

LUKE HAMMOND, THE MISER.

By Prof. Wm. Henry Peck, Author of the "The Stone-Cutter of Lisbon," Etc.

Copyright 1905, by ROBERT BOWEN'S SONS. (All rights reserved.)

CHAPTER XXII.

Continued.

"At midnight on the 11th of March Henry Elgin awoke from a painful dream, and lay thinking of his unfortunate child. To save her dear life his mind was slowly revolving to yield to the desires of Hammond. "But I am sure," thought Elgin, as he listened to the steady tramp of Daniel and to the sound of the door opening, "that my yielding will be my speedy death. If by dying I could give my child life and security from the villain, I would cheerfully die. But I fear that by following Luke Hammond's wishes, I shall hurry upon my daughter the dreadful fate of becoming the wife of his son. The son must be like the father—an unscrupulous villain. Oh, Eternal Father! have pity upon me, and direct me aright. James Greene, whom I wronged, is no more. If Luke Hammond did not lie; and his exulting eyes and cruel smile proved to me that he spoke truly, May Heaven deliver us."

He was thinking and desponding thus when a slight and irregular jarring of his bed attracted his attention. His bed had been rolled against the wall so as to be immediately against the small fireplace, which was fitted with a grate, and the head of the bed was nearest to the iron work.

Henry Elgin had been so long an invalid that his nerves were painfully sensitive and acute. Had he been in full and robust health, the scarcely perceptible jarring or vibration would have failed to draw his mind to it. But now every sense and organ was instantly upon the alert.

"What can be the cause of this strange vibration?" thought Elgin, as he listened for some clue to guide his reason. For more than an hour he listened in vain, and then he placed his ear against the chimney.

"The dull and heavy sound of pounding then fell upon his ear.

"Great Heavens!" he thought, "Some one is digging or pounding far below me, and apparently at the base of the chimney. Let me think. This chimney was built upon the base of an old stone chimney, which was part of a strong stone apartment of the old house. The foundations of the old house were so strong and durable that I left them standing, and made use of them. Some one is certainly pounding against the chimney, but it may be somebody in the room below me, since Hammond is in entire possession of the house. He may be preparing a new prison for me, or for my poor child. He may be preparing a tomb for her. I will dismiss this terrible idea from my mind, and try to sleep. In sleep I gain forgetfulness of my misery. God help me!"

And uttering a fervent prayer, Henry Elgin closed his eyes.

Still the jarring continued, and after half an hour's vain effort to sleep, he again applied his ear to the chimney.

He now heard the sound of blows distinctly, and once a clang, as if iron had struck iron.

"The pounding is slowly but certainly coming upward," thought Elgin. "What can it mean?"

He waited half an hour, and heard a sound of thumping without placing his ear to the wall.

"It comes nearer and nearer," thought he. "Great Heavens! some one is forcing a way upward through the chimney. In half an hour more, with this rate of progress, whoever it is will be at work immediately opposite to this fireplace. The chimney flue runs up behind this fire-escape, and grows very small about three feet above the throat of the flue of this chimney. A man might work his way from below until he reached where the flue of this chimney opens into the main chimney, but there he will find a strong iron-work and a very narrow channel. But who can it be? Can it be any one wishing to effect my escape? I am dead to the world—buried. If any of Hammond's villains have become remorseful, why not open that door and lead me out? Or why not lead the police hither? Let me at least hope that it may result in my deliverance, and that if Hammond knows nothing of it, neither he nor any of his villains may enter this room until I shall have learned this mystery."

The noise continued, but so subdued that had not Elgin's head been against the chimney, he could hardly have heard it, and finally the noise ceased. All was silent for ten minutes, and then it began again, and continued until Elgin knew the cause of it must have passed the level of his bed, and gone two or three feet upward.

"Ah!" thought Elgin. "He has met the iron work! He must stop there!"

Another long pause, and then Elgin resolved to speak. He forced his face up to the chimney as far as possible, and said:

"In God's name, who and what are you?"

"There was no reply.

"If you are a man," continued Elgin, in the fervent tone of prayer, "if God has given you a heart to pity a most unfortunate being, in the name of God, pray you answer me."

SUM TO REPLY.

"Hear me, whoever you are," continued Elgin, with his soul on his tongue, "and pity me! I am Henry Elgin, whom men suppose to have died more than a year ago, to have been buried and to lie in Greenwood. I am the prisoner of my brother-in-law, Luke Hammond. He also has imprisoned my only child, Catharine, to force her to marry his son. I am Henry Elgin, alive in the flesh; in Heaven's holiest name, who are you?"

