



UYNOPSIS.

Lord Wilfred Vincent and Archibald Terhune are introduced at the opening of the story, in England, the latter relating The pair on an outing miss their train and seeking recreation meet "the Honorable Agatha Wyckhoff," Her hand is much sought after, because of her wealth. On visiting the Wyckhoff castle they are introduced to two other girls, both known as Agatha Wyckhoff.

CHAPTER II.—Continued.

The meal was well cooked and beautifully served, and by the time the salad course arrived Vincent and I had lost much of our constraint and self- day of the six weeks allotted him, and, consciousness and were talking and of course, was limited to one proposal. laughing with the best of them. The In the event of any of the young men levity and freedom from the conven- proposing to any of the Agathas who tionalities usually observed at a dinner party, in which those girls in the will permitted her to marry him, if dulged, was a bit shocking to me, although it did not seem to disconcert Vincent in the least.

After dinner our adventure developed its most astonishing feature. At the close of the meal the ladies arose, and we were invited to remain and smoke some exceptionally fine cigars, but before she left the room the secretary came over to us and in a low tone told us that, when we had finished our smoke, Mrs. Armistead desired that we should join her in the library to discuss business. She-the secretary-would come for us, as we would not know the way.

We were amazed. Business? What business could we possibly have with Mrs. Armistead? However, we told the secretary that we would be happy to join her mistress in the library in about 20 minutes, although, as I said, we hadn't the wildest idea what we could possibly have to discuss with

When the eccretary withdraw Vin. cent burst into a flood of excited conjecture. "Are we in a girls' boarding school, or a lunatic asylum, or what?" he demanded. "I don't know what to make of it. If it's an asylum then I'm distinctly for lunatics! They're the most attractive lot I've ever seen, but if they're all sisters why didn't Papa and Mamma Wyckhoff find different names for 'em? Six Agathas, and all 'the honorable' at that! It's absurd! But it doesn't seem to bother them; they call each other 'Ag,' and 'Aggie,' and 'Agatha' just as if it were Rose, or Gwen, or Maud! What do you suppose it all means? My head's in a

"My dear fellow," I said, "I have a presentiment that we shall find out what it all means when we join Mrs. Armistead in the library." And we did. As I have said, my intuitions seldom fail me.

The library was a little room at some distance from the dining hall. It was beautifully furnished, like the rest up one side of the room. Before it was a massive armchair, worn and ages back had sat in it. On the large table were some legal-looking papers, and as we entered Mrs. Armistead arose and placed her hand upon them. The secretary closed the door and took up her position beside her mistress. while we stood before them, ill at ease and expecting we knew not what.

"Gentlemen," began Mrs. Armistead with great gravity, "I am right, am I not, in presuming that you are candidates for the hand of the Honorable Agatha Wyckhoff?"

Yes, that's just what she said: "Candidates for the hand of the Honorable Agatha Wyckhoff." It took my breath and set her right I heard Vincent calmly assuring her that we were candidates! As he had thus rashly committed himself I couldn't go back on object in making the will. him, so I let him make all the other answers that were necessary.

"Then you wish to hear the will?" continued Mrs. Armistead, and Vincent assented.

"Read the will," said Mrs. Armistead to the secretary, and the young lady in gray picked up one of the legal-looking papers.

"This is to certify," she began, and read to the finish, while I held my breath, for, when I had heard the whole of that extraordinary document, I was filled with amazement and curiosity, not unmixed with a certain excitement. In brief, the provisions of this remarkable will ran thus:

Fletcher Boyd, stepfather of the her his entire fortune of about \$20,000. 600, provided that she obey the condi-

them the whole sum was to go to the endowment of a Presbyterian hospital at New Bedford, Mass., his native

The will then went on to say that, wishing to protect the girl, who was not yet 21 years of age, from fortune-hunters, her stenfather desired her, at the completion of her education, to secure not less than three, nor more than six, girls from 18 to 23 years of age, each bearing the name of Agatha, who would be willing to live with the Conorable Agatha at her castle in Shropshire near Wye, England, for wo years; in return for which they were each to receive a generous monthly stipend, enjoy luxurious lodgings and rich fare, and to live a life of idleness, with ample entertain-

