

# Rocky Ford Enterprise.

TWENTIETH YEAR.

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## The INVISIBLES

A NOVEL  
BY EDGAR EARL  
CHRISTOPHER

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### CHAPTER XIV.—Continued.

He filled our glasses and we drank in silence.

"Do you know, Mr. Rodin, that I have heard bad news—news concerning the state of our vast treasure in Dead Man's Cave?"

"I suspected as much," I replied, "but I believe we are warranted in assuming that a way will be found to avert any further danger."

"Let us hope so," he replied, but his face was the very picture of anxiety.

"Has nothing been done to prepare for the removal of the treasure?"

"Yes, indeed, everything within the power of genius and strength has been done."

"And the submarine?" I said, shuddering, as I thought of that hideous fish-like craft, with its deadly cargo.

"The Avenger?" Oh, yes, you cannot conceive of the work that has been accomplished in five days by Pengully and Romanski—and Rodin," he said, drawing his chair closer to mine—"do you know—they have actually moved that iron submarine to the very bank of the river, a distance of nearly two miles, building a portable railway track and blasting away the obstructions as they moved. It is marvellous—and only eleven men under Romanski, for Gershon took no active part in this, as he was otherwise engaged."

"It is wonderful," I cried. "I cannot conceive of such a prodigious task in so short a time."

"But it has almost killed the men engaged in it, and they were compelled to seek the house for rest—all except Gideon, who has never left his post, and is now engaged in storing the explosives and a portion of the treasure in 'The Avenger,' before it is lowered—ah, that giant is a marvel of strength and courage—did you note his powerful frame?"

"I did, most studiously," I replied, "for he is indeed one of the most remarkable looking men I have ever met."

"Ah, my friend, Rodin, this Gideon is as true as he is brave and strong, and his career would fill a volume with strange adventures."

"I have often wondered what kind of a life he led previous to his connection with our brotherhood. He seems capable of heroic deeds."

"Gideon is indeed a hero," said the old man, relighting his cigar, and leaning back in his leather chair, his eyes filled with a retrospective picture of Gideon's deeds.

"Gideon," he continued, "was at one time a captain of the Cossack Guards. He held other high offices and had



He Had Rightly Been Named the "Red Colossus."

served the Czar with great bravery and loyalty, and he even now speaks proudly of his career as a soldier. In the year 18—, he, together with Valdemere—who, by the way, is of noble blood, and who had incurred the enmity of one of the high court officials by a secret marriage with a lady upon whom the latter had set his heart, were transported to Kara. This was when the mine was comparatively a new one, but the brutal treatment of these two men strengthened their mutual sympathy. A friendship, undying in its devotion, rapidly grew into a plot. They had shared each others' confidences. Gideon had heard how Valdemere was torn away from his bride, in the midst of their honeymoon—how his rival had afterwards substituted her in her defenseless condition

to insult, and even to brutal assault, at which recital the giant raged and bellowed until his chains rattled and the guard had been summoned.

"Valdemere, though slight in mold, had a capacity for endurance almost equal to that of the giant, who seemed to delight in the discomfiture of the guards, who roared and blasphemed and terrorized until his chains were doubled, and he was reduced to the very limit of punishment, still, he laughed in the faces of his persecutors, and swore a great oath that he would yet tear his keepers limb from limb."

"Pray, go on," I said. "I entreat you to finish this horrible story of Gideon and Valdemere."

"Among the half-starved scurvy devils who moved like hideous fleshless automatons was a man who had known Coronel, the founder of our brotherhood. This man, in some manner, told the story to Gideon, and in turn it was told to Valdemere."

"Ha," said the giant to the little man who had told this story, "we shall join him when we are free."

"When you are free," said the man, "what do you mean? Are you to be free?"

"Without a doubt," said the giant, "and we shall save you."

"And they did save him, Rodin, and it is he, whom you know as Pengully, and who invented the submarine. It is his hand that will blow Kronstadt Harbor into oblivion."

"And the plot was carried out," I said, "the plot to escape—pray go on, my dear sir."

"Yes, it was carried out to the letter, but in its consummation there was a mystery. I have never heard of in a similar case; in fact, I have heard of no analogous case. It was an extremely cold day, and the prisoners, Valdemere, Gideon and Pengully, had found an opportunity to converse, unobserved by the guards, who had drunk their vodka to excess, for the blood seemed frozen in the veins; but at length one of the guards, in passing the giant, who stood shivering in his chains, struck him wantonly, and without provocation, across the face, for he hated Gideon, and the blows of the latter had rendered him an object of abuse to the keepers and officers in charge."

