

A FALLEN IDOL.

By FREDERIC ANSTAY.

CHAPTER XII. 13

Continued.

But for the next few days he enjoyed an inexpressible relief; the vaguely tremendous test which would try his nerve and knowledge to the utmost loomed before him no more; he need not now repress the softer feelings and mortify his flesh; he could be as sentimental as his heart desired—and he was.

Not that he had forgotten Campion and his affairs altogether; on the contrary he was anxious to help him now that he was no longer hampered by his Mahatma.

And by frequent study of the message which had been "precipitated" by means of the Babu, Nebelsen had arrived at a new reading, which supplied a solution at once more practicable and more equitable than the first, and put the master's judgment in a better light.

He was so delighted at his own ingenuity that he was determined to go to Campion at once and impart his discovery, but while he was preparing to do so there came a sharp rap at his door, and the painter entered.

"You come at a good time," said Nebelsen, cheerfully.

Campion said nothing; he only stood and looked. Possibly he was struck by the change in the mystic's appearance, for the ex-Chela had returned to the garb of ordinary citizens, and had sacrificed his curls and the greater part of his beard, leaving his ocher-colored hair rather short and rather spiky. He had destroyed his own picturesqueness without even attaining the conventional look of a sacrifice.

"Ach," he said, "I forget—you had not seen me since I renounced the Mahatma."

"No," said Campion, "and I wish to heaven I had never seen you before! When did I ask you to interfere between Miss Elsworth and myself? Kead that—I found it when I came back to town last night."

He tossed a note on the table before Nebelsen, who read:

"I don't know what object you may have had in trying to induce me, through Mr. Nebelsen, to take back my present, but I am sure now that it was not a very creditable one. I shall not ask you to return the idol because if you don't want it yourself I want it even less. If you really think yourself still bound by what I was so foolish as to make you promise, of course you are nothing of the kind, and are quite at liberty to get rid of it by all means, as soon as ever you please!"

"I do not understand," said Nebelsen, as he laid it down.

"It was more than a mistake when you took upon yourself to mention my affairs to Miss Elsworth. I was going to write to her, but you have put an end to all that. Now after this, Nebelsen, I'll trouble you to leave me to manage my own business."

"I say only this; the real advice that my Mahatma wrote—"

He had meant to wait till nightfall before carrying out his plan, but after painting all the morning, he felt so giddy and confused that he determined to get the deed done while he was still capable of action.

It was a lovely afternoon, so hot that the warm air felt like a caress, and as Campion leaned over the parapet of the canal bridge he enjoyed a full possession of his faculties again, and only waited to be quite sure his purpose; for the spectacle of a well-dressed young man deliberately casting a bag into a canal might attract notice, and even suspicion.

Very few people were about, however; the children were all at home lying down after their dinners, and only one or two appeared in the drive, only one or two boys loitered by the pailings, and he had his back turned, and no barge glided through the oily-green water under the hanging foliage. A universal sleep seemed to obtain in that non-commercial region.

Now was his time. It was horribly like drowning a kitten, but he let the bag fall as if by accident, and saw it sink with a sudden splash. Then, as the last ripple radiated from the place it had struck and spread to either bank, he turned away, with a sigh of relief.

He had done it at last. If the idol had been capable of understanding his situation, it would surely have made some resistance before submitting to be confined in a watery prison, like Dhan Solomon sealed up in the coffer.

Somehow he did not feel inclined to risk a return of his headache by going back to his hot studio, with the sticky smell of paints and mastic, and he turned into the park, thinking he might pass away the afternoon there; but the lake reflected a dazzling glare, and the turf was dotted with basking tramps, and in the shade under the trees he was haunted by torturing memories of his lost love.

