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ROLFF -:--:- HOUSE

G. H. BENEDICT.

******* CHAPTER XXIV. Lack of energy was not a character-istic of dawyer Saybrook. Having re-solved on carrying out the scheme which involved the repair and restora-tion of Rolff House, he proceeded about

the business with a nervous, restless, fretful energy peculiar to him.

As he had anticipates, he found that there existed a prejudice among the me. chanics and workingmen of the place against having anything to do with the old house. Few would confess that they were superstitious or timid enough they were superstitious of timid enough to be afraid of the ghosts, if any there existed, in broad daylight, yet all seemed to have a convenient excuse for not engaging in the lawyer's employ. It was evident that the mysterious death of Leb. Sackett was not forgotten, and that the popular mind was disposed to take the most superstitious view of that

tragic occurrence.

The lawyer's task was not rendered any easier by the action of old Car. Crum. That worthy had of late fallen into one of his freaks of visiting Ronk's into one of his freaks of visiting Ronk's bar-room of an evening, where of course the proposed changes at Rolff House formed one of the chief topics of gossip. Over pipe and toddy, many were the wonderful stories revived or invented in regard to the old mansion. Old Carl would six and listen to these leaning would sit and listen to these, leaning back in his chair, has head sunk on his chest and half hid y his round, broad choulders, while his red face and keen blue eyes, framed in by his floating, frowsy white hair and beard, and half seen through the veil of smoke from his short pipe, gave him the appearance of some old magician, whose occult knowledge might well extend to whatever was mysterious and unaccountable. But when appealed to for his opinion on any of the superstitious tales in regard to the old mansion, the old fellow would simply reply with a grave shake of the head, which seemed to indicate that he wasn't disposed to reveal what he knew about the matter. Only once did he open his lips on the subject.

It was late one evening. The barpany were several who had been ap-proached by the lawyer with a view to engage their services in the repairs at Rolff House. Of course, the conversation was directed to that all-important

"Well, for my part," said one of the oracles—a pursy, downright little man, who spent most of his abundant spare time in the bar-room—waving his right hand energetically as he talked, "I wouldn't go near that old house for any money-no, not for all the treasure there is in the great vault, that old Magnus Rolff sold his soul for. No gentlemen -no, sir. And why?"

"Perhaps because you are afraid you might have to do some work," replied the landlord, sarcastically.

There was a titter from a few of the "No, sir, no, sir," replied the little more serious in his manner; "because, sir, there's no telling when old Magnus Roiff may be let loose from the infernal regions to visit his treasures in the old Who wants to meet him? I

don't, gentlemen. Leb. Eackett's fate is warning enough for me," "Pooh!" said a large, red-whiskered, pleasant-faced man, one of the few skeptics in the place in regard to the stories told about Rolff House.

believes that story?" "I do," responded the little man promptly. "There's no doubt about it.

He's been seen more than once. It's gospel truth, gentlemen. Here—I'll leave it to old Carl." The old man was accustomed to these appeals; but of late, as has been said, had replied only with a grave shake of

the head, which, however, was more effective than words in confirming the impression as to his knowledge of the alleged mysterious events. On this occasion, however, he chose to speak. "All I have to say in reply to the question of our friend," he said, "is

that if anything couuld rouse old Magnus Rolff from his grave—if he ever had a grave—it would be for that precious rascal, Anthony Saybrook, or any of his agents, to enter Rolff House for the purpose of despoiling it." Saying this, the old man settled back

in his chair again, and resumed his smoking. His words produced an impression, and were quoted about the village next day in an exaggerated form to the effect that old Carl had prophesied that if any attempt was made to enter the old house the spirit of Magnus Rolff would be roused from his grave to resist it.

Spite of all the reluctance he found among those whom he approached on the subject, to engaging in his employ to assist in repairing Rolff House, Anthony Saybrook did not grow dis-couraged. He well knew the powers of persistency, flattery and ridicule, and employed them with all his skill. Some he coaxed into acceptance, others he ridiculed so unsparingly for their cowardice that they were fain to give way at last, while a few were not half disposed to believe in the ghost stories, and were ready enough to accept his

So the work of restoring and repairing was begun at Rolff House. A force of laborers was put to work in improving the grounds, while carpenters and masons entered the old house to com-

mence their labors there. It was Anthony Saybrook's design to materially change the old house, but simply to put it in good repair. The walls and frame were as substantial as ever, and needed but little attention. It was evident enough that most of the workmen entered the old house with reluctance, and that they were prepared to witness some strange developments. Even had nothing mysterisus occurred, some of the more timid or superstitious, ander the strain of nervous expectation, would probably have fancied ere long that they heard or saw samething out of the usual way. But something did occur.

