

The POOL of FLAME

by LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELLSWORTH YOUNG

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CHAPTER III.

As he stepped out of the lift Colonel O'Rourke remarked a light in his room, visible through the transom over the door.

"The femme de chambre," he thought, "sure and the poor thing's still busy trying to clear up. . . ."

To the contrary, he found the door fast. "This careless she was to leave the light on," he observed, fitting his key in the lock.

If thoughtless in that one way, the woman had fulfilled the letter of her word in the other. It was with comprehensive relief (since he anticipated a caller) that he found the room once again presentable.

But one thing surprised him; and more surprising still was the fact that his ordinarily indifferent eye should have detected it at the first glance. He had indeed hardly entered before he became aware of a square of white paper tucked in the corner of the bureau mirror.

"The devil, now!" he greeted it. "That's curious. . . . Could one of my many admirers have bribed the femme de chambre to bring a note to me?" He chuckled, holding to the light a much soiled envelope, grimy with the marks of many fingers, clasped with stamps and black with postage marks and substitute addresses, having evidently been forwarded over half the world before it reached the addressee: who was, in a bold hand, "Colonel Terence O'Rourke."

He whistled low over this, examining it intently, infinitely less concerned with its contents than with the manner by which it had reached him. The first postmark seemed to be that of Ranpoo, the original address, the Cercle Militaire, his club in Paris. Thence, apparently, it had sought him in Galway, Ireland, Dublin, Paris again, and finally—after half a dozen other addresses—"C. of Mme. O'Rourke, Hotel Carlton, London." The London postmark was indelible.

He found himself trembling violently. By one hand alone could this have reached him, since the post had not brought it to Monte Carlo. . . . He recalled that woman's voice which had so stirred him, the woman of the Casino whose bearing had seemed to him so familiar. . . .

Some one tapped on the door; he smothered a curse of annoyance, and went to answer, thrusting the letter into his pocket.

A page announced Monsieur le Comte des Trebes.

"Show the gentleman up," snapped O'Rourke. He was about to add, "in five minutes," when Des Trebes himself appeared.

"Anticipating that message, monsieur," he said, moving into view from one side of the door, "I took the liberty of accompanying this book. I am late, I fear."

O'Rourke forced a nod and smile of welcome. "Not to my knowledge," said he.

The Frenchman consulted his watch. "Ten minutes late, monsieur; it is ten past midnight."

"Then," said O'Rourke, "the top of the morning to ye. Enter, monsieur." He stood aside, closing the door behind his guest. "No matter; if I thought ye punctual, 'tis so ye are to all intents and purposes."

A chair, monsieur. He established Des Trebes by a window. "And a cigarette?" "A drop of Irish?"

"As ye will. . . . And since 'tis to talk sweet business that we're here—would ye like the door locked?" "That is hardly essential," Des Trebes reviewed his surroundings with

swift, searching glance. "We are at least secure from interruption; one could ask little more."

"True for ye," laughed O'Rourke. He moved toward the alcove. "Now first of all I'm to submit proofs of me identity, I believe," he added, intending to dig out of his trunk a dispatch-box containing his passports and other papers of a private nature.

But Des Trebes had changed his mind. "That is unnecessary, monsieur. Your very willingness is sufficient proof. I have your word and am content."

"That's the way of doing business that I like," assented O'Rourke heartily, warming a little to the man as he turned back a chair facing the vicomte. "Besides, I quarrel with no man's right to be reasonable. . . . And now I'm at your service, monsieur."

30 CONFEDERATE VETERANS DIED

During Past Year. Johnson and Morehead Busts. Escaped Road Prisoner Caught.

Raleigh, Dec. 19.—The marble busts of Governor Samuel Johnston and Governor J. M. Morehead that are to occupy the first floor of the rotunda of the State house have arrived and are ready to be placed in position for unveiling. They are the work of F. W. Buckatuhl, who executed the busts of Governor Graham and Senator Ransom, now occupying niches in the rotunda. No time is set for the unveiling of the Morehead bust. The bust of Governor Johnston will be unveiled under the auspices of the N. C. Grand Lodge of Masons, by whom it is presented to the State, on account of Governor Johnston having been a grand master. He also rendered other high services for Masonry in the early days of the State. The unveiling will be on January 10 while the grand lodge is in session here.

