The Knife Throwers

By FREDERIC VAN RENSSELAER DEY. Author of "Not Like Other Men," Etc.

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[CONTINUED.]

CHAPTER VI.

WHAT JAMES KNEW ABOUT THE PAST. T is not necessary to describe in detail the discovery of the body of Burr Pendleton or the effect that the discovery and its consequences produced upon the community and particularly upon those who knew him in-

The mysterious disappearance of the servant James pointed the finger of suspicion in his direction and naturally diverted it from other suggestions. Not even a faint indication of such a thing attaching to Craig Wyndham was heard

or thought. The coroner's jury found that death had been caused by a dagger in the hands of one James Ferguson, valet to the deceased, and every effort of the police was exerted to bring about his capture, but even such a sensational affair was soon partially forgotten, and the newspaper comments diminished from columns to paragraphs and then

ceased altogether. The day after the funeral Pendleton's lawyer sent for Wyndham and told him of a will in his possession by which Craig Wyndham was made sole legatee of all the property that Pendleton had owned. It directed him to pay to James Ferguson a stated annuity as long as he lived, and there were several minor bequests of like nature. The will also contained the following

"I make also the following express wish: With this my last will and testaattorney a certain sealed envelope which will be delivered into the hands of my legatee and executor, Craig he has been made aware of the contents of this my will. The contents of the envelope aforesaid will explain to my executor certain duties which I desire him to perform in the event of my death and which I believe he will perform to the best of his ability and which, for reasons of my own, I do not care to embody in this document. I do, however, consider it just that I should here ask pardon for placing such grave responsibilities upon him and also for keeping secret from him the fact that I have done so."

The will was drawn and executed immediately before Pendleton departed for Mexico, and only the lawyer who drew it and Pendleton himself were aware of its contents. Inasmuch as Burr Pendleton had no near relatives, the will was probated without objection, and Craig Wyndham found himself suddenly a very rich man.

In the meantime he met Escudera frequently at the club, on the street and in divers places. Indeed it seemed to him that it was the intention of the Mexican to throw himself constantly in his way, but between them on the occasion of such meetings there was always exhibited the utmost cordiality. Escudera retained his quasi membership in the club, and always Wyndham watched him furtively while he awaitsent out to Mexico and to other places. the air of one who was killing time as trip you made with Borr the first time best he could while he awaits the happening of some expected event, but what that event might be Wyndham could not even conjecture.

The interview between Wyndham and old James had taken place - in fact, several of them-but at this point it is necessary only to refer to one of

They had, as usual, at such times been engaged in discussing the incidenis that had happened to Pendleton in Mexico and for the third or fourth time referred to the duel. Wyndham had already connected the name of Romero with that of Escudera and was of the opinion the two were related. "Did you ever see the man with whom your master fought the duel?"

he asked of James. "Yes, sir; I saw him two or three

"Did the man who was with Mr. Pendleton the evening we found him

resemble the duelist at all?" "Not at all, that I remember." "Now, James, go back to the moment

fought. How did you know about it?" when Burr's mother died." "Mr. Burr told me."

"Tell me how he told you; tell me "Not quite two years, sir." just what he said." "He asked me if I remembered an

offended her. I"-

from behind it or one of the big cypress had purchased, but which he subsetrees, I don't know which. He walked quently disposed of." rapidly toward the lady, and she stop-ped still, as if she were frightened, but I do not know if that was the reason, although I think it must have been."

