

# THE OREGON MIST.

VOL. XVIII.

ST. HELENS, OREGON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1901.

NO. 36.



## The Convict's Daughter.

BY WILKIE COLLINS.

### CHAPTER I.

The gentlemen of the jury retired to consider their verdict. The foreman took his place at the head of the table. His colleagues seated themselves on either side of him. Then, there fell upon that assembly of men a silence, never known among an assembly of men—the silence which proceeds from a general reluctance to be the person who speaks first.

"Gentlemen," he began, "have you James any decided opinion on the case—the far? The prisoner waiting our verdict is the honorable Roderick Westerfield, younger brother of the present Lord Le Basque. He is charged with fully assisting away the British bark John Jermain for the purpose of fraudulently obtaining a share of the insurance money, and for feloniously possessing himself of certain Brazilian diamonds, which formed part of the cargo. In plain words, he is a gentleman born in the higher ranks of life accused of being a thief. He further appears to have outraged the feelings of his family by marrying a barmaid, and a person turned their backs on him, with the one exception of the head of the family. Lord Le Basque exerted his influence with the Admiralty and obtained for his brother an appointment to a ship. All the witnesses agree that Mr. Westerfield thoroughly understood his profession. If he could have controlled himself, he might have risen to very high rank in the navy. He quarreled with one of his superior officers—

"Under strong provocation," said a member of the jury.

"Under strong provocation," the foreman admitted. "The prisoner challenged the officer on duty to fight a duel, and, receiving a contemptuous refusal, struck him on the quarter deck. As a matter of course, Mr. Westerfield was tried by court martial and was dismissed from the service. At my lord's earnest request the owners of the John Jermain, trading between Liverpool and Rio, took Mr. Westerfield on trial as first mate. In a tempest, the coast of Africa the captain was washed overboard, and the first mate succeeded to the command. His seamanship and courage saved the vessel, under circumstances of danger which paralyzed the efforts of the other officers. He was confirmed in the command of the ship."

"There the foreman paused to collect his thoughts.

"After a certain term of service, gentlemen," he finally resumed, "the prisoner's merits appear to have received their reward. He was presented with a share in the ship. With improved prospects he sailed from Liverpool on his last voyage to Brazil; and no one, his wife included, had the faintest suspicion that he left England under circumstances which rendered his pecuniary embarrassment, the result of betting on horse racing. When he left Rio on the homeward voyage, there is no sort of doubt that he was returning to England to face creditors whom he was unable to pay."

"In plain English," said a jurymen, "you are saying that the prisoner is a scoundrel."

"In plain English," the foreman rejoined, "I refuse to answer that question."

"Why?"

"Because it is no part of my duty to attempt to influence the verdict."

"You have been trying to influence the verdict, sir, ever since you entered this room. I appeal to all the gentlemen present."

"The patience of the long-suffering foreman failed him at last. 'Not another word shall pass my lips,' he said, 'until you find the prisoner guilty or not guilty among yourselves—and then I'll tell you I agree to your verdict.'"

"He folded his arms and looked like the image of a man who intended to keep his word."

In the meantime nothing was said or done. Helpless silence prevailed in every part of the room.

"Why doesn't somebody begin?" cried an impatient jurymen. "Have you all forgotten the evidence?"

"This startling question roused the jury to a sense of what was due to their oath, if not to themselves. Some of them recollected the evidence in one way and some of them recollected it in another. The first man who spoke began at the middle of the story told by the witnesses in court."

"I am for acquitting the captain, gentlemen; he is ordered out of the boat and saved the lives of the crew. 'And I am for finding him guilty, because the ship struck a rock in broad daylight, and in moderate weather.' 'I agree with you, sir. The evidence shows that the vessel was directed dangerously near to the land, by the captain who gave the course.' 'Come, come, gentlemen, let us be the captain justice. The defense declares that he gave the customary course, and that it was not followed when he left the deck. As for his leaving the ship in moderate weather, the evidence proves that he believed he saw signs of a storm brewing.' 'Yes, yes, all very well; but what were the facts? When the loss of the ship was reported, the Brazilian authorities sent me to the wreck, on the chance of saving the cargo; and, days afterward, there the ship was found, just as the captain and crew had left her.' 'Don't forget, sir, the diamonds were missing when the sailors examined the wreck.' 'All right, but that's no proof that the captain stole the diamonds; and, before they had saved half the cargo, a storm did come on, and break the vessel up, so the poor man was only wrong in the matter of time after all.' 'Allow me to remind you, gentlemen, that the prisoner was deeply in debt, and, therefore, had an interest in stealing the diamonds.' 'Wait a little, sir. Fair play's a jewel. Who was in charge of the deck when the ship struck? The second mate. And what did the second mate do, when he heard that his owners had decided to prosecute? He was completely undecided. Is there no proof of guilt in that act?' 'You are going a little too fast, sir. The coroner's jury declared that the second mate killed himself in a state of temporary insanity.' 'Suppose we try a show of hands?' was suggested. 'Gentlemen who find the prisoner guilty will please hold up their hands.'"

