

SOLDIERS.

Our ranks are growing thinner Every year. And Death still a winner Every year. Yet we still must stick to our rifles Like the toughest and bravest And in any kind of weather Every year.

CHAPTER VII.

My engagement with Edith was broken off that evening. I had not the slightest hope of recovering the lost diamond, and when I told Sir Edmund my reasons for despairing, he did not attempt to conceal his satisfaction with regard to my determination.

"I have purposely abstained from dwelling upon my love affairs, for if I entered into them at all, my feelings would lead me to dilate upon the delights of my brief wooing, to the exclusion of graver matters which form the subject of this story.

I could form no satisfactory theory with regard to the Geat Hesper robbery, but I was disposed to regard Van Hooek as the least culpable agent concerned in it.

The Great Hesper.

BY FRANK BARRETT.

"I can't stop you, Brace, even if I wished to," replied Sir Edmund, who, be it observed, knew nothing of the suspicion against the Judge. "I am inclined to think that you will be happier in seeking a new fortune than lingering about with the faint hope of recovering the old.

"There's a matter of business to finish up before I go, sir; all the money I have in my pocket belongs to you."

"It is a loan; keep it, Brace—keep it until you are in a position to pay me; and I hope, for your sake, that time may not be far hence."

"You're grit, squire—real grit! I won't refuse your kindness. I shall need a bit to start with. But I'll ask you, sir, to hold this till I claim it."

"What is it, Brace?" asked the baronet, taking the paper Brace drew from his pocket. He found it was the Judge's copy of agreement.

"Say good-bye to us, pardner." I folded my arms and shook my head. He dropped his hand by his side.

"Perhaps you're right," he said remorsefully, "perhaps you're not. Time will show that I've got a clean conscience, if Heaven is just."

"You ain't goin' to let me go like him, are yer?" she asked; "you ain't goin' to let me go without sayin' good-bye?"

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in the Italian style—a style not unsuited to that unclouded sky, and the surrounding scenery. The view from the belvedere was incredibly beautiful, and indeed justified the high-sounding name given to the valley it overlooked.

"That is a house worthy of Edith," I thought. "Oh, that it were mine to offer her!" It would be time wasted to enter into my business transactions with Colonel Hinks.

Early in November I received a letter from Sir Edmund. Among other things, he wrote—"The robbery is still a mystery—to me it is a greater mystery than ever. Van Hooek has taken lodgings in the village. I have met him twice in the woods, a wild, deplorable object, and, indeed, pitiable, if one may doubt his complicity in the robbery."

In a postscript he added—"Mr. Furnival, dating from Haxel's hotel, London, writes asking me for your address. I replied that you were at San Diego, California."

The news with regard to Van Hooek did not add greatly to the mystery in which this strange man was already involved; but the postscript was a new source of perplexity to me. I knew no one of the name of Furnival; I could not recollect having spoken to any one of Sir Edmund while I was in London.

"I rite these lines far to show where I am lokated, and likewise that I have not slinked off like a thief in the night to hide my lites under a bushel. If things aint no forarder than they was in the direction of clearin up what's become of the Great Hesper, they aint' anyways no backarder."

"I did not reply to this letter. I heard again from Sir Edmund at the end of November. His letter was dated the 29th. He felicitated me heartily upon the purchase I had made, and added the warmest wishes for my success."

The first king of England who appeared in a surcoat on his great seal is John. There has been a story invented to account for its appearing about the time of the crusades. It is said that the intense heat of the sun shining on the bright armor caused the Christian knights who went to the relief of the holy sepuichre to devise this garment as a means of protecting themselves from its full power.

Newspaper naturalists report a change of habit among snipe in that they no longer follow the Atlantic coast indentations in their southern flights, but, departing from the British provinces, fly out at sea, barely skirting the extreme end of Cape Cod or Nantucket, unless driven shoreward by stress of weather.

"Perhaps," said the man who tries to be philosophic, "it is just as well that the lives of great men cannot be prolonged so as to enable them to witness all the fruits of their endeavors."

HAVE NO OBJECTIONS.

REPORTS OF SPANISH AID IN CUBA FALSE.

Congressman and Senator-Elect Money to Visit Cuba, Make a Personal Investigation and Interview General Weyler—Captain General's Latest.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—It is denied officially and authoritatively that any European government either directly or indirectly has made any representations whatever to the United States to restrain or prevent its free action in connection with the Cuban insurrection.

Senator-elect Money of Mississippi, now a member of the House foreign affairs committee, proposes to leave Tampa, Fla., next Saturday morning for Havana, to remain a week or ten days in Cuba. He will seek an audience with Captain General Weyler and will ask him to provide an escort and a flag of truce, so that he can go into the heart of the territory occupied by the insurgents, with a view of finding out what is going on.

