

[CONTINUED.]

CHAPTER XV. "You see I was right," said Merrick

when I met him at the stateon. "You have been right in every instance," I answered. "The inspector here quite agrees with me that you should be a detective. Where are your prisoners?"

"No, no! Not prisoners," replied Merrick, shocked at the word. "They are my guests. traveling companionswhat you will, but not prisoners."

"Still I see my detective attends on them both," said I as Strent and Rose Gernon came along the platform.

"It is well to take all precautions. How is Francis Briarfield?" "Rather downcast. He is afraid of

being arrested for the murder.' "No fear of that," answered Merrick, casting a glance at Strent. "This gentleman's evidence will exonerate him fully.

Strent, smooth and unctuous as ever, rubbed his hands and bowed, but Rose Gernon turned her back on him with a gesture of disgust. Evidently she had not forgiven his hurried departure from the inn.

"What are we waiting for?" she said sharply. "Let us go on to the inquest. I wish to get it over as soon as possible and réturn to town."

We took the hint and walked along to a room adjoining the morgue, where the inquest was being held. I introduced Merrick to the inspector, and after a short conversation they went, into the morgue to examine the body. Not caring to see so ghastly a sight, I remained outside with Francis. In a quarter of an hour the doctor and the inspector returned, the former rubbing his hands with a well pleased expression, the latter looking somewhat astonished. What had passed in the morgue I know not, as Merrick refused to gratify my curiosity.

"Wait till you hear the evidence of Strent," he said significantly.

The jury was made up of well to do Marshminster tradesmen, who took a profound interest in the proceedings, as the dead man was the brother of Miss Bellin's future husband. The Bellins were the great people of the neighborhood, and the tradesmen hoped to serve the hall when Mr. and Mrs. Brairfield settled there. They were, therefore, excessively polite to Francis, but their frequent marks of attention only drew from him a bitter smile.

"Would they treat me in this way if they knew all?" he whispered to me. 'They will never know all," I answered in the same tone.

I had spoken to the inspector, and he in his turn had talked seriously with the coroner. The latter had been told the whole story, and though astonished at the folly of Francis yet found it in his heart to be sorry for the young man. He said he would not question Francis more than was necessary, and we hoped to carry through the inquest without exposing the underlying romance.

The first witness called was a local doctor, who deposed to having examined the body of Felix. He gave it as his opinion that the young man had died of poison and explained the state of the blood with a lot of medical techincalities which none of the jury understood. It was, said the doctor, a case of blood poisoning, and the deceased had been wounded in the hand by some sharp in-

strument which was steeped in poison. I came next and narrated how I had staid at the Fen inn on that night and had met there Francis Briarfield, who was waiting there for his brother. Then I told of the discovery of the corpse and the finding of the arrowhead in the fireplace. I said nothing about my tracking the trail to the pool, and if possible we wished that portion of the evidence to be passed over in silence. Fortunately the jury were a dull headed lot and submitted quietly to the guidance of the coroner. He only asked questions pertinent to the death without going too deeply into the subject. At this point I produced the arrowhead.

Francis explained that he had arrived from Chile on the 6th of June and had gone at once to the Fen inn at the request of his brother Felix. His brother had not arrived on that night, and he had gone to bed. He was unable to say how his brother had come to his tragic end. Then came the critical point which we wished passed over in

silence. "Did you see your brother at the Fen inn, Mr. Briarfield?" asked the coroner. "I did not see my brother alive," was

the evasive answer. "Perhaps the body had been put in the pool by the murderer," said one of the jurymen, "in which case Mr. Briarfield would not see him."

"I did not go to the pool on that night," replied Francis, adroitly evading the remark. "It was later on that I learned my brother's body was there and at once gave instructions that the pool was to be dragged."

At this point Mr. Briarfield was asked to stand down, and the inspector's evidence was taken. He deposed to the fact that Mr. Briarfield had instructed him to drag the pool for the body, and that it was found there.

This piece of evidence quite put the jury off the scent, as, if Francis had pla ed the body in the pool, he would not have told the inspector where to find it. The critical point was thus glided gently over, and the coroner called Rose Gernon. Once the jury knew how the crime had been committed, and they would forget all about the hiding of the body in the pool, so that the folly

of Francis would not be made public.

evidence very clearly. She said she was an intimate friend of Felix Briarfield, a statement which rather shocked the moral tradesmen of Marshminster Felix asked her to go down to the inn, as he had prepared it for his brother and wished to see him there about a family matter.

