



CHAPTER XXIV.

His Wife's Father. I jumped up and seized the fire tongs. The cat's wall had roused Hotchkiss, who was wide-awake at once. He took in my offensive attitude, the tongs, the direction of my gaze, and needed nothing more. As he picked up the candle and darted out into the hall, I followed him. He made directly for the staircase, and part way up he turned off to the right through a small door. We were on the gallery itself; below us the fire gleamed cheerfully, the cat was not in sight. There was no sign of my ghostly visitor, but as we stood there the Bokhara rug, without warning, slid over the railing and fell to the floor below.

range, refilled for every bullet by a smashing blow with the tongs. The shots ceased after a half dozen, and the door was giving, slowly. One of us on each side of the door, we were ready for almost any kind of desperate resistance. As it swung open Hotchkiss poised the tongs; I stood, bent forward, my arm drawn back for a blow.

Nothing happened. There was not a sound. Finally, at the risk of losing an eye which I justly value, I peered around and into the room. There was no desperado there: Only a fresh-faced, trembling-lipped servant, sitting on the edge of her bed, with a quilt around her shoulders and the empty revolver at her feet.

We were victorious, but conquered army never beat such a retreat as ours down the tower stairs and into the refuge of the living room. There, with the door closed, sprawled on the divan, I went from one spasm of mirth into another, becoming sane at intervals, and suffering relapse again every time I saw Hotchkiss' disgruntled countenance. He was pacing the room, the tongs still in his hand, his mouth pursed with irritation. Finally he stopped in front of me and compelled my attention.

"When you have finished cackling," he said with dignity, "I wish to justify my position. Do you think the young woman upstairs put a pair of number eight boots to dry in the library last night? Do you think she poured the whisky out of that decanter?" "They have been known to do it," I put in, but his eye silenced me. "Moreover, if she had been the person who peered at you over the gallery railing last night, don't you suppose, with her—er—belligerent disposition, she could have filled you as full of lead as a window weight?" "I do," I assented. "It wasn't Alice-sit-by-the-fire. I grant you that. Then who was it?" Hotchkiss felt certain that it had been Sullivan, but I was not so sure.

"I think we have him," he said triumphantly. "I've been looking around some, and I can tell you this much. Just before we came in through the window last night, another man came. Only he did not drop, as you did. He swung over to the state railing, and then down. The rail is scratched. He was long enough ahead of us to go into the dining room and get a decanter out of the sideboard. He poured out the liquor into a glass, left the decanter there, and took the whisky into the library across the hall. Then—he broke into a desk, using a paper knife for a jimmy."

"Good Lord, Hotchkiss," I exclaimed; "why, it may have been Sullivan himself! Confound your theories—he's getting farther away every minute."

"It was Sullivan," Hotchkiss returned imperturbably. "And he has gone. His boots are by the library fire."

"He probably had a dozen pairs where he could get them," I scoffed. "And while you and I sat and slept, the very man we want to get our hands on leered at us over that railing."

"Softly, softly, my friend," Hotchkiss said, as I stamped into my other shoe. "I did not say he was gone. Don't jump at conclusions. It is fatal to reasoning. As a matter of fact, he didn't relish a night on the mountains any more than we did. After he had unintentionally frightened you almost into paralysis, what would my gentleman naturally do? Go out in the storm again? Not if I know the Alice-sit-by-the-fire type. He went upstairs, well up near the roof, locked himself in and went to bed."

"And he is there now?" "He is there now."

We had no weapons. I am aware that the traditional hero is always armed, and that Hotchkiss as the low comedian should have had a revolver that missed fire. As a fact, we had nothing of the sort. Hotchkiss carried the fire tongs, but my sense of humor was too strong for me; I declined the poker.

"All we want is a little peaceable conversation with him," I demurred. "We can't brain him first and converse with him afterward. And anyhow, while I can't put my finger on the place, I think your theory is weak. If he wouldn't run 100 miles through fire and water to get away from us, then he is not the man we want."

