Che Home Reading Circle



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This story is told by Madeline Rennick, an English governess in the family of Dr. Chance, at St. Petersburg, Russia, Chance is an Englishman by birth, but for many years a naturalized Russian. He has long since given up the practice of medicine, to bury himself in scientific research in his laboratories. One of thes workshoops is known as the line Laboratory. A pe-culiarity of the room is a low glass dome rising from a corner of the floor. Dr. Chance's daughters tell the governess that once they sneaked into the Blue Laboratory and heard cries for help coming from the glass donre. Miss Rennick determines to investigate. She is the only one of the household who ras an opportunity of so doing, as, through her knowledge and love of science, she has become of great assistance to the doctor in his research, and freuently is occupied in the laboratories. She discovers that there is a man chalmed and imprisoned in a dungeon beneath the glass dome. One day the doctor tells her that he is to leave St. Petersburg that night, to be gone several days. This is her chance. She writes the English consul, stating the facts of the case, and asking him to be at the garden gate at to clock, when he will be admitted. Before the hour the governess takes revolver and enters the laboratory. She finds a trap-door in the floor, and, raising it, she de-scends a flight of steps. At the bottom, chained and bound, lies the emaclated form of a man, too weak to stand or talk. Just then the girl feels a hand on her shoulder, Locking around she sees Dr. Chance standing beside her.

PART V.

"Miss Rennick," he said, "when I began my journey the thought came over me that it was cruel to disappoint you I had faithfully promised to impart one of my gravest, my very gravest secrets to you tonight. After all, a gentleman's word to a lady ought to come before every other consideration; I have therefore postponed my journey My servant told me that I should find you in the Blue Laboratory. I came straight here. The moment I entered

the room I saw that the trap-door was raised, the faint light beneath guided my footstaps. I have found you, I am now prepared to tell you my secret." I did not reply, but my heart beat

loud and hard in great heavy thumps which must surely have been heard; the man was a monster, his very civility was laden with omen. You are doubtless overpowered by

my polite consideration for you," he -I tried to say something, but not a word would escape me. You are anxious to know how I

am prepared to enlighten you. Stand here, will you?" He came forward and pushed me into from my lips.

stood I could see both the victim, and the devil in human shape who had tor-'By means of that man who lies on

the floor at your feet," continued Dr. Chance,"I have photographed Thought. He was once my secretary; I quickly perceived that his character was feeble. I used mesmerism to get him into my power. By slow degrees he became my servant, I his master. By still slower, but also sure degrees he became my slave, and I his tyrant. He is now absolutely subjective to my will, and consequently of immense use to me, means of that bodily frame of his, I have been able to peer deeper into nature than any other man of my day. Yes, Miss Rennick, I am the greatest scientist at present in existence. What are the tortures of one man in comparison with so stupendous a result? Now listen. I always knew that you were inspired with the vein of curiosity to a marked degree-you are a clever girl and might have done well, but as you sow, you must reap. When I left you for a short time yesterday in the Blue Laboratory, I did so without suspicion, but the moment I returned I guessed that you had discovered something. Your face was full of wonder, despair, incredulity, horror, I then carefully laid a trap for you. It would never do for you to know my secrets. and then to go abroad and possibly divulge them. I took you into the Blue Laboratory again in the evening. I desired my servant to announce Dr. Schopenhauer, he never really came at all. I left the room and from the passage watched you. I heard you cry out to that man, I saw you take an impression of the key. I determined that you should have your way. All during toflay I kept you by my side on purpose for I did not really require your sevvices. I went away to more completely blind you, I came back when I thought I had given you sumcient time to enter the laboratory. All has happened I expected, never for a single moment did you really deceive me Now listen. I will keep my word, will tell you my secret.

"It is a known scientific fact that in physiology that in the dark the retha of some animals displays a pigment sailed the 'visual purple.' stance, a frog is killed in the dark, and the eye after death is exposed to an sbject in the light, the image of the bject becomes stamped on the retina, ind can be fixed there by a solution of alum. Proceeding upon this basis, have further discovered that by fixng my own gaze for a lengthened time m an object, and then going into a lark room and gazig at an exposed shotographic plate, the object I have seen looking at appears on the negttive when developed. Do you fol-

I nodded, my tongue was dry, cleavng to the roof of my mouth, not a word could I utter.

I doubt if you will understand me urther," continued Dr. Chance, ' 'but will try to make the matter as plain o you as I can. I have conceived on sound scientific basis that even Phought itself may thus be photographed.

