

"And now," the priest resumed, after this matter had been disposed of, "how happened this sudden change in your disease, my son? The doctors thought you dying when I was here last."

"Yes, I know," answered the count, still hiding the deep disgust that moved within him; "but a new physician was called in, and he prescribed a new medicine. He said the medicine I had been taking was unsuited to my case, and so he gave me new. You can see the result."

"Yes, I see," was the reply, "and as you seem to have very good company I'll take my leave. I have several calls to make tonight."

The count made no reply to this, and as the priest found that he was not urged to remain he arose at once. He stopped twice before he reached the door, but in neither case did he speak. As soon as he gained the street he turned toward the upper part of the city, and he stopped not until he had reached the palace of the Duke of Tula. The old porter admitted him without question, and he made his way at once to the hall, where he inquired for the duke. One of the servants went in search of his master, and when he returned he bade the priest follow him.

The duke was in his private room, and as soon as the servant had withdrawn he bade his visitor take a seat.

"Now, Savotano, how is it?" he asked. "Have you seen the count?"

"Aye, I am from there now. By all that's bad, my lord, the villain is gaining!"

"Gaining?" repeated Olga, with surprise. "But you assured me he was well nigh gone."

"So he was, so he was. But he is recovering now."

"But how is it?"

"Why, he tells me he had a new physician and that the old medicine was all condemned and an entire new course prescribed."

"And under this new treatment he is recovering, eh?"

"Yes."

"Well, have you not taken some measures to fix this new medicine? By the gods, Savotano, you must not let him slip now!"

"Ah, my lord, I have only told you how he explained the matter. I have another explanation."

"What is it, sir priest?"

"Why, they simply know that some one has attempted to poison the count."

"Ha! Did they say anything?"

"No; there was no need. I know that the medicine he was taking before was the right kind of medicine, so far as it came from the hands of the surgeon. And then there is another thing—the count must have had some powerful antidote on purpose for the poison."

"How do you know that?"

"Simply because he would not have now been alive had not such been the case. You may be sure, my lord, that they know poison has been administered. They have discovered it in some way and taken the most effective and speedy method to overcome it. I know this."

"And do you think they suspect you?" the duke asked, with some show of uneasiness.

"I don't know; but I fear they do. However, that amounts to nothing—only to prevent me from working any further at present in the same direction. I have not laid myself open to detection in any way. By heavens, 'tis too bad! In four and twenty hours more he would have been a dead man."

"Then you know when the discovery was made?"

"Yes, on the afternoon before Ruric Nevel was captured. I was there just before night, and the gunmaker was then there, and I noticed that the vials were gone from the table, though I gave no signs then of having noticed it. They had even then commenced some treatment for his cure, for I could see that the appearance of his skin had changed. You must not blame me."

"I do not, Savotano; but there may be some way left yet."

"Oh, yes; there are a hundred ways in which we can dispose of him. But I may find some way yet before he gets out."

"Not at all. Nothing could be more easy." "And could detection ensue?" "In no possible way." "Then"— "Listen," spoke the humpback as Olga hesitated. "I strongly suspect that 'twas this same gunmaker that led to the investigation of that medicine, and if it was he then you will be more quickly suspected than I shall."

"Ha! Why think ye so?" "Because he is a fellow of wondrous wit and intelligence and can see without being told. He has had several conferences here, and it was from here that he went direct to the count's residence. He knows by this time why the duel was hatched up, and if he has half the mind I give him credit for he will know that you are at the bottom of the poisoning business. I am sure of this."

"By heavens, you are right, Savotano! Let him die!" "I had thought myself that would be the best way, for if he were at large you would not be safe."

"You can have him killed without noise or disturbance?" "I think so," replied the priest, with a wicked smile. "At all events, his noise would not hurt any one, for he is rather too far away from the world to make himself heard."

"Where is he?" "Why, where you recommended—in the farthest vault beneath your old bathing house, and that is a place where he cannot be readily found."

"And what disposition can you make of the body after the work is done?" "Why, that is simple. It can be hidden in the old conduit. You know, the conduit still exists there, and probably in some place between there and the river it is perfect, but near the building it is all in ruins."

