

# The CONVICT COUNTRY: FIGHTING for a MILLION

BY CHARLES MORRIS BUTLER  
Author of "The Revenge of Pharo," "A Tenuous Tragedy," "The Day"  
Copyright 1926, by Charles Morris Butler.

## CHAPTER XXII.

human life as of very little consequence.  
"Why do you appear before us in that garb?" he demanded fiercely, at a loss for words.  
"This is the condition you left me in last night," he replied.  
"Why did you not arrive here before?" The second question was more to be regretted than the first.  
"It is after eight o'clock and by the laws of our country you have forfeited your life to the city without one chance!"  
"There was deathlike stillness preceding Lang's retort."  
"I was unconscious from the wounds received last night while protecting my wife from the insults you heaped upon her!" Schiller tried to stop Lang from answering, but Lang ignored the king entirely. "You sent my friends away; I was alone; in fact I have never been warned that the penalty incurred would have been exacted so soon. I would never have known it, had not my wife found me out and warned me of the danger of not being here on time. I fled the house before eight with plenty of time to arrive here. But I was set upon by two hell-hounds who attempted to hinder me from getting here, and I had to 'lay them out' before I was allowed to come here at all! I may be late; it is not fault of yours that I am not! and I appeal to the people for my chance!" an awkward bow of the head and in no condition to fight for his life tonight, but all I ask is my chance! A chance is all I want! appealing to the people.



"It is my turn now!" he cried.

Wilson was the first to echo the cry. "A chance, a chance!" and soon the cry became unanimous.  
The first part of the battle was won—the chance was granted him! The surroundings grew brighter—Golden arrived; a few moments afterwards, Rogers appeared.  
"Prepare the contestants for the battle!" ordered the king. There was no doubt in Schiller's mind but that Wilson would conquer our hero. To conquer meant to kill!  
Largo, who was also master of ceremonies, assisted Whalen to disrobe, leaving him, as later he did Lang, only clothed in a waist and stockings, naked from the waist up. Each was then furnished with a heavy horn-handled bowie-knife with a shining blade over six inches long.  
At precisely 8:15 o'clock the contestants, knives in hand, and foot to foot, at a given signal from Schiller sprang at one another!  
Louis was not collected. He had no fear of the consequences—had he not an arm of steel, and had he not taken lessons in dealing in expectancy of just such a trial as this! There was a dash of steel against steel! Parry, thrust, parry, thrust; first one, then the other struck at his opponent. It was a brilliant exhibition, and as each antagonist gained the point of vantage he was applauded loudly by his adherents.  
While the few preliminary passes with the knives were being indulged in, as a last before the actual struggle took place, Louis said to Whalen: "Are you afraid to die?"  
"I am not going to die!" said the burly desperado, making an extra save lunge at one here.  
"One of us is about to die!" said Louis, parrying the lunge. "It may be me—I am prepared. What have you done to merit death?"  
"I hoped with another man's wife," was the uncombed reply. "But in being condemned to fight a duel with you, it will only be play for me to kill you. And that I will gain my freedom, and the woman! I killed the husband last week!"  
Here was a devil-may-care sort of a fellow, a model desperado, who would