Hotchkiss, however, was certain. He had found the room and listened outside the door to the sleeper's heavy breathing, and so we climbed past luxurious suites, revealed in the deepening daylight, past long vistas of hall and boudoir. And we were both badly winded, when we reached the tower room, reached by narrow stairs, and well above the roof level. Hotchkiss was glowing.

"No," with conviction. "Why?" She wheeled on me with quick suspicion. "Are you a detective?" she demanded. "No." "You told him to say you represented the law."

"I am a lawyer. Some of them misrepresent the law, but I—"

"A sheriff's officer?" "No. Look here, Jennie; I am all that I should be. You'll have to believe that. And I'm in a bad position through no fault of my own. I want you to answer some questions. If you will help me, I will do what I can for you. Do you live near here?"

"My home is in Pittsburgh," she said, "and I haven't enough money to get there. They hadn't paid my wages for two months. They don't pay anybody."

"Very well," I returned. "I'll send you back to Pittsburgh. Pullman included, if you will tell me some things I want to know."

"Yes," she agreed eagerly. Outside the window Hotchkiss was bending over, examining footprints in the drive. "Now," I began, "there has been a Miss West staying here?"

"Yes." "Mr. Sullivan was attentive to her?" "Yes. She was the granddaughter of a wealthy man in Pittsburgh. My aunt has been in his family for 20 years. Mrs. Curtis wanted her brother to marry Miss West."

"Do you think he did marry her?" "I could not keep the excitement out of my voice."

"No. There were reasons"—she stopped abruptly. "Do you know anything of the family? Are they—were they New Yorkers?"

"They came from somewhere in the south. I have heard Mrs. Curtis say her mother was Cuban. I don't know much about them, but Mr. Sullivan had a wicked temper, though he didn't look it. Folks say big, light-haired people are easy going, but I don't believe it, sir."

"How long was Miss West here?" "Two weeks."

I hesitated about further questioning. Critical as my position was, I could not pry deeper into Alison West's affairs. If she had got into the hands of adventurers, as Sullivan and his sister appeared to have been, she was safely away from them again. But something of the situation in the car Ontario was forming itself in my mind when the incident at the farmhouse lacked only motive to be complete. Was Sullivan, after all, a rascal or a criminal? Was the murderer Sullivan or Mrs. Conway? The lady or the tiger again.

Jennie was speaking. "I hope Miss West was not hurt?" she asked. "We liked her, all of us. She was not like Mrs. Curtis."

I wanted to say that she was not like anybody in the world. Instead—"She escaped with some bruises," I said.

She glanced at my arm. "You were on the train?" "Yes."

"She waited for more questions, but none coming, she went to the door. Then she closed it softly and came back. "Mrs. Curtis is dead? You are sure of it?" she asked. "She was killed instantly, I believe. The body was not recovered. But I have reasons for believing that Mr. Sullivan is living."

"I knew it," she said. "I—think he was here the night before last. That is why I went to the tower room. As nearly as her round and comely face could express it, Jennie's expression was tragic at that moment. I made a quick resolution, and acted on it at once."

"You are not entirely frank with me, Jennie," I protested. "And I am going to tell you more than I have. We are talking at cross purposes."

"I was on the wrecked train, in the same car with Mrs. Curtis, Miss West and Mr. Sullivan. During the night there was a crime committed in that car and Mr. Sullivan disappeared. But he left behind a chain of circumstantial evidence that involved me completely, so that I may, at any time, be arrested."

Apparently she did not comprehend for a moment. Then, as if the meaning of my words had just dawned on her, she looked up and gasped. "You mean—Mr. Sullivan committed the crime himself?"

"It was murder," I said deliberately. Her hands clenched involuntarily, and she shrank back. "A woman?" She could scarcely form her words. "No, a man; a Mr. Simon Harrington of Pittsburgh."

Her effort to retain her self-control was pitiful. Then she broke down and cried, her head on the back of a tall chair.

