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### -:- HOUSE

\*\*\*\* CHAPTER XXXII. Returning to his room at the tenant house occupied by Carl Crum, Claude opened his trunk and took out the roll of manuscript left him by his aunt, which, in his eagerness to carefully preserve, he had kept with him in all wan-

:::: BY ::::

G. H. BENEDICT.

derings. He then drew a chair up to a table standing near the window, and, sitting down, placed the roll on the table be-fore him and examined it narrowly. It was sealed heavily. The superscription read: "To my dear nephew, Claude Rolff: To be opened only according to

Claude had often studied these words before, and longed for the time that would make him master of the secrets of the roll communicated to him under such mysterlous circumstances. At last he could conscientiously and properly gratify his curiosity. He broke the seals, and spread the sheets of paper out on the table before him. The paper was heavy foolscap, and a glance showed him that the writing was in the cramped, peculiar hand he knew well to be his aunt's.

He at once became absorbed in the contents of the manuscript. It read as follows:

My Dear Claude: At my death you will be left alone in the world-the only surviving representative of your blood and race. Both in the old world and the new, every one that could claim near kin to you will have passed away. To the end that you may know your birth and lineage (of which you have been purposely kept in partial ignorance); that strange matters, which common report has greatly exaggerated and misrepresented, may be correctly reported to you; and that my action toward you, my dear child, under which I have often observed you were restive, may be justified in your eyes-I write these lines.

It is over sixty years ago, that there

was living in the picturesque old city of Haarlem, in our mother country of North Holland, an aged and reputable burgher, one Rolff Van Buysen, who, with his good wife, his handsome son named from himself, and a single daughter (the writer of these lines), lived as happily as it is given mortals to live. He had been an only son; had passed an industrious youth; had married rather late in life; and at this period was wealthy honored with important trusts in his native city, and was noted for his public spirit, his philanthrophy and his patronage of the arts and sciences. His son Rolff grew to manhood; but, being of a restive, wayward disposition, was not inclined to settle down into the practice of some useful art or profession as his father desired him to. On the conspend his father's substance in extravagance and riotous living. Great was the grief of the tender and excellent father over the waywardness of his son, and he sought by all means to restore him to obedience and a proper life. But his efforts were of no avail,

The son grew wilder and more reckless, and finally threw off all semblance of respect for his father's authority and wishes. And so it came to pass that the good father, though of the kindest and tenderest nature, became fully persuaded of his duty to compel the obedience and respect to his wishes of his son, and assumed toward him a stern demeanor, hough, in truth, his heart was wound and bled sorely for him. But Rolff o / graw more ungovernable, and finally became involved in a difficulty that rendered him amenable to the law. It was a reckless, boyish freak, committed against the property of a high official of the city, and his father's influence was no longer available to save him from arrest and trial. Bitter and stern was the rebuke that Rolff's father administered to him; but the law officers were on his track, and he fled from his home in the night, and many weary years passed, and he was not again heard from by his aged and

and it was not long before the tender mother had gone to her final rest and her faithful husband, with the last prop of his life taken away, did not linger long behind her. So it was, my dear Claude, that I was left alone in the world, not knowing that I had a single relative of near kin left, for on both my father's and mother's side all had passed away save

a few distant and to me unknown kin-

sorrowing parents. The blow, indeed,

was too heavy for their declining years

dred; and, though I hoped my brother was still alive, it seemed idle to do After my fathers affairs were settled I still had left a comfortable fortune, and lived a quiet and lonely life in my native city, indulging in few pleasures and cherishing the one hope that I length, to my great joy, there came a letter from him. In it he stated that he had settled in the New World; had grown rich, and married, and was then living in a fine mansion; but his wife had died, leaving him with two smail children, and he had no proper person to take charge of them, or of his house-hold. So he entreated me to come to him—saying that he had heard of our parents' deaths, and believed me still to be unmarried. He said he would

make me the entire mistress of nousehold and guardian of his children, and that I should have complete disposal of all that he possessed. The tone of the letter indicated great grief and despondency, and my heart was touched. After careful consideration, I decided to go to my brother. Arranging all my affairs, and getting all needful information from further correspondence with him, I set sail for the New World.

