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HAS THERE BEEN THE CIRCULATION OF ANY PAPER IN THE COUNTY.

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HERR STEINHARDT'S NEMESIS

BY J. MACLAREN COBBAN.

CHAPTER XVI.—Continued.

There was no suspicion, then, that the remains were those of their own master! What could it do? Had I broken my promise to Fraulein Haas? Was I helping even now to make public Steinhardt's crime? Was I not standing assenting by while a terrible vengeance was threatened on the forger in the deep, slow Lancashire speech? I felt helpless in the crisis; I permitted myself to be borne along whither it might carry me.

In a very few minutes the canvas packages, dropping almost to pieces, were out of the ground and laid in silence on a hand barrow. In silence the improvised bier was taken up between two men, and as it was carried away attended by the lanterns the crowd, as by instinct, formed in procession behind. I was surprised to find myself in front of this strange funeral procession and close to the bier. Thus in silence we marched away from the ruined mill through the tortuous and treacherous ways which led to the village.

"He's got an experiment on hand tonight, they say," remarked one in a low voice.

"Ay," said another, "and there's a night shift on five or six."

As we entered upon the paved main street of the village, the regular clank of the cog of our procession was sufficient to attract attention.

But though it was very late, the streets were alive with people, not noisy, as might have been expected on a wake night, but earnest and occupied. It was a novel, but true, "Timperey Wakes," for the whole population seemed astir. Our procession created little or no surprise; it appeared to have been expected. We were greeted with no speech or cries. I but heard now and then fearful whispers of "Who is it?" and "They cannot tell yet."

Many of the crowd fell into the procession as it slowly passed up the street. There was no tavern open at that late hour to which the bier could be taken for examination, so it was carried to the door of the public hall—which was soon opened, lit up, and full of people, as it had been earlier in the evening.

I have no clear recollection of what followed. I appealed to them not to open the packages; I knew who it was. But I got only the obstinate, but respectful answer, "Yea, parson, but we must." The packages were opened; but I know only I had a horrible vision of a ghastly head with black hair and beard.

"Good Lord!" I heard more than one exclaim. "It's the master!"

His men had recognized Mr. Lacroix. He had been recognized by the men who had taken him to the mill, and by the men who had taken him to the mill, and by the men who had taken him to the mill.

"My daughter," he wrote, "is promised to her cousin, the Count De Lacroix. As for the 20,000 pounds damages, that must be reckoned a joint business loss; that can surely be no doubt about that. I hope we have done for the future with playing tricks with that patent."

The next letter, of date several days later, was of great interest, at least to Louise and me. It was stained and blurred as with some liquid dye; it had doubtless been taken by Steinhardt from Lacroix's person after death. It was addressed to "Mme De Lacroix;" it was written on fine "foreign" paper with crest and motto, and contained many gallant and polite expressions of the Count De Lacroix's devotion to his lovely cousin—whom, he said, he hoped to come and see in the summer. How was it he had never come?—never even been heard of?

These questions were answered by a second letter from the count, dated in May, 1882, and addressed to Mr. Lacroix, and by the postscript of a letter of about the same date, written in German though from Paris, and addressed to Steinhardt. The count's letter exhorted him to his "dear uncle" from paying his proposed visit; he was too ill to think of leaving France. The letter to Steinhardt was evidently from a complot. It was mainly about business affairs; its matter of interest for us was squeezed into a corner: "You ask me about the Count De Lacroix. I learn he is still busy killing himself with absinthe."

Lastly came the astonishing communique of all. It was dated several months later, in the November, I think, of 1882. It was from a Paris lawyer, who evidently had the management of the De Lacroix affairs. In a few words, it informed Mr. Lacroix that the young Count Honoré was dead, and saluted Count Paul, his successor. ("Le roi est mort—vive le roi.") And the congratulatory count was dead too! With this letter were tied up two or three legal documents, of which I cannot at present much account, though they are now in my possession. They were a copy of certificate of the death of Honoré Marie Antoinette, Count De Lacroix, and certain papers showing of what the De Lacroix property consisted—chateau, estates and rents—and with them, finally, a later note from the lawyer to Steinhardt, who had evidently apprised him of Mr. Lacroix's "disappearance," and of the half that that in the meanwhile he was guardian of Paul's heirs.

