

By AMELIA E. A.R.R. Copyright, 1986, by Dodd, Mead and Company.

CHAPTER VII .-- (Continued.) Disgrace! The word goes not with our name, Batavius; and what mean also." you, then? In one word, speak."

Well, then, Neil Semple and Capt. Hyde have fought a duel. That is what comes of giving way to passion. I never fought a duel. No one should make me. it is a fixed principle with mo.

"Poor Nell! His fault, I am sure, It was not."

"Joanna? Nell is nearly dead. If he had been in the right he would not be nearly dead. The Lord does not forsake a person who is in the right way.

stood. The pallor of her face, the hopeless droop of her white shoulders and arms, were visible in its gloomy shadows. Softly as a spirit she

"Killed. He has at least twenty wounds. Till morning he will not live. It was the councillor himself who separated the men."

For a moment Katherine's consciousness reeled. The roar of the ocean which girds our life round was in her ears, the feeling of chill and collapse at her heart. But with a supreme will she took possession of herself. "Weak I will not be. All I will know, All I will suffer." And with these thoughts she went back to the room and took her place at the table. In a few minutes the rest followed. Batavius had anticipated madam's amazement and shock. He had felt a just satisfaction in the sufforing he was bringing to Katherine. But nothing had happened as he expected. The meal, instead of being pleasantly lengthened over such dreadful intelligence, was hurried and silent.

It was some comfort that after it Jeanna and he could walk in the garden and talk the affair thoroughly over. Katherine watched them away, and then she fled to her room. And ch, how she wept! She took from their hiding place the few letters her lover had written her, and she mourned over them as women mourn in such extremities. In the full tide of her anguish, Lysbet stood at the door. She heard the inarticulate words of woe, and her heart ached for her child. She had followed her to give her comfort, to weep with her; but she felt that hour that Katherine was no more a child to be soothed with her mother's kiss. She had become a woman, and a woman's sorrow had found her.

It was near ten o'clock when Joris came home. His face was troubled, his clothing disarranged and bloodstained: and Lysbet never remembered to have seen him so completely exhausted. "Bram is with Neil," he said, "he will not be home." "And thou?"

will not. And those that are angry with thee may be angry with me "Bram! my Bram! my brother! There is one comfort for inc .- if I

knew that he still lived; if one hope thou could give me!" "What hope there is, I will go and see, and, if there is good news, I will

be glad for thee." Not half an hour was Bran away: and yet, to the miserable girl, how grief and fear lengthened out the mo-

ments! When Bram came back, it was with a word of hope on his lips. "I have seen," he said, "who dost thou think ?- the Jew Cohen. He of

all men, he has sat by Capt. Hyde's side all night; and he has dressed the wound the English surgeon declared 'beyond mortal skill.' And he said to me, 'Three times, in the Persian desert, I have cured wounds still worse, and the Holy One hath given me the power of healing; and, if He wills, the young man shall recover.' That is what he said, Katherine."

"Forever I will love the Jew. Though he fail, I will love him. So kind he is, even to those who have not spoken

well, nor done well, to him." At this moment the family returned from the morning service, and Bram rather defiantly drew his sister to his side. Joris was not with them. He had stopped at the "King's Arms" to ask if Capt. Hyde was still alive; for, even her mother was annoyed and humillated at the social ordeal through which they had just passed, and she thought it only reasonable that the erring girl should be made to share the trial.

in the presence of averted eyes and up-

But nothing ill lasts forever; and in three months Neil Semple was in his office again, wan and worn with fever and suffering, and wearing his sword arm in a sling, but still decidedly world-like and life-like. It was evdent that public opinion was in a large measure with him, and though in the the disguise was assumed, and the two Middle Kirk the affair was sure to be the subject of a reproof, and of a suspension of its highest privileges, yet it was not difficult to feel the synpathy often given to deeds publicly censured, but privately admired. Joris remarked this spirit with a little astonishment and dissent. He could not find in his heart any excuse for either Nell or Hyde; and, when the elder enlarged with some acerbity upon the requirements of honor among men,

enly thing to Bram Van Heemskirk. Katherine very soon suspected how matters stood with her brother, and gratitude led her to talk with him about the lovely Jewess.

