Thomas W. Lawson's Great Story,

FRIDAY, the 13th

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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

Bob Brownley and Jim Randolph, two Wall street men, are chums. Beulah Sands, a beautiful Virginia girl, tells Brownley that her father, Judge Sands, has been cheated by the "System" out of his fortune and about $1,500,000 in trust funds. In order to save the Judge's honor and recoup the lost funds, Sands and Beulah have scraped together $60,000, which they have agreed that the latter shall bring to New York and, by judicious speculations, try to win the necessary $1,500,000. By clever manipulation Bob takes advantage of a flurry in Sugar to bring Beulah's fortune (which she has meantime augmented by other speculations) up to more than the required sum. But suddenly the "System" intervenes, and, by a ruse, sweeps away all her profits. Bob, apparently backed by unlimited capital, creates a panic and clears up for Beulah and himself $10,000,000. Judge Sands, fearing himself ruined, commits suicide. The shock drives Beulah insane. Bob, in spite of this, marries her. Doctors declare her incurable. In his rage, Bob (still apparently backed by the same mysterious limitless sums) continues to attack the "System," creating panics, then checking them. In the course of a few years he becomes one of the richest men on earth.

CHAPTER VIII.

An Oath of Vengeance.

A NUMBER of times during the following year, and finally on the anniversary of the Sands tragedy, Bob carried the Exchange to the verge of panic, only to turn the market and save "the Street" in the end. His profits were fabulous. Already his fortune was estimated to be between two and three hundred millions, one of the largest in the world. His name had become one of terror wherever stocks were dealt in. Wall street had come to regard his every deal from the moment he began operations as inevitably successful.

He continued his operations with increasing violence and increasing profits up to the fourth anniversary of the tragedy. On the intervening anniversary I had been compelled by self-interest and fear that he would really pull down the entire Wall street structure to rush in and fairly drag him off. But with his growing madness my influence was waning. Each raid it was with greater difficulty that I got his ear.

Finally, on the fourth anniversary, in a panic that seemed to be running into something more terrible than any previous, he savagely refused to accede to my appeal, telling me that he would not stop, even if Randolph & Randolph were doomed to go down in the crash.

The situation was desperate. I was dealing with a madman, and I decided that I was justified in making this last try. I rushed back to him. "Bob, good-by," I whispered in his ear, "good-by. In ten minutes you will get word that Jim Randolph has cut his throat." He stopped as though I had plunged a knife into him, struck his forehead a resounding blow, and into his wild brown eyes came a sickening look of fear.

"Stop, Jim, for God's sake, don't say that to me. My cup is full now. Don't tell me I am to have that crime on my soul." He thought a moment. "I don't know whether you mean it, Jim, but I can take no chances, not for all the money in the world, not even for revenge. Wait here, Jim." He yelled for his brokers, and several rushed to him from different parts of the room. He sent them back into the crowd while he dashed for the Amalgamated pole. The day was saved.

Presently he came back to me. "Jim, I must have a talk with you. Come over to my office." When we got there he turned the key and stood in front of me.

"Jim, you gave me an awful scare," he said brokenly. "Don't ever do it again. I have little left to live for. To be sure I have some feeling for mother, Fred, and sisters. But for you I have a love second to that I should have felt for Beulah had I been allowed to have her. The thought, Jim, that I had wrecked your life, with all you have to live for, would have been the last straw. My life is purgatory. Beulah is only an ever-present curse to me—a ghost that rends my heart and soul, one minute with a blind frenzy to revenge her wrongs, the next with an icy remorse that I have not already done so. If I did not have her, perhaps in time I could forget; perhaps I might lay out some scheme to help poor devils whose poverty makes life unendurable, and with the millions I have taken from that main shaft of hell I might do things that would at least bring quiet to my soul; but it is impossible with the living corpse of Beulah Sands before me every minute and that devil machinery whirling in my brain all the time the song, 'Revenge her and her father, revenge yourself!'

