

Maubieck, the Lion-Tamer.

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CHAPTER XIV.—(Continued.)

We hurried on to Havre, Nita, Thoriane and I, and took passage on La Touraine for New York.

At my suggestion, Nita had engaged a maid, and as she was an elderly, sour-visaged female, she served every purpose of chaperon as well as of preserving appearances.

Once in New York I sought the major. I found him at the club and he nearly fell in a heap on the floor when he beheld me.

"By Gad!" he exclaimed, rushing to me, wringing his hands, tears streaming down his face and his whole frame trembling. "Dick! Wilberton, old fellow, how did you do it? We heard you were dead, you know."

"I heard I was dead, eh? Well, I'm a lively dead man, major. I've got what I went after, and more, too. Had all sorts of adventures and narrow escapes. Brought back Maubieck, whose name is Henry Thoriane, and Nita Barloti, whose name is Alice Graviscourt."

"No! Gad! Is it so? Have you got the proof?"

"Proof enough. We must see Charles Sigmotta at once. I need another bit of testimony from him, and then we'll tackle Graviscourt and knock him out."

I showed the major the lock and key and read to him the statements of Antonio Sigmotta and Dambo.

"You returned just in time," said the major, grimly. "The wedding is now surely on the way. I have learned since you left the true inwardness of Broughton's preference for Graviscourt. It seems that Broughton's means are much more limited than we have supposed, and he has from time to time borrowed money from Graviscourt, giving him a mortgage on his house as security. He has gone to the wall financially, and Graviscourt pushes his claim to Edith, promising Broughton to cancel all debts the day she becomes his bride. She held out firmly until the news came that you died in Sardinia of some fever, and then the poor girl gave up the fight and consented to be a sacrifice to save her father. But you are in time, boy—you are in time. Edith loves you, and you only. Do up Graviscourt and the field is yours."

"What about Nita?" I asked. "She is now at the same hotel as Thoriane and I, but it doesn't look just—"

"Not at all, boy; not at all. My sister, Mrs. Dabner, is just the one. She will be glad to receive her as a guest, and, of course, her wedding must be in my sister's home. I will see Nellie at once."

True to his promise, the major saw his sister, and she readily assented to his plan. That evening Nita was escorted to Mrs. Dabner's house, where she remained until she became Mrs. Henry Thoriane.

When I left the club, I was hurrying through the street, when lo! I saw Edith Broughton coming toward me, with a couple of small packages in her arms. And she was alone. My death had freed her from all danger, in Broughton's eyes, and she was now allowed to go shopping alone. I looked about me hurriedly, and saw a doorway that was somewhat dark and secluded. I waited near it, and when Edith came up I seized her, whisked her into that doorway, and proceeded to hug and kiss her in a fashion that partially recompensed me for the long period of waiting I had undergone. At first she was frightened nearly out of her wits, but when she realized who it was that had her fast, the darling put her arms around my neck and met me fairly half way, dropping her bundles in her excitement.

"Dick! Darling Dick!" she cried. "They told me you were dead." Kisses. "I don't look very dead, do I, darling?" More kisses. "I have come back to take you away from that fellow, Graviscourt, and no nonsense about it now, either. I've learned courage since I left New York, and you will be my wife now if I have to kill Graviscourt and your respected parents to get you!"

"Oh, Dick, darling, what an escape I've had! If you'd been a little later I'd have married him to save papa. Oh! think of it, Dick."

"Don't do it. Think of me. You are sure you love me?"

"Oh, Dick!" reproachfully. "I kissed her again. Her face was suffused with blushes. Her hat was awry. She was half laughing and half crying in her happiness."

"Some one will see us, Dick," she said, snally. "Do call a carriage and take me home."

"So I called a carriage, and, putting my future wife into it, I clambered in after her and set her down at her own door. Then I lighted a cigar and, ordering the driver to take me to the hotel, I lay back on the cushions, the most exquisitely happy, contented and egotistically satisfied individual in the universe."

