

HERR STEINHARDT'S NEMESIS

BY J. MACLAREN COBBAN.

CHAPTER I—Continued.

"Ah," he said to me, "so you've come to try and enlighten our Hottentots about a thing or two in this world and the next. Well, you can only do your best, you know; we'll try to make you comfortable and back you up. Come all the way from London today, I suppose—have you got yourself fixed up yet in the village?—what some author chap—Matthew or Mark Summat or other—calls a Lancashire Hell-hole. Well, we're not quite so bad as that yet, but we're getting to it. But it can't be helped, you know; we've gone forward and we run go forward, as the rabbit said when he let his wheel get him into a hole. Yes, 'Hell-hole'; but it should be a useful change for you; it may give you an idea when you want to describe to your congregation the real—"

"Jim, lad," interrupted his sister, "you're forgetting yourself!"

"Eh? Oh?—ah, well I can remember, you know, when all round about here was as sweet and pretty a place—I was born back o' the 'White Moss' (indicating that locality over his shoulder), 'Toppleton way.'"

Thus the full, quaint and careless stream of his talk flowed on, meandering about one person and another, this subject and that. He seemed a well of curious and fearsome Lancashire lore—lore of the days when spinning and weaving were done in the cottage homes of remote hamlets and homesteads, when Lancashire energy applied itself to useful work and not to useless toil, when its fabrics were made to be worn and not merely to be sold—the days when the steam engine was not yet with its all-devouring, all-enervating machinery.

We had talked thus for about an hour—or, rather, listened to Mr. Birley talk—when he paused and looked round (he had been fidgeting in his chair for some time).

"What's got 'Mannell'?" he said, addressing his sister. "Is he stuck till midnight in his laboratory again? Doesn't seem as if that smoke was to come off tonight. In Paul's house now it used to be 'Smoke where you please'—drawing room or anywhere. Poor Paul!"

I was astonished and alarmed to see Miss Lacroix rise hurriedly, and glide without a word from the room. Mrs. Steinhardt made as if she would follow her, but she did not. She sank back in her chair with a sigh.

"Jim! Jim!" she exclaimed, reproachfully. "Why will you say things, when you know the poor girl cannot bear allusions to it?"

"Ah," said Birley, humbly. "Poor lass!—her father," he explained, turning to me, "has never come back from London. Poor Paul!" He was visibly affected.

"He had to go to the law courts there," said Mrs. Steinhardt, "more than a year ago, about some dreadful business of the chemical works—he was my husband's partner."

"Hilddersheimer v. Lacroix and Steinhardt"—Frank turned on the music stool to correct his uncle's pronunciation. "Well," said he, "that's all right; anyway that was the case. May be"—turning again to me—"you remember it in the papers. It was about the infringement of a chemical patent 'Mannell had put them up to his ears in the laboratory.'"

"Ay, uncle," interrupted Frank, flushing up. "It wasn't father's fault more than anyone else's."

"Ay, lad," said Birley, "of course you know all about it. But you're right to stand up for your father. However, Paul, as the chief of the firm, went up to London to fight the case; he fought and lost to the tune of 20,000 pounds damages—which, I suppose, drove him mad, poor fellow, for he's never come back—made away with himself, very likely, or, somehow, got made away with."

"But, surely," interrupted Frank again, "it could hardly be the damages did it, uncle? You remember he went to Paris after the trial about some patent business for the firm, and then got back to London again."

"Ay, lad—out 20,000 pounds damages can make a man feel queer all the way to Paris and back. At any rate, poor Paul's gone—lost in the great London wilderness."

"It is a very extraordinary affair," said I. "But I don't remember seeing anything of it in the papers."

"It got into the papers, though," said Birley, "to some extent—not much. We didn't want a noise about a private, painful thing like that."

"But," said I, wondering, "I suppose inquiries were made?"

"They made inquiries high and low," said Birley; "they laid detectives on, and everything, but nothing came of it. Did that, Frank?"

"No," said Frank—"nothing at all."

"Did you try to trace him out of London?" I asked. "I suppose they did," said Birley.

"Yes—oh yes," said Frank. "I wondered that Birley should keep using the word 'they.' Had he borne no share in the investigation himself? I had my thought answered at once."

"I wasn't able to go to London myself," said Birley; "I was laid up with a broken leg; and, when I got better, I didn't think it was any use my going. There was an end of Paul—that was certain; for he wasn't that man to knock under like, and get lost just."

In a little while Miss Lacroix returned, with apology for her withdrawal.

"I had a little of headache," said she.

