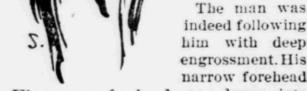


scrutinized the big body and its small, bullet-like head. "He is a large devil," commented Oscar.

"He is large, certainly," remarked Armitage. "Give him a chair. Now," he said to the man in deliberate German, "I shall say a few things to you which I am very anxious for you to understand. You are a Servian."



His narrow forehead was drawn into minute wrinkles; his small eyes seemed to recede into his head; his great body turned uneasily.

"I ask you again," repeated Armitage, "whether you follow me. There must be no mistake."

Oscar, anxious to take his own part in the conversation, prodded Zmai in the ribs with a pistol barrel, and the big fellow growled and nodded his head.

"There is a house in the outskirts of Vienna where you have been employed at times as gardener and another house in Geneva where you wait for orders. At this latter place it was my great pleasure to smash you in the head with a boiling pot on a certain evening in March."

The man scowled and ejaculated an oath with so much venom that Armitage laughed.

"Your conspirators are engaged upon a succession of murders, and when they have removed the last obstacle they will establish a new emperorking in Vienna, and you will receive a substantial reward for what you have done."

The blood suffused the man's dark face, and he half rose, a great roar of angry denial breaking from him. "That will do. You tried to kill me on the King Edward, you tried your knife on me again down there in Judge Claiborne's garden, and you came up here tonight with a plan to kill my man and then take your time to me. Give me the mail, Oscar."

He opened the letters which Oscar had brought and scanned several that bore a Paris postmark, and when he had pondered their contents a moment he laughed and jumped from the table. He brought a portfolio from his bedroom and sat down to write.

"Don't shoot the gentleman as long as he is quiet. You may even give him a glass of whisky to soothe his feelings." Armitage wrote:

Monsieur—Your assassin is a clumsy fellow, and you will do well to send him back to the blacksmith shop at Toplica. I learn that M. Durand, dressed by the delay in affairs in America, will soon join you—is even now aboard the Tacoma bound for New York. I am profoundly grateful for this, dear monsieur, as it gives me an opportunity to conclude our interesting business in republican territory without prejudice to any of the parties chiefly concerned.

You are a clever and daring rogue, yet at times you strike me as immensely dull, monsieur. Ponder this: Should it seem expedient for me to establish my identity—which I am sure interests you greatly—before Baron von Marhof and we will add, the American secretary of state, be quite sure that I shall not do so until I have taken precautions against your departure in any unseemly haste. I myself, dear friend, am not without a certain facility in setting traps.

Armitage threw down the pen and read what he had written with care. Then he wrote as signature the initials F. A., inclosed the note in an envelope and addressed it, pondered again, laughed and slapped his knee and went into his room, where he rummaged about until he found a small seal beautifully wrought in bronze and a bit of wax. Returning to the table, he lighted a candle and deftly sealed the letter. He held the red seal on the back of the envelope to the lamp and examined it with interest. The lines of the seal were deep cut, and the impression was perfectly distinct of F. A. in English script, linked together by the bar of the F.

"Oscar, what do you recommend that we do with the prisoner?" "He should be tied to a tree and shot, or perhaps it would be better to hang him to the rafters in the kitchen. Yet he is heavy and might pull down the roof."

"You are a bloodthirsty wretch, and there is no mercy in you. Private executions are not allowed in this country. You would have us before a Virginia grand jury and our own necks stretched. No; we shall send him back to his master."

"It is a mistake. If your excellency would go away for an hour he should never know where the buzzards found this large carcass."

"Tush! I would not trust his valuable life to you. Get up!" he commanded, and Oscar jerked Zmai to his feet. "You deserve nothing at my hands, but I need a discreet messenger, and you shall not die tonight, as my worthy

adjutant recommends. Tomorrow night, however, or the following night—or any other old night, as we say in America—if you show yourself in these hills my chief of staff shall have his way with you—buzzard meat!"

"The orders are understood," said Oscar, thrusting the revolver into the giant's ribs.

