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****** ROLFF -:--:- HOUSE

:::: RY :::: G. H. BENEDICT. ******

CHAPTER XV. Obedient to his instructions, old Carl Crum had taken his departure from the venerable roof that had sheltered his venerable roof that had sheltered his head so long, and for whith he felt an almost romentic attachment, and domiciled himself in a tenant house on the Rolff place near the ferry that had for so many years been the scene of his labors. What the old fellow thought on the subject of his disgrace from the confidence he had enjoyed in Rolff House for so may years, nobody had House for so ma years, nobody had an opportunity to know precisely, for he maintained a dignified silence, and went about his duties with his usual

But if old Carl viewed his displacement by the vagabond Leb. Sackett with seeming indifference, his faithful companion in the service of Rolf House, old Margaret, did not. The advent of Mr. Sackett, which took place the very day of Carl's departure, aroused the spirit of the worthy dame in quite an unlooked-for manner, and led to a volubility of indignant expression of her feelings rather surprising to that individual.

Leb. affected to treat it all with easy indifference, however, and at once made himself at home in his new position. "It is quite needless for you to rail at me, fair and amia le Margaret," he replied, to one of the old woman's out-bursts; "the powers that be have put me here, and here I mean to stay. You will like my company better after you get better acquainted with me"-and his lips parted in a satirical smile that showed his yellow fangs in a not very agreeable manner.
"Like a wolf," snapped old Margaret,

her faded blue eyes fairly blazing her hatred and indignation. "A pretty nead you are for Rolff House, indeed, you thief and vagabond, as your father and mother were before you. What have you come here to steal? Oh, I'll watch

you—I'll watch you."

And watch him she did. Leb. soon found that it would have been impossible to have put a more vigilant and unrelenting detective on his actions than this faithful old domestic. She would steal around the house after him in the most tireless and noiseless way, and the constant fear of being under her observation rather interrupted the pleasure he had promised himself in exploring the nooks and crannies of the strange old mansion. Whenever he be-took himself to a new field of investigation, he was pretty sure soon to be greeted with the picture of old Margreeted with the picture of garet's grey head and wrinkled features framed in the shadow of a doorway or window, with all-observing eyes fixed fearlessly and suspiciously upon him.

But Leb. was not the kind of a man. to be easily discouraged. He resolved mentally "to fix the old lady," and, pending his reflections on the matter,

to his employer. "It wouldn't be a bad idea to get rid of her in some way," suggested the

amiable Mr. Saybrook.
"I might drop her in the old well, or tock her up in one of the old cellars and leave her there," responded Mr. Sack-etts "Nobody would ever take the trouble to inquire about her, I reckon."
"No, no; that wouldn't do," answered the lawyer. "You must think of some other plan. I don't want her hurt. It

might make trouble." might make trouble.
"Well," continued Leb., "I'll try and
fix it in some way. I feel a big interest in having her out of the way, but I have a good deal bigger interest in keeping myself out of a trouble. So I sin't likely to do anything very wicked. Hang her, though, I'd enjoy the little job of wringing her weazened old reck. But I suppose I will have to put up with her awhile yet. I'll see what can

No further reference was made to the subject, and two or three weeks slipped by without any change of affairs in Rolff House. Old Margaret, in the meantime, did not become a bit reconciled to the presence of Leb. Sackett, and that worthy found her watenulness and vigorous enmity to be anything but agreeable to him in his new

But gradually rumors began to be whispered about of strange occurrences at Rolff House. Lights had been seen noving about the house by those passing at night. Some one had seen sparks and flames proceeding from the great south chimney at midnight, and it was surmised that the Evil One had been on one of his periodical visits to the old

