GERALDINE:

THE CREED OF DEATH.

FROM AN OLD MANUSCRIPT. When my father came to Kansas, worth, however, the officers had the Mississippi river. My father was die. mysteries of nature he had accumulated many queer and interesting inventions of fine mechanshop," and was the wonder and specubooks on various religious doctrines, until I became disgusted with the theories they taught, and so a new life seemed to open for me. I was an atheist; my belief became a conviction, and to shake off the strange theories I entertained, I entered my father's laboratory and became a close student of science and chemistry. And so when he died, there was no one so well adapted as I, to take up and carry on the work he had left be-

About this time Blank was ordered to the fort from the east, and he brought his family with him. He had a lovely daughter, Geraldine was her name, and from the moment I saw her beautiful face, I loved her-aye, worshipped her, if you will--and from day to day I watched her as the hungry vulture watches its prey; and when the balmy June came she passed wift and as sure. hours in my laboratory watching the effects of experiments; earth seemed a paradise, too beautiful for one so ungodly as I. The time came when I could detect her eye following me everywhere; and this vision haunted me by day and figured in my dreams by night. I knew she loved that controlled my whole being, and which I then thought indisputable, she seemed gradually to forsake me. Her visits to my laboratory became me the sunshine of my existence. Piqued at this seeming neglect, I sought refuge in my studies, and when she came to my labratory door she found it closed; I heard her step, her timid knock, and even the sigh she gave on turnwide open the cruel door of reparation! but stern, austere jealousy said, "No! She is not yours now! Let her go! that pure, godlike soul is too lovely for your companionship." For days she did not see me, my will was mastered, and, and in my weakness I fergot the principles that I lived by; yet, all the while, I watched her, with the man who sought to drive me from ber heart and supplant my right there with his ungracious presence. He was assiduous in his attentions to her, and his suit was en-

brought forth.

tic coast, to seek adventure in the One evening I stood near my father's grave in the fort cemetery, when she came slowly along the walk and paused before me. She was as white as the marble head-stones around us, and stood there in a kind of stony silence that frightened me. At last she made an effort to speak; large tears brimmed over in her beautiful eyes, and she told me that at her father's demand she become engaged to Captain Minturn, and she deemed it right that I should know. Never had a word of love been spoken between us; yet that intuitive something that speaks the love-promptings had laid bare our hearts for each other's inspection. She seated herself by a grave near me, and in the old way reasoned with me, and tried to win me to her cause. "Richard," she said, "My heart is as eloquent as your brain, and tells me that there is something more than pitil ss law in the God that I adore—a great mysterious, loving God, my Richard, that marks the fall of a sparrow; that looks with tenderest care upon the weakest one of all creatures, and yearns over the sorrow that tears my heart." She said all this rapidly, with trembling lips and streaming eyes; and, as she ceased speaking, leaned her head on her arms, sobbing. I bent over to touch her golden ringlets, but she put her hand up and gently pushed me away. I paced the sward with a fierce de-

couraged by her father, who was

dazed by the wealth Captain Minturn

possessed. He was the son of rich

parents, and had left a beautiful

home at Shrewsbury, on the Atlan-

spair within me. "Richard," she said looking up, "the expression of your face terrifies me; you seem to be meditating something fearful."
"Oh, no; I said, "I am seeking the

consolation of my faith. "Do not mock me, Richard!" she cried, "my heart is almost breaking." You say that you seek to know God. I only try to love him. Come kneel

Tears blinded my own eyes; I am admire. not ashamed of them. We clung to-

"Now go! go! Oh, my darling, go! and leave me to pray.

I obeyed. It was starlight when I left her, feeling that I had lost her forever, and with her all that made life beau led to my laboratory. I looked out autumn; and has the pure, noble

the Mississippi river. My father was the post surgeon; also a scientist of deep learning and broad, comprehending with countless stars, so remote that as if uncertain whether or not I was stars, so remote that gy, yet all so calm. But the contemplation did not calm me; my thoughts said, "They are perfect," said I; "and ism perfectly moulded, after years of surged on something like this. "Like pray be scated in that iron chair, it is study. He was an inventor, body, mind and soul; and when he brought force and inexorable law! Are not offer. I have a small matter of import the Truits of all his years of labor to thought, and will, and passion equally adorn his laboratory at the fort, it presented a veritable "old curiosity Minturn is it not a part of the cosmos? Yes, I must kill. The gentlest, lation of all who were admitted with. weakest animal retains its own life lation of all who were admitted within its mysterious precincts. I was only by destroying other lives and this has been so for centuries of the and my ideas were not deep enough to comprehend my father's weaker perish and the better-armed I said this while posing him exactly to comprehend my father's knowledge of chemistry, nor did I and better protected survived and percare to trouble myself with things in comprehensible. I had a lieutenancy in the army, and I enjoyed the good times we young officers had together. I had been at the fort about three years when my mind underwent a great change; I dropped all things light and frivolous, and read strange light and frivolous, and read strange. light and frivolous, and read strange upon sufferance from those who are stronger or better-armed that we, and it is from this merciless killing of the of the eyes. The shaft of heat had weaker and breeding from the strong- pierced instantly through the eyes into er that the races grow strong.

