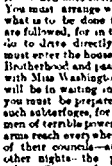
CÆSAR'S COLUMN.

IN the meantime I will bring Estella to my room; you can then post together and boldly advance to your carriage. You will first have to agree with Maximilian where it will stand,



and the guard at the door will show you to it. When once in it, drive like the wind. You must arrange with Maximilian as to what is to be done in case you find you are followed, for in that event it will not do to drive directly to his house. You must enter the house of some one of the Brotherhood and pass rapidly through it, with Miss Washington, to a carriage that will be in waiting on a rear street. And you must be prepared with arms or some such subterfuge, for you are dealing with men of terrible power and cunning, whose arms reach every where; and on the night of their councils—and in fact upon all other nights—the place abounds with spies. Come with me and I will show the garden and how to enter it."

I was struck with the intelligence, sagacity and executive capacity of the man; and I said to him:

"How comes it that you, holding such a position of trust and power, where your [illegible] as well you can ask

"GO TO HER AND BRING HER HERE," HE SAID."

ars, at the same time, a member of a society which, if I understand aright, threatens to overturn the existing order of things. You are not driven to rebellion by want or oppression."

"No," he said; "I was educated at Heidelberg; I come of a wealthy family; but in my youth, while an enthusiastic lover of liberty and humanity, I became a member of a German branch of this now universal Brotherhood. But my membership, by a strange accident, became known, and I was forced to fly in darkness, dissevered by my relatives, to America. Here I lived in great poverty for a time, until the Brotherhood came to my assistance and secured me a servant's place in this house. I have steadily risen to my present position. While I am not so enthusiastic as I once was, nor so sanguine of the good results of the promised revolution of the *proletariat*, I have nevertheless seen enough within these walls to show me the justice of our cause and the necessity for some kind of reformation. I could not draw back now, if I desired to; and I do not know that I would if I could. We are all moving together on the face of the torrent, and whither it will eventually waft us no one can tell. But come," he added, "to the garden, or our long conversation may be noticed, and arouse suspicion."

CHAPTER VIII.

THE BROTHERHOOD.

I cannot give you, my dear brother, a detailed account of every day's occurrences, although I know that your love for me would make every incident of my servitude to you. I shall, however, jot down my reflections on sheets, and send them to you as occasion serves.

The more I have seen, and the more I have conversed with Maximilian, the more clearly I perceive that the civilized world is on a degrade extremity. This Brotherhood of Destruction, with its terrible purposes and its vast numbers, is a reality. If the ruling class fail to deal only with a brutalized peasantry, as they did in other ages, trample them in the mire, and by their ability to organize and defend themselves. But the public school system, which, with the other forms of the Republic, is still kept up, has made, if not all, at least a very large percentage of the happy laboring classes intelligent. In fact, they are wonderfully intelligent; their organizations have been to them clubs debating societies and legislatures. Their hard fortunes have driven out of their minds all illusions, all temptations, all poetry; and in a stern fashion they have bent themselves to the grim and silent struggle with their environment. Without being unjust, I say, for this seems to me to be a world without a song.

And it is to the credit of these great masses that they are keen enough to recognize the use of ability that rose up among them, and even out of their poor, hard-earned resources to relieve them of the necessity for daily toil, that they may devote themselves to the improvement of their minds, and the execution of the great tasks assigned them. There is no doubt that if the ruling classes had been willing to recognize the natural leaders as men of the same race, blood, vigor, and sympathy as themselves, and had reached down to them as belonging and kindly hand, there might have been a vigorous assembling together of the two great divisions of society, and such a re-adjustment of the various relations as would have insured happiness; though what, in that case, would become of the sympathy of those above. But the events which preceded the great war against the aristocracy, as in Paris, in England, the great revolution of 1793, in France, and the greater civil war of 1861, in America, all show how impossible it is, by any process of reasoning, to induce a privileged class to peacefully yield up a single tittle of its advantages. They are hugged by so blind or intense as that of caste.

I learn from Maximilian that their organization is nearly intact. Every one of their hundred millions is now armed with one of the new at improved magazine rifles. The use of which reduces very much the size of the cartridge. The bullets are also much smaller than they were formerly, but they are each charged with a most deadly and powerful explosive which tears the body of the victim at strikes to pieces. These small cartridges are stored in the steel stalk and barrel of the rifles, which will hold six or one hundred of them, and every soldier therefore carries in his hand a weapon almost equal to the old time firing or Armstrong gun.

