

Prisoners and Captives

By H. S. MERRIMAN

CHAPTER XXVII.

Three years are an important period, but in the middle of existence their weight is less perceptible. They seemed to have passed very lightly over the small phase of existence working itself out unheeded by the world in the drawing room where we last saw Agnes Winter, and where we now find her again.

The room as unchanged, and the Agnes Winter dwelling therein was the same woman. The same strong, finished grace attended her movements, but her eyes looked weary. They were the eyes of one who has waited and waited in vain. None need search very far afield to find such eyes as now looked up nervously to the door at the sound of the large, old-fashioned bell pealing in the basement.

"Who is that?" said Agnes Winter to herself. "Who can that be?"

She rose and set one of two things in order about the room, and after glancing at the clock, stood motionless with her tired eyes fixed on the door, breathing intently. While she stood there the door was opened, and the maid announced: "Mr. Easton."

Matthew Mark Easton came into the room immediately afterward. He shook hands rather awkwardly, as one sees a man go through the ceremony whose fingers are injured.

"How do you do, Miss Winter?" he said, gravely.

"Well," she said in a sharp, unsteady voice, ignoring his question, "what news have you?"

"I have no news of the ship, Miss Winter," he replied.

"Tell me," she said, "what you have done."

"I have," he said, "explored every yard of the coast from the North Cape to the Yana river."

"And why did you stop at the Yana river?" asked the lady, with an air of knowing her ground.

"I will tell you afterward," he said; "when Miss Grace is with you—if—if she does not object to my presence."

She drew writing materials toward her and wrote: "Mr. Easton is here; come at once." She read it aloud, and, ringing the bell, dispatched the note.

"I presume," said Easton, slowly, "that the admiral is still with us?"

"Yes; he is alive and well. Helen is—you will find her a little changed."

He raised his eyes to her face. His glance was as quick as ever, but his eyes did not twinkle now; they were grave, and the rapidity of their movement, being deprived of brightness, was almost furtive. Then they sat waiting, until the silence became oppressive. Suddenly Easton spoke with a return of the quaint, narrative manner which she remembered as characteristic.

"One evening," he said, "as we were steaming down the Baltic last week—a dull warm evening, Tuesday, I guess—I was standing at the stern rail with my arms beneath my chin, when something fell upon my sleeve. I looked at it curiously, for I had not seen such a thing for years. It was a tear—most singular! I feel like crying now, Miss Winter; I should like to sit down on that low chair in the corner there and cry. There are some disappointments that come like the disappointments of childhood—when it rained on one's birthday and put a stop to the picnic."

Miss Winter said nothing. She merely sat in her gracious, attentive attitude and looked at him with sympathetic eyes.

"It shivers me," he continued, presently, "how entirely one may be mistaken in one's own destiny. I never should have considered myself to be the sort of person into whose life a catastrophe was intended to break."

She still allowed him to continue, and after a pause he took advantage of her silence.

"Some men," he went on, "expect to have other lives upon their consciences—but their own lives are more or less at equal stake, and the risk is allowed for in their salary, or is supposed to be. I have thirty lives set down on the debit side of my account, and some of those lives are chips of my own."

"Thirty?" questioned Miss Winter. "There were only eighteen men on board—all told."

"Yes; but there were others. I shall tell you when Miss Grace comes. It is not a story that one cares to relate more often than necessary."

In a few moments they heard the sound of the front door bell. Easton rose from his seat. He did not go toward the door, but stood in the middle of the room, looking rather breathlessly toward Miss Winter. She it was who moved to the door, going out to the head of the stairs to meet Helen.

"Dear," he heard her say, and her voice was smooth and sweet, "Mr. Easton is here; he has come back."

There was no answer, and a moment later Helen Grace stood before him. As he took the hand she stretched out to him with an air almost of bravado, he saw at once the difference hinted at by Miss Winter. It lay in the expression of her face; it hovered in her eyes. It is to be seen in most hall rooms, and the faces carrying it are usually beautiful. The striking characteristic of such women is their impregnability.

"I am glad, Miss Grace," Easton said, "that you have done me the honor of coming."