He did not stay there long, and as he turned into Marlborough, a passing omnibus carrying an advertisement of the military tournament at Ialington, suggested a method of killing time, and so it came about that an hour or so later he was underneath the gallery which surrounds the Agricultural Hall, peering his way through the dim and narrow space filled with a jockey crowd of masked and leather-jacketed competitors, life-guardmen, looking unfamiliar to civilian eyes, in caps, shell-jackets, and white duckskins; artillery guns, harnessed and unharnessed, and policemen. From above and all around rolled thunders of applause, but nothing could be seen until he came to a large gangway, through which he looked up the vast hall with its chocolate plain vaulting in a haze of light, above which rose dim tiers of heads, and the blue panes of the crudely tinted arch of glass and iron.

In the arena the artillery contest was just finishing, and the winning team was driving round at the gallop, deftly snaving the posts, and plowing up the tan in brown spurts at all the corners; he stood at the gangway for a time, watching the brightly touched uniforms, the glancing coats of the horses, and the lead-colored gun, as they flashed in and out of the broad shafts of light.

He was moving away, when he fancied he saw in the stream of people who were passing him the face which was never long out of his thoughts; it was only for a second, and then there was a cry that the team was coming out, and an order to stand back from the gangway.

The warning was promptly obeyed; the crowd divided, hastily retreating to a safe distance, with the single exception of a girl who did not seem to have heard the order, or understand what was coming. There she stood alone in the opening, looking dreamily back as if in search of someone, and close upon her the team was bearing down, while, owing to the sharpness of the corner, the officers in command would see nothing till too late.

And the girl, as Campion saw at once with a thrill of horror, was Sybil Elsworth! He called to her to stand back; nobody else seemed to have eyes for her danger till then, when a general shout was raised.

Whether she was confused by that, or by a mutual recognition, or by deadly peril, could not be known, but she advanced with uncertain steps into yet more direct danger and then stopped, fascinated by fear and evidently powerless to move a step.

Campion brushed aside some bystanders who stood in his way, and rushing into the open space caught her and drew her back, just as the heavy gun swept by with the rattle of gear and clank of metal through the gangway, and pulled up where Sybil had been standing. Another second—and, well as the team was handled—nothing could have saved Sybil from a sudden and terrible death.

He kept his arm round her, and, if at first she seemed inclined to reject the support, she submitted after a quick side-glance at his face, which was softened by a reverent joy, though the shadow of his recent horror was still on his face.

And the stream of people moved on, backward and forward, and few knew how nearly they had missed assisting at a tragedy; in fact, no one took any further notice, except a military-looking man, who came up immediately in the greatest anxiety and he had the excuse of being Sybil's father.

"Good God!" he said, "it was the nearest thing I saw it all, and was coming as well as I could in that crush. You would have been killed before I could get anywhere near you but for this gentleman—why, you know him—he broke off, as if suddenly enlightened by something in her expression."

"Can't you guess who it is, papa?" said Sybil, with the faintest smile; and a light broke over the colonel's face as he shook Campion's disengaged hand with fervor.

"Why to be sure!" he cried, "of course—to think we should have met like this. Well, my little girl, under Providence (he jerked this in as a kind of safeguard) 'twas her life to you. I was just taking her down for a cup of tea, and we got separated somehow, and the next time I saw her she was—well, we won't talk about it. Couldn't have made your acquaintance at a better moment! And now," added the colonel, with a sly chuckle at his own tact and penetration, "I had better go back and tell my sister where you are, eh? You take her somewhere for a good strong cup of tea, and that will put her all right again. Sybil will tell you where to find us afterward."

And before either Ronald or Sybil could say a word, the colonel had gone off and left them together. Sybil could stand and walk without assistance now, and was little the worse for the shock. She drew away slightly and stood looking at him under her long eyelashes, as if she expected him to speak.

"Sybil," said Campion, "I suppose I ought to say—Miss Elsworth—it's not my fault that I'm forced upon you in this way—you must admit that."

"Is it very painful for you?" she said half amused and half wistful.

"Tell me what you wish me to do, Sybil."

"Where were told to take me somewhere where there was tea," she said, meekly.

A wild, incredulous joy seized Campion at her words, for he saw clearly that, for some reason, she was angry with him no longer.