"Now, Zmai, blacksmith of Toplica and assassin at large, here is a letter for M. Chauvenet. It is still early. When you have delivered it bring me back the envelope with monsieur's receipt written right here under the seal. Do you understand?"

It has begun to dawn upon Zmai that his life was in immediate danger, and the light of intelligence kindled again in his strange little eyes. Lest he might not fully grasp the errand with which Armitage intrusted him Oscar repeated what Armitage had said in somewhat coarser terms.

Again through the moonlight strode the three—out of Armitage's land to the valley road and to the same point to which Shirley Claiborne had only a few days before been escorted by the mountaineer.

There they sent the Servian forward to the Springs, and Armitage went home, leaving Oscar to wait for the return of the receipt.

It was after midnight when Oscar placed it in Armitage's hands at the bungalow.

"Oscar, it would be a dreadful thing to kill a man," Armitage declared, holding the empty envelope to the light and reading the line scrawled beneath the unbroken wax. It was in French: "You are young to die, monsieur."

"A man more or less." And Oscar shrugged his shoulders. "You are not a good churchman. It is a grievous sin to do murder."

"One may repent. It is so written. The people of your house are Catholics also."

"That is quite true, though I may seem to forget it. Our work will be done soon, please God, and we shall ask the blessed sacrament somewhere in these hills."

Oscar crossed himself and fell to cleaning his rifle.

(Continued next Saturday)

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of P. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY. Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

A. W. GLEASON. (Seal.) Notary Public. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials free.

P. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for Constipation.

DR. D. M. BONEY, Eyesight Specialist, Ocala, Fla. Office hours: 8 to 12 a. m., and 1:30 to 4:30 p. m. Optical office and laboratory, rooms 2 and 4, Gary block.

ROOMS FOR RENT. The rooms in the third floor of the Star building, fitted for housekeeping are for rent. Apply to Mrs. E. Van Hood or the Star office.

TOM JOHNSON'S EXPERIMENT SEEMS TO BE A FAILURE. Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 14.—Mayor Tom Johnson's municipal street railway experiment terminated yesterday when the receivers took over the entire railway system of Cleveland.

Not "How Much?" but "how good" is the question that every one should ask in buying candy.

The old saying that "a man is judged by the candy he gives" holds good today same as always. Buy the best—don't take the "just as good" kind. Nothing quite equals

Knigler's famous Bon-Bons and Chocolates. They are in a distinctively exclusive class to themselves.

Orders receive prompt and careful attention. Just give us the name and address and Uncle Sam does the rest.

T. W. TROXLER 24 MAIN ST.

MANY IMPROVEMENTS WILL SOON BE MADE Southern, Seaboard and Other Big Railway Systems Preparing to Have Much Work Done

Washington, Nov. 14.—It is understood here that during the next few weeks some important announcements relative to railroad construction in the South will be announced.

The Southern Railway will probably lead in the amount of new work to be undertaken and in the amount of expenditure. This company, it is understood, plans to relay a considerable part of its roadbed and track, build new steel bridges, strengthen old structures and otherwise modernize the entire system wherever possible.

The Seaboard Air Line is now engaged in construction work which will require the expenditure of not less than \$1,500,000. The company is building modern docks and warehouses and deepening the channel at Tampa, Fla. When these improvements are completed the Seaboard will have the most extensive and convenient terminals of any railroad system in that part of the country.

The receivers are also spending a large sum of money at Jacksonville, Fernandina, Savannah and other points on the system.

The Illinois Central and other lines reaching Birmingham will probably make heavy outlays of cash in that section before the end of the next year.

Besides construction work, which will require a big tonnage of rails and other classes of steel, the railroads will shortly require re-equipment, the purchase of which will call for the expenditure of many millions of dollars.

All of the big lines contemplating improvement will announce their plans within the next month.

