

At Swords' Points;

OR,
A SOLDIER OF THE RHINE.

By ST. GEORGE RATHBORNE

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CHAPTER XIII (Continued.)

The day was close at hand. Presently a relief train would arrive and through this he might continue his journey.

As he moved about in the early dawn, too restless to remain quiet, Paul noticed that he was being followed up and down by a figure that limped badly, yet walked with the stiff air of a soldier.

It was the veteran, now in the secret service of Bismarck, determined not to lose sight of his man.

Paul was rather charmed by such pertinacity, and resolved to make it as easy for the old fellow as possible.

The relief train arrived at last, the wounded were placed aboard, and the unhurt had the privilege of finding places as best they could.

Nor was Paul at all sorry to leave the scene of the disaster, for though it had freed him of the unwelcome attentions of the two keepers, its unpleasant associations would always linger in his memory.

One who has passed through such an experience can understand how he felt.

The wounded were left at the nearest town, where they could be properly taken care of.

Paul often wondered what became of the stout pretended merchant, since he seemed to have vanished in this air at the time of the catastrophe—he might be running yet for all the American could say.

Rhineland was glad when the spies of Berlin appeared in view.

Once in the capital, as the day was drawing near its close, Paul determined to seek an hotel and defer his mission until the morrow.

The veteran was the old man of the sea, who clung so tenaciously to the shoulders of Sinbad the Sailor—he was not to be dislodged either through cajolery or threats.

Compelled to make the most of a bad bargain, the American frankly invited his shadow to share the hackney droachy in which he intended going from the station to the hotel, which opportunity the other eagerly seized.

Berlin was unusually thronged for the season of the year, and soldiers were to be met with in squads and companies at every turn, arriving and departing—yet it might be noticed that all who quitted the capital went toward the south.

It was a wonderful sight to see these two great nations pushing their legions forward toward a common line of demarcation, the Rhine, and facing them there at several points long before the first tocsin of war had sounded.

But ah! Bismarck knew full well what untoward influences were moving Louis Napoleon, and that there could be no other settlement of the grave questions between them save by the arbitrament of arms. Hence, every move he made was done with the full assurance that it would presently prove to be one of the stepping stones to Paris.

And Bismarck made no mistake when he played his pawns with such telling effect that Von Moltke was afterward enabled to sweep the chess board.

For more than half a century had the Germans awaited a chance to pay back the scores of Napoleon Bonaparte's time, but the hour was at hand.

Paul had much to think of that evening.

He even forgot that the veteran continued to hover near by, keeping an eye upon all his movements.

That those he had left in the university town were much in his thoughts was a foregone conclusion.

When would he see them again? His heart went out to Karl, whom he loved almost as though he were a brother—and then there was Beatrix, his sister, and last but not least, Hildegard.

The recollection gave him a pain, because clouds seemed to hover about their sky, and he could not see clearly what the end would be—yet it were certainly better to have known this charming girl and lost her than that they had never met—he was the better for the experience, it exalted his ideas of womanly virtues, and, though the probe brought keen pain, he expressed no wish that his steps had turned other than thither.

Thus he considered as the night drew on, seated just outside the hotel, and watching the animated scene upon the famous street known far and wide as Unter den Linden.

Unconscious of the surprise in store for him, he idly smoked and pondered upon his plans for the morrow, when he expected to seek an audience with the great man, who, many years before had been a schoolmate with his father; and all the while his eyes mechanically followed those who sauntered to and fro.

Thus, amid the press of gaily dressed women, and fierce, swaggering military heroes, he noticed a droachy drawn up at the curb from which a yellow-haired young man bounded, and Paul uttered a cry of surprise, not unmingled with consternation, as he recognized his friend and chum of the Rhine Corps, Karl Von Stettin.

CHAPTER XIV.

Dead to the World.

Paul hastened to give Karl a cordial welcome, asking what on earth had brought him to Berlin.

"Ah!" returned Karl, "there is news, great news, though Berlin does not seem to know it yet. Louis Napoleon has declared war on Germany."

