

The Santiam News.

VOL. XII.

SCIO, LINN COUNTY, OREGON, OCTOBER 16, 1908.

NO. 17.

The White Sepulchre

The Tale of Pelee

BY WILL LEVINGTON COMFORT

Copyright, 1904, by Will Levington Comfort
Copyright, 1907, by J. B. LEFFINGWORTH COMPANY. All rights reserved.

CHAPTER VII.—(Continued.)

"I guess that's right, too. So you had to look up Stenbridge?"

"Yes, I found it advisable one day after he had tried to steal the ship—while I was ashore in San Juan," Constable explained ingeniously. "I'm glad you came, because it will save me from taking him back. That is, unless you decide that I'll have to go back, too. I did play pretty rough with you, but your man had me going strong about that time. You've got to acknowledge that he's an artist. Let's get out of this. What do you plan to do?"

"Go out and get Stenbridge, and settle with you."

"The word 'settle' usually refers to dollars up in the States," Constable said delicately.

"It doesn't pay to buck the detective bureau, Constable, and I'm authorized to take cash for your part—this time."

"How much?"

"Five thousand dollars and expenses."

"It costs money to keep you off one's ship."

"I'm Cruso of the detective bureau, and I usually go where I please," was the dulcet answer.

"I'll have to go out to the ship to get so much money," Constable declared resignedly.

"I'll have to go out to the ship to get Stenbridge," said Cruso. "We'll go together."

"Where are your men?"

"I'm working alone this trip."

"You can pick up a couple of gendarmes to help you, if you think you'll need help," Constable suggested. This was the galvanic instant.

Cruso glanced at him keenly. He had been able to pick no flaw in the moment's talk. He was a shrewd man in his line and schooled, but Constable had rung true. There is no inclination on the part of the public at large to concede brilliance of acumen to the heirs of millions, unless the sparkling quality has been exposed in a strong light. The suggestion concerning the gendarmes, and a last glance into the eyes of the young man, vanquished Cruso's final doubt.

"I can handle Stenbridge very tidily, having your moral support," he declared. "He's too old a bird to resist arrest when he's once cornered."

"Just as you say," Constable said swiftly. "Turn your rig about and follow on. My launch is ahead, at the Sugar Landing."

It was not until the other was behind, and the back of his own carriage shutting off the view, that Constable realized he had lost his headache, and was drenched with perspiration. It was now eight. The ladies had agreed to be ready at nine. In case Uncle Joey had returned with the mail by that time. His several errands must wait. The present matter would take the entire time, and must be done decently and in order. The driver was commanded to make good speed to the launch, which was in readiness. Cruso dismissed his rig; Constable bade his driver wait, and the two men boarded.

"Make her buzz, Ernest," the owner said to the sailor in charge. "I'm expiring for a drink and a mouthful of clean air."

Cruso was deeply interested in the present manifestation of Martinique's climate, and was not readily diverted to the subject which challenged his companion. Once launched, however, upon the dealings of Nicholas Stenbridge, alias Hayden Breen, he became dumb and Constable learned that his guest was "the Rajah's Diamond" among the swindlers of civilization.

Stenbridge, according to Cruso, had started a Central American revolution in order to seize a range of rich silver hills; had made good, worked the mines, and sold them; when he looked up from the paper the door was shut. Constable went below.

"Where is Mr. Wall?" he dully inquired of the maid servant.

"He went out to the plantation, sir, immediately upon bringing in the mails."

"Where is Mr. Breen?"

"He went down to the city, sir."

Constable left the house and walked rapidly out the driveway, turning toward Saint Pierre. Here the man's pride intervened. He had committed a folly, perhaps, but no broad evil. The statements of the press were farcical. Lara Stenbridge should not have allowed her mother and the New York reporters to shake her trust. With reaction piling upon him his most bitter and tragic phases, Peter Constable conceded his failure as a lover, and turned to his secondary passion—Pelee.

CHAPTER VIII.

