

"THE KING OF THE PLAINS."

By ROBERT YULEE THOMAS.

By a wild and wicked six-shooter man... My protesting pencil is now inspired...



"BRAINED HIM THEN AND THERE WITH THE ROLLING-PIN."

To gamble and shoot, and to drink and loot... He held up the stages and express trains...

THE MISSING WILL

OR LOVE'S BRIGHT DREAM.

A Tale of Old Kentucky.

BY W. L. FRENCH.

CHAPTER XIV—Continued.

At one o'clock the jailer entered the cell to conduct our hero to the courtroom. The Eudices had already pre-

He told substantially the same story which his son George had told the policeman the night before, and which George had recited over several times together in the privacy of their cell.

When Eudice had finished giving his evidence, Meekin stated that he did not desire to cross-examine the witness at present, so the witness was excused from the stand for the time being.

"Your Honor," said Meekin, rising to his feet as Eudice sat down, "if it may please the court, I have a witness that I should like to introduce, now that those gentlemen have told their story."

"Very well, sir. He will be here in an instant," responded Meekin. And turning to Bryce, who sat near Roy, he whispered a few words in his ear, and Ronald arose and instantly left the room.

his chair, white and trembling, while George stood staring at Grant as though his eyes would burst from his sockets.

"I know a great deal about the case; in fact, I know all about it," said Grant. "I am the man that those people—calling his finger scornfully at the Eudices—'tried to murder!'"

"Several balliffs started to obey, but George would have gained the hall, and might possibly have made his escape, had not Squire Purdy, who was sitting among the spectators near the aisle down which George was rushing, exhibited an agility in spite of his years of which many a younger man might have been proud.

"I did wrong, your Honor, in not attempting to save the life of that unsuspecting old man, but I hesitated to attempt it for fear, as a wandering vagabond, my word would not be believed. I made myself an accomplice in crime by so doing, but I have paid dearly for it, and heaven helping me, I shall so live hereafter that no man will be ashamed to take me by the hand and call me friend."

"Your Honor, if you wish a lawyer to act for my ex-client, please appoint one, as I refuse to act further for them," said the attorney of the Eudices.

Once outside the Court House, Roy separated from the rest of the party and hastened away toward the Bates residence, for Myrtle Meekin must have heard of her arrest and incarceration, and he was eager to fly to her side, that he might make all things plain to her, and tell her of his good fortune in recovering the will, for Meekin had assured him before they separated that the precious document was in his possession.

"A few moments' rapid walk brought him to his destination. A servant ushered him into the parlor, where he found Myrtle just ready to start to the jail to visit him. She had only heard of his difficulties a few hours before, and was confident that it was a plot of the Eudices to get him out of their path. She at once went out and told her father of her engagement to Roy and of his present troubles, and informed her that she was going to visit him at once.

"It was indeed fortunate for you, and for justice, that Grant was not killed by that blow. It would have been hard to prove your innocence if he had been killed, even though they could not have proven you guilty."

"After it was finished he said: 'To be candid, I never expected to be able to read this will to you, for I believed it to be irrecoverably lost; but Providence has means of righting wrongs of which we little dream at the very time they are transpiring. All that remains to be done now is to admit the will to probate, and you will be the rightful possessor and owner of all your grandfather's property.'"

me. And there is one other I must not forget, and that is Grant," said Roy. "Yes, you do owe him much," assented Dr. Page. "Of course, he did not do right in the beginning, but he showed himself to have good material in the end, and I believe a little judicious help now would make a man of him."

"I believe it would, and if you gentlemen will excuse me, I will go and find him at once," said Roy, as he arose and left the apartment, and went in search of the hotel where he lodged.

"No; I will only take it as a loan," replied Grant. "Very well, you shall have it, and as you will need some for present expenses, I will add some to the check, and you can use it when you get able," said Roy, and he wrote out a check for twenty-five hundred dollars and passed it to Grant, saying: "There is the money; to-morrow we will see what can be done toward a settlement."

"Thank you, sir, murmured Grant, as he received the check, and with the confidence you place in me, I do not believe I shall, Grant," responded the other, as he shook Grant's hand cordially and left the room.

When Roy left the hotel after his interview with Grant a carriage drove slowly by him. He glanced up and saw Mary Eudice sitting in the vehicle beside the Sheriff, who was conducting her to jail.

George was convicted of attempted murder, and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. He lost his life a year later by being shot by one of the guards, while attempting to escape.

After the wedding festivities were over, Roy and his happy bride started away on a trip to the important cities of the country, after which they were to return to Frankfort and settle down at The Uplands, which Roy had arranged to have repaired and refurnished while they were gone.