New World. In due time I arrived at my brother's In due time I arrived at my brother's house. I found him living in almost princely style; but afflicted with incurable grief and melancholy. His infant daughter had died ere I arrived. His mind seemed affected at losing his wife and child; and, in paroxysms of sorrow and self-abasement, he would curse himself, and cry out that the vengeance of Heaven was visited on him for his

filter the blood of all that shouldn't be there. The blood passes through the kid-neys every three minutes. If the kidneys do their work no impurity or cause of disorder can remain in the circulation longer than that time. Therefore if your blood is out of order your kidneys have failed in their work. They are in need of stimulation, strengthening or decoring. stimulation, strengthening or doctoring. One medicine will do all three, the finest and most imitated blood medicine there

# Dodd's Kidney

-broken, penitent and Gespongers. confessed to me strange stories of evil deeds he had done-how, after coming to this country, he had joined a privateer, and amassed wealth, but in his warlike adventures had participated in crimes the memory of which was burned upon his conscience, and could not be forgotten. I was compelled to take complete charge of his affairs; and he freely gave me the power and right so to do. I had brought with me my own little fortune, and, alarmed and horrifled at the stories he told of the manner in which he had procured his wealth, I determined to use none of it, but to make my own money available for the maintenance of the household.

Meantime, my brother grew more and more melancholy. To divert his mind, I talked to him of plans to explate his evil life. I urged him to use a portion of his wealth in charity and good works. The idea seemed to please him, and he soon became filled with plans to travel, seek out the miseries of the unfortunate and to relieve them. In pursuance of this plan, he charged me with the care and education of his son placed all his property and fortune ir my hands subject only to my promis to supply him with such funds as he should ask from time to time: and so he quietly left his home and went I knew not where.

In the cellar of his great house, my

brother had built a strong stone vault, and in this was deposited the money and valuables he had not used in buying or improving his property. Of this he gave me the key, telling me to use what I would. But I resolved to touch not a penny, save only to supply his demands, and moreover, to place therein all the profits that accrued from my management of the place-paying only the expenses, and using my own money entirely for every luxury or necessity of my household. After a length of time, my brother returned secretly, supplied himself again with money and This he did at various times, never staving over a single night at his home, and saying nothing of his plans or purposes.

There came a period of years in which I did not hear from him. His son had grown to manhood, married, and you were born, my dear Claude, and named by me. My brother returned once again, and looked upon your infant face. He had grown old and feeble, and told me that he had at last found peace in religion, having joined a society of brothers, in a French monastery, where his life was devoted to works of charity and to penitence. He examined carefully into his affairs, and arranged that, in case of his death, a certain portion of his fortune should go into the hands of the brethren of his society. Though I had been reared in the strictest Protestant faith, could not condemn the life in which my brother found hope and peace, and I agreed to all his wishes.

He went away again; and years passed on. Your father and mother died, my dear Claude, and I was left as your only guardian.

One dark night, at a late hour, as

Cenuine

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was sitting in my room, there came a knocking at the door of the house. Old Carl answered the summons, and ushered in a tall, venerable stranger who desired to see me. At the first glance of his face, I surmised that he came to tell me the fate of my brother.
"My brother is dead?" I said to him in an inquiring tone. "Yes," he replied, with a grave, sorrowful mien, "your brother, and our brother, is at rest." I knew then that this stranger was a

