



## CHAPTER 1

### MY UNCLE MAKES A GREAT DISCOVERY

Looking back<sup>1</sup> to all that has occurred to me since that eventful day, I am scarcely able to believe in the reality of my adventures. They were truly so wonderful that even now I am bewildered when I think of them.

My uncle was a German, having married my mother's sister, an Englishwoman. Being very much attached to his fatherless nephew, he invited me to study under him in his home in the fatherland. This home was in a large town, and my uncle a professor of philosophy, chemistry, geology, mineralogy, and many other ologies.

One day, after passing some hours in the laboratory—my uncle being absent at the time—I suddenly felt the necessity of renovating the tissues—i.e., I was hungry, and **was about to**<sup>2</sup> rouse up our old French cook, when my uncle, Professor Von Hardwigg, suddenly opened the street door, and came rushing upstairs.

Now Professor Hardwigg, my worthy uncle, is **by no means**<sup>3</sup> a bad sort of man; he is, however, choleric and original. To

1. *Оглядываясь назад.*

Фразовый глагол *to look back* в форме герундия.  
См. ГС 434

2 *собирался*  
Устойчивый оборот *to be about to* используется в том случае, когда нужно сказать, что некое действие скоро произойдет.

3 Устойчивое выражение, имеющие значение «никоим образом».

: bear with him means to obey; and scarcely  
: had his heavy feet resounded within our  
: joint domicile than he shouted for me to  
: attend upon him.

: “Harry—Harry—Harry—”

: I hastened to obey, but before I could  
: reach his room, jumping three steps at  
: a time, he was stamping his right foot  
: upon the landing.

: “Harry!” he cried, in a frantic tone,  
: “are you coming up?”

: Now to tell the truth, at that moment  
: I was far more interested in the question  
: as to what was to constitute our dinner  
: than in any problem of science; **to me  
: soup was more interesting than soda, an  
: omelette more tempting than arithmetic,  
: and an artichoke of ten times more value  
: than any amount of asbestos**<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> суп мне был интереснее соды, оmelet соблазнительнее арифметики, а артишок в десятой раз ценнее любого количества асбеста  
Используется сравнительная форма с than, см. ГС 382

: But my uncle was not a man to be kept  
: waiting; so adjourning therefore all minor  
: questions, I presented myself before him.

: He was a very learned man. Now most  
: persons in this category supply themselves  
: with information, as peddlers do with  
: goods, for the benefit of others, and lay  
: up stores in order to diffuse them abroad  
: for the benefit of society in general. Not  
: so my excellent uncle, Professor Hardwigg;  
: he studied, he consumed the midnight oil,  
: he pored over heavy tomes, and digested  
: huge quartos and folios in order to keep  
: the knowledge acquired to himself.

: There was a reason, and it may be  
: regarded as a good one, why my uncle  
: objected to display his learning more than

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was absolutely necessary: he stammered; and when intent upon explaining the phenomena of the heavens, was apt to find himself at fault, and allude in such a vague way to sun, moon, and stars that few were able to comprehend his meaning. To tell the honest truth, when the right word would not come, it was generally replaced by a very powerful adjective.

In connection with the sciences there are many almost unpronounceable names—names very much resembling those of Welsh villages; and my uncle **being very fond of using them**<sup>5</sup>, his habit of stammering was not thereby improved. In fact, there were periods in his discourse when he would finally give up and swallow his discomfiture—in a glass of water.

As I said, my uncle, Professor Hardwigg, was a very learned man; and I now add a most kind relative. I was bound to him by the double ties of affection and interest. I took deep interest in all his doings, and hoped some day to be almost as learned myself. It was a rare thing for me to be absent from his lectures. Like him, I preferred mineralogy to all the other sciences. My anxiety was to gain real knowledge of the earth. Geology and mineralogy were to us the sole objects of life, and in connection with these studies many a fair specimen of stone, chalk, or metal did we break with our hammers.

Steel rods, loadstones, glass pipes, and bottles of various acids were oftener before us than our meals. My uncle Hardwigg was

<sup>5</sup> *любящий их использовать*  
 Устойчивое выражение *to be fond of* — любить (что-л.)

<sup>6</sup> Я должен сказать  
несколько слов о его  
внешности.  
об употреблении  
модального глагола  
*must* см. ГС стр.

: once known to classify six hundred differ-  
: ent geological specimens by their weight,  
: hardness, fusibility, sound, taste, and smell.

