

英汉
对照
全译本

Master of the World



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主宰世界的人

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（二）

The Master of the World

主宰世界的人

(二)

"What are you puzzling over, Strock?" demanded my chief.

"It is this, Mr. Ward; the motive power of this so - called boat must be as tremendous and as unknown as that of the remarkable automobile which has so amazed us all."

"So that is your idea, is it, Strock?"

"Yes, Mr. Ward."

There was but one conclusion to be drawn. If the mysterious chauffeur had disappeared, if he had perished with his machine in Lake Michigan, it was equally important now to win the secret of this no less mysterious navigator. And it must be won before he in his turn plunged into the abyss of the ocean. Was it not the interest of the inventor to disclose his invention? Would not the American government or any other give him any price he chose to ask?

Yet unfortunately, since the inventor of the terrestrial apparition had persisted in preserving his incognito, was it not to be feared that the inventor of the marine apparition would equally preserve ~~his~~? Even if the first machine still existed, it was no longer ~~heard from~~ and would not the second, in the same way, after having disclosed its powers, disappear in its turn, without a single trace?

What gave ~~weight to this probability~~ was that since the arrival of this report at Washington twenty - four hours before, the presence of the extraordinary boat hadn't been announced from anywhere along the shore. Neither had it been seen on any other coast. Though, the assertion that it would not reappear at all would have been hazardous, to say the least.

I noted another interesting and possibly important point. It was a singular coincidence which indeed Mr. Ward suggested to me, at the same moment that I was considering it. This was that only after the disappearance of the wonderful automobile

“斯特拉克，你对此有何看法？”我的上司问道。

“是这样的沃德先生，这艘所谓的船的驱动力一定如那使我们所有人震惊的汽车上的驱动力一样，强大无比而且不是众人所知的能量。”

“你这么想？斯特拉克，”

“是的，沃德先生。”

现在只能得出一种结论。如果那神秘的驾驶者真的消失，如果他连同他的怪车一起淹没在密执安湖中，揭开那同样神秘的航海员的秘密也同等重要，而且必须在他又隐入大海深渊之前揭开这一秘密。难道这怪船的发明者不想让公众知道其怪船的秘密吗？难道美国政府或者任何其他政府不愿支付这家伙所索要的高价吗？

然而，遗憾的是，既然那个陆地怪物的发明者坚持对其真实身份秘而不宣，那这位海上幽灵的发明者会不会也同样坚持隐姓埋名呢？而且，即使那辆先出现的怪车仍然存在，但它现在已经销声匿迹了，那么，随之出现的那怪船会不会在显示其威力之后，也以同样方式再次消失，不留下任何踪迹呢？

就在这份报告送抵华盛顿时 24 小时前，就再没有任何报道称，在海岸线一带再出现过这只异乎寻常的怪船，这一事实证实了我们刚才所说的可能性并非全无道理。在任何其他海域，也没见过其踪迹。但是纵使如此，认为它不会再次出现的断言，至少可以说，是有害无益的。

我注意到另一颇有意思而且可能十分重要的观点。就在我考虑这一问题时，沃德先生不谋而合地向我指出这一点。就在那奇妙的汽车消失之后，另一同样奇妙的船却出

had the no less wonderful boat come into view. Moreover, their engines both possessed a most dangerous power of locomotion. If both should go rushing at the same time over the face of the world, the same danger would threaten mankind everywhere, in boats, in vehicles, and on foot. Therefore it was absolutely necessary that the police should in some manner interfere to protect the public ways of travel.

That is what Mr. Ward pointed out to me; and our duty was obvious. But how could we accomplish this task? We discussed the matter for some time; and I was just about to leave when Mr. Ward made one last suggestion.

“Have you not observed, Stuock,” said he, “that there is a sort of fantastic resemblance between the general appearance of this boat and this automobile?”

“There is something of the sort, Mr. Ward.”

“Well, is it not possible that the two are one?”

