

YOUNG MISTLEY

A Tale... of the... Anglo-Indian Secret Service

By... Henry... Seton... Merriman.

CHAPTER XX.

They were all working in different parts of the old banquet hall...

Colonel Wright from below watched the steady swing of the hammer...

When the nail was driven, and the curtain duly arranged, the two men descended and stood back in the hall...

"Colonel, it is just possible that something may come out in time about Marie Bakovitch—something untrue, I mean, that might do her harm..."

CHAPTER XXI.

Behind the Scene.

The critical moment had come. The stage was ready, the footlights burning cheerily...

Charles Mistle rose to the occasion quietly and steadily, as was his wont. He appeared to know every one's part as well as his own...

The curtain descended at the end of the second act amid great applause; but when this had died away, a sudden silence supervened...

Charles Mistle had decreed that the longest interval should be between the third and fourth acts, on the consideration that suspense sharpens the mental appetite...

"Winyard," she said in a whisper, "I am awfully afraid Miss Wright is going to break down. When I went into our dressing room just now, she was as white as a sheet..."

Winyard never liked Mabel Sandford as he did at that moment. For the first time in his presence she had forgotten herself, and in consequence appeared, as she in reality was, a very good natured girl.

He looked fixedly at her, as if attempting to penetrate the obscurity; but she kept her face averted, and he could read nothing from the dainty coils of hair turned toward him.

"I have a difficult part to play," he said, "and you are making it doubly so."

She did not understand him. Her only feeling was one of anger at her own slowness of comprehension; she felt that there was a deeper meaning in the words than she had caught, and the moments were slipping—slipping away.

"Oh, I am all right, thanks!" laughed the girl, turning away. "I have plenty of time to change my dress, have I not?"

"Yes, plenty." Slowly he walked across the stage, and passed out into the garden in the dimly lighted conservatory he found Lena sitting alone.

"Tired?" he said, interrogatively. Lena nodded in acquiescence, and she slightly turned her head so that her face was in the shade.

"Miss Wright," he said, with mock severity—for he was desperately afraid of appearing serious—"this will never do!"

She was dressed for the third act in white, as he had desired it, of a soft, silky material that clung round her sweet young form in cunning folds.

"I can not quite understand you," said the girl in the same conventional tone of forced interest. "I am very much afraid you must be heartless, and devoid of filial feelings."

"Inasmuch as how?" he asked, slowly, pulling an innocent fern into small pieces. "Because you completely ignore the fact that you practically start to-night, after all this is over, upon a journey which in all probability will be—"

"My last!" he suggested, frivolously, as he threw all the particles of fern into the air, and watched them flutter to the ground as if it were a most interesting experiment.

"At all events, there are risks attached to it." "I think," he said, "you are over-rating things a little."

"The wretched little white thread would keep swimming about in the most unaccountable manner. Lena longed to give even the most hurried touch to her eyes; and even as she longed, Winyard turned his back to her, and went beneath the lamp to consult his watch. Though he contemplated the bland face of that reliable piece of mechanism for some moments, he never saw the time; but that did not matter very much."

"It would be rather hard to over-rate Dokbara," she said, quietly. Then he turned and slowly came back to her side. There was an uncomfortable drawn look about his lips, and his eyes were dull as he watched her mechanically smoothing the folds of her dress.

"How do you know that it is Bokbara?" he asked in a low, steady voice. "I made—papa—tell me." "I am sorry you did that—extremely sorry. Tell me—does my mother know?"

"No. No one beyond myself. But you must tell her. It is better that she should know—even that it is Bokbara—than be kept in ignorance and suspense. I think—that you do not quite understand—women!"

Household Matters.

Care of Tablecloth.

When not in use a tablecloth should be kept in folded creases, and when brought out to be spread should be laid on the table and unfolded its entire length, the width being doubled, with the centre crease along the centre of the table.