And leaving the reunited pair at this stage, the story must go back for a few moments, if only to account for the colonel's singular complaisance.

He had only returned from India within the last two days, and Mrs. Staniland had insisted upon his coming with them that afternoon; she had taken four seats, two of them at some distance from the others, and the fourth seat was to be occupied by Lionel Babcock.

For the time had come, in her opinion, when Babcock might propose to Sybil with perfect confidence, and Mrs. Staniland, being an old lady who liked her own ways even in details, had arranged that her niece should be won in the course of this particular afternoon, and in some part of the Agricultural Hall.

The colonel was strictly enjoined not to monopolize his daughter, which, as he was growing fonder and prouder of her every moment, he thought hard. He had rejoiced greatly to hear that Campion's engagement was broken off, less on account of its undesirability than of the opportunity it left for making his daughter's acquaintance before a lover could step in between them—and now a fresh lover was at hand already, and the colonel felt an injured man.

However, his sister was so ardent in her advocacy of Babcock, and discouraged so earnestly on the necessity of protecting Sybil from falling again into Campion's clutches, that the colonel yielded at last. "If you say he's a good fellow," he conceded, "well, I shall see him at this tournament affair, and then we can talk about it."

Presently Mrs. Staniland saw her brother coming along the chairs beaming. "Become of Sybil?" he said, in answer to her inquiries; "oh, it's all right, she's in good hands. Whom should we meet downstairs but this young Babcock, and—I remembered your orders—Hilary, and it struck me, by Gad, they'd get on better without a third party. Wasn't that right, eh? And I like the fellow, I must say; he deserves her for his pluck." And with this the colonel told the incident of the gangway. "If she had fallen, nothing could have saved either of 'em; it was touch and go, by Gad! Think of losing my little Sybil just when—and in that way!"

WASHINGTON NOTES

Senator Gore's resolution, directing the committee on finance to conduct an investigation into wholesale and retail prices of commodities, was discussed before the Senate Tuesday at some length. Seeking to have the resolution adopted, Mr. Gore said he wished to have statements concerning the extortionate prices of retail dealers fully probed so that the country might know just where the responsibility for high prices rests.

That the cotton manufacturers sell their products, with an agreement as to the price at which they are to be sold at retail, was the substance of a charge made by Mr. Gore. Demanding proof of this assertion Senator Gallinger said that what the country is demanding is prompt action on the tariff bill. He added that it had been ascertained that the business interests of this country were losing \$10,000,000 a day by the holding up of the tariff bill.

At times provoked much merriment by his ready retort and denouncing the protective tariff policy, Senator Gore spoke at length and until 12 o'clock, when, under the rules of the Senate, the unfinished business which was the tariff bill, was to be taken up. Before that was done, in response to an appeal from Mr. Bailey, the Senate agreed to vote on Mr. Gore's resolution, amended as suggested by Mr. Bailey so as to require the appointment of a select committee of four Republican and three Democratic Senators to conduct the investigation asked for, and by a vote of 59 to 29 it was referred to the committee on finance.

Senators Zristow, Crawford and LaFollette, voting no with the Democrats.

Mr. Simmons, of North Carolina, while speaking in the Senate in support of the contentions made by Mr. Stone, relative to the price of imported razors, said that the Democrats were ready to vote on the tariff bill at any time and that it was the recalcitrant element of the Republican party, which was delaying the measure. "As soon as you can get their consent to take a vote on this measure," he said, "you can get ours."

A vote was then taken on an amendment by Mr. Stone restoring the Dingley rate on razors. It was rejected by a vote of 36 to 43, the Republicans voting in the negative, the Democrats being Beveridge, Bristol, Brown, Clapp, Crawford, Cummins, Dooliver, Gamble, LaFollette and Nelson.

Describing the men who have come before the committee on finance in connection with the tariff bill, "silk hats and kid gloves and carrying gold-headed walking sticks," Senator McLaughlin on the floor said he had failed to see any one there who could be classed as a consumer. "I have not seen any one there," said the Senator from Mississippi, "the cut of whose jib would indicate to me that he is a farmer, a mechanic, a blacksmith or other laboring man."

