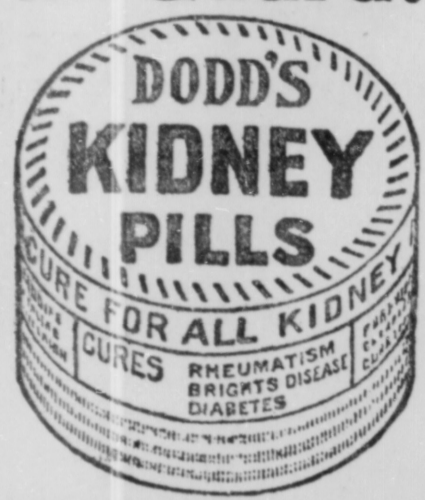


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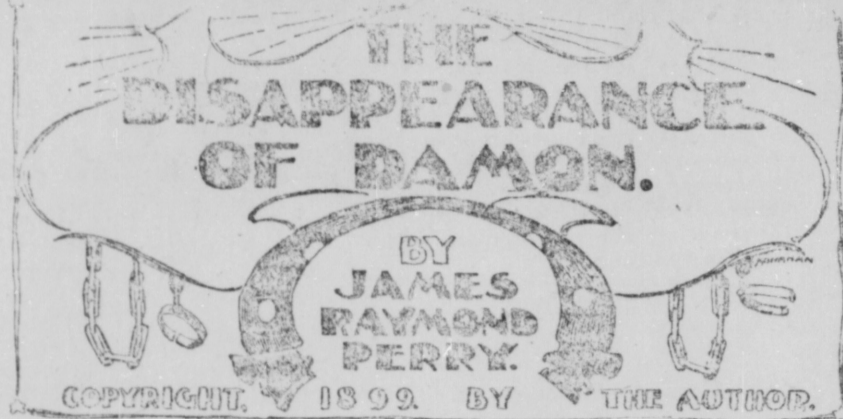
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(Continued.)

Professor Loomis returned to the city that evening, and all through the day following he and Professor Gilman were busy together over their abstruse astronomical problems.

Professor Gilman did not mention the Damon matter to his colleague. Indeed it is doubtful if, during the long hours that they were engaged together that day, thought of the affair once came into Professor Gilman's busy brain.

About 8 o'clock that night several people assembled in Professor Gilman's room to listen to his theory. Josephine Maxwell had been greatly interested in the case from the first, and she and her mother were there. Ben Rice, whose room was next to the one occupied by the professor, was there, and also Mr. Sexton and two or three other students of the Rusk Medical college. Simon Hopper, the detective, had also come at the invitation of Ben Rice, who seemed to be acting as a sort of master of ceremonies. Rice appeared to be in excellent spirits this evening, and the quaint half smile that always lingered about his mouth seemed to tremble toward a laugh more than once.

Just when they had got about settled and ready to listen to the professor Rice was called out of the room for a moment. A gentleman wanted to see him at the door. He returned in a few minutes, remarking that a friend had called for him, but he had excused himself on the ground of having an engagement.

Professor Gilman sat in an armchair near a small writing table. He was talking to Josephine Maxwell and idly rapping his left hand thumb nail with a long lead pencil held between the thumb and forefinger of his right hand.

Rice took a seat over against the partition wall between the professor's room and his own and, tilting his chair back, prepared to listen. Conversation among the others stopped, and Professor Gilman's voice was heard saying:

"The periods of certain variable stars make it probable that"

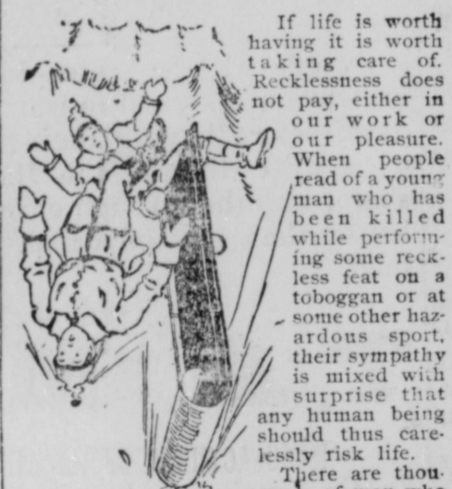
Noting the silence, he stopped and said: "The company seems to be ready to hear about my theory: so, if you will excuse me, Miss Josephine, I will continue what I began to tell you about the so-called 'star of Bethlehem' some other time."

Shifting his position a little in his chair, Professor Gilman began:

"I have it in mind to say, by way of preface, that in the exposition of my theory I may make two or three seemingly startling statements. I would caution you, however, not to jump too hastily to the conclusions they may seem to point to lest you fall into error

and for the time at least cause your suspicions to rest in the wrong quarter. You would better suspend judgment until I have finished."

The assembled company looked a little mystified but no one said anything



If life is worth having it is worth taking care of. Recklessness does not pay, either in our work or our pleasure. When people read of a young man who has been killed while performing some reckless feat on a toboggan or at some other hazardous sport, their sympathy is mixed with surprise that any human being should thus carelessly risk life. There are thousands of men who go about their common every-day avocations. They over-work, they do not take sufficient time from business or labor to eat or sleep or rest, or to care for their health. Outraged nature throws out danger signals, to which they pay no heed. They suffer from bilious or nervous disorders, from sick headache, giddiness, drowsiness, cold chills, flushings of heat, shortness of breath, blotches on the skin, loss of appetite, uncomfortable sensations in the stomach after meals, loss of sleep, lassitude and trembling sensations. These are the advance symptoms of serious and fatal maladies.