Paul held his breath and stared hard. "Then it is war. He has had the rashness to take the fatal step which will result in his ruin."

Paul wondered how the sudden news would affect his own mission to the capital.

Could he now gain an interview with the prince? That commander would have his time fully occupied, Paul knew, still he hoped for the best.

Then something in Karl's manner struck Paul as strained, and he anxiously inquired if he had brought bad news from Heidelberg.

"The truth you must know at once, no matter how it cuts. Heroic measures are best. Prepare, then, for a shock, my friend. Some one you believed dead has appeared on the scene."

"Who is it?" asked Paul, slowly.

"One who, if she be all you have believed, would have done better to have remained dead to the world at least."

Paul started as if struck a wicked blow. "My God! Do you mean—my mother?"

His companion slowly nodded his flaxen head.

"Alive—and I fondly believed the grave had forever buried her sad secret. Alive, and she has returned to Beatrix?"

Paul dropped his head into his hand wearily, and seemed to be wrapped in deep thought.

One, two, three minutes crept by, and Karl made no attempt to break in upon his sad reflections. At length Paul raised his head.

"I am ready to hear what you know, Karl, although I can perceive that it is far from pleasant news. Make it as brief as you possibly can, consistent with the facts."

"That I will, and I want you to know, dear friend and brother, that I suffer with you."

"When I had seen you off on the train I found my way to the stage of Beatrix and the lady with whom she lived. I speedily found a way to gain an entrance to the parlor, where presently Beatrix came with tears in her pretty eyes, to tell me of the strange thing that had happened—and to say farewell."

"That very evening one had come whom she had for years believed dead—come to her from Paris in the dark robes of a nun, and in whom she recognized her once dearly loved mother, who had learned that you were in Europe, doubtless seeking your sister with the intention of taking her away, and this she seemed to dread. So they were making hasty preparations to go at once to Paris."

Paul ground his teeth.

"How wretchedly unfortunate—to Paris of all places, when, in a few months, the forces of King Wilhelm will be hammering at the gates. If I had but been there to have prevented it."

"I doubt whether you could, as Beatrix is not yet of legal age and still amenable to her mother's rule."

Agala Paul seemed to stare into vacancy.

He was thinking of the past, thinking of that dearly beloved father who had suffered so keenly through this one fatal fault of the woman who had borne his name and been the mother of his children. That father had borne his cross in silence and never had Paul heard him curse the fate that made him an exile from his people.

What was his duty?

CHAPTER XV.

Since woman who sinned were forgiven in Palestine when He walked the earth, had Paul Rhineland, merely a poor, weak, erring mortal himself, any right to refuse to forget, especially when the sinner was his own mother, and years of atonement had witnessed her repentance?

Thus he put the question to himself, and as he wrestled, his better nature assumed the upper turn, so that he came out with a firm determination to sooner or later seek this mother, and bring her the message of forgiveness he had heard his father mutter as he passed away.

He felt better when he had determined on his step, and pressed Karl for further news. Without further preliminary the latter said:

"Hildegard is taking lessons to be a nurse."

"What?"

"A hospital nurse."

"And go with the army to war?"

"Just so. I admire her for it, God bless her brave heart," declared Karl. Paul was visibly distressed.

"To think of a gentle girl like her being exposed to the horrors of a battlefield—it is monstrous."

"She does not think so—she is willing to go wherever brave German soldiers hew a way. It is fate, my Paul, and whether you fancy the idea or not matters very little. If, by the kindness of Providence, both of you come out of the affair safe and sound, perhaps I may be permitted to dance at your wedding."

But Paul only shook his head.

The future looked too dark and forbidding for him to think of attaining such happiness—he could not conceive that it lay in store for him.

The next day marked an era in Berlin.

The feeling of suspense was gone, and people knew the worst—they could talk openly now without getting into trouble, and discuss the problem which Bismarck had undertaken to solve with sword and bayonet after all manner of diplomacy had failed.

Paul sallied forth.

