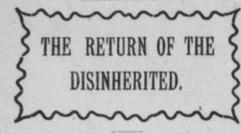
THE YEARS.

By Alice Katherine Fallows.

"Athwart the silence of our dreams, Their memories fall like fitful dreams From some dim flickering star That hangs afar. 'And then the present's glare and fret,

Shut swiftly in between, but yet Hid in its transient skies, The tireless eyes

Of endless years look, nor forget." -Ainslee's Magazine.



Miss Acton stood by the center table in the library with a match in her hand. The big room was as dark as a cave. She could see absolutely noth-Surely some one was moving softly over the heavy carpet.

"Who's there?" cried the girl. scurrying of feet. Some one was hurry- there are people in the hall. Lacy islands. The main line of the road ex- others because they find in it proof of ing toward the door communicating might look in here if I opened the tending from Manila to Dagupan is 135 some of their long-standing argu- lar-baffling time locks. with the conservatory. Instantly the door." not open because it was locked, as Miss there," said he. "I've heard them talk. coast outlets for the products of the in- Post: Acton well knew.

The girl had an impulse to scream | could hide, you know." feared darkness more than the mystery | those curtains at the window." that it hid.

a clock for her to turn on the gas in put the key into her pocket. As she the drop light and strike the match turned away she saw her companion that was ready in her hand. The gas standing with his face in his hands. was ignited with explosive sudden- while his form was shaken by convulmess. All that was in the room seemed sive sobs. to leap into being out of vanishing shadows.

With his back against the conservatory door and his outstretched hands if there was some one who did, some upon the wall as if to steady him, one in all this world who could see stood a young man, tall, lean and pale. the little good there is in me-" He wore a long black overcoat, but it Miss Acton took the key of the inner was hung open and revealed the garb safe door from her pocket and laid it of a convict.

"Do not be alarmed," she said. "I know who you are, and I will not be- said. tray you. Sit down, and we will decide what is best to do."

escaped," she said, "but I did not suppose that yould dare to come here. place of concealment. Yet I believe that your father expected you and went away to avoid the risk of meeting you."

tensity of his facial expression was a sation with a young gentiman. He distinct contribution to the conversa- arose as Miss Acton approached, and tion.

to it, turned the knob of the combina- tween father and son turned upon a tion lock and swung open the iron door. question of marriage, Vane, Jr., ob-Within was a second door of thin metal jecting to uniting himself for life to which the girl opened by means of a the bride selected for him when both OUR OFFICERS THINK THE BRITISH ing. Yet Germany had equipped her key that she took from her pocket. were children. As a matter of fact, There were books of accounts on the father's views had somewhat altereach side of the safe within, and be- ed in the course of years, and he was tween them three little drawers, with ready to sleze upon the adventure here Bellet that American Soldiers Would powder was that which did not satisfy pigeonholes above and below. Miss narrated as a pretext for the beginning

young physician, with Mildred's full

stitute for the daughter-in-law that the

GOVERNMENT OPERATES RAILROAD.

Philippine Line Passes Into Our Posses

sion-25 Miles of New Road.

Fred Steward, of Butler, Ind., is now

in charge of a train on the Manila &

Dagupan Railway. This railroad is

ment and is the first one to pass under

the United States not only is the abso-

elder Vane had originally chosen.

Acton took a roll of money from the of a reconciliation which became com lowest of the drawers and handed it to plete a few months later, when the the convict, who counted it rapidly. "Four hundred," said he. "I can authorization, suggested her as a sub

never do it with this." "It is all that belongs to me." she

said. "Of course, we cannot touch your father's money."

An inward struggle convulsed the young man's slender frame.

"Why not?" he said at last. "You said that he still loves me." "It would not be honest," she replied, "It would be theft. Can't you make

this do?" "Australia is a long way off," said he. "I think my father ought to contribute owned by the United States Govern-

something,' "No," said she, firmly, "I will not government control. The line was seconsent, and you should not ask me." 'I'm afraid it's all up with me.' ing, but what was it that she heard? | said the convict, sinking into a chair, Miss Acton reflected deeply.

