

At Swords' Points;

OR.
A SOLDIER OF THE RHINE.

By ST. GEORGE RATHBORNE

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CHAPTER XV.—(Continued.)
In imagination, Paul could already see the formal character of the order which gave him a footing among the soldiers of the King, and directed him how to reach the front.

He was therefore never more surprised in his life than when, upon opening the letter, he discovered that, instead of the printed form he had expected, he saw feminine chirography. He looked up, frowning.
"You have made a mistake," he said. "Surely not. Look on the other side," returned the messenger, eagerly.
Here was his name beyond a peradventure:

"Herr Paul Rhinelander, "Hotel Royale."
With a feeling of astonishment he again whipped the paper over, and this time his eye ranged from the "Dear Friend" at the top to the signature that he discovered below.
Then it was an electric shock permeated his whole system.
For that name was "Hildegarde!"
He somehow or other forgot all about the important order he had been expecting—love takes preference even above the ambitions of martial glory.

When Paul read the contents of the note he was stirred, and for the time being reason gave way to impulse.

Hildegarde was in Berlin—unexpected trouble had come upon her and she needed a friend's advice and assistance—could she presume upon his courtesy to assist her in solving a perplexing dilemma, and, if thus inclined, would he speed without delay to the house at which she was stopping, since to-morrow might be too late?
Would he go? Well—it must be something very unusual that could stop him.

But where—the note failed to mention the name and number of the strasse where she awaited him.
Again he turned to the messenger.
"The lady gave you this letter herself?"
"With her own charming hand, mynheer."

"You can take me to her at once."
"That is what I am here for, mynheer."
"Lead me to her, friend, said Paul, endeavoring to still the exultant strain in his voice.
"At once, mynheer. Pray follow," came the reply.

The messenger seemed fully at home in the great German capital, and led Paul hither and thither with the utmost freedom.
"Indeed, if his movements had been especially intended to confuse the Americans, and make him lose all sense of his bearings, they could hardly have been better arranged.

Those numerous bridges over the Spree seemed so much alike that Rhinelander found himself utterly unable to declare which side of the river he stood upon.
A stranger in Berlin can easily be lost in some of the districts that compare with London's Whitechapel.

Paul was not paying much attention to these things, his mind being upon facts that seemed of more importance to him, facts that concerned the writer of that note.
Why had Hildegarde come to Berlin?
There must be some mystery back of it, some story which she was desirous of confiding to him.

This thought increased his eagerness to reach her side.
She spoke of peril—how gladly would he throw himself into the breach to ward off any impending disaster—it was a blessed privilege for which he could not be too thankful.
Finally his guide led him into a house.

Paul had a vague feeling that the neighborhood was hardly up to the standard of respectability he might have set, but such minor matters should not be allowed to disturb his pleasant frame of mind, as he anticipated a speedy interview with the object of his regard.

As he sat in a stuffy little parlor and awaited the coming of Hildegarde, he remembered the occasion in Heidelberg when he had last seen her, when she blushed so beautifully under his compliments, and aroused within his heart so furious a holy passion that the very thought of it still had power to electrify him.

He could not sit still longer, but, thrilled with eager anticipation, began to walk excitedly up and down the confines of the little room.
Was that a voice—ah! surely his keen ears should know the swish of feminine skirts.
She was coming, then, his heart's idol, his queen, and the miserable little parlor would presently be glorified by her radiant presence.

Closer still came the sound of feminine garments, and Paul held his very breath as his eyes were glued upon the door at the other end of the room, through which she must presently appear.
Then some one burst upon his startled sight, a vision of beauty and shimmering garments, such as might have aroused the admiration of an anchorite, but the effect upon Paul was only that of sudden, keen and terrible chagrin and cruel disappointment, for he looked not upon the blushing countenance of Hildegarde, but the bold, handsome, triumphant face of Countess Almes.

CHAPTER XVI.
The Countess Springs the Trap.

When this singular and remarkable termination to his dream occurred Rhinelander was in a state bordering on chagrin and anger. He realized that he had indeed made a fool of himself.