"By George!" exclaimed Birley, when we had made this discovery, "but 'Mame' was a tough schemer! He was determined to get his lad up as a French count, with a chateau and all the rest of it!"

I ventured to doubt whether Louise's husband would be Count De Lacroix, though Louise certainly was the inher-

itrix of the chateau and the rest. "Do you mean to tell me, then, the lass is not a countess?" he exclaimed. "That I could not declare, though I was certain no handsomer or sweeter countess could be found in the whole wide world. "True for you, my lad," said he; "and you're in the luck of it." Birley was eager to go home at once to tell Louise all about it (she was again established in his house, with Mrs. Steinhardt). He wished me to go with him to assist in the explanation; I endeavored to excuse myself, but in vain. "Come, lad," said he, "I can see what you're thinking. Keep a stiffer back, man; do not be so shy yourself. See—this—I saw a duke once—a great Scotch duke—and he was the crabbest-looking tailor-body ever you saw in all your life. If you cannot make a better count, once you get used to it, than he made a duke, I'll eat my hat, lad!" "Ah, ha!" cried Birley, in his cheery voice, "I have a word to say to thee, my lady!" "Which of us do you mean, Mr. Birley?" she asked. "Which of you?" Well, "sally might have had to do with it, but as it happens she hasn't. I mean thee, my lady countess."

"Countess?" she exclaimed. "Why, what has amused you, Mr. Birley?" "I do not quite know," said I, wishing to get the explanation over, "that Mr. Birley is right to call you countess, but we have found evidence that your cousin the count is dead, and that you, being next in succession, inherit the De Lacroix chateau and other property. You are a great French heiress, Louise, whether you are countess or not."

"Me?" she cried. "Oh, what strange thing is this?" Birley sat down and entered into explanation, while I withdrew to the window.

"So, my lady," concluded Birley, "there you are, and we are all thy humble, obedient servants."

I was astonished to see her hide her face in her hands, and burst into tears. "I do not wish to all," she cried, "to be countess, or to be anything but what I am! And you want all to put me far away from you! I do not wish to have their chateau and their rents!"

"Louise," I said, "let me confess to you that I have been thinking I ought to give you up—to give you back the promise you gave me, before either you or I knew you were the great lady we now know you are! It was terrible, terrible to think I ought to do it, but—but—ah, Louise, what must I do?"

"You still love me, then, as much as you did? But why should you not? Am I not the same Louise? I do not feel that chateau and rents make it unbecome that you should love me!"

"Then you do not—"

"Ah, hush!" she cried, stopping my mouth with her hand. "You must not say such things! It is wicked! But I know you did not doubt me; I know! I know!"

Shall I go on? What need is there? Surely every reader may guess the rest—that Louise De Lacroix is now known to the world as Mrs. Gerald Urwin—to me as the dear partner of all life's joys, and cares, and duties, the tender and faithful heart who has put away all the terrors and shadows of the past and cherishes only the lessons of humility, faith, patience and duty which it has taught.

"What," some may ask in conclusion "about Frank Steinhardt, and his little sweet-voiced school-mistress?"

Frank was more of a musician than a chemical dye manufacturer. The chemical works were, therefore, sold, and Frank and Mrs. Frank are now known in musical circles, he as a pianist, and she as a singer of repute.

I cannot end without a word concerning the strange woman whose visions played so great a part in the elucidation of the Lacroix mystery—poor Fraulein Haas. I put off as long as I could the unwelcome task of informing her of Steinhardt's death. When at length I did write I told her in few words that a retort had burst upon him while he was engaged upon an experiment, and had killed him at once. Soon after I had written I was surprised to receive a note from her, containing only these words:—"I knew it. It was God's doing."

THE END.

