

A Dead Will Wanda

ON THE
FIGHT FOR THE MUSSELSHELL MILLIONS.

BY LEON LEWIS.

She glanced at Elfie and Wynans again, noting their seeming inattention to all she and Jerry were saying and doing, and then continued:

"I do hope he's a young man, this Perry Wynans, who has so suddenly turned up as the owner of the Musselshell mines. But whatever he may be, he must invite him to our house and make a great deal of him. I'll do all I can to hook on to him. I'd marry him, pa, if he were as old as 'Thudrah." "How very kind," whispered Wynans to Elfie.

"That's a card to play, of course," returned Jerry, with a gloomy air. "But I'm doubtful about winning the game with it. Even if Wynans is not already married, a lot of things may knock all our schemes in the head. Considering how quietly this man has operated; how he has owned these mines for years without putting his deeds on record; and how he has evidently posted himself about the Musselshell mines, it is not showing up there—it's only reasonable to foresee that we are going to find him a very difficult man to manage. He may get to Lewistown and put his deeds on record before we discover his presence, and that we've got to make a dash in the very first round, as he would show everybody who is the real owner and range all the officials of the county on his side."

"Thanks for the suggestion," whispered Wynans to Elfie, again exchanging glances of gratification with her. "Ten to one," pursued Jerry, "the man will show himself to everybody else in Montany before he does to us. He may even appear in some disguise, or he may come with such an army at his heels that we shall have to order a course then to get up and get as soon as he gives us his orders."

"Never, pa!" declared Daisy Skidder, flushing excitedly. "We'll never be driven out of those mines!"

"That's the right kind of talk," said Jerry. "But we shall have to bow to the inevitable, like every one else. When Wynans has placed his deeds on record, he will of course be recognized as the legitimate owner of the property, and as such the Sheriff, and even the Governor, will be obliged to come to his aid, in case we or any one else should attempt to prevent him from taking possession. But there is one thing he can't do," added Jerry with a grim chuckle, slapping his breast. "He can't make us disgorge the very land on which we have already captured the goods we have in hand beyond his reach."

"And so is all the rest, pa," declared Daisy, with a scheming light in her eyes. "As soon as we get home I'll have a good talk with Sam Gaddler. You know how long Sam has been trying to court me, and how much he thinks of me. I believe he'd be willing to do or endure all most anything for the sake of securing my hand in marriage."

"Yes, he would," said Jerry, with the air of taking the suggestion into consideration. "That name of Sam Gaddler is a good one to remember," whispered Wynans to Elfie, as he wrote it carefully on his pocket tablets.

"And not only is Sam 'dead gone' on me," continued Daisy, "but he is already receiving a princely salary as the superintendent of our mining operations. Personally, too, he's just the man we want at our elbows at this moment—a giant in size, a dead shot, a natural leader of the wild spirits around him, and a man who has no scruples of any kind in standing in the way of his interests. You see, therefore, that we can give Wynans some uphill work to do if he should make war upon us!"

"We can, indeed," exclaimed Jerry, inspired by his daughter's suggestions. "Let me drill one point into you," continued Daisy, with an earnestness which rendered her a little nervous. "You've had the use of those lands ten years. As far as the county records show, they belong to you and your brother-in-law. You've already given out to him you have bought the lands, and you are generally regarded by our neighbors as the owner."

"All very true," confirmed Jerry. "And these facts being so," continued Daisy, "a look at every deed of yours reaching from her bold, black eyes, 'we have only to suppress Perry Wynans to remain in possession of the mines indefinitely. Get him out of the way, pa, and the machine will run over forever just as it is now running. If he means to fail to do us any harm, we must not hesitate a moment to use violence. Those mines must and shall remain ours.'"

CHAPTER VIII.
GRAND TABLEAU!
It was easy for Perry to see by Elfie's face that every word of Daisy's murderous programme had reached her hearing as well as his own. Her swaying figure was already tremulous with terror and apprehension.

