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The PRODIGAL JUDGE The Famous Novel by VAUGHAN KESTER



CHAPTER XXXIII. The Judge Receives a Letter. After he had parted with Solomon Mahaffy the judge applied himself to an important document which he was preparing in an effort to whatever risk he ran in meeting Pentress. As sanguine as he was sanguinary he confidently expected to survive the encounter, yet it was well to provide for a possible emergency—had he not his grandson's future to consider? While thus occupied he saw the afternoon stage arrive and depart from before the City Tavern.

had been inspired by his enemy, for Pegloe was Pentress' (and he believed it might be possible to force it from his hinges, but Pegloe had done his work too well for that, and at last, spent and breathless, the judge dropped down on the edge of his bed to consider the situation. He was without clothes and he was a prisoner, yet his mind rose splendidly to meet the difficulties that beset him. His greatest activity was reserved for what he considered to be only a season of despair. He armed himself with a three-legged stool he had found and turned once more to the door, but the stout plank stood firm under his blows. "Unless I get out of here in time I'm a ruined man," thought the judge. "After this Pentress will refuse to meet me!"

Miscellaneous Reading.

HON. J. E. SWEARINGEN. State Superintendent Described as a Blind Man Who Sees. In the March number of The American Magazine is an article entitled "Interesting Persons," and one of the contributors to this piece takes South Carolina's state superintendent of education, Mr. J. E. Swearingen as his subject. A full page picture of Mr. Swearingen accompanies the article. Following is what the writer has to say about him.

BUFORD'S DEFEAT.

Story of Historic Massacre in Lancaster County. The following story of the massacre of the patriots of Colonel Buford by Colonel Tarleton, in Lancaster county during the American revolution, was written for The Yorkville Enquirer by the late Rev. Robert Lathan, D. D., and was first published in the issue of this paper of September 30, 1891. It is being republished, not by a special request in order to stimulate interest in the famous battle-ground more especially with a view to raising subscriptions for the purchase of the land—about two acres—the historic spot, together with the monument thereon may be properly taken care of.

THE EDITOR'S TASK.

The Newspaper is Preacher and Teacher to Many. To the country newspaper there is open a larger opportunity for good and upon it rests a greater responsibility for wronging the ignorant and the poor than on any other calling. It has been named "the fourth estate," and we interpret that to mean it is the topmost of all professions. The editors should be the judges holding even scales, allowing the publication of such evidence only as fair to either side of any question in controversy and leave the finding of the verdict to the jury of its readers. The editor, therefore, is not justified in becoming the volunteer prosecuting attorney of one or the other of the contending parties.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL LAWS.

Two Acts Passed at the Recent Session for Educational Development. The following acts passed at the last session of the general assembly, are published at the request of Superintendent of Education Quinn, for the benefit of the public: No. 247. An Act to Provide for Consolidated and Graded Schools in Country Districts, and to Appropriate Fifteen Thousand Dollars to Encourage the Same.

When he had disappeared from sight down the street, the judge closed the door. Then he picked up the letter. For a long minute he held it in his hand, uncertain, fearful, while his mind slipped back into the past until his inward searching vision ferreted out a handsome soldierly figure—his own.