

At Swords' Points;

OR,
A SOLDIER OF THE RHINE.

By ST. GEORGE RATHBORNE

Copyright, by STAMER & SARRA, New York.

CHAPTER XVI (Continued.)

These resulted in a discovery, for he felt positive that he could see signs of a trap door above, no unusual thing in these old Berlin houses which have stood the grime and storm of centuries.

To reach it he utilized a table that stood in a corner, upon the top of which he placed a chair.

Eureka! The extempore ladder accomplished all that was expected of it, and when he found a small section of the ceiling actually yield to his gentle, persuasive pressure, Paul began to believe that he had the game in his hands.

Being a thorough athlete he experienced no trouble in drawing himself up and passing through the opening.

Had he bettered his condition? He seemed to be in an apartment of some sort.

While moving forward to find a wall, he halted several times to listen, and thus became fully convinced that there was something or some one in the room with him. This was not pleasant, since it laid him open to attack at any moment.

As though the situation was not interesting enough for Paul, his hands by accident, while groping around, came in contact with some object that had rested upon a small table; and such was the unexpected force employed that the vase toppled over upon the floor with a crash.

It was loud enough to almost arouse the dead.

Paul heard the unknown spring erect in surprise and start toward the spot where the table had betrayed the intruder.

Bent upon defending himself, he prepared to receive the party who rashly advanced, but there was no need of warfare.

Suddenly a descending shriek attested that the unknown had struck the chute—the open trap had received him most affectionately, and ventured to kiss his face, no doubt, several times as he was passing through.

At least, so far as our friend was concerned, he wasted no pity upon the late inmate of the room who had gone into such sudden exile.

A door would be a very welcome addition to his requirements just then. And he found it, since this roof above was of the plain every-day calibre, and not fashioned to deceive stray pilgrims.

Once out of the door, Paul found himself in a hall—at least he judged it to be such, for there was no light to betray the fact.

He could hear voices and the rustling of moving persons around; then lights flashed up in the same wonderful manner which had marked their disappearance when Paul sought to detain the countess.

It began to look as though he would yet be brought face to face with the forces of the enemy, and compelled to fight his way out of this spies' nest.

How lucky he was armed! What a glow of satisfaction to draw that little toy from his hip pocket, and feel that so long as it remained faithful, he would control the situation.

But this was not making progress. To remain where he was increased his difficulties, whereas by a bold rush he might be so lucky as to reach an outer door, which, upon being forced, would bring him to the street.

He found the stairs.

Nothing seemed to hinder his progress in that direction, although there was considerable racket in other parts of the house consequent upon finding the unfortunate victim of the open trap in the room where the American had been confined.

Paul reached the outer door and was drawing the bolts, when a cry attracted his attention.

Looking up he saw the countess, with startled eyes, surveying him. He bowed with the grace of a Chesterfield.

"Ah! countess, you see it is hard to hold one who has been cowboy and Texas ranger," he said.

oner of war with MacMahon's fine army, and both Metz and the capital besieged.

Everywhere the German arms had been victorious.

Paul Rhinelander had already seen much of war's horrors, and all that was martial in his nature had been stirred by the scenes of excitement that had come his way.

There had been news of Hoffman. The man was a traitor to his country—madness had seized upon him, and making use of the fact that his maternal grandparents were Alsations, hence French subjects, he had gone over to the enemy, bag and baggage.

Paul heard this with grim satisfaction. Paul, who knew to a certainty that this change of heart had been wrought through the witchery of that beautiful and magnetic creature, the countess, and that Conrad was her latest victim.

All unknown to Rhinelander, events were under full headway and driving swiftly toward a most dramatic climax, at which altar his fate must be decided.

It was an October evening. The mutter and growl of heavy siege guns, that for hours had been sending their projectiles into the forts defending the citadel of Metz, had by degrees died away, and night was spreading her mantle of rest over the tragic scene. MacMahon's great army was hemmed in more securely than ever.