So did the old veteran, came and all. There were many sturdy difficulties in the way, but ingenuity, together with a well-directed supply of silver groshens and an occasional interview with successive persons in authority at length gained him what he sought. When he found himself in the presence of the Crown Prince Frederick, Paul was a trifle awed.

There were many generals in the room, men of stern mien, who seemed consulting the plans which Bismarck and Von Moltke explained.

The Crown Prince, bearded and booted, and looking every inch the soldier he was by birth and breeding, came toward the young man, holding out his hand, and with a smile of welcome on his pleasant face.

Paul proffered his request and Frederick at once assured the enthusiastic young American that places should be speedily found for both himself and Karl, if he had to attach them personally to himself as aides.

That was enough for Paul.

He renewed his protestations of allegiance to the double eagles of Prussia, and went out from his interview with the Crown Prince, his heart filled with love and loyalty toward that singularly attractive man who had once been the boy friend of his own father in the days long since passed.

Paul knew he would receive his orders in good time, and meanwhile there were several necessary things he and Karl must attend to.

Thus the day wore on.

Paul was no longer worrying about the designs of the countess. He did not imagine Berlin held any dangers for one who, like himself, carried the personal autograph of the Crown Prince, and was already in a manner identified with the army.

Still there were elements about the existence of which he knew nothing, working for his downfall.

The knowledge was brought upon him suddenly and with alarming force.

Karl and himself had dined at Spargapani's on Unter den Linden, and separated upon leaving the famous restaurant, each having some minor business of importance to transact.

Paul was enjoying a cigar as he sauntered along, and taking considerable satisfaction from the weed, as only a man may who has dined well.

The hour had grown late, though one would never suspect it, judging from the streets, which were still thronged with a crowd consisting of citizens and soldiers, singing patriotic songs and uniting in occasional hoarse cheers, as some well known military man appeared upon the strasse hurrying to keep an appointment at some night council.

While Paul was forcing his way through one of these crowds, forming a cheveu de frise with his elbows to keep off boarders, he felt a hand pluck at his sleeve. The man made a respectful salutation.

"Pardon, is it Herr Rhineland I address?"

Paul replied that he had certainly hit the mark.

Then he saw with satisfaction that the other moved his hand toward his inner pocket.

"Ah! I have a communication for you, Herr Rhineland," he said solemnly.

Of course—orders to report at once and accompany the Crown Prince to the border, where the hostile armies faced each other like giants eager for the fray.

Paul's blood tingled with expectation. The rustle of the paper seemed to conjure up pictures of bivouac and battle—at least, it aroused anticipations of speedy action, and this prospect pleased his restless spirit.

(To be continued.)

WHERE ARROWHEADS GROW.

Professor's Argument Not Based on Sound Principles.

When vacation comes, Dr. Branner, the head of the Stanford geological department, hies himself far away from all things pedagogical to the remote fastnesses of the mountains, and there studies the formation of the rocks and reads the life history of earth in the deposits of the ages.

Last vacation he was in the Sierras. He had as his guide a man indigenous to the soil who had never been 20 miles from the home of his childhood. He looked with much amusement and scorn upon Dr. Branner and his assistants, and saw nothing in the work that was of interest. To him the students seemed more like good men gone daft.

One day Mr. Branner located an old Indian burying ground. In digging he came upon some choice arrow heads. Thinking to test his guide's geological as well as his ethnological knowledge, the doctor said:

"Elijah, do you know how these arrow heads came here?"

"Grown 'em," said the native, with great positiveness.

"Nonsense! If you were to take an arrow head and put it on your table and leave it there for a year's time, do you think it would grow?"

"Tain't no nonsense, neither," said Elijah. "If you was to take a potato and put it on your table, and leave it there fur a year, do you think it would grow?"—San Francisco Wave.

World Revive Nostalgia.

A new periodical has appeared in a suburb of Berlin. Its modest aim is to bring back heathenism and annihilate Christianity.

Some people miss to-day's manners in looking for to-morrow's.

ILLINOIS ITEMS

The Gordon Telephone company has received the wires to string its portion of the line from Chester to Sparta, where connection will be made with the long distance Bell telephone system.

