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RALPH HARDELLOT'S MEDIATION.

BY WILLIAM MINTO.

CHAPTER X—Continued.

But the time, as we have said, soon came when they were obliged to consider this point, and to decide in the midst of a very turbulent council. Five or ten minutes sufficed to extinguish the last remnant of resistance on the part of Rainham's followers. If they had thrown down their arms at once their lives might have been spared. But they were taken by surprise, obeyed the natural instinct to defend themselves, and fought with the desperation of men who expected no quarter. Their want of armor put them on an equality, man for man, with their assailants, who had greeted the advantage in numbers, and pressed in with reckless fury and bloodthirsty cries. Two or three were struck down at the entrance; three or four made a vain stand on the stairs leading up to the hall; the rest ran for their lives, and were chased and hacked down on the stairs and in the passages as they fled.

Ralph Hardehot stood at the door of the dungeon with the torch in one hand, and listened in breathless wonder and suspense to the frightful tumult overhead. Clara stood by him, her lips parted, trying to read in his eyes confirmation of the wild hope with which her own were sparkling. Hardened as Ralph was to the chances of war, his cheek was blanched by a passing qualm of terror as he realized the possible significance of the cries that rang down the dungeon stairs.

Their suspense did not last for minutes, but it seemed hours. Presently, through the din, a step was heard descending the dungeon stairs at a sedate pace. Simon d'Ypres appeared. He had not placed himself in the forefront of the battle. It was not his province. He had followed in at his leisure. He looked a picture of composure, and while Ralph and Clara gazed in speechless attention, and the knight raised his head from the floor, where he lay bound, to stare and listen, he proceeded to assure his friends that they had no cause for alarm and to explain what had happened.

But before he had gone far in his explanation, the clamor overhead, which had somewhat died down, suddenly swelled up again. The insurgents, pausing in the slaughter, had become aware that Rainham was missing, and the word that he was in the dungeon once uttered had passed from man to man in a second. A rush was made for the dungeon, and with confused yells of "Havo!" "Slay him!" "Hack him in pieces!" fell pell down the stairs they came.

Ralph, Clara and Simon had barely time to draw back hastily when a terrific figure in a tattered tabard, swinging a blood stained axe above flaming eyes and dishevelled hair, leaped into the dungeon. He stared round for an instant, shouting, "Where is he?" and almost as he spoke, discerning Rainham on the ground, brandished his axe and sprang forward.

Ralph was just in time to arrest his arm.

"He is here, my friend. But there has been enough of bloodshed."

The man paused for an instant and looked back at the wild crowd behind him.

"Leave him to justice. He is my prisoner," pleaded Ralph, endeavoring to push him back a pace.

"Enough of bloodshed!" echoed Simon, facing the crowd. "He is bound and a prisoner. We have him safe."

"Slay him!" "Make him safer!" came from the crowd.

The first comer shook Ralph's hand angrily from his arm, and menaced him with the axe. "I know not who you are," he cried, "but the devil shall not stand between me and him!"

Clara pulled back with a cry. The knight set his teeth and prepared for the worst.

"He has wronged me," shouted the man, turning with a fierce gesture to the crowd, rendered stationary for the moment by the unexpected interference. "All here know it. Has he not wronged me?"

"You shall have justice," said Ralph, standing between him and the knight.

"Justice!" he cried, with a wild laugh. "I am justice. Will you stand between him and justice? By what right? Make way, I say!" And he again made a menacing gesture with his axe. "Stand aside."

But an authoritative voice from behind cried, "Hold!" and Tiler pushed his way through the crowd, followed by Barnaby Smith and the men from the priory. Things had already gone far enough for them. They were mixed up in more than they knew how to answer for.

Tiler took hold of the handle of the uplifted axe. "Stay, my friend," he said. "Everything in order. This man shall have his deserts, but we must not put ourselves in the wrong. We are but the dogs of justice, not the executioners. We have followed the hue and cry, and caught the criminal, but it is not for us to punish him. We have caught him, and we will see that he is delivered over for punishment."