"I cannot take this man's life in cold blood!" he said vehemently. "By what right do you make me his executioner? I have shown you, ye people of Paradise, that with the bowie, I am this man's master, and he does not want to be forced to kill him!"  
This harangue had its effect only on a few more tenderhearted than the rest, but Schiller seeing that Lang had a horror of ending the scene in death, fearfully ordered "Kill!" The shock to Schiller's nerves in seeing Louis so easily conquer Whalen, made him less than half human.  
Despite the order to kill, Louis resolved to give Whalen another chance, and then if opportunely presented it to the slaughterer.  
"Get all the fun out of me that you can, I haven't begun to eat and slash yet! And before we get through with one another, I mean to give the people of Paradise (for I see you know a little something about dueling with the bowie) an exhibition of sharp knife-work!"  
"You underestimate my powers," said Louis, beginning to warm up with the exercise, and throwing his left arm behind him to more firmly support his fighting arm.  
"I am only sorry I am not fighting a man!" said Whalen, sneeringly, "there is not much credit to be gained by killing a kid—and a wounded one at that!"  
"You will find your match to-night, Whalen," said Louis, meaningly, who was confident that he had sized up his opponent's weak points. "And though I don't want to kill you in cold blood I suppose I will have to do so to save my own life!"  
Whalen had been in many tight places before and had little fear of the consequences. They both became silent and watchful, waiting for an opening, attempting to tire the other. This last bit strength had not tired Louis by any means. In fact the buster had partially cleared the cobwebs from his brain. At last Louis feigned weariness little by little. Whalen grew bolder, and a sinister smile played around his lips.  
He thought he had Louis at his mercy, and the very bravado of his nature came to the surface, as he brushed the hair from his forehead. From the center of the ring more toward the side occupied by Schiller and the influential sightseers. There was a very dramatic ring to his voice as

Whalen had been in many tight places before and had little fear of the consequences. They both became silent and watchful, waiting for an opening, attempting to tire the other. This last bit strength had not tired Louis by any means. In fact the buster had partially cleared the cobwebs from his brain. At last Louis feigned weariness little by little. Whalen grew bolder, and a sinister smile played around his lips.  
He thought he had Louis at his mercy, and the very bravado of his nature came to the surface, as he brushed the hair from his forehead. From the center of the ring more toward the side occupied by Schiller and the influential sightseers. There was a very dramatic ring to his voice as

## FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS.

Symptoms of Childhood Ill Worth Immediate Attention.  
Change of disposition in children is often wrongly interpreted and both parents and teachers have recourse to various means to secure improvement, such as reprimands, fasting, deprivations of food, etc., although conditions grow worse instead of improving. A child, for example, enjoying heretofore good health, all at once undergoes a radical change; he becomes slow in his actions, takes more time than usual in eating, dressing, studying; his intellectual faculties become less vivid, memory fails, he lacks attention; he is disgraced by laziness and bodily punishment is inflicted. A child like this is certainly ill, and coercive treatment will not improve the condition, but strictly medical attention. The subject is certainly important from a practical standpoint, as the future of such a patient depends upon the early recognition of the pathological condition. It should be borne in mind by every parent or teacher. Cheerfulness, laughter, vivacity, are all attributes of youth, and these attributes rapidly replaced by lassitude and impairment of intelligence, the condition is undoubtedly morbid.—American Medicine.

## Both Had Forethought.

Returning from his first European trip, which he called a "lower," the late unique Texas congressman, known in Washington as "Howdy Martin," told of a French butcher who was apparently on his deathbed. He gave his wife minute directions about business and conducted his farewell address with the earnest warning: "As soon as department will allow, and society will approve, after I am gone, you must marry 'Gene,' my shop boy. He is an honest fellow, and in the butcher business success cannot be continued without a man to constantly loiter after 'his details. So you must marry 'Gene; and he will make a good husband for you, Eloise."  
"Yes, my love, and he is also handsome. You have already been talking it over; so you need not worry about it."—Los Angeles Times.  
**Tally One for the Woman.**  
Him—"What a happy world this would be if men were kept in their proper places and women were kept in theirs."  
Her—"Yes, I suppose so; but it would be rough on the women."  
Him—"Why do you think so?"  
Her—"Because they would all be guarding the jails."  
**Daily Motto.**  
The man who sows wild oats ought not to complain about the harvest.—Detroit Free Press.

# ILLINOIS NEWS

Choose items from over the State, especially selected for our readers.

