CHAPTER I. Helle, Dick, old Gloomy-face! I'll et a cigarette you haven't laughed luce breakfast."

"What breakfast? I haven't seen mile on his face in a week."

The scene was the Lotus club, New York city, and I, Richard Wilbertson, fast entering, was the old Gloomy-face alluded to. The facetious person who so alluded to my impassive face was Dilkins, the dude, and youthful memper of our coterie. The second speakwas Major Simmons, who, besides being a first-rate companion, a man of middle age or more, was Park Commissioner of New York.

There was, unknown to the major and Dilkins, a good reason for the absence of smiles. I was desperately in life. love with Edith Broughton, and Edith was in love with me. So far so good. But in an evil hour a rival came upon the scene, and though he did not succood in winning Edith's heart, he did and the mother of Edith as to prevail upon them to espouse his cause; and in the effort to compel Edith to accept him, they had absolutely forbidden me the entrance to their house, and had so restricted all the movements of Edith that all intercourse be tween us was impossible.

The cause of this was plain enough. While I had a comfortable income my rival, Ralph Graviscourt, was millionaire, lived in magnificent style, drove splendid horses, spent money lavishly, and notwithstanding, his forty odd years, was the greatest catch of the season in New York.

The conversation turned on Gravis court, and the major became reminis-

"He was called the 'lucky uncle," said the major, whose years gave bim a deep knowledge of the past. "He had an elder brother, Charles Graviscourt, who was a successful stockoperator, and who amassed a fortune of over a million dollars. Charles had a wife and one child. His wife died when the child was only six months eld. One year afterward Charles died, leaving the child, a girl, sole befrees of his fortune, and Ralph Graviscourt, next of kin, his executor and guardian of the child. Six months after Charles died, his daughter died, and Graviscourt inherited the fortune. That is why he was called the lucky uncle."

When the major had finished, I sat moodily engaged with my thoughts, which were unpleasant enough.

"Pshaw!" said be. "Don't get blue. Let's go to the circus to-night. What do you say?"

After a little chaff about the program, we both accepted the major's invitation, and a few hours later we found ourselves at Madison Square Garden, elbowing our way with the rest of the throng in through the entrance and into comfortable seats provided by the major.

As one circus is like another, so the gaudily uniformed band was like every other circus band, and blared out cirous music until the throng ested.

Then came the clown, and after him a herd of trained elephants. watched them attentively, and were rather sorry when the great, clumsy, sagacious brutes moved out of the

"'St! Here's a sight!" said Dilkins, ligging me in the ribs.

It was a sight, indeed!

The next occupant of the ring was Manbikeck, the Lion-Tamer!

He was not particularly tail-not more so than myself, but of such masaive muscularity that I gazed at him with undiaguised admiration. I had, in my college days, been something of an athlete myself, and I had an honest admiration for the strength and tree-like limbs of the man before us. He was clad only in tights, and through them the swelling muscles of his thighs seemed about to burst About his waist he wore a bejeweled airdle, the bangles of which seemed to be gold and silver coin.

From his waist up he wore nothing His skin was white and through it his iron muscles rolled and swelled like those of some giant of the past whose deeds, as written, now seem groundless legends, in which there

can be no probability or truth. Upon a neck of massive beauty was paised a head over which a sculptor might rave. It was like the head of a Greek god, so perfect was it in its putlines, its matchless poise, its perfeet skin and its wealth of glossy

black hair. The lions were not the full-maned majestic African kings we see in menageries and in illustrations. They ware a smaller variety, with a mottled frown coat, but with legs and neck hat bespoke tremendous power, and was that flashed ominously and voices that were from time to time lifted in angry growls.

When the keepers had freed the as from their chains, an act that Manbikeck stapped from his charlot and went among them. They crouched is he approached, and cringed at his oh. It seemed to me as if they

rom the antience the tremendous

During the time they were out, some the employes of the circus began working on a trapeze that hung high up above our heads. Ropes were pulled, bars were raised in position, and when the sustaining and guy ropes were made fast, there were two fixed horizontal bars, with a flying trapese between them.

Suddenly a hush came over the audience as a girl appeared walked to a spot directly under the trapeze.

