

Between Two Fires

By ANTHONY HOPE

"A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds." —Francis Bacon.

CHAPTER IX.—(Continued.)
I had nothing left to say. I fell back in my chair, and gazed at the Colonel. At the same moment a sound of rapid steps struck on my ears. Then I heard the street, clear voice I knew so well saying:
"I'll just disturb him for a moment, Mr. Jones. I want him to tear himself from work for a day, and come for a ride."
She opened her door, and came swiftly in. On seeing the Colonel she took in the position, and said to that gentleman:
"Have you told him?"
"I have just done so, Signorina," he replied.
"I had not energy enough to greet her; so she also sat down uninvited, and took off her gloves—not really, like the Colonel, but with an air as though she would, if a man, take off her coat, to meet the crisis more energetically.
At last I said, with conviction:
"He's a wonderful man! How did you find it out, Colonel?"
"I had Johnny Carr to dine," said that worthy.
"You don't mean he trusted Johnny?"
"Oh, isn't it?" said the Colonel. "With his experience, too. He might have known Johnny was an idiot. I suppose there was no one else."
"He knew," said the Signorina. "Any one else in the place would betray him; he knew Johnny wouldn't if he could help it. He underrated your powers, Colonel."
"Well," said I, "I can't help it, can I? My directors will lose. The bondholders will lose. But how does it hurt me?"
The Colonel and the Signorina both smiled gently.
"You do it very well, Martin," said the former, "but it will save time if I state that both Signorina Nugent and myself are possessed of the details regarding the—(the Colonel passed, and stroked his mustache).
"The second loan," said the Signorina. "I was less surprised at this, recollecting certain conversations."
"Ah, and how did you find that out?" I asked.
"She told me," said the Colonel, indicating his fair neighbor.
"And may I ask how you found it out, Signorina?"
"The President told me," said that lady.
"Well, as you both know all about it, it's no good keeping up pretenses. It's very kind of you to come and warn me."
"You dear good Mr. Martin," said the Signorina, "our motives are not purely those of friendship."
"Why, how does it matter to you?"
"Simply this," said she, "the bank and its excellent manager own most of the debt. The Colonel and I own the rest. If it is repudiated, the bank loses, yes; but the manager and the Colonel and the Signorina Nugent are lost!"
"I didn't know this," I said, rather bewildered.
"Yes," said the Colonel, "when the first loan was raised I lent him \$100,000. We thought then, and I did it in return for my rank and my seat in the Chamber. Since then I've bought up some more shares."
"You got them cheap, I suppose?" said I.
"Yes," he replied. "I averaged them at about 75 cents the five-dollar nominal."
"And what do you hold now, nominal?"
"Three hundred thousand dollars," said he, shortly.
"I understand your interest in the matter. But you, Signorina?"
The Signorina appeared a little embarrassed. But at last she broke out:
"I don't care if I do tell you. When I decided to stay here I had \$50,000. He persuaded me to put it all into his horrid debt. Oh! wasn't it mean, Mr. Martin?"
The President had certainly combined business and pleasure in this matter.
"Disgraceful!" he remarked.
"And if that goes, I am penniless—penniless. And there's your aunt. What will she do?"
"Never mind your aunt," said the Colonel, rather rudely. "Well," he went on, "you see we're in the same boat with you, Martin."
"Yes; and we shall soon be in the same deep water," said I.
"Not at all," said the Colonel. "Financial probity is the backbone of a country. Are we to stand by and see Aureatland enter on the shameful path of repudiation?"
"Never!" cried the Signorina, leaping up with sparkling eyes. "Never!"
She looked enchanting. But business is business; and I said again:
"What are you going to do?"
"We are going, with your help, Martin, to prevent this national disgrace. We are going," he lowered his voice, "useless, for the Signorina struck in, in a high merry tone, waving her gloves over her head, with these remarkable words:
"Hurrah for the Revolution! Hip! hip! hurrah!"
The Signorina looked like a Goddess of Freedom in high spirits and a Paris bonnet. She broke forth into the "Marseillaise."
"For mercy's sake, be quiet!" said McGregor, in a hoarse whisper. "If they hear you! Stop, I tell you, Christina!"
"Kindly remind you, plan, Christina," I said. "I am aware that you have your own little revolutions, but to a newcomer they appear to be matters requiring some management. You see we are only three."
"I have the army with me," said he, grandly.
"In the outer office?" asked I, indulging in a sneer at the dimensions of the Aureatland forces.
"Look here, Martin," he said, scowling, "if you're coming in with us, keep your jokes to yourself."
"Don't quarrel, gentlemen," said the Signorina. "It's a waste of time. Tell him the plan, Colonel."
"I saw the wisdom of this advice, so I said:
"Your pardon, Colonel. But won't this repudiation be popular with the army? If he lets the debt slide, he can pay them."
"Exactly," said he. "Hence we must get at them before that aspect of the case strikes them. They are literally starving and for ten dollars a man they will make Satan himself President. Have you got any money, Martin?"
"Yes," said I, "a little."
"Ten thousand," I replied. "I was keeping it for the interest."
"Ah, you won't want it now."
"Indeed I shall—for the second loan, you know."
"Look here, Martin; give me that ten thousand for the troops. Stand in with us, and the day I become President I'll

