At Swords' Points;

A SOLDIER OF THE RHINE.

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By ST. GEORGE RATHBORNE ********************************

CHAPTER IV.

"Hoch! The American!" It was indeed a pretty sight, if one could only overlook the disfiguration | garde. of the principals necessitated by their armament, and both men handled their rapiers in tierce and guard with a cleverness that would have brought out cheers from an American audience to make the very rafters ring. while three score of Germans sat or stood around, watching every move, with a grim-silence that was only broken by the clash of steel upon steel, or the sharp cries of the umpire directing the affair.

Those lights had never shone upon more gallant fight, and each student hugged himself with delight because fortune had been kind enough to make him a witness to it.

Those most experienced in such matters saw, however, that when ten minutes of this terrific work had passed by with but a few slight cuts on either side, Hoffman was gathering his forces and preparing to end the duel with one of his hitherto invincible tactics, and they trembled for the brave American.

To Karl's eager inquiries during an interval between the bouts, Paul only gave a short laugh and assured his second he was but playing with his opponent.

Again the rivals faced, but this time Paul was in deadly earnest, and amid a clash of steel it was seen that Hoffman's face was covered with blood.

Then the sonorous voice of the umpire was heard calling a halt while the surgeons ascertained just how serious the Prussian's wound might be. Hoffman seemed to be wildly pleading with him to tell the battle to go onit was his first defeat and unusually bitter-but the doctor, realizing the gravity of the wound, was inexorable.

"Abfuhr!" he called out, signifying that the Prussian should be allowed to fight no more.

The umpire repeated the word, and in a loud voice declared the result in the stereotyped phrase:

"Baxo-Prussian is led away." Then something occurred that had, perchance, never been heard upon a similar occasion—the glorious result. the signal downfall of the proud duel-Hat who had lorded it over them so

long, was too much for the students to witness without giving relief to their pent-up feelings. "Hoch, hoch the American!" they shouted. And "hoch, hoch, hoch" it was while they bore Rhinelander.

bloody as he was, into the ante-room to resume his street dress. Paul had received a few slight scratches, but fortune had been very

kind to him in this respect, for none of them were more than bagatelles.

As he, dressed again for the street was about to break away from the admiring groups that surrounded him, he saw a tall figure pressing through the throng, and recgonized the Englishman who had been assisting the surgeon who attended his bout. His eyes, blue as the summer skies, beamed with good nature, and Paul was drawn to him unconsciously.

Then, too, the impulsive clasp of his hand, how hearty it was after almost formal congratulations of the Germans! Well, blood seems thicker than water, after all, and the day is surely coming when these cousins may stand shoulder to shoulder for peace throughout the whole world.

"A thousand congratulations, my dear boy. It was beautifully done. and I am proud to have been a witness to your victory. I hope we may meet again. Sir Noel Travers is my name, and I am probing into the colleges and hospitals of our German

Paul was dragged away by his comrades at this juncture, but he had a singular premonition that he would run across this big, frank Briton again at some uncertain future date.

To Paul's lodgings they rode. The day passed as had others, but Paul discovered what he had not known before, that he had many warm friends in the university.

And, of course, he was by courtesy compelled to accept their invitation to be a guest of honor at the grand meeting in the Kneipe or korps drinking all that night, where the famous Salamander with its chorus and pounding of empty beakers on the table opened and closed the festivities.

Still he was glad when the end came and he could leave the hall without fiving offense, for other matters of a more personal nature demanded his at-

One of the objects that had brought to Europe to Germany gave promise of being attained.

He had seen the one he sought, the leter who had for so many years been

How the memory of her thrilled him, nd what agony swept through his company he had seen her. The name of Hoffman, what a curse

t had been to his father. Was the on fated to perpetuate his sire's in-

CHAPTER V. A Serpent in the Dovecote was night again in fieldelbers

not aimlessly wandering. The little god Cupid had to do with his wanderings. Paul was thinking of Hilde

That haunting face, with its melting, brown eyes, was the lode star that drew the recluse from his den.