"It was my fault," she said wretchedly. "My fault. I should not have sent them the word."

After a few minutes she grew quiet. She seemed to hesitate over something, and finally determined to say it. "You will understand better, sir, when I say that I was raised in the Harrington family. Mr. Harrington was Mr. Sullivan's wife's father!"

(To Be Continued.)

Estate Secures Verdict. Davenport, March 4.—In the case of Oscar Block, administrator of the estate of Jens Hansen vs. the Tri-City Railway Company the jury last night brought in a verdict awarding the plaintiff \$3,500 damages.

Suit was brought for \$10,000 against the street car company, it being claimed that Hansen was killed by being struck by a car.

Hansen was thrown from his wagon to the pavement and fell on the street car track. A car was coming along at the time and struck the man. He died shortly afterwards.

A Serious Breakdown. Dr. King's New Life Pills cure headache, stomach, liver and bowel troubles. 25 cents. McBride & Will Drug Company.

TAX FOR INTERURBAN. Monticello Will Vote on Tax Proposition to Aid Line to Davenport. Manchester, March 4.—The directors of the Manchester and Davenport Interurban Railway are becoming considerably elated over the interest shown in this proposed line. Advice received from Monticello indicates that the people of that city are heartily in favor of it, and a petition is now being circulated for the signatures of the tax payers of that place for presentation to the city council asking that a special election be called for the purpose of voting upon the question of a 5 per cent tax in aid of the proposed line of road.

The petition provides in brief that the 5 per cent tax shall be paid in two equal annual installments, the first of which shall not fall due until the road shall have been constructed, and in operation, from Manchester to Monticello, and the second to be paid until the road is in operation as far as Olin. The notice provides that the beginning of the road shall be Manchester and it shall end at Davenport, and be constructed either by way of Tipton or Bennett.

Medicines that aid nature are always most successful. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy acts on this plan. It loosens the cough, relieves the lungs, opens the secretions and aids nature in restoring the system to a healthy condition. Sold by all dealers.

Two Hurt in Auto Accident. Slou City, March 4.—Sliding on the treacherous mud in front of the Fourth street entrance to the Mondamin hotel, an automobile driven by H. T. Walensky, manager of the J. H. Qual Lumber Company, at 11:50 yesterday, struck the west supporting iron post of the balcony, precipitating it to the ground, causing underneath the structure Miss Bonnie Hallett, and F. M. Oakes, assistant manager of the E. & W. Clothing house.

Neither Miss Hallett or Mr. Oakes were so seriously injured that they could not go to their own home unassisted.

Fully nine out of every ten cases of rheumatism is simply rheumatism of the muscles due to cold or damp, or chronic rheumatism, neither of which require any internal treatment. All that is needed to afford relief is the free application of Chamberlain's Liniment. Give it a trial. You are certain to be pleased with the quick relief which it affords. Sold by all dealers.

HEAVY COAL MOVEMENT. Trainloads Being Moved by Iowa Railroad. Clinton, March 4.—Local agents for the railroads entering Clinton say that the amount of coal being brought into Clinton at the present time exceeds that of any time in recent years. The yard capacities of the roads in Clinton are taxed to handle the incoming fuel.

The reason for the enormous quantities of coal being carried at the present time is found in the desire of consumers to safeguard themselves against a shortage in case the impending strike of coal miners take place. It is believed that the strike is sure to come, and coal consumers all over this portion of the country are acting upon the belief. The managements of

work harness in good condition; one lumber wagon in good running order. E. E. Mettlin, 918 Iowa street.

For Sale—Heating stove, Round Oak No. 29, Island City steel cook stove, all in good condition. Cheap if taken by March 15. W. H. Wilson, 403 1/2 West State.

For Sale—A wood fibre cutter, forty to fifty horsepower engine. We have a fibre cutter and mixer all complete, for wood fibre plaster business. Write to the Waterloo Drop Forge Company, Waterloo, Iowa.

For Sale—Clover seed. A. A. Piper, Lescumb, rural.