The first forencon's work in Rolff flouse had not passed by before all present in the house were alert and listenish to a mysterious sound that with rejuctance, and that they were

is a symptom of Kidney
Disease. A well-known
doctor has said, "I never
yet made a post-mortem examination in a case of death
from Heart Disease without finding the kidneys
were at fault." The Kidney
medicine which was first on the market, most success-ful for Heart Disease and all Kidney Troubies, and most widely imitated is

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muffled, peculiar boom, that was heard at regular intervals, and soon began to attract attention and remark. It was not loud, and yet it seemed to penetrate every part of the great building, and to be heard above the sound of the tools in use. Perhaps the senses of the hearers were sharper from a sort of nervous dread and expectation, but certain it is that everybody was soon at the tools in the tools in the tools in the tools in use. Perhaps the senses of the hearers were sharper from a sort of nervous dread and expectation, but certain it is that everybody was soon to counteracted, and either the true cause of the mysterious occurrences at Rolff House discovered, or the matter plausibly explained, his plans for the repair of the old house would be completely of a supernatural origin to the occurrences at Rolff House discovered, or the matter plausibly explained, his plans for the repair of the old house would be completely of the old house was of too cold, skeptical and the old house was of the old house would be completely of the old house was of the old house was nearers were snarper from a sort of nervous dread and expectation, but cer-tain it is that everybody was soon aware that they could not distract their attention from the strange sound. All aware that they could not distract their attention from the strange sound. All day long, at regular intervals of two or Carl Crum is at the bottom of the whole three minutes, it was heard. It did not three minutes, it was heard. It did not seem to be in any particular part of the house, but this might have been

more apparent than real, owing to the nervousness of the listeners.

Everybody knows the power of a low, regular, unusual sound, occurring in the night, to work on the sensibilities of a nervous or timid person. Much the same effect was produced on the less courageous of the workmen by the myscourageous of the workmen by the mysterious sound. All day long it did not vary in intensity or in the regular monotony of its occurrence, but, to the sensitive nerves of those who attributed it to some supernatural cause, it gradually, as the close of the day drew of seemed to assume a deeper and mosseemed to assume a deeper and mosseement if not menacing tone.

That night the strange sound that had been heard in Rolff House was the talk of the village, and the more timid workmen had their fears wrought on

by the warnings and prognostications of evil they heard on every hand. The next day not half of the workmen appeared to resume their labors at Rolf House. A number of them, however-made their appearance, quite resolved not to be easily frightened. They went to work, and the mysteri-

ous sound was heard as before. By noon, the panic had been communicates to others, and they did not return, and before night still others had left their posts. The next day, the building was practically deserted. practically deserted.

CHAPTER XXV.

This interruption of his plans was extremely annoying to the lawyer, who had been sent for when matters reached the crisis previously narrated. The workmen were gathered at a safe dis-tance from the old mansion. It was in vain that he interceded with them. All were inclined to attribute it to some supernatural means, save one man-the red-bearded, jovial fellow, who had sneered at the superstitious tales about the old house in the bar-room of Ronk's tavern a few evenings before. He was a carpenter—a burly, good-natured, sceptical, fearless man; and now, having recovered his presence of mind, he was disposed to ridicule the fears of his

fellow workmen.
"Soho," he exclaimed, "we are to be frightened from our work by spooks, are we? For my part, I believe some chap is down there in the cellar trying make fools of us, and if any man dare go with me, we will go down and

rout him out." Not a man ventured to accept this effer, spite of his taunts of cowardice;

and at length he said: "Well, if no one will go with me, will go alone. Pah! you're all bables to be frightened by ghost stories. There's some rascal in that house has been playing tricks on us. But I'll about the beautiful tricks on us. show him he can't frighten me. If he's in there yet, I'll find him out."

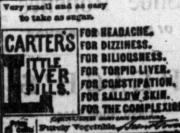
So saying he boldly entered the half again, seized a candle that had been left burning, and started down to search the lower rooms, while his companions waited outside in consternation at his daring actions.