"The other night I went home with my soul frozen with thoughts of the past and with my brain ablaze with rum, intending to end it all. I got out my revolver, and woke Beulah, but as I said, 'Bob is going to kill Beulah and himself,' she laughed that sweet child's laugh and clapping her hands said, 'Bob is so good to play with Beulah,' and then I thought of that devil Reinhart and the other fiends of the 'System' being left to continue their work unhindered and I could not do it. I must have revenge; I must smash that heart-crushing machinery. Then I can go, and take Beulah with me. Now, Jim, let us have it clearly understood once and for all."

Remorse and softness were past; he was the Indian again. "I am going to wreck that hell-annex some day, and that some day will be the next time I start in."

Shortly after this talk Bob left for Europe with Beulah. A great German expert on brain disorders had held out hope that a six months' treatment at his sanitarium in Berlin might aid in restoring her mind. They returned the following August. The trip had been fruitless. It was plain to be that Bob was the same hopelessly desperate man as when he left, more hopeless, more desperate, if anything, than when he warned me of his determination.

When he left for Europe "the Street" breathed more freely, and as time went by and there was no sign of his confidence-disturbing influence in the market the "System" began to bring out its deferred deals.

It was newspaper and news bureau gossip that Reinhart and his crowd had bought millions of shares of the different stocks involved in a deal, and it was common knowledge that upon its successful completion Reinhart's fortune would be in the neighborhood of billion. On Oct. 1 the certificate of the Anti-People's Trust $12,000,000,000 capital, 120,000,000 shares, were listed upon the New York, London and Boston Stock Exchanges and the German and French Bourses, and trading in them started off fast and furious at 101. The claim that one billion of the twelve billions capital had been set aside to be used in protecting and manipulating the stock in the market had been so widely advertised that even the most daring plunger did not think of selling it short.

It was evident to all in the stock-gambling world that this was to be the "System's" grand coup, that at its completion the masses would be rudely awakened to a realization that their savings were invested in the combined American industries at vastly inflated values, that the few had all the real money, and that any attempt upon the people's part to regulate and control the new system of robbery would be fraught with unparalleled disaster—not to the "System," but to the people.

Since Bob's return from Europe I had seen him but a few times. Up to Oct. 1 he had not been near the Stock Exchange or "the Street." Shortly after the listing of the "People Be Damned," as "the Street" had dubbed the new trust, he began to show up as his office regularly. This was the condition of affairs when Fred Brownley, his brother, called me up on the telephone, as I related at the beginning of my story, which I did not realize I had been so long in telling.

My thoughts had been chasing each other with lightning-like rapidity back over the last five years and the fifteen before them, and each thought deepened the black mist over my present mental vision.

I dropped the receiver and started for Bob's office. As I went through his counting-room one of the clerks said: "They have just broken Anti-People's to 50 on a bulletin that Tom Reinhart's wife and only daughter have been killed in an automobile accident at their place in Virginia. They first had it that Reinhart himself was killed. That has been corrected, although the latest word is that he is prostrated."

I rapped on Bob's private office door. I felt the coming struggle as I heard his hoarse bellow, "Come in!" He stood at the ticker, with the tape in one hand, while with the other he held the telephone receiver to his ear.

"So it is you, Jim Randolph, is it? What brings you here?" His voice was hoarse, but it had a metallic ring that went to my marrow. Bob Brownley, in all the years of our friendship, had never spoken to me except in kind and loving regard. I looked at him, stunned. I must have shown how hurt I was. But if he saw it, he gave no sign. His eyes, looking through and beyond me, changed no more than if he had been addressing his deadliest enemy.

Again his voice rang out, "What brings you here? Do you come to plead again for that dastard Reinhart after the warning I gave you?"

I said in a firm voice: "Bob, is this the way to talk to me in your own office?" At any time before my words and tone would have touched his all-generous Southern chivalry, but now he said harshly, "To hell with sentiment. What?"

He did not take his eyes from mine, but they told me that he was listening to a voice in the receiver. Only for a second, then he let loose a wild laugh which must have penetrated to the outer office.

