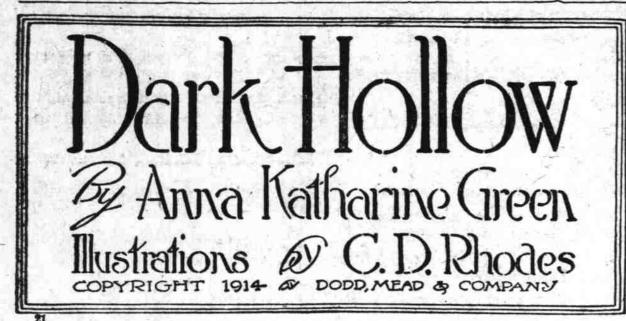
THE POLK COUNTY NEWS, TRYON, N. C.



CHAPTER XVIII-Continued.

It had an overwhelming effect upon me. I had been very near death. Sulcide must have ended the struggle in which I was engaged, had not this knowledge of actual and unpunished crime come to ease my conscience. no longer.

a night when I did not. After the peneyes that episode was over, I turned the first page of that volume of slow Scoville was in his grave. I was alive. Scoville had shot a man for his money. I had struck a man down in my wrath. Scoville's widow and little child must face a cold and unsympathetic world, with small means and disgrace rising, like a wall, between them and social sympathy, if not between them and the actual means of living.

Oliver's future faced him untouched No shadow lay across his path to hinder his happiness or to mar his chances.

The results were unequal. I began to see them so, and feel the gnawing of that deathless worm whose ravages lay waste the breast, while hand and brain fulfill their routine of work, as though all were well and the foun-

would mean the discovery of my secret. And this fence was built.

This should have been enough. But guilt has terrors unknown to innocence. One day I caught a small boy peering through an infinitesimal crack in the fence, and, remembering the window grilled with iron with which John Scoville was worthy of death. Bela had replaced the cheerful caseand, being so, should receive the full ment in my den of punishment, I realreward of his deed. I need besitate ized how easily an opening might be made between the boards for the con-

That night I slept. But there came venience of a curious eye anxious to penetrate the mystery of my seclusion. alty had been paid and to most men's | And so it came about that the inner fence was put up. This settled my position in the town. No more visits. retribution which is the doom of the All social life was over. It was meet. man who sins from impulse, and has I was satisfied at last. I could now the recoil of his own nature to face give my whole mind to my one remainrelentlessly to the end of his days. ing duty. I lived only while on the bench

March 5, 1898.

There is a dream which comes to me often-a vision which I often see. It is that of two broken and irregular walls standing apart against a background of roseate sky. Between these walls the figures of a woman and child, turning about to go.

The bridge I never see, nor the face of the man who died for my sin; but this I see always-the gaunt ruins of Spencer's Folly and the figure of a

woman leading away a little child. That woman lives. I know now who she is Her testimony was uttered bewas unwitnessed by her, and for years I had supposed him devoted to you.

is known, the whole page of my life worthy of it. I only ask that you will defaced, content has come again. I am no longer a deceiver, my very worst is known."

"Oliver?"-This some minutes later. 'Are we alone?"

"Quite alone, father. Mrs. Scoville is busy and Reuther-Reuther is in the room above. I can hear her light step overhead."

The judge was silent. He was gazing wistfully at the wall where hung the portrait of his young wife. He was no longer in his room, but in the cheery front parlor. This Deborah had insisted upon. There was, therefore, nothing to distract him from the contemplation I have mentioned.

"There are things I want to say to you. Not many; you already know my story. But'l do not know yours, and I cannot die till I do. What took you into the ravine that evening, Oliver, and why, having picked up the stick. did you fling it from you and fly back to the highway? For the reason 1 ascribed to Scoville? Tell me, that no cloud may remain between us. Let me know your heart as well as you now know mine."

The reply brought the blood back into his fading cheek.

