

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week. Presented in Combined Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting.

In a battle at Karola the British killed 200 Tibetans.

The government funds for the Lewis and Clark stir are now available.

The Russians have re-established railway and telegraph communication with Port Arthur.

Senator Mitchell has been asked to name a successor to Postmaster Bancroft, at Portland.

Ernest Hooley, famous as a promoter, has been arrested in London on a charge of conspiracy to defraud.

Cotton has been declared a contraband of war on account of its being used in the manufacture of high explosives.

A Russian general took over a half million dollars of Red Cross money and let it gambling. The dowager empress made good the sum to the society.

The government will not take up the Malheur, Oregon, irrigation project if there is any dispute over water rights, in which event it may turn to the Umattila scheme.

Russian authorities at Niu Chwang for a time refused to allow United States Consul Miller to enable the conditions there to Minister Conger at Pekin. A strongly worded protest secured the transmission of the message.

Russia is rapidly evacuating Niu Chwang.

Viceroy Alexieff has transferred his headquarters to Hsiping.

Turkey is negotiating with Chile for the purchase of two cruisers.

Brazil and Peru will settle their troubles without resorting to arms.

Another 100,000 men are on the way to Manchuria to reinforce General Kouropatkin.

The secretary of the interior has set aside \$2,000,000 for the Malheur, Oregon, irrigation project.

Russian authorities deny that there is an unusual amount of sickness among the troops in Manchuria.

Twenty thousand Japanese soldiers volunteered to man the fireships that blockaded the Port Arthur entrance.

Information is given by a merchant who left Port Arthur recently that the warships there have only enough coal for six weeks.

Japanese commanders declare that instead of 32,000 men at Port Arthur there are only 3,000, and instead of being provisioned for a year the fortress contains supplies for but a three months' siege.

Present indications point to a long war between Russia and Japan.

Russia will have a large exhibit at the St. Louis fair in a short time.

The latest Japanese victory gives her control of much valuable territory.

There will be small crops of apricots and prunes in California this year.

France believes that the supreme struggle will come soon at Mukden.

It is reported that Viceroy Alexieff is to be succeeded by Grand Duke Nicholas.

John Mitchell advocates a trade agreement as the solution of the strike problems.

Admiral Togo reports that his casualties attending the bottling up of Port Arthur were large.

Russia relies on wireless telegraphy and carrier pigeons to maintain communication with Port Arthur.

A noted Chinese revolutionist is supposed to be in San Francisco to incite the natives there to revolt.

The St. Louis fair remains closed on Sundays except to those who hold passes and these are not allowed in any of the buildings.

Brazil and Peru are again in dispute over Acre.

At least 20 people were killed in the cyclone which swept over Northwest Texas.

Whole sections of the government food exhibit at St. Louis have been stolen. Superintendent Bruner has issued a warning that the food should not be eaten as a majority of the things have been poisoned for preservation. At the Chinese building ivory inlaid in a wall was removed and the depression filled with plaster of paris.

During the retreat on the Yalu a body of Russians mistook a small force of their own men for the enemy and 180 were killed or wounded before the error was discovered.

The national 1905 fair board will meet at once to decide on buildings, so the architect can begin to prepare the plans.

The Japanese fired on the train taking Viceroy Alexieff and staff from Port Arthur, but the distance was too great to be effective.

A Japanese dispatch says they have captured Teng Wang Cheng after fierce fighting and that the losses on both sides were heavy.

Russians say the Japanese can not take Port Arthur and that the fort has provisions enough for a year.

Sam Parks, the noted walking delegate is dead.

The complete location of Port Arthur seems now highly probable.

Viceroy Alexieff has left Port Arthur to confer with General Kouropatkin.

Postmaster General Payne has ordered an investigation of the official conduct of Postmaster Bancroft, of Portland.

TO BE ENGINEERS.
Panama Canal Position Given to John F. Wallace.