"Eighty and coming like a spring freshet," he said into the mouthpiece, "and the boys want to know if I won't let up now that Reinhart is down. Go back and smother them with all they will take down to 60. That's my answer. Tell them if Reinhart had ten more wives and daughters and they were all killed I'd rend his trust to help him dull his sorrow. Give the word at every pole that I will have Reinhart where he will curse his luck that he was not in the automobile with the rest of his tribe——

"To hell with sentiment!" He was speaking to me again. "What do you want? If you are here to beg for Reinhart and his pack of yellow curs you've got your answer. I wouldn't let up on that fiendish hyena not if his wife and daughter and all the dead wives and daughters of every 'System' man came back in their grave-clothes and begged. I wouldn't let up a share." I gasped in horror.

"When did those robbers of men and despoilers of women and children ever let up because of death? When were they ever known to wait even till the corpse stiffened to pluck out the hearts of the victims? It is my turn now, and if I let up a hair may I, yes, and Beulah, too, be damned, eternally damned."

(To Be Continued.)

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Melba in "La Boheme" at the Manhattan

WITH a cast embracing Melba, Trentini, Bonci, Sammarco, Arimondi and Gilibert it was not surprising that one of the biggest houses of the season greeted the third production of "La Boheme" at the Manhattan Opera-House last night. The popularity of the opera itself, combined with the remarkable quality of the cast, could do naught else than crowd the House of Hammerstein.

It would be difficult indeed to find anything that called for reproof in last night's presentation. Of course there is the too evident fact that Melba will never fit properly into a good physical reproduction of Mimi, it being simply impossible to imagine the buxom Nellie as the consumptive weakling which she is supposed to depict. In other respects there is nothing for comment except to pay the usual tribute to the master voice that is hers.

Bonci as Rodolfo sang his lays throughout as if life under the Hammerstein roof were one gladsome springtime full of flowers, fragrance, honey bees and butterflies. No one would ever suspect that the little high-heeled tenor was not content to live and die with Oscar, for there was no tinge of doubt in his tones from the rise to the fall of the curtain.

Sammarco was himself throughout. He seems to fit his part of Marcello as if he had grown up in it. Arimondi, as usual, displayed never a false tone.

There was a doubt as to whether Trentini would be able to appear, but she braved the snowy cold. Her work was really high class, and there is no doubt of her ability to do even better than is required from her in the part of Musette.

Tanara led. There is a progressive improvement in this leader's work since he first waved the wand in this house. It showed in an accumulated way last night.

"Haensel und Gretel" Precedes "Pagliacci"

"PAGLIACCI," at the Metropolitan Opera-House last night, was robbed of its principal attraction by the absence from the cast of Caruso, who was still suffering from a cold. His part of Canio was taken by Jacques Bars, who gave it an intelligent if conventional interpretation. With two such noteworthy exponents of the character as Caruso and Bassi in town, his task was no easy one. Scotti repeated his admirable Tonio, singing the prologue most effectively, and Bella Alten, as usual, was an interesting, if somewhat Teutonic, Nedda. The other parts were taken capably by Reiss and Simard, and the intermezzo, under the direction of Vigna, was well played.

Before the Leoncavallo work, with its seething pulsations of human passion, that beautiful fairy opera of Humperdinck's, "Haensel und Gretel," was presented again. Every hearing more than ever seems to make the composition a thing of joy and to stamp the principals with the characters they impersonate. Bella Alten, who is not coming back next season, will not soon be forgotten as Gretel. Mattfeld is a charming Haensel. Marion Weed, save, perhaps, for her Herodias in "Salome," does nothing better than her Gertrude. Goritz is a lovable Peter. Louise Homer's Witch, for grotesque characterization, is a marvel. Over all Hertz waves a sympathetic baton.

There was nothing last night to disturb the enjoyment save the chatter of the audience during the orchestral introductions. If the revival of old-fashioned Italian operas is to make us forget that the orchestral scores in modern works are essential parts of the compositions, some of us, at least, will pray for a revival of the spirit which prevailed during the days when German opera was supreme and silence was enjoined from the first wave of the conductor's baton.

