

The Wand of Sleep

OR

The Devil-Stick

By the Author of
"The Mystery of a Hansom Cab," Etc.

CHAPTER IV.—(Continued.)

"My mother is weak where Dido is concerned," said Isabella, shaking her head.

"And so are you, my dear," responded Maurice, kissing her. "Both of you are weak, and have yielded up your wills to that woman. But the announcement of our engagement will give me some influence in the house, and do away with all that. It will be a fight between white and black magic, and I, as a civilized wizard, intend to win."

"Why do you particularly wish to announce our engagement to-day?"

"My dear child," he said, slowly, "I kept our engagement secret on account of David. I have seen for a long time that he loves you, and, knowing his fiery temper, I did not wish to provoke a quarrel by telling him that you had promised to be my wife. But last night the truth was forced from me at dinner, and David declared that he intended to ask you to marry him."

"But I don't love him. I love you!"

"I know that, but he didn't. He knows now that we love one another, but he is ignorant that we are engaged. When the fact is publicly announced, he may give up his idea of marrying you, and so a quarrel may be averted."

"Are you afraid of quarreling with him?"

"Yes! Not on my own account, but it distresses our good Major to see us at variance. We nearly quarreled over you last night, though, upon my word," added the young man, half to himself, "I believe Etwald promoted the row."

"Etwald!" repeated Isabella. "Dr. Etwald?"

"Yes, he is in love with you."

"I know he is," replied the girl, quietly. "But of course, I could never be his wife; the more so, as I fear him. But Dido wishes me to marry him."

"Oh, hang Dido!" cried Maurice, vigorously. "I wish she would mind her own business."

At this moment, as if summoned by his remark, Dido appeared round the bend of the path. She looked straight before her, turning neither to right nor left, and passed the pair like one in a sleeping fit. The negroes seemed to be under the influence of some strange excitement, and ran stumbling down to the gate.

"Voodoo! Voodoo!" she cried, hoarsely.

"Oh," said Isabella, nervously. "Dr. Etwald must be at hand. When Dido says 'Voodoo' he comes."

CHAPTER V.

"When Dido says 'Voodoo' he comes," repeated Maurice, greatly puzzled. "Are you talking of Dr. Etwald?"

"Yes! He seems to possess some strange power over Dido, for she always knows when he is approaching. See, Maurice, Dido is waiting at the gate; in a few moments you will see Dr. Etwald enter it!"

The two young people looked steadfastly at the brilliantly-colored figure of the negro, standing in a statuesque attitude near the great iron gate. All was bright and cheerful, but in that sinister red figure, with its black face and hands, there was a suggestion of evil which seemed to dominate and poison the whole beautiful scene. Maurice felt Isabella shudder with nervous dread as she pressed closely to his side.

"Dearest, you must not be afraid!" said he, glancing down anxiously at her face. "You must throw off the terror you have of this woman. If the law—"

At this moment he broke off his speech with an ejaculation of surprise, for true to the prognostication of Isabella—in answer to the expectant attitude of the negro—Dr. Etwald turned in at the gate.

They continued to watch the pair, and saw Dido throw herself at the feet of Etwald, who raised his hand over her in a threatening manner. He pointed into the wood with an imperious gesture, and in a sinking attitude the usually stately Dido passed out of sight into the little path down which Isabella had come to meet Maurice. When the gleam of her red dress disappeared Etwald wiped his face, and walked briskly up the avenue towards the young couple.

"Shall we go on, or wait for him here?" asked Isabella, in a whisper.

"Wait!" replied Maurice, in the same tone. "I shall not let him think that either of us is afraid of his charlatan tricks."

Dr. Etwald approached, with what was meant for a smile on his usually somber face, and took off his hat to Miss Dallas. But he did not speak as he made his salutation, so the girl was forced, by reason of this uncomfortable silence, to make the first observation.

"Good morning, doctor," she said, as he replaced his hat. "I suppose you have come to see my mother."

"Partly, Miss Dallas; and partly to see you; also this gentleman."

"To see me!" said Maurice, looking

at his rival. "Then why did you not go to 'Ashantee'?"

