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THE MYSTERY OF COUNT LANDRINOF

## By FRED WHISHAW.

vourself."

think it will all be well. Read it for

He did so. The message ran, so far

He was alive, then, a week ago and

able to travel. Thank heaven for that!

could impart to her something definite

Counting up now as I hastened home-

good and bad and trying to strike a

for good or ill. Father was practically

smiling, if only she could take a hope-

My dear mother heard my story with

steps by which we had reached success

and of the perils which we had all

gently to her the news which had so

relapse which might be very serious

burst into tears and bewail the cruel

from us in the very hour of its attain-

On the contrary, she embraced me and

"You have done most wonderfully,

my son," she said, smiling radiantly.

"I thank heaven has been on cur side

throughout. It will still be so. You

will bring father home to me safe and

Mother's pluck and confidence did me

a world of good, and we spoke of plans

hear of. She was far too weak and ill.

Boretsky, we agreed, might now be

"Father will know what to say to

what I feel-tell him so, dear, both

This was the only moment at which

mother cried a little, and assuredly she

CHAPTER XXXV.

THE COUNT RESTORED TO HIS HOME.

and I took the train that night for

Nicolaief, which is a little convict post

not far from the town of Kostroma.

phenions alease

and companions.

Armed with the chief's own august

paid off, "and well paid, too," added

mother, for his services could be meas-

ured by no ordinary standard.

sure!"

as I can remember the words: "Korni-

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CHAPTER XXXIV. SEARCHING FOR THE COUNT.

It was a simple enough matter in lcf left Spask 21st. Reported ill again reality. These good fellows had tracked Nicclaief. Andre back to our house. He had entered by my bedroom window from the yard, using a ladder, under cover of To Nicolaief I should journey as fast as the darkness. They had done the same, the next train could carry me. But climbing in noiselessly in the nick of first I must tell mother all that had time. One of them was wounded in the happened during the last few days. I arm, the only successful shot of the had told her nothing, waiting until I

As for Andre, he raved and blas- and hopeful. phemed, struggling like a maniac. I was obliged to assist the police in secur- ward what I should have to tell her ing him, and in the scuffle he aimed several vicious kicks and blows at me, balance, I found it hard to decide how together with much vile lauguage. I she would take it, whether on the whole carry the marks of one of his "hacks" to this day. However, he was caught, free. His enemies were defeated all and I may say in this place, for we down the line. All things should be have now finished, personally, with the consummate scoundrel, that this time ful view of this illness. the police did not blunder, but sent him away to places from which there closed eyes and pale face, holding my is no return. I believe he is now at hand as I told her one by one of the Sakhalin or thereabout.

Early the following morning I received a message from the chancellery passed through in safety. Then I broke of the gradenachalnik, which is the official title of the chief of police. The dimmed for me the glory of success. messenger requested that I would con- Father had been very ill at Spask for vey myself as quickly as possible to the many weeks and was ill again with a head office.

I went, this time without much at Nicolaief. I expected my mother to anxiety of heart, for I knew well enough that even without the fulfill- chance that seemed to dash happiness ment of his farcical condition of identification by scar, the chief would now ment, but she did nothing of the kind. no longer withhold his consent to father's release, for, Andre caught and the hade me godspeed in my journey eaststudent's tale verified, no sane man, ward. gradonachalnik or commoner, could any longer pretend to disbelieve in the blunder which had been committed.

I was not therefore prepared for another check; yet, so closely had fate woven the net around my poor father's well. Oh, I know it. I know it, for liberty I was destined to experience a new disappointment.

The chief received me very civilly and began by congratulating me upon and arrangements. Percy should travel Andre's capture and thanking me for with me to Nicolaief and help nurse famy share in effecting it. I had had a ther, if he were still unable to come narrow escape, he said: the delinquent | home at once. Mother suggested accomhad fired point blank at me-was it not | panying us herself, but this I would not

"Certainly, excellence," I said, "and The suspense and trials of the past richards on the shins months had reduced her to a shadow of besides. Not quite the line of conduct her old self and her strength to pitiable one would expect a father to pursue to- | weakness. ward an obedient and dutiful son."

The chief grinned slightly. "I concede the point." he said. "There has been a mistake, though, owing to the circumstances, a pardonable one. You shall have your father him when he comes," she said, "and back, unless destiny should have been how to praise you, my son, and dear too strong for us-an event I should Percy-my own heart is too full to say deeply deplore."