And pray, who was Hildegarde? Truth to tell, Paul would not have been wholly able to have given a def inite answer to that question had be been asked.

Some weeks ago he had met her in rather a strange way that bordered a little on the romantic. Chance had al lowed him to do her a favor, slight enough in its way, but when she thanked nim so sweetly, the mischief was done, for with the modest grace of those velvety brown orbs the little god of love had shot an arrow true to the mark, and ever since Paul had felt its point in his heart.

Several times he had seen her since, and on each occasion had received bow and a blush of recognition. But no more.

However, on the occasion of their meeting, she had dropped a small 'kerchief, which Paul had discovered, and now he was on his way to her house to, he hoped, become definitely acquainted.

He found the house readily enough, and was shown into a small, dimly lighted parlor where he was to await the coming of the lady of the house. It was just at this moment that his ear caught the sound of laughter.

It came from the next room, and was as merry and free from care as any sound he had ever heard-fresh, girlish laughter that quickened his pulse, since he could give a very good guess as to the source from whence it

Few temptations arise that there does not also appear the means of gratifying the desire, and in this case he noted the fact that the connecting door between the room in which he awaited the pleasure of the tardy aunt and the adjoining apartment was ajar.

Utterly unconscious of what awaited him, he advanced gently toward the opening, and with eager eyes sought the object of his solicitude.

Success immediately attended his efforts, for he discovered the nymph of the hazel brown eyes in direct range. She had evident cause for merriment. and as Paul turned his eyes toward her companion he saw that it was a man.

The party's back was turned to him so that he could not discover whether he were young or old, comely or ugly. though he hoped the latter.

While Paul stood there wondering what all the fun was about and chagrined to think he was not in it, the man faced about, and the American felt a cold chill chase up and down his spinal column when, amid the multi bandages he discovered the handsome. sinister countenance of his bitter en emy, Conrad Hoffman.

CHAPTER VI. Paradise Lost.

Probably in all his adventurous life up to date young Rhinelander had never before experienced such a chill as beset him when he made this astounding discovery, and saw his hated enemy apparently quite at home in the apartments occupied by Hildegarde and her aunt. The familiarity with which she received Conrad, the lack of conventionality, declared that they must be related in some way.

And if so, what must follow? His very blood ran cold at the thought-this fair, angelic creature connected with ties of kinship to the family, father and son, whom he had such reason to curse!

The idea was appalling. In that minute of time Paul had as

severe a mental struggle as comes to He conquered his weakness, too, and resolved to meet the emergency just

where he stood. There had been time to leave the house and avoid the encounter, but Rhinelander was not the man to shirk a duty, no matter at what expense to his feelings.

And when the lady entered, presently, with apologies for keeping him waiting. Paul was himself again, resolved to play his part to the bitter end, no matter what the cost.

After a few minutes' conversation the good lady begged him to excuse her for a brief interval while she brought her niece into the room, saying she knew the young people would be friends since they seemed to have many views in common.

The time, then, had come, the fateful moment which but a short while back he had been anticipating so eagerly, while now, alas, he dreaded it still more.

He felt his courage oozing from his

Then he saw Hoffman, bandages and Detroit Free Press. all, fooming up in the doorway. Paul to and take fully as cheerfully as he had to done when, sword in hand, the Saxe

the endeavor to down him in the schlager combat of the arena, but Hoffman promised to enliven matters speedily enough.

He was rapidly working himself up to a white heat, when an explosion would follow.

Meanwhile the good lady of the house had introduced the young people and at least Paul might benceforth have the privilege of addressing Hildegarde upon their meeting, unless she took up Hoffman's quarrel and cut him direct.

Knowing what was coming Paul actually felt relieved when the man of bandages advanced to have his little

Hoffman was a man whose talents lay somewhat in the line of oratory. Consequently, when he let loose his vials of wrath upon the American he said some very bitter things in his tongue lashing.

