

The Spanish Treasure.

A NOVEL.

By Mrs. Elizabeth C. Winter.

(ABELLA CASTELAR.)

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CHAPTER I.

A DANGEROUS CURSE.

Stanley's amazement was comic. Notwithstanding his recent experience with Dolores, and the fact that he was practicing what he called "the modern operandi" of mesmerism, he had no thought of the possibility of throwing Van Tassel into a trance; but, after his first momentary surprise, he was quick to see that the chance which had befallen him might be made to prove a very lucky one. Although he was profoundly ignorant on the subject of psychology in all its phases, he had, as he would have said, "picked up something of the jargon," and this he now proceeded to make use of.

He brought a couple of pillows from a sofa; and, having placed them under the professor's head, in order, as he told himself, that "poor old Van shouldn't get a crick in his neck," he drew a chair in front of him, sat down so that he could keep his gaze on the worn, pale, unconscious face, and began to catechise him in a low, insistent tone.

"Are you asleep?" he asked. To this there was, at first, no reply. Stanley saw the speaker's face twitch and lips unclose in the effort to speak, but no sound issued therefrom. He repeated the question at intervals of a minute, and when this had been done several times Van Tassel's voice was suddenly heard, clear and distinct, but sounding as though it came from a distance. The effect was weird and startling, as if speech had suddenly proceeded from a galvanized corpse, and the words were calculated to increase this effect.

"I am outwardly asleep, but my spirit is fully awake and willing to help you."

Stanley's heart bounded with triumph. He felt that his experiment was becoming very interesting.

"Can you read this parchment?" he asked, indicating the mysterious cipher.

"All that is written or traced on that side we have already made out; the key to it will be found in the manuscript now in the possession of the Senorita Mendosa."

"What manuscript?" exclaimed Stanley, for he could not remember having spoken to Van Tassel on that subject. "I have said nothing about a manuscript."

"No; but you are thinking of it at this moment, and I am now in communication with your mind, so that I can read your inmost thoughts."

Stanley involuntarily recoiled with such force as to send his chair backward several feet. What man, even of the most pure and noble mind, would be willing to submit his inmost thoughts to another? The situation was particularly startling to the Honorable Clarence Stanley. A faint smile passed over the professor's face, and his next words had a touch of satire to the ear of his listener.

"Don't be alarmed," Van Tassel continued; "I shall know nothing of all this when I return to ordinary consciousness. Go on, get all the information you can; it is not safe to keep me in this condition too long."

Stanley drew a breath of relief, and hastened to put his ideas into the form of questions.

"How can I gain possession of that manuscript?"

"To do so will be difficult, perhaps impossible; but you have already spoken to Polly Hamilton about being present when the manuscript is read. That is your opportunity. You must arrange the details yourself."

"Can't you tell me what the manuscript contains?"

"I can tell you nothing except what is either mirrored in your own mind or connected with some object in this room. My vision does not travel, it cannot leave the atmosphere controlled by your thoughts. I can feel that the manuscript is connected with the cipher, because both are in your mind."

"And the cipher, then? Can you tell me no more of that?"

"Look on the other side of the parchment."

Stanley seized the parchment eagerly, and turned it over.

"It is blank," he said, with an accent of bitter disappointment; "there is nothing on it at all—not a line—not a mark."

"Apparently so, and yet I can see it clearly covered with fine writing. Hold it for a few moments before the fire."

Feeling very much as if he was in a dream or had passed into a new existence, Clarence Stanley did as he had been directed, and to his amazement he saw, under the action of the glowing heat sent out by the blazing coals, words after word and lines after line of fine writing come into existence on the hitherto blank side of the parchment.

"Of course he understood the mystery in a moment. The writing had been done by means of some chemically prepared ink, visible only under the action of heat. The writing was so fine and close—the space of parchment being small—that he was obliged to find a magnifying glass before he could read it. This took some time, and when he had tried the glass he found the writing already so faded and indistinct that he could with difficulty make out a word or two, which only served to show him that the language

was Spanish, the same as headed the mysterious cipher on the other side. "Confound the man who invented this puzzle," he thought. "But, no! I won't say that either; for if it had been a simple one it would not have remained for me to discover it."