"I never give myself unnecessary trouble, and, of course, I knew that I should find you here."

"By what right do you say that?" demanded Maurice, sharply.

"By the right of our conversation last night, Mr. Aylmer. You have forestalled me, I see. No matter," added Etwald, with a sneer. "To-day to you; to-morrow to me."

All this was quite unintelligible to Isabella, who looked from one to the other of her companions, in bewilderment, not guessing, for the moment, that she was the bone of contention between them. She saw the suppressed mockery on Etwald's face, and noted also that Maurice, roused by the quiet insistence of the doctor, had much difficulty in keeping his temper. She proposed that they should go up to the house.

"What was the matter with my nurse, doctor?" she asked. "What have you been doing to her?"

"She was agitated, my dear young lady, and I have calmed that agitation."

"After having previously caused it," said Maurice, in a significant tone.

"What possible reason have you to make such an accusation?"

"I think it is my fault," said Isabella, hastily. "I remarked that Dido was always agitated when you came to this house."

"I can explain that in a measure, Miss Dallas. If you remember, I cured Dido of a bad nervous headache by hypnotic suggestion. Her mind, therefore, became habituated in responding to mind; and doubtless she feels a kind of impression which tells her that I am near."

"In other words," said Maurice, pointedly, "you have obtained an influence over her."

"It is not improbable," rejoined Etwald, in measured tones. "I am one of those people, Mr. Aylmer, who can, by strength of will and power of character, obtain power over anyone I wish."

As he spoke, Etwald cast a sudden glance at Isabella. The girl was looking towards the house, out of which her mother had just emerged, and did not see the menace in his regard; but Maurice noted the gaze, and felt enraged at all it implied.

In plain words, Etwald intimated, in a veiled manner, that Isabella was a nervous subject, over whom he could obtain influence, if he so chose, by means of hypnotism.

"You have been in the West Indies, doctor," asked Maurice, bluntly.

"I have been all over the world, Mr. Aylmer," parried Etwald, dexterously. "Do you know anything of Voodoo-worship?"

"I know something of most things," assented the doctor. "But I confess I take but little interest in African barbarities."

"Oh! what about Dido and her meeting you?"

"I have explained that to the best of my ability," responded Etwald, coldly. "and now, Mr. Etwald, as our hostess is approaching, you must excuse my replying to any further questions. If you want further insight into my character, call upon me at my home."

"That I shall certainly do," said Maurice, for he was resolved to learn all he could about this strange man, so that he could protect Isabella from his arts.

"Ah!" said the doctor, with irony, "we shall see if you will venture so far."

Before Maurice could take up the implied challenge, which threw doubts upon his moral courage, Mrs. Dallas advanced heavily to meet her visitors. Isabella had already flitted like a white butterfly into the drawing-room; and her mother received the two young men alone. Her reception was, as usual, ponderous and vague.

"So pleased to see you, Mr. Aylmer. Dr. Etwald, I am charmed. It is a delightful day, is it not? Reminds one of Barbadoes."

"I have never been in Barbadoes," said Maurice, towards whom her languid gaze was directed. "But Dr. Etwald may be able to answer your question, Mrs. Dallas!"

"I know the West Indian islands," observed Etwald, as they walked into the house, "and this day does remind me a little of the climate there; but it is scarcely hot enough."

"No," murmured Mrs. Dallas, sinking into a large chair. "You are right. I have been in the sun all the morning, and only now am I beginning to feel warm. I shall certainly go back to Barbadoes."

Mrs. Dallas had made this threat so many times that nobody paid any attention to it, and, not expecting an answer, she began to fan herself slowly. Through her half-closed eyes she looked anxiously at the subtle face of Etwald. With an instinct of a woman, she guessed that something important had brought the doctor to see her; he was not a man to waste his time on visits of ceremony.

Now Mrs. Dallas was secretly afraid of Etwald, as she had received hints from Dido that the doctor knew more about secret things than most people. She dreaded lest his visit should portend harm, and so, in some trepidation, waited for him to speak. But Etwald, guessing her frame of mind, took his time, and it was only when Isabella approached with some tea for her mother that he broke the silence.