Chicago, May 12.—John F. Wallace, general manager of the Illinois Central railroad, will be chief engineer of the Panama canal. After having the offer under advisement for some time, he today wired Admiral Walker, chairman of the commission, his acceptance. The position will pay \$25,000 per year. Mr. Wallace will leave for Washington to enter upon his new duties early next month.

During the recent trip of the Panama canal commissioners to the isthmus, one of the subjects of discussion was the appointment of the chief engineer. It was agreed by everyone that the man selected must possess exceptional qualifications; must be not only an engineer, but an administrator and extender; must have mature judgment and yet energy of accomplishment, and must be well and favorably known, as a very great measure of the success of the commission would depend upon the chief engineer.

While the committee was at sea on the way to the isthmus, a letter was written to Mr. Wallace asking him to meet the members in New York on their return and talk over the matter. Subsequently it was with correspondence with Stuyvesant Fish, president of the Illinois Central, who thus spoke of Mr. Wallace:

"There is no professional engineer in my acquaintance whom I think, has, in a higher degree than Mr. Wallace, the special commercial and diplomatic tact which I conceive will be required. He not only has commercial sense, knows the value of money, but also has every rare capacity in dealing with men, whether they be above him, his peers, or under him. It goes without saying that he is upright."

RUMORS OF FIGHT.

Russians Overtook at Mao Tien Ling Pass and Defeated.

Tokio, May 12.—Admiral Togo reports that since the 6th of May many explosions have been heard coming from the vicinity of Port Arthur, but their cause has not been ascertained. The impression here is that the Russians, despairing of their ability to defend Port Arthur, are destroying their ships before leaving the place.

Paris, May 12.—The Matin's St. Petersburg correspondent says it is persistently rumored that there has been a big fight near Mao Tien Ling pass between the Russians and General Kuroki's army. The Russians, he says, lost heavily. Lieutenant General Zassalitch was among the killed.

Another Japanese Victory.

London, May 12.—The Daily Chronicle's correspondent at Shan Hai Kwan says the Japanese first army from the Yalu river is already threatening the Russian position at Haicheng. The second army, marching in three divisions in order to co-operate with General Kuroki, has defeated the Russian near Wafungien, with great loss, the correspondent says. He adds that the Japanese artillery was splendidly handled.

The Daily Chronicle notes that there are two Wafungien, one on the railroad north of Port Arthur, 20 miles from Pitewo, and the other 40 miles west of Kalping, on the road to Feng Wang Cheng.

CREDIT FOR VICTORY.

Japanese on the Yalu Did Not Take Feng Wang Cheng.

Tokio, May 12.—It appears that the capture of Feng Wang Cheng was effected not by the troops which fought on the Yalu, but by a mixed brigade under Major General Sawaki, which, by marching eastward on April 20, crossed the Yalu at Changeng and moved on Feng Wang Cheng by a mountain road.

The sole object of the Japanese foreign loan is to secure a gold currency system and to maintain the convertibility of notes. The loan will not be used to finance the war, and therefore the entire proceeds will be kept as a currency reserve, probably in London.

Japan Buying Submarine Boats.

Newport News, Va., May 12.—From a reliable source comes the information that a contract has been awarded the Newport News Shipbuilding company for the construction of four submarine boats destined for service with the Japanese navy in the Far East. Shipyard officials here refuse to comment on the report, but it is believed here that the yard has been rushing work on warships contracted for in an indirect way for the mikado's government for some time past.

Report of Battle Near Liao Yang.

Shan Hai Kwan, May 12.—It is reported that the First Japanese corps, having followed the Russians retreating from the Yalu river, overtook them 20 miles south of Liao Yang yesterday and a severe engagement ensued. The Japanese dragged their guns up hills believed to be unscalable. The Russians thereupon continued to retreat north. A division of the First corps is approaching Niu Chwang, which is now garrisoned by a handful of Russians.

Protest to the Powers.

