

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN (Continued.)

And then-and then, even supposing that all the chances were favorable, was it not too late? hunted down the wild beast, that Arsene Lupin would inevitably, they drove him to bay, would he in the course of that interview, not meanwhile have killed his obtain Valenglay's consent. These prey? Knowing himself beaten, were not suppositions, but cerwould a monster of that kind hes- tainties; not problems awaiting itate to add one more murder to solution, but problems already the long list of his crimes?

crowning terror. After all the difficulties which, in his stubhornly confident imagination, he had managed to surmount, he was brought face to face with the horrible vision of Florence being see- Hohenzollern all the way from his rificed, of Florence dead!

"Oh, the torture of it!" he mcccccded; and they shut me up!

He hardly put himself out to inquire into the reasons for which M. de Beauveau. M. Valenglay, M. Desmalions, suddenly chang- it is a pleasure to see you. ing his mind, had consented to his arrest, thus bringing back to life tending that it was open and that that troublesome Arsene Lupin he had only to walk through to be with whom the police had not received when his turn came. hitherio cared to hamper themselves. No, that did not interest him. Florence alone mattered. And the minutes passed; and each minute wasted brought Florence neaver to her doom.

He remembered a similar occassion when, some years before, he waited in the same way for the door of his cell to open and the German Emperor to appear. But how much greater was the solemnity of the present moment! Before, it was at the very most his liberty that was at stake. This time it was Florence's life which Announce Arsene Lupin, grandee fate was about to offer or refuse him

"Florence! Florence!" he kept repeating in his despair.

He no longer had a doubt of her 'nnocence. Nor did he doubt that the other loved her and had carried her off ,not so much for the hostage of a coverted fortune as for a love spoil, which a man him and were pushing him a litdestroys if he cannot keep it.

'Florence! Florence! He was suffering from an extraordinary fit of depression. His ... You've no orders to thrash me. "1 am." eat seemed irretrievable. There Valenglay. xperienced a little have you? Nor even to handcuff was no question of hastening met That being so, young felafter Florence, of eatching the lows, behave !" murderer. Don Luis was in pris-The prison governor was standon under hi. own name of ing in the hall. how exciting! Arsene Lapin; and the whole "I've had a capital night, my He said: problem lay in knowing how long dear governor," said Don Luis. "I have followed the Morning-months or for years! It was then that he fully real- Lockup Arms receives a star in done wonders Monsieur. It is eviized what his love for Florence the 'Baedeker.' Would you like dent that, but for you, the case meant. He perceived that it took me to write you a testimonial in would never have emerged from the place in his life of his former your jail book? You wouldn't? the mystery that surrounded it at passions, his craving for luxury, Perhaps you hope to see me the start. But I cannot help noais desire for mastery, his pleas- again? Sorry, my dear governor, ticing that there are certain flaws ure in fighting, his ambition, his but it's impossible. I have other in it. revenge. For two months he had things to do. "These flaws, which astonished me on your part, are more easy been struggling to win her and A motor car was waiting in for nothing else. The search after the yard. Don Luis stepped in to understand when we know that the truth and the punishment of with the four detectives: the criminal were to him no more "Place Beauveau," he said to than means of saving Florence the driver. the other hand, and in spite of from the dangers that threatened "No, Rue Vineuse," said one of the detectives, correcting him. If Florence had to die, if it was "Oho!" said Don Luis. heiress, her unexpected escape "His too late to snatch her from the Excellency's private residence! from the hospital, leave little enemy, in that case he might as His Excellency prefers that my doubt in our minds as to the part well remain in prison. Arsene visit should be kept secret. That's she is playing.' Lupin spending the rest of his a good sign. By the way, dear Don Luis pointed to the clock: days in a convict settlement was friends, what's the time? "Monsieur le Ministre, it is getting late." a fitting end to the spoilt life of His question remained unans-a man who had not even been able wered. And as the detectives had Valenglay burst out laughing. to win the love of the only woman drawn the blinds, he was unable "I never met any one like you! Don Luis Perenna, I am sorry he had really loved. to consult the clocks in the street It was a passing mood and, be- It was not until he was at Val. that I am not some absolute moning totally opposed to Den Inis's lenglay's in the Prime Minister's manie, finished abruptly in a little ground floor flat near the or my secret police. state of utter confidence which Trocadero , that he saw a clock "A post which the German Emno longer admitted the least par- on the manflepiece: percr has already offered me.' ticle of anxiety or doubt. The "A quarter to seven!" he ex-sum had risen. The cell gradual- claimed. "Good! There's not "Oh, nonesense!" "And I refused it." ly became filled with daylight. been much time lost." Valenglay laughed heartily; And Don Luis remembered that Valenglay reached his office on the Place Beauveau at 7 o'clock a garden filled with aviaries The in the morning in the morning. froom itself was crammed with straight to the point, said, in a From this moment he felt abso- books and pictures. serious voice : lutely calm. Coming events pre- A bell rang, and the detectives "Don Luis Perenna, on the first sented an entirely different as went out, following the old maid day of your reappearance—that traordinary and so tremendous peet to him, as though they had, servant who had shown them in. is to say, at the very moment of that I could consent to risk the o to speak, turned right round. Don Luis was left alone. The contest seemed to him easy, He was still calm, but never. Suchet Monsieur le Prefect de lease of Arsene Lupin would the facts free from complications. theless felt a certain uneasiness. Police and I make up our minds bring down upon my head." He understood as clearly as if the a longing to be up and doing, to as to your identity. Perenna was actions had been performed that throw himself into the fray; and Lupin. his will could not but be obeyed, his eyes on involuntarily return. The deputy chief must inevitably ing to the face of the clock. The derstood the reason why we did "I have no doubt that you un-derstood the reason why we did "I don't need your assistance have made a faithful report to minute hand seemed endowed not wish to bring back to life the for that." the Prefect of Police. The Pre- with extraordinary speed. the Prefect of Police. The Pre- with extraordinary speed. dead man that you were, and why feet of Police must inevitably that. At last some one entered, we granted you a sort of protee-

