In the Fowler's Snare VVV

CHAPTER IX.-(Continued..) Looking on, thankful for his wife's down, they knew very well. temporary brightness, was Gervis, too much encumbered by his robes of ici-Syb-she, too, perforce, being a spec- and deeply frowning brow. tator and never an actor in the merry | Tonight meant for this man other

proud of the wife he had won.

ing up and down in the old-fashione! he knew. dance, and every eye was fixed upon . As he paced along the gallery a light berries fastened in the folds of her it. wedding gown and a great bunch on her left shoulder.

tier than that thin girl!" was Syb's of diamonds. harsh reply, as she glowered at the shining little figure dancing up and down the middle.

Before the startled Gervis could collect himself to reply a disagreeable. low laugh made both Syb and he turn

the scientist had again shut himself scientist. up in his room all day, deep in some abstruse calculations, doubtless. But the music and laughter had drawn the hermit from his cell, and he stood close behind them, with a strange, mocking smile on his thin lips.

"Little missy has distinct powers of discrimination, evidently," Paul Ansdell said, fixing his black eyes full on the frowning face of the deformed there was a flash of changing color as child. At the same time he lifted his right hand, but, on second thought, dropped it at his side furtively.

"You ought to have been among the merry dancers, Ansdell," said Gervis, a little puzzled by his new friend.

"The merry dancers?" repeated the scientist quickly. "Why, do you know what you are saying? The merry dancers are the famous northern lights, and we folk across the herring pond have a superstition that they are never seen save before some terr.ole calamity.'

While Paul was speaking his gaze grew more intent, and his dark eyes seemed to be drawing out the soul Every other sense she had was alert. of the deformed child. The frown had And she watched with wonderment the faded from her uplifted face and in bride, whom she hated for standinig shame them? its stead an expectant look leaped. It in the place that should have been was as though she were saying dumb- | Leila's, droop visibly before the slowly

with me, my master?"

ry dancers are to bring a calamity, it must be upon yourself, Ainsdell, seeing we have no such superstition | fell, and between its bursts Syb's sharp, among us that I know of." And he moved off, with a train of clamoring children at his heels.

The dance was over, and laughing, chattering and fluttering, the dancers, old and young, gathered around Lady Jane, who, determined to have a variety of entertainment at her Christmas party, was urging a shrinking. shy boy to recite "The Mistletoe Bough.

"You know, Bobby, you can do it so beautifully, and Mrs. Templeton would like to hear it so much!'

Bobby Vane was the big brother from Eton of the small lisper in blue velvet who clung to Gladdy's skirts when he could.

Bobby was a born reciter, but, unfortunately, shy-horribly shy.

However, at last, cajoled, hustled and goaded, the boy, with his ears In truth, the poor, misshapen girl pink and his knees knocking together | hated most people, -for he had never faced so large an audience-rushed at his task.

and round as a bell; it showed no hint of breaking as yet.

The gay company, breathless and intent, closed round the youthful reciter as the old legend in verse fell in clear, dropping syllables from his lips: The mistletoe hung in the castle hall.

oak wall.

And the baron's retainers were blithe and gay.

Keeping their Christmas holiday. And as the poem went on all were forcibly impressed by the curious similarity of their present surroundings to those detailed by the reciter.

The old world ballroom, with its dark oak rafters, its rows of glittering armor for Temple-Dene was no d for its armor-the "goodly company" children, the old paneled walls blushing red with lavish wealth of scarlet holly berries; while here and there and everywhere, in the most unexpected places, large bunches of mistletoe hung to tempt and entrap the unwary And, above all, there was the chief feature, the bride-

The star of that goodly company. to the letter!" excitedly cried Gladdy. when the recitation was over, and the deafening applause cause shame-faced the greatest success the county had Bobby to flee for shelter behind a suit |

of shining armor. "A dear, wild child this new daughter of mine," blandly said Lady Jane to her dowager cronies, as Gladdy sped ought to have been here to see the through the hall to the distant stair-

American heiress she was, her escap- to be cross even with the heiress.

