card sharp, and it will be easy enough to ruin you. Threaten Frederick Sutherland and in two weeks you will be boycotted by every club in this city. Twenty-five hundred dollars won't pay you for that."

thing to say had long ago given in their testimony, and when at or near noon Sweetwater slid into the inconspicuous seat he had succeeded in obtaining near the corner. It was to find in two faces only any signs of eagerness and expectancy that filled his own breast to suffocation.

Mr. Sutherland was looking very feeble. As he took the chair offered him, the change in his appearance was apparent to all who knew him. There were few there who did not know him. And startled by these evidences of suffering which they could not understand, more than one devoted friend stole uneasy glances at Frederick to see if he, too, were under the cloud which seemed to envelop his father almost beyond recognition.

But Frederick was looking at Amabel, and his erect head and determined aspect made him a conspicuous figure in the room. He called out to her in a low voice, and she who had comprehended it fully, smiled as she met his eyes, with that curious slow slipping of her lips which had more than once confounded the coroner, and rendered her the object of watching her.

CHAPTER XXX. On his way to the depot Sweetwater went into the Herald office and bought a morning paper. At the station he opened it, and there was one column devoted to the wreck of the Hesper, and a whole half page to the proceedings of the third day's inquiry into the cause and manner of Agatha Webb's death.

It occasioned even to those who had never had much confidence in this young man's virtue, was almost appalling in its intensity. Had it not been for the consciousness that Mr. Sutherland's near presence the feeling would have risen to a point where the voice would have been inaudible by the remembrance of this venerable man's last look, that otherwise would have made themselves heard in spite of the restrictions of the place and the authority of the police.

Frederick was not visible in the great hall, but that he was near at hand soon became evident from the change Sweetwater now saw in Amabel. For while she had hitherto sat under the universal gaze with only the faint smile, conscious beauty on her inscrutable features, she roused as the hands of the clock moved toward noon, and glanced at the great door of entrance with an evil expectancy that startled even Sweetwater, so little had he really understood the nature of the passions laboring in that venerable man's breast.

After the two such important persons and possibly witnesses, the crowd settled back into its old quietude under the coroner's hand. A tedious witness was having his slow say, and to him a full attention was being given in the court, and the light of heaven would come at last to settle the questions which had been raised by Amabel's incomplete and unsatisfactory testimony.

CHAPTER XXXI. Had Batsy Lived. It was the last day of the inquest, and to many it bade fair to be the least interesting. All the witnesses who had any-

ing more desperate in mind than a sullen intention of having my own way about this money, I lifted the latch of the front door and stepped in.

"I had expected to find a jovial group of friends in her little ground parlor, or at least the sound of merry voices and laughter in the rooms above, but no sounds of any sort awaited me; indeed, the house seemed strangely silent for one so fully lighted, and astonished at this, I pushed the door ajar at my left and looked in. An unexpected and pitiful sight awaited me. Seated at a round table were the master of the house with his back forward on his arms, asleep. The expected guests had failed to arrive and he, tired out with waiting, had fallen into a doze at the board.

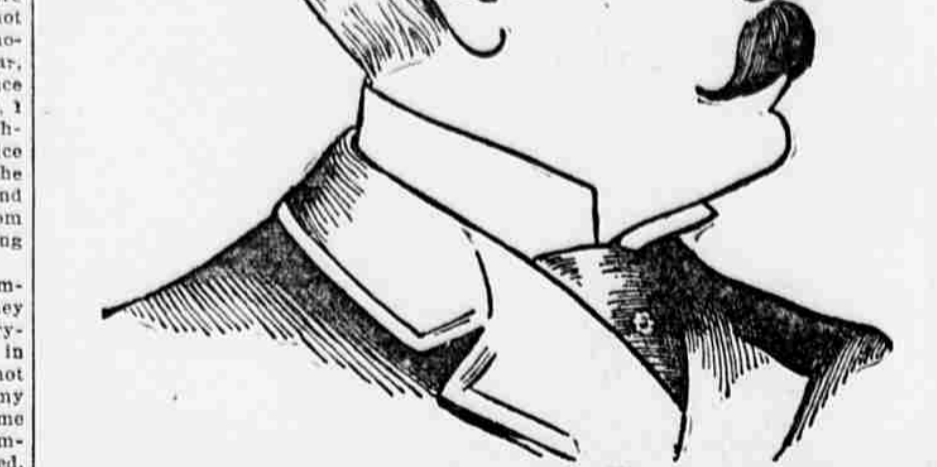
"No, no, Frederick! You don't know what you are doing. If you want my money, take it; if you want my life, I will give it to you with my own hand. Don't stain yours—don't!"

"This, as God lives, is the truth concerning the wound found in the breast of this never-to-be-forgotten woman."

these words, this action of hers, seem in-credible to you, sir? Alas! alas! they will not when I tell you— and here he cast one anxious, deeply anxious glance at the room in which Mr. Sutherland was hidden—"that unknown to me, unknown to any one living."