Breen was not wholly unconscious of danger when the large bundle of New York papers was brought with the mails into the library. The ladies had besied themselves over a joint epistle from Mr. Stenbridge, and were scanning the front pages of the journals, when a sudden exclamation from Mrs. Stenbridge intimated the ugly truth. Breen was changed from guest to outlaw. Miss Stenbridge followed her mother upstairs, the former bearing the paper with her. A second account of the demoralizing incident was not difficult to find. Breen read the following hastily:

"The Madame de Stael, Mr. Peter Constable's splendid private yacht, cleared for West Indian ports this morning, having on board the young millionaire-owner and, it is alleged, Nicholas Stenbridge,

the notorious revolutionist, adventurer, and swindling promoter.

"The purpose in common of the capitalist and fortune hunter cannot be told. Mr. Constable has figured in the public prints on several occasions, but chiefly through his eccentric ideas of practical philanthropy. So far as is known, he has never before allowed himself to be subjected to the attention of the police. It is feared that he will lose at both ends as a result of his present affiliations."

"Mr. Constable's friends aver that the young millionaire could not have understood the character of his companion for the voyage, and point out that Nicholas Stenbridge, at his best, is a man of fascinating manners and rare personal accomplishments. It has been added also that Mr. Constable is of a most impulsive temperament, and apt to choose his companions from queer arteries of society. The young man's innocent intent, however, might more readily be accepted, were it not for the important fact that Nicholas Stenbridge, who is known to have been in hiding for several days in New York, was seen on board the de Stael shortly before she sailed; positively recognized, it is said, by an astute and reliable member of the local detective force."

A spirited description of the episode on the Brooklyn pier followed; it was a portion of Nicholas Stenbridge's police record. The conservative character of the paper in which the foregoing appeared led Breen to believe that the account which had fallen into Mrs. Stenbridge's hand might be considerably more embellished and embellished. His first thought was that he had become a source of horror to the women, and that he must put himself out of their sight.

Breen was not a conscienceless man. A fatalist, a spendthrift, a power that preyed upon the powers that prey, a polished rascal—all these he might be, but his blood was clean from the taint of personal treachery. He had come to like Constable. The friendship was guileless. He had even thought, with a trace of humor in certain moments, that it was worth being called back from the Brooklyn pier for such a large and clear emotion. It is possible that he had never in his life been troubled as now, having brought a vital hurt to the man he wished only to serve. His face showed nothing, not even the heat of the day, as he left the house.

His own body had felt all, even the moral dissolution which crawls into the brain to prepare a place for the sinister guest, suicide. The law of cause and effect, unable to find any hold upon himself, nor inspire any fear this side of death, had linked him with another, and made that other suffer through him. Breen was smitten with the ugliest punishment that clean fiber is given to write beneath—that of seeing a friend beaten to the ground by the rebounding volley of one's own sins.

Half way down the Morn d'Orange, he saw Constable's launch turn shoreward from the ship. Constable was probably aboard. Breen wasn't ready yet to meet the man he had hurt. He must think. Moreover, by no means did he ignore the possibility of the Panther bringing one of his logical enemies, nor was he ready to face an accumulation of consequences in the shape of a man hunter. He turned to the right at the base of the moraine, and made his way up one of the winding paths to the terraced streets. That his steps led him to the fruit shop, where he had planned not to go again, seemed now but a paltry addition to the incubus which had so suddenly possessed him.

At the first terrace he turned and started back through the smoke. The launch had just touched the pier at the Sugar Landing. The tall figure of Constable stepped forth and hastened to the carriage, which was driven rapidly toward the moraine. Breen smiled, because it was easier for him to smile than to cry for mercy. Constable was being driven swiftly to the plantation house, where he would find the ugly work that had been done there. Mrs. Stenbridge would not board a ship that had been a thief's refuge.

Rue de Rivoli was white and empty. The door of the shop was shut but not locked, and the little round window darkened with a cloth. Breen entered, slamming the door quickly, to keep out the hot, poisoned air of the street. The dark shop was as empty of humans as the thoroughfare, but a quick step sounded in the rear. Pere Rabaut entered from the ash-kept court.

