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In the Surrogate Court of the County of Kent.

In the matter of the guardianship of Melvin Ray and Samuel Gordon Sloan, the infant sons of Samuel Sloan, late of the Township of Harwich, in the County of Kent, and Province of Ontario, farmer, deceased. Notice is hereby given that after the expiration of twenty days from the first publication of this notice, app'ication will be made to the Surrogate Court of the County of Kent, for a grant of Letters of Guardianship of the person and estate of the above named infants to Mary J. Sloan, of the said Township of Harwich, widow of the said Samuel Sloan, decased.

Dated at Chatham this 26th day of September, A. D., 1900.

The Face Behind the Mask.

A ROMANCE.

assembly he had watched before. But there had been a change since—

half the lights were extinguished,

zled Sir Norman most of all, was the

fact that there seemed to be a trial

A long table, covered with green

velvet, and looking not unlike a mod-

ern billiard table, stood at the right

of the queen's crimson throne; and behind it, perched in a high chair,

and wearing a long, solemn black

robe, sat a small thick personage, whose skin Sir Norman would have

known on a bush. He glanced at the

lower throne and found it, as he ex-

pected, empty; and he saw at once

that his little highness was not only

prince consort, but also supreme

judge in the kingdom. Two or three similar black robed gentlemen,

among whom was recognizable the

noble duke who so narrowly escaped

with his life under the swords of Sir

Norman and Count L'Estrange. Be-

fore this solemn conclave stood a

man who was evidently the prisoner

under trial, and who wore the whit-

man thought he had ever beheld. The

queen was lounging negligently back

in her throne, paying very little at-

tention to the solemn rites, occas-

ionally gossiping with some of the

snow-white sylphs beside her, and

often yawning behind her snow-white finger tips, and evidently very

much bored by it all.

The rest of the company were de-

gilded arm-chairs; some listening

with interest to what was going on

others holding whispered tete-a-

tetes, and all very still and respect

Sir Norman's interest was arous

to the highest pitch; he imprudent-ly leaned forward too far, in order

to hear and see and lost his balance.

He felt he was going, and tried to

stop himself, but in vain; and seeing

there was no help for it, he made a

sudden spring, and landed right in

CHAPTER XI.

In an instant all was confusion.

Everybody sprung to their feet-la-

dies shrieked in chorous, gentlemen

swore and drew their swords, and

looked to see if they might not ex-

pect 'to see a whole army to drop-

from the sky upon them as they stood. No other battalion, however

followed this forlorn hope; and, see-

ing it, the gentlemen took heart of

sprung from her royal seat, and

and her brighter eyes dilating in

speechless wonder. The bench, with

the judge at their head, had follow-

with all their might, looking, truth

to tell, as much startled by the sud-

den apparition as the fair sex. The

said fair sex were still firing off vol-

leys of screams in chorus, and cling-

ing desperately to their cavaliers;

and everything, in a word, was in a

most admirable disorder.

Tam O'Shanter's cry, "Weel done.

Cutty sark!" could not have produc-

ed half such a commotion among his

'hellish legion' as the emphatic de-

but of Sir Norman Kingsley among

these human revelers. The only one

who seemed rather to enjoy it than

otherwise was the prisoner, who was

quietly and quickly making off when

dwarf espied him, and the one shock

acting as a counter-irritant to the other, he bounced fleetly over the

table and grabbed him in his crab-

This brisk and laughable instance of

self-command had a wonderful and inspiring effect upon the rest, and as

he replaced the pale and palsied pris-

oner in his former position, giving him a vindictive shake and vicious kick with his royal boots, as he did

so, everybody began to feel them-selves again. The ladies stopped screaming the gentlemen stopped

swearing, and more than one excla-mation of astonishment followed the

"Sir Norman Kingsley! Sir Norman

Kingsley!" rang from lip to lip of those who recognized him, all drew

they really could not make up their minds to believe their eyes. As for

Sir Norman himself that gentleman was destined literally, if not meta-

phorically to fall on his legs that night, and had alighted on the crim-

there with unbroken bones; his third,

a disagreeable conviction that he had about put his foot in it, and was in

who was altogether too much sur-prised to make the return politeness

closer and looked at him as

like claws.

cries of terror.

malevolent and irrepressible

with her bright lips parted,

example, and stood staring

The queen had

grace and closed around the uncere

nonious intruder.

the midst of the assembly.

corously seated in the crimson and

est and most frightened face Sir Nor-

of some sort going on.