SYLVESTER RAWLING.

SADIE WANTED WINE, SO HE STOLE BRANDY.

They Were to Be Married and Would Make the Neighbors Jealous.

James Wancher, a young Austrian, about to be married, purchased a bottle of beer in the wine shop of Morris M. Tishler, at No. 2013 Second avenue, last night, and while Mr. Tishler was wrapping it up slid a case of brandy out the door. When he went out he picked it up and raced in the direction of his home and bride-to-be, at No. 231 East One Hundred and Third street.

Policeman Grogan arrested him and Magistrate Moss, in the Harlem Court to-day, inquired why he had stolen the brandy.

"To have such a wedding that a jealousy of sadness comes by my neighbors," replied the prisoner, talking rapidly and in strange phrases.

"Sadit says I am like a lobster if no wines we have for good feelings by the guests. Say I some beer I get, but Sadie has a proudness above my beer and makes a weeping. Then I ain't so wealthy, Judge, and I make a can from the wine man."

Eloquent as this excuse was, Magistrate Moss held the prisoner in $500 bail for trial.

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Why He Called.

(From the Philadelphia Ledger.)

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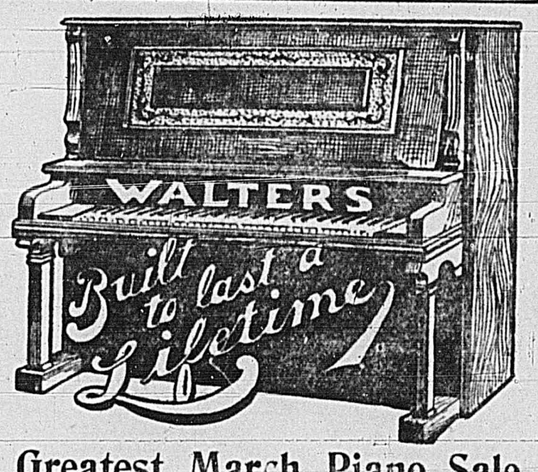

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6x 9 ft.....7.98
Grade XX.
18x36 inch.....89 | 4 x 7 ft.....4.98
21x45 inch....1.09 | 6 x 9 ft.....10.98
36x54 inch....1.59 | 7.6x10.6 ft....16.98
30x60 inch....1.67 | 9 x12 ft.....21.98
36x72 inch....2.79
Grade XXX.
18x36 inch....1.19 | 3x 6 ft.....3.98
21x45 inch....1.69 | 4x 7 ft.....6.79
36x54 inch....2.84 | 6x 9 ft.....13.98
30x60 inch....2.79 | 8x12 ft.....27.98
One-third less than elsewhere sold!

WASHABLE "CORAL" RUGS
Light colors, suitable for Summer homes and bathrooms—
36x36 inches.....1.19
27x54 inches.....1.49
36x63 inches.....2.29
EXTRA GOOD VALUES!

BEST WOOL INGRAIN ART SQUARES
firm and even weave—reversible—strictly fast colorings—very durable and easily kept clean—variety of designs.
3x2 yds..... 3.98 | 3x3½ yds..... 7.29
3x2½ yds..... 4.98 | 3x4 yds..... 8.49
3x3 yds..... 6.25 | 3x5 yds..... 10.98

This Is Ribbon Week!
Specials in Ribbons for all purposes—Sale values are very great!—You can't afford to miss them....This is to be a great Ribbon Season....We want to start the season right and quickly acquaint you with our superb stock of Novelties—that is why we offer the newest and most desirable kinds at ONE-THIRD OFF REGULAR PRICES.

Side Hem'd Window Shades
Fine Close Weave Holland.
White, ecru and dark green—2 1-3 yards long—28 to 37 inches wide..... .49
Before we introduced these side-hemmed shades they could only be obtained to order and at about double the price we name.
Shades are without rollers—Customers can use their own, or we will supply Hartshorn rollers at 10 cents each. This makes the total cost ABOUT HALF what made-to-order shades of equal quality would cost.
Important....Please take measurements by wood rule.
Tape measures are apt to stretch.