St. Petersburg, May 12.—Russia has protested to the powers, signatory of The Hague and Geneva conventions, against the action of the Japanese in firing on the Red Cross trains from Port Arthur, May 6, when of 200 sick and wounded, two were struck by the Japanese bullets. The general staff is authority for the statement that the health of the Russian troops is exceptionally good, considering the filthy Chinese hovels along the line of march.

Says Transporters Were Sunk.

Paris, May 12.—According to the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Matin, a high official of the naval general staff, declares that the entrance to Port Arthur is still free, and that the squadron went out on May 9 as far as Pitewo, where the torpedo boats sank a number of Japanese transports.

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

IRRIGATION BY POWER.

Gasoline Engines Used for Pumping in Eastern Oregon.

Baker City—A novel plan in this section is being adopted here to reclaim the arid lands lying a few miles east of town.

A few weeks ago W. J. Patterson and associates sold 780 acres of this land to Wisconsin men, who immediately began clearing it of sage brush. When this was completed a steam plow run by a traction engine was placed in operation and a large part of the land prepared for seeding. Wells have been sunk to water and pumps will be installed to be operated by gasoline engines. The wells are so situated that a large area can be covered by water. Mr. Patterson is placing under cultivation a large tract of land in a similar manner, except that instead of gasoline engines he has installed motors and will run his pumps by electric power.

His land is on the line between this city and the Cyclone mine. Mr. Patterson estimates that each pump will irrigate 80 acres. His plan will begin operation next week. He thinks the cost of power will not exceed that of keeping up irrigating ditches.

There is a large body of rich land lying east of town which is practically useless without water on the surface. Water can be obtained in quantities by sinking from 15 to 20 feet wells. This is the venture upon a success from a financial standpoint, it is expected thousands of acres will be reclaimed in this way when the large electric power plant on Eagle creek shall have been completed.

Creemery Runs at Top Limit.

Oregon City—The Clear Creek creamery, located near this city, and operated by the farmers on a co-operative basis, is being run to its full capacity, 600 pounds of butter being churned in a single day this week. Several new cream routes are being established and the output of the plant is being increased weekly.

Many of Clackamas county farmers have been taken in during the last two weeks by a fakir who is traveling through the interior of the county selling a recipe by which it is claimed that butter can be made in a few minutes and at the same time deodorize cream. For each recipe the smooth-tongued salesman collects \$5.

STOCK PROSPECTS ARE GOOD.

C. J. Mills Views the Range in Eastern Oregon Counties.

La Grande—C. J. Mills, livestock agent for the O. R. & N., has returned from an extended tour to the interior of Oregon, where he covered a vast expanse of country, including Grant, Harney and Crook counties, and was compelled to make the trip incomplete on account of bad roads, as they are impassable in many places on account of spring washouts and many bridges are swept away.

Mr. Mills reports that stock prospects are very good all through Eastern Oregon and he thinks there will be the best range this year for many years past. The spring rains and freshets have done the work for the range, even though they have swept away bridges and ruined many roads, and he also thinks that the hay crop will be ahead of any for many years.

But the prices of stock are not the best now, though a change is being looked for soon. There is an overplus throughout the country, too many stock everywhere. Oregon has a good range and this is established for the present year, and the stockmen will be able to hold the stock for better prices.

As soon as the roads will permit, Mr. Mills will complete the trip through the interior.

Coming Events.

Grand lodges I. O. O. F. and Rebekahs, Astoria, May 17-19.

Farmers' institute, Pendleton, May 26.

State Grange, Corvallis, begins May 24.

Interstate oratorical contest, Portland, May 27.

Eastern Oregon high school oratorical contest and track meet, La Grande, May 28.

Umattila Pioneers' reunion, Pendleton, June 2-4.

General election, June 6.

Annual reunion, Department of Oregon, G. A. R., Hood River, June 15-17.

Linn county Pioneer association reunion, Brownsville, June 22-24.

Northwest sportsmen's tournament, Pendleton, June 24-26.

Pioneer association reunion, Portland, June 25.