## WOMAN'S DEATH IS A MYSTERY

Five Men Held for Slaying of Mrs. Anderson at Forrester.  
Mrs. John Anderson, wife of a well-known politician and saloon-keeper of Jackson county, was instantly killed by a bullet fired at a close range in a manner that has not been solved entirely to the satisfaction of the county officials, although five men are under arrest for being implicated in the affair. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson resided over the saloon which is conducted by Anderson. Prior to closing his saloon Friday night Anderson had an altercation with several men and finally forced them from the building.  
Saturday morning at 1 o'clock both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were awakened by a noise in front of the saloon and both, clad in their night clothes, went to the window. They saw five men as though they were fighting. In an instant a pistol shot rang out and Mrs. Anderson fell back from the window dead, the bullet taking effect in her heart.  
The coroner's jury ordered the arrest of Louis Swan, a prominent citizen and an ice dealer of the village; Enno Hochholder, William Dalabath and Emory and Herman Anderson, all of the Gray, is suspected of firing the fatal shot.

## MYSTERY IN A DOUBLE DEATH.

May Be Case of Murder, Despite Evidence of Suicide.  
Miss Nettie Rodgers, a comely young woman of Waverly, was found fatally wounded in her front yard, the wound being in the neck and several cuts and bruises on her body. She was dressed in her nightgown. Inside the house was found the dead body of Clement Gray, a young man who boarded at her home. His body was cut from ear to ear. The couple were known to have been engaged, and had several quarrels. From this fact and further facts that a hastily scrawled note was found in his gun-case, indicating that he had killed Miss Rodgers and was about to commit suicide, the coroner's jury concluded that the woman had inflicted mortal wounds on Miss Rodgers and had then taken his own life. This theory does not entirely fit the case, however, as an instructor in Chicago, a mysterious double murder has been committed.  
**Marriage Complication.**  
William Appert, Ottumwa, Iowa, and Margaret Harper of Alton were married Oct. 19. Zepp had another wife living from whom he was divorced fifteen days after his second marriage to Margaret. His clerk at Alton stopped the ceremony after issuing the license, but the couple took a preacher to St. Louis and were wed there to escape the provisions of the Illinois divorce law. It was supposed Zepp had been divorced two years at the time of his remarriage.

## LULL IN THE BROOMCORN TRADE

Manufacturers Appear to Be Indifferent as to Supply of Stock.  
Activity in broomcorn in the central district has been confined largely to the shipment of brush from warehouses, though this has been retarded to some extent by a scarcity of cars, most of which have been diverted to the grain trade. A few buyers remain in the district and they are picking up an occasional crop, but the sales have been so few, as to be scarcely noticeable. The indifferent attitude of manufacturers, who are not supplied with brush, is the most puzzling feature of the situation, but in the opinion of brokers there will be an unpleasant awakening when the pinch comes, early in the new year. Considerable Oklahoma brush is being received at warehouses, most of it having been poorly handled, so that rehandling is necessary before it is reshipped to the factories. There is no appreciable change in price, \$100 being still the top for brush of the best quality.  
**MANUAL TRAINING EXPERT.**  
Wilbert Shepard Drew, who was appointed superintendent of the manual training and trade school at the Pontiac reformatory by Gov. Donegan, has been an instructor in the Chicago manual training school for the last six years. He was graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of bachelor of sciences in the de-

## WEE LAD READS BIBLE LESSONS

Five-Year-Old Translates Latin, Having Mastered the Study Unaided.  
Samuel Laird, the 5-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Orley Laird, is amazing the people of Springfield by reading Bible lessons in the church which his parents attend.  
Those who are admitted to the Laird home circle say that the boy reads and translates Latin with the greatest ease, having mastered the language himself since last spring. He reads newspapers, magazines, or anything that falls into his hands.  
Mrs. Laird said that the first discovery that the lad could read when he was 2 years old. A visitor handed him a magazine opened at random and asked him to read. He began on a scientific article on the making of glass and pronounced the technical terms correctly.  
"Three years ago the Rev. A. A. Niles gave the boy a handful and offered to buy anything advertised thereon. Samuel chose a bunch of bananas. The boy is to start to school soon, and his teachers are much concerned over his classification.  
"To put him in a class with those of his own age would be a waste of time, not his parents, however, wish to class him as a phenomenon by putting him higher up.