The more I study these guns the more powered shows the marvellous nature of the organization and its resources. Finding that the cost of the guns was greatly increased by the profits of the manufacturer and the middleman, and that it was in fact very doubtful whether the government would permit them to purchase them in large quantities, they resolved to make for themselves. In the depths of abandoned coal mines, in the wildest and most mountainous part of Tennessee, they established, years ago, their armories and foundries. Here, under prisons of coal mining and iron working, they brought members of their Brotherhood, workmen from the national gun works; and these, teaching hundreds of others the craft, and working day and night, in double gangs, have toiled until every able-bodied man in the whole vast Brotherhood, in America and Europe, has been supplied with his weapon and a full accompaniment of ammunition. The cost of all this was not small to the millions, and has been paid for by each member of the Brotherhood setting aside each week a small percentage of his earnings. But, lest they should break out prematurely, before the leaders gave the word, these guns have not been delivered directly to their owners, but to the "comman-lers of tens," as they are called; for the Brotherhood is divided into groups of ten each, and it is the duty of these commanders to carry the weapons and ammunition to the earth in rubber sacks, furnished for the purpose, and only to deliver them where the signal comes to strike. In the meantime the men are trained with sticks in all the evolutions of soldiers. You can see how cunning is the system. A traitor cannot betray more than nine of his fellows, and his own death is certain to follow. If the commander of a squad goes over to the enemy, he can but deliver up nine men and ten guns, and perhaps reveal the supposed name of the next man who, in a dozen, has communicated with him from the parent society. But when the signal is given a hundred million trained soldiers will stand side by side, armed with the most efficient weapon in the cunning of man, and directed by a man in whom is produced, and by several authority of extraordinary ability. Above all the dreadful preparation the merry world goes on, singing and dancing, marrying and giving in marriage, a thoughtless of the impending catastrophe as were the people of Pompeii in those pleasant August days in 79, just before the city was buried in ashes.

I tremble, my brother, I tremble with horror when I think of what is crawling toward us, with noiseless steps—penchant, silent, treacherous, pantlike scarcy rustling the dry leaves as it moves, and yet with bloodshot, glaring eyes and tense, drawn limbs of steel, ready for the fatal spring. When comes it? To night? To-morrow? A week hence? Who can say? God is not at fault. Nature is not at fault. Material Civilization is rapidly increasing human powers in its [illegible] But human greed, the insatiable human greed, shallow cunning, the lowest stuff of human nature, selfish instincts, these have done their work. The rare know too much to guess through the sudden rising of the deep that carries with it the whole wise men. The world have retained as in the walls of sand in a thousand places, to the thickness of tissue paper, and the great ocean stands ready to burst in at every spare. And so like here and here, these modest laugh, if safety and triumph are to the roar of it, crowds and bound less waters, just ready to overwhelm them forever.

Full of these thoughts, which will not permit me to sleep at night, and which haunt my waking hours, I have come about, for some days accompanied by Maximilian, and have attended meetings of the Brotherhood in all parts of the city. The ruling class long since denied them the privilege of free speech, under the pretense that the safety of society required it. In doing so they have screwed down the safety valve, while the steam continues to generate. Hence the men meet to discuss their wrongs and their powers in under ground cellars, underdid ruined breweries and warehouses; and there, in large, low roofed apartments, lighted by tallow candles, flaring against the dark, damp, smoky walls, the swarming masses assemble, to indulge each other mutually against their oppressors, and to look forward, with many a secret hint and innuendo, to that great day of wrath and revenge which they know to be near at hand.

"And with pale lips men say,
To morrow, perhaps to-house,
Knee-laden may arise!"

But as any member is permitted to bring in a friend, for these are not meetings of the Brotherhood itself, but simply voluntary gatherings of workmen, and as any Brotherhood, which I will translate to you. The number of individuals in any one Working week in the Brotherhood, by our names, but by the numbers such as white we became members. Listen.

From number 2,564 M. J. S. N. [illegible] P. [illegible] Dated this 2d [illegible] house of the undersigned No. 2,564.

That said Maximilian, as we [illegible] Prince Chame. He continued to read [illegible] startling [illegible] [illegible] ass [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]