I now saw more clearly the encroachments which grief, and what I cannot describe by other words than "anxious waiting," had made on a young life which would, unoppressed, I was sure, have been so full of spirit and mirth. I longed there and then with an earnest desire that I might do something to brighten her life, to remove the weight of uncertainty and grief which burdened it, and prayed upon it.

But I had little further opportunity for talk with her that night. In a few minutes Mr. Steinhardt returned. He heard then what were the casualties resulting from the falling of the bell tower. A horse had been killed, as also, had been a sow with her litter; and two pigs had been so injured that the butcher had to be summoned. We were now invited into the smoking room; but Mr. Birley rose, and said he must be going; he would smoke his pipe on the way home "wi' th' parson."

"Parson smokes, I suppose," said he, laying his hand on my shoulder. So he and I departed together. The valley was asleep under a white pall of fog; but the weird tongues of flame still flickered on the slope and ridge behind and beyond us (from coke ovens, my companion explained), and the tall chimneys dreamily and intermittently smoked. The great chimney of the chemical works, however, emitted not so much smoke as a thin pinkish vapor, which stole away imperceptibly over the neighborhood to poison all green things, and to filter through the cracks and crevices of doors and windows, to trouble sleepers with lethargy and headache.

"By George!" exclaimed my companion. "He'll get fined again some day. Paul used to be always at him about it. Poor Paul!"

So ended my first evening in Timperley—a memorable evening for me. I had made the acquaintance of one whom I have reason now to call as dear a friend as I have ever known, and as good a man as fortune has ever neglected, and of another who is now the dearest of all earth's creatures to me.

CHAPTER II.

I frequently looked in upon the ladies at Timperley Hall, and took a four-o'clock cup of tea with them (not, however, to the neglect of other, if less pleasant, parochial visitations). During these visits we talked without constraint which somehow Mr. Steinhardt's presence imposed upon us. Miss Lacroix and I agreed in our opinions concerning the ruthlessness with which Lancashire pushed on its industrial ways; we often astonished poor Mrs. Steinhardt (sometimes even ourselves) by the warmth with which we would discuss the outrage done to man and nature.

One afternoon we talked thus. It was well on in springtime; the stream was running full and all nature, in spite of drawbacks, was striving to look green. I told them how that morning I had stood by the little plank bridge just below Timperley Hall, looking across at the dreadfully lumbered peninsula on which the ruined spinning mill stood, when there turned up at my elbow an old man whom I knew by no name as an ex-handloom weaver.

"A fine brook, that, parson," he said.

"Yes," said I, suiting my reply to what I thought his persiflage; "what a pity no trout seem to know of it!"

"Ah, but," said he, sadly, "there were trout in it wot; though there's been none for many a day. Trout! Aw delfy anything to live in that, but gettin' cured first, like a red herring or a rallymander! There was a lad drowned like as it might be this spring, and he were never found till like as it might be next back end, down there in that mud; he were not gone at all, but he were cured thro' and thro'; black, mon—black!"

This I told; and then I continued: "Drowning, they say, is an easy death; but to drown in such a stream as that seems horribly repulsive. I fancy no one would care to commit suicide in it." I perceived my stupid blunder as soon as I had spoken; I had not thought that what I said could be taken as "allusive" to the disappearance of Mr. Lacroix.

"Excuse me," said Miss Lacroix, rising hurriedly, "I do not feel very well. Do not come, Mrs. Steinhardt; I shall get better by myself."

I of course made apology to Mrs. Steinhardt for my stupidity.

"Yes," said she; "you see she can't bear any kind of allusion to her father's end. She told me soon after she came here (she couldn't, you know, go on living in that big house up there all by herself)—she told me a strange dream she had once or twice when her father was missing—the strangest thing, but I scolded her so, she has never said another word to me about it. Still I fancy she thinks a great deal about her father, though she does not say much; they were rare and fond o' one another."

That very evening I unexpectedly learned from Miss Lacroix herself what that strange dream was. I was returning by moonlight from the house of a parishioner along that same road which first brought me upon the valley. Passing the pond on my right (which I before mentioned as reflecting the lighted windows of the many storied mill), I observed a figure, cloaked and hooded, standing on the margin of the pond under one of the trees. I paused a minute, while my heart beat with apprehension, and then I passed through a gap in the fence and approached. The figure turned quickly, as if im-

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 house has begun the consideration of the exclusion bill.

Mitchell made the opening speech in the senate on the Chinese exclusion bill.

The last quarter's imports to the United States from all Germany amounted to \$23,785,004, an increase of \$1,297,500.

In an all day fight between part of General Kitchener's forces and the forces of Generals Delarey and Kemp, the Boers were repulsed. The loss was heavy on both sides.

