

At Swords' Points;

OR,
A SOLDIER OF THE RHINE.

By ST. GEORGE RATHBORNE

Copyright, by STREET & SMITH, New York.

CHAPTER I A KNICKERBOCKER FROM OVER THE SEA.

When Paul Rhinelander, an American student at the famous old German university of Heidelberg, sauntered idly along the aisles of the great public garden he had entered, it was a wonderful spectacle that greeted his vision in every direction.

To young Rhinelander the kaleidoscopic spectacle was no new sight, though it had never lost its charm in his eyes. As Paul came strolling by, a student, who wore the dark blue cap, signifying that he belonged to the Rhine Korps, put out his hand and tackled him.

It was evident from the momentary flash of pleasure that appeared upon the face of the American that this yellow-haired young athlete was at least of more importance to him than the average run of students with whom fortune threw him in contact.

As they sat together at a table and chatted over the foamy beakers their conversation naturally covered the whole range of subjects that might be supposed to interest students. Paul's eyes at last settled upon a certain table at which sat a number of persons.

Karl saw him start and evince unusual eagerness—when Paul turned to him his face was possibly as impassive as ever, but in his eyes a fierce light had flamed up that announced a purpose on the eve of accomplishment.

"Pardon me, my friend, but you know, as a comparative newcomer here, I have not yet made the acquaintance of all students who have distinguished themselves in the battle of the books or the sword. I do not remember seeing you younger fellow before, and yet, unless my eyes deceive me, he wears the insignia that marks him a leader among the Saxo-Prussians."

"He is a terror with the rapier, a wizard, my fencing master has declared. I myself was accounted something fair, but Hoffman made sport of me. I was told I came out lucky in the encounter."

"Hoffman, you said?" between his teeth, as though something in the very name stirred up ugly memories.

"Conrad Hoffman, first leader of the fighting Saxo-Prussians."

"It is well. And now, my friend, you who know so many of the good people in this university town, perhaps you might even be able to tell me who that lady is who is with him."

Karl turned in swift anger. "What, you, too, are a victim of her fatal beauty. Perhaps she has lured you on as she did me, with false promises and sweet phrases, the jade! But I have sworn that no man shall step between and enjoy the undisputed possession of her heart. I am a son of the Rhine, and we fight for those we love, caring little though the whole world be against us."

But Paul only laughed. "Reserve your fighting arm for your real rival, Conrad Hoffman, after I am done with him. Yes, I love that sweet girl, my dear fellow, and why not, when she is my own sister?"

CHAPTER II CHALLENGED BY THE VICTOR OF FIFTY DUELS.

The expression upon Karl's face when he heard these astonishing words from the lips of his friend was a combination of incredulity and joy.

Why, not, when in their utterance he saw one possible rival swept from the field and felt that he had gained a brother.

"What?" he gasped.

"Listen," said Paul, "to my life's story."

"I was born in New York city, and my father, being a well-to-do man, nothing was refused me that money could buy."

"Until I was about ten my life jogged on in the usual rut, with little that was uncommon to mark it."

"Then I began to notice that a difference had arisen between my parents, who seldom appeared together. Frequently I surprised my mother in tears, while my father almost lived at his club."

"The truth never dawned upon me until one day my father took me into the library—I shall never forget his awful face as he told me the story of his great wrongs."

"Pardon me if I do not dwell upon this matter, simply stating that the man who had once been his bosom friend had stolen the affections of his wife, and that they had fled, taking my little sister with them."

the months passed. This purpose was to visit Germany and to seek my sister if she were yet living.

"I would not confess then, but I know now, there was another motive that urged me on—and this, revenge!"

"Often in secret I had cursed the author of our shame, and registered a vow to some day pay him or his back for every hour of agony my poor father suffered through his duplicity."

"We knew they had gone to Germany, and it was the vague hope of meeting this treacherous friend that really lured me here. That in a nutshell is the skeleton story of my life."

"It is wonderful," said Karl; "but you did not make any effort to speak to her?"

"That time is not yet ripe. I must learn more about her, more about her mother, and what relations she bears to that man!"

"But—Hoffman—I do not understand."

"He is his son—the man was a widower when he stabbed my father in the back. I have his picture, a handsome devil he was, surely, and the boy promises to be the same unless some steady and cunning hand manages to mar his looks."

His manner as he said this was almost ferocious—the wrongs of years had burned in his heart until the seat of life had become like a young Vesuvius.