morning have transmitted Arsene them. Lupin's request to Valenglay. Valenglay would inevitably give himself the pleasure of an some time. "Complexion a little Taking for granted that they interview with Arsene Lupin. darker, a trifle grayer over the agreed. "But that does not show solved. Starting from A and con-And this, to Don Luis, was the tinuing along B and C, you arrive, whether you wish it or not,

at D.

Don Luis began to laugh "Come, come, Arsene, old chap, remember that you brought Mr. Brandenburg Marches, Valenglay does not live as far as that, by stammered. I alone could have Jove! And, if necessary, you can put yourself out a little. That's it : I'll consent to take the

first step. I will go and call on

He went gayly to the door, pre-

He repeated this child's play three times, bowing low and long, as though holding a plumed hat in his hand, and murmuring:

'Open sesame ! At the fourth time, the door

opened, and a warder appeared. Don Luis said, in a ceremonious tone

"I hope I have not kept the Prime Minister waiting?' There were four inspectors in

the corridor.

'Are these gentlemen my escort?" he asked. "That's right. of Spain, his most Catholic Majesty's cousin. My lords, I follow you. Turnkey, here are 20 crowns for your pains, my friend.'

He stopped in the corridor. "By Jupiter, no gloves; and haven't shaved since yesterdav!

The inspectors had surrounded tle roughly. He seized two of them by the arm. They groaned. "That'll teach you," he said.

ushering in a second person. Don tion. Monsieur le Prefect de Po-Luis recognized Valenglay and lice was entirely of my opinion. the Prefect of Police. "That's it," he thought. "I've ing was a salutary work of jus-

got him."

vague sympathy perceptible on spare you any sort of annoyance. the old Premier's lean and bony As Don Luis Perenna was fightface. There was not a sign of ing the good fight, we left Arsene arrogance, nothing to raise a bar- Lupin in the background. Un-

rier between the Minister and the fortunately-Valenglay paused again and suspicious individual whom he

was receiving; just a manifest. playful curiosity and sympathy It was a sympathy which Valenglay had never concealed, and of which he even boasted when, after Arsene Lupin's sham being Arsene Lupin.'

death, he spoke of the adventurer and the strange relations between

'You have not changed,' he said, after looking at him for dead. temples, that's all. And putting on a blunt tone. he asked:

"And what is it you want?" 'An answer first of all, Monsieur le President du Conseil. Has Deputy Weber, who took me to the lockup last night, traced the and to accuse me would be his motor cab in which Florence Levasseur was carried off?'

"Yes, the motor stopped at Versailles. The persons inside it hired another cab which is to take them to Nantes. What else do you ask for, besides that answer?"

"My liberty, Monsieur le Pres ident.

'At once, of course?'' said Val englay, beginning to laugh. 'In 30 or 35 minutes at most. "At half-past seven, eh?"

"Half-past seven at latest Monsieur le President.' 'And why your liberty ?'

"To catch the murder of Cosmo Mornington, of Inspector Verot. and of the Roussel family."

