

The CONVICT COUNTRY: or FIGHTING for a MILLION

By CHARLES MORRIS BUTLER

Author of "The Revenge of Power," "A Thousand Things," "The Dilemma,"
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CHAPTER XXIII—Continued.

The few days following the thirty incidents narrated above were comparatively happy ones for Louis Lang. In the deal with Whalen he had been picked and cut a little; the wound in his head gave him slight pain, and trouble. The strain on his nerves and his sensitive nature prostrated him temporarily. For a week or so he played the invalid. Perhaps he would have convalesced quicker or perhaps not at all if he had not been waited upon and tenderly nursed by Pearl Huntington and the good doctor, her father. There was something besides bodily sickness and pain that ailed him, and that was love.

The lack of the care and encouragement of a loving companion was what had made our hero the devil-may-care sort of an individual such as he appeared when Jim Denver met him in the basement saloon when the twin formed the co-partnership of attempting to win fame and a million. And Louis had fallen in love with Pearl Huntington.

Pearl was Louis' ideal of a woman; beautiful, graceful and pure. He was not a frivolous youth, but sensible and staid; and she of a frank, lovable disposition, fearless yet of that variety of womanhood known as "tender and clinging," without not dependent nor weak.

Louis was sitting in an easy chair, while Pearl was busying herself tidying up the sitting-room. They had been having another chat of the nature similar to the one recorded before them on the evening of the duel.

"I do not delude myself, Miss Huntington," said Louis, looking at her longingly, "into the belief that you really love me; it is gratitude, not love, that prompts you to say so!" She stopped her work and looked at



He rose from the chair, standing himself against the back.

him questioningly, then said as if in excuse for having made the statement: "There are a thousand women in this place who would be pleased to marry you!" Now that Louis was safe she was anxious not to allow him to draw her into a second admission of love without first finding out his true feelings in advance.

"But there is none here that I would be pleased to marry," returned Louis. "Why not?" she asked.

"Because I do not love them—I do not consider them proper women."

"Just you do not think there are any women in this place who would be pleased to marry you?" she asked.

"And there are 'pure' men here?" she asked.

"If you mean by 'pure' common, ordinary men who have never committed crime, yes," he replied.

"There are no men here that I would care to marry," she retorted.

"Why?" he asked.

"Well, I do not love— Besides, they are criminals now!" was her rather incoherent reply.

"Then you do not believe that there may be honorable men here, men like your father, for instance?"

"Oh, that may be, but they are very few."

"Then you would not marry a criminal if you really loved him?" he asked.

"Not if I could help it," she said—but just checking herself she added, "I would not care to marry a criminal and giving offense where none was intended, she added, 'But please do not take my remarks as personal!'"

Louis hit his lip and went on with the conversation. As if the remark had not been made, "You do not believe in reforming the fallen by marriage and then teaching them how to be good by good example?"

"No! Let them reform first!"

"You think it possible to reform? Don't you imagine that some of our so-called criminals have been made so through no fault of their own, that they would not be here, for example, if not detained by force?"

"Bad company sometimes makes weak-minded persons reckless!"

"Would you call it murder to kill a man in self-defense? Take my fight in the arena, for example. Was that murder?" he asked.

"No," she replied quickly, "that was

terly, "you could not see these faults. 'Love is blind,' 'Love is all goodness, love is forgiveness. I know that you do not love me."

"I cannot think of you as a criminal," she said, retreating a little, and paving the way for his admission, if he intended to make one.

"That's better," he replied, brightening up. "If you really believed that I perhaps I have been mistaken in you. Why do you come to this conclusion?"

"Because—"

"Because why?" he asked eagerly, with a hopeful gleam came in his eyes. She edged a little closer to him; she impudently thrust her arms around his neck. "Because I do love you! You are so noble, so brave. But at first I wanted you to tell me that you loved me. Oh, so much!"

He caught her in his arms and gazed into her face. "Then you don't despise me—and don't think me a criminal?"

"No," she replied, resting her head on his shoulder. "But I wanted you to tell me so, and not force me to guess it all."

"Believe, it is all I ask now," he said, kissing her. "The future can care for itself!"

The lovers were interrupted in their tête-à-tête by a knock at the door. Pearl, in answering the knock, was surprised to find "You here, Dr. Schiller!" she exclaimed.

"Is your husband at home?" asked the doctor blandly.

Calm as the king himself, yet wondering what he had done, he had come, she said, "Yes, Will, you walk in!"

And Dr. Schiller and Louis Lang at last confronted each other on equal terms.

"What can I do for you, sir?" Lang asked.