secret from the one man we feared, and on that one man being found alone and unguarded at 12 o'clock on Friday night. If he discovered the plot, we were lost. If he took it into his head to attend the supper, our difficulties would be greatly increased. At this point we turned to the signorina, and I said, briefly:
"This appears to be where you come in, Signorina. Permit me to invite you to dine with his excellency on Friday evening at 8 precisely."
"You mean," she said slowly, "that I am to keep him at home on Friday?"
"Yes," said I. "Is there any difficulty?"
"I do not think there is great difficulty," she said, "but I don't like it; it looks so treacherous."
"Of course it did. I didn't like her doing it myself, but how else was the President to be secured?"
"Rather late to think of that, isn't it?" asked McGregor, with a sneer. "A revolution won't run on high emotional wheels."
"Think how he jockeyed you about the money," said I, assuming the part of the tempter.
"By the way," said McGregor, "it's understood the Signorina enters into possession of the President's country villa, isn't it?"
"Now my poor Signorina had a longing for that choice little retreat, and between resentment for her lost money and a desire for the pretty house, she was sore bent. Left to herself, I believe she would have yielded to her better feelings and spoiled the plot."
"I'll do it, if you'll swear not to—hurt him," she said.
"I've promised already," replied the Colonel, solemnly; "I won't touch him, unless he brings it on himself. If he tries to kill me, I suppose I needn't be hazy about the blow."
"No, no," I interposed; "I have a regard for his excellency, but we must not let our feelings betray us into weakness. He must be taken—alive and well, if possible—but in the last resort, dead or alive."
"Come, that's more like sense," said the Colonel, approvingly.
The Signorina sighed, but opposed us no longer.
Returning to ways and means, we arranged for communication in case of need during the next three days without the necessity of meeting. My position as the center of financial business in Whittingham made this easy; the passage of bank messengers to and fro would excite little remark, and the messages could easily be expressed in the most unobtrusive manner. It was further agreed that on the smallest hint of danger reaching any one of us, the word should be once passed to the others, and we should rendezvous at the Colonel's "ranch," which lay some seven miles from the town. Thence, in this lamentable case, escape would be most possible.
"And now," said the Colonel, "if Martin will hand over the dollars, I think that's about all."
(To be continued.)

