The Convict Who Refused to Fight for a Lady

By CHARLES MORRIS BUTLER

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CHAPTER XXV.—Continued.

"You are, of course, a woman, I mean, can hardly consider yourself free from arrest, if once outside this city. Would you be willing to undergo, say a year's imprisonment to become a free woman providing you would be left alone to enjoy the wealth you have accumulated?"

"I would."

"You do not hesitate to tell me this?" asked Louis.

"No." I know the girl of your questioning. I have never looked upon you as a criminal, so I am not surprised to find that you are not—for you are one!"

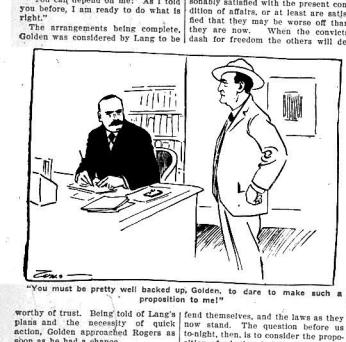
"You are right," replied Louis. "Well, then, if you are willing to do the square thing, how am I to know it?"

"Put me to the test," said Golden. "You know me well enough now to feel, I hope, that I am a friend of yours. You have saved my life—you need not fear that I will do anything that will betray you."

"You must know, then, Golden, that I represent a large body of citizens who are going to try to overthrow this government. The thing can be accomplished easier than you dream, your aid than without it. I want your aid and win over Rogers to my side—to spike the enemy's guns, so to speak. This is not to be a fight of a few against wrong, but criminal against criminal. It is the scales a few trained enriching themselves by avoiding the gold stored in the vaults. Lend me your aid; win over Rogers and a few of the most influential, trustworthy of his life, and I can promise you a free passage from the United States government. There are a few that I cannot promise pardons, whether on my side or mine—but to you I can. What do you think of it?"

"You can depend on me! As I told you before, I am ready to do what is right."

The arrangements being complete, Golden was considered by Lang to be



"You must be pretty well backed up, Golden, to dare to make such a proposition to me!"

worthy of trust. Being told of Lang's plans and the necessity of quick action, Golden approached Rogers as soon as he had a chance.

"There is a well organized plan on foot," said Golden to Rogers in a guarded but determined manner, "not calculated to impress the Chief of Police, you may call it rebellion. In Paradise, the ostensible plan is for a few to obtain control of the gold in the vaults while the main body of citizens are fighting outside the prison walls. Do you think it is the better plan, to fight to maintain the present state of things or jump in with the first leaders and get a free pardon from the United States government at the same time filling our pockets?"

"Get a finger in the pie!" answered Rogers. "Is that your idea?"

"That's my idea," replied Golden, bluntly.

"You must be pretty well backed up, Golden, to dare to make such a proposition to me!"

"I am," firmly replied Golden. "Freedom and profit is quite an inducement to me. The same is open to you if you want it!"

"Then the state's government is at the back of this!"

"Of course. What do you care for the same authority? You are not such a desperate criminal that you need to hide yourself away here. Every moment you remain here you are placing your neck further in the halter. Don't you think it would be better to live in the Golden like a white man?"

"I presume so. There is no doubt of the success of the rebellion."

"None whatever. The fall of Paradise is assured. You will join us, then?"

"Us. Certainly, if you are in it!"

"Well, then, show your loyalty by assisting Lang. He is quite as much the state of affairs. Any one whom you can trust—good and loyal men whom you would like to see get a slice in the gold bags. Be leery, however, of men who have really committed capital crime, whom you know would have trouble to get a pardon. Understand?"

"Sure. Where do we meet to draw up a compact?"

"At the haunted house," replied Golden.

"So Lang is in it!"

"Head and front!"

"I thought so. That man is a devil. There is no doubt he will win!"

By means of Golden, Rogers was won over; Rogers spoke to Pearson; Pearson spoke to Fitzgerald, and in a large company was formed, comprising the most daring and intelligent men in the community. At that night time the conspirators met at the residence of Lang. Among those assembled in the cellar of the house, where the meeting took place, was Wilson and Black Jack, the instigator, the leader of the tunnel gang who had been liberated by the aid of Rogers.