For Sale—Recleaned timothy seed. J. C. Lloyd, rural 1, city.

For Sale—Meat market ice box, 8 by 16 by 8 feet, 3 foot cornice. F. H. Pepper.

For Sale—Gasoline engine, twelve horsepower, first class condition. Using electricity instead. Letts-Fletcher Company.

For Sale—Grocery stock and fixtures for sale in county seat town of 2,500 in northern Iowa, a snap and money-maker for right party, bid \$32,000 last year, best reason for selling, no trades considered, write if you mean business. Address M-23, care Times-Republican.

For Sale—Yellow seed corn. C. F. Brooks, Route 7.

For Sale or Trade—125 phonograph for horse. S. H., care Times-Republican.

For Sale—Old papers, large bundles, for 5 cents, at T-R office.

State educational institutions at Iowa City and at Ames are acting upon this belief, and from all parts of the state floods of orders are being sent in for coal.

PAZO OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days or money refunded. 50c.

Governor Visits Davenport. Davenport, March 4.—Governor B. F. Carroll of Iowa, spent last night and this forenoon in Davenport. The governor came on a late train and went

Over All the Wide World. Wherever there is a human being there is an opportunity for kindness. —Seneca.

ARKANSAS LAND. For Sale or Exchange—Good improved fruit farm of fifty acres in the famous Koshkonong fruit district. For further information see J. C. Koons, Marshalltown, Iowa.

For Sale—Land in the famous Koshkonong district, improved or unimproved, and small tracts in bearing, easy payments. Write for list. Porterfield & Son, Koshkonong, Mo.

DAKOTA FARMS. Land in the Rosebud Country—in 80 acre to 640 acre tracts, \$15 to \$75 per acre. Write for prices and descriptions, stating about what you want or call on F. L. Crosby, Bonesteel, S. D.

FOR RENT. For Rent—Two good furnished rooms in modern house. No. 12 North Third avenue.

For Rent—Three furnished rooms, in modern house, good locality. No. 9 South Second street.

For Rent—Six room house, city water, gas and furnace. Inquire 502 East Linn.

For Rent—5 room cottage, partly modern, good neighborhood, \$13; apply on premises, 507 West Nevada.

For Rent—30 acre farm, also 50 acre farm. Call 931 green.

For Rent—Good, well improved Iowa quarter section. Dr. Evans, LeGrand.

For Rent—One brick house on south side. I. S. Finkbe.

TO EXCHANGE. We have several fine farms on which we will take as part payment a medium sized stock of general merchandise or clothing, boots and shoes, or a good young stallion or good automobile. Hamlin Land Company, Castledew, S. D.

Look! Read! If you want to invest, or a good home, road this. Two houses or six rooms each, in good repair, lot 60x150, with pavement, paid, close in. See J. C. Hollingsworth, over 108 East Main, city.

Lost—Two Masonic aprons, one white and one blue in a box. Please leave at T-R office or call phone 21, white.

MISCELLANEOUS. Telephone 1019. 2 rings. Boggle Bros. Dealers in new and second-hand household furnishings, 5 1/2 West State street, Marshalltown, Iowa.

Anyone wishing to pay accounts belonging to the John Engert estate call at 308 Bromley street between the hours of 9 and 12 a. m. and 1 to 5 p. m.

CUT RATE SHIPPING. Cut rates on household goods to Pacific coast and other points. Superior service at reduced rates. The Bond Transfer Company, Minneapolis, Minn.

Ask for the Union Label on your printed matter and read newspapers that are entitled to its use.

FOR SALE. Twenty acre tract, fairly improved and partly set to fruit. Ten acre tract well improved. Four acre tract nearly all set to fruit and well improved. A 10 cent delivery business doing good business. All kinds of city property to sell or exchange. H. J. ALLARD. W. R. MOON.