The Scepter. The scepter was the emblem of power. As the silver wand, so familiar in cathedrals, was once hollow, containing the "virge," or rod with which chastisement was inflicted upon the choristers and younger members of the foundation, so the royal scepter represented the right to inflict punishment. Hence the expression, "to sway the scepter," implied the holding of regal dignity. The scepter with the dove possessed the additional signification of the Holy Ghost, as controlling the actions of the sovereign. The same idea was conveyed by Rheims by the beautiful ceremony of letting loose a number of doves at the coronation of the French kings.—Good Words.

Precedent Established. A beginner in newspaper work in a southern town who occasionally "sent stuff" to one of the New York dailies, picked up last summer what seemed to him a "big story." Hurrying to the telegraph office he "queried" the telegraph editor: "Columb story so and so. Shall I send?" The reply was brief and prompt, but to the enthusiast unsatisfactory. "Send 600 words," was all it said. "Can't be told in less than 1,200," he wired back. Before long the reply came: "Story of creation of world told in 600. Try it."—New York Post.

Alabama Agriculture. The total number of farms in Alabama is given at 223,320, of which 129,137 are operated by white farmers and 94,083 by colored farmers.

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.

King Edward continues to improve and will be out of all danger in a few days.

Canadian troops in South Africa are being sent home as fast as transports can be had.

Senator Mitchell made an impressive speech before the senate in favor of the 1905 exposition.

The seventh week of the coal miners' strike in the East sees no material change in the situation.

The Union Pacific has discharged its entire force of maooinists at the Omaha shops with the exception of 10 men.

An amnesty proclamation to Filipinos will be issued July 4. This will release all political, but not criminal prisoners, including Aguinaldo.

The Carnegie Steel Company has voluntarily raised the wages of all of its unskilled employes 10 per cent. This will affect nearly 15,000 men.

The bill providing for the sale of a portion of the Umatilla, Oregon, reservation has been passed by both houses and is now ready for the president's signature.

The house has passed the Philippine civil government bill.

All efforts to crush the insurgents in North China have failed.

The situation in Hayti is becoming serious and another outbreak is looked for.

In a speech at Harvard the president defended Wood, Taft and Root against the charges made.

Special envoys and visitors at London to attend the coronation are departing for their homes.

The coronation of King Edward, bereft of pageantry, will most likely occur as soon as he is well.

The bill admitting Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona to statehood has been shelved by the senate.

The king's dinner to the poor of London occurred on the day set for it, being the only feature of the coronation exercises carried out.

Indiana and Ohio were visited by a destructive tornado. In the former state several persons were killed and many injured. The property loss will reach at least \$2,000,000.

President Roosevelt has sent a message of sympathy to King Edward.

General debate on the Philippine civil government bill has been closed in the house.

The coronation of King Edward has been indefinitely postponed on account of his critical illness.

A Missouri murderer drowned himself to escape being lynched by a mob that was pursuing him.

Lightning struck a Spanish church in which a funeral was being held and as a result 25 people were killed and 35 injured.

Fire again visited Portland and destroyed over \$7,000 worth of property, including 30 head of horses. The insurance was only \$17,000.

Civil government will be established in the island of Mindoro and in the island of Paragua, and will be re-established in Batangas province, Philippine islands, July 4.

Gains in our trade with Asia are greater than anywhere else. Asia and Oceania are now buying from the United States nearly \$125,000,000 worth of goods every year.

The coronation festivities in London are in full swing.

Ten persons were hurt in a collision of two trolley cars in a suburb of Chicago.

The president has vetoed another bill removing the charge of desertion from the record of a soldier.

An attempt was made to hold a conference on the canal bill, but the senate conferees did not appear.

Lord Kitchener has completed his work in South Africa and has sailed from Cape Town for England.

The bill for the amendment of the bankruptcy law, which has been passed by the house, has been shelved by the senate.

Rear Admiral Clarke says he has no intention of retiring in the near future. He expects to command a squadron for some time.

Admiral Dewey will tell the senate just what transpired between him and the Filipino leaders at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war.

Our exports to Africa are greater than those to all South America.

