THE CABLEMAN

AN EXCITING PRESENT-DAY ROMANCE

BY WEATHERBY CHESNEY

CHAPTER XIX.—(Cont'd.)

"The crops or the weather, or the 'a'ful expense of foreign travel,' as he is a Scot," said Varney.

"The frivolity of women if my father chose the subject," said Muriel.

"Neither. We discussed apostolic succession, and he claims that the Scotch Kirk has got it through auld Johnnie Knox, as he called him. I haven't spent such an interesting half hour for a long time."

Later in the day they came across the man again in the village of Furnas. His donkey was waiting for him outside the door of the inn, and he himself was inside having a meal. Davis left the other two to amuse themselves by wandering about the village, whilst he went in to continue the discussion on opostolic succession with the man who had interested him so much.

"Now," said Varney, when he had come to this point, "he's our man, isn't he? It was your saying to Miss Carrington that perhaps you would discuss John Knox with him that made me remember him. He's hunting for the diamonds, and he's doing it on a donkey, because he looks like an Azorean naturally, and every second Azorean peasant you meet is riding one . What did you find out in the venta?"

Scarborough told him, and at the end Varney said:

"Well, if Carrington's enemy who is well known to me,' the hooded woman, the man in the boat, Mrs Carrington's burglar, and Andrew Gillies, are one and the same person, he's a pretty lively fighter. But will the dates fit?"

"Yes," said Scarborough. "You met him the day before yesterday, the Ring-Rock business was yesterday, and the theft of the letter was this morning. But if he did get about the island like that, I don't see where we are to put our hands on his shoulder, as you said."

"In the Furnas district," said Varney, "He'll go back there,"

"Why?"

"Because, for some reason, that's where he thinks the stones are, or he wouldn't be pottering about there on his donkey. Thatt was were Mona met Carrington, you remember, so it's a likely enough place. But as Gillies has that letter now, we shall have to be energetic. Are you on duty to-night?"

"Yes, from midnight till eight."

"Then I shall have to take first watch in the country. I'll go and have supper at the Casa Davis, strap a sleeping bag on my handle-bars, and ride on afterwards to Furnas. It will be no hardship to spend a night in the open in this weather.

"But why not go to the inn?"

"Better not. Gillies might be there and there's no need to alarm him. If he knows where to look for the diamonds we had better let him do it, and watch for him in the process. I'll camp out. I know the very place—a stack of maize cobs on the hill-side, from which there is a wide prospect. Muriel and I sat there for an hour. I know the trick of waking at daylight, so if Gillies and his donkey are in evidence in the morning, I shall be ready for them,"

"Right," said Scarborough cheerfully. "I'll ride over and join you after breakfast. I'm on duty for the next week, so I shall be able to take the day watches, if you will do the nights. It won't matter about my being sleepy in the instrument room; there's not often much coming, the other man would wake me. How about you, though?"

"Oh, I shall be all right," said Varney. "I'll start now, and you had better go back to the Chinelas and see that the girls are all right. I suppose Mona will stay the night there. We'll tell Montague that she won't return to-night, or he'll fidget. Better tell her, when, you see her to keep her eye of Mrs. Carrington, and if she sees anything suspicious, she should send a message to you And there's another thing; when you ride over to join me to-morrow, bring the scratched stone with you, and stop at the Casa Davis on the way. Davis knows the island very well, and he may be able to make a shot at the meaning of 'ache—blue—n, drip.'"

"Right," said Scarborough, "I will."

"Then, I'll be off. Ta-ta, old man; and keep your eyes on Mrs. Carrington. We've rather left her out of the reckoning, but she's a factor that will have to be counted Don't let her steal a march on you."

Scarborough smiled. He did not think that Mrs Carrington was likely to be very dangerous now. By allowing her husband's letter to be stolen from her, she had let the best card in the whole game slip out of her hands, and he therefore rather despised her powers as a fighter.

His judgment in the matter was premature. He was to learn shortly that Rachel Carrington was most of all to be feared at that moment, when to others it appeared that she was wholly out of the game.

CHAPTER XX.