现。而且它们的引擎都拥有极具危险性的动力。如果它们同时在地面上飞驰的话，都会给其所经之处遇上的人们造成同样的危险，无论是在汽车上、船上还是步行的人，均无一可幸免。因此，警察应该采取某种措施进行干预，以确保公共交通安全，这是绝对必要的。

这正是沃德先生向我指出的一点，我们所肩负的责任自然也就不言而喻了。但是，我们如何才能完成这一任务呢？我们又对此问题讨论了一会。正当我打算告辞，沃德先生又对我提出最后一个建议：

“斯特拉克，你可注意到，”他说，“那个怪船和怪车之间有某种惊人的相似之处？”

“沃德先生，确实如此。”

“唔，难道没可能这两怪物是同一个东西吗？”

Chapter 6

The First Letter

After leaving Mr. Ward I returned to my home in Long Street. There I had plenty of time to consider this strange case uninterrupted by either wife or children. My household consisted solely of an ancient servant, who having been formerly in the service of my mother, had now continued for fifteen years in mine.

Two months before I had obtained a leave of absence. It had still two weeks to run, unless indeed some unforeseen circumstance interrupted it, some mission which could not be delayed. This leave, as I have shown, had already been interrupted for four days by my exploration of the Great Eyrie.

And now was it not my duty to abandon my vacation, and endeavor to throw light upon the remarkable events of which the road to Milwaukee and the shore of New England had been in turn the scene? I would have given much to solve the twin mysteries, but how was it possible to follow the track of this automobile or this boat?

Seated in my easy chair after breakfast, with my pipe lighted, I opened my newspaper. To what should I turn? Politics interested me but little, with its eternal strife between the Republicans and the Democrats. Neither did I care for the news of society, nor for the sporting page. You will not be surprised, then, that my first idea was to see if there was any news from North Carolina about the Great Eyrie. There was little hope of this, however, for Mr. Smith had promised to telegraph me at once if anything occurred. I felt quite sure that the mayor of Morganton was as eager for information and as

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第一封信

别过沃德先生后，我回到了在长街的家中。在那我可以有大量的时间一门心思地考虑这桩奇事，而不会有妻子或孩子来打扰。我家中只有一个老仆，以前一直跟随我母亲，现在则继续到我这来服务，到我家已经有 15 年了。

两月前我获得了一次休假。如果没有什么意料不到的事情打扰，我还有两周的休息时间。这次休假，正如我在前面已告诉过大家的那样，去爱里巨峰探险已经占去了 4 天时间。

那现在，我是不是应该放弃休假，全心扑到解开在米尔沃基以及沿新英格兰海域连续出现的奇异事件之谜这事上呢？我愿意倾尽全力去解开这两件怪事之源。但怎样才能找到那怪车或那怪船的线索呢？

吃过午餐，我坐到摇椅上，点燃烟斗，打开报纸。我应该读什么呢？我对政治特别是民主党人和共和党人之间永无休止的对立兴趣不大，我既不关心社会新闻，也不在意体育版消息。诸位想必对此不会奇怪，打开报纸，我的第一个念头就是看看是否有关于北卡罗莱纳州爱里巨峰的消息。然而，这种可能性极小，因为史密斯先生曾答应过，一有情况就打电话告诉我。我确信，莫干顿市长也像我一样急切地想知道并且留意这方面的消息。报纸上没有什么新消息。我把

watchful as could have been myself. The paper told me nothing new. It dropped idly from my hand; and I remained deep in thought.

What most frequently recurred to me was the suggestion of Mr. Ward that perhaps the automobile and the boat which had attracted our attention were in reality one and the same. Very probably, at least, the two machines had been built by the same hand. And beyond doubt, these were similar engines, which generated this remarkable speed, more than doubling the previous records of earth and sea.

"The same inventor!" repeated I.