And she smiled exactly as he expected—the hard, inscrutable "society" smile, which never betrays and is never infectious. She did not, however, trust herself so far as to speak. There was silence for a moment—such a silence and such a moment as leave their mark upon the entire life. Easton breathed hard. He had no doubt at that time that he was bringing to each of these women news of the man she loved.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

"It is a long story," he said. "Will you sit down?"

Both obeyed him so mechanically and so rapidly that he had no time to prepare his words, and he hesitated.

"I have to tell you," he said, "that there is no news of the ship. She sailed from London three years and seven months ago. She was sighted by the whaler Martin on the third of May, three

RAM'S HORN BLASTS.

Warning Notes Calling the Wicked to Repentance.



THE roving life seldom lights on the gold of life. The best time to repent is before you commit. It takes more than acquittal to make a clean heart. There is nothing more eloquent than silent industry.

The worst part of any trouble is waiting for it.

There is none of the music of heaven in a holy tone.

Only the smile that is rooted bears fruits of refreshing.

There's a world of difference between wishing and willing.

No man ever succeeded in preaching truth by acting a lie.

You lose force with men as soon as you lose faith in them.

The fiercest fighting may be but the polishing of the crowns.

The world is not lighted by burning the candle at both ends.

The preacher who is anxious for popularity loses his power.

A man's judgment of others is often an indictment of himself.

Every great talent has come out of a furnace-like trial.

The worldly Christian will never make the Christian world.

Education is always deficient so long as it can see a terminus.

Wealth is a matter of appreciation rather than of acquisition.

Complacency is often complacently mistaken for consecration.

You cannot prove your holiness by putting your head into heaven.

He to whom success is the soul of all will not find success in his soul.

The blessings that nourish a living tree work the decay of a dead one.

The emerged tithe will do a lot to solve the problem of the submerged tenth.

Many women forget that it takes more than a perfect house to make a home.

STRANGE CARGOES.

During a journey from Peking to Kalgan, in China, the author of "Bound About My Peking Garden" was favored by a most extraordinary sight, which she describes as follows:

Just as we turned the corner by a beautiful temple, we came upon a great company of men, carrying what seemed to me the most unheard-of cargo, each man two eagles! All men and eagles alike, were seated upon the ground when we first caught sight of them, and the men said they were taking the birds into Mongolia to recover their plumage, and that they were kept in Peking for the purpose of making eagle feather fans; but other people told us afterward that the birds were being taken to catch hares and other game for their masters, and possibly also to catch more eagles. Probably both stories were correct, and both agreed that the whole party was to come back in December. Only one very big eagle was hooded, and I was able to walk in and out among them and look at them closely; but when I asked if it were safe to stroke one, the men exclaimed in horror, "They eat flesh!"

Presently the men got up and went off, carrying their burdens, about forty very large eagles and forty smaller ones. The smaller birds sat each upon a basket hanging from the man's shoulder pole. Each basket was apparently full of something or other, I could not see what; but the larger eagles sat on the poles at the other end, and it was amusing to see them turning round and balancing themselves and generally settling themselves comfortably before setting off.

The men seemed not to have the least anxiety lest these fierce creatures, with their powerful beaks, should each take a nip out of the cheek nearest them as they went along.

Probably True.

Wholly unintentional, but felt sharply by its recipient, nevertheless, was the rebuke an old colored "mammy" administered the other day to her mistress, who belongs to an amazing number of clubs. The family has a number of old servants but not altogether approved of some methods of the modern woman. One day her mistress had a dozen club friends out to luncheon in her home, and the feast was spread on the porch. By and by the hostess heard a lively colloquy between her eldest hopeful, 7 years old, and the nurse. "You just git down outen dat tree," said the nurse. "You want to fall out and kill yourself, do you? Well, you just try it, and see what good it'll do you. You mother, she dat busy right now she won't even hab time to go to you funeral!"—New York Press.

Unbiased.

"Tis true, I am no more myself—that is, the self of long ago; But I am nearer like that elf Than anybody that I know."

Since I am so much like the man Whom once I heartily admired, I bear with me as best I can. Although I sometimes make me tired.—Washington Star.

