Marian Mayfield

Or, The Strange Disappearance

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Several days passed in the gloomy mansion misnamed Dell-Delight. Miriam and Paul avoided each other like death. Both dreaded like death any allusion to the awful subject that lay so heavy upon the heart of each. Paul, unacquainted with her thoughts, and relying upon her promise to do nothing with the letters without further evidence, contented himself with watching her motions, feeling comparatively at ease as long as she should remain in the house; and being resolved to prevent her from going forth, or to accompany her if she persisted in leaving home.

the struggle had well-nigh passed; she irritated Jenny beyond silent endurwas at once subdued and resolved, like ance. one into whom some spirit had entered | "I tell you all what," she said, "I and bound her own spirit, and acted means to 'sign my sitewation! 'deed I tions, that should have rebelled and soul." mania, or some strange hallucination, a make him querulous, too. dreamer, a sumnambulist, perhaps. "I means how ef yer doesn't have a and now waited only for a day very 'deed me! an' now ef you likes, yer may near at hand, the fourth of April, the jes' go an' tell Marse Rooster." proceeding further.

wintry for the season. Toward evening him 'Rooster?'" asked the young man, the sky became overcast with leaden snappishly.

breakfast time. Miriam remained in Vine Marster dat my sponsors in bapher own chamber; and Paul wandered tism named me arter de bressed an restlessly from place to place through holy S'int Jane-who has 'stained and all the rooms of the house, or threw s'ported me all my days; an' 'ill deteck himself wearily into his chair before the now, dough you do try to break my poor parlor fire. Inclement as the weather ole heart long wid onkindness at my was, he would have gone forth, but ole age o' life! But what's de use o that he, too, remembered the anniver- | talkin'-Sam's waystin'!" And so saysary, and a nameless anxiety connected ing, Jenny gave the finishing touches to

ered around the fire, grumbling at the vigor and violence, to bring the scatunseasonable coldness of the weather. tered members of the family together. and predicting a hail-storm, and telling | They came slowly and singly, and each other that they never "'sperienced" drew around the table more like ghosts such weather this time 'o year, 'cept than living persons, a few remarks upon 'Iwas that spring Ole Marse died-when the storm, and then they sunk into sino wonder, 'siderin' how he lived long lence-and as soon as the gloomy meal

o' Sam all his life."

house to kilchen. Old Jenny had enough Fanny, then Mr. Willcoxen, then Mirto do to carry wood to the various fires. | iam. She had never "seed it so cold for de Marian went to hebben, and not a bit o' room. wonder de yeth was cole arter she was | "To my chamber." gone-de dear, lovin' heart warm angel; 'deed I wondered how it ever come sum- or longer detain her, she pressed his mer again, an' thought it was right down hand and went out. And Paul, with a onsensible in her morning-glories to deep sigh and a strangely foreboding bloom out jest de same as ever, arter heart, sank back into his seat. wood into the parlor.

Night and the storm descended toge- It was the xyphias poniard. ther-such a tempest! such a wild out-

house to kitchen and kitchen to house, her to be alone in the parlor, and with sauce, sweetmeats, arranging the table had laid before her a dagger which he for supper, replenishing the fire, light-said he should rather have given to ing the candles, letting down the cur- "Marster Paul," if the latter had been at tains-and trying to make everything home. He had picked it up near the cozy and comfortable for the reassem- water's edge on the sands the night of bling of the fireside circle. Poor old Miss Mayfield's death, which "Marster' Jenny had passed so much of her life in had taken so to heart, that he was the family with "the white folks," that afraid to harrow up his feelings by all her sympathies went with them—and bringing it to him a second time—but on the state of thir spiritual atmosphere that as it was an article of value, he did depended all her cheerfulness and com- not like to take it away with him. And fort; and now the cool, distant, sorrow- he begged Miss Miriam to take charge ful condition of the members of the little of it. And Miriam had taken it, and family circle-"ebery single mudder's with surprise, but without the slightest son and darter of 'em, superamblated suspicion, had read the name of "Thursoff to derself like pris'ners in a jail- ton Willcoxen" carved upon its handle. house"—as she said—depressed her spir- To all her questions, Melchisedek had its very much. Jennie's reaction from de- given evasive answers, or remained obpression was always quite querulous, stinately silent, being determined not to was a reaction and she grew very quar- | vealing his share in the events of that reisame.