CHAPTER X.
The morning meeting had been devoted to principles and to the awakening of enthusiasm; in the evening the conspirators condensed upon details, and we held a prolonged and anxious conference at the Signorina's. Mrs. Carrington was commended to have a headache after dinner, and retired with it to bed; and from ten till one we sat and conspired. The result of our deliberations was a pretty plan, of which the main outlines were as follows:
This was Tuesday. On Friday night, the Colonel, with twenty determined ruffians (or resolute patriots) previously bound to him, body and soul, by a donation of no less than fifty dollars each, was to surprise the Golden House, seize the person of the President and all cash and securities on the premises; no killing if it could be avoided, but on the other hand no shilly-shally. McGregor wanted to put the President out of the way at once, as a precautionary measure, but I strongly opposed this proposal, and finding the Signorina was absolutely indelible on the same side, he yielded.
I had a strong desire to be present at this midnight surprise, but another duty called for my presence. There was a gala supper at the barracks that evening, to commemorate some incident or other in the national history, and I was to be present and to reply to the toast of "The Commerce of Aureatland." My task was, at all hazards, to keep this party going till the Colonel's job was done, when he would appear at the soldiers' quarters, scribble in hand, and demand their allegiance. Our knowledge of the character of the troops made us regard the result as a certainty, if once the President were surrounded the officers' mess-room, and offer them life and money, or death and destruction. Here again we anticipated their choice with composure. The army was then to be paraded in the Piazza, the town overawed or converted, and behold, the Revolution was accomplished!
The success of this design entirely depended on its existence remaining a dead

IT WILL BE A TERROR TO COUNTRY "SPELLIN' MATCHES."



—Rocky Mountain News.

A SECOND SAN FRANCISCO.

Stricken Valparaiso and the Earthquake Which Devastated It.
Valparaiso, the south American city that has suffered a fate similar to that of San Francisco, built upon 19 hills or mountains belonging to the coast range and varying from 300 to 1,100 feet in height. These hills are sometimes separated by deep ravines through which the small streams of water. The level ground along the bay covers only a narrow strip, in some places wide enough for four parallel streets, in others only wide enough for two. It is more than one-half mile in width. Much of this narrow strip was lost by filling up the ground around the bay and protecting it from the sea by stone walls and iron galls.
Streets in the best part of the city are generally straight, but the hills are reached by winding roads, stairways and steam lifts. Belgian blocks form the principal material for street paving.

had been immune and had been growing in prosperity. Its imposing buildings, tram cars, and electric light suggesting a busy European city. It has received, however, what will probably prove to be a disastrous setback. The extent of the shock is reported to have covered an area of 2 degrees, or about 140 miles in length. The city is backed by the enormous range of the Andes which is famous for its terrible gorges and towering peaks, recently successfully surmounted by the Transandean railway, which connects the west coast with Buenos Ayres on the east. Railways, telegraphs, water and electric mains were all broken down in San Francisco, but in many cases the solidity of the houses preserved them from ruin. The tremors caused by the earthquake spread over the world and were recorded on numerous seismographs.
The earthquake at Valparaiso occurred on the slopes of the great chain of the Andes, a district which has been

average country home. City people have infinitely greater variety of life. They enjoy themselves a great deal more than country people. They work hard when at work, but when they are through, they drop everything and have a good time. There is no doubt that the theater, in spite of its many evils, has done a great deal toward erasing the marks of age. People who laugh much retain their youth longer.
—O. S. Marden in "Success Magazine."

Who Would Be Our King?

If Washington had accepted the American crown when it was offered to him during the revolution who would have been king-to-day? If that dynasty had continued according to lineal descent the reigning monarch would be one of Louisville's respected and honored citizens—Mr. George Washington Lewis. Only two reigns would have intervened between that of George I. and the present day. Mr. Lewis is now 87 years old, and divides

BREATHING DURING SLEEP.

Exercise, Compelling Deeper Inhalation at Night, Valuable.