"No sooner had the cruel lash fallen upon his face, than Gideon, notwithstanding his manacles, had seized the brute by the middle, and despite the protest of Valdemere, he dashed his brains out against the very whipping post where he, himself, had so often suffered at the hands of his victim. His anger was terrible to behold, and seeing a chain, which was fastened to the iron band at his ankles, he literally wrenched it from its fastenings, and waving it about his head, his eyes blazing with fury, he held completely at bay the five guards who had been summoned by the noise and cries of the Knave whom he had slain."

"One of these, seeing how futile it would be to attempt to disarm the giant, raised the weapon to fire upon the offender, whereupon Valdemere, who had stood appalled at the fury of his companion, sprang forward, and fixing his strange magnetic eyes upon the man, cried:

"Drop that weapon, dog, or may you fall dead in your tracks."

"Pengully, who stood near by, expected to see Valdemere shot dead, and, indeed, the angry guard turned his weapon as if to shoot down the convict who dared to interfere with him, but instead of firing, his hand trembled, his eyes seemed dazed, his face became blank and expressionless, his trembling hand let the pistol fall, and he sank unconscious upon the stones at his feet. You have perhaps felt the subtle force of this strange man's eyes, have you not, Rodin?"

"I was never free from their influence," I replied, "while in his presence, though at times they induced an extremely nervous condition."

"Ah, that is true," he replied, "but he never knew that he possessed this force until the guard dropped his pistol. It came like an inspiration. The weapon was immediately seized by Valdemere, who shot two of the remaining four dead in their tracks, and, by his newly discovered power, he completely overcame the two surviving brutes, and, divesting them of their clothing, he clad himself in one suit—the other was given to Pengully—but Gideon was compelled to leave in the garb of a convict, as the clothes of the dead guard were too small for his powerful frame, and taking the weapons from their dead and unconscious victims, they hurried forth, killing a half dozen of the watch before they reached the outskirts of the prison and started upon that trackless desert of snow and ice to fight their way across the border, or to die, but never to return as prisoners to that living tomb of Kara. In an hour a dozen mounted troops were hurried off on their trail, with instructions to bring back the fugitives dead

or alive. At a distance of five miles they were overtaken by horsemen, and, Rodin, I do not believe I have ever heard of such desperate heroism as these fleeing men displayed. It was a battle of life or death against great odds. When the horsemen came in sight of their prey, they gave a triumphant shout, and, dashing forward, they bore down upon them with merciless speed, but three fell dead from their saddles, and two others, who had raised their pistols to fire upon the fugitives, were mortally wounded. Gideon rushed madly forward, followed by his companions, to meet the desperate onslaught of the remaining seven horsemen.

"At this moment the firing of pistols and the noise of the combat between



His Anger Was Terrible to Behold.

his companions and the soldiers caused Gideon to turn his head in that direction. The two officers involuntarily turned in their saddles. Suddenly, the giant, taking advantage of this diversion, had dragged them from their horses with such violence as to cause the frightened animals to plunge madly away toward the dismal forest beyond, leaving the terror-stricken masters in the grip of the Red Colossus, as they had called Gideon. Pengully, who has written an account of this affair, describes the scene in a most graphic way. Valdemere had received two wounds of such a nature as to render him unconscious, and he lay bleeding upon the snow. Pengully, thinking it was all over with his friends, had sought the shelter of a great stone, expecting every moment to be his last, when, peeping cautiously from his shelter, he saw two horsemen fleeing in the distance, and the Giant coming toward him, dragging in either hand the form of a man, cursing, bellowing, and defiant, his red hair bristling, and his great eyes blazing with the fire of a demon. Ah, Rodin, he had been rightly named Red Colossus, for he looked the part. The eight dead minions of the Czar, whose blood had crimsoned the snow, and the unconscious form of Valdemere, whose hand still clutched the empty revolver, presented a ghastly sight, as they lay where they had fallen in the gloom of the fading, wintry day. Gideon searched among the bodies, cursing the Czar, cursing the world, but when he saw Pengully creep from his shelter, he laughed—he shouted—then his eyes fell upon the still form of Valdemere, whom he loved as a brother. His hands still clutched the throat of the soldiers, whose eyes bulged from their sockets, then in an ecstasy of fury diabolical to behold he dashed his victims together like cymbals, still cursing and bellowing, until their bones were broken, and their bodies bruised beyond recognition, then seizing them by their legs he dashed them to pieces against the great stone, where the terrified Pengully had sought shelter. The sight was terrible to behold. Ah, Rodin, it was revolting, but when his excess of fury had spent itself, he seized the hand of Pengully—he patted the little fellow on the shoulder and called him a brave Bantam. Then his great eyes filled with tears—his fury was spent, and his huge form was trembling with emotion. He knelt at the side of his bleeding comrade and wept like a child, chafing the hands of the unconscious man and smoothing back his hair. He wept for joy, for he had thought Valdemere dead. He made a pallet in the snow, bandaged the wounds, sucking away the foul blood with his own lips, and his great rough hands, bleeding and bruised with toil and battle, bathed with melted snow the painful wounds of his friend. Then he swore, called the Czar a 'crowned Devil,' and Siberia a 'frozen hell.' He arose and walked among the corpses, unmindful of where he trod. He knelt again at Valdemere's side, weeping, laughing and cursing, until poor Pengully could bear it no longer. The latter, who had now recovered his presence of mind, had started off in pursuit of their horses, which he had little difficulty in securing, as the poor beasts were worn out with travel under their now dead masters. When he returned, he still found Gideon at Valdemere's side. The latter had opened his eyes, had smiled, had seized the giant's hand.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

