



By L. T. MEADE AND ROBERT EUSTACE.

THE BLUE LABORATORIES. PART I. If there was a man in the whole of St. Petersburg who had never excited the smallest suspicion in the minds of the secret police it was Alexander Chance, Englishman and physician. At one time he had practiced amongst his fellow-countrymen in the city, but for several years now he had resigned all the more usual work of his profession, and lived a retired life in a large and stately house on the Ligovka canal. The fact of his having such a house with a commodious garden attached proved his wealth, otherwise he lived in a very simple and retired manner. He was a man of between fifty and sixty years of age, thin in appearance, and somewhat ascetic looking. He had an aquiline nose, piercing but small dark eyes, and a full, broad expanse of forehead. In stature he was slightly above the middle height. His manner was courteous, polite, refined, and quite unapproachable. He was looked upon as a man of iron will and undoubted ability. Society, however—the brilliant society of St. Petersburg—saw little or nothing of him—he spent almost the whole of his time within his house, rather in the laboratory which was attached to the house. He had a wife and two daughters. His wife was of partly Russian, partly German extraction. The girls at the time of this story were sixteen and fifteen years of age respectively. It was the father's wish to have them brought up in the English fashion, and for this purpose he generally had English governesses to teach them. By his fellow physicians Dr. Chance was regarded as a man whose name was a guarantee of his worth, and those who were prudent thought it best to be silent about them, his name attained a brief and startling notoriety. For a short time it was in everyone's mouth. The following story told by one of his victims will explain why.

TOLD BY MADELINE RENNICK. When I decided to accept the offer of a situation as governess in a Russian family, I bought a magnificent thing, a small silver mounted revolver and fifty cartridges. I do not really know what prompted me to make this purchase, but I had a certain sense of pleasure in spending a couple of sovereigns upon it, and I stowed my revolver carefully away in the very bottom of one of my largest trunks. Before proceeding to tell this story I had better say one or two words about myself. My name is Madeline Rennick; I am an orphan and have no near relations. When Dr. Chance offered me a hundred pounds per annum to educate his two daughters, I determined to accept the situation without a moment's hesitation. I bade my friends adieu and reached St. Petersburg without any sort of adventure. Dr. Chance met me at the station. He was a somewhat handsome, but near-sighted man on quite the shady side of fifty. He was coldly polite to me, gave directions about my luggage, and took me straight to his house on the Ligovka canal. There I was received by Mrs. Chance, a lady in every respect the antipodes of her husband. She had a roly-poly figure, a round, moon-shaped face, small, pale blue eyes, and a curious and yet thoroughly unympathetic manner. My pupils were rather pretty girls, the elder was tall, and had the dark eyes of her father—she had a fine, open expression; her name was Olga. The younger was dark and small in stature, with a piquant and pretty face; she was called Maroussa. The girls could talk English tolerably well, and the warmth of their greeting made up for their mother's indifference. I began my duties on the



"YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT OUR FATHER IS ENGLISH."

following morning, and for the first month of my stay thought that my excellent was likely to be an exceedingly monotonous one. At the end of the month very heavy snow with high gales of wind set in, and we could not go out. On a certain afternoon Olga, Maroussa and I were seated on one of the large divans in the comfortable salon. "You must find it dreadfully dull here," said Maroussa. "I hope you won't regret having left England to come to educate us." "Not at all," I replied: "I have long had a great desire to see Russia, and to understand something about it and its strange history." "You know, of course, that our father is English," said Olga, "although he is now a naturalized Russian. He has

now, when your paper is finished pray leave it on that desk. He assured that you have my very best thanks." He gave me a long and earnest look, and slowly left the room. It took me from two to three hours to transcribe what had fallen so glibly from the doctor's lips. Having finished my paper I went upstairs. As I ascended the long low, marble stairs which led to the salon on the first floor, the thought of what I had just written kept floating again and again through my brain. I knew enough about science to be interested even in the very sketchy paper which the doctor had dictated. Would he ever be in



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN?" I ASKED.

a position to prove his theory? What did the whole thing mean? How could he prove it? By what means?