Thirty ex-Confederate soldiers died at the Soldiers' Home in Raleigh during the year drawing to a close and there are now 130 veterans being cared for at this institution. The average age of the veterans is over 70, but many of them are destined to enjoy years of peace and happiness at the place provided for them by the State. Capt. W. S. Lineberry, the commandant, says that the Home will accommodate about 15 more soldiers.

Judge H. G. Connor has convened a one week term of the Federal Court here for the trial of criminal cases with a view to disposing of all the jail cases before the Christmas holidays. There are forty odd of the jail cases and there are eighty criminal cases in all, including those out on bond. Attendance of the circuit court at Richmond made it impossible for Judge Connor to hold the regular November court, and this term is to relieve the congestion until all cases, civil and criminal, will be disposed of.

After being a fugitive in South Carolina for a year, and serving six months on Chesterfield county roads for bigamy in that State, Graham Oakley was brought back to Raleigh to complete a five year sentence on the Wake county roads for deadly assault on John Underwood, being also suspected, but not convicted, of burning Underwood's dwelling in which his wife and child perished.

Ladies, better put a new coat of paint on that room where Santa Claus visits. J. S. Basnight Hdw. Co.

Favors Cape Lookout.

Senator Simmons and Congressman Small appeared before the Board of U. S. Engineers at their meeting in Washington on Monday and each made elaborate supplemental arguments in favor of Cape Lookout as a harbor of refuge. They are both deeply interested in securing a favorable report on this important project and did not feel they could afford to leave anything undone to secure favorable action.

Singular Burning Accident.

Frank Allen, a negro man who lives near Wildwood, Carteret county, was severely burned a few nights ago in a very unusual manner. Allen had received a package of whiskey on the previous day and had invited several of his friends in to help him celebrate. In the room where the drinking was going on was a large stove in which at the time was a roaring fire. During the evening Allen picked up one of the bottles containing the whiskey and moving his chair near the stove proceeded to take an unusual large drink. He became strangled and caught a mouthful of the fluid into the stove. The alcohol in this became ignited and in some way ignited the remainder of the whiskey in the bottle which exploded and Allen was severely burned before his friends could extinguish the flames.

Christmas Photos.

The Wooten Studio still has time for more orders. Photos from all sittings made now will be delivered in time to be used as Xmas gifts. All orders for painted gifts will be promptly filled.

Sudden Death of Capt. Jack.

The many friends of Capt. E. A. Jack will be truly saddened to learn of his sudden death yesterday, at Alton, Ill., at the home of his son Mr. E. A. Jack where he had gone to spend the winter. Capt. Jack had not been very well for some weeks and upon advice of his physician had gone to Illinois, instead of coming here, where he and Mrs. Jack had for years spent the winter. The remains will be taken to the home at Portsmouth Va. for interment.

CHESAPEAKE ALBEMARLE CANAL

Purchase Recommended by U. S. Board Engineers. Splendid Work by Senator Simmons and Congressman Small.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20th.—The report of the U. S. Board of Engineers on the inland waterway from Norfolk to Beaufort is full of interest and importance to the people of North Carolina and is a great tribute to the energy and effectiveness of Senator Simmons and Congressman Small.

The board recommends the purchase by the government of the Chesapeake and Albemarle Canal connecting the North Carolina sounds with the Chesapeake Bay by the Secretary of War under the authority of the provision inserted in the last River and Harbor bill by Senator Simmons, directing him to contract for the purchase of the canal selected by this board.

The board also recommends that this canal be at once reconstructed so as to give a depth of 12 feet and bottom width of 90 feet, total cost \$2,733,000, and that the depth of the canal recently cut from the North Carolina sounds to Beaufort be increased from 10 to 12 feet, cost \$397,500.

It also recommends that the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds be connected by a canal through Hyde county (dry cut about 25 miles) by the Alligator river and Rose Bay route at a cost of \$2,216,000.

This will give a depth of 12 feet at low water which would mean between 13 and 14 feet depth at high water from Norfolk to Beaufort, total cost \$5,049,500, which added to the (\$550,000) cost of the canal at Beaufort heretofore cut will make a total of \$5,600,000.

Senator Simmons said today he was confident that the present session of Congress would appropriate the money not only to pay for the old Albemarle & Chesapeake Canal, but for all the work recommended by the board, and he added "when this work is finished it will release from its land-locked condition about 3,000 miles of navigable North Carolina inland water and makes it available for interstate and international transportation and commerce, instead of as now, only useful for local and neighborhood transportation and commerce."