Towellings
Everything for dish or roller—all qualities—all kinds—all widths....Housekeepers have a choice here that they fully appreciate, that is why department is so high in favor....Royal, Russia and Barnsley Crashes, Plaid and Check Glass, Twill and plain brown linen, German Damask and plain and fig'd Huck..6¾ to .49
SPECIALS:—
Russian Crash..6¾ | 18 in All Linen..11
17 in Barnsley..9¾ | 20 in Glass.....12½
18 in Check....12½ | 22 in Glass.....15
17 inch German Damask.....19
18 inch Damask—fine quality.....29
18 inch Fringed Bar Scarfing.....34

MORNING SALES
To-morrow, Wednesday, Until 1 P. M.
To prevent Dealers buying we reserve the privilege of restricting quantities.

Fine Axminster Rugs—9x12ft.
A repetition of our recent remarkable Rug Special—Alex. Smith's famous make in the best new Oriental and medallion designs—perfect goods—worth $25.00—For Morning Sale..... 16.98
Limit—One.
THIRD FLOOR—NEW BUILDING.

Fine Imported Mohairs
Rich silk lustre—black, navy and royal, the colors most in demand—yd. wide—A morning opportunity to obtain 49 ct. value for..... .24
MAIN FLOOR—NEW BUILDING.

Fine Persian Lawns
Full 45 inches wide—quality and finish so much sought for Confirmation Dresses, Waists and Infants' Wear—worth 21 cts., and scarce at that—Our Morning Price..... .12
MAIN FLOOR—NEAR ARCADE.

Stamped Cushion Tops
With plain backs—printed Denim, linen and other serviceable art fabrics—tan, red, green and black—about 20 patterns—plain and basket weave—worth fully 24 to 45..... .12½
BASEMENT—NEW BUILDING.

Mercerized Lining Sateens
36 inch—Black and leading colors to match Spring Dress Goods—24 cent quality..... .18
BASEMENT—WEST BUILDING.

Bleached Huck Towels
19x38—slight imperfections that do not affect their durability—excellent value at 12½..... 7
MAIN FLOOR—CENTRE BUILDING.

Boys' New Spring Suits
Russian and Sailor—Medium and Gray Mixtures trim'd with white, black, gray or red! Soutache braid—emb'd shields—3 to 10 yrs—Regular $2.98 suits..... 1.65
THIRD FLOOR—CENTRE BUILDING.

Babies' Long and Short Coats
Spring styles—all wool Bedford Cord and Henrietta—deep capes trim'd with braids and silk folds—worth $4.00..... 2.35
SECOND FLOOR—CENTRE BUILDING.

Women's Spring Dress Skirts
Black Panama and Broadcloth—latest pleated styles—with and without fancy tailored finish—worth $4.49 and $5.49..... 2.90
SECOND FLOOR—NEW BUILDING.

Women's Dressy Neckwear
Lace and batiste stocks—Batiste and Point Gaze with Baby Irish—with and without tabs—reg. 25 and 29..... .12
MAIN FLOOR—ARCADE.

White Brussels Dress Nets
Firm, perfect quality for waists, dresses, etc.—the and medium mesh—49 ct. Dress Nets for..... .29
MAIN FLOOR—CENTRE BUILDING.

Dotted Silk Chiffons
More than half silk—Cream tint, with Allover Satin dots—27 inches wide—effective for Evening and Summer wear—worth 19..... 9¾
BASEMENT—CENTRE BUILDING.

Newest Styles in Braids
Large assortment of latest Spring colors and combinations—also black and white—regular price 9 cents..... 3½
By the dozen yards, 38 cts.—worth .98
MAIN FLOOR—CENTRE BUILDING.

SOLD UNTIL 1 P. M. ONLY—NO MAIL OR TELEPHONE ORDERS.