"Are you alone?" was the reply, in a deep whisper from the dark and narrow flue.

"I am, thank Heaven," said Elgin.

"I am a man," said the voice, still in a deep whisper. "A man Luke Hammond deems dead; a man he tried to kill. I am James Greene."

For a moment Elgin was speechless with joy and surprise, and while he utters his silent thanks to Heaven for its mercy, let us see how James Greene reached the spot where he was to be more surprised than Henry Elgin, and to be as fully rejoiced. We left him at midnight beginning his work against the walled-up fireplace in the old stone kitchen, far below the crimson chamber.

He was not long in forcing an entrance into the old chimney, and was glad to find it so large and rugged that he could mount upward several feet. Then he found another impediment in thick bars of iron laid closely together, and sustaining several layers of brick. After great labor, he loosened the ends of four of the bars from the bricks, and getting full possession of one bar, used it as a "crow" to pry aside the others. He then dislodged the bricks, and forcing his body through the aperture so made, found that he had entered another chimney.

"I must go on up," said he. "I must reach the roof, and then clamber along until I can drop from the eaves where they overhang the old and untenanted house adjacent to this. A leap of ten feet will take me to the roof of the untenanted house, and then my escape thence will be easy."

He looked upward, but all was dark.

"I might now cut from here into a room," said he, "but into whose kitchen? I know nothing of this house. I am so turned around that I do not know whether I am in the main house or in the wing. I must go up, and in going up make as little noise as possible."

Again he began to ascend. For a few feet all was easy work. Then an iron bar opposed his passage. This he removed by beating to pieces the bricks in which it was imbedded. Up again a few feet, and he found the flue so narrow that it was impossible to ascend without removing a layer of bricks all around the flue.

A new fear arose in his mind.

"The continual dropping of the bricks as I remove them may cause an alarm," thought he. "Still it must be done. I see no help for it. God has been with me so far. I will trust in Him for all."

He again labored, and the bricks fell one after another, and, to his ear, with a stunning noise.

Somebody did hear them as they struck far down below. Old Fan, trembling in her bed, heard them; but she deemed the noise made by spirits or by anything rather than mortal hands. She crept out of her bed into the kitchen, and crouching before the smouldering fire, trembled and stopped her ears.

Greene continued his slow and toilsome ascent until checked by the iron work Henry Elgin had thought of as he listened to the mysterious noises in the chimney.

Whenever Greene paused in his toil, he listened for alarm. But there was no alarm until he heard Elgin's voice. Then he trembled indeed; for he did not recognize the voice, smothered as it was in the flue; and, as we have seen, Elgin was forced to speak three times before Greene replied. His astonishment on learning that Henry Elgin was still alive was beyond expression.

Greene had been among those who had seen Elgin in his coffin. James Greene had shed tears when the coffin was consigned to the tomb.

When Elgin was again able to speak, he said:

"James Greene, we have not time for many words. My fallers, or Hammond himself, may enter this room at any moment. God be with you, my son, and may you escape. You are now opposed by a strong iron frame, placed in the main chimney to sustain the weight of this flue. If you can overcome that obstacle, you will find much difficulty in going up, as the narrowness takes a turn some feet farther up. Would to Heaven I could aid you!"

"I am nearly famished," said Greene. "Have you food and drink near you?"

"I have," said Elgin. "But how can you reach it?"

"Thrust your hand up the flue as far as you can," said Greene.

Elgin did so, and his hand was grasped by that of the brave young

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE IMPOSTER UNMASKED.

Hammond had just left his library, having resolved to inform Elgin first that he was not his brother-in-law, and secondly, that he intended to make Catharine Elgin his wife.

He entered the crimson chamber, and was followed by Nancy Harker.

Elgin saw at once that Hammond had something of unusual importance to say, and noticed that he was paler and sterner than usual.

"He has come to tell me to prepare for death," thought Elgin, as Hammond drew a chair near the bed and seemed hesitating how to begin.

After a pause of a long moment, Hammond turned to Nancy and said: "I might as well tell both at once; it will save time. Go and lead Catharine Elgin hither. But stay; where is Fan?"

"She is in her room, I suppose," replied Nancy. "I have not seen her for several hours."

"She cannot escape from the house," remarked Luke. "She knows the dogs hate her, and will tear her to pieces if they can get at her. Go and lead Catharine Elgin hither."