brother of the religious society which my brother had joined. I invited him to a seat, and asked him to give me all particulars. He told me of my brother's final hours, and declared that he had died at peace, having for years been one of the most faithful, sacrificing and de-vout members of his order. He had left, he said, a written testament, with directions that it be brought and delivered to me. He handed me the paper. Opening and reading it, I found it to be in my brother's handwriting, and that it contained his last wishes in regard to his affairs. He gave a short narra-tive of his long travels and adventures, in which he had particularly sought to trace up the proper heirs to some valuable jewels which he had acquired valuable jeweis which he had acquired under cinrcumstances that had always troubled his conscience, and which, consequently, he had never allowed himself to dispose of. In this he was successful, a coat of arms furnishing the clue; and the jewels were restored. His other wealth had come through prize money, but as he said, sometimes acquired in deeds of actual piracy, and he determined, for the full relief of his conscience, to devote a sum to charity equal to the full amount of what he considered he had acquired by violent and unlawful means. The sum fixed on, he wandered far and wide, bestow ing charity wherever he had opportunity. In his travels he became ac intimacy was formed, and, through the thoughts were turned in the direction of religion. He at last determined to join the society to which his friend be longed, and make use of its organization to dispense his charitable sums, He had continued to draw as largely on the contents of the old vault as he thought he could do without crippling the resources he had designed for me but death was drawing near, and still the sum he had fixed on as cancelling all his ill-gotten gains, was not made good. So, trembling on the brink of the grave, he abjured me to allow a certain sum each year for a certain number of years to the use of the brethren of a certain monastery in France, that it might be applied by them to the charities to which he wished it de-voted. He knew, he said, that I would grant this request, and he could die in peace. And with a blessing for me and his little grandchild, the paper came

to an end.
I then had a long conversation with the strange visitor in regard to my brother's last wishes. He impressed me as being a devout and good man whom I could trust. I informed him of the course I had pursued in regard to my brother's property, and that I never touched and knew not the amount of his treasure in the old vault. I told him, that, as the companion and friend of my brother, and knowing his wishes, I would give him a key to vault, leaving him to supply his self with such money as he desired to In answer, he said he could honestly take only so much for each year, and would take no more. finally arranged that he should have a key to the vault, coming when he chose entering the house by a secret entrance and taking such money as he desired from the vault. So he quietly came and went yearly. I desired that he should enjoy the hospitalities of my house on his visits, but he would not, and asked only that a dark basement room, that connected with the cellar containing the vault, be furnished with a desk, pallet and chair, candles, and a little fuel, so that he might occupy it when he came, to the disturbance of

At last, dear Claude, as I felt myself growing feebler with age, I sought to make such arrangements as would leave my property unencumbered by any conditions in your hands. I waited till the stranger priest came again, and besought him to take at once all that he deemed proper to fulfill my brother's dying wishes. He declined, as he said that it was only allowable according to my brother's wishes to take so much each year. I spoke of the probabilities of sudden death overtaking me at my advanced age, and the chance that it would place obstacles in the way of the payment of the annual tribute according to my brother's wishes. He then said he would go and consult with the superior officers of his society on the subject. On inquiry, I found that the amount remaining to be paid was equal to the sum of five annual payments. So, to provide against all contingencies, and to avoid any legal and formal disposition of the matter (which I disposition of the matter (which is shrank from, as it would only add to popular gossip about matters incapable of public explanation). I arranged with him to leave the old vault protected against intrusion for five years after my death, should it occur ere he came again. This would allow of my brother's last wishes being fully carried out. At theh same time, if he agreed with the brethren of his society to take the full amount of the money at one visit, he was to place a visible and lasting mark, in the shape of a small white cross, in each corner of the old vault, as a sign that his visits were ended, and that the arrangements to gratify my brother's last wishes were fully completed. To be Continued.

TURN ABOUT. Fair Phyllis makes no show of wit Concerning matters politic,
And right demurely she will sit
While I display my rhetoric.
And she will breathe a little sigh And gaze upon me pensively And murmur: "Ah, I wish that I Were even half as wise as he!

But when in a department store
I follow her with feelings strange,
I dominate the scene no more,
I scarce know how to count m change.

If I a bargain seek to buy,
And, humble then as I can be,
I stand aside and wish that I
Were even half as wise as she.

If you are trusting in the love of the

What is

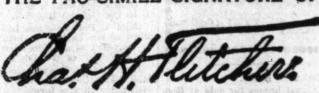
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