Nita Bariotti was, without doubt, the most beautiful girl who had ever appeared before a New York public. Her features were matchiess. had a wealth of dark-brown which was tightly drawn into a knot. so that it would not interfere with her in her performances on the bar. Her face was perfect in its contour, and every feature was a poem. And yet it seemed to me that she looked sad -woefully sad-not like one who enjoyed the triumph of a successful appearance, but like one who was ashamed, or who loathed the part she played, or to whom some great sorrow or bitterness had come that had driven all the brightness from her

The trapeze queen drew herself onto one of the bars and hung lightly in mid-air, head downwards, with no support but her toes. Then she swung to and fro, and letting go from the bar, she seemed to soar through the air and clung to the flying or swinging trapeze. On this she gave a marvel ous exhibition of her fearlessness and wonderful skill, in all of which her writhing white muscles shone and every beauty of her form seemed to display to advantage.

The audience watched her in breathless silence, and when at last she had finished, there arose an uproar the like of which was never heard before in Madison' Square Garden.

There were two men in that audience who were evidently much interested in the queen of the flying trapeze. I had seen Maubikeck, the Lion Tamer, ciad in ordinary evening dress, looking like a handsome powerful man of the world, standing near the ropes, watching the beautiful acrobat narrowly. There was a smile of encouragement on his face, and he was among the first in the applause. Then, as Nita reached the ground, a tall, black-bearded, mean-looking Italian forced himself through the group of attendants, and taking the girl s hand to his, led her away from our sight.

And I noticed that, although her countenance was dead to us-dead to the tremendous applause and greeting she had won from the people-when she passed Maubikeck it was to him that her beautiful head was bowed and one bright, fleeting smile showed itself on her lips when her eyes looked into his.

The next act fell flat, and as neither Maubikeck nor Barlotti was billed to appear a second time, we soon lost interest, and before the crowd began to get restless, we left the Garden and went home.

"Don't forget Graviscourt's stag tomorrow evening," said the major, as was leaving him. "You will be there, suppose,"

"Hang Graviscourt!" I replied, "Yes, I will be there, if for no other reason than to show the fellow I am still alive and in the arena."

"Good!" said the major. "And goodnight."

"Graviscourt's genius for entertaining is indisputable," said the major on the following evening, as he, Dilkins and I sat together, among a score of more kindred spirits, all forming an appreciative audience at Graviscourt's "stag" entertainment.

"True," I replied, with a tinge of malice. "One almost forgets who his host is, with so much to amuse."

The program was a sort of vaudeville. There were songs, skirt dances, comic sketches by more or less famous artists in their line, and the time was so well filled and passed so pleasantly that the hours glided by almost imperceptibly.

Dilkins, with his usual curiosity and push, was rummaging around in some cabinets he had succeeded in opening. and he suddenly electrified us all by exclaiming:

"By Jove! Dick! Major! Look at

The major, Graviscourt and reached him at the same moment. "By Heaven! That face!" he cried thrusting a photograph into the ma-

jor's hand. "That is a likeness of Alice Gravis court, my brother's wife, taken some four years before she died," said our host, calmly.

"Is it?" almost shouted Dilkins, "I it isn't the Queen of the Flying Traneze, I'm a Dutchman!"

"What do you mean?" asked Gravis-

And the major told him about Nita and Maligni's circus.

"Probably more a fancied re semblance than a true one," he said calmly, as he took the photograph and replaced it in the cabinet from which Dilkins had removed it.

Nothing more was said that night about the occurrence, but it had produced in my mind an impression that

could not be shaken off. On the following day, when I awoke, the first thoughts that came to me med to all the audience with fear, were of Graviscourt's picture of the dead woman. With some wild fancy that I was furthering my own affairs and helping myself by seeking to over throw Graviscourt, I was led by the cognized and acknowledged the extravagant phantom of my brain to Trinity cometery. Having arrived in order to forecast the weather crobate and fancers, and while they plot of the Graviscourts, in which a with a reasonable degree of accuracy three graves

sarved On one I read: Sacred to the Memory of CHARLES GRAVISCOURT Born, Feb. 18, 18-

Died, June 10, 18-On another I read: ALICE. Beloved Wife of Charles Graviscourt.

Hora, April 6, 18-Died, July 21, 18-. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for

She has joined her Savior. On the third: ALICE.

they shall see God."

Infant Daughter of Charles and Alice Graviscourt.