But for some weeks after the duel she could not bear to leave the house. It was only after both men were known to be recovering, that she ventured to kirk; and her experience there was not one which tempted her to try the streets and the stores. How ever, no interest is a living interest in a community but politics; and far more important events had now the public attention. During the previous March, the Stamp Act and the Quartering Act had passed both houses of Parliament; and Virginia and Massachusetts, conscious of their dangerous character, had roused the fears of the other Provinces; and a convention of their delegates was appointed to meet during October in New York. It was this important session which drew Neil Semple, with scarcely healed wounds from his chamber. The streets were noisy with hawkers crying the detested Acts, and crowded with groups of stern-looking men discussing them.

It was during this time of excite ment that Katherine said one morning. at breakfast, "Bram, wait one minute for me. I am going to Kip's store for my mother."

At the store, Bram left her, and aft er selecting the goods her mother needed, Katherine was going up Pearl street, when she heard herself called in a familiar and urgent voice. At the same moment a door was flung open; and Mrs. Gordon, running down the few steps, put her hand upon the girl's shoulder.

"Oh, my dear, this is a piece of good fortune past belief! Come into my lodgings. Oh. indeed you shall! will have no excuse. Surely you owe Dick and me some reward after the pangs we have suffered for you."

She was leading Katherine into the house as she spoke; and Katherine had not the will, and therefore not the power, to oppose her. She placed the girl by her side on the sofa; she took her hands, and, with a genuine grief and love, told her all that "poor Dick" had suffered and was still suffering for her sake.

Katherine covered her face, and sobbed with a hopelessness and abandon that equally fretted Mrs. Gordon. "If I could only see Richard,-only see him for one moment!"

"That is exactly what I am going to propose. He will get better when he has seen you. I will call a coach.

"Alas! Go I dare not. My father and my mother!'

"And Dick,-what of Dick, poor Dick, who is dying for you?" She went to the door and gave the order for a coach. "Your lover, Katherine. Child. have you no heart? Put on your bonnet again. Here also are my veil and cloak. No one will perceive that if is you. It is the part of humanity, assure you. Do so much for a poor soul who is at the grave's mouth.'

While thus alternately urging and persuading Katherine, the coach came

ANXIOUS FOR PEACE

Venezuelans Urge Their President to Yield to Arbitration

Thursday morning advices say that it has been decided that the Venezue lan difficulty shall be arbitrated, and the discussion of terms of settlement is now going en.

United States Minister Bowen undoubtedly will be one of the arbitra-

The government fears that cocreive measures will follow the establishment of the blockade, which became effective today.

The awakening of the Venezuelan people to the present situation of their country is accompanied by feelings of bitterness and sorrow. Their fleet has been destroyed and their pride has been deeply wounded, but they are resigned to accept the affront which they consider has been offered them by the allies

During the last ten days President Castro has acted with extraordinary energy. He has transformed the entire country into a vast camp, having raised more than fort ythousand men, whom he has well armed, equipped and transported from every direction to La Guayra and Puerto Cabello, in the expectation that the allies would attempt to land at one or both of these points. But there has been a change of feeling, and the prominent men of Venezuela who were at one time ready to lead the people in the defense of their country now consider that justification to take the men of the republic away fro mtheir families and their work does not exist. They have resolved to discover a means to bring about arbitration, or at least treat with the allies.

The means sought is thought to lie through the United States legation, and satisfactory results are on every hand expected to follow.

A member of the ministry said to the correspondent of the Associated Press: "The United States has not prevented the allies from assailing us, but it has

obliged them to accept our terms." The blockade of La Guayra, notification of which in the names of Great Britain and Germany was communicated to the Venezuelan government December 13 went into effect Wednesday. The order applies to Venezuelan vessels only.

LOSES ALL CHILDREN

Gas Tank Explodes and Six of One Fam-Hy Killed Instantly

A Fort Lee, N. J., Dec. 17, dispatch says: By the explosion of a gas tank the residence of John Pugughli was demolished, his six children were instantly killed, and his wife so badly injured that her recovery is despaired of. The mother was found two hundred feet from where the explosion took place, her right arm almost torn from her body.

Just returned from school, the children were at the lunch table when the explosion occurred. The father was away from home. The roof and sides of the house were blown out.

An adjoining cottage was also partially destroyed. The debris immediately took fire and the bodies of the dead were badly charred. The body of the elder daughter, Clarinda, aged 22 years, who was supposed to have, gone to New York, was found last night in

the ruins of the home.

