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MISS MILNE AND I.

CHAPTER XVII—Continued.

Fortunately for me the eyes of the colonel were still fixed upon the fire, or my rapid change of color must have awakened his suspicions. As it was, I do not, judging from what followed, think he noticed the change in my voice and manner.

"I think I know to whom he refers; she is a nurse in the inclosure who has obtained, by her kindness, a great hold over Warren."

"But why should she interest herself in our behalf?"

(Now for a lie, or the truth—which? A little of both.)

"From what I hear, simple goodness of heart prompted her."

"Really, really!"—this musingly; then aloud: "If you get the opportunity, I should be deeply grateful to you if you would convey our thanks to her."

"Indeed, I shall be very glad to do so."

"Now," said the colonel, in a different voice, and as though beginning a new chapter, "now about yourself. I will rake up no more of the past than is absolutely necessary. I felt it to be my duty, while in England, to place myself in opposition to certain hopes of yours, Doctor Rigby, and, if I remember, you admitted, after you had had time to think the matter over, the justice of the course I had adopted. Your manner at the quarantine station, and certain remarks and actions of yours led me to suppose that those hopes of yours are not dead. May I ask is that so, Doctor Rigby?"

My elbows were on the table and my face hidden in my hands. Without looking up, I replied, "It is so, sir."

"Well, now, Dr. Rigby, I have given this matter my most anxious thought, with this result: We like this new country; the warm climate suits my old bones, and Edith's health is better; the people, as far as we have seen them, are pleasant and agreeable. The one or two friends we have made we like extremely, and then there are now neither associations nor attractions nor ties of any kind in the old country that bind us to it. I am not anxious to influence you unfairly, but it does appear to me that you are likely to succeed in your profession here. Just now you are very unfortunately situated, but after your great service to the colony, it is extremely improbable that the government will allow you to go unremunerated, and I might perhaps mention that, owing to a recent death, if our hopes are realized, my daughter would not come to you portionless. But, of course, the whole question centers, as far as I know, on that terrible woman and her vengeance. Now you will forgive me for having told all I know of the matter to our mutual friend, Doctor May. He has proved himself a stanch and trustworthy friend, and even a short acquaintance has given me a very high opinion of his judgment and ability. Neither he nor I think it within the bounds of possibility that her influence ever can reach you here, so that, my dear boy"—he had risen to his feet, and was now walking across the room to me—"it now only remains for me to congratulate you on this satisfactory ending of what has been for all of us a time of terrible anxiety. And Edith, poor child—she has been very constant to you, Rigby—her happiness will be very great."

He had, during the last few words, put his hand with great tenderness upon my shoulder, and I, all the time—what shall I say for myself? No struggle had gone on within me; I had lost the power of struggling; every sense was in abeyance. Dazed and stupid, I rose to my feet, and my bloodless face told its own tale. The room went round and round, the pictures on the wall danced before me like little hills seen through the morning mist. I seized the table to support myself. The colonel made some exclamation of astonishment, and stepped back from me; then I sank again into my chair, and covered my face in my hands. Then the colonel came up behind me, and putting both hands on my shoulders, asked with all kindliness what it all meant.

"Are you not happy? Are you not pleased? Have I not granted you the wish of your heart? Is there more I could do for you, Doctor Rigby—will you not speak to me?"

"Give me a second, give me a minute; for God's sake, give me a minute!" was all the reply I could make.

Then he walked up and down the room, and I tried to collect myself. At length, when I had wasted some minutes in the vain endeavor, the colonel lost patience. Resting his hands on, and leaning over the side of the table opposite me, he asked: "Doctor Rigby, is there another ghastly secret involved? If so, be brave and tell me straight out; I can bear this suspense no longer."

"Colonel Pelham, Miss Milne is in Sydney; she is at the quarantine station; she sent Warren with you. She saved your life—but she's there."

"Good God, Rigby! is this—can this be so?" Then, after a moment's pause: "Did the woman know whom she was saving?"

"She did."

"Is it possible that she will now forego her vengeance? But why do I ask? What woman of that order ever did?" Then half aloud and half to himself, he groaned out: "Edith, Edith, my poor, poor girl, back to your melancholia, back to your terrible melancholia!"

The mention of Edith's name, and the probable effect of this new trouble upon her, brought me back to my senses; by a supreme effort I regained command of myself, and as steadily as I could I walked across the room to him.