THE FALL OF MANILA.

Dewey's Statement Before the Senate Regarding the Surrender.

Washington, June 30.—Admiral Dewey made a statement before the senate committee on the Philippines concerning the early operations at Manila when he was in command of the American naval forces in Philippine waters. The admiral's statement contributed an important addition to the history of the surrender of the city of Manila. This consisted of a positive statement by the admiral to the effect that the city had been surrendered to him at the time that the Spanish fleet was sunk, and that when the city did surrender it was in pursuance of a definite understanding between himself and the Spanish governor general.

The admiral was questioned by Senator Lodge. He said he had first heard from Aguinaldo and his friends about April 1, 1898, when it became certain that there was to be war.

"I then heard that there were a number of Filipinos who desired to accompany the fleet to Manila," he continued. "All of them were young and earnest. I did not attach much importance to them or to what they said. The day before we left Hong Kong I received a telegram from Consul General Pratt, located at Singapore, saying that Aguinaldo was at Singapore, and would join me at Hong Kong. I replied: 'All right; tell him to come aboard,' but I attached so little importance to the message that I sailed without Aguinaldo and before he arrived. There were then many promises as to what the Filipinos would do, but I did not depend upon them. Consul Williams assured me that upon our arrival and the firing of the first gun, 30,000 Filipinos would rise. None did arise, and I frequently joked him on this point."

Admiral Dewey said that the Spanish government wanted to surrender the city to him after the destruction of the fleet and that he would have accepted the formal surrender if he had had 5,000 troops to garrison the city. He told about Aguinaldo's arrival, saying that he put him ashore and told him to organize his people. Aguinaldo came back discouraged and wanted to go to Japan, but the admiral told him to continue his efforts. Speaking of Aguinaldo's military operations, he said he did wonderfully in whipping the Spaniards.

Admiral Dewey said emphatically that he never had recognized Aguinaldo's government, nor did he salute Aguinaldo's flag; he never called Aguinaldo "General," but addressed him as Don Emilio. He said the Spaniards were fearful of the Filipinos entering Manila, and therefore surrendered to him in advance. He did not believe the Filipinos could have taken the city unaided, but the Spaniards were greatly demoralized.

1905 FAIR WILL BE EXCEPTION.

Its Chances Good, Though Congress Opposes Like Appropriations.

Washington, June 30.—When the general deficiency bill passed, and \$500,000 was allowed Buffalo and nearly \$200,000 allowed Charleston to make up deficiencies as a result of the exposition held in those cities, senators expressed the hope that there never would be further aid granted to expositions.

This naturally caused some uneasiness among Oregon people who hope to have liberal provision made for the Lewis and Clark Centennial. At the same time the mere fact that these deficits were made good will be used as an argument why the government should take an interest in the Lewis and Clark Exposition. After spending millions for Chicago and St. Louis, and hundreds of thousands for every other city in the east that has held an exposition, it is not probable that congress can turn its back upon the Lewis and Clark Centennial. It has not been deemed advisable to press the matter at this session, and in that particular very good judgment has been shown. With the action of the senate today, and the provision for the St. Louis Exposition last congress, there is considerable ill feeling manifested, and it is better to have it wear away before any attempt is made to secure an appropriation for the coming celebration on the Pacific coast.

Vote Not to Strike.

Paterson, N. J., June 30.—At a meeting in which were delegates from all branches of the silk industry here, it was voted not to order a general strike in sympathy with that of the dyers' helpers. A full consideration was given the matter, and the vote stood 12 to 8. The socialist trade and labor alliance withdrew and did not vote. It is expected that many weavers and others who have not worked since a week ago will now return to the looms.

Gives Up Manchuria.

London, June 27.—In a dispatch from Peking the correspondent there of the Daily Mail says he hears upon the highest authority that in the recent mining and railways concessions agreement with Russia, a clause exists under which China virtually renounces all claims to sovereignty in Manchuria.

Arguments in Sealing Dispute.

