

Schuman Pianos are Going Fast. Better Get Prices of E. C. CHAMBERLIN.

PROFESSIONAL BRETHREN

BY GEORGE E. WALSH

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"Well, well, this is the second time you have given me offense," he added finally. "Look out for the third time. I might not let you off so easily."

I made the delivery of the message as long as possible, for while he was studying me to no particular purpose I was critically examining everything for a definite end.

When I finally left, I had a pretty clear impression of most of the articles in the room. It was decorated and furnished in true oriental style. Skins and rugs were scattered over the floor; teakwood cabinets and desks, loaded down with miniature elephants of the same wood, were standing in corners and in the middle of the office; sandalwood ornaments, peacock feathers made into exquisite fans, Bagdad curtains and conches, Benares bronzes and spears and shields were placed in various nooks and corners to give the effect of an eastern scene. A red glow from a lamp suspended from the center of the ceiling must have added greatly to the prettiness of the room at nighttime.

But in the midst of the oriental furniture and bric-a-brac were many modern articles, which gave an incongruous effect to the room. Glimming skulls stood alongside of disintegrated Egyptian mummies; a stereoscope was lying next to a spear head that must have been welded by some Indian prince of long ago; medical books and implements were piled promiscuously upon hand carved tabourets of wonderful workmanship. In short, the room was a typical oriental scene, overlaid and topped by the necessary articles of a modern practicing physician.

The whole effect was interesting from one point of view, but for me there was little that I cared about. I could discover nothing that would give me a clue to the doctor's mysterious work. Furthermore, I could not understand why so much care should be exercised in keeping intruders out or why the servant was so insistent that I should not enter his master's office. But my failure to make any discovery intensified rather than lessened my desire to fathom the mystery which Dr. Squires had chosen to surround himself with, and as I rode homeward my mind was busy planning some way of circumventing him and his oriental slave.

CHAPTER IX.

THE indisposition of Mr. Goddard was of short duration, but the attacks became more frequent after my first visit to Dr. Squires, and I was occasionally called upon to carry notes for him which announced the breaking of engagements. There was nothing serious about his complaint except that he appeared weak and languid and unable or unwilling to attend to his social duties. He would spend the day at such times resting on the bed or couch either smoking gloomily or closing his eyes in a moody, dejected manner. He would lie in this way for hours without moving a muscle, but he was not asleep. The slightest noise would arouse him. He would merely open his eyes and ask, "What's the matter, William?" Then without even waiting for my reply he would close them wearily and relapse into his former languid condition.

By this time I was considerably attached to him, and it gave me as much anxiety as a relative to see him slowly going into a decline. The dread of the inherited disease intensified my feelings for the man. I had no faith in Dr. Squires, but I could offer no good substitute.

Left to myself a great deal, I took to reading the books which I found in Mr. Goddard's study. Many of these were medical treatises. Evidently the man had tried to make a study of his complaint and had collected all the literature possible upon the subject. These books were handsomely bound and copiously illustrated, but they were too technical for my limited understanding. Nevertheless I frequently found myself turning over their leaves and aimlessly reading paragraphs here and there.

One day I was engaged in this idle amusement when I happened to open the book at a chapter headed, "Poisons and Their Administration." I had not read many lines before I suddenly

closed the book with a bang. An idea had occurred to me that fairly startled me. I was instantly positive that I had at last a clue to the sickness of my master and possibly the reason for Dr. Squires' mystery.

The doctor was slowly poisoning Mr. Goddard while pretending to help him to ward off an inherited disease.

This accounted for the peculiar languid condition of my master at certain intervals. After every dose of the insidious poison he was made weak and listless. Each attack helped to break down his naturally rugged constitution. It was merely a question of time before he would succumb to the poison instead of to any mythical disease.

Confronted by this thought, I was uncertain for a time just what to do. My first impulse was to go to my master and tell him my suspicions so he could be placed on his guard, but as my life has never been guided by impulse I soon dismissed this from my mind.

Besides, I had nothing but my suspicions to reveal—not a single fact to prove anything. It was my duty to collect facts and then to confront the doctor with them and have him arrested. If he was determined to put my master out of the way and gain the hand and fortune of Miss Stetson, I was equally determined to thwart him in his little game. The stakes were high for him, and I knew that he would play a cunning, skillful hand, but as he would suspect no danger from me I had the advantage of working secretly and without much fear of discovery.

A professional burglar has a little of the detective spirit in him, and I soon found myself enjoying the scent with all the keenness of an experienced officer of the law. I had hunted detectives before, dogged their tracks, penetrated their disguises and followed up little clues that they left behind in their work, but all in the interest of crime. Now, however, I had turned reformer and was legitimately pursuing a criminal whose evil genius had been directed toward the destruction of one whom I had learned to like. It was no ordinary man that I had to fight against, and this gave more zest to my undertaking.

