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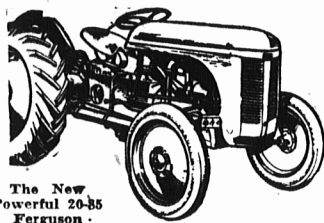
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The Unlatched Door

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

"What are you saying, Roy? Who is this?" gasped Barbara as Roy stood staring incredulously at the stranger. "I am his father," said the white-haired man. "But it can't be! It's impossible! Your body was found..." Roy could only stammer jerkily.

"Not my body, Roy-o. This is my body, no ghost from the grave, but flesh and blood. Peel for yourself." He advanced with outstretched hands.

Roy took the right one in his own and, as though contact with the living tissue had at once convinced him and lifted from him the feeling of being the victim of a dream, he flung his left arm round his father's shoulders and held him fast.

"Dad!" he said again. "Alive! I don't understand it, but I'm so glad!"

"Thank God you can say that, my boy! I hope you will never want to take back your words!" "That could never happen!" "I pray that it may not! But you have spoken for yourself without questioning me. There are so many things which I must tell you."

"Tell me, Dad," said Roy.

"Here—and now?" Matthew Hemersley glanced at Barbara. "This young lady..."

"Barbara Calendar, your daughter-in-law that is to be."

"I had guessed all but her name already," said Matthew with a smile. "I hope you will approve of your father-in-law, Barbara!" he offered her his hand. She hesitated for a moment and a troubled look came over his face as if he feared that his new hope might not be realized. But it was only what seemed to her the utter incredibility of his very existence that had caused her to pause and almost immediately she advanced and laid her hand in his.

"Shouldn't it be the other way round?" she said with a nervous little laugh. "Surely, it is for you to approve of me? Oh!" For the first time their eyes had met directly, and now she was looking into his with a fascinated gaze.

"What is it?" he asked.

"Your eyes!" she said. "I have seen you, before!"

"Yesterday, when I arrived here—"

"Before that—in the street; but not like this!" Her glance swept over his erect figure and perfectly cut clothes.

"I see," he said. "I told Roy there are many things for him to hear. That is one of them."

"But—" she began, only to check herself abruptly and stand regarding him with puckers on her brow.

"What on earth is all this? I don't know anything about it!" said Roy, who had been listening in surprise.

"You shall," said his father. "But that is nearly the end of my story. Hadn't we better begin at the beginning? Let me sit down."

They settled themselves as comfortably as the furniture in the little bare room allowed, though, for the time being, none of them were even remotely aware of the surroundings. Barbara and Roy were side by side, facing the older man.

"Back to the beginning and let us skip wherever we can," said Matthew Hemersley. "You remember why I left Durban, of course?"

"To find Roger Borden."

"Yes. He had taken a roundabout course to hide his tracks, but I traced him to Cape Town. I lost him there. I suppose the next you know is the supposed finding of my body in the sea?"

"Yes. I was brought down to help in the identification. It was ghastly for a child of 12. There was nothing to go by but the clothes and some articles found in the pockets. I recognized most of them as yours. The body might have been yours but the face was..." Roy shuddered at the memory.

"I know all that," said Matthew. "I got the details some six weeks ago, through a private inquiry agency I employed in Cape Town."

"But why was that necessary?" Roy asked in wonder. "Surely your own memory..."

"I know nothing of my personal recollection, about what I have been doing between a night in Cape Town two months after I parted from you and the day, less than a year since, when I came to myself in the casualty ward of a London hospital," said his father quietly.

"Good heavens, Dad! That means ten years out of your life! How did it happen?"

To be continued

Mt. Stewart Local Teachers' Convention

The Mt. Stewart local teachers' convention opened in Mt. Stewart school on Thursday, August 28th, with the president, Mr. Warren McGuirk in the chair. There were forty-three teachers present.