"It is possible if I asked my aunt she might do something for us," she said, well as opening one of the most fertile tilery officers are following the South

ing for the last few minutes. But I terior,

and another to run away, but her "True," said Miss Acton, "and perstrongest desire was for light. She haps that is the best way. Get behind The convict rose hastily. Miss Acton

It required less time than the tick of closed the inner door of the safe and

"It's nothing," he replied; "only-only you locked that door. You didn't trust me. Why should you? And yet upon the table. "You see that I do trust you," she are nearly all known as "goods cars"

are used in this country as gravel cars. "Thank you, thank you, a thousand although only about one-half in length times," he murmured, and so strong The "goods cars" are loaded by na-"I read in a newspaper that you had was his emotion that he positively stagtives, who receive 50 cents, Mexican. gered as he made his way toward his per day, and they invariably suspend operations at 4 o'clock p. m., regardless

Miss Acton passed out into the hallwhich was now light-and was greatly surprised to see in the reception-room The convict said nothing, but the in- on the other side her aunt in convershe was the better able to admire his many places torn up the road, destroy-

"You don't understand," said the exceptionally fine physique. His face ed the bridges by dynamite, and moved girl. "Probably you don't know who 1 matched his form, being remarkable the rolling stock toward the northern Let me tell you the whole situa- for strength and beauty, and, moretion in a few words. You knew of over, it had for her an aspect of familiarity. He looked as much like the States government was forced to ship master of the house as was possible additional equipment for repairs, and "He married my aunt, and I came considering the difference of their ages, upon the suggestion of the corps of er's great kindness. We knew that he aunt in a voice betraying considerable shipped in a transport from San Fran had a son, and that his name could agitation, "this gentleman is Dr. Vane. cisco late in 1809 for the construction slightest knowledge of the cause of the one son-and the other things that she completed and affords General Otis estrangement between you and him. It knew or suspected in that moment will army a means of crossing the swamps was only by accident that I found out readily occur to the reader. Without leading to the east. a word to the visitor she darted back The line has never been able to supacross the hall. The library door was ply the demauds upon it, and has locked. In another instant she was proven a profitable investment, regard-"Dr. Vane," she cried, "there is a cent on the capital invested. The line thief in the library. I have given him was to have passed to the Spanish then know it was from you, but he all my money and the key to the safe, government in ninety-nine years in "Thought he was I!" exclaimed the part of the contract comes to Uncle young man, astonded. "Yes: I thought you were in Sing

ARMY IS OBSOLETE.

Have Done Better Than the English our officers. We send our inventors Have-Secret of Boer Success-Value of Artillery.

All officers of the United States army in Washington are watching the war in South Africa with great interest. Indeed, much more attention is paid to it than to the fighting in Luzon, which which they regard as having reached a guerilla stage. The attention which our officers give to the Transvaal war is directed to the general feature of the tactics, and they speculate as to how our commands would have acted in similar circumstances. General Corbin has been quoted as saying that American soldiers would have succeeded better than the English because of cured along with the Philippines, and their experience on the frontier with hostile Indian tribes. This view, howlute owner, but is building branch lines ever, is not generally supported, as in order to improve the usefulness of Indian warriors are not regarded as the road to the American soldiers, as on a plane with Boers. Perhaps the ar-

miles and traverses a country of vast ments. One of them said recently to "The situation to-day is just what

country. It is ballasted with gravel while the Boers have for years been tropical country. The line has sixty bert established a war college at Prebridges with upright steel tubes filled toria. We hear talk about the Boers the bridges are of iron and steel. The ever that may be, their commanders locomotives were built in England, and are trained and superior officers. And being of less than ten ion capacity, are all their tactics have been directed toa source of wonder to the American wards this struggle with England, the soldiers who are now operating the ground examined, and the very battleline. The coaches are divided into fields surveyed. Spion Kop was planthree compartments, each capable of ned years ago, and the day of the battion of the plan. That fight and every ing. travel first class, while other classes, other one has shown the extraordinary and they are several, must put up with strength which artillery has come to have in the last few years. Now it is, instead of infantry, the backbone of the army. White lost a regiment because his mules stampeded with the batteries, Buller was beaten at Tugela river when his cannon were captured, and Warren lost Spion Kop because he could not bring his artillery up to that place, and the Boers' guns were directed at his army. With the rapid-fire guns now in use, the size of the infantry force opposing them, unless it is of overwhelming proportions, is of men. And when I read of a solid