"But the inn was a ruin," interrupted a juryman. Miss Gernon said that was very true. Still it was habitable. and Mr. Felix Briarfield had sent on fuel and provisions. As the former proprietor had left all the furniture, the rooms were fairly comfortable. She could not say why Felix did all this unless it was that he wanted to see his brother privately.

Such talk was very weak, and the jurymen looked significantly at one another. They knew the Fen inn and could not conceive that any one could be so mad as to dwell in it even for a night It was said to be haunted, and, though such a superstition might be scoffed at. yet not one of those present would have passed 12 hours of darkness in that ill omened place.

"Were you not afraid when you saw the lone inn," asked a juryman.

Rose shrugged her shoulders and laughed contemptuously. "I am afraid of nothing," she said

coolly. "There are no such things as ghosts. Besides I had my brother with

"Your brother!" "Yes, Edward Strent."

The inspector gave a low whistle, and catching my eye nodded significantly. He remembered what I had said on the previous night, and now agreed with my theory that the secret of the committal of the crime lay in the relationship existing between Rose and Strent They were, it appeared, brother and sister. I saw all kinds of possibilities now that such a tie was made clear Meanwhile Rose proceeded with her

"Mr. Felix Brairfield came to the inn," she said, "after his brother had gone to rest. I saw and spoke with him and afterward went to bed myself. I understood that he was going to stay all night and see his brother in the morning."

"Was he alone in the room when you left him?"

'No. He was with Strent. An hour or so after I retired Strent came to my door and asked me to go down stairs. I did so and found Felix lying dead on the floor. My brother had left the room, and on going out at the back of the house I found him mounting the horse of Mr. Francis Briarfield. I asked him what had happened, and he just said Felix was dead and advised me to fly lest I should be accused of the murder ' "That, I suppose, was also the reason

of his flight?" 'So he told me when I saw him in London, but he then declared himself innocent of the crime. I was afraid I would be accused of the crime, so took the horse and gig in which we had come to the Fen inn and drove to Marshminster. From there I returned

"Why did you not give the alarm?" "I was afraid of being accused of the

Here the inspector whispered something in the ear of the coroner. He nodded and again spoke to Rose Gernon.

"Why did you not tell Mr. Denham where to find Strent when he was apparently guilty?"

'Strent is my brother," said Rose quietly, "and as he told me he was innocent I did not wish him to be arrested for the crime. But that he visited me yesterday and was seen by the men set to watch me he would never have been caught."

Her examination lasted some considerable time, but the coroner did not succeed in eliciting anything new from her. She persistently held to the same story, so in despair the examiner desisted, and she was told to stand down. In her place Edward Strent was called. and then for me began the most interesting part of the case. I knew all that had been said hitherto, but I did not know how the crime had been committed and waited to hear what Strent had to say. I quite believed him to be guilty. yet hardly thought he would accuse himself of the crime.

He first corroborated the story of Rose as to going to the inn and narrated all that had occurred up to the time when he was left alone in the room with Fe-

"When I found myself alone with Briarfield," he proceeded, "I had a

quarrel with him. "About what?"

"About my sister. He had promised to marry her, yet, as I well knew, was paying attentions to Miss Bellin." 'But Miss Bellin was engaged to his

brother," remarked a juryman. "I know that. It was about Miss Bel lin he wished to see his brother. I insisted that he should marry my sister, and he refused. We had hot words. He was on one side of the table, I on the other. Between us lay the arrowhead which he had brought in his pocket."

"Why had he brought the arrowhead there?" "I don't know," replied Strent, lying with the utmost promptitude. "He took the arrowhead out of his pocket,

said it was poisoned and laid it down on the table." "Do you think he intended to kill his brother because he stood in his way with Miss Bellin?" asked an inquisitive

juryman of a romantic turn of mind. "I really don't know, sir," replied Strent, looking the juryman straight in the face. "He said nothing to me. We were quarreling over the shabby way in which he had treated my sister, and the arrowhead was on the table between

"What was the position of the arrowhead?" asked the coroner prompted by

"It was leaning against a book which was on the table, and the point was uppermost. I said to Mr. Briarfield, 'Will you marry my sister?' and he said: 'No. I'm - if I will.' While saying this he brought down the open palm of his I must say that Rose Gernon gave her hand on the arrowhead and gave a c y

of pain. When he fifted his nand, it had a ragged wound across it from the thumb to the little finger. I wished to bind it up but he pushed me away, crying out he was a dead man. In three minutes he was lying dead on the floor. I threw the arrowhead into the fireplace and tried to revive him, but it was of no use. He was dead."