"This new black cloud, Colonel Pelham, has one little bit of silver lining that the other had not. I can never forget that I have regained your confidence, and that but for this woman Edith would have been mine, and your blessing would have been on us. But, sir, we must try and think of her—of saving her from the knowledge of this woman's presence. I heard you mutter something of her going back to melancholia; that must not be, though the gods seem pitted against us. I have a feeling in my heart that things will come right."

"Never, Rigby; the gods are against us, and it seems to me they cannot recall their curses. But must you not be going? It is very late; daylight will be breaking before you get back. For your safety's sake, you——"

"Safety—my safety! What do I care for my safety now?" I almost shouted, and for the first time my eyes filled with helpful tears.

"You had better go, Rigby. You spoke, just now, of a hope you had. For its sake, go!"

Mechanically, and as in a dream, I put on my hat. The good, thoughtful old fellow poured me out a large glass of beer and made me drink it. Then we silently shook hands and parted. I did not awaken May—I had had enough trouble without repeating that night's story to him—but made straight for the road Warren had recommended. I had neither the strength nor the energy to dodge the police; I marched boldly and firmly on, with the careless desperation of one who knows that the worst has happened. I think I must have had some kind of hysteria, for I remember holding a conversation with the Fates as I walked along, and stopping to laugh aloud as I got the best of the argument. I lost all feeling of tiredness, and went half a mile out of my way to see the big rock over which I clambered the night Edith was wrecked; I stood on the top of it, and said aloud (still addressing the superior powers): "Look, gentlemen! one jump and I could stop all your fun." Then I laughed again; then I sat down on the rock and burst into tears—mad, hysterical tears; then the madness was over and gone, and a new and better feeling awoke within me.

CHAPTER XVIII.

"You will find it too damp to sit there, I am afraid, Miss Milne; the foam has been breaking over these rocks."

"Oh, thank you, but I don't mind. I am not a hot-house plant, and then I thought one could not catch cold from sea water. Now, can you spare me half an hour?"

"Yes, if we are safe?"

"We're perfectly safe here; that's why I chose this spot. I have walked here for hours; before Warren came I used to come here every night."

"You must have found it horribly lonely."

"It was neither lonely nor horrible. These great rocks were my companions, and the waves were by orchestra; there is scarcely one of them I have not made a friend of and told my troubles to. The poets talk of 'sermons in stones,' now," said Miss Milne, turning sharply round on me, "that's exactly what they are not. They never preach at you, and that's why I like them. Lonely, indeed! Look at that flat rock down below there, with your bath in the center. I have pictured it swarming with water-nymphs—spirits, or whatever else you choose to call them. But you are wondering what made me ask you down here tonight. Well, I hardly know myself; I wanted to have a talk with you before I go."

"Go! Where are you going?"

"I am going from here; I have applied to be removed."

"But we all have, and none of us can get away."

"But I can, and if you want to go very much I can get you sent for. But, then," she added, thoughtfully, "what about Warren? He can't be left here."

"I don't see how he can possibly get away."

"Oh, he can get away easily enough; but the question is, will he leave his wife?"

"If his wife were under me, instead of old Moore, I would report her as well, as, of course, she is perfectly well, and so get her off. But how could Warren get away?"

"Easily," said Miss Milne. "He has been to Sydney four or five times with letters for me."

"To Sydney?"

"Yes," she replied, with a little laugh; "via Manley, by the steamer, and waved a handkerchief to me as he sailed by. But I think your idea is a good one; I will get the doctor to report Mrs. Warren well from smallpox, but ill from the loss of her husband. Then I want him to go up country with her and the children, and take up a selection; I can find the necessary funds."

"You?"

"Yes; I have fifty pounds in the bank at Sydney, and I have forty due to me from the Government. Now, it is very unlikely that I shall be able to go to either, so tomorrow I will get conveyed to you, if you will allow me, a letter containing an order on the Government, and a check on the bank. You must arrange to meet Warren somewhere and give him the ninety pounds; that will make him safe from detection."

"But, Miss Milne, why give him all your money? Why can't you go yourself for it? And why all this mystery with me?"