'Are you the only one that can catch him?" Yes.'

"Still, the police are moving. The wires are at work. The murderer will not leave France. He

shan't escap: us.' "You can't find him."

"Yes, we can." "In that case he will kill Flor-

ence Levasseur. She will be the scoundrel's seventh victim. And will be your doing." Valenglay paused for a mo-

ment and then resumed :

According to you, contrary to all appearances, and contrary to the well grounded suspicions of Monsieur le Prefect de Police, Florence Levasseur is innocent?' "Oh, absolutely, Monsieur le President !"

And you believe her to be danger of death ?"

"She is in danger of death." "Are you in love with her?"

The work which you were pursutice; and your assistance was so He saw this by the sort of valuable to us that we strove to

declared :

"Unfortunately, Monsieur le Prefect de Police last night received a denunciation, supported by detailed proofs accusing you of "Impossible !" cried Don Luis.

That is a statement which no one is able to prove by material evidence. Arser.e Lupin is

"If you like," Valenglay that Don Luis Perenna is alive.'

"Don Luis Perenna has a duly egalized existence, Monsieur le President.

Perhaps. But it is disputed." By whom? There is only one man who would have the right; own undoing. I cannot believe him to be stupid enough-

"Stupid enough, no; but crafty enough, yes.'

"You mean Caceres, the Peruvian attache?"

"Yes." "But he is abroad!"

"More than that; he is a fugiive from justice, after embezzling funds of his legation. But be fore leaving the country he signed a statement that reached us yesterday evening, declaring that he faked up a complete record for you under the name of Don Luis Perenna. Here is your correspondence with him and here are all the papers establishing the truth of his allegations. Any one will be convinced, on examining them, first, that you are not Don Luis Perenna, and, secondly, that you are Arsene Lupin.'

Don Luis made an angry gesure

"That blackguard of a Caceres is a mere tool," he snarled. "The other man's behind him, has paid him, and is controlling his actions. It's the scoundrel himself; I recognize his touch. He has once more tried to get rid of me at the decisive moment.'

"I am quite willing to believe said the Prime Minister. But as all these documents, according to the letter that came with them, are only photographs, and as, if you are not arrested this morning, the originals are to be handed to a leading Paris newspaper tonight, we are obliged to take note of the accusa tion.

"But, Monsieur le President," exclaimed Don Luis, "as Caceres is abroad and as the scoundrel Review of the Great Dead.

A letter of Robert Browning's to a lady in expectation of death, wrote to thank him for the help she had derived from his poems. 19 Marwick Crescent, W., May 11, 1876.

Dear Friend: It would ill become me to waste a word on my own feelings except inasmuch as they can be common to us both in such a situation as you describe yours to be-and which, by sympathy, I can make mine by the anticipation of a few years at most. It is a great thing-the greatest-that a human being should have passed the probation of life, and sum up its experience in a witness to the power and love of God. I dare congratulate you. All the help I can offer, in my poor degree, is the assurance that I see ever more reason to hold by the same hope-and that, by no means in ignorance of what has been advised to the contrary; and for your sake I would wish it to be true that I had so much of "genius" as to permit the testimony of an especially privileged insight to come in aid of the ordinary argument. For I know 1 myself have been aware of the communication of something more subtle than a ratiocinative process, when the convictions of "genius" have thrilled my soul to its depths, as when Napoleon, shutting up the New Testament, said of Christ, "Do you know that I am an understander of men? Well, was no man." (Savezvous que je me connais en hommes? Eh bien, celui-la ne fut pas un homme).

Or as when Charles Lamb, in a gay fancy with some friends as to how he and they would feel if the greatest of the dead were to appear suddenly in flesh and blood once more-on the final suggestion, "And if Christ entered this room ?" changed his manner at once, and stuttered out, as his manner was when moved, "You see, if Shakespeare entered, we should all rise; if He appeared, we must kneel." Or, not to multiply instances, as when Dante wrote what I will transcribe from my wife's testament-wherein I recorded it 14 years ago-"Thus I believe, thus I affirm, thus I am certain that it is, that from this life I shall pass to another better, there were that lady lives, of whom my soul was enamoured.'

Dear friend, I may have wearied you in spite of your good will. God bless you, sustain, and receive you !- Reciprocate this blessing with yours affectionately. Robert Browning.

Novel War Devices.

From the London Times.

