

SYNOPSIS.

The scene at the opening of the story is laid in the library of an old worn-out southern plantation, known as the Barony. The place is to be sold, and its history and that of the owners, the Quintards, is the subject of discussion by Jonathan Creinshaw, a business man, a stranger known as Bladen, and Bob Yancy, a farmer, when Hannibal Wayne Hazard, a mysterious child of the old southern family, makes his appearance. Yancy telis how, he adopted the boy. Nathaniel Ferris blys the Barony, but the Quintards deny key knowledge of the boy. Yancy to keep Hannibal. Captain Mursell, a friend of the Quintards, appears and asks questions about the Barony. Trouble at Scratch Hill, when Hannibal is kidnaped by Dave Blount, Captain Murrell's agent. Yancy overtakes Blount, gives him a thrashing and secures the boy. Yancy appears before Squire Balaam, and is discharged with costs for the Pisiniff. Betty Malroy, a friend of the Ferrises, has an encounter with Captain Murrell, who forces his attentions on her, and is rescued by Bruce Carrington. Betty sets out for her Tennessee home. Carrington takes the same stage. Yancy and Hannibal disappear, with Murrell on their trail. Hannibal arrives at the home of Judge Slocum Price. The Judge recognizes in the boy, the grandson of an old time friend. Murrell arrives at Judge's home. Cavendish family on raft resize Yancy, who is apparently dead. Price breaks jail. Betty and Carrington arrive at Belle Plain. Hannibal's rife discloses some startling things to the judge. Hannibal and Betty meet again. Murrell arrives in Belle Plain. Is playing for big stakes. Yancy awakes from long dreamless sleep on board the raft. Judge Price makes startling discoveries in looking uplanter, who assists the judge, is mysteriously assaulted. Norton informs Carrington that Betty has promised to marry him. Norton is mysteriously assaulted. Norton informs Carrington that Betty and she keeps the boy as a companion. In a stroil Betty takes with Hannibal they meet Bess Hicks, daughter of the overseer, who warms B

CHAPTER XXXI.—(Continued.)

At last he decided to go back to the judge; and a moment later was hurrying down the lane in the direction of the highroad, but, jaded as he was by the effort he had already put for that day, the walk to Raleigh made tremendous demands on him, and it was midnight when he entered the little town.

It cannot be said that he was alto gether surprised when he found their cottage dark and apparently deserted. He had half expected this. Entering, and not stopping to secure a candle, he groped his way upstairs to the room on the second floor which

"Price!" he called, but this gained him no response, and he cursed softly under his breath.

He hastily descended to the kitch en, lighted a candle, and stepped into the adjoining room. On the table was a neat pile of papers, and topping the pile was the president's letter. Being burdened by no false scruples, and thinking it might afford some clue to the judge's whereabouts, Mahaffy took it up and read it. Having mastered its contents he instantly glanced in the direction of the City Tavern, but it was wrapped in dark-

"Price is drunk somewhere," was his definite conclusion. "But he'll be at Boggs' the first thing in the morning-most likely so far gone he can hardly stand!"

The letter, with its striking news, made little or no impression on him just then; it merely furnished the clue he had sought. The judge was off somewhere marketing his prospects.

After a time Mahaffy went up stairs, and, without removing his clothes, threw himself on the bed. He was worn down to the point of exhaustion, yet he could not sleep, though the deep silence warned him that day was not far off. What ifbut he would not let the thought shape itself in his mind. He had witnessed the judge's skill with the pistol, and he had even a certain irrational faith in that gentleman's des tiny. He prayed God that Fentress might die quickly and decently with the judge's bullet through his brain. Over and over in savage supplication he muttered his prayer that Fentress

Mahaffy watched for the coming of the dawn, but before the darkness lifted he had risen from the bed and gone downstairs, where he made himself a cup of wretched coffee. Then blew out his candle and watched the gray light spread. He was impatient now to be off, and fully an Lour before the sun, set out for again.





