CÆSAR'S OLOUMN.

CHAPTER XXIX

"Mabel Max or Brook, or Arthur, or what ever thy name may be, and "it shall last no other name to exhibit thee by I will call thee devil. I have observed, with great regret, that thou art very much afraid of standing up to morrow and encountering in wedlock ceremony the battery of bright eyes of the three Christinas. Now I realize that a friend should not only bear a friend's infirmities, but that he should stand by him in his hour of danger and so to morrow, when fear comes down upon you like a dense, Estella and I have decided to stand with you, in the imminent deadly breach, and share your fate, and if, when you get through, there are any of the Christinas left, I will—with Estella's permission—even marry them myself! For I am determined that such good material shall not go to waste."

There was a general rejoicing, and Max embraced me, and then he hugged Christina, and then I took advantage of the excuse. I was very happy in finding such excuses to do likewise by my stately beauty, and then there was hand shaking by the old folks all around, and kisses from the little folks.

Not long afterward there was much whispering and laughing between Christina and Estella, they were in the garden, they seemed to be reading some paper, which they held between them. And then that scamp, Max, crept quietly behind them, and, reaching over, snatched the paper out of their hands. And then Estella looked disturbed, and glanced at me and blushed, and Max began to dance and laugh, and cried out, "Ho! ho! we have a poet in the family!" And then I realized that some verses, which I had given Estella the day before, had fallen into the hands of this mocker. I would not give much for a man who does not grow poetical when he is making love. It is to man what song is to the bird. But to have one's weaknesses exposed, that is another matter! And so I ran after Max, but in vain. He climbed into a tree, and then began to recite my love poetry.

"Listen to this," he cried; "here are fourteen verses, each one begins and ends with the word 'thee.' Here's a sample

"'All thought, all fear, all grief, all earth, all air,
Forget shall be
Knit unto each, to each kith, kind and kin,—
Life, like these rhyming verses, shall begin
And end in thee!'"

"And here" he cried "listen to this, Pyramus and Thisbe, name—Arcadian Waters!"

Here Christina, Estella and I pelted the rogue with apples.

"I know why they are called 'Arcadian Waters,'" he cried; "it is because it took a great bore to produce them. Ha! ha! But listen to it

"'There is a depth at which perpetual sponge,
Fresh water, on all lands
The which once reached, the buried torrent flings
Its treasures over the sands

"'Such!' he cried, "that one bit more on the rose. I mean the apple, not the verse

"'One knows not how, beneath the dark, deep crust,
The clear flood there has come
One knows not why, amid eternal dust,
Numbers that were of foam

"'Plain enough,' he cried, dodging the apples; "the attraction of gravitation did the business for it

"'Dark buried sepulchred, entombed and deep,
Away from mortal ken,
It lies, till summoned from its silent sleep,
It leaps to light again.

"'Very good,' he said, "and now here comes the application, the moral of the poem.

"'So shall we find no intellect so dull,
No soul so cold to move,
No heart of self or sinfulness so full,
But still hath power to love'

"'Of course,' he said, "he knows how it is himself, the poet fills the bill exactly

"'It lives immortal, universal all,
The tenant of each breast;
Locked in the silence of unknown thrall,
And deep and pulseless rest;
Till, at a touch, with burst of power and pride,
Its swollen torrents roll,
Dash all the trappings of the mind aside,
And ride above the soul.'

"Hurrah!" he cried, "that's splendid! Hat here's a name more—'To Estella.'"

But I could stand no more, and he began to climb the tree. It was an apple tree, and not a very big one at that, and Max was forced to retreat out upon a limb, and then drop to the ground. But the young ladies were too quick for him; they pounced upon him as he fell; and very soon my precious verses were hidden in Estella's bosom, whence, in a burst of confidence and pride, she had been taken to exhibit to Christina

"Yes, said Estella, "it was nothing but mean jealousy, because he could not write such beautiful poetry to Christina."

"Exactly," said Christina, "and I think I will refuse to marry him until he produces some verses equally fine."

"Before I would write such poetry as that," said Max, "I would go and hang myself."

"No man ought to be allowed to marry," said Estella, "until he has written a poem."

"If you date Max to that I end this pipe the wedding date is over for the three Christinas."

And then with laugh and cut and badinage, the afternoon wore away.