"Be sure your sins will find you out." On the 9th day of last March Dr. J. B. Matthews, a prominent physician, of Greensboro, was found guilty and sentenced to a term of twenty years in the penitentiary for the poisoning of his wife in December.

Pigeon Pie. Clean and wipe four pigeons. Split and put in a saucpan with enough good broth to nearly cover. Simmer slowly until tender.

Gumbo. Cut in small diced pieces a pound raw half fowl, quarter of a pound of raw veal, two medium-sized white onions, one seedless green pepper and two branches well cleaned crisp celery.

To Clean Fur. Strip the article to be cleaned of its stuffing and binding and lay as neatly as possible in a flat position. Brush it well. Next warm some new bran in a pan, and stir it actively so as to prevent it from burning.

The "Good Old Days." Now and then we still hear a goodly brother talk about the "good old days when liquor was on the side-board at home, and every member of the family drank when it suited his taste."

The Drunkard's Dinner. A woman entered a bar-room, and advanced quietly to her husband, who sat drinking with three other men. She placed a covered dish on the table and said, "Think you'd be too good to eat home to supper, Jack, I've fetched it to you here."

Salvation of Drunkards. The Gospel Temperance Society, "La Croix Bleue," has done much for the salvation of drunkards, and is pursuing its way with great energy. More than 4,000 reclaimed drunkards can be counted in its ranks, and the work is now eagerly carried on by many all over France, in Havre, in Marseilles, in Lille, in Roubaix, in Lyons, in Rouen, in St. Etienne, and in many other places, as well as in Paris.

Liquor Sellers Taobaoed. The grand lodge of Masons of Georgia took action which will result in every Masonic liquor seller, except druggists, being expelled from the order unless they quit the business. This is in line with what is now the trend of the world's respectability.

Russia's Poor Railroads. That the Russian railway system generally is in a very deplorable state has long been an open secret, and the Imperial authorities have been brought at last to see that something really must be done.

China Produces More Coal. Coal mining in the province of Shantung, China, is steadily increasing. Last year one district produced 139,290 tons.

THE GREAT DESTROYER

SOME STARTLING FACTS ABOUT THE VICE OF INTemperance.

A Dark Picture, But a True One—Tragic End to Which Dissipation Brought a Prominent Physician—Two Lives Cut Off in Prime.

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Thorough Conversions. All men do not pass through the same depths of sorrow in coming to Christ, but they all have to come to Him empty-handed, feeling that "Cursed is he that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm."

Food For Whisky Fiend. An exchange furnishes the following as representing the yearly supply of food for the whisky fiend: 2500 smothered babies, 5000 suicides, 10,000 murderers, 60,000 fallen girls, 100,000 paupers, 3,000 murders, 7000 murderers, 40,000 widowed mothers, 100,000 orphaned children, 100,000 insane, 100,000 criminals, 100,000 drunkards who die yearly, 100,000 boys who take the place of the dying; untold crimes, misery, woe, want, weeping, wailing, war, shame, disgrace, disease, degradation, debauchery, destruction, death, riot, revelry, ruin, and \$2,000,000,000 in cash.

Not So Costly. After an expenditure of only \$75,000, an amount not much above the price of a recent circular to each person in the State, in a little over four years, the State-Saloon League has made a local option a permanent issue, the religious forces of Illinois have been committed to the movement, and there is every reason to expect that when the legislature next meets the desired laws may be passed.

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THE SAINTS OF GOD.

The saints of God! Their conflict past, And life's long battle won at last; No more they need the shield or sword, They cast them down before their Lord, O happy saints, forever blest, At Jesus' feet how safe you rest!

The saints of God! Their wanderings done, No more their weary course they run, No more they faint, no more they fall, No foes oppress, no fears appear. O happy saints, forever blest, In that dear home how sweet your rest!

The saints of God! Life's voyage o'er, Safe landed on that blissful shore, No stormy tempests now they dread, No rocky shoals afflict their head, O happy saints, forever blest, In that calm haven of your rest!