"I was afraid I would be accused of the death, as Mr. Denham or Mr. Francis might have heard us quarreling together. I lost my head altogether and only thought of flight. I ran up to my sister's room and told her Felix was dead. Then I saddled the horse. When she came to the door, I was mounting. I told her to take the gig and fly to Marshminster, and that I would explain all in London."

"You fled like a coward."

"I suppose I did," said the man sullenly, "but I was beside myself with terror. I rode to Starby and gave the horse back to the livery stable keeper. Then I went to London and saw my sister. She agreed with me that it was best to keep quiet, so I did not come forward to give evidence. Had it not been for that detective who watched my sister, I should not be here now."

This evidence practically ended the inquest. Merrick was called to prove that the wound in the hand was such a one as might have been made by the downward stroke of the hand on a sharp point. This evidence was substantiated by the local practitioner, who had examined the body with Dr. Merrick. There was no doubt that the affair had happened as Strent said. Felix Briarfield had slapped his open hand on the table to emphasize his refusal to marry Rose Gernon. Unfortunately it came in contact with the poisoned arrowhead. The flint had an edge like a razor, and being steeped in virulent poison acted like a snake bite on the unfortunate young man. Felix had not been murdered, but died by misadventure.

That was the verdict brought in by the jury, and so the whole of this strange affair came to an end. Thanks to the astuteness of the inspector and the delicacy of the coroner, the jury were quite unaware of what had happened between the death of Felix and the inquest. The reporters of the Marshminster Gazette merely put in a short statement of the affair, and in a few days people ceased to take any interest in the Fen inn crime. It was a lucky escape for Francis, but I don't think the lesson was thrown away on him.

Rose Gernon and her brother went back to town the same evening. I never saw Strent again, but frequently had the pleasure of seeing his sister performing on the stage. She is now engaged to be married, but with the knowledge of her actions at the Fen inn I cannot say I envy the bridegroom.

After the burial of Felix I went abroad with Francis, whose health was quite broken down by the strain put on it during the last few weeks. He returned in six months and married Oliv-She was told all that had taken place in the lone inn, but kept the information to herself. Mrs. Bellin never self for Francis. I was best man at the wedding by particular request and saw the happy pair start for their honey-



I saw the happy pair start for their

moon. I hope they will be happy and am sure they deserve to be, seeing through what tribulations they have

"What has become of the Fen inn?" asked Dr. Merrick one day when we were talking over the case.

"Oh, the Fen inn is pulled down, I believe!" was my reply. "There will be no more tragedies there."

"A fit end for such a shambles," said Merrick, and I think he was about right.

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Adopted by the Convention at Omaha Nebraska, July 4, 1892.

Assembled upon the one hundred and sixteenth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the People's Party of America, in their first national convention, invoking upon their action the blessings of Almighty God, puts forth in the name, and on behalf of the people of the country, the following preamble and declaration of principles:

The conditions which surround us best

justify our co-operation; we meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box. the legislatures, the Congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized; most of the states have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled; public opinion silenced; business prostrated; our homes covered with mortgages; labor impoverished; and the land concentrating in the hands of the capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self-protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hireling army, unrecognized by our law, is established to shoot them down; and they are rapidly degenerating into Euro-pean conditions. The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind, and the possessors of these in turn despise the re-public and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classestramps and millionaires.

The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders; a vast public debt, payable in legal tender currency, has been funded into gold-bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to

the burdens of the people.

Silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold, by decreasing the value of all forms of property, as well as human la-bor, and the supply of currency is pur-posely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise, and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents, and it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization, or the establishment of an absolute despotism. We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon the suffering people. We charge that the controlling influence dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop, without serious effort to prevent or restrain them.