cause our experts had not invented it. but because our ordinance officers were not satisfied and were still experiment. army with smokeless powder fourteen years before, and decadent Spain had got it three years before, and their

abroad to find recognition for their weapons and their ammunition. "Another defect, and one to which I

have referred incidentally, is the ignorance of the average officer of any arm of the service except that in which he was trained. The infantry colone knows nothing of artillery or cavalry, and vice versa. That could be reme died by instituting a war college-not a temporary affair, but a great school in which high officers would be compelled to learn about all branches This, and the establishment of a general staff, both of which are advocated by Secretary Root, would do much to place the army on its proper footing."

FURNITURE OF A BUNCO MAN.

flad a Cork Safe that was a Wonderful Piece of Work.

"Did you ever hear of a cork safe?" The only answer was a sound of "but I can't get to her now, because and thickly populated valleys of the African war more eagerly than the asked a drummer who represents the latest thing in chilled steel and burg-

"As far as I am aware." he con knob clicked sharply, but the door did "There certainly are people out agricultural resources, giving two the correspondent of the New York tinued, when everybody had chorused a negative, "only one of them was ever

built. It was made by an ingenious The average elevation of the line is might have been expected. The Brit- Dutch mechanic for a one-time famous four feet above the general level of the ish system is obsolete and inefficient, confidence man named Dr. Braggs. who operated in Denver, Salt Lake and and has a road bed affording strong re- arming, preparing and drilling for this 'Frisco. The safe was a folding afsistance to the heaviest rainfall of that contest. Ten years ago General Jou. fair, made of paper on a backing of sheet cork, and when it was opened up it was six feet high and looked exwith concrete acting as supports, while as a lot of herders and farmers. How, actly like the real thing. As it was always placed in a corner, it had only two sides, but every visible detail was complete-combination, knob, hinges, lettering, bolt-heads and all. When folded it could be carried in an ordinary dress-suit case. Baggs used the thing in a fake lottery office, which holding eight persons, and cane chairs the witnessed simply the consumma- was of itself a marvel of trick furnish-

> "When the victim entered the place it looked like an ordinary business establishment, with desks, railing, maps on the walls, safe in the corner, and several clerks at work on the books. The instant he left, a roll-top desk was opened up into a bed. The railing was folded together and slipped into a closet, a table was transformed into a washstand, a cabinet turned into a bureau, the safe was put away in its case, the curtains were pulled down. and the room was to all appearances a simple sleeping apartment. By that means the poor dupe was never able to find the place where he had been burworth scores, and perhaps hundreds, of coed. I saw Baggs's oid cork safe when I was last in San Francisco, It is now owned by a cigar dealer, who column of troops ordered to march up bought it as a curio and, while it is

RICHES IN CUBAN SCRAP IRON.

Sent to this Country in Vast Quantities A Great Supply on the Island.

The iron production of the United States will be increased very materially this year by the debris of war exported from Cuba to the United States, Several hundred thousand tons of Cuban iron have already been shipped here, most of it the wreckage of the long war. The junk market is likely to be provided with the stuff. most of which was intended to be used against Americans. It is one of the anomalies and surprises of war that the immense store of shot and shell which the Spaniards accumulated in Juba for the subjugation of the natives and the annihilation of the Americans should at last find its way to this country to be made into ploughs and other agricultural implements. It is but another version of the Roman adage of turning the sword into a reaping hook.

A number of American dealers in fron, convinced from what they saw in the newspapers that there must be a large amount of old iron in Cuba, as the result of the destructive war there. sent agents down there to buy up such iron as they could find. The result exceeded expectations. Cuba was literally full of junk and with enough old iron to keep a dozen foundries at work.