Died, Oct. 4th, 18-. Aged 2 years. "What a fool I am!" I muttered as I turned away. The air seemed to have grown chilly since I had come there, and I drew my coat close around me and returned to my car-

Like all meddlers, having been disappointed, I was determined to try again, and my next visit was to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, at 301 Mott Street.

Upon making my errand known, some little wonder was apparent among the clerks, but I was readily accomodated, and was soon looking over the death records of sixteen years before, the year in which occurred, according to the marble shaft in Trinity, the death of Alice, daughter of Charles and Alice Graviscourt.

At last I found what I was looking for. I held in my hand the certificate of death of the child whose untimely removal had made Ralph Graviscourt a millionaire.

Nothing was wrong about the certificate. Every form of law had been complied with. The cause of death was small-pox. The signature of the physician attact-ed was "C. Sigmotta,

Doctor Dinsmore, the Secretary of the New York Medical Society, was a friend of long standing. I felt I could rely upon tim, and was soon at his

He greeted me cordially, and I had no ... Mculty in telling him what wanted to know. He smiled, and proceeded to look over some old follos he and taken from a recess in his book-

After a tew minutes spent thus, he

"I find here the name of Charles Sigmotta as a member of our society fourteen-fifteen-even twenty years ago. He does not seem to have been prominent, but little mention being made of him, except the fact that he attended meetings. I barely recall the name, and do not recollect the man. But there is no doubt he was a physician in good standing. He is not a member now. Wait. Ah, here it is! He resigned thirteen years ago. Where he is now, I do not know."

"It is not important," I said. "What want to know is this: Sixteen years ago documents-eay death certificates -signed by him would be above suspicion, would they not?"

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, they would," replied Doctor sinsmore. "I know of nothing that indicates to the contrary."

Having once more had my suspicions laid to the ground, I thanked the doctor and hurried home.

(To be continued.)

She Remembers Ella.

Probably Mrs. Coe of London is the only person living in England who has personal recollections of Charles amb, says the New York Mail and Express. More than seventy years ago she was a little girl living at the Widford water mill, and because of her quickness in catching a mischievous idea she was a great favorite with the genial essayist. Some of ner recollections E. V. Lucas, the well-known Lamb scholar, has transscribed as the result of recent conversations with her. She remembers Lamb's affected conviction that her hair curied only by artificial mean and his repeated warnings at bed time that she must not forget to put it in prpers. To beggars, she says, he always gave just what his hand happened to draw from his pocket. He was fond of treating the village children to candy, his favorite confection being "Gibraltar rock." Here is a pen picture of him as he appeared to the child:

His clothes were rusty and shabby. like a poor dissenting minister's. He was very thin and looked halfstarved, partly the effect of high cheekbones. He wore knee breeches and gaiters and a high stock. He carried a waiking stick, with which he used to strike at pebbles. smoked a black clay pipe. No one would have taken him for what he was, but he was clearly a man apart He took pleasure in looking eccen-

Why Russell Sage Works. Although Russell Sage, the famous financier, will be 86 years of age on August 4 next and has recently had a severe turn of illness, he has expressed his determination to continue at his business the same as before It was some five years ago that Mr. Sage was asked why he did not retire and take a rest and enjoy what he had made. His reply then was doubtless what it would be now if he were asked the same question: don't know that I could stop if would. I fear I should not live long if I did so. I believe I like work better than I do play. My chief happiness today is in my work and suppose my machinery will go on a this same rate as long as I live.".

all you have to do in to predict any thing you don't expect.

Illinois News Items

PEORIA COUNTY OLD SETTLERS. | PRISON FOR A COUNTERFEITER |

Deaths for the Year Reach the Larg- Capt, Cherron of Alton Pleads Guilty

The Peoria county old settlers' aspartially overcome by the signing of 116 new members. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, John Holmes; first vicepresident, John A. Buck; second vicepresident, Crosby White; secretary, Henry P. Day; treasurer, William A. Herron.

TELLS WHY HE TOOK HIS LIFE

Reasons for Suicide Given to World

by Man in Love. The following note left by Claude Holley, who committed suicide at Carbondale recently over a love affair. has been discovered: "The die is cast; it's played out. I have sacrificed my reputation for her sake. Now will sacrifice my life. I can't stand to raise a fuss with her or any of her folks. For the love I have for her I will take my own life, and it will all be over." Holley was 85 years of age and for months had been woolng the girl. It is thought that the last time they were together a quarrel oc-

BANK CASHIER SHOT IN TEXAS

James Furber of Carllele is Killed at Vernon,

James Furber, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Furber, cashier of the Anderson bank in Cariinville, was shot and killed at Vernon, Tex. William H. Furber of Corsicana, Tex., a brother of the deceased, was notified of the death and left at once for Vernon to accompany the remains home, James Furber was born and reared in Carlinville and belongs to one of the oldest and best connected families there.

