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## HERR STEINHARDT'S NEMESIS

BY J. MACLAREN COBBAN.

## CHAPTER IV.—Continued.

I cannot but confess that the interest Miss Lacroix thus manifested in what touched me awoke in me sensations, I may even say vague hopes, of a very pleasant and consoling kind. I dreamed bright dreams that night, which hung about me during the next day, but in the evening they were dispelled somewhat rudely by a note from the bishop requesting me to call upon him, and by a message from the rector desiring me to call on him.

I went first to the bishop. My interview with him was more agreeable than I had anticipated and I went with a tolerably light heart to the rector. He was still in bed. My short interview with him was not pleasant. The words we exchanged were warm; but they do not concern this story except in their result. He wished, he urged, he almost ordered me to cease all recognition in any way of the existence of the man Freeman; I refused to give any pledge to that effect—and so I was given to understand that I would not be wanted in the parish after the six months for which I had been at first engaged.

It was only then when my departure from Timperley seemed imminent (I had already seen almost four months in the place) that I began to suspect how very much my hopes and affections had entangled themselves with the haunting sadness, the unconscious grace and beauty of Miss Lacroix. What likelihood was there now, if there ever had been any, of a poor curate who had already done something to discount his chances of preference—of my being more than an agreeable and tolerably sympathetic acquaintance of a month or two, of my hearing her say more than "so very sorry, indeed, that you are going," and of this finding the episode closed? No likelihood at all there seemed. And yet so much may happen in two short months. I have to admit that, even in the midst of serious work (of writing a sermon, for instance), vain, wild thoughts would arise in me of commending myself to the young lady by some great service—by, perchance, discovering her father, or at least finding out for certain what had become of him (although I had yet had no word from the two friends whom I had asked to make inquiries in London). But these foolish, fruitless longings were soon crowded aside by the excitement of events.

A strange thing happened which was a direct result of my hitherto luckless adventure with Mr. Freeman. I found that affair had commended me to the favorable attention of all types of dissenters in the village; one mark of this favor I especially appreciated, as all clergymen would—the increased congregations I had at church, on Sunday evenings particularly.

"I almost regret, for my own sake, you know," Freeman said to me one day, with a laugh, "that I asked you to be my chairman at that dreadful lecture. I find you are taking many of my congregation from me—not all together, though, I must say that for myself."

But they do their duty by me in the morning, and then seem to take their pleasure with you in the evening."

Of those who thus forsake Mr. Freeman I noticed a remarkable group of working folk, whom he had pointed out to me as the most closely cohering, and the most curiously inter-related congeries of families in the village (where there is an excess of cousinship). They were steady, stolid, shrewd people, very comfortably off, yet all of whom, male and female, worked at the loom or the chemical vat. My attention was first attracted to them by their taking up a good seat well forward, and refusing to budge when the butcher's family, who paid for it, came in, and by their evidently being quite unused to the order of service in church. The prayer book was a maze to them, and the rising up and sitting down constantly took them by surprise. The family, I learned, had rigorously dissented for generations.

At a special flower service (for which few flowers could be gathered in Timperley) they were not in their accustomed pew. The church was densely crowded—more crowded, I think, because the fact and the reason of my speedy departure from Timperley had somehow got abroad. At the end of the week, however, (on Friday night, I think), a message came to me when I was in bed, requesting me to visit at once a man who was dying—one of the sons of this interesting family. I dressed, and went.

friend Freeman.

I learned in a few words from Freeman that the poor fellow had been employed for years at the chemical works, where he had contracted ulceration of the lungs; on Sunday night he had stood in the doorway of the crowded church, had caught cold and had come home to the bed from which he would never rise again.