He said the unbotting of these 3,000 miles of navigable water was of tremendous importance not only from a commercial standpoint, but from the standpoint of railway rate regulation as it would bring these presently navigable waterways into active and effective competition with the railways but because it will surely lead to making every river emptying into these sounds, (and they embrace practically every navigable river in the State except the Cape Fear) navigable far into the interior of the State.

Are you satisfied with your cook stove? See Bucks line of Stoves and Ranges at J. S. Basnight Hdw. Store.

Plows Acre in Less Than Five Minutes.

The world's record for plowing was recently broken in a demonstration at Purdue University, Indiana, in which a gang plow having 50 plows and drawn by three traction engines turned over a stubble field at the rate of an acre every 41 minutes, says the January Popular Mechanics Magazine in an illustrated article. This mammoth plow cuts a strip nearly 60 ft wide, and turns over 7 1/2 acres for every mile it travels. Each of the 50 is independent of the others, rising and falling as easily and naturally as a wooden chip on the surface of rough water, so that the service of the machine is not confined to ground absolutely level.

Society Won't Tolerate Catarrh

Get Rid of It!

There is one sure way to banish catarrh and along with it the disgusting symptoms such as hacking, snuffing and spitting.

Breathe HYOMEI, that's all you've got to do. Breathe it a few minutes a few times a day. Breathe it deep into the lungs and see how quickly the sore, germ ridden membrane will clear up and inflammation vanish. HYOMEI pure antiseptic vir, it does not contain morphine, opium or other habit forming drugs. It is made from Australian eucalyptus and other antiseptics, and it is rigidly guaranteed free of catarrh, asthma, cough, bronchitis, coughs and colds. Complete outfit (inhaler and bottle) \$1.00, separate bottles, if afterwards needed, 50 cents at Bradburn Drug Co. and druggists everywhere.

GOVERNMENT CROP PRODUCTION

Estimates Show Decrease But Values Exceed Last Year.

Washington, Dec. 19.—With decrease in the production of 11 important farm crops, not including cotton, the total value of these crops this year reached the total of \$3,769,562,000 according to the final estimate as announced by the Department of Agriculture. This is an increase of almost \$190,000,000 over the value last year.

The department's final estimate of production differs considerably from its preliminary estimate made in November, because of a revision of the acreages based upon the Census Bureau's figures which became available since that time. The important features of the different crops compared with last year were:

Corn—An increase of 1,790,000 in acreage at decrease of 354,772,000 bushels in production and an increase of \$180,441,000 in value.

Oats—An increase of 390,000 in acreage, a decrease of 258,215,000 bushels in production, and an increase of \$8,257,000 in value.

Potatoes—A decrease of 101,000 in acreage, a decrease of 56,295,000 bushels in production, and an increase of \$38,232,000 in value.

Hay—A decrease of 2,674,000 in acreage, a decrease of 18,584,000 tons in production, and a decrease of \$53,190,000 in value.

Tobacco—A decrease of 353,600 in acreage, a decrease of 198,306,000 pounds in production and a decrease of \$16,932,000 in value.

Just received a beautiful line of mens and ladies Neckwear, Silk Hose and Handkerchiefs in Xmas boxes. J. J. Baxter.

Married.

Tuesday night at the Methodist parsonage, by Rev. J. B. Hurley, John DeForest and Miss Ella Gaskill. Mr. DeForest is pressman of the Sun, and Miss Gaskill is the daughter of Mr. Tom Gaskill.

He said the unbotting of these 3,000 miles of navigable water was of tremendous importance not only from a commercial standpoint, but from the standpoint of railway rate regulation as it would bring these presently navigable waterways into active and effective competition with the railways but because it will surely lead to making every river emptying into these sounds, (and they embrace practically every navigable river in the State except the Cape Fear) navigable far into the interior of the State.

NEARLY ONE MILLION BALES

Is Ginning Report For North Carolina. Other States And Figures.

Washington, Dec 21st.—The Census Bureau's report of cotton ginning for the seventh period of the season, from December 1 to 12, inclusive, issued yesterday shows the number of running bales ginned in the latter date from the great record-breaking cotton crop grown in 1911, with comparative ginning statistics to the corresponding date of last year and the former record years of 1904 and 1908, as follows:

United States, 13,759,652 bales, compared with 10,695,443 bales last year, when 92 1/2 per cent. of the entire crop was ginned prior to December 1; 11,904,269 bales in 1908, when 91.0 per cent. was ginned, and 11,971,477 bales in 1904, when 89.9 per cent. was ginned.