"Father, I have already explained all this to Mr. Andrews, and now I will explain it to you. I never liked Mr. Etheridge as well as you did, and I brooded incessantly in these days over the influence which he seemed to exert over you in regard to my future career But I never dreamed of do-

ing him a harm, and never supposed that I could so much as attempt any argument with him on my own behalf till that very night of infernal complications and coincidences. The cause of this change was as follows: I had gone up-stairs, you remember, leaving you alone with him as I knew you desired. How I came to be in the room above I don't remember, but I was there and leaning out of the window directly over the porch when you and Mr. Etheridge came out and stood in some final debate on the steps below. He was talking and you were lisfore me in court and was not one to tening, and never shall I forget the efrouse my apprehensions. My crime fect his words and tones had upon me.

not let pride or any other evil passion stand in the way of the happiness I see in the future for you. I cannot take from you the shame of my crime and long deception, but spare me this final sorrow! There is nothing to part you from Reuther now Alike unhappy in your parentage, you can start on equal terms, and love will do the rest. Say that you will marry her. Oliver, and let me see her smile before I die." "Marry her? Oh, father, will such

an angel marry me?"

"No, but such a woman might." Oliver came near, and stooped over his father's bed.

"Father, if love and attention to my profession can make a success of the life you prize, they shall have their opportunity."

The father smiled. If it fell to others to remember him as he appeared in his mysterious prime, to Oliver it was given to recall him as he looked then with the light on his face and the





Each word of this text is important. Let us think of them, taking the last one first

> 1. Salvation. -We have space to mention only three things suggested by this word. Salvation means a saving from a sickness and restoration to hea th; for sin is a disease. common biblical symbol of sin is leprusy, an incurable and loaths o u e disease.

A

There is m u c h

similar 'ty between this and sin. For instance; there are utes! many so-called remedies for leprosy but none can be found to really stop its spread. The sinner too has many remedies for his sir but nothing that men can do can arrest its progress. Again, leprosy becomes painful and distressing. Sin acts the same way. Hence we are told that "the wicked are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace saith my God to the wicked." Sin begins quietly but ends. like leprosy, with bitter pain and distress. Again, leprosy is fatal to the one afflicted. It might well be called a living death. It is thus with sin. Many are today well and sound of body, but sorely afflicted by sin. As far as their souls are concerned they are in a living death. The difference between the leper and the sinner is that the former gets rid of his trouble at death, but the latter must take his pain and distress with him. But salvation means the saving from sin to perfect health. Man alone can find no cure for his sin but Christ can and has. It is found in his own blood which "cleanseth us from all sin." In the second place salvation means a saving from punishment; for sin is a crime as well as a disease. Salvation brings to the sinner a full and free pardon for every crime against the law of God; such a pardon that every trace of the evil committed is n. wiped from the sinner's record. Without such salvation the punishment for each sin must fall upon the sinner. And the punishment of sin is an awful thing; described as being torment and anguish and that eternal. But in this common salvation there is found relief from all the guilt, and pardon for every crime. "Let the sinner forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him and to our God for he will abundantly pardon." In the third place salvation means the saving from death which is the result of the disease and the reward of the crime. It means the exchanging of eternal death for eternal life. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." If any should enquire how this health instead of sickness, this pardon instead of guilt, and this life instead of death can be obtained, the apostle answers. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." 2. Common.-The "common" salvation suggests its wideness and means that it is shared by all alike. God is no respecter of persons and when he provided the common salvation he provided it to be shared by all alike Whether white or black, moral or immoral, learned or illiterate, cultured or vulgar, all share alike in this "common" salvation. Again, this word means that the salvation is a universal thing. It is provided for every member of the human race. This is what the apostle means when he says, "whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." And, the last chapter of the Bible says, "Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." The common salva-

"Well, how's things in Plunkt, "Got a circulating library in, town?" "Mine is a sort of one, exception I don't get paid for books los kept indefinitely."-Louisville Course

Journal. An Improved Quinine, Does not Cause Nervousness nor Ringing in Head The happy combination of laxatives in Lax ATIVE BROMO QUININE makes the Quining in this form have a far better effect than the ordinary Quinine, and it can be taken by an one without affecting the head. Remember call for the full name, Laxative Bromo Quinte Look for signature of E. W. Grove. 250.

Still a Lease on Life. The Cook-Sir! Sir!! There's Zep'lin outside and if you don't con wi' the keys of the cellar, we'll all in-in-heaven in a couple of m

The Curate-God forbid!-Londo Opinion.

