

The CONVICT COUNTRY: OR FIGHTING for a MILLION

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CHAPTER XIX.

First Night in the Haunted House.
The interior of the "Haunted House," with the exception of the front room, was in fair order. There were six rooms in all, quite comfortably furnished; and the kitchen was well stocked with utensils and provisions. Upon entering the place the first thing to do was to light the lamps in every room; then to open up the prison door and allow Dr. Huntington and his daughter to remain a while in conversation. While these two were conferring, Lang and Wilson explored the house.
"Wilson," said Lang, after satisfying himself that there was no one within hearing. "You understand why I married Pearl Huntington. I married her because I wished to keep her from the hands of Schiller, and to protect her from insult. Have I acted the man?"
"You certainly have, Lang," said Wilson.
"If I have done right, I want your help to continue to do so. In order to enlist your sympathies with me I am going to make a confidant of you. I am going to place my life in your keeping."
"You can trust me," simply replied Wilson, and he meant it.
In a few words as to the enlightening Wilson on the fact that there was a tunnel under the house, besides telling him, by way of settling any fears he might have on the subject, that the house was not haunted, but that its reputation had been given it by Golden as a means of hiding the entrance.
"When," cried Wilson, "a tunnel? I have been here for years, and have sounded every part of the ground, and have never discovered it!"
"Such is the truth, however."



"I have my suspicions about you, also," chose, but at this time I do not think it best."
"I thank you," replied the doctor, "and will try to look upon the matter as the act of a true gentleman."
"How can I ever sufficiently thank you for your kind interest?" said Pearl, who perhaps understood Lang's motive better than her father.
"Simply by never mentioning the fact again, Miss Huntington, and by following out any plan I may give you which I shall think for your benefit," was the gallant reply of Louis.
Then to change the conversation, Louis said: "Schiller said something about your being compelled to live here in seclusion until you complied with some law that he framed for your special benefit. What decree did he enter against you?"
"Until I would consent to practice in Paradise."
"This house is supposed to be haunted," said Louis. He could see Pearl shudder. "And Schiller is of the opinion that he is inflicting untold torture on us by compelling us to remain here. Your case has been put in my hands, and I am made responsible for your safe keeping. Such being the case, I am of the opinion that you had better promise."
"Well, if you put it in a personal light, I do not. My nose will be afraid that she will go crazy about Pearl and myself."
"I will undertake to rotify her that you are safe," said Louis.
"You, how?"
"I am not helpless," said Louis. "I can do much that would seem quite impossible at this time."
A sigh of relief escaped the closed lips of the doctor. "I will trust you!" he said.
"And I, too, will trust you, and pray for you, my husband!" said Pearl.
"You seem an honest man, though your history as read off by Golden, and the eyes of honest and simple-minded people is anything but a good one."
"You do me too much honor, under the circumstances," said Louis, bowing. He felt like making a clean breast of it and telling these two people the truth, but he refrained. It was well that he did so, for every word that was being spoken now was being overheard.
"Time will tell whether you are, usually so straight with your eyes, usually so bright, were new dull and watery and surrounded
could escape from the city, walk from here to substitution No. 1, obtain a relay of horses and get me away to civilization before missed."
"As to that, Lang, I can well believe I could believe anything of you."
"You are acquainted with my history," replied Wilson. "The only thing you don't know is that my robbery of Jim Deaver was a 'put up job.'"
"Oh, ho!" exclaimed Wilson. "Then you are—"
"Never mind the term," interrupted Louis. "I have my suspicions about you also. I presume I can rely upon you!"
"Your suspicions are correct. You can depend upon me. I am here for the purpose of robbing the colony."
"I presume you have made some headway while here toward enlisting the services of others besides yourself."
"Yes, I have tapped about twenty on the subject, and formed a society for that purpose. These are all desperate criminals, now working in the mines. You and I are condemned there also, but have the privilege of sleeping here nights, we ought to be able to smuggle into the mine the necessary arms and ammunition to make an outbreak successful."
"I think this can be done," said Lang. "Holden is attached to me, and has promised me, in return for a little increase against Schiller, and Golden is sure he can get his cooperation."
"If you have won over Rogers," replied Wilson, "I am here for the purpose of robbing the colony. All the military stores are in his keeping."
"The two friends covered on the subject for quite a time. Then they had a hearty lunch, and, realizing far better than Lang what labor would be expected of him on the morrow, retired. Lang, before retiring, went down to the front room. After attending to the locking of all the doors and patching up the windows as much as possible, not to overhear Dr. Huntington and Pearl engaged in conversation, he knocked upon the partition door and said "Come in," by the doctor.
Dr. Huntington had aged considerably in the last few weeks. His hair, which up to this time had been naturally black, now was streaked with gray. His eyes, usually so bright, were new dull and watery and surrounded

"Good night, and pleasant dreams!" said Pearl.