The meeting was called to order by Lang as soon as all those invited had assembled.

"Gentlemen," he said, "by appearing here together, each one of us has resolved to become a conspirator—or in other words, a rebel—one who rebels against government oppression. The only difference I may add, between a rebel and a patriot, is the gaining of the victory. If we lose, of necessity we are traitors, and if we win, which is a foregone conclusion, we will become patriots or simply revolutionists. In each of you gentlemen has been informed, there is a conspiracy on foot to overthrow the government of Paradise. Where you find power there will you find a misuse of power—and such we think is the case here. There are two sides, of course, to this story. The men in the mines, about three hundred, I think, have resolved to have freedom at any cost—they are desperate enough, as I am informed, not to hesitate at dripping their hands in human blood to accomplish their ends. The conspiracy has reached that stage where nothing, I think, can check them from making a trial. The way to liberty is open; arms they have in plenty; all that is lacking now is the signal to go ahead with the slaughter.

"On the other hand, there are at least a thousand citizens who are reasonably satisfied with the present condition of affairs, or at least are satisfied that they may be worse off if they are now. When the convicts dash for freedom the others will defend themselves, and the laws as they now stand. The question before us to-night, then, is to consider the proposition of allowing ourselves to uphold the present government with Sebiller at the head, join the convicts, or, as I have suggested, let the factions are quarreling among themselves, step in and help ourselves to the gold locked in the vaults. That is, before guerillas. They say there is honor among thieves! Have you, gentlemen, considered that you have been robbed by our more influential following? Have you been treated fairly? I have no excuse to offer for making the suggestion—you know the treatment that has been accorded me here. I advocate the plan that we, while convicts fighting citizen, each trying to subdue the other, we dip our hands, not in human blood but in the money bags, and make our escape before the loss can become known! We need not risk our necks in vain attempt to protect a worthless institution nor yet belittle our bravery by pouncing upon helpless women and children. Any country divided against itself will fall. One of these factions will win. Either or both can live without money because money is not needed here. Then I maintain that we harm no one.

"Now, against this plan of action of the question. Suppose there are a million dollars in gold in the vaults—which there are—suppose there are of high denomination. If this sum only was divided between each man, women and child, it would give each one $500 per man. To ten this sum represents a colossal fortune; a hundred thousand dollars is not much! Is any one here who thinks he could not live well upon this sum? Not one, I ween—honorable men, I mean honorable men, this sum is almost incomprehensible. What joy to control that sum of money! Suppose it is not so. The United States government has a standing offer for the counterfeiting gang, our case is not the worst, they are made, and free pardons for those who bring it in; there are at least ten men here who are wanted 'dead or alive,' with a price upon their heads aggregating $200,000. Shall we let this government go by?"

Then up spoke Golden.

"I thought, Lang, you were surrounded by a band altered! I had no idea you were trying to organize one now."

"I am not," replied Lang. "I am at the head of a band. It is a band neat, however, on robbing the vaults, which, I town is doomed. There can be no doubt of that. What I want is something more than ruins!"

"Suppose we should refuse," demanded Sebiller, evidently chagrined at being "taken in."

"Do you suppose for a moment, gentlemen, that I would allow any one to warn the citizens, or that a single life would be allowed to stand between me and the accomplishment of my purpose? Not so, all here are not new to this phase of the scheme. Those who are new to it are evidently cured of the scruffle—be saved! Those who wish to refuse—will refuse! I want to impress upon you that unless my purpose can be better accomplished with your help. Be warned! Money I want, and money I will get. And rather than face defeat I would slay with my own hands the man who now stands before me and forewarn! I now becomes a case with me, gentlemen, of kill or get killed, and you know me well."

