



OUR SERIAL.

STRIKES.

Mr. Jones struck oil. And his men, so they say, struck for eight hours' work...

GAMBLING WITH FATE. By WILLIAM WALLACE COOK. Author of 'The Gold Gleamers', 'A Story of the Grand Banks', 'Whispering Dan', 'His Friend the Enemy', 'The Rogers of Hatter', 'Etc., Etc.'

CHAPTER XIX.—CONTINUED.

A mild sensation was caused by this announcement. "Why should Murgatroyd ask you to help him in such a criminal proceeding?" went on Payton.

derstand his power then and I do not understand it now—but it was an invincible weapon and he used it mercilessly.

In the brief, hovering stillness that followed there was not one but looked upon McCloud in pity and upon Murgatroyd with horror and loathing.

"Then Murgatroyd hurried away. I picked up the revolver from the desk and stepped to the window as directed. I could see Darrel plainly and recognized him as a man I had met earlier in the day at the Half Way house, on the trail from Anaconda.

"That's a lie, McCloud, and you know it," came the cutting words of Murgatroyd. He had risen behind the doctor and stood like a statue, his manacled hands stretched toward McCloud and his burning gaze fixed on his face.

CHAPTER XX.

DARREL COURTS THE MUSE.

Murgatroyd was taken to jail—not the one in which Darrel had been confined, but another, where escape could not be facilitated by the drifts from Eponay creek—and a man was posted to guard him.

"What did Darrel do?" asked Payton, bent on proving Darrel's story. McCloud recited Darrel's actions in detail, substantially as Darrel had already set them forth.

"I was glad," said McCloud, "glad that Darrel could save himself by impersonating me. My hope was that I might die and be found, after a time, and mistaken for Darrel—just as he intended. But fate spared me for this final act of reparation. I recovered and, for the last four weeks, have been living with a prospector in the hills."

"The second time you live you prove your innocence of a crime by fastening it upon yourself." As McCloud he had fastened the murder of Sturgis upon himself and proven the innocence of Darrel.

And the queen of hearts who was to link her fate with his! Was that not Elise Avery?

But the Mexicana was wrong. The girl's fate and his had not been linked together and never would be.

As this occurred to him, he also remembered how he had curtly cut the fortune-teller short. It is possible she would have qualified that particular utterance if he had given her time.

The Mexicana was right. Cards had made him what he was and it was consistent that cards should tell him what he was to be—and do.

And then the other was saying: "Beware of three knives and two red sevens, senior."

"When you hold that hand you never leave the table alive!" At the Half Way house he had scoffed at the oracular words. Yet here, at Sandy Bar, with a month between him and the fortune-teller, he did not scoff. He believed.

There was a happy light in the young man's face as he took Darrel's hand. When he had finished and had lighted another cigar and leaned back with contemplative eyes on his work a rap fell on the door. In answer to his request Roy Lenyard entered.

"Bless you, my lad," murmured Darrel. "You've done it, haven't you?" "I have made my peace with the dearest girl in the world!" exclaimed Lenyard.

"And you will be happy. Elise Avery is a woman to make any man happy—especially a man as deserving as yourself."

"Please do not overrate me." "I couldn't do that. Sit down." [To Be Continued.]

BETTER THAN NONE.

Poor Company, But He Kept the Uncivil Stranger Long Enough to Get Even with Him.

When a now famous actor was a young man he was one day, while driving, asked by a pedestrian how to get to a certain village, relates London Tit-Bits.

"You go," said the young actor, "down this road, and then you turn to the left, and afterwards—but I am going in that direction myself, will you get in and let me drive you?"

"Oh, I suppose so," said the stranger. "Poor company is better than none." He climbed up and took his seat. He was tall and thin, with a very gruff, rude manner.

The actor tried to entertain him and to get him to talk, but he would say little. Once he drew out a well-filled case, selected a cigar, and returned the case to his pocket again. He was insufferable.

"How about that road to the left that I was to take?" exclaimed the stranger, suddenly. "Ain't we come to it yet?"

"Oh, we passed it six miles back," said the other.

"Why didn't you tell me?" said the stranger.

"Because I didn't want to lose your society. Poor company, you know, is better than none," said the young man.

PRECOCIOUS CHILD.

But When Thirty-Eight She Was Not Quite So Good at Figuring.

The clerk who was registering the pupils in the evening school was obliged to ask each pupil his age. "How old are you?" he asked of a woman well past middle age, relates the New York Times.

"I'd rather not tell," she answered. "But every one who attends this evening high school must give his or her age," insisted the clerk.