### COLORADO TEACHERS.

State Association Meeting Largest Ever Held.

Denver: The thirty-second session of the Colorado Teachers' Association adjourned Friday night after the largest, most successful and most interesting meeting ever held by the body. So great was the attendance that several of the lectures had to be given in the First Baptist Church, the assembly room of the East Side high school not being large enough to accommodate the crowds.

The program this year was one of especial merit and the speakers were each authorities on the subjects which they handled and persons of national reputation. The actual membership this year was 1,860, made up of the representative teachers of the state and including many of the most prominent educators in the West. The dignity of the proceedings and intelligent interest of the audience spoke well for the standard of education in Colorado and America as well.

The body was unanimous in its condemnation of the high school fraternity and sorority. The question was threshed out at length and such organizations were scored in strong terms.

The Roosevelt simplified spelling by a small majority passed under the ban of the convention. The question was raised in a resolution approving of the reform. It immediately met with a storm of protest from the opponents, which involved a lively debate. A vote showed that the resolution was lost. The convention also voted against paid athletic coaches and all forms of professionalism in athletics. The encouragement of greater interest in art was also advocated.

The association endorsed an educational qualification for county and state superintendents, and the establishment of a national university which shall coordinate the work of existing universities and utilize the available educational resources of the government.

The revision of the present school election laws, especially in reference to registration and method of voting was strongly recommended.

A national department of education to be represented in the regular cabinet was recommended in resolution, but voted down.

The Legislature is asked to devise some means by which a greater revenue will be available for the development and maintenance of state institutions and the establishment of a state institution for the education of feeble-minded children is recommended.

The report of the treasurer, H. S. Phillips, showed that the receipts for the year ending September 1, 1906, were \$2,265.21, and the disbursements for the same time \$1,614.22, leaving a balance of \$751.02.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—W. H. Smiley of Denver.  
Secretary—W. W. Remington of Denver.

Treasurer—H. S. Phillips of Denver.  
Auditor—Supt. J. P. Treat of Trinidad.

Director (1906-09)—H. M. Barrett of Pueblo.  
Director (1906-08)—Milton C. Potter of Idaho Springs.

### NEW RAILWAY PROJECT.

Feeder for the Moffat Road in Northern Colorado.

Denver: The News of Friday says: An important railway project, which promises to be a big feeder for the Moffat road, is outlined in an amendment to the articles of incorporation of the Rocky Mountain Railway Company, filed yesterday in the office of the secretary of state. The company is backed by a number of capitalists, at the head of whom is T. S. Waltemeyer of Boulder. Mr. Waltemeyer is president of the company, and J. T. Waltemeyer, a relative, holds the office of secretary.

The connection with the Moffat road, it is stated, is to be made in Grand county. The line will extend to Grand lake, thence to Walden, Larimer county; thence to Fort Collins or Loveland, or both; thence to Hahn's peak; thence to the western boundary of the state. The vote for the amendment thus enlarging the plans was practically unanimous at a meeting of the stockholders held a few days ago in Boulder.

The Waltemeyer interests own the Buena mine at Jimtown, and have almost completed a big cyanide mill and other buildings upon the property. They also own a big sawmill in Routt county.

It is understood that a large sum of money is on hand for the immediate construction of the railroad, and the project, consequently, has attracted a great deal of attention among the railway men of the state.

### Railroad Expenses.

Chicago: The railroads spent fully three-quarters of a billion dollars during 1906 in the effort to take care of the traffic which has nearly overwhelmed them. Of this vast sum, according to the Railway Age, fully \$350,000,000 was expended for new equipment and power. The year broke all records for new cars, the total, according to the Railway Gazette, 263,670. In locomotive building this year was not quite equal to 1905. This year there were about 5,650 locomotives built, which is about 623 less than last year.

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