And Karl Von Stettin understood the eagerness that was in his soul. "What is it you would know of Beatrix?" he asked, presently.

"Tell me everything, as I am in complete ignorance."

"That is little enough. She lives with the lady you saw, her aunt, she calls her, and known to us as handsome Waldeck."

"And her name—Beatrix what?"

"Stennard."

"It was my mother's maiden name. Tell me, do you know aught of her—have you ever heard Beatrix mention her?"

"Once she said her mother was dead."

A spasm passed over Paul's face—that was all.

"God forgive her, as I do. But as to him—the traitorous hound, may he be rewarded through his son, whose actions shall sting his pride sharper than a serpent's tooth."

"You are determined to fight him, in spite of the fact that he is the bully of the university, a devil with the sword who has never yet been beaten?" asked Karl, eagerly.

"At the very first opportunity," calmly, as he looked around as though in search of the offender.

"Speak of the devil!" said Karl. "Yonder he comes now, and heading straight this way. By my soul, there is blood in his eye, too. I never saw Hoffman look so savage."

"That is good—it makes it easier," muttered Paul grimly, with the air of a man who sees all things within his grasp.

Straight up to the table at which the friends sat came the Saxo-Prussian, scowling like a dragon.

"One of you curs presumed to insult a lady in my company—which one was it—I demand satisfaction," he blustered.

Paul looked him calmly in the eye. "Did the lady complain?" he asked, quietly.

"Not at all; but I have eyes, and I could see she was deeply disturbed by some gesture I imagine your companion, who is insanely jealous of me, made."

that Paul might have something of an opportunity to watch the others for points ere his turn came, he being the last. As football is to American and English college boys, so dueling is the height of ambition on the Teuton's part.

Rhinelander eagerly watched the solemn details of the affairs that came off before his own, since it was his desire to profit by the experience.

He saw Hoffman eyeing him hungrily, as a wolf might a lamb, and knew the chief of the valiant Saxo-Prussian Korps was anxious to get at him, yet Paul had not the slightest fear as to the outcome, and even decided in his mind just how he would slash the other on the left cheek so as to mar his exceedingly handsome countenance.

When the time came for him to enter the arena he felt as fierce and remorseless as the panther that crouches in a tree over a spring and waits for a thirsty deer.

At last he was to taste the sweets of revenge.

To strike, and in the name of his dishonored and heart-broken father—this was a consummation devoutly to be wished.

So he walked forward, supported by Karl, another student and the doctor, an Englishman, who had come to assist one of the regulars.

"Be wary! I never saw such an evil look on Conrad's face," whispered anxious Karl.

Rhinelander was to all appearances as cool as the most solid native in the den; as he received and tested his sword not a nerve seemed to tremble, and those among the Rhine Korps whose fears had been great because they had one and all gone down in turn before that wizard blade of the Prussian began again to take fresh courage under the belief that possibly a miracle had been wrought in their behalf and a champion discovered by their chief before whom the proud banner of their gloating rivals might be trailed in the dust.

Of course Paul, as a foreigner, could not become a Burschen, or full-fledged korps student, but he fought under their colors, and each man took as much interest in him as though he had been initiated into the most mysterious rituals of their secret order.

The hall was almost packed when Hoffman's turn came, an unusual thing, by the way, and which he took as a great compliment to himself, judging from the smirk upon his face as he waved his hand to enthusiastic admirers in the audience.

Herr Hoffman seemed very gay. Scores of eyes surveyed him with hatred and venom, and should defeat come his way all conventionalities would be brushed aside in doing the victor honor.

If ever those sturdy students prayed, it was that the god of war would favor the champion of their cause and humble the pride of the vainglorious Prussian.

When all preliminaries had been gone through with the rapier came together with a clash that announced the opening of the duel.

Hoffman's style was already well known to every man, who had learned to his sorrow how baffling an attack he put up.

Hence their attention was directed toward his opponent, and every motion Paul made was eagerly scrutinized by experienced eyes.

When several brief rounds had been fought, during which he met Hoffman's attacks with an ease that astonished the champion, those who had been most skeptical began to pluck up heart and hold their breath with awe.

(To be continued.)

LORD SALISBURY'S PATRONAGE.

The Long List of Important Appointments He Has Made.

The marquis of Salisbury since he became premier for the first time has enjoyed a surprising amount of patronage. The two benches of bishops and judges are almost solely filled by his nominees, for, though the liberals have been in power nearly three years out of the last fifteen, they had scarcely any opportunities of making appointments during that period, and the ecclesiastical and legal survivors of the pre-1886 period are very rare.

