

# DOOMED.

By WILLARD MACKENZIE

## CHAPTER I.

The lookout from Penrhuddyn was grandly picturesque. The ancient granite wall of the moor, straggling building rose upon the summit of a steep and thickly wooded hill, around the base of which slumbered a pleasant valley, encircled by mountainous heights of undulating moorland, gilded with masses of yellow gorse, and purpled with heather bloom.

Nature, in her wildest beauty, reigned supreme over the scene. Man and his works, save in the walls of the old castle, which, from a distance, appeared rather the rocky summit of the hill, than stones fashioned by human hands, were not there—might have had no place in the world.

In a small chamber, situated at the top of the tower, which flanked the building upon the west, sat a fair-haired, thoughtful looking boy, with dark violet colored eyes, in whose dreamy depths there lurked a world of passion. He might have been eleven years of age, certainly not more.

This boy was Arthur Penrhuddyn, the only child of Sir Laurence Penrhuddyn, the owner of the castle. The room in which he sat was a disused one. Two old worm-eaten chairs, of antique form, faded with the dust and cobwebs that veiled the whole place, and one thing else was now the only furniture.

The other thing was the full-length portrait of a woman. Dust and damp had played sad havoc with what had once been a fine work of art; the colors of the dress could scarcely be distinguished beneath the mildew and dirt that encrusted them.

As it stood upon the floor leaning against the wall, the sunlight blazed full upon it, strangely illumining the face, which, unlike the rest of the picture, was as vivid as though it had been painted but a few years, instead of nearly two centuries back.

Strangely it seemed to have fascinated the violet eyes of that fair-haired boy as he sat there contemplating it with a rapid look of awed wonderment. This contemplative reverie was broken in upon by the opening of the room door and the appearance of a second person.

"Why, Master Arthur, I've been looking everywhere for you!"

The speaker was an elderly man, evidently a superior servant. The boy, not moving his position, beckoned him to come close. "Whose picture is that, Daniel?" he asked.

"Mercy on us, where have you ferreted out that ill-omened picture?" cried the old man, a look of almost consternation disturbing his iron face.

"I found it in that closet," answered the boy, pointing to a half-opened door. "I want to know whose it is; and why do you call it ill-omened?"

"I never did know such a boy for ferreting about," answered Daniel, half angrily. "Why, I've never seen that picture since I was a boy; I thought it had been done away with long ago."

"It is the first time I have ever been in this room," replied the boy. "I never could turn the key before, nor persuade any one to do it for me."

"There's a wicked little lives up here, who eats up curious people," said the old man, gravely.

"Oh, I don't believe in fairies!" answered Arthur, quietly. "I know all that sort of thing is not true. Never mind the fairies; I want to know who that beautiful lady was, and I am determined to know."

Daniel looked perplexed. As far as his own feelings were concerned, he had not the slightest objection to tell what he knew. But Daniel had the fear of his master before his eyes.

A strange man was Sir Laurence Penrhuddyn—a studious, stoical, severe man; but just, and even generous, when duty dictated.

A good master, a good landlord, and a humane man. The tidings of a vessel in distress, of a shipwrecked crew—and such incidents were of continual recurrence upon that dangerous coast—would summon him from his bed even upon the stormiest winter's night. He had had a lifeboat built, and many scores of lives had been saved from the hungry sea.

His great desire was to inculcate young Arthur with all his own ideas and prejudices. The boy had been left motherless in his second year; but, although thus brought more entirely under paternal control, education could not destroy a naturally poetic temperament. And to listen to the wild stories of fairies and wizards, that abounded among the fishermen, was his especial delight.

Daniel knew very well that the legend of the picture was well known to several besides himself, who would willingly tell it, and thus deprive him of the pleasure.

"A fine row you'll get me into if it's known as I've told you what your father would call a foolish story," he grumbled. "Daniel," said the boy, earnestly, "I give you my word of honor that I will never breathe a word of what you tell me to any one, without your permission."

Instead of repeating the prolix narrative of the old servant, we shall place the story before the reader in a more terse and simple form.

Years passed away, and but few knew their secret. Two children were born to them, and still there appeared to be no diminution in their love.

At length came the Restoration. Sir Arthur accompanied his sovereign to England, leaving his wife, however, at her old home until such times as Penrhuddyn Castle could be rendered fit for her reception. But that he might still be able to have before him the image of his beloved wife, he took away with him a portrait of her that had been painted a few months after their union.

The very same.

"And do you think the prophecy will ever be fulfilled?" asked Arthur, musingly.

"Pray, don't ask such a question!" cried the old man, shuddering. "It worked hard enough upon him it was called down upon. His lady died five years after their marriage, and he did not survive her more than six or seven years; but I never heard as it affected the family since; but I don't think, for all that, that any of them would like to cross the path of anybody that was called De Soissons."

"What became of the children?" again asked the boy.

"Well, it was said that the King of France hearing the story, took an interest in 'em on account of their mother's family, and that one of 'em became a very great man."