"I have just returned from a trip in Stonecreek County, Texas. There they are the grizzly wolves, and they are still there. And their voices are very great and sonorous, so that when a few of them let fly in concert they seem to shake the hills. They make the atmosphere tremble very distinctly. It is worth one's while to go into that region and sleep a few nights in the grizzly canyons to hear the music, in order that there may be a large number of them, it would be well to hang up the skinned carcass of a deer or antelope near your couch; then retire to rest, and the serenade will soon begin. The more savory the carcass, so that it be not spoiled, the more earnestly will the musicians perform. They will usually end every song or roll with a smart snatching of the jaws, as if they were tasting in fancy the rich meat. I dare say that while thus performing, with all eyes gleaming on the savory carcass, their mouths are watering copiously. One who has not heard such a serenade is ignorant of one of the most interesting things in nature. There is just enough of suspicion of danger attending these concerts to keep the attention keenly alive. There is not much possibility that one would fall asleep and so miss some of the music, even though the performances be kept up till good dawn of day. Indeed, a good wolf concert, with the performers a few yards off, is one of the most wondrous things in the world. There are few people in Stonecreek County, but wolves are very numerous—gray wolves, black wolves, and coyotes.

A pet doe at the Missouri penitentiary gave birth several days ago to twins. This is said by those who are up in natural history to be of very rare occurrence.

AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS

Some Information of Value to the Farmer, Stock-Breeder, Bee-keeper, Housewife and Kitchen-Maid.

THE HOUSEHOLD

Water at Meals. MODERATE do lay in the progress of digestion is by no means a disadvantage, but it is more than doubtful whether any such effect is in reality produced by drinking water during meals.

Water may do good by washing out the digested food, and by exposing the undigested part more thoroughly to the action of the digestive ferments. Observation has shown that water taken directly through the stomach, and even if food be present they only mix with it to a slight extent.

Water, drunk freely before meals, has another beneficial result—it washes away the mucus secreted during the intervals of repose, and favors peristalsis of the whole alimentary tract. The membrane thus cleansed is in much better condition to receive food and convert it into sale components.

According to Dr. Leuf, who has made this subject a special study, cold water should be given to persons who have sufficient vitality to react, and hot water to the other.

Hints to Housekeepers. A COARSE comb is good to smooth the fringe of towels, napkins, tidies, etc. To RESTORE crushed velvet, hold it over the spout of the teakettle and let it steam well, then comb up the nap.

VERY many attacks of sick headache can be prevented if those who are subject to them are careful about their diet. They should largely restrict the same to vegetables and fruits easy of digestion. They must forego meat, cheese, pastry, beer, wine, etc.; in fact, neither eat nor drink anything which is stimulating in character and at all likely to tax the digestive organs.

THE ORCHARD. Suggestions for the Improvement of Fruits. They need improvement. There has been an advance in some respects, but the general movement has been retrograde. Take the strawberry. Thousands enjoy them now, where a hundred could years ago. But for this thank the culturist. The fruit has not improved. No variety is better, or yields more abundantly than any that were popular a quarter of a century ago.

Good Roads Into Fields. A farmer should take care to keep easy and safe ways of ingress and egress to his cultivated fields. More wagons are broken down by going through deep furrows or over ridges than by twice the travel on smooth highways. Often in repairing a road the postmaster will, if

prevented, spoil the way in or out of a field that the farmer has made. The farmer should not allow this to be done.

THE DAIRY. Keeping Up the Flow of Milk. It is an old saying, but, judging from the practice prevailing upon many farms, the American farmer says, there are thousands of people who never heard of it, that a cow is simply a machine for converting food into milk.

The introduction of new species for hybridization, or the importation of new ones from abroad, all have their uses of giving us a wider selection, but selection must be the chief weapon in our war against rough nature.

The Future Apple District. Some of the States, notably Arkansas, are rapidly developing into apple growing regions, and that State is now the home of promising new varieties, among which may be named the Arkansas Black, Elkhorn, Crawford, Siloam, and Shannon.

The Niagara Grape. Some growing Niagara grapes have this season realized an average price of ten cents per pound. The variety is extremely prolific, this price is very profitable. Specimens of this grape sent to Europe have been pronounced superior to any other of our native American varieties. It will probably be extensively planted in France and Switzerland next year.

THE FARM. Farmers and the Mails. One reason why the farmers of the present day are falling in sympathy with the great blooming of the world is that they hold themselves apart from it too much, says a writer in the American Agriculturist.

MAIL POST. If they will take half the pains to cultivate it that is displayed by townspeople, as for employment, country dwellers do not half employ the facilities for it which our government and many others have provided at a merely nominal cost.

CONVENIENT MAIL BOXES. comes—perhaps not then, but wait for a chance drive that way. In most cities the mail is delivered several times every day. Some communities send a person daily, or twice a day, to bring and distribute the mail.

MAIL KEPT. over it a short piece of made pipe or iron pipe, and by two light boards, one of which has hinges and a leather tag so it can be quickly lifted. In Fig. 4 is seen merely an old paint keg thoroughly dried and a part of one head removed. Whatever course is adopted, don't fail to use the mails freely and frequently.

Black and Italian. This subject has been much discussed for some years, and while most modern bee-keepers admit that the Italians are superior, there are a few who still insist on hanging to the inferior in (my opinion) Italy. To avoid any ambiguity or unnecessary words, I will proceed at once to point out what I consider the merits and demerits of both races.

Some of the advocates of black bees claim that this is an advantage when extracting, and so it is; but taking all things into consideration, I very much prefer to have the bees stay on the comb and remain quiet until I want them off, when I can use a brush. That the Italians are more gentle than the blacks I think no one who has had experience with both can doubt, and the nearer you come to the uniform three-banded worker the gentler you will find the bees.