This October night was destined to be forever marked by a white stone in the annals of Paul's romantic life history—ere the morning star shone upon Metz he would have passed through another experience that must have had a decided influence upon his whole future.

He was sauntering about after coming from the field hospital, when he met by chance an aide of the general in command at this post.

From him he heard news that electrified him; news that indicated so daring a night assault on the fortress that Paul hardly believed it to be true. Immediately he sought an audience with the commander to beg for indulgence and the coveted opportunity of seeing whatever of action there might prove to be in the assault.

Rhinelander had seen much of service, but his desire to have some sort of share in everything that came to pass led him to join the forces selected for this hazardous task. He was in the van, of course—men of his stamp usually find some means of reaching the front rank when the battle is in progress.

When the French opened fire it seemed as though the whole outer works blazed with the fury of a Vesuvius.

Chassepot and mitrailleuse mingled their bark until it became a thunderous roar—men shouted and cheered, while above it all could be heard the hollow rattle of the flat Bavarian drums.

To Paul the music was a hideous nightmare, but he could appreciate the fact that it served to animate and enthrall these Bavarians just as the pibroch thrills the Highlander—muscles grew as stiff as iron, teeth snapped close together, eyes were set in that steady stare that tells of indomitable will power—and into the jaws of death they went.

They were now at the foot of the apparently impregnable fortress.

The fire above was just as furious, but most of the missiles overshoot the mark, and had they chosen to wait, a chance for a breathing spell now offered itself. However, they went up over the walls like the wild chamois of the Swiss Alps, those little Bavarians did.

In the eyes of the amazed Frenchmen they must have appeared little short of devils hatched out of the infernal fires that blazed all around.

Once in the fortifications they came into hand-to-hand conflict with the French, and then the fiercest kind of warfare was inaugurated.

The Bavarians might have held the fort had they been quickly reinforced, but it was not the policy of the German generals to bring on a battle, since starvation must decide the question speedily enough.

Their object had been attained in teaching the French that after all their position was not so impregnable as they might have believed.

And hence the signal of recall sounded.

Surrounded by struggling forms engaged in a desperate death grapple, with fires and the blaze of still booming cannon lighting up the scene as with the glow of infernal conflagrations, the spectacle of Paul engaged with a French swordsman was one fit for the delectation of the gods, and Mars himself must have been fully satisfied with such an heroic picture.

Then came the recall. Paul remained, not through choice, but because he had become involved in a singular engagement, and could not break away.

time, and if their eagerness was any gauge to their capacity for doing harm, Rhinelander must be in a bad way indeed.

Luckily for him they were mere tyros with the trenchant blades they wielded so clumsily, and he believed himself easily capable of mastering them without trouble.

At the same time the chances of his being able to escape, once this were done, grew very dubious, since the French were gathering about the scene of the singular duel, always eager to watch any feat of arms out of the ordinary run.

They saw a spectacle that was not likely to come their way every day, for Paul kept his adversaries guessing, and parrying all manner of imaginary attacks until at length he saw his chance to retire one of them with a thrust through the shoulder.

After that his work was easy enough.

He set upon the second officer, rattled his sword with quick fierce and thrust, and used him up so generally that he finally lost his nerve, when a quick upward blow sent his blade rattling away, and left him unarmed at the mercy of his foe.

Just then, however, Paul was not in a humor to decide whether to call the affair off or pink his zealous antagonist as an earnest of victory.

Truth to tell he had about all he wanted to take care of in looking out for himself.

There was about one chance in ten that he might escape as his comrades had done, by beating a hasty retreat over the edge of the ramparts.

Paul was not the man to hesitate and lose valuable time in calculating chances. Accordingly he whirled on his heel, made a mock bow to those who had just witnessed his remarkable fight, which compliment surely Frenchmen should appreciate, and then made a headlong break for the edge of the ramparts, intending to throw himself down regardless of minor damage, since it was his one chance to get clear.