It was further directed that, before the girls left for England, some English lady of rank or position be secured to dwell at Castle Wyckhoff in the capacity of chaperon, in consideration of a handsome salary, this lady to be, preferably, Mrs. Armistead, sister of the real Honorable Agatha's mother. For the first year after Mr. Boyd's death the Honorable Agatha was to observe mourning by not going to London festivities; but during this time she was to be permitted to amuse herself and friends by entertaining at the castle any young men of whom the chaperon might approve. Mrs. Armistead (should she be the chaperon secured) was likewise charged to keep the castle supplied with guests, the best young men that England could boast, as her large acquaintance permitted her to do. Each visitor in the role of suitor for the hand of the Honorable Agatha was limited to six weeks' stay at the castle, as Mr. Boyd considered that length of time sufficient for him to find out whether he loved any of the Agathas or not and the suitor was not to make his declaration until the very last was not the stepdaughter of Mr. Boyd,



AGATHA THIRD.

she desired but with the distinct un derstanding that she was not the Honorable Agatha Wyckhoff. In that case Mrs. Armistead was to secure another Agatha, and the girl who desired to marry was to receive a dowry amount ing to the full sum of the mouthly stipends which she would have received had she remained at the castle for the entire two years. The same provision for her companions was made in the event of the real Agatha's marriage before the expiration of the time. If any young man proposed to the real Agatha, ignorant of her of the house, and a big fireplace took identity, and she accepted him, she was directed by the will to produce and wear upon the third finger of her old, as if the barons of Wyckhoff for left hand the betrothal ring of her mother's family, a gold ring set with a big cross of emeralds, as proof of her identity as the real Agatha. Mrs. Armistead and all the girls were to be bound by oath not to reveal the identity of the real Agatha, and each of the latter was to be likewise addressed as the "Honorable Agatha Wyckhoff," by suitors and servants, in order to preserve the secret. This condition could be carried out without fear of recognition by the servants, as the real Agatha had not been in England since her early childhood. Thus her identity could be easily concealed, and, by this means, if any proposal of maraway, and before I had time to speak riage were made to her it would be from a man whose motives were not mercenary, but purely those of natural affection, which was the stepfather's

> The will closed with the appointtent of executors and trustees and then came the witnesses, the date, and the place of residence.

> "Then we can stay in thus bully old place for six weeks," said Vincent. "Hooray!" He's such a kid!

The secretary smiled at his enthuslasm, and Vincent must have thought her smile very attractive, because he do not coincide, and the medicine is drew aside and began to talk to her in low tones, while I discussed the will with Mrs. Armistead, who seemed perfectly willing to impart whatever in time it is filled until the medicine has formation we desired. It was just like all been used. Vincent to begin a flirtation with the secretary, just as if there were not six handsome girls of his own station Honorable Agatha Wyckhoff, had left in the castle. But anything feminine covered that comfort, a high salary will do for him as long as she has a and limited hours of work, make a sweet smile or soulful eyes, or some tions of his will. Should she disregard other equally trivial attraction. He'd worker.

flirt with Mrs. Armistead herself, I'm sure, if that estimable dame, begging her pardon, would give him a chance?

"I am delighted, Mr. Terhune," said Mrs. Armistead, after we had seated ourselves in the library, "that you and Lord Wilfred have decided to stay with us, and I think It would be well to put off our other visitors who were to come to us for this six weeks. I do not believe in having more than two or three young men at once. The time is so very short."

"It would give us a better chance," I agreed, and she turned toward the secretary, who was evidently in the secret.

"My dear," she said, "as these gen; tlemen are going to remain with us for six weeks, I think it would be as well if we put off the Percivale brothers till the six weeks after that. Will you wire them this evening to that effect?"

"Certainly," replied Miss Marsh, "I will see to it immediately, Mrs. Arm-

At this a thought struck me and I turned to Vincent. "And you had better wire the good people at Damer's farm," I said, "to inform them of our change of plan."