"What time of day was that, James?" his rooms in the hotel?" The sun was shining, and there were Mr. Wyndham, but the fact is he had

hundreds of people within call; so I do not think the man really meant any-Well, go ahead. What happened

"The lady was a hundred feet or so in advance of us when the man confronted her. We were walking slowly toward them. Whether Mr. Pendleton was looking at them or not I do not know, but I was, for I thought the actions of both rather strange. I noticedthat they talked rather excitedly and that they seemed to be known to each other. In the meantime we were drawing nearer to them. We had almost reached them when the lady turned suddenly away, as if to leave the man, and he reached out and seized her by

"That was more than Mr. Pendleton could stand, as you know, sir. He stopped instantly, raised his hat, addressed the lady in Spanish, as though he had known her all his life, and at the same time utterly ignored the man. As for him, he hesitated an instant, and I never saw such a fiendish expression on the face of a man as that which swept over his at that instant. But he did not say a word. Instead he turned away and walked rapidly down the av-

"The lady murmured a few words to Mr. Pendleton. I think they were words of thanks. He raised his hat, said two words in reply, and we con-

tinued on our way. "That, sir, is all there was of that incident, but the man who afterward there, James," he proceeded. insulted my master and thus compelled him to send a challenge was the same man, Captain Romero, who is called the deadliest duelist in Mexico; so you see, sir, there must have been some connection between the two affairs." "Undoubtedly, James."

to surmise a little, I have an idea."

"Let me hear it, by all means." "The evening before the duel Mr. Pendleton was busy for some time preparing his affairs. Then he went out. ostensibly to the opera, but I know he did not go there, for about midnight or a little after Captain Agramonte, who was to be his second, called and told me so, inquiring for him. The folment I will place in the hands of my lowing morning I received a note in he had told me to do when he went Wyndham, as soon as convenient after away, and the note was brought by the same person who on the preceding day delivered one to my master in the pateo of the hotel just as we were going out for luncheon, and, sir, what is more important, it was the same person who came to me a few hours before Mr. Pendleton's return and gave me a verbal message to have every. be." thing packed and in readiness. That last message I am sure my master did

"I know that Mr. Pendleton engaged in the duel with Captain Romero, and I know that he shot him, for I heard him ask Captain Agramonte just before our train left the station about the condition of Romero. It is my opinion, sir, that the lady who was doubtless the real cause of the duel sent for him that evening when he was to go to the opera, and I believe that she tried to prevent the meeting. This is only guesswork, sir, but I cannot help thinking that the duel was a consequence of that encounter on the Paseo, and that the murder of Mr. Pendleton is somehow related to both affairs."

"No doubt, James; no doubt whatever. But I believe we may go back even farther than that and say that all three of the occurrences grew out of the causes of your master's journey to Mexico. We will have to search farther ed replies to certain inquiries he had back than the encounter on the Paseo for the motive for the taking of the life It seemed to him that Escudera had of Burr Pendleton. James, was this you had been to Mexico?"

James hesitated and looked away for a moment. Then, more to himself than to his companion, he said:

"It can do no harm for me to tell about it now." "It is your duty to tell everything

that will help me to clear up this mystery," said Wyndham sharply. "That was your second visit to Mexico, then?" "My third, sir."

"Indeed! Tell me about the others." "I was there twice, sir, with the father of Mr. Burr, but I promised him that I would never speak about it, sir," to anybody, and I never have until

"Not even to Burr?" "No, sir; not even to him."

"That was wrong, James." "That may be, Mr. Wyndham, but I believed I was doing my duty." "We need not argue that point. Tell

me when you went there first." "It was shortly after I became a member of the Pendleton family. I was twenty years old. Mr. Robert Pendleton, Burr's father, was, I think, about you first knew that a duel was to be thirty. It was during the same winter

"How old was Burr?"

"Well, what took you there?" "Mr. Robert Pendleton had some busiincident that occurred one afternoon ness there that had been left by his on the Paseo when he defended a lady father. I do not know much about from the attentions of a man who had that, sir, for I always tried to keep my place and to mind my own affairs. He "Tell me about that incident, James." intended when he started to remain "We were on the Paseo together, only a short time, but we were in the walking. I was a few feet behind Mr. City of Mexico three months, and I Pendleton. We were near what is saw very little of my master during Now, sir, I have really told you all I known as the Indian statue, which is that time. We had rooms at the Hotel located rather farther up the avenue Iturbide, where I remained, but Mr. than pedestrians usually go. A little Pendleton was rarely there either day way in advance of us was a lady and or night, and I only know that his time her maidservant. When we got near was passed at a house in Tacubaya, at the statue, a man appeared suddenly a fine residence which he told me he

> "When and how?" "That I do not know, sir." "Why did he buy the house and why did he pass his time there instead of at

"About 5 o'clock in the afternoon. "I did not know until long afterward,

talien in love with a Mexican lady and married her."