"He has broken every law of God and man," said a voice from the crowd. "He is a devil in disguise. Let him have his doom at once!"

"At once!" echoed the tatterdemalion. "Let him have his doom at once, I say!" And he struggled to see his axe.

But Tiler held firm. "Have no fear," he said. "He shall be called to account."

"Who will call him to account?" cried the voices from behind.

"Ay, who will call him to account?" said another, in tones of bitter incredulity.

"I will," said Ralph. "I will seek audience of the king himself, if the king's officers refuse to execute justice."

Simon d'Ypres smiled, but said nothing. With the bulk of the rustic audience this bold protestation had its weight, and the crowd finally assented. But confidence in the equitable administration of the law was not strong at the time. Many of them had misgivings as to whether they had done well to lose the opportunity. To have Sir Richard Rainham let loose among them again, made ten times worse by the indignities he had suffered, was not a pleasant prospect. Still, it was some consolation to them that they had shown their power to keep such men in check.

CHAPTER XI.

As he had promised to do, Ralph went himself to the chief justiciar and told that official what had been done, and besought him to put the wheels of the law in motion, that Sir Richard might be brought to trial. As was to be expected, the chief justiciar would do nothing. "Why should I take the matter up?" he asked.

"Because," said Ralph, "there is much danger in the fierce and turbulent spirit which I have seen close at hand among the poor commons. They complain that there is no justice for them, that strong thieves and robbers are allowed to plunder and maul them at will. They say that to take taxes from them and give them no protection in return is little better than robbery, and they threaten to take the law into their own hands."

"You are but young, Ralph. I know of these complaints and threats before you were born. They never come to anything."

"But they are more united now—"

Ralph began.

Sir John interrupted him with a wave of the hand. "I cannot enter into that, Ralph," he said, lightly. "But for the other matter I may do something. I will take your deposition as to the circumstances and hand it to the sheriff, who can take what action seems good to him. Philip," he said to his secretary, "take Master Ralph with you and write down what he says. You may leave the key of the dungeon with me. Give you good day, Ralph. If you should ever think of trying your fortune in the law, let me know."

Ralph bowed and thanked Sir John for his courtesy. As he was leaving, the latter called after him, "By-the-by, your brother is in the chancellor's service. If you know anything definite about the union of the laborers, you might communicate with him. They were strong enough to take Sturmere, after all."

With this the chief justice dismissed Ralph and the subject, and resumed his examination of his bailiff's accounts and plans.

And that was all that happened at that time to the end that Richard Rainham should answer for his crimes. The next day, as Ralph and his brother were riding by Castle Heddingham, or rather were walking, leading their horses, having met Clara and a nun in whose company she was, they met a hawk party, in which were the king and Sir Richard Rainham. The king had heard Rainham's side of the story, and was anxious to hear the other side, so he ordered that Ralph, and also his brother, be sent to him. Ralph's generosity in saving the knight's life appeared strongly to him, but the act was not so agreeable to Sir Simon Burley, the king's prosecutor. He was rather inclined to curse the interference which had prevented the removal of a troublesome subject, and saddled him with an annoying difficulty. But the king was much too young to look at the cares of state in a statesmanlike spirit. The chivalry of the action captivated his imagination, and the cleverness with which the knight had been made prisoner in his own dungeon touched his sense of humor all the more after he had seen the huge bulk of the doctory champion. "A duel between such a Goliath and a David," he had remarked to his friend Oxford, "would be a pastime. We must see this David." Both boys were inclined to laugh at the discomfited giant and to side with his youthful antagonist.

The king was prepossessed in Ralph's favor, and the sight of the young man so manly and yet so modest and respectful in his bearing, pale with suppressed excitement, yet thoroughly self-possessed, confirmed the prepossession.

"This is a creature of another mould, Verus," he whispered to Oxford, who sat by his chair on the dias in the hall of Castle Heddingham. The great hall, the whole second floor of the castle, was divided into two by a curtain, which hung beneath an arch spanning the whole breadth between wall and wall. The ladies, still in their hunting habit, watched the scene from the galleries of the noble room.

Burley undertook the task of questioning Ralph.