"I think it's foolish to have to tell," replied the woman; "besides, I'm not really in need of a high school education. I graduated from a seminary once. I just thought I'd come to brush up my learning."

"How old are you?" said the clerk, firmly. "Well, I guess 38 will do," said the woman without blushing.

The clerk was used to such answers, so he wrote down 38 with a question mark after it. "And when did you graduate from this seminary?" "In 1871," she replied promptly.

Russo-Japanese War Specials. RUSSIANS LOST 1,200 MEN.

Che Foo, June 23.—A well informed Chinaman of Che Foo who has interviewed many of his countrymen who have arrived here from Port Arthur during the last three weeks, gathers that the conditions at the Russian fortress are far worse than heretofore reported. Nearly 4,000 Chinamen have arrived here from Port Arthur and of these 50 at the outside were provided with food or had money. The Russians provision the junks leaving the port, allowing each passenger enough bread made of ground corn to last three days. The Chinamen say that all their countrymen and almost all the Russians now in Port Arthur are living on this bread, the prices of rice and flour being prohibitive. The Chinamen have not tasted meat since the investment of the port. Junks attempting to take in provisions are seized by the Japanese.

While the Japanese are keeping a close watch on Port Arthur, both on land and sea, their advance towards the fortress is not being pushed so vigorously as during the early days of June. Chinese arriving from points on the Liao Tung peninsula say that firing is not heard as frequently. They report, however, that skirmishes, the result of which they do not know, occurred on June 14, 16 and 20.

St. Petersburg, June 23.—The emperor has received the following dispatch from Vice Admiral Skrydloff dated June 21:

"A division of torpedo boats which was sent out June 15 on an expedition along the coast of Japan returned to Vladivostok to-day. Several trading and transport schooners were captured."

London, June 23.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from New Chwang says: While a Russian force of 8,000 under Gen. Kondradovitch was traversing Wafungko ravine, nine miles southeast of Kai-Chou, June 19, it was surprised by concealed Japanese artillery. The Russians lost heavily, their casualties being 1,200 in number.

Kai-Chou, June 23.—Japanese scouts have appeared two miles from Seu-Chen. The main columns of the enemy are three miles in their rear. Gen. Samsonoff, with the Russian rear guard, is falling back with the Japanese advance.

A number of men missing after the battle of Vafangow have rejoined their regiments. The Russian losses are expected to total 3,500.

Liao Yang, June 23.—The Japanese army base at Siu-Yen is evidently strongly established along a line from Kai-Chau to Yentai.

A FIGHT AT PORT ARTHUR.

Chicago, June 24.—A special to the Daily News from Che Foo says: Reconnoissance in force of the approaches to Port Arthur was made Wednesday by a Japanese flotilla of three destroyers and four torpedo boats. As the flotilla steamed along it was heavily engaged with the fortifications, but apparently suffered no damage, although a signal mast of one of the torpedo boats was knocked out of shape as if struck by a shell. The operation was backed at some distance by two cruisers. Shortly afterward heavy firing began on the land side, lasting until dusk.

ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION.

Berlin, June 25.—Col. Gaedke, the correspondent of the Tageblatt in the far east, telegraphing from the Russian headquarters, says that on June 22 the Japanese occupied Kai Chau, and that a decisive battle of the united armies of Gen. Oku and Gen. Kuruki with the Russian main army is expected shortly.

Chicago, June 25.—A special to the Daily News from Che Foo says: Another demonstration took place off Port Arthur on Thursday. Firing began from the forts about 10 a. m. and continued until 1 p. m. The program was about the same as on the previous day. The destroyers and torpedo boats pursued the same tactics and an auxiliary cruiser lay off the islands until the firing had ceased, when it proceeded eastward at full speed. At 8:30 the same evening firing began heavily from the bluff, with much activity of the searchlights, indicating the approach of torpedo craft. A little later the sound of more distant firing was heard, evidently from the land side of Port Arthur, continuing until 2:30 Friday morning, with a brief renewal at 5 a. m. During that period there was an almost uninterrupted thunder as of field guns and volley firing punctuated with crashes of siege guns.

Tien Tsin, June 25.—New entrenchments are being thrown up east of the Liao river. The Chinese have been expelled from their houses, which are to be used by the Russian troops. A new proclamation has been issued forbidding the exports of foodstuffs north of New Chwang. It is reported that large bodies of troops are eight miles from New Chwang, under command of Gen. Kuropatkin.

A National Bank Suspends.