To take the judges, only one, lord of appeal in ordinary, Lord Davey, owes his appointment to the liberals. In the Supreme Court of Appeals Sir John Rigby was the last survivor of Gladstonian days. The chancery judges are all Lord Salisbury's nominees, Sir Arthur Kekewich, the senior, having been promoted for political services in 1886.

Of the King's Bench Division, now that Sir James Mathew has gone up higher and Sir John Day has retired, Sir Alfred Wills and Sir W. Rann Kennedy alone owe their appointment to liberal influences.

Of the episcopal bench only the bishops of Lincoln, Llandaff, Ripon, Salisbury and Southwell date from the pre-Cecil dynasty, and in the course of nature at least three of these will before long seek retirement. It is a cause rather for congratulation than regret that in fifteen years men who are generally of full maturity when they begin these high duties should give place to younger men. But it is a little remarkable that during the three years of liberal ministry so few vacancies should occur except by death. If bishops and judges were not above such subtleties, one might suspect that they had postponed retirement in order to put further patronage in the hands of the present premier.

A Cincinnati physician took some of his own medicine. The verdict of the coroner's jury was "Death due to unprofessional conduct."

ILLINOIS ITEMS

Mr. F. L. Thompson, who had charge of the double track work of the Illinois Central from Centralia to Carbondale, with headquarters in Duquoin, has been transferred to a position in the office of W. J. Harahan, chief engineer of the company, at Chicago.

Thomas S. Marshall, president of the Illinois Epworth League, has announced that the state convention will be held at Mount Carmel on July 8, 9 and 10.

The total county tax to be collected in Montgomery county this year is \$33,749.58.

Jesse A. Badger of Taylorville has joined the United States signal corps and has been assigned to duty in the Philippines.

The interhigh school meet of the south central Illinois High School association will be held in Lebanon on May 9.

Nashville has added another name to its list of clubs, that of the Nashville fox-chasing club, composed of the leading sportsmen of the city. The club has engaged in a number of chases during the winter, which have been very successful, and more chases are being planned.

Dr. W. W. Lark, aged 67, a prominent physician at New Hanover, is dead.

Henry Speckman has brought suit against Randolph county to obtain a judgment for a large amount of county warrants held by his bank and for the payment of which there are at present no funds available in the county treasury.

At a special election held in district No. 3, in Irishtown, the proposition to build a new schoolhouse was defeated.

O. P. Wilson has been appointed town clerk in Irishtown, to succeed Louis Wade, resigned.

The Republican county central committee has been called to meet in Benton Saturday, March 3.

The Illinois central has erected a temporary pumping station on Big Muddy river, two miles west of Benton, from which it is hauling about sixty cars of water a day to points along the line.

The Republican primary in Alton township will be held under the primary election law. The Madison county Republican executive committee will issue the call for the county convention when the state committee has issued its call for the state convention.

The total taxes to be paid by the various telephone and telegraph companies in Montgomery county this year are \$182.39, as follows: Western Union Telegraph company, \$85.37; Postal Telegraph Cable company, \$25.85; Montgomery County Telephone company, \$19.12; Central Union Telephone company, \$23.91; American Bell Telephone company, \$13.74; Carlinville Telephone company, \$14.40.

Mrs. Eliza Robinson, aged 85 years died at her home, near Godfrey, from heart disease. Mrs. Robinson leaves a large estate, consisting principally of farming lands in Godfrey township, where she resided for seventy-five years.

The trial of Capt. J. V. Henry, formerly assistant postmaster in Quincy, on the charge of embezzling the sum of \$3,500, while he was secretary and treasurer of the United States Railway Mail Clerks' Mutual Benefit association, resulted in a verdict of not guilty.

Harry Weaver, a farmer, was struck by a Santa Fe train and instantly killed at Northampton.

John Phederspell, a coal miner of Quincy, was instantly killed by a fall of slate and rock in the mine.

Mayor Davis of Jacksonville is in the South on a vacation, and the aldermen are unable to agree on a mayor pro tem.

The Republican convention for Lee county, has been called to meet June 2, at Amboy.

Vera Johnson, 7 years old, died at Moline, as the result of injuries received while coasting.

Charles Webb, aged 21, fell on a sawmill carriage and was drawn on the saw and killed in Perry county.

The Jersey county Republican central committee has called a county convention to meet at the courthouse in Jerseyville on Monday, March 3. The convention will choose delegates to the state, congressional and senatorial conventions.