Offers Cheap Light.

A communication has been received by the Alton city council from a Chicago company offering to establish in Alton for \$35,000 an electric lighting plant of sufficient size to fill the present and future needs of Alton. The city council laid the matter over for consideration. The city is now lighted by the Alton Railway, Gas and Electric company, which has no opposition in the Alton field.

____ WINS WOMAN'S PRIZE.

Miss Una Stubbins, who was awarded a prize offered by the Illinois Federation of \$Vomen's Clubs, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W.



MISS UNA STUBBINS

Stubbins of Mattoon. She is handsome, accomplished, 18 years old and was graduated with high honors from the Mattoon high school last spring. The subject of her essay which won the prize was "The Civil Service and Why it Should Be Nonpolitical."

Portrait Presentation.

Several members of Sidney B. Phillips post, No. 379, G. A. R., of Litchfield, presented the post with a large portrait of Sidney B. Phillips. the Montgomery county soldier, after whom the post is named. Sidney Phillips was a brother of the late Judge Jesse Phillips and served as a sergeant major in the Ninth Illinois infantry. He received a wound in the hattle of Gettysburg which resulted in his death after a few days.

Give Whisky to Prisoners.

W. T. Curran and J. Kirby have been arrested at Springfield, charged with passing liquor to inmates of the county jail. They used a large piece of heavy cardboard as a trough, through which the liquor was conveyed from the roof of a barn in the jail yard through a window to the persons inside.

Preparing for Thieves.

Although the state fair is mearly two weeks away, many crooks of dif- | gan countles held a reunion at Menferent kinds have begun to drift into | derson's grove near Arcadia, Springfield. As fast as they are spot. There were over 400 old soldiers pres ted they are given notice to leave, or ent. Addresses were made by Rev. they will be locked up until after the J. L. Wylder of Jacksonville and fair on vactancy charges. As usual, Cyrus Mathews of Sinciair. the city police will be assisted by of-Scers from St. Louis, Chicago, Indianapolis and the other and small towns surrounding, and it is owing to ful slopers from Anchor, a this excellent arrangement that the a marriage license at Ko city has been so free from crime on The citrk had been notified

and Gets Two Years. In the United States district court sociation met at Glen Oak park, the at Springfield Captain Cherron, who occasion being the thirty-fifth annual resides at Cairo, where he was ar county when the report of the reunion. The day was ideal and the rested several months ago, and who of review was filed with the attendance amounted to several thou- is charged with manufacturing and sand. There were a number of promi- having in his possession counterfeit review has been at work nent speakers. The report of the sec- coin, pleaded guilty, and was senretary showed that there had been | tenced to pay a fine of \$1,000 and to 151 deaths among the members during two years' imprisonment in the the year, the greatest number ever re- Southern penitentlary at Chester, ported at a meeting. This loss was Cherron, when arrested, had in his possession a box containing dies,

AGED NEGRESS LEARNS TO READ

molds and other counterfeiting ar-

ticles for making counterfeit money.

Mrs. Mariah Vance, at 91, is Mastering

the Alphabet. Mrs. Mariah Vance, familiarly known to hundreds of citizens of Danville as "Grandma Vance," at the ad-



MRS. MARIAH VANCE.

vanced age of ninety-one years, is learning to read. This is of itself re markable, but it is equally wonderful that she is "learning her letters," as she calls it, without the aid of spectacles. She declares that she can see as well as she ever could. She has been a hard worker all her life and never had time to study. Besides being able to see as well as she could when a young woman, her hearing is just as acute. Grandma Vance is one of the oldest colored women in Illinots. She was born in Round Prairie, Sangamon county, Illinois, and was reared in the country five miles west of Springfield, and in that city. She was never a slave, but her mother was to bondage in Virginia. Vance was well acquainted with the family of President Lincoln and she packed up all the belongings of Abraham Lincoln when they went to the White House, Mrs. Vance says that President Lincoln was "the best man in the world."

Civil Service Examinations.

