

With Edged Tools

HENRY SETON MERRIMAN
Author of "The Shovel," "Raden's Corner," "From One Generation to Another," Etc.

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CHAPTER IV.

IN his study bedroom on the second floor of the quietest house in Russell square Mr. Thomas Osgood—his eccentric Osgood—lay, perhaps, asleep.

Thomas Osgood had written the finest history of an extinct people that had ever been penned; and it has been decreed that he who writes a fine history and paints a fine picture can hardly be too eccentric. Our business, however, does not lie in the life of this historian—a life which certain grave wisacres from the west (and had shaken their heads over a few hours before we find him lying prone on a four-poster, counting for the thousandth time the number of tassels fringing the roof of it. In bold contradiction of the medical opinion, the nurse was, however, hopeful. Whether this comforting condition of mind arose from long experience of the ways of doctors or from an acquired philosophy it is not our place to inquire. But that her opinion was sincere is not to be doubted. She had, as a matter of fact, gone to the pantomime, leaving the patient under the immediate eye of his son, Guy Osgood.

During the last forty-eight hours Guy Osgood had made the decision that life without Millicent Chyne would not be worth having, and in the hush of the great house he was pondering over this new feature in his existence. Like all deliberate men, he was phlegmatically sanguine. Something in the life of a savage sport that he had led had no doubt taught him to rely upon his own nerve and capacity more than most men do. It is the indoor atmosphere that contains the germ of pessimism.

His thoughts cannot have been disturbing, for presently his eyes closed and he appeared to be slumbering. If it was sleep, it was the light unconsciousness of the traveler; for a sound so small that waking ears could scarce have heard it caused him to lift his lashes cautiously. It was the sound of bare feet on carpet.

Through his lashes Guy Osgood saw his father standing on the hearth rug within two yards of him. There was something strange, something unnatural and disturbing, about the movements of the man that made Guy keep quite still—watching him.

Upon the mantelpiece the medicine bottles were arranged in a row, and the "eccentric Osgood" was studying the labels with a feverish haste. One bottle—a blue one—bore two labels; the smaller one, of brilliant orange color, with the word "Poison" in startling simplicity. He took this up and slowly drew the cork. It was a tincture for neuralgic pains in an overwrought head—belladonna. He poured some into a medicine glass, carefully measuring two tablespoonfuls.

Then Guy Osgood sprang up and wrenched the glass away from him, throwing the contents into the fire, which flared up. Quick as thought, the bottle was at the sick man's lips. He was a heavily built man, with powerful limbs. Guy seized his arm, closed with him, and for a moment there was a deadly struggle, while the pungent odor of the poison filled the atmosphere. At last Guy fell back on art; he tripped his father cleverly, and they both rolled on the floor.

The sick man still gripped the bottle, but he could not get it to his lips. He poured some of the stuff over his son's face, but fortunately missed his eyes. They struggled on the floor in the dim light, panting and gasping, but speaking no word. The strength of the elder man was unequalled—it frightened the younger and stronger combatant.

At last Guy Osgood got his knee on his father's neck, and drew his wrist back until he was forced to let go his hold on the bottle.

"Get back to bed!" said the son breathlessly. "Get back to bed!"

Thomas Osgood suddenly changed his tactics. He whined and cringed to his own offspring, and begged him to give him the bottle. He dragged across the floor on his knees—\$2,000 a year on his knees to Guy Osgood, who wanted that money because he knew that he would never get Millicent Chyne without it.

"Get back to bed!" repeated Guy sternly, and at last the man crept sullenly to the rumpled sheets.

Guy put things straight in a simple, manlike way. The doctor's instructions were quite clear. If any sign of excitement or mental unrest manifested itself the sleeping draft contained in a small bottle on the mantelpiece was to be administered at once, or the consequences would be fatal. But Thomas Osgood refused to take it. He seemed determined to kill himself. The son stood over him and tried threats, persuasion, prayers, and all the while there was in his heart the knowledge that unless his father could be made to sleep the report of three thousand a year would be his before the morning.

It was worse than the actual physical struggle on the floor. The temptation was almost too strong.