The ladies were aghast.

Paul smiled through it all. Wearying at length of the tirade. which he could not answer, he put up his hand as if to signal that enough had been said.

And Hoffman actually stopped though in all probability it was more on account of his lack of breath than any desire to humor his enemy that influenced him.

Having gained the floor, Paul stated his case in a frank and manly way, calculated to gain the respect of the gentler sex.

"Ladies, I am sure you will believe me if I say I had not the remotest suspicion when I came here to-night that I should find this gentleman present, or that he was connected with you in any manner whatsoever.

"Unfortunately he chose to take offense in the concert garden recently, accusing my friend and myself of an action of which we were entirely innocent, and as you doubtless know there followed the passage-at-arms in which I had to take part.

"I do not regret my action in the premises, but deem it my misfortune that I should have been compelled to disfigure any relative of yours. Since my presence here is evidently unwelcome to Mynheer Hoffman, I shall insist upon withdrawing myself without further ceremony."

The effect of this manly speech was evident from the fact that both ladles smiled upon him.

Seeing which, the miserable Hoffman, smarting in the bitterness of his first defeat, snarled:

"One of you did insult the lady, and German knows how to resent such things."

Then it was the American turned upon him with flashing eyes, fully aroused.

"I say you know that is a base lie, since you should be aware of the sacred bond between that young woman and myself-that I would sooner cut my right hand off than offer her the slightest harm. I will even go further and solemnly declare, as you well know in your cowardly soul, that your presence in her society was the basest insult she could receive. I shall stand by these words always.

"And now, ladies, since this scene is painful to you and to me, permit me to retire with the hope that possibly we may meet again under other and more agreeable conditions."

Hoffman looked almost as white in the face as the bandage that padded his split cheek.

Evidently he knew to what Paul re-

ferred, and the consciousness cut him to the quick. He glided over to the door, and as the other, having bowed politely to the

ladies, was passing through, the Teuton said in a low but passionate tone; "This is only the beginning between

(To be continued.)

A MAN OF INTUITION.

Investment of a Small Sum of Money

to Good Advantage. "I had just come back to the store from my lunch one day," said the merchant, as burglar-proof safes were under discussion, "when a middle-aged man with a hard-up look entered my private office after me. The object of his call was to strike me for half s dollar, and I am surprised yet that I didn't at once turn him down. I guess it was because he had the look of a first-class mechanic out of a job, and because trade was rushing with me. To accede to his request I had to open my hig safe, and as I handed him two quarters he thanked me and added; 'Excuse me, sir, but isn't that safe of yours too dead easy?' 'How do you mean?' I asked. 'Why, it's a fournumber combination, but you have it set only on two. I think I could open it in a couple of minutes.' If you can I'll give you \$5.' I said, feeling a little nettled at his disparagement. I shut and locked the door and stood back for him, and in less than forty seconds he had swung it open. I told you it was dead easy,' he said, without smile. 'But how did you get on to the combination? 'Oh, it's intuition, I guess. Better 'call in a man and have the lock set on four numbers. It could be opened then, but it might take an hour or two. Thanks again, and good day.' I didn't let the grass grow unfinger tips when Hildegards entered | der my feet," continued the merchant, with her aunt, and he saw the sudden | "and from that day on I carried a heap mind as he remembered in whose wave of crimson that suffused her face less morey in the safe. The man might and neck as she caught a first sight of have been a mechanic, but somehow I've always had the idea that he was Ah! that telitale color would have a safe-cracker, and that I made a good brought amazing satisfaction to Paul Investment when I handed over that but for the wretched discovery he had \$5.50. He might have got \$2,000 that night as easy as rolling off a log."-

> A Tonawanda (N. V.) milkman has seen struck three times by the same train at the same railroad crossing.

ILLINOIS ITEMS

The case of B. E. Oppenheim, for arson, was dismissed by the state's attorney at Danville on the ground that the evidence was insufficient.

The golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Schmidt was celebrated at Alton.

Joseph M. Grout, one of the best known railroad attorneys in Illinois, died at Springfield of paralysis. As a result of a dust explosion in

Williamsville coal mine, thre miners were injured. Miss Letta Reeves of Bloomington, who has been employed in the office of the secretary of state, has gone to Phoenix, Ariz., for the benefit of her

health. A committee to assist the Tanner Monument association in its work of building a monument to the late governor's memory was selected by the Merchants' association of Springfield.

was approved in the circuit court and admitted to probate. The estate consists of \$45,000 in personal property. Alonzo R. Hurd, who was released recently from the penitentiary, is to receive \$2,500 as his interest in the dower and homestead of his wife.

The will of the late Lottle K. Ohman

Hurd was sent to the penitentlary at Chester on a charge of criminally assaulting his atendaughter. Capt. G. W. Hill, the agent for the Hagle Packet company at Alton, and for forty years secretary and treasurer of the company, has ended his connec-

tired from business pursuits. The Chicago & Alton is making plans to construct a subway at Godfrey to render the crossing of the public road over the railroad tracks safe. Several

tion with the packet company and re-

fatalities have occurred there. It is said that the village board of North Alton will be asked to submit to a vote of the people the question of surrendering the village charter and annexing North Alton to the city of Alton.

The Federal Lead company has set pumps to work at their wells east of Alton capable of drawing 65,000 gallons from each well in a day. Several other wells will be sunk and the capacity of all the wells will be about 250,000 gallons daily. The water is filtered through a bed of sand from the Mississippi and is perfectly pure

The total amount of taxes to be collected for the support of schools in Montgomery county this year is \$69,459.62,

Col. W. W. Macy, special pension examiner for the counties of Champaign, De Witt, Platt, Moultrie and Macon, has located in Decatur.

A project is on foot to have a \$75, 000 hotel building erected at Decatur. The total dog tax to be collected in Montgomery county this year is \$2,716,

being \$1 for each dog. Many young colored men are trying to enlist at the United States recruiting office in Quincy.

The German Methodist Episcopal church on Jersey street, Quincy, which has been used as a place of worship since 1844, is being converted into a natatorium.

The executive committee of the old settlers' association has decided upon Sparta as the place for the next annual reunion, which will be held in August or September.

The Republican committee of the 44th senatorial district will meet in Sparta on March 11 to reorganize and to fix the time and place for the next senatorial convention.

Mrs. Mary Burke sold 160 acres of land in Stonington township to William Allen for a consideration of \$9,-

died in Greenwood township. She is survived by her husband and five children.

M. Michaels, Republican central committeeman of Romine township, has issued a call for a convention on March 15.

The Democrats of Alma township will hold a mass convention on Saturday, March 15.

Louis Kirgan of O'Fallon was killed by a fall of coal while at work in the coal mine at that place.

William M. Cooper, aged 74, died in Moro after a long illness. He had lived near Moro fifty-five years and was a prominent farmer in that locali-He was a veteran of the Civil War, serving as second lieutenant in the 125th regiment of Illinois volun-

Bricklayers are erecting the ne furnace to be known as No. 6 at the glass works. The furnace will be one of the largest of the tank furnaces of the Illinois Glass Company. It will be completed early in July and will be put to work in September.

Alan G. Cooke, a young nan who said his home was in Rochester, N. Y. was arrested at Quincy and charged with attempting to pass bogus checks. He was sentenced to the house of correction for fifty-four days as a vagrant, | ty. John B. Herns, aged 70, one of Moline's pioneers, is dead.

Dr. J. L. McQuown of Flora, who was regimental dentist of the 9th II- | Sait Lake City, which were stolen liness Infantry and served with the regiment in Cuba during the late war, Prairie State express, were recovered has been declared insane, The Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis will

start work on a new passenger depoat Alton as soon as the weather wi permit. The new structure will be an of the ferregyl is depot, which needed to be one of the most as and complete depote on the

Hiram Quante, of the firm of Quante & Bro., for over forty years a prominent business man of Metropolis, years. He was an orderly t is dead.