But we must now go back and give something in extract in which he was not mentioned to show those who in the station in the carriage was Estella, who was the elderly spectacled maiden, by my side, and the young lady Christina beside Max—mother, they were the states to see off, when that gentleman, on the front seat, talked incessantly with Carl about the pedigree of the famous horse "Lightning," which had just trotted its mile in less than two minutes.

I will cut trouble you my dear brother, by giving you a detailed account of the double marriage the next day. The same person married us both—a Scandinavian preacher, a friend of the Jansen family. I was not very particular who tied the knot and signed the bill of sale of Estella, provided I was sure the title was good. But I do think that the union of man and wife should be something more than a mere civil contract. Marriage is not a partnership to sell dry goods sometimes, it is true, it is principally an obligation to buy them or to practice medicine or law together, it is, or should be, an intimate blending of two souls, and natures, and lives, and where the marriage is happy and perfect there is undoubtedly, a growing together, not only of spirit and character, but even in the physical appearance of man and wife. Now as these two souls came—we concede—out of heaven, it seems to me that the ceremony which thus destroys their individuality, and blends them into one, should have some touch and color of heaven in it also.

It was a very happy day

As I look back upon it now it seems to me like one of those bright, wide rays of glorious light which we have sometimes seen bursting through a rift in the clouds, with some literal [illegible] in it, or, rather, perhaps, historical [illegible] in fact all the treasures of the [illegible] come together with [illegible] process of [illegible] photographic [illegible] moments, electric [illegible] phosphorescence, and all the other great inventions which [illegible] hundred years have given us. For I said to myself, if civilization utters a [illegible] in the face of a world, which, in the [illegible] Mecca, shut out the world behind rocks and [illegible] mountains and the [illegible] of tropical barbarous [illegible] surrounding us, we will start until civilization and prostrate mankind as ready [illegible] to see and will help us recognize society upon a wise and just basis.

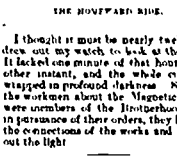
In the afternoon Max returned, bringing with him Carl Jansen and all his family. A dozen men also came, bearing great boxes. They were old and trusted servants of his father's family, and the boxes contained magazine rifles and pistols and fired ammunition, together with hand grenades. These were taken out, and we eyed all armed. Even the women had pistols, and knives strapped to their girdles. The men went out and again returned, bearing quantities of food, sufficient to last us during a siege, and also during our flight to my home. Water was also collected in kegs and barrels, for the supply might be cut off. Then Max came, and, under his orders, as soon as night fell, the lower windows, the cellar openings and the front door were covered with thick oak planks, of three thicknesses, strongly nailed; then the second story windows were similarly protected, loopholes being first bored, through which our foes could be thrust, if necessary. Then be upper windows were also covered in the same way. The back door was left free for ingress and egress through the yard and back street, but powerful bars were arranged across it, and the oak plank left ready to board it up when required. The hand grenades—there were a pile of them—were carried to the back door. Then one of the servants went out and painted red crosses on the doors and windows.

We ate our supper in silence. A feeling of awe was upon all of us. Every one was told to pack up his goods and valuables, and be ready for instant flight when the word was given; and to each one were assigned the articles he or she was to carry.

About ten o'clock Max returned and told us all to come up to the roof. The house stood, as I have already said, upon a corner; it was in the older part of the city, and not far from where the first great battle would be fought. Max whispered to me that the blow would be struck at six o'clock in Europe and at twelve o'clock at night in America. The fighting therefore had already begun in the Old World. He further explained to me something of the plan of battle. The Brotherhood at twelve would throughout a group of streets in which were the Sub-Treasury of the United States, and all the principal banks, to wit: Cedar, Pine, Wall, Nassau, William, Pearl and Water Streets. So has did thousands men would be assembled to guard these barricades. They would then burst open the great moneyed institutions and blow up the safes with giant powder and Hecla powder. At daybreak one of Quincy's air ships would come and receive fifty millions of the spoils in gold, as their share of the plunder, and the price of their support. As soon as this was delivered, and carried to their armory, the whole fleet of air vessels would come up and attack the troops of the Oligarchy. If, however, General Quincy should violate his agreement, and betray them, they had provided a large number of great cannon, mounted on high wheels, so that they could be fired vertically, and these were to be loaded with bombs of the most powerful explosives known to science, and so constructed with fulminating caps that if they struck the air-ship at any point, they would explode and utter destroy it, or so disarrange its machinery as to render it useless. Then they were provided, he thought, for every emergency.