The bulk of Cecil Rhodes' property is left for education. It provides two American scholarships at Oxford to each of the present states and territories of the United States.

The senate has passed the oleomargarine bill.

The house has passed the sundry civil appropriation bill.

Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock will soon retire from the cabinet.

Abner McKinley denies that he was connected with the Danish West Indies scandal.

Twelve hotels and many smaller buildings were burned at Atlantic City, N. J. Loss, \$750,000.

It is hardly probable that the bill admitting Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico will be passed by the present session of congress.

The president has appointed Brigadier General Hughes a major general and Colonel Burt, De Russy and Sheridan to be brigadier generals.

Six persons were burned to death in a fire at Johnstown, Pa.

The senate will vote on the oleomargarine bill in a few days.

The Northern Pacific blockade in North Dakota is being raised.

The senate considered the Danish purchase scandal in secret session.

Sixty thousand Chinese are in rebellion in southern China provinces.

The German emperor's American built yacht Meteor III has sailed for Southampton.

Acting President Schalkbarger will meet the Boer leaders soon and discuss peace terms.

Republicans and Democrats each gained one alderman in the Chicago city election.

The transport Sheridan has sailed from San Francisco for Manila with 1,285 soldiers of the Twenty-ninth infantry.

Flood situation in Mississippi is again becoming serious.

Twenty-two men were killed in an explosion in a Tennessee coal mine.

A six story building in Philadelphia was entirely destroyed by fire. Loss, \$110,000.

Dr. Thomas Dunn English is alive, but his physicians say he may die at any moment.

Since the outbreak of cholera at Manila there have been 90 cases and 70 deaths reported.

The house committee favorably reported the bill for 20 per cent Cuban tariff reduction.

The plague situation in India is growing worse. Over 70,000 deaths are reported monthly.

The senate will take up the Nicaragua canal bill as soon as it has disposed of the Chinese exclusion measure.

LEFT TO EDUCATION.

Cecil Rhodes' Fortune Will Found a Large Number of Scholarships.

London, April 7.—The will of Cecil Rhodes provides for the establishment of colonial scholarships and two American scholarships to each of the present states and territories of the United States. The will of Mr. Rhodes also provides for five scholarships for students of German birth at Oxford, to be nominated by Emperor William, and commenting on the bequest, Mr. Rhodes, in a codicil telegraphed from South Africa, said:

"For a good understanding between England, Germany and the United States will secure the peace of the world, and educational relations form the strongest ties."

Mr. Rhodes' will is a remarkable and voluminous document of more than 3,500 words. Even this is not the entire will, as the executors only gave out the portions which they consider to be of public interest. It was executed in 1899. There is a codicil attached on the day of the deceased's last departure from England, and another codicil from Cape Town, which leaves 4,000 pounds yearly to keep up the spot in the Matopos hills where his remains are to be buried. The will further directs that a railroad extension be made into the Matopos hills, so that visitors may go there at the week end to inspect the "majesty and glory of their surroundings."

Mr. Rhodes explicitly says he is to be buried in an aperture cut in the solid rock, surrounded by a brass tablet bearing the words: "Here lie the remains of Cecil John Rhodes." No one else is to be buried there who has not deserved well of his country.

Mr. Rhodes bequeaths all his landed property near Bulawayo and Salisbury, both in Matabeleland, to trustees, whom he directs to cultivate the land for the instruction of the people of Rhodesia. His celebrated country place at Groot-Schuur, not far from Cape Town, Mr. Rhodes leaves as a residence for the "Prime minister of the federal government of South Africa," with 1,000 pounds yearly for its maintenance.

THE BALKAN SITUATION.

Organized Rebellion Among the Serbian Inhabitants of Northern Turkey.

London, April 5.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company, from Sofia, says:

It is reported that 14 revolutionary bands crossed the frontier into Macedonia during the past few days. They were well armed and provisioned.

A party of Turks recently ambushed 200 Bulgarian outlaws in the mountains of Kirzu, killing several of the band and capturing the remainder.

The Macedonians are accused of horrible atrocities, of which it is hard to obtain confirmation. It is reported that they skinned one Turk alive and stuffed the skin and carried it about as a trophy.

Servians Again Up in Arms.

Vienna, April 5.—The New Free Press reports a serious and organized rebellion among the Serbian inhabitants of the northern villages of Turkey. The insurgents are known as the old Serbian rebels. They are well armed and well supplied with ammunition.

A sanguinary encounter has occurred between them and the Albanians at Kolashin. Encounters have been reported from other places, concludes the paper, in which several men were killed or wounded.