A single purchaser from Ohio, A. O. Sayler, found no difficulty in buying up and shipping away over 35,000 tons of old iron and steel. The bulk of this was debris of the war, or rather of the old military system in Cuba. In Morro and Cabanas fortresses for instance. Mr. Sayler purchased no less than 4,-000 tons of cannon balls. They were obsolete projectiles, the old-fashioned, round solid shot intended for the antique loading guns. Many of them had been in the fortresses for decades. probably for a century or more piled up in the old-fashioned pyramidal form. They were really junk, of no value in modern warfare, and the authorities were glad to get rid of them at bargain-counter prices. They were shipped to American foundries and will be made into stoves and pots and pans

Next in importance to the fortresses as iron mines were the sugar plantations. There is always a great deal of junk on them as improvements in sugar machinery induced the planters to get rid of their old presses and buy new ones. The war increased this junk, for the Cubans and Spaniards burnt hundreds of sugar houses, learing behind only the iron. Mr. Sayler says that each sugar house yielded sevcral thousand tons of iron. Much of this was conveyed to Havana and exported to the United States, but not one-quarter of what could have been obtained, the chief difficulty being the lack of transportation and the difficul-

BOER FIGHTING TACTICS.

your father's second marriage?" "Certainly,"

here to live with them by your fathnot be mentioned in this house, but my husband's son." neither my aunt nor myself had the where you were."

"How did it happen?" he asked. "Through your letter to him last spring-the one he returned unopened. back again in the reception-room. I noticed the Sing Sing postmark on it when it came. Of course, I did not wrote the return direction upon the I thought he was you." envelope. He sat at this table, and afterward I saw upon the blotter a part of the address reversed, of course, but legible, 'The State Prison,' and your middle name, 'Irving.' '

"Arthur Irving Vane. Well?"

"Then I knew that you were a convict, and it was easy to guess that your crime and disgrace had caused your thief! We must catch him. He has Lubeck, has just completed some val father to renounce you. But let me tell you of a secret; he loves you yet. diwn." I know it; I am sure of it; and that is why I am going to help you to-night. though he would never forgive me if ke knew it."

"And you read of my escape?"

"Yes; I read a few days ago that a convict named Irving had escaped with two others. I knew, of course, that you had dropped your last name for your family's sake when you were arrested."

There was a moment's silence. Then the young man leaned forward with his face close to hers, and asked in a low, intense voice, "What are you go-· ing to do for me?"

"What do you need?" she asked. "Food? A hiding place?"

He spang to his feet so suddenly that the girl was frightened almost to the point of crying.

"Money, money!" he whispered. "That's what I need. With money I can get out of this country and begin a new life on the other side of the world. If I go back to prison it will kill all the good that's in me. If I don't-if I get clean away-who knows what I can make of myself?"

"I believe there is much truth in what you say," she replied. "If I could have advised you before you broke out of prison I would have adwised you to serve out your sentence and then begin life anew. But I know that if you are captured now you will flight." have to serve years and years in addition to your original sentence. I cannot ask you to do that. It is very wrong of me, but I shall help you to escape. How much money do you need?"

"More than you can get, I'm afraid." said he gloomily. "I must make Australia somehow."

There was a safe built into the wall ate brigand. of the library. Miss Acton walked up It transpired that the quarrel be- is always a soloist,

Sing, and that you had escaped, and-" "Thought I was in Sing Sing!" he lit.

cried. "So I was. I am assistant to the prison physician, and I have escaped-for a couple of days. But this locked the door? Then I'll break it uable investigations relative to the in-

"No, no," exclaimed Mildred; run comes to the conclusion that primitive that way. Auntic, call the servants." She flew to the outer door, dragging slide down the mountains. Vane after her. In a moment she was racing around the house. Mrs. Vane

posse of male dependents. Mildred, left alone, hastened to the library door and listened. Instantly along the ground, when it was too the door was opened and the convict sprang out into the hall.

"I'm much obliged to you for sending the others away," he called out as he dragged it toward the cave or hut in fled by her. "You're a pretty bright girl-I don't think."

Mildred sat down on the stairs and servants in her wake, rushed to join in the pursuit. Not till she heard the ment of the sled. voice of Vane, returning, did she raise her head.

"You will beg the young lady's pardon for all that you have done," was invented by their ancestors thousands what Mildred heard.

Looking up she saw Vane holding the culprit by the collar.