"Is it true," he asked, after some formalities, "that you are one of the new order of priests whom his grace the archbishop has interdicted?"

"It is true, sire," said Ralph, ad-

ressing his answers to the king, "that I put on the habit of a simple priest, but I did not then know of any interdict. I wore the habit only for a day, and my purpose is not to wear it again till the king is persuaded that our work is for the advantage of religion and of the realm."

"We hear," continued Burley, "that some of you simple priests advise the commons not to render rent or service to wicked lords—that is to say, lords whom it pleases you to consider wicked. Do you expect the king's sanction for such doctrines as this?"

"I know nothing, sire," answered Ralph, stoutly, "of any such doctrine. On the contrary, I have heard my Master Wycliffe repeatedly say, and ground his words on the authority of the holy apostle St. Paul, that all dues were to be rendered faithfully to earthly lords, however sinful they might be in their lives. This we do maintain, that tithes should not be paid to priests or monks or spiritual lords who are notorious evil liver, but we distinguish between the offerings of the people for spiritual labor and obligations of rent or service."

"You have disputed in the schools, I presume?" said Burley.

Ralph bowed his head with dignity, but gave no verbal answer.

"How comes it," continued his questioner, "that you were found in company with those who would destroy all obligation of rent and service, all lordship and gentility?"

Burley asked the question with some sternness. He was himself at variance with some of his villains regarding their respective rights and duties.

"I know not who is meant, sire," said Ralph, addressing his answer to the king.

"The pretended merchants with whom you were traveling. Their real traffic was in seditious papers, intended to puff up foolish villains with the delusion that they hold their land by free tenure."

"Of that, sire, I was ignorant," said Ralph.

"They would not have ventured their lives for you," Burley remarked, "if you had not been in their confidence."

"I knew nothing of the merchandise they carried," said Ralph.

"Did you hear no seditious talk among them?"

"I heard the leader, who called himself Simon d'Ypres, speak of the extortions and injustices of tyrannical lords, and he seemed to be hopeless of redress from the good will of the lords themselves, and to think that the commons should take the law into their own hands and avenge themselves on their tyrants."

"The truth is becoming manifest now," muttered Burley.

"A dangerous knave, sire, this Simon d'Ypres," said De la Pole.

Ralph threw himself before the king on one knee.

"I pray, sire," he pleaded, "that you will not deem it presumption in one so young as me to speak in the presence of these venerable counsellors. But I put my life in your hands, and with my whole heart beg you to cause inquiry to be made into the grievances of these men, and to grant them redress if it should seem to you that they suffer wrong. Believe me, sire, they are not wanting in loyalty to you, their sovereign lord. It is but despair that makes this Simon d'Ypres speak of the commons taking the law into their own hands—despair of their grievances coming to the ear of the king, mistrust of the law as blind and deaf to their cries for justice. And it is this despair that makes them hearken to the preachers of wild and dangerous doctrine. Noisy babblers tell them that the king and his nobles care nothing for them, and how can they believe otherwise if they are left to the tender mercies of their local tyrants, and their cries for protection are unheeded? Oh, sire, evil days are in store, if you suffer the poor commons to be plundered at the will of ruthless lords."

"Presumptuous youth!" interrupted Burley, who, while Ralph was speaking, had glanced over certain letters which his secretary had handed to him.

"Foolish parrot of sedition, do you dare to menace our sovereign lord the king? You have given this conceited clerk, sire, audience enough. I have here more important matters for your majesty's consideration."

(To be continued.)

EXCUSED FROM THE JURY.

After Having Naively Turned a Good Laugh on the Judge.

A young man whose features and flashing eyes betokened great earnestness was summoned before Judge McCarthy of the city court the other day for jury duty. He immediately asked to be excused. When the judge asked him what excuse he had for not serving, he replied:

"I believe it is a rule of the court that the jury is the sole judge of the facts and the only weigh the facts as presented by the evidence, not taking into consideration any of the rules of law governing the case; wherefore all lawyers are exempt from jury duty."

"But are you a lawyer?" asked Judge McCarthy.