Round bales included were 93,294 compared with 106,485 bales last year, 130,024 bales in 1908 and 215,059 bales in 1904.

Sea Island cotton bales included were 90,436, compared with 75,228 bales last year; 85,177 bales in 1908, and 80,316 bales in 1904.

Ginning with comparative statistics and the percentage of the entire crop ginned prior to December 13 in previous years.

| Year | United States | Sea Island |
|------|---------------|------------|
| 1911 | 912,556 | 684,722 |
| 1910 | 684,722 | 615,736 |
| 1908 | 615,736 | 669,135 |
| 1904 | 669,135 | 615,736 |

| Year | United States | Sea Island |
|------|---------------|------------|
| 1911 | 1,423,295 | 1,107,556 |
| 1910 | 1,107,556 | 1,184,135 |
| 1908 | 1,184,135 | 1,066,725 |
| 1904 | 1,066,725 | 1,184,135 |

| Year | United States | Sea Island |
|------|---------------|------------|
| 1911 | 3,960,386 | 2,849,269 |
| 1910 | 2,849,269 | 2,968,874 |
| 1908 | 2,968,874 | 2,953,067 |
| 1904 | 2,953,067 | 2,968,874 |

| Year | United States | Sea Island |
|------|---------------|------------|
| 1911 | 2,515,619 | 1,706,816 |
| 1910 | 1,706,816 | 1,968,963 |
| 1908 | 1,968,963 | 1,790,792 |
| 1904 | 1,790,792 | 1,968,963 |

| Year | United States | Sea Island |
|------|---------------|------------|
| 1911 | 1,561,134 | 1,128,470 |
| 1910 | 1,128,470 | 1,268,953 |
| 1908 | 1,268,953 | 1,128,470 |
| 1904 | 1,128,470 | 1,268,953 |

A girl danced herself to death in New York.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

For 1912. Secretary MacVeagh Urges Equality of National And State Banks.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20th.—The annual report of Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh, submitted to Congress says a surplus of \$29,000,000 is expended at the end of the fiscal year 1912 exclusive of expenditures on the Panama Canal, but these will cause a deficit of approximately \$18,000,000.

The total estimates of expenditures for next year, exclusive of the Panama Canal and postal service, payable from postal revenue, are \$637,920,803. The estimate of receipts available for the general fund are \$667,000,000. The estimates for the canal are \$47,288,760 making a grand total of estimated expenditures of \$685,184,563.

With all the preliminaries for revising the financial system accomplished Mr. MacVeagh says there is no reason to postpone action.

The tentative plan of the National Monetary Commission, outlined by its Chairman, ex-Senator Aldrich, he says, satisfies in its essentials the larger part of the expert opinion of the nation and is supported by the business men. The Secretary pledges the administration to do its part in keeping this financial issue wholly non-partisan.

Mr. MacVeagh emphasizes the need of prohibiting all banks, national and state, from holding stock in other banks as a safeguard against any possible formation of a "money trust" in the future. He urges equality of national and state banks in doing trust company and savings bank business.

Circulating Library Elects Officers For 1912.

There was an annual election of officers of the New Bern Circulating Library on December twentieth. The following are the new officers for 1912: Mrs. W. B. Blades—President. Mrs. F. S. Duffy—1st. Vice-President. Mrs. A. D. Ward—2nd. Vice-President.

Miss May Hendren—Secretary. Mrs. E. B. Ellis—Treasurer. Purchasing Committee—Mrs. Ed. Bishop, (Chairman) Mrs. J. A. Bryan, Mrs. Chas. Ives, Mrs. C. E. Glover, Mrs. Tom Mitchell, Miss Hollister, Mr. C. L. Stevens.

Auditing Committee—Mr. James B. Blades, Mr. Sam M. Brinson.

Pictures—Great Assortment.

You can buy at your own price, as pictures are not selling fast since so many people have their own special subjects framed. Anything in the picture line at cost, will show you the bill to prove to you if you want to see it. J. S. MILLER. The Furniture Man.

House leaders are planning an inquiry into the so-called shipping trust.

The jury which will try the Chicago packers, charged with violation of the Sherman Anti Trust law, is completed and sworn in.

