

## "OLD STATE OF PIKE."

THE HOME OF THE STARK BROTHERS' NURSERIES.

One of the Biggest Institutions in the World—Its Trade Extends to Nearly Every Civilized Nation on Earth.

St. Louis Republic, January 7, 1896: One of the largest institutions in Louisiana is the Stark Bros' Nurseries and Orchards company. The trade of the firm extends not only throughout the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Hungary and other foreign countries, but it has a number of customers both in New Zealand and Australia.

Eighty years ago there came from Kentucky to Pike county the late Judge Stark, then a young man fresh from Old Hickory's New Orleans campaign. He started the nursery and planted the first grafted orchard in the state, having brought the scions on horseback from Kentucky.

The business has descended from father to son, and is now conducted by the third generation, assisted by the fourth. This firm has more than 1,000 traveling solicitors, and employs more people in its offices than would be necessary to run a large manufacturing concern. The extensive packing-houses of the company are adjacent to the city, connected with the railroad by special tracks. From these packing-houses hundreds of carloads of trees are shipped annually. The nursery grounds embrace a number of farms convenient to the city, and even extends to Rockport, Ill., where there is a plant of several million trees.

The peculiarity of the concern is the establishment of large orchards. These orchards in 24 states aggregate nearly 50,000 acres, and more than 3,500,000 trees on the partnership plan. The firm is also interested in as many more trees on the co-operative arrangement. The nurseries have been beneficial not only to their home, but Missouri owes no little of her prestige as a fruit-growing region to the progress and work of development of this firm. The exhibits of this firm, whenever made, attract great attention, and do much to advertise the state. The firm pays large amounts for new varieties of fruit, and conducts the largest business of the kind in America, if not in the world.

Louisiana firms have more traveling men upon the road for them than travel out of any other city of the world of its size. This, of course, is largely due to the large number of men employed by the Stark Bros. Nurseries, who furnish their men the most complete, up-to-date outfit ever issued. They are increasing their force of salesmen daily and room for more.

**Imitation Antiquities.**  
The genuineness of antiquities is hard to vouch for, as has been proved by an English woman who recently returned home from Egypt. She brought with her a terra cotta figure of a cat which she saw with her own eyes dug up out of the ruins of Karnak. She paid a good price for it, and was delighted with her purchase. Unfortunately, the other day it was knocked down and smashed. Its head was then found to be stuffed with old numbers of the Birmingham Post.—London Times.

**Hall's Catarrh Cure**  
Is a constitutional cure. Price, 75c.

**No Improvement.**  
"Say, it was a great idea to put the district messenger boys on wheels. I saw one going like the wind today."  
"Huh! He probably struck a good bicycle road and was trying to complete a century run before delivering his message."—Truth.

**Hogman's Camphor Ice with Glycerine.**  
The original and only genuine. Cures Chapped Hands and Feet, Cold Sores, etc. G. G. Clark Co., N. Haven, Ct.

The girl of the period is not the kind who captivates men.  
**FITS** stopped free and permanent cure. No fits after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Free 21 trial bottle and treatise. Mailed on request. Dr. J. C. Kline, Philadelphia, Pa.

Some distinction goes with the girl who does not ride a wheel.  
An hour with the lawn mower every day is a desirable exercise.

I believe Piso's Cure is the only medicine that will cure consumption.—Anna M. Ross, Williamsport, Pa., Nov. 12, '95.  
As soon as Adam named the animals, he had a language.



**Gladness Comes**  
With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills, which vanish before proper efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—rightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge, that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs, promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only and sold by all reputable druggists.  
If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, laxatives or other remedies are then not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be commended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.



BY CLARA AUGUSTA  
INTERNATIONAL PRESS ASSOCIATION.

### CHAPTER XVIII.—(Continued.)

It was August now, and the weather at its hottest. Margie spent a large portion of her time out of doors, with only Leo for a companion. She sat, one lovely afternoon, on the banks of the river, dividing her time between the charming panorama of sunshine and shadow before her, and a book of poems in her lap, when there was a step at her side. She looked up, and saw the face of Louis Castrani.

"Miss Harrison, you will, I trust, excuse me for seeking you here. But my wish to see you was so strong, that, on my way to the White Mountains, I left my party and turned aside here, to gratify the desire. You know you gave me permission?"

"I did; but I hardly thought you would take advantage of it."  
"Perhaps I ought not to have done so. Indeed, I tried hard not to. Are you very angry?"