It was nearly nine o'clock when Scarborough rode up the gravel path to the door of the Chinel as again. He had been on duty from seven till ten that morning; then had come the message from Elsa, the visit to the venta in the north road, and the ride back; he had had a tiring day already, and he was due for duty again at midnight. But he hardly knew that he was tired. Te joy of at last doing something, the knowledge that Elsa was now co-operating with him in the fight, instead of tacitly putting obstacles in the way, the hope that now the misunderstanding between them was at an end a closer understanding would follow in its place, when he had put to her the questions he was hungering to put—these things had been tonics, and would have been enough to counterbalance the fatigue of even greater exertions.

He hoped to be able to get an hour's sleep yet, before he had to begin his watch in the instrument-room; but first, as Varney had said, he must see that the girls were all right.

He found them together in the drawing-room and it seemed to him that Elsa's stiffness with the other girl had worn off considerably since the afternoon. Had anything happened to bring them closer together? Or was it simply that Mona's sunny nature had melted a coldness that was making artificial, and her persistent offering of friendship had broken down the barrier which Elsa's sensitive fancy had set up?

Scarborough, seeing them, sitting together, in outward amity at least, had the thought borne in upon him irresistibly that they were surely and obviously meant to be friends. The very difference in the types of their beauty made them such admirable foils to each other—Elsa's the delicate, dainty beauty of carved ivory and Mona's the vivacity of flashing brown eyes, black hair, and rich creamy coloring. The one was an anemone of the woods, fragile but exquisite; the other a rich blossom of the sunlight.

"Mother has gone to bed with a headache," said Elsa, "and Mona is going to stay with me for the night."

Scarborough noted with pleasure that she said Mona, and not Miss Ryan or Miss de la Mar.

"What has happened?" he asked smiling.

Mona caught his meaning at once.

"Oh," she said, "we've been through a battle together since was saw you. We went into it. Miss Carrington and Miss Ryan, antd we came out of it Elsa and Mona. Are you pleased?"

"Very," he answered. "But against whom was the battle?" Not against each other?"

"No," said Elsa, "against mother."

"That is why she has gone to bed with a headache," said Mona laughing. "It was a hot engagement, you know, and she was utterly routed. She objected to my presence in the house, and Elsa stuck up boldly for me, and for the rites of hospitality, and said I should stay. Mrs. Carrington retorted that I shouldn't, and they fought it out, and that pale fragile little girl there scored a complete victory. I was proud of her It was glorious."

"Did you sit quietly by and listen?" asked Scarboruogh with a smile. "Five pounds to nothing you didn't."

"Oh, I chipped in with a remark or two towards the end," said Mona gaily, "I couldn't resist it, you know. But Elsa bore the real brunt of the battle; mine was only a cavalry pursuit at the finish, to cut up the disorganized forces of the enemy, and drive the victory home. I think Mrs. Carrington's headache is probably rather bad. At least that is the only reason I can think of to explain why she made the mistake of losing her temper and blurting out something that we very much wanted to know."

"She told you what was in the letter that was stolen?" cried Scarborough eagerly.

"She admitted that it contained a plan of the place where the diamonds are hidden," said Mona, "and she seemed to think that it was Elsa's fault that it had been stolen. I didn't follow her reasoning there, and I took the liberty of pointing out some of her mistakes. In the first place I reminded her that she went to an hotel instead of coming straight home; secondly, she put the plan in her purse instead of handing it over with her other valuables to the cashier to keep; thirdly, she had a large cup of coffee sent up to her the last thing at night, and didn't suspect that someone had been paid to put an opiate into it, until she awoke next morning about eleven to find that the plan was gone. Of course the man in the small boat had shadowed her from the Ring-Rock, and by sleeping in the hotel she gave him his chance. After all that, instead of abusing herself for her folly, she abuses Elsa. The unreasonableness of this was also one of the things I took the liberty of pointing out to her."

"On what grounds does she blame you?" Scarborough asked Elsa.

"Because I hid that stone jar at the Ring-Rock at all," said Elsa. "But never mind that. We found out from her that the plan was not complete, because it gave no inrication of where the place to which it referred was to be found. Father said he dared not put that information in the letter, because it might get into the wrong hands, but that he would convey th knowledge to her in some other way. She believes that I have that knowledge, and that I am keeping it back from her purposely."

"Well, so you are," said Scarborough, smiling.

Elsa sprang to her feet.