On the day following that upon which we arrived in New York, a party of three wended our way to number 208 Mulberry street, and upon presentation of our names were ushered into the presence of Superintendent Byrnes of the Metropolitan Police.

His grim face softened with a smile when he saw us, and he held out a bony hand that nearly crushed mine as he greeted me.

"So the dead has returned to life!" he said pleasantly. "You gave us quite a scare, young man."

"Not I superintendent, but my friends did it for me," I replied. Then I launched into the object of our visit.

Byrnes listened attentively while I told him the whole story, omitting nothing which in the smallest degree bore upon the mystery of Alice Graviscourt and Nita Barloti. He listened attentively, with his eyes fixed steadily upon my face. Then I read the statements of Antonio Sigmotta and Dambo and exhibited the pin and locket with the miniature photograph. The major and Thoriane were as keen in listening as if it was the first time they had heard these things.

When I had finished, the superintendent said:

"I do not see that anything is lacking except the confession of Charles Sigmotta. You have now enough to convict him, but it would be difficult to connect the man Graviscourt with the crime. The identification of Nita Barloti as Alice Graviscourt seems to be pretty well established, and if Charles Sigmotta was dead, you could give Graviscourt quite a fight. But with Sigmotta's own confession you will overwhelm him so utterly that he will have no loophole of escape."

"That is just the way we look at it," I replied, "and we came to you to get your advice as to the best way to obtain Sigmotta's confession."

The superintendent thought a moment.

"There is no doubt, is there, major," he said, "that the druggist Tortoni is Charles Sigmotta?"

"Not the least," replied the major. "I identified him before Wilberton and Thoriane went away, and Dambo's statement verifies mine."

"Tortoni the druggist went away on the same day that Maligni did," I said. "I do not know whether he has returned or not."

"It will not take long to learn," said the superintendent. "But first let us get at what we want to do with him. Undoubtedly the man deserves the severest punishment that can be meted out to him under the law. The fact that his murderous intention was frustrated by his brother does not make his act any the less heinous."

"True," I said. "But the punishment of Sigmotta is not the end sought. It is Graviscourt we want. I do not think we need do much with Sigmotta, who probably did what he was employed to do. I would be willing to let up on him for the sake of getting at the absolute truth in regard to the whole matter."

"I see," said the superintendent. "And armed thus, you will proceed against Graviscourt?"

"With that I have nothing to do," I replied. "My duty is ended the moment the truth is established. The case then goes to Nita Barloti and her affianced husband, Henry Thoriane. I trust them to regain her rights."

Thoriane smiled grimly.

"Would it not be a good plan to go to Tortoni's drug store and confront him with the facts we have already learned and squeeze him until he squeals?"

Byrnes laughed.

"I see you have the vernacular," he said, "but I think it can show you a better squeezing trick than that. Let me have the papers." He rang a bell and an officer entered. "What is the address of the drug store?" asked the superintendent.

I told him.

He wrote something on a piece of paper and handed it to the officer.

"Go to that address and bring the man here at once, if you can find him," he said.

The officer saluted and went out.

In about fifteen minutes, during which time I had produced some cigars and we all sat smoking, he returned with a shivering, demoralized, opium-scented, whisky-rotten wretch, who quailed before the steely gaze of the superintendent. Then his eyes fell on the major, and he started, for, after all the years, the fallen physician recognized the man of the world.

"Sit down," said the superintendent, and the quivering wretch fell into a chair.

At the superintendent's command a stenographer now quietly made his appearance and sat near his chief, with pencil ready.

"What is your name?" asked the superintendent.

"Tortoni," was the reply, with a side look at the major to see if he noticed the lie.

"What was it before it was Tortoni?" asked the superintendent.

The wretch writhed in his chair.

"Speak quick," said Byrnes. "It will be better for you."

"I was born Tortoni," said the fellow, doggedly.

"Ah! Then how did you come to adopt the name Sigmotta, under which you practiced medicine?" asked the superintendent, blandly.

The Italian turned ashy white and shook with fear.

"Do you know why you were brought here?" asked the superintendent.

Sigmotta shook his head.