After awhile the sick man became quieter, but he still refused to take the opiate. He closed his eyes and made no answer to Guy's repeated supplication. Finally he ceased shaking his head in negation and at last breathed regularly, like a child asleep. Afterward Guy Osgood reproached himself for suspecting nothing, but he knew nothing of brain diseases—those strange maladies that kill the human

in the human being. He knew, however, why his father had tried to kill himself. It was not the first time. It was pain. He was afraid of going mad, of dying mad like his father before him. People called him eccentric. Some said that he was mad, but it was not so; it was only fear of madness. He was still asleep when the nurse came back from the pantomime in a cab, and Guy crept softly down stairs to let her in.

They stood in the hall for some time while Guy told her in whispers about the belladonna liniment. Then they went upstairs together and found Thomas Osgood, the great historian, dead on the floor. The liniment bottle, which Guy had left on the mantelpiece, was in his hand—empty. He had feigned sleep in order to carry out his purpose.

They picked him up and laid him reverently on the bed, and then Guy went for the doctor.

"I could," said the attendant of death, when he had heard the whole story, "I could give you a certificate, I could reconcile it, I mean, with my professional conscience and my—other conscience. He could not have lived thirty hours. There was an abscess on his brain. But I should advise you to face the inquest. It might be—he paused, looking keenly into the young fellow's face—"it might be that at some future date, when you are quite an old man, you may feel inclined to tell this story."

Again the doctor paused, glancing with a vague smile toward the woman who stood beside them. "Or even nurse," he added, not troubling to finish his sentence. "We all have our moments of expansiveness. And it is a story that might easily be discredited."

So the eccentric Osgood finished his early career in the intellectual atmosphere of a coroner's jury. And the world rather liked it than otherwise. The world, one finds, does like novelty, even in death. Some day an American will invent a new funeral, and if he can only get the patent, will make a fortune.

The world was, moreover, pleased to pity Guy Osgood with that pure and simple sympathy which is ever accorded to the wealthy in affliction. Every one knew that Thomas Osgood had enjoyed affluence during his lifetime, and there was no reason to suppose that Guy would not step into very comfortably lined shoes. It was unfortunate that he should lose his father in such a tragic way, and the keen eye of the world saw the weak point in his story at once. But the coroner's jury was respectful, and the rest of society never so much as hinted at the possibility that Guy had not tried his best to keep his father alive.

Among the letters of sympathy the young fellow received a note from Lady Cantourne, whose acquaintance he had successfully renewed, and in due course he called at her house in Vere Gardens to express somewhat lamely his gratitude.

Her ladyship was at home, and in due course Guy Osgood was ushered into her presence. He looked round the room with a half suppressed gleam of searching which was not overlooked by Millicent Chyne's aunt.

"It is very good of you to call," she said, "so soon after your poor father's death. You must have had a great deal of trouble and worry. Millicent and I have often talked of you and sympathized with you. She is out at the moment, but I expect her back almost at once. Will you sit down?"

"AND what do you intend to do with yourself?" asked Lady Cantourne when she had poured out tea. "You surely do not intend to mope in that dismal house in Russell square?"

"No, I shall let that if I can."

"Oh, you will have no difficulty in doing that. People live in Russell square again now, and try to make one believe that it is a fashionable quarter. Your father stayed on there because the carpets fitted the rooms and on account of other ancestral conveniences. He did not live there. He knew nothing of his immediate environments. He lived in Phoenixia."

"Then," continued Guy Osgood, "I shall go abroad!"

"Ah! Will you have a second cup? Why will you go abroad?"

Guy Osgood paused for a moment. "I know an old hippopotamus in a certain African river who has twice upset me. I want to go back and shoot him."

"Don't go at once; that would be rummaging away from the inquest. It does not matter being upset in an African river; but you must not be upset in London by an inquest."

"I did not propose going at once," replied Guy Osgood, with a peculiar smile which Lady Cantourne thought she understood. "It will take me some time to set my affairs in order—the will and all that."

Lady Cantourne waited with perfectly suppressed curiosity, and while she was waiting Millicent Chyne came into the room. The girl was dressed with her habitual perfect taste and success, and she came forward with a smile of genuine pleasure, holding out a small hand neatly gloved in suede. Her ladyship was looking, not at Millicent, but at Guy Osgood.

(To be Continued.)