*************************** | ade would have been promptly frowned

Upstairs, in the gallery that ran cles and snow to join the dancers, and | round the hall. Paul Ansdell was pacholding his hand was little, misshapen ing up and down, with folded arms

things than it did for the merry-"It's a pretty sight, isn't it, little makers below. The crucial moment Syb?" heartily said Gervis, determined had come when he was about to stake in his honest, manly fashion to be his all. Either he would be in a position to grasp a fortune, or he would Gladdy, light as a sprite, was dart- find himself in a prison cell. That

her dainty figure, in its dress of sil- footstep come behind him. So light very brocade. She, too, had blood-red was its patter that Paul did not hear

"You?"

As he turned he faced a little figure "If Leila had on a dress of silver in gleaming silver robes with patches brocade, and diamonds on her neck, of crimson here and there-blood-red she would look a thousand times pret- berries-and at her throat a dazzle

It was Gladdy, on tiptoe.

"I have come to hide-to hide!" Her voice abruptly died away, for Paul Ansdell's eyes held her. Her whole figure drooped, the joyousness died out of her small face, and her eyes grew large and dilated as they gazed Temple-Dene was liberty hall, and back, almost glued to those of the

Motionless, immovable, she waited while he drew nearer to her. There was for her the fascination of the victim for the rattlesnake.

And while the two-master and tool -came closer and closer, there came floating up from below the sounds of music and revelry and gay laughter.

The dancing had begun again, and the couples whirled round.

In the gallery a strange silence One little watcher, hidden close be-

holly berries, could hear her own heart-

It was Syb, the deformed girl, who merrymakers an hour since.

Something strange and uncanny had befallen Syb, some inscrutable influence held her prisoner. Her will was chained up, she was powerless to come and go as she would.

But only so far was she dominated. waving hands of Paul Ansdell, the sci-"I am ready! What would you have entist. The strain not to lose anything in the strange scene being en-"Well," retorted Gervis, whose eyes acted before her was too much for round him. wandering back to the quaint old Syb even to wonder why the long, "She said

> down, slowly and methodically. The gay music from below rose and young ears caught the hissed out comlittle crouching figure in silver bro-

"Go! Do my will!"

turning, went slowly along the gallery. Paul Ansdell's eyes followed her until | bushes round the pond!" she disappeared on the opposite side. The music below ceased with a

crash of chords, the dance was over, elick.

So did Paul Ansdell, for he quickly lifted his head, and a gray pallor crept | school! over his face.

Then he hurried away in the direction of the bachelors' wing, where he had been located on his arrival,

"I hate him, too!" irritably said Syb.

As if some baleful thing had departed, she rose and shook herself. The After the first line Bobby felt his holly had scratched her thin, bare feet. His voice was good, clear, sweet arms, and there was a trickle of red iar, says the Louisville Times. It was that dropped on her white muslin

"Ugh! it's all horrid!" she shuddered impatiently. "I wish Leila and I could run away from it all, and live and the holly-branch shone on the old | the horse-shoe gallery.

wormwood.

CHAPTER X.

Even the maddest, merriest of revelers must grow weary.

The Christmas merrymakers flagged, the gay music dragged a little slowly; here and there a tired child-guest vawned in a corner, then nodded, and of gallants and fair dames, the merry | finally was carried away in a deep

Outside, under the stars, a long line with tired eyes, wondered why people

It had been a fatiguing day for Lady Jane and for Leila, who had not spared herself in helping. She and Lady Jane, side by side, ran the gant-"I think we ought to carry it out let of the interminable good-byes from pet dish for many, many weary days. exhausted but delighted guests.

The Christmas gathering had been excited by the flatteries and thanks of the departing guests.

"Where's your wife, dear? She guests off."

If Gladdy had not been the great arm. She was in her tired state, ready

"Gladdy? I'm sure I don't know.

mother dear." Gervis yawned. He was pining to get off his Santa Claus trappings, and to have a quiet pipe by himself.

A quarter of an hour later nearly every soul under the Temple-Dene roof was echoing Lady Jane's ques-

Where was the bride?

Not in her own room, not in the hot, deserted ballroom; she was not in the upper gallery, where the lights were already being put out.

All sense of fatigue was put to flight by a vague terror of some evil hanging over the house of Temple-Dene. Under the ancient roof only two persons did not share the terrified excitement when it was discovered that Mrs. Gervis Templeton was nowhere to be found-its master and the Amer-

Gervis himself was petrified. He had brought all his strength of will to bear on nobly doing his duty to the woman he had won for his wife. No one but he would ever know how hard the fight had been.

