

Copyright, 1915, by American Press Association. the newcomer looking down in bewil-CHAPTER VI.

on the floor.

ying on the floor.

derment at the figure of Mrs. Trask

Then, for the second time on this

With one hand he reaches for

fateful night, the telephone bell rings.

the telephone receiver, with the other

His eyes are turned from the other

two occupants of the room, and he

does not know of their presence. Mrs

Trask cannot call to her husband,

for she has but little breath left. Be

on the revolver which Strickland has

pointed at her. And Strickland, daz-

The voice of Trask breaks the silence,

"Hello! Yes, this is Trask. Is that

osition he has assumed, aims his re-

volver at Trask and dres. The shot

rouses Joan, and she screams. The two

ounds are almost merged, and they

startle Trask, so that he drops the re-

last earthly utterince is:

"Strickmad!"

ceiver and turns in time to see whence

and the stick falls heavily on the slay-

"My God, he's killed Gerald!"

er's uplifted right arm. With a groun

Strickland drops to the floor, the re-

And then Joan Trask, widowed by

the shot, staggers to her feet and

It is Glover who takes command of

the situation. Standing guard over the

So ran the story of the widow of the

lain man. It was not told connected-

r, but had to be elicited by the ques-

oning, at times insistent, but at all

district attorney. It was his duty to

ring out the facts, to invoke justice

upon the man who had invaded his

dm down. The fact of the shooting

by Strickland was established by the

in his grave, and Strickland had done

Throughout the appearance of Joan

majority of the audlence, it was no-

fallen Strickland, he urges the moan-

ng woman to telephone to a doctor.

colver falling from his hand,

"My God, he's killed Gerald,"

he switches on the electric light.

His Last Night on Earth.

It a moment the light of returning hope burned in the eyes of Joan Trask, "I want you"- she began, but the y of the bitter years, of the long succession of broken promises and yows, stretching back to the time when the man before her had taken upon himself the solemn obligation to "love, cherish and honor," clouded her face

"No;" she said dully, "it's no use.

It'll be just the same as ever." "I tell you it won't," he said. "What more do you want? I give you my word. I know that I've broken it before, but this time I'm in earnest." There was solemnity in her tone as she said:

"Gerald, If I do this it is the last

It was with genuine relief that be exclaimed: "Good! We'll begin all over again!

He kissed her. Oh, trusting heart of womanhood! She took his words at their face value and returned the kiss. But there was still misgiving in her mind that was not stilled by the wild, glad besting of her heart. "Gerald," she said, "you'll keep your

"I've said so," was his reply.

"Then promise me that you'll break off with this woman."

"What woman?" "The one who called up."

"Oh, pshaw," he said. "There's nothing in that. You're wrong, You've heavy stick. He dashes at Strickland.

misjudged me this time. They kissed again. With a parting good night Trask switched off the lights in the library, and the two went to their respective rooms. Such was the last talk of Geraid and Joan Trask. The woman went to her room with the Joyous hope that she had regained her husband as he was in the first few months of their wedded life. She had rectained him!

And the stars sang to ber as she peered from the window of her room, and the voices of the city, stilled in the night, spoke only of the happiness that was to come to her at last after years of suffering. Gerald was to be here egain, and all was well!

And the man? He left his wife with n lie on his lips and in his heart. Not love, but fear had prompted the reconciliation. The storm had blown over for the time. He would live quietly until Joan had time to forget a bit-

Forget? Joan forget? He laughed a little bitter laugh. Curse it! Her memory was too good. Thirteen years since the Deane affair at Great Neck. Jove, how lucky he had been! Why, it might have brought him a penitentlary sentence: Joan had remembered every detail of the affair, it seemed, and had tung it into his face that night. Women remember some things much better than men. But there, it had passed, fortunately for him, and he had "squared" Joan this night. So what was the use of remembering one affair in many?

Besides, he was dog tired and must rest. Tomorrow he would plan how to get around Joan. Thus Gerald Trask | screams: went to his rest on the night that was to be his last on earth.

