For The Term of His Natural Life

·····

By MARCUS CLARKE

CHAPTER XXIII.—(Continued.) The experienced convict disciplinarian did not rate the ability of John Rex From the instant the convict had heard his sentence of life banishment, he had determined upon escaping, and had brought all the powers of his acute and unscrupulous intellect to the consideration of the best method of achieving his purpose. His pretended plety had accomplished the end he had assumed it for. He had won the confidence of Meekin; and into that worldly creature's ear he poured a strange and sad history. He was the son, he said, of a clergyman of the Church of England, whose real name, such was his reverence for the cloth, should never pass his lips. He was transported for which he did not commit. Sarah Purfoy was his wife. She, an inuocent and trusting girl, had determined to follow her husband to his place of doom, and had hired herself as lady's maid to Mrs. Vickers. "My great sorrow is for the poor woman. She is in Sydney, I have heard, and my heart bleeds for her." Here Rex heaved a sigh that would have made his fortune

"You might write to her." "You know the orders, sir-the com mandant reads all the letters sent. Could I write to my poor Sarah what other eyes were to read?" and he watched the parson slyly.

-o, you could not," said Meekin,

The next day Meekin, blushing with the consciousness that what he was about to do was wrong, said to his penitent, "If you will promise to write nothing that the commandant might not see, Rex. I will send your letter to your wife."

"Heaven bless you, sir!" said Rex. and took two days to compose an epistle which should tell Sarah Purfoy how to act. The letter was a model of composition in one way. It stated everything clearly and succinctly. Not a detail that could assist was omitted, not a line that could embarrass was suffered to remain. John Rex's scheme of six months' deliberation was set down in the learest possible manner. He brought his letter unsealed to Meekin. Meekin looked at it with an interest that was half suspicious. "Have I your word ithat there is nothing in this that might

not be read by the commandant?" John Rex was a bold man, but at the sight of the deadly thing fluttering open in the clergyman's hand his knees knocked together. Strong in his and pursued of human nature, however, he pursued of human nature, however, he pursued it sir," he is desperate plan. "Read it, sir," he sald, turning away his face reproach-"You are a gentleman. : I can Fully.

"No. Rex." said Meekin, walking loftly into the pitfall; "I do not read pri-Rex felt as if somebody had withdrawn match from a powder barrel.
In a month Mr. Meekin received a let-

er, beautifully written, fas lex," stating briefly that she had heard f his goodness; that the inclosed letter was for her husband, and that, if it was mejagainst the rules to give it him, she beged it might be returned to her unread. ext morning handed to Meekin a most uching and plous production, begging cim to read it. Meekin did so, and any aspicions he may have had were at ine hee disarmed. He was ignorant of the sucrect that the plous letter contained a ivate one, intended for John Rex only, meashich letter John Rex thought so high He of that, having read it twice through at attentively, he ate it.

Ell The plan of escape was, after all, a Ba mple one. Sarah Purfoy was to keep ressel hovering round the southern The name of Van Diemen's Land without exade in the winter months, if possible, June or July. The watchful vessel pre is to be commanded by some trust a lerthy person, who was to frequently on the southeastern side, and keep okout for any extraordinary appearce along the coast. Rex himself must left to run the gauntlet of the dogs and guards unaided. "This seems a sperate scheme," wrote Rex, "but it not so wild as it looks. I have thought per a dozen others, and rejected them

This is the only way. Consider it I have my own plan for escape, ch is easy if rescue be at hand. All ands upon placing a trustworthy man charge of the vessel. You ought to You ought to months to give you time to make rrangements." The eighteen months arrangements. now nearly passed over, and the for the desperate attempt drew Faithful to his cruel philosophy, n Rex had provided scapegoats who,

eir vicarious agonies, should assist to his salvation.

a had discovered that of the twenty in his gang eight had already deed on an effort for freedom. The es of these eight were Gabbett. Bodenham, Cornelius, Greenhill, ders (called the "Moocher"), Cox and He would urge these men to fate, and take advantage of the Itement attendant on their absence feet his own escape. "While all the and is looking for these eight boobies, all have a good chance to slip away He wished, however, to a companion. Some strong man. if pressed hard, would turn and the pursuers at bay, would be usem he sought in Rufus Dawes. without doubt; and this comrade-

inning from a purely selfish motive rge his fellow-prisoner to abscond him, John Rex gradually found f attracted into something like dliness by the sternness with which

vertures were repelled. lave you no friends whom you wish he asked, one evening, when

Dawes had proved more than ly deaf to his arguments. maid "Mr Dawes, gloomily. are all dead to me. hat, all?" asked the other, "Most

have some one whom they wish to

have resolved. ' I stay here."