Neither do they now promise us any

substantial reform. They have agreed

together to ignore, in the coming campaign, every issue but one. They propeople with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff; so that capitalists, corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, watered stock, the demonetization of silver, and the oppressions of the usurers may all be lost sight of. They propos te sacrifice our homes, lives and children on the altar of Mammon; to destroy the knew that Felix had substituted him-self for Francis. I was best man at the funds from the millionaires. Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation, and filled with the spirit of ! the grand generation of men, who established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the Republic to the hands of "the plain people," with whose class it originated. We assert our purposes to be identical with the purpose of the national constitution:-"to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty ourselves and our posterity.

We declare that this republic can only endure as a free government while built upon the love of the whole people for each other and for the nation; that it cannot be pinned together by bayonets, that the civil war is over and that every passion and resentment which grewout of it must die with it; and that we must be in fact, as we are in name, one united brother hood. Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world. Our annual agricultural productions amount to billions of dollars in value, which must within a few weeks or months be exchanged for billions of dollars of commodities consumed in their production; the existing currency supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange. The results are falling prices, the formation of combines and rings, and the impoverishment of the producing class. We pledge ourselves that if given power we will labor to correct these evils by wise and reasonable legislation, in accordance with the terms of our platform.

We believe that the powers of government-in other words, of the people should be expanded (as in the case of the postal service) as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people, and the teachings of experience, shall instify; to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land.

While our sympathies as a party of reform are naturally upon the side of every proposition which will tend to make men intelligent, virtuous and temperate, we nevertheless regard these questions-important as they are-as secondary to the great issues now pressing for solution; and upon which not only our individual prosperity, but the very existence of free institutions depends; and we ask all men to first help us to determine whether we are to have a republic to administer, be fore we differ as to the conditions upon which it is to be administered; believing that the forces of reform this day organ ized will never cease to move forward until every wrong is righted and equal pri-vileges established for all the men and women of this country.

We declare, therefore,

UNION OF THE PEOPLE.

First, That the union of the labor forces of the United States this day consummated, shall be permanent and per petual; may its spiritenter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind. Second, Wealth belongs to him who

creates it; and every dollar taken from industry, without an equivalent, is rob-bery. "If any man will not work neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civic labor are the same; their enemies

are identical.

Third. We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations | of the one now on our statute books.

will either own the people or the people must own the railroads; and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing the railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be protected by civil service regulations of the most rigid character, so as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional gonernment employes.

FINANCE.

We damand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible; issued by the general government only; a full legal tender for all debts public and private; and that without the use of banking corporations; a just equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people, at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent per annum, to be provided as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements:

We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ration of 16 to 1.

We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to

not less than \$50 per capita. We demand a graduated income tax.

We believe that the money of the country should be kept, as much as possible, in the hands of the people; and hence we demand that all state and national revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered. We demand that postal savings banks beestablished by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people

TRANSPORTATION.

and the facilitation of exchange.

Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity; the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

The telegraph and telephone, like the costoffice system, being a necessity, for the transmissionof news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interests of the people.

LANDS.

The land, including all natural re-sources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes; and alien owner-ship of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens, should be reclaimed by the gov-ernment and held for actual settlers

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were offered independent of the platform, and were adopted, as expressive of the sentiments

Resolved, That we demand a free ballot and a fair count in all elections, and pledge ourselves to secure to it every legal voter without federal intervention, through the adoption by the states of the unperverted Australian secret ballot system.

Resolved, That the revenue derived from a graduated income tax should be applied to the reduction of the burden of taxation now levied upon the domestic in-

dustries of this country.

Resolved, That we pledge on support to fair and liberal pensions .o ex-Union soldiers and sailors.

Resolved, That we condemn the fallacy of protecting American labor under the present system, which opens our ports to the pauper and criminal classes of the world, and crowds out our wage-earners and we denounce the present ineffective law against contract labor, and demand the further restriction of undesirable

immigration.

Resolved, That we cordially sympathize with the efforts of organized workingmen to shorter the hours of labor and demand a rigid enforcement of the existing eight-hour law on government work, and ask that a penalty clause be added to

Resolved, That we regard the maintenance of a large standing army of mercenaries, known as the Pinkerton system, as a menace to our liberties, and we demand its abolition, and we condemn the recent invasion of the Territory of Wyoming by the hired assassins of Plutocracy, assisted by Federal officers. Resolved, That we commend to the thoughtful consideration of the people and the reform press, the legislative system known as the Initiative and Referen-

Resolved, That we favor a constitutional provision limiting the office of a president and vice president to one term, and providing for the election of the senators by a direct vote of the people. Resolved, That we oppose any subsidy or national aid to any private corporation for any purpose. H. E. TAUBENECK, Chairman, Marshall,

Illinois. J. H. TURNER, Secretary, Georgia. LAWRENCE McFARLAND, Secretary, New

M. C. RANKIN, Treasurer, Terre Haute,

Our State Platform.

