

One evening as Sémillante began to become more content, the mother seized upon an idea, an idea, wild, vindictive, ferocious. She gloated over it until the morning; then astir since day-break, she went to church. Prostrate on the pavement she prayed God to aid her, to sustain her, to give her poor lifeless body the strength that was necessary to avenge her son. Then, she went home. In the yard there was an old barrel, which caught the water from the eaves. She threw it down, emptied it, and fastened it to the ground by means of stakes and stones. She then chained Sémillante to this kennel and went indoors.

She now walked restlessly in her room with her eyes fixed always on the Sardinian coast. The assassin was there. The dog howled all night and all day. In the morning the old woman gave her some water in a bowl, but nothing more; not a scrap of meat, nor a morsel of bread. The day passed. Sémillante slept from sheer exhaustion. The next day her eyes were on fire, her hair stood erect and she tugged and strained at the chain. Still the old woman gave her nothing. The animal became furious and kept baying hoarsely, yet another night passed.

*(To be concluded.)*

#### MAYNE REID.

Mayne Reid was born in the north of Ireland, in the year 1818. His father was a Presbyterian minister and had his son educated for the church but as Reid did not like the idea of settling down to the regular life of a clergyman, he went to America at the age of twenty to make his fortune.

He landed at New Orleans and set out to begin an adventurous life in the prairies and forests of the New World. Among his many journeys he made trapping excursions on the Red River and on the Missouri, and had a good opportunity of studying the manners and customs of the Indians about whom he was to write.

When war broke out in 1845 between the United States and Mexico, he volunteered and received a lieutenant's commission in a New

York regiment. He fought throughout this campaign with great courage, especially at the taking of Chapultepec, a castle in the valley of Mexico. A party of soldiers had advanced to storm the castle, but they halted before reaching it, the fire from the castle being very heavy, so Reid asked leave to join the storming-party with his Grenadiers and Marines. He received permission to advance and by his aid the castle was won against greatly superior numbers.

In 1849, he raised a body of men in New York and offered his services to the Hungarian Insurgents, but before he could join them he received word that the insurrection was over, so he went to England. He settled down there with the rank of a captain in the American army, and in 1849 began his series of interesting stories of adventure with the Rifle Rangers, followed the next year by the "Scalp Hunters." His intimate knowledge of the Indians and his actual experiences in the places about which he writes, make his books far more useful and interesting than ordinary novels, besides, the many facts which are mixed up with the fiction give one some idea of the country and people about which he is writing, without any effort of memory on the reader's part.

The "Rifle Rangers," the "Scalp Hunters" and the "White Chief," are generally conceded to be his best works. The "Scalp Hunters" is a romance of Northern Mexico. It opens in St. Louis and from there the hero travels southward to Mexico with a band of "Prairie Merchants," who have many exciting adventures on the journey. The story develops more fully when they reach Mexico and to the very end the interest never flags.

The detailed knowledge of the places and Indians which the author displays in this work was probably obtained when he fought in the campaign between the United States and Mexico for, unless he had some such practical acquaintance with his subject, he could never have drawn such true and interesting pictures of Indian life.

The great Sahara Desert is the land about which the "Boy Slaves" is written. The heroes are three midshipmen and a sailor who get wrecked on the