"I don't know," she said. "I did not mean to be mysterious when I came down here tonight. The fact is, I am intensely miserable. My life has been one gigantic failure, and now I am beginning to feel it. I am absolutely alone in the world. When society kicked me out I swore society should regret it. Since then my hand has been against every man's, and every man's hand against me, and every woman's too, for the matter of that—and they are the harder of the two. But society has had the better of it. Since my boy died——" (She paused for some seconds.) "Ah, I had great schemes for him; he would have avenged his mother. I read night and day the sneers of atheists, the dreams of the republicans, the plottings and arguments of the dynamiters. I would have saturated him with them, had he lived, and he would have been a thorn in society's side."

"Then it was well he died," I could not help saying.

"Perhaps—perhaps; but I don't know. He would have been a man, and a man only requires a moderate amount of sense, and the pluck to think differently to other people, to be successful."

Then, after a pause, and very seriously: "I wish I was with him without the shock of getting there."

"But, tell me, have you no fear of death apart from the momentary shock?"

"None. Had there been half the design in the world that religious people believe in, I should have been dead long since."

"Why?"

"Because I have failed as a woman, and ought to have been taken back to the factory again years ago, to begin at the other end—the potato end. Possibly I should make good potatoes."

"'Tis strange to hear a woman talk like this!"

"Why? Have you such a wonderful fear of death, Dr. Rigby? Do you think it a thing to be avoided by everybody?"

"No, not by everybody. Now, for instance—who shall I save? Take Warren, before he came under your influence. I thought, when I heard he had committed suicide, that is was for everybody concerned (himself included) a very wise and politic step."

"I thought so, too; but let us change this interesting subject; I want to talk to you of something else. Now, you must not mind telling me—this Miss Phillips, or Pelham, or whatever she calls herself, are you still in love with her?"

Miss Milne did not look up; if she had done so the moonlight would have been sufficient to show her the telltale blood rushing to my face, and no reply would have been necessary. But she sat with her hands on her knees, gazing out to sea.

"Why do you ask? Why broach the subject, when you know as much as I do?" I said, taking no notice of the covert insolence of the question.

"I ask," she said, "not because I want to know, for I do know, but because it was a convenient and conventional way of opening a conversation that I must have with you, however painful it may be to both of us."

"It can not be other than painful to us, and if you will excuse me I would much rather not continue it."

I had risen to my feet, and was fully determined to leave her if she continued. The same feeling that used to take possession of me in London, when she was announced—an almost superstitious dread of her—came back to me with double force.

She rose to her feet and spoke very deliberately. "Wait," she said. "We have agreed that the capacity for doing good and the capacity for doing evil go hand in hand. On these grounds, especially if I assure you that it is not my intention to injure you, I think you ought to sit down and listen to me."

I have, throughout my narrative, tried to give some faint idea of this many-sided woman, but at every eventful turn I have had—if I would be correctly understood—to throw myself upon the sympathetic help of my reader's imagination; and now that I am approaching the most critical part of it, I find myself more than ever dependent upon his assistance. When Miss Milne rose to her full height, and in this deliberate characteristic speech of hers, there was, I felt, nothing for me but to sit down; not that I feared her, though I did that, but because she had, as I have hinted, some supernatural hold over me—the result, perhaps, of the memory of her successful persecution of me in the past, perhaps of some congenial peculiarity. At any rate, I sat down again to listen, with something of the feeling with which a criminal awaits his sentence.

(To be continued.)

TO RECORD LIGHTNING'S FLASH

Novel Instrument at St. Ignatius College, Cleveland.

Weather prophets are likely to benefit by an invention of Father Odenbach of St. Ignatius College in Cleveland. He has perfected an instrument which will record flashes of lightning long before any can be seen, and with the clouds from where they proceed far below the horizon. The machine which he has set up in the tower of the college building is somewhat complicated, and is worked on the principle of the Marconi system.

The electric waves, coming from a great distance, or from near by, are collected and brought through a series of delicate appliances to a recorder, which notes each impression with a distinct click like that of a telegraph instrument. The tower of the college is roofed with copper, which forms an excellent conductor for the electric rays. Connected with this copper-roofed tower is the lightning-rod, also made of copper in the form of a cable, one thread of this cable being connected with the receiving and recording instruments.