The body can be hidden so far in that no stench can come from it in summer time even to those in the vault itself. So, you see, that is easy."

"Then let the work be done at once—say tonight."

"Tomorrow night, my lord, will do as well, for I am engaged tonight."

"Very well; let it be tomorrow night. But, mind, this is settled. There is no more question about this affair. When I see you again, I trust you will have no reason to offer why Ruric Nevel has not been disposed of."

"You need have no fears on that head, my lord. You may consider that the gunmaker is dead."

"Right! So let it be."

And thus did the wicked duke dispose of Ruric Nevel.

Again Olga took a turn across the room, and when he stopped there was a dark cloud upon his brow.

"Savotano," he said, "there is one more man whom I at least would be assured is not in my way. I mean that infernal monk."

"I saw him this morning, my lord, and I am sure he is watching me. And he is not alone. He has others with him. I have been followed, and one of my men—the one who entrapped Nevel—had me not two hours ago that he knew his steps had been followed."

"And do you think this monk is at the bottom of it?" asked the duke, with some uneasiness.

"I know it, for I have seen him when I knew he was watching me."

"Then why have you not got him out of the way?"

"Aha!" uttered the priest, with a dubious shake of the head. "We cannot always do as we would. But he shall not live long, if I can help him off, and I think the opportunity may offer itself."

"He is a bold fellow. Why, I found him only yesterday in my own palace—in the chamber of the countess."

"Ha! And could you not have disposed of him then?"

"Not well. It was in broad day, and people were about. But if I catch him here again my sword shall find his heart. I have given him legal warning. But," continued the duke after some further thought, "you must be careful in your dealings with him. He may have some organized band always about him."

"I will be caught in no trap," returned the priest confidently. "He shall find that I can be as keen as he can. But it is very strange."

"What is strange?" asked Olga, starting for he, too, had been thinking of a very strange thing.

"Why, that this black monk should turn up here in the recovery so suddenly and commence the first thing, to dog my footsteps and hang about your palace."

"Aye," responded Olga, "and the same thought was in my mind when you spoke. But never mind; he shall not escape me. By heavens, they shall know that the Duke of Tula is not to be trifled with. There is but one power in Moscow more mine, and that is the emperor himself, and I may say that even he is not above me. He cannot get along without me. Does anything turn up to puzzle him, he sends straightway for me."

"Then use your power for your own good, my lord."

"I will. Fear not for me on that score."

At this juncture the priest arose to take his leave.

"You have your instructions," said Olga.

"I remember them well, my lord, and they shall be carried out to the letter."

"And when done let me know."

"I will obey."

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ECZEMA'S ITCH IS TORTURE. Eczema is caused by an acid humor in the blood coming in contact with the skin and producing great redness and inflammation; little pustular eruptions form and discharge a thin, sticky fluid, which dries and scales off; sometimes the skin is hard, dry and fissured. Eczema in any form is a tormenting, stubborn disease, and the itching and burning at times are almost unbearable; the acid burning humor seems to ooze out and set the skin on fire. Salves, washes nor other external applications do any real good, for as long as the poison remains in the blood it will keep the skin irritated.

BAD FORM OF TETTER. For three years I had Tetters on my hands, which caused them to swell to twice their natural size. Part of the time the disease was in the form of running sores, very painful, and causing me much discomfort. Four doctors said the Tetters had progressed too far to be cured, and they could do nothing for me. I took only three bottles of S. S. S. and was completely cured. This was fifteen years ago, and I have never since seen any sign of my old trouble. — Mrs. L. B. JACKSON, 1414 McGee St., Kansas City, Mo.

TO BE CONTINUED. AN EFFECTIVE BACKGROUND. S. S. S. neutralizes this acid poison, cools the blood and restores it to a healthy, natural state, and the rough, unhealthy skin becomes soft, smooth and clear. SSS cures Tetters, Erysipelas, Psoriasis, Salt Rheum and all skin diseases due to a poisoned condition of the blood. Send for our book and write us about your case. Our physicians have made these diseases a life study, and can help you by their advice; we make no charge for this service. All correspondence is conducted in strictest confidence. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

A Dance of Death.