"No, but I have been a close student of the law for many years."

"If I am afraid that I cannot excuse you if you are not a lawyer," said the court, smiling.

"But," continued the young man, with great earnestness, the color mounting to his temples, "I am sure, if your honor knew as much law as I do, your conscience would not allow you to serve on a jury."

After the bench and bar had recovered from this naive outburst the judge told the young man that if it was a matter which affected his conscience so deeply he would excuse him, and a very much abashed youth left the courtroom.

—New York Times.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

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.

Kansas is suffering greatly for want of rain.

The plague has reappeared in Cape Colony, S. A.

Fire at Quincy, Ill., destroyed property valued at \$230,000.

WITH DEADLY EFFECT.

Explosion in a Barrack Kills or Injures Hundreds of Nicaraguans.

Managua, Nicaragua, April 22.—A severe explosion occurred on the night of April 16. A large two-story barrack near the lake front, and in the center of the city, was blown to fragments. Between 100 and 200 officers and soldiers are reported to have been killed and many soldiers and other persons are reported injured. A large number of houses near the barracks, including the National hotel, the Central telegraph station, and the National palace, were damaged or wrecked. President Zelaya was absent at Mayasa at the time of the explosion, but he hurriedly returned to Managua. He has published a statement, in which he at-



ATTORNEY GENERAL W. B. STRATTON

Of the state of Washington, who has entered a motion before the United States supreme court for leave to file a bill of complaint against the Northern Securities Company on behalf of the state of Washington. The briefs were accepted by the supreme court.

Two masked men held up and robbed 17 laborers near Corinne, Utah.

President-elect Palma is in Cuba. He was enthusiastically received.

The British press is much perturbed over J. P. Morgan's steamship combine.

The senate has passed the river and harbor bill carrying \$70,000,000 in appropriations.

General E. Daniel, charged with embezzling \$40,000 at Seattle, has been discharged.

In a fight between cattlemen near Collinsville, Cherokee Nation, one man was killed and three mortally wounded.

The United States supreme court has made a ruling that the law requiring Chinese to hold certificates is still in force.

The state of Washington has been granted leave to file a complaint against the Northern Securities Company by the United States supreme court.

The streetcar men of San Francisco are on strike.

Brussels is quieting down and assuming normal conditions.

Frank R. Stockton, the well known novelist, is dead at Washington.

Guantanamo has been decided upon as the American naval station in Cuba.

J. P. Morgan is said to have completed a plan to combine all the great trans-Atlantic lines.

The steamer City of Pittsburg burned near Cairo, Ill., and 75 people are supposed to have perished.

There is considerable uneasiness in Peking over the imminence of a clash between Chinese and foreign troops.

Bocsa, Colombia, has surrendered to the rebels. The United States gunboat Machias has landed a force to protect American interests.

In the presence of a distinguished assemblage, including President Roosevelt, Governor Odell and Seth Low, Professor Butler was installed as president of Columbia university.

Most of the Moscow rioters may be exiled to Siberia.

China has protested against the extension of the exclusion law.

The house passed the Cuban bill removing the differential on sugar.

Going to Thunder Mountain.

The Northern Pacific Railroad has published a map of the Thunder Mountain country in Idaho, with a good description of that great mining camp, also complete information about reaching Thunder Mountain by railroad and stage routes. Also the cost of getting there. This map will be mailed on application to A. D. Charlton, Portland, Oregon, or Chas. S. Fee, St. Paul, Minn., or to any agent of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

Enrique Santibanez, second secretary of the Mexican embassy in Washington, D. C., was killed by a bullet from a New York girl knocked down by the fender of a street car escaped death, but has her hair cut off by the car wheels.

Commodore Howell, of the navy, has perfected a method of transforming soft coal into a smokeless product. The coal is reduced to powder and made into bricks.

tributes the disaster to the work of conspirators. He says that tons of dynamite and a large quantity of powder were stored in the barracks. The actual causes which led to the explosion have not yet been determined.