While he spoke he was seized with a fit of violent delirium, in which he had to be restrained from getting out of bed. Soon he calmed down again into a more lucid interval. While he lay speechless, and a neighbor by the bed kept moistening his dry, cracked lips with a rag soaked in brandy and water, he gazed around him, and at last fixed his eyes on me, and essayed to speak—but no words came. This prostration and silence continued for some time. Now and again the head of the family would ascend from the kitchen (in his stockings, lest he should make a noise), and stand in solemn silence with inquiring eyes on his son; he would stand so still and retired that his presence was forgotten till the gulp of a big sob was heard, and the loose back of his large waistcoat was seen disappearing round the door. At length the son found speech.

"Father," he said, when the old man was about to withdraw, "bide." He then signified that all the others should leave the room except Freeman and myself. When they were gone he motioned his father to his pillow. The old man went.

"Ha'e you summat to say, Dick?" He nodded. "Mun I raise you up?"

He was raised and propped up with pillows. He asked for a drink, and was given some whiskey and milk. "I'm a dying man," he began; "I know I am." His eyes, glazed with disease and want of sleep, turned wildly about; his head drooped; and his damp thin fingers (still discolored with dye) clawed at the bed clothes. He resumed fixing his eyes on me—"I must confess summat; I hope God'll forgive me. I had ought to do w't; it was for should I? He was a good man. I had ought to do w't, I tell you."

"No, lad," said his father to soothe him; "thoo hadna."

"Weel," said he, "dunnot say I had, because I hadna. Wassa I on night shift? That was all. I took Jim's place; he wanted to go home to wife 'n' bed w't his baby. That was it. He mumbled on some other phrases, while he turned his eyes about as if lost; his recollection was wandering. He resumed with energy, "They came right in, speaking loud and angry. He walks up to thing, and lifts lid. 'I knowed it!' says he. 'But yo' needna let a' the world know it!' says th' other. 'This shan't be!' says he."

The poor fellow was growing terribly excited; every word was uttered with fierce emphasis and wild gesture; his eyes were fixed on vacancy, and, in my reflex excitement, I fancied I saw the interior of the color shed, with its vague tinted vapors, through which loomed the figures of two quarreling men, whom I tremblingly watched in imagination by the side of this dyed demon of the vat. The man grew so excited, and we were so engrossed, with his revelation, that he had risen to his knees in bed before we could prevent him. He continued his fierce, disjointed utterances.

"We mun ha' no more of it!" says he. He leans lower! Ah, Lord! he wants to spill it! A—!—!—! With a wild leap he was standing up in bed, and fiercely imitating the action of a man stooping, and tipping or throwing some heavy body. We were so transfixed with surprise and horror, that we could not stir a hand to restrain him. He looked like a weird corpse suddenly raised from the dead to a grotesque, galvanic life. What chiefly seized my attention was the black shadow on the wall of this delirious figure thus stooping with his head and hands outstretched. The incident lasted but a moment, and then the poor man fell back on his pillow with distracted cries.

Before Freeman and I left the house together to go out into the cool summer morning air, the old man said quietly to me, "I've seen for long he had summat on his mind, but what he means, I canna tell; so we'd best ho'd our tongues, I think."

CHAPTER V.

I left Freeman at his own door, and wandered away in search of some spot, in which distraction and calm might come. But the search was vain, and I returned to the village to my lodgings. The tall chimneys had begun to pour forth their volumes of black smoke to befool and bespion the air, which had cleared itself somewhat in the night. When I entered the village its pavements resounded with the clatter of clogs; the daily contingent of toil, which almost emptied the village of men and women, young and old, was drowsily marching out to its various stations. The men and lads on their way to Lacroix and Steinhardt's Chemical Works attracted most of my attention. They were of fearful and wonderful aspect; they were of brilliant

colors, curiously blent, or were wholly blue or green, or a fine Mephistoleian red; they were, indeed, quite "sublimed to what they work in"—dyed even to the roots of beard and eyebrows. As I looked, I wondered whether the constant wearing of this engrained paint were not of itself enough to keep alive in these men, peaceful as they looked, fierce passions, which in other men usually slumbered. An outbreak of savage nature among them in the mephistoleian vapor in which they worked might be no very unusual thing; was it some such outbreak, ending in a fearful death for one of them, of which the dead man lying in that house, with the white blinds drawn, had been a terror-stricken witness? Or had his confession been merely the raving of delirium?—delirium, which seemed in some measure to have been communicated to me, tired as I was with the excitement, and with want of sleep.