(To Be Continued.)

AT THE THEATERS.

"My Friend From India," which will be seen at the Academy of Music to-night, will attract more than usual attention for several reasons. The first is: it is an admirable and amusing take-off on theosophy and the society make-shift of booming the social loaf; second it is the novelty of the theatrical year; third it is the most excruciatingly funny string of dramatic situations presented for a long time; fourth, it is interpreted by the Smyth & Rice comedy company, composed of such competent actors as Frederic Bond and others of his prominence; fifth, because the play is the latest popular comedy success.

Ople Read has been pronounced the American Dickens because of his novel character painting in "The Jackkins." The characters are true to life, very novel, containing the delicious flavor of North Carolina soil, where the scene of the story is laid. In adapting the story to stage purposes, Daniel L. Hart has retained the appetizing flavor, and to the character of Lemuel Jackkin Stuart Robson has added the laugh-creating flesh and blood of his art. It is the most pronounced character he has assumed in years, and the light and shade of the character give him unbounded opportunities. "The Jackkins" will be produced at the Academy of Music to-morrow night.

To those who have read the metropolitan newspapers the announcement that the Henry Burlesque and Twentieth Century minstrel company opens this afternoon at Davis' theatre should be very welcome, as no company of recent seasons has been more highly lauded. This is the last week of the regular season. The one particular tragedy event of the season will take place at the Frothingham when the eminent tragedian Frederick Ward will be seen in a round of Shakespearean revivals, presenting on Wednesday evening for the first time in Scranton Shakespeare's master tragedy "King Lear," at a special popular priced matinee on Thursday "The Merchant of Venice," closing the engagement on Thursday evening with a grand scenic production of "Richard III." The popularity of Shakespeare's grand tragedy, "King Lear," was received in the south is attested by the following from the Houston Post of Texas: "Mr. Ward's production of 'Lear,' displays as do all his productions his excellent taste, his fidelity to the historical detail, and his thorough artistic and intelligent devotion to the work in hand. Mr. Ward's leading lady is Miss Florence Ham, of the great sky-sailing domes, who has many friends in this city."

SONG OF THE MONEY MAKER.

I have smoothed out the hills from the earth And heaped them in the sea; And the buffalo plains I have ridged with trains That they may fetch dollars to me. I have heaped the rivers with towns, I have hollowed the mountains with mines, And I fastened a girth round the ends of the earth That is woven of telegraph lines. And the dollars come home to their own; They know the sound of his voice; I call my sheep from deep unto deep; They flock to their fold and rejoice. For my ships that sail under the world, And my fire stinks out of the West, Come bearing the spoil of a million's toll And the fruits of a world-wide quest. I stretch me a thousand arms That reach to a thousand seas, And they gather me gain from the land and main And heap it at my knees. But the man with the book comes close in my wake, His feet with swiftness shod; And the naked man with the savage clan Is told of the white man's God. I am selfish and narrow and gross So say the despised and the despised; No delicate strain and no fineness of brain That goes with the sifted few. But a man like me must go before Ere the artist comes behind; Through the wild abode I lay the road That's paved for the march of mind. I lead; then the deep-breathed sage His treasured words indites; I lead; and the dream-taught bard Sits warm by his fire and writes. The great sky-sling domes I reared on high; And I glean old books into alcoved nooks That wisdom may not die.

Mayhap my brain is coarse, Mayhap my heart is dry, And the scholar's scroll and the artist's soul Are not for such as I. But a man like me must go before Ere the artist comes behind; Through a wild abode I lay the road That's paved for the march of mind. —Sam Walter Foss in the Sun.

NOTABLE FINDS OF CHUNKS OF GOLD

Big Nuggets That Have Been Picked Up in California.

THE ROMANTIC SIDE OF MINING

Daniel Hill Found Two Fourteen and Squandered Both—the Great Martin Nugget and Its Strange Discovery—A Consumptive's Luck. Other Instances of Fortune's Sudden Visitation.