"I agree with you, Daisy, that there is still a chance for us, if we mean to be bold and watchful," returned Jeremiah, after a brief silence, during which a gleam of desperate vigor appeared in his eyes. "Hiram told me that Wynans will start for Montana to-day. He may take the same train as we do, and we must not get off by the first train but we must keep a sharp lookout upon our fellow travelers. At what hour must we leave this hotel?"

"I shall have to inquire, pa," replied Daisy. "Perhaps we had better start at once," and she glanced now at Elfie and Wynans, who were looking into the street and gesticulating, as if giving all their attention in that direction. "I'll see."

She crossed the floor, directing to Elfie with a smile meant to be pleasant, and asked:

"Can you tell me, miss, when we can start for Montana? Pa has had bad luck, and we're going home."

"That are you asking?" "Montana?" returned Wynans, with a pretended start of surprise. "How singular! My sister and I are going to Montana."

"To-day, sir?" queried Daisy, with a flush of joy.

"By this very next train, miss," replied Wynans, arising.

"To what part of Montana?" demanded Jerry Skidder, gaining his feet and approaching with a nod of salutation. "To Lewistown, Forgers County."

"Good-bye," "You will, of course, go to Billings, and thence via Ubeli by stage?"

Wynans assented.

"Well, we go to Custer, which is just fifty-three miles this side of Billings," sizing up his new acquaintance by a rapid glance, "why shouldn't we all travel together?"

"Thanks for the suggestion, sir," said Wynans, handing Jerry a card he had neatly written a few minutes before. "We'll travel in your company with pleasure—and doubtless with profit."

"This is who they are, Dr. Dolliger and a sister," said Jerry, reading from the card and then passing it to Daisy, who had already shaken hands with both Wynans and Elfie. Delighted to know you. We're Jeremiah Skidder and daughter, of Musselshell, Montany. I'm a rancher and miner, Dr. Dolliger. What are you?"

"Merely a mine-owner," replied Wynans, with a slight smile. "We're going out there to see what chance there is to secure certain lands and mines."

"Bravo! You have fallen in with the very man you wanted to see, Jerry," the young lady, assured Jerry, of her own hand. "What I don't know about lands and mines in Montany isn't worth knowing. We can talk business on the way out, while the girls get acquainted. Capital delighted!"

"I stop on the stairs just without the parlor," said Wynans. "Should the newcomer prove to be Mrs. Long, the landlady, she would address him by name and so betray his identity to the Skidders. This must be prevented. He stepped toward the door, but was rechecked by the footstep of the man he had heard were those of a guest ascending to the next floor. He faced about, taking note of the time.

"As matters stand, Mr. Skidder," he said, "we'll all go to the station together. But first we'll go to the parlor, in a private parlor, and start off on the right side."

"The proposition was eagerly accepted. While we are being served, Miss Skidder," pursued Wynans, turning to Daisy, "you will have time to make a few purchases, if such is your desire."

"You can have half an hour, and that will be ample," assured Wynans. "You have only to go back to two, and you'll find all sorts of stores. My sister will go with you, if you would like her company."

"The suggestion was gratefully accepted, and the young ladies vanished, Jerry pressing a large roll of bills into his daughter's hands, with instructions to buy "anything on earth," she wanted. "Come up to my room, Mr. Skidder, and have a glass of champagne," then invited Wynans. "It will give you an appetite."

Jerry was nothing loath, and in another minute he was making himself comfortable in the private parlor of his entertainment.

"Excuse me a moment," pursued Wynans, "and I will order our dinner as well as a couple bottles of wine. I shall merely stop to the office."

He was gone scarcely three minutes, but this time he returned with a trunk and several measures calculated to preserve his secret, settled his bill and that of the Skidders, fed the waiters, and even taken leave of the landlady.

"We shall be served here in just twenty-five minutes," Mr. Skidder, he announced up to my room, Mr. Skidder, and have a glass of champagne, then invited Wynans. "It will give you an appetite."

"Jerry smiled his approval, becoming animated. A waiter soon appeared with the wine, uncorking the bottle and serving the first two glasses, and then vanished. The heat and vexation of the day had made Skidder very thirsty, and he was outside of the largest half of the champagne almost before he knew it.