The most important happenings in the nation's capital Saturday were as follows:

Senator Aldrich failed in his effort to have the Senate name a day for a final vote on the tariff bill. Senators Daniel and Cummins, both raising objections, when the chairman of the finance committee suggested June 2 as the date.

Two battleships and either five torpedo boat destroyers or one modern repair ship are provided for in the Navy Department's building programme for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, it was officially announced.

By presidential proclamation, about 700,000 acres of government lands in Montana, Idaho and Washington, are to be opened up for settlement and entry.

The Senate sub-judiciary committee, appointed to pass upon the nomination of Judge Connor, decided to report in favor of confirmation. The action of the committee was unanimous. Similar action is expected by the full committee which meets Monday. No opposition to the confirmation of Judge Connor's nomination has made its appearance before the judiciary committee and none is expected.

Charges against the government attorneys conducting the prosecution of the Oklahoma land fraud cases were received at the Department of Justice, but Attorney General Wickersham subsequently announced that no action would be taken in regard to them, until the cases in which the attorneys were engaged, have been disposed of.

The day's session of the Senate resolved itself into a talk-fest, in which Senators Bailey, McCumber, Elkins, Scott, Burton, Hale and Clapp participated. The lumber schedule was under discussion for a greater part of the time but no vote was taken on any subject.

The House rates were retained on polished plate glass, but with the understanding that when the bill is taken up in the Senate proper, there will probably be some alterations. The so-called "progressives" criticized the House rate as too high, while Senator Oliver, contended that the rate was entirely inadequate to the proper protection of the plate glass industry of the United States.

GEORGIA ROAD TIED UP.

General Manager Scott Makes the Announcement That "No Trains Are Moving"—The Governor Instructs Authorities to Take All Steps Necessary to Protect Life and Property.

Augusta, Ga., Special.—The Georgia Railroad was completely tied up Sunday night. The management is not trying to move trains, simply announcing that it has the men, the means and the equipment to proceed and will do so when the State announces that it is ready to protect its property and employes. The strikers are standing pat. They assert that they have not been and will not be parties to any violence. Sympathizers with the strikers, it is set out, have done all the hurt that has been done.

General Manager Thomas K. Scott, at 6 p. m., made the announcement that "no trains are moving." Governor Hoke Smith has wired the sheriff of McDuff county to co-operate with the municipal authorities and to "summon all deputies necessary to protect life and property. It is in this country that Thomson is located and it is at Thomson that the crowd issued their ultimatum Saturday night that no trains should pass carrying citizens, negro freemen or negro freemen. Governor Smith has also advised the sheriff there to keep him fully advised of the situation. The Governor has also wired the sheriffs of Rockdale and DeKalb counties, giving them information that ex-convicts claim to have been rocked at Conyers and Lithonia and urging upon them prompt action for the protection of the railroads and property.

From the offices of the Georgia Railroad here Sunday night it was announced that all freight accumulated at Atlanta for Augusta and points beyond would be moved that night by the Central and Seaboard. The Georgia road freight station here was opened Monday for delivery of freight to consignees, but shippers are requested to withhold all shipments until further notice. After this admitting how complete is the tie-up the road says:

"The Georgia road is omitting nothing that offers promise of early resumption."

Williams on Dixie.

Natchez, Miss., Special.—The big formal event of the stay of the battleship Mississippi at Natchez was the banquet Saturday night to the officers of the vessel. Governor Noel was present and spoke on "Mississippi, a loyal member of the federalhood of State, a leader in moral and material progress."