Leb. Sackett was of course interrogated at these occurrences; but he denied any knowledge as to their cause, although he admitted that there were "queer things" going on in the house.
"I'll telf you what," he said to a group of eager listeners a Ronk's Tavern one evening, "that old house is ghost-ridden, and there's no getting around it. Of all queer noises goin' on around nights I never heard the like. Rats? No, it ain't rats, I tell you. Rats don't epen and bang doors, raise and let down windows, flash lights about the house, and utter the most awful groans and shricks; Rats don't carry the furniture about from one room to another during the night, and pull a fellow out of bed all fir a heap, as I was the other night. There's old Margaret—it's just the queerest thing how those ghosts, persecute her. She's regularly scared, persecute her. She's regularly scared, and says it all a judgment because I was put in the house. Well, it's my opinion that this ain't the first time the devil has been to pay in Rolff House, though there's never been anybody there before to own up to the facts of the case. The spooks have been anybody a rest I suppose since the old. having a rest, I suppose, since the old lady's death, and now they are tryin'

to make up for lost time."
"Ain't you afr 'd, Leb?" asked one of the listeners, whose own teeth fairly chattered at the ghostly details he had beard.

"Afraid? Yes, I am kind o' afraid," "Afraid? Yes, I am Rind o alriad, replied Leb., in a matter-o" act way; "but you see I have always had a sort of liking for ghosts, and then I ain't paid for running away from the house. The ghosts havn't hurt me, and I don't think they will. But, I tell you, boys, Z heap mights clear of that old cellar. adden to the excitement in regard the ghostly doings at Rolff House.

nich Dodd's Kidney for which Dodd's Kidney Pills are the only certain cure. In Dropsy the Kidneys are actually dammed up, and the water, which should be expelled in the form of urine, flows back and lodges in the cells of the flesh and puffs out the skin. Remove the filth which plugs up the drain. Restore the Kidneys to health. There is only one Kidney Medicine

Dodd's **KIDNEY**

ghosts down there sometimes. I don't want to say much; I can stand the ghosts; but I don't feel exactly safe

about that cellar."

Leb. was now the hero of the hour.

Every day added to the burden of his ghostly tales, of the doings at Rolff House. There were very few in the !ittle village who were not superstitious enough to put at least some faith in these stories, while the great majority received them with eager credence, Some whose curiosity overcome their fear would watch in the vicinity of the house at nights, and never failed to entertain their cronies on their return with thrilling accounts of what they

had witnessed. Matters went on in this way for two or three weeks. Rolff House was en-joying a reputation it had never before fully borne as an abode of mischevous spirits, when the gossip and interest in the matter were suddenlyy greatly increased by the flight of old Margaret from the house to the abode of a niece, a married woman of middle age, living in the village, where she arrived smitten with moral terror, and at once took to-bed with serious illness in consequence of the nervous excitement she

From her confused statements, it was gathered that she had at first put no faith in the reality of the ghostly manifestations, attributing them solely to the wicked pranks of Leb. Sackett; but, as day after day passed by, and each night brought new and more mysterious occurrences, her courage had gradually given way, till at last an event had occurred that had completely terrified her and caused her to flee the house. What this terrifying occurrence was she could not be induced to state but it had evidently left a most serious impression upon her mind and partially shattered her well-worn faculties.

It was noticed, too, by those most interested, that Leb. Sackett no longer wore his usual jaunty air, but seemed unusually grave and pre-occupied in all his actions. Yet he did not leave the house. He asserted that there were not ghosts enough in Christendom to scare him, and that he would stay in the old house as long as he was wanted

One evening, however, he did not put in an appearance at Ronk's tavern. Another evening passed, and he was still absent. Still a third and a fourth found him missing from his accustomed place, and public excitement began to be aroused in regard to his safety. it was believed that he had come to some harm at the hands of the evil spirits that bewitched the old house. None were so bold as to go and investigate the matter, however. And so the mysterious disappearance of Leb. Sąckett

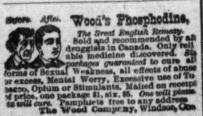
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CHAPTER XVI.