After the first explosion the police notified people temporarily to leave the city, as it was thought the burning building still contained dynamite. Large numbers fled to the suburbs. The first explosion was followed by sev-

eral minor detonations, supposed to have been caused by the explosion of packages of gun powder. The people who fled the city are now returning. The fragments of those of the dead who were blown to atoms are being buried. Lowest estimates of the damage caused by the explosion are around 5,000,000 pesos.

Insurgents Surrendering.

Manila, April 22.—Surrenders to the American authorities of small parties of insurgents are reported daily, and these have increased since the recent surrender of the insurgent general, Malvar. General Rufino, with 26 officers and 375 soldiers, has surrendered to the native constabulary in the province of Misamis, in Mindanao, where the constabulary is co-operating with the military.

Kansas City Swept by Fire.

Kansas City, Mo., April 22.—A destructive fire visited the southwestern part of this city during the day, laying waste a section of dwelling houses almost a quarter of a mile long and a block wide, and doing damage to the amount of \$75,000. A spectator was seriously injured by a falling piece of iron and a fireman was overcome by heat. About 60 dwellings houses were destroyed, and 60 or more families were rendered homeless.

Crises Not Yet Passed.

The Hague, April 23.—The condition of Queen Wilhelmina is unchanged. Her physicians say it is impossible to predict the date of the crisis in her illness. An extraordinary cabinet council was held today. The meeting engendered numerous rumors concerning a decision in the matter of the regency, but it is said upon good authority that this matter was not discussed at the council.

Belgian Strike Declared Off.

Brussels, April 22.—At a general council of the labor party it was resolved that work by the strikers in all sections should be resumed. The council issued a manifesto to the working men to this effect this afternoon. The anticipated announcement by the crown of the dissolution has not yet been made.

Great Northern Flyer Wrecked.

St. Cloud, Minn., April 22.—The Great Northern flyer, west bound, collided with an east bound freight train near Watab, a few miles from here. Both engines and several cars on the freight train were demolished. One lady passenger on the flyer and four of the train crew were injured, but none of them seriously. The wreck blocked the tracks and delayed traffic for several hours. The freight should have sidetracked at Watab.

TO FILE COMPLAINT

SUPREME COURT GIVES PERMISSION IN MERGER CASE.

The State of Washington Thus Compels the Northern Securities Company to Answer Its Charges of Illegal Consolidation—Subpoenas will be issued Returnable in October.

Washington, April 23.—The United States supreme court has granted leave to the state of Washington to file an original bill for an injunction against the Great Northern Railway Company, the Northern Pacific Railway Company, and the Northern Securities Company, in connection with the petition of that state recently filed in the courts. The opinion in the case was delivered by Chief Justice Fuller, who stated that the court had always exercised the utmost care in its proceedings in original cases, and that the present decision to grant leave to file was intended to be entirely without prejudice to either party at interest.

The chief justice's opinion was very brief, and consisted entirely of a view of original cases of the same character which have been brought to the attention of the court. The two most important of the cases thus cited were the case of the state of Louisiana vs. the state of Texas, concerning the quarantine regulation of the latter state, in which leave was given to file, and the state of Minnesota vs. the Northern Securities Company, in which the petition to file was denied.

Referring to the latter case, the chief justice said the petition had been refused because of the insuperable objection that indispensable parties to the case could not be brought into the court. This objection did not, however, confront the court in the present case, and the court felt that, because of its desire to proceed with the utmost care and deliberation in all cases where original actions are brought in this court, the precedent of the Louisiana-Texas case should be followed rather than that of the Minnesota case in the present instance. Hence leave to file would be granted, and subpoenas would be issued, returnable on the first day of the next term of the court in October.

Earthquake Caused Much Damage.

Mexico City, April 22.—The earthquake Friday evening covered a large extent of territory and reached down into Central America. The lower section of the Pacific coast of this country felt the shock very severely, and at Tapachula, an important town in the state of Chiapas, near the Guatemalan frontier, the damage to property is estimated at fully \$1,000,000.



OREGON ODD FELLOWS HOME, AT PORTLAND. To be dedicated April 26, the eighty-third anniversary of the founding of the order.