"I write to you before my trial takes place. If the verdict goes in my favor, I shall destroy this paper, and, if I am found guilty, I must leave it for you to do what I should otherwise have done for myself."

"The undeserved misfortune that has overtaken me began with the arrival of my ship in the port of Rio. Our second mate asked leave to go ashore—and never returned. What motive determined him on deserting I am not able to say. It was my own wish to supply his place by promoting the best seaman on board. My owners' agents overruled me, and appointed a man of their own choosing."

"What nation he'd belonged to, I don't know. His name he gave was Beljames, and he was reported to be a broken-down gentleman. Whoever he might be, his manner and his talk were captivating. Everybody liked him."

"After the two calamities of the loss of the ship and the disappearance of the diamonds—these last being valued at five thousand pounds—I returned to England by the first opportunity that offered, having Beljames for a companion."

"Shortly after getting back to my house in London, I was privately warned by a good friend that my owners had decided to prosecute me for fully assisting away the ship, and for having stolen the missing diamonds. The second mate, who had been in command of the vessel when she struck on the rock, was similarly charged along with me. Knowing myself to be innocent, I determined, of course, to start my trial. My wife and my two children would do. We had separated in Cornwall, and had not met since."

"On the voyage home Beljames told me that a legless had been left to him; being a small freehold house and garden in St. John's Wood, London. While my mind was running on this recollection, I was told that a decent elderly woman wanted to see me. She proved to be the landlady of the house in which Beljames lodged; and she brought an alarming message. 'The man was dying, and desired to see me. I went to him immediately. 'Beljames had heard of the intended prosecution. How he had been made aware of it death left him no time to tell me. The miserable wretch had poisoned himself—whether in terror of standing his trial or in remorse of conscience, it is not any business of mine to decide. Most unaccountably for me, he first ordered the doctor and the landlady out of the room—and then, when we were alone, owned that he had purposely altered the course of the ship, and had stolen the diamonds. 'Having eased his mind by confession, he gave me the slip of paper which you will find inclosed in this. 'There is my note of the places where the diamonds were hidden,' he said. Among the many ignorant people who know nothing of cipher, I am one, and I told him so. 'That's how I keep my secret,' he said; 'write from my dictation, and you shall know what it means. Lift me up first.' As I did it, he rolled his head to one side, and the sign on his paper was not according to any known rule, and he marks made at random meaning nothing. 'The lawyers who are to defend me have tried to get experts, as they call them, to interpret the cipher. The experts have all failed. They will declare, if they are called as witnesses, that the signs on the paper are not according to any known rule, and are marks made at random meaning nothing. 'As for any statement on my part of the confession made to me, the law refuses to hear it except from the mouth of a witness. I might prove that the signs were changed, and that the directions after I had gone below to rest, if I could find the man who was steering at the time. Heaven knows that that man is—' 'On the other hand, the errors of my past life, and my being in debt, are circumstances dead against me. The lawyers seem to trust almost entirely in a famous counsel, whom they have engaged to defend me. For my own part, I go to my trial with little or no hope. 'If you are now my widow, and if you may have any love left for my memory, never rest until you have found somebody who can interpret the cipher on the diamonds. I will give you a hundred pounds, if you will read this gibberish.' 'If I am ever able to read this gibberish,' he said, 'I know what I'll do with the diamonds.'"

CHAPTER II.

Mrs. Westerfield laid the incomprehensible slip of paper aside, and, in search of an explanation, returned to a state of Here again she found herself in a state of perplexity. Directed to "Mrs. Roderick Westerfield," the letter began abruptly, without the customary form of address. Did it mean that her husband was angry with her when he wrote? It meant that he doubted her.

In these terms he expressed himself.

"You wear well," he said, admiring her. "Have you come here to be my barmaid again?"

"Do you think I am reduced to that?" she answered.

"Well, my dear, more unlikely things have happened. They tell me you depend for your income on Lord Le Basque—and his lordship's death was in the newspapers last week."