Dr. Schiller, though appearing to submit gracefully to the will of the people, was far from intending to let the matter drop and foregoing his revenge. Dr. Huntington, in the opinion of Schiller, had inflicted a wrong upon him that could not be wiped out in an easy manner. Now that Schiller had Huntington in his power, it is reasonable to suppose that he would not be content with simply inflicting bodily harm upon the victim. Huntington must pay the penalty in the same manner that he himself had paid it—the brain must suffer as well as the body.
Lang had made many friends through Golden's recital of his history. Louis had roused admiration for himself by defending Wilson, who was a general favorite, and in marrying Pearl in the face of the king's threat, he had shown himself almost devoid of fear. Schiller could not understand Lang—a conundrum—and the king must have some change against him, in which, in inflicting extreme punishment upon him, he would seem justified.
Before retiring for the night, while the wine was still in his system, his defeat was strog upon him. Schiller set his wits to concoct some scheme by which his purpose could be carried out. The most plausible plan that presented itself was to accuse our hero of being a spy. To have done so right at this moment would have been to bring ridicule upon himself. Apparently he would be too much like petty revenge, and whether true or not, it would not be believed. As a means of accomplishing his designs, however, and give a semblance of truth to the rumour, he concocted an aside to spy upon the group.
This spy, who had earned the soubriquet of "Satan," by being employed in just such cases as this, had no trouble in getting within earshot of Pearl and her father; but Wilson and Lang, being guarded in their conversation, he was unable to overhear. If he had heard them planning the destruction of Paradise, nothing could have saved them from being strung up immediately.
Satan, of course, overheard the conversation between Lang and Dr. Huntington. This conversation was reported verbatim to Schiller, which encouraged him greatly. At this stage of the plot it was his intention to try to marry Pearl—truly, heronably. One week's sojourn in her company had shown him that he loved, or thought he did, this innocent girl. Besides, he knew that the king would be actuated by Schiller. He had learned that Dr. Huntington, by a strange course of circumstances, was now the eldest son, and consequently the heir to the Empire state of the world. If Schiller could have compromised with Huntington, and had been allowed to marry Pearl—he would have done so, accepting the father's fortune for his bride. But this last was impossible, and he knew it.
The thing possible, then, was to dispose of Lang, now the husband; marry Pearl, and, if necessary, dispose of the doctor, and inherit the property through the girl, who was, as far as he knew, the only living descendant.
One way to trap Lang would be to catch him sending a letter to Mrs. Huntington, notifying her of the safety of her husband. As Satan had notified Schiller of the intention of Lang to do so, this seemed an easy matter to accomplish. If Lang could be caught in the act, his doom would be certain.
(To be continued.)

ILLINOIS STATE NEWS

MURDERED MAYOR IS BURIED

Business Suspended at Chenoa While Citizens Attend Services.
Business was entirely suspended at Chenoa Tuesday on account of the funeral of Mayor Charles Nickel, one of the victims of Murderer La Rue. The bier where the shooting occurred was closed for the entire day. The McLean county board of supervisors, unanimously represented, together with all of the county officers and members of the Chenoa city council. The services were held at the Presbyterian church and conducted by Rev. W. M. Hoke, of Chenoa, assisted by Rev. F. B. Hess of Peoria. The Masonic lodge attended in a body. Nearly the entire population of Chenoa attended the final rites. Alderman T. C. Carlisle was elected mayor of Chenoa at a special meeting of the city council to succeed the murdered executive.

PLAN WAR ON HORSE THIEVES

Police Organizing in Northern Part of State.
The chiefs of police of northern Illinois are organizing to wage war on horse thieves. Chief Adams of De Paul district, of Cook county, which will include all the chiefs in the northern tier of counties. The farmers along the various highways will be interested, and with their assistance it is hoped that many captures will possibly be recorded. Chief Adams is making a tour over the various country roads with the view of learning the districts for future operations. When the chiefs have made a thorough study of the roads they can handle a case in better shape and will know farmers whom they can notify to be on the lookout.

Black Bat Kill Woods.

The woods in the vicinity of Lancaster are thick with strange winged creatures like bats. They are of various sizes, specimens killed weighing from two ounces to a pound and a half. They subsist on squirrels and sometimes invade chicken-houses for food. It is reported that the birds are very few being seen in the daytime. As they fly at night their eyes emit a strange light, and when coming toward one, resemble balls of fire. Several persons have been badly frightened by them.

New Interurban Company.