After the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved the following committees were appointed:

Nominations: Theresa Handrahan, Gerard Fraser and Lorraine Coffin. Resolutions: Sister Margaret Marie, Mrs. Malone and Mary McGregor. Question Box: Shirley Mullen, Frances Sinnott. Press: Sister Clare Theresa and Sister Mary Alexander.

Miss Mabel O'Brien, president of the P. E. I. Teachers' Federation gave a report on the year's activities of the Federation, after which Mr. McGuirk welcomed the teachers to the convention and pointed out that this was their convention, and that he hoped that each teacher would enter into the discussions as they arose.

The supervisor's address was given by Mr. Brehaut. He drew comparisons between the well-kept school and the poorly-kept school. He suggested to the teachers that they have their pupils contact Tourist Bureaux in different countries for literature dealing with each country. Miss O'Brien mentioned having carried out that project with all the states of the United States two years ago and that the pupils were very enthusiastic about it.

The teachers then were asked to introduce themselves to the assembly. The next order of business was the election of two teachers to represent Mt. Stewart Local on the Board of Governors. Miss O'Brien and Mr. McGuirk were chosen.

The afternoon session began with an address by Dr. L. W. Shaw, M.A., who dealt at some length with the teaching of "Science" and made it very clear that the chief object in teaching science should be the making of good, useful citizens. At the conclusion of Dr. Shaw's remarks a ten-minute recess was called.

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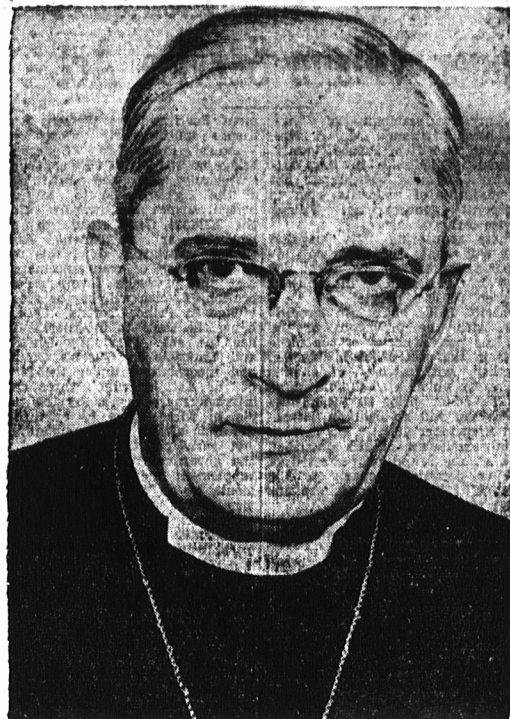
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"Good heavens, Dad! That means ten years out of your life! How did it happen?"

To be continued

Presiding Over Church Of England Conference



Some 40 bishops, 160 clergy and 144 laymen are attending the 18th conference of faith and order at general synod of the Church of England in Canada, now under way at London, Ont., and presiding over the conference—the first to be held in London since 1942—is the Most Rev. Walter Barfoot, seen above, primate of all Canada and archbishop of Edmonton, who has just recently returned from the 18th conference of faith and order at Lund, Sweden. The most controversial matters to come before this year's synod will concern missionaries' stipends, the official name of the church, the part the church should play in the Canadian council of churches and the fixed primatial see.

EATON AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP

The T. Eaton Co., Ltd. is again donating a Scholarship to be awarded at the 1952 Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto.

This Scholarship is open to boys who have not reached their 23rd birthday on October 20, 1952. The Scholarship provides for all College fees, board, and lodging, for a four year course commencing in the Autumn of 1953 at any Agricultural College in Canada selected by the winner. Candidates must be in their graduating year in High School or have already graduated, but not in attendance at a University.

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Interested students should forward their application before September 20th to S. C. Wright, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Box 9, Charlottetown.

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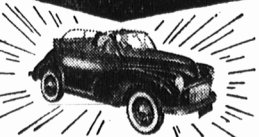
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