"What a day, M. Breen! The birds are dead and dying. Soronia is ill unto death."

"Soronia ill?" Breen said under his breath.

The old man hastened away. At the rear doorway, Soronia pushed by him. Her hair was unfastened, and the loose white garment that she wore was open at the throat. The father stared as if she were a specter. His lips moved, and he turned suddenly to the man standing in front of the shop. She moved toward the American.

Her eyes aroused him. The darkness had no power to divest them of expression, for the passions were burning there—fear lest this was not flesh which filled her gaze; ecstasy in that he was there at all, in life or death or dream. His act of yesterday had brought the ghastly pallor; the deadly illness was heart-station. She touched his shoulder and his cheek with chilling hands; there fell from her lips strange, low words of no language that he knew. Suddenly she caught his hand to her breast, whispering that she had feared she was dreaming.

"What were you dreaming, little one?" he questioned.

"I thought I was dying when I heard your voice. You said—you said you would come no more."

"But did I not come, little fairy? Who could remain away from you?"

She seized his face in her cold hands, whispering, "Do you mean that you will stay?"

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

PREPARED FOR THE BUSY READER

Less Important but Not Less Interesting Happenings from Points Outside the State.

Servians have seized a Hungarian town.

Roosevelt has refused to go on the stump.

Ferdinand has entered Sofia as czar of Bulgaria.

Turkey is sending cruisers to the island of Samos.

Japanese massacred a party of friendly Koreans by mistake for insurgents.

Castro's health has improved so much that he is again able to be out on the streets.

During a quarrel at Tucson, Arizona, between two carpenters, one hit the other, breaking his neck.

The French government says the Dardanelles should be opened while the Balkan trouble is being settled.

James G. Whitehouse, one of the best known leaders in secret orders, is dead at his home in Providence, Conn.

A Spanish balloon fell a distance of 4,000 feet and the occupants were uninjured. The gas bag became ripped and acted as a parachute.

Roosevelt wrote to the Southern Peace congress, in session at Greensboro, N. C., saying that armament is the best guarantee of peace.

A Virginia girl has married a British naval officer.

International balloon races are being held near Berlin, Germany.

Britain continues to hold out against Austria and defends Turkey.

Senator Beveridge is quite ill and has been forced to cancel several speaking dates.

The Trans-Mississippi Congress has turned down the parcels post, after a spirited debate.

Much of the wheat grown in the province of Ontario, Canada, is being moved to tidewater by American carriers.

A man and woman bound together were found drowned near New York. Investigation showed that they had entered into a suicide pact.

A lone robber held up a stage near Missoula, Mont. From \$5 to \$35 each was obtained from the 12 passengers. Hunger was given as an excuse by the bandit.

The United States circuit court of appeals at Chicago has modified the injunction against picketing, allowing unions to thus fight employers so long as it is done peaceably.

The battleship fleet has left Manila for Japan.

The army retiring board, Colonel Stewart is disabled.

A British fleet has been sent to Turkey to keep the country quiet.

A conference of the powers on the Balkan middle depends upon Great Britain.

The naval tug Sotoyomo went aground on Puget Sound during a heavy fog.

E. A. S. Blake has been found guilty of attempting to bribe a prospective juror in the Ruel case.

A Russian general was wounded by his own troops during the army maneuvers. Balls became mixed with the blank shells.

The waterways convention has passed a resolution asking congress to open a ship canal from the Great Lakes to the Gulf, as the railroads cannot keep pace with the volume of business.

A Massachusetts school teacher locked a boy in a closet for punishment and forgot him. The boy remained in his dungeon two days and a night while the teacher attended a wedding 20 miles away. The teacher is prostrated and the boy under a physician's care.

Austria has sent a warship to Belgrade and threatens to annex Serbia.

More dependencies of Turkey threaten to revolt and declare their independence.

Seattle banks will back Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition bonds to the amount of \$300,000.

A phenomenally rich discovery of gold has been made in the Sturgeon Lake district, Canada.

James J. Hill says railroads are being hampered by many laws. He advocates deep waterways.