Western division State Teachers' association, Portland, June 29 to July 1.

Eastern Oregon G. A. R. encampment, La Grande, July 1-4.

Boring for Oil and Salt.

Independence—A new corporation has been formed for the purpose of developing the oil and salt prospects on the B. F. Whitaker farm near this place with a capital stock of \$100,000. Development was begun on this property more than a year ago. A well was sunk over 900 feet and work stopped for lack of better machinery. New machinery will now be put on the grounds and the work pushed. Besides the oil indications discovered so far, the water flowing from the borings made is strongly impregnated with salt.

A Heavy Strawberry Crop.

Milton—Chilly weather and the late spring have delayed maturing of strawberries, and only the very first pickings will have started by May 15, while the crop will not be on with the annual rush for 10 days after that. The yield will be immense and pickers will not be plentiful from present indications. The Milton and Freewater strawberry market is yearly growing wider. It comprises the customary range of country which handles fruit, berries and produce from the tributary Walls Walla country.

Pine-Needle Plant Moves.

Grants Pass—The machinery of the Pine Needle company was taken from the old factory at Grants Pass last week and shipped to La Grande, where a new company with a capitalization of \$100,000 will operate. The new company is under the control of Turner Oliver, of La Grande. Considerable stock has been sold at La Grande. The company has control of a 100-acre site and plans to put up a factory of 2,500 pounds per day.

Union Sawmill to Start.

La Grande—The Cleary sawmill at Hilgard, Or., a few miles from this city will start its summer run in a few days. The mill will cut 3,000,000 feet of lumber this season. The Perry mill will soon start on its run. The water in the Grand Ronde has been in fine shape for the bringing down of logs and all the mills in Eastern Oregon will cut large amounts of logs this summer.

TO STUDY ALASKA COAL.

Geological Survey to Search for New Deposits in Far North.

Washington, May 11.—The first field party of the United States geological survey to leave Washington this year is, as usual, the Alaskan contingent. During the past winter congress increased its appropriation for Alaskan work from \$60,000 to \$80,000, which is about 1 per cent of the annual output of that territory. Nine parties will be engaged there during the coming season in topographic and geologic work. Besides these, three subparties, which may be counted as outposts of the larger ones, will take up special work, so that the number of survey investigations on foot in Alaska during the summer will be 12, as against 7 of last year.

The geologic work of the last season in Southeastern Alaska will be continued by Messrs. C. W. and F. W. Wright. As this is the only noteworthy lode mining district of Alaska, and as its rich deposits of gold, silver and copper are only partially developed, a study of its resources is likely to be of vital interest to the prospector and investor. The work will begin with a reconnaissance across the islands from Taku Inlet to Sitka. An examination of the mining district about Sitka, the coal fields of Admiralty Island, with Wrangell as a base. F. W. Wright will then study the local geology and mineral deposits, while C. W. Wright connects the geology of the Juneau district, the work of Dr. A. G. Spencer in 1903, with that of the Ketchikan district, the work of Alford H. Brooks in 1901. If the time permits, some of the copper and gold mines of Prince of Wales Island will be visited.

BRAZIL IS HOSTILE.

Peruvian Legation Complains of Attitude of Her Neighbor.

Washington, May 11.—In view of the statement made by the Brazilian legation defining Brazil's position in the boundary dispute with Peru, the Peruvian legation today made a counter-statement to the following effect:

"Peru has never admitted in Brazil any right whatsoever to the territory actually in dispute. The treaty of 1851 side, even for a minute. He sent every one away, and watched by me alone. When I lapsed into slumber, I felt my hand moistened by his burning tears. When I awoke he was there by my side, and I asked myself whether this was remorse. In the early gray of the morning he left me, thinking that I slept, but with the imprint of his burning lips upon my brow, and I asked myself whether this could be love."

She had spoken the truth, and her plaintive words carried conviction with them. The old man was touched, and the ready tears welled from his eyes, and placed upon her bowed head.