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He had not been gone over nve min-nies, however, when he appeared again. Rushing out of the house, with white countenance and evidently in mortal terror, he paused on reaching the group of his comrades, who gathered around him and eagerly besought him to tell

him and eagerly besought him to tell what he had seen. It was some seconds before he could regain control enough of himself to speak. At last he said:

"What a fool and coward I am! But, upon my soul, I couldn't help it. They tell no lies about that house. As I am a living man, when I got down in that gloomy old basement I saw somebody who must be the spirit of old Magnus Rolff or else the very Devil himself. I wasn't mistaken. It was no human be-

Roiff or else the very Devil himself. I wasn't mistaken. It was no human being. For my part, I won't go in that house again except in the daylight to get my tools. I've had enough of it."

This confirmation of all their fears by one who had been so bold to deny and investigate, increased the consternation of the workmen, and all resolved to abandon their work at once, and not to resume it. Their return to the village, and the strange steries they had to tell, of course caused a great sensation. It of course caused a great sensation. It was the only topic of gossip that evening, and the excitement and interest grew as the news spread.

This sudden breaking up of his plans

in regard to Rolff House caused the lawyer to set all his wits to work. He was shrewd enough to see at once that unless the public delusion could be counteracted, and either the true cause of the mysterious counteractes at Rolff

matter. I have had my eye on him for some time for fear he would do some mischief, and I know he has been lurking around Rolff House a good deal. I have heard that he took pains to create the impression that there would be trouble in the house if anybody dared to enter it to carry out my objects; and the inference is very plain that he has engineered this whole ghost business. I do not know but that he may have an object—a serious object, too; for I have always been more .han half suspicious that he was a party in some way to the old lady's secret instructions to Claude. My inference is that he is a sort of private guardian of the old vault, perhaps vate guardian of the old vault, perhaps with secret instructions, and that is one reason why I have hesitated to have anything to do with it. At any rate, we must unravel this mystery. It is delaying our plans, and threatens to defeat them. I am excessively annoyed, Ralph. After all our good luck, it seems shameful that we should be delayed and bothered in this ridiculous way. I wish bothered in this ridiculous way. I wish I had a good man to employ in this matter, but there is none; and we must trust in ourselves. Now what is the

To be Continued.

THAMESVILLE. son's sister, Mrs. Humbert Graves.

Mrs. Jas. Hubbell and children are

spending a few days in Detroit.

Born-To-day, at J. N. Harmer's, to
Mr. and Mrs. F. Lindley, of Cedar Springs, a daughter. Miss Alice Thompson, of Detroit, is visiting her parents here.

C. Firth, of London, is in town to-

Mart. Featherstone, of Detroit, is spending his vacation with relatives Duncan Bell, of London, is in town Captain Alex. Gordon, of Embro, is

the guest of F. J. Mayhew and other riends here. Alonzo Duval had a very narrow Alonzo Duval had a very narrow escape from death by lightning during to-day's storm. Mr. Duval was cultivating when the lightning struck the horse, killing it instantly and passing along the cultivator, tore the sole off Mr. Duval's shoe and threw him to the ground. While badly shaken up he was not severely injured and is rapidly recovering from the ed, and is rapidly recovering from the

Carrier boys are not authorized to collect subscriptions. Our collector calls in each town once a month; if a subscriber wishes to pay his account before the collector calls he must remit direct to The Planet Office, Chatham, as we will not be responsible for nonies maid to earriers.

RUTHERFORD.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey MacDonell visited friends in Florence recently.

Joseph Anderson, cattle buyer, of Wabash, was in this town last week.
Thomas Irwin, Thamesville, cattle buyer, was in this vicinity recently. There is talk of the farmers buying a complete outfit for threshing. One \$100. This move of the threshers is likely to result, in the future, to their wn detriment. Their is talk of getting His Ma-

jesty's mail changed.

If the weather clears up crops will be grand here.
Mrs. Tily has returned home from

Sarnia. Mr. Vinning, from near London, Percy Farrell visited friends here

Mike Burns and his mother were ditched near the 4th concession by a wild horse last week. They fortunately escaped without being hurt. Andy O'Donell has now a nice block of land by his recent purchase. Council met here Saturday, the 28th. Electric railway men were here to buy and push right of way. The socual held here last week was a grand success

grand success.
The football match between Oil Springs and our boys was a draw.

James Burns, of Maple Grove, visited Oil Springs recently.

It is only reason that teaches silence; the heart teaches us to speak.—Richter.

The Letter-Box

QUESTION OF RATE.

The following letter to the Globe The following self-explanatory: June 36th, 1902.