We, the People's Independent party of he state of Nebraska, reaffirm the prinples laid down in the national platform adopted at Omaha, July 4, 1892. We emphasize the demand for free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present ratio 16 to 1. We brand as treason to labor in every field, and to labor in every field, and to the best interests of the whole country, the unconditional repeal by congress of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. We demand both state and national laws for the encouragement and promotion of the irrigation of our arid and semi-arid

We demand that congress shall speedily pass a law by which the federal courts will be prevented from suspending the operation of a state law at the dictation of corporations.

We demand a liberal service pension to all honorably discharged union soldiers and sailors of the late war.

We declare for municipal ownership of street cars, gas and electric light plants and water works. We demand compulsory arbitration of

all controversies between employers and We heartily approve the course of Sen-

ator William V. Allen and Congressmen W. A. McKeighan and O. M. Kem for their fidelity and loyalty to our entire interests, and we compliment Congressman W. J. Bryan, who, though elected as a Democrat, has given strong support to many of our reform measures. We demand a more economical admin-

istration of our state government, and a more strict accountability of moneys appropriated and expended. We reiterate our demand for a maxi-

mum freight rate law or the enforcement

state constitution by the adoption of what are properly known as the initiative and referendum.

We demand the enforcement of the present law for the investment of our permanent school fund as directed, and not through bond investment companies, at a loss to said fund or profit to specu-

lators and money shark We demand that all officers, both state and county, be paid a reasonable salary, in accordance with the labor to be per-formed and the amount of skill required, and that all fees be turned into the general fund for state and county purposes.
We commend to the favorable consid-

is known as the Gulf & Interstate railroad, now under process of construction.

We demand that immediate steps be taken for the relief of the drouth sufferers of our state, and that some means be devised to give them employment and

eration of the state the building of what

Having stated our demands, we cordially invite all persons who are in sympa-thy with them to co-operate with us, regardless of former party afflictions.

The People's Party Meeting.

The adherents of the People's party have every reason to be satisfied with the meeting at Central Music hall last night. Never in the history of Chicago politics have more brilliant, sincere, and honorable men addressed a political gathering. Never has there been more eager pressure for place in a political meeting or a more intelligent throng gathered to hearken to a discussion of the issues of the day.

Perhaps there may be people in this city who still fail to realize the exceeding earnestness of the People's party movement. Such would do well to attend a few of the downtown meetings which will be held by the People's party weekly until the end of the campaign. They will learn that there are voters by thousands and by tens of thousands who will have nothing to do with either old party henceforth. And, what is of far more importance, they will learn the reason for this revolt. Unquestionably in the minds of the people there has grown up the conviction that the two old parties are virtually one upon questions affecting the rights and liberties of the common people. The evidence of Democratic alliance with the trusts furnished by the late congress is as damning as any ever adduced against the Republicans. When Clevland ordered federal troops into Illinois, over the protest of its governor, to fight for rich corporations and against the workingmen, it was the one act of his official career which met with instant and hearty commendation on the part of the Republican press and politicians. The two parties of late stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of privileged individuals, privileged corporations, and the privileged classes.

Democracy is a noble word, but the people are no longer led by sounding terms. If the Democracy of Thomas Jefferson dominated the Democratic party of today there would be no People's y nor any place for it. Unl that Democratic party of lofty ideals and glorious record has drifted away from its true moorings. It has left a place which must be filled-the place of the party of the people, the party which stands for equal rights to all and special privileges to none, the party which will fight the concentration of wealth and will oppose the power of plutocracy in the lawmaking bodies of the people. The place thus eft vacant the People's party will essay to fill. It were well for the glorious old Democracy if it would discard its false and mercenary leaders and return to the honorable position which it is still within its power to regain .- Chicago Times.

It is said that Boyd objects to Deaver's candidacy for congress on the ground that he is only a common bookkeeper. This is too bad. The presumption is, if Mr. Deaver were a libertine and a moneyed parasite, he would command more respect in the race for publichonor.-West-



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