The feature of the stay was the speech of John Sharp Williams Saturday afternoon at the presentation of a magnificent beaten silver punch bowl to the battleship by the City of Natchez. The bowl was made for exhibition at the Jamestown Exposition. Mr. Williams said:

"As a complete and crowning testimonial of the sincerity and fervor of this welcome, Captain, you will soon, at Horn Island, receive as the gift of the State herself, a silver service with the noble lineaments engraved upon it of the steadfast chief-tain of a storm-craddled Confederacy, which has passed, not unworthily into history. As a partial testimonial, I have the honor now to present these pieces of silver. Let them remind you in distant seas, not only of the duty heretofore doubly beholden to be well performed, but of the sweet land of Dixie, the fairest part of the whole earth. When you meet an enemy's ship, and I hope you may never have to meet one sink her and then quaff from these cups a toast to victory—victoria Americana—but if she sinks you, as she has chanced to many a brave ship, well handled, then for the honor of the sweet women of Natchez, let these modest pieces of silver go down with the ship, and not become enemy's booty to shame their name."

Runaway Horse Kills Young Lady.

Augusta, Ky., Special.—Effie Townsley, the 16-year-old daughter of Samuel Townsley, of Johnsonville, Bracken county, was Saturday found dead on the road near her home. She had been riding a spirited horse which became frightened and ran away with her, throwing her off, dragging her over the rough road with her foot caught in the stirrups.

Are Denied Licenses.

Jefferson City, Mo., Special.—The Missouri Supreme Court Saturday sustained the State law, which denies licenses to insurance companies, which pay any of their officers salaries in excess of \$50,000. The decision was on an application from three large eastern companies for a writ of mandamus to compel the State Insurance Department to issue license to them. The writ was denied to the petitioners—the Equitable Life Assurance Society, of Prudential Insurance Company and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS ITEMS

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

Monument Design Accepted.

Columbia, Special.—The monument commission met in the office of Governor Ansel last week and accepted the design for the monument to the women of the Confederacy offered by Sculptor F. W. Ruckstuhl. The design shown in wax is very beautiful, and when the monument is placed on the Capitol grounds it will be greatly admired. The commission will need \$19,000 to complete the work before it, and of this amount the State has appropriated \$7,500. Capt. W. E. Gonzales, reported to the commission that there has been collected through the State \$6,100. So there will be needed about \$4,000 in addition to the funds now in hand, which it is thought can be easily raised for such a worthy cause. The work on the bronze monument will commence just as soon as Mr. Ruckstuhl finishes the Calhoun statue and delivers the same. He leaves for Genoa, where he will complete the work on the Calhoun statue and return to this country, and will then commence the monument. Mr. Ruckstuhl's work is well known here, as he did the imposing statue of Wade Hampton, which is so much admired. The monument to the women of the Confederacy will give expression to a beautiful thought. The wax model shows that there will be represented in bronze a woman embodying the characteristics of Southern beauty. The figure—sitting—will show a woman in a quiet attitude, thoughtful and serene, dressed in the plain modes of the time, a woman with a slight expression of care to show that she has suffered. Back of this figure there will be the Genius of the South holding in her outstretched arms a crown—all action here—for she is about to crown the women of the South. On the right is a Cupid, the boy of the South, bearing a gift—flowers a wreath. On the left a Cupid, bearing a scroll—the Act of the Legislature signed by the Governor—symbolical of what the monument represents.

Orders From Gen. Davis.