So vast had been the number of troops pressing forward to have a share in the engagement that his way was blocked.

Finding his escape cut off in the direction of the wall, he changed his mind and decided that only a madman or one utterly desperate would continue to advance in that quarter, and his situation did not call for such a needless sacrifice since as a prisoner he would be liberated when the French surrendered.

Again he turned and made a dash in an opposite quarter, hardly knowing what lay ahead of him, yet desirous of evading capture.

Then his passage was blocked—guns threatened him, the shining bayonets being within a foot of his throat.

It was all up, at least so far as escape was concerned, and Paul was forced to admit this with a grant of disgust. So he dropped the point of his sword to the ground as a sign of yielding, and made no resistance when they disarmed him.

A minute later he regretted his helplessness more than words could tell, for the French officer came and surveyed him with grim contemptuous mien, and Paul recognized his old foe, Conrad Hoffman.

(To be continued.)

THE POPE'S WILL.

Document Drawn Up When His Holiness Was 27 Years Old.

It is not generally known that the Pope made a will as long ago as 1837. A copy of the document is before me. It reads:

"I leave my soul in the hands of God and of the blessed Mary. I institute as the heirs of my property my dear brothers, Charles and John Baptist, in equal shares, enjoining upon them to have fifty masses said for the benefit of my soul each year for a period of five years, after which time they will be relieved of this duty, although I recommend myself to their love and charity to help my soul still further. I also impose upon them the duty of distributing twenty scudi each year to the most needy poor of Carpinoto, my native town. I bequeath to my Uncle Anthony, as a token of my respect and affection, the porcelain service, which His Eminence, Cardinal Sala, presented to me."

This was made when the Pope was only 27 years old and at a time when his health was so poor that he did not expect to survive many months. Yet he has outlived every man of his time, every associate of his youth, every Cardinal that belonged to the Sacred College when he was elevated to it.

Chinese Dental Methods.

Some interesting specimens of Chinese dentistry have recently been shipped to Philadelphia by Dr. P. T. Carrington of Bangkok, Siam, who presented them to the University of Pennsylvania. The consignment, which is now on exhibition in the Dental museum, includes two pairs of crudely made forceps, used by the Chinese in extracting teeth, and many other specimens of the dental profession, among which are some artificial teeth carved from ivory. Some of the specimens presented by Dr. Carrington which have attracted particular attention among Penn's dental students are several teeth affected by betel-nut chewing, which works such great havoc with the teeth of orientals.

A model illustrating the practice among the Siamese of mutilating their teeth by filing, is also among the collection.

It takes a father to point an example, but a mother to be one.

ILLINOIS ITEMS

J. R. Nelson, formerly a prominent business man of Bloomington, died at Joplin, Mo., aged 66.

The remains of Thomas Sturgeon, a soldier, who had served in the Philippines, were buried at Ramsey.

The sawmill of A. J. Wolfe at El Dorado was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$4,000; no insurance. About 100 men are thrown out of employment.

Rev. M. House died in Greenville. He was a superannuated minister of the thb M. E. church and was 70 years of age.

The bodies of three Italians—Francisca Cassia, Barney Pomatto and Frank Feggoli—drowned in the Illinois river at Spring Valley a month ago, were found about fifteen miles below there. The coroner found nearly \$100 in their clothing.

The Mount Vernon district Methodist Episcopal conference, which has been in session at Mounty City, was a most successful one, and was attended by forty ministers and as many more lay members. The following young ministers were authorized to preach: H. J. Johnson, C. R. Phillips, Lemuel Mifflin, A. B. Shepard, Charles Sullivan, S. J. Sarber and L. E. Davis.

The supreme court of Illinois has rendered a decision in the case of Julius D. Ramsey et al. vs. estate of Rufus N. Ramsey, and it is favorable to the Carlyle creditors of the estate.