"Sam's waystin', I tells you all good! this she had not opened it. all wery quiet dough-no noise, no Now, however, she had taken it out B. C., Seattle, Wash., or Portland, Ore., ber of legitimate calls on me for money, fallin' out, no 'sputin' nor nothin'-all with a fixed purpose, and she stood and \$42.25; to San Francisco or Los Angeles, I know I cannot afford to throw away quiet as de yeth jest afore a debbil of a gazed upon it. Presently she took it up. storm-nobody in de parlor 'cept 'tis rolled it in the paper, took her lamp, and from all points in Canada. Choice of ments, and I do try not to do it, al-Marse Paul, settin' right afore de par- slowly left the room, and passed along lor fire, wid one leg poked east and the passages leading to Mr. Willcoxen's toder west, wid the boots on de andirons library. like a spread-eagle! lookin' as glum as | The storm howled and raved as she if I owed him a year's sarvice, an' neb- went, and the strong blast, driving ber so much as a-sayin', 'Jenny, you through the dilapidated window sashes, poor old debbil, ain't you a-cold?' an' nearly extinguished her light before she, me coming in ebery minnit wid the reached the study door. telces a-ilnglin' 'roun' my linsey-woolsey | She blew out the light and set down | "

skurts, like de diamonds on de Wirgin Mary's Sunday gown. But Sam's waystin' now, I tells you all good.

Lors Gemini, what a storm! "I 'members of no sich since dat same storm as de debbil come in to fetch ole marse's soul-dis berry night seven year past, an' he carried of him off all in a suddint whiff! jist like a puff of win'. every day. An' no wonder, seein' how he done traded his soul to him for money!

"An' Sam's here ag'in to-night! dunno who he's come arter! but he's here, now, I tells you all good!" said Jenny, as she took up the urn to carry it into the par-

When she got there she could scarcely get to the fire; Paul took up the front. With Miriam, the shock, the anguish, His immobility and unconsciousness

through her. So strange did all appear do! I can't kill myself for dem as to her, so strange the impassiveness of wouldn't even care 'nough for me to her own will, of her habits and affect have a mass said for de 'spose o' my

warred against her purpose that she "What do you mean?" asked Paul, ansometimes thought herself not herself, grilly, for confinement, solitude, bad or insane, or the subject of a mono- weather, and anxiety, had combined to

And yet with matchless tact and discre- kivered way made from de house to de tion, she went about her deadly work. kitchen an' back ag'in, I gwine give up She had prepared her plan of action, waitin' on de table, now min' I tell yer,

anniversary of Marian's assassination, ""Marse Rooster!" Will you ever give to put Thurston to a final test before up that horrid nonsense. Why you old-! Is my brother-is your master The day came at last-It was cold and a barn-door chicken-cock, that you call

clouds, and the chill dampness pene- "Well, Shrooster, den, ef you wants trated into all the rooms of the old man- me to wring my tongue in two. Ef sion. Poor Fanny was muttering and people's sponsors in baptism will gib moaning to herself and her "spirits" der chillun such heathen names, how over the wood fire in her distant room. de debbil any Christian 'oman gwine to Mr. Willcoxen had not appeared since twis' her tongue 'roun' it? I thanks my with Miriam confined him to the house. the arrangement of the table, and then in the kitchen, the colored folk gath- seized the bell, and rang it with needless

was over, one by one they dropped Only old Jenny went in and out from away from the room-first went poor

"Where are you going, Miriam?" askseason nyther, 'cept 'twas de spring Miss ed Paul, as the latter was leaving the