"The scratched stone!" she exclaimed. "Blue—N. drip!"

"Exactly," said Scarborough. "By the way, that lock of yours hadn't been tampered with?"

"No."

"Good. Will you give me the stone to keep for you?"

Elsa unlocked the desk and took the stone out. "But, after all, it's unintelligible," she said. "What does 'ache—blue—N. drip' mean?"

"I haven't an idea," said Scarborough. "But if we had the full text, including the words that that idoit of a bean-seller rubbed out with his blouse, I haven't a doubt but that it would prove to be the message that Mrs. Carrington wants."

"Well, now," said Mona approvingly "I think that's sense, and I'm surprised Elsa and I didn't think of it. Do you know it seems to me rather a pretty situation. The man who stole the plan won't be able to use it, because he hasn't the scratched stone; we have the scratched stone, but it's no use to us because we can't interpret it without the plan; and your mother, Elsa, has lost the plan, and never heard of the scratched stone. It rather looks as though the diamonds stood a good chance of staying undisturbed, where they are for a year or two. You and I needn't have bothered about deciding what we were going to do with them when we got them!"

(To be continued.)

BAR GERMANS FROM FRANCE.

Bill to Exclude Them for Ever is Before French Government.

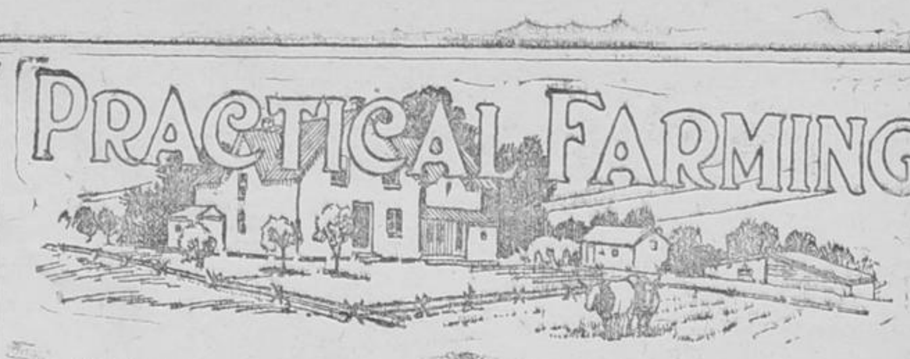
A bill to exclude all Germans from France for ever has been prepared by the French Government. The measure is shortly to be submitted to Parliament, and will without doubt be passed, as, with the exception of one Socialist organ, all the newspapers enthusiastically endorse it.

The newspapers point to the American law excluding the Chinese from the United States as an analogy. They advocate that all of the allied countries keep the Germans, Austrians and Hungarians out of their territories in the future.

The Journal thinks that the neutral nations should be asked to close their frontiers not only against German immigration, but also against German travellers.

It was Josh Billings who said that silence is the best substitute for wisdom that has yet been discovered.

PRACTICAL FARMING



Helping Out Grass Feed.

Natural grass pastures provide the cheapest and best feed for all animals, except horses that are expected to do heavy or fast work, but an addition of oats, bran or even more concentrated feed will bring paying results in nearly all cases and most decidedly when big production of milk or quick fattening is desired.

All cattle, from the calf to the steer ready for finishing, need forcing to keep up with the demand of the present day. Lambs may be satisfactorily finished on pasture if clover and raps are adde dto the natural grasses, but better speed can be made if a little grain is added to the ration. It is doubtful if any of the recent milking records have been made on pasture alone and most of the good dairymen use soiling crops and grain or millfeed to keep up the milk yield of the whole herd.

Hogs, have as a general thing been denied pasture to too great an extent, some people refusing to let them have a run on grass, even for exercise; but the other extreme should not be jumpd to if best results are desired. Hogs at all ages may be kept on pasture to their advantage, but "kept" must not be taken to mean maintained, or improved. A run on clover or rape plus milk and some grain, will grow the animal satisfactorily to within a few weeks of butchering, when they should be penned, not too closely, and finished on good hard feed. At present prices for hogs, a great deal of wheat can be fed to advantage in the pro duction of pork, but judgment must be used regarding the size of each feed. Ground wheat alone cannot be considered a satisfactory grain ration for hogs; as it is likely to bring on digestion troubles, but mixed with other grains it gives good results.