"And leave your innocence unprov-

ed!" "How can I prove it?" cried Rufus Dawes, roughly impatient. "There are crimes committed which are never brought to light, and this is one of them.

"Well," said Rex, as if weary of the discussion, "have it your own way, then. You know best. The private detective game is hard work. I, myself, have gone on a wild goose chase before now. There's a mystery about a certain shipbuilder's son which took me four months to unravel, and then I lost the thread."

'A shipbuilder's son! Who was he?" John Rex paused in wonderment at the eager interest with which the question was put, and then hastened to take advantage of this new opening for conversation. "A queer story. known character in my time-Sir Richard Devine. A miserly old curmudgeon, with a scape-grace son."

Rufus Dawes bit his lips to avoid showing his emotion. This was the second time that the name of his dead father had been spoken in his hearing. "I think I remember something of him, he said, with a voice that sounded strangely calm in his own ears.

"A curious story," said Rex, plunging into past memories. "Among other matters, I dabbled a little in the private inquiry line of business, and the old man came to me. He had a son who had gone abroad—a wild young dog, by all accounts-and he wanted particulars of him.'

"Did he get them?"

"To a certain extent. I hunted him through Paris into Brussels, from Brussels to Antwerp, from Antwerp back to Paris. I lost him there. A miserable end to a long and expensive search. I got nothing but a portmanteau with a lot of letters from his mother. I sent the particulars to the shipbuilder, and by all accounts the news killed him, for he died not long after." "And the son?"

"Came to the queerest end of all. The old man had left him his fortune—a large one, I believe-but he'd left Europe, it seems, for India, and was lost in the Hydaspes. Frere was his cousin."

"It annoys me when I think of it," continued Rex. "With the resources I had, too! Oh, a miserable failure! The days and nights I've spent walking about looking for Richard Devine, and never catching a glimpse of him! The old man gave me his son's portrait, with full particulars of his early life, and I suppose I carried that ivory gimerack in my breast pocket for nearly three months, pulling it out to refresh my memory every halfbour. If the young gentleman was anything like his picture, I could have sworn to him if I'd met him in Timbuctoo.'

"Do you think you'd know him again?" asked Rufus Dawes, in a low

voice, turning away his head. There may have been something in the in which the speaker had put attitude himself that awakened memory, or per haps the subdued eagerness of the tone. contrasting so strangely with the comparative inconsequence of the theme had caused John Rex's brain to perform one of those feats of automatic synthesis at which we afterward wonder. The profligate son-the likeness to the portrait—the mystery of Dawes' life! These were the links of a galvanic chain. He closed the circuit, and a vivid flash re-

Warder Troke coming up, put his hand on Rex's shoulder. said, "you're wanted at the yard;" and then, seeing his mistake, added, with a grin, "Curse you two; you're so much alike one can't tell t'other from which." Rufus Dawes walked off moodily; but John Rex's evil face turned pale, and a

strange hope made his heart leap. "Troke's right, we are alike. I'll not press him to escape any more.'

CHAPTER XXIV.

The Pretty Mary-as ugly and evilsmelling a tub as ever pitched under a southerly burster-had been lying on and off Cape Surville for nearly three Captain Blunt was getting weeks. wearied. He made strenuous efforts to find the oyster beds of which he was ostensibly in search, but no success attended his efforts. In vailn did he take boat, and pull into every cove and nook between the Hoppolyte Reef and Scouten Island. In vain did he run Pretty Mary as near to the rugged cliffs as he dared to take her, and make perpetual expeditions to the shore. In vain did he his eagerness for the interests of Mrs. Purfoy-clamber up the rocks, and spend hours in solitary soundings Blackman's Bay. He never found an oyster. "If I don't find something in three or four days more," said he to his mate, "I shall go back again. It's too dangerous cruising here.