Then the couple talked until the return of Elfie and Daisy, the latter followed by two choice purchases and followed by a porter who was loading with parcels.

"Well, you look as if you had had a good time, girls," said Skidder, assuming his most genial air, as the porter vanished.

"You just bet we have," replied Daisy, emphatically. "Oh, such a place! We'll come here again, pa, as soon as we've attended to business at home, and stay a whole week."

"You almost need a trunk for your purchases, Daisy," said her father. "No, pa. I can stow away everything in the two we've brought with us—everything except that hat and cloak, which are just too lovely for anything, and which I'm going to wear!"

"I should think as much," acknowledged Jerry, leaving to the conclusion of the detective, who had recovered his money. "I can't see from Montany to buy certain lands which I supposed to belong to him, but which in reality he sold three years ago. We agreed upon the price—\$200,000—and I gave him the money."

"You ought to have kept it," said the detective, who had the hint thus given him of his being on the wrong scent.

"And he put the money in the desk," added Jerry, with a groan. "Have you recovered it, Mr. Grimshaw?"

"Certainly not, sir. The fact is, your brother says you have a large sum of money belonging to him, and he sent me here to recover it."

"The facts, then, are just as this gentleman has stated them," explained Wynans. "His brother has really robbed him of the sum named in the most fraudulent fashion. Your friend here has just told me that your friend in Montana which belongs to Perry Wynans."

"Ah, indeed!" and the eyes of the detective flashed with due comprehension. "Our friend, therefore, came down here—with how much cash, Mr. Skidder?"

"About four hundred and twenty thousand dollars," said Wynans again, "so that you now have on your person two hundred and twenty thousand dollars?"

"All of which really belongs to Perry Wynans?" Jerry nodded again. "Will you let us see it, to convince this gentlemanly detective of the truth of all I am saying?"

"Certainly," Jerry hastened to do so, and Wynans took the money, running it over carefully under the eyes of the detective, and then securing it on his own person. "You see, therefore, Mr. Grimshaw, that we are conducting him toward the door, that your interests lie in the direction of Hiram Skidder's safe. I'll give you twenty per cent. of every dollar you can recover of that two hundred thousand."

"I've carried the point!" cried Wynans with a jubilant smile, to Jerry, as he closed the door and retraced his steps. "We're rid of him."

"How good of you! You knew the chap, then?" "Oh, yes!" "And he knew you, it seems! I thought I heard you sending him to Hiram's safe?"

"Quite right, sir. I promised him 20 per cent. of all the cash he could recover!" "Bravo!"

The door opened at this moment, and a servant announced:

"Mrs. Rankle here, Mr. Wynans!" cried the lady, as she hastily entered.

CHAPTER IX.
THE OUTCOME OF THE MASQUERADE.
The truth was out! Perry Wynans stood revealed to his enemies. Possibly something might have yet been done to gloss over the situation, if the newcomer had been alive to the signals and warnings Perry gave her, but it was not to be. Her gaze had encountered Elfie Tower, to whom she advanced swiftly, exclaiming:

"And Elfie, too; what joy!" She caught the girl to her heart, caressing her and kissing her, continuing in an expression to her sentiments she became conscious of the constraint of Elfie, and even of something peculiar in the aspect of Perry, and at once connected these peculiarities with the presence of the strangers, upon whom she now turned a questioning gaze.

"Wynans and Elfie?" These names had given Jerry and his daughter a hint of the truth. After exchanging startled glances, they turned a keen look of inquiry upon Elfie.

"My niece!" gasped Jerry. "My cousin!" cried Daisy. "Strange! I didn't notice the family likeness before," pursued Skidder. "She's the very image of her mother—my sister Mary—at the same age."

"I'm sorry to hear that," said Jerry, looking at her with an index finger. "Who is this man?"

The new-comer repeated the query with mingled terror and wonder. She was a motherly looking woman of about forty-five years, with a pleasant, but not a wholly winsome and sympathetic manner.

"You—of course know who you are dealing with?" she answered, with a wondering air, when Daisy had angrily repeated her father's question.