The Hague, June 30.—Dr. Asser, arbitrator of the American-Russian sealing dispute, commenced the hearing of counsel and the evidence of experts June 28. The United States and Russian ministers to the Netherlands will be present, while among those to be heard are H. N. D. Pierce, third assistant secretary at Washington, counsel for the United States; Captain Baker and M. Komayhoff, from the Russian foreign office.

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.

The highest contract price so far at Salem for hops is 14 cents per pound.

The Pacific college at Newberg graduated 26 students from the academic course this year.

The old wooden bridge at Medford across Bear creek is to be replaced at once by a steel structure.

The recruiting office at Salem for the United States navy has been closed. Twenty-three young men enlisted.

Work on the coal prospects near Medford has been temporarily suspended awaiting the report of an assayer.

There is a good demand for timber claims in Columbia county. Lumber companies are buying all that can be had.

The Willamette Pulp & Paper Company of Oregon City is erecting a small saw mill on Grays river to facilitate in getting out pulp logs.

Never in the history of fruit raising in Southern Oregon have the prospects for an enormous crop of all kinds of fruit been brighter than at the present time.

The commencement exercises at the Mt. Angel college were unusually pretentious this year, the program lasting three days. A large number of students were graduated.

The grain warehouse near the Southern Pacific depot at Corvallis was destroyed by fire, together with 12,000 bushels of wheat and 2,000 bushels of oats. The loss is estimated at \$13,000; insurance \$3,500.

The employees of the Portland City & Oregon Railway, operating the electric line between Portland and Oregon City, have gone on strike because the company refuses to discharge its superintendent and dispatcher. Only one car carrying mail is being operated.

The meeting of the State Teachers' Association at Eugene June 25-28 promises to be well attended.

The Sherman county W. C. T. U. completed its 14th annual convention at Moro Saturday. A successful meeting was held.

An interesting session of the Fifth district of the Knights of Pythias was held in Salem last week. About 100 delegates were in attendance.

The retail clerks of Salem have formed an association. The purpose of the organization is to secure for all clerks uniform hours of labor.

The explosion of a barrel of alcohol at the Pacific Coast Biscuit Company's factory, Portland, caused the death of one person and the injury of three.

Another rich strike has been made in the Golconda mine, Eastern Oregon. The vein is not a large one, but the assay value of the ore runs from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per ton.

Wallawa county sheepmen are very prosperous as the result of the wonderful clip of wool and the good price received. It is estimated that there are 250,000 sheep in the county.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 66c; bluestem, 67c@68c; valley, 66c@67c.

Barley—Feed, \$22; brewing, \$23 per ton.

Flour—Best grades, \$3.05@3.50 per barrel; graham, \$2.50@2.80.

Milletuffs—Bran, \$15@16 per ton; middlings, \$19@20; shorts, \$17@18; chop, \$15.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.20@1.35; gray, \$1.15@1.25.

Hay—Timothy, \$12@15; clover, \$7.50@10; Oregon wild hay, \$5@6 per ton.

Potatoes—Best Burbanks, 60c per cental; ordinary, 40c per cental; growers prices; sweets, \$2.25@2.50 per cental; new potatoes, 1 1/2@1 3/4c.

Butter—Creamery, 17 1/2@19c; dairy 14@16c; store, 13@15c.

Eggs—18@19c for Oregon.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 12c @13c; Young America, 13c @14c; factory prices, 1@1 1/2c less.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00@4.50; hens, \$4.00@5.00 per dozen, 11@11 1/2c per pound; springs, 11@11 1/2c per pound, \$2.00@4.00 per dozen; ducks, \$4.50@5.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 13@14c, dressed, 15@16c per pound; geese, \$6.00@7.00 per dozen.

Mutton—Gross, 4 1/2c per pound; sheared, 3 1/2c; dressed, 7 1/2c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, 6 1/2c; dressed, 7@7 1/2c per pound.

Veal—6 1/2c @7c for small; 6 1/2c @7c for large.

CANAL IS ASSURED.

Conference Committee Reaches Unanimous Agreement Favoring Amendment.