"No," he muttered.

"To answer to the charge of murder."

Sigmotta leaped to his feet and stood like a wild animal, panting before the calm man of clubs.

"It is a lie!" he cried, hoarsely. "A foul lie! Of whose murder am I accused? Who is my accuser?"

"You have several accusers," replied the superintendent. "And you are accused of inflicting one Luigi Dambo to the murder of Nita Barloti, once a performer in Pacho Maligni's circus, and also inflicting the same Dambo to the murder of Maligni himself. You had made an attempt on his life and failed. You recall the oc-

urrence—the last night of Maligni's circus, when you put a bullet through his cheek?"

(To be continued.)

QUEER PEOPLE OF THE WORLD

Definitions Unfamiliar to Most Geographical Students.

If a person were confined to one text-book, the best one to choose would be a dictionary, since it gives an inkling of every art, science or profession known to mankind. A study of the dictionary is always interesting and instructive, and a simple turning of its pages will acquaint us with many things of which we have never previously heard. Notice that a fund of information is contained in the following definitions:

Amphiscians are the people who inhabit the tropics, whose shadows in one part of the year are cast to the north and in the other to the south, according as the sun is north or south of their zenith.

The Antiscians are the inhabitants of the earth living on different sides of the equator, whose shadows at noon are cast in contrary directions. Those living north of the equator are antiscians, to those living south of that line, and vice versa. The shadows on one side are cast toward the north and upon the other toward the south.

The Ascians are the people who live in a land where, at a certain time of each year, they have no shadows at noon. All the inhabitants of the torrid zone are Ascians, they having a vertical sun twice a year.

The Periscians are the inhabitants of the polar circle, whose shadows, during some portions of the summer, must in the course of the day move entirely around and fall toward every point of the compass.

FOX, HAWK AND CAT.

Mix-Up Resulted Disasterously for Bird of Prey.

Foxes are not easily domesticated. They are distrustful creatures, and always pine for freedom; but in rare instances reynard loses his wildness and responds, after a fashion of his own, to human kindness. Of such a one a daily paper tells a pretty story:

Ned is a tame fox so well trained and of such good intentions that he will not touch any of the poultry on the place. Chickens feed near his box, and he acts as if he liked their society. Doubtless they serve to render his confinement less irksome.

One morning recently a large chicken-hawk swooped down and caught a chicken close to the box where the fox is chained. Ned, hearing the noise, sprang out and caught the hawk by the leg. The bird released the chicken and settled its free claw deep into the fox's nose. Reynard squealed, but he hung to the hawk's leg.

At this moment a cat that had become attached to the fox heard Ned's cries of pain, and rushing out she sprang upon the hawk and clawed its back. That made the hawk let go the fox's nose very suddenly to protect itself from this new foe. It tried to claw the cat, and while thus engaged, the fox set his teeth into its head and shook the life out of it.

Soon after this Ned and the cat were seen lying down side by side, in great amity and contentment.—Youth's Companion.

A "MAN OF STEADY HABITS."

But the Habits Were Not Such as to Recommend Him.

It was a very angry man who met an acquaintance on the street the other day. "I thought you told me that D. was a man of steady habits," were his first words following the usual salutation. "I said I required a man of absolutely steady habits, and you were very positive in your assurance that the man in question was such a one."

"Well, has he proved otherwise?"

"Why, man, he is drunk all of the time; in fact, I do not think he has drawn a sober breath since he has been with me."

"Then what are you jumping on me for? Your own statement bears out just what I told you about him. I have known D. for the past ten months, and I know that he has been drunk during all of that period, and if that isn't being a 'man of steady habits,' I'd like to know what it is?"

How He Met the Crisis.

When David Graham Phillips, author of "Her Serene Highness," was a very young man, he applied for work on a Cincinnati paper.

"What can you do?" said the editor. "I can try anything," replied the young man.

Thinking to rid himself of further importunities for an assignment, the editor said:

"Well, write an article on bread."

It was a trying moment for the ambitious youngster, but he never flinched. All that night he collected material, and the next day reported to the surprised editor with a bright and newsy article on "The Bakeries of Cincinnati."