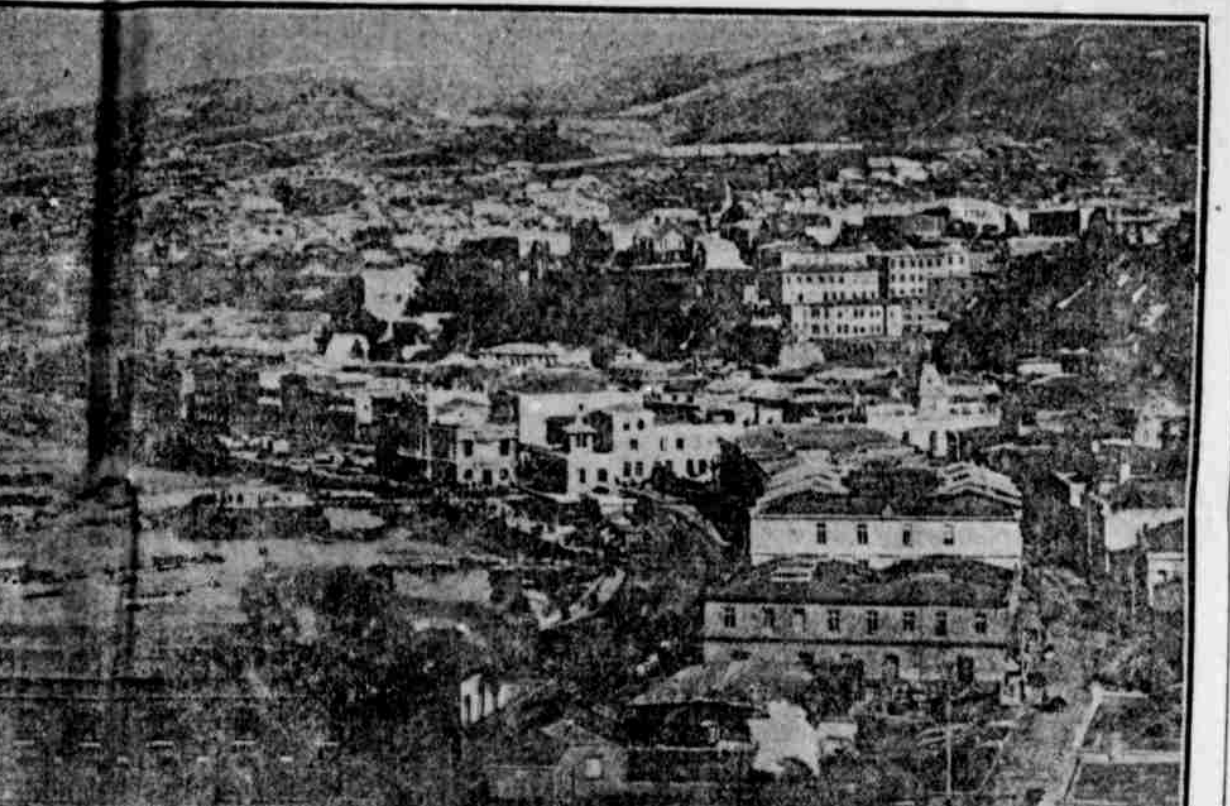
The importance of proper respiration during sleep is dwelt upon by Dr. J. H. Kellogg in an article on "Unconscious Respiration," contributed to Good Health. Dr. Kellogg notes that during sleeping hours the breathing movements are more superficial and slower than when one is awake and active. The lungs influence the activity of every organ and every cell in the body, and consequently lessened breathing during sleep slows down every function. He goes on:

"It is necessary that activity should be lessened in order that sleep and rest may be secured, but the work of the liver, kidneys, and the repairing work of the living cells goes on during sleep, and this requires oxygen. Hence the body should be supplied with an abundance of fresh air during sleep by proper ventilation of the sleeping rooms. The lassitude experienced on rising in the morning after sleeping in a close, overheated room is evidence of the injury resulting from such practice. The temperature of the sleeping room should never be above 60 degrees F. when a higher temperature can be avoided, and a lower temperature will be found beneficial. Sleeping in cool air, provided the body is kept warm, is far more refreshing, invigorating and energizing than in a warm atmosphere. Cold air has a tonic effect upon the tissues which is highly beneficial."
The amount of air taken in during sleep may be remarkably increased, Dr. Kellogg goes on to say, by developing the vital capacity and the activity of the lungs through suitable exercise. He says:

"An eminent French physiologist found that the amount of air taken into the lungs during sleep was doubled in students whose general breathing capacity had been increased by exercise. Exercise in a gymnasium, chopping and sawing wood, digging, laundry work, scrubbing, running of errands—all sorts of active housework and farm work—are excellent means of developing the chest. Any exercise which accelerates the breathing, compelling deep, full breaths, is valuable as a means for developing the lung capacity."
"Languor, nervousness and mental cloudiness are driven away by the increased ventilation of the body secured by deep breathing. The pure oxygen taken in burns up the rubbish which obstructs the brain and the tissues, while the deep-breathing movements accelerate the circulation, drawing the impure blood toward the chest for purification, and so cleansing the tissues of the purifying poisons which are sure to accumulate in them unless constantly removed by vigorous movement of the blood and energetic breathing. The heightened color of cheeks, the increased lustre of eye and general buoyancy of feeling which follow a brisk walk on a frosty morning are evidences of the benefits that are to be derived from taking into the body an increased supply of oxygen through active breathing."
"While the lungs are to some extent subject to voluntary control, their activity, like that of the heart, automatic. During sleep, as well as during the waking hours, their movements are carried on with rhythmical regularity, except when interrupted by speech, and without any conscious or voluntary effort."

As Others See Us.

The Maid—Now there's Fred Huggins. He's a man after my own heart. The Man—Well, he's scheduled for a bitter disappointment.
The Maid—Why do you say that?
The Man—Because you are heartless.



A GENERAL VIEW OF VALPARAISO BEFORE THE DISASTER.

while sidewalks are flagged. Calle Victoria, the principal street, is a wide thoroughfare, stretching along the bay from one end of the city to the other; it is lined with handsome government buildings, hotels, banks, stores and offices. The majority of these edifices are built of brick, three or four stories in height; curved facades are a prominent feature; stores are large and have plate glass windows. The city is divided for

shaken by such movements ever since the country has been known to history. The strata of the continent has been pushed up to heights of nearly 20,000 feet, all along the western side of South America. A large number of volcanoes exist in the chain of the Andes, but they are not continuously distributed. There is one numerous group in Colombia and Ecuador, and then a gap occurs. Every being almost free from volcanoes, the second group occurring near the southern boundary of the country in the Lake Titicaca district. Then another break occurs, and the third series of volcanoes begins just south of Santiago.

The sectional view shows how the great range of the Andes rises on the western edge of the continent and slopes away to a wide plain towards the east. The ocean depths of Valparaiso are also severe, the 6,000-foot line coming close in shore as indicated in the one-column map. The strata adjacent to these great inequalities of height and depth are in a state of great strain.

To Keep Young.

Never retire from active life if you can possibly avoid it; keep "in the swim"; keep the mind active; never refer to your advancing years or say "at my age."
To preserve youth, you must have a variety of experience. The country woman at forty, although breathing purer air and living on a more healthful diet than the city woman, often looks fifty, while the latter at the same age does not look more than thirty. But her mind is more active than that of her country sister; that is the secret of her more youthful appearance.

Nothing else ages one more rapidly than monotony—a dead level existence without change of scene or experience. The mind must be kept fresh or it will age, and the body cannot be younger than the mind.
Few minds are strong enough to overcome the aging influence of the monotonous life which rules in the

FIRST M. E. CONFERENCE.

Held Its First Meeting After Organization in This House.

In this building the Methodist Episcopal conference held its first meeting, which is claimed to be the first of its kind in America, after its organization in 1784. This house is one mile from



HISTORIC HOUSE IN LOUSBURG, N. C.

Lousburg, N. C., and is still in an excellent condition. It is built in the old style, of massive timbers, and has five rooms in the basement, four on the second floor, and two in the attic. The upper room of this house, in which Bishop Coke says the first conference was held, is about 20 feet square, and quite large enough to seat comfortably the 23 that were present. Just 110 years later—1895—Bishop Wilson, while presiding over conference in Lousburg, by invitation, went out to visit this house and held services, and by a singular coincidence, the number present was 23.

There is one thing the majority of fathers can be thankful for: There is no possibility of their daughters falling in love with the chauffeur.

If you hope to succeed, you can't give credit to every man who asks it; you must occasionally speak up, and plainly say no.



LASHES OF FUN

A safe bet is the one you were going to make and didn't.—Philadelphia Record.

Another motto for the packers: Omnia possunt omnes (We all can do everything).—Punch.

A Dry Dock.—"What is a drydock?" a lady asked of Mark Twain. "A busy physician," replied the humorist.

A Hypocrite.—Teacher—Johnny, what is a hypocrite? Johnny—A boy who comes to school with a smile on his face.

