

The People

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A FALLEN IDOL.

By FREDERIC ANSTEEY.

CHAPTER XI. Continued.

"Don't you hope she'll ask for her figure?" whispered Mrs. Vanham. Honiton; but Mrs. Pontifex was so fortunate as to be able to remember nothing, and the Chela appealed to the company generally, who, from a mean dread of being compromised as witnesses, avoided his eye with singular unanimity.

At last an elaborately disheveled lady, with a sad smile and a low train, spoke. "When I was quite a child I had a possession I dearly, dearly loved—a poor old doll with no legs and arms and no features—just an ordinary ninepin it was, but it was almost the only thing I cared for in the world! Do you know, I have so often wished I could see its poor old round head and long neck once more!"

There was a touch of pathos about this that touched all with a tendency to sentiment. The Chela herself was charmed by the simplicity and poetry of the request, which he readily undertook to gratify.

For some minutes he stood with folded arms, ascribed and silent, with his eyes bent on one of the open windows. At length he came out of his reverie with a start: "If you look inside the chair upon which you are sitting, there will your long lost ninepin be," he said.

The lady started up with a cry of rapture. "How can I thank you!" and then she gave a pretty little moan of dismay. "But—inside the chair! Oh, Mrs. Staniland may I may I have it out open? I'm a foolish wretch, I know; but I should like to see my poor old plaything once more!"

"Oh, my dear," said Mrs. Staniland, "how can you wait to ask? Cut it open by all means."

It was a large armchair, very luxuriously padded, and when the crotonne covering was removed it revealed a richly brocaded stuff, lined from an old pattern; this was slit up with a little damage as possible, and a white lining appeared underneath, which was also cut open; the condition of each edging proving conclusively that it could not have been tampered with, for the stitches were strong and the material still unfrayed.

The excitement reached a climax; the floor was gradually strewn with horsehair, and fleck from the disembowelled chair, which began to present a limp and emaciated appearance; but, nowhere in its recesses was the interesting ninepin.

room, and all eyes perceived a pink, cocked hat slowly sailing down from the ceiling and drifting toward the Chela's feet.

In the reaction which followed, all gathered eagerly around him, while, with flushed face and triumphant smile, he picked up the mysterious missile. "I told you," he said, proudly, "the Mahatma has vindicated the cause by sending to you this greeting," and he reverently unfolded the cocked hat and began to read the contents to himself.

Many who had remained skeptical and unmoved through all the preceding marvels began to waver now, and on all sides there was a consuming anxiety to hear what the Mahatma had to say. It was not gratified.

Nebelsen, after studying the note with a confused and angry face, crushed it in his hand and thrust it into his sash.

"But mayn't we look?" cried Mrs. Honiton. "I should so love to see what an occult he is like!"

"I am not able to communicate the contents," said the Chela.

"Too tremendous for our weak minds to grasp?" inquired Babcock.

"Quite right," was the answer; "to read it aloud would not be of advantage, and after this I do not think I shall succeed in obtaining any more results this evening."

MAINE REMEMBERED

Will Erect Monument to Sailors Who Went Down With Her

SIGSBEE DESCRIBES DISASTER

Admiral Who Was in Command of the Ill-Fated Battleship at the Time of Its Destruction Delivers Illustrated Lecture For the Benefit of the Maine Memorial Association.

Washington, Special.—For the benefit of the recently organized Maine Memorial Association, whose purpose is to erect in the national capital a suitable monument to the American sailors who met their death in the sinking of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor on February 15, 1898, Rear Admiral Charles D. Sigbee, who was in command of the fated vessel at the time of her destruction, Saturday gave by request an illustrated lecture here before a large audience, describing the disaster.

"In many ways it is made obvious that public sentiment regarding the Maine has continued beyond ordinary bounds," said Admiral Sigbee. "Many disasters have occurred before and since, yet none in recent times has held public interest like that of the Maine. Her destruction was a turning point in our own history and in the history of Spain—a turning point for the better in both cases, let us hope.

"The mission of the Maine was entirely friendly," he explained. "It had no further import than to reassure our citizens in Cuba and to protect them and give them assistance in case of necessity."

Admiral Sigbee narrated in detail the events succeeding the Maine's departure from Key West for Havana on January 23, 1898. Arriving at Havana, the Maine was taken by the pilot to one of the bays commonly reserved for war vessels. "It was widely supposed in the United States that the Maine was afterward shifted by the Spanish authorities to another bay, but this was an error," he said. He also denied that the Maine entered Havana harbor militantly.

Continuing, Admiral Sigbee said it was important that he should know that state of popular feeling in Havana regarding the Maine and apparently the best way to learn this was to attend a bull fight. "I have been made anathema for this by certain pious people. Bull fights were given only on Sunday but my object was not pleasure. It has been decided that my ship's company was doomed because of attendance at the bull fight on Sunday, yet none of the men were injured in the loss of the Maine."