The young reporter was immediately engaged.

Sullivan's New Amusement.

John J. Sullivan distinguished himself the other day by throwing a handful of money into a crowd. You are improving, John. Once your boast was that you had "money to throw to the birds." Throwing it to people is much better, but don't throw any bad money, John.—Exchange.

Moon's Highest Mountain.

The highest mountain in the moon is at least 25,000 feet in height; that is 8,000 feet higher than Mount Everest.

Illinois News Items

'TIS A GREAT SCHEME ON PAPER

Carlyle Man Figures Fortune From Pecans, If All Goes Well. A pecan orchard will be planted by Edward Case of Carlyle from which he anticipates a large revenue. He will plant 1,000 trees of this kind on a forty-acre tract of land in the Kaskaskia river bottoms, which is subject to overflow, hence it is practically worthless for anything else excepting raising pecans. Mr. Case figures that in about twenty years from now pecan trees will be scarce. About this time his trees will be yielding from two to three bushels of nuts each, which means a revenue of not less than \$5,000 for the season, providing all of the trees yield.

ALTON ROAD BUILDS BRIDGES

Completes One at Berdan and Starts Another at Riverdale. The Chicago & Alton has completed a massive steel girder bridge at Berdan and has started work on a similar structure at Riverdale, near Macoupin. The Riverdale bridge will consist of three spans, two spans of forty-eight feet and one span of thirty-five feet length. The weight of the steel part of the bridge will be 110,000 pounds. The floor of the bridge will be built of creosoted timber and will be covered with fifteen inches of ballast. The new structure will be built and set in place without interfering with the old one until the new is completed.

Home for Masons.

The Springfield lodges of the Masonic fraternity are contemplating the erection of a building for their use. Springfield lodge, No. 4, was the instigator of the movement and all the other organizations have acted favorably except Elwood commandery, Knights Templars, and the latter is expected to enter into the proposition. The proposition is to purchase a piece of ground lying just north of the First Presbyterian church on Seventh street near Capitol avenue, it being 50x140 feet in area. No plans have been made for the building as yet, but it has been decided that it will be devoted exclusively to Masonic uses.

Honor Aged Judge.

On his retirement from the office of county judge William L. Hammer, who served two terms, was presented with a gold-headed, ebony cane by members of the Macon county bar. Hon. Hugh Crea, Judge Nelson, Attorneys McIntosh, Mills and Leforgee and Judges Vail and Johns made complimentary remarks, as did also the new judge, O. W. Smith. Judge Hammer, who is past 80 years of age, was visibly affected by the testimonials of regard.

Big Warehouse.

The Illinois Glass company at Alton is planning to erect a big warehouse at its plant to augment the storage capacity of the warehouses. The new building will be 240x120 feet and will increase the floor room of the warehouse system one-third. The building will be constructed principally of steel and the steel structural work is now on the way to Alton. Work of erecting the new warehouse will be started soon as the steel structural work arrives.

Electric Light Contract.

At a recent meeting of the Taylorville city council a contract was entered into for five years between the city and the Taylorville Electric company for street lighting. The electric company will furnish twenty 2,000 candle-power arc lights for \$50 each per year and 170 40 candle-power incandescent lights at \$20 each per year.

Boy Workers Are Scarce.

Preparations are being made for the resumption of work in factory No. 1 at the glass works in Alton. The factory has been idle all season because of the scarcity of boys, who are needed to assist in operating the furnace. All the other factories at the glass works are running full capacity.

Progressive Miners.

The members of the miners' union in the village of New Baden have purchased a plot of ground and will erect a large entertainment hall. It will be a one-story structure. The building will be 40 feet wide and 70 feet in length. The cost will be \$2,500.

Only One Woman.

Of the fifty stockholders in the new Alton banking and trust company 49 are men and only one woman is in the list of stockholders. The backers of the new financial institution are some of the most prominent and successful business men in Alton.

Monroe County Farmers.