"Shall Minturn have my mate." slowly, and fell from the chair, and Shall he buy her father with his gold? his blazing face went out as he fell, He must kill me first! Here, under- and left the room dark again. neath the everlasting stars I assert I drew up the curtain and laid the late my right, the inalienable right of animal life, to kill him. The laws of man then adjusted him again to the focus, have reversed the laws of nature, and the lens began its swift annihilagiving to the weak protection against tion. Very fittle blood flowed and the strong. I appeal from the codes this was drunk up by the absorbent hind. This I did, and I marveled at of man to the code of nature, that bricks; but while directing the focus on the strange things my researches builded the universe into beauty. It the skull there was a slight explosion, is not enough that he shall win her; which scattered some of the gray mathe shall not even woo. The weaklings ter of the brain over the floor. I moved with their laws may protect him, or the focus gradually down from ayenge him - if they can. The trout the head to the feet, it consuming does not warn the minnow; the heron every thing as it passed - the flesh, the does not warn the trout; the engle bones, the clothing, the gold watch, does not warn the heron; he awoops the metal buttons, some coins, the down from the calm blue skies and bunch of keys, all giving beautiful va-takes his own. My blow shall be as riations of flame tint. A large dia-

purpose, and at last the mechanism of floor was thoroughly clensed by the me, but I dare not speak, for our religious ideas were a constant source of difference between us. She called me an acheist, and when I the place, or in other words parallel with the axis of the earth; so that the tain Minturn was a seven day's wonrefused to give up the belief position of the focus should vary as der at the fort, but the excitement little as possible with the annual motion of the sun. The focal distance I guadually died out.

A month passed, form an idea of this heat, it is only an inch in diameter, will burn a hole ing away. Oh, how I longed to fling paper; my lens had over seven thouthe parlor and found her there. She sand square inches. The metals held in it seemed to disapear; some rods seemed as she stood there a very angel in to vapor, others burnt with unen-

curable brightness. I comrived several mechanical arrangements, so that I was enabled to self-willed," she said. direct the focus upon the required point before removing the hood that the while, Geraldine. protected the lens on the roof. The under side of the lens I covered by a ard; you weary yourself so with incesthick curtain, which doubled the pro-

tection against an accidental exposure. metalic fumes. My great disideratum was a colored out the rays of light and transmits again. them. To obtain this, I had only to place into the lens an opaque solution appearance?" of iodine in the disulphide of carbon. The lens, as seen from below, looked ing what he done and what he aspired like a huge plate of colored glass. It to do. gave me almost a childish pleasure when my work was complete, and I spread her face; she looked at me What do you to watch steel, silver, coppers or platium leap into flame and disappear in a lurid vapor, when merely placed at in your eyes. O, Richard you fill me an empty spot in mid-air. I stood with horrible-horrible thoughts." there monarch of the sun, and at my command the very metals became vapor and drifted away. I laid a brick floor on my laboratory and securreaching heavenward in the distance cious to me! down the river. A steambort was at its smoke stack. Having rested sufficiently, I returned to my laboratory just in time to see Capt. Minturn and Geraldine drive by. She seemed worried and unhappy, while he was smiling at any cost. If you deem it your duty

nature burning in his eyes.

Ah! how strong I felt! to-morrow he would gaze into those innocent, the man who worships you.'
luminous eyes for the last time. "What a hell there must

I sent him an urgent and confiden tial note that night, to call at my laboratory the following day at half past 11.
I was particular about the hour, for I wanted the sun when its reverse were the wanted the sun when its rays were the hoped that we might be united, and

worked like a charm. I could have that justifies it. How can we be matworshipped it for the perfection of its ed? Mine is the religion of love and I threw myself on the sward before mechanism. It was a wonder upon life, and yours is the creed of death! which the eye could rest without safety, "Oh, God! forgive him!" Sh her. She put her hands on my head, the mind revel without fear of exhaus-I heard her say in a whisper, "O, tion, and the profounder faculties of "Oh, God! I loved him so! Oh, God! the intellect pause, and never cease to -a gurgling sound checked her utter-

My victim knocked; I admitted him.

sive thought. During his years of study and research into the distances, each tiny point of light steady, temper reassured him at once. a blazing sun, a conflagration of oner. He put on a kind of genial jocularity. "How go on the experiments!" h

the stars, am I not a creature of blind rather hard, I know, but all I have to ance I wish to speak with you about, invention. "Look up," I said play fully, assuming the air of a professional photographer, "Look at the middle of the curtain, and I will show you a gor-

stantly into a pale, greenish flame with purplish jets of flame from the sockets the eyes into the brain. He recled

mond that he wore in his shirt front For a week I studied in my lab- burnt with a magnificent brilliancy.