The Alton Railway, Gas and Electric company has awarded the contract for the construction of a steel gas-holder with a capacity of 100,000 cubic feet of gas.

The Haggood Plow company will establish a new foundry in Alton for making iron castings for farm machinery.

The E. Wade farm, near Decatur, which contained eighty acres, was sold at auction to David Patterson at \$80 an acre.

The Peoria Mineral company, which is boring for oil in Tazewell county, at a depth of 720 feet, struck a 40-foot vein of lead ore. The first 15 feet of it is said to be very good, while the rest assays at 16 1/2 per cent. Steps are to be taken by the company to develop the find.

Everett, the 13-year-old son of Lee Brewer, residing six miles southeast of Carbondale, was accidentally shot by his brother, Louis, aged 18, with a shotgun. Everett was holding his infant sister and the shot took effect in both of his arms, one of which is so badly lacerated that it is thought amputation will be necessary. The babe was not seriously hurt.

Anderson Brothers have purchased land near the cannery factory site on the river front in Mortland's south addition, and will move their sawmill and hoop factory from Degerlia to Hardin in April.

It is stated that Thomas Farley will not be the manager of the Decatur baseball club in the "Three Eye" league. Early last fall he was engaged for that duty, but friction has arisen and Farley will not come back.

Mayor George D. Locke has issued a proclamation requesting all citizens of Jerseyville to be vaccinated immediately for the protection of the public health.

A permit was issued at Chicago for the construction of what is planned to be the largest office building in the world. The building is projected by the First National bank officers, and will house when completed 9,000 people. It will cost \$3,000,000.

The Democratic county central committee at Jonesboro called a primary for the 31st of May.

William A. Tyler died recently at Binghamton, N. Y., and left an estate of \$70,000. Edward P. Kirby of Jacksonville was named as one of the executors and was bequeathed the sum of \$4,000. James Wood and Ivan Wood, also of Jacksonville, will each receive \$3,000.

An instrument bearing the signature of President James K. Polk and two bearing signatures of President Millard Fillmore were filed for record in the recorder's office at Salem. They are both land patents from the government, the one issued by President Polk being to Lemuel Butler for forty acres of land in Meacham township, and bears date of June 10, 1848. The other two are forty acres to Seneca Sparling and sixty-nine acres to Rutherford Duncan, both in Omega township. They are dated May 15, 1852, and December 15, 1852, respectively.

Charles R. Morrison of Mount Vernon, chancellor commander of Jefferson lodge, Knights of Pythias, is recovering from a severe illness.

Daniel Crabtree of Webber township celebrated his 101st birthday anniversary recently, and is remarkably well preserved for a man of his age. He retains full use of his mental faculties, and physically is stronger than a majority of men not half so old. He can walk eight or ten miles without fatigue, and puts in a full day's work on the farm each day in the week.

Rev. E. B. Johnson of Doniphan, Mo., has accepted the call to the vacant pastorate of the First Cumberland Presbyterian church in Moun. Vernon. He will enter upon his duties about April 1.

In the "roll of honor" giving official recognition to those distinguishing themselves by some unusual act of bravery in the Spanish-American war, recently approved by President Roosevelt, is the name of Capt. Edward Lee Baker of Springfield, who served in the Philippines as sergeant major of the tenth cavalry. The act which won for Capt. Baker promotion and notice in military circles was the daring rescue of a fallen soldier in the taking of a Spanish stronghold in Cuba.

Katie Hess, aged 5 years, daughter of Jacob Hess, a wealthy farmer residing at Washington, Tazewell county, died from the effects of a shotgun wound in her side. The hired man returned from a hunt and laid his shotgun loaded and cocked on the kitchen table. The 6-year-old boy of Mr. Hess picked up the gun, when the father shouted to him to put it down and in so doing the weapon was discharged, the entire load penetrating the left side of his little sister.

W. J. McAlpine was awarded the contract for building a county courthouse at Sycamore. His bid was \$59,250.

Wesley E. Hawley, who killed Policeman Ben Martin in Mowqua, has been indicted by the grand jury of Shelby county for murder. He has asked the court to appoint a lawyer to defend him.

The Moline molders' union, about 400 strong, has made a demand for an increase in minimum wage to \$2.75. They hope to secure it peacefully, but may strike in two weeks. Every molder in Moline is a member of the union.

