

LYNN COUNTY NEWS.

VOLUME 12

TAHOKA, LYNN COUNTY, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1915.

NUMBER 16

Shall Woodman Spare the Trees

The probability of uprooting a couple of rows of trees in the court yard in the event of building a new court house has been seriously discussed, upon the contention that it will be necessary to move the old building intact, and that the trees are too dense to afford a good view of the new building.

We have taken the trouble to interview a number of our readers and we find them to be of different opinions. Some few we have found to favor removing a goodly part or perhaps all of the trees, and placing a curb and lawn around the new building.

We, however, have found a greater number who believe that it is impossible to have too many trees in this country, and who strenuously object to having any part of the grove about the court house destroyed. It is possible to trim the trees high, and have the lawns as well as the trees, and it is our candid opinion that a two or three story court house surrounded by the present grove will command more attention than the same building surrounded by a lawn, or even a lawn and flower beds, as has been suggested by some. One point that might be well to consider before a lawn is substituted for the trees, and that is that a lawn, and especially flower beds, will be considerably more expensive to keep up than the grove.

Another argument for the trees is that as time goes on they will grow and enhance in beauty, in the course of a quarter century, when the building shall have lost the impressiveness of a new structure the trees will lend a dignity and wealth of beauty that nothing could replace.

It is useless to say that we favor leaving every tree that is possible, but we extend our columns to both those in favor of removing the trees and those in favor of keeping the grove intact. If you have anything to say publicly, now is the time to say it before the court takes definite action.

FIREWORKS PROHIBITED

December 13th, the Council of the City of Tahoka passed an ordinance prohibiting the firing on the streets, alleys, side walks and any public property, or premises other than your own of any kind of fireworks, including firecrackers, roman candles, toy pistols etc. Violator of this ordinance may be punished by a fine of not less than \$1 or more than \$5. It is the intention of the city officials to strictly enforce this ordinance, and our readers are hereby warned for their own benefit.

This ordinance was posted the 13th inst. and violators may be prosecuted under same on and after the 23rd of this month, which is Thursday of the coming week.

If fireworks are included in your Christmas, fire them on your own premises, or get permission from the owner of the premises before firing them thereon.

Uncle Newt Lewis says that he can still see to hunt, and told a News reporter about going out one evening last week and firing six shots with a 22 rifle and shooting six rabbits through the head; he also killed two jack rabbits with a shot gun. Uncle Newt says that he will be eighty years old the 12th of next month, and if he lives that long will go hunting and if he can see to hit anything he will report again.

TAHOKA M. E. CHURCH SCHOOLING MISSIONARY

According to Rev. Claude Ledger, the Tahoka Methodist church is doing what no other church in the Northwest Conference is doing. This church is putting Miss Eva Halaark through Seth Ward College at Plainview to prepare her for service in the Chinese mission field. The first Sunday in this month a collection was taken and fifty-one collars was raised toward her expenses. This is a great and good work and the church will undoubtedly derive much blessing for carrying it thru. The same Sunday the Sunday School contribution amount to five dollars and the incidental collection to six dollars. The board of stewards have set the pastor's salary at twelve hundred dollars for the coming year. The ladies had Meaks & Thomas paper the building last week, which is a great improvement and we understand that the building will be painted also in the near future. Good congregations are in attendance at both morning and night services, with that of the Sunday School ranging around the hundred mark. Midweek prayer meeting also has an attendance of half a hundred as a usual thing.

Classified Column

POSTING NOTICE

Positively no hunting allowed on my premises without my permission. A. L. LOCKWOOD. 16-19

NOTICE

Positively no hunting allowed on my premises, twelve miles south west of Tahoka.—G. W. HICKERSON. 13-16-p

NOTICE

No hunting allowed in Tahoka Lake pasture without my permission. Please shut gates in going through pasture. J. T. LOFTON. 16-8t

For up-to-date construction and quick work—any and all kinds of building: See S. S. Ramsey; who knows how. Prices moderate. 52tf

Lost, Strayed or Stolen, one sorrel horse colt, coming yearling, unbranded, natural saddle. Finder return to Ben King for reward. 15-tf

FOR RENT—A large business house on a corner of the square. Address Box No 233, Tahoka. 16-tf

WANTED—A job on a ranch. Good experienced hand. Wife to cook if needed. Write P. L. Fuller, Tahoka, Texas. 15-18p

WANTED—Fresh eggs. See us before selling.—City Bakery

FOR SALE—Good, new furniture—H. C. Elliott at the Tahoka Garage. 15-11p

FOR SALE—Corner lot south side of the square. Cash or terms.—Address, Owner, box 86, Tahoka, Texas. tf

FOR SALE—Five good teams of mules and horses, all well broken. Phone or write me at Tahoka.—A. L. Lockwood. 14-17

FOR SALE—Ten yearling colts on the credit, priced right.—B. G. MONTGOMERY, Tahoka. 14-tf

If anyone doubts that Tahoka is somewhat of a city, just watch "Uncle Jimmy" unload the mail sacks of a Monday afternoon. Last Monday he unloaded twenty-nine large full sacks and two outside packages. He stated that he had brought as high as thirty-two sacks at a time, but that Monday's mail made the largest load he had ever hauled.

Five Months Scalp Bounty Totals \$636

The Commissioners, or at least three of them met Monday and the only business attended to was the payment of scalp bounties, as follows:

Wolf	Rabbit	Bob Cat	Name	Amount
2			C. L. Nobles	\$ 4.00
2	6		W. R. Vinson	4.30
7	11	1	Claude Wilson	15.55
4	19		L. E. Bigham	8.95
			J. L. Johnson	6.00
			C. W. Brown	2.00
			W. Timmons	12.00
			C. S. Shannon	2.00
			T. S. Black	1.05
			Fred Rhodes	6.00
			Noma Edwards	2.00
			C. H. Anderton	6.00
			E. F. Allen	2.00
			Jack Wells	2.00
			Elma Coughran	6.00
			E. G. George	14.00
			Albert Wright	.70
	14		C. W. Snowden	2.65
			G. W. Hickerson	4.00
			Ray King	2.00
			Otis Kaigler	2.00
			Alfred Lichey	2.49
			R. W. Luttrell	2.00
			S. D. Stephens	.55
			J. L. Stokes	2.00
			C. H. Tidwell	2.00
			L. F. Blankenship	2.10
			15 Mrs. P. M. Williams	.75
54	160	1	28 persons	\$118.00

The new law went into effect June 20th this year and since that date the Commissioners' Court of Lynn county has paid scalp bounties as follows: July term, \$77.60; August term, two bills, one \$121.55 and one \$96.00; Sept. term, \$165.60; Oct. term, \$30.90; Nov. term, \$87.10; Dec. term, \$118.00, making a grand total for the five months and a third, of \$636.75; nearly \$120.00 per month.