Then up spoke Black Jack:

"Gentlemen present, if they were not blinded, could easily see what Lang says is the truth. He certainly is backed up by a powerful insurgent force. Take, for instance, I am a life convict, doomed to work all my life in the mines. Then how am I here to-night? Some one have seen me out upon the streets before this. Simply because Lang has a means of enlarging his influence, and at his call all the convicts and people in Paradise who are dissatisfied with the present government, or, rather, themselves, break their bonds, and there themselves upon those who bar their way to liberty!"

This powerful argument was seconded by Wilson, who spoke.

"It has long been an understood fact to me that Sebiller is not the man whose desire to divide the money that is in the vault. This mode of treatment would have been the best to have made money here; what matters the loss of a paltry hundred or so to those who carry here so much at hazard? Such men as Golden and Rogers need not hesitate to throw off the yoke of Sebiller to his fellow citizens. Sebiller is only a question of time, any way, when we must be driven from the throughold we have made for ourselves. It is too late to turn back now. Those who are not with us are against us!"

"I think it would be best to join this league," said one of the spokesmen in the corner. "In fact, I think there is no be bloodshed. To remain with the government is to be compelled to put down the insurrection, and I think that them is treason; there is no middle course but this."

"I don't see as we can do better," said Pearson. "It seems kind of dirty, but still we are bound to protect ourselves. I for one, am tired of living in a constant state of fear of assassination all the time."

"Then, gentlemen, if you are agreed, sign this paper," said Lang. "I will you to obey me in everything concerning this insurrection. In return I give you my word of honor that I shall share and share alike in all things. Should I die, divide my share among you—should I live you all will divide his share. If there are any family men amongst us, let us pledge ourselves to brotherhood so that not one of our brothers' families shall want for food nor drink while any of us have money in our purse."

While the paper was being signed Lang gave some details of his plan. "We are in for a fight to the death," he said, enthusiastically. "We are at the head of a band of over three hundred, all sworn, and needed now is a few bombs placed around under the walls. At a given signal from me, light the fuse and let the bombs do the rest—open up the prison and pour out the convicts; in the confusion I can lead the band that you see are resolute and the gold is ours! Be ready when the signal strikes!"

(To be continued.)

Why the Tenor Was Fired.

The late Joseph Jefferson, "Rip" of Chicago took great delight in telling the following story of "Punch" Wheeler.

Wheeler, at that time the advance agent of a minstrel company, had returned to New York after the close of the theatrical season, and a friend, meeting him on Broadway, asked him how he had spent his summer.

"Very bad," said "Punch;" "so bad that the only way we could pay the members of the troupe was to fire them. It worked splendidly, too; and by the time we reached Chicago we had squared up with the whole company except the first tenor, who was such a proper chap that there was no chance to find fault with his conduct. The Chicago Mr. Tenor sang for his solo 'The Lighthouse on the Sea,' and for an encore responded with 'Down the Hills to the Poorhouse.' That gave the boss the opportunity he was looking for and he levied on the manager's salary for the entire amount—first, for failing in the business we were playing to, and second, for giving away the route of the show."—Judge.

Distressing Possibility.

The young mother gazed upon her first born, and her face mantled. They appealed to her to know her great grief.

"Alas!" she wailed as with intensest agony, "I'm afraid he will wear side whiskers when he grows up!"—Browning's Magazine.

Effective Substitute.

Husband—I don't believe in a burglar in the room, and I have no revolver.

Wife—Go back to bed, Lang. "I am at

STATE NEWS

BUILDING BOOM FOR DECATUR

Over $1,716,000 Spent on Improvements During the Past Year.