And before he could further question.

she was gone! An' what minds me to | When Miriam reached her bedroom, speak o' Miss Marian now, it war jes' she carefully closed and locked the door, along the edge, from the extreme point years, under favorable conditions, a seven years this night, since she 'parted | went to her bureau, opened the topdis life," said Jenny, as she stood lean- drawer, and took from it a small oblong dle; they look to me like the stains of seeds is mingled with the new a poor ing her head upon the mantel-piece, and mahogany glove-box. She unlocked the toasting her toes at the kitchen fire, pre- latter, and took out a small parcel, victim with it, and in his haste to escape vious to carrying another armful of which she unwrapped and laid before her

upon the bureau.

The weapon had come into her posbreaking of the elements! rain and hail, session some time before in the followand snow and wind, all warring upon ing manner: During the first winter of the earth together! The old house shook, Paul Douglass' absence from home, Mr. timbers cracked, the shingles were torn his slaves and provided means for their increased in violence and roused to fury, was Melchizedek. A few days previous the forest beat before its might, and the to their departure, this man had come waves rose and overflowed the low land. to the house, and sought the presence Still old Jenny went in and out of the of his youthful mistress, when he knew And toward the height of the storm, there | betray his master's confidence by refatal night. Miriam had taken the little "Sams waystin' roun' in dere," said instrument, wrapped it carefully in pa-Jenny, as she thrust her feet into the per, and locked it in her old-fashioned kitchen fire, before carrying in the urn; long glove-box. And from that day to lumbia. Rate from Toronto to Van- important one. Speaking as a farmer



NOWADAYS.

Dorothy-Mamma, is father very poor? Mother-What nonsense. Dorothy-But you go to somebody clse's house for luch or dinner nearly

the lamp, and rapped at the door. Again and again she raped, without awakening any response from within. Then she turned the latch, opened ...e door, and entered. No wonder she had

received no answer. The abstracted man before her seemed dead to every sight and sound around him. He sat before the table in the middle of the room, his elbow on the mahogany; his face bowed upon his hand, his haggard countenance revealing a still, speechless despair as awful

as it was profound. Miriam approached and stood by him, her breath went by his cheek, so near she stood, and yet her presence was unheeded. She stooped to see the object upon which he gazed-the object that now shut out all the world from his sight-it was a long bright tress of golden auburn hair.

"Mr. Willcoxen!" hear her low tones, when he heard not the house to its foundations?

But he moved not a muscle.

her hand upon his arm. He looked up. The expression of hag- able. gard despair softened out of his coun-

-but sit down." brought me here, though I scarcely re- tained and should always be purchased member a storm so violent at this sea- in the ear, and if possible shelled by son of the year, except one-this night hand, so that off-color grains and those

Mayfield was murdered!" thrust.

Miriam proceeded, speaking in a thistle, mustard and wild carrot. or afraid to trust her voice far:

but costly article of virtu, belonging to reveal even to the naked eye any adulted. Here it is."

And she laid the poniard down upon from the deleterious forms. the tress of hair before him.

took the dagger up.

blood-as if a murderer had stabbed his sland is the result. had forgotten to wipe the blade, but had germs in a package of seed, place a cerleft the blood upon it, to curdle and cor- tain number or quantity between two rode the steel. See! don't it look so to thick sheels of blotting paper or of cotyou?" she said, approaching him, and ton wadding, thoroughly moistened, and holding me weapon up to his view.

exclaimed, throwing his hand accross keep at a temperature of from 60 dethe doors and windows rattled, the Willcoxen had emancipated several of his eyes, and hurrying across the room. grees to 80 degrees, Miriam flung down the weapon with off and whirled aloft, the trees were emigration to Liberia. They were to a force that made its metal ring upon swayed and snapped; and as the storm sail early in March. Among the number the floor, and bastening after him, she those of wheat, rye and oats germinate stood before him; her dark eyes fixed best in a temperature below rather than upon his, streaming with insufferable above 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Growth

through his brain. She said: "I have heard of flends in the human carrying wood, water, meat, bread, a good deal of mystery and hesitation shape, nay, I have heard of Satan in the guise of an angel of light! Are you ing or planting should be thin or thick. such that stand before me now?"