WATER CONTRACT MEETS APPROVAL

Board of Aldermen Will Give Second Reading To

Park Bond Issue Will Come Before People at the Election in November.

SUPERVISOR OF BRICK WORK.

The board of aldermen met in adjourned session last night. Several ordinances were passed, among them being the park bond issue and the ordinance placing the new contract with the water company before the people for a vote.

Alderman Parley was the only absentee.

A petition for sidewalks on Fountain avenue and Monroe street was referred to the street committee.

A deed to the city for property on Broadway necessary to open Tenth street, for \$109 per front foot, was ratified. This is the property the park commissioners desire to convert into a boulevard.

Mayor Yeiser read an opinion from James Campbell, Jr., saying that on account of a technicality he could not recommend the contract sustained. The matter was referred with the understanding that the ordinance be drawn anew. This is the contract for sidewalks on South Fourth street from Norton street to Husbands street.

The board ratified the compromise of \$250 for \$500 to the American Road Roller company for the city steam street roller. This was a balance due. The company agrees to give \$100 for the old street roller. The latter proposition was accepted.

A petition for five extra lamps, in addition to the increased number of lights, was presented. This came from the superintendent of the lighting plant. The petition also asked that no hitching be allowed on Broadway between Fifth and Sixth streets. The petition was drafted in the board of works. The petition was favorably acted on.

Chairman Palmer, of the water committee, reported a contract with the Paducah Water company, which will have to be voted on by the citizens of Paducah. The new contract is relative to the fire plug rental only. The matter was presented in resolution form, and was adopted. The ordinance pertaining to this matter was ordered brought in tonight.

The committee was ordered to bring in an ordinance for sidewalks on South Fourth street from Norton street to Husbands street.

The water company was ordered to install fire plugs at Second and Washington streets for the better protection of the big mercantile establishments near that corner.

The mayor was authorized to secure bids for horse feed for the city for the next year.

A petition to improve Eleventh street from Jackson street to Clark street was received and filed.

A petition to pave Fountain avenue from Jefferson street to Monroe street was referred.

A dedication of property for street purposes to W. C. O'Bryan, in the O'Bryan addition, was transferred to O'Bryan, the city not having acted.

An over assessment of license to James Bulger, was referred.

The report of the milk and meat inspector was received and filed.

The matter of paying costs in the case of Graves vs. the city of Paducah was favorably acted on.

Fifty dollars were ordered refunded to E. C. Eaker for saloon license, which was refused him.

On motion the Paducah Traction company was ordered to surrender all streets abandoned by it to the city.

Ordinance prohibiting "bucket shops" operating in the city of Paducah. First passage.

Ordinance for the issuance of \$100,000 bonds for park improvements, the matter to be placed before the voters, was given second passage.

Ordinance to rent from the Paducah Water company 411 fire plugs, for 15 years, first passage.

Mayor Yeiser stated that he wanted a called meeting at 1:30 this afternoon. The call was met with approval.

A petition was read asking for sidewalks on Bridge street for the benefit of school children.

Alderman Chamblin read a remonstrance to building a concrete walk.

The matter was settled by referring it to the street committee with power to act.

The matter of building a walk to the High school building was also referred to the street committee with power to act. This includes a walk from the Baumer dairy fill.

The report of the chief of police for fines and forfeitures was received and filed.

Oscar Denker, Jr., was granted a transfer of liquor license from 1043 to 1039 Kentucky avenue.

H. T. Vogel was granted a liquor license at 121 Kentucky avenue.

S. J. Lanham was granted a liquor license at 115 South Fourth street.

M. H. Gallagher, of 829 Trimble street, was granted a liquor license.

Tinsley & Son, Sixth and Finley streets, were granted a saloon license.

George H. Goodman & company, at 108 North Second street, was granted a wholesale beer license.

Several deeds and transfers of lots in Oak Grove cemetery were ratified.

City Engineer Washington stated that the storm water sewers on Washington street were about finished, and he wished to have the question of payment of Second street sewers heretofore installed settled before he made out the estimates.

He stated that Jefferson street also was in the same predicament, Engineer Washington was in a quandary. The matter was referred.

Engineer Washington asked for a practical brick layer on the sewerage No. 2 system. He stated this was absolutely necessary. He stated the work so far had not been satisfactory. He needs a man to see that the brick work is put in right. The matter was referred with power to act, to the sewer committee and the city engineer.