Capt. W. C. Short, who fills the chair of mathematics at Western Military Academy, has been appointed a second lieutenant in the regular army by the President and has been ordered to report for duty within twenty days. His appointment was urged by the University of Illinois, of which he was a graduate.

The state auditor of public accounts has issued a permit to organize the Commercial Trust and Savings Bank at Danville. The bank will open for business with a capital of \$100,000.

Willie Anderson, a driver in the Valley and Gulf coal mine, east of Sparta, became tangled in the chain gear of his car and had his thigh bone broken.

The jury in the case of T. K. Gore vs. the Chicago & Alton railroad company for \$5,000 damages for the loss of a foot while attempting to board a train at Joliet awarded the plaintiff \$5,304. Mr. Gore is a son of ex-Sixth Auditor Gore of Carlinville.

Burglars broke into the postoffice at Ocoee but only succeeded in getting 20 cents in cash. They also visited the stores of John Hinton and J. M. Bass, using dynamite to blow open the safes, and securing about \$50.

Anthony Alderson, one of the pioneer settlers of Christian county, died at his home, southeast of Paas, of pneumonia. He was born in Yorkshire, England, Feb. 9, 1834, and came to America in 1849.

The county Democratic central committee met at Carrollton and fixed the time for holding the Democratic primary election for Saturday, March 23.

Jos. Seendermann, one of the most prominent farmers of Tamaloo township, died at his home north of Keyesport, aged 59 years.

A petition has been circulated among the farmers living northeast of Boulder asking for the establishment of a rural mail route out of that place.

In the county court at Edwardsville D. E. Burroughs, conservator of Daniel C. Burroughs, spendthrift, who was recently retored to his rights by a jury, reported a balance in his hands due his ward of \$3,181.25, which was recaptured for by said ward and the conservator discharged.

A mad dog caused considerable of a scare in North Alton, through the streets of which he ran amuck. Two or three people had narrow escapes from the teeth of the animal, but succeeded in getting into shelter. The animal was finally killed nearly four miles from where it made the first attack.

Fire destroyed a large barn near Godfrey, owned by Walter Merriman. The neighbors succeeded in getting the livestock out, but the other contents, valued at \$2,500, were destroyed.

Dr. D. M. Landon has tendered his resignation as surgeon at the Illinois state soldiers' home, to take effect at any time that suits the convenience of Supt. Somerville.

William Schaeffer, a farmer living eight miles south of Quincy, lost his residence in a fire. The loss is estimated at \$3,500, on which there is no insurance.

Prof. M. E. Churchill of Illinois college, who went to California in search of health, has been engaged to take the place of dean in Pomona college, Claremont, Cal., for the remainder of the year.

James B. Young, aged 80 years, died at Galena. He was widely known in business circles, and especially to the pioneers of the Northwest.

George T. Gilliam, at one time a very prominent attorney of Peoria, was found guilty of obtaining money under false pretenses.

Merritt Chism, convicted wife-murderer, was taken to the Joliet penitentiary to commence his 17-year term. With good behavior his time will be reduced to nine years and nine months.

The Democratic Congressional committee met at Jacksonville and fixed upon August 19 as the date for holding the convention.

In the suit of Barbara Crooney against the Farmers' Federation, the defendant's motion for a new trial was overruled. The woman was recently given judgment for \$709.17 on a policy of \$1,000 held by her dead husband.

The fifth annual convention of the Mine Managers' association, of Illinois, convened in Springfield, recommended that the organization be made a national one; that organizers be placed in the field to extend the ramifications of the organization, and that a committee be appointed to secure the recognition of the organization by the Illinois Operators' association.

Mrs. Minerva Hauser, 55 years, and her son, McClelland Hauser, 25, of Effingham, Jasper county, were run down in Effingham by a train. Mrs. Hauser was killed instantly and her son is fatally injured.

Owing to the taking in by the telephone trust of the lines of southern Illinois, a meeting was held at Benton, at which a complete reorganization was effected, to go into effect April 1.

The annual election of officers of the Perry County Agricultural society will take place on Monday, March 3, at the courthouse at Pinckneyville.

Defiance Starch, 18 cents, 18 cents. At Chester, Judge Hartzel denied an application for a writ of habeas corpus to secure the release of James French, a prisoner in the southern Illinois penitentiary. This case, like several similar ones recently tried, was heard on technicalities arising from the workings of the Illinois convict parole law.

The Granite City proposition to give Madison county five acres of land and to build a \$100,000 courthouse. The county court is moved to that effect in a meeting with much favor. The meeting in the western part of the county.