This is what really taker Subjective impressions cause molecular changes in the cells of the brain; why, then, may hese not also be capable of decomjosing this 'visual purple,' and then fiving a distinct impression on a negitive when exposed sufficiently long to him. and discovered that such is the case.

becomes terribly vivid. No more fascinating problem has ever absorbed a scientist than this. Behold my victim! Ought he not to congratulate himself on suffering in so grand a cause? Night after night I fasten back his eyelids with specula, and as he sleeps his eyes are wide open, staring straight at an exposed plate for many hours in the dark. This plate is destined to receive the impressions made by his dreams. Night after my feet. What could this mean? Dr. night I make different experiments; Chance was looking at me from outthese can be easily done by giving my

victim certain drugs, such as cocaine, Indian hemp, opium and others. It is

well known that the action of these

drugs causes vivid and extraordinary

tions which can never by any possibil-ity be realized. How shall we em-ploy ourselves during the remaining You have now but four minutes to live. I should recommend you during the very short time which still remains to prepare your soul to meet your Maker. What! You will Going Out of Office

"My Maker will take care of my soul," I replied. "I am giving up my life in the cause of the oppressed. I have no fear of death. You can do your worst."

"You really are a most interesting character. It is a sad pity that you cannot devote your life to the science you would so vastly help. Give me your hand. I should like to walk round this dungeon with you," He stretched out his hand and took mine. did not refuse to walk with him. He took me from end to end of the dis mal place. The little clock sounded nine strokes in a silvery voice

"Your time is up," said Dr. Chance, come." He turned away a second. then walked quickly, still holding my hand, across the room. What was he going to do?, Oh, why was not the consul punctual? I strained my ears to listen for a sound, but none came I was standing exactly under the dome in the glass roof. I had just put out my foot to ascend the stairs when a sudden noise startled me. Before I could move, a huge bell-shaped glass with great swiftness had descended completely around me, and sank into a circular groove on the stone flags at Chance was looking at me from outside the wall of glass. He was grinning with a fiendish expression of tri-umph. I shouted to him, he took not the slightest notice, he turned round and pressed a lever beside the wall This is my secret. During There was a sudden loud thumping as the day time I am merciful. I feed of a piston working to and fro, and



continued; he never once glanced at my patient well, he is not likely to die, a valve at my feet opened and shut his victim. I tried to moisten my lips although there is a possibility that he may reach madness owing to the sufferings which I cause his nervous system. Now, would you like to see some photograph Thought," he continued, "I of the developed photographs?"

beseech of you not to say another

word. You are a devil in human shape. I will not listen to any more." Dr. Chance came close to me "Women are hyper-sensitive," he said, in a low tone, "Remember you

wished to know. Remeber I warned you that the secret was fraught with terror, with horror to many. I had hoped that you would rise above this horror, but I see that you are distinctly human. "I am and I rejoice in the fact," I re-

plied. A small clock standing on a bench by my side showed me that it wanted seven minutes to nine. Would the English consul come to my rescue? All now depended on him. Dr. Chance noticed the direction in which my eyes were traveling.

"You are tired of this room," he said, "little wonder. Remember you forced you way in against my will. Now listen to me. You know my secret. I have taken a pleasure in enlightening you. I could experiment on you. You are strongly imaginative, and would make a good victim."

"No, kill me rather," I cried, falling

on my knees. "That is what I propose to do," said Dr. Chance, in a slow, calm voice. "It would interfere vastly with my experiments were you to proclaim my secret to anybody else. Women, even the best women, are not to be trusted with such an important matter. I have no intention of having the grand dream of my life destroyed by the caprice of a thing more. It may have been a fortgirl. I propose, therefore, having imparted to you my secret, to seal it for ever on your lips by death. In five minutes you will die."

"Five minutes?" I answered. His very words braced me. In five minutes it would be 9 o'clock.