Boggs', a tall, gaunt figure in the shadowy uncertainty of that October morning. He was the first to reach the place of meeting, but he had scarcely entered the meadow when Fentress rode up, attended by Tom Ware. They dismounted, and the colonel lifted his hat. Mahaffy barely acknowledged the salute; he was in no mood for courtesies that meant nothing. Ware was clearly of the same mind.

There was an awkward pause, then Fentress and Ware spoke together in a low tone. The planter's speech was broken and hoarse, and his heavy, blood-shot eyes were the eyes of a haunted man; this was all a part of Fentress' scheme to face the world, and Ware still believed that the fires Hicks had kindled had served his des-

perate need When the first long shadows stole out from the edge of the woods Fentress turned to Mahaffy, whose glance was directed toward the distant cor-ner of the field, where he knew his friend must first appear.

"Why are we waiting, sir?" he demanded, his tone cold and formal. "Something has occurred to detain Price," answered Mahaffy.

The colonel and Ware exchanged Again they spoke together, looks. while Mahaffy watched the road. Ten minutes slipped by in this manner. and once more Fentress addressed Mahaffy.

"Do you know what could have de tained him?" he inquired, the ghost of a smile curling his thin lips.

"I don't," said Mahaffy, and relapsed into a moody and anxious silence. He held dueling in very proper abhorrence, and only his feeling of intense but never-declared loyalty to his friend had brought him there.

Another interval of waiting suc ceeded.

"I have about reached the end of my patience; I shall wait just ten minutes longer," said Fentress, and drew out his watch. 'Something has happened-" began

Mahaffy. "I have kept my engagement: he should have kept his," Fentress continued addressing Ware. "I am sor-

ry to have brought you here for nothing, Tom."
"Wait!" said Mahaffy, planting him self squarely before Fentress.

"I consider this comic episode a an end," and Fentress pocketed his

"Scarcely!" rejoined Mahaffy. His long arm shot out and the open palm of his hand descended on the col-onel's face. "I am here for my friend," he said grimly.

The colonel's face paled and colored by turns.

"Have you a weapon?" he asked, when he could command his voice Mahaffy exhibited the pistol he had carried to Belle Plain the day be

"Step off the ground, Tom." Fentress spoke quietly. When Ware had done as requested, the colonel spoke again. "You are my witness that I

was the victim of an unprovoked at tack." Mr. Ware accepted this statement

with equanimity, not to say indiffer ence. "Are you ready?" he asked; he glanced at Mahaffy, who by a slight inclination of the head signified that he was. "I reckon you're a green

hand at this sort of thing?" commented Tom evilly. 'Yes," said Mahaffy tersely.

"Well, listen: I shall count, one, two, three; at the word three you will fire. Now take your positions."

Mahaffy and the colonel stood facing each other, a distance of twelve paces separating them. Mahaffy was pale but dogged; he eyed Fentress unflinchingly. Quick on the word Fentress fired an instant later Mahaffv's pistol exploded; apparently neither bullet had taken effect, the two men maintained the rigid attitude they had assumed; then Mahaffy was seen to turn on his heels, next his arm dropfrom his fingers, a look of astonishment passed over his face and left it vacant and staring while his right hand stole up toward his heart; he raised it slowly, with difficulty, as though it were held down by some invisible weight.

A hush spread across the field. It was like one of nature's invisible transitions. Along the edge of the woods the song of birds was stricken into silence. Ware, heavy-eyed-Fentress, his lips twisted by a tortured smile, watched Mahaffy as he panted for breath, with his hand clenched against his breast. That dead, oppressive silence lasted but a moment: from out of it came a cry that smote on the wounded man's ears reached his consciousness.

"It's Price-" he gasped, his words bathed in blood, and he pitched for ward on his face.

Ware and Fentress had heard the cry, too, and running to their horses threw themselves into the saddle and galloped off. The judge midway of the meadow roared out a furious protest, but the mounted men turned into the highroad and vanished from sight, and the judge's shaking legs bore him swiftly in the direction of

the gaunt figure on the ground. Mahaffy struggled to rise, for he was hearing his friend's woice now, the voice of utter anguish, calling his name At last painful effort brought him to his knees. He saw the judge, clothed principally in a gaily colored bed-quilt, hatless and shoeless, his face sodden and bleary from his night's debauch. Mahaffy stood erect and staggered toward him, his hand over his wound, his features drawn and livid, then with a cry be dropped at his friend's feet.