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"I will add, by way of further preface," continued the professor, "that all the facts assumed by my theory may not prove to be just as I hope and expect them to. It is an easy matter to overlook some circumstance that might have a more or less important bearing on the case. Especially may this be likely considering the quite limited time and attention that have been devoted to this matter by me. However, you all understand this no doubt and will not attempt to make fun of the old professor"—his gaze swept the faces of the half dozen medical students, and the wintry smile played about his lips—"if he falls into error now and then."

Professor Gilman paused a moment and then began: "Perhaps we may as well take up the question of the student named Nutt and try to trace his connection with the disappearance of Damon."

"Mr. Nutt states—or so I am told; I have had no talk with him—that he spent the Wednesday night in question with a friend at the Lincoln hotel. This friend, it appears, left for Mexico on the following day, and Nutt, rather singularly, is unable to remember the name of his destination; hence it is impossible to communicate with this man and through him possibly establish an alibi for Nutt. We merely have Mr. Nutt's unsupported word here, and so far as evidence is concerned it would have to be regarded as worthless in any event. But here comes our friend Mr. Hopper tonight with the statement that the police authorities have discovered that his story about spending the evening with his friend is a myth—a fabrication pure and simple. The police authorities have been able to learn what Nutt was unable to remember—the destination of the man named Mason. He has been communicated with and denies that Nutt was with him that night. He knows Nutt, and saw him that day but it was before 6 o'clock in the evening.

"I mention this discovery by the police because you may be interested in it, not because it is important in establishing the theory I hold. I was convinced, as indeed were the police, that if Nutt was at the Lincoln House at all that night it was for only a short time. Like the police, I fully credited the story told by the student named Wyman. He says he saw Nutt in company with Damon ascend the steps to the vacant house at 430 Taylor street at about 9:30 p. m. Wednesday. He knew both young men well. He was quite near them and is certain that it was they whom he saw. It seems quite clear therefore that Nutt entered the vacant house that night, and that when the door closed behind him it also closed upon Damon.

"I may say, however, that it matters not a rap to my theory whether Mr. Nutt was at 430 Taylor street that night or a thousand miles from there. And the wintry smile played about Professor Gilman's lips.

Some of those present looked astonished, particularly Simon Hopper, the detective, but Rice and the other students only looked curious.

"I perceive by the look on Mr. Hopper's face," resumed the professor, "that my words have astonished him. I understand that he and the police authorities generally now believe that Nutt is responsible for the murder of his friend Damon. They don't know just how he accomplished it, but they believe he did it. They point to the quarrel the night before and say, 'There was the motive!' And they point to the fact that he and Damon were seen to enter the vacant house together and say, 'There was the crime committed!' And they doubtless believe that time will show the details.

"Regarding the motive, I don't believe one existed. Nutt's roommate says he overheard loud words between Nutt and Damon in the next room. He heard one of them utter the words, 'Take care! Don't go too far!' or some threat of that sort, but he is unable to tell which one said it. Now, that does not seem reasonable. He was perfectly familiar with the voices of both, and if one of them was talking in loud tones, as he states, he ought to have been able to recognize the voice; would have been able to, I believe. I doubt if he ever heard any such evidences of a quarrel in Damon's room, but if he did it was a bit of play acting, depend upon it—a bit of play acting!"

The students exchanged glances, and Rice shifted a little uneasily in his chair, and the quaint smile on his face almost faded away.

"I believe Nutt to be wholly innocent of the murder, and I expect to see him liberated tomorrow.

"No; the disappearance of Damon is the result of a conspiracy, I believe."

Mihard's Liniment Lumberman's Friend

Professor Gilman spoke the words with impressive deliberation.

"I believe it was the result of a conspiracy between several of his fellow students—young men whom he had every reason to believe were his best friends." As he uttered the words Professor Gilman looked straight at Ben Rice. That powerful framed young man returned his look quite unconcernedly. The quaint smile was back upon his lips again.

"The chief conspirator I believe to be sitting in this room," the professor added. His words brought consternation to all his listeners except Rice and the students. The expression on the face of each of them was a study.

Simon Hopper made a movement toward the door to guard against the escape of any person. Professor Gilman motioned him back to his chair. "Have no fear. No one will attempt to escape," he said quietly.

"I have discovered the name of the mysterious caller at Damon's boarding place Wednesday night," he continued. (To be continued.)

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U-NADA Province of Prince Edward Island IN CHANCERY

Before the Vice Chancellor, William Frederick Mathieson Wright and Barry Morris, Executors of the last will and testament of Lemuel Wright, deceased, and William F. M. Wright and Flora Isabel Wright, Complainants.

Fancy Wright and Julia Wright Defendants.

In pursuance of an order of this honorable court, made herein on the seventeenth day of June, instant, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate of the late Lemuel Wright, of Pleasant Point, North River, in Queen's County, in said Island deceased estate, are required to come in and prove the same before me at the Prothonotary's office, in the Law Courts Building in Charlottetown, on or before Thursday, the twentieth day of July next, (1899) and all persons neglecting to come and prove their said debts and claims by that time are to be excluded from the benefit of said order.

Dated this 17th day of June, A. D. 1899.

J. A. LONGWORTH, Master in Chancery.
 D. A. McKinnon, Complainants Solicitor.
 Mon & Thur till July 17th.
 Royal Gazette 1 issue.

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