Other persons are astir with the af-

fairs of the Trasks this night. It was but a few minutes after Mr. and Mrs. Trask had left the library. All was in darkness, but the quiet of the place was broken by a queer grattimes considerate and gentle, of the lag sound from the nicove in which stood the safe. It was metal moving apon metal, a slithering and scratching noise. To the nerves of Jean Trask. friend's home at night and had shot tantened and theilled by her talk with her husband, all sensation is magnified, and she heard the sound. She restimony of Mrs. Trask. Trask lay moves toward it, entering the room. The figure of a man rises from before the safe, selzes a scarl from the library table and glides to where the hesitant Had he not in open court protested figure of the woman stands. Before she can give voice to the words of in- against the continuance of the legal quiry on her lips he has sprung upon proceedings, which might send him to her, strangilize her as he envelops her the electric chair, asking only that his head in the searf. He forces her to little girl-his i oris-be spared the orthe floor, but as he does so another | deal of the witness chair? umn enters the room at the rear.

It is Hobert Strickland, come to the Trask on the witness stand her testihome of his "friend" for a purpose, mony had been followed with the clos-In his hand is something bright and est attention by judge and jury, by strange of shape.

The man who is choking Mrs. Trask throng in the courtroom. It made the hears him and looks up, desisting from | deepest of impressions. Especially his terrible work. Jose is too far gone | when the money was mentioned, \$10. to scream, however. He has succeeded | 000 in cash, a large sum to the great in his aim of sflencing her. But as therable that Mrs. Trask's audience Strickland enters the room the stran- leaned forward in their chairs. gier gildes off to one side and leaves | Here, it seemed to their minds, as

the district attorney had asserted in his opening address to the jury, might be found sufficient motive for murder. Strickland's financial difficulties, set tled so short a time before the shooting, if really settled at all; in leagerness to pay in cash; his possession of the combination to the safe; his dramatic appearance in the Trask home only a short time after he had seen Trask in his own home; the elusive accomplice, who had disappeared-all pointed, in the minds of the hearers of Mrs. Trask's testimony, to willful, deliberate murder, only to be expiated in the chair of death.

Having told her story of the shooting itself, Mrs. Trask was retained in the witness chair to tell of the subsequent happenings in her home on the fatal night and to undergo cross examination by the attorney for the defense.

A few minutes after the shooting the police arrived, she said, but her husband was dead by that time. He died instantly, the doctor said.

"Now, Mrs. Trask, did you observe the safe before the police arrived?" asked District Attorney Gray. "Yes; the safe was opened."

"Did you notice if any of the contents were missing?"

"Yes, sir; the \$10,000 were gone." "That's all, Mrs. Trask." And Mr. Gray turned to David Arbuckle, chief counsel for the defense, with, "You may cross examine the witness."

Then the district attorney, his militant air giving way to a relaxation that A moment more and Gerald Trask in told of relief and satisfaction with his his shirt sleeves stumbles into the dark | witness, settled back in his chair to watch the proceedings closely. He was Bend. a faithful prosecuting officer, intent on safeguarding the rights of his client. "the people of the state of New York." It was now the turn of the defense. "Mrs. Trask," said Arbuckle, rising,

"did you recognize your assailant, the man who opened the safe?" sides, her eyes are fixed in fascination "No," replied the witness. "He came upon me so quickly. And the room was

zled by the sudden glare of light, seems "Are you sure that no one but Mr bewildered by the sight of the woman Trask knew the combination of the

Was there a momentary pause by the witness? Did it enter her mind for a brief fraction of a second that The words galvanize Strickland into the question and answer would be action. He rises from the cronching marked "important" in the minds of

The answer came, "Mr. Strickland

"I move to strike out the answer as

not responsive," said Arbuckle. With that the district attorney sprang his fate has descended upon him. His to his feet. The point made by Ar buckle was too important to be permitted to go unchallenged to the jury And with that Robert Strickland fires

"I-your honor!" he exclaimed. again. It is the end of earth for Ger-In the cold, quiet manner which aid Trask, for the bullet lodges in his marked him throughout the case Judge Dinsmore made his ruling. From the rear of the room rushes in "The motion is denied." Stanley Glover, bearing in his hand a

"I respectfully except," said Arness. "Mrs. Trask, did any words pass | Lincoln Sunday. between Strickland and your assail-

"I can't be sure. There was a ringing in my ears. He almost strangled

"But to the best of your knowledge they did not speak to each other?"