Fire Burned for Twenty Years.

Carbon, Wyo., April 5.—The fire that has been smouldering in the old No. 2 coal mine of the Union Pacific here has broken out afresh, and a force of men is now engaged in wailing up the month of the fan shaft, through which the smoke and flames are issuing. About 20 years ago a fire started in No. 2, and, being unable to get control of it, the company walled up the shaft. At intervals of two or three years the fire has broken out in new places, and for five consecutive years it burned steadily. The fire has undermined the country for a radius of half a mile.

Anti-Anarchist Bill.

Albany, N. Y., April 5.—A bill designed to stamp out anarchy in this state was signed by Governor Odell during the day. It imposes a penalty of not more than 10 years' imprisonment or more than \$5,000 fine, or both, on persons who advocate anarchistic doctrines by speech, writings or otherwise.

Barbed Wire Boundary.

Great Falls, Mont., April 7.—Word has reached this city to the effect that the Canadian government has appropriated \$10,000 to build a barbed wire fence along the boundary between Montana and the Dominion, extending from St. Mary's lake to the Sweet Grass hills.

Cabinet Takes It Up.

Washington, April 7.—The time of the cabinet today was taken up almost entirely with a communication which the president has received from the governor of Louisiana, protesting against the camp alleged to be maintained in that state by agents of the British government for the purpose of supplying mules and teams to the British army in South Africa. The president has directed an investigation into the facts and the law bearing upon the question.

NEWS OF THE STATE

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF OREGON.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Importance—A Brief Review of the Growth and Improvements of the Many Industries Throughout Our Thriving Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

Salem has taken the preliminary steps to installation of city light plant.

The farmers' co-operative telephone line from Echo to Pendleton will be completed about May 1.

About half the telephones in Oregon City are out of business as the result of a live electric light wire dropping on them.

The receipts of state land office for March were \$39,585.44, or the largest amount received by the present clerk for any one month.

A contract for 12,000 pounds of the 1902 hop crop is the top record in contracts at Salem. Quite a number are reported at 12 cents.

Marion Cunningham, an Oregon pioneer of 1853, and one of the most prominent citizens of Harrisburg, has passed away, aged 69 years.

While no price has yet been fixed by either the fishermen or cannerymen it is generally understood that the price will open the same as last year—5 cents per pound for the smaller fish and 6 cents per pound for all over 25 pounds.

The clam cannery at Skippanon started up for the season and will be kept in operation until late in the fall, packing about 50 cases per day. Indications are that the claims on Clatsop beach are as plentiful as ever before, if not more so.

Rogue river valley orchardists have begun a united and determined campaign against the codling moth. Thousands of gallons of poison have been sprayed upon Southern Oregon trees with the hope of destroying the much dreaded disease, or at least preventing it from doing so much harm this year as it has in the past.

The supreme lodge of Oregon, A. O. U. W., will meet in Portland June 10 to 20.

Oliver Grace, a pioneer of 1843, died at his home at Silverton last week. He was born in 1829.

The Western Union Telegraph Company has subscribed \$1,000 to the Lewis and Clark exposition.

The Prohibitionists of Portland and Multnomah county have nominated a city and county ticket.

About 70 teachers from all parts of Clackamas county attended the teachers' institute in Oregon City last week.

The Tillamook County Bank, of Tillamook, has filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state. Capital, \$10,000.

Preparations are being made to increase the water supply of The Dalles. During the summer months the reservoirs reach a very low stage.

The retail clerks of Baker City are trying to secure an agreement among the merchants to close their places of business on Sunday. Most of the merchants are willing to agree to such a proposition, provided it is generally observed.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 64c; bluestem, 65c; Valley, 64c to 65c.

Barley—Feed, 20c to 21c; brewing, 21c to 21.50 per ton.

Oats—No. 1 white, 1.15 to 1.22c; gray, 1.10 to 1.20.

Flour—Best grades, 2.80 to 3.40 per barrel; graham, 2.50 to 2.80.

Millet—Bran, 18c per ton; middling, 20c; shorts, 12c; chop, 15c to 16c.

Hay—Timothy, 12c to 13c; clover, 7.50 to 8c; Oregon wild hay, 5c to 6c per ton.

Potatoes—Best Burbanks, 1.10 to 1.25 per cental; ordinary, 70c to 80c per cental; Early Rose, 1.25 to 1.50 per cental; growers' prices; sweet, 2.25 to 2.50 per cental.

Butter—Creamery, 22c to 25c; dairy, 18c to 20c; store, 13c to 15c.