"It may be so, my darling," he murmured, "heaven grant that it is so! Come, let us go to him together and see."

As he cast his arm about her waist, and laid her head gently upon his shoulder as they entered the shadowy hall, out in the garish sunlight, unseen hands parted the hedge that fringed the lawn, and the face of Nemesis glared through the rift, leaping, vengeful—the face of Slyphide Courant!

"Alive!" she panted in dismayed surprise. "That creature lives! So all in vain has heaven removed the first obstacle which differentiated from Lucian. I am free—yet she lives!"

It would have been an appalling study to have looked into her soul then, as she let the shubs snap back into place, gathered the rich draperies of her sable attire about her, and with a rapid step took her way up to the villa.

As fate would have it, she crossed the sheltered nook where Camille had taken refuge after his alarm, caused by the vision of innocent Claire at the uncurtained window. At Slyphide's approach Camille sprang about, and faced her, as though she, too, were another haunting specter.

"Camille!" she said, herself surprised. "Mrs. Hastings!"

"Hush! You must not know me, must never have seen me—"

Her words were cut short by the joyous cry of little Leon, who, hot with pursuit of a sportive terrier, came bounding in among the trees. Instantly Slyphide's eyes shot fire.

"Leave me with this child," she pleaded, imperatively. "Go to the avenue and wait for me. I have much of importance to say to you. Go, go, go!"

As the man only too readily obeyed the command, she knelt, outstretched arms, and accosted the boy, who had abandoned his pursuit, and drawn himself up in military array before the veiled intruder.

"Leon—my son!" she cried, beseechingly, her voice softening to a yearning tenderness.

"No," he answered, proudly: "I am not your son; I am mamma's son."

"But I am your mamma!" she cried. "Oh, no, you're not! My mamma is mamma Claire, my white mamma!"

"That woman again," groaned Slyphide. "They have robbed me even of my child. But I will repay them! He shall go with me. We shall see, Lucian, whether you will not follow me then!"

"She caught at the boy, who struggled to free himself.

"Leon, come to me, come!" she pleaded.

"No, no!" he screamed, in terror. "Let me go! Let me go! I do not know you!"

His frantic cry, mingled with the barking of the little dog, attracted Claire herself in haste to the spot. As she suddenly appeared, Leon broke from Slyphide's grasp, and flew to meet her, clinging in childish terror to her robe.

"Leon!" exclaimed Claire, pausing in the shadow of the trees, "what is the matter?" while Slyphide regained her feet, as her pallid lips framed the words: "At last!"

"Who are you, madam?" demanded Claire. "Where were you going with my son?"

"Your son!" hissed Slyphide, throwing back her veil, whose thick folds stifled her.

"She says she is my mamma," wailed Leon. "Tell her she is not! Oh, say so, mamma!"

Claire wavered an instant, stricken with a sudden conviction.

"His mother!" she faltered. "I know you now, madam, you are Slyphide Courant!"

"Yes," came the defiant reply: "I am Slyphide Courant, and his mother. But he repulses my caresses; he does not even recognize me."

"I understand your grief, madam, and I pity you."

"Indeed? I am worthy of pity, am I not? I am wretched indeed, since heaven that such have conspired to betray me. I have been robbed of my name and fortune, and of the man I loved. I have been robbed even of the child for whose sake I descended into the valley of the shadow of death."

"What brings you here, madam?" murmured Claire, terrified by her vehemence; "why do you seek to enter my home?"

"You home?" sneered Slyphide; "are you going to summon your people to eject me? It is true that I have ventured to intrude upon your home, but what strange thing have you which does not come from me? You say dying upon a miserable pallet in New York; three months only you had to live, your father and mother were famishing; father, mother, husband, child and life itself, I gave you all! And you dare to tell me to my face that I am in your home! Verily, madam, you are ungrateful!"