"Well, we thought we did," avowed Jerry, livid with hate and consternation, "but I don't know who he is. The detective who that detective would have pronounced the name of Wynans if he hadn't been interrupted. Who is this man, Mrs. Rankle, if that's your name?"

The new-comer looked inquiringly at Perry, who gave her a smiling nod, whereupon she answered:

"She's Perry Wynans."

Despite all his fears had foretold him, Jerry Skidder was visibly confounded by this announcement. It was several seconds before he could recover his self-control sufficiently to ask:

"And this girl?" "She's Elfie Tower."

"Oh! I feel them this morning."

"The same!" "And she is no wise related to this man?"

"No more than I am!" "But that's all right, there was no family likeness between them. The couple are not named Dolliger?"

"No more than you are!" declared Mrs. Rankle, rather enjoying the confusion of the stranger, and seeing readily by the expression of her face that they were in no wise the dupes of

blazing eyes and features, as also with a sincerity, not to say wrath and disgust, about which there could be no question. "You have just had a little of the deal of my brother, I believe?" continued Grimshaw, after a moment of hesitation.

"I should think as much," acknowledged Jerry, leaving to the conclusion of the detective, who had recovered his money. "I can't see from Montany to buy certain lands which I supposed to belong to him, but which in reality he sold three years ago. We agreed upon the price—\$200,000—and I gave him the money."

"You ought to have kept it," said the detective, who had the hint thus given him of his being on the wrong scent.

"And he put the money in the desk," added Jerry, with a groan. "Have you recovered it, Mr. Grimshaw?"

"Certainly not, sir. The fact is, your brother says you have a large sum of money belonging to him, and he sent me here to recover it."

"The facts, then, are just as this gentleman has stated them," explained Wynans. "His brother has really robbed him of the sum named in the most fraudulent fashion. Your friend here has just told me that your friend in Montana which belongs to Perry Wynans."

"Ah, indeed!" and the eyes of the detective flashed with due comprehension. "Our friend, therefore, came down here—with how much cash, Mr. Skidder?"

"About four hundred and twenty thousand dollars," said Wynans again, "so that you now have on your person two hundred and twenty thousand dollars?"

ILLINOIS' GREATNESS. AROUND A GREAT STATE.

INTERESTING FIGURES FROM THE CENSUS. BRIEF COMPILATION OF ILLINOIS NEWS.

The State Has Advanced from Twenty-fourth to Third Place in Population—Her Total Population—Industrial Possibilities and 1-1/2-Cent Value.

The Bureau of Statistics has got together some instructive and interesting facts and figures relating to the different States as well as the country as a whole. They portray the agricultural resources, the extent and growth of the country, and concisely show many features of the people's progress, industrial and otherwise. While many of the general statements are of importance, it is the present purpose to repeat only what is told of Illinois and its citizens. In size Illinois is the nineteenth State. This rank results largely from the extent of the newer States in the West, but east of the Mississippi River, the order of the States is—Georgia and Florida—with a greater area. Stated in figures Illinois contains 55,414 square miles, or 35,465,093 acres. Classed as one of the "poor land States," its entire area has been surveyed under Government auspices. The Territorial organization dates from Feb. 3, 1809, while the act providing for a State government was passed Dec. 3, 1818. No more remarkable evidence of the progress and development of the State is to be seen than in the fact that the present census gives it a population of 1,237,445, it became the twentieth State in the number of citizens. From this point the advance became very rapid, as in 1840 the rank assumed was fourth; 1850, eleventh; and in 1860 fourth, at which stage it has remained until the present census gives it a position only exceeded by New York and Pennsylvania. It is needless to say, with this unequalled growth, that the public lands long since passed to private or corporate ownership. Indeed, during the last year the quantity of land acquired by the Government was just 100 acres, a tract of marsh land in Randolph County.