"What do you mean, excellence?" I Percy and Borofsky. said, my heart sinking to my boots, "have you news-bad news?" "Read this," said the chief, handing did not weep now for any sorrow or

me a telegram from I forget what re- anxiety. mote place in Siberia. "All may be well with him, but there is some doubt, as you will see.

I snatched the telegram and read these words: "Convict Kornilof never severe illness; probably died since; no later advice received.

My head swam, my legs seemed to collapse; I sank into a chair. Was this The railway passes Spask, the place in to be the end of all our labor and sufferings? My dear father dead in the very hour of our victory? Oh, it was too lieve it. I could not!

"Come, come, there is no need to peasantry. How he must have suffered, enough, making a long recovery. They lonely, distressed, almost heartbroken suddenly burst forth. would not send him forward till he probably by the utterly undeserved and have murdered him!" was strong enough to travel without invsterious turn of fortune which had inhuman monsters, as the foreign newspapers are so fend of describing them. Your father is probably still too weak to travel, a most fortunate circum- not a little. stance, as it happens, for you will now have but a few hundreds of miles to journey, in order to be at his side, instead of as many thousands. Come, play the man, and-if you are wise-take the first train for Spask. You will probably find your father there."

"Telegraph first, if you will," I said. "I cannot stand the suspense." The chief kindly did as I requested. He sent a message to the little convict station at Spask, inquiring whether Kornilof was still detained there.

I went for a walk by the Neva's banks while the message went forward and until the reply should arrive. I could not go home and talk about it all with Percy and Borofsky. My heart was too full. I must be alone-like the wounded animal, in this, that prefers to go and hide itself in order to suffer unobserved.

I tramped the whole length of the embankment twice, and those who have train to proceed a gang of chained conseen St. Petersburg will know how far viets were handed out of the wretched that is, before I summoned courage to cattle truck provided for their accomcall again at the chancellery to hear medation and marched across the platwhat news had arrived at Spask.

his voice in a dream.

expended in creature comforts en route | well with mother

Suddenly Percy jogged my arm, "Lock, Boris," he whispered, "Look in the third row, quickly.

I turned my eyes in the direction ingreat bound. It was Andre. He saw me St. Petersburg. at the same moment and, silent hithspat at me. In a moment he had disap- a-dazzle, as though incrusted with milpeared, still looking back and foully cursing. Bah! It is the last I ever saw bined to render father's home coming as see. Then the train moved on, and in be made. an hour or two we reached Nicolaief.

With beating hearts we found our travel home with us to mother and to or described, and this was one of them renewed life and happiness, or- It began with a shock-so terrible a shock that to this day I remember with anguish the horror of it.

It was late in the afternoon and dark when we rang up the doorkeeper. This tered alone official, a soldier, was busy over his supper and sulky. He knew none of the names of the convicts, he said; neither would be trouble any one at this happiness, this is the point where, alas. hour of the day who did.

I offered the fellow a ruble.

"Oh!" he said. "If I am dealing with a real gentleman, that is another thing. Step in, and I will fetch the inspector. He locked the door behind us and, leaving us in a filthy, whitewashed passage, passed into the equally filthy recesses beyond and out of our sight.

Presently a repulsive looking official returned with him, who desired to

know our business. We replied by showing the gradonachnik's order for the release of "con-

vict Kornilof." The fellow reflected. He scratched but of the entire country. It seems his head and his cheek. He sucked his that the Olympia made better time teeth, having, like the sentry, been dis- than was calculated on, and as the turbed at his supper: then he seemed to weather was not very promising outremember.

"Oh," he said, "I recollect, yes. You out four of these last week, and Korni- by the firing of salutes and the blowing course, would make a splendid mess of lof was one."

doctor's certificate of release and per-

mission to remain behind for the Nico-

Mother was waiting for him in her own bouldoir.

laief worms to eat, instead of proceeding to Yakutsk and Sakhalin, and so on. Good night. You will excuse me. I am at supper.

Heaven knows how I got out of the signature, which is the next thing in door and away. Percy was there to reached here; reported detained Spask; Russia to the czar's ukase itself, Percy help me. I was dazed and but half alive and stumbled and nearly fell as I went, in spite of Percy's support. So this was the end. He was dead.

they had murdered him, after all, which my father lay sick for the first for it was a judicial murder and noththree months of his captivity, and I ing better. The cup was dashed from shuddered as I gazed at the wretched our very lips! My poor mother! Oh, grimly cruel of destiny. I could not benate." as the convicts are called by the ing brutes!