"I can't say one way or the other." Dropping this line of questioning and taking up another, Arbuckle asked the

"Mrs. Trask, do you know who 'May is?"

Up to this point the manner of the witness had been calm. She had suffered much in the months which had husband and the trial of his assailant. and the first fire of her grief and shock had burned down. With the loving kindness of a good woman she had forgiven the offenses of the erring husband who lay in the grave. He had wronged and insulted her grievously. and no effort of the will could erase the memory of his wrongdoing, but he was dead now, and she was not a woman to carry even justified anger beyond the grave.

But now-The simple question of the attorney aroused her. Her lips tightened and her eyes flashed as she answered with unphasis:

"NO. SIR. I DO NOT."

This ended her testimony. Both Gray and Arbuckle signified that she was not to be questioned further, and she stepped down from the stand. At this point there was a slight hitch in the trial of Robert Strickland. Dis-

trict Attorney Gray called for Dr.

Morgan, but he was not at hand. Explaining to Judge Dinsmore that Dr. Morgan was the physician who examined Mr. Trask's body and that Dr. Morgan had said he might be detained. the district attorney asked and obtained permission to call Stanley Glover

to the witness stand. From a waiting room entered, in response to a call from an attendant, the dapper young man who had been the private secretary of Gerald Trask He had been present on the fatal night. and he was conversant with all or near ly all of the details of the case. It was the shooting. It was not denied. Had he who had taken the money from be not been willing to plead guilty? Trask for deposit in the safe whence it had been removed.

(To be Continued)

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Send your subscriptions and renewals for the Omaha Daily News to Bernese Ault, Cedar Creek, Neb., and counsel for both sides and by the help a Cass county girl win the Hudson auto. \$2.50 for the Daily, \$3.00 with Sunday. You get the premiums just the same and help a friend as well. Personal checks accepted. 11-18-3wks-w

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ALVO NEWS ITEMS

Noel Foreman spent Sunday at

Ed Parsell of Lincoln was in town Wednesday.

Henry Parsell was in Lincoln on usiness Tuesday.

Mrs. William Casey visited friends n Lincoln Tuesday and Wednesday. J. A. Shaffer and son, Castle, spent Sunday with Fred Weaver at South

John Skinner, Ray Parsell and John Clites were capital city visitors Wed-

Mr. and Mrs. John Murtey and Mrs. Belle Bennett were shopping in

Lincoln Wednesday. The Ladies' Aid society held a pazaar Friday evening, making the eat sum of \$37.88.

William Sutton, Sam Cashner and Bob Hamilton were passengers to Omaha on NoN. 14 Wednesday.

Mrs. N. L. Folden of Beatrice visited from Saturday till Tuesday with er daughter, Mrs. Castle Shaffer.

Mrs. Schuyler Wolfe of Havelock came in Saturday for a few days' visit for the past thirty-eight years. He with her brother, Harley Toland and resided on the farm just east of Alvo

Mr. and Mrs. Blankenburg of Omaha spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. C. widow, three daughters, Mrs. S. C. M. Jordan, having driven out in a new Boyles, Alvo; Mrs. M. C. Keefer,

town managing the auction sale of the sons, Charles Skiles, David City, Neb.; Evans' Mercantile Co., which began George Skiles, Washington; and Joe

ed Mrs. J. V. Barngrover of Denver, Murdock, Neb.; John Skiles, of Mt. buckle, and he turned again to the wit Colo., and Miss Ellowene Hamilton of Rose, Ia., and many friends whom

> Dr. Muir went to Lincoln Wednesday night to bid his parents good-bye, as they left Wednesday for San Diego, California, to spend the winter.

tained at dinner Sunday Mr. and Mrs. peace, of forwarding, by land and Delbert Leesley and children of Green-water, into the world's markets, the wood and Thomas Stout and family.

turned from Wabash Wednesday, 1916. If you wish to obtain a copy, where they had been visiting the lat- mail 10c to Mr. Joseph Triner, 1333ter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

Mrs. Ed Linch and daughter, Pauline, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Linch of intervened between the killing of her University Place, took dinner Monday with Mr. and Mrs. George Foreman. Mrs. L. E. Bobbitt of Lincoln came

down Friday and visited her parents until Sunday evening. Her husband and daughter came down Sunday morning to spend the day.