: He corresponded with all the great,  
: learned, and scientific men of the age. I  
: was, therefore, in constant communica-  
: tion with, at all events the letters of, Sir  
: Humphry Davy, Captain Franklin, and  
: other great men.

: But before I state the subject on which  
: my uncle wished to confer with me, I  
: **must say a word about his personal ap-  
: pearance**<sup>6</sup>. Alas! my readers will see a  
: very different portrait of him at a future  
: time, after he has gone through the fear-  
: ful adventures yet to be related.

: My uncle was fifty years old; tall,  
: thin, and wiry. Large spectacles hid, to a  
: certain extent, his vast, round, and gog-  
: gle eyes, while his nose was irreverently  
: compared to a thin file. So much indeed  
: did it resemble that useful article, that a  
: compass was said in his presence to have  
: made considerable N (Nasal) deviation.

: The truth being told, however, the only  
: article really attracted to my uncle's nose  
: was tobacco.

: Another peculiarity of his was, that he  
: always stepped a yard at a time, clenched  
: his fists as if he were going to hit you,  
: and was, when in one of his peculiar hu-  
: mors, very far from a pleasant companion.

: It is further necessary to observe that  
: he lived in a very nice house, in that very  
: nice street, the Konigstrasse at Hamburg.  
: Though lying in the centre of a town,

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it was perfectly rural in its aspect—half wood, half bricks, with old-fashioned gables—one of the few old houses spared by the great fire of 1842.

When I say a nice house, I mean a handsome house—old, tottering, and not exactly comfortable to English notions: a house a little off the perpendicular and inclined to fall into the neighboring canal; exactly the house for a wandering artist to depict; all the more that you could scarcely see it for ivy and a magnificent old tree which grew over the door.

My uncle was rich; his house was his own property, while he had a considerable private income. To my notion the best part of his possessions was his god-daughter, Gretchen. And the old cook, the young lady, the Professor and I were the sole inhabitants.

I loved mineralogy, I loved geology. To me there was nothing like pebbles—and if my uncle had been in a little less of a fury, we should have been the happiest of families. To prove the excellent Hardwigg's impatience, I solemnly declare that when the flowers in the drawing-room pots began to grow, he rose every morning at four o'clock to make them grow quicker by pulling the leaves!

Having described my uncle, I will now give an account of our interview<sup>7</sup>.

He received me in his study; a perfect museum, containing every natural curiosity that can well be imagined—minerals, however, predominating. Every one was

<sup>7</sup> *Теперь я расскажу о нашей беседе.*

Об употреблении грамматической формы будущего времени с *will* см. ГС стр.

: familiar to me, having been catalogued by  
: my own hand. My uncle, apparently obli-  
: vious of the fact that he had summoned me  
: to his presence, was absorbed in a book.  
: He was particularly fond of early editions,  
: tall copies, and unique works.

: “Wonderful!” he cried, tapping his fore-  
: head. “Wonderful—wonderful!”

: It was one of those yellow-leaved vol-  
: umes now rarely found on stalls, and to  
: me it appeared to possess but little value.  
: My uncle, however, was in raptures.

: He admired its binding, the clearness  
: of its characters, the ease with which it  
: opened in his hand, and repeated aloud, half  
: a dozen times, that it was very, very old.

: To my fancy he was making a great  
: fuss about nothing, but it was not my  
: province to say so. On the contrary, I  
: professed considerable interest in the sub-  
: ject, and asked him what it was about.

: “It is the Heims-Kringla of Snorre Tar-  
: leson,” he said, “the celebrated Icelandic  
: author of the twelfth century—it is a true  
: and correct account of the Norwegian  
: princes who reigned in Iceland.”

: My next question related to the lan-  
: guage in which it was written. I hoped  
: at all events it was translated into Ger-  
: man. My uncle was indignant at the very  
: thought, and declared he wouldn’t give a  
: penny for a translation. His delight was  
: to have found the original work in the  
: Icelandic tongue, which he declared to  
: be one of the most magnificent and yet  
: simple idioms in the world—while at the

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same time its grammatical combinations were the most varied known to students.

“About as easy as German?” was my insidious remark.

My uncle shrugged his shoulders.

“The letters at all events,” I said, “are rather difficult of comprehension.”

“It is a Runic manuscript, the language of the original population of Iceland, invented by Odin himself,” cried my uncle, angry at my ignorance.