McKeesport, Pa., Dispatch, July 31.—Mrs. Anna Brudowicz, aged 22 years, a bride of 24 hours, danced herself to death at her wedding feast here to-day. Mrs. Brudowicz was married yesterday morning to John Brudowicz, one of the leaders in the Polish settlement of McKeesport. The wedding was a most elaborate one as the participants are fairly well to do, and a large number of wedding guests attended the festivities. The celebration of a Polish wedding usually lasts several days. This was scheduled to occupy the balance of the week.

It is customary at these celebrations for every male guest to dance with the bride, which honor costs the guests a dollar. In this way several hundred dollars are usually raised to pay for the expenses of the wedding and enable the newly married pair to start housekeeping. The dance is a wild, delirious whirl about the hall in which the festivities are held, and the bride is passed from one man to another as rapidly as the round of the room is effected. Mrs. Brudowicz had finished the ninety-fourth round of the room with as many different guests, when the company was called to supper. The bride complained of feeling sick, and almost immediately dropped over in a faint and died before medical assistance could reach her.

Physicians stated that death was due to heart prostration caused by over-exertion. The young husband of the woman is almost crazy over the bereavement and is being closely watched to prevent him from committing suicide.

O. O. Buck, Beirne, Ark., says: I was troubled with constipation until I bought DeWitt's Little Early Risers. Since then have been entirely cured of my old complaint. I recommend them, Hood Bros., Hare & Son, J. R. Ledbetter.

Much confusion characterizes the use of these two prepositions. Stormonth gives the simplest and best rule concerning them which we have come across. He says: "Into comes after a verb denoting motion, and in follows a verb denoting rest."

This gives the idea comprehensively, but it is not to be taken literally. Thus, "He fell in the street," the person referred to may have been walking or standing still when he fell. He was, however, steady in the street, and therefore when he fell he did not move into it. If, however, he was in a building or other structure facing the street, and he fell, landing in the street, it would then be proper to say "He fell into the street."

In and into. In is frequently an adverb, and in such cases it should be used after a verb denoting motion. For example, it is correct to say "He came in" of one who had been asked to enter a house. But if a preposition were to be used in this connection the phrase would be "He came into the house."

Those who will commit to memory the rule quoted will soon be sure of their ground when they have occasion to use in or into.

We are still clubbing THE HERALD and the New York Thrice-a-week World for \$1.65 cash in advance.

Schedule of the RALEIGH & CAPE FEAR RAILROAD. IN EFFECT JUNE 2, 1901. SOUTH BOUND TRAINS. No. 5, No. 3, No. 1. STATIONS: Lv. Raleigh, Caraleigh June, Raleigh Mills, Sylvania, Barnes, Hobbs, McCullers, Banks, Austin, Willow Springs, Sextons, Ar. Sippahaw.

NORTH BOUND TRAINS. No. 2, No. 4, No. 6. STATIONS: Lv. Sippahaw, Willow Springs, Austin, Banks, McCullers, Hobbs, Barnes, Sylvania, Caraleigh Mills, Ar. Raleigh.

All schedule trains carry passengers. Approved: JOHN A. MILLS, Pres. and Gen. Man.

NOTICE! NORTH CAROLINA. In the JOHNSON COUNTY Superior Court. J. A. Morgan vs. W. R. Barber and Nancy Barber.

The defendant, W. R. Barber above named, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Johnston County to foreclose a mortgage on the lands of defendant W. R. Barber, situated in the town of Benson, Johnston County, N. C., and said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the next term of the Superior Court of said county to be held on the first Monday in September, 1901, at the Court House of said county in Smithfield, N. C., and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

W. S. STEVENS, Clerk Superior Court. WELLS & MORGAN, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

NOTICE! NORTH CAROLINA. In the JOHNSON COUNTY Superior Court. W. Lassiter, Adm'r of A. Barber vs. Clifford Vinson.