Three weddings in one household within two months is the record made by the Kessel family, residing near Chester. Just two months ago Julius Kessel, a widower, secured a permit to wed Mrs. Clarinda Johnson, followed a few weeks later by the marriage of his daughter Emma to Herman Drewes, and now his son William has entered upon a matrimonial voyage with Miss Mary Mundt.

There were fifty-eight births reported to the county clerk at Chester during the month of March, twenty-seven males and thirty-one females.

James McCreary, aged 65 years, died at the old soldiers' home in Quincy. Deceased was a member of company E, 115th Illinois.

It seems there is to be still another district in Cass county. Ten families in four different school districts in township 17-10 have petitioned for a new school district on the ground that they are not conveniently located for school houses in their present district.

The annual statement of Joseph Huene, supervisor of Santa Fe township, shows receipts amounting to \$278.20; expenditures, \$302.76; balance on hand, \$59.15.

Rev. J. W. Knott of Ashland, Mo., has removed to Carlyle, having been called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church.

The ministerial union of Jacksonville has elected Rev. R. F. Thrapp president, Rev. C. F. Baker vice president and Rev. W. Want secretary.

Capt. Charles Rudy of Company E of Mattoon has received sixty Krag-Jorgensen rifles for the use of his company.

Chief of Police Dennis Lyons of Mattoon who was seriously injured on March 1, has assumed his duties again.

Collector of Taxes Wm. Weyh of Venice township has made settlement with County Treasurer John Tetherington, being the last official to report. The amount charged was \$56,469.99; collected, \$48,515.12; delinquent, \$7,945.87; collector's commission, \$970.30.

Lawrence De Zeng of Godfrey has been declared insane by a commission of physicians appointed by Judge Early at Edwardsville, and it was ordered that he be committed to the care of W. H. Smith Beverly farm, Godfrey, for the present. The man has property interests in Chicago and a conservator will be appointed to look after the same.

Charles H. Randle, formerly a prominent Alton resident and now a Chicago capitalist, sustained a fracture of one leg as the result of a fall at Belle Isle, La., where Mr. Randle has extensive salt mine interests.

City Clerk C. H. Hummert says that in three months ending April 1 there were eighty-five deaths in the city of Alton. The mortality in the city this year has been greater than ever before in similar length of time.

While leading a horse down an incline in an Alton livery stable Walter Spriggs, aged 14, was badly injured about the head by the horse falling down and rolling over on him.

A council of the Royal Arcanum has been organized in Alton.

George Snape, who represents himself as a minister of the Gospel, residing near Curran, is in charge of the police as a demented person.

Neille Gray, residing in Springfield, was frightfully burned about the head and face with carbolic acid, which was thrown into her face by an unknown woman. She says the woman was attired in man's clothing when she made the assault.

In the United States circuit court at Springfield Judge Humphrey denied the motion for a new trial made by the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern railroad, against whom a judgment for \$1,500 was recently ordered in favor of Margaret Clark of Flora, administratrix of the estate of John S. Clark. Clark was killed by a runaway engine while working on track repairs.

Dr. Alexander McCoy, aged 79 years, the oldest practicing physician in Tazewell county, died in Pekin.

Louis Trunkaus, one of the first craftsmen of Pekin, aged 69, is dead. He served three years with the third Illinois cavalry during the civil war. He was a personal friend of President Arthur and was tendered a lucrative position, but declined.

Dr. Rev. George F. Seymour, bishop of Springfield diocese, Episcopal church, is making his annual visitations in southern Illinois.

The total amount of taxes collected by the various township collectors in Jersey county is \$22,302.52.

The quarterly reports of the births and deaths in Jersey county from January 1 to April 1, 1902, show 48 births and 50 deaths.

E. H. Schauffer has resigned as traffic manager of the Quincy, Omaha & Kansas City railroad in Quincy, and the office at Quincy has been abolished.

The Republican county central committee of Fulton county has called the county convention to select delegates to the state senatorial and congressional conventions for April 28 at Leosion.

The neighborhood of Round Prairie, near Springfield, is stirred up over the extensive operation of corn thieves. The Anti-theft association has taken up the matter and some arrests are likely to occur soon.