Horses and colts at pasture make their best and quickest growth when some grain is fed with the pasture grass and it is generally understood that the colt should be encouraged to eat oats, preferably crushed and mixed with bran, early in his lifetime.

When it comes to the feeding of horses that are at hard work for long hours as are farm horses during nearly the whole of the summer season, it is necessary to increase the amount of grain fed, to double or more than double the amount fed for ordinary maintanence. The amount prescribed in such a case by the Dominion Animal Husbandman, is 1¼ pounds per 100 lbs., of horse, of a mixture of 85 per cent. oats, and 15 per cent. bran. To keep the work horse in good health, it is also necessary that he be fed a bran mash at regular intervals. Saturday night being the time best suited for this, on account of the day's rest that follows.

Turning out the work horse to grass, on Sundays, work all right if the grass is not too soft and if the flies do not trouble the animal. This scheme works well with horses that are given to stocking up when kept in the stall for long after hard work, but such a condition should by rights be made impossible by a treatment for the benefit of the blood. The idea of trying to save grain by pasturing the working horse over night, should not be considered, and it is a question if he does as well outside, as in the stable, even if fed his full ration before being turned out. With this last mentioned practise there is also the extra work and time of the teamster to be considered, and the horse is likely to get better treatment during the work if the man who drives him starts off in the morning in a satisfied frame of mind.

A cool, clean stable, screened so as to keep out flies and regularly disinfected with a wholesome-smelling wash, will make the horse more comfortable at night, than will the average pasture field.

Points in Cattle Feeding

At the end of the third year of fattening steers in the open air at Lacombe, Alberta, Mr. Hutton, the superintendent, draws the following deductions:

1. Three-year-old steers seem better adapted to straight wheat feeding than are two-year-old steers.

2. From the results of the three years' work, it is evident that low-grade grains may be made to bring the producer a higher price per bushel sold through steers than will high-grade grains sold through the elevators.

3. Hay, green feed and straw amy be profitably fed at home.

4. From experimental work conducted with grain plots at this station, a valuation of the manure produced through feeding cattle at $1 per ton applied is warranted. The fertile soil of our Western prairies will not retain its fertility indefinitely without a return of at least a portion of the constituents drawn fro mit in the production of crops.

5. It is not necessary to provide an extravagant equipment in order to be able to undertake the satisfactory feeding of steers for the production of beef in this climate.

6. Bankers consider the lending of money for the purpose of feeding cattle a safe loan.

7. From the figures submitted it would appear wise for the breeder to be a feeder also and market his product in finished condition.

Requirements of a Good Animal.

An animal is like a machine. A good machine requires that each part be of good material and just the right weight and strength. The good animal must have its parts developed in the right proportion to make the type desired. The adaptability of a machine and the proportioning of its parts can largely be determined by looking at it. However, the make of the machine is the guarantee as to its possessing or lacking quality. Likewise in the animal a good deal can be determined as to its type by looking at it. Its real quality, however, can not be determined in this way. To get at this it becomes necessary to go further back. The quality was put into the animal by its parents, its grandparents, its greatgrandparents, etc. This makes it important to know that all these parents had qualities that would contribute to the making of a good animal of the type wanted. A predigree is a scheme for keeping track of th eparents of an animal. It is a guarantee of what is back of the animal, of what has contributed to its make up. It is this fact that makes the pure-bred animal valuable.—North Dakota Eperiment Station.

Windbreaks Pay Dividends

Windbreaks are usually more or less ornamental on a farm, and add to the contentment of the owner. But it is not generally known that windbreaks actually pay dividends. It must be admitted that windbreaks occupy space that could be profitably devoted to agricultural crops, and that the roots of the trees and their shade render a strip of ground on either side of the windbreak relatively unproductive. Yet in spite of these drawbacks, efficient windbreaks do more good than evil.

The windbreak reduces the velocity of the wind, and, consequently, the loss of soil water from evaporation from the soil surface and from the field crops. This is equivalent to additional rainfall, just as "a dollar saved is a dollar made." It seems that the greater yield of field crops and apples behind the protection of a good windbreak is enough to warrant every farmer in planting windbreaks.—W. J. Morrill, in Farm and Dairy.