(To be Continued.)

\$5 A MONTH. DR. McGREW'S RINGING PROCLAMATION TO MEN—MEDICAL TREATMENT AND A HELPING HAND FOR ALL, ONLY \$5 A MONTH.



DR. McGREW is well known throughout the West as one of THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SPECIALISTS in the treatment of ALL DISEASES AND DISORDERS OF MEN ONLY 22 YEARS OF Unlimited Experience—12 YEARS IN OMAHA. Call, or write me full particulars and I will advise you in strict confidence FREE OF CHARGE. Medicine and treatment sent everywhere by Mail or Express at the small charge of ONLY \$5 A MONTH. Skill, Experience, and reliable HOME TREATMENT within the reach of all. Medicine carefully concealed from view in shipping.

CAPADURA CIGAR advertisement featuring an illustration of a cigar pack and text: "Lots of people wonder why a good cigar like the CAPADURA can be sold for five cents. Ordinarily it could not, but its makers are the largest cigar manufacturers in America."

CHAPTER XXXII. The round had come full circle. By various chances and a train of circumstances for which he could not be held responsible, he had returned from his first intention and was being brought back stage by stage to the very spot he had thought it his duty to fly from.

The fear that he was destined so to do grew upon him rapidly, and the temptation to open the letter and make himself master of its contents before leaving town at last became so strong that he could not resist. He opened it and he made up his mind that before he ventured into the precincts of Sutherlandland he would know just what sort of a bombshell he was carrying into the Sutherland family.

He was clearer, however, after a few blocks of rapid walking, and then he began to wonder over the contents of the letter he held, and how they would affect its recipient. Was it a new danger he was bringing him? Instead of aiding Mr. Sutherland in keeping his dangerous secret, was he destined to bring disgrace upon him, not only by his testimony before the coroner, but by means of this letter, which, whatever it contained, certainly could not bode good to the man from whom it was designed to reach?

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CHAPTER XXXIII. The sight of me might nerve him," was Sweetwater's thought, "precipitating the very catastrophe we dread. One look on his part indicative of his inner apprehensions that his son had a hand in the crime which has so benefited him, and nothing can save Frederick from the charge of murder. Not Knapp, and not Amabel's fitness. The young man will be his!"

CHAPTER XXXIV. Meanwhile, the sea grew rosy, and the mother's cottage was as yet far off. Hurrying on, he came at last under the eye of more than one of the early risers of Sutherlandland.

Woolen Cure advertisement: "Woolen Cure. It is the latest discovered digester and tonic. No other preparation can approach it in efficiency. It instantly relieves and permanently cures Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Heartburn, Flatulence, Sour Stomach, Nausea, Sick Headache, Gastralgia, Cramps, and all other results of imperfect digestion. Prepared by E. C. DeWitt & Co., Chicago."

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Clean Bargains Make Trade advertisement: "EMBLEM PINS. Masonic Odd Fellow K. of P. Modern Woodmen Royal Arcanum United Workmen Foresters. T. L. COMBS & CO. 125 DOUGLAS ST. SOUTH OMAHA STORE—24th & M Sts. Who is Your TAILOR? The Best Woolens, The best Workmanship Stylishly Cut Garments are those that are made by the Williams & Smith Co. 1404 FARNAM ST."

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MAGNET PILE KILLER advertisement: "MAGNET PILE KILLER. Not a Common Sale or Ointment, but a SPECIFIC Used for Rectal Diseases Only. READ Testimonials \$1.00 PER BOX. MAGNET CHEMICAL CO. Omaha, Neb."

ARTISTIC HARDWOOD MANTELS advertisement: "With open fireplace and art tile facings and hearths add the finishing touch to a new home. We show mantels in quarter sawed oak, birch, cherry, etc. in various shades—and all the late things in grates, tile and fireplace furnishings. The floors and fireplaces repaired on short notice. Welshans & Holbrook, 309 SOUTH 17TH STREET, Between Farnam and Harney."

BAKER BROS. Engraving & Lithography advertisement: "Do you patronize home industries? If you do let us estimate on your engraving work. Don't send it out of the city. Office, 15 U. S. National Bank Building. OMAHA."

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THE RED CROSS LEAGUE advertisement: "BECAUSE IT WILL GIVE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SERVICE OF THE VERY BEST CHARACTER AT \$1.00 PER MONTH. FUNERAL BENEFIT \$50 Extra. Try and Be Convinced. For further information call or telephone. Omaha Sporting Goods Co., 804 New York Life Bldg. Telephone 2934."

Give a Man His Dollar's Worth advertisement: "and you have that man for a customer, has been our price in doing business, and by that rule we have built up a large business. When we sell a man our Five Cent Jersey Cigar he gets a cigar that most dealers would sell for 10c—Have you ever smoked one? Paxton Block Cigar Store, Jacob Jaskalek, Prop., 14th, near Farnam."

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