An examination under the civil service rules will be held in the federal building at Springfield on Sept. 30 of applicants for the position of assistant in the survey department, bureau of soils, department of agriculture. Applicants must be over 20 years of age, and, if successful, will be eligible to positions drawing salaries ranging from \$720 to \$1,200 per year.

Turkeys Are Scarce. From present indications turkeys will be very scarce this fall and dealers say that many families will have to substitute something else for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. The crop of birds in Sangamon county will be ct least one-tourth less than it was last year. The turkeys have not thrived on account of the continned wet weather.

Sets Dogs on Boy.

It is charged that a Springfield woman set her three dogs on an 11year-old boy, and that the animals in flicted severe injuries on the young victim. He was badly lacerated in the flesh of the right arm and left leg, but the attending physician does not anticipate fatal results. The parents of the boy have prepared to prosecute the owners of the dogs.

Glassblowers Go West. Many Alton glassblowers will go to San Francisco from the Alton glass works to take places in the factories owned by the new Illinois-Pacific glass company. The Illinois glass company of Alton will have charge of the new institution and will some of its best workmen to

See First Auto.

Francisco to operate the plant.

Dr. James A. Matlack and wife of Prairie City, III., arrived in Chester on a visit to relatives. They came in an automobile, having made the trip of 280 miles in five days, with trie light pole. He struck it with stoppages at several points along the route. It was the first automobile conscious. He remained in that conever seen in Chester and attracted considerable attention.

The old soldiers of Cass and Mor-

Soldiers' Reunion.

John Sill and Mary Wilmore,

TAXPAYERS SEEK INJUNCTI

among the big taxpayers of board of supervisors, The boar experts. Over \$2,000,000 has added to the personal a The citizens of Mattoon are hit fo \$1,250,000 and Charleston for \$1,000 400. The authorities of Mattoon have asked for an injunction against Con ty Treasurer Gannaway to proven him from collecting this extra tax and twenty-five preminent and wealthy citizens of Charleston have com and asked for an injunction to keep County Clerk Sellar from extending this tax on the collector's books. All kinds of legal fights and complications are expected to result from the report of the board of review. The members of this board say that wealthy people, especially money lenders, have been escaping the tax assessor for many years.

COUNTY TO HOLD BARGAIN SALE

Property to Be Sold on Delinquent Tax List for Thirty Years.

County Treasurer John Tethering ton has given notice of a special sale of property in Madison county to take place at Edwardsville Sept. 22. The property to be sold in some upon which taxes have been due for many years, some of the taxes being empale for nearly thirty years. The groperty is now burdened with such a weight of taxes that the value of the property is exceeded by the taxes, and no one will buy it. County Treasur Tetherington says that he will sell the property for whatever he can ge for it in order to realize somet for the county treasury. It has been offered for sale from year to year, but was not bid in by tax title buy-

Reunion at Lawrenceville.

The county veterans as held a three days' reunion at Lawrenceville. The time was given up to old settlers and addresses were delivered by some of the old peor Among them was Dr. I. A. Powell of Homer, Felix Wampler, one of the very old citizens, showed how cloth was made from flax in olden times.

Municipal Lighting Plant. At a meeting of the Taylorville city council an ordinance was adopted viding for the construction of a municipal electric light plant. in the sum of \$20,000 will be issue

Physiciana Organiza. The physicians of Christian s held a meeting at Taylorville and organized the Christian county medical society. The society will meet see annually.

BEAUTY VICTIM.

Miss Ethel Felts, is ill at Durand from arsenic taken to improve the com-



MISS EFFIE M'KIMPSON. plexion, is still in a critical condition, with the chances favoring her recovery. Miss Ethel Felts, the other victim, was never in serious danger.

Rob a Justice.

O. H. Paddock, police magnetrate of Pana, was robbed at Taylorville during the street fair. He had just board ed a Wabash train for the east near the back end, so as to reach the sleep er, when seven men, who had been watching him, crowded around him, took away his grips and robbed him of about \$60 in money.

Fatal Accident. Harry Richardson of Jacksonville was riding his wheel at a rapid pace when, in trying to avoid an approach ing vehicle, he collided with an elecsuch force that he was rendered updition twelve hours, when death en-

Veteran's Fatal Fall.

Thomas Norton, a veteran of the civil war, fell from a hay loft ! North Alton and sustained fatal