Trembling with alarm, poor Claire replied:

"It is true that without your interference I should now perhaps have been in my grave; but if you have saved my life, confess that you did not intend to; if you have married me to Lucian Courant, you chose, as you have just admitted, because you considered me condemned to death. Now, what can I do to repay you?—I am prepared for anything—but death!"

"I demand nothing, wish nothing, expect nothing from you."

"Then why are you here? Oh, I dread to understand! You came expecting to find me dead. Well, your hope has proved delusive. You need remain no longer."

Those final words appeared to contain the venom of a deadly serpent for Slyphide.

"I shall not depart until I have seen Lucian," she said, firmly.

"Lucian?" gasped Claire in dismay; "you shall not see him; I do not choose that he shall see you. I am still very weak, madam, but I think can summon the strength of a lioness to my aid in defense of my happiness! Besides, you know that he no longer loves you."

"No longer loves me?" hissed the enemy; "pray, how do you know that? How can you judge of the empire which I have exerted over him? Ah, I do not care unarméd; I bring with me the memory of three years of passionate love!"

"I tell you, you shall not see Lucian; I am his wife before the law!"

"At all events—you shall give me my child!"

"No, no! Stand back!"

"Stay! What are you doing here?"

The few but imperative words cut short the terrific struggle of a moment, and as the two women recoiled, little Leon flew into his father's arms.

"Embrace your child, if you will," Lucian Courant said to Slyphide, "but bear in mind that he is also my son, and he shall never leave me. Now, you need delay your departure no longer."

"She returned his stern look with lances of fire."

"Have you not heard the news?" she asked, with swift intensity; "slavery has been abolished; I am free!"

"But I am not free," he answered steadily; "you remember our words, while Claire lives we are to remain strangers. You have violated your oath. Farewell—forever!"

"She faced her down as the great oak breasts the storm; she paused an instant, irresolute, then lowered her veil and turned away. Presently she stopped and looked back to find Claire nestling in her husband's arms."

"Farewell," she breathed, "but not forever. We shall meet once again, Lucian Courant, once again—on the day of reckoning!"

(To be continued.)

RUSSIAN LOSS IS VERY HEAVY.

Monday's Fight at Feng Wang Cheng Resulted in 3,000 Casualties.

Tokio, May 11.—Last Friday, after sharp cavalry skirmishes at Erbitau, Santai and other places, a detachment of infantry belonging to General Kuroki's army took Feng Wang Cheng.

The Russians, before retiring, expended the magazine, but left large quantities of hospital stores, which are being used by the Japanese hospitals.

Ru-fuges from the woods and small villages are surrendering.

The Russians buried many of their dead.

Natives in the vicinity of Feng Wang Cheng say that last Monday the Russian carried about 800 wounded through the place and that their casualties probably were above 3,000.

Al-Ki Ashore in Alaska.

Port Townsend, Wash., May 11.—Steamer Cottage City, arriving today from Alaska, reports speaking the steamer Al-Ki ashore in Menzi's bay, where she grounded while northbound, heavily laden with freight. The Cottage City could render no assistance to the stranded vessel, and it is the opinion of Captain Wallace that her cargo will have to be lightened before the vessel can be floated. The Al-Ki lies in a protected position, and is in no danger unless an unusual storm should occur.

Reports Increase Casualties.

Tokio, May 11.—Every supplemental report received from General Kuroki, commanding the First Japanese army, increases the Russian casualties in last Saturday's battle at Chin Tien Cheng on the Yalu river. The Japanese have buried 1,400 Russians and have 503 captives. It is estimated that the total Russian casualties exceed 2,500. Over 300 Russian prisoners are on the way to Matuyama, where they are expected to arrive on Wednesday.

Keep Up Their Spirits.

Mukden, May 11.—The spirits of the troops here are not depressed because of the fighting on the Yalu and the investment of Port Arthur and vicinity are awaiting an opportunity to meet the invaders. Wounded from the Yalu are passing through Mukden on every train on the way to Harbin. The last passenger train from Port Arthur before the line was cut arrived today. The woodwork of the coaches are marked with bullets.