LYNN COUNTY LARD

Fresh, sweet and best ever, for only \$1.50 per gallon at the Sanitary Market. 16 tf

20 Cwt. for a ton at Keith's. 14-15f

J. A. Etheridge, now of Slaton, Texas, but formerly a resident of Lynn county, traded for a half section of land twelve miles west of Tahoka last week, and is expecting to become a resident of Lynn county again in the near future. Mr. Etheridge has been absent from this county about eight years and says that he has found nothing to equal it as a home. When he was a resident here before, he improved and sold three places, making a fair profit on each deal.

Come to Keith's, the largest, best and cheapest yard in town. 14-15p

In conversation with M. M. Herring, Sunday School Superintendent of the Tahoka Baptist Church, the News reporter learned that the Sunday School is progressing nicely: They have an enrollment of something more than a hundred, with an attendance last Sunday of ninety-six and a collection of \$2.29. They have six classes, and all the officers and teachers except one teacher, were present Sunday. Rev. W. J. Durham, the pastor, devotes half his time to the Tahoka church, preaching the second and fourth Sundays in each month, having good sized congregations at both morning and evening services. The Baptists here pay a salary of \$50.00 per month for the half time. They intend to paint and paper the building in the near future.

Contract Closed West Side Bricks

We are able this week to report that the J. S. Wells brick building on the southwest corner of the square, will be 30x80 feet, two stories, with a 20x30 foot balcony in the rear in the lower story, where the millinery and ladies ready to wear clothing will be on display; this balcony will have a large plate glass window on the south side for display purposes. The second story will be divided into ten rooms beside the hall and two closets, as follows: two rooms in front, 13½x16½ feet each; two rooms 12x11 feet, four rooms 11x11 feet and two rooms 10x11 feet. North of the Wells store will be the I. S. Doak building which will be one story, 20x60 feet, built of brick with plate glass front, where Mr. Doak will install his barber shop and baths. At present in his wooden building he is running a four chair shop, and all of them are busy most of the time from Monday morning to Saturday night at midnight. North of "Ira's" shop will be the new brick of C. E. Brown, land agent, which will be 25x80 feet, one story. The contract for the construction of this building was closed up Monday morning with A. Z. Rodgers, who was sick in bed with a bad cold, at his residence in North Tahoka at the time. The material was wired for Monday morning and construction work will begin as soon as it arrives.

WOLF KILLS CALF JUST BEYOND CITY LIMITS

Word was brought to Tahoka Tuesday that some carpenters working upon a new house south of town had seen a coyote kill a newly born calf in the pasture belonging to Jack Blankenship; so a party consisting of Judge J. L. Stokes, Judge G. E. Lockhart, Jack Blankenship and Boss Hatchett went out in Boss' car well fixed with guns to slaughter said coyote. They found the coyote alright, but on account of numerous fences could not get a long enough run to overtake and shoot it. Jack said they were running on the sod across the prairie, when Boss made the remark that if he was only in the road the other side of the fence he could speed up and head the coyote off. Judge Stokes said "give it the juice and you can do so anyway." Boss' reply was "I've done, done it," but while it was fast enough the run was not long enough to overtake the coyote.

Mrs. C. T. Beard's brother, Tom Dunlap, of Lead Hill, Ark. came out to Lynn county last week and is now working for Bart Reece, of the Edith neighborhood.

SUPPER AND WATCH PARTY.

At Wilson School House, Friday, December 31st. Everybody invited to come and bring boxes. Proceeds to go to seat the church. 16-17

J. R. Hill, proprietor of the Hill Hotel at Brownfield, was a Tahoka visitor Tuesday. Mr. Hill stated that he had leased out the hotel and is now a private citizen living at home.

Nugget Hill Farm Makes Clean Up

In an interview with M. M. Anthony, proprietor of the "Nugget Hill Farm" six miles south of Tahoka, the News reporter learned the following facts in regard to what this farm of half a section of land produced this year: Fifty acres of cotton has produced forty bales and they are not yet quite thru picking; seven acres made two hundred bushels of good corn; sixty acres of maize made one hundred and twenty tons of heads; three acres of sorghum made eight hundred bundles of feed. Mr. Anthony has fifty acres in hog pasture and on this pasture he made \$400.00 worth of hogs, \$100.00 worth of alfalfa hay and \$40.00 worth of wheat; he grazed the hogs in the wheat up to the day the wheat was cut. He has raised two colts and two calves, besides innumerable chickens and turkeys; all kinds of vegetables in abundance; has a large dugout full of canned fruit that grew in his young orchard this season. Mr. Anthony has lived upon his farm seven years and when he moved to it there was nothing on it except an old windmill tower. The entire crop was made by the work of one German boy, Henry Reimers. Mr. Anthony further stated that prices for all farm products were very satisfactory this year, as while the price of maize was low yet by feeding it to hogs he would make it bring a good profit after all.

A Christmas Sale Of Kitchen Cabinets

During the Holiday Season Our Entire Line of Kilcheh Cabinets that we have on display, and which covers the widest range of style and design ever shown in this section, will all be sold. These Cabinets were originally priced to undersell the mail order house and as long as they last during the Holiday season we give you the benefit of a Big Reduction in Prices. Include in your list of gifts one of these Cabinets and you will be sure of one gift that will be appreciated.

Other Gift Suggestions

That would embody individuality may be found among the following:

Adams-Schaff Pianos, Library Tables, Bed Room Sets, Dressing Tables, Duofold Davenports, Parlor Tables, Special Design Iron Beds, Dining Tables, and many other useful and appropriate articles.

New Goods Arriving Daily

Let us help you with your Xmas gift selection problem.

ED. MEYERS,

FURNITURE and UNDERTAKING



Christmas, 6 Days Away
 Let Us Call For That Suit, Or Overcoat and Put It in Prime Condition For the Holidays. Ladies work a Specialty.
 Useful Gifts for Men Are Found Here In Great Variety.

T. T. St. Clair & Son
 Every thing a Man Wears
 North side square Tahoka

Lynn County News

Published every Friday by
H. C. CHILK & CO. TAHOKA
 J. CHILK, ED. & MGR.
 One Year \$1.00—Strictly in Advance
 Advertising Rates on Application
 Entered as second-class matter, July
 10, 1905, at the post office at Tahoka
 Texas, under the Act of Congress of
 March 3, 1879.