I discovered that my master had a night appointment with Dr. Squires about once a week. These appointments were irregular. Sometimes they were early in the week and, again, in the middle or the end. Evidently the doctor told him each time when to come again.

Upon reflection I was satisfied that there was a strange coincidence between these weekly night calls and my master's periodic attacks of languor and sickness. Almost every time after he had met the doctor at night he had been in bed a good part of the following day. This convinced me that the poison was administered at the doctor's office and was not intrusted to his patient.

This conclusion was reached one day when I was considerably dejected. I had been working up the case for nearly a week, and everything seemed to point to the fact that I had made a mistake in my reasoning. I could discover nothing to corroborate my suspicions. On that very day I had managed to secure the medicines my master was in the habit of taking, and, carrying them with me to the city, I had them analyzed by an expert chemist.

I was so confident that poison was contained in some of them that I was greatly surprised and perturbed when he told me that they were composed of harmless herbs and oils.

"You mean to say there is no poison in any of them?" I asked in astonishment.

"None whatever," he replied.

I did not believe he understood his business and probably said as much. I took them to another chemist and spent \$5 more just to have a correct analysis made. The same conclusion from this man convinced me that I was mistaken.

I walked home, dejected and baffled. The doctor was too shrewd for me, and he had scored the first victory.

It was while speculating upon the possible methods of giving him poison that I reached the conclusion that my master's night visits to the doctor's office were for everything. It was at these meetings that the harm was done. I would be present at the next meeting or I would relinquish all claim to the possession of abilities of a certain order necessary for success in my line of work.

CHAPTER X.

UT in the meantime, by mere accident, I discovered the secret of my master's fatal illness. It happened in this wise:

One afternoon when I was free for a few hours I strolled down the road toward Dr. Squires' house, habit generally drawing my footsteps in that direction. I was intent upon no particular purpose. I was merely walking along for the change. I frequently like to get off by myself and lie down in the woods or on the green grass and think. I am a great lover of nature. The birds and grass and flowers always appeal to me.

When alone in the woods, I will watch the birds by the hour, finding more enjoyment therein than in the company of man, or an army of busy ants will amuse me for half a day. I would not hurt one of these insects for anything or permit them to be disturbed in their work, and yet I have raised my hand against my fellow creatures, partly in self defense, it is true, to wound them or to take their lives if necessary.

On this particular afternoon I walked down the country highway for some distance, and then, attracted by the song of a wood thrush, I concealed myself in a thick clump of bushes and listened. The bird could not see me, and for a long time I lay there with my eyes half closed listening to the sweet music of the dainty singer. I do not know how long I remained there entranced by this private concert, but suddenly the bird hushed its song and flew away.

The noise that had frightened her came from the hoofs of two horses, which were cantering down the road at a rapid pace. I peered through the leaves of the bushes at the riders, and instantly all my gentle thoughts fled. The spell of the bird was no longer upon me. All my evil, crafty nature returned. The approaching riders were Dr. Squires and Miss Stetson.

Not a dozen paces from me a small stream bubbled up from an underground spring, and it was quite customary for riders to give their horses a drink at this place. A wooden trough had been sunk into the ground to receive the water and to form a drinking vessel for the beasts.

I was consequently not surprised when the two drew up their horses just in front of me and led them to the spring. The doctor dismounted and held the horses while they drank in the cooling draft. The two had been engaged in conversation, and I judged that she had been trying to extract his secret from him.

"I do not consider it an honor to keep your work so secret until you have completed your discovery," she was saying. "Then all the world will know it, and there is no special interest in it for me."

"But I have promised to tell it to you before any one else hears of it," the doctor answered.

"How long before—one day or one hour?"

"There was a look of annoyance in his face at her reply.

"Any number of days beforehand you wish," he answered.

"Well, then, I wish to hear it now," she replied quickly, a bright smile reinforcing her words.

"Woman's impatience," he muttered.

"It has caused half the trouble in the world."

"That is unkind. I don't like such reflections upon my sex."

"Nothing personal was intended, Miss Belle. I was merely uttering my reflections aloud."

"Well, please don't do so any more."

"The doctor watched the horses drinking for a few moments and then, leaning against the saddle of his black steed, he said:

"Can you keep the secret if I divulge it to you?"

"Can I? I don't think that question is necessary."

"No, probably not. But I want your promise that you will never reveal it to anybody," he persisted.

"Well, you have it. I will never mention it until you give me permission."