The Monroe county farmers' institute closed its session at Waterloo after electing officers for the ensuing year. They are: President, Balzar Schmidt, Waterloo; vice president, William Harms, Reanault; secretary, Louis Goeddel, Waterloo; treasurer, William H. Limestone, Reanault. Delegates to the meeting at Bloomington, Conrad Colmer of Waterloo, John G. Schneider of Harrodsburg and Henry Wolf of Waterloo; delegates to the district conference, Balzar Schmidt.

CHIEF IS AFTER BEER "CLUBS"

Say They Are Resorts for Disreputable Persons Who Never Work.

Chief of Police Young of Alton has placed a ban on all so-called "clubs," where men congregate to drink beer and disturb the neighbors. He says that so many vagrants have been forming clubs for the purpose of getting intoxicated that it has become necessary to suppress them and that hereafter all persons frequenting such places will be prosecuted. Some of the resorts are said to be the gathering places of notorious crooks from the vicinity of Alton, and that none of the frequenters of the places are ever known to employ themselves in useful industrial pursuits.

No Spitting.

The Springfield board of health has had posted on telegraph poles and in conspicuous places throughout the city a notice calling attention to the city ordinance against expectorating on sidewalks and in public places. After remaining dormant for three years the mayor's attention was called to the existing ordinance by a recent try to De-car, where a similar law is rigidly enforced. Police officers have been given instructions to first warn and then arrest offenders.

Farmers' Elevator Destroyed.

The Highland Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association elevator at Highland was destroyed by fire. There were 11,000 bushels of wheat and about 1,000 bushels of corn in the elevator at the time. The total loss is estimated at \$18,000; insurance, \$13,000. The fire started in the engine room from a spark of the furnace. The company will rebuild as soon as possible.

Alton Humane Society.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Alton Humane Society reports were made of work done by the society. Scores of cases of suffering has been investigated and relief given. Many children were provided with homes through the medium of the humane society, and many cases of cruelty to children were investigated and measures adopted to render conditions of suffering children more tolerable.

Travels Far to Marry.

James Demmer, formerly of Perry county, was married on September 29 at Manila, P. I., to Miss Daisy Cross, daughter of T. J. Cross, also of Perry county. The young lady made the journey alone to the Philippine islands to marry her lover. Mr. Demmer is a government teacher stationed at Bigaa, Bulacan province.

Sangamon Teachers' Officers.

At the recent session of the Sangamon County Teachers' Institute the following officers were elected to serve through the coming year: President, Edgar C. Pruitt of Springfield; vice president, Warren Taylor of Springfield; secretary, Anna Carberry of Springfield Junction; treasurer, Benjamin Mitchell of Leoni.

Adams County Teachers.

The Adams County Teachers' association has elected A. A. Eaton of Lorraine as its president, Robert A. Henry of Augusta vice president and Jessie Brackensick of Mendon secretary. B. A. VanDyke of Mendon, Frank Williams of Camp Point and Ella Randall and J. T. Simmons of Quincy compose the executive committee.

State Sunday Schools.

The executive committee of the Illinois State Sunday School association held a session at the Presbyterian church in Danville. The reports showed that ninety-five counties of the 102 in the state had held conventions; that receipts for the past six months were \$8,520; that all bills are paid, leaving a balance of \$465.50.

Well Known Minister Dies.

Rev. Henry Y. Keilar died at his home in Effingham of heart disease, in his 78th year. He was a minister in the Christian church for sixty years and was a member of the state board. His reputation as a theologian was national. During his ministry he labored in California, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois.

More Land for Academy.

Col. A. M. Jackson, for the Western military academy, has bought from Mack Clayton seven lots adjoining the academy property in Upper Alton. Col. Jackson has been adding extensively to the real estate possessions of the academy in the last year.

Quincy After Federal Court.

The Quincy Bar association is taking steps to secure the holding of sessions of the United States court in that city.

Alton's Population.