"I shall never live another day in despair." said the chief. "He is, likely unused as he was to roughing it-ill. Russia nor allow my mother to!" I "The brutes

Percy began to soothe and console risk-the convict guard corps are not landed him among such surroundings me, bidding me play the man and face trouble. I turned upon him angrily. At Spask station, too, we experienced intending to bid him be quiet and let a surprise and shock which affected me commonplaces be. This trouble we beyond commonplace consolation, bar For as we stood on the platform just at this point the sentry banged stretching our legs and waiting for the the door behind him and ran through the yard after us.

"Barin," he shouted, "barin, something has occurred to mo!" We waited

"It is true." he panted, ranning up to us, "that four were carried out, but one of these was taken to the town, to the hospital there, carried on his bed, sick, but not dead. The inspector is not very particular, he counts them all as dead; they generally die. If they are brought back, they are entered again as alive and sent en. It might have been this one that you are inquiring after. The hospital is down in the town If you are anxious to know, you might ask down there.

"Man," I said, "show me the way quickly If it is my friend, and he is He suddealy barst into a string of blas- alive, you shall have 25 rubles; if not, you shall still have 5-only come quickly!

What more remains to tell? God was very merciful. Father was alive, and, form. Some were uproariously singing, though still very ill, on the way to re-

tonics that the British or any other al, and within a fortnight he was able to

Oh, the joy of that day-the day of erto, suddenly burst into a string of our arrival! It was a magnificent winblasphemous abuse far too horrible to ter's morning, frost of the hardest, sunrepeat or describe. As he passed us he shine of the brightest, the snow all lions of little gems-everything comof him, or, I sincerely trust, ever shall bright and happy as it could possibly

My mother did not meet us. I would not have her come. No eyes, not even way to the penal resting station. What my own, should witness the restoration had destiny in store for us here? Fa- to one another of these two. There are this in time. They will get from unther, alive and recovering, able to some things that are too holy to be seen

But my mother was waiting for him in her own boudoir, and, though dear old father turned at the door and signed to me enter with him, I would not. He mutely shook me by the hand and en-

Well, dear friends who have accompanied me through my trials and have reached with me the goal of success and our roads diverge!

THE END

## Miscellancous Reading.

THE ARRIVAL OF DEWEY.

Reaches New York Two Days Ahead of Schedule, and Talks.

Admiral Dewey arrived in New York harbor on the Olympia last Tuesday morning about two days before the appointed time, much to the surprirse not only of the people of New York; side, the admiral decided togo into port.

Outgoing steamers which met the of whistles, and soon the whole water-"Carried out?" I murmured, my front and the city generally was heart seeming to panse in its beating stirred with excitement. Quite a for very anguish of the thought that number of boats went out to the Olympia as soon as possible, and a number gripped me. "What does that mean?" pia as soon as possible, and a number state."
"Buried," said the fellow—"the of distinguished citizens called on the "Yes admiral. The newspaper reporters were, of course, present and they have written hundreds of columns of what was said and done. The following interview published in the New York

fore I got to Manila the archbishop, with whom I afterwards became very intimate, said that the American sailwould destroy everything in their path.

"Later on, when I did get there," said the admiral, with a knowing lican. smile, "the archbishop came on board one day while I had a battalion at drill, the very same battalion that will parade in New York. The archbishop do you think of our American sailors?

"They are splendid,' he said, 'I have seen the men of most navies, but never anything like these. They are magnificent. I cannot understand it -- such | HERE THE MOONSHINER REIGNS SUsplendid young fellows. How does it

"Well,' I replied, we look for the best men, we come closer to our men; we treat them better than other coun-

ries do, and we pay them better.' "Then I called a man and said to respect for us, and became very friend monwealth of old Kentucky.

archbishop."

for the picture of the Filipino general, you to kill anything but a "hoss," I would say: "Here's looking at ye." who "was murdered by order of Agui- naturally sought congenial associates. naldo," as he said. The picture was I therefore drifted to Cherry Mounthat of a Negro in a sort of military tain, celebrated in song and story as It was signed by Luna.

was the best man the Filipinos had,

lows, who make a tool of Agumaldo, Bounce. than anything else.

gave the beggars some small coin to be to bring him home and that all was tried to do too much. I told him so. Nile." Whose taketh sundry pota-He wants to be general, governor, Naturally this was better for my dear judge and everything else, to have claimeth himself a bold, bad man, from old father than all the medicines and hold of all the irons. No man can do the head waters of Bitter creek. His this. This is the great trouble. It is pharmacopæia could provide him with enough for a man to do one thing, to other bibulous visitor, and the hitherto be one thing; but when a man tries to classic and celebrated Donny Brook dicated, and my heart seemed to give a travel back with us by easy stages to do everything and to be everything has long been out classed. it is easy to imagine the result.

be easily ended. The people have been so badly treated for such a length of time by the Spaniards that they are distrustful. This is the great difficulty in dealing with them. Where we have mean to treat them well, where they have seen that we mean what we say there is no trouble. They stand by us der the influence of Aguinaldo, or rather those people who are behind Aguin-

"Do you think the Filipinos are fit for self-government?"