Admiral Sigbee graphically described the scene on the Maine on the night of the explosion. To bear out the contention of the court of inquiry that the Maine was sunk by a submarine mine, he called attention to the parallel in the destruction by contact with a mine of the Russian battleship Petropavlovsk during the Russo-Japanese war.

Regarding the policy of raising the Maine he had nothing to say," he said. "It might be better to ask 'why is not the Maine removed?' " He predicted that also probably would be blown up in detail as the only practical solution of the problem.

Seaboard Loses by Fire. Portsmouth, Va., Special.—Fire of unknown origin, accompanied by an explosion, destroyed the general warehouse of the Seaboard Air Line Railway at the railroad terminals here early Sunday entailing a loss of \$100,000 to \$150,000, and resulting in the injury of four men, one being seriously hurt. The injured are: Fireman Walter Bissett, Night Yardmaster Matheson, Tom Sellers, colored, unknown white man.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF

Items of Interest Gathered by Wire and Cable

GLEANINGS FROM DAY TO DAY

Live Items Covering Events of More or Less Interest at Home and Abroad.

President Taft will receive a salute of 21 guns when he arrives at Petersburg on the 19th.

Marie Fron, 20 years old, danced herself to death Tuesday night at Chicago.

Forty-four Night Riders were convicted Tuesday at Waverly, Tenn., of whipping J. M. Reece last October and were fined \$500 each and jailed for ten days.

John P. Brady has erected on his premises near Gardenville, Md., a monument in honor of Adam, the first man, saying it is better late than never. He is a learned man too.

Thirty men overloaded a naphtha boat and in attempting to cross the river at Pittsburgh, Pa., Tuesday night sank the boat and 23 were drowned.

R. E. Raybold, 19 years old, died last Sunday at Hyattsville, Md., of tetanus (lockjaw) from running a nail in his foot two weeks before.

Mrs. Boyle gave it out before she was convicted in the Willie Whittle case, that in the event she were sentenced she and her husband would both commit suicide.

The great battleship Mississippi accommodated as many as 5,000 visitors at once while at New Orleans.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS ITEMS

News of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the State and Arranged For Busy Readers

TRIBUTES PAID TO HEROIC DEAD.

Memorial Day Was Observed Throughout South Carolina.

Throughout South Carolina exercises were held in various towns in memory of the soldier dead, the heroes of "The Lost Cause!" Patriotic airs were sung, eloquent tributes were paid to the Confederate soldiers, both the living and the dead, and fair hands decorated with flowers the graves of the fallen heroes.

Reports come from many towns and cities marking the deep devotion to these tender memories.

A Charleston special says: Charleston paid tribute Monday afternoon to the memory of the gallant dead of the Confederacy, joining with many communities throughout the South in this annual beautiful custom which Charleston was among the first to inaugurate.

Wagons made the rounds of the schools and other depositories for flowers and greens and the young ladies of the Confederate Home school were busy making the hundreds of wreaths and decorations which were used in the afternoon in the decoration of the graves and tombs of the old soldiers. Aside from the wreaths which the school girls made, many other like tributes were woven by loving hands and deposited on the last resting place of the men who wore the gray.

In Washington square the handsome shaft of the Washington Light Infantry was decorated with several wreaths as was the memorial of Gen. Beauregard, in advance of the exercises in the afternoon. In many churchyards about the city the graves of soldiers were decorated during the morning hours, leaving the afternoon solely for the decoration of the monuments, tombs and graves at the several cemeteries in the suburbs. In accordance with the custom, the graves of several soldiers who wore the blue, who died here en route to Cuba during the Spanish-American war, were not forgotten in the decoration of the cemeteries.

Rev. Percival H. Whaley delivered the annual address. Flags were generally displayed about the city and the county buildings, dispensaries, banks, city hall and city department were closed, and not a few of the business houses observed the day partly. The postoffice observed Sunday or holiday hours, with the offices closing at 10 a. m., and one early morning delivery of mail being made.

From Columbia comes the following: Memorial day exercises in Columbia were more than usually of interest. It marked the opening of the home in which aged Confederate veterans will be cared for by the mother State. And the other feature was the presence of the Children of the Confederacy in the assemblage of those met to do honor to the memory of the chivalric dead.

In the morning a committee of devoted women placed beautiful garlands around the base of the Confederate monument in the capitol square and entwined the Confederate colors, red, white and red, around the shaft of the monument. The several church-yards in the city were also visited in the morning and the grave of each Confederate soldier marked with a Confederate flag and thereupon placed a wreath of Southern roses.

WELL ERECT MONUMENT TO SAILORS WHO WENT DOWN WITH HER

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The Confederate Reunion. Memphis, Tenn., Special.—Announcement is made by the general executive committee that all will be in readiness for the Confederate reunion, which will meet in Memphis on June 8, 9 and 10 and all indications point to one of the most successful gatherings in the history of the organization. All Confederate veterans, who desire free accommodations, will be cared for in a general manner. The general committee makes announcement that food, lodging and medical attendance will be provided for each and every old soldier, who shall make his wants known.

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