Eggs—13c to 14c for Oregon.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 13c to 14c; Young America, 14c to 15c; factory prices, 1c to 1 1/4c less.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 85c to 4.50; hens, 4.50 to 5.50 per dozen, 11c to 11 1/2c per pound; springs, 11c to 11 1/2c per dozen; ducks, 45c to 50c per dozen; turkeys, live, 12c to 13c, dressed, 14c to 16c per pound; geese, 40c to 47c per dozen.

Mutton—Gross, 4c per pound; dressed, 7c to 7 1/2c per pound.

BIG HOTELS BURNED.

Fire at Atlantic City Destroys Over \$750,000 Worth of Property.

Atlantic City, N. J., April 4.—Twelve hotels and more than a score of small buildings adjoining the board walk, which is built along the ocean edge, were destroyed by a fire which swept the beach front for two long blocks. The loss it is believed, will exceed \$750,000. In this respect the conflagration is the most disastrous that has ever visited this city. The loss will be only partly covered by insurance, as the rate of 5 per cent charged by insurance companies on property here is regarded as almost prohibitive.

Fortunately no lives were sacrificed, though probably a dozen persons were slightly injured and burned during the progress of the fire.

The origin of the fire is unknown. The city tonight is guarded by a company of militia, which was requested by the municipal authorities to aid the police in the prevention of looting. About a dozen men were arrested during the day for robbery.

The fire was discovered shortly after 9 o'clock this morning, and for nearly five hours the flames raged with such violence as to threaten the city with destruction. All of the burned buildings were frame structures, and the flames, fanned by a strong west wind, swept along the beach front with amazing rapidity. The Tarlton was soon a pile of smoldering debris, and the flames fed on the small stores and booths between Illinois and Kentucky avenues, until they reached the Howard hotel, which was soon enveloped.

The fiercest tongues leaped to the Berkeley, adjoining, and in a few minutes the New Holland, the Bryn Mawr, the Elvard and the Stickney, all located on Kentucky avenue, near the beach, were doomed. The local fire department worked well and willingly, but were unable to cope with the flames, and it was found necessary to send to Philadelphia and Camden for aid. The former city sent three engines, and two came down from Camden. The engines were brought here on two special trains and they made the run of nearly 60 miles in 55 minutes. Their presence here was of vast assistance to the local firemen, but it was not until an hour after their arrival that the fire could be said to be thoroughly under control.

The local board of insurance underwriters after a meeting tonight, announced that the total loss would not exceed \$750,000, and the loss to insurance companies would be about \$155,000.

GOVERNMENT-BUILT WARSHIPS.

Representatives of Labor at the Hearing of the House Committee.

Washington, April 3.—The plan of building warships in government yards was considered by the house committee on naval affairs during the day, a large delegation of labor representatives being present in support of it. The delegation included James O'Connell, president of the Machinists' association, and several shipbuilding experts from Norfolk, Brooklyn and other points having government yards.

Mr. O'Connell made the main presentation, urging that the government had millions invested in plants which should be used for construction as well as for repair of warships. When Representative Dayton suggested that Admiral Bowles, chief of the naval bureau of construction, had stated that he would not recommend the building of ships in government yards unless the navy yard wages were equalized with those of private yards. Mr. O'Connell said the idea of lower wages could not have been made seriously, at a time when the tendencies were toward higher wages. He argued that in the interest of the public government construction would be beneficial and that incidentally the labor interests would be much benefited.

BRITISH CAMP IN LOUISIANA.

So the Governor of that State Reports to the Department at Washington.

Chicago, April 3.—A special to the Tribune from New Orleans says:

Governor Heard, of Louisiana, has reported to the state department at Washington that, in his opinion, the British government is maintaining a military camp within the territory of the United States. The camp in question is the one located a few miles below this city for the trans-shipment of horses and mules to South Africa, there to be used by British soldiers in the war against the Boers.

Several weeks ago General Pierson, the Boer leader, visited the city and held a conference with the Louisiana state officials. He created no little comment by his public declaration that he was ready to lead a force of armed men to attack the camp. He was denied permission to do this.

Several months ago a British steamer was badly damaged by an explosion while it was being loaded with supplies for the British army in South Africa. It was declared in many quarters at the time that the explosion was the work of Boer sympathizers, but the matter was never investigated.

Boers Did Not Cause Trainwreck.

London, April 3.—It has been suggested that the train wreck near Robertson, Transvaal Colony, March 30, resulting in the death of 39 soldiers and the injury of 45 others, nearly all of whom belonged to the Hampshire regiment, was caused by the Boers, but Lord Kitchener reports that it was accidental. The train was descending a steep grade when the engine and five trucks jumped the track and turned over.