Washington, June 27.—The conference on the isthmian canal bill have reached a complete and unanimous agreement in favor of accepting the senate amendment, which contemplates the building of the Panama canal if the president can secure a clear title to that route. The final conference lasted only half an hour. Before the decision was reached, Hepburn, on behalf of the house conferees, endeavored to secure a modification of the senate amendment limiting the president to six months within which the title to the Panama route is to be perfected. When this failed, Hepburn was to further explanation, and the senate amendment was concurred in exactly the form that it passed the senate. It was arranged that a brief statement should be prepared for presentation to the senate and house, and the conferees separated.

Hepburn presented the conference report to the house in the afternoon, and under the rule it went over.

Later Hepburn submitted the following statement to the house: "The effect of the action of the conference, if approved by the house, will be to eliminate all of the provisions of the bill as passed by the house, and enact into legislation all of the provisions of the senate amendment."

Hepburn will call up the bill for final action at once.

Senator Morgan has made known to the members of the Alabama delegation in congress that it is advisable to accept the Spooner amendment to the canal bill. This from the senator foremost in behalf of the Nicaragua route is considered as conclusive that the senate amendments will be agreed to.

RECOVERY IS RAPID.

Improvement of King Edward's Condition is Most Marked.

London, June 26.—King Edward's progress to convalescence occasions the greatest satisfaction in all official circles. His majesty is already displaying the greatest interest in all public questions, and is expressing his gratitude over the evidence of the world's solicitude by opening a number of telegrams with his own hands. This action excited him slightly, causing some restlessness during the night, and seemed some trifling solicitude on the part of the attending doctors. All this really was unimportant, as his majesty soon quieted down, and on the whole, rested satisfactorily.

Improvement in the king's condition this morning was most marked. Everybody in Buckingham palace is delighted and high hopes are entertained that his convalescence will be much more speedy even than was expected last night. At no time has there been any serious suggestion of the establishment of a regency. The most that was done was in the way of pure speculation, a suggestion that the Prince of Wales might act for his father, as King Edward (then Prince of Wales) did frequently for Queen Victoria in former days, particularly her last illness, but without his having been formally appointed regent. The good news given out by the Duke of Connaught at Buckingham palace before the doctors' morning consultation occasioned the liveliest satisfaction to all persons collected at the palace, the Mansion house and elsewhere awaiting tidings from the sick chamber.

THREATEN TO STRIKE.

Seventy-Five Thousand Men Demand a Two and One-Half Per Cent Increase.

Chicago, June 27.—The Freight Handlers' and Warehousemen's Union, which has on its rolls 75,000 men, who handle freight in 200 warehouses used by the 24 railroads entering Chicago, made a demand today for a 2 1/2 per cent increase in wages. They claim to be able to prevent any freight from entering or leaving Chicago freight sheds. Should there be a strike, it is said the teamsters' organization, although averse to a strike by the freight handlers, would be almost inevitably drawn into it. As the railroads six months ago granted an increase, it is said their action would be taken by the general superintendents, nor were the agents of the freight handlers inclined to state explicitly what action would be taken by them should their demands be refused. It is believed that the general superintendents will hold a meeting to consider the matter. The union, it is said, will allow the railroads plenty of time for discussion.

Lives Lost at Hudson.

Sioux City, Ia., June 27.—Reports of a tornado which swept over Southeastern South Dakota and Northwestern Iowa last night came in slowly on account of loss of wires. It is reported that several lives were lost at Hudson, S. D. At Tyndall, S. D., damage is reported to small buildings and trees. At Sioux City, Ia., a church and hardware store were wrecked and shade trees were broken off like reeds. No one there was fatally hurt. At Manrice, Ia., much damage to trees and small buildings is reported.

To Investigate Transport Service.

Washington, June 27.—Representative Sulzer, of New York, has introduced a resolution reciting that "as the allegations of inadequate and scandalous conduct of the affairs of the United States transport service between San Francisco and the Philippines have been sustained by official reports, that the workings of the transport system be investigated by a congressional committee of three members of the house and three members of the senate."