Mrs. Ramsey and G. Van Hoorebeke, creditors, filed claims amounting to nearly \$3,000 against property held by the late Treasurer Ramsey in St. Louis. They received a dividend of over 12 per cent. When the administrator paid out the dividend of 50 cents on the dollar to the creditors at Carlyle he kept out the money which Mrs. Ramsey and Van Hoorebeke obtained in St. Louis. They objected, and the administrator was sustained in the circuit court. It was taken to the supreme court, and there the decision of the lower court was affirmed.

At Harrisburg the jury in the case of William A. Luster, charged with murder, returned a verdict finding him guilty as charged and fixed his sentence at twenty-four years in the penitentiary.

Mrs. Charles Styles of Carlyle has been elected secretary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary society of the Presbyterian church for southern Illinois.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Hardin Presbyterian church will be celebrated at Hardin on May 29. Prominent church workers will be in attendance.

The physicians of Virginia have organized a medical association, with Dr. A. R. Lyles, the present mayor, as president, and Dr. J. A. McGee, secretary. The object is mutual protection, and they hope to perfect a county organization.

The Porter farm, located a few miles south of Virginia, was sold to Herman Kramer of Mason county. The price paid was \$75.25 per acre.

The Illinois supreme court has affirmed the decision of the Christian county circuit court in the case of Mrs. Horace Stafford against the city of Taylorville. Mrs. Stafford was awarded \$1,000 for permanent injuries which she received by a fall. She alleged that a defective sidewalk caused the fall.

It was decided at a meeting of the ministerial institute of the Christian church, held in Decatur, to hold next year's institute in Taylorville.

Archibald Thayer, who was formerly in the drug business in Taylorville, committed suicide by taking morphine. Thayer was a brother-in-law of Judge J. B. Ricks of the Illinois supreme bench.

The supreme court has affirmed the decision of the circuit court at Taylorville in the case of John Murphy against James O'Hara. Murphy sued for twenty-five years' wages as a farm hand and was given a judgment of \$2,300. He and O'Hara are brothers-in-law.

The case of Harry Hubbard, for the murder of William Espy two years ago at Benton, has been reversed and a new trial will be had. Hubbard is now serving out a fourteen years' sentence in the penitentiary at Chester.

The new First National bank opened for business at Benton. J. T. Chenault is president, W. W. McFall vice-president and G. C. Cantrell cashier.

The body of Nellie Virginia Reid, daughter of Presiding Elder and Mrs. J. Y. Reid, was taken to Benton for interment. She died very suddenly at Carmi.

William Hargus has arrived at Greenfield from the Philippines, where he has been for three years in the 18th United States infantry and 6th infantry.

The 21st district federation of women's clubs will convene in Pana June 5 and 6. Carlinville, Litchfield, Taylorville and Springfield are the other cities in the district.

President England of the Jackson county farmers' institute announces that a corn contest will be inaugurated by the institute, in which suitable premiums will be offered for corn grown in the county. The object is to secure a better quality of corn.

Thomas Stewart, a college student from Texas, a short time ago left his residence in Quincy, which had been quarantined on account of a contagious disease. Upon his return he was arraigned in the police court and fined \$25 and costs for violating quarantine regulations.

The case of Anne Gonker, a nurse girl, against E. B. Mellers was settled in the circuit court at Decatur. Mellers had been sued for \$5,000 damages for an alleged assault, but the case was dismissed on payment of \$200.

B. F. Holcombe obtained a verdict for \$1,200 against the town of Macon. The Odd Fellows of Centralia will celebrate the anniversary of that order on Friday evening, when Hon. John J. Brown of Centralia will deliver an address.

The Centralia library board has accepted the bid of Liver & Rapenthal of Chicago for the construction of the Carnegie library building, subject to the approval of Mr. Carnegie. The sum named in the bid is \$19,787. Mr. Carnegie donated \$20,000.