## FINDS OLD CHECKS.

While looking through old papers left by the late Eben Lindy, W. H. Finch found \$1,300 in old checks, two for \$500 each, drawn by an express company, and one for \$300 drawn by the Pacific and Mexico banking company of San Francisco, all dated 1852, to the order of James Stearns. Mr. Stearns was a gold miner in California, and exchanged his dust for the Pacific and Mexico banking company. He died shortly after, having reached his home at Alto Pass without having told of the checks. An effort will be made to collect them.  
**Forest Fires Are Raging.**  
Forest fires which have been raging up and down the Illinois river have caused thousands of dollars damage and forced scores of families to seek safety in the higher land. The fires, started by careless hunters, are now beyond control, though the danger of their reaching any large buildings or towns is not imminent. Thousands of rabbits and small animals have been driven inland by the flames and hunters are reaping rich harvests as a result.

## Boys' Cigarettes Burn School.

The schoolhouse at West Alton was destroyed by fire. The blaze was discovered in the basement of the building about one hour after school was dismissed, and before assistance could be obtained the building was burned. The fire is thought to have been due to schoolboys climbing into the bellery to smoke cigarettes. The loss is about \$900.  
**Boys' Cigarettes Burn School.**  
The schoolhouse at West Alton was destroyed by fire. The blaze was discovered in the basement of the building about one hour after school was dismissed, and before assistance could be obtained the building was burned. The fire is thought to have been due to schoolboys climbing into the bellery to smoke cigarettes. The loss is about \$900.

## Aged Preacher Is Dead.

The Rev. Daniel R. Howe, former member of the Illinois Legislature, and one of the oldest Christian ministers in the state, died at Eureka, aged 83. He had been preaching in 1847, and only gave up the active ministry when forced to do so by old age. He was elected to the state legislature in 1866 and served one term.  
**Primary Law Decision.**  
Attorney General Stass has decided that the term "incorporated" as it is used in the primary election law does not mean a township, and that the new law does not apply to the nomination of township officers.  
**County Athletic Association.**  
A movement is on foot to organize an athletic association to be composed of public school pupils in the eighth grade in Perry county. Supt. Kimzey and Prof. Moore of Duquoin are among the promoters.

## Sues Road for \$10,000.

John J. Hill of Decatur, has brought suit for \$10,000 against the Wabash railroad company for damages because of the death of her husband, Joseph Hill, who was killed while working for the road.

## Fatally Burned Lighting Pipe.

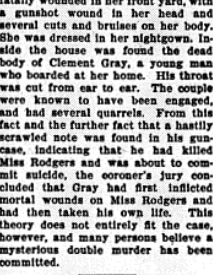
Clarence W. Smith, aged 58, agent for the Standard oil company at Anna, was fatally burned, his clothing igniting while he was lighting his pipe. He leaves a wife and three grown children.

## Shook Corn on Flooded Land.

Farmers in the vicinity of Oldenburg are engaged in shucking corn in the district flooded several weeks ago by Wood river. They are using boats to take the corn to the mill. Water has not subsided in some places.  
**Squirrel Hunter Is Hurt.**  
Clarence W. Smith, aged 58, agent for the Standard oil company at Anna, was fatally burned, his clothing igniting while he was lighting his pipe. He leaves a wife and three grown children.

## Great Corn Husker.

Frank Lindsbom of Pleasant Grove township claims the championship of Coles county as a corn husker, having made a record of 1,500 bushels in ten days, leading them two miles to an elevator.  
**Fatally Burned Lighting Pipe.**  
Clarence W. Smith, aged 58, agent for the Standard oil company at Anna, was fatally burned, his clothing igniting while he was lighting his pipe. He leaves a wife and three grown children.



WILBERT SHEPARD DREW.