The Pomona, Cal., correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat writes: The wonderful revival in gold mining throughout the world has caused much discussion as to the largest gold nuggets that have been picked up, and the curious circumstances connected with the discovery of some of the richest deposits of the precious metal in California. The subject is full of romantic interest, and the large fortunes that have been stumbled upon in a day by some gold miners form a perennial source of discussion among all classes of people in the West. The recent meeting of the Miners' association in Colorado, of Pomona valley, which is probably the most experienced prospector and gold miner in California today, has been constantly engaged in seeking and locating mines since 1836, and he says that the only man he ever knew who struck a very valuable nugget was Daniel Hill, who died a poor, miserable pauper in the Los Angeles county almshouse several years ago. In the summer of 1866 he was working gold in the placer diggings at the Ruby Falls mine, in Plumas county, away up under the shadow of Mount Shasta, when he came across, buried in the gravel, a chunk of gold and red-stained, water-worn quartz as large as a horse's hoof. He started off to the mine for Sacramento, where he sold the find at the D. O. Mills bank for \$14,000. In less than a year Hill had spent every dollar of this sum. He squandered over \$100,000 in San Francisco. When his money was gone he went back to work again, and by hard work made an average of a few dollars a day for the next four or five years. But one day in the fall of 1871, while he and company were camping in a lonely canyon in the region of Dutch Flats, Nevada county, he stumbled upon another very large nugget. Hill was looking over a small discarded placer mine, and was running the coarse sieve through his pan, when he practiced eyes searched for evidence of yellow metal. He stooped down to wash his hands in the brook, when lying there in the running water was a nugget of gold and white quartz similar to the one he had found in California. How the chunk ever got there, and especially how hundreds of hungry gold-seekers had tramped over that locality for ten years previous and had never seen a nugget, is one of the favorite topics of speculation among the time-miners in the golden state. Hill sold his find for \$12,500, and again abandoned himself to a long career of debauchery and recklessness. His second fortunate find, and as such as was his first, and he became a drunkard. He never found another nugget, either large or small, although he searched for years.

GREAT MARTIN NUGGET.

The largest nugget ever found in this state was that known as Oliver Martin's chunk. It weighed 151 pounds, 6 ounces. The precious ore was mixed with white quartz, and it was sold after having been converted into bullion for \$270. Hundreds of pictures have been made of the golden mass, and are expected to know the weight, size and value of the famous nugget. There are bronze fac-similes of the chunk in many mineral collections in museums in Europe and America. The nugget was found near Camp Corona, in Tulame county, in central California. The date of the finding was Nov. 18, 1854. Martin, a poor miner, who had not even the proverbial dollar to his name, and a companion named John Flower, were tramping on their way up country to new diggings. They camped one night in a mountain canyon, when a sudden and terrific rain storm came up in the darkness. The water in the canyon stream suddenly rose. The miners attempted to climb the hill, but the flood overtook them and both were carried down stream. Flower was drowned, but Martin, though severely injured, escaped. While trying to bury his companion's body by the roots of an upland tree, Martin discovered the rich nugget that bears his name. He was too weak to move it. He attempted to reach some neighboring miners, but fainted from exhaustion, and was found on the trail by some trappers a few days or some weeks later. Martin took them to the spot, and the nugget was removed. Martin made the nugget the basis of a large fortune which he accumulated in the next two decades.

LUCKY FRENCHMEN.

The biggest nugget of gold ever found in Shasta county was discovered in the spring of 1870. One day three Frenchmen, two of whom were named Oliver Longchamp and Fred Rochon, drove into the old town of Shasta in search of a spot to mine. They happened to have some business with A. Coleman, a dealer in hardware and notions. The three asked him where was a good place to mine. He carelessly pointed in a northerly direction, and said: "Go over to Spring creek. They took his advice, located a claim on the creek, some eight miles north of Redding, and a few days later one of the Frenchmen picked up a nugget of gold valued at \$6,300. Ten years later a miner named Don Young found a \$250 nugget on Flat creek, near where the Frenchmen found their famous chunk. Plumas, though one of the richest mining counties in California, has yielded few valuable nuggets. The largest was found by a Chinaman near the mouth of Nelson creek, and was worth \$2,800. A miner at Elizabethtown, named Archie Little, discovered a \$2,600 nugget and Messrs. Hays and Steadman found one above Mohawk valley, near the county line, that weighed 420 ounces and was worth \$6,700.