"Did you run across anybody in that automobile tour?" "We ran 'em down first and then ran across 'em."—Baltimore American.

"Senator, a political job is pretty hard to work, isn't it?" "Not very," replied Senator Badger, "but getting it is."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Relative Necessities.—"Is it necessary to enclose stamps?" asked the poet. "More necessary, even, than to enclose poetry," responded the editor.

The Happy Man.—Pessimist—You haven't had all that you wanted in life, have you? Optimist—No; but I haven't had all that I didn't want, either.

General Uncle—I will make you a monthly allowance, but understand me, I will pay no debts! Nephew—All right, uncle. Neither will I.—Tales.

Tommy—Pa, what is the Isthmus of Panama? Pa—The Isthmus of Panama, Tommy, is a narrow strip of land connecting Central America with the United States Treasury.—Life.

Where It Would Do Most Good.—Tailor—Well, my little man, will you have the shoulders padded? Bertie—Now. If you're going to put any padding in the suit put it in the pants.

What, Indeed!—Sarah Gump (announcing the happy event)—Please, a little girl, absent-minded Father (looking up from his writing)—Eh? Oh—ah—ask her what she wants, will you?

"But," protested Mrs. Newlied, "I don't see why you ask 25 cents a half peck for your beans. The other man only wanted 15 cents." "Yes," replied the luckster; "but these have beans of mine is all hand-picked."—The Grocer.

"Here," you, sir," cried the irate old gentleman, "didn't I tell you never to enter this house again?" "No, sir," replied his daughter's persistent suitor. "So I wasn't to 'cross your threshold' so I climbed in the window."—Philadelphia Press.

"Young Jollem always says the right thing, doesn't he? He never seems at a loss for the proper reply." "Well, I saw him nonplussed once." "How was that?" "Miss Keene asked him if he thought she looked as old as she was."—Cleveland Leader.

Definition.—May—Girls, what do the papers mean when they talk of a seat of war? Ella—I don't know any more than I do what a standing army is for! Belle—Why, how ignorant you are, dears. The seat of war is for the standing army to sit down on when it gets tired.

Her Father—But, sir, you are not the sort of man I should like for a son-in-law. Young Man—Oh, that's all right. You are not the sort of man I should like for a father-in-law, but I'm not going to make your daughter miserable for life by refusing to marry her on that account.—Chicago Daily News.

"I suppose," said the old-time friend, "that your folks no longer feel that anxiety about social matters that they once experienced." "Yes, they do," answered Mr. Cumrox; "mother and the girls are now as busy keeping other women out of society as they once were gettin' in themselves."—Washington Star.

Old But Persistent Errors.

Everywhere one hears, "I see Jim yesterday and he told me he done well at that job." The people who do me broadly characterized as the "I see I done" tribe pervade everything and seem to include nearly everybody.

When it comes to verbs like "he, lay, laid, laid," "set, set, set," the best of us are liable to error, and mistakes are pardonable. But what excuse can anybody find for confusing "see, saw, seen," or "do, did, done"? It is the first verb which suffers the more for those who do not say "I see him yesterday," whereas even those who say "I done it yesterday" never fall into the absurdity of "I do it yesterday."—Chicago Journal.

Boys Deser the Farm.

How to secure farm help, is one of the most vital questions before the farmers of this country to-day, says Farming. Wherever one goes, he finds that every farmer is deficient in the proper kind of help on the farm, and that many farmers are hampered and prevented from doing the best work possible for lack of efficient help.

Twenty-five years ago this difficulty did not confront the farmers to anything like the extent existing to-day. Then, the boys of the families remained on the farm and were not above aiding their fathers in their farm work. The daughters were satisfied to help their mothers in the dairy and kitchen and to join with the men and boys on the farm in milking the cows and doing the chores.

Fireworks.

Fireworks originated in the thirteenth century, along with the evolution of powder and cannon. They were first employed by the Florentines, and later the use of fireworks became popular in Rome at the creation of the Popes.

The first fireworks which resemble those which we see nowadays were manufactured by Torre, an Italian artist, and displayed in Paris in 1764.

If all the people were candidates we could get along easier with them.

Are you so conceited that you believe people never talk behind your back?