"No, I am not angry at all. I am glad to see you." She held out her hand. "So is Leo, too—only see him caper."  
The dog was leaping upon Mr. Castrani, with the liveliest demonstrations of joy. He patted the silky head.

"It is something to be welcomed by a brute, Miss Harrison; their instincts are seldom at fault, I believe. Have you been well, Miss Harrison?"

"Very well, thank you. And you? But I need not ask. Your looks answer for you. When did you leave New York?"

"I have been in New York only a fortnight since I last saw you. Business has kept me elsewhere. I came from New York three days ago. What a beautiful spot you have hidden yourself in!"

"I am pleased to hear you say so. Isn't it lovely? But you must tell me about home. How are all my friends?"

"They are all well. How mellowly the sunshine falls on the rough crags opposite, and what a picture for a painter to transfer to canvas!"

lyn and Miss Lee are to be married in September."  
"To Miss Lee—married to Miss Lee? Great Heaven! And she is aware of his—What am I saying? What did I say? O, Mr. Castrani, excuse me—I am so surprised—" She groped blindly for something to cling to, fell forward, and he received her senseless form in his arms.

He held her silently a moment, his face wearing a look of unutterable love and sadness; then he put her down on the grass, and brought water in a large leaf from the stream. He bathed her forehead, tenderly as a mother might, murmuring over her words of gentleness and affection.

"My poor Margie! My poor little darling!"  
He pressed the little icy hands in his, but he did not kiss the lips he would have given half his life to have felt upon his. He was too honorable to take advantage of her helplessness. She revived after a while, and met his eyes as he knelt beside her.

"Are you better?" he asked, gently.  
"Yes, it is over now. I am sorry to have troubled you. I must depend on you to go to the house with me. Nurse Day will be glad to welcome you. And I must ask you not to alarm her by alluding to my sudden illness. I am quite well now."

He gave her his arm, and they went up to the house together, followed by Leo.

**CHAPTER XIX.**  
**A**RCHER TREVLYN and Alexandrine Lee were married in September. It was a very quiet wedding, the bridegroom preferring that there should be no parade or show on the occasion. Alexandrine and her

mother both desired that it should take place in the fashionable church where they worshipped, but they yielded to the wishes of Mr. Trevlyn. He deserved some deference. Mrs. Lee declared, for having behaved so handsomely. His presents to his bride were superb. A set of diamonds, that were a little fortune in themselves, and a settlement of three thousand a year—pin money. The brown stone house was furnished, and there was no more elegant establishment in the city.

Trevlyn House, the fine old residence of the late John Trevlyn, was closed. Only the old butler and his wife remained in the back wing, to air the rooms occasionally, and keep the moths out of the upholstery. For some reason, unexplained to himself, Archer never took his wife there. Perhaps the quiet rooms too forcibly reminded him of the woman he had loved and lost.

Alexandrine's ambition was satisfied. At last she was the wife of a man whose love and admiration she had coveted since her first acquaintance with him. From her heart she believed him guilty of the murder of Paul Linmere; but in spite of it, she had married him. She loved him intensely enough to pardon even that heinous crime.

understand my position. I must beg you to indulge me in a little retrospection. You are doubtless aware that at one time I was engaged to Miss Margaret Harrison?"

"Such was the rumor, sir."  
"It was correct. I loved her deeply, fondly, with my whole soul—just as I love her still—in spite of it all."

"Mr. Trevlyn," said Castrani, with cold reproof in his voice, "you have a wife."

"I am aware of it, but the fact does not change my feelings. I have tried to kill all regard for Margaret Harrison, but it is impossible. I can control it, but I cannot make it die. My wife knows it all—I told her freely—and knowing it, she was willing to bear my name. For some reason, unknown to her, unexplained by Margaret, she cast me off. I had seen her only the day before the fatal note reached me—had held her in my arms and felt her kiss upon my lips." He stopped, controlling his emotion, and went on resolutely.

"The next day I received a letter from her, a brief, cold, almost scornful letter. She renounced me utterly—she would never meet me again but as a stranger. She need make no explanation of the circumstances, which revealed to me that she left for the North, in the early express—with you—or equivalent to that. She entered the train at the same time, and you were both in the same car. This fact, coupled with your well-known devotion to her, and her renunciation of me, satisfied me that she had fled from me, to the arms of—another lover."