With the magnifying glass in hand, he once more took the piece of parchment to the fire, and as the writing again appeared, he read it word by word, slowly thinking out the English equivalent as each line of the Spanish writing was traced before him by the action of the fire. Having come to the last word, his face flushed with triumph even more than by the glow of the coals, he seated himself by the table, and made, first, a copy of the writing in Spanish and, afterward, an English translation of the same.

To do this had been a difficult and tedious task, and more than once, as the parchment cooled and the ink faded, he had been obliged to leave off to recover the writing by the magic of heat; but at last it was completed, and the well-hidden secret, translated into English, read as follows:

"The spot is twelve paces from a sycamore-tree, out of whose roots grow twelve separate arms (or trunks, perhaps). On the arm (or one of the trunks) is cut the rude outline of an Indian woman, the much-wronged ancestress of the American Mendosas. There the treasure was buried on the night of October 12, 1793, by a descendant of the Indian princess and her treacherous husband. It is believed that her spirit guards the spot. The treasure can only be found by true descendants of the Mendosas. It can only be rightfully possessed by true heirs, male and female, mutually beloved and joined together in lawful wedlock. This secret can only be read by a Mendosa. To all others this parchment is a blank. Every true Mendosa inherits in some form the birthmark of our Spanish ancestry, and in some degree the mystic, spiritual gifts of our Indian ancestry. To that heir who discovers this treasure, and whose heart is honest and his soul pure, be blessing and honor and all happiness in its possession; but to that heir who wrongfully acquires this treasure, and whose heart is deceitful and his soul impure, may it bring sorrow and loss and all the train of evils cast abroad by the wrong done to the Indian woman from whom we are descended."

The drawing of a little flower, whose star-like blossom seemed to tremble on its slender stem, completed the hidden message of the parchment, and under it was written the word "Asasoa," through which was drawn an Indian arrow.

"Well," exclaimed Stanley, as he leaned back in his chair, "all the indications point me out as the true heir! I have deciphered the cryptograph! I have discovered the mysteriously hidden message! I bear on my brow the birthmark of the Mendosas, and apparently I possess some mystic gift, or I couldn't so readily have thrown the learned professor into a trance—though of all my claims to this last one pleases me least; unless, indeed, it proves valuable in giving me control over that beautiful Spanish girl!"

"The reflection drew his attention again to the still unconscious Professor Van Tassel; but he failed to see that the man's face showed even paler, more worn and pinched than it had yet looked, while his eyes were so deeply sunken and turned upward under their closed lids that they seemed almost lost in the sockets.

"I have made out the whole story," said Stanley gayly, as he placed his hand on the parchment, from which the appearance of the writing had again faded quite away, and here I have the whole secret of the Mendosa treasure at the tips of my fingers."

"I know it, I have followed you through it all," answered Van Tassel. His voice was very faint and sounded further away than when he had last spoken, but Stanley's own senses were so sharpened by excitement, that he failed to notice the change; "but are you the heir who is likely to obtain happiness in the possession of the treasure?"

"Am I the heir?" exclaimed the other. "Of course I am the heir! A quick crimson flamed into the clear olive cheeks of Dolores, and some inexplicable emotion thrilled through her to the tips of her fingers. Was it pain or anger or sorrow? It surely could not be pleasure! And then she was conscious of a feeling that certainly seemed like fear. She drew herself quickly away from the embrace of her friend, and answered, coldly:

"No, I don't think I shall fall in love with Mr. Stanley."

"Now I have hurt your feelings, Rita; don't be over-sensitive, dear."

But Dolores protested that she was in no degree offended or hurt. And the two girls presently separated, the former to correct her friend's exercises in Spanish, and the latter to consult one of her assistants in the many charitable works in which she spent both time and money.

With a commendable spirit of independence, Dolores had, from the first, declared that she must be permitted to make herself useful; and Mrs. Hamilton, seeing that it would greatly contribute to her happiness and self-respect to feel a certain independence, engaged the young girl, at a fixed salary, as companion and teacher of Spanish to her daughter.

"Besides which, you are always to be one of us—like our own child, Dolores, for we owe you more than life, in knowing that you risked your own life to save Mary."

TO BE CONTINUED.

Most Valuable Pearl.

What is supposed to be the largest and most valuable pearl in the world has been found near Broome, West Australia. Its value is estimated at between \$25,000 and \$75,000.