PAVED WITH GOLD.

Prescott, the Capital of Arizona, Has This Distinction. Prescott, the capital of Arizona, boasts that it is the nearest approach to the New Jerusalem, as described in the Bible, as its streets are being paved with gold. The granite used for pavements contains \$4 in gold and 20 cents in silver to every ton, so that in time, when less expensive methods of reducing ores are used, it may pay the city to tear up and crush its street pavements.

THE LIBERALIST.

For broader truths the "liberal thinker" pleads. He rails at narrow bigots and their creeds. Yet proves himself, it oftentimes doth befall, The most intolerant bigot of them all. —Ella Wheeler Wilcox in the Sun.

That Decided Him.

"I am sorry for you, Walter," said the kind-hearted surgeon, "but the thumb will have to come off." "My hand won't be of much use, will it, doctor?" inquired Walter, tearfully. "You will have your four fingers left, but you will not be able to grasp anything firmly." "I can't weed the garden for mamma, even, can I?" "I am afraid not, my boy." "Cut her off, doctor?" —Toledo Blade.

HELLO AT A. E. ROGERS' JEWELRY STORE, 213 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

DR. ERKELENS, The New York Eye Specialist. And Teacher in Practical Applied Optics. Examines Eyes Free For Two Weeks, Beginning April 22, 1897. HOURS—2 TO 5 P. M. The Doctor has had 18 years' practical experience in the art of correcting defective eyesight. No fancy prices for special ground lenses.

FOR MEN ONLY. Seasonable Underwear. Light Weight Wool Merino, Balbriggan, Etc., AT CONRAD'S, 305 Lackawanna Avenue.

THE MOOSIC POWDER CO., ROOMS 1 AND 2, COR'N LTH ST'G, SCRANTON, PA. MINING AND BLASTING POWDER. MADE AT MOOSIC AND RUTLAND WORKS. LAFLIN & RAND POWDER CO'S ORANGE GUN POWDER. Electric Batteries, Electric Exploders for exploding blasts, Safety Fuse, and Repamo Chemical Co.'s EXPLOSIVES.

FANCY RIPE STRAWBERRIES. Bermuda and Southern Produce, FRESH EVERY DAY. W. H. PIERCE, PENN. AVE. MARKET, 531 Linden, Opp. Court House, PRACTICAL TINNERS and PLUMBERS. Sole Agents for Richardson-Buyton's Furnaces and Ranges.

ON THE LINE OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC R'Y. SPECIAL EXCURSION RATES TO NEW YORK, FOR THE Dedication of the Grand Monument Tuesday, April 27, 1897. Special Excursion Tickets from Scranton will be sold good to go on all trains, April 26 and 27, and to return from April 28 to May 4. Tickets for the Round Trip, \$4.35.

ECZEMA. Most Torturing, Disfiguring, Humiliating. Of itching, burning, bleeding, scaly skin and scalp humors is instantly relieved by a warm bath with CUTICURA SOAP, a single application of CUTICURA OINTMENT, the great skin cure, and a full dose of CUTICURA RESOLVENT, greatest of blood purifiers and humor cures.

Cuticura. REMEDIES speedily, permanently, and economically cure, when all else fails. POTTER, DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston. How to Cure Every Skin and Blood Humors, Free.

PIMPLY FACES. Purified and Beautified by CUTICURA SOAP.

OLD DOMINION LINE. Sailing every week day from New York to OLD POINT COMFORT, VIRGINIA BEACH AND RICHMOND, VA. Round trip tickets, covering a health-giving sea voyage of 700 miles, with meals and stateroom accommodations enroute, for \$13, \$13.50 and \$14.00. SEND FOR PARTICULARS. OLD DOMINION STEAMSHIP CO., Pier 26, North River, New York. W. L. GUILLAUDEU, Vice-Pres. & Traffic Mgr.