Jacob C. Fullenwider died at Bloomington. He was 68 years of age, and spent most of his life in that vicinity. At Moweaqua Isaac Pinkston was instantly killed by a falling tree while chopping mill timbers.

At the Springfield meeting of the directors of the State Farmers' Institute the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, J. H. Coolidge, Galesburg; vice president, H. G. Easterly, Carbondale; secretary and superintendent, A. J. Bill, Bloomington; treasurer, A. P. Grout, Winches-

Fred Mueller, an Illinois pioneer, is dead at his home at Muscotah, aged 74

Bert Taborn, the negro charged with the killing of Bob Reynolds at Carrier Mills, has been taken from Marion to Harrisburg.

Henry Asher, aged 70 years, an old resident of Adams county, was found dead in a wagon on his farm near Coalsburg. William Weber, a farmer of Ed-

wardsville, has filed a petition in bank- army. ruptcy. He schedules his liabilities at \$19,000, with assets at \$11,000. Weber's failure is due to his being security for his son, who met with financial reverses, which finally ended in suicide.

Mrs. Mary Eggerling, aged 85, died at her home, four miles east of Red Bud. She was the oldest woman in Randolph county.

Mrs. M. J. Lancaster of Peoria was acting queerly at a Springfield dry goods store, and the proprietor called the police. The woman had in her possession \$1,845, and said she had thrown away a large sum in gold. It was too heavy to carry, she said, and she tossed it from a window of a Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis train.

Henry Ratz, Sr., aged 59, a prominent business man, died at his home in Red Bud.

At Springfield A. J. bodine is accused of being implicated with J. T. Westbrook, O. P. Bodine and James S. Daire, in a scheme to defraud nursery men. The quartet is accused of sending bogus orders to nurseries in various parts of the country and collecting commissions on them. The orders were sent through the mails, and the men are charged with using the mails

to defraud. The Republican county central committee has issued a call for a delegate | driving a horse, convention to be held at the court house in Newton, March 18, to select delegates to the state, judicial, con-

gressional and senatorial conventions. Miss Anna Moehle was severely injured at Fosterburg by being impaled on a pitchfork. She was collecting eggs from nests in the hayloft at her home, and jumped from the loft to a pile of hay, striking the pitchfork, which was concealed under the hay. One time penetrated her hip and the other her side to a depth of several inches.

wounded by Gus Patterson, who sold the captive bird to Dr. Ross of Belle

Edward Houston, a plasterer and lather, fell a distance of more than 30 feet at Springfield. Two ribs were fractured and his shoulders and legs were bruised.

In the case of former State Treasurer Edward S. Wilson against the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern Rail-Mrs. Henry Dixon, aged 84 years, road a jury in the United States Circult Court at Springfield returned a verdict finding issues for the plaintiff

and assessing the damages at \$1,050. In the case of Maragret Clark against the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern Railroad for the death of her husband, the jury awarded her \$1,500.

Warren Same, a prominent young man of Brighton, aged 23 years, was ground to pieces beneath the wheels of a Burlington freight early morning. Sams was riding on top of

a car and fell between. B. R. Crenshaw of Marion and Mis Stella Harrell, of Omaha, were marrie at Omaha, after an acquaintance

eight days. Engineer Lyman Benjamin died Bloomington, aged 66. He was th oldest engineer in the service of the Chicago and Alton road in point of continuous service. He handled trains between Bloomington and Chicago for tnirty-five years, giving up the road when stricken with pneumonia,

George Schubert, a wealthy resident | farmer, was found dead in hed at 1 of Moro, died from blood poleoning. resulting from a carbuncle on his neck Mr. Schubert had lived in Moro twenty-five years and had been one of the most prosperous business men and farmers of that part of Madison coun-