The inventions department of the ministry of munitions receive almost every day ideas of the most novel kind. All are carefully considered. Some are useful, but almost nine-tenths are wholly impractacticable. In an article on the subject, published in the current number of the Ministry of Munitions Journal, it is said that the following extraordinary suggestions for dealing with hostile aircraft have been received:

ceived: The clouds are to be frozen arti-ficially and guns mounted on them: heavy guns are to be suspended from captive balloons; the moon is to be covered with a big black balloon, air-planes are to be arméd with scissors, or scythes, like Boadicea's charlot, or to trail bombs behind them on a long cord; heat rays are to be projected for the purpose of setting zeppelins on fire; electric waves to paralyze the magne-tos. One of the most popular sugges-ilons of all is to attach a searchlight to an anti-aircraft gun, get the light on the object, and shoot along the beam; but unfortunately, the path of a shell is quite different from that of a ray of light. Most claborate "decoy" schemes are sometimes worked out for the confusion of the enemy, compris-ing in at least one case sham factories with chimneys and hooters complete. To prevent the polished lines of a rail-way showing at night, the last car-riage of the last train, according to another correspondent, was to camou-flage them by dirbbing blacking as it riage of the last train, according to another correspondent, was to camou-flage them by dribbilng blacking as it went along.

Other proposals were:

A balloon carrying magnets hung on strings to attract the rifles out of men's hands. A shell to contain fleas or other ver-min inoculated with disease. A shell with a man inside it to steer it at the target. The squirting of cement over soldiers so as to petrify them. The sending of snakes into enemy trenches by pneumatic propulsion.

disclose, which on being mixed with water turned it into motor spirit. At least, so he said. Another proposed base was the grease skimmed off soup. Various constituents which have been proposed on account of their cheapness would no doubt be more or less effi-cient, but the enthusiastic promoters overlook the fact that if they once came into use to any extent the ad-vantages would disappear, as the price would at once soar upwards.

Black Beam to Obscure the Moon. In this process of argument some interesting scientific information is given, as for instance:

given, as for instance: Suggestions are also frequently re-ceived in connection with colored searchlights. But color cannot be im-parted to a beam, as by passing it through a color screen, without reduc-ing its intrinsic brilliancy. Color is, in fact, obtained by a process of sub-traction from the total light. At great distances all the brilliancy possible is required for effectiveness, so that colored beams are of no value for general purposes. Flame arc lamps for searchlights give colored light, source of light is too large for the effi-cient optical projection of a parallel beam, and a parallel beam, or one nearly approaching parallelism, is es-sential in order to reach the great dis-tances involved. The most remarkable proposition of all in connection with searchlights is perhaps that of a "black beam," whatever that may mean, for obscuring the moon!

Another favorite subject with in-Another favorite subject with in-ventors is the "relay shell"—a shell acting as a small gun discharged in midair and expelling a smaller inner shell, the object being to obtain an in-creased range, which has been supposed by some to be the principle of the long range gun with which the Germans have bombarded Paris. As to that the article says: article says:

The objections to this Mea are two-The objections to this bica are two-fold. First, it appears from elementary dynamical considerations that the energy of the relay propellant charge-would be shared between the outer and inner shells in the inverse ratie of their masses, so that unless the baner shell were unduly small, a very large proportion of the propellant charge would be wasted. Secondry, a shell in flight does not point directly along its trajectory, but makes an uncertain angle with it, especially near the highest point, where the inner shell would be discharged, so that accur-acy of aim would be impossible. Gen-erally speaking it may be said that any scheme which seriously reduces the bursting charge of a shell must offer some very remarkable advantages be-fore it can be considered promising Many of the inventors are absolutely

thrill of enjoyment. Lupin in who bought the papers of him in love! Lupin acting through was also obliged to take to flight love and confessing his love! But threats, there is no fear now that the documents will be handed to the press.'

"How do we know? The enemy must have taken his precautions. He may have accomplices.

'He has none. "How do we know?"

Don Luis looked at Valenglay and said:

"What is it that you really wish to say, Monsieur le President ?'

"I will tell you. Although pressure was brought to bear up love was the primary motive and on us by Caceres's threats, Monthe object of your actions. On to see all possible light shed on what you say, Florence Levass- the plot played by Florence Leeur's conduct, her claims as the vasseur, did not interfere with your last night's expedition. As that expedition led to nothing, he determined, at any rate, to profit by the fact that Don Luis had placed himself at our disposal and to arrest Arsene Lupin.