And now it was all in vain, for Gladdy had gone-where, no one knew. Since the journey on the Canadian Pacific railway, over the snow-covered prairies, Gladdy had been a bewildering puzzle to her husband. Her vagaries had made him secretly wonder at times if he had married a lunatic.

Then again a great fear would loom up that his wife had inherited some terrible wasting disease, and was about to slip through his fingers and out of life itself

But this catastrophe on Christmas night eclipsed all that he had even

Gladdy gone! She who had been the merriest, gladdest, happiest of all the' "goodly companie!" It was inscrutable, horrible, maddening!

Out into the freezing night went parties of searchers. Not a man under Temple-Dene's roof, gentle or simple, save two-its master and the American guest, Paul Ansdell-but joined the anxious hunt.

All was in vain! "Nothing more can be done until the daylight comes," hoarsely said Gervis, as he strode into the still gayly lighted hind a bank of ferns and festoons of hall, and stamped the hard iced snow off his boots.

His face was gray, and a strange look of age had crept oved it, which had stolen away from the throng of made it startlingly like that of his

Lady Jane, worn out and spent, crouched down beside the great yulelog, that crackled and roared, the only cheery thing around.

She and Gervis gazed blankly at each other. What had they done, the two were asking one another silently, that this disgrace should have come to

"Can anybody tell me who saw or spoke with my wife last?"

There was a catch in the young husband's voice as he put the question to the circle of anxious-eyed searchers "She said she was going to hide.

dance had lost the byplay, "if the mer- lean hands went up and down, up and Don't you remember?" Bobby Vane, who had recited, craned his neck for-Then everybody did remember what

they had forgotten-Gladdy's wild promand as Paul Ansdell bent over the posal to enact the bride in the "Mistletoe Bough," and a gasp of relief came.

"Why, she's in the house somewhere, safe and sound, laughing in her sleeve With a faint, almost inarticulate at us all; and we've been for the last cry Gladdy straightened herself, and, hour tearing our clothes and the skin off our hands in that thicket of holly-

"Let's go all over the house again." suggested somebody else.

"Perhaps she's crept inside one of and in the lull Syb heard a sharp the suits of armor," suggested Bobby, with protruding eyes. What a tale it was going to be to carry back to

> Another hour was spent in search, but all fruitlessly.

(To be Continued.)

TOO EXTRAVAGANT.

A Defaulting Cashler Ate Ham Boiled in

Champagne. The manner in which one defaulting cashier was detected was rather peculall due to the curiosity of the women of his neighborhood. He went to no expense in the way of dressing, they never heard of his gambling or drinking to any extent, he was a model husin a cottage by ourselves," she mur- band, but he loved a good table. There mured, as she went wandering round was nothing unusual in this, but one day when the ladies of the vicinity For to this afflicted child all the were discussing the best methods of music and brightness and Christmas | cooking meats the wife of the cashier joy in the hall below was gall and declared very innocently that her husband doted on ham, but he would not eat it unless it had been boiled in champagne. "Boiled in champagne!" exclaimed the listeners. "Heavens, how expensive; we couldn't afford to have ham on our table often if we cooked it that way." It was soon noised all around the neighborhood that Cashier Blank was a high liver, indeed, and the men began telling of his uplifted ideas of cookery. This soon reached the ears of the directors of carriages waited, and the hostess, of the bank, and they concluded it might be wise to investigate the accounts of such an epicure. Plain water was all they could afford for their hams, so the champagne lover was called up and subsequently relegated to the pen, where he had to forego his

Battle in an Aplary.

A singular battle was witnessed reknown for years, and Lady Jane was cently in an English apiary. A hive of bees was besieged by a large swarm of wasps. The bees made valiant sorties to try to drive away their besiegers and the wasps made furious assaults to drive out the bees. The bat-Lady Jane laid her hand on her son's the raged for two days, at the end of which time the bees evacuated the hive and the wasp took possession.

State Capital Observations.