Evidently this hypothesis had strong grounds. The fact that the two machines had not yet appeared at the same time added weight to the idea. I murmured to myself, "After the mystery of Great Eyrie, comes that of Milwaukee and Boston. Will this new problem be as difficult to solve as was the other?"

I noted idly that this new affair had a general resemblance to others, since they menaced the security of the general public. To be sure, only the inhabitants of the Blue-ridge region had been in danger from an eruption or possible earthquake at Great Eyrie. While now, on every road of the United States, or along every league of its coasts and harbors, every inhabitant was in danger from this vehicle or this boat, with its sudden appearance and insane speed.

I found that, as was to be expected, the newspapers not only suggested, but enlarged upon the dangers of the case. Timid people everywhere were much alarmed. My old servant, naturally credulous and superstitious, was particularly upset. That same day after dinner, as she was clearing away the things, she stopped before me, a water bottle in one hand, the serviette in the other, and asked anxiously, "Is there no news, sir?"

报纸放下，陷入了沉思之中。

我脑子里想得最多的是沃德先生的建议：或许那引起人们注意的怪车和怪船实际上是同一件东西。这大有可能，至少，这两样东西可能出自同一人之手。而且无疑，这两样东西都装有相同的发动机，其所产生的惊人的速度要比以前在地面和海上所能保持的记录快一倍多。

“同一个发明者！”我反反复复想着。

显然这个假设有充分的论据可资证明。两件怪物从没有在同一时间出现过这一点，使得这个假设更具说服力。我喃喃自语，“在爱里巨峰怪事之后，紧接着又在米尔沃基和波斯顿发生这些怪事。那眼下这新情况是不是跟以前那些事一样棘手呢？”

我随意间想到，新发生的这件事跟其他件事都有一个共同之处：它们都对普通大众的安全构成威胁。确实如此，只是蓝岭地区的居民是处于爱里巨峰可能出现的火山喷发或地震所带来的威胁之下。而现在，在美国的各处公路上，它的整个海岸线上或各个港口里，每一个居民都因为这怪车和怪船突然的出现和疯狂的速度而时常处于胆颤心惊之中。

我发现，如同所预料的那样，报纸不仅是指出，而且在夸大这一些事件的危险性。胆怯的人们因此而惶惶不安。我那老仆天性听风就是雨，而且颇为迷信，现在更是整天心绪不宁。就在这天晚餐后，她收拾完毕，在我面前停下，一手端着水壶，另一手拿着餐巾，焦虑不安地问，“先生，有新的消息吗？”

legend, much to the taste of the gossips of the next century.

For several days the newspapers of America and even those of Europe continued to discuss these events. Editorials crowded upon editorials. Rumors were added to rumors. Story tellers of every kind crowded to the front. The public of two continents was interested. In some parts of Europe there was even jealousy that America should have been chosen as the field of such an experience. If these marvelous inventors were American, then their country, their army and navy, would have a great advantage over others. The United States might acquire an incontestable superiority.

Under the date of the tenth of June, a New York paper published a carefully studied article on this phase of the subject. Comparing the speed of the swiftest known vessels with the smallest minimum of speed which could possibly be assigned to the new boat, the article demonstrated that if the United States secure this secret, Europe would be but three days away from her, while she would still be five days from Europe.

If our own police had searched diligently to discover the mystery of the Great Eyrie, the secret service of every country in the world was now interested in these new problems.

Mr. Ward referred to the matter each time I saw him. Our chat would begin by his rallying me about my ill - success in Carolina, and I would respond by reminding him that success there was only a question of expense.

"Never mind, my good Strock," said he, "there will come a chance for our clever inspector to regain his laurels. Take now this affair of the automobile and the boat. If you could clear that up in advance of all the detectives of the world, what an honor it would be to our department! What glory for you!"