"All right, then. I will tell you all. When I was a young man, I went to India as a surgeon in the English army. There I met so many lepers that my attention was called particularly to this disease. At first they disgusted and alarmed me. Their rotting fingers and toe joints, their running sores and their emaciated bodies were so bathosmatic that I could hardly stay in their presence, but in time I got used to

them, as we do to everything. I even found myself pitying them and wondering if something couldn't be done to alleviate their sufferings and even to cure and stamp out the horrible disease. This was the beginning of a career that I have studiously pursued ever since. I spent all my time in studying leprosy in its worst forms. I determined to find some remedy for it. I was limited in funds, but managed to get along by living near them. I could not exist in the same house with them. The thought of it nearly stifled me. But I could live near them and help them and in time perfect my discovery.

"My secret is already out, Miss Belle," he added after a pause. "I am devoting my time and life to the discovery of a positive cure for leprosy, that most dreaded of all diseases that ever scourged a wicked world. I am on the right track. In fact, I have almost perfected it, so that I will be ready to announce the results to the world in a year. There is only one thing that bothers me. I am experimenting with this continually."

"Experimenting with whom?"

"The words were so hollow and unnatural that I turned my eyes from the doctor's face to that of Miss Stetson. I was startled at the sight. Her face was livid—paler than that of any corpse. A look of horror shone from her eyes.

"Whom are you experimenting with, Dr. Squires?" she repeated in the same strange voice.

"With—why—my dear Miss Belle, have I divulged any family secret?" stammered the doctor. "Did you not know? I thought your father knew that you knew that—"

"That Charles had leprosy in his system—that he was a leper?" she said slowly.

"Your father knew it; his father knew it; Charles knew it when he met me. I understood that both families made no secret of it among themselves."

"No, I never knew what the disease was. Father never told me. Oh, can it be possible?"

She swayed in her saddle, and if the doctor had not caught her she would have fallen to the ground. I could hardly contain myself. The news nearly made me desperate. This accounted for everything. I was all wrong in my conclusions. The doctor was, after all, a good man, holding the secret of my master's life in his possession and trying hard to help him.

"You must let me give you some water, Miss Belle," the doctor said as he steadied her in the saddle. "Dismount a moment, and let me bathe your forehead."

"No, thank you, doctor. I will be all right in a moment. The suddenness of the news startled me."

"I know it, I know it, and I was a brute to tell you. I should have been more thoughtful. I shall never forgive myself. But, Miss Belle, believe me, I thought you knew it all. He should have told you."

"No, no; I am glad he didn't. How could I have been the same to him? How can I in the future?"

She shuddered and covered her face with her hands.

"Don't go on so, my dear Miss Belle," the doctor said in a low, winning voice.

"There is hope for Charles yet. You

forget that I am close upon the greatest discovery of the age. If it succeeds, Charles will be a new man, free from all taint of leprosy."

"But you could not eradicate the germs of the disease from his body; they might not show themselves in him, but in future generations they would come out."

"We can only hope for the best," he replied. "Who can tell what medicine may not accomplish? It has done wonders in the world already, and there are new worlds that it is conquering every day. We must look forward hopefully for results that it would be daring to predict now."

His words were intended to be encouraging, but she did not raise her head. From the slight shuddering of her delicate body I knew that she was sobbing.

"Do not add to this weakness, Miss

Continued next Thursday

TWO-STATE PLAN IS KILLED

Democrats Decide Not to Support Compromise Scheme.

PRACTICALLY ENDS THE FIGHT.

Omnibus Bill Withdrawn as Rider to Postoffice and Agricultural Bills, but Measure May, However, Still Be Discussed in Senate.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The Democratic senatorial caucus has rejected the two-state proposition for the admission of new states offered by the Republicans. Speeches were made in the caucus by Senators Clay, Bacon, Teller, Dubois, Simons, Foster (La.), Bate, Morgan, Pettus and others. All the speakers took positive grounds against the compromise proposition and several of them spoke emphatically against the proposition to put the statehood bill on any of the appropriation bills as a rider. At the same time they favored placing the future course of the party with reference to the statehood bill as such, and also as a rider, in the hands of the Democratic members of the committee on postoffices.

The order of business in the senate for the remainder of the session has been quite definitely decided on. Appropriation bills will be given the right of way and the Panama canal treaty will be considered while the appropriation bills are in conference. There will be an effort made to get through other bills, including Senator Aldrich's bond deposit bill. Notice of the withdrawal of the statehood rider from the appropriation bill will be given today.

RACE QUESTION DISCUSSED.

Indianola Postoffice Case Stirred Up in the Senate.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The Indianola (Miss.) postoffice case occupied the major portion of the time of the senate yesterday. Tillman spoke for three hours in continuation of his remarks begun Monday on the race question and was followed by Carnack (Tenn.). During the morning hour several bills and resolutions were passed and consideration was given the bill to further provide for the safe keeping of public money on deposit in national banks. The agricultural appropriation bill was also considered and the committee amendments were agreed to, except the statehood rider, which was passed over. The senate adjourned to meet today at 11 o'clock, which, until otherwise ordered, will be the hour for convening hereafter.