The secretary of state has issued a license to the new Peoria, Decatur, Sullivan and Mattoon Transit Company. The principal office is to be at Mattoon. The capital stock is nominally \$25,000. It is proposed to construct a line from Peoria to Decatur in a north-westerly direction to Decatur. The incorporators and first board of directors are: R. M. Cloney and J. H. Culver, Decatur; George B. Spitzer, Decatur; John H. Hamilton and Edward C. Craig, Mattoon.

Nephew Injures Uncle.

Julius Stumpf, Sr., of Granite City was severely injured by the fall of his nephew, Julius Stumpf, Jr., of Upper Alton, the uncle's skull being laid open, requiring ten stitches to close the wound. The uncle had just arrived in Granite City on a visit, and in his eagerness to greet him, the nephew caught him in his arms and was whirling him around when the uncle's head came in contact with a large door.

Big Four Shops at Danville.

A deal has been closed with the Big Four at Danville. The owners of the shops of the Cairo and Indiana Harbor divisions in Danville. Seventy acres of land have been purchased by the company. Gravity yards will be built at Danville. The contracts signed, the company agrees to spend \$150,000 in construction within two years.

Card Game Brings Death.

Albert Neesh, 17 years old, shot and killed Joseph Pike Clark at Springfield. The boys had been friends for years. They were playing cards, and Neesh says that they had agreed that the first one caught cheating should be shot at with a revolver supposed to be unloaded. Neesh is under arrest awaiting a coroner's inquest.

Litchfield Alas Soreto Buffers.

Nearly all of the churches of Litchfield took a special collection for the Red Cross sufferers, raising the sum of \$50. The city council has voted \$50, and a citizens' committee has raised over \$250, besides a large amount of clothing.

Death Under Fall of Slate.

John Green, 53 years old, for years proprietor of a barber shop in Salisbury, tired of that work, closed his shop and went to work in the coal mines. Three hours after he went in to the mine he was killed. Slate fell upon him.

Former Springfield Mayor Weds.

John A. Vincent, former mayor of Springfield, has announced his marriage to St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 19, to Miss Felice, daughter of Dr. M. P. McLean, Chicago. The bride is of French descent.

Charge Fraud in Lease.

Twenty taxpayers of Paris have brought suit in the federal court to annul a lease of city property to United States Marshal Hitch, alleging that the officers obtained possession through fraud.

Five Victim of Tornado.

T. E. File died at Sorento Oct. 23 from the effects of injuries received in the tornado Oct. 17, making the fifth victim of the twister. Mr. File, one of the number instantly killed by the storm.

Picks Up Fine Pearl.

JAMES MORTON of Jacksonville found an almost round pearl nearly as large as a pea in a mussel shell which he picked up near the Relay depot at East St. Louis while waiting for a train.

Boy Wounds Himself.

Elmer Morton, aged 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Morton of French Village, shot himself accidentally while hunting rabbits in the hills at the bluffs, near East St. Louis. It was stated by one of his companions that the bullet which struck the boy when he looked into the muzzle to see if there was any mud in it the weapon was discharged. The bullet passed through his right cheek and ear.

Farmland Mysteriously Beaten.

Leo Venson, a farmhand employed by George Long, a farmer living south of Bushnell, was found on East Main street in an unconscious condition. He had been at a dance and his head terribly gashed with a razor or knife. Complete mystery surrounds the affair, and nothing can be learned until the man regains his senses.

Forgives Son's Slaying.

The coroner's jury at Springfield returned a verdict to the effect that the killing of Joseph Ferik Clark by Albert Neesh, occurred in the game which they termed a "wild-west card game," was accidental. Before the jury exonerated Neesh the mother of Clark visited the jail in tears and forgave the slayer of her son.

Dooms Perpetual Saloons.

The bitter fight against the passage of an ordinance by the Springfield city council making the location of a saloon in a residence district perpetual after the keeper once secures the consent of a majority of the property owners has ended. Mayor Devereaux cast the vote that doomed the measure.

Free Delivery of Mail.

The free delivery of mail in Jerseyville has commenced under a special order secured by Postmaster Becker from the postoffice department. Residents of the city outside the local carrier districts will be permitted to receive rural mail carriers along the streets traversed by the rural carriers.

Killed by Machinery.

Robert Ross, aged 23, a carpenter employed at the Swift packing plant, in East St. Louis, was caught in a large wheel in the engine room and killed before the machinery could be stopped. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Aged Lovers Are Married.

J. M. Daniel and Mrs. Nancy Sexton, aged 75 and 73, respectively, well known pioneer settlers, were publicly married at the Ashland Christian church, Rev. M. Ripley Elder officiating. Four generations of both families were present.

Valuable Books for Library.

Congressman Pleasant T. Chapman has given the Carnegie public library at Chicago a complete set of the "Debates of Congress." These books cover the debates of the national legislature from 1789 to 1905, and comprise 600 volumes.