 'Go, and heaven speed you! Yon- | ed, looked down on the same titled

der is the way to it, and my road Good night, Master Hunight, Sir Norman," rethe page, bowing airily; "and if I do not find the lady to-

night, most assuredly I shall do so

Turning along a road leading to the pest-house, and laughing as he went, the boy disappeared. Fearing lest the page should follow him, and thereby discover a clue to Leoline's Sir Norman turned into a street some distance from the house, and waited in the shadow until he was out of sight. Then he came forth, and, full of impatience to get back to the ruin, hurried on to where he had left his horse. He was still

in the care of the watchman, whom he repaid for his trouble; and as he sprang on its back he glanced up at the windows of Leoline's house. was all buried in profound darkness but that one window from which that faint light streamed, and he knew that she had not yet gone to rest. For a moment he lingered and looked at it in the absurd way overs will look, and was presently

ewarded by what he watched for-

shadow fit between him and the

The light was a strong emptation to him to dismount and enter, and, under pretense of warning her against the Earl of Rochester and his "pretty page," see her once again. But reflection, stepping rebukingly up to him, whispered inthat his lady-love was probably by this time in her nightrobes and not at home to lovers: and Sir Norman respectfully bowed to reflection's superior wisdom. He thoughtsof Hubert's words. 'If I thoughtsof Hubert's words. do not find her to-night I shall most assuredly to-morrow," and a chill presentiment of coming evil fell up-

"To-morrow," he skid, as he turned to go, "who knows what to-mor-row may bring forth! Fairest and dearest Leoline, good night!"

He rode away in the moonlight stars shining peacefully down upon him. His heart at the moment was a divided one-one half being given to Leoline, and the other to the Midnight Queen and her mysterious court.

The farther he went away from Leoline the dimmer her star became in the horizon of his thoughts; and the nearer he came to Miranda, the brighter and more eagerly she loomed up, until he spurred his horse to a ed up, until he spurred his horse to a most furious gallop, lest he should find the castle and the queen lost in the regions of space when he got there. Once the plague-stricken city lay behind him, his journey was short; and soon, to his great delight, he turned into the silent, deserted by-path leading to the ruin. Tying his horse to a stake in the

crumbling wall, he paused for a monent to look at it in the pale, light of the midnight moon. He had looked at it many a time before, but never with the same interest as and the ruined battlements, the fallen roof, the broken windows, and mouldering sides, had all a new and weird interest for him. No one was visible far or near; and feeling that his horse was secure in the sha dow of the wall, he entered the walk lightly and rapidly in the direction of the spiral stairway. With more haste, but the same precaution, he descended and passed through the vaults to where he knew the loose flagstone was. It was well he did know; for there was neither strain of music nor rays of light to guide him now; and his heart sank to zero as he thought he might raise ' the stone and discover nothing. hand positively trembled with eagerhe lifted it; and with unbounded delight, not to be describ-

THE QUESTION

THE DAY

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aitogether involuntary on my part, and forced by circumstances over which I had no control; and I entreat

you will not mind me in the least, but go on with the proceedings just as you did before. Should you feel my presence here any restraint, I am quite ready and willing to take my desarture at any moment; and as I before insinuated, will promise, on the honor of a entleman and a knight, never again to take the liberty of tumbling brough the ceiling down on your

This reference to the ceiling seeme

explain the whole mystery; and prybody looked up at the corner whence he came from, and saw the flag that had been removed. As to his speech everybody had listened to it with the greatest attention; and and the great vaulted room was comparatively in shadow—the mu-sic had entirely died away, and all was solemnly silent. But what puzsundry of the ladies, convinced by this time that he was flesh and blood, and no ghost, favored the handsome young knight with divers glances, not at all displeased or unadmiring. The queen sank back into her seat keeping him still transfixed with her darkly-splendid eyes; and whether she admired or otherwise, no one could tell from her still, calm face. The prince consort's feelingsfor such there could be no doubt he was-were involved in no such mystery; and he broke out into a hyenalike scream of laughter, as he recog-nized upon a second look, his young

riend of the Golden Crown. "So you have come, have you?" he cried, thrusting his unlovely visage over the table, till it almost touched Sir Norman's. "You have come, have ou; after all I said?" 'Yes, sir, I have come!" said Sir

Norman, with a polite bow. "Perhaps you don't know me, my lear young sir-your little friend, ou know, of the Golden Crown." 'Oh, I perfectly recognize you! My ittle friend," said Sir Norman, with bland sauvity, and unconsciously quoting Leoline, "once seen is not

asy to be forgotten." Upon this his highness set up other screech of mirth that it quite woke an echo through the room; all Sir Norman's friends looked grave; for when his highness laughed, was a very bad sign.

"My little friend will hurt himself," remarked Sir Norman, with an air of olicitude, "if he indulges in his exuberant and gleeful spirits to such an extent. Let me recommend you, as a well-wisher, to sit down and

compose yourself. Instead of complying, however, the rince, who was blessed with a livesense of the ludicrous, was struck with the funniness of the young man's speech, that he lapsed into another paroxysm of levity; shriller and more unearthly, if possible, than any preceding one, which left him so exhausted that he was forced to sink into his chair and into silence through sheer fatigue. Seizing this, the first opportunity, Miranda, with a glance of displeased dignity at Caliban, immediately struck in:

"Who are you, sir, and by what right do you dare to come here?" Her tone was neither very sweet or sauve; but it was much pleasanter to be cross-examined by the owner of such a pretty face than by the ugly little monster, for the moment gasping and distinguished; and Norman turned to her with alacrity and a bow.

'Madame, I am Sir Norman Kir ley, very much at your rervice; and I beg to assure you I did not come here, but fell here, through that 'tole, if you perceive, and very against my will."