"I recoginize this fellow." the young physician continued. "His name is from here, and it is not strange that he injured, but actually benefited by should have selected this house for a prairie fires. The thick bark resists

"He need not apologize to me," said Mildred. "I don't deserve it." * * * When the elder Mr. Vane returned which accompanies a fire. to his home on the following day he

heard the story of his son's adventure, It lost nothing by Mildred's telling, are untenanted because they are sup-The young man appeared as her posed to be haunted. rescuer from the clutches of a desper-

terminus of the road. They wrought such havoe in the line that the United "Mildred." said that young lady's engineers sufficient material was of a branch line twenty-five miles in

are provided for the passengers who

stiff wooden benches. The freight cars

and are very small and dumpy, such as

of perishable freight or other demands

of the patrons of the road for better

service. The passenger trains are

operated by a higher class of employes

and better accommodations are given

Mildred knew that Mr. Vane had but length. This part of the line is nearly

less of the Spanish guaranty of 8 per payment of the rightof-way, and that Sam, together with a railroad that was so completely demoralized that we were compelled to practically rebuild

Invention of the Sled.

Dr. Karutz, an original scholar of vention of a sled. After long study he

around to the window. He will escape man probably arrived at the idea of the sled from seeing trees slip and

In Maderia, for instance, where there is never any snow, sleds drawn by had run through the hall to collect a oxen are used just as they are in the Philippines. It is a development from the idea of a man dragging a burden heavy for him to lift up and carry it He at first hitched his dog to the deer that he had just killed, and both which they lived. When he saw the logs slide down the mountain side the idea of using smooth logs that would burst into tears of rage. She paid no slide over the ground easily when attention when her aunt, with the drawn by himself or one of his ani mals was the next step in the develop

Primitive peoples like the Malays of the Philippines and the unprogressive peasants of Maderia still use the sleds of years ago .- Washington Post.

A Tree Benefited by Fire.

In the savannahs of South America there grows a tree called by the na Irving. His home is only a few miles tives chaparro, which is not only not robbery that should help him in his the action of the flames, and the hard seeds are supplied with a kind of wings, owing to which they are scat tered broadcast by the strong wind

Over a thousand bouses in London

o the mouths of these Roer six inch. rapid-fire guns, 1 call the order simply murder. The British plainly have not the modern artillery which the Boers possess. The difference between the two forces in this one respect, independent of all tactical blunders and other features of unpreparedness, is sufficient to account for the present situation. We must believe that the British must eventually win, but they will do so only when they bring their best guns and gunners to the front and pour into the field a great army." "The artillery did not have a chance at Santiago," was suggested.

"By no means. Not a single commanding officer there was an artillery. man. The infantry was relied upon to do the work which the artillery would have done much more quickly and with less loss of life. This was because Shafter had never had experience with anything but infantry. Take the capture of El Caney, for example-a fight in which the artillery did some good work. The capture at eleven o'clock ought to have occurred at nine. Two hours in some contests would mean the difference between defeat and victory, and that two hours in command, an infantry officer, directed our battery work instead of leaving it to the artillery officer in charge of the guns. But that experience at Santiago helped the artillery a great deal, for in the Philippine war their

arm has made such astonishing development in late years, and the new ma-

chines can be directed and operated Laythorpe, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, cele only by trained men. "One great defect in our army sys- She has living two children, ten grand

tem is that a man is kept in a subordi- children and thirteen great-grandchilnate position all his life, and when the dren, and four generations dwell under chance comes for distinction be is of one roof. During the winter of 1898 ten too old. I know of first lieuten- Mrs. Wilmot had congestion of the ants who are grandfathers. That could lungs, and was not expected to recovbe remedied by more thorough inspec- er. She has almost the sprightliness tion of the individual men, and their of a girl; she rises at 6, retires at 10, promotion regardless of time of service knits, sews, reads, and does household or any other consideration except abil- work, including carrying buckets. Her ity and industry. Another respect in complexion is rosy and unwrinkled. which we are backward is in new in- and she looks ready for another cenventions. Our orduance officers have tury of wear and tear .- London Chronbeen too conservative. Take the mat- icle, ter of smokeless powder, an old illus-

The man who sings his own praise tration. We had none when the Span- Cairo, Egypt, has a citizen who is ish war broke out, and why? Not be- said to weigh 570 pounds.

pretty badly battered, one can still see plainly that it was a wonderful piece of mechanical work."-New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Greedy Sca Gull.