Mr. Money was an officer in the Confederate army during the war under General Forrest, and his four years' service in the field whetted his interest in military operations. He thinks that his visit will at least enable him to learn more than he could by depending on the State department for information.

WEYLER TALKS.

Pinar del Rio Rebels Declared Helpless—No Cruelty to Those Who Surrender.

New York, Dec. 28.—A dispatch to the Herald from Camp Arroyo Grande, foot of the Rangel Hills, Pinar del Rio province, December 25, via Havana, Cuba, says: "In an interview with our correspondent, Captain Weyler said: 'I have twenty-six battalions, ranging from 800 to 1,000 men each, occupying all the hills of the province. These columns have destroyed everything in sight and have been able to subsist on the cattle of the insurgents, which were found grazing in the hills, and with whose destruction died the remaining hope of sustenance. They must either starve or submit and some may prefer to do the former, owing to their remarkable apathy.'

"But why are there so few presentados, general, in other words, persons willing to lay down their arms?" "That point is easily cleared up. I know that they have held meetings with the idea of coming in as presentados, but have been told that I murder them all, which is absurd, is it not? Certainly I shall not harm them, knowing that they hope to throw away their arms and pose as pacificos."

"You can tell pretty well by the number of arms given up how many have been concelled, can't you?" "I am not sure there are more arms than there are insurgents. They show their desperate condition. I can tell you that I know positively that Maceo himself went three days without food before he was killed."

El Reno, Okla., Dec. 28.—Cuban sympathizers here have formed an organization which contemplates fighting for the insurgents without violating the United States neutrality laws. The members are to go to Cuba as colonists and to engage in "other civic enterprises, to be decided upon later."

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 28.—The Grand Island, Hastings & Southeastern Railroad company has filed its certificate of organization and incorporation and articles of association in the office of the secretary of state.

FOR SILVER RECOGNITION

Senior Wolcott in at Work on a Plan—To Report After Holidays.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—A resolution offered in Republican caucus by Senator Wolcott for the issuance of an invitation to the principal powers to join in an international monetary conference having been adopted, five senators, friendly to silver, but not bolters, were appointed to formulate a plan. Senator Wolcott is working hard, and the plan will probably be presented to the Senate soon after the holiday recess.

The tendency among the members of the committee is to leave the number and selection of the conferees entirely to the president and then depart from the precedent established in the Fifty-third Congress, when provision was made for the representation of this country at a conference then proposed by dividing the selection of the conferees between the president and Congress.

The bill is being prepared to provide the means for carrying out the Republican platform, and the members of the committee generally hold that Mr. McKinley will require only the means with which to proceed to cause him to use his utmost endeavors to secure an international agreement.

Senator Hoar, who is a member of the committee, has told them that France was aggressively in favor of an international understanding, and that the sentiment in Germany was very favorable, but that the emperor was the stumbling block in that country.

SEEKING FOR AN EXCUSE.

Illinois National Officers Penitent—See Comptroller Eckels.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—When a committee of directors of the collapsed National Bank of Illinois called on Comptroller Eckels to-day for a personal conference regarding the bank's affairs, the doors were locked and strict secrecy observed.

The directors stated to Mr. Eckels that they desired to make a statement in regard to their connection with the affairs of the bank and to explain their relation to its management, since the letter written to them in 1895.

Mr. Eckels said that he felt confident that the management of the bank had been very negligent, and the directors explained that since the receipt of Mr. Eckels' letter they had repeatedly tried to close negotiations for the sale of the Calumet Electric railway, but the business conditions of the country, the long political campaign and the trouble with the Diamond Match company had caused a failure of these negotiations thus far.

The delegation informed the comptroller that they had no one to recommend for receiver, and no protest to make against the appointment of anyone, and were perfectly willing to cooperate with anyone Mr. Eckels might see fit to appoint.

This afternoon Mr. Adams of the committee gave out the following: "We had a very pleasant interview with the comptroller. Our purpose was to show what we had tried to do to improve the condition of the bank since the receipt of the comptroller's letter a year ago. Our talk was mainly about the Calumet Electric. We feel that the comptroller will do all he can to realize all that can possibly be realized out of the assets."

WEYLER TOLD TO DELAY.