PROFESSIONALS

C. H. CAIN
 Lawyer
 Office in old First National Bank
 Building
 Tahoka, Texas

M. M. HERRING
 Lawyer and Abstractor
 Office over Postoffice
 Tahoka, Texas

DR. J. R. SINGLETON
 DENTIST
 Permanently Located
 Tahoka, Texas

Drs. INMON & TURRENTINE
 Physicians & Surgeons
 Tahoka, Texas

Dr. J. H. McCoy
 Physician and Surgeon
 Office over Tahoka Drug Co.
 Office 3 Phone Res. 108

Drs. Hutchinson and Peebler
 J. T. HUCHINSON, M. D.
 Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat
 O. F. PEEBLER, M. D.
 General Medicine and Surgery
 Rooms in 1st Nat'l Bank Bld'g
 LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Willis Meeks Cline Thomas
Meeks & Thomas
 Paints & Paper Hangers
 Estimates Furnished Free
 Let Us Show You Work We Have
 Done For Others
 Live and Let Live Prices

CO. ALLEN
 The House Reliable
 Oldest and Largest PIANO
 and MUSIC HOUSE in
 Western Texas. Lowest Sheet
 Music. MUSIC TEACHER'S
 Supplies, etc., etc. Catalogue
 and BOOK OF OLD TIME
 SONGS FREE for the asking.
 Established 1880. SAN ANGELO

Talking with I. S. Doak one day this week, the News reporter secured some additional information as to the new brick building that he will begin the first of the year. This building will be 20x60 feet with fourteen feet in the clear from floor to ceiling; in the rear he will have his bath rooms and over the bath room will be a twenty foot square balcony which he will either lease to some tailor or in which he will install a tailoring establishment of his own. The plans now are to have the present building hauled out into the street directly after New Year, and as it is rumored that the Cla-

ton Barber shop will be hauled out into the street about the same time to make room for a new brick building, anyone wishing a shave or hair cut will have to "go on the street for it," and those wishing a bath will have to go to the lake. We understand that the Wells store will go south, Doak's east and Charley Brown's north, so there will be quite a scattering of wooden buildings take place about the first of the new year.

Harve Henderson of east of Tahoka was in town Wednesday with some thirty five cent butter and forty cent eggs, and they did not have to go begging at these prices either.

Round Trip Excursion
Fares to All Points
 Account Xmas and New Year Holidays.
 Ask J. L. Heare, Agt.

BUTTERFLAKE
 is electrically wrapped
BUTTERFLAKE
 is kept sanitary
BUTTERFLAKE
 for safety. Ask at the Lynn Cafe
MARTIN'S BAKERY
 R. H. MARTIN, Proprietor
WHOLESALE BAKERS

You Need a Tonic
 There are times in every woman's life when she needs a tonic to help her over the hard places. When that time comes to you, you know what tonic to take—Cardui, the woman's tonic. Cardui is composed of purely vegetable ingredients, which act gently, yet surely, on the weakened womanly organs, and helps build them back to strength and health. It has benefited thousands and thousands of weak, ailing women in its past half century of wonderful success, and it will do the same for you.
 You can't make a mistake in taking

CARDUI
The Woman's Tonic

Miss Amelia Wilson, R. F. D. No. 4, Alma, Ark., says: "I think Cardui is the greatest medicine on earth, for women. Before I began to take Cardui, I was so weak and nervous, and had such awful dizzy spells and a poor appetite. Now I feel as well and as strong as I ever did, and can eat most anything." Begin taking Cardui today. Sold by all dealers.

Has Helped Thousands.

600 TURKEY TROT

Tahoka was the scene of one of the largest "Turkey Trots" Tuesday evening about 5:30 o'clock, that has ever been held in West Texas. Parties from the edge of New Mexico drove six hundred head of turkeys into the city and housed them for the night in the Kingivery barn.

Lee Jud, poultry dealer bought the bunch, and about two hundred more from Terry and Lynn counties, and shipped them Wednesday morning to Sweetwater, where they will go to the eastern markets. This shipment filled a baggage car and weighed out 16,000 pounds.

Since the fifteenth of last month Tahoka has shipped right at 2,000 head of turkeys, weighing something over 35,000 pounds.

PROGRAM.
 Methodist Christmas tree entertainment Friday night, December 24th, 1915.
 Opening song by the congregation; Joy to the World.
 Prayer by Pastor.
 Song by children of fourth and fifth Sunday School classes.
 Pianist: Miss Lola Donatison.
 Reading: Miss Eva Coughsaw.
 Quartette: Messrs Hardy Montgomery and Willie Meeks, and Misses Eva Haimark and Ima Montgomery.
 Distribution of presents.

M. Olin and his brother-in-law, A. Kessel, were in Tahoka Wednesday making arrangements to open a Grand Leader store there. Mr. Kessel is recently from Birmingham, Ala., and he will be associated in the mercantile business on the South Plains with Mr. Olin, who states that he is so well pleased with the big business the Grand Leader has done in Slaton that he decided to put in a store at Tahoka. N. Kessel, a brother of A. Kessel, will arrive from Birmingham next week and will be located with the Slaton store. —Slatonite.

TERRY-BALDRIDGE
 Sunday evening at 2:30 at the home of the bride's parents south of town, Mr. H. E. Terry and Miss Ima Baldrige were united in marriage, Judge J. L. Stokes officiating.

A large number of friends and relatives of the bride were present. Mr. Terry is a young farmer from New Mexico. The bride wore a white messaline dress trimmed in white fur, and was one of the most charming brides of the season. The groom wore a blue serge suit.

Mr. Dean of New Mexico met Miss Jones of Comanche at the grain Wednesday evening, and they were married at the Stokes hotel, by Judge J. L. Stokes, about 4:30 o'clock. They left for New Mexico Thursday evening where they will make their future home.

Dr. Merrill and wife, of Ira, Texas, are visiting the family of Dr. J. H. McCoy this week. Dr. Merrill was a college friend of Dr. McCoy's.

FORTY POUNDS BUTTER.
 Just received forty pounds of fresh creamery butter. Sauter's Meat Market. 16 11

Clarence Keever of the Cash Meat Market, tells us that he has received notice to vacate the building where he is now located, just south of Ketner's, immediately after the first of the year. Nothing is as yet known, but it is common street talk that a new brick will go in on the south-west corner of Main and Porterfield streets, to occupy the ground now covered by the meat market, Parkhurst Broken & Store, County Attorney Cain's office, A. D. Shook Real Estate office, and Sumner Claton's Barber Shop. Let the good work go on.