“没有，”我回答，知道她所指为何。

“怪车没再回来过？”

“没有。”

“一样？”

“怪船也一样。消息最灵通的报纸上也只字未提。”

“可……连你们警察也不知道任何消息？”

“我们并不多知道些什么。”

“先生，您别介意，那警察还有什么用啊？”

这正是我不止一次要去正视的问题。

“你瞧瞧还会发生些什么事。”老管家牢骚满腹地抱怨到，“某一个安安静静的早晨，他会神不知鬼不觉突然出现，那个可怕的司机，会冲到我们这儿的街上，把我们统统杀死！”

“正好！他一出现，我们就有机会捉住他了。”

“他才不会被抓住呢，先生。”

“为什么不会？”

“他是魔鬼，你们不可能捉住魔鬼！”

我认为，魔鬼确确实实有很多用处，如果他不存在，我们会去创造一个魔鬼，人们从而有办法去解释那些难以解释的事。正是他在爱里巨峰上点燃大火，正是他在威斯康星的汽车赛中刷新纪录，也是他沿着康涅狄格和马萨诸塞州的海岸疾驰而过。不过，为着那些无知的人们想问题的方便，杜撰出一个魔鬼还是极有必要的。毫无疑问，我们正面临着一个最令人困惑不解的难题。这两个怪物是就这样永远消失了吗？它们像陨石、像流星一样倏地划过空中，一闪而过。百年之后；这异乎寻常的奇事就会成为一个传说，成

"None," I answered, knowing well to what she referred.

"The automobile has not come back?"

"No."

"Nor the boat?"

"Nor the boat There is no news even - in the best informed papers."

"But - your secret police information?"

"We are no wiser."

"Then, sir, if you please, of what use are the police?"

It is a question which has phased me more than once.

"Now you see what will happen," continued the old house-keeper, complainingly, "Some fine morning, he will come without warning, this terrible chauffeur, and rush down our street here, and kill us all!"

"Good! When that happens, there will be some chance of catching him."

"He will never be arrested, sir."

"Why not?"

"Because he is the devil himself, and you can't arrest the devil!"

Decidedly, thought I, the devil has many uses; and if he did not exist we would have to invent him, to give people some way of explaining the inexplicable. It was he who lit the flames of the Great Eyrie. It was he who smashed the record in the Wisconsin race. It is he who is scurrying along the shores of Connecticut and Massachusetts. But putting to one side this evil spirit who is so necessary, for the convenience of the ignorant, there was no doubt that we were facing a most bewildering problem. Had both of these machines disappeared forever? They had passed like a meteor, like a star shooting through space; and in a hundred years the adventure would become a

为下一个世纪喜欢闲聊者津津乐道的话题。

美国甚至欧洲的报纸对这一些事件持续讨论了好几天。社论连篇累牍。谣言蜂涌而起。各种写小说的人纷纷涌向出事地点。两大洲的公众对此兴趣盎然。在欧洲某些地方，甚至出现了一种妒忌情绪：美国竟然有幸成为发生此类事情的场所，如果其始作俑者是美国人，那么，他们的国家，他们的陆军和海军，一定会使其他国家难以与之相抗衡，美国一定会达到不可挑战的优势地位。

6月10日这一天，一家纽约报纸就此事件的有关话题，发表了一篇经过精心研究后写出的文章，该文将目前有名的速度最快的船舰的速度与将来新型船舰可能达到的最低速度相比较，声称一旦美国控制了这一秘密，美国到欧洲将只需花3天时间，而欧洲到美国则仍需要整整5天时间。

如果我们的警察经过认真仔细的探索揭开了爱里巨峰的秘密，那世界各国的情报部门现在会对这些新问题极为感兴趣。

每一次，我一见到沃德先生，他都会跟我提到这一问题。话题总从他挖苦我那次从卡罗莱纳无功而返的经历开始，而我总是回敬他，要他别忘了，要成功攀登爱里巨峰仅仅取决于经费问题。

“别介意，斯特拉克，好小子，”他说，“总会有机会让咱们聪明的警官重拾荣誉的。现在别放过怪车和怪船事件。如果你能赶在世界其他侦探前面查明真相，对我们警察署来说这会是多大的荣耀！对你来说又会是多大的荣誉！”

"It certainly would, Mr. Ward. And if you put the matter in my charge -"

"Who knows, Strock? Let us wait a while! Let us wait!"