The countess advanced into the room. "You do not appear very glad to see me again, Paul," she remarked, in her merry way, her sloe-black, dazzling orbs fastened upon him with a look that produced a singular effect.
"I am not, with good reason. Any man would feel pretty much that way who had been lured into a trap. I am angry at myself most of all."
"And pray why?" with an arch smile.

"Because I have been such a fool not to see your hand back of the game," he said, in so positive a manner that the adventuress winced.

"Ah, you are not complimentary. Well, mark my words, fire will melt ice, and in war the soldiers of King William cannot stand up before the brave charges of my countrymen. I hear you have seen the Crown Prince and that he has promised to place you near his person."
Paul was secretly surprised.

This fact, how could she know it, when so far as he was aware, it might be deemed a secret between himself, Karl and the Crown Prince? Evidently she had means of discovering things that were supposed to be unknown outside of the council chamber of the palace.

"I have offered my services to His Royal Highness, and, on account of the friendship formerly existing between himself and my father, have been accepted. I shall go to the war."
"Perhaps."

The peculiar manner in which she uttered this one word caused him to look at her keenly.
"Perhaps?" he repeated. "Why do you say that, ma'mselle?"
"Well, I have no doubt His Excellency is enough of a philosopher not to appear very much surprised if, say, early to-morrow morning he received a very polite note from you, respectfully declining the honor he has been good enough to offer you."

"Do you mean that you would send such a note?" he demanded, with some show of anger.
"Yes! In the cause of love, I would not even hesitate to do that, believing I was acting for your good."
"You would not dare send that letter!"
"There is nothing I would not dare—for you!" fixing her lustrous orbs upon him.

He shivered, whether with rage or alarm he knew not; perhaps something of both.
Surely never before was man in this humor wooed—and Paul did not fancy being a pioneer in the courts of Love.

Such things may do in some effete Old World monarchies, but not among the sturdy new branches of the Anglo-Saxon race, where men hew fortunes out of virgin soil and sue for favor at the feet of the woman they love best.
He made an impatient move.
"What would you, monsieur?" she asked.

"I am going."
"You are cruel."
"No, I am only desirous of acting as any man of honor should act," firmly.
"And, knowing how madly I adore you, Paul, you would leave me without even a word of hope, the least sign of affection?"

How soft and entreating her voice—the sirens of the ancient Greek mariners were not in the same class with this modern Circe.
Fortunately Paul did not have to steel his heart against it since Hildegarde occupied that throne, and there was no room for two.

"It would be folly worse than madness to do anything of the sort, and you know it as well as myself. So, good-night, countess!"
"Ah!"
This exclamation fell from her lips in a sort of exultant satisfaction.

For Paul, turning to leave the apartment as he had entered it, was thunderstruck to discover no signs of a doorway in the wall—everywhere the same white expanse, without any apparent means of making an exit.

When Rhinelander made this remarkable discovery he realized that he had been caught napping and was in a trap.
However, Paul was too cool a customer to grow wild and rush hither and thither, like a chicken when the shadow of a hovering hawk strikes terror to its quaking heart.

He cast a sweeping glance around him, while the woman held her breath, expecting an outburst.
"Well, now that's very odd," he remarked, just vexed a trifle, apparently.
"What has happened?" she asked.
"The door has disappeared."
"Indeed, so it has!"
He threw himself into a chair. Her eyes glistened at this sign of his careless indifference.

"Then you are not going yet, Paul?" she asked.
He looked at her steadily.
"Well, no; not just yet. My mind has changed, and there is not as much need of haste as I supposed."
"Mon Dieu! excellent, superb! You are what I should call a philosopher, Paul!"

How she loved to flatter! He cared not for her flattery, but he was glad to see her so pleased.
"Now," said Paul, "let's talk about

this matter calmly. I grant that you have brought me here in a manner that does you credit, and I seem to be in something of a hole. Perhaps we can arrange it all in some sort of compromise."
Womanlike, the countess took this as a sign of weakness and became more positive in her demands.
"The paper" will not be sent upon only one condition, monsieur.