After he was wholly consumed the my work was designed I could kill heat that licked up the spattered Minturn and blot every vestage of him brains. The smoke that arose esfrom existence. To reach this end I caped through an opening I had made caused to be constructed an enormous in the roof, and through it passed a lens. This was set in the foof of my transparent tremor of heated vapor.

A month passed, and I resolved to carefully arranged so that the focus see Geraldine. I could not quiet my should be about toree and a half feet ceaseless yearnings for her companless frequent, and I noticed, with all the fierce jealousy of my passionate nature, that a young captain named Minturn was gradually taking from the fierce in the fierce in the fierce jealousy of my passionate nature, that a young captain named Minturn was gradually taking from form an idea of this heat it is made to give a most intense heat. To property of the world,

One evening I crossed the paradenecessary to consider that a sun glass ground and called at Colonel Blank's quarters. I took good care, however, in wood. A glass of five and a half that it was at a time when he was abinches will melt lead; mine was a lens sent; not because I was unwelcome, or of ninety-six inches diameter. One feared him, but that I desired to see square inch of lens surface will ignite Geraldine alone. I was ushered into melted and flamed and dripped like gazing into her native heaven. I apsealing wax, some passed immediately proached her with a strange timidity and reverence.

"I thought we would never meet again, Richard, you are so proud and 'My thoughts have been here all

"You look worn and tired, Rich sant toil in the midst of the noxious

"Geraldine," I said earnestly, "you lens, a thermal lens, a lens to focus can give me rest and joy. Can I not the rays of heat while opaque to the keep my faith and you yours? Caprays of light, a medium which filters tain Minturn will never come between

"Is it not strange Richard, his dis 'No" I answered, "not strange see

stood below in my darkened laboratory searchingly, in terror. What do you mean?" she uttered aghast.

"There is a look of fierce exultation "Give them words!" I said.

"I dare not! I dare not speak it! "Then I will! He tried to steal my jewel! My war was with him! edan iron chair to prevent fire. The day my apparatus was completed, I locked to utter! Do not speak it then, nor up my laboratory and strolled down to will I: But I have battled for my mate the old Missouri and bathed my head as the poorest of earth's creatures in the muddy waters; I was weary from may, under Heaven's sanction! I have my ardous labors and needed a few swept my foe out of existence by the hours of recreation before the final con- divine right of might! And now you sumation of my design. Leavenworth shrink from me! and must my life be was a small village then, and I could barren of love! O, Geraldine! all my just see the diminutive church steeple being claims you, so unutterably pre-

While I spoke she had leaned back the levee and i could just see the long against the wall, and covered her face lite of black smoke that curled from with her hands. As Leagued shout lite of black smoke that curled from with her hands. As I ceased, she uttered, in a low, horrified, whisper: "A murderer!"

complacently and gazing into her face, to bring me to justice, I shall accept with all the fire of his wild, passionate death at your hands as firmly as I could death at your hands as firmly as I could have fallen in battle. The difference

"What a hell there must be in your breast, Richard! Oh, how I pity you! that I could bring to you God's sweet The next morning I arose early and rest and peace. It is not the crime again tried my engine of death. It alone, but the hideous creed you hold

ance, and a gush of bright arterial At 11 o'clock I sat down quietly, and blood came from her mouth. She gether for a moment, for a long mo- selecting a book commenced reading would have fallen, but I caught her.

ment our lips met. Then she said: a treatise on military tactics. I was I saw that bencorrhage was beyond the cool and my thoughts were collected, stay of medical art. She turned her I marvel now on the indifference I felt beautiful eyes men me with a look of for the deed I contemplated. Precise- angelic pity, and sweet. Geraldine lay

and sailed up the Missouri river in a tiful. There was a gnawing rage and felt sure no one saw him enter. I spirit perished also! Is there no wheezy old steamboat, the state was within me too intense to admit of drew the curtain over my lens, leaving place beyond the grave! Have I in its infancy, and very few of the habits of eastern people had been introduced here. At Fort Leavenment by a lurid heat; a half-blind, iron chair to the sun's position so that and pitiless law comfort me now? No: managed to secure a few of the comforts of civilization, and the garrison
in those days was the nearest approach to a city of anything west of religion of life and love! Mine is THE CREED OF DEATH



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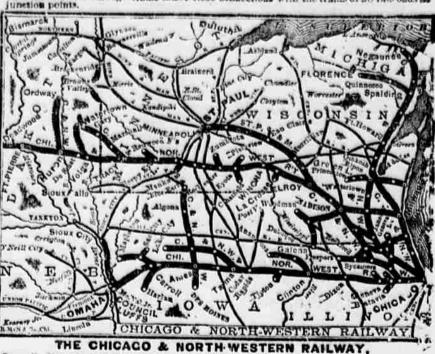
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