Woman is the holiday of man—and every man is entitled to a holiday.



Improving Live Stock.

The best families of horses, whether thoroughbred runners or trotters, were produced from a few selected ancestors, breeding being largely practiced. Breeding close to the Messenger blood, through Hambletonian, has certainly increased the speed of our trotters, and admitting that the instinct of trotting has been more firmly impressed, yet there is a much larger proportion of failures, compared with the success attained. If the fact is considered that the number of the whole is many times greater than that of half a century ago. The form of the trotter, as well as that of the thoroughbred, shows plainly the work of inbreeding, for while the spirit and will force have been increased, it has required an occasional infusion of new blood (not, however, altogether foreign) to retain the stamina so essential to roadsters. The thoroughbred runner of to-day is largely indebted to Diomed, Sir Archy, Gleucose and Lexington for improvement in endurance and speed.

The mutton breeds of sheep are now capable of producing specimens exceeding 400 pounds live weight, with also an increase in length of wool and weight of fleece, while the best merinos can shear over thirty pounds.

Every decade has witnessed the breaking of "records" among all classes of animals, which is the best evidence that improvement is rapid, much of the success being due to inbreeding, a system that is unsafe unless practiced by one who fully understands the selection of the choicest individuals, their adaptation to circumstances and the objects sought to be accomplished.

Feeding Gluten Meal.

Gluten feed is very valuable in the dairy; rich in protein and something of which the stock are very fond, it can be profitably used if handled rightly; on the other hand there is opportunity to feed it extravagantly as well as to feed so much of it that the cows will be injured. It should be invariably fed with some other grain, and if other concentrated foods are used it is better not to feed the gluten daily. If, however, bran is used to a considerable extent the gluten feed may be safely made a part of the daily ration. While gluten meal is frequently fed with ground corn and cob meal, and fed inexpensively in this way, we prefer to use it with cornmeal and bran, about three pounds of gluten meal to two pounds each of the bran and cornmeal, giving, of course, a liberal quantity of roughage. As gluten produces considerable body heat, and more when fed in conjunction with cornmeal, it is essentially a valuable winter feed, but is best cut out of the summer ration.

Handy Salt Box.

This handy salt box can be put up against the shed, and cattle can get salt at will. The salt will be out of the weather, and there will be no trouble of salting the cattle every few days. The box should be made 18 inches wide, 24 inches long, 12 inches deep in front and 16 inches in the back, so that the lid will have enough fall to shut itself when released. The lid should extend four inches over the box for a ewe to get hold on. A notch should be cut four inches deep in front of the box (a), so that when a cow smells the box she will smell salt and stick her tongue in the notch (a) and lick it. By



pushing a little harder the lid will raise up and she can get enough salt, and the box will close.—Farm Progress.

How to Prune Large Trees.

In changing the top of large trees, such branches only should be cut as will insure a well-balanced top. Two or three years will be required for grafting a large tree. It will not do to slaughter all the branches at once. It would be liable to give a shock from which the tree would never recover. Some of the small side branches or limbs grafted should be allowed to remain the first year, at least, and pruned off when the grafts have attained considerable size. It must not be inferred that grafting is limited to the apple. The pear, plum and cherry may be worked in the same way. Neither is it necessary to wait for the old or new moon before cutting your actions. The precise time for grafting is not material. It may be done when apples are on the tree the size of hickory nuts, but an earlier time is preferable.

Brief Farm Topics.

The farmer who broke his hoe handle leaning on it was leaning on the wrong thing.

F. G. Bartlett, of Socorro County, N. M., recently sold 12,000 pounds of scoured wool, the last year's clip of his own flocks. He claims to have made \$1,200 off his wool.

To combat the fraud of selling sheepskin for real kid a demonstration was recently made in Wilmington, Del., with a view to educating purchasers to buy nothing but the real article.