A new directory of the city of Alton, Upper Alton and North Alton, just issued, shows the city has a population of 17,000 people. A record of the population was made while the names for the new directory were being solicited, and it was also found that the three Altons have a combined population of 22,000. The new directory shows a remarkable increase in the population of the three corporations in the two years since the last census was taken.

SCHOOL MERGER IS DEFEATED

Blackburn University Trustees Refuse to Join Illinois College.

The trustees of Blackburn University met in Carlinville in special session to consider the merger question raised at a special meeting, when it was proposed to consolidate Blackburn University and Illinois College of Jacksonville, and convert the two into one Presbyterian college. Eleven of the fifteen trustees were present, and the trustees voted unanimously against the merger, which settles the question for all time. It was the sense of the trustees that the proposition was not feasible, and that the colleges, under the charter of Blackburn University, could not be merged legally, and Dr. Logan of Springfield, president of the board of trustees, was instructed in a resolution, to notify the different colleges and friends of Blackburn in accordance with the above facts.

TO SUPPORT A MISSIONARY

Springfield Congregation Votes \$500 Per Year to Dr. Ryjnhart.

Dr. Ryjnhart, the woman missionary who recently lectured to Springfield audiences on her experiences while working in the mission field in Thibet, is to be returned to that country and supported entirely by the First Christian church of Springfield. This congregation, numbering about 800 souls has guaranteed \$500 for the support to the missionary, in addition to the regular salary paid by the national association. The matter was presented to the congregation by Judge S. P. Kane, and it was unanimously decided to send the money. Dr. Ryjnhart will visit Springfield for a month next spring before leaving for her work.

St. Clair Teachers.

The program for the meeting of the St. Clair county teachers' association, to be held at East St. Louis, Dec. 15, includes a paper on "Civics in the Grades" by Principal G. F. Balta of Millstadt, and there will be a discussion by Supt. J. D. Rockwell of Lebanon, and Principal J. V. Wesley of Centerville. Prof. D. R. Morgan, president of the St. Louis society of pedagogy, will deliver a lecture. The matter of organizing a teachers' union will be reported on by the committee which has had the matter in charge, and Miss Margaret Haley of Chicago, who recently organized the teachers of that city into a union, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, will be present and deliver an address.

Wabash Farmers' Institute.

The annual Wabash Farmers' institute held a two days' session at Mount Carmel. The following officers were elected: President, J. W. Jacques; vice president, Lee Longaker; secretary, J. J. Ewald; treasurer, E. C. Deputy. Mr. S. S. Seltzer was elected delegate to the state institute and Mrs. J. O. Wood was elected delegate to the meeting of the State Domestic Science association.

Visit Lincoln Monument.

May. E. S. Johnson, custodian of the national Lincoln monument at Springfield reports that for the month of November there were 893 callers at the monument, coming from twenty-seven different states and three territories. There were three from England, two from Alaska and four were seamen in the navy.

Abandon Gasoline.

The residents of Keysport have been compelled to resort to the use of lanterns to illuminate the sidewalks. Several months ago a gasoline system of street lighting was inaugurated, but this has been a failure. The experiment cost the village \$300.

Train Kills Aged Woman.

Mrs. Caroline Rusher, aged 78 years, was struck by a freight train on the Illinois Southern railway, while she was crossing the track at Selmaville, and fatally injured. She left a considerable estate.

Struck by Engine.

John Brant, a Decatur farmer, was struck by an Illinois Central freight engine and had a leg broken. He was seated in a rig, which was wrecked. One of the horses was killed.

Horse Kicks Boy to Death.

Forley Briggs, the 7-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Briggs of Lincoln, died from injuries sustained by being kicked in the head by a horse.

Went in Coal Mine.

Erwin Keelin, aged 18 years, was seriously injured in the coal mine in the village of New Baden.

Awarded Service.

T. W. Gannon, manager of the Cato water company, was presented with five shares of stock in the company by J. A. Decker, H. B. Hinkley and J. F. Hardie in recognition of his efficient services.

After Holiday Trade.

At the last meeting of the Illinois clerks' union it was decided to allow the merchants to keep their stores open in the evening from December 24 to December 26 on account of the war trade.