The saints of God their vigil keep While yet their mortal bodies sleep, Till from the dust they, too, shall rise, And soar triumphant to the skies, O happy saints, rejoice and sing, He quickly comes, your Lord and King.

O God of saints, to Thee we cry; O Saviour, plead for us on high; O Holy Ghost, our Guide and Friend, Grant us Thy grace till life shall end. That with all saints our rest shall be, In that bright Paradise with Thee, Amen. —Bishop McLagan, in Pittsburg Christian Advocate.

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 3, BY THE REV. I. W. HENDERSON.

Subject: Noah Saved in the Ark. Gen. 8:1-16—Golden Text: Ps. 37:39—Memory Verses: 1-3—Helpful Notes.

The lesson for this Sabbath is unintelligible unless we read Genesis 6 and 7. Especially, by way of resume of the two chapters, would it be wise to read Gen. 6:1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 14, 15, 22; 7:1, 12, 13, 24. With these verses we secure, in some measure, a synopsis of the events that preceded that which is related in our Scripture for the day.

The story of Noah, as we have it here, crowds the mind with moral lessons. Noah is the second parent of the race, as Adam was the first. Adam is the father of humanity, in the natural sense. In the same sense Noah is the father of the saved. He is the Washington and Lincoln of humanity's earliest days.

The lesson of Noah's life, so far as is the lesson of obedience and its rewards. Adam's career is the exemplification of refractoriness and its consequences. Noah is a distinct advance upon Adam. Adam's character is primarily one of innocence. It is not until after the fall that Noah's meritorious qualities are the result of a willing obedience to God's commands. Born, after Adam, with the seeds of evil innate through heredity, Noah, in the midst of an evil world, a just and upright man, finds favor in the eyes of God. Noah is the sample of character made well pleasing unto God, through His grace, by volition. Noah's will is strong. Possessing, as did Adam, the power of free choice; and, unlike Adam, being surrounded with evil companions and weakened by an inherited predisposition for waywardness, Noah, yet, deliberately "walked with God." Adam, we remember, ran away from God.

God's covenant with Noah and His condemnation of the sin of men throw lights on the character of God. Jehovah is a God of love, of patience, of discrimination. His discriminative characteristics are shown by the fact that while He hates evil He has yet commendation for, and joy in men who are good. Loving all humanity the Father is, however, guilty of no sickly sentimentalism. He is long-suffering, forbearing toward humanity; but humanity must, except it obey Him, take the consequences of voluntary sin. But while He condemns the sin, He never forgets the good, and righteousness are apparent among His people. And so God acts here. He discriminates between righteous Noah and his evil neighbors. He has patience with them all until they become utterly steeped in iniquity. His heart is grieved at the wickedness of men, for He loves them as the children of His own creation. But He does not allow His love to become so degenerate that He forgets His justice and His own divine integrity.

The story of Noah is the story of God's determination to afford humanity a chance to prove itself worthy of its lineage. When all the worst of the world's inhabitants are overwhelmed with the consequences of their willfulness, God puts the seal of His sanction upon Noah. His righteousness is obvious in their present day. Obedience brings divine approval. Disobedience works for death. Character is the resultant of a will subordinated to divine control. To find favor in the eyes of God is the business and duty of humanity and the especial longing of the Christian. It is goodness that makes it worth while here and for God. It is faithfulness in the present day. Faithfulness to God and faith in Him is the finality of happiness. For God is as faithful now, and to you and me, as he was to upright Noah.

These notes may be of use: Vs. 1. "Remembered." This does not necessarily mean that God had forgotten about Noah. It rather implies that God had never forgotten them. Hebrew: "Renewed His care for." "Ark." Probably 450 by seventy-five by forty-five feet.

Vs. 2. "Continually." The waters crept away gradually. "One hundred and fifty." See Gen. 7:24.

