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ROLFF -:--:- HOUSE

G. H. BENEDICT. *****

CHAPTER IV. "Well," began the old man, "I don't mind telling what I know about the matter, though I'm afraid you'll find it rather a dry tale, with your appetites all whetted for a recita! of supernatural doings. But it's a strange story, nevertheless. It was long, long ago, during the last years of King George's war with the French and Spaniards, that there came to our village, then a mere hamlet, a tall fine-looking man, richly dressed, who put up at the little Dutch inn that stood on the very spot that this tavern now stands. He remained week after week, and there was brought to him sundry heavy, iron-bound chests containing goods of some weighty char-acter. The curiosity of the good burghers was much excited about this mysterious personage. He was fierce and gloomy at times, and would speak to no one, and then again he would be free and jovial to the extent of spending many a dozen of gold and silver coin, and getting himself and half the good burghers deeply intoxicated. This man gave his name as Magnus Rolff. At times, when in his cups, he would tell the most frightful tales of bloody adventures at sea; so that in time the good people began to regard him as a retired pirate, and this belief seemed confirmed by the number of heavy, strong chests he had brought with him, which no doubt contained the treasures he had acquired in his will ad-

encouraged these stories about himself, it is to be feared, and so they have descended to this day. "But it is not necessary for us to credit them, so I will give you the real history of the man as I have learned it on the best authority. His real name was Rolff Van Buysen, and he belonged to a wealthy family of Holland. His father was a man of great talent, a patron of the arts, and a distinguished public man. But Rolff was a wild boy, and, for some unknown escapade, he fied the country and took to life at sea, and at last came to the colonies. The war with France and Spain broke out, and he shipped in one of the privateers that sailed from our ports to prey on the commerce of the enemy. In this way he led a wild life for years, till he at last become captain of a cruiser himself. It is true that some of these privateers were little better than pirates; but if young Van Buysen was guilty of any crimes against the innocent, ne one knows it now. The tales about him that have floated down to our day are the veriest gossip. But he gained riches by his adventurous life on the high seas; and, once while in the port of New York, returned from a cruise, an event occurred to him that decided ture life. He met a fair maiden, at the first sight of whom he was des-

tures. As Magnus Rolff rather enjoyed

it to have the good people regard him

with dread as well as admiration, he

perately enamored. "He followed her up, discovered her name and whereabouts, and resolved on winning her. She was the daughter of a poor artist, named Lebrun, who had come to this country to ply his art, but found poor remuneration in the rude condition of the colonies and the lack of public taste. But poor as he was, his love for his daughter was greater than his love of money. He was angered at the attentions of the rich, dissipated saflor to his lovely daughter, and, to escape them, he fied with her from the city, and came to this lonely hamlet. But Rolff Van Buysen was not to be baulked. He ferreted out their whereabouts, and followed his sweetheart to this place. He had really succeeded in winning her heart, for he was hardsome and well-educated, and had a strong element of the heroic in his character. So at last the poor artist was fain to give way, and consent to a union for his daughter that he did not approve.

"Magnus Roiff, as he called himself, was married in due time to the fair maiden of his love. In the heydey of his happiness, he resolved on building the finest country house in the whole colony for the keeping of his bride. So Rolff House was built, and a wonderful structure it was in the eyes of the honest burghers. All that is really known of the married life of Agnes Lebrun is that she bore her husband two children, a boy and a girl, and died, Magnus Rolff lived on some years after the death of his wife. He never filled her place, which would seem to be good proof that he loved her truly. Some time after her death, however, he in stalled in Rolff House as its mistress a sister who came from Europe. That sister is the present mistress of Rolff House. She was then a young and handsome woman, of fine education and great force of character, and she soon grew to have absolute control of Rolff House and all its inmates.