"Equivocation will not serve you in this case, sir," said the queen, with a austere dignity. "And allow me to observe, it is just probable would not have fallen through that hole in our royal-ceiling if you kept away from it. You raised that flag yourself—did you not?" Madame, I fear I must say yes!

"And why did you do so?" demand-ed her majesty, with far more sharp asperity than Sir Norman dreamed could ever come from such beautiful

rumor of Queen Miranda's charms has gone forth; and I fear I nust own that rumor drew thither," responded Sir Norman, enting a polite little work of fiction for the occasion; "and, let me add, that I came to find that rumor had underrated instead of exaggerated her

To be Continued.



SURGEONS' THREAD.

Stoves

MATERIALS THAT ARE USED TO SEV UP CUTS AND WOUNDS.

There Are Many Kinds of Instruments and Needles and a Great Variety of Stitches Used In Life Saving Operations.

Imagine a tailor who deliberately plans to have the stitches be so carefully sews give way at a certain time. Suppose he should use one kind of thread in a coat warranted to break in one week, another kind in the trousers guaranteed to fall apart in a month and using permanent material only in making up a waistcoat. Yet this is exactly what the surgeon does every day. Sutures, as the surgeon's thread is called, are made from various materials, according to the requirements. Catyut. silk thread, silkworm gut, silver wire, kangaroo tendons and horsehair are in

Catgut was at one time obtained from members of the feline tribe. As its use increased the supply ran short. Experiments showed that sheep furnished an acceptable substitute. So catgut used by surgeons, jewelers and makers of musical instruments comes now from the submucosa, or middle layer of the intestine of a sheep. It is the most commonly used of all suturing material. Catgut stitches are absorbed in from five to seven days, depending on the individual upon whom they are used. In occasional instances catgut stitches have been known to be absorbed in 36 hours. By treating it with chromic acid such a suture will remain in position for many weeks. Because of its adaptability and the cheapness of the material catgut heads the list of surgical threads.

Silkworm gut can be more thoroughly sterilized than any other known suture material. In preparing sutures of all sorts the usual method is to boil the material in ether, allow it to soak for 24 hours, then place it in alcohol for a day or two and follow this with a bath of mercury solution. Notwithstanding this thorough cleansing, the microscope reveals germs still present in varying numbers in many instances. Silkworm sutures show fewer microorganisms than other materials treated in this way; hence it is highly recommended for surgical work. The mate rial is extracted from a silkworm killed immediately before it begins to weave its cocoon. Unfortunately for surgeons, slikworn sutures are not absorbed, but remain permanently in place. For this reason its use is restricted to special work.

The short, tough tendons taken from the tail of a kangaroo furnish surgeons with a valuable thread. Kangaroo tendon stitches will hold fast for many days. The time of absorption is estimated from four weeks to two months.

Horsehair and silver wire sutures are nonabsorbable. The fluids of the body do not affect them in any way, and once in place the stitches will remain until forcibly removed. By some it is asserted that silver wire has distinct antiseptic properties. Nitrate of silver in solution is known to be a good germicide. Hence it issargued that a silis formed by the contact of body fluids with silver wire. Thus stitch abscesses are said to be of rare occurrence when silver wire is utilized.

Silk thread, such as is used by tailors, but of the finest quality and of larger caliber, is frequently used. The stitches are practically nonabsorbable, though at times no trace of the thread has been found in the tissue at the expiration of a year.

To accommodate this assortment of threads special varieties of needles are naturally required. A surgeon's "housewife" contains needles that would scarcely be recognized as such by the uninitiated. Besides the needles curved in different segments of a circle, surgeons use needles shaped like spears, javelins and bayonet points. Some are as long as bodkins, terminating in a point like a miniature knife blade. Others have the sharpened end triangular, with the apices of the angles sharpened to a razor edge. Some few are formed like ordinary sewing needles, but made of greater tensile strength.

Instead of a thimble a surgeon uses an instrument called a needle bolder. It is shaped like a pair of scissors, the points of which are blunt clamps. The needle is beld fast between the jaws of the clamps until released by opening the two blades as scissors are opened. Then a fresh hold is taken, and the action repeated with every stitch.

A skillful surgeon has perfect command of the needle at all times. There are moments during an operation when well placed stitch means saving the life of a patient. At such times the skillful surgeon displays.a celerity and deftness not surpassed in embroidery.

The surgeon relies upon certain stitches for different needs, just as the dressmaker picks and chooses among the various forms of stitching. The hemstitch, catstitch, whalebone, herringbone, running stitch and back hand so dear to the feminine fingers have their counterparts in the surgeon's mattress suture, interrupted and continuous suture, subcuticular suture, purse string and figure eight sutures, Lembert and Czerney sutures. As the seamstress selects an appropriate stitch for a seam, a buttenhole or an edging, so the surgeon chooses in forming his life saving stitches.

"Is Georgiana a sympathetic friend? "Well, when she praises anything l wear she does it in a way which makes

is simply hideous."

The average duration of marriages is England is 28 years; in France and Jermany, 26; Norway, 24; Russia, 20.

me feel that everything I usually wear

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