Change Their Constitution.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The consideration of proposed amendments to the constitution took up the time of last night's session of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Only one of these received favorable action, that proposed by Gertrude B. Darwin, the treasurer general, which provided that the incumbent of that position shall hold office until her successor has secured bondsmen who have duly been accepted by the national board of management. The other officers are to hold office until their successors are elected.

House Passes Philippine Bill.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The house yesterday passed the Philippine currency bill, accepting the senate bill so far as it relates to the islands. The committee amendment striking out the international monetary conference was agreed to. The contested election case of Wagoner vs. Butler was under consideration for a time and the Democrats began a filibuster, which they threatened to continue if the case be presented. The case was withdrawn with an agreement that it is not to come up until Thursday.

Married Women's League.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The National Legislative League, whose object is the improvement of the condition of the social and legal condition of married women, is holding its annual session here. All the old officers of the league were re-elected, with the exception of Mrs. Bates, the corresponding secretary general. Mrs. Caroline J. Taylor of Bridgeport, Conn., was chosen as her successor. Mrs. Lillie Devereaux Blake is the president of the league.

Hanged for an Old Crime.

Stroudsburg, Pa., Feb. 25.—Charles Grether was hanged here yesterday for the murder of Constable Strunk in September, 1901. Strunk had gone to Grether's home to arrest him for robbery, when the latter shot the officer dead.

SOUTH CHINA IN REVOLT

Rebels Defeat Imperial Troops Sent Against Them.

BOXERS PILLAGING THE TOWNS.

Attack on City of Canton Contemplated—Importation of Arms into Flowery Kingdom Said to Have Reached Alarming Stage.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 25.—The revolutionary movement in south China is growing more serious, according to advices received by the steamer Kagu Maru. The Kwangsi rebels have defeated the battalions sent to the Uran frontier and crossed into the province. Here they were joined in pillaging the frontier towns by numbers of Kalao Huis.

Advices from Hong Kong tell of a contemplated attack on Canton. Serious developments of a revolutionary character have occurred lately. The Hong Kong government, acting on information received from the Chinese government, arrested eight Chinese in a raid on the rebel junta in Hong Kong, the leaders escaping, with 150 others who were in the place. The police found papers which showed that an attack on Canton was being planned. Uniforms, arms and banners were also found. The plans included the murder of two of the chief mandarins of Canton. Several influential Chinese at Hong Kong were connected with the movement.

Advices were received from Chengtu that the rebels of Sheidhuan, led by Boxers, have succeeded in making their way to Yunnan.

Situation in China is Serious.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Representations have been made to the state department by the Russian ambassador, Count Cassini, regarding the increasing seriousness of the situation in China, in the hope that the United States will co-operate with the other powers to stop the illegal importation of arms, which has reached an alarming stage of activity. Similar representations have been made through the Russian representatives to Belgium, Germany and Great Britain. The Chinese officials claim they are powerless to stop the practice and the Russian government, in the interest of peace, has called the matter to the attention of the powers. The Belgians are the chief offenders in this illegal practice, though it said many arms are entering China from the United States, Germany and Great Britain. Reports received at the state department also indicate that mischief is being wrought by the importation of arms into China.

ARMY DEBATE IN COMMONS.

Government is Sustained by Big Majority—War Secretary Under Fire. London, Feb. 25.—The house of commons yesterday rejected by 261 votes to 145 Mr. Beckett's amendment to the address in reply to the king's speech, the terms of which were tantamount to a censure on the war secretary, Mr. Brodrick.

Henry White, secretary of the United States embassy, and several persons listened to the army debate. The division revealed fewer defections in the unionist ranks than had been expected, only about a dozen unionists voting against the government, while the nationalists abstained, walking out in a body when the division was called.

In the course of the debate, the liberal leader, Mr. Asquith, expressed the general feeling when he remarked that the debate was of greater significance than the division on it, and would be remembered long after the six army corps had vanished into thin air. The criticism followed mainly the lines of the previous speeches.

New Orleans Carnival Closes.

New Orleans, Feb. 25.—The carnival closed last night in a blaze of glory. In point of attendance of strangers, it has been the most successful ever held, while the pageants were on a scale for great artistic splendor. The culminating society event of the season was the ball of Comus, at the French opera house. Miss Alice Roosevelt was present and was again the object of special attention. Admiral and Mrs. Schley and General Joseph Wheeler and his daughters were among the guests.

Amnesty for All Rebels.

Cape Town, Feb. 25.—Speaking last night at a farewell banquet, at which the American and several foreign consuls were present, Colonial Secretary Chamberlain indicated that before long all the rebels would be annested.