Vs. 4. "Ararat." In Armenia. Pictured as the highest mountain in the world, as we see by vs. 5.

Vs. 7. "Raven." So called because of its blackness.

Vs. 10. "And He waited seven days longer." "And he waited seven days longer."

Vs. 11. "Olive leaf." Rev. Fresh leaf. It is said that olive trees put forth new shoots after the rain.

The finding of the olive twig by the dove was, obviously, an indication that the water had gone down considerably. The olive tree is very hardy and luxuriant under proper conditions; it is said not to grow at great heights, however. "Knew." Evidently in the construction of the ark while there was provision made for light and air there was none made for looking out. Otherwise after the rain ceased Noah might easily have seen the surrounding conditions for himself. This throws a light on his complete obedience to and dependence on God. They shut themselves up in the ark and left the outcome to the Almighty.

Vs. 13. "Dried up." The waters first drained away until there was no covering of water over the ground. Vs. 14. "Dried." And then the ground dried up. Any one who has seen the surface of a marsh while the tide is out can understand the meaning. It is precisely the difference between soggy and perfectly dry ground.

Burma Oil Trade Growth. The rapid growth of the Burma oil trade is shown in a report from Consul-General Michael, of Calcutta. Ten years ago Burma supplied India with only one-sixteenth-hundredth part of the foreign mineral oil received, while for the fiscal year 1906 the supply from Burma was 47,000,000 gallons, valued at \$5,400,000, against supplies from all other countries of \$1,000,000 gallons, valued at \$5,932,333.

A Long Pipe Line. A 285-mile pipe line, for carrying oil, is to be built from Pine Grove, W. Va., to Marcus Hook, Pa., by the Pure Oil Company, according to press dispatches. The line will be laid with six-inch pipe, and its estimated cost is \$1,000,000. Marcus Hook lies about seventeen miles southwest of Philadelphia.

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Tomato Sauce for Spaghetti—Boil and strain one can tomatoes. Chop one small onion fine and brown in pan with two slices of fat salt pork, or two tablespoons olive oil or butter. Five minutes before the browning is accomplished throw in a handful of dried mushrooms that have been scalded, strained and chopped. These add greatly to the flavor. Add to the tomatoes four whole cloves, a lump of sugar, salt and paprika or cayenne to flavor, mix together, strain, then thicken lightly with browned flour and cook two minutes. Pour over the spaghetti and add grated Parmesan cheese.

Meat Pie With Potato Crust—Take six boiled potatoes, three-quarters of a pound of cold meat, three ounces of butter, one egg, one teaspoonful of meat essence, pepper and salt to taste. Mash the potatoes, add salt and butter and the beaten yolk of the egg; beat all together lightly with a wooden spoon. Cut the meat into thin slices, trim off fat, season with pepper and salt. Spread layer of mashed potatoes on a pie dish, lay in slices of meat, pour over meat essence, add the rest of the potatoes smooth over with a knife, and bake in a moderate oven for half an hour. Serve hot.

Halibut With Tomato Sauce—Make a sauce with two cups of stewed tomatoes, one cup of water, two bruised whole cloves and two slices of onion cooked together for half an hour. Melt one-quarter cup of butter, rub in one rounding tablespoonful of flour, and then pour on the hot tomato. Cook ten minutes and strain. Scrape the black skin from a steak of halibut weighing three or four pounds. Dust with salt and pepper; put in a baking dish not much larger than the fish. Pour on half of the sauce and bake three-quarters of an hour. Add the remainder of the sauce at intervals while baking. Baste several times.

King Edward Laid Brick. King Edward has played many parts in his time, one of them being brickmaker and builder. At Osborne there still stands a small fort erected by the King and his brothers. At Balmoral there is a tool shed which was entirely constructed by Prince Albert and sons.

Prize For Dirigible Balloon. A new prize of \$10,000 is offered in France for the invention of a dirigible balloon.