Charleston, Special.—Brig. Gen. Zimmerman Davis of Charleston, commanding the South Carolina division, U. C. V., has issued the following general orders: "Headquarters, South Carolina Division, United Confederate Veterans. "Charleston, S. C., May 15, 1909. "General Orders No. 2, Series of 1909. "1. The general reunion of U. C. V. will be held in Memphis, Tenn., on June 8, 9, and 10, prox. "The usual reduced rates have been published by the railroad, together with the schedule of special train from South Carolina, leaving Columbia at 1 o'clock p. m., June 7, via Southern railway to Birmingham and Frisco System to Memphis. "The committee of arrangements in Memphis, requests all veterans who expect to be entertained in free quarters to carry their blankets with them, and to notify W. R. Barksdale, chairman of the committee on hotels and accommodations, in advance, of their intended acceptance of this hospitality. "2. The annual reunion of the South Carolina division, U. C. V., will be held at Chester, S. C., on June 23 and 24. Application has been made for the usual reduced rates over all railroads. "It is hoped that a large number of the veterans of the division will attend both of these reunions. "3. The following appointments are announced: Miss Margaret Childs Columbia, maid of honor; Miss Nan Walker, Darwell, maid of honor; Mrs. L. C. Crenshaw, Chester, matron of honor. "Also the following members of the division staff: Col. Stephen E. Welch, Charleston, adjutant general and chief of staff; Lieut. Col. S. Dwight, Columbia, assistant adjutant general; Lieut. Col. John O. Lee, Charles, assistant adjutant general; Lieut. Col. J. W. Reed, Chester, assistant adjutant general; Lieut. Col. W. H. Edwards, Chester, assistant adjutant general; Lieut. Col. M. Graham, Sumter, assistant adjutant general; Lieut. Col. David Cardwell, Columbia, quartermaster general; Maj. J. O. C. Fleming, Laurens, assistant quartermaster general; Lieut. Col. A. Moultrie Brailsford, Camden, inspector general; Maj. D. F. Bradley, Easley, assistant inspector general; Lieut. Col. O. L. Schumpert, Newberry, judge advocate general; Lieut. Col. J. H. Wharton, Waterloo, commissary general; Lieut. Col. F. L. Parker, Charleston, surgeon general; Maj. M. J. D. Dantzler, Ellore, assistant surgeon general; Lieut. Col. W. B. Gordon, Camden, chaplain general; Lieut. Col. Wm. E. James, Darlington, chief of Ordnance.

Woman's Monument Fund.

Fund by Counties.

Richland... \$620.00

Marlboro... 510.18

Anderson... 479.65

Sunder... 403.75

Marion... 403.25

Diken... 364.55

Darlington... 336.25

By command of "Zimmerman Davis, "Brig. Gen. Commanding," "Official," "Stephen E. Welch, "Adj. Gen. and Chief of Staff."

Greenville Asks For Receiver.

Monday afternoon of the stockholders of the Reedy River Manufacturing Company, a resolution was passed declaring that a temporary receivership, for the repair and enlargement of the plant, was expedient. In pursuance of this, resolution proceedings will be commenced at once looking to the appointment of a receiver and the readjustment of the affairs of the corporation. This, however, will not involve the shutting down of the plant or any stoppage as arrangements have been made to continue the operation of the plant without interruption.

Leases Silica Springs.

Gaffney, Special.—Mr. Z. A. Robertson has leased from W. Sam Lipscomb the Lipscomb Silica Springs, and will not only supply the people of Gaffney, but will arrange to ship the water to people out of the city. The springs are situated a few miles from Gaffney, and numbers of our people go out daily to get the water on account of its medicinal qualities.

Cheraw Teachers Chosen.

Cheraw, Special.—At the session of the Cheraw school board held last Friday, the annual report of the superintendent was read and showed this to have been an excellent year both as to attendance and work done. The entire teaching force was re-elected: B. C. McIver, superintendent; H. C. Sheridan, Mrs. J. S. Hartzell, Misses Lizzie Malloy, Hattie Godfrey and Mattie Duval. An additional teacher in the high school department is to be elected before the close of school, and a teacher of music and a teacher of typewriting and stenography are also to be selected.

Branchville Jail Burned to Ground.

Branchville, Special.—On Sunday morning about 2:30 o'clock the jail here was destroyed by fire. One prisoner (colored) was the victim of the flames. The origin of the fire is not known. The general opinion is that it was started by the prisoner in an effort to escape.

Phosphate Works Inspected.

Columbia, Special.—Governor Ansel, who has returned from the phosphate inspection trip, reports that the plants inspected were found in good condition. He was struck with the dredge work that is going on in the rivers. "We hope to make this a great industry," said Governor Ansel. "It will be developed more and more each year." This year there were several operations on the trip, who will make operations on the phosphate mining. The members of the commission and the guests report a fine time on the trip.

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