When I reached my lodgings, I went to bed, and slept for some hours. I awoke more myself, disposed to take a clearer and soberer view of things. Over my late breakfast I resolved what I would do. I, for my part, would say nothing of the confession heard in the night, until I could be sure it had some foundation in fact. This I would that morning try to discover in the village.

I knew that any of the shopkeepers would be only too ready to welcome a gossip; for except at meal times, and in the evening, the village is nearly empty of customers.

I found the draper, a little middle-aged man, who bore the evidences of hard work in the mills from his earliest youth. He was the very man I would have chosen for my purpose; he had a feminine fondness for gossip, and he knew the affairs of every one in the village, and all that had happened for a generation or two. I had no difficulty in arriving quickly at the end I had in view. He already knew that I had been called up in the night to visit the dying victim of applied chemistry, and that Freeman and I had been with him till he died.

"Very delicious," said the draper, "I hear say he was jabbered and rambled away about a' kinds o' stuff, and then slumbered (slumbered) off again, I suppose. Ye; that's the way they do. Eh, does it? It's a bad business for the wife and the family."

"Are diseases like his," I asked, "often got at the chemical works?"

"Nay," said he, "I think not; the smells seem to agree w' most folk pretty weel."

"But the work is very dangerous, is it not? Don't accidents often happen?"

"Ye; it is risky. When they work over the vats, and the retorts, and things, they mun tie up their mouths and noses w' a clout, and even w' that they may sometimes get choked and overcome d'walmike all at wanst w' th' smell, or sommat, and then they're a goner."

"Accidents often happen, then?"

"Weel, mon, they do and they don't. Mates, you see, are aye at hand. The lads often get an eye burnt, but they don't reckon much to that. See; there's a lad over there by th' beer shop door."

I looked and saw a sturdy fellow all red, with a white handkerchief tied round his head under his cap.

"He's been two or three times like that—w' his eye burnt. Oh, ye; it's risky; but we don't often have a grit accident. The worst I remember was a lad on th' night shift that fell in and was smothered; he was found in thing next morning. That was a bad business; a' th' hair was off, an' th' skin and flesh was—but it mak's you feel queer, ye; can see it do. It was a bad business."

"Very horrible," said I, while my heart thumped almost audibly. "How long was that ago?"

"Let me see. It's a matter, I do believe, o' 15 year ago."

"I hope," said I, "a death of that sort don't often occur."

"Nay; or our folk, quiet as they are moostly, might pull the whole menagerie down."

I was surprised to see the vindictive glitter that passed from the little man's eyes.

"Has there really," I asked with some constraint, "been any other death like that since the one you mention?"

"Nay; I canna remember one."

## EVENTS OF THE DAY

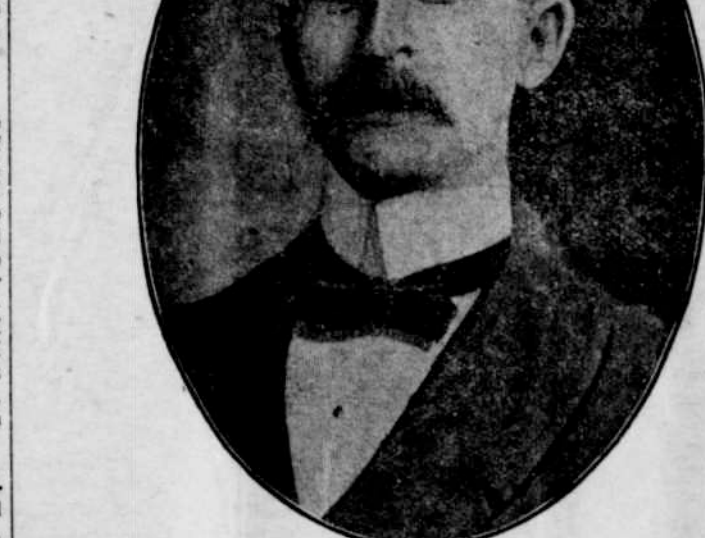
## FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

A Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in a Condensed Form, Which is Most Likely to Prove of Interest to Our Many Readers.