Thoughtfully the boy followed the old man down the stairs, musing over the story he had heard.

Just; and should my blood and thine ever mingle hereafter, that union shall be the destruction of thy house! My vengeance may be long delayed, but it will come—it will come!"

With those last words she sank back and expired.

Nought of these events were ever known to the new-made bride—a lovely woman, of noble and wealthy family, whom Sir Arthur had married to mend his broken fortunes. But peace departed forever out of the soul of Arthur Penrhuddyn, and from that hour the gay cavalier became a gloomy, smileless man.

During the whole time that Daniel was telling this story, the boy sat motionless, with his eyes fixed not upon the narrator, but upon the picture, as though that, and not the man, were speaking.

"And this, I suppose, is the portrait that was painted in France?" said the boy, at last.

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## FARM AND GARDEN

### The American Cow.

There are nearly 25,000,000 dairy cows in the United States, and enough other cattle to make a total of over 90,000,000 head, including bulls, oxen, young stock and "locks and berds which range to the valley free," and all condemned to slaughter. There are less than a million thoroughbred cattle in the country and more than 45,000,000 scrubs. The rest are half or higher grade. About 20,000,000 calves are born annually. The average value of a cow is \$22. In Rhode Island, a dairying State, the average is \$30.

The cows of the United States yield about 9,000,000,000 gallons of milk a year (watered and unwatered); the butter product is nearly 2,000,000,000 pounds (all grades), and the product of cheese over 300,000,000 pounds. Our cheese industry is making enormous strides. In a short time the output will be 1,000,000,000 pounds. There is one item, a by-product, which is never alluded to when Mistress Cow or Sir Cow is considered. Our gold production is about \$81,000,000 a year at present. That is a vast sum of money. Yet the rakings of our cow yards and stalls for the fertilization of crops are

### Blackberries and Raspberries.

Considering the neglect given blackberry and raspberry canes in late summer, they pay well in comparison with other crops. If fruit growers will cultivate the canes, clean the ground well of weeds and grass as soon as the berry harvest is over, and apply fertilizer on the land, the effect of the good treatment will be apparent the following year. Weeds and grass rob the canes, and when it is considered that with the canes producing crops for several years in succession, and weeds and grass taking possession between the

### MERRY GO-ROUND WINDMILL.



A windmill can be constructed in the form of a "merry-go-round," which has the fans revolving about a central axis. On the same axis a semi-circular hood is fixed so that it will expose half the fans and shield the other half. This revolving hood is easily guided by a large vane. Small and medium sized mills can be constructed in this way. The smaller diagram shows the ground plan of a "merry-go-round" on a slightly different principle. The diameter is 20 to 25 feet. Each of the four posts carries a gate, which may be opened or closed to admit or shut out the wind. The arrows indicate the course of the wind through one side, while the gate A shuts it off on the other side.

estimated to be worth in cold cash eight times as much, or \$948,000,000. Such figures are bewildering. They stagger humanity.—New York Press.

### Feeding Stock.

Giving the cows coarse food, in order to dispose of such foods, will not add to the quality of the milk, nor the quantity, but it puts the cows to service in converting such materials into manure. A good farmer, however, can not afford to keep a cow simply to make manure. The manure should be considered only as a by-product. To make an animal profitable, not only should the coarse and bulky materials be used, but they should be re-enforced by the best feeding stuffs that can be produced, so as not only to increase the yield, but also render the manure more valuable.

### The Farm Garden.

For a farmer to begin gardening with several kinds of each vegetable is to fail with some, as farmers do not, as a rule, give attention to gardening. About one-half of the varieties in many of the seed catalogues could be eliminated with advantage. If the garden is to be a specialty next year, mow off the grass and weeds, burn the ground over to destroy the weed seeds and plow the land whenever favorable for so doing, applying manure liberally and then harrowing it in. Next spring plow the garden again and use only a few varieties of each vegetable, selecting such as may be supposed to be the best.

### Charcoal for Pigs and Fowls.

Charcoal is often recommended for pigs and fowls, but it is not generally understood that it is a good feed for any kind of stock, fed with corn or other heating materials. There is an effect from charcoal which corrects the acidity of the stomach, and it rapidly absorbs gases. It is excellent for mixing with the food of animals that are being fattened, experiments showing that the increase of fat is greatest when a proportion of charcoal is allowed.

### Shrinkage of Grain.

The shrinkage of corn varies according to the condition of the grain when put into the crib. Cases have been known in which corn lost 20 per cent from shrinkage, the corn being damp. From 8 to 12 per cent is the average, the shrinkage depending upon so many circumstances as to make an exact estimate very difficult, but the rule is to allow 10 per cent.