"Indeed you must," said Mrs. Armistead, "and, by the way, Mr. Terhune, if you and Lord Vincent wish, I can provide you with a copy of the willit is difficult, I think, to remember all its conditions."

"Perhaps that's a good idea," I answered. "It is certainly an extraordinary document; and what an extraordinary man this Fletcher Boyd must have been, Mrs. Armistead, to conceive such a plan as that."

Mrs. Armistead laughed. "I think he was," she said. "I saw my brotherin-law only once in my life, but that was enough to impress me with the strength of the man's character and his eccentricity. He was intensely American-what they call a 'self-made man' over there, I imagine-and it was his determination that his stepdaughter, the Honorable Agatha, in spite of her English birth, should be educated in America. To this her mother agreed, on condition that she should be allowed to bring her daughter out in England and that she should make that country her home when her schooling had been completed. Accordingly, when Lady Wyckhoff died, the child being about 11 years old, Fletcher Boyd promised his wife to carry out her wishes in that respect. A few years later he began the work of building up this old castle of Wyckhoff and putting in every modern convenience, as you see, so that it should be ready for his daughter to live in temporarily, before he established her in London with some good lady to oversee her presentation into society, according to her mother's ideas."

This was a long speech for the good Mrs. Armistead, and she paused for breath.

"I see," I commented. "He made a very excellent job of it. Then, as I understand it, his daughter has never been in England since her early childhood?"

"No," said Mrs. Armistead. "Poor child, it's practically all new to her But I mustn't pity her! The way she and those friends of hers take hold of things passes my understanding."

"And where did she find so many attractive girls, each bearing the Christian name of Agatha?" I inquired. "It is an unusual name, and I should have thought that part of the will difficult to fulfill.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

PERILS OF LIFE IN TROPICS.

Animals and Reptiles Alike Invade

Rest and Comfort There. The perils of daily life in the trop ics are almost inconceivable to dwell ers in other climes. In a Borneo village, a man and his ten-year-old son were sleeping in their house inside a mosquito netting. They were on the floor near the wall. In the middle of the night the father was awakened by his son calling out. It was totally dark and the father passed his hand over his son, but found nothing amiss, so he turned over and went to sleep again, thinking the boy was dreaming. Shortly afterward the child again called out, saying that a crocodile was taking him. This time the father, thoroughly aroused, lighted a lamp, and found that a snake had closed its jaws on the boy's head. He shouted, and the snake, releasing its hold, drew the whole of its body into the house and encircled the body of the father. He was rescued by the neighbors, who were attracted by the cries for help of the terrified couple. The snake when killed was found to be 15 feet long, and the head and forehead of the boy was surrounded with a circle of punctured wounds produced by the python's teeth.

Useful Medicine Bottle. In Europe there is in common use a medicine bottle with a glass stopper, which has a tiny groove running down one side of it, which corresponds to a tiny groove in the neck of the bottle. These are used for medicines that must be dropped, such as nux vomica and strychnine, and, when the stopper is turned with the groove toward that in the bottle, the medicine drops out easily and not too rapidly, but, when finished, the stopper need only be turned back so that the two grooves protected from the air.

Thus it is not necessary to remove the stopper from the bottle from the

Comfort for Workers. The Anglo-Saxon races have dismore powerful instrument of the

SAUL TRIES TO KILL DAVID

Sunday School Lesson for Aug. 16, 1908 Specially Arranged for This Paper

SCRIPTURE TEXT -- 1 Samuel 18:6-16. Memory verses, 14-16, GOLDEN TEXT,—"The Lord God is a sun and shield,"—Psalms 84:11. TIME.-B. C. 1062 (Ussher), soon after

the victory over Goliath. PLACE.—The capital, probably at Gi-beah, five or six miles north of Jerusa-

Comment and Suggestive Thought. David's victory over Goliath had several issues which affected his whole

1. It led to the blessed friendship which bound together the hearts of David and Jonathan "as with hooks of

steel" (vs. 1-4). 2. It led to David's advancement to In the arts of war, for the defense of

his country (v. 5). 3. It led to his long and difficult training in dealing with men of all kinds, to self-control and wisdom. This is put last in the story, because of its connection with Saul, which requires

considerable detail (vs. 6-9). V. 9. "And Saul eyed David," "kept his eye on David . . . in suspicion and dislike."—Int. Crit. Com. We often speak of jealousy as "the green-eyed monster," and no emotions show themselves more unmistakably in the eye.