Expressions Emulative for the Good of Republican Supremacy,

LINCOLN, Dec. 17, 1900. One of the best moves Governorelect Dietrich has made in the mat- | coln on his way to Tekamah. He said ter of political appointments is that which will remove from the pale of North Platte country which had not politics the home for the friendless at to his knowledge developed into any Lincoln and the industrial school for hard fight for place. The northern porgirls at Milford. Mr. Dietrich said he tion of the state he said was taken would, in the matter of appointments unawares by the result of election and for these two institutions, follow the for that reason, no definite plans were wish of the special advisory commit- on foot. He looks for this to be left tee he named several weeks ago. This till the legislature meets. None of the committee is composed of Mrs. C. H. Gere, Mrs. W. J. Bryan, Mrs. D. E. Thompson, Mrs. G. M. Lambertson and Mrs. A. J. Sawyer. Governor- cially on the quiescent state of polielect Dietrich stated he desited these tics north of the Platte. It has its two institutions to be put outside the share of office-seekers, but they have category of institutions that 'are to done nothing out of the ordinary to sebe regarded as spoils, and he expressed | cure a place. Mr. McCarthy he says the belief that the advisory commit- is after the speakership. Mr. Hays tee would be skilled enough to make the proper recommendations. Mr. Dietrich's disposition in this matter is earnest, and his determination to lent show to be speaker. Mr. Mcregard as his appointments the per- Carthy has an excellent standing in sons recommended by the board will the North Platte counties from his come as a surprise to the members of course in the legislature. the board themselves, as formerly the board has been but such in name only. Governor Dietrich's stand in this matter is to be commended, and it is an earnest that he proposes to make his administration something better than whelming majority he had to fight one of constant squabble at state in-

Many of Governor Dietrich's rulings are causing more or less consternation among those who desire to serve the state in some way or another, and one which hits pretty hard is his proposition that no officer or employe shall be allowed to take anybody to live in any of the state institutions except members of the immediate family. No end of trouble and scandal has been caused in the past by the housing and boarding of mothers, sisters, cousings and aunts, and in the matter of minor appointments Mr. Dietrich declines to select persons who the institutions a number of children. Unless the applicant feels he can live up to the law of not foisting relations upon the state they are not encouraged to accept. Then again, Mr. Dietrich's style of dealing with applications. Governor Holcomb used to let delegations come and sound the praises of certain anxious ones. He would then deliver a ponderous off-hand speech, take the application under advisement, when the chances were he had made up his mind about the appointment long before. Mr. Dietrich treats the whole matter as a business proposition, and in instances where his mind is made up, or where cases are hopeless, he contrives, if possible to let the interested parties know, and saves them time and money in preventing them chasing after the impossible. This is something new in handling political appointments in Nebraska, and it causes favorable com-

ment. Candidates for positions were thicker than fleas at the meeting of state officers last week. The corridors of call at headquarters he greets them the hotel where headquarters are established fairly whirled in wreaths of or Bill or Jim, whichever name fits. smoke from cigars and cigarettes and It makes no difference whether the those who did not indulge wore ex- non who enters is a republican or a pressions of ghostly hue, yet they stood the ordeal like soldiers, anticipating the opportunity of a word with the powers in whose hands their destiny rested. Even a kindly look from the busy and bothered governor seemed to soothe their whetted appetites. Quite a few plums were plucked and as they were announced the lucky ones locked arms with their friends and circled among the throng thoroughly content with their days hunt. Those who were rewarded for valued ability and fitness of things were: Superintendent of Beatrice institute for feeble-minded youth, Dr. A. Johnson, Omaha; clerks in the office of land commissioner. Miss Garber, Red Cloud; F. W. Hollingsworth, Oak; Miss Garbraith, Hebron; second book keeper in state treasurer's office, Henry Bauman, West Point; stenographer in same office, Miss Mary B. Watson, Grand Island; clerk in secretary of state's office, James J. Roberts, Lincoln; stenographer in auditor's office, Miss Anna B. Grissinger, Bell-

The committee having in charge the inaugural ball at the Lincoln auditorium January 3 believe the ball will eclipse anything of the kind ever attempted in the Capital City. It promises to be a social event which will draw not only the people of Lincoln, but from all parts of the state. The incoming and outgoing state officers will be in attendance, and also the military staff of the new governor. It is hoped that General Fitzhugh Lee and his staff will attend, as invitations have been sent to them, and if of Mr. Tipton. they do come it will add brilliancy to the affair. The decorations and costumes will be elaborate, and one of the most attractive features of the ball. The Union-Commercial club of Lincoln has charge of the affair, and it is expected that the people of Lincoln will be liberal in the matter of purchasing tickets. Society is on the quivive in happy anticipation of the event.