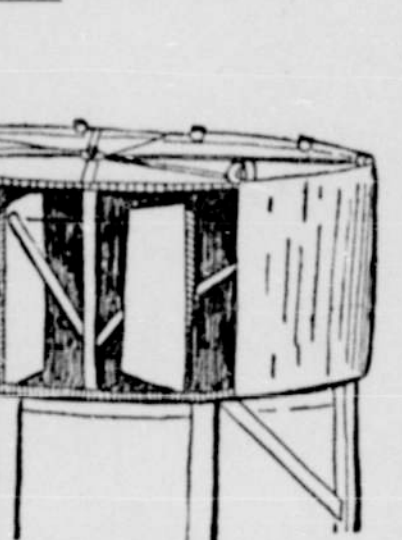
### Developing a New Potato.

During the past season remarkable progress has been made in the cultivation of a new species of potato in the department of Vienne, in France. It originated in Uruguay, and is called the Solanum Commersoni. Amid its new environment in France, and by dint of careful cultivation and selection, it has developed several forms which promise to become fixed, and to possess much value as additions to the food resources of Europe. Among these forms, all springing from one parent species, there are a yellow variety, a white variety, a red variety and a variety not specially characterized by color, all of which possess distinctive shapes and qualities. A fact that particularly interests botanists and cultivators is that these varieties have evidently not yet reached their final settled forms, and the experiments of M. Laborgerie in Vienne are closely watched because it is thought that they will throw light upon the unsettled question of the general origin of the potato.

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## ROADS TO RETRENCH

State Legislation Everywhere is Having Its Effect.

## RETALIATION NOT THEIR AIM

Claim It Prudence to Stop Construction Until They Know Where Money is Coming From.

Chicago, March 14.—Railroad presidents agree that the general disposition all over the country to attack the roads by means of hostile bills has reached a stage where some decided action must be taken or the country will suffer severely. As a matter of fact, the roads already have suffered tremendous losses, but eventually the heaviest burden will fall upon the public in diminished and inferior service, general retrenchment, cheaper equipment and the abandonment of extensions which would develop new country.

The greatest danger, according to all authorities, lies in the great crop of two-cent rate bills, regardless of the conditions in the states adopting the bills. In the East it is possible to maintain good service at this rate. In the West it is not.

Benjamin Winchell, president of the Rock Island system, probably best epitomizes the sense of all the replies received to messages sent all presidents asking for an opinion on present conditions and what was necessary to reduce the danger of poorer service. Mr. Winchell says:

"If the Interstate Commerce commission does its work wisely and sanely, as I believe it will do, the railroads have nothing to fear. They will get even justice, which is all they ask. I am relying on the sound sense of fairness of the American people to stop before the situation becomes acute financially. It is a mistake to say the railroads are retreating by reducing their service and abandoning great enterprises. It is simple prudence, a bowing to the storm. We are forced to stop building new lines, buying cars and other equipment until we know where the money is coming from. It is simple business sense, and not retaliation."

"I am heartily in accord with the plan for railroad presidents to confer with President Roosevelt. We must take the public more into our confidence and break down the distrust. Cooperation with the government in laudable reforms is a good thing."

## HOPE TO RECOVER THE MONEY

Treasury Theft Has Not Yet Been Returned, However.

Chicago, March 14.—If the man who got the \$173,000 from the treasury will send it back through the mail or by express, the chances are that he never will be detected.

This observation was made yesterday by a high Federal official working on the disappearance of the money, and it represents the hope of the government authorities, so far as can be learned from anyone engaged in the investigation. The hope that the money would be returned in some mysterious fashion failed to materialize.

Deputy Treasurer Bantz admitted for the first time that there is a remote possibility that the cash in the treasury is not \$173,000 short. He made it with a reservation.

## Defects Found in Dreadnaught.

London, March 14.—According to the Chronicle today, the official accounts of the Dreadnaught's behavior on her trip to Trinidad are not altogether supported by private letters. The engines worked well, but the heat in the engine room exceeded anything ever experienced by those on board. Owing to the great size of the ship, her maneuvering qualities at slow speed were not equal to those of small ships. It is stated that the big battleship cannot keep her station with reciprocating ships at 20 knots, and that for night maneuvering without lights, in close formation, the ship is out of the running.

## Floods in Ohio Valley.

Pittsburg, March 14.—The Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers are tonight rising rapidly. A stage of 26 feet has been reached in this city, and by tomorrow night 28 feet is anticipated. This stage is six feet over the danger mark. Reports from upper points are alarming. A greater part of many towns in the Monongahela valley is submerged, and many persons narrowly escaped with their lives. The property damage is heavy. A bridge at Harnersville collapsed, precipitating a freight train into the water.

## Germany Buying New Guns.

Berlin, March 14.—The appropriations committee of the reichstag today approved the bill authorizing the issue of treasury bonds with which to strengthen the available funds in the imperial treasury. The government, it is understood, since the beginning of 1906 has expended or contracted to expend sums estimated to amount to \$75,000,000 in completing the re-arming of the artillery and the improvement of the rifle now issued to the army.

## Pennsylvania Streams Swollen.

Pittsburg, March 14.—Dispatches from all sections of Western Pennsylvania report heavy rains last night and rapidly rising waters. Streams are already beyond their banks and much territory is submerged.