"Don't go away, Miss Dallas!" he said, entreatingly. "I have something to say to your mother which concerns you."

Isabella turned pale, for she guessed what was coming. Etwald had raised his voice, Mrs. Dallas, with some curiosity, raised herself to look closer at Etwald, and he, seeing that his auditory was attentive, prepared to launch his thunderbolt.

"My dear Mrs. Dallas," said he, in a soft voice, "you must have been for a long time that my visits here have not been made without an object. To-day I come to ask you, and your sweet daughter a question."

"Pray don't ask it," said Isabella, better informed by Etwald's glance as to his purpose. "It will only give you pain."

"I must risk that," said the doctor, slowly. "Mrs. Dallas, I love your daughter, and I wish to marry her; Miss Isabella, will you be my wife?"

Here Maurice set down his cup with a crash, and strode across the room where he faced Etwald in no very pleasant frame of mind.

"I shall answer that question, Dr. Etwald!" he said, loudly. "Miss Dallas shall not and cannot carry you. She has promised to become my wife!"

"Isabella!" said Mrs. Dallas, in an agrieved tone. "Is this true?"

"Perfectly true," assented Isabella. "I love Maurice. I wish to marry him. And slipping her arm within that of her lover, she prepared to face the storm.

"You are a disobedient girl," cried Mrs. Dallas, making no attempt to control her temper. "You shall not marry without my permission. Mr. Aylmer, I am astonished at you; I am disappointed in you. It is not the act of a gentleman to steal away the affections of my daughter, without informing me of your intentions."

"I had my reasons for not doing so, Mrs. Dallas," replied Maurice, quickly. "But I was about to tell you of our engagement when Dr. Etwald forestalled me by making his unexpected offer."

"Unexpected, Mr. Aylmer!" smiled Etwald. "After my statement last night?"

"Unexpected so far as time and place are concerned," said Maurice, firmly. "But as you have asked Miss Dallas to marry you, take your refusal from her own lips."

"I love Maurice. I intend to marry him," repeated Isabella.

"In that case," said Etwald, rising, "I must take my leave, and shall be content with that answer until such time as you are free; then," he added, coolly, "I shall ask you again."

"I shall never be free!" said Isabella, proudly.

"Oh, yes, you will; when Mr. Aylmer is dead!"

"Dead!" shrieked Mrs. Dallas, all her superstition roused by the word.

"Come away from that man, Isabella!"

"Maurice! dead!" repeated the girl with a pale cheek.

The young man shrugged his shoulders.

"Pooh! pooh! some nonsense that Dr. Etwald was talking about last night," he added, contemptuously. "He says if I marry, it will be a case of life in death, whatever that means."

Etwald rose to his feet, and stretched out a menacing hand.

"I have warned you, Aylmer," he said, sternly. "Your marriage, after or before it, means life in death. Take care! Ladies," he added, with a bow, "I take my departure."

Outside, Etwald found Dido waiting for him. He looked at her significantly.

"I have failed," he said. "There is nothing left but the devil-stick."

(To be continued.)

Turks and Animals.

In the matter of kindness to animals it is said that the Turk cannot be surpassed. Thus at Stamboul the wandering dogs are treated with great gentleness, and when puppies come into the world they are lodged with their mother at the side of the street in improvised kennels made out of old boxes lined with straw and bits of carpet. And frequently when a young Turk happens to be flush of money he goes to the nearest baker's shop and buys a quantity of bread, which he distributes among the dogs of the quarter, who testify their gratitude by jumping up at him with muddy paws and sniffing muzzles.

Foiled His Doctor.

The late Rev. H. R. Hawley, who was equally notable as preacher, journalist, lecturer and musician, suffered from a dangerous hip disease when a boy of nine. The celebrated Sir Benjamin Brodie, who was asked if a change of scene would benefit the afflicted youth, answered, "Take him anywhere—it does not matter."

Hawley lived to laugh at his doctor, and half a century later, after a life of exceptional industry, he was in vigorous health.

To prevent the alteration of checks or other valuable papers an inventive genius has brought out an electric apparatus which burns tiny holes in the paper as the inscription is written.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

THINNING NEAR AT HAND.