Governor-elect Dietrich called on Governor Poynter at the capitol Weddepartment accepted an invitation to executive mansion. Mr. Dietrich was shown over the house and the matter of maintaining the residence for the next two years was discussed. Mr. Dietrich said he would occupy apartments in the mansion and he intimated that his private secretary, H. C. Lind-

J. R. Hays was in Lincoln last week on business, having stopped in Linhe believed a general good feeling exsenatorial candidates have through that territory and any work they may be doing is through correspondence. Mr. Hays remarked espeattended the convention where Mr. McCarthy was nominated and then it was said among his friends that if he was elected, he would stand an excel-

Mr. Hays was asked regarding the remarkable run he made for congress against Robinson who defeated him | tion. A remarkable bat trait is menonly 175 votes. A few figures were cited to show that the election was lost for him largely because the overagainst gave republicans the idea that the fight was hopeless. Under the circumstances, he made a phenomenal

Senator-elect Baldrige of Douglas county has under consideration an important bill for an increase in the supreme court, which he may introduce early in the session. The bill provides for amendments to sections 2, 4, 5 and 6 of article vi. of the state constitution, relative to the composition, powers and duties of the supreme court. The amendment, as drawn at present, provides for increasing the number of supreme judges from three to nine, but the bill may be changed so as to make would necessarily take with them into the whole number six judges. If it is finally decided to have nine judges, provision will be made for the division of the judiciary into three departments-one for hearing all law cases another for the adjudication of actions in equity, and the third to cover the criminal and such other business as will not come properly before the other two departments. It is proposed to make the term of the supreme judges nine years and to elect one each

This bill, or one similar to it, will forthcoming legislative session, unless a bill is passed for a constitutional convention, which would solve the suproblems.

Few people marvel at the popularity been connected with republican campaigns in Nebraska. He probably knows as many men in the state as anyone who has ever been connected with campaign work. He not only knows them by sight, but when they with a hearty "How are you, John?" populist-Mallalieu knows him, knows him well and is acquainted with the locality he comes from. No man in Nebraska knows political Nebraska better than Mallalieu, and few men have more friends. Mallalieu is loval to his friends and they know it. For this and for much more the appointment of Mr. Mallalieu to the superintendency of the Kearney reform school by Governor Dietrich brought joy to many. There were no candidates for this position. All recognized that in the event of republican success the appointment would go to Mallalieu if he would take it, because it was under his administration that the school grew from a small institution to what it now is, if not more.

Ex-Governor Furnas was in Lincoln one or two days last week in attendance on a meeting of the state board of agriculture of which he has been secretary for so many years. Mr. Furnas has been mentioned by a great many people and newspapers as good material for United States senator, but Secretary Furnas said that nothing whatever could induce him to go into politics. "I was offered the senatorship once," said he, "and refused it." The explanation of this offer dates back to the time of the election of Senator Thomas Tipton. It is related that when the legislature got into a deadlock each faction went to Mr. Furnas and offered to make him senator, but he refused on the ground that he had come as a supporter of Mr. Tipton and he intended to remain true to him. The result was the election

An old time politician who knew of the circumstances is authority for the statement that for this faithfulness Mr. Furnas was unable to obtain the smallest favor from the successful candidate. Within a short time the new senator did not know that Mr. Furnas was in existence. It is said he even recalled an indorsement he had given Mr. Furnas who had become an applicant for a certain political favor.

H. M. Eaton, who will be deputy land commissioner, is now at work in nesday of last week and after a con- position he is to fill under the new the office learning the intricacies of the ference over the work of the executive administration. Uncle Jake Wolfe's office force is giving him all the assis. dine with Governor Poynter at the tance possible, and extending every courtesy at their command.

The senatorial candidates are lying low these days, but they have their lieutenants busy all over the state seeking what they want. The race seems to be getting more uncertain say, and family, would take charge of the nearer the time comes for the legislatur to convene.

VALUABLE FINDS.

