

# JUDGMENT OF THE DEAD

By Koloman Mikszath.

Late in the evening an old Jew, clad in rags, knocked at Nathan Weiss' door.

"I am sick and weary," groaned the broken old man. "They told me you were a Jew. Good, kind gentleman, have you no place where I can stay and rest awhile?" He could scarcely speak. His limbs shook, his face was livid, and his eyes rolled horribly.

"Go into the stable, my good man," said Nathan, "and rest there as long as you please. The horses will warm you." So the old man went to the stable, and there he sank into a sleep so profound that they could not wake him in the morning. There were no tears at his death; but, on the other hand, there was no rejoicing, such as often occurs when tears flow most freely. By dying so abruptly he caused some inconvenience, both to Nathan Weiss, in whose stable he had drawn his last breath, and to the Jewish congregation, whose pious duty it was to give him proper burial. Before he could be buried many preliminary formalities had to be observed, for a dead Jew is a person of importance. No matter how poor, wretched and despised he may have been while living, he must be washed from head to foot, combed and brushed and clad in new garments, so that he may make a respectable appearance at his own funeral. Now, out of the ceremony of washing grew the singular story I have to tell.

Nobody knew the dead man's name nor whence he came nor whether he was going. But when the washing began one of his fingers was found to be bandaged as if it had been wounded. The bandage was removed, and under it was found a tightly folded strip of paper which bore these words in Hebrew: "I am dead. In my pocket are 500 guilders." It was very evident that he was dead, but the 500 guilders were not so apparent. Every pocket was searched, but never a note or a coin came to light. The elders held a meeting over the body, and vehement suspicions of Nathan Weiss were freely expressed. They went to him and asked:

"Where are the 500 guilders?" But Nathan swore by heaven and earth that he had laid neither hands nor eyes on the money. The elders proceeded with their pious duties and laid out the corpse decently and covered it with a black pall. Then they put their heads together again and debated what should be done. It would be a fine thing if they could find the money, for it would pay for the funeral and leave a neat little sum for the congregation besides.

Should they take the matter into court? To what purpose? If Nathan chose to lie out of it, they could do nothing.

"What have we to do with courts?" said Simon Schwarz. "Let us decide the matter ourselves with wisdom and cunning, like King Solomon."

They all agreed not to go to court, for they knew that all the terrors of the law would not wring the secret from the breast of any of their number who might chance to share it and that Nathan, if he were really guilty, would not be fool enough to confess. They therefore begged old Simon Schwarz, the wisest among them, to act as judge, with plenary power to use any means of getting at the truth that he might deem expedient. Simon thought over it all day, and in the evening he went to Nathan and said:

"Hear, Nathan, you must go, with two witnesses, to the death chamber, take the dead man's hand in yours and say, 'On my honor and conscience I solemnly swear that I have not stolen your 500 guilders.'"

All the elders assented to this arrangement, although the earmarks of its superlative wisdom were not clearly apparent. Nathan himself was especially pleased with the verdict, for he thought it gave him an opportunity to clear himself of all suspicion. At the appointed hour—midnight—Nathan and the witnesses entered the death chamber. The black pall covered the face and form of the old man, all but one yellow, wrinkled hand, which hung down at the side of the bier. Two flickering candles threw an uncanny light over the scene. Nathan approached the bier and grasped the pendent hand. How cold it was! He shuddered and shivered, but retained the hand in his while his trembling voice uttered the words:

"Good old man, on my honor and conscience I solemnly swear that I have not stolen your 500 guilders."

The next instant Nathan uttered a frightful shriek. The dead man's hand had contracted and held his fast in a grip of steel!

"Pardon! Pity!" he murmured. "Have mercy, Jehovah! I did steal the money, but I will restore it. Not a guilder shall be lacking. It is hidden under the baka trough!"

"Aha, you scoundrel!" cried the dead man (impersonated by Simon Schwarz), casting off the pall and springing to his feet.

"So I got the truth out of you, did I? Ah! You thought me like the other judge, whom one can fool with lies."

And the elders bowed their heads to his superior wisdom and cried with one voice that his like had not been seen since Solomon's day.—Translated from the Hungarian for New York Commercial Advertiser.

**Reasonable Prescription.**  
Mrs. Bixby—Are you sure it was my husband who ordered these groceries? Grocer's Boy (cheerfully)—No, ma'am, I ain't sure, but I s'pose you got the stiffkit to show for it. Quit yer kiddin.—Minneapolis Sun.

## PEOPLE OF THE DAY.

While nothing is positively known as to the changes that will take place in the president's cabinet after the 4th of March, it is now pretty generally believed that Attorney General Griggs will retire because of the pressure of private affairs. While there is no reliable information concerning Mr. Griggs' probable successor, among the knowing ones the name of Wayne MacVeagh is mentioned. Mr. MacVeagh is a native of Pennsylvania and is 67 years of age. He is a graduate of



WAYNE MACVEAGH.