"I do wish, however, that the whole erument was concerned. business was settled, and I think that | Cherry Mountain became a place after a little the Filipinos will take where the still worm dieth not and the kindly to us."

the Democratic slate had been settled form Amos. He has served three with Admiral Dewey for the presidency and General Wheeler for the jail often, and paid fines innumerable. vice presidency.

make a pretty mess of it. General Wheeler, of course, has had some train- feels like coming up, the celebrated ing in the political school; but then he is a West Pointer. I had forgotten that. He would want to run everyare too late, my friend. We carried Olympia gave the news of her arrival thing as he would a regiment, and, of

"Well, admiral," suggested the re-

The admiral laughed outright, and, wood lying on the deck some yards utilize the convict force, these people away, at the same time saying: "My subscribed money, furnished wagons son knows as much about what my and teams, and helped do the work.

The admiral would not say a word bout the alleged interference of the German admiral, Diedrichs, at Manila. away.

## LIFE ON CHERRY MOUNTAIN. PREME.

History of Amos Owens, the Inventor of Cherry Bounce-Corneracker Tells of His Recent Visit to York County. orrespondence of the Yorkville Enquirer.

CHERRY MOUNTAIN, N. C., September 25.—With slight trepidation, I him: 'How much do you get a herewith submit some matter for the month?' He saluted, and said, 'Eighty columns of THE ENQUIRER. In the dollars, sir. The archbishop was as first place, the tar heel is not erudite tonished. You know \$80 would pay like the native to the manner born whole ship load of Spaniards. After of the Palmetto state, and besides my hat the archbishop had a very great early training was in the martial com-

Later in life, I resolved, instead of

south. As my lot was cast in Kenuniform. On the back was an inscrip- the theater of war and moonshine

peared he simply stabbed him. But Here rules Amos Owens, the might- "There is not a word of truth in it." these fellows all," the admiral said, lest blockader that ever reigned, rose said he, "and there is absolutely no ware a queer lot. They are simply or fell. Over 80 years ago he first foundation for such a report. I am servants and stable men, and Aguinal- saw the light near where his present perfectly satisfied with the success of do was a junior clerk in the navy castle towers o'er the bristling heights the mill so far. More looms are being yard. He is a pretty smart fellow. I of Cherry Mountain. Here at an early operated every day and a better grade know him pretty well. In fact, we age he performed the miracle, not of of cloth is being manufactured than were great friends, and are, for the turning water into wine; but of con- when the mill was put in operation afmatter of fact, but he has not the verting corn and water into whisky, ter the new company was organized. brains. There are people behind him, and later, invented the decoction Running a mill is not like running a some of them lawyers and able fel- known to profane history as Cherry farm; the hands have to be trained

tions thereof runneth amuck, and prosupremacy is then challenged by some

During these carnivals of blood, "The fight in the Philippines should Owens standeth tranquilly by and laugheth with ungodly glee.

Anent this remarkable man, he enlisted as a Confederate soldier when the first desolating boom was heard at Fort Sumter, and till the stars and met them and they have been in such contact with us as to learn that we the varying fortunes of his beloved banner.

On going home, he found Cherry Mountain had not escaped the ravages of war. He went to making whisky, which, while standard proof, was not by any means tax-paid.

About this time the south was in the toils of re-construction, and the aldo, who, as I said before, is a mere chaotic state of affairs developed the kuklux klan. Into this went the intrepid old soldier, and many a red-"Well, no, not just now. They string and lawness Negro felt the rod probably will be in a little time. They of Amos Owens, the avenger. At are queer people-a very queer mix- length, he was captured, but neither ture. Many of them are quite civilized threats nor bribes could make him and good people; but I do not think prove recreant to the oath he had they are fit for self-government just taken. He was taken to Sing Sing, yet. But when I say that I must add New York, and for 18 months he trod at the same time that in my candid the wine press. He went into the opinion that they are more fitted for it gloomy recesses of that institution an than the Cubans, that they are better unreconstructed rebel, and he came people than the Cubans in every way. out a son of Ishmael, as far as the gov-

fire is not quenched, and Uncle Sam It was suggested to the admiral that with all his minions have failed to re-But on being released, he goes to doing "Well," said the admiral, "we should business at the old stand. I stay with take a pretty mess of it. General him, and if any son of South Carolina dialogue between the governor of North Carolina and the governor of South Carolina will be in order.