In the number of pupils enrolled in the public schools and the amount of money expended for educational purposes Illinois is again in the lead place. The number of scholars in the State, 767,411, who are taught by 23,080 teachers, of which 6,980 are males and 16,100 females. The total expenditures amount to \$11,222,735, the salaries of superintendents and teachers using \$6,914,385. Illinois is again high rank in the number of its higher educational institutions. There are more theological schools than in any other State, the number being seventeen. They require the services of seventy-seven professors, and have 1,113 pupils, or nearly twice as many as New York and Ohio together. There are four law schools, that turned out last year 194 lawyers to prey upon the community. As to medical schools, there are five of the regular type, with 900 pupils, one eclectic and two homeopathic. When you come to the colleges of the liberal arts, there are twenty-six, with, in both preparatory and collegiate departments, 359 teachers and 5,757 pupils. Of female colleges there are eight, with 114 teachers and 950 pupils.

It is a little contrary to the usual acceptance, but none the less true, that in Illinois the number of young men are studying for the Baptist ministry than any other. The recruits to this denomination number 1,238, followed by the Methodists, who have 1,124, and the Roman Catholics with 1,051. The Presbyterians have but 836 students. The number of farm animals in Illinois is given as follows:

Horses, 1,123,973; value, \$79,214,809. Mules, 94,554; value, \$7,182,792. Milk cows, 1,099,922; value, \$24,066,284. Oxen and other cattle, 1,765,385; value, \$31,269,379. Swine, 770,993; value, \$24,455,769. Sheep, 4,914,238; value, \$24,692,627.

With the exception of Texas, Illinois has more horses than any other State, and in valuation the first place is taken. It is the custom to think the country is going to the "demonium" however, and every fellow thinks his particular section is deepest in the hole. But it does not seem so in Illinois. Indeed, prosperity appears to be the rule, at any rate with the governmental authorities. Both State and county powers not only maintain the "demonium" but manage to pay a big slice of their debts.

In 1890 Illinois owed \$4,446,466; the reports for 1890 show that this has been reduced to \$1,184,907. The county indebtedness, exclusive of municipal and town obligations, less sinking fund, in 1880, was \$1,184,907, in 1890, \$1,016,310. The total debt, less sinking fund, in 1880, \$15,627,600; 1890, \$12,291,287. In short, there was paid off, or provided for, in the decade \$3,336,313. The debt, less sinking fund, per capita, in 1880, was \$5.98, in 1890, \$5.30.

Illinois has by far the largest railroad mileage of the States, the length being 11,997 miles.

Sunflower Wisdom.
WHATEVER a man does, a woman can be coaxed into it.
A MAN'S affections are never very remote from his interests.
A MAN is as old as he feels; a woman is as old as she looks.

PHYSICIANS, who are very closely associated with human nature, have very little respect for it.
AFTER a man is 30 and a woman 25 there is no longer any rational excuse for their being in love.

THE nearer a man approaches his enemy, the less noise he makes with his tongue, and the more he makes with his teeth.
FIND out the three things a man likes most, and you can draw a faithful picture of his character.

Most people stop wishing for happiness after they have passed 30, and long for contentment instead.
If you ever hear a wise thing said in the presence of the sexes, and it will be just as true of the women.

WHEN a man starts out to be a woman, the result is nothing more than a woman, but he acts like a man; but let a woman imitate the men, and she becomes a wreck.

ILLINOIS' GREATNESS. AROUND A GREAT STATE.

INTERESTING FIGURES FROM THE CENSUS. BRIEF COMPILATION OF ILLINOIS NEWS.

Killed by Her Imagination—Teachers of Fayette County Hold a Successful Institute—Criminal Carelessness of Fred Bauer Held for Trial—Jerry County Stirred Up by Earthquakes.

A STUDENT dressed young man drove into Carlinville in a one-horse carriage. The man gave his name as Frank McCune. He tried to sell the outfit for an unreasonably low figure and was arrested by the city authorities. It turns out that the fellow stole the rig in St. Louis. A St. Louis detective went to Carlinville and demanded the pri-or, but the local authorities refused to give him up. The fact that there is a reward of \$100 for McCune's conviction in Clinton County is supposed to have been the reason for holding the man at Carlinville.

Two shocks of earthquakes have been felt in Jersey County. The first was during a violent storm and the other two days later.

The Jefferson County soldiers and sailors closed a very successful three days' reunion at Rome. There was a large attendance.