The three receivers of the Washab Railroad Company are expected to accept the appointment.

Strong opposition develops in New York to the reorganization plan of the Washab Railroad.

John P. White claimed to have been re-elected president of the United Mine Workers of America.

John Bigelow died in New York at the age of 95 years.

Mrs. Louisa Vermilya was indicted in Chicago for the murder of a policeman.

Two persons were killed in a gang fight in New York.

Six powers will offer to mediate at the Chinese conference to arrange peace terms.

A Chinese Minister in the Republican Provisional Government declared that foreign intervention would make conditions in China worse.

Russian Government officials are considering the question of new treaty with the United States.

Blame for the collision between the Olympic and the Hawk was placed on the former vessel.

FREE STATE AND COUNTY

Hookworm Dispensaries Are to be Conducted in This County With a Definite Purpose.

The State Board of Health, acting with the Commissioners of Craven county, have arranged to establish temporary dispensaries for the diagnosis and free treatment of hookworm disease. These dispensaries will be open between the hours of 9:30 a. m. and 3:30 p. m., at the following places: Dover, Tuesday, January 9; 16; 23; 30; February 6.

Cove City, Wednesday, January 3; 10; 17; 24; 31.

Vanceboro, Thursday, January 4; 11; 18; 25; February 1st.

Havelock, Friday, January 5; 12; 19; 26; 2; 9; 16; 23; 30; February 6.

New Bern, Saturday, January 6; 13; 20; 27; February 3.

Dr. C. F. Stroenider, Hookworm Specialist, will be in charge of the dispensaries, assisted by a trained microscopist.

There will be lectures on Hookworm Disease and rural sanitation daily, and you can see the chief cause of ground-itch through the microscope by asking the man in charge. You can get a pamphlet on Hookworm Disease, Malaria and Typhoid Fever, and the Sanitary Privy FREE! at the dispensary.

That if you have had ground-itch or dew poison within the past ten years, you should suspect Hookworm Disease. That we have found that more than half of the people have Hookworm Disease. The satisfaction of knowing that you do not have Hookworm Disease will repay you for the time you invest. To be examined we ask you bring on your first visit, a small amount of your bowel action in a tin box for microscopical examination. But few people are cured by taking less than three treatments. That we give but one treatment at a time, and that the treatments are taken one week apart.

Visit the dispensaries on the dates named and see for yourself what is being done. It may mean the saving of life, as well as many dollars to yourself or your child. We are interested in the health of your family. Are you? If so, take advantage of this vital opportunity.

Thousands of people took advantage of these dispensaries in Pitt county, and thereby, hundreds of them have been restored to good mental and physical health.

We are friends to you and your neighbor—Does your neighbor know this? Tell him!

We invite you all to come, regardless of your belief or disbelief. Remember; that you need not be an applicant for examination in order that you may visit us.

HAVELOCK NEWS.

Dec. 21—We are having some beautiful weather now, hope it will continue so throughout the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler who have been spending part of the winter at Cherry Point left this morning on the 8 o'clock train for their home in New York.

Mr. D. L. Taylor spent Tuesday in New Bern on business.

Messrs P. C. Collins and L. D. Collins from Pine Grove was visitors at Havelock Sunday.

Miss Sallie Russell spent Saturday in New Bern.

The many friends of Mrs. Dollie Chestnut of Monroe Va. will be shocked to learn of her sudden death. She died at her daughter's; Mrs. J. M. Garrell at Monroe last Friday, of heart trouble. Mrs. Chestnut used to live in this neighborhood. She was a great church worker and was a woman that was loved by all who knew her. Her many relatives have our deepest sympathy.

Mr. J. A. Morton from North Harlowe passed through here Monday on his way to New Bern.

Mr. M. F. Russell is having some repairing done to his house, it will soon be completed.

Miss Maud Wood spent Sunday with her parents Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Wood at Riverdale.

Messrs J. G. Godnar and A. D. Rooks are busy this week killing hogs.

Our school will close Friday afternoon for Xmas. Our teacher Mr. Hill will spend the holidays with his family at Beaufort.

With best wishes for a merry Xmas to all.

"THE KIDO."

Xmas Gifts. I have never had such a beautiful assortment of useful articles in select from. Visit our store and look over the different articles and I am sure you will be convinced. J. S. MILLER. The Furniture Man.



The Frenchman Ross, Offering Him the Envelope.

five minutes," when Des Trebes himself appeared.

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