The streetcar men of San Francisco are on strike.

Brussels is quieting down and assuming normal conditions.

Frank R. Stockton, the well known novelist, is dead at Washington.



ATTORNEY GENERAL W. B. STRATTON

Of the state of Washington, who has entered a motion before the United States supreme court for leave to file a bill of complaint against the Northern Securities Company on behalf of the state of Washington. The briefs were accepted by the supreme court.

Guantanamo has been decided upon as the American naval station in Cuba.

J. P. Morgan is said to have completed a plan to combine all the great trans-Atlantic lines.

The steamer City of Pittsburgh burned near Cairo, Ill., and 75 people are supposed to have perished.

There is considerable uneasiness in Pekin over the imminence of a clash between Chinese and foreign troops.

Bocas, Colombia, has surrendered to the rebels. The United States gunboat Machias has landed a force to protect American interests.

In the presence of a distinguished assemblage, including President Roosevelt, Governor Odell and Seth Low, Professor Butler was installed as president of Columbia university.

Most of the Moscow rioters may be exiled to Siberia.

China has protested against the extension of the exclusion law.

The house passed the Cuban bill removing the differential on sugar.

Diplomatic relations have been resumed between France and Venezuela.

More time has been given the Boers in the peace negotiations in South Africa.

Colombia is massing troops to put down the insurrection of the Isthmus of Panama.

Queen Wilhelmina, of Holland, has typhoid fever, but her condition is not alarming.

Cattle and hogs are selling in Chicago at the highest rate in years, and the receipts are the smallest.

The cholera epidemic at Manila is unabated. There have been 332 cases and 253 deaths in that city alone.

The crisis in Queen Wilhelmina's case is passed.

The entire business portion of Barton, Ala., has been destroyed by fire.

Chinese rebels are said to be armed with Mauser rifles smuggled from French territory.

The Pacific coast representatives will accept the Platt substitute for the exclusion bill.

Canada has modified the Treadgold concession to the satisfaction of the Yukon delegation.

## OREGON NATIONAL PARK.

The Bill Creating One at Crater Lake Passes the House.

Washington, April 22.—Representative Tongue has secured the passage of his bill for the creation of the Crater Lake National Park in Southern Oregon. The bill withdraws from settlement, entry or occupancy, a tract of 249 square miles, including and surrounding Crater Lake. Control of the park is to rest with the secretary of the interior, who shall provide rules for the protection and preservation of the natural objects, game and fish, and properly guard against trespassers, and, with an adequate force of wardens, prevent and extinguish forest fires. Settlement is not to be allowed in the park, nor can lumbering or other business be there conducted, although tourists, pleasure seekers and scientists will at all times have free access. Authority is granted for issuing permits for the erection and maintenance of restaurants and hotels for the accommodation of visitors.

In order to secure the passage of the bill by unanimous consent Mr. Tongue had to accept several amendments. A provision was inserted permitting the location of mines within the park, al-

## AGAINST REVISION

## BELGIAN DEPUTIES REJECT THE SOCIALIST PROPOSAL

No Specific Promises Are Made, But Partial Reforms May Be Granted—Serious Riots Occur Throughout the Country—Which Many Are Killed and Wounded—Agitation Depresses Trade.

Brussels, April 21.—The chamber of representatives by 84 to 64 votes, rejected the proposal to revise the Belgian constitution so as to provide for universal suffrage.

