

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...

THE RETURN OF THE DISINHERITED.

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 nothing, but what was it that she heard?

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

"I read in a newspaper that you had escaped," she said, "but I did not suppose that you'd dare to come here. Yet I believe that your father expected you and went away to avoid the risk of meeting you."

"You don't understand," said the girl. "Probably you don't know who I am. Let me tell you the whole situation in a few words. You knew of your father's second marriage?"

"He married my aunt, and I came here to live with them by your father's great kindness. We knew that he had a son, and that his name could not be mentioned in this house, but neither my aunt nor myself had the slightest knowledge of the cause of the estrangement between you and him."

"How did it happen?" he asked. "Through your letter to him last spring—the one he returned unopened, I noticed the Sing Sing postmark on it when it came. Of course, I did not then know it was from you, but he wrote the return direction upon the 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."

to it, turned the knob of the combination lock and swung open the iron door. Within was a second door of thin metal which the girl opened by means of a key that she took from her pocket.

"It is all that belongs to me," she said. "Of course, we cannot touch your father's money."

"No," said she, firmly. "I will not consent, and you should not ask me."

"It is possible if I asked my aunt she might do something for us," she said, "but I can't get to her now, because there are people in the hall. They might look in here if I opened the door."

"The convict rose hastily. Miss Acton closed the inner door of the safe and put the key into her pocket. As she turned away she saw her companion standing with his face in his hands, while his form was shaken by convulsive sobs."

"You see that I do trust you," she said. "Thank you, thank you, a thousand times," he murmured, and so strong was his emotion that he positively staggered as he made his way toward his place of concealment."

"Yes, I thought you were in Sing Sing, and that you had escaped, and—" "Thought I was in Sing Sing?" he cried. "So I was. I am assistant to the prison physician, and I have escaped—for a couple of days. But this thief! We must catch him. He has locked the door? Then I'll break it down."

"No, no," exclaimed Mildred; run around to the window. He will escape that way. Anntie, call the servants!"

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

It transpired that the quarrel between father and son turned upon a question of marriage, Vane, Jr., objecting to uniting himself for life to the bride selected for him when both were children.

BOER FIGHTING TACTICS.

OUR OFFICERS THINK THE BRITISH ARMY IS OBSOLETE.

Belief that American Soldiers Would Have Done Better Than the English 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 they regard as having reached a guerilla stage.

GOVERNMENT OPERATES RAILROAD.

Philippine Line Passes into Our Possession—25 Miles of New Road.

Fred Steward, of Butler, Ind., is now in charge of a train on the Manila & Daguapan Railway. This railroad is owned by the United States Government and is the first one to pass under government control.

The Greedy Sea Gull.

In the wire-fronted coops of a downtown market there is quite a menagerie, comprising a beautiful pair of gray fox squirrels, blue jays, pheasants, rabbits, a young fox and a pair of big, dingy colored sea gulls.

Largest Theatre in America.

The Degollada Theatre, the front of which was damaged by the recent earthquake in Guadalajara, is probably the most costly and certainly the most modern of the city's great buildings.

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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.

FURNITURE OF A BUNCO MAN.

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

"Did you ever hear of a cork safe?" asked a drummer who represents the latest thing in cheap steel and burglar-baffling time locks.

"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 purchase of iron in Cuba and the shipping away of over 25,000 tons of old iron and steel. The bulk of this was debris of the war, or rather of the old military system in Cuba."

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 purchase of iron in Cuba and the shipping 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 are marketed and in spite of the large amount of iron exported from Cuba.

Comment us to the ever-tranquil Dutch streets with their mellow antique houses. These mostly follow circles, as is to be expected in a fortified place. But the typical Dutch street, found everywhere, is the line of houses by the canal, a range of old tress in front, shading the Indian red brick behind, with its bright white window sashes, as bright as much polished brass.

Had 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 house-keeping, and has cooked every one since. Mrs. Holland insists that her servant-girl story beats the record.—Atchison (Kan.) Globe.

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Invention of the Sled.

Dr. Karutz, an original scholar of Lubeck, has just completed some valuable investigations relative to the invention of a sled. After long study he comes to the conclusion that primitive man probably arrived at the idea of the sled from seeing trees slip and slide down the mountains.

A Tract Benefited by Fire.

In the savannas of South America there grows a tree called by the natives chaparro, which is not only not injured, but actually benefited by prairie fires. The thick bark resists the action of the flames, and the hard seeds are supplied with a kind of wings, owing to which they are scattered broadcast by the strong wind which accompanies a fire.

One great defect in our army system is that a man is kept in a subordinate position all his life, and when the chance comes for distinction he is often too old. I know of first lieutenants who are grandfathers. That could be remedied by more thorough inspection of the individual men, and their promotion regardless of time of service or any other consideration except ability and industry.

Over a thousand houses in London are untenanted because they are supposed to be haunted. The man who sings his own praise is always a soloist.