"In the meantime," continued the doctor, 'I's there anything I can do for

I thought. Awful as my predicament was, I yet was able to think. If only I could gain time! I looked at the victim on the floor. His eyes



POINTING IT UPWARD I PRESSED THE TRIGGER.

were shining dimly, they were full of He tried to speak. tears. saw him writhe and struggle in his

"Never mind," I said, bending over the when exposed sufficiently long to him. "Remember while there is life larities. Backache Bad Complexion, and discovered that such is the cost of th in dreams, especially, this impression Chance, "It is unkind to raise sensa- ave, Sorantes" and August 18 Lackawanna try.

rapidly with a hissing sound. The truth flashed across me in a moment, I was under the receiver of an enormous exhaust pump which had fitted into the dome above my heads. Dr. manently available to the public inter-I shuddered and covered my face Chance had told me that the dome was ests. This feeling may have been in-

for mercy, but the piston thumped on and on quicker and quicker. Frantic with terror I dashed madly against the glasa and tried with all my puny strength to burst it. It was very thick and defied all my efforts. My eyes seemed to start from my head; my whole body seemed to be swelling; during my struggles I could catch sight of the flendish face of my master peering at me. What providential inspiration came to my aid at last I know not, but I drew my revolver from my pocket, and pointing it upward pressed the trigger. There was a terrific erash of falling glass, a sudden in-

rush of air, and I remembered no more. When I came to, a strange face was ending over me and a kind hand was wiping something from my face, which doubtless was bleeding from the glass which had fallen upon it. I promptly guessed that the consul had arrived. after all, and that I was saved, ... I opened my eyes and caught sight of the face and figure of Dr. Chance, Handcuffs encircled his wrists; a man in the dress of the police officers of St. Petersburg was standing close to him. A tall, shadowy figure, doubtless that of the victim whom I had come torres-

cue, was supported by two other men "Don't speak. Rest quiet, all your sufferings are over," said the kind voice which I afterwards knew to be that of the British consul. Then I passed into deep oblivion and it was fry. He died in the peaceful retreat to many days before I remembered anynight later when I came to myself in son passed away on the same day in a pleasant bedroom in the consul's house. His wife was bending over me

She told me in a few words what had occurred. The victim of Dr. Chance's cruelty had been sent to the hospital and was rapidly getting better. Dr. Chance himself was imprisoned and would doubtless be sent to Siberia for his crimes. The whole place was talking of what I had done, of the horror which had been discovered in the Blue

Laboratory. "Your letter came just in time." said Mrs. Seymour, the consul's wife. "My husband acted on it immediately. He went to see the ambassador, who gave him a note to the prefect of police. But times strained to accommodate as many how did it come into your head to act so promptly, so bravely?" Tears filled my eyes, I was too weak

I am now back again in England. I have not seen Oiga and Maroussa again; I wonder what will become of them, what their future history will this sum sufficed barely to pay his be. For myself I can never return to St. Petersburg. To my dying day I shall remember that awful time with

THE END.

terror.

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PRESIDENTS AFTER THEIR RETIREMENT

Going Out of Office.

EX-HEADS OF THE NATION

Some Play at Politics, an Active Business Life for Several, Well-Earned Rest for Others, and Poverty for a Few -- The Examples of General Harrison and Mr. Cleveland Have Had Many Imitators.

From the New York Times,

As Mr. Cleveland was about to leave the white house in 1889, he was asked by a friend regarding his plans for the future. He replied that he was going to practice law, just as he would have done if he had not been president. "I think," he said, "the most appropriate thing a man can do after he has reprivate business again, unless, of ourse, he is too old."

It is well remembered how industriously Grover Cleveland, the lawyer, held to his purpose, and with what inostentatious dignity he pursued his vocation in New York, as he had done ears before in Buffalo, in the practice of his profession. His mental activities and his natural energy impelled him to work as a plain citizen.

But now, after the turmoll of a sec nd eventful administration, Mr. Cieveland appears to have less incentive to engage in active professional toil than he had eight years ago. Doubtless he does not consider himself too old to take up his private business again. But the necessity for it is surely absent. Mr. Cleveland has passed through a long and laborious career of responsibility. Therefore, in retiring to Princeton, he is but satisfying that worthy ambition which every man feels, to enjoy a well-earned rest. Ample wealth makes it possible for him to indulge in the recreations and light employments of dignified leisure, and, like Washington at Mount Vernon, Cleveland seems to have sought out ideal retirement in which to pass the remaining years of his life,

GENERAL HARRISON.

Benjamin Harrison followed Mr. Cleveland's example four years ago, by returning to his home in Indianapolis and entering once more upon the duties of his profession. He left the White House under the shadow of domestic misfortune, but neither that nor the fact that he was a retiring president made any difference with his resolute determination to engage in useful pursuits. Since leaving Washington he has been particularly active as a lecturer, as an advocate and as a political

An opinion has prevailed at times that it was not consistent with the dignity of the nation that an ex-presishould engage in professional work or should be active as a politician. Consequently, it has been suggested that these high officials should either be pensioned by the government so as to permit them to retire without financial embarrassment or that they should be made honorary members of the senate, in order that their experience and wisdom might be made per-

term, as he had declined to wear the crown, and he told his countrymen that it would be wise to limit the presidential term by custom, if not by constitutional provision.