"Miriam, what do you mean?" he ask- the tested sample. ed, in sorrowful astonishment.

"This is what I mean! That the mystery of Marian Mayfield's fate, the secret of your long remorse, is no longer hidden! I charge you with the murder

of Marian Mayfield!"

"Miriam, you are mad!" "Oh! well for me, and better still for you, if I were mad!"

(To be continued).

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spinster, my dear, is a woman to be others do, by providing a good, tight envied. But don't tell your father I said tool shed. Mine is built on the south

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SEED -- TING.

In preparation for spring field and garden work a very important preliminary process is but too often neglected, that of testing the vitality and purity of the seeds to be planted. Whether these are home-grown or procured from seed any considerable proportion of weed seed and for ascertaining the viability of the germs is in many cases attended with disastrous consequences.

It is very important that first plant- limit, tools would never be left out at ings should grow. The value of the time | night in the fields, even, when in daily He did not hear her-how should he and labor given to replanting subtracts use in the summer. As a matter of fact, that much from the assets of the crop the summer dews and showers, alterthe cannonading of the storm that shook and the delay of the latter in getting a nating with the hot sun, do more injury reasonable start not infrequently pre- than a great deal of winter exposure. "Mr. Willcoxen!" she said once more. vents its best development. Consequent- realize that on any except a very small ly when the land has been properly fer- farm, where the barn is near every field, "Mr. Willcoxen!" she repeated, laying tilized and worked the seed committed it is almost impossible to take impleto it should always be the best procur- ments back and forth every time they are

For field crops the majority of farmers use seed from their own granaries or the end in view would be to build a small "Is it you, my dear?" he said. "What from those of neighbors. This needs shed in every field that would accomhas brought you here, Miriam? Werd selection and often special winnowing modate a small number of such things you afraid of the storm? There is no to get rid of smaller or larger seeds of at a time. danger, dear child-it has nearly ex- undesirable plants, and especially of pended its force, and will soon be over kinds blackened or swollen with ergot growth.

"Oh, no! it is not the storm that has Perfect seed corn is most easily atseven years ago-the night that Marian from the tip and base may be discarded.

Grass, clover and the smaller garden He started-it is true that he had been seeds, unless procured under guarantee thinking of the same dread tragedy- from the most reliable dealers, require but to hear it suddenly mentioned close scrutiny to prevent meadow, paspierced him like an unexpected sword ture and garden being contaminated with seeds of sorrel, dock, amaranth, Russian

strange, level monotone, as if unwilling | A teaspoonful of any of these seeds scattered over a sheet of white paper "I came this evening to restore a small and examined under a strong light will you, and left in my care some time ago | terant that may be mingled with it. If by the boy Melchisedek. It is an an- the latter be found in any considerable tique dagger-somewhat rusty and spot- numbers the seed should be rejected and destroyed unless it can be separated

To ascertain the proportion of seeds He sprang up as if it had been a viper | that will germinate in a given quantity -his whole frame shook, and the per- is of almost equal importance with prespiration started from his livid forehead. cautions for securing their purity. Un-Miriam, keeping her eye upon him, reliable seedsmen may attempt to palm off their old stock with that which is "It is very rusty, and very much fresh, and while many of the grains, streaked," she said. "I wonder what grasses, legumes and garden seeds will these dark streaks can be? They run retain their viability from two to several of the blade, upwards toward the han- large proportion do not, and where old

To test the proportion of vigorous inclose these between panes of glass or "Girl! girl! what do you mean?" he plates of zine to retain the moisture and

Almost all seeds respond more quickly to a high than a low temperature, but and consuming fire, that seemed to burn | will take place in periods varying from twenty-four hours to ten or twelve days -tobacco, cucumbers and melons being the slowest to start. Of course, the sowaccording to the number of vital seeds in

SHEDS FOR IMPLEMENTS.