"Villain!" cried Castrani, starting from his chair, his face scarlet with indignation. "If it were not a disgrace to use violence upon a guest, I would thrash you soundly! You loved Margaret Harrison, and yet believed that damnable falsehood of her! Out upon such love! She is, and was, as pure as the angels! Yes, you say truly, I was devoted to her. I would have given my life, yes, my soul's salvation, for her love! But she never cared for me. I never enticed her to do evil—I would not, if I could, and I could not, if I would! Who repeated this vile slander? Show him to me, and by heaven, his blood shall wipe out the stain!"

All Trevlyn's pride and passion left him. His face lost its rigid tenseness, his eyes grew moist. He forgave Castrani's insults, he told him Margaret was pure. He put out his hands and grasped those of his companion.

"O, sir," he said, "I thank you—I thank you! You have made me as happy as it is now possible for me to become. It is like going back to heaven after a long absence, to know that she was pure—that I was not deceived in her. O, Margie! Margie! my wronged Margie! God forgive me for indulging such a thought of you."

Castrani's hard face softened a little, as he witnessed the utter abandonment of the proud man before him.

"You may well ask God to forgive you," he said. "You deserve the depths of perdition for harboring in your heart a thought against the purity of that woman. Archer Trevlyn, had she loved me as she did you, I would have cut off my right hand before I would have entertained a suspicion of sin in her! It is true she went North on the same train as I did, but I did not know it until the journey was ended. Previous to that time I had not seen her for more than a fortnight, and I did not know she was near me, until in Boston my attention was attracted by a crowd of 'roughs' gathered around a lady and a greyhound. The lady had lost her portmanteau, and the crowd made some insulting remarks which I took the liberty of resenting, and when I saw the lady's face, to my amazement I recognized Margaret Harrison!"

**The Loneliness of Wealth.**  
Ferry—I doubt if riches bring happiness. Some of our rich men seem to be the most lonely people on earth.  
Hargreaves—And I don't doubt that they are. I know I would be awfully lonesome if it weren't for the company I find in the bill collectors that call on me.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

**Valuable Franchise Secured.**  
The franchise of easy digestion—one of the most valuable in the gift of medical science—can be secured by any person wise enough to use Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, either to suppress growing dyspepsia, or to proot it at maturity. Bilious, rheumatic and fever and ague sufferers, persons troubled with nervousness, and the constipated, should also secure the health franchise by the same means.

No man of refinement is ever interested in unwomanly women.  
If the Baby is Cutting Teeth.  
Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP for Children Teething.

An excellent thing to remember is that every story has two sides.

**Naked Pills**  
are fit only for naked savages. Clothes are the marks of civilization—in pills as well as people. A good coat does not make a good pill, any more than good clothes make a good man. But as sure as you'd look on a clothesless man as a mad one, you may look on a coatless pill as a bad one. After fifty years of test no pills stand higher than  
**AYER'S Cathartic Pills**  
SUGAR COATED.

**FREE HOMES** From Uncle Sam.  
Nearly 2,000,000 Acres of Government Lands Now Open to Settlement  
**IN NORTHERN ARKANSAS.**  
They are fertile, well-watered, heavily timbered, and produce grain, grasses, fruits and vegetables in abundance. North Arkansas apples are noted. The climate is delightful, winters mild and short. These lands are subject to homestead entry of 160 acres each. NOW IS THE TIME TO GET A HOME. For further information address  
**E. V. M. POWELL, Immigration Agent, Harrison, Ark.**  
EP Insects 10 cents in Silver.  
EP Refers to Bank of Harrison and Boone County Bank, Harrison, Ark.

**"Cut Down Expenses."**

**Battle Ax PLUG**

A woman knows what a bargain really is. She knows better than a man. "BATTLE AX" is selected every time by wives who buy tobacco for their husbands. They select it because it is an honest bargain. It is the biggest in size, the smallest in price, and the best in quality. The 5 cent piece is almost as large as the 10 cent piece of other high grade brands.

**"Out and away the most popular."**

The New York Telegram recently organized a monster bicycle parade in New York, offering a bicycle each to the best lady rider and the best gentleman rider in the procession. The prizes were selected by popular vote of The Telegram's readers, and, as was to be expected, the result was another triumph for

**Columbia Bicycles**  
STANDARD OF THE WORLD.

In the language of The Telegram, the Columbia was declared to be "out and away the most popular wheel in America." Of course. No other bicycle has such quality or gives such satisfaction.

You can have a Columbia at once if you place your order promptly. **\$100 TO ALL ALIKE.**

**POPE MFG. CO., Hartford, Conn.**  
Branch Stores and Agencies in almost every city and town. If Columbia are not properly represented in your vicinity, let us know.