Guano Caves in Southern New

Mexico. Southern New Mexico is a land of

natural curiosities, and one at least of these has proved to have a high commercial value. A resident of that district had the good fortune a few years ago to accidentally stumble upon several bat caves, one of which is stated to be some six miles in length, and as he has shipped in the last two years 3,392,240 pounds of phosphate or guano from these caves, for which he has received about \$48 per ton, it can be understood that the present and prospective value of these caves is considerable. It can be readily understood that bat guano possesses great value as a fertilizer, and the value of the caves is enhanced by the fact that beneath the guano is a considerable deposite of phosphate rock (the remains of defunct bats), which, when ground up and treated with phosphoric acid, is highly prized as a fertilizer. Since the discovery of these ancestral homes of the bats, in which they have made their resting place for unnumbered centuries, the search for more such caves has continued intermittently, and it is probable that many more valuable finds of this nature will be made; for the section of the country in which they lie, is literally infested with this obnoxious, but very lucrative little creature. The caves which are frequented by bats, are of lava formation, and carry evidence of having been subject to violent volcanic actioned, which has the effect of rendering the caves of permanent value. It seems that after the entire front of the first of these caves to be opened had been torn down to within a foot or so of the narrow openings through which for centuries the bats have come and gone, the little creatures continued, and still continue, to follow the ways of their ancestors. Flying upward past the large openings. they would squeeze in and out of the caves as of old. Since the first cleaning out of one cave, seven tons of guano have been removed, all of which had been deposited subsequently to the first removal. It is estimated that from the deposits which have already been discovered, there has been taken an annual crop of about 1,500 tons of

COAL AND IRON.

Mineral Resources of the Chinese Empire Are Great. The mining and metallurgical sec-

tion of the Franklin Institute held a stated meeting in Philadelphia recently. The president, Joseph Richards, was in the chair. Professor Lynwood Garrison delivered the address of the in all probability be passed at the evening on "The Mineral Resources of the Chinese Empire." The speaker in opening gave a general survey of preme court and many other state the physical geography and geology of this vast country, and then spoke specifically of his personal observations made during a recent professionof John T. Mallalieu. For years he has | al visit to Northeastern China, calling special attention to the fact that a large part of China is underlaid by coal, much of which is anthracite of high quality, comparing favorably in this respect with the best of Pennsylvania anthracite. The extent of these beds, however, far exceeds our own, and, moreover, their location is such that the extraction of the coal will be a comparatively easy matter. He expressed the belief that in a short time China would enter the markets of the world as a great coal producer. Professor Garrison also alluded to the great extent and accessibility of the iron ore deposits and incidentally to the fact that ore of antimony occurred there in greater abundance than in any other part of the world. Quicksilver deposits of unequaled richness he said, were likewise known in the country. The speaker illustrated his remarks with a number of mineral specimens and exhibited a series of views showing the crude methods of mining employed by the natives. He also showed a series of typical views of Chinese scenery, including fortifications, harbors, public buildings, etc.

TEMPLE OF CONFUCIUS.

It Is a Sacred Spot to the People of the Chinese Empire.

The temple of Confucius at Chufounsien is the Westminster abbey of China and the grave of that sacred personage is the most noted spot in the grounds. A sacred mound surmounts the remains of Confucius. Near the mound is a building erected for the meditation of those who render homage to the greatest Chinaman who ever lived. Near by is a tree, said to have been planted by Confuclus-or, rather, the trunk of it, for it is dead. The tree is on a circular stand of stone and mortar, close by a huge table of stone that looks like marble, having been polished by a devoteee. The mound is only twelve feet high. Before it is a tablet bearing the name and at the foot of the tablet is the famous incense vase, says the London Mail. The inscription reads: "Chih Sheng Hsien Shih K'ung Tzu," which means the perfect sage, the former teacher, the philosopher K'ung. Near to the tomb of Confucius is that of his son, who died four years before the Chinese seer; but the tomb of his grandson attracts more notice, because it is almost as grand as that of Confucius. There are thousands of graves near the shrine of Confucius and the nearer they are the better the lot of the departed, according to the belief of the Chinese. The keepers of the temple demand a fee before showing the place to for-

Keep your chin up. (If you are a woman, you won't have to be told so

eigners.