Decatur has grown faster during the past year and has built more expensive buildings than at any previous time in its history. The increase has been phenomenal. New buildings were constructed at a cost of $1,716,000 as against $1,254,500 in 1904, and still smaller total back to 1901, when the amount invested was well below $1,000,000. Of the buildings erected, $495,000 was spent on business and factory structures; $931,220 for residences; $148,000 for religious purposes, and $91,020 for remodeling and in barns. Municipal improvements, including the extension of the park system, footed up $49,000. The more noteworthy new structures include the new U. S. building, $52,000; First M. E. church, $52,000; Lincoln M. E. church, $35,000; Leader Manufacturing company, $40,000; H. Mueller Manufacturing company, $35,000; Post & Son, $10,000; Macon County Gas company, $20,000; Charles and William Tyrrell, $10,000; United States Brewing company, $10,000; Lagenbach, $10,000; Wabash roundhouse, $10,000; Wait office building, $10,000; Bachrack armory, $20,000; J. B. Bull hotel, $25,000; Central Malleable Iron works, $10,000; Decatur Packing company, $40,000; Decatur Amuse. Park Co., $20,000; Decatur Hotel, $15,000; John A. Warnecke, $10,500, and Harpstrite building, $12,000. In all residences, five religious structures, one hotel, one theater, one amusement park and fifty-one business houses were erected.

LOANS CAT TO HIS CUSTOMERS

Merchant Secures Trade in Towns infested by Rats.

A plague of rats which has been visited on Highland Park and Lake Forest, suburbs of Chicago, has been put to good use by a Highland Park merchant who owns a cat famous as a mouser. Instead of trading his cat, he gives the services of his cat for a specified time with each purchase of $25. So high is the economy of rodents become that the animal is engaged for several weeks ahead. At the home of A. N. Day, a company actively new building, Mr. Day's butler set traps and caught seventy-eight rats in two days. The home of Granger Farwell, one of the best in the suburb, also has been invaded by the pests. Experts from Chicago have been engaged, but despite the great number killed the plague continues. The cat, which is urgently needed, residents declare.

Road Pig to Joliet Convicts.

Roast pig was the principal item on the Christmas dinner menu for the convicts at the Joliet penitentiary. Coffee, vegetables and fruits were also served, with cigars for the men and cigarettes for the women. Entertainment was furnished by a company of vaudeville artists from Chicago. There was a Christmas tree for the children in the morning for the men, and in the afternoon the program was presented in the prison chapel. Warden Murphy gave the freedom of their cell houses for two hours in the afternoon, while the men visited friends in the dormitories of their department.

Low State Tax Rate.

The state tax rate for 1905 is 50 cents on $100 of equalized valuation of property. This is the lowest rate since 1902, at which time the rate was only 40 cents, being greatly reduced by the $1,000,000 paid back to the state by the national government to settle the civil war dept. Last year, when the assessed valuation was $1,082,744,083, the rate was 55 cents. The equalized valuation this year is $1,097,358,177. The lowest tax rate in recent years was in 1899, when the rate was in 1897, when it was 66 cents. The rate two years ago was 53 cents.

Approves Diphtheria Edict.

Dr. James A. Egan, secretary of the state board of health, has approved the plans being enforced by public officials of Taylorville to prevent a spread of diphtheria, which has taken an alarming hold upon the town. The mayor ordered that all public schools and all places of amusement be closed. No religious services will be held, and all plans for holiday entertainment in the Sunday schools have been abandoned.

Board Cuts Assessments.

The board of equalization has decreased the assessment of lands and lots in the national cemetery of Illinois $17,433,611 net. The total amount of lands was $18,828,667, while $1,395,056 was added. The assessment made in town and city lots amounting to $1,395,056 net. The total amount deducted was $1,542,819, while only $333,255 was added.

Arrested for Selling Billies.

Four pawnbrokers, one a woman, were arrested in Rock Island, Friday, displaying brass "knuckles" and slingshots of the kind usually known as "billies" in their show windows. The Illinois statutes make it a misdemeanor to offer such articles for sale.

Scarlet Fever at Monmouth.

An outbreak of scarlet fever at Monmouth resulted in a notice being sent by Health Officer Wells closing all the churches of the city to Christmas Sunday school services.

DESPERATE FIGHT ON A TRAIN

Chicken Thief and Constable Are Dead as Result of Shooting.

Two men were killed and a third probably fatally wounded in a revolver battle on a rapidly moving train on the Southern railway leaving Wayne City Friday afternoon. Every window in the car was shattered and twenty-five passengers were thrown into a panic.

The four men engaged in the battle were Constable James Kingston and three chicken thieves, Richard and Isaac Marshall and Walter Finley, all of Sims.