I was about to venture upon some misplaced joke on the subject, when a small scrap of parchment fell out of the leaves. Like a hungry man snatching at a morsel of bread the Professor seized it. It was about five inches by three and was scrawled over in the most extraordinary fashion.

The lines shown here are an exact facsimile of what was written on the venerable piece of parchment—and have wonderful importance, as they induced my uncle to undertake the most wonderful series of adventures which ever fell to the lot of human beings.

My uncle looked keenly at the document for some moments and then declared that it was Runic. The letters were similar to those in the book, but then what did they mean? This was exactly what I wanted to know.

Now as I had a strong conviction that the Runic alphabet and dialect were simply an invention to mystify poor human nature, I was delighted to find that my uncle knew as much about the matter as I did—which was nothing. At all events

<sup>8</sup> *И мой дядя должен был знать, потому что и сам был прекрасным полиглотом.*  
Об употреблении формы *ought to* см. ГС 404

: the tremulous motion of his fingers made  
: me think so.

: “And yet,” he muttered to himself, “it  
: is old Icelandic, I am sure of it.”

: **And my uncle ought to have known,**  
: **for he was a perfect polyglot dictionary in**  
: **himself**<sup>8</sup>. He did not pretend, like a certain  
: learned pundit, to speak the two thousand  
: languages and four thousand idioms made  
: use of in different parts of the globe, but  
: he did know all the more important ones.

: It is a matter of great doubt to me  
: now, to what violent measures my uncle’s  
: impetuosity might have led him, had not  
: the clock struck two, and our old French  
: cook called out to let us know that dinner  
: was on the table.

: “Bother the dinner!” cried my uncle.

: But as I was hungry, I sallied forth  
: to the dining room, where I took up my  
: usual quarters. Out of politeness I waited  
: three minutes, but no sign of my uncle,  
: the Professor. I was surprised. He was  
: not usually so blind to the pleasure of a  
: good dinner. It was the acme of German  
: luxury—parsley soup, a ham omelette with  
: sorrel trimmings, an oyster of veal stewed  
: with prunes, delicious fruit, and sparkling  
: Moselle. For the sake of poring over this  
: musty old piece of parchment, my uncle  
: forbore to share our meal. To satisfy my  
: conscience, I ate for both.

: The old cook and housekeeper was  
: nearly out of her mind. After taking  
: so much trouble, to find her master not  
: appear at dinner was to her a sad dis-

appointment—which, as she occasionally watched the havoc I was making on the viands, became also alarm. If my uncle were to come to table after all?

Suddenly, just as I had consumed the last apple and drunk the last glass of wine, a terrible voice was heard at no great distance. It was my uncle roaring for me to come to him. I made very nearly one leap of it—so loud, so fierce was his tone.

## CHAPTER 2 THE MYSTERIOUS PARCHMENT

“I declare,” cried my uncle, striking the table fiercely with his fist, “I declare to you it is Runic—and contains some wonderful secret, which I must get at, at any price<sup>1</sup>.”

I was about to reply when he stopped me.

“Sit down,” he said, quite fiercely, “and write to my dictation.”

I obeyed.

“I will substitute,” he said, “a letter of our alphabet for that of the Runic: we will then see what that will produce. Now, begin and make no mistakes.”

The dictation commenced with the following incomprehensible result:

mm.rnlls esruel seecJde  
sgtssmf unteief niedrke  
kt,samn atrateS Saodrrn  
emtnaeI nuaect rrilSa  
Atvaar .nscrc ieaabs

2.  
<sup>1</sup> Я объявляю тебе, что это руническое письмо, в нем содержится некая чудесная тайна, которую я должен получить любой ценой.

Об употреблении модальных глаголов см. ГС 395

: ccdirmi eeutl frantu  
: dt,iac oseibo KediiY

: Scarcely giving me time to finish, my  
: uncle snatched the document from my  
: hands and examined it with the most  
: rapt and deep attention.

: “I should like to know what it means,”  
: he said, after a long period.

: I certainly could not tell him, nor did  
: he expect me to—his conversation being  
: uniformly answered by himself.

: “I declare it puts me in mind of a  
: cryptograph,” he cried, “unless, indeed,  
: the letters have been written without any  
: real meaning; and yet why take so much  
: trouble? Who knows but I may be on the  
: verge of some great discovery?”

: My candid opinion was that it was all  
: rubbish! But this opinion I kept carefully  
: to myself, as my uncle’s choler was not  
: pleasant to bear. All this time he was  
: comparing the book with the parchment.