A DESPERATE FIGHT

Whole Possee Held At Bay By One Man

KILLS TWO MEN INSTANTLY AND

Wounds Seven Others of the Possee Severely—Finally Shot to Death and Burned.

Tuscumbia, Ala., Special.—In a desperate battle, fought near this place Sunday between a sheriff's posse and Will Reynolds, a negro desperado, two members of the posse were killed and seven wounded by the deadly fusillade of the negro, who afterward was killed and his body thrown into a burning building. The dead are: Hugh Jones, Bob Wallace and Will Reynolds. (colored.) The wounded are: Sheriff Gassaway, mortally; Will Gassaway, mortally; F. A. Prout, fatally; J. K. Payne, seriously; Jessi Davis, Jim Finney and Robert Patterson.

Early in the day, accompanied by Will Gassaway, a deputy, Sheriff Gassaway went to a negro settlement "Knardtown," to arrest Will Reynolds, on a charge of obtaining goods under false pretenses. The negro was barricaded in a house and opened fire with a Winchester, mortally wounding Sheriff Gassaway and Will Gassaway, who was about 300 yards distant.

As soon as the news of the encounter reached town, a posse left for the scene. Owing to the location, none of the officers could venture within the open space. Dynamite was procured and the house in which the negro had fortified himself was fired upon, but to no effect. At 1 o'clock Simpson, of the Wheeler Rifles, arrived with 12 guns and 1,000 cartridges, which were distributed among 12 picked men. This company was stationed around the house and riddled it, but the negro had taken refuge in the cellar and returned the fire killing Jones and wounding Finney. Coal oil was then procured and after four hours of hard work the adjoining houses to that in which the negro was fired. At 3 o'clock the house in which the negro was located was fired by the Wheeler Rifles, who had arrived on the scene. The negro fled to a shed and reopened fire, killing Wallace and wounding Davis, but fell in the next volley from the posse and militiamen. The crowd, numbering 1,000 seized the riddled body and threw it in the burning building.

Wallace, who was killed, was advancing on the negro, who shot him through the body. His body fell in the burning debris, but was recovered. Davis, Wallace and Falkner were the men who fired the building. Relic seekers badly mutilated the body. Three houses were burned in the efforts to reach the negro and several horses were killed in the battle. It is reported that the sheriff and his brother have no chance to live. So deadly was the negro's aim that it was possibly an hour before the body of Prout could be recovered. Not a shot was fired by Reynolds that did not tell when those whom he was firing on could be seen. The excitement was intense. Fully 2,000 people from Florence and Sheffield were here and every surgeon in the town was pressed into service. No fear of an uprising among the negroes is anticipated.

The Philippine Cable.

San Francisco, Special.—George G. Ward, of New York, vice president of the Commercial Cable Company, arrived here, to select a landing place for the projected cable between this coast and the Philippines. Mr. Ward is accompanied by Charles Curtis, the company's chief electrician. While here, Mr. Ward will consult with John W. Mackay, president of the company. Mr. Ward said:

"We are going to build the cable irrespective of congressional action. The first link between San Francisco and Honolulu will be completed by the end of next October. The cable will be shipped from England next July. It has not yet been decided where we will land on this coast. It will either be at Monterey, or this city, probably the latter."

Mission to Move.

Kroonstad, Orange River Colony, By Cable.—Owing to the great distance separating the members of the Transvaal mission here, from Mr. Steyn, the former president of the Orange Free State, and General Delarey, the negotiations between the Boer leaders in South Africa looking to the conclusion of the war make little progress. It is expected, however, that Mr. Schalkburger and his colleagues on the mission will shortly leave here for a more convenient centre from which to conduct the negotiations.

For Relief of Boer Women.

Chicago, Special.—A certified check for \$5,000, drawn to the order of President Roosevelt, was forwarded to the President on March 18th by the committee of citizens which Governor Yates appointed, in December last, to raise funds for the relief of Boer women and children, sufferers in the concentration camps of South Africa.

Defends Baker University.

The Kansas City Journal indignantly refutes a charge "that religious and metaphysical studies have altogether displaced utilitarian branches at Baker University, in Kansas. It points out that the leading literary society of the institution debated the other day the following important proposition: 'Resolved, That a half-grown, Langshank rooster can roost better on a smooth pine roost than on a square rough roost.'