"Ah! yes, and that?"
"You will renounce forever all desire to make this girl, Hildegarde, your wife, and agree to bestow upon me the regard I crave."
He sat in silence for several minutes, knowing that he was inflicting torture upon her with each passing second of time.

"Well, have you decided, monsieur?"
"Yes."
"And the result?" bending forward eagerly.
"I must respectfully decline the proposition."
She bit her lips—hope had made her heart throb like a triphammer, but now it seemed to hang almost dead and lifeless within her.

"You know the consequences?"
"Not wholly, but I am prepared to meet them as they come."
"I am surprised!"
"You expected me to be overwhelmed. My dear countess, I have spent my boyhood on the plains of Texas among cowboys, who early learn to depend upon themselves in an emergency. We Americans do not easily yield."

"So I perceive. And a Frenchwoman is said to be equally stubborn in her way."
"Then it is a Roland for an Oliver. This is not so very bad, you know," stretching his limbs, and making himself a little more comfortable, "if it were not that it comes about against my will."
Paul, although seeming to take the affair in a careless manner, was cudgeling his brains as to the means that should be employed to effect his escape.

What would his generous benefactor think when he failed to show up in the morning?
He groaned in spirit and his feeling toward the adventuress drew rapidly toward the line where hatred would supplant indifference.

Paul had half turned with the intention of making vigorous demands upon his fair jailer, when, without the least warning, as if in response to some signal of the countess, the lights went out.
Instinctively the American sprang out of his chair and sought to lay hold of the woman to keep her as a hostage, but his arms only clasped the chair in which she had been seated, which, unable to withstand his sudden assault, fell over to the floor, taking it along with it.

He heard the swish of silken garments, following the miserable chair. He was not in any too good humor after the little episode, since he had bruised his hand, and made a fool of himself generally, as he believed.
Standing there in the dark, he listened.

All was quiet within the house, though the noises of the city came in a faint, confused murmur.
He struck a match and by the aid of the brief illumination he was able to take a cursory view of his surroundings.

There must be a door somewhere, and his next duty was to find it, but the search was vain.
As he was unable to discover the cleverly hidden door, Rhinelander changed his tactics.
Surely there must be some other means of ventilating the apartment—a window, scuttle or trap door, for instance—he was in a humor where the means counted but little in the race, the end being the main feature.

So he began another series of investigations.
(To be continued.)

He Was Not a Stud.
No one who sees Justice Gray of the United States supreme court, sitting solemnly upon the bench, would believe he is susceptible to humor. In fact, throughout his long service on the bench only one instance is recorded where he deigned to exhibit a jocular mood. It was the day when Judson L. Harmon, the attorney-general, was making an argument before the court. He had occasion to display a map showing the loyalty in which the land in dispute was situated, and held it up for the inspection of the court. It was a very small map and difficult to see from the bench. Mr. Harmon referred to it as "a bird's-eye view" in the effort to discern the map.

"Mr. Attorney-General," he said in despair, "I regret to tell you that I am not a bird." And then the justice, chuckling over the outburst of humor, sank back in his seat.

Old Mexican Mines.
Spanish annals declare that between 1600 and 1700 the Tapaya mines in Mexico produced \$80,000,000, and that after that the Indian slaves employed in them murdered the Spanish owners and the mines were lost. On old Spanish maps they appear in northwestern Mexico, about fifty leagues from the sea, and near the town of Dos Pilates. They have now been rediscovered near Cinteguita.

Subterranean Lakes in Australia.
Subterranean lakes have recently been discovered in the Eucla district, Australia. They lie about thirty feet below the surface and contain an abundant provision of potable water. This discovery is of great practical importance to this especially arid district. It is of scientific value, also, as it affords an explanation of the disappearance of certain rivers.

ILLINOIS ITEMS

The New Eminence Christian church, costing \$6,000, was dedicated at Lincoln with fitting ceremonies before a large gathering of people. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by Rev. L. L. Carpenter of Wabash, Ind.