Washington, June 22.—The Medina national bank, of Medina, N. Y., has been closed by direction of the acting comptroller of the currency on the report of an examination made by Examiner Schofield, showing the bank to be insolvent. National Bank Examiner Robert Lyons has been appointed receiver. Earl W. Card is president and Robert W. Clark, cashier. The failure of this bank, the acting comptroller says, is due to excessive loans to the president and cashier, principally to the former, and to speculation by them in stocks.

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Pennsylvania RAILROAD.

PHILADELPHIA AND ERIE RAILROAD DIVISION. In effect Nov. 29, 1903. TRAINS LEAVE EMPORIUM EASTWARD 8 15 A. M.—Week days: For Sunbury, Wilkesbarre, Scranton, Hazleton, Pottsville, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 6.23 P. M., New York 9.30 P. M., Baltimore 8.00 P. M., Washington 7.15 P. M., Pullman Parlor car from Williamsport to Philadelphia and passenger coaches from Kane to Philadelphia and Williamsport to Baltimore and Washington. 12:45 P. M. (Emporium Junction) daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and principal intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 7.32 p. m.; New York, 10:23 p. m.; Baltimore, 7:30 p. m.; Washington, 8:35, p. m. Vestibule Parlor cars and passenger coaches, Buffalo to Philadelphia and Washington. 3 30 P. M.—Daily for Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 4.23 A. M., New York 7.23 A. M., Baltimore, 2:20 A. M., Washington, 3:30 A. M. Pullman sleeping cars from Harrisburg to Philadelphia and New York. Philadelphia passenger cars remain sleeper undisturbed until 10:30 A. M. 10 25 P. M.—Daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 7.17 A. M., New York 9.33 A. M., weekdays, 10:38 A. M., Sunday; Baltimore 7.04 A. M., Washington 8:30 A. M. Pullman sleeping cars from Erie, Buffalo and Williamsport to Philadelphia and Buffalo, Williamsport to Philadelphia. Passenger cars from Erie, Buffalo, Philadelphia and Williamsport to Baltimore. 12:15 A. M. (Emporium Junction) daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and principal intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia, 7:32 a. m., New York, 9:31 a. m., weekdays; 10:38 Sunday; Baltimore, 7:25 a. m.; Washington, 8:46 a. m. Vestibule Parlor, Sleeping Cars and Passenger coaches, Buffalo to Philadelphia and Washington. WESTWARD. 5:10 A. M.—Emporium Junction—daily for Erie, Ridgway, and week days for DuBois, Clermont and intermediate stations. 10 30 A. M.—Daily for Erie and week days for DuBois and intermediate stations. 6 23 P. M.—Week days for Kane and intermediate stations. RIDGWAY AND CLEARFIELD R. R. CONNECTIONS. (Week days.)

Table with columns: Stations, P. M., A. M., M. M., P. M., F. M., S. M. Rows include Sunbury, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Washington, DuBois, Erie, Buffalo, Williamsport, Kane, Clearfield, Ridgway, Clearfield, Erie, DuBois, Buffalo, Harrisburg, Sunbury.

LOW GRADE DIVISION. EAST BOUND. STATIONS. 109 113 101 105 107 051. Pittsburg, Lv. 8:15 A. M. 9:00 A. M. 9:45 A. M. 10:30 A. M. 11:15 A. M. 12:00 P. M. Red Bank, Ar. 9:25 10:10 10:55 11:40 12:25 1:10. Lawrenceville, Ar. 9:40 10:25 11:10 11:55 12:40 1:25. New Bethlehem, Ar. 10:13 11:00 11:45 12:30 1:15 2:00. Brookville, Ar. 10:45 11:30 12:15 1:00 1:45 2:30. Reynoldsville, Ar. 11:18 12:05 12:50 1:35 2:20 3:05. Falls Creek, Ar. 11:51 12:38 13:23 1:08 1:53 2:38. DuBois, Ar. 12:24 13:11 13:56 1:41 2:26 3:11. Sabula, Ar. 12:57 13:44 14:29 1:14 2:00 2:45. Pennfield, Ar. 1:30 2:17 3:02 1:47 2:32 3:17. Behrens, Ar. 2:03 2:50 3:35 2:20 3:05 3:50. Driftwood, Ar. 2:36 3:23 4:08 2:53 3:38 4:23. via P. & E. Div. Driftwood, Lv. 2:50 3:35 4:20 3:05 3:50 4:35. Emporium, Ar. 3:29 4:14 5:00 3:44 4:29 5:14. A. M. A. M. P. M. P. M. WESTBOUND.

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