"If we now let him go the documents will certainly be published and you can see the absurb and ridiculous position in which that will place us in the eyes of the arch. I should make yos the head public. Well, at this very monent, you all for the triense or Arseue Lupin, a release which would be illegal, uncalled for, and inexcusable. I am obliged, therefore, to refuse it, and I do refuse

> He ceased: and then, after a few seconds, he added: "Unless-

"Unless?" asked Don Luis. "Unless-and this is what I wanted to say-unless you offer the murders on the Boulevard annoyance which the absurd re-

> "But, Monsieur le President, surely, if I bring you the real

Continued Next Week

The sending of snakes into enemy trenches by pneumatic propulsion. The throwing of live wire cables carrying a high voltage among ad-vancing bodies of infantry by means of rockets. Germany should be attacked in one case by making a "tube" all the way, and in another by employing trained cormorants to fly to Essen and pick out the mortar from Krupp's chim-neys. neys.

An Offensive Lawn Mower.

An Offensive Lawn Mower. One correspondent sent quite a number of original methods for re-pelling attacks, including large calliper shaped devices which could be closed on anyone intruding between the legs; a series of nets spread in front of our lines which could be drawn so as to enmesh the Germans, and a machine of the nature of a lawn mower as large the nature of a lawn mower as large as a tank to make mincemeat of them. The purpose of the article in the Journal is to warn off inventors of this sort, and frequently they are genially argued with.

One gentleman had a powder, the composition of which he declined to

AUSTRALIA A COUNTRY

From the New York Post

Five months ago an inconspicuous dispatch announced the completion of the first transcontinental Australian ITALIAN REAR ADMIRAL the first transcontinental Australian railway—the line from Port Augusta to Kalgoorlle, with the longest straight stretch of track in the world. It was built under the federal agreement made when western Australia entered the commonwealth. A few days since an-other dispatch stated that the Cape-ta-Caire railway has now rescheed to-Cairo railway has now reached Gukama, in the Congo Free State, at a distance of 2,600 miles from Cape Town. Such items furnish interesting evidence that peaceful construction and even still ge to sime me racked by it. ever consults a map can see that the exten-sions are important. The new Aus-tralian line makes it possible for the citizen of Perth, Freemantle, or Northcitizen of Perth, Freemantle, or North-ampton, on the west coast, to step aboard a train and a week or 10 days later step off another at Melbourne. or Sydney, or Brisbane: having covered between the farthest removed olties a distance exceeding that from San Francisco to New York. The future M. P. headed for the capital, Canberra, need fear no stormy voyage. By the South African line the traveler can ride from Cape Town a distance north South African line the traveler can ride from Cape Town a distance north more than equal to that from New York to Salt Take City: he steps off where the Congo is navigable, and can then journey by boat, with another 250 miles of rall thrown in, to the mouth of the Congo or 4850 miles in all Or

Many of the inventors are absolutely impervious to argument or explanation, and are always dissatisfied with the treatment they receive. In this respect they contrast unfavorably with a for-eigner who submitted an engine which would not work, and who wound up the correspondence with thanks and the admission that he was "completely cured" of his idea.

runs north about one-third the way through the continent to Oodnadata; OF GREAT DISTANCES and from Port Darwin on the north coast a line stretches down 150 miles south to Pine creek. The remaining distance has been surveyed.

GOES DOWN SMOKING

Rome .- Details of the death of Rear Admiral Viglione, Italian navy, were published in a recent issue of the Glornale D'Italia. Being advanced in years and no longer in active service he was assigned to command a convoy on board the Maroncelli. Everything went well until mkinight on May 30, last. The atmiral had so

on May 30, last. The simiral had so disposed his ships that the aubmarines were unable to get near. That night the moon shone brightly and the sea was swept by a northwest wind, giving the enemy his opportunity, who could see without being seen. The Maroncelli wasistruck by a tor-pedo and put out of control. She be-gan to sink by the bowe

The admiral, who commanded the convoy and not the ship, might have looked out for himself first of all. However, he turned to directing the rescue of the men and refused to 'eave the ship so long as a single one re-mained on board. The depositions of the survivors all agree in saying that his conduct was heroic. Raimondi Natali a fireman, deposed:

"I saw the admiral, who was caim and smoking a cigaret. He refused to save his life, while he urged all the company to be caim. Encouraged by the words-

miles of rail thrown in, to the mouth of the Congo, or 4859 miles in all. Or turning east, he can go by boat to a point on the Congo connected by rail with Lake Tanganyika and by rail and steamer through Albertville and Ujili to Dar-es-Salaam and Zanzibar. These railways directly point the way to greater achievement. In Aus-tralia the builders will now turn to the projected railway' to conpect the northern and southern extremities of the continent; and for this a good be-gining has, been made. From the cen-tral part of South Australia a line new