At Murphysboro Ezekiel Morgan was shot three times by Henry Grogan as a result of a fight between the two. Morgan and a friend went to Grogan's house and were denied admittance. The door was kicked in and a fight ensued, in which Morgan was beaten over the head with a poker. Later Morgan returned, accompanied by his brother, John, and all opened fire with their revolvers. Grogan was shot in the left shoulder, and Zeke Morgan received a bullet through the neck, one in the left breast above the heart and a third in the right forearm. He may die. Grogan surrendered, and is in jail.

An application to organize a national bank has been made by the American Exchange National bank of Coffeen; capital, \$25,000.
Dr. O. O. Whittington of Herrick died of typhoid fever. He was a member of the Masonic order, Knights of Pythias and Court of Honor.

At the coming city election at Mascoutah a vote will be taken for the refunding of \$10,000 city bonds at 3% per cent interest.
The board of trade has taken up the question of rural mail routes and is endeavoring to get three routes for Mascoutah.

Rev. William Bryson Smith of St. Louis county has accepted the call given him by the Presbyterian church of Carrollton, and will enter upon his pastoral duties the first Sunday in May.
Charles E. McCurdy of Enfield has placed his resignation as second lieutenant of company F, I. N. O., in the hands of First Sergeant Lou Reece, who is in temporary command of the company. It will be forwarded to the proper authorities at Springfield.

The officials of the Peoria division of the Illinois Central have abandoned Mascoutah Falls as a summer resort and excursion point.
Arrangements have been completed and the contract awarded for a permanent double arch to be erected across Walnut street at Eleventh street, Murphysboro. The arch will be of 4-inch gas pipe and will be studded with colored electric lights. The funds for the arch have been donated by the Odd Fellows and Elks, assisted by the labor organizations.

James Kanoe, the newly-elected supervisor from Sand River township, who was seriously injured by being trampled by a horse, is in a critical condition and it is thought he will not recover.
Tax Collector Calvin Litch of Mattoon township, has made the following report: Amount charged, \$98,474.52; amount collected, \$82,680.11; amount delinquent, \$14,794.42.

The new pipe organ of the church of the Immaculate Conception at Mattoon was dedicated with a large concert. Prominent artists from Chicago were present to assist with the programme. The organ was placed in the church at the cost of \$4,500 and is one of the finest instruments in that part of the state.

Maj. J. B. Jeffery, special agent of the postoffice department for the rural free delivery service, has examined during the past week the routes planned by the Lebanon and Summerfield offices. He will approve two routes from Lebanon, with a strong probability that a Summerfield route and a third one from Lebanon will be recommended. Eight candidates for the positions as carriers were examined at the Lebanon office.

Arrangements are being made for the dedication of the new Cumberland Presbyterian church at Salem on Sunday, May 11.
Because of the authorship of a book advocating the doctrine of reincarnation of souls, and offering scriptural reference in support thereof, the Rev. Columbus Bradford has been removed from the pastorate of the Methodist Episcopal church at Okawville, to which he was appointed last year, and at the next meeting of the Lebanon district conference will be called on the answer a charge of heresy.

Reports from Cairo say a hard freeze was disastrous to the asparagus crop, and the loss to the growers will be heavy. The shipping would have begun from this vicinity, but the frost cut down the tender young shoots and shipments will be delayed a week, and even later, should the weather remain cool. This will cause the shippers to miss the early market, which is always the most profitable. Strawberries are yet unhurt, as but few are in blossom. Indications are now that there will be a part of a crop of peaches, despite the statements earlier in the season that they were all killed.

After lying in a critical condition in the Springfield hospital for nearly two weeks, Anderson Faulkner recovered his clothes, which had been hidden from him, and made his escape. He was stabbed and cut in several places during an affray with John Glover over a woman. He is charged with assault with intent to kill and would have had to stand trial upon his recovery and removal from the hospital.

Rev. Louis J. Duncan, formerly of Quincy, has accepted a call to become pastor of the Unitarian church in Peoria, Mo.

During the first three months of this year City Clerk Frank Suddoth of Mt. Vernon issued thirty-six death certificates.
The Wabash, Chester and Western railroad has paid its taxes, amounting to \$1,949.16, to Collector R. A. Anderson at Mt. Vernon.