"Ah, I begin to see daylight, James. Tell me all you know about that event." "I know very little-only that be married within a month after we arrived in Mexico and therefore within four months of the death of Mr. Burr's mother. Perhaps it was for that reason that he insisted upon keeping the matter a profound secret and made me promise that I would never refer to our visits there to anybody under any circumstances. I have kept that promise until today, sir."

"Do you think that Burr knew of this second marriage of his father, James?" "I am quite sure that he did not, sir." "I mean at the time he went to Mex-

co-at any time before his death." "I do not think he ever knew of it Mr. Wyndham."

"Do you know the family name of the lady who became Mrs, Pendleton?" "No, sir, and, besides, there is another thing, sir, which may be important-the lady was never known as Mrs. Pendleton. We traveled in Mexico under another name, but I cannot tell you that name, Mr. Wyndham, because I have forgotten it."

"Forgotten it, James?" "Yes, sir, I have forgotten it."

Wyndham did not believe this statement, but no amount of argument could induce James to change his reply to the question, and it was finally abandoned.

"Tell me about your second trip "We were called there by the illness

of the lady who was Mr. Pendleton's wife. She died and was buried before we arrived. He was greatly shocked. We did not remain very long-about ten days, I think. I saw very little of him then, as before. He did not seem "And now, sir, if you will permit me like himself at all, and he never recovered from the shock. Although he lived many years afterward, it affected him until his death."

"Was there a child or were there children by that second marriage, James?"

"No. sir - that is, I don't really know, but I think not. I think Mr. Pendleton would have told me had such been the case."

"Let me sum this business up a little. his handwriting telling me to defer all According to your statements, Mr. Penaction twenty-four hours longer than dleton lived with his second wife two months and then came north again. Is that right?"

> "About that, sir." "How long after that was it that you made the second trip to Mexico?"

"About a year-a little more than that, I think. No, sir, pardon me; it was something less than a year. My memory is not as clear as it used to

"How do you account for the fact that he remained so long a time away from his bride?"

"I hardly know how to reply to that. I know that he was very fond of her. and it is my belief that when we came north and left her there he expected that she would follow him very soon. I think there was some trouble of some kind, but I never knew what it was. He was overwhelmed with business. I know that he received letters from her, or at least from Mexico, constantly, and I know that he wrote to her very often. I think it likely that her coming was delayed from week to week and that he refrained from going to her during that year at her request. I am sure that nothing else could have

kept him here waiting." "He did not take you into his confidence in this matter, then?"

"No, sir; only concerning the mar-

riage itself." "Did you ever see the lady?" "Never, sir."

"Nor a picture of her?" "I did not."

"I wish you could remember the name under which your master live in Mexico, James."

"I am sorry that I cannot," replie the old man obstinately, "but it ha gone from me entirely. I would no recognize it even if I should hear it."

It was plain to Wyndham that Jame had determined that he would not re veal the name and had adopted th plan of forgetfulness as the best mean of avoiding argument, and the ol man's resolution could be accounted for in only one way, which was the he had given an absolute promise tha

he would never tell it. "Robert Pendleton must have had strong reason for binding his servan to such inviolate secrecy," muse Wyndham, "and he also must hav had a strong reason for adopting it i

the first place."

"Do you know?"

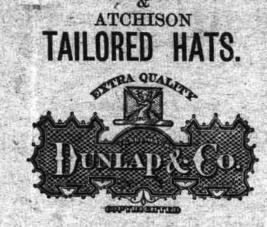
'He turned to James again. "Why did Mr. Pendleton make use of an assumed name at all?" he asked. "He never told me that, sir."