State of Ohio, city of Toledo, Lucas County, ss.
 Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is single partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.
 FRANK J. CHENEY.
 Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1915.
 (Seal) A. W. CLEASON, Notary Public.
 Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free.
 F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.
 Sold by all Druggists, 75c.
 Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Clairvoyance
 Or the gift of being able to see into the future, is not needed for any man to be able to see that a good bank account assures him a safe and prosperous future. This is the time when every man should put by money to run him through the coming year. So if you have no account with this bank, start one today; or, if you have an account here, add to it now, and make your future a secure one.

The First National Bank
 Of Tahoka, Texas

LOOK!
 For the Announcement of our novel plan whereby we Give Away a 42 piece dinner set every Thursday evening.

We will begin giving these sets away in a few days. Keep Posted.

Christmas Day
 Matinee and night we will run a five reel Special, Staring Mary Pickford in Hearts Adrift.

★ THEATER
 10 Cents--ADMISSION--10 Cents

Wilson Mercantile Co.
 Wholesale and Retail Dealers In
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
 Including Hardware, Implements, Harness and Leather Goods
Largest Stock on the South Plains
 No Matter How Far You Live You Can Save Money Buying From Us. Nothing Misrepresented
WILSON, on the Santa Fe, Lynn County TEXAS

O'DONNELL HOTEL
 A. B. YANTIS, Proprietor.
 Clean Beds 35 and 50 cents. Best Meals the market affords 35 cents
 Especial attention given to Commercial Travelers and Ladies
 Located on the Santa Fe, O'Donnell, Texas

See WILSON LUMBER CO
 Wilson, Texas

For high class building material of all kinds: Paints, oils, varnishes, builder's hardware, implements, wagons, wire, posts, windmills, and windmill supplies of all kinds.

First class Lumber Always In to:

See our stock and let us figure with you: We have satisfied others, Why Not You?

Wilson Lumber Company, Wilson

Colorado Field Fence

11 BARS	55 IN	DISTANCE BETWEEN BARS INCHES
10 BARS	47 IN	9
9 BARS	39 IN	8
8 BARS	32 IN	7
7 BARS	26 IN	6
6 BARS	20 IN	5
		4
		3
		2
		1

The Drawing Tells The Story Better Than Words. For sale by
A. G. McAdams Lumber Company,
 Complete Line Building Material, Windmills, Fencing Posts, Paint and Glass in Stock

HARMONY CLUB ENTERTAINED

Saturday afternoon, December 11th, the hospitality of the Ramsey home in North Tahoka, was tendered the members of the Harmony Club and a friend of each.

The guests began to arrive about 3:30, and were received by Miss Pauline Ramsey, and ushered to the register presided over by Mrs. E. E. Callaway. A pleasing note was lent to the reception of the guest by several classic selections played on the Victrola.

The register closed and a few moments of conversation indulged in, the programme for the afternoon was begun, notable on which were several piano selections, a few appropriate games and a contest, Mrs. Reayburn being the successful contestant.

A collation consisting of sandwiches, pickles, chocolate, cake, and after-dinner mints was served to the following:

Misses Mae Edlison, Ina Montgomery, Eva Coughran, Claudiea Ledger, Bernice Wells, Edith Weathers, Francis Tidwell, Edna Montgomery, Pauline Ramsey, Inez Porter, Georgia May Hill, Lola Donaldson, Mary Yates, Mesdames Clifford Thomas, E. E. Callaway, Bolan, and Reayburn.

Keever Bros., proprietors of the Sanitary Market on the west side of Main street, have built a new commodious sanitary slaughter house north of the stock pens, where they are putting the finishing touches to a bunch of steers.

THE PUBLIC AND ITS RIGHTS.

In Hale County the Commissioners Court paid a Dallas auditor \$150 to audit the books of the county. Following the audit the officials of the county failed to put into public print the auditor's report. Shortly street talk had it that the officials had made poor use or improper use of the county's funds. Then the papers of Hale County began to ask why the auditor's report was not published. And finally the officials of the county are highly incensed that their motives have been impugned and that there is talk in some places of delinquency in the transaction of county business.

These officials made the error that is common in public life. They failed to take the opportunity to inform the public of the condition of its business affairs. When people get what they are entitled to from their officials they are indifferent, but when the ta-

Great Expectations

Will Be Realized if They Are Backed Up by Advertising.

THE IDEAL GIFT.

The ideal Christmas gift is the one to which has been applied the Golden Rule—i. e. by putting yourself in the other one's place and thinking just what you would like to have under those circumstances.

Once upon a time it happened that a woman gave her washwoman a pair of pendant pearl earrings. If not pearl they were near pearl and pretty enough for all purposes. This woman remembered having heard the servitor express a wish for them on a hot August day, a wish breathed without any hope of fulfillment. Joy was in one heart that Christmas, for, as the recipient expressed, "Everybody gave me aprons and underwear, but those earrings I do love!" And who shall say that the present was not appropriate? Gifts of sheer prettiness often mean the most, even when they are not expensive. Was it not a Frenchman who said, "Give me the luxuries of life and I can do without the necessities!" Who cannot think of the man who would not rather have a subscription to a good magazine than a pair of much needed new gloves? A person will go shabby very contentedly if the heart is warm with the thought of some precious new possession which perhaps he did not really need. We must not forget that gorgeous gifts of frankincense and myrrh were given to the Christ Child in his lowly birthplace. A growing plant, even if nothing more than a blooming crimson geranium, will be a bright spot through many of the gray days of January and February. The dollar mark is no gauge for the ideal Christmas gift. What the boy wants, what the girl desires, what the older man or woman secretly wishes for—these are the things which shall make them happy, no matter if they do not seem appropriate or sensible.

ables are turned and there is apparent difference and disinclination on the part of their servants, then the masters become inquisitive. Doubtless Hale County's official affairs are in as good shape as any in the state, and the present misunderstanding will prove to have been only a tempest in a teapot. But just now the matter is a very live issue.

It is always better in public life, to anticipate the wants of the tax payers in matters of publicity. Delays cause whisperings in dark places. Quite often men lose their good names over matters as small.

—Hesperian.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS

That Bring Holiday Joy Thru The Months To Come

In the selection of a Christmas Present it is Possible with a large and well selected line to appeal to each taste or particular fancy; and in a large measure to give presents that express an individual friendliness and love.

It is this advantage we offer you in the display of a choice selection from the choicest markets in America. We therefore think we can be of service to you in the selection of Your Holiday Purchases and extend to you a Cordial Invitation to Pay Our Store a Visit.

You Need Not Hesitate

To call on us for anything in the way of Holiday Groceries, for we can supply your every want.

THE FAIR

The Store of Christmas Shopping Made Easy

DIPHTHERIA EPIDEMIC

It has come to our knowledge thru semi-official sources that there is an epidemic of diphtheria in the county east of us, Garza; and same has spread as far this side as Ragtown.