State Mine Inspector Evan Johns is seriously ill at his home in Carbondale. The old race track at the Cairo fair grounds exists no longer. A force of workmen is engaged in grading the grounds, which will be platted into city lots.

Dr. Allan Dunaway, a prominent resident of Virginia, died suddenly of heart disease at Pittsburg, Pa.
Mrs. Lydia Hallett is dead at her home at Bloomington, aged 87.

The Democratic congressional committee of the new 25th district convened in Carbondale to issue a call for the next Democratic convention, which will convene in that city on June 3 to nominate a candidate for Congress in opposition to Congressman Smith. D. W. Karraker of Jonesboro, was elected chairman, and State Senator Roy Alden, secretary.

Thomas J. Trotter has resigned his position as postmaster at Columbus, and a number of applications have been filed for appointment to succeed him. Among the applicants is Richard McNeal, former recorder of Adams county, who is highly indorsed for the position. It is understood he will be appointed.

Mrs. Annie Mary Williams died at her home in Waterloo, aged 75 years. She was born in Germany.
Mrs. Corinna Morton Green, wife of Dr. W. Duff Green, died at Mount Vernon.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Highland fair association held in the city hall it was unanimously decided to hold a fair next fall. The dates set are September 4, 5, 6 and 7.
Mrs. Christina Klein, an old resident of Quincy, died, aged 82 years.

Harry Worth, aged 13 years, had his foot crushed by being caught under the wheels of a dray at Quincy.
The Enterprise Stove and Sheet Metal Manufacturing company has been incorporated at Quincy with a capital of \$20,000, and will soon commence operations, giving employment to twenty men.

The Daughters of Rebekah of Alton lodge are planning to give a big picnic at Rock Springs park May 1 to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of Odd Fellowship. The Alton lodges of Odd Fellows will co-operate with the Rebekahs in giving the picnic.

The Chicago and Alton is digging a ditch 15 feet wide, 15 feet deep and several miles in length to divert the drainage of water near Godfrey to the railroad pond, which has been enlarged and has not been full since the improvements were completed. It has been found the territory drained into the pond is not extensive enough and thousands of acres will be drained into the pond by the ditch.

An injunction has been prayed for by the Chicago and Alton railway against the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis railway to restrain the defendant company from tearing out a crossing surreptitiously laid by the Alton at the junction of the two roads north of Springfield. The crossing is part of the Alton's new double-track system extending north from Springfield.

The corner stone of the new M. E. church was laid at Mattoon in the presence of a large crowd. The address was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Hill, of Kansas City, and the ceremonies attending the laying of the stone were performed by Presiding Elder S. H. Whitlock and the Rev. J. B. Horney, pastor of the church. The church will be completed about Sept. 30, and will be one of the finest in that section of the state. It will cost \$35,000.

The case of George Cline against the Capital Electric company was dismissed by the circuit court at Springfield. About two years ago Cline fell from a pole, the property of the defendant company, and received injuries for which he asked damages to the amount of \$5,000. This suit he has failed to prosecute and the case was stricken from the docket.

It has developed that James Wilson, who was recently convicted at Ava, Mo., for a murder in 1869, was for several years in hiding near Jacksonville. He lived in a log cabin in the woods, and was considered weak-minded. It was known that often in the night he would imagine that his cabin was surrounded by armed men, and he would begin shooting at the walls of his sleeping-room. The logs now show scores of bullet holes, as the result of this mental condition. The people in the neighborhood knew there was some mystery connected with his past, but never were able to find the facts until they saw the report of the trial in the newspapers, together with his picture.

Mrs. Ellen Smith, widow of William H. Smith, died at the home of her son, William Elliot Smith, president of the Illinois Glass company of Alton. Mrs. Smith fell while crossing the floor of her bed chamber at the home of her son, Elm Ridge, and she sustained a fracture of her hip joint. Death was due to the effects of this accident.

Everett Maynard, a young lad, who was run over by an Illinois Central train at Cairo, died from his injuries.
Mrs. A. C. Finn, wife of a prominent stock dealer, is dead at his home at Keokuk, Mo.