On the same evening that Captain Blunt made this resolution, the watchman at Signal Hill saw the arms of the semaphore at the settlement make three

motions thus: The semaphore was furnished with three revolving arms, fixed one above the other. The upper one denoted units. and had six motions, indicating one to six. The middle one denoted tens, ten to sixty. The lower one marked hundreds, from one hundred to six hundred. The lower and upper arms whirled

out. That meant three hundred and six. A ball ran up to the top of the post. That meant one thousand.

Number 1306, or, being interpreted, Prisoners Absconded." "There's a bolt," said Jones, the sig-

naiman. The semaphore signaled again-

'Number 1411." "With arms!" Jones said, translating can. as he read. "Come here, Harry! here's

But Harry did not reply, and, looking down, the watchman saw a dark figure suddenly fill the doorway. The boasted semaphore had failed this time, at all events. The "bolters" had arrived as soon as the signal!

The man sprang at his carbine, but the intruder had already possessed himself

"It's no use making a fuss, me by attending to your signals."

Jones knew the voice. It was that of John Rex. "Reply, can't you?" said Rex, coolly. "Captain Burgess is in a hurry." The arms of the semaphore at the settlement were, in fact, gesticulating with comical vehemence.

Jones took the strings in his hands, and, with his signal book open before them, was about to acknowledge the message, when Rex stopped him. this message," he said. "Not see "Not seen! Signal sent to Eaglehawk!"

Jones paused irresolutely. He was himself a convict, and dreaded the inevitable cat that he knew would follow this false message. "If they finds me " he said. Rex cocked the carbine with so decided a meaning in his black eyes that Jones banished his hesitation at once and began to signal eag-There came up a clinking of metal and a murmur from below. "What's keeping yer, Dandy?"

"All right. Get those irons off, and then we'll talk, boys. I'm putting salt on old Burgess' tail." The rough jest was received with a roar, and Jones, looking momentarily down from his window on the staging, saw, in the waning light, a group of men freeing themselves from their irons with a hammer taken from the guard house; while two, already freed, were casting buckets of water on the beacon woodpile. The sentry was lying bound at a little dis-

"Now," said the leader of this surprise party, "signal to Woody Island." ing it. When the wind blows the water Jones perforce obeyed. "Say, 'An escape at the mines! Watch One-tree Point! Send on to Eaglehawk!' Quick,

Jones, comprehending the force of this maneuver, which would have the effect of distracting attention from the Neck, executed the order with a grin. "You're a knowing one, Dandy Jack," said he.

John Rex acknowledged the co ment by uncocking the carbine. out your hands! Jemmy Vetch! Come up, and the our friend Jones. Gabbett have you got the axes?" "There's only one," said Gabbett. "Then bring that, and any tucker you can lay your hands Have you tied him? On we go, then.' And in the space of five minutes from the time when unsuspecting Harry had been silently clutched by two dicate how it is constructed and the forms, who rushed upon him out of the manner of disposing of the overflow shadow of the huts, the Signal Hill sta- of water from a stock tank. It will tion was deserted.

At the settlement Burgess was foamboat, and get half an hour's start of the achievement! What could Warder Troke have been about? Warder Troke, however, found eight hours afterward, disarmed, gagged and bound in the scrub, had been guilty of no negligence. How could he tell, that at a certain signal from Dandy Jack, the nine men to seed so as to raise a paying crop the he had taken to Stewart's Bay would "rush" him; and, before he could draw a pistol, truss him like a chicken? The worst of the gang. Rufus Dawes, had volunteered for the hated duties of pile driving, and Troke had felt himself secure. How could he possibly guess that there was a plot in which Rufus Dawes, of all men, had refused to join?

Constables, mounted and were dispatched to scour the bush round cast and with them four or five hunthe settlement. Burgess, confident, from dred pounds of some good fertilizer, usthe reply of the Signal Hill semaphore, that the alarm had been given at Eaglehawk isthmus, promised himself the recapture of the gang before many hours; nd giving orders to keep the communications going, retired to dinner. His of the summer plow the cow peas unconvict servant had barely removed the der, lime the soil heavily, five hundred soup when the result of John Rex's pounds or more to the acre, harrow in ingenuity became manifest. The sem- and sow to a mixture of crimson clover aphore at Signal Hill had stopped working.