Nancy left the room, and then Hammond's eyes rested upon the empty plates and bottles on the table.

"Ah!" said he. "I am glad to see your appetite has returned. Your daughter still refuses to eat, and will drink nothing but water. She is afraid of poison."

"My poor, unfortunate child!" groaned Elgin. "For two days, then, you have starved her?"

"Oh, no!" laughed Luke. "She starved herself. But she will eat by and by. Hunger will conquer fear."

Silence then ensued, until Nancy returned leading poor Kate.

"Handcuffed!" exclaimed Elgin, half rising. "Oh, thou heartless villain!"

"I do not care for it, dear father," said Kate. "I forget my own misfortunes in seeing yours, dear father."

"All very fine," sneered Hammond. "Miss Elgin, sit there—not too near your father. So, now, my friend, I have something very important to tell you. Mrs. Harker, oblige me by moving about the house, as we must guard against unpleasant interruption."

Nancy left the room, lamp in hand, to prowl about the house, while Hammond locked the door, placed the key in his pocket, and with his keen, steel-gray eyes flashing from father to daughter, began as follows:

"My friends, I must first inform you that my son Charles has returned. I have seen him."

"Then the completion of your villainous plots draw near," said Elgin, while Kate started with alarm.

"It does, Henry Elgin," said Luke. "But not in the way you suppose. My son will not marry Kate Elgin."

"Thank God for so much," said Elgin, while poor Kate closed her eyes in terror, as she anticipated what Hammond was about to reveal.

"I have not asked him to marry Miss Elgin," pursued Hammond, "because I have learned that he is already infatuated with another woman. But, as my son will not now advance his suit for Catharine Elgin's hand, I am about to do so myself."

"You! Her uncle! Her mother's brother! Inhuman, unnatural villain!" exclaimed Elgin.

"You mistake. I am not her uncle. I am not her mother's brother," said Luke, with great coolness.

"Then who are you? What new villainy is to be told?"

To be continued.

Way of the Rural Paper.

FRANCE IN EARNEST

Determined to Compel Castro to Act in Better Faith

PATIENCE IS FINALLY EXHAUSTED

Venezuelan Dictator Must Disavow Offensive Attitude Toward French Charge d'Affaires at Caracas or Negotiations Will Be Broken Off.

Paris, By Cable.—The offensive attitude of Venezuela toward M. Taigny, the French charge d'affaires at Caracas, has aroused indignation in official quarters here. Although the Ministry has not yet taken definite action, it is said in the highest quarters that Premier Rouvier undoubtedly will demand that Venezuela disavow the offensive action and adopt a course conformable with the usual courtesies of diplomatic intercourse. The Venezuelan authorities are now seeking to show that their action was directed against M. Taigny personally, and not against the French government, but officials here do not accept the distinction between M. Taigny's personal and official capacity.

The semi-official Temps Friday printed a leading article reflecting the official sentiment on the subject. It said that M. Taigny has been ordered to insist on Venezuela's withdrawing her positive refusal to deal with him. If the withdrawal is made and President Castro makes an apology, then the negotiations will continue. If Venezuela does not accede it will be unwise to immediately break off diplomatic relations with the withdrawal of M. Taigny, since a conflict between the two states is unprotected. The best course would be for France and the United States to make a joint naval demonstration, similar to that in which Great Britain, Germany and Italy took part. The authorities here say that exchanges will occur at Washington relative to the mutual interest involved in the pending controversies.

M. Jusserand, the French ambassador to the United States, will sail for New York.

Slain in Political Clash.

Havana, By Cable.—Official dispatches received Friday afternoon from Cienfuegos announced the killing of Congressman Enrique Villuendas, leader of the Liberal party and the most able orator of the lower house, during a conflict between the two political parties, the Liberals and the Moderates. The government advises say the police had information that within the hotel in which Villuendas resided a quantity of arms had been deposited, and they went to the hotel to investigate the matter. As the police ascended the stairs they were met by a party of Liberals, who fired on them, killing Chief of Police Villuendas and wounding several others. Intense excitement prevailed at Cienfuegos and Havana. The government authorities fear the result which the affair may have on the election of members of the election boards, which will be held Saturday. As the news spread throughout Havana the Liberals and Moderates are rapidly gathering in their respective clubs, and it is feared that unless the leaders give wise counsel a clash may result.

A dispatch from Cienfuegos says that about six persons were killed and 25 wounded during the conflict.

Out For Governor of Alabama.