RHEUMATISM-ITS CAUSE AND TREATMENT.

The cause of Rheumatism is excent of uric acid and no real relief can be expected until this is eliminated Many chronic sufferers find perma nent relief after taking Rheumacida on sale at your druggist .- Adv.

The milkman is about the only out. sider who ever sees a woman staged without the aid of scenic investiture

Dr. Pierce's Pellets are best for live bowels and stomach. One little Pellet fe a laxative-three for a cathartic.-Adv Some men outlive their usefulness # they live to be a day over twenty-one

dations of life unshaken.

I suffered as only cowards suffer. I held on to honor; I held on to home; I held on to Oliver, but with misery for my companion and a self-contempt which nothing could abate. Each time I mounted the bench I felt a tug at my arm as of a visible, restraining presence. Each time I returned to my home and met the clear eye of Oliver beaming upon me with its ever growing promise of future comradeship, I experienced a rebellion against my own happiness which opened my eyes to my own nature and its inevitable demand. I must give up Oliver, or yield my honors, make a full confession and accept whatever consequences it might bring. I am a proud man, and the latter alternative was beyound me. I could forego pleasure, travel, social intercourse, and even the companionship of the one being in of life go further! Oliver's! whom all my hopes centered, but I could not, of my own volition, pass from the judge's bench to the felon's cell. There I struck the immovablethe impassable.

I decided in one awful night of re- count of that long-forgotten night of nunciation that I would send Oliver crime in Spencer's Folly. It is naively out of my life.

. . . hurting him to spare myself . . that I had decided after long and ma- | ture thought to yield to his desire for journalism, and that I would start him in his career and maintain him in it for three years if he would subscribe to the following conditions:

They were the hardest a loving father ever imposed upon a dutiful and loving son.

First, he was to leave home immediately . . . within a few hours, in fact.

Second, he was to regard all relations between us as finished; we were to be strangers henceforth in every particular save that of the money obligation already mentioned.

Third, he was never to acknowledge this compact, or to cast any slur upon the father whose reasons for this apparently unnatural conduct were quite. disconnected with any fault of his or any desire to punish or reprove.

Fourth, he was to pray for his father every night of his life before he slept.

meant it to be such? If so, it missed ther had towered above them then its point. It awed but did not frighten even in his self-abasement, but he him.

on my part would have served me. rang through the house that night it separated by its peal a sin-beclouded but human past from a future arid with solitude and bereft of the one been hidden. I became a father without a son-as separation between us were that of the grave I had merited and so weakly shunned.

But I have a superstitious horror of and in an ungracious manner which seeing her again, while believing that | bespoke a man very different from the the day will come when I shall do so. When this occurs-vien I look up and find her in my path, I shall know that my sin has found me out and that the end is near

1909

O shade of Algernon Etheridge, unforgetting and unforgiving! The woman has appeared! She stood in this room today Verily, years are noth- his influence to the distaste you at ing with God.

Added later.

if my hour ever came. But who can understand the ways of Providence or where the finger of retributive justice ravine with the wild intention, so will point. It is Oliver's name and not mine which has become the sport of calumny. Oliver's! Could the irony

There is nothing against him, and such folly must soon die out; but to see doubt in Mrs. Scoville's eyes is horrible in itself and to eliminate it I may have to show her Oliver's ac-

written and reveals a clean, if reticent, The next day I told him abruptly nature; but that its effect may be unquestionable I will insert a few lines to cover any possible misinterpretation of his manner and conduct There is an open space, and our handwritings were always strangely alike. Only our e's differed, and I will be careful with the e's.

Her confidence must be restored at all hazards.

My last foolish attempt has undone me. Nothing remains now but that sacrifice of self which should have been made twelve years ago.

CHAPTER XIX.

Sunset.

"I do not wish to seem selfish, Oli ver, but sit a little nearer the window where I can see you whenever I open my eyes. Twelve years is a long time to make up, and I have such a little while in which to do it."

