

His Great Remorse.

(By Mary Lloyd Evans.)

Always the footsteps behind me, dull, hollow, but echoing—never before. Did they but precede I might have had hope, for then they might guide me to some haven of rest, peace for my tired heart.

I was not a wicked man, nor a mean man, nor a dissipated man. I was only a murderer—to the world never that, but to my own conscience, yes. A thousand deaths were in my heart and one poor victory—if I could call it that.

"I consent to the marriage."
"Secret, of course?"
"It must be that way under the circumstances."

Burned into my brain were these three sentences, for they started the train of circumstances that resulted in a terrible tragedy.

It was six weeks since that I overheard Huldah Evans speak the first, Vance Telford made reply. Then her final words—"my love, my adored one!" She whom I worshipped was a party to a clandestine complication with a rival I had never feared, nor before that even suspected.

He had come to the village, a stranger. He had made several calls on Huldah. I was curious, but she never apprised me as to the personality of her new acquaintance nor his motive in visiting her. That vividly remembered afternoon I was lining a high hedge, surrounding the Evans place when I heard the brief colloquy noted. I had come to the spot with my heart full of hope and love. I left it vengeful, embittered, my soul immersed in the blackest despair.

I wandered towards the narrow but deep rolling stream at the edge of the town, my spirit dazed, my heart distracted. This, then, was the end of it all. She loved another! I flung myself on the grassy bank, watching the swift eddies just above the waterfall. It was an unfrequented spot for the present, for the old foot bridge had been condemned, as all the regular townsmen knew, a new structure being proposed, and the roadway on either side of the stream was blocked some distance back. There signs were up, warning the approaching driver and pedestrian of peril.

I sat in a daze, staring blankly at the rushing waters, madly tempted to plunge beneath their surface and



My Manhood Cowered. Hatred, Cowardice, Guilt Held Me Spellbound.

end all my misery. It was getting on toward dusk when a sharp, cheery whistle attracted my attention.

There, not fifty yards distant, was Telford. He was warbling a careless carol, swinging along like a man in love with life, as if he had just heard some joyful news.

In a flash I pictured the situation. He, my hated rival, was beloved by Huldah. I was the despised one. A blur of blood passed before my eyes, and then—

"He is headed for the bridge—he doesn't know!" I uttered breathlessly.

I started up in wild alarm. In a flash I saw that, making a short cut for the town by an unaccustomed route, Telford had struck into the road at a point ahead of the blockade. He had missed the danger sign. He had no knowledge of the condition of the bridge. Two days previous a horse and wagon had gone through the rotted plankway, a great hole gaped in the center of the bridge, and some of the stringers were hanging suspended by mere splinters.

"Stop!"

The word died in my throat meaningless, for the devil had seized me. What was this may to me, that I should not allow him to go headlong on his careless way? He had embittered my existence, why should I seek to save his life? My manhood cowered. Hatred, cowardice, guilt, held me spellbound beyond the saving moment.

Crash!—a shriek, a splash, a gurgle, and all was over—all save the footsteps proceeding across the hollow echoing plankway—tramp! tramp! tramp!

But now all that was human within me was aroused. In horror I regarded my willful act of crime. I ran to the edge of the bridge, I shouted wildly.

WHAT THE HORSES CARRY

French, German and Austrian Animals Are Taxed More Than English and Russian.

Cavalry are playing an unexpected large part in the war, and the weight carried by cavalry horses in the various armies of interest. The British cavalry is armed with the short Lee-Enfield rifle, the magazine of which holds ten rounds; the sword which is carried by all ranks except signallers; and the revolver, carried by warrant officers, staff sergeants, sergeants, trumpeters and riders. Each trooper carries 100 rounds of ammunition in a bandolier over the left shoulder. Lancer regiments carry the lance. Each cavalryman (like the infantryman) carries an emergency ration and an iron ration for his horse. Then there is the kit. Altogether the British troop-horse carries about two hundred and eighty pounds.

The regular Russian cavalry are armed with sword, rifle and bayonet, and each man carries 40 rounds of ammunition. There are the two days' oats and hay ration, a cloak, and an entrenching tool. The cavalryman's kit, two days' rations, spare horse-shoes, horse blanket, canvas bucket, and a mess-tin go to form the complete equipment, and weigh altogether about one hundred and nineteen pounds. The Cossack pony carries about two hundred and thirty-eight pounds. The average weight carried by the Indian troop horse when ready for war is about two hundred and sixty-six pounds. The Austrian troopers carry a weight between two hundred and eighty and two hundred and eighty-six pounds, and the average in the French and German armies is about the same.—Manchester Guardian

FIND CAUSE OF SOURNESS

Giant Elephant at New York Zoo is an Actor and Naturally Temperamental.

At last Doctor Hornaday and Raymond L. Ditmars of the Bronx zoo have found out just why Gunda, in addition to being the largest elephant in captivity, has steadily built up a reputation as the greatest section of elephant hide encasing the largest chunk of temperament in the known world.

The answer is easy. Gunda's temperament is due to the fact that Gunda has become an actor. Temperament simply oozed from every pore when Gunda was called forth at long range to pose for the series of moving pictures that are being taken of the zoo animals for Curator Ditmars.

"Register sweetness and light, there's a good Gunda," called the movie director as Gunda was led out and the camera began to click.

Gunda, missing the cue, instantly tried to register murder, fire, and sudden death. Doctor Ditmars, who had been in the act of stepping up to Gunda and offering the elephant a loaf of bread, changed his mind and went away from there. The last heard of one of the movie men was in the form of a long yell retreating through Yonkers.

But Doctor Ditmars got his pictures of Gunda in the act of being temperamental finally, and they are now being shown by Doctor Ditmars these days at the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.—New York Sun.

War Distances.

War, besides being a great leveler, is also a great educator. Places we had never before heard of previously are now becoming as familiar in our mouths as household words. The distances are apt to be somewhat confusing unless understood. It ought, however, to be quite easy to remember that a meter measures about one and one-twelfth yards, or more exactly, 39.37 inches. A decimeter is 10 meters, a hectometer is 100 meters, and a kilometer is 1,000 meters, or a little more than three-fifths of a mile. The Russians express the length of their marches or the distance from place to place in verstas. A verst is rather more than a kilometer, the exact distance being 0.66288 of a mile, or between three-fifths and four-fifths of that distance.

An Americanized Embassy.

The German embassy in Carlton House terrace in London has changed its name to suit the exigencies of the time. It is now labeled legibly "American Embassy" on front and cancellery doors, and the Prussian black eagle has been removed. By the irony of fate and its lease, it has recently been repainted with the rest of the terrace, and this the Prussian government will have to pay for sooner or later, or lose the lease.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Women Police for New Zealand.

Women police may shortly be appointed in New Zealand. It was recently decided that the government of New Zealand should communicate with the governments of countries in which women constables are employed, and, after considering the information obtained from this source, decide if the fair sex should be appointed to the New Zealand force.

And No Oelerizing?

Insurance authorities find that in the last 50 years the average man has increased his length of life by seven years. At this rate, as may easily be determined, the man of 29½ will live 140 years longer than the man of today, in spite of the war.

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