Owing to the incessant travel between the two places, we deem it expedient to warn those having business, or visiting in this locality to be extremely careful as to not risking exposure to same, as the medical authorities declare that this epidemic is of a low nature, and mixed infections which render the disease more difficult of detection and at the same time equally, if not more, fatal than otherwise.

It is the duty of every good citizen to report to the health authorities any case known to them, and in case of intection or exposure, to submit to quarantine or immunity thru the administration of anti-toxin. Only in this way can we hope to control the spread of the epidemic.

Symptoms that are discernable to the layety are: sudden onset, acute sore throat, sudden rise of temperature, difficulty in breathing, and a false membrane in the throat, which when peeled off bleeds quite freely. This last symptom is conclusive evidence of the disease, but in many cases is located so low down as to be invisible. Upon the appearance of any of the other symptoms, a medical authority should be consulted.

The report that the Edith school had been closed on account of diphtheria is not true; however, some of the more conservative

parents have taken their children out of school to preclude possible exposure.

All nearby towns and Tahoka are distributing points under the State Board of Health, for diphtheria anti-toxin, and it is a matter of record that if this anti-toxin is administered in time to forestall the disease it will not prove fatal, provided the anti-toxin is administered in a sufficient quantity at first. It is recommended that at least ten thousand units be given the first dose.

A true bill was found in the grand jury against Will Chandler, and he was arrested at Post City last week and returned to jail at Lubbock. He had been out on bond, and his case is set for next Monday. Chandler is charged with having robbed J. H. Teague of about \$80 in money one day last summer.—Slatonite.

RATIFY CONSTITUTION

"In the old days of carpetbag rule when the colored brother was in great evidence at election times, on one occasion in an election an officer amused himself by mixing a large number of rat poison circulars among the regular ballots. They were the same size as the ballots, but instead of the party insignia bore a picture of a large rat. Many of the citizens 'voted' the rat poison ticket until at last a field hand, more cautious than the others, took one of the circulars to a pompous old uncle.

"Won't you please tell me, Uncle Isam, what dish here ret stood for he asked.

The old man took the circular, adjusted his brass rimmed specs and stared at the rodent for a moment. Then he handed back the paper.

"Brudder," he said, "is yo'

lived all dis time an nebber heard tell 'bout de Ratification ob de Constitution?"—Ex.

H. W. Calaway of Wingate, who was here this week prospecting, became a subscriber to the News and will soon become a resident of Lynn county.

E. E. Keever of Snyder, left for home Thursday after spending the week visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Keever, of Tahoka.

J. L. McManiel and H. M. Eaton, both of Haskell, were prospecting in Lynn county this week. They were accompanied here by G. W. Powers, of Post City.

I. H. Parks, of Winters, Texas, purchased a section of land from C. E. Brown Land Co. this week and also became a subscriber to the News.



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We could not afford to misrepresent, in the slightest degree, anything that we sell, because we realize that every permanent success is based upon the principle that—

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EDWARDS BROS.

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ONE BLOCK NORTH OF DEPOT WAGON YARD IN CONNECTION

The Exploits of Elaine

A Detective Novel and a Motion Picture Drama

By ARTHUR B. REEVE

The Well-Known Novelist and the Creator of the "Craig Kennedy" Stories

Presented in Collaboration With the Pathe Players and
the Eclectic Film Company

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SYNOPSIS.

The New York police are mystified by a series of murders and other crimes. The principal clue to the criminal is the warning letter which is sent the victims, signed with a "clutching hand." The latest victim of the mysterious assassin is Taylor Dodge, the insurance president. His daughter, Elaine, employs Craig Kennedy, the famous scientific detective, to try to unravel the mystery. What Kennedy accomplishes is told by his friend Jameson, a newspaper man. Enraged at the determined effort which Elaine and Craig Kennedy are making to put an end to his crimes, the Clutching Hand, as this strange criminal is known, resorts to all sorts of the most diabolical schemes to put them out of the way. Each chapter of the story tells of a new plot against their lives and of the way the great detective uses all his skill to save his pretty girl and himself from death.

FOURTEENTH EPISODE

THE RECKONING.

Facing up and down his den in the heart of Chinatown, Long Sin was thinking over his bargain with Kennedy to betray the infamous Clutching Hand.

At length he seated himself on a teakwood table still deliberating over the promise he had been forced to make to Kennedy.

Suddenly an idea seemed to strike him. Lifting a little hammer, he struck a Chinese gong on the table at his side. At the same time he leaned over and turned the knob at the side of a large roll-top desk.

A few seconds later a sort of hatchway, covered by a rug on the floor, in one corner of the room, was slowly lifted and Long Sin's secretary, a pale, cadaverous Chinaman, appeared from below. He stepped noiselessly into the room and shuffled across to Long Sin and handed him a letter.

Long Sin scowled, as though something had interfered with his own plans, but tore open the envelope without a word, spreading out on his lap the sheet of paper it contained.

The letter was a typewritten message, all in capitals, which read: "BE AT HEADQUARTERS AT 12. DESTROY THIS IMMEDIATELY."

At the bottom of the note appeared

the sinister signature of the Clutching Hand.

Bowing low again, the secretary shuffled across and down again through the hatchway, closing the door as he descended.

Long Sin read the note once more, while his inscrutable face assumed an expression of malicious cunning.

With an air of deliberation he reached for a match and struck it. He had placed the paper in the flame when suddenly he seemed to change his mind. He hastily blew out the match, which had destroyed only a corner of the paper, then folded the note carefully and placed it in his pocket.

A few moments later, with a malignant chuckle, Long Sin rose slowly and left the room.

Meanwhile the master criminal was busily engaged in putting the finishing touches to a final scheme of fiendish ingenuity for the absolute destruction of Craig Kennedy.

He had been at work in a small room fitting up a sort of laboratory. In the mysterious house which now served as his headquarters.

Clutching Hand, at a bench in one corner, had just completed an infernal machine of diabolical cunning, and was wrapping it carefully in paper to make an innocent package.

He was interrupted by a knock at the door. Laying down the bomb he went to answer the summons with a stealthy movement. There stood Long Sin, who had disguised himself as a Chinese laundryman.

"On time—good!" growled Clutching Hand surlily as he closed the door with equal care.

No time was wasted in useless formalities.

"This is a bomb," he went on, pointing to the package. "Carry it carefully. On no account let it slip, or you are a dead man. It must be in Kennedy's laboratory before night. Understand? Can you arrange it?"

Long Sin glanced at the dangerous package, then with an expressive look, replied, "Have no fear. I can do it."

it will be in the laboratory within an hour. Trust me."

In Kennedy's laboratory I was watching Craig make some experiments with a new X-ray apparatus.