"Solomon! Solomon!" And the

judge knelt beside him. "It's all right, Price; I kept your appointment," whispered Mahaffy; a bloody spume was gathering on his lips, and he stared up at his friend

with glassy eyes. the other guests—my dear, in very shame the judge hid his best dressed woman there!"



face in his hands, while sobs shoot him.

"Solomon-Solomon, why did you do this?" he cried miserably

The harsh lines on the dying man's face erased themselves.

"You're the only friend I've known in twenty years of loneliness, Price. I've loved you like a brother," he panted, with a pause between each

Again the judge buried his face in his hands.

"I know it, Solomon-I know it!" he moaned wretchedly.

"Price, you are still a man to be reckoned with. There's the boy; take to agree half a dozen times. your place for his sake and keep ityou can."

"I will-by God, I will!" gasped the

"You have the president's lettersaw it—" said Mahaffy in a whisper. last committee meeting rehearsed.
"Yes!" cried the judge. "Solomon, The committee then went to work.

the world is changing for us!" stant when the judge's ashen countefailure. "Remember your oath, Price," gasped the dying man. A moment of silence succeeded. Mahaffy's eyes closed, then the heavy lids slid back. He looked up at the judge while the harsh lines of his sour old face softened wonderfully. "Kiss me, Price," he whispered, and as the judge bent to touch him on the brow, the softened lines fixed themselves in death, while on his lips lingered a smile that was neither bitter nor sneering.

CHAPTER XXXII.

The Judge's Grandson.

In that bare upper room they had shared, the judge, crushed and broken, watched beside the bed on which the dead man lay; unconscious of the flight of time he sat with his head bowed in his hands, having scarcely altered his position since he begged narrow stairs to leave him alone with his friend

haffy in the stuffy cabin of the small river packet from which they had later gone ashore at Pleasantville; he thanked God that it had been given him to see beneath Solomon's forbidding exterior and into that starved He reviewed each phase of the almost insensible growth of their intimacy; he remembered Mahaffy's fine true loyalty at the time of his arrest-he thought of Damon and Pythias-Mahaffy had reached the heights of a sublime devotion; he could only feel ennobled that he had

inspired it. At last the dusk of twilight in vaded the room. He lighted the candies on the chimneypiece, then he resumed his seat and his former attitude. Suddenly he became aware of a small hand that was resting on his ped to his side and the pistol slipped arm and glanced up; Hannibal had stolen quietly into the room. The boy pointed to the still figure on the bed.

"Judge, what makes Mr. Mahaffy lie so quiet-is he dead?" he asked in a whisper.

"Yes, dear lad," began the judge in toward him, "your friend and mine is great attitude. dead-we have lost him." the boy into his lap, and Hannibal pressed a tear-stained face against the judge's shoulder. "How did you get here?" the judge questioned gent-

"Uncle Bob fetched me," said Han-"He's down-stairs, but he didn't tell me Mr. Mahaf'y was dead."

"We have sustained a great loss, Hannibal, and we must never forget the moral grandeur of the man. Some day, when you are older, and I can bring myself to speak of it, I will tell you of his last moments." The judge's voice broke, a thick sob rose chokingly in his throat. "Por Solomon! man of such tender toeling that he hid it from the world, for his was a rare nature which only revealed itself to the chosen few he honored with his The judge larsed into a molove." mentary brooding silence, in which his great arms drew the boy closer against his heart. "Dear lad, since left you at Belle Plain a very astonishing knowledge has come to me. It was the Hand of Providence-1 see it now-that first brought us together. You must not call me judge any more; I am your grandfather-your mother was my daughter."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Dress for an Earthquake.

An old lady was staying at a hoter at Nice at the time of the earthquake. 'My dear," she was wont to say, "I was simlpy tumbled out of bed and the ceiling cracked. I threw on a fur cloak and unconsciously pulled on one long black suede glove, and when got down to the hall and found all the other guests-my dear, I was the

## THE VUTERS MAY SCRATCH TICKET

AND STILL VOTE FOR SENATOR -THUS THE COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED.