Editor the Globe, Toronto: Dear Sir,-In your editorial columns Saturday, commenting upon remarks made by the London Daily Mail regarding postal arrangements, you say, "Why should we raise the rate on American periodicals?" I beg to submit the following reasons:

First-From the point of view of a book seller or news agent. By carry-

ties discriminate against local book-sellers and news agents all over the Dominion. For example, take an American monthly ten-cent magazine. A Canadian can send his dollar for a vearly subscription direct to the publisher, and thereby deprives the local merchant of whatever discount the latter would get if the subscription was paid through him. The discount goes to the publisher, and is clear gain outside of the infitesimal fraction he has to pay the American postal authorities for carrying his

lication for boys all girls, or have they to read St. N holas and the Youth's Companion I Look over Canada's literary cemetery and see the graves of Massey's Magazine. The Canadian Home Magazine, the Com all over our country. These have oc-cupied the field, and Canadian monthly literature is positively nil. tion to his local bookseller, or send it direct to the publisher plus the

Yours truly.

MITCHELL'S BAY.

Mr. Ahl, of Buffalo, has bought site at the Bay, and is going to build a five thousand dollar bath house and dancing pavilion.

Marshal Graydon and brother, of

July 4.—Ira Ferguson and wife, of London, were visitors at the Bay, fishing for a couple of days. Mr. Belisle has moved his family he Bay from Dover South. Charles Mount and Mr. Schoenith, were at the Bay last week in the in-

terests of the Chatham Brewing Co. A. Peterkin, 13 concession, boring for water got a large flow of gas, and has connected the well with his house for heating and lighting pur-

Our village band is now fully organized and are practising once a in Raymond's Hall.

S. S. NO. 7 HARWICH.

The following is a report of the standing of the pupils of S. S. No. 7, Harwich, as shown by the June examnations:

Ju .- Sr. IV-Cora Saddington, Stel-Ju.—Sr. IV.—Cora Saddington, Stella Watson, Stella Burnham.
Class III.—IV.—Marks to pass 600.—
John Spencer 644, Virgil Woofenden 613, Marvel Patterson 588, Lloyd Woofenden, 470, Mary Padbury 403, Tillie Busteed 358.

Watson 212.
Part II.—Class II.—Orville Whittington, Stanley Burnham.
Part I.-II.-George Whittington,
Ella Hildreth, Jennie Clements. S. J. ROWE, Teacher.

APPLEDORE.

spending a few days, the guest of Miss Jennie McKerrall. A very successful ice strawberry social was held in the Lindsay Road Methodist church on

Tuesday evening, June 24.

Rev. Mr. Johnston preached his fare-well sermon to a large congregation on Sunday evening.
Mr. and Mrs. William Wells ,who Mr. and Mrs. William Wells who have been spending a few days at the residence of J. V. Shaw, returned to their home at Kimpall on Monday. Samuel Craven has Messrs Smith and Brown, of Thorncliffe; engaged in drilling for water, but as yet has not

day from St. Joseph's hospital ,much improved in health. The infant child of Mrs. Taylor has been ill for the past week.

Miss Josie Langan returned to
St. Joseph's hospital on Wednesday, to
resume her duties as nurse, after
spending the past two weeks with her
parents here.

Miss Cecil Higgs is spending a few
days visiting friends in Dresden.

Mrs. Wm. Noltie returned on Satur-

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Avegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stone and Bowels of INFANTS CHILDREN ing American periodicals at the pres-ent rate, the Canadian postal authori-Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opnum, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC.

postal authorities for carrying his magazine in bulk quantities.

Second—From a national Canadian point of view. Can you tell me the name of a periodical published in the Dominion outside of the Canadian Magazine? Is there a Canadian published. monwealth, and all the other that were buried prior to these, and then see the flood of American Magazines No one will find fault with United States magazines being ultra.Ameri can; but it cannot be contradicted that they are offensively anti-Canadian and anti-British on far too many occasions. Why should the Canadian post office lend itself to furthering the Americanizing of Canada in this manner? I say most emphatically let it be stopped—let American magazines pay a much higher rate than at present, postage on every copy in fact—and if a Canadian wants to read them, let him pay the subscrip-

Periodicals are a part of the na tional life, and as such Canada needs them badly. I trust this matter will be agitated, and that other readers of the Globe will give their views.

The Planet has received an anonymous letter from Mitchell's Bay re a football game in Dover. This journal does not publish such letters and if the writer wishes the letter to appear in these columns he must forward his name to The Planet.

Class II.-III.-Marks to pass 480 .-Frank Burnham 551, Frances North-ridge 480, Helen McEcheran 360, Joe Whittington 313, Sarah Pick 295, John Padbury, 287, Fred Johnson 266, Neil

Miss Lena Bullis, of Chatham, is

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