The prisoners had had their hearing before a justice of the peace at Wayne City and were ordered sent to the Fairfield jail pending a trial. They were in the custody of Constable Kingston.

As the train drew near the town limits of Sims, Ed Marshall, without warning, drew a revolver and fired at Kingston, missing him. Ike Marshall also drew a gun and began to shoot.

The constable immediately opened fire on his assailants. The bullets first passed through the hat of a passenger, Zeda Smith of Ellery. A second bullet entered the passenger's heart and he fell dead. A third shot wounded Ed Marshall, but he was able to keep up the fight.

Both the Marshall boys had been firing their guns rapidly until they fell, and several passengers who expected to be armed took chance shots at the prisoners.

Ed Marshall continued firing wildly even after he was wounded. He emptied his revolver, and while the bullets were flying through the shattering window glass and splintering the car seats he reloaded his weapon and again opened fire on the constable. One of the shots passed through the constable's heart, and he died instantly.

On the train were State's Attorney W. F. Thomas and James Harlan, the Southern railway detective, and they succeeded finally in overpowering Ed Marshall, who was rapidly weakening from loss of blood.

Walter Finley took no part in the battle, being unarmed. He was lodged in jail in Fairfield with Ed Marshall, and the jail is being guarded to prevent a possible lynching.

Quarterly Meetings.

Presiding Elder J. W. McNeil of Carbondale has just announced the following quarterly meetings of the M. E. church for the southern Illinois district: Vergennes, Murphysboro and Pinckneyville, January 13, 14, 15; Mount Vernon, First street, Belleville street and Epworth chapel, January 19, 20, 21, 22; Ewing, Spring Garden, Dodge, and Mount Vernon circuit, January 26, 27, 28; Benton, Corinth, Frankfort and Crab Orchard, February 2, 3, 4; Sesser, Cedar Grove, Johnson City and Carterville, February 9, 10, 11, 12; Marion, Creal Springs, February 16, 17; Thebes, Olive Branch and Villa Ridge, February 23, 24, 25; Calco, Mound City and Ullin, March 2, 3, 4; Ware, Vienna, Tamaroa and Duquoin, March 9, 10, 11, 12; Chester, Steeleville and Jonesboro, March 16, 17, 18; Makanda, Carbondale, Flat, church and Carbondale, Flat, church, March 23, 24, 25; Elco and Anna, March 31, April 1 and 2.

Leaves Family of Six.

Mrs. Mary Kaufmann, widow of Jacob Kaufman, died at Waterloo, aged 75. Besides her husband, one son and five daughters survive. They are William Kaufmann and Mrs. John Grist of Waterloo, and Mrs. J. A. Kreppe, Mrs. Frank Kreppe and Mrs. Henry Johnson of St. Louis.

Barring Tuberculosis.

Chicago will bar children suffering from tuberculosis from the schools, according to the preliminary steps at a meeting last week. A committee will be appointed to draft rules in regard to the matter, and it is suggested that a medical examiner decide suspected cases.

Burglars Rifle Safe.

The Lafayette department store at Bushnell, was entered by robbers and the contents of the safe, $400, was taken. The burglars entered through a coal chute which led into the basement. The combination of the safe was successfully worked.

Consolidate Electric Lines.

Plans for the consolidation of the Aurora, Elgin and Chicago railway company and the Elgin, Aurora and Southern traction company are announced at Cleveland, O., by L. J. Wolf, president of both companies.

Boy Fatally Wounded at Play.

Earl Phillips, aged 10 years, was accidentally shot yesterday by a blank cartridge shell from a revolver in the hands of John Falkner, a playmate, near Belleville. His physicians say he cannot recover.

Santa Claus Fatally Burned.

While playing the part of Santa Claus at a Christmas entertainment at White Oak Methodist church near Danville, William Jakes, superintendent of the White Oak mine, was fatally burned through his costume catching fire.

Old Hotel is Sold.