NOT PINING FOR HATE

BALD-HEADED MAN SATISFIED WITH HIS FATE.

Tired of Silly Jokes Constantly Made at His Expense, Mr. Billikins Shows How the Good Things of Life Gravitate to Him Naturally.

"I'm getting sick and tired of these bald jests at my expense," announced Billikins, as he settled himself back in his chair near the window.

As he spoke the lights were reflected brightly on his shiny pate. The illuminations seemed more brilliant because of his presence.

"I can't enter this club but that smilling idiot, Smithby, comes up and says:

"'I say, old man, you know what the Bible says about every hair in your head being numbered? Then yours must all be back numbers. Ha, ha, ha!

"As soon as I come to after Smithby's brain-throb I go to the washroom, where, like as not, I find Jonesly, He's pretty sure to come up with some worm-eaten bon mot about my combing my hair with a towel.

"On my way upstairs I 'most always meet Snodgrass. Snodgrass has an ingrown smile, which he uses on the good things that he keeps to himself.

"'Ah, Billikins,' says Snodgrass, 'I thought you were coming this way. You look so much alike that I can never tell which way you're going until I see your features.'

'You've all heard that juvenile bit of pleasantry about the little boy who wanted his hair cut like grandpa'swith a round hole in the middle. That always brings me visions of Timpson. He relieves himself of it daily in the billiard room.

"Jackson isn't so bad. He usually puts some little mental pearl of this sort on the market:

"'Never mind what they tell you, Billikins; just you bear in mind that most great men are born bald.' Jackson has more sense than he knows of.

"As I said, though, I'm sick and tired of it all, and now that I've got you all here I'm going to state my position clearly:

"I'm bald, and I'm glad of it. It's a sign of intellect and distinction to be bald. Think of all the panhandlers, handbaggers and cutthroats that you know of. Is there a bald head among 'em? Most certainly not.

"On the other hand, consider the statesmen, lawyers, doctors and men of learning you've seen. Every other one of 'em's a shiny top.

"Look at the hairy men of ancient times. They all went wrong in some way or other. Esau sold his birthright for a mean of pottage, and Delllah tangled Samson all up in his own hair.

"But to come down to modern tim" When I buy a scatter of I get lost ochind the of pompa-dours into ficony pillars in row Q? "Nor L. Mr. Ticket Seller gives one

glance at my naked thought-dome, that I'm eligible for the bald headed row and knows I won't be satisfied with anything else. "Then, again, I never have any trouble about my hair falling out. from what I can see, the falling out of the hair causes most men more worry than fallings-out with their familles. "When I go to get shaved the barber can't talk me into having a shampoo when I don't want it. And even if the inclination were mine, which, thank heavens, is isn't, I couldn't possibly go round with my head covered with hair oil and smelling like a musk factory .- New York Sun.

Measure Taken to Guard Against An

WARSHIPS SENT

ing Minister Bowen With His

Home Government

Wednesday by the navy department to Admiral Dewey, in command of the combined flects, addressed to San Juan: "Send competent officer speedily in

torpedo boat destroyer or other vessel to Caracas as assistant to American minister. The following cablegram was sent to

Commander Dichl, of the Marietta, now lying at La Guaira: Send Van Dusen, executive officer of

the Marietta, as assistant to the Amerlcan minister temporarily." The officer from Dewey's fleet will

relieve Lieutenant Commander Van Dusen, who is only an hour distant from Caracas, when he arrives upon the scene. While no explanation is given for the above orders. It is beleved that these measures are being taken to guard against an interruption on the cable connecting Mr. Bowen with his home government.

Secretary Hay has cabled to Ambassador Tower at Berlin, to ask the German government to define for this country exactly what is meant by a "peaceful blockade." The dispatch is in the sucavest of diplomatic language, but it was insistent that Germany should reply. This inquiry was decided upon at the cabinet meeting, where it was discussed fuly.

Although it has not yet been put into public expression, this government contends that there is no such thing as a "peaceful blockade." If a state of war does not exist this government will contend at the proper time that United States ships must be

allowed to pass The test will come when the Red Line steamer Coracas arrives at La Guayra probably next. Saturday. If that ship goes through, as it is expected it will, other ships for other nations will also demand to go through and the "peaceful blockade' will be-

come a farce. If Germany insists on its right to blockade peaceably and refuses to let American ships through, then Admiral Dewey's fleet will be sent to Venezuela to convoy the American ships through the German and English lines.