## HOLD A PROLONGED MEETING

But He Must Not Vote For Any Candidate on Any Other Party Ticket-There Was Much Discussion During the Session.

Raleigh.—By a vote of 31 to 0, the state Democratic executive committee agreed upon the McLean resolution. It took three hurs and a half to reach a conclusion that would receive a majority vote in favor of definite action upon this proposition. Perhaps a score of measures were presented many of them very similar in nature. The debates upon none of them reached a disagreeable point

and the committee was almost willing The committee was called together by Chairman Charles A. Webb, who asked that Commissioner of Labor judge. "You hear me? You hear me, and Printing M. L. Shipman to assist Solomon? By God's good help, I will!" the secretary. The call for this meeting the secretary. The call for this meeting was read and the proceedings of the

Ex-Congressman Hackett address-"For me most of all," murmured ing the chair, said that he wished to Mahaffy, and there was a bleak in have the "so-called Hackett resolution" stricken out. But the commitnance held the full pathos of age and tee merely laughed and the roll was called. It showed that there were present in person and by proxy forty-

nine members of the committee. Chairman Webb then stated the reasons for the second calling of the committee. He said that a majority of the committee had asked the modification of the "so-called Hackett resolugion.

"If any of you doubt that the Democrats of North Carolina understand what the resolution is, just call at the headquarters of the state executive committee and I will show you four or five hundred letters and telegrams on this subject, which express the belief that the former action was too drastic.

Mr. Webb then told how delicate has been his position. "With all of the disagreements of the opposition. with all of the circumstances favorthose who carried Mahaffy up the able to us, I do not believe any chairman ever had to decide so many different questions or to hear so many He was living over the past. He complaints. It does not look good for recalled his first meeting with Ma- the future. I beg you to be governed solely by the thought of your party's good and to act calmly.

Politics in Moore County.

The county Democratic candidates spoke to a fair-sized crowd in the Thomasville Opera House. For about two hours they discussed the issues of the campaign and pleaded the cause of Democracy. With the candidates was Capt. S. E. Williams of Lexington, who made an appeal for party, prophesying a Democratic victory all over the country. The county political situation is beginning to get hot around about Thomasville.

Albemarle Fair Closes.

The Albemarle Afiriccultural Fair closed with a spectacular flight by J. P. Montgomery, appointed as a Dem B. McCally, of Harrisburg, Pa., in a Curtis aeroplane. The weather was Bruton, Democrat, appointed in his ideal and he soon arose to an altitude of six thousand feet, circuling thirty making many spectacular gyrations among which he made a dip of fifty-five hundred feet, righting his machine within five hundred feet of shaking voice, as he drew Hannibai the ground and rising again to a

> Canditions in North Carolina Good. Royal E. Cabell, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, has just returned tion was granted until the entire matfrom a trip through the West and is ter of the fourth section can be passed preparing his annual report for Congress. His collections for the year, en permission to establish rates on he said, will run five million dollars ahead of any previous year. Con Farmville, Greenville, Goldsboro, Kinditions in North Carolina, so far as ston, Newbern, Wilson, Plymouth and his work is concerned, were never better, the commissioner said.

> Reverse Action of Commissioners. By a vote of ten to seven, the board of county supervisors revers- R. R. Reynolds, Judge Foushee issued ed the action of the county comis an order that Mrs. Neta White Harrisioners in accepting the resignation son be brought back to Asheville of County Highway Engineer W. L. Spoon, when a motion to retain him trial for the alleged murder of her until the end of the term of the pres- husband about a year ago. It is chargent board expires was carried. The ed that she walked into the room matter was discussed for two hours, being a result of the recent Hanes-Spoon controversy; Mr. Spoon alleging antagonism on the part of Mr. Hanes, while Mr. Hanes alleged that Mr. Spoon was Ising time from work. ed same, and will try her for murder.

Report on Harnett County Schools.