Yale. He was minister to Turkey during President Grant's first term. President Garfield made him attorney general, which position he resigned, with other members of the cabinet, after the accession of President Arthur. He disagreed with President Harrison on matters of civil service reform and gave his support to Cleveland in 1888. He has since returned to the Republican fold. Mr. MacVeagh was for several years chairman of the Civil Service Reform Association of Philadelphia.

### Tolstol's Unpretentious Ways.

At table Tolstol sits between his wife and his eldest daughter, Tatjana, who helps him greatly with his work. He and his two eldest daughters are confirmed vegetarians, says a writer in M. A. P., much to the annoyance of the countess, who cannot be convinced that his mode of living is healthful. While the other members of the family and the guests, who are never lacking at this midnight meal, eat the usual food, the count and his two daughters regale themselves with soup and various vegetables. After dinner Tolstol often pays visits. The sheepskin coat, belted around the middle and reaching to the knees, and the cap, pulled down over his ears, give him on such occasions quite the appearance of a peasant.

During the evening Tolstol likes to read to his friends passages from new books or journals and to engage in lively discussions. It is an attractive trait in him that during a discussion he pays as much attention to a young student as to a gray haired university professor. Quibbling is abhorrent to him, and he asks only candor and honesty. Open as his house is to his guests, Tolstol dislikes to show himself in public places. He seldom goes to the theater and always selects a secluded seat. He is an excellent musical critic and also a good amateur musician. Improvised concerts are frequently held at his house, and, if necessary, he seats himself at the piano and plays accompaniments.

### The Czar's Illness.

The long and serious illness of the czar of Russia kept several governments and many individuals on anxious seats. While it was known who would succeed him in the event of his death and there was little doubt that his policy would be closely followed by



NICHOLAS II, CZAR OF RUSSIA.

his successor, there is always more or less uneasiness over the possible international effects of a European ruler's death. During the whole period of his illness the czar was attended by his young wife, who was almost exhausted by her vigil. The zarina refused to surrender her place at the bedside of her sick husband to a trained nurse.

**Italy's Energetic Young King.**  
The character of the young king of Italy is as yet a closed book. He has plenty of energy and even some good share of physical strength under the appearance of extreme feebleness. We have seen him driving his team of English horses down the slopes of Posillipo in a way no weakling could have done. He was commanding the garrison of Naples at that time. Afterward he was appointed to the charge of a division at Florence. He was at Florence when the news of the terrible disaster of Adowa reached Italy. He deemed that all the African disasters were due to Signor Crispi, then minister, and off he rushed to Rome to say his say to the king. King Humbert sternly ordered his son under arrest for 24 hours for leaving his post without permission, but at the same time he dismissed the minister.

## FOR THE FARMER

One of the newer American forage crops is alfalfa, writes L. A. Clinton in The Rural New Yorker. As this plant is receiving considerable attention from the agricultural press, some facts concerning its cultivation and habits should be known. Farmers should not be misled concerning the statements regarding the value of the plant. It will succeed in one place and in one soil, while upon an adjacent farm it may prove an entire failure. It seems especially adapted to the arid or semi-arid regions of the west, where the soil has great depth, but it has no place where the hardpan or the rock comes near to the surface.

In certain sections of New York state it grows almost to perfection, and where this is found to be the case the plants should be grown as an adjunct to the pastures and other forage crops of the farm. It grows best upon a loam or a sandy loam soil, but if care is taken in the preparation of the seed bed it may be made to thrive on a clay or a clay loam. In our northern climate spring seeding is preferable. In the south fall seeding seems to give better results. A prime requisite for success is thorough preparation of the seed bed. Should the soil upon which it is to be grown be a clay or a clay loam fall plowing should be practiced. Leave harrowing until spring and then when the soil has become sufficiently dry prepare the seed bed as thoroughly as it would be prepared for a garden.

About 20 pounds of seed are sufficient for an acre. If sown broadcast, it should be lightly covered with soil, and a weeder is an implement which will admirably serve in covering the seed. Many become discouraged because at first the weeds grow much faster than the alfalfa. This is nearly always the case during the first season. Before the weeds go to seed they should be cut with the mowing machine. If the growth be not too heavy, they will not injure the alfalfa if allowed to fall down and act as a mulch, but if too rank they will smother the alfalfa and should be removed. Alfalfa never shows at its best during the first season. It must have time to send its roots deeply into the soil, and when once well established it will hold its own against weeds and droughts. We do not recommend all farmers of the country to go to growing alfalfa. Where it will grow well it has its place on the farm, but a small area should be devoted to it at first, and if it is found to succeed the area may be increased. It should not be depended upon as the main source of supply for summer soiling, but it will serve admirably as an adjunct to pastures. It can be cut from three to five times during the summer and furnishes a large amount of material rich in protein. On farms where alfalfa has not been given a trial it should be, and where it has failed it should be given another trial. Each farmer must prove for himself the capabilities of his soil and the plants which will prosper upon it.