A PAYING INVESTMENT Mr. John White, of 38 Highland Ave., Houlton, Maine, says: "Have been troubled with a cough every winter and spring. Last winter I tried many advertised remedies, but the cough continued until I bought a 50c. bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery; before that was half gone, the cough was all gone. This winter the same happy result has followed; a few doses once more banished the annual cough. I am now convinced that Dr. King's New Discovery is the best of all cough and lung remedies." Sold under guarantee at all drug stores, 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

CUBANS ARE HOLDING AN ELECTION TODAY Liberals and Conservatives Contending for Popular Supremacy—U. S. Troops Will Withdraw January 28th

Havana, Cuba, Nov. 14.—A general election for president, vice-president, representatives and senatorial electors is being held in Cuba today. It is believed that the balloting will pass off quietly and that there will be no serious trouble. Jose Miguel Gomez, the candidate of both the Miguellists and Zayista wings of the Liberal party, will probably be elected. The fusion of the Liberals has made that party distinctly more powerful than the conservative party, which is led by General Mario Menocal, for president. The latter represents what was formerly known as the Moderate party, which selected former President Palma. The terms of the president and vice president will expire May 20, 1913. The United States troops will withdraw on January 28, 1909, and with the inauguration of the new president, the protectorate of the United States will cease and Cuba will again become a republic in fact as well as in name.

The Liberal candidates for president and vice-president, General Gomez and Dr. Alfredo Zayas, were brought together on a single ticket by the demonstration that harmony was essential to a party victory. At the provincial and municipal elections last August, a large majority of the conservative candidates were successful, although the combined Liberal vote greatly exceeded that of the conservative candidates. This happened because the supporters of Gomez, to whom at that time the presidential nomination had been refused and the followers of Zayas, upon whom it had been conferred, were fighting among themselves. Since then the warring factions have made peace, Gomez was named for the presidency, with the understanding that Zayas is to have the nomination next time.

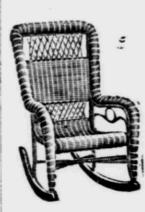
The Conservatives, composed for the most part of members of the old Moderate party, the organization by which the Palma administration was primarily supported, selected as their standard bearer M. Mario Menocal, a man of good standing and considerable ability, who made a record during the conflict with Spain which will be of assistance to him at the polls and who as a large majority holder has a stake in the community which commends him to the acceptance of the conservative inclined. He has a reputation for energy and courage and has given notice if elected to the presidency he will maintain order and suppress any attempt at insurrection with an iron hand, in which case he will present a strong contrast to his first and only predecessor. His associate on the ticket is Rafael Montoro, who enjoys the easy popularity of a somewhat shifty demagogue.

Supporters of Menocal declare that he is another Diaz and if elected he would rule Cuba in much the same manner as the famous president of the Mexicans rules his prosperous nation.

A HAIR'S BREADTH ESCAPE Do you know that every time you have a cough or cold and let it run on thinking it will just cure itself you are inviting pneumonia, consumption or some other pulmonary trouble? Don't risk it. Put your lungs back in perfect health and stop that cough with Ballard's Horehound Syrup. Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00 per bottle. Sold by Anti-Monopoly Druggists.

WANTED—Position to run an auto or in a machine shop. Practical machinist. Address Box 594, Ocala, Fla.

LEFT OVER SALE!



Our many customers will remember the great **Panic Struck Sale**

that we gave a few weeks since, and the rare bargains we gave them in first grade furniture and house furnishing articles. The sale left on our hands a number of articles that we wish to dispose of. We do not mean undesirable goods, but the very best of their kind. For instance, there will be an odd dresser, a wash stand, a bedstead, a mattress or spring, some rugs, chairs, tables, etc.; in fact a great many articles, in all or most of the different departments, of which there will be only one or two, and which, like any other house, we desire to close out. We will give

EXCEPTIONALLY LOW PRICES

on these goods. Lower even than they were offered at the recent sale. Now they will not last long at the prices we will offer them, and cannot be duplicated at anything approaching these figures, so come in at your earliest opportunity and look them over and make your selection. Remember, every article is first-class and

Fully Guaranteed

Just tell the salesmen or sales ladies that you saw our Left Over Sale Advertising, and want to see some of the goods.