Hood River Will Need 2,000 to 4,000 Hands Soon.

Hood River—At the annual meeting of the Hood River Applegrowers' Union, it was stated that the crop this year would reach 35,000 boxes and that in four weeks from 2,000 to 4,000 employees would be necessary to thin the fruit.

A resolution adopted fixed the price of marketing the apples this year at 10 cents a box, instead of 5 cents, in order to handle the big crop properly. Strong recommendations were made for improvements in pack and grading. Although the big meeting of the growers was unanimously in favor of adopting a plan to pay the directors for their services for the coming year, which never has been done before, the directors declined to accept any remuneration and fought the motion on the floor until it was lost.

A letter from Representative Hawley, read to the meeting, said that the Lafean bill had not been reported and was considered dead. The new board of directors elected consists of C. H. Sproat, L. E. Clark, C. Dethman, E. H. Shepard, G. W. McCurdy, J. L. Carter, G. W. Simons and O. L. Walters.

Water for 73,000 Acres.

Salem—At a meeting of the desert land board recently State Engineer Lewis and Attorney General Crawford were authorized to enter into a contract with the Almorat-Evans company for the reclamation of 73,000 acres of arid lands in what is known as the Powder River valley project. Negotiations have been pending for a year since the first announcement of the project was made.

The total cost of the project will be \$3,800,000. It is, in fact, two separate projects combined, and the segregation to be reclaimed lies in Baker county within easy access from the main line of the Oregon Railway & Navigation company. About 40,000 acres only is government land, the rest being in private ownership. The work will go ahead as soon as the necessary withdrawals can be secured from the Interior department.

The largest project includes a dam in Thief valley 110 feet high and a concrete and solid rock distributing canal nine miles long, with a carrying capacity of 500 cubic feet of water per second. The other division will bring water through Creston hill by means of a cement lined tunnel two miles long from Balm creek. All the smaller feed canals will be cement lined.

County Sues Mercantile Company.

Salem—The Woodburn Mercantile company is made defendant in a suit brought in the Circuit court for this county by Marion county, alleging that the officers and directors of the company committed perjury when they swore their property was valued at \$10,500. The county of Marion alleges that the mercantile company possesses property of twice that value and is asking for judgment awarding it taxes on the added amount. It is the first case of the kind ever brought in this county. The additional taxes amount to more than \$300.

Restore Lands to Entry.

Washington—The Ontario Commercial club has wired Senator Bourne to endeavor to induce Secretary Ballinger to restore to all forms of public entry all lands previously withdrawn for the Malheur irrigation project under the Federal reclamation act. Bourne is looking into the matter to ascertain the facts. The subject has been discussed many times and the opinion in Malheur county has been different in the past as to the wisdom of abandoning the government project entirely.

Warships for G. A. R. Encampment.

Washington—Senators Bourne and Chamberlain have requested the secretary of the navy to send one or two warships to Astoria for the twenty-ninth annual encampment of the G. A. R. of Oregon, June 21 to 24, and have been assured that the request will be granted if possible. Definite action will be delayed a few days to determine whether the ships will be available at that time.

Plenty of Water at Athena.

Athena—Either because of the recent election or because of the abundant rainfall, the springs which supply the city of Athena with water are gushing forth with abundance. The big reservoir is running over and the sound of the pump has ceased. The Athena people are delighted to have abundance of soft water.

Medford Raises \$25,000.

Medford—The \$25,000 for the Carter Lake highway that was expected to be signed for this city has been subscribed after the subscription paper was in circulation only two weeks. Now that Medford has pledged \$25,000 towards the road's construction, people of the entire state will be asked to lend their aid to the enterprise.

HOLD WATERWAYS CONVENTION

Willamette Valley Delegates to Meet in Albany April 14.