"There came a day when Magnus Rolff disappeared from this vicinity, and nobody ever heard of him again, The superstitious said that the devil had come to claim him, according to a bargain by which he had sold his soul for the gold he possessed. This is no doubt the story that our friend backett here would consider most credible. For my part, I can throw no light on the matter. He disappeared that is enough. It was certainly a strange matter; but such disappearances are too common to call for any superstitious explanation of them. He left without leaving any will, or direc-tions for the disposition of his property. His son had grown to manhood, but his daughter had died at an early age. The son married, and lived with his wife at Rolff House, over which, however, Mistress Van Buysen continued to ex-ercise unlimited sway. One son was born to them—the present heir, Claude Van Buysen Rolff—who in course of time was left an orphan. After the death of the father, it appeared that by special deed all the property had been placed in the hands of the aunt, Mistress Van Buysen. She has lived to this day, exercising complete sway at Rolff House. There were, of course, always queer stories about Rolff House; and as she grew old and allowed the

are simply kidney disorders. The kidneys filter the blood of all that shouldn't be filter the blood of all that shouldn't be there. The blood passes through the kidneys 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 doctoring. Stimulation, strengthening or doctoring.
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ncreased, and took the shape that we have heard here to-night. Rolff House is haunted by evil spirits, we are told; old Magnus Rolff had sold himself to the devil, and received his aid in acquiring immense stores of unhallowed treasure; this treasure is protected from all but one single member of the family, who likewise sells himself to the devil; and so Rolff House is given up to hobgoblins and evil report.

"Well, those can believe these stories who choose. I have received and handeled considerably of money from Rolff House, and it has never burnt my hands or my conscience either. I know not how old Magnus Rolff made his money, what murders or outrages he committed, or how many harmless mer chantmen he sent to the bottom. I do know that at that time privateering was a popular pursuit with our daring sailors, and that many of them got rich without a suspicion of crime attaching It was a legal business, to which they were duly commissioned; and there is no reason to suppose that Rolff Van Buysen was anything more than a brave and lucky privateer captain. He probably spent most of his money in dissipation and in the building of Rolff House, and the effort to meet the expenses of a large establishment, and keep up appearances. I believe that financial distresses account for his flight, and for all that seems strange to the world in the history of Rolff House. You gentlemen are entitled to differ from me if you will. Of ourse, I can't explain all the queer sights everybody may have seen at the dead of night about the place. People always will see strange sights around house that is suspected of being haunted. I don't believe any of the superstitious stories about Rolff House. It is simply a fine old mansion gone to decay. I would that I might live to see it restored. You have my story,

gentlemen."
The old man relapsed into silence, and a general shaking of heads showed that his story did not settle all doubts in regard to Rolff House. The landlord was the first to speak

"I think you're about right, Carl," he said, " in regard to the stories about the old place. But I can't agree with you that there has been much lack of money at Rolff House. Why, the bustness and tenements alone must have footed up large sums annually for these many years. No doubt, the old lady has been close, and has a nice little pile saved up for young Master Claude, He'll scatter it, I'll warrant, spite of Old Scotie and all his imps. But now let's drop the subject. I suppose some of you would like to keep up your stories of ghosts and hebgoblins. But it ain't good manners, with that poor old woman lying up there on her deathbed, perhaps; and I won't have it. No of it, gentlemen, to-night." All knew the landlord to be a man o his word, and he was recognized dio-

tator in his own bar-room. So the con-versation turned to other subjects, or, if the forbidden topic was discussed, it was in low and cautious tones. CHAPTER V. On the principal street of Voorhisville

a little white house obtruded itself

boldly out to the line of the unpaved

eidowalk. Over the door, a small sign

Cenuine Carter's Little Liver Pills.

Must Bear Signature of

Breut Good

See Pac-Simile Wrapper Best Very smell and as casy to take as sugar.



CURF SICK HEADACHE.

Minard's Liniment in

bore the inscription, "Anthony say brook, Counsellor-at-Law." Fronting on the street was the office of Mr. Saybrook, and the rest of the of Mr. Saybrook, and by Mr. Saybrook, building was occupied by Mr. Saybrook, son and housekeeper as a domicile. Mr. Saybrook vas one of a trio of lawyers, with which the village was

blessed, for it was the shire town of he section, and drew to it whatever litigation the quiet farming region in-He believed himself to be a great man confined to a petty sphere. In appearance, he was tall and rather lank. His forehead protruded; his thin black hair was sprinkled with grey, and the top of his head showed a small circular bald spot; his nose was rather long and sharp, and there was just the sugges-tion of a roseate tinge at the tip; his eyes were small and wiry; and the ex-

pression was that of restlessness and discontent. On a lounge in the office lolled the younger Saybrook. The young man might have been twenty-two, and had the lank form of his sire without fts more ungainly development. 's fea-tures were also less sharp, and on the whole he was not an unattractive young man, but the experienced eye could easily determine that he would in time grow into a pretty close copy of his