It eleven he came to me and whispered that if anything happened to him he depended on me to take his wife and mother and his father if possible, with me to Africa. I grasped his hand and assured him of my devotion. He then embraced Christina and his mother and left them, weeping bitterly, in each other's arms.

There was a parapet around the roof. I went to the corner of it, and, leaning over, looked down into the street. Estella came and stood beside me. She was very calm and quiet. The magnetic lights were turned and the streets lak were more as bright as day. There were some patriotically two persons moving about. Here and there a carriage or a man on foot sped dashed furiously past, at full speed and I thought to myself "The Oligarchy have heard of the tremendous outbreak in Europe and are making preparations for another hell." It was a still clear night and the great stars shone mildly over the face of heaven unconscious or indifferent as to what was going forward on this troubled little orb.



THE HOUSEYARD RIDE.

I thought it must be nearly twelve. I drew out my watch to look at the time. It lacked one minute of that hour. An other instant, and the whole city was wrapped in profound darkness. Some of the workmen about the Magnetic Works were members of the Brotherhood, and, in pursuance of their orders, they had cut the connections of the works and blotted out the light

CHAPTER XXXI.

"SIEGE."

I looked down into the dark street. I could see nothing, but immediately a confused buzz and murmur of motion everywhere, seemed from the depths below me. As it grew louder and nearer I could hear the march of thousands of feet, moving rapidly; and then a number of wagons, heavily loaded, creaked and groaned over the pavements. I surmised that these wagons were loaded with stones, and were to be used in the construction of the barricades. There was no music, no shouting, not even the sound of voices; but tramp, tramp, tramp, in endless multitude, the heavy feet went by; and now and then, where the light yet streamed out of the window of some house, I could see the glitter of the steel barrels of rifles; and here and there I caught a glimpse of men on horseback, officers apparently, but dressed in the rough garb of workmen. Along the line of the houses near me, I could see, at opened, lighted windows, an army of pale faces, looking out with astonishment and terror at this dark and silent procession, which seemed to have arisen out of the earth, and was so vast that one might dream that the trumpet of the archangel had been blown, and all the dead of a thousand battle fields had risen up for one last grand review. And not alone passed our door, but through all the [illegible] the same tireless procession moved on, all converging to the quarter where the treasures of the great city lay, housed up in safe and vault.

And then, several blocks away, but within the clear range of my vision, a light appeared in the street—it blazed—it rose higher and higher. I could see shadowy figures moving around it, heaping boxes, barrels and other combustibles upon the flame. It was a bonfire, kindled to light the work of building a barricade at that point. Across the street a line of wagons had been placed; the tail of each one touching the front of another; the horses having been withdrawn. And then hundreds of busy figures were to be seen at work, tearing up the pavements of the street and heaping the materials under the wagons; and then shovels flew, and the earth rose over it all, a deep ditch being excavated quite across the street, on the side near me. The men, lit by the red light, looked, at the distance, like hordes of busy black insects. Behind them swarmed, as far as I could see, thousands upon thousands of dark forms, some mass touched here and there by the light of the bonfire, gleaming on glittering steel. They were the men within the barricades. There was a confused mass in other quarters, which I supposed was caused by the erection of a number of similar barricades elsewhere. Then the troops of artillery and cavalry passed our door counsel; and for a time the silence was profound

So far not a soldier or policeman had been visible. The Oligarchy were evidently carrying out the plan of the Prince of Cabano. They were permitting the insurgents to construct their "rat trap" without interruption. Only a few straggler were upon the street, drawn there doubtless by curiosity, and still the pale faces were at the windows, and even we talked from window to window, and wondered what it all meant.

Suddenly there was a terrific explosion that shook the house. I could see a shower of stones, and brick and timbers and dust, rising like a smoke, seemed with fire, high in the air, within the lines of the barricades. Then came another, even louder; then another, and another, until it seemed to me that the instant. Then these ceased, and after a little time came the sounds of smaller explosions, muffled as if underground or within walls.