100 TRANSPLANTED EVERGREENS EXPRESS PREPAID \$5.00. These trees have been transplanted and root-pruned, which gives them the large abundance of roots necessary to the life of the tree. They are from 1 to 1 1/4 feet in height and first class in every way. Then they are backed by the fairest guarantee of any nursery in the U. S. and by the reputation of Iowa's Greatest Evergreen Specialist For Forty Years. We have 50 special bargains that will surely please you. Our guaranteed hardy fruit trees and small fruits will prove hardy or they cost you nothing.

GET OUR NEW CATALOG FOR FULL DESCRIPTION. Our new catalog is check-full of bargains on our guaranteed Hardy Apple Trees, Plums, Cherries, Small Fruit, Shade Trees, Evergreens, Roses and Flowering Shrubs. Bristow Nursery Co., 24 Bankers Ave., Hampton, Iowa.

Classified Advertisements ONE CENT PER WORD EACH INSERTION—NO AD. RECEIVED FOR LESS THAN 15 CTS.

FOR SALE—FOR RENT—TO EXCHANGE—WANTED—FOUND—LOST

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE. I have more land than I want, and would like a good young stallion not over 5 years old. Must be sound and good foot getter.

FOR SALE—A good young stallion not over 5 years old. Must be sound and good foot getter. Will exchange southeast quarter 36-157-43, price \$16 per acre, incl. \$12.24, 4 per cent. Give price and full particulars in first letter. Address Lock Box 624, Iowa Falls, Iowa.

GET A SUMMER HOME ON CLEAR LAKE, IOWA. Lots in Ventura Heights addition \$25 to \$100. Lots in Dodge's Point Park \$250 to \$1,000. Terms reasonable. Eight fine new bungalows on Dodge's Point Park for sale or rent. Make reservation early. Address Hugh H. Shepard, Mason City, Iowa.

IOWA LAND FOR SALE BY OWNER. My several farms in Howard county, from 80 to 240 acres, well improved, good town, smooth, black soil, good drainage, no ponds or ditches, no better corn or dairy land. Prices \$50 to \$90. Easy terms. Farms to rent. List on request. H. L. Spaulding, Elma, Iowa.

NEBRASKA LAND. Farm Bargain—Must be sold on account of owner's health; well improved 320 acre farm, seven and a quarter miles from town. Price \$35 per acre; easy terms. J. T. Campbell, Litchfield, Neb.

MINNESOTA LANDS. For Sale—By owner, farm of 120 acres, 27 miles from Minneapolis, 2 1/2 miles from Cedar, 3 1/2 miles from Bethel, on the Great Northern railroad. Good soil, no stone or gravel, no quack grass; about 75 acres under cultivation, balance timber and meadow, meadow all ditched; 80 acres fenced and cross fenced; 35 acres clover, fine stand; 8 acres in rye. Good 9-room house, good cellar, new barn 24x38, new machine shed, granary, hen house, milk house, woodshed, 2 good wells, windmill, bearing orchard and nice grove around buildings; near school and church; telephone in house. No encumbrance. Price \$48 per acre. Will sell stock and machinery if wanted. For further particulars write Bert Sims, R. F. D. No. 1, Cedar, Minn.

FOR SALE—LIVESTOCK. For Sale—Three year old sorrel mare. Henry Weber.

FOR SALE—CITY PROPERTY. For Sale—309 Railroad street. Rented for \$9. Look at it and see. J. C. Hollingsworth, over 108 East Main street, city.

FOR SALE—WISCONSIN LAND. Choice agricultural lands \$10 per acre; also lake shore property. Three hours' ride from Twin Cities, any size tract; 15,000 acres to select from. Write for, Harry C. A. Johnson, 325 Palace building, Minneapolis, Minn.

FOR SALE—WISCONSIN LANDS. For Sale—Eighty acres, hard wood land, thirty cultivated, rich soil, set of buildings, trout stream, four miles from railroad station; easy terms. Lock box 73, Clayton, Wis.

FOR SALE—IOWA LANDS. For Sale—Fifteen acres, joining corporation on West Main street. A bargain if taken at once. Henry Weber.