"Perhaps the fools can't see," said Burges. "Fire the beacon—and saddle my horse." The beacon was fired. All right at Mount Arthur, Mount Com- tillzer should be used .- Exchange. munication, and the coal mines. To the westward, the line was clear. But at Signal Hill was no answering light. Burgess stamped with rage. "Get me my boat's crew ready; and tell the mines to signal to Woody Island." As he stood on the jetty, a breathless messenger brought the reply. "A boat's crew to One-tree Point! Five men sent from Eaglehawk in obedience to orders!" Burgess understood it at once. fellows had decoyed the Eaglehawk "Give way, men!" guard. And the boat shooting into the darkness, made for Long Bay. "I won't be far behind 'em," said the commandant, "at any

(To be continued.)

Still Hope. "I am afraid it is all over between Jeannette and Jack."

"Why, dear?" "She has returned his photograph."

"You don't mean it?"

"Also his letters."

"Gracious!"

"And his ring." He gave her a kiss as they parted in to the rear of each runner. These teeth the old lawn."

"And what did she do?" "She-she returned that, too."

Just a Question.

A West African on a visit to England with a missionary society was shown a collection of photographs, young and vigorous orchard is quite "What is this?" he asked, gazing won- likely to give it reasonable good care, deringly at one of them. "That is a for he believes that, in time, it will snapshot taken during a scrimmage at bring him good returns. On the other lows about the heavy draft horse; a Rugby football game."

Trusting to Appearances.

most trusting of men."

"How do you make that out?" "Doesn't he always take people at

True Bravery, Wiggs-You haven't the courage of a rabbit.