Mr. Smeets, Socialist, accused the government of being anxious to loosen 60,000 soldiers against their brethren. But they would be unable to exterminate Socialism, he added, and enough Socialists would remain to continue the struggle. As the government was not willing to counsel the king to do his duty, nothing was left but for the Socialists to address his majesty directly and plead for his intervention. If he but said the word, peace would be re-established.

M. Woeste, leader of the Right party in the chamber, when summing up the debate for the government, pointed out that a vote hostile to revision did not imply absolute hostility to reform, if this was discussed in peaceful times. "The government supporters are prepared," said M. Woeste, "to consider proposals for reform in plural voting, although they could not go as far as universal suffrage pure and simple."

This speech is regarded as showing the willingness of the government to grant partial reform in the future.

Great excitement followed the vote in the chamber. The Socialists held a meeting in the Maison du Peuple, at which M. Vanderveld, the leader of the Socialists in Belgium, urged his hearers to be calm and said he hoped King Leopold would still intervene.

The meeting passed a resolution to continue to strike and dispersed without disorder.

The people of this city are generally impatient with the agitation, which greatly impedes trade and business.

It is rumored here that King Leopold has decided to take the initiative and dissolve parliament.

A serious riot has occurred at Louvain, near Brussels. The Socialists held a demonstration in front of the residence of M. Schollaert, president of the chamber of deputies. The police, in attempting to disperse them, were received with a shower of stones. The civic guard then fired on the mob. A similar riot occurred in another part of Louvain and altogether five persons were killed and 12 wounded. Another riot is reported to have occurred at



OREGON ODD FELLOWS' HOME, AT PORTLAND. To be dedicated April 26, the eighty-third anniversary of the founding of the order.

though he contends no minerals are to be found there.

There has been a continual fight against this bill ever since Mr. Tongue first introduced it. Within the past 10 days however, he has been at work with the several departments, and finally secured the approval of the president and secretary of agriculture to the pending bill. At the request of the president the speaker allowed the bill to be considered, a thing never before done, and its passage followed. It is not believed there will be any difficulty in securing its passage through the senate.

The German army reserves are greatly increasing in number. For next year's 13 days of drill, 5,350 non-commissioned officers and 48,111 privates will put in an appearance. This is nearly double last year's numbers.

Great Northern Flyer Wrecked.

St. Cloud, Minn., April 22.—The Great Northern Flyer, west bound, collided with an east bound freight train near Wataha, a few miles from here. Both engines and several cars on the freight train were demolished. One lady passenger on the flyer and four of the train crew were injured, but none of them seriously. The wreck blocked the tracks and delayed traffic for several hours. The freight should have sidetracked at Wataha.

Commodore Howell, of the navy, has perfected a method of transforming soft coal into a smokeless product. The coal is reduced to powder and made into bricks.

Bruges, in Flanders. Here the police charged the Socialists with drawn swords, and 10 of the latter were wounded.

The German Socialists have subscribed 10,000 marks for the Socialist movement in Belgium.

Shot by Major Glenn's Orders.

Manila, April 21.—Lieutenant John H. A. Day, of the Marine corps, testified at his trial by court martial on the charge of executing natives of Samar without trial, that the president of Bases, Samar, and his fellow plotters were shot, as he believed, by the orders of Major Glenn.

Hamilton's Round-up.

Klerksdorp, Transvaal, April 21.—General Ian Hamilton in a further drive has captured 64 Boers.

Three During Burglaries.

Peoria, Ill., April 19.—Professional burglars accomplished three of the most daring robberies ever known in Illinois, when three residences were entered and upwards of \$2,000 in money and jewelry was taken. Two of the burglaries were committed after the police had been notified of the first and were in the vicinity. While going through the houses the burglars were discovered, but kept their victims at bay with revolvers.

## FIGHT ON DALLES CANAL.

House Conferees Want Matter Delayed Until New Survey is Made.