The Nachusa hotel, the principal hotel in Dixon, has been sold by Thomas Young, who has conducted it for twenty-seven years, to Ira W. Vanant of Chicago.

Where to Aerate Milk.

For a great many years as opinion prevailed that the aeration of milk was a good thing. It was believed that in the milk was some gas, and it was natural odor that could only be taken out by exposure to the air. In the factories where the cream was handled for butter-making or milk for cheese-making large aerators were used in some cases, in others, however, this was done in bottling plants and farmers in their milk to adjacent cities. The milk was run over a cooler which circulated brine or ice water. On the farms the aeration was done by taking the milk out of doors and pouring it from one pail to another or stirring it with a great ladle. While aeration is still practiced to some extent, it is not practiced to the extent it used to be. Experiments have been made on the farms. Among the better class of butterers there is at the present time about as much opinion against aeration of milk as there is for it. The idea of aeration of milk in the milk has about been exploded, and it is concluded by some of the deepest thinkers and experimenters that the so-called animal odors are not generally arising from outside sources. When the milk is properly protected from all impurities, there is no odor arising from being animal odor in the milk. Therefore the issue of aeration does not exist. We believe, however, that in some cases milk should be aerated, because we are convinced of the fact that in many stables odors do get into the milk. Milk absorbs odors, as do many other things in the stable. If we believe that odors have been taken into the milk and there is a good place for it to be taken out of milk, it should be aerated. The winnow gives purer air for this than the summer season.

Stringy Milk.

Now and then a farmer is puzzled at the appearance of stringiness in the milk a few hours after it is drawn. He is inclined to believe that the cow is sick or that some certain cow has taken this milk and begins a hunt for the cause. Sometimes the stringiness is due to a case of garget, but in most cases it is due to less important causes. There are least improved of a minute nature, found sometimes in the pastures and not often in the hay, that produce this stringiness. This is only one way of getting rid of it, and that is by excessive care when the milk is drawn. Generally the trouble begins with the stirring up of the hay between milking, and the filling of the air around the milk with a vast number of particles that have been the power of development. In developing in the milk these bacteria cause one to the other and make the milk stringy and ropy. When the thing occurs persistently in the stable, it is probable that these spores are in the stable and in the hay. We can only advise in such cases that the hay be not given the cows until after the milk is drawn and taken away.

To Secure the Best Cows.

The practice with regard to the maintenance of dairy herds in this state is for farmers and dairy farmers try to breed their own herds, saving the calves from the best cows, and thus, by a process of natural selection, improve the annual yield of milk and butter from year to year. Many of our farmers have cows as they breed them, disposing of those that have proven unprofitable to the local butcher. While dairy farming is flourishing in Illinois, it has not made as much progress as the legitimate prices obtained for butter, cheese and other dairy foods would seem to warrant. There is an increasing desire for information along dairy lines, and our farmers are beginning to realize that there are better butter cows, and one of the most certain ways of secure these is through breeding them themselves.

Andrew M. Soule,
Dean Agricultural College of Virginia.

The Unpedigreed Dairy Cow.

Some of our very best cows are not entered on pedigrees; in fact the greater number of cows now in the dairy are of this class. Dean of the H. B. Gurler say that they pay no attention to breed when going to select a cow. They simply take the best cows they can find, judging by the usual marks of the dairy cows. A man can go through the country and find multitudes of farms find cows that give large quantities of milk rich in butter-fat, and yet of no pedigree. These cows, though having no pedigrees, are not scrubs. They are the best kind of foundation stock for the improvement of the common dairy herds of the country. Many of them are worthy to receive more attention than they have received at the hands of dairy experts.

Rusty Cans.

No rusty cans should be used for the holding of milk. Rust does create a peculiar, bitter-comb condition in the texture of the tin and in these cells the casein lodges. It is very difficult to remove the casein lates the casein, and if cold water is used, it does not remove all of the casein, which is the substance contained when hot water is placed in the can after the cold water. Only the best of tin should be used for milking, and that should be so carefully handled that rust cannot start. When the can begins to rust, its usefulness for the carrying of milk is at an end.