### Range Flocks.

Unless immediate action in some way is taken, it seems that very soon the ability of the western rangers to maintain the present stock of sheep, to say nothing of any increase, will be overtaxed, says The Sheep Breeder. Complaints of the insufficiency of feeding are becoming loud and frequent already. The cause of it is not very well understood. The range is overtaxed. The flocks eat the grass before it has a chance to seed, and the roots die out. There is no escape for the early barrenness of the range unless something is done. It is not the evildoer cattlemen who are telling this story of the disappearance of grazing. The flock owners are themselves complaining and admit the disagreeable facts. If something is not done, we shall be in the predicament of the Australian pastoralists, who are losing millions of sheep on account of the failure of the ranges every year and have been for several years past. A gleam of light breaks through the dark cloud, however, and along the streak appears the fact that alfalfa is the panacea for the approaching disaster. This plant must be grown for pasture, and irrigation by artesian wells must be employed to grow it.

### Beef or Butter.

The Minnesota experiment station tested the cost of food for producing beef and butter and found that four steers made a daily gain of 2.52 pounds, and on food worth \$8.51 they gained 425 pounds, a cost of about 2 cents a pound. Four cows fed on the same amount and kind of food used \$11.84 worth in the same time and produced 255.43 pounds of butter fat, equal to 298 pounds of butter, at a cost of about \$3.97 per hundred pounds. It took of dry matter in the food 8.2 pounds to make a pound of gain on the steer and 16.28 pounds to make a pound of butter. If food were all that had to be taken into consideration, butter would be most profitable at present rates, but more care is necessary in selecting cows of a dairy type than steers for feeding. Better buildings and more utensils are required for butter making than for fattening cattle, and much more labor is required in making butter. But, again, this is in part offset by the value of the skim-milk and buttermilk for feeding to calves, pigs or poultry, which might amount to nearly as much meat as was produced of butter.

The most soothing, healing and anti-septic application ever devised is DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. It relieves at once and cures piles, sores, eczema and skin diseases. Beware of imitations. Grover's City Drug store.

## FACTS IN A FEW LINES.

Central New York is practically a dairy country.

Bootblacks may not do business in Boston on Sunday.

One man in California has two square miles planted with almond trees.

The average annual price of an apartment with seven rooms is \$500 in Berlin, \$400 in Hamburg and \$380 in Leipzig.

Dresden is to have in 1903 a "city exhibition" at which all German towns of over 25,000 inhabitants are to be represented.

Professor Emil Yung of Geneva has counted the ants in five nests. Their numbers were 53,018, 67,470, 12,933, 93,694, 47,828.

There is room for 54,000 persons in St. Peter's church, Rome; for 37,000 in the Milan cathedral and for 25,000 in St. Paul's, London.

The definition of "to loot" is very simple. It is "to carry off as plunder." In other words, it is stealing on a somewhat extensive scale.

Slips of tarred pasteboard are used for shingling roofs in Japan. They are said to be as satisfactory as wooden shingles and are much cheaper.

According to the views of a British sea captain who was in the gulf of Mexico during the Galveston tempest, the disturbance was partly volcanic.

### Oysters in Ice Dishes.

Not only oysters, but fruits, are sometimes served in receptacles made from ice. It is possible to freeze in saucer form the oyster or clam course, and some caterers have achieved fruit baskets and even excellent imitations of aperogues and compots. These effects are to be noted as novelties rather than commendable. Still in the best taste is the oyster or clam in its shell, piled on a mound of nicely shaved ice, packed in its turn on a silver plate. Fruit, too, arranged in a spherule or crystal dish is properly and effectively presented, and the needed chilling can be accomplished beforehand in the refrigerator. Occasionally, as a course at a supper party, the effect of serving oysters from a single solid block of ice set on a platter and surrounded with greenery is attractive; but, when all is said, bizarre effects and too much straining after novel and striking service are never in good taste.—New York Post.

### The Furnishing of a House.

You must have certain things as a basis—things that you cannot do without. They must be purchased at once and set in place, but they are the necessities which are found in every house and which are absolutely indispensable. That is the bread and butter part, and you may eat it as quickly as you please, but the part that can be done by degrees is the ornamenting of the rooms—the addition of a picture, a bit of bronze or marble, a few coveted books or an article of furniture which does not come directly under the head of "merely useful." There is an excitement in the very necessity of making a choice when there is only a stipulated sum of money to invest and there are so many ways in which you want to spend it.—Sallie Joy White in Woman's Home Companion.