The defendant above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Johnston County to foreclose a mortgage on the lands of defendant, situated in Smithfield Township, Johnston County. Said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the next term of the Superior Court of said county to be held on the first Monday in September, 1901, at the Court House of said county in Smithfield, N. C., and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

W. S. STEVENS, Clerk Superior Court. WELLS & MORGAN, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

NOTICE! The undersigned having qualified as executor on the estate of James Crech, deceased, all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to me daily verified on or before the 15th day of July, 1901, or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery, and all persons indebted to said estate will make immediate payment.

This 6th day of July, 1901. HARLES C. BEECH, Executor.

NOTICE! NORTH CAROLINA. In the JOHNSON COUNTY Superior Court. Claude Surles vs. B. Surles.

B. Surles, the defendant in this action, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Johnston County to dissolve the bonds of matrimony existing between the plaintiff and defendant, and the said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the next term of the Superior Court of Johnston County to be held at the Court House in Smithfield, N. C., on the first Monday in September, 1901, and answer or demur to the complaint filed in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief therein demanded.

This July 15, 1901. W. S. STEVENS, Clerk Superior Court. ED. S. ABELL, Attorney for Plaintiff.

NOTICE! The undersigned having qualified as administrator on the estate of A. R. Dupree, deceased, all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to me daily verified on or before the 30th day of July, 1901, or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery, and all persons indebted to said estate will make immediate payment.

This 15th day of July, 1901. P. T. DUNCAN, Administrator.

NOTICE. The undersigned having duly qualified as Executor on the estate of Nancy R. Wilson, deceased, hereby notifies all persons having claims against the same to present the same to me for payment on or before the 1st day of August, 1901, or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery, and all persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

This July 27th, 1901. JOHN D. DUPREE, Executor.

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION. Notice is hereby given that the Secretary of State has issued a certificate of incorporation to me for payment on or before the 1st day of August, 1901, or this notice will be placed in bar of their recovery, and all persons indebted to said estate will make immediate payment.

1st. Name—The Benson Tobacco Warehouse Company, Inc., doing business as follows: 2d. Principal place of business—Benson, N. C. 3d. The object is to build and operate Tobacco Warehouse, Frize Tobacco, etc., and buy and sell tobaccos. 4th. The capital stock is \$2,000, divided into 20 shares. 5th. The stockholders shall not be individually liable. 6th. Duration, thirty years.

W. S. STEVENS, Clerk Superior Court. Aug. 2-4-1901.

Southern Railway. THE STANDARD RAILWAY OF THE SOUTH. The direct line to all points. Texas, California, Florida, Cuba and Porto Rico.

Strictly FIRST-CLASS Equipment on all Through and Local Trains; Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars on all Night Trains; Fast and Safe Schedules. Travel by the Southern and you are assured a Safe, Comfortable and Expeditions Journey.

Apply to ticket agents for Time Tables, Rates and General Information, or address, R. L. VERNON, F. R. BARDY, T. P. A., C. P. & T. A., Charlotte, N. C. Asheville, N. C. NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. S. H. HARDWICK, G. P. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

WILMINGTON & WELDON RAILROAD AND BRANCHES AND FLORENCE RAILROAD. (Condensed Schedule.)

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

Table with columns: Dated January 15, 1901, Station, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6.

TRAINS GOING NORTH.

Table with columns: Dated July 22, 1899, Station, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6.

Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, Yadkin Division Main Line—Train leaves Wilmington 9:50 a. m., arrives Fayetteville 12:05 p. m., leaves Fayetteville 12:25 p. m., arrives Salisbury 1:40 p. m., returning leaves Salisbury 3:05 p. m., arrives Fayetteville 4:25 p. m., leaves Fayetteville 4:40 p. m., arrives Wilmington 7:25 p. m.

Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, Deepwater Branch—Train leaves Deepwater 8:00 a. m., arrives Fayetteville 11:15 a. m., leaves Fayetteville 11:30 a. m., arrives Deepwater 1:45 p. m., leaves Deepwater 2:00 p. m., arrives Fayetteville 3:15 p. m., leaves Fayetteville 3:30 p. m., arrives Deepwater 5:45 p. m.

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WELLS & MORGAN, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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