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—Dr. R. M. Cunningham, of Enslin, Ala., Lieutenant Governor of Alabama, announced his candidacy for Governor of the State in a letter which The Advertiser will print. The Lieutenant Governor, in his communication, shows his position on all the public questions now being agitated in State politics, and points to his own political record.

Ex-Governor O'Ferrall Dead.

Richmond, Special.—Former Governor Charles T. O'Ferrall, of Virginia, died in this city at 10 o'clock Friday morning from nervous prostration. He had been in failing health for about a year, but prior to his death had been confined to his bed for only a month. The last three days of which he was unconscious. Owing to paralysis of the throat he was unable to take nourishment. Governor O'Ferrall served in the Confederate army, rising from the rank of private to that of colonel, and was for six terms Representative in Congress from the seventh Virginia district. He was 65 years old.

Waiting For Lower Cotton.

Fall River, Mass., Special.—Sales in the print cloth market for the week will amount to about 75,000 pieces. The demand continues quiet for all classes of goods. The future course of the market will depend largely on the new cotton crop. Manufacturers are holding in lower prices for the raw material, and are only purchasing enough to cover necessities. Samples of the new crop are being shown and are said to be of a good quality.

Mikasa's Commander Attempts Suicide.

Tokio, By Cable.—A special to The Jiji from Sasebo says that Captain Iuchi, commander of the ill-fated Mikasa, made an attempt to commit suicide after an address to the survivors of the warship, by jumping from a window. He was severely wounded about the head, and is now reported to be in a critical condition in the Sasebo naval hospital.

YELLOW JACK GAINS SLOWLY

Progress of the Yellow Fever From Day to Day.

New Orleans, Special.—Official report to 6 p. m.:
New cases, 46; total to date, 2,808.
Deaths, 6; total, 365.
New foot, 11.
Cases under treatment, 310; discharged, 2,133.

Saturday ended the tenth week of the fight against yellow fever in New Orleans with a record of cases and deaths for the day higher than expected.

While there have been a considerable number of new foot in the past week, an examination of the maps in the office of the Marine Hospital officer does not disclose any extensive spread of the disease. Many of them represent merely the crossing by the disease from one side of a street to the other. As the cases are promptly reported, however, the inspectors are able to tag them immediately and take due precautions to prevent a spread of the infection.

If the present rate of progress is kept up, the State board of health believes that yellow fever in the country parishes will disappear almost as soon as in New Orleans.

Lake Providence, which was a hot-bed of fever two weeks ago, is rapidly driving out the disease. For the fourth day, all the new cases at Tallulah are negroes. Seventeen cases are under treatment in the Barataria district.

In central Louisiana picking and moving of cotton is somewhat handicapped for the want of sufficient labor. Owing to fumigation requirements, ginners are having some trouble in getting cars.

Work was resumed Saturday on the levee front. The settlement decided on by Adam Lorch, the arbitrator, was accepted by both sides and there will be no more cotton labor trouble during the present season.

The country reports were not different from the usual run. Dr. Shayot, of Plaquemine parish, reported the troubles he was having with the Italians on Polate Celeste plantation and said that they had barricaded themselves in their houses and warned all doctors that they would kill the first one who attempted to enter. The civil authorities were consulted and it was decided to put the whole plantation under strict quarantine until the fever had disappeared and then proceed against them criminally.

Against Greene and Gaynor.

Montreal, Special.—A decision against Colonel J. F. Gaynor and Captain B. D. Greene, the American contractors wanted in the United States on charges of defrauding the government, was handed down by Judge Oulmet in the Court of the King's Bench. It is the general belief among legal men that Greene and Gaynor have reached the limit of their resources in fighting against extradition. The defense still has two weeks to act to bring further proceedings to act as a stay. The decision given today was on a writ of habeas corpus based upon the content that Judge La Fontaine, the commissioner who held them for extradition, had no authority to act in the case.

Judge Oulmet's decision quashing the writ of habeas corpus holds the original order for extradition issued by Judge La Fontaine.

Donald McMaster, acting on behalf of the United States authorities, has notified Judge La Fontaine to make every preparation for extradition.

Rock Island's Mexican Extension.

Mexico City, Special.—It is rumored in railroad circles that the Rock Island Company is seeking an outlet to the Pacific coast of Mexico and is contemplating the extension of its road through the State of Sonora with that idea in view. The Sierra Madre road, toward the coast, it is said, may be taken over by the Rock Island people, thus giving them the desired outlet.

Escorted Himself to Penitentiary.