Henry E. Storer, township tax collector of Centralia, has returned his books to the county clerk. The total amount collected was \$48,672.62. This is the heaviest collection ever made in this township. The amount delinquent will be less than \$4,000.

Two hundred loaves of bread were on exhibition, entered in a contest by as many women, at the office of the Quincy Gas and Electric Light company. Twenty-one prizes were awarded and the seven most valuable were won, respectively, by Mrs. C. B. Taffel, Mrs. Otto Koenig, Minnie Goessling, Ella Miller, Mrs. J. A. Walker, Mrs. James McGrury and Mrs. George Einhaus.

The Quincy medical societies are making ample preparations for entertaining the Illinois Medical society, which meets in that city on May 19-21.

The young colored men of Quincy have organized a military company and will join the state militia. The officers of the company so far elected are: Prof. R. A. Byrd, captain; Chas. O. Robinson and Chas. S. S. Morrison, first and second lieutenants.

The Federal Lead company has informed the representatives of the building trades unions in Alton that no organized labor will be recognized in the work of erecting the new smelter.

A desperate encounter took place at the home of Christian Fix near New Baden. The participants were Arthur Winkler and John Ulrich, both about 20 years of age. It is alleged that Winkler drew a knife and slashed Ulrich several times. Once the blade penetrated the latter's left lung, making a wound which may cause his death. Young Winkler was arrested and given a preliminary hearing. He was held under \$500 bond to await the action of the Clinton county grand jury, which convenes in May. Both boys are members of influential families of that locality.

The state board of arbitration will meet in Pekin to investigate the strike of the stationary firemen in that city. The petition comes only from the employees. The principal employers are the distilleries and the sugar refinery.

The inspection of the glass works in Alton by the state factory inspectors has resulted in the finding of about twenty-five violations of the child labor law, and it is said that, while the Illinois Glass company is protected by affidavits of the parents of the children that they were fourteen years of age, the parents may be prosecuted for making affidavits falsely. All the manufacturing institutions are being inspected.

A jury in the county court adjudged George Paynter of Diverson to be insane. His condition is due to excessive indulgence in liquor and it is feared that he cannot live long. He will be cared for at the county poor farm.

Samuel B. Cloyd, a merchant at Chatham, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in the United States district court, with liabilities scheduled at \$7,149 and assets at \$7,524. The Caldwell bank at Chatham and various wholesale houses in Springfield are the creditors, their accounts ranging from a few dollars to \$300.

The Alton board of education opened the bids for the construction of the new high school building. The lowest bids were presented by Chicago firms. It is proposed to complete the building and furnish it for \$50,000. The lowest bid for erecting the building alone was \$29,998. The plans will be slightly altered with the purpose of reducing the cost slightly.

J. J. Gallagher, who for several years has been head pattern maker in the Big Four shops in Mattoon, has accepted a similar position with the Mobile and Ohio. Since Mr. McKee became superintendent of motive power of the Mobile and Ohio he has called several capable men who were under him when he was master mechanic of the St. Louis division of the Big Four.

Capt. Benjamin H. Penn, a Macon county pioneer, is dead at Springfield.

The information is given out by the management of the St. Louis, O'Fallon and Lebanon Electric railroad company that it is their intention to begin in July or August next the work of grading for the proposed electric road connecting Lebanon, O'Fallon, Edgemont and East St. Louis.

Hon. James R. Miller, grand secretary of the Illinois Odd Fellows, died suddenly at his home at Springfield of pneumonia, aged 53 years.

Mrs. F. W. Schumuck, wife of F. W. Schumuck, pastor of the United Presbyterian church at Decatur, died at her home south of town. The remains were taken to Mrs. Schumuck's former home at Tazewell for interment.

A freight train on the Mobile and Ohio railroad was derailed about three miles north of Sparta and traffic delayed four hours. A special excursion train to St. Louis went on from Sparta over the Illinois Central tracks and the Mobile and Ohio passenger, due at 10:24 a. m., did not reach Sparta until 3 p. m.