The first real test of the system came a few days ago. Hours before the storm visited Cleveland, when the sky was perfectly clear and absolutely no sign was given of an approaching storm, the instrument was busy clicking off its record of flashes from distant clouds. During the approach, duration and recession of the thunderstorm the record continued accurate and unbroken, and the records continued long after the flashes had become too indistinct to be visible.

It is thought that the instrument will become invaluable in meteorology, as by it local storms will be noted with certainty, and observers will be able to foretell thunderstorms and squalls, local disturbances which it is impossible now to foretell with any degree of accuracy.—New York Post.

FIRE LOSS $900,000.

Big Armour Packing House Plant at Sioux City Entirely Destroyed.

Sioux City, Iowa., Nov. 19.—Armour & Co.'s packing plant, which occupied four acres of the stockyards, and was valued at $900,000, was totally destroyed early this morning by a fire which started on the second floor of the fertilizer building, and is thought by Manager Lennon to have been due to either spontaneous combustion or to an imperfect dryer. The loss is partly covered by $721,000 insurance. Five hundred men are thrown out of employment. Within an hour after the flames were discovered by a watchman six streams of water were being thrown upon the flames, which were gutting the fertilizer building, 120x60 feet and four stories high, but the pressure was inadequate. The floors and contents of the building burned like chaff. The roof soon fell, and the fire burst through into the beef-killing house. At the same time the cattle chute ignited, and in five minutes fell with a crash. Once inside the beef-killing house, the flames began to dance merrily. From this house to the oleomargarine building was only a step, and when the oils started to burn the fire presented a most spectacular appearance. The big beef house, containing 500 carcasses, next caught fire, and the whole plant, except the hog house, was a lake of fire.

The roar was terrific. The country for miles around was illuminated. Suddenly there was a terrific detonation, followed quickly by another, and then another. Twenty-four drums of 100 pounds of ammonia each exploded before the reserve supply in the ammonia cistern was reached. That explosion almost razed the entire plant. The flames were blown through the fire wall which separated the hog house from the other buildings. The hog house contained 2,500 dressed hogs and 2,500,000 pounds of pork products. Steadily the fire crept against the wind and through the office building. Not a scrap of paper was saved. When the last of the ammonia drums was going off, a burning chute fell upon a bunch of live hogs, and their squeals were added to the appalling chorus. After the fire got good headway in the hog house, the shops, chicken packing plant, ice houses and ice runways and smaller department houses were consumed in quick succession.

The terrible roaring continued unabated. The high brick walls crumbled and crashed one by one, and the conflagration gradually ate its way through building after building. The fire department was inadequate. The pressure was hardly strong enough to throw water to the roof of the pork house. When the walls of this department burst, the firemen played their streams on the buildings until daylight.

The fire burned all day and this afternoon there was another terrific explosion, which threw bricks and pieces of iron for hundreds of yards. No one was hurt.

BOOK ON PHILIPPINES.

New Work Just Issued by Insular Bureau of War Department.

Washington, Nov. 19.—The Pronouncing Gazetteer and Geographical Dictionary of the Philippines, with maps, charts and illustrations, which was prepared in the bureau of insular affairs of the war department, has just been issued, and contains a wealth of information concerning our Oriental possessions. The gazetteer proper contains 264 pages, including the index, while the geographical dictionary occupies 668 pages, exclusive of the maps, charts and illustrations.

When Dewey's brilliant victory awoke national interest in the Philippines, the obtainable literature in English on the question was meager, while the Spanish works were to be found in but few libraries, so that the work of obtaining complete and accurate information of the islands, their geographical resources, history, etc., has been a very difficult one. Requests already received for the edition exceed the limit ordered by congress to be printed.

Police Were Ready for Emma.

Chicago, Nov. 19.—With 200 policemen and two patrol wagons held in reserve at the East Chicago avenue station, with Inspector Campbell, Lieutenant Smith and six detectives in the hall, and Justice Hamburger in his court ready to issue warrants, Emma Goldman spoke before 400 anarchists at Clark and Erie streets last night. Police precautions proved unnecessary, however, for the carnation in her hair was more fiery than her talk.

Flagman Made Fatal Mistake.

Chicago, Nov. 19.—One man was killed and a dozen men, women and children more or less seriously injured in a collision tonight between a Western avenue electric train and a Chicago Burlington & Quincy freight train at the Eighteenth street crossing. The motor and trailer which made up the electric train were crowded with passengers, and it seems a miracle that so many escaped instant death.