Nashville, Tenn., Special.—W. A. Barfield, convicted in Lauderdale county of manslaughter and sentenced to serve one year in prison, arrived in Nashville and went at once to the penitentiary. At Ripley, Barfield got the papers committing him to prison, bought his own railroad ticket and came to Nashville unattended.

Associated Press Directors.

New York, Special.—At the annual meeting of the Associated Press held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, the following directors were re-elected for the ensuing three years:
Messrs. George Thompson, St. Paul Dispatch; Charles H. Grasty, Baltimore News; W. L. McLean, Philadelphia Bulletin; W. R. Nelson, Kansas City Star; Adolph S. Ochs, of the New York Times, was also elected for three years to take the place of Whitelaw Reid, New York Tribune, who declined reelection on account of absence abroad.

After transacting some routine business the meeting adjourned.

Stole Large Sum.

Philadelphia, Pa., Special.—Having confessed the embezzlement of \$5,000, Andrew G. Dunlop, the best selling agent of the Mobile Cotton Mills, of Mobile, Ala., was sentenced to one year's imprisonment. He was arrested through the efforts of the Fidelity and Deposit Company, of Maryland, which was on his bond. Between May and August Dunlop sold \$5,000 worth of thread and kept the money. He admitted his guilt.

A REIGN OF TERROR

Bomb Throwers Get in Bloody Work in Peking, China

FOUR CHINESE OFFICIALS KILLED

Deadly Missile Exploded Inside Private Car Conveying Part of the Missions Ordered Abroad to Study Foreign Political Methods Kill Four Minor Officials and Wounds Ex-Minister and Prince Tsai Tch'e.

Peking, By Cable.—At the Peking railway station as a train carrying one of the four missions ordered abroad to study foreign political methods was leaving, a bomb was exploded inside a private car, killing four minor officials and wounding over 20 other persons. The wounded include Prince Tsai Tch'e, who heads the most important of the mission, and Wu Ting Fang, former minister to the United States, both of whom received slight bruises. The perpetrator of the outrage, who was in the car, was blown to pieces.

The affair has created a profound sensation and causes apprehension regarding the safety of members of the court and leading officials of the government.

The government offices and railways are now strongly guarded.

Million Dollar Fire at Butte.

Butte, Mont., Special.—Fire causing a loss of \$1,000,000 consumed the entire business portion of Butte lying between the Shohair block and Renshaw alley on the south side of West Park street, and half destroyed the public library.

The fire started in the forenoon in the Symons store, and by noon the public library and several other places were burning simultaneously.

A geyser of sparks and burning shingles spouted across the roofs of other buildings at a distance, starting fires that were, however, quickly extinguished.

The Symons building was allowed to burn and the firemen confined their labors to saving adjoining property.

It was long after noon before the flames were extinguished, leaving a mass of charred and crumbling ruins. The following are the large losses:

Symons store, Maule and York block, owned by the New York Realty Company, \$600,000.
Library building, \$70,000.
Ogdon block, \$50,000.
Atlantic building, \$110,000.
Barrett block, \$50,000.
Woodworth, \$30,000.

BEATEN AND STONED TO DEATH.

Masked Mob Takes Negro Under 60-Day Sentence From Jail at Williamston, W. Va.

Williamston, W. Va., Special.—Breaking into the jail here Sunday an armed and masked mob of "white ribbons" took out Moses Lovern, a negro serving sixty days for assault on James Butler, taking Lovern and James Blackburn, the only other prisoner across the river in a boat, upon landing, the mob beat, whipped and stoned Lovern until he was presumably dead. Both prisoners were returned to jail. Lovern will die. Blackburn gave the names of eight men in the mob, and Prosecuting Attorney Shepard has issued warrants for them.

City of Birmingham Floated Uninjured.

Savannah, Ga., Special.—The steamer City of Birmingham, of the Ocean Steamship Company's line, which went ashore near the mouth of the river here Saturday, was floated Sunday and came to her dock in this city. The vessel is uninjured. She was coming from New York to sail on Tuesday with a cargo of cotton for Boston.

George Dixon Knocked Out.

Philadelphia, Special.—George Dixon, the former feather-weight champion, was knocked out in the second round of what was to have been a six-round bout by Tommy Murphy, of New York, at the National Athletic Club. The contest was spirited while it lasted, although it could be seen that Murphy was master of the situation from the start. The first round was a sparring contest, but in the second Murphy assumed the aggressive, and succeeded in flooring Dixon early in the round. Later, after an exchange of blows, Murphy drove a left to the solar plexus and Dixon went down and out.