: **“The manuscript volume and the smaller  
: document are written in different  
: hands,” he said, “the cryptograph is of  
: much later date than the book<sup>2</sup>; there is  
: an undoubted proof of the correctness of  
: my surmise. [An irrefragable proof I took  
: it to be.] The first letter is a double M,  
: which was only added to the Icelandic  
: language in the twelfth century—this  
: makes the parchment two hundred years  
: posterior to the volume.”**

: The circumstances appeared very prob-  
: able and very logical, but it was all sur-  
: mise to me.

<sup>2</sup> — Том и документ  
поменьше написаны  
разными людьми, —  
сказал он, — кри-  
птография появилась  
гораздо позже, чем  
книга.  
*smaller  
are written*

Используется срав-  
нительная форма  
с *than*, см. ГС 382

“To me it appears probable that this sentence was written by some owner of the book. Now who was the owner, is the next important question. Perhaps by great good luck it may be written somewhere in the volume.”

With these words Professor Hardwigg took off his spectacles, and, taking a powerful magnifying glass, examined the book carefully.

On the fly leaf was what appeared to be a blot of ink, but on examination proved to be a line of writing almost effaced by time. This was what he sought; **and, after some considerable time, he made out these letters**<sup>3</sup>:

“Arne Saknussem!” he cried in a joyous and triumphant tone, “that is not only an Icelandic name, but of a learned professor of the sixteenth century, a celebrated alchemist.”

I bowed as a sign of respect.

“These alchemists,” he continued, “Avicenna, Bacon, Lully, Paracelsus, were the true, the only learned men of the day. They made surprising discoveries. May not this Saknussem, nephew mine, have hidden on this bit of parchment some astounding invention? **I believe the cryptograph to have a profound meaning—which I must make out**<sup>4</sup>.”

My uncle walked about the room in a state of excitement almost impossible to describe.

<sup>3</sup> *через некоторое время он разобрал* следующие буквы фразовый глагол *to make (smth./smb.) out* — разбирать, выяснять, различать

<sup>4</sup> Я думаю, что в криптографии спрятан глубокий смысл, которое я должен выяснить. Об употреблении модальных глаголов см. ГС 395

<sup>5</sup> *Пока я не узнаю значение этого предложения, я не буду ни есть, ни спать.*

Об употреблении грамматической формы будущего времени с *will* см. ГС 400

Предлоги *neither ... nor* употребляется, когда мы отрицаем два предложенных варианта.

<sup>6</sup> *И ты не будешь.*

<sup>6</sup> *Если бы мы смогли это найти, остальное было бы достаточно легко.*

Условное предложение второго типа, служит для выражения воображаемых ситуаций в настоящем и будущем; ситуаций, которые противоречат фактам. Действия, которые передают условные предложения второго типа, нереальны либо маловероятны. Условные предложения всегда имеют две части: условную (*if-clause*) и основную (*main clause*). Образуются условные предложения второго типа следующим образом:

IF + Past Simple + WOULD V1

В условной части

: “It may be so, sir,” I timidly observed,  
: “but why conceal it from posterity, if it  
: be a useful, a worthy discovery?”

: “Why—how should I know? Did not  
: Galileo make a secret of his discoveries  
: in connection with Saturn? But we shall  
: see. **Until I discover the meaning of this  
: sentence I will neither eat nor sleep.**<sup>5</sup>”

: “My dear uncle—” I began.

: “**Nor you neither**”<sup>6</sup>,” he added.

: It was lucky I had taken double allow-  
: ance that day.

: “In the first place,” he continued, “there  
: must be a clue to the meaning. **If we  
: could find that, the rest would be easy  
: enough**<sup>6</sup>.”

: I began seriously to reflect. The prospec-  
: t of going without food and sleep was  
: not a promising one, so I determined to do  
: my best to solve the mystery. My uncle,  
: meanwhile, went on with his soliloquy.

: “The way to discover it is easy enough.  
: In this document there are one hundred  
: and thirty-two letters, giving seventy-nine  
: consonants to fifty-three vowels. This is  
: about the proportion found in most south-  
: ern languages, the idioms of the north  
: being much more rich in consonants. We  
: may confidently predict, therefore, that  
: we have to deal with a southern dialect.”

: Nothing could be more logical.

: “Now,” said Professor Hardwigg, “to  
: trace the particular language.”