SIMMONS OPPOSES MULLEN.

Senator Takes a Fight Against Charlotte Postmaster.

Washington, Special.—Senator Simmons has placed himself squarely and emphatically in opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Mullen as postmaster at Charlotte, N. C., at a meeting of the postoffice committee. He referred back to the committee the papers in which the President had nominated Mr. Mullen in these words: "I decline to submit the report on this nomination on my own responsibility. Personally I shall oppose the confirmation on the ground that I am unwilling to advocate the nomination of a man to such an important office, when his conduct was such as I understand his to have been."

Mr. Simmons followed this declaration with the suggestion that the secretary of the committee should be instructed to procure copies of the report made by the inspector with reference to the charges against the Charlotte postmaster, which suggestion was promptly agreed to. Before leaving the subject Senator Simmons recited some of the facts which had led the President to withdraw the nomination of Mr. Mullen after the agreement to re-appoint him. The chairman of the committee, Senator Mason, of Illinois, directed the secretary of the committee to secure the papers in the case without unnecessary delay.

Spoke for Good Roads.

Charlottesville, Va., Special.—Senator Hanna, ex-Secretary of the Interior Bliss, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Brigham, Congressmen Tongue, Davis, Littlefield, Prince, Bowersock and McCree, together with 80 other guests, arrived on a special train from Washington, over the Southern Railway, to attend the Good Roads Convention, now in session here. A hard rain kept the attendance down this morning. Hon. W. L. Dickerson, of Springfield, Mass., spoke on "Improvement of Our Highways"; Col. Chas. E. Harrison, government expert of New Jersey, spoke on "Practical Road Construction"; Hon. P. H. Hanes, of North Carolina, also spoke on road construction.

Many Deaths From Cholera.

Manila, Special.—Up to noon Thursday 117 cases of cholera had been reported and 72 deaths from the disease had occurred. The health board, since the establishment of the detention camp, has been having much difficulty in finding the whereabouts of cases of cholera. As soon as the members of a household find a case they either send the sick person out of the house or flee themselves. Major Maus, the insular health commissioner, has written to the bishop objecting to the action of the priests in informing the people that no cases of cholera have occurred; that only cases of cholera have been discovered and that the sanitary precautions are only taken to annoy the people.

New York to Charleston.

New York, Special.—At Friday's meeting of the Merchants' Association, of this city, a letter from Mayor Low was read, saying that April 23 had been suggested as New York Day at the Charleston Exposition. The mayor said he thought it desirable that New York should take advantage of this suggestion to show the Southern people the city's interest in their commercial advancement. The mayor requested the association to take charge of all necessary arrangements and a resolution was adopted to this effect.

Suffrage Plan Adopted.

Richmond, Special.—The constitutional convention adopted the suffrage plan by a large majority. Then came up the rescinding resolutions and all were considered and rejected, except those relating to change in the hold-over Senate question and the election of Supreme Court judges by the people. A resolution to adjourn Friday afternoon until May 22 was adopted by a large majority.

The Atlantic City Fire.

Atlantic City, N. J., Special.—On Thursday a disastrous fire wrecked many of the palatial hotels of Atlantic City, doing a damage of over \$1,000,000. No adequate fire protection was available. One life was lost.

Thirteen hotels and more than 70 buildings had been destroyed or severely damaged. The effect of the fire has been to give the city a new charter, providing for building laws, the bill for the same having been signed by Gov. Murphy when he heard the fire was raging. Already the city is planning to rise, strengthened, from its financial loss of \$1,000,000.

\$500,000 for College.

Lexington, Va., Special.—A telegram received here from President Denny, of Washington and Lee University, who is in New York, announces the completion of the Wm. L. Wilson memorial fund of \$100,000 to found the Wilson memorial of economics at the University. Former President Grover Cleveland is chairman of the fund committee.

Atlanta Day at Charleston.

Charleston, S. C., Special.—The celebration of Atlanta Day at the exposition was participated in by about 1,500 visitors from the Gate City; who arrived here on three special trains, last night. Georgia's capital is represented by Mayor Sims, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, Chief Joiner, of the fire department; Chief Ball, of the police department, and many other prominent city officials and representative business men.

OFF FOR CHARLESTON

President Leaves Washington on Time. A Large Crowd.