Mrs. Christian Moore, aged 80 years, died at her home on East Reynolds street, Springfield. She had resided in Springfield forty-five years and had been in good health up to a week ago.

Charles Forsythe, a merchant of Decatur, has filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in the United States district court. Liabilities, \$2,925; assets, \$1,000.

Thomas Swift, while digging a cistern in Mack's Riverview addition, Alton, was badly injured by being struck on the head by a hatchet dropped by a man who was shingling a roof 25 feet above him and was partially scalped by a glancing blow of the hatchet blade.

The C. A. Vanpreter Mercantile company has been incorporated in Alton, with a capital stock of \$30,000. The incorporators are C. A. Vanpreter, William C. Beiser and C. W. Leverett.

The letter carriers of Mount Vernon have organized a branch of the National Letter Carriers' association. Oscar O. Stitch is president, Arthur O. Cummings, vice president, Elbert Leo Varnell secretary and Will B. Goodrich treasurer.

Owing to the action of the insurance companies in deciding to add a 25 per cent increase of premium on the policies now in force in that city, a movement is on foot among the business men of Mount Vernon to organize a local company and cancel all policies in foreign associations.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Tri-County Telephone company, held at Tamaroa, the capital stock of the company was increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000. The company operates in the counties of Jefferson, Perry and Franklin.

The body of William Griggs, who was drowned at Meredosia was recovered one mile and a quarter below the point where the accident occurred.

Henry McInert, a farmer, was accidentally thrown from his wagon while driving home from Nashville and sustained serious injuries.

A telegram from Cameron, Tex., announces the death of Wilbur Crawford, once a widely known newspaper man of Bloomington, but who of late years has been a resident of Texas.

Information has been received at Jacksonville of the death of Col. C. M. Morse of Philadelphia. Col. Morse was for many years a resident of Jacksonville.

After waiting for three months for her son to return home, the mother of John Dunning, of Olmstead, Ill., discovered that he was dead. The young man was killed by a Big Four train just north of Cairo on December 24.

James Nuckols was acquitted by a jury in the circuit court at Taylorville of a charge of assault with intent to murder. Barney Lynch entered a plea of guilty to petit larceny and was sentenced to thirty days' confinement in the county jail.

H. A. Marsh retired as postmaster at Upper Alton, relinquishing his office to John G. Seltz, who was appointed three weeks ago.

John Rylie, son of George M. Rylie, was shot in the face at Alton by his cousin, Kennel Hopkins, son of George Hopkins. The boys were playing with a blank-cartridge revolver and the Hopkins boy snapped it in his cousin's face, the powder and lead lodging in the Rylie boy's eye. Both are 9 years of age. It is believed the sight of the injured eye can be saved.

A meeting of the Methodist ministerial association of the Decatur district will be held at Maroa, opening April 21.

The Illinois Southern railway has a large force of men at work lowering the heavy grades and filling the cuts along the road between Chester and Sparta.

Rev. R. D. Woodley, presiding elder of the Lebanon district M. E. church, announces the appointment of Rev. John Leeper as pastor of the charge at Okaville, to succeed Rev. Columbus Bradford, retired.

Henry Langley, tax collector of Taylorville township, has made the following report to the county treasurer: Charged, \$63,000; collected, \$57,000; delinquent, \$6,000; commission, \$1,124.

W. H. Kirkwood has been appointed as a member of the board of review for Christian county.

According to reports received by County Clerk Chance during the months of January, February and March there were 102 deaths in Marion county. During the same months 146 births were reported.

The Republican central committee met at Winchester and set the date for the county convention for April 21; primaries, Saturday, April 19.

At a meeting of the board of trustees of the state school for the blind at Jacksonville, J. H. Freeman was elected superintendent, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Supt. Hall, which takes effect July 1.

Roy Arnold has been sworn in as town clerk of Salem township. He is the only Republican who has been elected in that township for several years.

Harriet Moore Elliott, aged 48 years, died of consumption at her home in Virginia. She was the wife of Abraham D. B. Elliott and was active in church work.