### Press Almanac for 1901.

Presidential year and census-taking time offer unusual opportunities for an almanac and the advent of a new century accentuates them. Judged by the great possibilities before it the Philadelphia Press almanac for 1901, which is now ready, is valuable. The wealth of facts and fancies, of statistics and records contained in the Press almanac illumine current happens as no other book can. It is an encyclopedia of the past year and a guide to the future. It contains everything which a work of its standard should. For 25 cents it can be secured from any newsdealer or by addressing the Philadelphia Press.

This season there is a large death rate among children from croup and lung troubles. Prompt action will save the little ones from these terrible diseases. We know of nothing so certain to give instant relief as One Minute Cough Cure. It can also be relied upon in grippe and all throat and lung troubles of adults. Pleasant to take. Grover's City Drug store.

Dr. Joseph McDonald, of Jenkintown, was the guest of George McLaughlin, Esq., yesterday.

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## RAILROAD TIMETABLES

LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD. November 25, 1900.

ARRANGEMENT OF PASSENGER TRAINS.

LEAVE PHILADELPHIA.

6 12 a m for Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia and New York.  
7 40 a m for Sandy Run, White Haven, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Pottsville.  
8 18 a m for Hazleton, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Ashland, Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia and New York.  
9 30 a m for Hazleton, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Mt. Carmel, Shamokin and Pottsville.  
12 14 p m for Sandy Run, White Haven, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and all points West.  
1 20 p m for Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia and New York.  
4 42 p m for Hazleton, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Mt. Carmel, Shamokin and Pottsville, Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia and New York.  
6 34 p m for Sandy Run, White Haven, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and all points West.  
7 29 p m for Hazleton, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Mt. Carmel and Shamokin.  
ARRIVE AT PHILADELPHIA.  
7 40 a m from Weatherly, Pottsville, Ashland, Shenandoah, Mahanoy City and Hazleton.  
9 17 a m from Philadelphia, Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk, Weatherly, Hazleton, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Mt. Carmel and Shamokin.  
9 30 a m from Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and White Haven.  
12 14 p m from Pottsville, Shamokin, Mt. Carmel, Shenandoah, Mahanoy City and Hazleton.  
1 12 p m from New York, Philadelphia, Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk and Weatherly.  
4 42 p m from Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and White Haven.  
6 34 p m from New York, Philadelphia, Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk, Weatherly, Shamokin, Mt. Carmel, Shenandoah, Mahanoy City and Hazleton.  
7 29 p m from Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and White Haven.

For further information inquire of Ticket Agents.

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THE DELAWARE, SUSQUEHANNA AND SCHUYLKILL RAILROAD.

Time table in effect April 18, 1897.

Trains leave Drifton for Jeddo, Eckley, Hazen Brook, Stockton, Beaver Meadow Road, Hazen and Hazleton Junction at 5:30, 9:00 a. m., daily except Sunday; and 7:05 a. m., 2:35 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Drifton for Harwood, Cranberry, Tomhicken and Deringer at 5:30, 9:00 a. m., daily except Sunday; and 7:05 a. m., 2:35 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Drifton for Oneida Junction, Harwood Road, Humboldt Road, Oneida and Shepton at 6:00 a. m., daily except Sunday; and 7:05 a. m., 2:35 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Drifter for Tomhicken, Cranberry, Hazen Brook, Hazleton Junction and Shepton at 5:30, 9:00 a. m., daily except Sunday; and 7:05 a. m., 2:35 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Shepton for Oneida, Humboldt Road, Harwood Road, Oneida Junction, Hazleton Junction and Harwood at 5:30, 9:00 a. m., daily except Sunday; and 7:05 a. m., 2:35 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Shepton for Beaver Meadow Road, Stockton, Hazen Brook, Eckley, Jeddo and Drifton at 5:30, 9:00 a. m., daily except Sunday; and 7:05 a. m., 2:35 p. m., Sunday.

All trains connect at Hazleton Junction with electric cars for Hazleton, Jeannetteville, Auderied and other points on the Traction Company's line.

Trains leaving Drifton at 5:30, 9:00 a. m. make connection at Drifter with P. R. R. trains for Wilkesbarre, Sunbury, Harrisburg and points west.

For the accommodation of passengers at way stations between Hazleton Junction and Drifter, a train will leave the former point at 3:00 p. m., daily, except Sunday, arriving at Drifter at 6:00 p. m.

LUTHER C. SMITH, Superintendent.