Nearly too weeks since, I concluded to visit the pleasant town of Yorkville and adjacent vicinity. I mounted an eruptive broncho, got my shot gun and fiddle, and pulled for Will and John porter, "it would not be such a change Gordon's pleasant and hospitable from the ship Olympia to the ship of home. I am not an adept on the violin, but am able to furnish good "Yes," said the admiral, "it would amateur music on a shot gun. I arbe a very great change. I am not a rived ship-shape and the boys took me politician. I am a sailor; my train- to the chaingang first thing. Rather ing has been all that way. I am at a peculiar way to treat a guest of an home on board my ship. I know my inquiring turn of mind; but their obbusiness, or, at least, should know it, ject was to show me some of the sys-"They are a splendid lot," the admiral said, speaking of his men. "The very pick, the finest in our navy, and that many the best is the moral. But the moral of the sailor, who tried to do his duty. I am a row of the control of the system of road-making and road impared that means the best is the moral. But the moral of the moral that means the best in the world. Benot a politician. I cannot make a mizing six miles of highway from speech even. I wish I could, but I Yorkville in the direction of Charlotte. have to be content with my lot."

Yorkville in the direction of Charlotte. They had a steam crusher capable of Some one said just then to the ad-breaking up several hundred tons of ors were the scum of the earth, a bloodthirsty lot of cutthroats, who made a statement to the effect that his convicts are on the force and Messrs made a statement to the effect that his convicts are on the force, and Messrs. father was a dyed-in-the-wool Repub Culp and Mendenhall seem to be adapted to their job.

What pleased me was the enterprise turning around, pointed to a piece of of the people. In order to get and The day I was present, 110 four-horse loads of stone were delivered at the crusher, and more, perhaps, hauled

"Those who would be free, themselves must strike the blow," is the rule that applies in any enterprise, and I frequently wish we had such roads in our section.

Friday night witnessed a social gathering at the home of Gordon Bros. Among the ladies present, were Misses Kate Hobbs, Nannie and Maggie Barnett, Rosie and Nannie Youngblood, Jessie Long, Florence Cody and Mrs. A. D. Dorsett. Everything was nice, and all seemed to enjoy the occasion. Next morning, Mr. W. S. Gordon and I took in Yorkville. We met the men of prominence or at least many of them, and I was favorably impressed at the refinement, air of business and Luna, which was given to me by the taking the advice of Greely, to go general prosperity, that seems to per-The admiral then sent an orderly tucky where the game laws allowed men, my regards; and as Amos Owens CORNCRACKER.

Charleston's Negro Mill.

Charleston correspondence Columbia tion in Spanish to the archbishop of whisky. The saying goes here that State: The rumor in circulation in the Manila, Father Bernarddino Nasalado. corn enough must be raised to make state that the Vesta mills of this city whisky, and the surplus, if any, can has not met with success, and is about Admiral Dewey then said that Luna be turned into bread. While bread is to be removed to Spartanburg is withthe stall of life, whisky is here regard- out foundation. Captain Montgomery, "It was a plot," he said, "to assas ed as life itself. Cherry Mountain is a who is in the city looking after the afsinate him. A crack swordsman was spur of the Great Smoky range, and is fairs of the mill, was seen and asked placed as sentry, and when Luna ap- 2,000 feet above the level of old ocean, about the truthfulness of the report. and to do this it takes sometime. We Here, by the way, is a cane which he presented to me, and the admiral produced a thick, black cane carved, the tree attaining a diameter of nearly operate it the first day or first week. and resembling Irish bog oak more three feet. In early June this fruit Working in a cotton mill is very differripens and for delicious flavor and size ent from working in cotton or rice "I thought," said the admiral, "that it stands without a rival. Here, in fields or on a truck farm. The help this thing in the Philippines would be cherry season, come the sad-eyed and has to go through a regular course of over long before this, as it should have thirsty pilgrims from many climes, os-systematic training. We are getting been. I can't imagine how they have tensibly to revel in mountain air and new labor every day and everything is stood out until now. Of course, there seemery; but in reality to drink bounce, running along harmoniously and in a was the rainy season, and I suppose This drink is a compound of corn systematic manner. The Vesta Cot-1 saw the chief in a lines and neard some went with edged of the passengers of the p