Hort Vail, aged 66, vice president of the Kewanee Bibles company and prominent in G. A. R. and Odd Fellows circles, died at Kewanee of pneumonia.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Urey, residing near Martinsville, celebrated their 50th anniversary with a golden wedding. There were 300 invitations issued.

The pupils of the Decatur public schools have contributed \$35 to the McKinley monument fund. The Decatur banks collected \$33.72 for the same purpose.

Manager Fred Pfeiffer has completed the list of players for the Decatur club in the Three-I baseball league. The players will be: McGill, Dorney and Bruce, pitchers; Smith and Schewbridge, catchers; Dickey, first base; Pfeiffer, second; Ryan, short; Hankey, third; Burt, left; McQuaid, center; Schmidt, right.

Covered with snow and with a revolver clutched in the right hand, the body of Howard R. Miller, a student at the Keokuk college of physicians and surgeons at Keokuk, Ia., was found in Lincoln Park, Chicago. It is believed he ended his life while dependent on account of overstudy.

Attorney General H. J. Hamlin furnished the means which will probably result in the extermination of the so-called "investment" companies that have recently begun to infest the state. Judge Hamlin has rendered an opinion, upon the request of Secretary of State Rose, holding that the concerns cannot be licensed in Illinois under the foreign corporation act.

Mrs. Albert Susanka died very suddenly at Cairo. Mrs. Susanka came to Cairo before the war and has resided there ever since. She leaves a husband, six daughters and three sons.

The Three States Buggy and Implement company have secured an option upon the Gallegher mill building at Cairo and propose to put machinery in it for the manufacture of buggies. It is probable that they will have the plant in operation by the first of May.

Rev. Charles H. Young of Omaha, Neb., has been called to the head of the Church of the Redeemer at Cairo, to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Rev. P. A. De Rosier to Springfield. The matter was decided at a special meeting of the vestry of the church, held Friday evening.

During the past few days 300 trees have been planted at the state fair grounds at Springfield. The trees are planted in various parts of the grounds, so that they will not interfere in any way with the exhibits. They are of several varieties, including Linden, sycamore, mountain ash and poplar.

Henry and James E. Cross, dishwashers near Carmi, Ill., have been lodged in jail at Springfield by the government authorities on the charge of making false returns of fruit purchased for the manufacture of brandy and of the sale of the manufactured article. Their still was raided and 100 gallons of brandy seized. Henry Cross was convicted several years ago of "boot-legging."

The ladies of Upper Alton are planning to form a village improvement association, the purpose of which will be to take active measures for the beautifying of the village.

The home of Deaa Hamilton of Brighton was entered by burglars and the house was plundered of all the silverware, money and jewelry in it. The members of the family did not learn of the robbery until morning, not being disturbed by the burglars during their work.

At a meeting of the Democratic central committee at Chester it was decided to hold a convention at Red Bud on Tuesday, May 6, to nominate a county ticket and select delegates to the state, congressional and senatorial conventions. The precinct primaries were called for Saturday, May 3.

The St. Louis Valley railway has found it necessary to make an expenditure of about \$25,000 in constructing its bridge across the Kaskaskia river, just above the Okav cutoff. It was the original intention to build only a small affair, but as the Kaskaskia river is a navigable stream at certain seasons of the year, a drawbridge was substituted. The bridge will be completed in a short time, when trains will be running.

Bricks are being hauled to the site of the proposed new Lutheran church on North Trout street, Nashville, the building of which will be commenced as soon as the weather breaks. The building is to be of frame, 68 feet long and 26 feet wide, with a steeple 35 feet high.

Miss Rilla Palmer, a Highland Park young woman, left for China, via San Francisco, to become the bride of Professor Chaucery M. Lewis of the Chinese government college. Mr. Lewis was a member of the class of 1891, Northwestern Military academy, Highland Park.

Bishop J. M. Thoburn, who for forty-three years has been a Methodist missionary in India, conducted a missionary council at the Salem Methodist Episcopal church.

W. L. Davenport, and