E. ROBINSON'S SONS' Lager Beer Brewery. Manufacturers of the Celebrated Pilsener Lager Beer. CAPACITY: 100,000 Barrels per Annum. YOU CAN SAVE MONEY BY BUYING NEW AND SECOND-HAND CLOTHING. Ladies' and Children's Wear, Seal and Plush Sacques, Carpets and Feather Beds From L. POSNER 21 Lackawanna Ave.

Mohawk Polish. Preserves the New and Restores the Old. ALL HAND-MADE FINISH.

First-Class Sleeping and Dining Cars attached to the through trains. Seats fully fitted with bedding, curtains and specially adapted to wants of families. Minneapolis, St. Paul, Canadian and United States Northwest, Vancouver, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Ore., San Francisco.

WOLF & WENZEL, 531 Linden, Opp. Court House, PRACTICAL TINNERS and PLUMBERS. Sole Agents for Richardson-Buyton's Furnaces and Ranges.

FOR SALE BY PROTHORPE & CO., HILL & CORNHILL AND A. E. STRONG.

THE LEADER. 124-126 Wyoming Ave.

Ladies' Suits For Monday, April 26, Only.

We shall place on sale 12 fine tailored made suits of all wool storm serge fly-front jackets, in green, brown, navy and black, skirt and jacket lined throughout with fine quality taffeta silk. Skirts correctly cut and hung in the very latest style and the entire suit made in the best of manner. We are willing to convince any lady that the material in this suit cannot be bought and made up equally as good for less than \$20.00. These suits were marked \$12.98 thus far, but as it is a small lot we shall close them out on Monday at \$8.98.

Ladies' Jackets, For Monday, April 26, Only.

We shall place on sale 25 ladies' tailor made jackets, fly-front, velvet collar, in tan, navy and black, sizes 22 to 42. These jackets were sold by us as a special bargain for \$2.98, with the result that we have but a small lot left. This lot will go on Monday at \$1.98 Each and we would add the suggestion that parties who desire to avail themselves of this extraordinary offer had better call early. Sale begins at 8 a. m.

Shirt Waists, For Monday, April 26, Only.

We shall place on sale 50 new style figured China silk waists in all colors and combinations made in the best of manner and latest style, with turned-over silk cuffs and detachable white linen collar. Until this afternoon these goods have been marked \$3.48 and were good value at that. For one day, however, we shall place them on sale at \$2.59. Should we fail to close out this lot on Monday the price will go back to \$3.48.

LEBECK & CORIN. The Most Delightful SPRING TRIPS. are those by the handsome large steamships of the

OLD DOMINION LINE. Sailing every week day from New York to OLD POINT COMFORT, VIRGINIA BEACH AND RICHMOND, VA. Round trip tickets, covering a health-giving sea voyage of 700 miles, with meals and stateroom accommodations enroute, for \$13, \$13.50 and \$14.00. SEND FOR PARTICULARS. OLD DOMINION STEAMSHIP CO., Pier 26, North River, New York. W. L. GUILLAUDEU, Vice-Pres. & Traffic Mgr.

E. ROBINSON'S SONS' Lager Beer Brewery. Manufacturers of the Celebrated Pilsener Lager Beer. CAPACITY: 100,000 Barrels per Annum. YOU CAN SAVE MONEY BY BUYING NEW AND SECOND-HAND CLOTHING. Ladies' and Children's Wear, Seal and Plush Sacques, Carpets and Feather Beds From L. POSNER 21 Lackawanna Ave.

Mohawk Polish. Preserves the New and Restores the Old. ALL HAND-MADE FINISH.

First-Class Sleeping and Dining Cars attached to the through trains. Seats fully fitted with bedding, curtains and specially adapted to wants of families. Minneapolis, St. Paul, Canadian and United States Northwest, Vancouver, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Ore., San Francisco.

WOLF & WENZEL, 531 Linden, Opp. Court House, PRACTICAL TINNERS and PLUMBERS. Sole Agents for Richardson-Buyton's Furnaces and Ranges.

FOR SALE BY PROTHORPE & CO., HILL & CORNHILL AND A. E. STRONG.