Waggs-Not of a Welsh rabbit-one

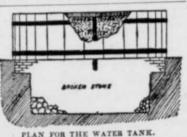
A debt is adorned by payment.



~~~

Prevents Mud Around Tank.

To prevent a mud hole forming around a watering tank a structure like this can be built. A hole or pit is dug the size of the tank to a depth of six feet and is filled with broken stone. The tank is then mounted on whatever kind of foundation desirable which can be made of brick or stone. The overflow pipe is placed in the center of the tank instead of at the sides which is usually the manner of attachinstead of slopping out of the sides and

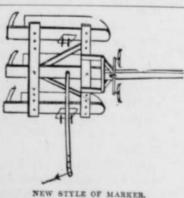


PLAN FOR THE WATER TANK. making a mud hole runs over the top of the waste pipe in the center of the tank and runs down to seep away in the broken rock and porous sub-soil. The accompanying illustration will inbe better to have the water line a few inches lower than the top edge of the ing. Nine men to seize the Long Bay tank so as to preclude the possibility alarm signal was an unprecedented of any water escaping and making a mud hole.

> Crops Following Cow Pens. One ought not to get the idea that a worn out piece of ground can be planted to cow peas one year and be sown following year. Cow peas renovate the soil and supply nitrogen, but they can not and do not entirely rebuild it in a short period. If one has a worn out strip of soil, he must expect to spend some time and energy on it to get it in proper condition. A plan somewhat after the following would work well: Sow on foot, five pecks of cow peas per acre broading a fertilizer more heavily endowed with potash and phosphoric acid than with nitrogen, although it should contain some nitrogen. About the middle and rape. This, plowed under the following spring, would give one a soil fairly good for some cultivated crop upon which a liberal quantity of fer-

> > Marker for Corn and Beans.

The runners of this marker for corn, beans, etc., are of ash, with pieces of oak 1x4 nailed on top. The crosspleces are of spruce, 1x6. Can mark rows 21/2, 3, 31/2 or 4 feet, with guide pole to swing either way. What makes this



marker all the more valuable and real-"My! My! But there is still hope, ly a short cut, are the cultivator teeth are set one inch below the iron shoe of the runner and bolted fast to the 1x4 oak; they make a good, soft seed

Care of Old Orchards. The man who starts out with

hand, the man with an old orchard, "But has your church no mission- that is an adult orchard, so to speak, 1,600 to 2,000 pounds, and is worth, at "But has your church no mission that its days of use a minimum, \$200. Each of the first leans closed.

Sulpass are over and gives it little or two additions of a hundred to the first lass —Hon. Grover Cleveland married to no care and, as a result, it amounts to above 1,600 increases the value of the but little. Experienced orchardists horse \$25, after which every addition in "A photographer is really among the who have gone into the matter exten- weight means \$50 a hundred pounds. sively think that the orchard which So a draft horse of 2,000 pounds is is not too old is well worth caring for worth \$500. Light draft horses, weighand many of them have made them ing from 1,300 to 1,600 pounds, are used their face value?"—Baltimore Ameri- pay handsomely by the simple process for express wagons, fire engines and spraying the trees.

Horse-Eating in Germany.

It is safe to say that in no other profession, for farming is a profession if properly carried on, are there so few practitioners who understand the funlamental principles of their work as among farmers

We call in a physician, and feel that if he can not tell us pretty nearly what the trouble is with the patient that he does not understand his business. We give a case to a lawyer, and if he makes a mess of it we feel, and rightly, that he is not up in his profession. We of the farm have a poor crop under normal weather conditions, and guess at the cause.

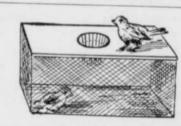
If we plow and sow we hope the soil will bring a certain return. If it does not, how many of us can tell why? The truth of the matter is, we plew and sow without much regard to why we do it, and with even less regard of what our 1498—Columbus sailed on his third to soil needs are and whether we have supplied them.

If every soil worker in the country could take a course of one year in practical soil chemistry, there would be such a change in farming operations and results as would startle the world. We read and see many agricultural successes, and in each and every case we would find, if we investigated, that the owner of the farm was well acquainted with it-as well acquainted with the case as the successful lawyer is who wins a case before the bar. Why not begin to study the farm? It surely will pay.—Indianapolis News.

Alfalfa in Connecticut.

I took three and one-half acres of the very highest, driest and poorest section of my field, 100 feet above the water line, and intensely cultivated it to the depth of six inches or more. Then I sowed twenty-five pounds of alfalfa seed to the acre on the 3d of June and 800 pounds of high grade fertilizer to each acre. On July 24, fifty-two days after seeding, I cut and cured 10,760 pounds of dry hay, and on Sept. 13 1 cut and cured 10,850 pounds more of dry hay, or 21,610 pounds, almost eleven tons, in 103 days from time of seeding-it is safe to say three tons to the acre of dry alfalfa hay. I would not advise others to go into the cultivation of alfalfa very extensively at first, yet I think that there are many high and dry fields in New England that could be utilized in the production of nifalfa. -George M. Clark in Farm and Ranch.