Alexander C. Norton, a well-known newspaper man of Chicago, has been appointed examining surgeon.

Our's council, No. 507, International Protective League, was organized at Salem with sixty-one charter members. Charles Nichols, a prominent farmer of Meacham township, died, aged 70 years.

Mrs. R. C. Finn, aged 80 years, died at her home, southeast of Salem.

The newly organized carpenters joiners' union of Pinckneyville elected the following officers: President, Scurlock; president, John Miller; president, Lewis Starling; secretary, W. G. Wilson; treasurer, F. G. Wilson; trustees, James McLane, conductor, E. E. Williams and William Weiser.

The union will hold a meeting on Saturday evening, when the charter will be closed.
John Mariotto pleaded guilty to carrying concealed weapons, in the county court, at Taylorville, and was fined \$100 and costs.

Taylorville typographical union elected the following officers: President, Frank J. Wheeler; vice president, W. T. Martin; recording secretary, Claude Speer; financial secretary, V. McAduo; executive committee, T. Martin, E. J. Flynn and C. W. Martin.

W. R. Greenwaldt, aged 51 years, died at his home in South Park township. He is survived by his wife and three sons.
Louis Weiser sold 120 acres of land in Buckhart township to R. F. Springer for a consideration of \$80,000—a total of \$10,000.

Henderson Burson, an old resident of Litchfield, died at the home of his daughter, aged 75 years. The remains were taken to Paris, where the funeral services were held. Rev. J. W. Nye, of Varnalton, conducted the services.

The date of the Republican senatorial convention at Cairo, which was set for Thursday, May 8, has been changed to Thursday, May 15, as the state convention will be held on the former date.
Mr. and Mrs. Lester McMurray of Springfield for Denver, Colo., where they expect to spend their declining years. Mr. McMurray had been connected with the Springfield postoffice since 1857, and for the past thirty years has been assistant postmaster.

Ed S. Chaschak, formerly employe of various newspapers in Springfield, has been appointed eastern agent for the Iowa Central railroad with headquarters at Peoria.

There has been a persistent rumor for some time past that the Wabash Railway Employers' Hospital association would remove the hospital, established in Springfield some thirty years ago, to Decatur. It now seems probable that the change will be made during the summer the reasons being that the building here is not large enough nor well adapted for being added to, and it is not as near the shops and station of the company as sites offered by Decatur and Danvers.

Bishop George F. Seymour, of the Springfield Episcopal diocese, has announced that he will make his annual visit to the Alton Episcopal church, St. Paul's, on May 15, at which time the rite of confirmation will be performed on a class of candidates. Bishop Seymour will preach his annual sermon at Alton on that day.

The Wabash officials have ordered plans drawn for the new hospital, to be erected in Decatur.
Charles Wheeler, son of the late Samuel Wheeler, and for many years a cattle buyer in central Illinois, died of pneumonia at Decatur.

Anton Engelhardt, a farmer, aged 63 years, dropped dead while following goods at the Tank Hardware company's store at Quincy.

Captain J. H. Freeman, assistant superintendent of public instruction, who has been elected as the head of the institution for the blind at Jacksonville, will assume his new duties on July 1. There has as yet been no appointment to fill the vacancy which will then exist in the office of Superintendent Baylis.

Agnes Anderson, alias Steward, of Alton, was given a hearing before United States Commissioner Kead of Springfield on the charge of sending improper matter through the mails. She was held to the grand jury under bond.

President H. C. Rainey of the Interstate Independent Telephone company declares: "It is absolutely necessary that our exchanges secure Chicago connections. It is only a question of a short time, but we must work to secure such conditions about immediately. My efforts shall be directed to that policy."

The annual convention of the Southern Illinois United Presbyterian church, comprising twenty-one churches in Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois and Indiana, also the Ladies' auxiliary society of southern Illinois, was held at Carbondale. About 100 delegates were present.

T. S. Howland has been elected mayor of the Burlington, Mo., city. Chicago. Mr. Howland was an assistant treasurer of the city of Chicago for several years.

Mrs. A. C. Finn, wife of a prominent stock dealer, is dead at his home at Keokuk, Mo.