Court House Burned and Six Murder Indictments Lost.

New Madrid, Mo., Special.—The court house here was burned at an early hour Sunday morning. The fire is thought to have been incendiary. Many tax and drainage records were destroyed, but the other records were saved. Six murder trials are pending, but all indictments returned to this term were burned, which make continuances necessary.

Railroad Security.

Dallas, Texas, Special.—The general attorneys of Texas railroad companies secured an injunction against the railroad commission of Texas forbidding the putting into effect of an emergency rate on dry goods. The rate was much lower than the usual tariff and gave several Texas jobbing points an advantage over the big jobbing points of the country. A big legal fight is expected as a result of this temporary order.

TEXTILE NEWS OF INTEREST

Notes of Southern Cotton Mills and Other Manufacturing Enterprises.

MAXTON, N. C.

The Observer's correspondent learns from a very reliable source of an out-of-town capitalist who is very much interested in building a large cotton mill at this place, if a good site can be had and some stock taken by Maxton people. This, we are confident, can be arranged, as there have been several land owners who have offered sites for this purpose, gratis, and this means a mill in the near future. One of the locations mentioned above is adjacent to with the Seaboard and Atlantic Coast Line tracks, which would make shipping easy over either line. We hope to report something definite on this soon.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Joe B. Morgan and his associates have obtained a charter of incorporation for the Warioto Cotton Mills, with capital stock of \$200,000. This company will take up its proposition for purchasing and modernizing the Nashville Manufacturing Company plant, which it has bought under certain conditions pertaining to the present lease. The general plan is to have an equipment of 10,000 spindles and 300 looms. The company was incorporated by Mr. Morgan, Joseph H. Thompson, William Nelson, Edwin Warner and M. J. Smith.

FAYETTEVILLE, TENN.

The Elk Cotton Mills, are understood to have planned the erection of a dam to develop power which will be converted into electricity and furnished to operate a \$600,000 cotton factory which the company intends adding to its present plant.

Charles Iccman, the well-known cotton mill manager, living at McCall, S. C., is interested in plans which are being formulated at Cheraw, S. C., for the organization of a cotton mill company there.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

A charter has quite recently been obtained for another cotton mill here with a capital of \$300,000. The incorporators are Messrs. E. A. Smith and A. H. Washburn, of this city, and T. G. Cox, of Taunton, Mass.

Mr. Smith is president of the Chadwick and Hoskins mills and Mr. Washburn is the Southern agent of the Saco-Pettee Machine shops, the Crompton & Knowles Loom Works, and other enterprises and is a man of affairs. It is an enterprise whose success is assured.

HOUSTON, TEX.

Inquiries have been received from parties connected with two cotton mills that are desirous of locating here, provided the proper encouragement be received. One company is anxious to erect a \$250,000 mill if \$150,000 is invested by local capital, and the other is a \$100,000 concern, with \$25,000 capital, anxious to receive assistance from local capital. An investigation of the propositions is being made, as it is admitted that Houston needs a large cotton mill.

GASTONIA, N. C.

The new Monona Mill, is now complete, as far as outward appearances are concerned. It has added considerably to the attractiveness of the other two mills—Modena Nos. 1 and 2—though the best street on the hill had to be crossed by the building. The windows and the roof are now completed and there remains nothing to be done but to put in the machinery. This is being brought in now and will soon be installed. The mill will be ready for operation by the time its promoters had planned for it to begin.

SPRAY, N. C.

It is announced that the American Thread Company will be organized for the purpose of establishing a mill for the manufacture of fine cotton and woolen yarns. An equipment of the latest improved mule spindles will be installed. B. Frank Mebane and his associates in the cotton mills of Spray are interested in the new enterprise.

Textile Notes.

The Colleton Cotton Mills, at Walterboro, S. C., were sold at auction in that city recently under order of the United States District Court, for \$35,000. John F. Lucas, president of the Colleton Banking Company, being the purchaser. The upset price was fixed at \$45,000 by the court. There were two other bidders.

The Monroe (N. C.) Cotton Mills will add looms and discontinue making yarns. It is hoped to have the changed condition in operation by February 15th.

The Eastman, Ga., Cotton Mills have recently been enlarged, and will be given every advantage possible. On October 1 they will open up under reorganization, and their domestic and export facilities will be augmented because of the fact that they have confidence in the approaching price of cotton.

The Brenham, Texas, Cotton Mill is being enlarged to the extent of one-third more than its former capacity.