"Grant me a private conversation," said Schiller.

Louis dismissed his wife with a look on his hand. "Now, sir, your pleasure!"

Late that evening Dr. Schiller and Louis Lang shook hands at parting. Both seemed highly satisfied at something which had transpired during the time they were together. Lang kept his eyes on the retreating form of Schiller until lost in the darkness, then he called to the parlor. "Ask your father to step into the parlor a moment. I have something of importance to say to him!"

(To be continued.)

ILLINOIS BARRED REDUCES RATES

Makes Horizontal Cut of 20 Per Cent on Schedule Made in 1937.

NO INJURY TO THE RAILROADS

Carriers Have Already Put Into Effect Tariffs in Some Instances Lower Than Those Pronounced by the Commission.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 6.—The much heralded freight rate reduction in Illinois came Tuesday afternoon, when the Illinois railroad and warehouse commission announced a horizontal reduction of 20 per cent on the schedule made in 1937.

On paper the reduction looks as if it would seriously affect the railroads, but as a matter of fact, it will not. Since the beginning of the agitation over the freight rate matter the roads have been reducing rates to the mere clamor of the dissatisfied communities and in a large number of them the rates agreed upon by the commission and eleven lower ones are in force. Chicago and St. Louis carriers were given a substantial reduction and their rates will drop only about 1 per cent.

Smaller Towns Are Affected.

The most important result of the reduction is the effect on the shippers of the smaller towns, which are now put on an equality with shippers in the larger cities. Springfield, Decatur and Danville are the only cities of consequence where the reduction will be of more than a few cents. Many small towns are enjoying the commodity rates given to some of the other cities and in common with the large towns have benefited by the full tariff schedules.

Under the new schedule, which goes into effect Jan. 1, freight rates in Illinois will be slightly lower than the schedules of Iowa, Michigan and Ohio, but not so low as the actual rates given by the railroads voluntarily in these states and Indiana. There are local conditions in Indiana which make it a matter of interest to the railroads to give low rates.

The decision was made after an all-day conference with Gov. Denese. Isaac Elwood of De Kalb, who did not participate in the original hearing of the case and who also seldom attends a meeting of the commission, was present, and his name appears in the official order. There are rumors of bitter feeling over the freight rate matter, but nothing tangible can be learned. It understood that Chairman James Neville of Bloomington was for forcing a greater reduction and that the figures agreed upon are a compromise.

FORCE GIRLS TO MARRY. STRANGERS FOR MONEY

Foreigners in Western Canada Compel Daughters to Go to the Altar and Priests Lead Their Aids.

Winnipeg, Man., dispatch: An alarming state of affairs in regard to marriage regulations exist in western Canada among foreigners, according to a statement made by Father Stanislawski, editor of Polish paper and priest of the Polish Independent Catholic church in this city.

He declares that parents sell their children to men for a consideration and that they are married at ages as low as 13. This statement was made when he was shown an interview given by a Galician priest, who denied the existence of such a condition in affairs as charged by Mrs. Chlachom of Winnipeg at the W. C. T. U. convention held at Hamilton. Father Stanislawski said:

"I have known many cases of Polish and Galician girls of only 13 and 14 years of age being given by poor parents in return for money to be married to men they know nothing about and whatever they receive. Girls belonging to my own congregation have been married in this way, but not by me. If a man asks me to marry him to a child like this I tell him that I cannot do it. There are priests in this city, however, who will marry them readily enough, making the bridegroom say something of the sort or performing the ceremony because the girl is so young."

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Monday, Dec. 4, 1905.

The senate convened at noon, and prayer was offered. Mr. Dyer, of Illinois, introduced a bill (H. R. 20,000) to amend the act approved August 28, 1904, relating to the collection of duties on foreign goods. The bill was referred to the committee on Finance.

The House convened at 10 o'clock. The speaker, Mr. Clegg, delivered the opening prayer. The House then proceeded to the consideration of a bill (H. R. 10,000) to amend the act approved August 28, 1904, relating to the collection of duties on foreign goods. The bill was passed by a vote of 221 yeas to 163 nays.

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PLEASEANT FOR THE CALLER.

Admiral Evans at a dinner at Narragansett said, apropos of disappointment:

"The poor fellow's feelings in this misfortune may have resembled those of a young planter whom I knew in my youth in Virginia.

"The young man was in love with a girl of great beauty. She had many suitors and to all of them she was more partial than to my friend. But he, though snubbed continually, remained very faithful.

"One Sunday evening when he called, the girl's little brother admitted him. The youngster led him into the parlor, went upstairs to announce his name and then, returning, said: 'Sit down, Mr. Sparker. She will see you in a few minutes.'