We were oblivious to the passage of time, and only a call over our speaking tube diverted our attention.

I opened the door and a few seconds later Long Sin himself entered.

Kennedy looked up inquiringly as the Chinaman approached, holding out a package which he carried.

"A bomb," he said, in the most matter-of-fact way. "I promised to have it placed in your laboratory before night."

Kennedy took the bomb and carefully placed it under the wonderful rays, then with the fluoroscope over his eyes studied the shadow cast by the rays on its sensitive screen.

"It's a bomb, sure enough," Craig exclaimed, looking up from it at last to me. "It's timed by an ingenious and noiseless little piece of clockwork, in there, too. And it's powerful enough to blow us all, the laboratory included, to kingdom come."

As he spoke, and before I could remonstrate with him, he took the infernal machine and placed it on a table where he set to work on the most delicate and dangerous piece of dissection of which I have ever heard.

Carefully unwrapping the bomb and unscrewing one part while he held another firm, he finally took out of it a bottle of liquid and some powder. Then he placed a few grains of the powder on a dish and dropped on it a drop or two of the liquid. There was a bright flash as the powder ignited instantly.

"Just what I expected," commented Kennedy with a nod, as he examined the clever workmanship of the bomb.

One thing that interested him was that part of the contents had been wrapped in paper to keep them in place. This paper he was now carefully examining with a microscope.

As nearly as I could make it out, the paper contained part of a typewritten chemical formula, which read:

TINCTURE OF IODINE
THREE PARTS OF—

He looked up from his study of the microscope to Long Sin.

"Tell me just how it happened that you got this bomb," he asked.

Without hesitation the Chinaman recited the circumstances, beginning with the note by which he had been summoned.

"A note?" repeated Kennedy, eagerly. "Was it typewritten?"

Long Sin reached into his pocket and produced the note itself, which he had not burned.

As Craig studied the typewritten message from the Clutching Hand I could see that he was growing more and more excited.

"At last he has given us something typewritten," he exclaimed. "To most people, I suppose, it seems that typewriting is the best way to conceal identity. But there are a thousand and one ways of identifying typewriting."

"Look, Walter," he remarked at length, taking a fine tipped pencil and pointing at the distinguishing marks as he talked. "You will notice that all the 'T's' in this note are battered and faint as well as just a trifle out of alignment. Now I will place the paper from the bomb under the microscope and you will see that the 'T's' in the scrap of formula have exactly the same appearance."

I strained my eyes to look. Sure enough, Kennedy was right. There was that unmistakable identity between the T's in the formula and the note.

Kennedy had been gazing at the floor, his face puckered in thought as I looked. Suddenly he clapped his hands together, as if he had made a great discovery.

"I've struck it!" he exclaimed, jumping up. "I was wondering where I had seen typewriting that reminds me of this. Walter, get on your coat and hat. We are on the right trail at last."

With Long Sin we hurried out of the laboratory, leaving him at the nearest taxicab stand, where we jumped into a waiting car.

"It is the clue of the battered 'T's,'" Craig muttered.

Aunt Josephine was in the library knitting when the butler, Jennings, announced us.

"Where is—Miss Dodge?" inquired Kennedy, with suppressed excitement as we entered.

"I think she's out shopping, and I don't know just when she will be back," answered Aunt Josephine, with some surprise. "Why? Is it anything important—any news?"

"Very important," returned Kennedy excitedly. "I think I have the best clue yet. Only—it will be necessary to look through some of the household correspondence immediately to see whether there are certain letters. I wouldn't be surprised if she had some—perhaps not very personal—but I must see them."

Kennedy lost no time. He went to a desk where Elaine generally sat,

and quickly took out several typewritten letters. One after another he examined them closely, rejecting one after another, until finally he came to one that seemed to interest him.

He separated it from the rest and fell to studying it, comparing it with the paper from the bomb and the note which Long Sin had received from the Clutching Hand. Then he folded the letter so that the signature and the address could not be read by us.

A portion of the letter I recall read something like this:

"This is his contention: Whereas, TRUTH is the only goal and MATTER is non-existent—"

"Look at this, Walter," remarked Craig, with difficulty restraining himself. "What do you make of it?"

A glance at the typewriting was sufficient to show me that Kennedy had, indeed, made an important discovery.

We stared at each other almost too dazed to speak.

At that moment we were startled by the sudden appearance of Elaine. She entered the room carrying in her arms a huge bunch of roses which she had evidently just received.

The moment she saw Craig, however, she stopped short with a look of great surprise.

Her keen eye had not missed the fact that several of her letters lay scattered over the top of the desk.

"What are you doing with my letters, Mr. Kennedy?" she asked, in an astonished tone, evidently resenting the unceremoniousness with which he had apparently been overhauling her correspondence.

As guardedly as possible, Kennedy met her inquiry, which I could not myself blame her for making.

"I beg your pardon, Miss Dodge," he said, "but a matter has just come up which necessitated merely a cursory examination of some purely formal letters which might have an important bearing on the discovery of the Clutching Hand. Your aunt had no idea where you were, nor when you might return, and the absolute necessity for haste in such an important matter is my only excuse for examining a few minor letters without first obtaining your permission."

She said nothing. At another time such an explanation would have been instantly accepted. Now, however, it was different.

Kennedy read the look on her face and an instant later turned to Aunt Josephine and myself.

"I would very much appreciate a chance to say a few words to Miss Dodge alone," he intimated. "I have had no such opportunity for some time. If you would be so kind as to leave us in the library—for a few minutes—"

He did not finish the sentence. Aunt Josephine had already begun to withdraw and I followed.

For a moment or two Craig and Elaine looked at each other, neither saying a word, each wondering just what was in the other's mind.

Craig cleared his throat, the obvious manner of covering up his emotion.

"Elaine," he said at length, dropping the recent return to "Miss Dodge," for the moment, "Elaine, is there any truth in this morning's newspaper report of—of you?"

She had dropped her eyes. But he persisted, taking a newspaper clipping from his pocket and handing it to her.

Her hand trembled as she glanced over the item:

SOCIETY NOTES.

Dame Rumor is connecting the name of Miss Elaine Dodge, the heiress, with that of Perry Bennett, the famous young lawyer. The announcement of an engagement between them at any time would not surprise.

Elaine read no farther. She handed back the clipping to Kennedy. As her eyes met his she noticed his expression of deep concern, and hesitated with the reply she had evidently been just about to make.

Still, as she lowered her head, it seemed to give silent confirmation to the truth of the newspaper report.

Kennedy said nothing, but his eyes continued to study her face.

He suppressed his feelings with a great effort then, without a word, bowed and left the room.