But the "Father of his Country" had

grown weary of carrying the burdens republic, and to take such a part in the political movements around him as oc-

JOHN ADAMS.

John Adams was 66 years old when, as the representative of the Federalist party, he was defeated by Thomas Jefferson in the electoral college. He retired from the presidency under a loud, and lived for a quarter of a century afterward to see his political opponents discredited by the people, when his son was elevated to the presidential office. On the same day that his successor was inaugurated, Mr. Adams left Washington for his home in Quincy, Mass. He entered his library and practically lived in it to the day of his death. Surrounded by his books and papers, he took the keenest interest in public affairs, and through a voluminous correspondence with statesmen in Washington and elsewhere the elder Adams, as he was called, continued for many years to have a large influence upon the political destinies of the counwhich he retired July 4, 1826, and, by a singular coincidence, Thomas Jefferhis home at Monticello.

At the close of his second presidential term, Thomas Jefferson, like Washington, declined election for the third time, and withdrew from public life to his estate in Virginia. Though he had been associated with the government from its beginning, and had been twice president, Jefferson was a poor man, and was burdened by financial difficulties, from which he seemed unable to extricate himself. Of course, his embarrassing position was aggravated, if not caused, by spendthrift habits, for he kept open house at Monticello, the hospitalities of the mansion being at as fifty guests. He supervised the plantation and made it as profitable as possible, but his embarrassments finally became known, and he was compelled to go through the humiliating experience of making an appeal to congress to buy his library. The response was a generous one, Jefferson receiving \$28,000 for his library treasures. But debts, and in a brief time he was again in the tolls of poverty.

MADISON AND MONROE.

But during the years of his retirement, Mr. Jefferson founded the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, and thus gave impetus and direction to higher education in his native state. He also wrote an autobiography and edited his speeches and papers, at the same time, following the example of his predecessor by keeping up an extensive correspondence with public men in all parts of the Union.

James Madison also went to his Virginia estate after retiring from the heard or afterward, living in complete seclusion.

Mr. Monroe, fifth president of the United States, like Jefferson, saved no money while in the service of his coun-His administration is known in history as the "era of good feeling,"

and up to that time the infant repub- years before his death, in 1868, Buchanlic had never been so prosperous. But, as his term of office came to a close, James Monroe discovered that he would be forced to exert himself to keep the heaped upon him.
wolf from the door. Accordingly, he Andrew Johnson also retired from the wolf from the door. Accordingly, he repaired to New York, and there engaged in the practice of law, being the first of the presidents "to take up his private business again" as a means of earning a livelihood. He did not meet with great success, however, and his later he was elected United States sena-family keenly felt the pinchings of tor, being the second of the ex-presipoverty. By another strange coinidence, the author of the Monroe doctrine breathed his last on Independ-

ence Day, in 1831,

But the post-presidential career of John Quincy Adams is the most re-markable and unique of all. When he left the White House, after the expiration of his term of office, it was his intention to follow the example of his father, and retire to his aucestral home, to devote the remainder of his life to study and literary pursuits. But the people of Massachusetts would not consent to the arrangement. They needed a man of wisdom, experience and integrity to represent them in congress, and so Mr. Adams was sent back to Washington, to begin a new official tired from public office is to take up his experience in the house of representatives. He became at once the leader of his party, and really added to his fame by untiring devotion to duty. His fight for the right of position was one had he never served in a higher position than representative from Massachusetts.

After a legislative experience of twenty years in congress, he was observed one day in his seat, overcome by illness. He had been smitten by apoplexy and expired in half an hour, having rounded out an intensely active and useful public career.

ANDREW JACKSON.

After two terms of unexampled exitement and party strife Andrew Jackson retired from the presidency, broken in health and weary with the conflict. He had been industrious in office, and had impressed a strong personality upon his country's history, as few of its chief executives have done. The first official act of his successor was to direct the surgeon-general of the army to attend Mr. Jackson to his home in Nashville. After a tiresome journey by way of Pittsburg, the Tennessee statesman was conducted to the Hermitage, where he partially recovered health and strength. From there he exerted considerable influence upon the political destinies of his country. He entertained with lavish hand, and his Tennessee home became a shrine for the pilgrimages of Jacksonian Democrats from every part of the country. Until his death, in 1845, this pictur esque and unique specimen of American political life continued to be the prophet and law-giver of his party.