Prof. J. D. Ezzel, county superintendent of public instruction, has ty Fair has scored a big success. Every just gotten out a report of the condition of the public schools of Harnett. This is rather a history and prise at the constant and rapid growth comparative statement of the condition shown from year to year. The adof the educational affairs of the county now and 10 years ago. The Mr. S. B. Heigis were both listened to report shows in part: that there are two high schools, one at Angier and one at Lillington, two graded schools at Duke and Dunn and that the tion given by these two excellent value of school property is worth \$55,- speakers expressed better than words 545 more now than in 1902.

## NORTH CAROLINA'S SHARE

This State Gets Over Million Out of Thirteen-Most of This Goes to Rivers and Harbors.

Raleigh -A special from Washingon states that thirteen million and five thousand dollars is appropriated specifically to be used in the southern states by the appropriation bills of the last Congress. This fact has been determined by a professional statistician here who computed the appropriations for each state and each group of states. Many of the great appropriation bills such as army and navy are for general expenditure.

North Carolina was the only Southern state participating in the Indian (appropriation bill. Thirty-eight thousand dollars was appropriated for the support and maintenance of an Indian school at Cherokee, N. C.

The total apropriation for North Carolina, as determined by the statistician's investigation, is \$1,196,000, consisting of, besides the Indian appropriation, \$790,500 for rivers and harbors improvement; \$362,500 for improvement of public buildings, and \$6,300 for fisheries.

The total appropriation for Tennessee is \$733,700, consisting of \$677,500 for rivers and harbors improvement; \$52,000 for improvement of public

buildings, and \$4,200 for fisheries. The total for the Southern cities are as follows:

Rivers and harbors .. .. .. \$9,327,000 

 Indian
 38,000

 Sundry civil
 2,743,000

 Improving public buildings
 1,538,723

 Indian .. Sundry civil ... Fisheries ..... Forestry .. .. .. .. .. 40,210

Governor Grants Two Pardons.

Two pardons were given by Governor Kitchin, following the revocation of the Walter Hobbs clemency of a year ago. In giving Hobbs back to the roads it is explained that the officers might have had him long ago, but for the wording of the conditional pardon, which left the matter pretty well with the recorder. The first time Hobbs was arrested, he was acquitted and the next time the recorder found him guilty. Governor Kitchin understood that to settle the matter and not until it was brought to his attention did he take action.

The last two pardons were issued conditionally also and Gov. Kitchin gives these reasons: "On the recommendation of the recorder, who imposed this sentence the chief of police, the prosecuting witness, who was prisoner's wife, and many citizens, I pardon the prisoner, John Pharr, on condition that he remain law-abiding and of good behavior." On the recommendation of the jude, solicitor, private prosecutors, the then sheriff of the county and many citizens, I par-don prisoner Lester McAuley who is said to have been thirteen years old when he was convicted, on condition that he remain law-abiding and of good behavior.

Two Bull Moose Men Removed.

The state board of elections in session at Raleigh removed two members of county boards and named successors, this being the board's final preparation for the approaching election. Both removals were because members first named have turned Bull Moose, one having been a Republican and the other a Democrat. M. M. Kiker of Anson, appointed as Republican, was removed and M. John Burr, Republican, appointed to succeed him. In Montgomery county, H. ocrat, was removed and Richard

Freight Rates in North Carolina. The Seaboard Air Line, for itself

and the Maxton, Alma & Southbound Railroad petitioned the interstate commerce commission for relief from the fourth section of the interstate commerce act and for permission to establish commodity rates from Rowland, Chalendor and Brady. The petiupon. The Norfolk Southern was givpeanuts in sacks or barrels from Washington to Brunswick, Ga., and Jacksonville, Fla.

To Be Tried For Murder of Husband. On the representation of Solicitor from the insane hospital and stand where her huspand was sleeping, and shot him. She was adjudged insane and sent to the state hospital for the insane at Raleigh. Solicitor Reynolds says that she has now been pronounc-

Granville Fair Success.

For a third time the Granville Counvisitor expressed admiration for the more than creditable exhibits and surdresses by Hon. Lee S. Overman and by large crowds and the earnest faces of the farmers, who eagerly drank in the practical suggestions and informatheir appreciation.