"They are blowing open the banks," I whispered to Estella.

Then all was quiet for a space. In a little while the bombardment began again, as if in another part of the territory inclosed in the barricades.

And still there was not a soldier to be seen in the deserted street near me.

And again came other explosions.

At last I saw the red light beginning to touch the clouds along the eastern horizon with its crimson brush. The fateful day was dawning

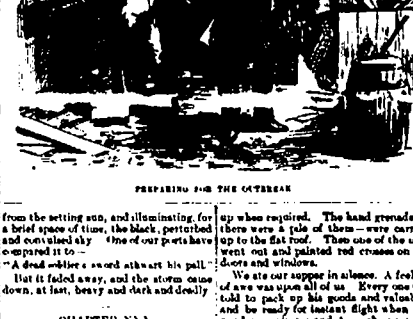
And then, in a little while, far away to the north, soft and dull at first, but swelling gradually into greater volume, a mighty sound arose; and through it I could hear bursts of splendid melody, tumult; and at last there were only a few scattering shots to be heard, here and there; and then these, too, ceased

I could see the soldiers looking to west. I swept the sky with my glass. Yes, something portentous had indeed happened! Instead of the whole dire flight of thousands of air ships for which the soldiers had been looking, there crept athwart the sky, like a great black bird, a single Demon.

As it approached it seemed to be sailing some one. Little flags of different colors were raw up and taken down in turn and waved and looked to the barricaded district. And there on the top of a very high building, in its midst, I could see a group of men. They, too, were raising and lowering little flags. Nearer and nearer swept the great black bird; every eye and mind a field glass in all that great throng was fastened upon it, with awe-struck intensity—the insurgents rejoicing; the soldiers perplexed! Nearer and nearer it comes

(To be Continued)

One of the electrical appliances which will presently come into so general use, seems as that now enjoyed by the electric motor, is the electrical heater. A person with all diet in the house, and a stove turned off and on just when it is wanted. A large percentage of the heat from a stove goes up the chimney and is wasted. But the electrical heater is light and handy and can be moved from place to place without ease, the full advantage of its heat can always be secured.



PREPARING FOR THE OUTBREAK

from the setting sun, and illuminating, for a brief space of time, the black, perturbed and convulsed sky. One of our poets have compared it to

"A dead soldier's sword athwart his pall."

But it faded away, and the storm came down, at last, heavy and dark and deadly.

CHAPTER XXX

UPON THE HOUSE TOP

A FEW days after our joint wedding Max came running in one day and said

"It is to be to-morrow"

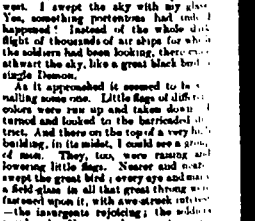
He gave each of us a red cross to sew upon our clothes. He was very much excited, and hurried out again.

I had said to him the morning of our marriage, that I desired to return home before the outbreak came, for I was now responsible for Estella's life and safety; and I feared that all communication of one part of the world with another would be cut off by the threatened revolution. He had begged me to remain. He said that at the interview with General Quincy it had been made a condition of the contract that each of the executive committee

Cesar, the vice-president and himself should have one of the flying air-ships placed at his disposal, after the outbreak, well manned and equipped with bombs and arms of all kinds. These "Demons" were to be subject to their order at any time, and to be guarded by the troops at their magazine in one of the suburbs until called for.

The committee had several reasons for making this arrangement the outbreak might fail and they would have to fly; or the outbreak might succeed, but become ungovernable, and they would have to escape from the tempest they had thus unloosed. Max had always had a dream that after the Plutocracy was overthrown the insurgents would re-construct a purer and better state of society, but of late my conversation with him, and his own observations, had begun to shake his faith in this particular

He said to me that if I remained he would guarantee the safety of myself and wife, and after I had seen the outbreak he would send me home in his airship; and moreover, if he became satisfied that the revolution had passed beyond the control of himself and friends, he would, after rescuing his father from the prison where he was confined, accompany me with his whole family and we would settle down together in my distant mountain home. He had, accordingly, turned all his large estate into gold and silver, which he had brought to the house; and I had likewise filled one large room full of a great library of books, which I had purchased to take up



GOING TO BATTLE.