Van Buren was still in the vigor of manhood when his administration came to an end in 1841. With the exception of Washington, he was up to that time the wealthiest of the retiring presidents, and the leisure which was forced upon him gave ample time for cultivating the art of politics. He was, perhaps, both before and after his presidency, the most subtle and crafty political leader the Democratic party ever had. Therefore, immediately after withdrawing from public life he set resolutely to work to secure a renomination in 1844, 'He almost succeeded and would have done so but for the with my hands. A short scream burst from my lips.

"Nothing more," I cried, "I pray and beseech of you not to say another.

"I shaddered and covered my lace to say another for causing a vacuum. In a vacuum I knew no one could live. I gasped for breath ad screamed to him he retired from the presidency. He refused to become a candidate for a third game of politics. He accepted the nomination of the Free Soil party in 1848. and had the satisfaction of seeing the Democrats hopelessly snowed under

in the defeat of Lewis Cass. His failure to then become president dampened his ambition, for he realized that he was getting too old to wait for another chance to be elected, or to endure its trying duties if chosen. The failure of the Free Soil movement ended Van Buren's political career, and he spent the remaining years of his life at Kinderhook on the Hudson in an apparently happy and serene old age, living until the country had been plunged into the throes of civil war.

TYLER AND FILMORE.

Ex-President Tyler went to Richmond after his term of office, and was known as a progressive and public-spirited citizen, taking great interest in local as well as national affairs. In the stormy days of the secession movement Mr. Tyler sided with the people of Virginia, and accepted office under the Confederate government.

Millard Fillmore returned to his home in Buffalo and engaged in polit-Ical activity for some years afterward He received the honor of a nomination to the presidency by the American party in 1856; but was unsuccessful at the polls. Political sentiment was fast crystallizing for the final struggle on the slavery question, and there seemed to be no longer room for theorists of figureheads in national affairs.

Franklin Pierce was much embittered by the party strifes of his tumultuous administration. Humiliated by his failure to obtain the renomination of his party, he went to Europe and sought forgetfulness in recreation and travel. He finally returned to his home in Concord, N. H., and took up the thankless role of a southern sympathizer during the war. He lived to see his party disintegrated, slavery abolished and nearall the principles repudiated for

which he had struggled. He died a wiser, if a sadder, man, in April, 1869. James Buchanan left the stormy cenes in Washington in 1861, almost with a broken heart. No other president has retired from office so utterly repudiated and detested by a great part of the people. Withdrawing to his home in Pennsylvania, he lived in seclusion, watching with keenest interest the terrible drama enacted between the warring sections of his country. A few

CUBA SOAP, a single application of CUTICUBL

an wrote a defense of his administra-tion, which seemed to remove in a manner the stigma which partisan hate had

presidential office under a cloud. By nature, however, he was not a morbidly sensitive man, and his life in Knoxville among his friends was simple unaffected and dignified. A few years dents to undertake the duties of that position.

GENERAL GRANT.

After eight years in the white house, General Grant took up a life of leisure. His journey around the world was probably the greatest ovation ever paid to any man in ancient or modern times, Grant was essentially indolent. Not that he did not labor when occasion re quired, and often with an energy ur known to other men, but he preferred leisure, and as ex-president, he gratifled that bent of his nature to the fullest extent. It has always been a grief to his countrymen that the last years of his life were overshadowed by poverty brought on by the treachery of trusted friends, for otherwise his re-tirement from public affairs would have been ideal in every respect.

Half an hour after listening to Garfield's inaugural address, ex-President Hayes left Washington and repaired to of the greatest parliamentary battles his home in Fremont, Ohio. There he ever waged in Washington, and the lived the quiet life of a country genreputation of John Quincy Adams tleman, being content to engage in would have been surpassingly great agricultural pursuits and in the study of charitable problems. He courted seclusion and passed his days in that most unostentatious retirement which perfectly befitted his tastes.

General Arthur had ambitious dreams of business combinations and the accumulation of wealth before leaving his public duties, but incurable disease had already fastened its hand upon him, and he died a few months later,

compartively a young man. This brief review of the after career, of American presidents suggests that their retirement to private life is the most natural and withal the most rational arrangement. The majority have had ample means for lives of comfort and repose. A pension for some would have been superfluous, and the retention of others in the senate or in any public capacity would have been em barrassing and dangerous to subsequent administration.

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