Demands on Two Railroads.

Chicago, Nov. 19. — Engineers and firemen representing the entire St. Paul system have made a demand for increased wages and an entirely new schedule. The same classes of employes on the Northwestern have made similar demands, the increase demanded ranging between 10 and 20 per cent.

NEWS OF OREGON

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of the Past Week—Brief Review of the Growth and Development of Various Industries Throughout Our Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

The fourth annual Angora goat show of Oregon will be held in Dallas January 14 and 15.

Operations at the Tillamook fish hatchery have been suspended on account of the recent heavy rains

The freshet on the Siuslaw river caused by the recent heavy rains did considerable damage to the fish hatchery on that river.

A postoffice has been established at Inglis, Columbia county. An office has also been established at Tiller, Douglas county.

The safe in the depot at Newberg was opened Friday night and $1,180 secured by a burglar. The crook evidently knew his business, as he worked the combination of the lock.

There were 360 bales of hops sold at Dallas last Saturday for 27 cents f. o. b. No sales have heretofore been made above 26 cents, though offers of 26½ cents were out

The board of directors of the Willamette Valley Chautauqua association, at a meeting held in Oregon City last week, decided to take some steps toward reorganization and appointed a committee for that purpose.

Two different companies are endeavoring to secure franchises for operating street car systems in the city of Roseburg. One company is composed largely of local capitalists and the other is made up of Eastern men.

It is expected that the lumbermen on the lower Columbia will advance the price of yellow fir logs from $7.50 to $8 per thousand. Yellow fir logs bring a much higher price than ordinary fir, and are in great demand.

During the first two years of his term Governor Geer granted 15 pardons and 20 commutations, and during his last two years 10 pardons and 16 commutations Of the 10 men pardoned in the last two years two were guilty of murder, two of manslaughter, four of larceny, one of assault with a dangerous weapon and one of obtaining money under false pretenses.

George L. Dillman, state engineer for the examination of land applied for under the Carey arid land act, expresses the opinion that private operations will not prevent government work, as the amount reclaimed is small compared with the total area of arid land in the state.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Ackerman has decided that as soon as a parent or guardian moves into a school district with the intention of making it his bona fide residence, a child of such parent or guardian is entitled to free tuition from the time he moves into the district.

Linn county farmers are preparing a protest to be presented to the next legislature against the proposed change of the game law, under which upland birds may be shot from September 15, instead of from October 1. Open season before October 1 means at a time when the farmers are busy with harvesting and they desire to have an even chance with hunters from the cities.

Twenty thousand of the 75,000 booklets advertising Lane county have been printed and are in the hands of the advertising department of the Harriman company for distribution in the Eastern states.

George Smith, colored, who murdered his white wife in Portland, has been sentenced to hang on December 19. Fifteen days' time has been granted to prepare a bill of exceptions to be used in an appeal to the supreme court.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 68@69c; blue stem 73½@74c; valley, 70c.

Barley—Feed, $21.00 per ton; brewing, $22.00.

Flour—Best grade, 3.50@3.70; graham, $3.00@3.50.

Millstuffs—Bran, $19.00 per ton; middlings, $23.50; shorts, $19.50; chop, $17.

Oats—No. 1 white, $1.12½@1.15; gray, $1.10@1.12½ per cental.

Hay — Timothy, $10@11; clover, $8.00; cheat, $8@9 per ton.

Potatoes—Best Burbanks, 60@80c per sack; ordinary, 50@55c per cental, growers' prices; Merced sweets, $1.75@$2 per cental.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $3.50@4.25; per pound, 10c; hens, $4@4.50 per dozen; per pound, 11c; springs, $3.00@3.50 per dozen; fryers, $2.50@3.00; broilers, $2.00@2.50; ducks, $4.50@6.00 per dozen; turkeys, young, 12½@13c; geese, $6.00@6.50 per dozen.

Cheese — Full cream, twins, 15@16c; Young America, 15½@16½ factory prices, 1@1½c less.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 30@32½c per pound; extras, 30c; dairy, 20@22½c; store, 15@18.

Eggs—25@30c per dozen.

Hops—New crop, 22@25c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 12½@15c; Eastern Oregon, 8@14½c; mohair, 26@28c.