In the wire-fronted coops of a downtown market there is quite a menageric. comprising a beautiful pair of gray fox squirrels, blue jays, pheasants, rabbits, a young fox and a pair of big. dingy colored sea gulls. Most people have seen the gulls, which frequent the harbor here at this season, and make themselves at home on bridge draws and the roofs of the houses or steamers, chase and fight each other for possession of scraps thrown over from steamboats, but if any one wants, to see what vicious, determined creat ures these birds are, let him throw a smelt into the cage where this pair of gulls is kept. They seize the fish like a flash and hold on like a pair of bulldogs, each striving to wrest it from the other while both express by ac tions that they will die before they let go. Throw in another smelt, and before one can say "Jack Robinson" both are marketed and in spite of the large fish have been swallowed, and each of was due to the fact that the General the gulls has turned and is ready to snatch the fish from the other, if the by touched. The island has been aclatter has been slow in getting it out cumulating old iron for a couple of of sight .-- Portland Oregonian.

Largest Theatre in America.

The Degollada Theatre, the front of officers have been given practically in- which was damaged by the recent dependent commands, with astonish- carthquake in Guadalajara, is probaing results. In one campaign the bat- bly the most costly and certainly the tery was taken up to a position only most modern of the city's great build. thirty yards from the enemy-a thing ings, and it is accorded the distinction place. But the typical Du'ch street, never heard of before-and a brilliant of being the largest exclusively thevictory was the result. That achieve- atrical structure on the continent. Its ment attracted the attention of the en. cornerstone was laid in 1856 and, altire military world. One of our off. though at the present day it is not encers was questioned concerning it by tirely completed, some \$3,000,000 have the War Office in London when he call, been expended in its construction. It ed there last summer. The incident is four stories in height and covers an shows what can be done by giving the area of 11.127 square feet. The interartillerymen the direction of their own | ior plan is modeled after the great work, an opportunity they ought to Parisian play houses, the boxes being have had long ago. Of course, we ar. arranged in tiers about three sides of tillerymen are prone to exaggerate the the auditorium, while the fourth is enimportance of our arm of the service, tirely taken up by the stage, which has | of canal, leaving much the same effect but you must remember that no other a length of 155 feet by 55 in depth.

A Remarkable Centenarian.

Mrs. Elizabeth Wilmot, of Kirkby, brated her 100th birthday on Monday. Hard to Beat This Record.

Ann Mason has worked for Mrs. M. E. Holland for twenty-one years. She cooked the first meal Dr. Holland and his bride ate when they went to housekeeping, and has cooked every one since, Mrs. Holland insists that her servant-girl story beats the record, Atchison (Kan.) Globe,

ty of getting the iron to the railroad by which it could be taken to market. The iron brings little and in many cases the owners of plantations were willing to give it away to any one who would remove it. Even when on the railroad the iron can be purchased at from \$2.50 to \$3 a ten.

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Next in importance to the plantations as a source of old iron are the three military trochas built across the island by General Weyler. They are now being dismantled and are yielding a large quantity of railroad iron, most of which is being shipped to the United States. The block houses crected along the line of trochas and the railroads also contained a good deal of old iron. several of them being entirely plated and made ironclad with old railroad iron, which protected the Spanish soldiers within from bullets.

The purchase of iron in Cuba and its shipment to the United States has temporarily ceased because the marketing of the sugar crop is keeping the railroads and the teamsters and loaders generally busy: but it will begin again in the spring as soon as all the crops amount of iron exported from Cuba. The supply there is said to be scarcecenturies, and, being without foundries, it has no market or sale for it.

Dutch Streets.

Commend us to the ever-tranguil Dutch streets with their mellow antique houses. These mostly follow circles, as is to be expected in a fortified 4 found everywhere, is the line of houses by the canal, a range of old trees in front, shading the Indian red brick behind, with its bright white window sashes, as bright as much-polished brass. Nothing is more suggestive of tranquil repose and old fashion. They stretch along the broad canal before them, where bridges cross and barges lie together alongside. Even in very populous capitals we come in the suburbs on some delightful, retired bits as does Church Row at Hampstead. Old-fashioned well-to-do folk live here in retirement. There is one such at the entrance of The Hague on the Scheveningen side, where the charming woods begin; anything more old-world and solemnly attractive cannot be magined. We might well fancy ourselves back to the days of Sir William Temple and of William of Orange, who may have strolled along these banks .- The Gentleman's Magazine.