HE GIVES THEM THE SLIP

By Going Into the Sixth Street Entrance—Secret Service Men and Detectives Scattered About and Some of Them Accompany Him.

Washington, Special.—President Roosevelt and party left for Charleston, S. C., Monday afternoon, at 3:30 o'clock. The party traveled in a special train over the Southern Railway. There was a large crowd at the station. The President was driven to the Sixth street entrance instead of B street, where most people expected him, and passed rapidly to the train as dozens of hats were lifted in the air. He was in an especially cheerful mood. He spent most of the time before the departure of the train in chatting and laughing with Mrs. Roosevelt and Commander Cowles, his brother-in-law, who wore the full uniform of his rank in the navy.

Secretary Hitchcock and a number of other government officials were there to bid the President good-bye. A large number of Secret Service men and detectives were spread about the depot and several accompanied the party on the train. The crowd cheered the President heartily twice. As the long special pulled out of the train shed, exactly on schedule time, the President, his face suffused with smiles, from the rear platform bowed low and repeatedly in acknowledgement of the cheers and salutes of the crowd. Colonel L. S. Brown, general agent of the Southern Railway, is with the party, supervising the trip over the Southern's tracks, and the train is in direct charge of Conductor W. J. ... has handled most of the presidential specials in recent months.

Charlotte, N. C., Special.—The President's train arrived in Charlotte at 1:55 a. m., exactly on time. Conductor Albright was in charge, and Engineer Solomon at the throttle. From Charlotte to Columbia Capt. Clarkson was in command, and Engineer McAlister in the cab. The presidential party retired shortly after leaving Danville, and all were asleep before the train reached Greensboro. Capt. Albright said that he had not been off schedule more than three minutes during the entire trip from Washington, and that he was having a smooth run. There are 37 persons on the train, and when it arrived here only the trainmen were awake, even the newspaper men having retired some hours previously. The train consists of seven Pullman; the Acadian, the last one, being occupied by the President. Considerable crowds were noted at the station until a pretty late hour.

Hail Two Inches Deep.

Prattville, Tex., Special.—A destructive storm swept over this place Saturday night, between 8 and 9 o'clock. No lives were lost, but much property was destroyed. The storm came from the north and for 20 minutes there was a flood of rain and hail. As far as known it extended only between Prattville and Paclo, eight miles distant. Along the path of the storm, which resembles a railroad track, all trees, including many fruit trees, were leveled. Hail fell two inches deep. The Prattville Methodist church was blown from its foundation and a dwelling house at Lake Creek was lifted up and carried into an adjoining field. Two stores at Paclo and a farm house near by were blown down. Charles Pratt's store at Paclo was completely wrecked and the goods scattered for miles. Pratt escaped with a few bruises. The entire loss caused by the storm is not known.

Blizzard in Michigan.

Marquette, Mich., Special.—Northern Michigan is in the grip of a blizzard. Heavy snow is falling and a gale is lashing the lake to fury. The weather was balmy and warm.

The Ohio Elections.

Cincinnati, Special.—Reports from the local elections of the municipalities and townships in Ohio show that cool and unfavorable weather generally prevailed and that there was a light vote cast, with very little interest except in a few cities. Some localities in southern Ohio report the smallest vote cast within the last decade. In Cincinnati, W. H. Jackson, Democrat, who has served on the Superior Court bench for the past five years, was defeated for re-election by Probate Judge Howard Ferris, by more than 16,000 on a total vote of 45,000, which is less than one-half of the total vote registered last November. Ferris received 28,541; Jackson, 11,958, and the Socialist ticket less than 2,000.

New Railroad Deal.

New York, Special.—The stockholders of the Louisville & Nashville road met here and authorized the issue of \$5,000,000 additional capital stock, to be used for improving the road. Announcement is also made that the Louisville & Nashville has acquired a majority of the common and preferred shares of the Atlanta, Knoxville & Northern road, which runs from Knoxville to Jellico, thus forming a line between Cincinnati and Louisville.

Patrick's Sentence.

New York, Special.—Albert P. Patrick, who was convicted March 26 of the murder of Wm. Marsh Rice, was sentenced by Recorder Gow, to be put to death in the electric chair at Sing Sing prison on May 5. Rice died in this city. An appeal to be made to the Court of Appeals by Patrick's counsel will ask a stay of execution pending a decision by the higher court.