"And his lordship's lawyers continue say allowance."

"Having smartly set the landlord right in those words, she had not thought it necessary to add that Lady Le Basque, continuing the allowance at her husband's request, had also notified that it would cease if Mrs. Westerfield married again."

"You're a lucky woman," the landlord remarked. "Well, I'm glad to see you. What will you take to drink?"

"Nothing, thank you. I want to know if you have heard anything lately of James Beljames?"

"The landlord was a popular person in his own circle; not accustomed to restrain himself when he saw his way to a joke. 'Here's constancy!' he said. 'She's sweet on James after having jilted him twelve years ago!'"

"Mrs. Westerfield rose with dignity. 'I am accustomed to be treated respectfully,' she replied. 'I wish you good-morning.'"

"The easy landlord pressed her back into her chair. 'Don't be a fool,' he said. 'James is in London; James is staying in my house.'"

"Mrs. Westerfield's bold gray eyes expressed eager curiosity and interest. 'You don't mean that he is going to be barmaid here again?'"

"No such luck, my dear; he is a gentleman at large, who patronizes my house."

"Mrs. Westerfield went on with her questions. 'Has he left America for good?'"

"Not he! James Beljames is going back to New York, to open a saloon. He's in England, he says, on business. It's my belief that he wants money for this new venture, on bad security. His only chance of getting his bills discounted is to hump his relations down in the country."

"When does he come back?"

"He comes back to-morrow."

"Will you give a message to James?"

"I'll do anything for a lady of fortune."

"Tell him to come and drink tea with his old sweetheart to-morrow at six o'clock."

"He won't do it."

"He will."

"With that difference of opinion they parted."

(To be continued.)

Not as Stupid as He Seemed.

It was an old man in Sweden—so runs the tale as told in Short Stories—who gave to a stranger an answer that was wiser than it appeared. The stranger, one of a prospecting party searching for gold, had wandered away from the rest, to find himself at last with a fair piece of quartz as a reward for his pains, in a region he knew nothing of, with no guide, and night coming on.

"Friend," he asked of an old man smoking in his doorway, "how long will it take me to walk to the next town?"

"The old man eyed the speaker quizzically. 'Walk on,' he said, with a wave of his hand in the right direction.

"Yes, I know which road; but how long will it take me to walk there?" asked the stranger again.

"Walk on," repeated the smoker, stolidly.

## EVENTS OF THE DAY

### FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

A Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Presented in a Condensed Form Which is Most Likely to Prove of Interest to Our Many Readers.

Chinese officials are much disatisfied with terms of the treaty.

Ohio river steamer overturned in a squall and 16 passengers were drowned.

Rebels in Colombia and Venezuela continue operations in hopes of getting help.

Latest passengers from Nome bring stories of threatened destitution there this winter.

Constitution-Columbia race was declared off temporarily on account of heavy winds.

Latest estimate of visible wheat in the United States shows a decrease of 1,449,000 bushels.

Steel trust has started up several plants, but strikers contend that they have lost no ground.

Colombian minister assures Secretary Hay that traffic is entirely undisturbed in that country.

British surprised two Boer laagers and killed 23 men, but were unable to follow up their success.

England demands prompt punishment of authors of Chinese massacre or she will not withdraw her troops.

Cervera, the Spanish admiral, is to be presented with a loving cup for kindness shown American prisoners during the Spanish-American war.

Germany will soon establish a colonial army.

The United States may send more warships to Colon.

An Ecuadorian force is preparing to invade Colombia.

Von Waldsee hopes to become chancellor of Germany.

General MacArthur has arrived at San Francisco from Manila.

The results of the gulf storm were not so bad as at first reported.

Hayden, the embezzling treasurer of Swift & Co., cannot be found.

A force of Colombians invaded Venezuela, but were driven back.

San Francisco retailers have made a move towards ending the strike.

Kruger urges the British Nationalists to continue their efforts to secure peace.

Venezuelan officials blame the Colombian government for the present trouble.

The steel trust is landing non-union men at Monessen and will start up the mills there.

A Chicago trolley car collided with a passenger train, killing four and injuring 11 people.

Explosion of two cars of powder wrecked an entire train on the Southern Pacific near Glendale, Or.

The Alaska steamer Islander struck an iceberg and sank immediately, carrying down about 60 of the passengers and crew and \$250,000 in gold.

## WRECKED BY WAR.

MacArthur Says Philippines Are Pacified but Not Tranquilized.