The chatelaine bag containing the gold watch, diamonds, railroad ticket | 9th congre and money of Mrs. N. W. Clayton, of from her on the Chicago and Alton at Godfrey and have been restored to the owner. The bag containing the the ratirond track near Godfre the property was said to be ab-

John Myers died at luka plication of diseas Bragg and Buell in the

army in the Civil war. At a special me non city council Mayor tendered his resign City Marshal Dillingham. nations are the result of these officials because the tion has failed to suppress the ill sale of liquor and because the nances have not been enforced as ri

idly as many demand. John Baker, a resident of By for sixty years, died from heart to aged 80 years.

Mrs. B. Ess, Sr., died at Breess a the age of 54 years. Her husband is an alderman.

The Reverend Arthur C. Darrow Upper Alton has accepted the par ate of the Alhambra Baptist Church Louis Kergan, a miner, of Odin, we killed in a coal mine by falling slate

Adjutant General Reece has no the resignation of Joseph B. Caughe Major of the Third Infantry. Caughey resigned in order to acc a commission in the United States

Honorable discharges from the milltary service of the state were granted the following: Corporal William Stryker and Privates Burt Andre Clarence Butler, Roy Camp Thomas Hughes, Jay Stead, Char Hunt, Frank Cleary and Fred Stone of Company E, Third Infantry; Corporal Sylvester Shackley and Private Vernon M. Peaks of Company I, Third In-

The rains in the vicinity of Albambra have proved highly benedicial to prospective crops, as well as supp water for domestic and other uses.

The leading business men of Carlinville have perfected an organization for the promotion of the business interests of the town. The organization will be known as the Carlinville Commercial Club.

A welcome and much-needed rain fell at New Douglas. The un dry season following last summer drought had made a great scarcity water for both household purposes and stock, which is now relieved. Rye wheat, timothy and all grasses are benefited.

James Mook, formerly an Alton live eryman, was awarded \$20 das against Fred Heffner, Michael Ph and John Glynn, on the charge of ov

Negro and white citizens of Chica will seek redress on behalf of the fam ily of Lewis F. Wright, the negro min strel who was lynched on the night of February 15, at New Madrid, Mo.

The Manufacturers' Hotel As tion has been organized at Moline and will incorporate with \$30,000 paid-up capital, every Moline manufacturer ing represented. They have purchase the Sommer Hotel and will re and enlarge at at an expense of \$50,-

The Mobile and Ohio freight train A large hald eagle was captured near No. 74 was wrecked at Berksville. Marlow. It was shot and slightly The train was going at a high rate of speed, when the rails spread, causing the engine to turn over, followed by seven loaded cars.

The closing business session of the convention of Illinois police chiefs at Galesburg adopted a resolution that the laws should be so amended that a person committing a crime and have ing a criminal record, or any committing a burglary who shall have burglars' tools in his possession, shall be adjudged guilty of a felony, and be imprisoned in the State Penits for not less than ten nor more than twenty-five years.

Mrs. Paulina Plachs, wife of Edward G. Flachs, died at Quincy recently. The deceased joined her husband to cale brating the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. She was 77 years

Capt. Jacob May died at his home, four miles southeast of Nasi ville. He had been in very health since the death of his w about two years ago. Capt. May wa born in Germany in 1834, and came America when 14 years old. outbreak of the civil war he as a private in the 9th regiment Virginia volunteers, and when tered out, in July, 1865, was ent Co. F, 1st West Virginia volunt fantry

Robert Borden, for many years off; clerk of Metropolis, died after a

Thomas Bowes, aged 55. home near Milan with his throat cut. H. R. Woodcock, former c of the Macon county board of cashier in the First National bank

Defiance Starch, 16 ounces, 10

B Liechill on Engraday, April A thriving infant weighing 1 born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas hanty, of Posterburg, and it clams say that it will probab

A new settlement will be a near Collinsville soon by the Mining Company. A tract of