Distinguished Career Promised.

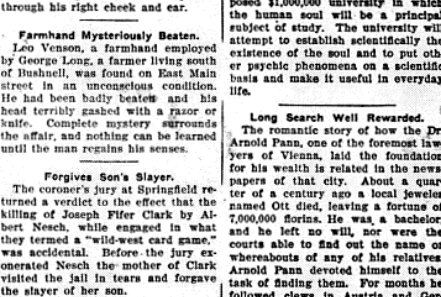
Rev. Hugh Black of Edinburgh, Scotland, who recently accepted a charge in the Union Theological seminary, New York, is only 27 years old, but already has achieved a leading position among the clergymen of his native country. When still under 20 he was called to the college. Mr. Black exander Whyte, pastor of St. George's United Free church, the leading congregation of that denomination in Edinburgh. His work there is almost as well known in this country as in Scotland.

DEFECTS IN RUSSIAN VESSELS.

Errors Contributed Greatly to Togo's Decisive Victory.
A French naval officer has been attempting to explain the collapse of some of the Russian line of battleships in the Strait of Japan. He said that, from their design, a number of ships had only a moderate degree of stability. They were top-heavy and some of them rolled so much on the voyage out that the officers were afraid they would turn turtle. When a large amount of coal was taken on board, some even being carried on deck, the vessels were submerged to well below their ordinary water line and as a result the ships were crank and their water line arrangement in some cases submerged. This deep loading caused the vessels to roll, and, in the opinion of the French expert, holes made by the shells from the Japanese fleet were thus frequent under water, which, with the vessels in ordinary trim, would not have been the case. As the fire of the Japanese was naturally directed at the bows of the approaching Russian ships their forward compartments filled first and the ships went down by the head and capsized.—Boston Herald.

HUMAN SOUL TO BE STUDIED.

St. Louis Woman Plans University for Novel Research.
Mrs. Charles F. Joy of St. Louis announces she has offered her lot at Santa Barbara, Cal., for a site for a human soul university.
Miss Frances C. Joy of Chicago has filed claims at Bloomington for \$25,000 against the \$300,000 estate of Daniel W. Brennenman, a wealthy horseman of Macon county. In his will she bequeathed \$25,000 and the estate of his widow and daughter, Miss Clegg formerly was a dressmaker of Decatur but for several years has been a professional nurse in Chicago. One claim she filed is for \$5,000 and she also filed a note in her favor written by Brennenman. The other claim is for \$20,000 and is for nursing, medicine and attention. A legal fight is anticipated.



possessed \$1,000,000 university in which the human soul will be a principal subject of study. The university will attempt to establish scientifically the existence of the soul and to put other psychic phenomena on an scientific basis and make it useful in everyday life.
Long Search Well Rewarded.
The romantic story of how Dr. Arnold Pann, one of the foremost laymen of Vienna, laid the foundation for his wealth is related in the newspapers of that city. About a quarter of a century ago a local jeweler named Ott died, leaving a fortune of 7,000,000 florins. He was a bachelor, and he left no will, nor were the courts able to find out the name or whereabouts of any of his relatives. Arnold Pann devoted himself to the task of finding them. For months he followed clues in Austria and Germany and, under favorable conditions, finding not one or two relatives but thirty. The money was handed out to him to be equally divided among the claimants, while he himself received 250,000 florins, a record fee.
De Brazza a Strange Personality.
Count De Brazza, the explorer, who was sent to Africa by the French government to administer the administration abuses, and who lost his life there, had an odd-looking personality. A Paris correspondent says: "He had the strangest physiognomy I can remember ever to have seen, and the most serpentine form—all, lithe, extremely thin. The profile was as the skeleton of an eagle, but the nose very long. The black eyes had I know not what the structure of a Hungarian and ophidian. The jet-black hair was cut close enough to resemble a skull cap. The complexion had the color of a not very fresh lemon under black gauze. The eyes were evasive and one could not conceive him as ever having laughed."
Will Have No "Sunken Grave."
Harve Durand, a wealthy pioneer resident of Fond du Lac, Wis., has finished constructing his own grave as well as that for his wife. He is not in the least at all superstitious, but claims that the end is near, but he has a horror of what he terms "sunken graves." By building a brick vault several feet beneath the surface of the ground and placing a heavy slab of stone across the top, Mr. Durand believes that the graves will not sink, as the earth can be tamped over the slab after the caskets have been deposited. The Chicago Theological seminary, New York, is only 27 years old, but already has achieved a leading position among the clergymen of his native country. When still under 20 he was called to the college. Mr. Black exander Whyte, pastor of St. George's United Free church, the leading congregation of that denomination in Edinburgh. His work there is almost as well known in this country as in Scotland.