Delegates to the National Rural Delegates' association favor adoption of a parcels post law.

An American and two Spaniards were murdered by Filipinos in one of the provinces near Manila.

PREY TO GAMBLERS.

Thousands of Land Seekers Are Left Penniless in South Dakota.

Dallas, S. D., Oct. 13.—It is estimated that 1,000 land-seekers who have come to Dallas and Gregory have lost their money at gaming tables and are "broke." Many more who have lost all their ready cash have been forced to telegraph for money.

Nearly 60,000 persons have registered at these two points already and nearly as many more are expected before the period of registration closes. Hundreds return as quick as they have registered, but thousands have remained for the drawing.

Gamblers have operated their games without restraint and are said to have made remarkable winnings. They run pell mell 24 hours a day, with the games as strong at daybreak as when the congress.

To be broke in this country means something to a man, because he is without friends, generally, and at a time when it is not easy to make new ones. Every outgoing train carries many men who have lost their money and risk their lives riding on brake beams.

No land opening has ever brought more people, and they all come with money. Those who have the gambling spirit stick to the roulette and faro tables, with the result that several hundred are living on charity until they can get out of the country.

LONDON CENTER OF INTEREST.

St. Petersburg, Watching Outcome of Conference in England.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 13.—The center of interest in the Near East crisis has been transferred to London, and the Russian foreign office is marking time in its negotiations with other powers concerning the convocation of a congress until the outcome of the conferences between M. Iswolsky, Sir Edward Grey and King Edward are known.

Emperor Nicholas has decided to leave the letter of Emperor Francis Joseph unanswered until M. Iswolsky returns to St. Petersburg. Count Berchtold, the Austrian ambassador, was closeted with M. Tcharyoff, the acting foreign minister, the entire afternoon. At the close of the interview he reiterated the statement that Austria would refuse to participate in a congress unless the Bosnia question was excluded from this program.

The question of the recognition of Bulgarian independence has for the time being dropped out of sight, but Russia has assured Bulgaria that she will support her pretensions before the congress.

The foreign office has received from a score of cities in Turkey telegrams protesting against the Austro-Hungarian-Bulgarian action, which have been adopted at mass meetings held under the auspices of the Young Turks. The telegrams are identical in text, showing a certain origin.

FIGHT WITH MANIAC.

Policemen Tussle With Crazy Man on Tall Tower.

New York, Oct. 13.—Joseph Krats, an insane man of Brooklyn, who in an attempt to throw himself into the East river Sunday fought desperately with seven policemen on the dizzy top of a Williamsburg bridge tower, yesterday morning gave attendants and physicians at the Eastern District Hospital a furious fight. He burst the canvas strait-jacket into which he had been forced and with maniacal fury assailed nurses and others in charge.

After a prolonged contest he was overpowered and bound. Later he calmed down and was taken before a court, charged with attempted suicide.

The magistrate in committing him to the observation ward of Kings County Hospital, praised Policeman Clarence Smith, who had followed the crazed man in his climb to the tower's narrow top and after an awful hand-to-hand conflict, during which Krats got out a razor, subdued him and summoned assistance. The magistrate said:

"Heroes like you deserve special recognition. You are a brave man."

PLEADS FOR LARGER NAVY.

Senator Lodge Says Pacific Coast Must Be Protected.

Boston, Oct. 13.—Declaring that Japan was ready to make insulting demands on the United States, did she dare, and that the only way to guard against them was to increase the American navy, United States Senator Lodge launched into a strong and vigorous plea for a bigger and better navy at a Republican ratification meeting last night, held under the auspices of the Republican club of Massachusetts.

"What we want to look out for is our navy," insisted the speaker. "We should protect both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and it is the policy of the Republican party to do this."

NICHOLAS READY TO FIGHT.

Cettinje, Montenegro, Oct. 13.—The Montenegrin National Assembly opened here yesterday in extraordinary session. The war fever resulting from the annexation by Austria-Hungary of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been strengthened by a bellicose message to parliament from Prince Nicholas, who declared that the annexation of these two provinces had inflicted a crying wrong upon the people of Montenegro, and that the people were prepared to sacrifice their last drop of blood unless the peaceful endeavors now on foot resulted in righting the grievance.