Of the things a successful farmer should consider, the question of a tool shed is one of the most important.

The president of one of the largest harvester manufacturing companies told me that more farm machines and implements were made unfit for use by rotting and rusting than were worn out. I believe his statements.

This means that at least half of the millions and millions of dollars' worth The Chicago and Northwestern Rail- of farm machinery, made and sold to

I am sure that a large part of this loss can be avoided. And the subject is an sible to provide against every little thing

The chief loss, however, that is the exposure of implements to the weather, "Mamma, what is a spinster?" 'A can be avoided. I do it, as a great many side of my horse barns. The latter is his wife's expectations of him.

fifty-one feet long and the inside is divided into two box stalls.

Along the entire length of the south side this shed is built and under it we store one farm wagon, grain drill, check row corn planter, sulky plow, two mowing machines, cutaway harrow, other plows, cultivators, etc. These tools never get wet, unless they are caught out in summer when in frequent use.

Of course they cannot be kept absolutely rust proof; because while a good coating of tallow or paraphine will prevent rust, it is almost impossible to keep them covered with anything of the sort. Besides the slight damage from the rust occasioned by mere dampness is not a matter of importance.

It is more than likely that the wearing parts of all of them will be worn past dealers the omission of examination for the possibility of service before the parts affected by rust will be seriously in-

If the idea of protecting implements were carried out to the extreme possible

Probably the best way to accomplish

SWINE NOTES.

Cheap breeding is always followed by cheap selling. Profits are not the efforts

of carlessness or indifference. Grade animals never reproduce all their good qualities when bred. The scrub element is sure to crop out somewhere, and it usually comes in the form least expected or desired.

Young stock cannot be starved and afterwards coaxed into thrift. When once injured in this way, the time and vitality lost can never be recovered.

If the sows are being well fed before the pigs are weaned, they will gain rapidly on the same feed and be ready. to breed again as soon as they have

gained a little flesh. Hogs must have something to rub against. Unless there are rubbing posts, they will rub against the fence, and they may push it down or open holes

through which to get out. It is a mistaken idea that pigs enjoy sour stuff better than that which is sweet and wholesome.

When pigs are well born, they make good growth if they have plenty f grass, shade, water, and a little grain to keep them in flesh and to keep them gentle.

Disposition needs to be considered in hogs as well as in other stock. The hog with a short nose, thick head and short body is liable to be quiet and easy to manage.

"Under no circumstance must a brood sow and her pigs be shut in a nasty, muddy pen." This is the advice of a very successful and experienced breeder to a beginner. Note that no decent breeder ever treats his fine brood sows that way, and why not just as well ex+ tend this common-sense treatment to the "just plain breed" or those of no breed at all.

It is better to raise eight good pigs than twelve inferior ones. - There will be more money in the former than in the latter, though they outnumber them. Quality is more important than quan-

All troughs and feeding pens should be kept scrupulously clean. Don't let any feed remain after they get through with the food in the trough. It sours, moulds and is unhealthy.

Be sure the pigs have a trough for themselves that cannot be reached by the mother or the other hogs. It teaches them to eat and prevents any shrinkage during weaning. It is a self-weaner.

TO THE PRINCESS ENA.

(On reading the Protestant Protest).

Ena Mena Mina Mo Caught a Spaniard—Allonso— Prods they holler'd "Let him go," Ena Mena answered "No."

Ena Mena Mina Mo Hold you fast to Alfonso, Tell the Prods that they may go, They've no Purgatory, you know.

Ena Mena Mina Mo Once a Catholic, always so, Keep your vows to Alfonso, Edward, too, will fell them "No."

Ena Mena Mina Mo, To heaven by many roads we go; Tell those Prods, We told you so-You go 'long with Alfonso.

A marlys is a man who lives up to