"I think so-partly. I do know that it had nothing to do with his marriage, for he chose the name before we left New York, and he never saw her until after we arrived in Mexico. He went there on some business that had been his father's. He believed that he could best attend to it if he were not known. And you must remember one thing, sir-although people in Mexico knew him by a name not his own, his wife, although she never bore his right name openly, must have known what It was, for the letters he received were properly addressed. I believe others were deceived, but that she was not. know-more, in fact, for I have made bold to conjecture a great deal. Perhaps out of it all you may find the missing links in the broken chain. I am sure I cannot help you any more unless you take me to Mexico and let me point out the house where he lived.

That might help you, sir." ITO BE CONTINUED.]

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P. M.	A.M.		P. M.	A. M.
4-10	10-00	Lve. Norfolk Arr.	4-20	11-00
	10-05	Berkley June.		10-55
				10-45
				10-38
				10-30
				10-23
4-50				10-07
			3-12	9-56
	11-04	Shawboro	3-05	9-49
5-21	11-09	Gaegorys	2-59	9-48
5-26	11-16	Belcross	2-52	9-37
5-29	11-19	Camden	2-49	9-34
5-45				9-25
6-01				9-07
				9-04
				9-02
		William		8-53
				8-48 8-40
				8-30
	P. M. 4-10 4-15 4-24 4-39 4-44 4-50 5-09 5-16 5-21	Daily Daily exc't exc't Sun. Sun. P. M. A. M. 4-10 10-00 4-15 10-05 4-24 10-13 4-32 10-22 4-39 10-30 4-44 10-34 4-50 10-40 4-50 10-48 5-09 10-58 5-16 11-04 5-21 11-09 5-26 11-16 5-29 11-19 5-45 11-36 6-01 11-53 6-04 11-56 6-04 11-56 6-15 12-05 6-22 12-12 6-29 12-19	Daily Daily exc't exc't Sun. Sun. P. M. A. M. 4-10 10-00 Lve. Norfolk Arr. 4-15 10-05 Berkley Junc. 4-24 10-13 Butt's Road Centreville 4-39 10-30 Hickory Gro. 4-44 10-34 St. Brides Northwest 4-50 10-40 Northwest 4-50 10-48 Moyock Snowden 5-16 11-04 Shawboro 5-21 11-09 Gaegorys 5-26 11-16 Belcross 5-29 11-19 Camden 5-45 11-36 Eliz. City 6-01 11-53 Pasquotank 6-03 11-55 Okisco Chapanoke 6-15 12-05 Winfall 6-22 12-12 Hertford 7-20 12-19 Yeopim	Daily exc't exc't STATIONS. Daily exc't Sun. Sun. Sun. P. M. A. M. P. M. 4-10 10-00 Lve. Norfolk Arr. 4-20 4-15 10-05 Berkley Junc. 4-15 4-24 10-13 Butt's Road 3-58 4-32 10-22 Centreville 3-51 3-39 4-39 10-30 Hickory Gro. 3-44 4-44 10-34 St. Brides 3-39 4-50 10-40 Northwest 3-33 4-50 10-48 Moyock 3-23 5-09 10-58 Snowden 3-12 5-16 11-04 Shawboro 3-05 5-21 11-09 Gaegorys 2-59 5-26 11-16 Belcross 2-52 5-29 11-19 Camden 2-49 5-45 11-36 Eliz. City 2-40 6-01 11-53 Pasquotank 2-22 6-03 11-55 Okisco 2-20 6-04 11-56 Chapanoke 2-19 6-15 12-05 Winfall 2-10 6-29 12-19 Yeopim 1-55

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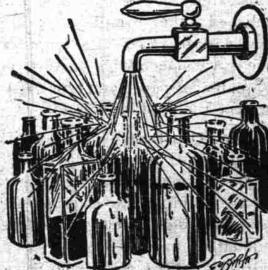
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