"Walter," he exclaimed as he rejoined us in the drawing room, where I was chatting with Aunt Josephine, "we must be off again. The trail follows still farther."

An hour or so later, Elaine, whose mind was now in a whirl from what had happened, decided to make a call on her lawyer and the confidant of her father, Perry Bennett.

As Elaine entered his private office, Bennett rose to greet her effusively and they exchanged a few words.

"I mustn't forget to thank you for those lovely roses you sent me," she exclaimed at length. "They were beautiful, and I appreciated them ever so much."

A moment later Bennett led the conversation around until he found an opportunity to make a tactful allusion

Continued on Back Page

IN OLD INDIA



ALTHOUGH the railroads run up and down the length and breadth of India, and autos are not unknown, the rough cart drawn by the sacred bull is still a common sight.

Occasionally we are obliged to call upon one of these picturesque primitive conveyances to deliver TEXACO Oils.

Our business in India includes not only the sale of large quantities of burning oils to the natives, but the supply of lubricants to the big cotton mills and other industries, and a great many other oil products.

This distant business is held by the quality of TEXACO Products. They must pay their way in such markets by their economy.

That is why TEXACO Petroleum Products are in demand the world over. That is why your neighbors ask for them and why you should use them.

There is a TEXACO Agent near you. Let us serve you through him.

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General Offices: Houston, Texas

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Why Not? Use Medicated Salt Before You Loose

Any More Yearlings From The Blackleg If You Need Any Medicated Salt Or Feed

Remember I hat Sells It.
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Open Day and Night. All Work Guaranteed

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Located On the South Side of the Square

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Time and tide wait for no man

Order that suit or overcoat today; don't put it off

We can please the ladies with a selection of tailored-to-your-measure cloak, skirt or coat suit. Clothes cleaned and pressed the "Hoffman Sanitary Way."

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FOR SALE—GOOD MILK COW, FRESH IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS; GENTLE, AND WILL SUPPLY LARGE FAMILY—APPLY AT NEWS OFFICE

A carload Pekin wagons

Just arrived—Second growth hickory apokes and axles. Also line of

Wetter Stoves and Heaters

"Best Stoves on Earth"

Auto Casings and Tubes—Dry Cell Batteries

G. L. Williams

Hardware, Harness, Saddles—South Side of the Square

Tin Sho Under Shoe and leather Repair

Expert Workman Work done Satisfactorily

Christmas Specials

In An Exclusive Grocery Line

Are to be found in Great Variety at

Anthony's Cash Grocery

Where you pay for only what you get, and not for what some one else failed to pay for.

Let Us Fill a Sample Order

From fresh stock of groceries and produce, and the quality and price will bring you back to

ANTHONEY'S

The Only Exclusive Grocer

We Treat You Right

Every time you buy Groceries and Dry Goods, Either in Large or Small Quantities
S. N. McDaniel, the West Side Merchant, Tahoka, Texas



J. S. Wells'

Year End Moving Sale

December 18 to January 1

Monday, January third, 1916, I will move my present building 100 feet west, and begin the erection of a two story brick building on the lot now occupied by my store. It would be impossible to move this old building with the Mammoth Stock of Merchandise now in it. So I have decided to Throw the Entire Stock on the Market at nearly Your Own Price to reduce it sufficiently to move the building. Every Thing Will be Sacrificed in This Sale, Including a Large Shipment of New Seasonable Goods that arrived this week, and more that are yet to come.

The Year's Opportunity

Presents itself in the GREAT YEAR'S END MOVING SALE. Winter has just begun and the warm fall means a hard, late winter. You can lay in your supplies--Groceries and Dry Goods at Prices You Never Dreamed of. Bring Your Bill and Get a Pleasant Surprise When We Give You Figures On It.

Counterpanes that sold readily at \$3.25, 2.00, 1.75 and 1.25, will go quickly at \$2.85, 1.65, 1.40 and 1.00; Comforts that sold themselves at \$1.50, will simply vanish at \$1.25 each. BLANKETS: Taking size and quality into consideration, we already had our stock priced extremely low; but, look at these prices: 72x84 were only \$4.00, now 3.25; 68x80 were \$3.00, now 2.50; 64x76 were \$2.00 now 1.50; 50x72 were \$1.25 now 1.00; small size were \$1.00 now only 75 cents. Sweaters, \$2 quality go at 1.50, \$1.50 quality go at 1.25. \$3.00 Hats will soon sell at 2.50. \$1.00 can Maxwell House Coffee at 90 cents. We have a nice line of plain plates, cups and saucers a set of 18 pieces worth \$2.00 will sell for 1.50 until gone.

And Best Of All

There are Hundreds of Articles in Our Store That Will Make Useful, Appreciated Christmas Gifts. Secure the Greatest Value for the Least Money in a Christmas Gift by Visiting

J.S. Wells' Year End Moving Sale



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ABSTRACTING A SPECIALTY

Five Years Experience In The Abstract Business Enables Us To Give You The Best Service Obtainable. Work Entrusted To Us Will Be Treated Strictly Confidential
Your Business Will Be Appreciated Office In Court House, Tahoka, Texas

Exploits of Elaine

Continued from third page

to the report of their engagement in the morning papers.

He had leaned over, and now attempted to take her hand. She withdrew it, however. There was something about his touch which, try as she might, she could not like. Was it mere prejudice or was it her keen woman's intuition?

Bennett looked at her a moment, suppressing a momentary flash of anger that had reddened his face, and controlled himself as if by a superhuman effort.

"I believe you really love that man Kennedy," he exclaimed in a tone that was almost a hiss. "But I tell you, Elaine, he is all bluff. Why, he has been after that Clutching Hand now for three months—and what has he accomplished? Nothing!"

He paused. Through Elaine's mind there flashed the contrast with Kennedy's even temper and deferential manner.

Bennett, by another effort, seemed to grip his temper again. He paced up and down the room. Then he changed the subject abruptly, and the conversation was resumed with some constraint.

While Elaine and Bennett were talking Kennedy and I had entered the office.

Craig stopped the boy who was about to announce us and asked for Bennett's secretary instead, much to my astonishment.

The boy merely indicated the door of one of the other private offices, and we entered.

We found the secretary hard at work at the typewriter, copying a legal document. Without a word Kennedy at once locked the door.

The secretary rose in surprise, but Craig paid no attention to him. Instead he calmly walked over to the machine and began to examine it.

"Might I ask?" began the secretary. "You keep quiet," ordered Kennedy, with a nod to me to watch the fellow.

"You are under arrest—and the less you say the better for you."

I shall never forget the look that crossed the secretary's face. Was it the surprise of an innocent man?