Envy and Jealousy. 1. They are most unhappy vices. Of all the passions jealousy is that which exacts the hardest service and pays the bitterest wages.-Colton, in Lacon,

2. They are the fruit of selfishness, of making self one's god, one's su-

preme object of love. 3. The cure of jealousy is to seek first the kingdom of God, and test evrything, not by its effect on ourselves, but by its power to aid or to hinder God's kingdom. He that does this will rejoice in its coming, even though it be through others. So John said of Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

4. Therefore overcome evil with good; overcome it in its very beginnings, for there is nothing which grows so rapidly.

V. 10. "The evil spirit from God came upon Saul," made use of this malady which opens wide the door for such influences, and all evil passions of the king find easy expression. "And he prophesied," that is he went through the frenzies and terrible struggles and convulsions which characterized a certain form of prophesying among the heathen (very different from anything done by the Biblical prophets).

An eye-witness, in describing the Egyptian dervishes, says of the devotees that "some writhe in agony, some swoon, some are in fits, while still with foaming lips they strive to murmur the praise of Allah."-Gordon Cumming.

It survives among the fakirs of India and sheiks, or dervishes, of Mohammedanism. They "rave" (margin of r. v.), they foam, and throw themselves into many an unnatural posture. They become dangerous, not only to others, but also to themselves when so frenzied; still, lookers-on regard them as performing religious exercises or prophesying.-Shweir, Mount Lebanon, Syria.

First Attempt to Murder David, v. 11. "Saul cast the javelin," or short spear. Twice did David escape by his agility.

Second Attempt to Kill David, v. 13. Saul sent David away and made him a colonel of a regiment: Ostensibly, to promote David, and

Really that David might be slain by the Philistines.

The result was to bring out David's virtues more conspicuously.

conquer the king's enemies.

After this Saul tried to make David disaffected, by refusing to keep his promise to make him his son-in-law; and again through the love of his

daughter for David. A Hero In Trial. - Vs. 14-16. (1.) V. 14. "David behaved himself wisely," prudently, skillfully, with all the wisdom of goodness and love. There was no treachery in him. He learned self-control and grew in wis-

dom and knowledge and grace. (2.) One of the sources of this wisdom was in his singleness of heart, his devotion to right and duty at any cost, absolute unselfishness.

"The wisest course in time of danger is to do faithfully our daily duty, and leave our case with God."

(3.) "And the Lord was with him." The Lord is with everyone as far as he is willing to receive him, and yields to his guidance. All past experience in serving and loving God, every act of

faithfulness and love, every good habit formed, every victory over selfishness, every sincere prayer, every act of consecration to God, in all the past life, is a preparation for receiving and using the presence of God. The better instruments we become, the more perfectly can we and will we be guided by our Heavenly Father, into all truth. into the wisest actions, into the fullest

(4.) When we are wise and faithful and the Lord is with us, then all things, all trials, all difficulties, all sorrows, all opportunities, all influences, good or bad, are compelled to work together for good.

(5.) V. 16. "All Israel and Judah loved David." And this was preparing the way for a successful reign when the time came. David was social, not conceited, went among the people as one of them. The power to win love is one of God's greatest gifts. But only the loving, the unselfish, the pure in heart and purpose, can wield it in the fullness of its glory and power.

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He'd Pull Hard.

"Senator Folker, who journeyed to Albany at the risk of his life to cast the vote that doomed racing in New York, had collected a number of instances of race-track trickery," said

an Albany legislator. "Discussing, one day, the way jock eys so often sold races, he said that there was a Gloucester jockey once, the rider of a favorite, who was overthe head of the army, and his training heard to say in a saloon, the night before the favorite ran:

"I shan't win unless the reins

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