A petition from property owners on Jefferson street between Eleventh to Twenty-fifth streets was read. Alderman Miller moved to have cinders placed on street railway crossings, the residents desiring relief from this source. The matter was referred to the board of public works.

A brick culvert was ordered under Husbands street at Cross creek and Sixth street to carry away the surface drainage water.

The board of public works was instructed to fill in bad places at First and Jefferson streets.

On motion the board adjourned.

NEWS OF KENTUCKY

State Medical Meeting.

Owensboro, Ky., Oct. 9.—The fifty-first annual meeting of the Kentucky State Medical association will open in Owensboro Tuesday evening with a business session of the house of delegates at the Rudd House for the election of officers for the ensuing year. Three hundred delegates are expected to be present, and an attempt will be made to hold the most successful session in the history of the organization. As relaxations from the technical program for the meeting a barbecue will be given Wednesday afternoon closing with an evening at the Chautauqua park. On Thursday evening a river excursion will be given on a chartered steamer. The program feature of the meeting will be a semi-popular lecture on the "Tuberculosis Problem," by Dr. Joseph Walsh, of Philadelphia, president of the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

May Bar Mutual.

Lexington, Ky., Oct. 9.—There is more than a probability that the Mutual Life Insurance company will be barred from Kentucky because of its dismissal of Col. Hindman as manager, Commissioner of Insurance Henry R. Prewitt has sent a telegram to President Peabody notifying him to appear in Frankfort on or before October 13 and give a full account of the action in discharging Hindman with strong instructions that if telegraphic accounts of the action are correct, Prewitt will revoke the license of the Mutual in Kentucky.

Central City, Ky., Oct. 9.—

In a hard-fought battle Saturday for the right to sell whisky in the town of Central City, the wets won by a majority vote of twenty-one.

If an article is imitated, the original is always best. Think it over, and when you go to buy that box of salve to keep around the house, get DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. It is the original and the name is stamped on every box. Good for eczema, tetter, boils, cuts and bruises and especially recommended for piles. Sold by Lang Bros.

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Many a man of humane impulses, who would not willingly harm a kitten, is guilty of cruelty where his own stomach is concerned. Overdriven, overworked, when what it needs is something that will digest the food eaten and help the stomach to recuperate. Something like Kodol for Dyspepsia that is sold by Lang Bros.

A woman who knows she is home-ly likes to have people compliment her on her perfect figure.—Chicago Daily News.

SEN. ROOSEVELT IS HIS AMBITION

Would Succeed Platt From State of New York.

Root Will Have Charge of Convention Work, Assuring Continuation of Policies.

SOUTH AMERICAN DIPLOMATS

Washington, Oct. 9.—Theodore Roosevelt, United States senator from New York to succeed Thomas C. Platt, when the latter's term expires March 4, 1909. This may sound strange to many, but it is among the probabilities.

President Roosevelt is sincere in his determination not to again be the candidate of his party for the presidency. He is unable to conceive of any conditions that would justify him in reconsidering his announcement that this is his last term in the White House. That the president would hold it an honor to represent his state in the United States senate cannot be doubted.

It is no secret that Secretary Root will have the guiding hand in directing his party in the next national convention. His successor, doubtless, will be the man Mr. Roosevelt favors, and he whom the president believes to be the best fitted for the continuance of the work he has mapped out, and which may not be completed when he retires from office. With such a man in the White House, and with Mr. Roosevelt in the senate, the Roosevelt policies, which have become so popular among the American people, regardless of party affiliations, would appear to be guaranteed for the future.

Changes Planned Among Diplomats.

Washington, Oct. 9.—Marked changes in the personnel of the Latin-American representation in Washington have taken place within the last three months, and as the season for activity in diplomatic circles approaches, great interest is shown in new diplomats from South and Central America, and there is much speculation as to appointments yet to be made. With the return of Secretary Root, after his remarkable tour of South America, public attention has been directed especially to the southern republics, and they have taken on an added importance in official circles. European diplomats no longer monopolize attention as they formerly did, and reports that Argentina is anxious to follow the example of Mexico and Brazil and elevate its mission in Washington to an embassy are causing much comment.

RAILROAD NOTES

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