Admiral Dewey has been told to keep his fleet together. The reason this government makes this demand of Germany is because it has in writing. in black and white, the fullest statement of Germany's Intentions in Venezuela. It has no such statement from England. The diplomats of that country were shrewd enough to make only a verbal statements of intent.

The administration is waiting Germany's answer with some anxiety. The situation is now more critical than it has been since the trouble began.

The Spanish minister to Venezuela, Senor Gaytan de Ayala, and the Bel-

In the hall behind them, Katherine walked, as she drew nearer to them.

"And the Englishman? Is he hurt?"

"My good Joris, it was like him."

in spite of everything, the young man's heroic cheerfulness in the agony of the preceding night had deeply touched Joris. No one spoke to Katherine;

As the time went on poor Katherine

Van Heemskirk shivered and sickened lifted shoulders, and in that chill atmosphere of disapproval which separated her from the sympathy and confidence of her old friends and acquaintances.

"It is thy punishment," said her mother, "bear it bravely and patiently, and we will go at once." In a little while, it will be forgot." But weeks went on, and the wounded men slowly fought death away from their pillows, and Katherine did not recover the place in social estimation which she had lost through the ungovernable tempers of her lovers

United States Takes Precautionary Step AS AID TO CONSUL BOWEN

Interruption of the Cable Connect-

The following cablegram was sent

"I helped them carry-the other. To the 'King's Arms' we took him.' "Live will he?"

"His left lung is plerced through. A bad wound in the throat he has. But then, youth he has, and a great spirit, and hope. I wish not for his death,

my God knows." "Neil, what of him?"

"Unconscious he was when I left him at his home. Does Katherine know?"

"She knows.

"How, then?"

"O Joris, if in her room thou could have heard her crying! My heart for her aches, the sorrowful one!"

"See, then, that this lesson she miss not. It is a hard one, but learn it she must. If thy love would pass it by, think this, for her good it is."

The next morning was the sabbath, and many painful questions suggested themselves to Joris and Lysbet Van Heemskirk. Joris felt that he must not take his seat among the deacons until he had been fully exonerated of all blame of blood-guiltiness by the dominie and his elders and deacons in full kirk session. Madam could hardly endure the thought of the glances that would be thrown at her daughter, and the probable slights she would receive, so Katherine's piteous entreaty was listened to, and she was allowed to remain at home.

The kirk that morning would have been the pillory to her. She was unspeakably grateful for the solitude of the house, for space and silence, in which she could have the relief of unrestrained weeping. About the middle of the morning, she heard Bram's footsteps. Bram had not thought of Katherine's staying from kirk, and when she confronted him, so tear-stained and woe-begone, his heart was full of pity for her. Within the last twenty-four hours he had begun to understand the temptation in which Katherine had been; begun to understand that love never asks, What is thy name? Of what country art thou 3 Who is thy father?' He felt that so long as he lived he must remember Miriam Cohen as she stood talking to him in the shadowy store And this memory of Miriam made him very pitiful to Katherine.

"Every one is angry at me, Bram, even my father; and Batavius will not sit on the chair at my side; and Joanna says a great disgrace I have made for her. And thou? Wilt thou grief."

Joris offended him by replying: "Well, then, elder, little I think of that 'honor' which runs not with the laws of God and country."

"Let me tell you, Joris, the 'voice of the people is the voice of God,' in a measure; and you may see with your ain e'en that it mair that acquits Neil o' wrong-doing. Man, Joris! would you punish a fair sword-fight wi' the hangman?"

"A better way there is. In the pillory I would stand these men of honor, who of their own feelings think more than of the law of God. A very quick and that munist mert works but to a custom micked and absurd." "Weel, Jorig, we'll hae no quarrel

anent the question. Here comes Meil, and we'll let, the question fa' to the ground. There are wiser men than either you or I on baith sides.'