Chicago, Aug. 21.—The following is a statement of General MacArthur, as regards the Philippines:

"War has wrecked the Philippines and laid waste whole districts. The people in many districts have relapsed into barbarism. The best conditions prevail in Northern Luzon. You may say that the whole territory is pacified, but not tranquilized, but it will not be many months before law and order are observed everywhere."

"While the conditions are not perfect, they are gratifying. A few groups of armed insurgents are still at large, but they will soon surrender, as their power is broken and they are not being aided by the natives. These natives have come to see that surrender does not mean death and they are coming in every week with their rifles."

"Throughout Northern Luzon the insurrection has been dead for some time, and there is freedom of movement. Still, a large criminal class there commits depredations on Americans and natives, though the latter suffer the most severely. The natives are earnestly seeking the establishment of civil government that they may root out these bands of criminals. There is every reason to believe that the whole country will soon be perfectly safe for travelers."

"At present there is some trouble in Samar, but General Hughes, with a large and effective force, has gone after them and will soon bring the insurgents to their senses. That is the worst place, but it is not interfering with the coast business. In Cebu and Bohol, and occasionally in Southern Luzon, there is a slight outbreak, but it is caused by the criminal element."

"The civil commission was about to put into force some excellent ideas for the municipal government of the City of Manila when I left. The city is in excellent condition, especially in its sanitary department, and its growth in business has been enormous."

The new 90 horse power boiler is in place at the plant of the Athens Flouring Mill Company. It is a huge affair, made entirely of steel, and is composed of two plates, tubes and ends. It is encased in brick and will add materially to the value of the plant, which is up-to-date in every respect.

Thrashing is now well under way throughout the Rogue river valley, and from all information that can be gathered the product of this year will be about one half a crop. The lightness of the yield this year is attributed to the lack of rain early in the season, considerable of the acreage having been cut for grain hay.

This is the driest season the Blue mountains have experienced for many seasons. An unusually heavy snow fell during the past winter, and it was hoped the water supply would be ample; but the intense heat of early July melted it all very rapidly, and now the mountain streams are fed by springs alone.

A case of smallpox has been reported at Howell, in Marion county. Panthers attacked a band of sheep on the North Coos river and killed over 20.

A good sized porcupine, which had been killing numerous chickens, was slain in Moro, Sherman county.

Owing to the great number of buildings being constructed in Pendleton, contractors are having difficulty in securing enough carpenters to do the work.

As an example of how the old donation land claims in Polk county are being divided into small farms, the Grant 640 acre claim, which for many years yielded a living for a family of only five, now affords homes for over 60 people, and there is yet much waste land in the tract.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, export value, 55¢@56¢ per bushel; bluestem, 57¢@58¢; valley, nominal.

Flour—best grades, \$2.90@3.40 per barrel; Graham, \$2.60.

Cats—\$1.15@1.30 per cental.

Barley—Feed, \$1.60@1.65; brewing, \$1.65@1.70 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$27 per ton; middlings, \$21.50; shorts, \$20; chop, \$16.

Hay—Timothy, \$11@13; clover, \$7@9.50; Oregon wild hay, \$5@6 per ton.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 17½¢@20¢; dairy, 14¢@15¢; store, 11¢@12¢ per pound.

Eggs—17¢ per dozen.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 11¢@11½¢; Young America, 12¢@12½¢ per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00@3.75; hens, \$3.75@4.75; dressed, 10¢@11¢ per pound; springs, \$2.50@4.00 per dozen; ducks, \$3 for old; \$2.50 for young; geese, \$4@4.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 8¢@10¢; dressed, 10¢@12½¢ per pound.

Mutton—Lamb, 8½¢ gross; dressed, 6¢@7¢ per pound; sheep, \$3.25 gross; dressed, 6¢@6½¢ per lb.

Hogs—Gross, heavy, \$5.75@6; light, \$4.75@5; dressed, 6½¢@7¢ per pound.

Veal—Small, 8¢@9¢; large, 7¢@7½¢ per pound.

Beef—Gross top steers, \$3.50@4.00; cows and heifers, \$3.25@3.50; dressed beef, 6½¢@7½¢ per pound.

Hops—12¢@14¢ per pound.

Wool—Valley, 11¢@13½¢; Eastern Oregon, 8¢@12½¢; mohair, 20¢@21¢ per pound.

Potatoes—90¢@1.00 per sack.

The present Kansas wheat crop is the highest grade ever known.

A ship load of Filipinos are to be tied on Hawaiian sugar fields.