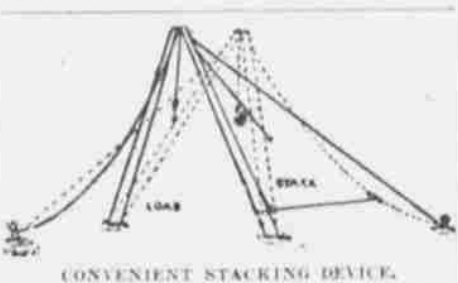
As a rule it requires quite a change of the program to induce a man to leave the cornfield to engage in other pursuits when there are so many weeds that need killing, but it is all right to stop to haul off a lot of hogs that have been finished for the market when prices are right.

Insects on Grass.

Numerous inquiries have come into the office of the Rhode Island Experiment Station regarding the cause of the frothy masses on grass and other herbage plants and on shrubs and trees. Popularly this has been ascribed to frogs or snake spittle, as the case might be. In fact, it is due to a small insect belonging to the Hymenoptera or true bugs, which live inside the frothy mass. Commonly these insects are called spittle insects for obvious reasons, and also frog hoppers, because of their connection with the frothy mass which was formerly known as frog spittle, or because in their broad, squatly appearance when mature, they resemble frogs to some extent. It is not known exactly how the frothy mass is produced, but it is supposed that the insect pumps the sap out of the plants, and in passing it through the alimentary canal mixes air with it to form small air bubbles. There are quite a number of species found at the present time, some living on grass, others on shrubs, and also on trees, both evergreen and deciduous. Most of the species have their early or nymph stage entirely within the protection of the frothy mass. When adult, however, they are found outside in the open air.

Stacking Arrangement.

The two pole stacking arrangement here shown can be readily constructed. The poles are leaning against the two taut guy wires so the fork hangs directly over the load. As the horse pulls on the rope with pulley attached a short distance from the ground the load of hay on the fork is drawn up to the pulley and the pulling draws the poles



over as shown in the dotted lines so the fork hangs over the stack when the strip is thrown and the load discharged on the stack.

Roots for Sheep.

Turnips and rutabagas are probably the best roots for sheep. Breeding sheep, and especially lambs, should be fed largely upon them instead of grain. This is a view held by the best shepherds. The view is probably correct and the practice might well be inaugurated by sheepmen. The purple-topped, strap-leaved turnips have generally given best results. They should be sown somewhat thick, and thinned to four to six inches in a row. The thinning can best be done when the drills are made upon ridges provided for the purpose. With these crops should be drilled either a bit of turnip or radish seed. This will permit earlier cultivation, because these seeds come up earlier than the mangels or carrots and thus outline the row. The mammoth Long Red and Golden Tankard mangels and the Mastodon carrots are standard varieties.

To Combat Cabbage Maggots.

For cabbage maggot use lime or wood ashes, or both mixed, sprinkling them over the soil and plants. But a new remedy used last year was made from a very strong soap, to which was added one pint of crude carbolic acid to a gallon of the boiling suds, and the mixture made into an emulsion by shaking it together in a tightly covered pail. Take this emulsion and add to thirty times its bulk of water, and use freely around the plants. Of course this remedy would not be practical on a very large area, but for those who raise only a few cabbages it seems to be the best plan there is. The large growers do not bother much with remedies, but rely on using fresh ground about every year to prevent attack by such pests.

Millions of Frozen Carcasses.

According to Sir E. Montague Nelson, says the Engineer of London, there are sixty large meat-freezing establishments in the colonies and Argentina; the carrying trade is represented by 174 refrigerated steamers, with a capacity calculated at not less than 10,000,000 carcasses; and in England there are 28 refrigerated stores in London and 100 in provincial towns for the storage of meat on arrival. These distribute daily on the average over 20,000 sheep and lambs and 4,000 quarters beef. The total importation of frozen meats into Great Britain during 1905 consisted of 8,277,731 carcasses mutton and lamb and 1,271,553 quarters beef.

Boxed Clover Seed.

The clover seed business is being closely watched by agents of the Department of Agriculture. Of 521 samples of red clover obtained in the open market 116 samples were found to contain seed of the dodder, five samples were adulterated with seed of yellow trifolium, a worthless plant, of which the seed resembles the clover. In fact, cattle have been made sick by eating clover mixed with the trifolium plant, while the dodder plant is a still more serious pest.



THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN

- 1347—Calais, France, taken by the English after a year's siege.
- 1423—English victorious at battle of Crevant, in France.
- 1469—Institution of the Order of St. Michael in France.
- 1477—Jacques d'Armaignac, Duc de Nemours, beheaded by Louis XI.
- 1492—Columbus embarked on his first voyage of discovery.
- 1498—Columbus discovered the island of Trinidad.
- 1580—Assassination of Henry III. of France by Jacques Clement.
- 1592—Sir Walter Raleigh disgraced and sent to the Tower.
- 1602—Treaty between Plymouth colony and King Philip.
- 1675—Brookfield, Mass., burned by Indians.
- 1684—Treaty of peace concluded at Albany between the colonists and the Five Nations.
- 1704—Duke of Marlborough victorious over French forces at battle of Blenheim.
- 1714—Accession of the Elector of Hanover as George I. of Great Britain.
- 1732—First stone laid of the Bank of England.
- 1750—Battle of Montmorency, Canada.
- 1777—Lafayette made Major General by vote of American Congress.... Fort Schuyler, at the head of the Mohawk river, invested by the British.
- 1780—Battle of Mohawk Valley, N. Y.
- 1787—First ascent of Mont Blanc.
- 1798—Battle of the Nile.
- 1802—Bonaparte elected First Consul for life.
- 1804—U. S. squadron under Commodore Preble attacked Tripoli.
- 1817—Plattsburgh taken by the British without opposition.
- 1814—British forces repulsed in expedition against city of Buffalo.
- 1815—Treaty of Paris; Napoleon declared prisoner.
- 1819—Barron's Straits rediscovered by Capt. Parry.
- 1824—Bolivia became independent of Peru.
- 1830—Abdication of Charles X. of France.
- 1831—New London bridge opened in London.
- 1834—Slavery abolished in the British colonies.
- 1848—City of Vera Cruz delivered to the Mexicans by the United States.
- 1854—Yellow fever became epidemic in New Orleans.... Rossini's opera, "William Tell," given first production.
- 1858—Queen Victoria sanctioned Empress of India.
- 1861—Congress passed an act for raising \$500,000,000 by tax and tariff.... Confederate privateer Petrel sunk by U. S. frigate St. Lawrence.
- 1862—Confederate ram Arkansas exploded above Baton Rouge, La.
- 1864—Fight between Confederate and Union troops at New Creek, Md.
- 1867—House of Lords passed the reform bill.
- 1871—Serious riots between Fenian sympathizers and police in Phoenix Park, Dublin.
- 1873—Large section of Portland, Ore., destroyed by fire.
- 1874—Gen. Custer's expedition reached the Black Hills.
- 1876—Colorado admitted as a State.
- 1883—Southern Exposition at Louisville opened.
- 1884—Reception of the survivors of the Greely arctic expedition at Portsmouth, N. H.... Henry M. Stanley, recently returned from Africa, received by King of Belgium.
- 1885—Earthquake throughout Central Asia.
- 1887—Collapse of the wheat syndicate in San Francisco; loss \$3,000,000.
- 1889—Pilgrim monument at Plymouth, Mass., dedicated.
- 1890—Kemmler executed by electricity at Auburn, N. Y.; first on record.
- 1893—Corinth canal opened.
- 1894—Trial of Santo Carnio for murder of President Carnot begun at Lyons.... Li Hung Chang entrusted with the Chinese war against Japan.
- 1898—Spain accepted American conditions of peace.... Martin Thurn executed at Sing Sing for murder of William Gundussupe.
- 1902—Suit brought by State of Minnesota against Northern Securities Company in United States Court dismissed.... Cardinals went into conclave for election of successor to Pope Leo XIII.
- 1905—Japanese captured the island of Saghalien.

Monkey's Rouge.

"Kamala" is the vernacular name of the red dye produced from the glands of the mature fruit of a tree named "Mallotus philippinensis," which is also called the "monkey face tree" because monkeys paint their faces red by rubbing them with their feet. Here is a striking instance of the influence of heredity.—Madras Mail.