Joris nedded gravely, and turned to welcome the young man. More than ever he liked him; for, spart from moral and prudential reasons, it was easy for the father to forgive an unreasonable love for his Katherine. Also, he was now more anxious for a marriage between Nell and his daughter. It was indeed the best thing to fully restore her to the social esteem of her own people; for by making her his wife, Neil would most emphatically exonerate her from all blame in the quarrel. Just this far, and no farther, hed Neil's three months' suffering aided his suit,-ne had now the full approval of Joris, backed by the veight of this social justification. But, in spite of these advantages, he was really much farther away from Katherine. She had heard from Bram the story of the challenge and the fight; heard how patiently Hyde had parried Nell's fotody to ler than re-turn it, used Nell ad so passionately refused any satisfaction less than his life; heard, also, how even at the point of death, fainting and falling, Hyde had tried to protect her ribbon at his breast. She never wearied of talking with Bram on the subject; she thought of it all day, dreamed of it all night. And she knew much more about it than her parents or Joanna supposed. Bram had easily fallen into the habit also scold me? I think ' shall die of of calling at Cohen's to ask after his patient. At first he saw Mirlam often; "Scold thee, thou little one? That I and, when he did, life became a heav- most interesting associations.

drove rapidly to the "King's Arms. Hyde was lying upon a couch which had been drawn close to the window. He was yet too weak to stand, too weak to endure long the strain of com pany or books or papers.

He heard his aunt's voice and foot fall, and felt, as he always did, a vague pleasure in her advent. Whatever of life came into his chamber of suffering came through her. She brought him daily such intelligences as she thought conducive to his recovery; and it musi be acknowledged that it was not al ways her "humor to be truthful." For Hyde had so craved news of Kather ine, that she believed he would dis wanting it; and she had therefore fallen, without one conscientious scruple, into the reporter's tempta tion,-inventing the things which ought to have taken place, and did not.

(To be continued.)

THE EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING.

Completely Strips Bark From Tree-No Trace of Fire.

That much valuable knowledge as to the effects of lightning may be gained by a study of trees that have been struck by it is maintained by many English scientists. A tree which stood for many years on the side of a road a few miles from Wal lingford, in England, was struck by lightning during a violent storm a short time ago and utterly destroyed Mr. Percy E. Spielmann examined it # few hours afterward and found that the bark had been completely strip ped off and flung to one side, and that a large branch had also beer torn away and splintered. He looked for some token of fire but was unable to find any. He noticed, however, that the inner surface of the bark was marked longitudinally with this wavy lines, very close set, of which the crests were about a quarter of an inch apart. He took several photo graphs of the ruined tree and he re gards them as most useful, since they show clearly the rending effect of lightning on a fbrous tissue.

Sword of, Famous Leader Stolen. The sword of the famous peasant leader Stephen Fadinger, who in the year 1626 led the peasant revolt in Upper Austria, has been mysteriously stolen from the Historical Art Court Museum, Vienna. The thief musi have been most daring, for very care ful watch is always kept, and the sword itself is a most cumbersome weapon. It is supposed that it was carried away under a great coat. The sword has no intrinsic value, but has

gian charge d'affaires. M. Van Der Hyde, have presented a joint letter to the Venezuelan minister of foreign affairs, in which they ask in case the claims of other foreign powers are paid by Venezuela that the same treatment given these powers be accorded to Spain and Belgium.

Rumors are current in Brussels and Copenhagen that Holland and Denmark are about to present their claims to Venezuela for a settlement.

PHILIPPINE TARIFF

Defeated by House After Having Been Reported Upon Favorably

The house ways and means committee authorized a favorable report of the bill introduced by Representative Cooper, chairman of the insular affairs committee, amending the Philippine tariff act so as to provide for a reduction of the tariff on products of the Philippines coming into the United States to 25 per cent of the existing schedules. The bill was defeated for a third reading.

X-RAY DEPARTMENT

Chicago Creates Same to Prevent Fraudulent Damage Suits

The office of X-Ray expert and electrical diagnostician of the law department of Chicago has been created, and will be filled by Dr. H. Preston Pratt. In his letter tendering the position to Dr. Pratt, City Attorney John E. Owens says: "This office has become necessary on account of numerous attempts at fraud through the evidence of X-Ray and electrical so-called "experts" in claims against the city for personal damages.



Governor Elect J. H. Mickey Refuses to Attend the Usual Dance

There will be no inaugural ball in Lincoln this year. It has been decided to drop the matter and give Governorelect Mickey a reception at the state capitol.