Ralph Saybrook was not a young man to take leave of his characteristic shrewdness even in such a delicate r tman to the teach the strength of the strength

It was greatly to Rosa's disadvantage in the matter that her natural goodness of heart and modesty of nature pre-cluded her repulsing his advances until he had gained the advantage of actually declaring his love for her. She took every possible precaution to avoid but

society, it was true, but as he was not at all backward in obtruding himself upon her company, and was a frequent welcome guest of her father at his house, it was impossible for her to avoid his company entirely. Thus Ralph was offered his own opportunity to declare himself, and the occasion was well chosen. It was a beautiful early spring day, and Rosa had been to the village on some errand, when, on her way home, she was joined by the young lawyer. He proceeded home with her, exerting himself to be lively and entertaining, and, detaining her at the gate, managed shrewdly to engage her in an animated conversation on the appro priate subject of flora culture, which, beirg a topic she took a deep interest in, she was unconsciously led out of her usual mood of studied reticence in his company, and even awakened into some life and enthusiasm in expressing her views on a subject in which she took such a deep interest. Ralph was a young man of quite general re ding, and, as is sometimes the case with those of the coldest and most selfish nature, had quite a passion for flowers, and wa well informed on their cultivation and capable of displaying enthusiasm and erudition in discussing the subject. So he managed to lead the guileless girl from one point to another, until at last they were holding an animated discourse on the language of flowers, and it was not long ere he had taken advantage of o favorable a turn of the conversatio: to introduce a subject of love and declare his attachment for

"Yes, dear Rosa," he said, in his most beguiling tones, as she stood surprised and confused in consequence of his unexpected declaration, "I love you with my whole heart. You are, to my eye, the chiefest flower in all Nature's parterre of beauty, which, to win and wear on this faithful breast I may well desire to make the ruling ambition of

my life.' In reply to this ardent language, Rosa could only stammer: To be Continued.

BETHEL.

G. Purser and R. Walters spent a few days in Pontiac, Mich., last week. J. Walrath intends leaving for Calrnia on the 25th of June. Salem Purser and Family of Bay City, Mich., is spending a few days vith his father, Mr. G. Purser. Mr. Maynard preached here on Sun-

Quite a number from here attended the Baptist anniversary at Northwood

on Sunday.

Crops look fine in this vicinity.

CON. 8, RALEIGH. A coronation social and strawberry

A coronation social and strawberry festival will be held on David Ball's lawn on the 26th. A special attraction will be the "coronation strawberries," which the ladies will procure for the occasion.

Miss McColl, of Chatham, spent a few days last week with her niece,

Miss Jean Aldis.

The marriage of Miss Ethel Brown to George E. Jordan took place Wednesday, 18th, at the residence of the bride's father. The happy young couple have taken up their residence in Harwich. in Harwich.

The subject for next Wednesday's League is "A Noble Purpose," the leader being Ralph Ritchie.

MORPETH.

Mrs. John Duck has returned home after spending a fortnight with her sister, Mrs. G. O. Scott, of Chatham. Harry Dennis, of Chatham, conducted the services in St. John's church

Sunday evening.

Rev C. W. Bristal, formerly of the Methodist church here, has been sta-tioned at Guilds.

The death of the late Dr. L. Backus

The death of the late Dr. L. Backus was learned with regret by the many friends of the family in this locality.

A very successful and enjoyable garden party was held at the home of John Trudgen, Talbot street, on the 18th inst. (Proceeds over \$30; in aid of St John's church acetylene gas fund

The rectory is nearing completion, and when finished will reflect credit on the parish.

The cool weather and the heavy

rains of the past two weeks have injured the corn and beans in this vicin-Mrs. James Hurst is spending a month in London with her sister Mrs. T. P. Blackwell.

T. P. Blackwell.
Chas. Sparham, west of the Village, was in London last week for a few days, visiting with Mrs. Sparham, who has for some time past been in the private hospital of Dr. Walker.
Rev. E. Softley attended the meeting of the Synod in London last week, and at present is on a visit with his father at Grimsby.
The remains of the late John Teetzel, of Blenheim, a former well-known and highly respected resident of this

and highly respected resident of this locality, were buried in the family plot in Trinity church cemetery on Sunday 15th inst. Rev. John Baird, of Glencoe, con

lucted the service in the Methodist ducted the service in the methodse church Sunday evening.

A meeting of the Sabbath school teachers and willing workers in connection with the Methodst church, will be held on Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. Isaac Duck, to make arrangements for holding a social in the near future. What is

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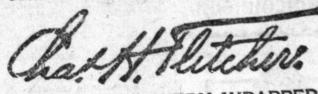
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Compared with any ready made fence with the same number of wires, in the market, it will be found to be heavier and stiffer and at very little over half the cost.

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