"Sparker said in a relieved and cheery voice:

"I am glad of that. I was afraid she might say to be excused, as she has done so often before."

"No fear of that this time. I played a trick on her," said the little brother.

"How was that?" Sparker asked.

"Why," said the lad, "I pretended you were someone else."

WILL NAME FOUR CARDINALS

Vatican, However, Will Not Be Nominated Pending a Conciliary.

Rome Telegraph: The pope has expressed his intention to create Monsignore Cavalari, the patriarch of Venice, cardinal in pectore. His nomination, however, will not be published until after the next consistory of the cardinals to be created at the consistory of Dec. 11 will be only the four already known—namely, Monsignore Caplaini, Monsignore D'Azavedo, major domo of the vatican; Archbishop Sarmas of Flau, Hungary; Monsignore J. A. De Arcoveiro, De Albuquerque Cavalanti, archbishop of Rio Janeiro, and Archbishop Spinola of Seville.

PRICE OF SILVER IS GOING UP

Reaches 65½ Cents, the Highest Figure Since 1896.

San Francisco, Cal., special: Silver is jumping up in price. It is now 65½ cents an ounce, the highest price since 1896. Two months ago the market was at 50 cents. The demand is greater than the supply, the brokers say, and so the price is the higher. But they also say that in addition to a legitimate business demand there is also a speculative demand which must be taken into consideration.

DEATH OF FORMER ALDERMAN

Dropsy Claims Charles Cooke, a Milwaukee Politician.

Milwaukee, Wis., special: Charles Cooke, a former alderman of the fourth ward and this city's antagonist, was slain by a bullet from the chest when seven indictments for alleged grafting were returned by recent grand jurors, died Sunday night of dropsy after a long illness. Cooke was at one time a power in politics in this city and was repeatedly elected to the common council from the fourth ward.

WAGE WAR ON CHILD EMPLOYER

Many Warrants Served on Violators of Law in Toledo.

Toledo, O., special: State Inspector of Workmen and his assistants, Col. Bryan, are serving many warrants in the fight being waged against the violations of the child labor laws. The list is not complete, but it is understood that at least 100 factory and stores will have a lawyer to the courts on the charge of employing children of less than the legal age in their establishments.

MISSOURI CRUISE ON BABY.

Lost All His Hair—Scraped His Head—Blood Run—Gratified Mother Tells His Cure by Cuticura.

"When our baby, boy, was three months old he had the milk crust very thick on his head, so that all the hair came out, and it itched so bad he would scratch until the blood ran. I got a cake of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment. I applied the Cuticura Soap to his hair and on his head, and before I had used half of the box it was entirely cured, his hair commenced to grow out nicely again, and he has had no return of the trouble. (Signed) Mrs. H. P. Holmes, Ashland, Or."

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DEFENSE CANNOT BE CURED

By local application, as they cannot push the disease down. There is only one way to cure defense, and that is by constitutional remedies. The makers of the Cuticura medicine have discovered the cause of the disease, and have prepared a medicine which will cure it. The medicine is called Cuticura, and it is made of the best ingredients. It will cure the disease in a few days. It is sold in every drug store. (Signed) J. C. Bennett & Co., Toledo, O.

URUGUAY OFFERS POPE TO AMERICAN.

D. E. Salmon, who resigned as chief of the bureau of animal industry of the department of agriculture, has been offered a place by the government of Uruguay, which proposes establishing a system of beef inspection and desires Dr. Salmon to take charge. The salary is very large and he will probably accept.

SUBMARINE CABLES.

There are 376 submarine cables in the world, the length of which amount to 173,919 miles. Most of these belong to private parties, only 25,000 miles being owned by the various governments. All, however, bring daily orders from every land on the globe, for Pillsbury's Vitex, the all-day food.

IMPORANT TO MOTHERS.

Beware carefully every bottle of CAPTORINA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, sold by J. C. Bennett & Co., Toledo, O.

Don't be deceived by cheap imitations. The name of J. C. Bennett & Co. is on the wrapper.

HE'S ALL RIGHT.

Fido—Does your mistress keep any pets?

Mignon—Yes, a husband and a baby.

You never hear any one complain about "Defiance Starch." There is none to equal it in quality and quantity. It oucees, 10 cents. Try it now and save your money.

Still, it is pretty hard for the average American to understand why anybody should be proud to be a descendant of George V.

Lewis' Single Binder straight to cigar. Made of extra quality tobacco. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

A strong kangaroo can leap sixty feet.

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