In this Governor Savage and his staff will participate. Complete arrange-ments have not been made, but the reception usually takes place in the senate chamber.

Young Woman Mangled

Miss Mary Taylor, aged twenty, was killed, and Abraham Ruskin mortally wounded, while a score of passengers received bruises in a trolly car collision Wednesday morning in Bayonne. The car became uncontrollable and on rounding the curve at York street, caught Miss Taylor unawares. The girl clung tenaciously to the bumper until the car, speeding along crashed into a car standing in the ter-minal sheds. Miss Taylor was crushed to death.

PLAN TO COMBINE

Kunsas and Nebraska Farmers Soon to Meet in Lincols

The Farmers' Co-operative Grain and Live Stock association is to be the foundation of a new association to be known as the Farmers' Co-operative Shipping association, which will have a capital of \$200,000 and which intends to own and controls line of grain elevators in Kansas, it ebrasks and Oklahoma, says a Torgrad, Kan., special of Thursday.

A meeting will be held at Lincoln, Neb., January 22, for the purpose of advancing the movement in Nebraska.

The farmers' grain association at Benedict, Nqb., the association at Thayer, Neb., and at Shelby, Neb., have signified their intention of taking stock in the new association and they will be; the basis of the movement in that state.

The association expects to start with thirty elevators in Kansas, fifteen in Oklahoma and ten in Nebraska.

Restore International Copyright Minister Storer, at Madrid, has ad-vised the state department by cable that the reciprocal agreement between the United States and Spain for the international copyright of 1895 has been restored to full effect by the interchange of diplomatic notes. The terms of the proclamation which was issued by President Cleveland in 1895, lasted during the war with Spain.

Treaty Sent to Senate

The president sent to the senate Wednesday the reciprocity, treaty recently negotiated between the United States and Cuba. The treaty was received by the senate in executive session and was referred to the committee on foreign relations without being read. It is stated that the treaty does not concern the disposition of the Isle of Pine

Seize Liquor

Collector Cruzen at San Juan, Porto Rico, seized several hundred cases of liquor which had been brought from St. Thomas on board the United States lighthouse tender Laurel. It is reported that certain army and navy officers as well as some prominent citizens of San Juan. are implicated in the matter. Claude Holley, aged thirty-five, despondent because he had failed to win the love of Prudie Hines, ended his life near Grand Tower, Ill., his home. He left a letter explaining why he killed himself.

A small wreck occurred on the Burlington at Plattsmouth, Neb. While freight train No. 76 was going through the cut towards the big bridge three of the cars jumped the track. One of the cars was so badly damaged that it had to be unloaded and sent to the shops for repairs. All the cars were loaded with cattle, but the stock was not injured. The wreck blocked the main line for several hours.

The American Girl's Charm.

In an article on "American Women and American Men" in the December Smart Set, the Vicomte de Santo Thyrso writes:

"What makes the American girl a most attractive being is her self-confidence, amiability and good temper. "To tell the truth I have never met an American girl of twenty who did not consider herself fascinating: this is self-confidence; and for a woman to believe she is beautiful is half-way to reveal beauty. In the first place, a plain woman, who is aware of her plainness is unhappy. Man is a selfish animal, and, despite what novels say about sad women and the power of tears, unhappiness is as repellant to a healthy mind as disease to a healthy body. Then, the conscious plain woman gives up every thought of pleasing, and, therefore she does nothing to make herself attractive. She does not dress in a becoming way, she does not smile, she does not try to be attractive. She becomes sour or dull, or both."

Some Clever Bon Mots.

Of the bon mots of the Greeks not many very brilliant ones have come down to us, says the Saturday Evening Post. A happy saying, of Socrates is reported regarding sculpture and education: "I wonder that men should give so much to turn a stone into a man, and so little to prevent a man turning into a stone." What could be more pertinent or pithy than the rejoinder of Lysander to a citizen of Megara, who, at a common council of Greek states, was "talking big" and laying down a policy with an authoritative air: "Your words want a city."

The cynical tub-philosopher, Diogenes, gave utterance to some rasping sarcasms. Seeing a number of persons firing at a mark, he placed himself directly before it, saying that it was the safest place. Going by a house over the door of which was inscribed, "Let nothing evil enter here!" asked, "How then can the owner get in?

ooks and taste

front