Murdered by Mexican Bandits.

Oaxaca, Mexico, May 11.—Othon Quijano, the paymaster of the National railroad of Tehuantepec, was assaulted by five bandits between Palo Mare and Paso de Boques. One bullet went through his body and his head was almost in two with a machete. He died in his wounds. The bandits got away with between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

The Planter's Daughter OR FATE'S REVENGE

By MRS. ALICE P. CARRISTON
Author of "A Walk from the Sea," "Har Brightest Hope," "Wayward Winnifred," etc.

CHAPTER XVII.

At her wits' end for a reassuring reply, poor Claire flung her arms about the old man's neck, and allowed her head upon his breast, while he, made unresponsive by the horror which had taken possession of him, stood cold and rigid as a statue, offering her no support.

"You must know, dear father," she began, "that I loved my husband, and I tell myself that would never love me. The thought unseated my reason until I fancied that cruel fate was pursuing me, ever crying in my ears, 'you have agreed to die, and yet you still live.' Goaded to desperation, I forgot you and mother, and I planned the fatal draught."

"And this man was so blind as to be unable to read the direful secret in your soul?" he cried unapprehended. "It was his indifference that has driven you to despair! He has no heart! Had he himself poured out the poison, he could not seem more culpable in my eyes!"

"Oh, father, father!"

She was trembling now with such dire apprehension that she was forced to cling to him for support. Her agitation seemed to exasperate Philip Burgess's death.

"Heaven be praised," he ejaculated, "that I am neither so old nor infirm that I cannot hold a weapon! I will kill him, kill the rogue or fool, whichever he may be, who has so misused the angel whom I intrusted to his keeping!"

"Father," she said, fixing her magnetic eyes upon his face, "since I still live, since I have agreed to live, believe me, it is only because a fresh hope has found its way to my heart, a hope impacted by him."

"By him?" muttered Philip Burgess, incredulously. "What has he done that should deserve pardon at our hands?"

"During the terrible crisis of yesterday and last night he never deserted my bedside, even for a minute. He sent every one away, and watched by me alone. When I lapsed into slumber, I felt my hand moistened by his burning tears. When I awoke he was there by my side, and I asked myself whether this was remorse. In the early gray of the morning he left me, thinking that I slept, but with the imprint of his burning lips upon my brow, and I asked myself whether this could be love."

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It would have been an appalling study to have looked into her soul then, as she let the shubs snap back into place, gathered the rich draperies of her sable attire about her, and with a rapid step took her way up to the villa.

As fate would have it, she crossed the sheltered nook where Camille had taken refuge after his alarm, caused by the vision of innocent Claire at the uncurtained window. At Slyphide's approach Camille sprang about, and faced her, as though she, too, were another haunting specter.

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"His mother!" she faltered. "I know you now, madam, you are Slyphide Courant!"

"Yes," came the defiant reply: "I am Slyphide Courant, and his mother. But he repulses my caresses; he does not even recognize me."

"I understand your grief, madam, and I pity you."

"Indeed? I am worthy of pity, am I not? I am wretched indeed, since heaven that such have conspired to betray me. I have been robbed of my name and fortune, and of the man I loved. I have been robbed even of the child for whose sake I descended into the valley of the shadow of death."

"What brings you here, madam?" murmured Claire, terrified by her vehemence; "why do you seek to enter my home?"

"You home?" sneered Slyphide; "are you going to summon your people to eject me? It is true that I have ventured to intrude upon your home, but what strange thing have you which does not come from me? You say dying upon a miserable pallet in New York; three months only you had to live, your father and mother were famishing; father, mother, husband, child and life itself, I gave you all! And you dare to tell me to my face that I am in your home! Verily, madam, you are ungrateful!"

Trembling with alarm, poor Claire replied:

"It is true that without your interference I should now perhaps have been in my grave; but if you have saved my life, confess that you did not intend to; if you have married me to Lucian Courant, you chose, as you have just admitted, because you considered me condemned to death. Now, what can I do to repay you?—I am prepared for anything—but death!"