The elder Saybrook had just entered the office and thrown himself into a

chair. "Oh, how tired I am." he whined as he stretc'ed himself in his easy chair. "It is always the old story with me—work, work, think, think, till body and brain are ready to give out. But I don't know as I should complain-I have had a good day's work, Ralph; yes, yes, a good day's work."
"You have drawn up the will, then?"

suggested the young man.
"Yes," was the reply; "It is drawn, signed, sealed, witnessed and recordedthat job is settled. But what a time I have had of it! I am wearled to leath. I carried every point, nowever To be Continued.

THE DISTRICT

MITCHELL'S BAY.

James Murphy is repainting his store and putting up a new verandah.

A. Kellar has the contract. Mr. Pratt, of London, is visiting his daughter, Mrs. B. Houff, and Mrs Wilkinson's sister, of London, is visiting

Mrs. Bert Houff. Mitchell's Bay football team went to Calvin picnic to play Dover Centre team on Friday. Owing to the rain the Dover team did not show up.

EAST BRANCH.

Miss R. Reed, of Wallaceburg, spent Sunday with friends here. Clayton Baughman, of Wallaceburg as an East Branch visitor on Sunday Our football team have been challenged to play against the Wallace-burg team on Wednesday of this week. Owing to the disagreeable day on Friday last, the East Branch S. S. picnic to Walpole Island, has been inde

finitely postponed.

D. Shaw and Miss Shaw and Miss shaw sang at the opening of the new Sunday school at Tupperville on Sunday last. W. Shaw, of Wallaceburg, called or

friends here on Sunday.

J. E. Richardson attended a meeting n Tupperville on Saturday . Mrs. G. Mickle, Miss F. Richardso and Miss M. Booth, will take up the quarterly review lesson in the Sunday school on Sunday afternoon.

"DRINK GRANO, CEREAL COF-

CHARING CROSS.

The large barn raising which every person has been looking forward to took place last Thursday on the farm of A. Wright. There was great excitement caused by Mr. Wright promising the winning captain a pair of kid gloves. John Earley was the win-

Alex. Robertson, of St. Thomas, for merly of this place, is renewing old ac-quaintances here and at Fargo. Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, of Ridgetown, spent Sunday with Mrs. Wil-son's mother, Mrs. John Hunter. Mrs. I. H. Smith is visiting her sis er, Mrs. McEachern, in Battle Creek,

Mich Mrs. Lee, of Toledo, O., is visiting Mrs. Weaver, of this place. Robert Wilson visited friends in Tilbury Sunday and reports the lightning having done great damage in those

parts.

Miss T. Earley, who has been in London Hospital for treatment, has com-pletely recovered and returned home Saturday West had a valuable sheep killed by lightning on Saturday night. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Drewery are all

-it's a son Miss Green, of St. Thomas, who has been visiting at Jas. Rarle's, Con. 11, Raleigh, has returned home. On Monday, the 23rd inst., the Man-dolin Club, of Chatham, will attend a strawberry and ice cream social at the home of J. Mann, of Harwich. A good

time is expected.

Court Charing Cross, No. 1302, will attend divine service in the Methodist Church on Sunday evening, 22nd inst. The Misses Meloche entertained a few of their friends to an ice cream party Thursday evening. Everybody enjoyed themselves.

Geo. Earley is spending a few days in London on business. Frank Hunter was the guest of Mr. Mr. Roe, of Guilds, last Sunday. Rev. Mr. George, formerly of this place, but now of Granton, O., spent a few days here among friends last

T. B. Sanders, of St. Thomas, spent few days with A. Meloche last week. Mr. and Mrs. D. McEachren were Mr. and Mrs. D. McEachren were
Manle City guests last week.
Monday morning Mr. Chas. Jacobs
received a telegram stating that his
uncle, Mr. Lewis, had passed away to
the Great Beyond. Mr. Lewis is a
brother of Mrs. Skinner, one of the
oldest residents of this place. What is

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