Strike at Oregon City.

Oregon City, April 23.—Eighty weavers employed in the woolen mills owned by the Oregon City Manufacturing Company have walked out, owing to a disagreement over the scale paid for piecework on the looms. The plain weavers, who weave blankets, flannels and other plain material, have been receiving 3 cents per yard for their work.

To Succeed Gillilan.

Honolulu, April 14.—The special election held April 9 to choose a successor to the late Representative A. F. Gillilan resulted in a victory for the Republican candidate, W. W. Harris, against August Dreier, nominated by the home rulers and endorsed by the Democrats. The vote was Harris, 881; Dreier, 670.

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OREGON NATIONAL PARK.

The Bill Creating One at Crater Lake Passes the House.

Washington, April 22.—Representative Tongue has secured the passage of his bill for the creation of the Crater Lake National Park in Southern Oregon. The bill withdraws from settlement, entry or occupancy, a tract of 249 square miles, including and surrounding Crater Lake. Control of the park is to rest with the secretary of the interior, who shall provide rules for the protection and preservation of the natural objects, game and fish, and properly guard against trespassers, and, with an adequate force of wardens, prevent and extinguish forest fires. Settlement is not to be allowed in the park, nor can lumbering or other business be therein conducted, although tourists, pleasure seekers and scientists will at all times have free access. Authority is granted for issuing permits for the erection and maintenance of restaurants and hotels for the accommodation of visitors.

In order to secure the passage of the bill by unanimous consent Mr. Tongue had to accept several amendments. A provision was inserted permitting the location of mines within the park, although he contends no minerals are to be found there.

There has been a continual fight against this bill ever since Mr. Tongue first introduced it. Within the past 10 days however, he has been at work with the several departments, and finally secured the approval of the president and secretary of agriculture to the pending bill. At the request of the president the speaker allowed the bill to be considered, a thing never before done, and its passage followed. It is not believed there will be any difficulty in securing its passage through the senate.

COSTLY FIRE AT DALLAS.

The Texas City Suffers From Supposed Incendiary Blazes.

Dallas, Tex., April 22.—Two persons were fatally injured and a property loss of \$350,000 caused by several fires which occurred here shortly after 3 a. m. At that hour an alarm was turned in from the Dorsey printing establishment, and several other alarms from different parts of the city were turned in in quick succession. After fighting the fire for two hours, Chief Magee was prostrated, and the command was turned over to an assistant. The chief was rescued from the flames by the police in an unconscious condition, but was later reported to be out of danger. A fireman was struck in the face with a brick and fatally injured. A young son of Chief Magee was found on the floor of the engine room at the central station with a fractured skull. It is supposed that the lad attempted to slide from the bunk room to the engine room and fell to the floor below. He probably will die. The Dorsey Printing Company's plant was totally destroyed, the loss being about \$200,000.

While the Dorsey fire was in progress a fire broke out on Lamar street and 20 buildings were destroyed. Half of them were business houses and the remainder boarding houses and dwellings. The Griffith Lumber Company is one of the principal losers in that section of the city, where it is estimated the loss will aggregate \$150,000, of which the Griffith company sustains \$50,000. The loss of a large implement company is not accurately known. About a dozen smaller mercantile and manufacturing establishments were destroyed.

While the two big fires were raging a third broke out in the residence district of Fisher Lane, in South Dallas, two miles distant, which destroyed four cottages worth \$20,000. Insurance men are positive that the fire on Fisher Lane was incendiary, and the police and fire departments are strongly inclined to believe that all were due to incendiaries.

Death Roll Does Not Shrink.

Cairo, Ill., April 23.—After searching two days the death roll of the burned steamer City of Pittsburg has not been reduced any from the first reports. Of the 145 persons who were on the boat when it burned, a careful estimate of those who were aboard the steamer puts the loss of life at 63 at the lowest, and the opinion of some is that the list will approximate 100. Of this appalling death list only three bodies have been recovered and identified. All of the injured are being well cared for, and are recovering. All who escaped from the burning boat without their effects have been clothed and made comfortable, and most of them have departed for home.

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