All Except Austria Join.

Constantinople, Oct. 13.—The German and Italian ambassadors yesterday made the same declaration to the porte against the infraction of treaties without consent of the signatories as has already been made by the British, French and Russian ambassadors. Austria still holds aloof.

JOIN IN CONFERENCE

Great Britain Gets in Line With Other Powers.

ACTION WAS A GREAT SURPRISE

Russia Would Rather Keep Straits of Dardanelles Closed Until New Navy is Completed.

London, Oct. 13.—M. Iswolsky, the Russian foreign minister, has succeeded in impressing upon Sir Edward Grey, the British secretary for foreign affairs, the necessity that not only should a conference of the powers be held to settle the crisis in the Near East, but this conference should take under advisement other questions besides those involved in the annexation by Austria of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the declaration of Bulgarian independence.

This change of front on the part of Great Britain, which has caused great surprise, was announced by the foreign office at the conclusion of a long conference between Sir Edward Grey and M. Iswolsky, after a meeting of the cabinet, in which Sir Edward set forth the position he had taken and explained the views of the Russian minister.

It is doubtful whether Russia is anxious to reopen the Dardanelles for the present, for, if this is done, it must be for all nations and Russia is not likely to desire that while her fleet is weak.

The point in her previous stand Great Britain is continuing to insist upon, apparently, is that no modification of a treaty can be permitted without the consent of all parties to that treaty, and at her proposal the powers have instructed their ambassadors at Constantinople to affirm this principle. What end can be served by this is not stated by the foreign office, but it can hardly be expected that either Bulgaria or Austria-Hungary will consent to restore the legal status in Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

FIGHT WITH MANIAC.

Policemen Tussle With Crazy Man on Tall Tower.

New York, Oct. 13.—Joseph Krats, an insane man of Brooklyn, who in an attempt to throw himself into the East river Sunday fought desperately with seven policemen on the dizzy top of a Williamsburg bridge tower, yesterday morning gave attendants and physicians at the Eastern District Hospital a furious fight. He burst the canvas strait-jacket into which he had been forced and with maniacal fury assailed nurses and others in charge.

After a prolonged contest he was overpowered and bound. Later he calmed down and was taken before a court, charged with attempted suicide.

The magistrate in committing him to the observation ward of Kings County Hospital, praised Policeman Clarence Smith, who had followed the crazed man in his climb to the tower's narrow top and after an awful hand-to-hand conflict, during which Krats got out a razor, subdued him and summoned assistance. The magistrate said:

"Heroes like you deserve special recognition. You are a brave man."

PLEADS FOR LARGER NAVY.

Senator Lodge Says Pacific Coast Must Be Protected.

Boston, Oct. 13.—Declaring that Japan was ready to make insulting demands on the United States, did she dare, and that the only way to guard against them was to increase the American navy, United States Senator Lodge launched into a strong and vigorous plea for a bigger and better navy at a Republican ratification meeting last night, held under the auspices of the Republican club of Massachusetts.

"What we want to look out for is our navy," insisted the speaker. "We should protect both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and it is the policy of the Republican party to do this."

NICHOLAS READY TO FIGHT.

Cettinje, Montenegro, Oct. 13.—The Montenegrin National Assembly opened here yesterday in extraordinary session. The war fever resulting from the annexation by Austria-Hungary of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been strengthened by a bellicose message to parliament from Prince Nicholas, who declared that the annexation of these two provinces had inflicted a crying wrong upon the people of Montenegro, and that the people were prepared to sacrifice their last drop of blood unless the peaceful endeavors now on foot resulted in righting the grievance.

All Except Austria Join.

Constantinople, Oct. 13.—The German and Italian ambassadors yesterday made the same declaration to the porte against the infraction of treaties without consent of the signatories as has already been made by the British, French and Russian ambassadors. Austria still holds aloof.