Oliver moved. The moisture sprang to his eyes as he did so. He had caught a glimpse of the face on the pillow and the changes made in a week were Was this last a confession? Had I very apparent. Always erect, his fa

looked now as though twenty years, I had to contend with his compune- instead of a few days, had passed over tions, as well as with grief and dis- his stately head and bowed his inmay. It was an hour of struggle on comparable figure. And not that his part and of implacable resolution alone. His expression was different on mine. Nothing but such hardness Had Oliver not seen him in his old likeness for that one terrible half hour, Had I faltered once he would have he would not know these features, so won me over, and the tale of my sleep- sunken, yet so eloquent with the peace less nights been repeated. I did not of one for whom all struggle is over, faiter, and when the midnight stroke and the haven of his long rest near. Had he been able at this moment to look beyond the fences which his fear had reared, he would have seen at either gate a silent figure guarding the possession to retain which my sin had walk, and recalled, perhaps, the horror of other days when at the contemplation of such a prospect, his spirit lonely and as desolate as though the recoiled upon itself in unimaginable horror and revolt. And yet, who knows! Life's passions fade when the heart is at peace. And Archibald Ostrander's heart was at peace. Why, could I insure for myself the extreme his next words will show. "Oliver"-his voice was low but very distinct, "never have a secret; never hide within your bosom a thought you fear the world to know If You have seen how 1 ultimate you've done wrong-if you have disly answered this question. A convict's obeyed the law either of God or manseek not to hide what can never be But after some weeks of this, fresh hidden so long as God reigns or men fears arose. An accident was possible. make laws I have suffered, as few For all Bela's precautions, someone men have suffered and kept their rea might gain access to this room. This son intact. Now that my wickedness

she has been a stranger to this town | and here he was addressing you tartly one I had been taught to look upon as superior. The awe of years yielded before this display, and finding him just human like the rest of us, the courage which I had always lacked in approaching him took instant possession of me, and I determined with a

boy's unreasoning impulse to subject him to a personal appeal not to add present felt for the career upon which

I had set my heart. Nothing could I thought I knew what awaited me have been more foolish and nothing more natural, perhaps, than the act which followed. I ran down into the strangely duplicated in yourself a few minutes later, of meeting and pleading my cause with him at the bridge, but unlike you. I took the middle of the ravine for my road and not the secluded path at the side. It was this which determined our fate, father, for here I saw the stick and, catching it up without further thought than of the facility it offered for whittling, started

> with it down the ravine. Scoville was not in sight. The moment was the one when he had quit looking for Reuther and wandered away up the ravine. I have thought since that perhaps the glimpse he had got of his little one peering from the scene of his crime may have stirred even his guilty conscience and sent him off on his purposeless ramble; but, however this was, I did not see him or anybody else as I took my way leisurely down towards the bridge, whittling at the stick and thinking of what I should say to Mr. Etheridge when I met him. And now for fate's final and most fatal touch! Nothing which came into my mind struck me quite favorably. The encounter which seemed such a very simple matter when I first contemplated it, began to assume quite a different aspect as the moment for it approached. By the time I had come abreast of the hollow, I was tired of the whole business, and hearing his whistle and knowing by it that he was very near, I plunged up the slope to avoid him, and hurried straight away into town. That is my story, father. If I heard your steps approaching as I plunged across the path into which I had thrown the stick in my anger at having broken the point of my knifeblade upon it, I thought nothing of them then Afterwards I believed them to be Scoville's, which may ac-

count to you for my silence about this whole matter both before and during the trial. I was afraid of the witness stand and of what might be elicited from me if I once got into the hands of the lawyers. My abominable reticence in regard to his former crime would be brought up against me, and I was too young, too shy and uninformed to face such an ordeal of my own volition. Unhappily, I was not forced into to be recognized,

"This is My Story, Father."

last tear he was ever to shed glitter ing in his fading eye.

"God is good," came from the bed; then the solemnity of death settled over the room.

The soft footfalls overhead ceased. The long hush had brought the two women to the door where they stood sobbing. Oliver was on his knees beside the bed, his head buried in his arms. On the face so near him there rested a ray from the westering sun; but the glitter was gone from the eye and the unrest from the heart. No more weary vigils in a room dedicated to remose and self-punishment. No more weary circling of the house in the dark lane whose fences barred out the hurrying figure within from every eye but that of heaven. Peace for him; and for Reuther and Oliver, hope!