Matters stood thus when, on the morning of June fifteenth, my old servant brought me a letter from the letter - carrier, a registered letter for which I had to sign. I looked at the address. I did not know the handwriting. The postmark, dating from two days before, was stamped at the post office of Morganton.

Morganton! Here at last was, no doubt, news from Mr. Elias Smith.

"Yes!" exclaimed I, speaking to my old servant, for lack of another, "it must be from Mr. Smith at last. I know no one else in Morganton. And if he writes he has news!"

"Morganton?" said the old woman, "isn't that the place where the demons set fire to their mountain?"

"Exactly."

"Oh, sir! I hope you don't mean to go back there!"

"Why say so?"

"Because you will end by being burned up in that furnace of the Great Eyrie. And I wouldn't want you buried that way, sir."

"Cheer up, and let us see if it is not better news than that."

The envelope was sealed with red sealing wax, and stamped with a sort of coat of arms, surmounted with three stars. The paper was thick and very strong. I broke the envelope and drew out a letter. It was a single sheet, folded in four, and written on one side only. My first glance was for the signature.

There was no signature! Nothing but three initials at the end of the last line!

"The letter is not from the Mayor of Morganton," said I.

“一定会这样，沃德先生。如果你把这事交给我负责……”

“谁说得定呢，斯特拉克？我们再等等吧！再等等！”

事情此前就是这样的了。6月15日早晨，我的老仆从从信差那儿给我拿来了一封必须由我签名的挂号信。我看看地址，不认识这个笔迹。邮戳是两天前在莫干顿邮局盖上的。

莫于顿！终于等到了。无疑，一定是斯密斯先生有新消息了。

“不错！”我喊到，对我的仆人说，她没有回答。“一定是斯密斯先生的信。在莫干顿我不认识其他的人，如果是他写的，一定是有新情况！”

“莫于顿？”老太婆说，“是不是那个魔鬼在它的山上放火的地方？”

“正是那。”

“唔，先生，我希望你不是想再回到那儿去。”

“干嘛这么说？”

“因为，你会被烧死在爱里巨峰山上的火炉里的。先生，我可不想让你被这样活活烧死。”

“高兴一点，我们瞧瞧会不会有其他的好消息。”

信封上封有红色印蜡记，盖着一种上部有三颗星的信章。信封纸很厚而且质地极好。我撕开信封，取出信。信笺只有一张，对折成四叠，只在一边写着字。我的目光首先扫向签名处。

没有任何签名！只在最后一行结尾有大写字母！

“信不是莫于顿市长寄来的。”我说。

"Then from whom?" asked the old servant, doubly curious in her quality as a woman and as an old gossip.

Looking again at the three initials of the signature, I said, "I know no one for whom these letters would stand; neither at Morganton nor elsewhere." The hand - writing was bold. Both up strokes and down strokes very sharp, about twenty lines in all. Here is the letter, of which I, with good reason, retained an exact copy. It was dated, to my extreme stupefaction, from that mysterious Great Eyrie:

Great Eyrie, Blueridge Mtns,
To Mr. Strock: North Carolina,
June 13th.

Chief Inspector of Police,
34 Long St., Washington, D. C.

Sir,

You were charged with the mission of penetrating the Great Eyrie. You came on April the twenty - eighth, accompanied by the Mayor of Morganton and two guides.

You mounted to the foot of the wall, and you encircled it, finding it too high and steep to climb.

You sought a breach and you found none. Know this: none enter the Great Eyrie; or if one enters, he never returns.

Do not try again, for the second attempt will not result as did the first, but will have grave consequences for you.

Heed this warning, or evil fortune will come to you.

M. O. W.