Smith & Roberts

PROPRIETORS

The Ocala Furniture Company

P. S.—It is well to bear in mind, while visiting the store, that our stock of Furniture and House Furnishings of all kinds is second to none in this section of the state

CONFLICTING REPORTS As to Whether the Emperor of China is Dead or Alive

Pekin, China, Nov. 14.—Rumors of the death of Emperor Kuang Hsu or Kwangua, continued to spread through the large cities yesterday. Despite official announcements and denials from the palace, the report is believed by half the population.

Washington Hears it is True Washington, D. C., Nov. 14.—Confirmation of the report has been received here that the Chinese emperor is dead. The Dowager Empress is also reported to be dying.

IF YOU MUST DRINK See Hogan and get a good, pure, distilled whisky.

ORIGIN OF THE PIE SUPPER Institution of First Magnitude in Hardin County, Ky.

Hardin county is the home of the pie supper. Eventually the pie supper is destined to become prevalent throughout these pie-loving United States, but at the present time the honor of discovery and the first enjoyment belongs to Hardin county, where the pie supper is an institution of the first magnitude.

Whatever the purpose, or for what-ever cause, the pie supper is the most effective means of arousing an interest and "raising the wind" in Hardin county. And small wonder. The same elements and conditions that have constituted the attractiveness of the pie supper in Hardin county are bound to succeed anywhere. They are founded deep as the inherent passions of the race, and while humanity endures their appeal cannot grow less.

Like all supreme discoveries, the component parts of the pie supper, except the ingredients, are extremely simple. Given an adequate number of charming girls who have been reared in the good, old-fashioned way, and the usual complement of young men, and the success of the pie supper is assured. The girls make the pies, which are then gathered at some central point, and auctioned to the highest bidder.

"The pocket empties cleanest in Kentucky," sings Judge Mulligan, of Lexington—which is evidence that the learned gentleman has attended a pie supper in Hardin county. What swain wouldn't empty his own pockets, and the pockets of all his relatives, neighbors, and the stranger within his gates to bid in the pie made by the dainty fingers of the dearest girl in the world?

For years the pie supper, as a time-honored custom, has been the reagent to the solution of church debts, library funds, missionary contributions, and similar problems in Hardin county. It has ever failed, and in the nature of things it cannot fail until the streams run dry and the rocks melt in the sun.—Louisville Times.

A BROKEN BACK That pain in your back caused by lumbago, stiff muscles or a strain is an easy thing to get rid of. Ballard's Snow Liment cures rheumatism, lumbago, sore and stiff muscles, strains, sprains, cuts, burns, bruises, scalds and all aches and pains. You need a bottle in your house. Sold by Anti-Monopoly Druggists.

HANDSOME Fall Stock of Jewelry

I am getting in one of the handsomest and most complete stocks of Jewelry for the trade this fall and winter, that I have ever carried. Many of the goods have already arrived. There are many

PRETTY THINGS

in Watches, Chains, Jewelry of all kinds, Diamonds, Cut Glass and Silverware, Fine China, Novelties, etc., and many others arriving each week.

I am agent for and carry a very large stock of Edison's Phonographs and Records. Nearly

2,000 DIFFERENT RECORDS

to select from. We will be pleased to have you call and see the goods.

Respectfully,

A. E. Burnett

OCALA THE JEWELER FLORIDA

KNIGHT & LANG

Leading Vehicle Dealers of Central Florida

An immense stock of Reliable Wagons, Buggies, Carts and Carriages carried at all times. Harness, Saddles, Lap Robes, Whips, and all items carried by a first-class house of this kind, bought in quantities from the factories, and always in stock at the very lowest prices.

We can save you money on your purchases, be they large or small.

Agents for most of the leading and best makes of wagons and buggies. **KNIGHT & LANG** North Side of Square Ocala, Florida