Albany—The improved waterway convention which will be held at Albany on April 14 for the purpose of securing the co-operation of Willamette valley towns in organizing a systematic campaign for the improvement of the Willamette river, promises to bear early fruit. The United States government will be asked by the convention of all commercial bodies in the valley to make a \$3,000,000 appropriation for river improvements. Following the action of the joint meeting of the Albany Business Men's association and the Albany commercial club, held here recently, invitations to attend the convention have been issued by the commercial club to the following cities and towns: Corvallis, Brownsville, Canby, Dayton, Dallas, Estacada, Eugene, Harrisburg, Hillsboro, Independence, Jefferson, Junction City, Lafayette, Lebanon, McMinnville, Mount Angel, Newberg, North Yamhill, Oregon City, Salem, Scio, Sheridan, Springfield, New Era, Stayton, Willamette, Gervais, Brooks, Turner, Hubbard, Halsey, Aurora and Silverton.

Klamath Falls Depot Finished.

Klamath Falls—The finishing touches have been put on the magnificent depot erected by the Southern company in this city. No date for the formal opening of the building has been announced and will not be until word is received from San Francisco.

When it was announced that the railroad company had decided to erect in this city a depot that would cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000 few people believed that that amount would be invested in the structure.

But instead of a \$20,000 structure the company has given the city one that will cost nearer \$40,000, and one that surpasses in elegance anything of its kind in the west. The fact that the Southern Pacific has seen fit to give Klamath Falls such a fine building is indicative of what that company expects this city to be. The depot is the direct outcome of the petition that was sent to Chief Engineer Hood, asking that this city be favored with what the company expected Klamath Falls to be.

Addition to Madras Sold.

Madras—The recently platted Boyce addition to Madras was sold to W. H. Taylor, of Spokane, and Max Lueddeman, of Portland, for \$7,000. There is about 17 acres in the tract. The Oregon Trunk line railway passes through the land. The plat lies well for warehouse and railway siding purposes.

Will Build Two Hotels.

Klamath Falls—Work is to be begun in the near future on a three-story hotel in the Hot Springs addition. The building permit for the structure has been granted. This, together with the \$50,000 hotel planned by the Livermores, will give the city ample accommodation in the hotel line.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, \$1.01@1.03; club, 97@98c; red Russian, 96c; valley, \$1.

Barley—Feed and brewing, \$27@27.50 per ton.

Corn—Whole, \$34; cracked, \$35.

Hay—Track prices: Timothy, Willamette valley, \$20@21 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$23@24; alfalfa, \$17.50@18.50; grain hay, \$17@19.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$29@30.

Fresh fruits—Apples, \$1.25@1.30 per box; pears, \$1.50@1.75; cranberries, \$8@9 per barrel.

Potatoes—Carload buying prices: Oregon 50@60c per hundred; sweet potatoes, 3@3.4c per pound.

Onions—Oregon, \$1.50@1.75 per hundred.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1@1.25 per sack; rutabagas, \$1@1.25; carrots, 85@91; beets, \$1@1.25; parsnips, 75@81.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 36c; fancy outside creamery, 34@36c; store 20c. Butter fat prices average 1 1/2c per pound under regular butter prices.

Eggs—Fresh Oregon ranch, 22@23c.

Pork—Fancy, 13@13 1/2c per pound.

Veal—Fancy, 11 1/2@12 1/2c per pound.

Lamb—Fancy, 15@18c per pound.

Poultry—Hens, 20@21c; broilers, 27@28c; ducks, 22@23c; geese, 27@28c; turkeys, live, 22@25c; dressed, 25@29c; squabs, 35 per dozen.

Cattle—Best steers, \$6.25@6.75; fair to good steers, \$5.50@6; strictly good cows, \$5.50@6; fair to good, \$5@5.25; light calves, \$6@7; heavy calves, \$4@5; bulls, \$3.60@4.25; stags, \$4@5.

Sheep—Best wethers, \$7.50@8; fair to good, \$6.50@7; good lambs, \$8@12.

Hogs—Top, \$11.25; fair to good, \$10@11.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 16@20c per pound; valley, 22@24c; mohair, choice, 23@25c.

Cascara bark, 4@5c.

Hides—Dry hides, \$16@17c per pound; dry kip, 16@17c; dry calfskin, 14@15c; salted hides, 7@8c; salted calfskins, 14c; green, 1c less.