Washington, April 21.—There are renewed indications that a strong fight will be made in the conference committee against the amendment to the river and harbor bill authorizing the construction of a canal at The Dalles and Celilo, provided the senate accepts the amendment made by the committee. The house conferees, and in fact practically the whole house committee, entertain the belief that this canal can be built for much less than the estimate of Captain Harts, and they assert that they do not want to undertake the work until they know what it is going to cost. At the same time, there is a feeling among the friends of the canal that this excuse is merely superficial; and that the committee in fact does not want to authorize the construction of a canal, merely putting forward the new survey proposition as a means of delay.

There has been some hope that a compromise might be brought about whereby the house conferees would consent to allow the authorization of work on the canal, and the immediate expenditure of the railway balance now on hand, cutting off the additional authorization of \$400,000. They say they are working for a principle, and not to save the amount of money immediately involved. The friends of the proposition have not given up, but are endeavoring to show their conferees that the authorization of the work does not compel the expenditure of the full amount of Captain Harts' estimate; that if the work can be done for less, as they believe, a less amount will be expended.

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## STEAMER BURNED.

Big Passenger Boat on the Mississippi Totally Destroyed, and Many Lives Lost.

Cairo, Ill., April 22.—One of the worst disasters in the history of river navigation occurred shortly after 4 A. M. near Ogden's landing, near this city. While almost all on board were asleep, the steamer City of Pittsburgh, from Cincinnati to Memphis, was discovered to be on fire, and in a few moments was burned to the water's edge. The loss of over \$80,000 on the steamer does not include the cargo, both being a total loss. The latest estimates are that there were 150 persons on board, and that not more than half of them were saved, many of the latter being burned or injured. As the register of the steamer was burned, no list can be given either of the victims or the survivors, and in the confusion it has been impossible to get complete lists. Captain Phillips admits that the death list may reach 60.

The fire was discovered in the forward larboard hatch at 4:05 A. M., and burned fiercely. Most of the passengers were still in bed when Second Clerk Phillips gave the alarm. The engineers at once started all the pumping engines, and the crew brought all the hose into play. Amid the streams of water on all sides, the flames from the lower deck and dense clouds of smoke, the passengers rushed from their staterooms and a frightful panic ensued. The appeals of the officers and crew could not appease the terror-stricken crowds that interfered with those who threw water on the flames, as well as those working with the life boats. Boats from the shore took off numerous passengers.

The burning steamer was quickly headed for the bank. A number of passengers who jumped off the stern and tried to swim ashore through the swift current were drowned. Many also perished in the flames. Help, except from people living near by, did not arrive until 2:30 in the afternoon, and passengers with only night clothes and without food suffered terribly.

The steamer Maud Kilgore brought the survivors to this place and the several societies of the city rendered all possible assistance in the way of clothing, etc.

To Dislodge Insurgents.

Colon, Colombia, April 22.—The government is taking active measures to dislodge from Bocas del Toro the Liberals, who captured that town Friday. It has chartered the German steamer Hercynia, which is now sailing for Bocas with 500 government troops. The steamer is under contract to turn the troops over to the Colombian gunboat General Pinzon, off Bocas. General Ferrera is in command of the expedition. No further news has been received from Bocas. Two other battalions, now on the isthmus, will be sent there should they be required.

Is Not Mrs. Luetger.

Chicago, April 19.—The demented woman who was at first thought to be Mrs. Louise Luetger, for whose murder Adolph Luetger, a wealthy sausage-maker, was convicted, is not she, according to W. A. Vincent, who was Luetger's attorney. He sent two men who had known Mrs. Luetger to see the demented woman and they reported she was not Mrs. Luetger.

Boers Granted More Time.

London, April 21.—After two conferences between Lord Milner, the British high commissioner in South Africa, and Lord Kitchener, and the Boer delegates at Pretoria, Lord Kitchener, while refusing to grant an armistice on military grounds, has agreed to give facilities for the election and maintaining of representatives of the various Boer commands to consider the position. The Boer leaders, have, therefore, left Pretoria to carry out this plan.