Mrs. F. M. Grove and daughter, Arlene, returned Saturday evening 4 from Central City, Neb., where they went with George Vannoy in his new automobile. They drove the 121 miles n three hours.

Dr. Paul Thurreson left Monday for -Cincinnati, Ohio, where he will resume his duties as interne at the general delicities to be the left of the left of

hospital there. Mrs. Thurreson and little daughter, Maxine, will join him

pleasantly surprised Thursday evening by a number of their friends, who gathered at their home to spend the evening. The evening was spent playing somerset and popping corn, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Rosenow gave a dinner Tuesday in honor of their son, Verl's, thirteenth birthday. Only members of his class at school were invited. In the evening several schoolmates surprised him by returning for a few pleasant games and

Tuesday while Charles Ingwerson vas loading lumber from the old livery barn his team became frightened and ran away, breaking the telephone pole off and the parcel post at the postoffice, one horse falling on the cement walk, tearing the harness to pieces and otherwise doing the usual damage done by runaways.

Monday evening Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Shoup gave an oyster supper to celebrate the event of having fin ished shucking corn. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Linder and son, Frank, of Elmwood, Mrs. Gene Lewis and sons and daughter, Mr. and Mrs Elmer Klyver and Mr. and Mrs Arthur Klyver and daughter.

Obituary.

He was a resident of Cass county antil two years ago, when he moved to Alvo. He leaves surviving him, his Litchfield, Neb.; and Mrs Clara Mr. Bell of University Place is in Prouty, University Place, Neb. Three Skiles; also three brothers, Robert Mr. and Mrs. Dale Boyles entertain- Skiles, Wayne, Neb.; George Skiles, mourn the loss of a good citizen.

In Time of Peace.

A beautiful picture of nature's Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Klyver enter- richness and prosperity in times of products of the soil, and of enjoying Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Stroemer re-life, is shown in Triner's Calendar for 1339 S. Ashland ave., Chicago, Ill.

FOR SALE-On Easy Terms: five, six and seven room cottages, and one for rent. Windham Investment & Loan Co.

12-3-ltdltwkly

Lawyer. East of Riley Hotel. Coates' Block,

in about a week. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Clarke were

at University Place, November 17, er part of whom enjoyed the perform- very pelasing vocal number by one 1915. Age 79 years, 7 months and ance, which, however, was not up to of the "cops," which was well re-5 days. He was born in Schuyler the usual high standard of the at- ceived. county, Ill., April 12, 1836. He was tractions which have been shown here married to Margaret A. Morrison, under the auspices of the Empress Itching, bleeding, protruding or December 16, 1858. He enlisted in the company. The Two Irminas, in their piles have yielded to Doan's Ointment. Thirteenth U. S. Infantry, Company novelty wire act was very pleasing and 50c at all stores, A. August 20, 1864, being First Sargeant of said company. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg and Jackson, Miss., and the battles of Chattanooga and Arkansas Post, and other important battles of the Civil war.

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Plattsmouth, Neb.

ANOTHER GOOD VAUDE-VILLE SHOW AT THE PARMELE LAST NIGHT

Alexander Skiles died at the home ing was greeted at the Parmele thea- appearance. In the five musical cops of his daughter, Mrs. Clara Prouty, ter by a good-sized audience, a great- the audience were allowed to hear a

as good as any act that has been shown here this season, and both of the performers were very clever. The remainder of the program was for laughing purposes only and a number of very laughable stunts were given by the members of the company prosenting the bill. Helen Primrose, the comedienne, with her turn, drew a great deal of laughter from the audi-The Empress vaudeville last even- ence at her jokes, as well as her stage



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