WAS STABBED, a young man about 21 years of age, and an employe of the Lake Erie and St. Louis Railroad, was killed by a fall from a ledge.

A NUMBER in the temperature of fifty degrees was experienced in Fayette County within twelve hours. Fires and waifs were brought into requisition.

MRS. JOHN REAMER, of Chicago, killed herself because her husband had been out of employment for some time. She had been an invalid for years and was subject to spells of despondency.

NEAR Lincoln, one of John Green's horses became fastened in a stall and fell. Mrs. Green, in seeking to release the horse, was knocked down and trampled so badly that she cannot live.

A COLD wave struck St. Clair County, but there was no frost. The corn crop is generally well along, and with a little more favorable weather will be ready to cut. The present indications are that the cold will not injure the crops.

A LITTLE black spaniel snapped at Mrs. Anna Raffal, a Chicago boarding-house keeper, but his teeth did not penetrate the flesh. The woman could not be persuaded to leave the dog, and died from nervous prostration.

A FEW days ago two gentlemen, who were curious to see how far out they could wade in the Mississippi River, started in five miles below Dubuque, Iowa, and crossed from shore to shore. The deepest water they found was four feet.

IN Adams County, though the weather was very cool, no damage was done to the corn except in delaying its maturity. The only apprehension the farmers feel in regard to the cool weather is that its continuance may delay the ripening of the corn so that it will get nipped by frost.

JOSEPH O'DOWD, a promising young man of Centralia, lost his life by the criminal negligence of Fred Bauer. They were in the caboose of an Illinois Central train and Bauer was fooling with a pistol, thinking it not loaded. The ball struck O'Dowd and he fell. Bauer, who had been playing with the pistol, was shot by carelessly following up with a pistol. He is under arrest.

AT Vandalla, the Fayette County Teachers' Institute closed a two weeks' session. This meeting was the first under the working of the new institute law, and all present expressed their appreciation as highly gratified with it. The enrollment was 178 teachers, the full teaching force of the county. The meeting was undoubtedly the greatest educational awakening Fayette County has ever witnessed.

MRS. MARY WILSON was struck and killed by lightning at her home at Salem.

PETER PETERSON, an iron-worker at Chicago, fell thirty feet, breaking his neck.

A GASOLINE stove exploded and Mrs. Hulda Lenkey, of Chicago, was so seriously burned that she died.

A HOT-box on a Belt line coal-car at Chicago, caused a fire, which spread to six cars, which were almost entirely destroyed. With loss will reach some thousands of dollars.

WILLIAM H. STABER, a bookkeeper 55 years of age, was aged by a fall from a run over by a Chicago and Northwestern railroad train. His right arm and left leg were crushed and he died.

FIRE destroyed a barn in Ravenswood and six horses perished in the flames. The building, which was owned by the Lincoln Ice Company, was valued at \$500, and the horses at \$1,500. There was no insurance.

The recent Jerseyville law against cows running at large is very objectionable to the people of that town. Several citizens, among them Dr. Allen, Bagley, English and others, caused all the cows to be driven to the pound. There the drivers of the bovines were met by an excited mob and harsh language used with some light blows. Writs were served against the cow owners. An excited crowd filled the court-room, and a complete victory was scored against the law by the people.

A FLOATING paragraph has found its way into a number of papers to the effect that by a decision of the Attorney General the law forbidding plates is not a legal publication, and that papers using the plates are not entitled to pay for the publication of the law. Attorney General Hunt said: "No such opinion has ever been given, and the question of legal liability of plates has never been brought before the Department. If the stereotyped plates are correct according to the copy furnished by the Secretary of State, I can see no reason why their use should not be legal."

HENRY J. BAKER, who claims to represent the best of H. J. Baker & Co., New York, manufacturers of castor oil, committed suicide in jail at Quincy, by cutting his throat with a small pocket knife. He came to town two weeks ago, and exhausting all his money in drink and gambling, he was arrested. He strangled himself with his own hand and bar bill amounted to about \$30 the landlord insisted on payment. He telegraphed his home and died rapidly, and was buried. He strangled himself with his own hand and bar bill amounted to about \$30 the landlord insisted on payment.