: “As Shakespeare says, ‘that is the  
: question,’” was my rather satirical reply.

“This man Saknussem,” he continued, “was a very learned man: now as he did not write in the language of his birthplace, he probably, like most learned men of the sixteenth century, wrote in Latin. **If, however, I prove wrong in this guess, we must try Spanish, French, Italian, Greek, and even Hebrew**<sup>7</sup>. My own opinion, though, is decidedly in favor of Latin.”

This proposition startled me. Latin was my favorite study, and it seemed sacrilege to believe this gibberish to belong to the country of Virgil.

“Barbarous Latin, in all probability,” continued my uncle, “but still Latin.”

“Very probably,” I replied, not to contradict him.

“**Let us see into the matter**<sup>8</sup>,” continued my uncle; “here you see we have a series of one hundred and thirty-two letters, apparently thrown pell-mell upon paper, without method or organization. There are words which are composed wholly of consonants, such as mm.rnlls, others which are nearly all vowels, the fifth, for instance, which is unteief, and one of the last oseibo. This appears an extraordinary combination. **Probably we shall find that the phrase is arranged according to some mathematical plan**<sup>9</sup>. No doubt a certain sentence has been written out and then jumbled up—some plan to which some figure is the clue. Now, Harry, to show your English wit—what is that figure?”

I could give him no hint. My thoughts were indeed far away. While he was speak-

: (после IF) ис-  
 : пользуется только  
 : прошедшее время,  
 : а в основной: would  
 : с инфинитивом без  
 : частицы to (первая  
 : форма глагола, VI).  
 : Подробнее об  
 : условных предло-  
 : жениях см. ГС 443  
 : <sup>7</sup> *Однако если моя*  
 : *догадка ошибочна,*  
 : *мы должны будем*  
 : *попробовать ис-*  
 : *панский, француз-*  
 : *ский, итальянский,*  
 : *греческий и даже*  
 : *иврит.*

: Об употреблении  
 : модальных глаго-  
 : лов см. ГС 395  
 : Условное предло-  
 : жение первого типа  
 : используются в  
 : английском языке  
 : для выражения си-  
 : туаций, в которых  
 : некоторый резуль-  
 : тат может (но не  
 : гарантированно)  
 : произойти в буду-  
 : щем, если опре-  
 : деленное условие  
 : будет выполнено.  
 : Образуются услов-  
 : ные предложения  
 : первого типа сле-  
 : дующим образом:  
 : IF + Present Simple  
 : + WILL + VI  
 : Подробнее об  
 : условных предло-  
 : жениях см. ГС 443  
 : <sup>8</sup> *Давайте разбе-*  
 : *ремся в этом деле.*  
 : *Let us see into the*  
 : *matter*

<sup>9</sup> Об употреблении грамматической формы будущего времени с *shall* см. ГС 400

: ing I had caught sight of the portrait of  
: my cousin Gretchen, and was wondering  
: when she would return.  
:

: We were affianced, and loved one another  
: very sincerely. But my uncle, who never  
: thought even of such sublunary matters,  
: knew nothing of this. Without noticing  
: my abstraction, the Professor began reading  
: the puzzling cryptograph all sorts of  
: ways, according to some theory of his own.  
: Presently, rousing my wandering attention,  
: he dictated one precious attempt to me.

: I mildly handed it over to him. It read  
: as follows:

:  
: mmessunkaSenrA.icefdoK.segnittamurtn  
: ecertserrette,rotaivsadua,ednecsedsadne  
: lacartniilrJsiratracsarbmutabledmek  
: meretarcsilucoYsleffenSnI.  
:

: I could scarcely keep from laughing,  
: while my uncle, on the contrary, got in  
: a towering passion, struck the table with  
: his fist, darted out of the room, out of  
: the house, and then taking to his heels  
: was presently lost to sight.  
:

### CHAPTER 3 AN ASTOUNDING DISCOVERY

: “What is the matter?” cried the cook,  
: entering the room; “when will master have  
: his dinner?”

: “Never.”

: “And, his supper?”

: “I don’t know. He says he will eat no  
: more, neither shall I<sup>1</sup>. My uncle has de-

3.  
<sup>1</sup> Он говорит, что больше не будет есть, и что я тоже не буду.

В значении наречия *neither* переводится как «тоже, также» в отрицательных предложениях. Обратите внимание на применение инверсии после наречия *neither*.