Rumor That Spain Will Make Overtures to the Rebels.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—A Madrid special says: It is rumored that General Weyler has delayed fresh operations against the insurgents in order to give time to discover the disposition of the bands and their chiefs since the death of Maceo, with a view to feeling his way to preparing the ground for finishing the present Cuban war like the past insurrections in Spain and Cuba, where money and unofficial negotiations prove more telling arguments than force of arms, directly the insurgents saw no more hope of foreign aid.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 28.—Gay Harshman, alias "The Kansas Kid," who was convicted recently of passing \$10,000 worth of counterfeit money, has made a statement to the effect that his pal, George Conkling, who is now serving time for counterfeiting, and who squealed on him, confessed to him that he was one of the three men who held up the Northern Pacific train at Hot Springs in 1894, when the passengers in the sleeper were relieved of \$3,000. It is believed that Harshman also had a hand in the hold up. Conkling is not a bad man, but Harshman is an old criminal and a desperate man.

TO FORM A GREAT LAKE.

Western Capitalists Behind a Big Movement in Barton County, Kan.

GREAT BRID, Kan., Dec. 28.—P. B. Koen, who represents a company of Western capitalists, has completed the preliminary survey of the irrigation ditch to connect the Arkansas river with the Cheyenne bottoms and has found no serious obstacles. A meeting of farmers and citizens of this place was held Wednesday and Koen, for the company, said that if he could get the right-of-way free he would put 200 teams to work on the ditch at once and that by April 1 next he would have it completed, thus securing the water of the spring freshets.

A committee of prominent citizens and farmers was appointed to secure right of way for that ditch. So far as heard from the farmers have expressed their willingness to give the right of way and it is thought the committee will win over the undecided ones.

FARMING MADE EASY.

Latest Scheme for Growing Crops in the Semi-Arid Belt.

OMAHA, Dec. 28.—H. W. Campbell, a prominent soil culturist of Sioux City, has been in Omaha for several days on business connected with his profession, and has just signed an important contract with the Burlington. Mr. Campbell has been experimenting for the last three years on a process for turning the semi-arid belt of lands in Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas and the Dakotas into crop producing districts. The experiments have been of such a successful nature that he has also induced the Northern Pacific, the Soo line and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul roads to enter into the scheme.

The robbery was of the most daring that has occurred in Kansas City for months. It is equipped with a burglar alarm system and is watched by a Pinkerton detective. None of these were sufficient, however, to prevent the robbery, which, from traces left behind, required an hour or more of hard work.

The two safes were opened with burglars' tools and were badly battered and scarred. There were no attempts to drill into them. The combinations were broken. After the contents were removed, the safe doors were carefully closed and everything in the office set to rights.

BOLD BURGLARS.

Kansas City Crackmen Make a Rich Haul on Main Street.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 28.—Crackmen opened two safes in the W. W. Morgan Clothing company, 1009 Main street, last night and are supposed to have secured a large sum of money.

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UNCLE SAM TO FORECLOSE.

Demand Made for the Settlement of the Pacific Muddle.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 28.—It is reported that the President has decided to order the immediate foreclosure of the government's mortgage on the Union and Central Pacific railways. He has had several interviews recently on the subject with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Interior, and has fixed upon a definite program, conditioned only on the action of congress.

President Cleveland has determined that before his administration ends there shall be either a settlement of the Pacific railroad debt on a basis to be proposed by Congress, or a foreclosure of the government's mortgage.

Double Murder.

CORNING, N. Y., Dec. 28.—A horrible double murder occurred at Rathbunville, fifteen miles west of this city, last night. William Allen, William Harrington and Cloyd Myers, while in an intoxicated condition, quarreled about the possession of a buffalo robe. Myers had the robe at his house and Allen and Harrington drove there at 10 o'clock last night and demanded it. They were met by Myers, who had a snort gun with him. When they demanded the robe Myers shot them both. Harrington was in the buggy at the time and the horses started at the report of the gun. Allen died at 12:15 this morning. The bodies of both men were terribly torn. Myers was captured at 2 o'clock this morning and is now in jail.

Fatal Hunting Trip.

EMPORIA, Kan., Dec. 28.—John Bradley, the 17-year-old son of J. Q. Bradley, fatally shot himself while out hunting yesterday. He and Frank Pyne had placed their guns against a tree while eating lunch. One of them slipped down and was discharged, the load of quail shot striking Bradley in the top of the forehead, tearing a hole in the scalp and shattering the skull.

Big New York Fire.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Fire Yestercony morning destroyed two big buildings on East Twenty-Third street, partially destroyed the New York Polytechnic hospital, and compelled the removal of its patients, drove a score of families from their homes in adjoining buildings, and did \$500,000 damage.

London Holiday Trade Great.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The Christmas weather has been of the mildest description, foggy, without snow. But the holiday trade has been the best in years, especially in jewelry, fancy articles, books and mechanical toys. The receipts last Monday at one big co-operative store alone was \$112,000. An average of 200,000 parcels were handled daily at the main parcel office, where 1,400 clerks worked night and day.

John Drake Townsend Dead.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—John Drake Townsend, eminent lawyer and politician, died suddenly at Christmas dinner.