(THE END.)

Gems That Brought Misery.

The history of diamonds and the many other precious stones, ruby, turquoise, emerald, opal, topaz, sapphire, chrysolite, sardonyx, amethyst, nearly all of which are mentioned in the Scriptures, goes far back of historic times, and is lost in a maze of religion, superstition and legend. It has been intermingled with intrigue, politics and diplomacy: murders galore: scandals unnumbered; imprisonments and beheadings. The story of the "Diamond Necklace," which, possible innocently on her part, smirched the fame of Marie Antoinette was one of the factors in agitation that led to the great French revolution. The Bastile opened to several of the actors in the scandal, one of them Cardinal de Rohan, who was arrested in his robes in the midst of his court. Cagliostro, the famous magician swindler, was another of the Bastile prisoners, and Countess Lamotte-Valois of royal lineage, who was the chief conspirator, for pecuniary gain, escaped from the prison to London, where she died in penury.

Live as in Olden Times.

In eastern Palestine and Arabia are to be found the most picturesque race in the East, those strange, nomadic tribes, the Bedouins.

Their mode of life has not greatly changed since Biblical times, and to tion means that which is needed by For MALARIA CHILLS day they steal cattle and camels, and all, provided for all, brought to all and

was

Cuts clear to the bone have been

healed by Hanford's Balsam. Adv.

Clubs are places where men go when they want to get rid of themselves.



Recommended by Drives and Traine

Mr. B. L. Tuft, Salem, N. J. writes: "Yager's Liniment is the most wonderful horse liniment I ever used. Have been handling and training horses for speed for 20 years and have had hundreds of different brands of so-called horse remedies. I wish your liniment the large sale it deserves and recommend it most highly."

-Driver and Trainer, W. Penn. Record 2:121. Put up in large bottles containing eight ounces. At all dealers. 25c a bottle. Prepared by GILBERT BROS. & CO., BALTIMORE, MD.



But I was not yet satisfied. How punishment which my peace demanded, without bringing down upon me the full consequences I refused to accept.

bed! a convict's isolation!

it, and- But we will not talk of that. father."

"Son,"-a long silence had intervened-"there is one thing more. When

-how-did you first learn my real reason for sending you from home? I saw that my position was understood by you when our eyes first met in this room. But twelve years had passed since you left this house in ignorance of all but my unnatural attitude towards you. When, Oliver, when?" "That I cannot answer, father; it was just a conviction which dawned

gradually upon me. Now, it seems as if I had known it always; but that isn't so A boy doesn't reason; and it took reasoning for me to-to ac-

cept-' "Yes, I understand. And that was your secret!" Oh, Oliver, I shall never

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their young men steal wives, as their wont in Old Testament days Indeed, the purloining of cattle and camels is considered lawful among them, and the more a tribe or an individual can enrich himself in this manner the more their prowess comes

> These people, however, who live by thieving and move by stealth, are invaribly hospitality itself to the stranger within their gates.

He Knew.

A teacher in a children's institution was giving the geography class a lesson on the cattle ranches. She spoke of their beef all coming from the West, and, wishing to test the children's observation, she asked: "And what else comes to us from these ranches?"

This was a poser. She looked at her shoes, but no one took the hint. She tried again:

"What do we get from the cattle besides beef?"

One boy eagerly raised his hand. "I know what it is, it's tripe," he

ask for your forgiveness. I am not announced triumphantly.

offered to all, including the reader of these lines.

3. The .- This word speaks of the narrowness as "common" speaks of the wideness. It is not "a" salvation, but "the." It is not provided by man, nor can it be. It is just here that sinners go wrong and think they can

evolve some scheme whereby they can cure themselves of the disease and do enough good deeds to counterbalance the evil and so avoid the punishment due to sin. But if we would have the salvation that saves from the disease of sin, and the pardon that covers the crime of sin, we must come to the Lord, with whom salvation 's to be found. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoseever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life." And when the Son came to be he Savior of men "he gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity." He took the sin and all ts consequences, the crime and all its punishment, and gives to all who will receive it "the common salva-

tion" in their place.