Beef—Gross, cows, 3@3½c per pound; steers, 4c; dressed, 6@7c.

Veal—7½@8½c.

Mutton — Gross, 3c per pound; dressed, 6c.

Lambs — Gross, 3½c per pound; dressed, 6½c.

Hogs—Gross, 6¼@6½c per pound; dressed, 7@7½c.

GREAT DAMAGE BY VOLCANO.

Destruction in Guatemala Greater Than That on Island of Martinique.

New York, Nov. 18.—Astounding revelations of great loss of life and property by the eruption of the Santa Maria volcano are being made daily, says a cablegram to the Herald from Guatemala City. Eruptions continue. Many hundreds of human beings perished and the destruction of property is considered greater than that in the Island of Martinique by the eruptions of Mount Pelee.

All of the estates in the neighborhood of the volcano are buried under volcanic ashes, which reach to the tops of the houses. The richest coffee estates are completely ruined. The principal losers are the large coffee planters, mostly United States citizens and Germans, whose properties are ruined.

Two or three craters have been formed on the side of the volcano. There was no eruption from the summit. Pumice and ashes were carried chiefly in the southern and western directions. The sea has a coating of volcanic material extending for many miles.

The loss of the coffee crop, which is Guatemala's principal export, has completely demoralized commerce and government finances generally. The national paper currency, which is the only circulating medium, has fallen to 7 cents gold for one paper dollar.

Prices for all necessities have risen to prohibitive figures for many persons. The athorities are trying to force the dealers to send goods at the usual prices, but the condition of affairs is such that business is entirely paralyzed. Violently worded handbills and posters are being circulated.

ANCIENT RELICS FOUND.

Americans Discover Prehistoric Cavern in Mountains of Mexico.

Hermosillo, Mexico, Nov. 18.—A remarkable story, duly authenticated, of the discovery of hidden Aztec treasures, has just been reported to the government authorities at Tepic by Rev. Pablo Martino, the parish priest of Yesca.

The priest makes a statement, which is concurred in by several reliable witnesses, that a party of Americans, headed by an archaeologic expert, who gave the name of Heverick, arrived at Yesca several weeks ago, and went from that place into the mountains, accompanied by three Mexican guides. The archaeologist obtained his bearings by means of a chart which he is said to have copied from an Aztec stone tablet in the National museum in the City of Mexico. He located a vast cavern in a mountain near Yesca. Immense stone images stood about this chamber. In one end was a handsome altar, above which burned a bright flame, supplied by natural gas from a crevice in the wall. In a chamber adjoining this main temple was found a great store of ornaments and utensils belonging to the Aztecs or some other prehistoric race.

Twelve burros were required to transport the articles to San Blas, where they were shipped to San Francisco, accompanied by the Americans.

As such articles cannot be removed from Mexico without the consent of the government, an investigation is in progress.

MITCHELL ON THE STAND.

Coal Attorneys Put Him Through Lively Pace—Stood Examination Well.

Scranton, Pa., Nov. 17.—President Mitchell, of the United Mineworkers' Union, occupied the witness stand throughout both sessions of the coal strike commission Saturday. For four hours and a half he took the cross-fire of two brilliant attorneys of the coal companies, and ended the day with few scars as a result of the battle. David Wilcox, of New York, of general counsel for the Delaware & Hudson company, and Wayne MacVeagh, of Philadelphia, who is representing the Pennsylvania coal company and the Lehigh coal and iron company, were the principal questioners, and they put hundreds of questions to Mr. Mitchell. The best of harmony prevailed between the lawyers and the witness. The members of the commission took the same interest in everything, and frequently interrupted with questions, that they might have a better understanding of what was being said. The afternoon session was more interesting. Mr. MacVeagh's cross-examination was, as a rule, very keen, and while he assured Mr. Mitchell he was not radically opposed to him, he did not miss an opportunity to place Mr. Mitchell's reasons for better conditions in the anthracite coal field in a bad light before the commission.

Storm of Dust and Balls of Fire.

London, Nov. 18.— According to a special to the Mail from Sydney, N. S. W., an extraordinary dust storm has been experienced in Victoria and New South Wales. Darkness enshrouded the city of Melbourne at noon yesterday, and balls of fire fell and set fire to several buildings. The people were thrown into a state of panic, as they thought the world was coming to an end. A similar cloud of red dust hung like a pall over the city of Sydney.