The average net consumption of tea per head of population is 1.11 pounds; in England, 8 pounds per head.

A woman has just published a directory and gazetteer of the Yukon valley, Alaska, showing 16,000 names of residents.

## NEWS OF THE STATE

### ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF OREGON.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Importance—A Brief Review of the Growth and Improvements of the Many Industries Throughout Our Thriving Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

The water agate crop at Newport is of good size and quality.

The fruit driers around Albany will have their hands full this season.

A 30 foot steel tower has been ordered for the 400 pound firebell which was presented to the Athens hose company.

Jake Smith, who lives near Laylock creek, in Grant county, recently killed two rattlesnakes, one three and one half foot and the other three feet long.

Big forest fires are reported in the Florence Rock, Trail creek and Big Butte sections, of Josephine county. Some damage is being done to the timber.

The Owl and Elephant mines, in the Cable Cove district, have been sold to a Maryland syndicate for \$11,000. The new owners are going to run a tunnel in 600 feet on the vein.

The La Grande-Cove motor line is now assured and will be under construction this fall. It will extend through Island City, down the Grand Ronde river, direct to Cove. Its object is to further the interests of beet growing in a section believed to be especially adapted to it.

The new 90 horse power boiler is in place at the plant of the Athens Flouring Mill Company. It is a huge affair, made entirely of steel, and is composed of two plates, tubes and ends. It is encased in brick and will add materially to the value of the plant, which is up-to-date in every respect.

Thrashing is now well under way throughout the Rogue river valley, and from all information that can be gathered the product of this year will be about one half a crop. The lightness of the yield this year is attributed to the lack of rain early in the season, considerable of the acreage having been cut for grain hay.

This is the driest season the Blue mountains have experienced for many seasons. An unusually heavy snow fell during the past winter, and it was hoped the water supply would be ample; but the intense heat of early July melted it all very rapidly, and now the mountain streams are fed by springs alone.

A case of smallpox has been reported at Howell, in Marion county. Panthers attacked a band of sheep on the North Coos river and killed over 20.

A good sized porcupine, which had been killing numerous chickens, was slain in Moro, Sherman county.

Owing to the great number of buildings being constructed in Pendleton, contractors are having difficulty in securing enough carpenters to do the work.

As an example of how the old donation land claims in Polk county are being divided into small farms, the Grant 640 acre claim, which for many years yielded a living for a family of only five, now affords homes for over 60 people, and there is yet much waste land in the tract.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, export value, 55¢@56¢ per bushel; bluestem, 57¢@58¢; valley, nominal.

Flour—best grades, \$2.90@3.40 per barrel; Graham, \$2.60.

Cats—\$1.15@1.30 per cental.

Barley—Feed, \$1.60@1.65; brewing, \$1.65@1.70 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$27 per ton; middlings, \$21.50; shorts, \$20; chop, \$16.

Hay—Timothy, \$11@13; clover, \$7@9.50; Oregon wild hay, \$5@6 per ton.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 17½¢@20¢; dairy, 14¢@15¢; store, 11¢@12¢ per pound.

Eggs—17¢ per dozen.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 11¢@11½¢; Young America, 12¢@12½¢ per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00@3.75; hens, \$3.75@4.75; dressed, 10¢@11¢ per pound; springs, \$2.50@4.00 per dozen; ducks, \$3 for old; \$2.50 for young; geese, \$4@4.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 8¢@10¢; dressed, 10¢@12½¢ per pound.

Mutton—Lamb, 8½¢ gross; dressed, 6¢@7¢ per pound; sheep, \$3.25 gross; dressed, 6¢@6½¢ per lb.

Hogs—Gross, heavy, \$5.75@6; light, \$4.75@5; dressed, 6½¢@7¢ per pound.

Veal—Small, 8¢@9¢; large, 7¢@7½¢ per pound.

Beef—Gross top steers, \$3.50@4.00; cows and heifers, \$3.25@3.50; dressed beef, 6½¢@7½¢ per pound.

Hops—12¢@14¢ per pound.

Wool—Valley, 11¢@13½¢; Eastern Oregon, 8¢@12½¢; mohair, 20¢@21¢ per pound.

Potatoes—90¢@1.00 per sack.

The present Kansas wheat crop is the highest grade ever known.

A ship load of Filipinos are to be tied on Hawaiian sugar fields.

The average net consumption of tea per head of population is 1.11 pounds; in England, 8 pounds per head.

A woman has just published a directory and gazetteer of the Yukon valley, Alaska, showing 16,000 names of residents.