Rusk Miller, aged 75 years, died in Litchfield. He had been a resident of Litchfield since 1856, and was seventy-three years for the Hinwood Cemetery association.

A resolution has been passed by the Carlyle city council which fixes the wage of all teamsters who work on the streets at \$3 per day.

According to the monthly report of George Schilling, superintendent of the Carlyle waterworks, the water used during the past month was 1,923,285 gallons.

The annual statement of C. H. Bickley as supervisor of Meridian township shows total receipts, \$490.00; expenditures, \$132.72; balance on hand, \$357.28.

Capt. James A. Smith of Chester, commander of the District Soldiers' Reunion association, states that he will soon call a meeting of the executive committee to select a time and place for holding the next annual reunion. Chester will make an effort to secure the location, it having been virtually agreed last year that the next reunion would be held there if the citizens so desired. The district is composed of Jackson, Perry, Randolph and Washington counties.

The \$15,000 damage case of Mrs. Nanie Rose of Decatur vs. William Simons, growing out of gambling losses, has been settled. Mrs. Rose receiving \$100 in the adjustment.

A vicious cyclone, entirely local in character, tore up things badly at a point near J. D. Petrow's home, between Hickory and Maron townships. Two rigs driven by Sol Weigle and Levi Gray were caught in the whirl and both vehicles were wrecked, while Mr. Weigle was so badly hurt that he is regarded as in a serious condition.

Lieut. E. V. Crossman of the Alton division of naval militia has received orders to make requisition on the Alton and the Hotchkiss guns of the division, and the orders are further that every piece of the equipment of the division be put into readiness for immediate use. The orders caused no little excitement among the members of the division, and there was much speculation among the members as to the meaning. The division is also expecting an entire new equipment of uniforms.

Mrs. H. T. Rainey of Carrollton has been appointed by Gov. Yates as one of the sixteen delegates from Illinois to the national conference of charities and corrections, to be held in Detroit, Mich., May 23 to June 2. Mrs. Rainey has attained a state reputation in this line of work and has written a number of articles and made several addresses on subjects connected with it.

Michael E. McMahon, collector for Carrollton town, has made his settlement with the county collector, his books showing as follows: Total amount of taxes charged, \$90,000.00; amount collected, \$27,418.30; amount delinquent, \$2,534.78; collector's commission, \$448.36.

Chester K. Gillespie of Carrollton was recently elected president of the Society of Christian Endeavor of Alton presbytery at the convention held at Belleville.

Attorney Frank A. Whiteside has sold his 2,040-acre ranch west of Carrollton, along the Illinois river bottoms, to William George, Charles S. Kilburn and J. B. Roberts, all of Alton, Ill., for \$15 per acre, a total consideration of \$45,600. About 1,500 acres are available for cultivation.

Mrs. Katherine Smalls of Columbus was found dead in her bed. She had no husband and no children, and was living alone. In holding the inquest, Dr. Bellis, the coroner, found buried in the bed over \$2,000. Over \$1,000 was in gold and \$1,000 in paper money and silver.

Ten cases of insanity among the veterans of the state soldiers' home were heard before County Judge G. Epler at Quincy. Three of the cases were dismissed; two, Jacob Triebler and Daniel Walker, were placed under the charge of a conservator, and George N. James was appointed to that position. Nathaniel C. C. Smith, Harrison Crowder, Charles H. Jones, Horatio N. Maines and Henry W. Rankin were adjudged insane and sent to the asylum in Jacksonvile.

The Mount Vernon district Epworth league convention will be held in Pinckneyville on June 24, 25 and 26. Some of the most able speakers in Illinois will be present and make addresses.

An important decision has been handed down in the Supreme Court in which the law taxing foreign insurance companies doing business in Illinois 2 per cent on gross premiums was declared unconstitutional.

Mrs. White, aged 74 years, was burned to death at her home at Springfield of pneumonia, aged 53 years.