Son Succeeds Father in Congress.

Paris, Tex., Nov. 18.—A special election was held today in the Fourth congressional district, Morris Shepard being elected to congress to fill the unexpired term of his father, recently deceased.

FAVORED GERMANY

KING OSCAR GAVE US CONSIDERABLY THE WORST OF THE DEAL.

Full Extent of Decision Just Made Known—The British and Americans Had No Rights, According to the Views of the Arbitrator, to Protect Life and Property or Uphold Samoan Court.

Washington, Nov. 19.—By previous arrangement between the officials, there was today published simultaneously in Washington, London and Berlin the full text of the decision given by his majesty, King Oscar II, as arbitrator between the three countries named, of certain claims owing to military operations conducted in Samoa in the year 1899. The decision is long and abounds in whereases and conclusions, and in substance it has been announced heretofore in the cable dispatches from Stockholm. The preceding publication, however, did not convey to the officials here a full realization of the complete victory won by Germany in this arbitration, for it appears that on every point the arbitrator adopted the most extreme German view, in opposition to Great Britain and the United States.

The arbitration grew out of claims by Germans or British subjects or American citizens for compensation on account of losses they alleged they had suffered in consequence of unwarranted military action on the part of German, British or American officers in Samoa, between the first of January, 1899, and the 13th of May following. The question really at issue was whether or not the British and United States governments should be considered responsible for the losses.

The arbitrator recites that the United States ship Philadelphia and the British steamers Porpoise and Royalist, on March 15, 1899, opened fire across the town of Apia, Samoa, directing the same against the forces of High Chief Mataafa; that the same vessels brought the newly appointed king of Samoa, Malietoa, and his forces to Mulinuu point and supplied them with arms and ammunition for the ensuing struggle against Mataafa. In answer to the British and American claims that under the treaty of Berlin, any one of the signatory powers was authorized to enforce the decision of the chief justice of Samoa, declaring Malietoa king, the arbitrator says:

"We have found nothing in the said general act, or any subsequent agreement, which authorizes one of the signatory powers, or a majority of them, to take action to enforce the conditions of the act or to make the decisions of the chief justice binding on the part of the United States." The decision concludes as follows:

"That the military action in question, namely, the bringing back of the Malietoans and the distribution to them of arms and ammunition, the bombardment, the military operations on shore and the stoppage of the street traffic, cannot be considered as having been warranted; and that, therefore, his Brittannic majesty's government and the United States government are responsible, under the convention of the 7th of November, 1899, for losses caused by said military action; while reserving for a future decison the question as to the extent to which the two governments, or each of them, may be considered responsible for such losses."

TIMBER ORDERED SOLD.

Idaho Land Board Will Dispose of Twenty Thousand Acres.

Boise, Idaho, Nov. 19.—The state land board has ordered the sale of about 20,000 acres more of Idaho timber. The estimates place the amount of timber to be disposed of at 150,000,000 feet. The agent of the Howard land, log and lumber company, of Coeur d'Alene City, appeared before the board and asked that the tract of timber on St. Mary's river be sold. He deposited with the secretary a certified check for $500 as a guarantee that his company would bid the appraised price.

After some discussion of the matter Governor Hunt moved that the land which is located on St Mary's river and tributaries in the counties of Latah, Kootenai and Shoshone be put up for sale, and that the white pine timber be appraised at $1.50 per thousand, and 75 cents per thousand for red fir and yellow pine. A resolution was passed instructing the chief clerk to advertise the sale of the timber. The sale will occur in Kootenai county December 22, Shoshone, December 23, and Latah December 26.

Columbus' Ashes Moved.

Seville, Spain, Nov. 19.— The ceremony of depositing the ashes of Christopher Columbus in a special mausoleum was carried out in the cathedral today with befitting solemnity. The coffin containing the ashes of the illustious navigator was borne on the shoulders of a party of naval seamen, and behind it walked in procession the archbishop of Seville, the cathedral chapter, the minister of marine and a number of other dignitaries.

Increase of 1 Cent an Hour.

Philadelphia, Nov. 19.— The Philadelphia Rapid Transit company today announced that, beginning December 1, the wages of the conductors and motormen in their employ would be increased from 19 to 20 cents an hour. Nearly 8,000 are affected by the increase.