Trap for English Sparrows. In many localities the English sparrow has become a great nulsance. To



ENGLISH SPARROW TRAP.

poison them is dangerous. To make an effective trap, buy wire screening and make a box cage. Cover the top with thin boards; make a large, round hole in center, inserting a wire funnel just small enough for the bird to pass through at lower end. Bait well. The bird lighting on the cage and seeing bait through the funnel will readily pass in.

Curing Hogs of Worms.

According to Doctor Peters, a wellknown veterinarian, nothing is better for worms in the lungs of hogs than creosote. It cleans out the intestinal tract. It can be administered in the following manner with the best success; Coal creosote, one ounce; water, ninety-nine ounces. One pint of water weighs sixteen ounces. One ounce of the mixture is the dose for a full-grown animal, and is the dose administered with the morning feed. If it is necessary to drench the animal, use a drenching tube made by taking an ordinary tin funnel and a rubber tube, place the rubber tube into the animal's mouth and allow it to bite on it, and pour the drench into the funnel. It is better to place a piece of metal on the end of the rubber tube so that the animal may bite on it continually without stopping the flow by pinching the rubber tube.

Heavy Draft Animals.

At a recent Missouri Association meeting, Prof. Kennedy spoke as fol-

"The heavy draft horse weighs from fulness are over and gives it little or two additions of a hundred pounds of cultivation of the soil, pruning and other heavy but quick work. These bring about \$125 to \$200. The highacting carriage or coach horse is worth Germany ate 96,834 horses in 1905, gentleman's driving horse, and the galtfrom \$200 to \$2,000. The roadster or which was 15,522 more than in 1904. ed saddle horse vary from \$200 to \$300 had the nerve last night to disagree Also 407 more dogs were eaten, not respectively up to \$1,000. In the last counting, the careful statistician adds, ten years there has been an advance 1895—Eugene V. Debs, leader of the those dogs which were slaughtered pri- of 25 per cent in the draft horses of Iowa and Missouri

THE WEEKLY

1416-Jerome of Prague burnt at 6 stance.

1431-Joan of Arc burned as a be in Rome. 1453-Fall of the Eastern Empire.

1492-Granada surrendered; end of a minion of Moors in Spain,

age to America. 1521-Siege of Mexico begun by Corr 1536-John of Leyden tortured and w to death.

1539-De Soto landed on the west con of Florida. 1546-Cardinal Beaton assassinated

St. Andrews. 1561-St. Paul's church, London, burne 1572-Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, en

cuted. 1581-James Douglas, Earl of Morton beheaded at Edinburgh.

1588-The Spanish Armada vailed from Lisbon. 1609—Sir Thomas Gates and party of colonists sailed from England to

Virginia. 1660-Charles II. made his entry intr London . . . . Execution of Mary Dyer. a Quakeress, on Boston Common, 1672-Union between colonies of Massa-

chusetts, Connecticut and Plymouth.

1754—Thousands killed in earthquake at Cairo, Egypt. 1763-Indian massacre at Fort Mackinaw, Mich.

1779-Stony Point evacuated by the Americans. 1790-Copyright law passed by American Congress . . . Rhode Island adopted the federal constitution ... Independence declared by Belgian pror

1792-Kentucky admitted to the Union 1793-Democratic society formed is

Philadelphia. 1794 Lord Howe defeated and almost destroyed the French fleet.

1796-Tennessee admitted to the Union .. Bonaparte dissolved the Great Council and took possession of Ven-

1801-Embargo of Great Britain removed.

1802-Charles Emanuel IV. of Sardinia abdicated in favor of his brother, Victor Emmanuel.

1804-Jefferson issued proclamation erect ing district of Mobile. 1895-Treaty of peace between United

States and Tripoli. 1813-Battle between Shannon and Chesapeake off Massachusetts bay. 1814-Peace between Great Britain and

France proclaimed in London. 1819-First lodge of Odd Fellows in United States organized at Balti-

1832-James Mackintosh, English states man, died. 1833-Louis McLean of Delaware appointed Secretary of State.

1840—Canton ransomed from the British for \$6,000,000. 1848-Wisconsin admitted as a State. 1854-Kansas and Nebraska territories

formed. 1858-Donati's comet first observed by Dr. Donati, Florence.

1861-U. S. mail service discontinued in seceding States. 1862-Fort Pillow, Tenn., evacuated by

Gen. Beauregard ... . Battle of Seven Pines and Fair Oaks, Va.... Beauregard evacuated Corinth, Miss.

1864 Grant repulsed by Lee at battle of Cold Harbor, Va....Maximilian arrived at Vera Cruz, Mexico.

1865-Proclamation of President John son stating conditions of amnesty .. Gens. Kirby Smith and Magrader formally surrendered their forces at

Galveston. 1870-Civil rights bill approved.

1875-Steamship Vicksburg sunk by an iceberg off Cape Race; 65 lives lost .. Paul Boynton floated across the British channel.

1878—German naval vessel Grosser Kurfuerst sunk in English channel; 300 lost. . Wreck of the steamer Idaho on the coast of Ireland.

1879-Prince Louis Napoleon killed by Zulus in Africa.

1883-Ten persons killed in panic on Brooklyn bridge.

Miss Frances Folsom. 1887-Earthquake shock in City of Mexico....Island of Cyprus ceded to

England. 1889-Forty lives lost in floods at Petersburg, Va., and Washington, D. ....Johnstown flood; 3,500 lives

1892-The "High-Water Mark" mondment at Gettysburg dedicated. 1893-Trial of Dr. Briggs for heresy by Presbyterian general assembly Body of Jefferson Davis placed in Holyrood cemetery, Richmond.

Chicago railway strike, sentenced to

six months' imprisonment