"I demand nothing, wish nothing, expect nothing from you."

"Then why are you here? Oh, I dread to understand! You came expecting to find me dead. Well, your hope has proved delusive. You need remain no longer."

Those final words appeared to contain the venom of a deadly serpent for Slyphide.

"I shall not depart until I have seen Lucian," she said, firmly.

"Lucian?" gasped Claire in dismay; "you shall not see him; I do not choose that he shall see you. I am still very weak, madam, but I think can summon the strength of a lioness to my aid in defense of my happiness! Besides, you know that he no longer loves you."

"No longer loves me?" hissed the enemy; "pray, how do you know that? How can you judge of the empire which I have exerted over him? Ah, I do not care unarméd; I bring with me the memory of three years of passionate love!"

"I tell you, you shall not see Lucian; I am his wife before the law!"

"At all events—you shall give me my child!"

"No, no! Stand back!"

"Stay! What are you doing here?"

The few but imperative words cut short the terrific struggle of a moment, and as the two women recoiled, little Leon flew into his father's arms.

"Embrace your child, if you will," Lucian Courant said to Slyphide, "but bear in mind that he is also my son, and he shall never leave me. Now, you need delay your departure no longer."

"She returned his stern look with lances of fire."

"Have you not heard the news?" she asked, with swift intensity; "slavery has been abolished; I am free!"

"But I am not free," he answered steadily; "you remember our words, while Claire lives we are to remain strangers. You have violated your oath. Farewell—forever!"

"She faced her down as the great oak breasts the storm; she paused an instant, irresolute, then lowered her veil and turned away. Presently she stopped and looked back to find Claire nestling in her husband's arms."

"Farewell," she breathed, "but not forever. We shall meet once again, Lucian Courant, once again—on the day of reckoning!"

(To be continued.)

TORTURE BY HANDSHAKE.

The Maine Man with the Vice-like Grip Went Answer to Court.

Because the leg habit was strong in him a Maine lawyer has brought an action for assault instead of using a stone hammer on a jovial friend who shook hands with him so heartily the other day as to fracture his arm at the wrist, says the New York Mail and Express. There is really much to say in favor of uniting both means of redress in what may be called without punning a joint form of procedure. The man who under the cover and pretense of a friendly greeting hands out to all his acquaintances as much torture as he can concentrate in his big, mule-like wrists deserves all that can be done to him. He is the offensive egotist par excellence.

Some forms of egotism are quite inoffensive. The mere "good feeder" is often a pleasant companion; he seems to generate sunshine. The man who is proud of his face and figure may indulge his self-satisfaction without any particular degradation to the comfort and self-love of those about him; they may look at him and listen to him and he is content. But a grasp is an intangible thing, no matter how gentle, which a specially good shoulder-hitting muscle, its possessor to proclaim it must make some one suffer by shaking hands with him; and as one does not shake hands with strangers it is absolutely necessary that he squeeze the limp and languid paw of a friend until the latter fairly curses the day that he was born. If the victim has a lately healed laceration or a stone bruise or a few tortuous baseball fingers so much the better; his outcry is the louder and the involuntary tribute to the bone-crusher's prowess is the more certain.

Outworn social conventions and the very surprise of the thing usually prevent the victim of the assault and battery handshake from resorting to law. But the offense is no less an offense than if an acquaintance sought to demonstrate with his fist on one's ribs the superior quality of his hitting muscles. Rather it is more of an offense, for in it there is at once cowardly reliance on the immunities of the rite of friendship and the treachery of Job's soliloquy in quiring: "Art thou not well, my brother?" while with his free hand he drives a knife between unsuspecting ribs. The proper proceeding with the too facetious friend, as it seems to us, is to laugh heartily under torture and then in the best of humor retort on his head with a heavy walking stick or the flat of a coal shovel.