Taking the man's place at the machine Kennedy removed the legal paper that was in it and put in a new sheet. Then he tapped out, as we watched:

BE AT HEADQUARTERS AT 12, DESTROY THIS IMMEDIATELY. TINCTURE OF IODINE THREE PARTS OF—

This is his contention—WHEREAS TRUTH is the only goal and MATTER is nonexistent—

"Look, Walter," he exclaimed as he drew out the paper from the machine. I bent over, and together we compared the T's with those in the Clutching Hand letter, the paper from the bomb and the letter which Craig had taken from Elaine's desk.

As Craig pointed out the resemblances with a pencil my amazement gradually changed into comprehension and comprehension into conviction. The meaning of it all began to dawn on me.

The writing was identical. There were no differences!

While we were locked in the secretary's office Bennett and Elaine were continuing their chat on various social topics. Suddenly, however, with a glance at the clock, Bennett told Elaine that he had an important letter to dictate and that it must go off at once.

She said that she would excuse him a few minutes, and he pressed a button to call his secretary.

Of course, the secretary did not appear. Bennett left his office, with some annoyance, and went into the adjoining room, the door to which Kennedy had not locked.

He hesitated a moment, then opened the door quietly. To his astonishment he saw Kennedy, the secretary and myself apparently making a close examination of the typewriter.

Gliding, rather than walking back into his own office, he closed the door and locked it. Almost instantly fear and fury at the presence of his hated rival, Kennedy, turned Bennett, as it were, from the Jekyll of a polished lawyer and lover of Elaine into an insanely jealous and revengeful Mr. Hyde. The strain was more than his warped mind could bear.

With a look of intense horror and loathing Elaine watched him slowly change from the composed, calm, intellectual Bennett she knew and respected into a repulsive, mad figure of a man.

His stature even seemed to be altered. He seemed to shrivel up and become deformed. His face was terribly

distorted. And his long, sinewy hand slowly twisted and bent until he became the personal embodiment of the Clutching Hand.

As Elaine, transfixed with terror, watched Bennett's astounding metamorphosis, he ran to the door leading to the outer office and hastily locked that also.

Then, with his eyes gleaming with rage and his hands working in murderous frenzy, he crouched nearer and nearer, toward Elaine.

She shrank back, screaming again and again in terror.

He was the Clutching Hand. In spite of closed doors we could now plainly hear Elaine's shrieks. Craig, the secretary and myself made a rush for the door to Bennett's private office. Finding it locked, we began to batter it.

By this time, however, Bennett had hurled himself upon Elaine and was slowly choking her.

Kennedy found that it was impossible to batter down the door in time by any ordinary means. Quickly he seized the typewriter and hurled it through the panels. Then he thrust his hand through the opening and turned the catch.

As we flung ourselves into the room Bennett rushed into a closet in a corner, slamming the door behind him. It was composed of sheet iron and effectually prevented anyone from breaking through. Kennedy and I tried vainly, however, to pry it open.

While we were thus endeavoring to force an entrance Bennett, in a sort of closet, had put on the coat, hat and mask which he invariably wore in the character of the Clutching Hand. Then he cautiously opened a secret door in the back of the closet and slowly made an exit.

Meanwhile the secretary had been doing his best to revive Elaine, who was on the floor, hysterical and half unconscious from the terrible shock she had experienced.

Intent on discovering Bennett's whereabouts, Kennedy and I examined the wall of the office, thinking there might be some button or secret spring which would open the closet door.

While we were doing so the door of a large safe in the secretary's office gradually opened, and the Clutching Hand emerged from it, stepping carefully toward the door leading to the outer office, intent on escaping in that direction.

At that moment I caught sight of him, and, leaping into the secretary's office, I drew my revolver and ordered him to throw up his hands. He obeyed. Holding up both hands, he slowly drew near the door to his private office.

Suddenly he dropped one hand and pressed a hidden spring in the wall. Instantly a heavy iron door shot out and closed over the wooden door. Entrance to the private office was absolutely cut off.

With an angry snarl the Clutching Hand leaped at me.

As he did so I fired twice.

He staggered back.

The shots were heard by Kennedy and Elaine as well as the secretary, and at the same instant they discovered the iron door which barred the entrance to the secretary's office.

Rushing into the outer office they found the clerks excitedly attempting to open the door of the secretary's office, which was locked. Kennedy drew a revolver and shot through the lock, bursting open the door.

They rushed into the room.

Clutching Hand was apparently seated in a chair at a desk, his face buried in his arms, while I was apparently disappearing through the door.

Kennedy and the clerks pounced upon the figure in the chair and tore off his mask. To their astonishment they discovered it was myself!

My shots had missed, and Clutching Hand had leaped on me with maddened fury.

Dressed in my coat and hat, which he had deftly removed after overpowering me, Clutching Hand had by this time climbed through the window of the outer office and was making his way down the fire escape to the street. He reached the foot of the iron steps, leaped off and ran quickly away.

Shouting a few directions to the secretary, the clerks and Elaine, Kennedy climbed through the window and darted down the fire escape in swift pursuit.

The Clutching Hand, however, managed to elude capture again.

While these exciting events were occurring in Bennett's office some queer doings were in progress in the heart of Chinatown.

Deep underground, in one of the catacombs known only to the innermost members of the Chinese secret societies, was Tong Wah, popularly known as "the hide," engaged in some mysterious work.

Before him were eight odd-shaped Chinese vials, and from these he was carefully measuring certain proportions, as if concocting some powerful

poison. He stepped back and looked around suspiciously as he suddenly heard footsteps above. The next moment Long Sin, who had entered through a trap door, climbed down a long ladder and walked into the room.

Approaching Tong Wah, he asked, "When will the death drink be ready?"

"It is now prepared," was the reply.

A few minutes later the Clutching Hand drove up to Long Sin's house in the taxicab and, after paying the chauffeur, went to the door and knocked sharply.

In response to his knocking, Long Sin appeared on the threshold and motioned to Bennett to come in, evidently astonished to see him.

As he entered, Bennett made a secret sign and said: "I am the Clutching Hand. Kennedy is close on my trail, and I have come to be hidden."

In a tone which betrayed alarm and fear the Chinaman intimated that he had no place in which Bennett could be concealed with any degree of safety.

For a moment Bennett glared savagely at Long Sin.

"I possess hidden plunder worth seven million dollars," he pleaded quickly, "and if by your aid I can make a getaway, a seventh is yours."

The Chinaman's cupidty was clearly excited by Bennett's offer, while the bare mention of the amount at stake was sufficient to overcome all his scruples.

After exchanging a few words he finally agreed to aid the Clutching Hand. Opening a trap door in the floor of the room in which they were standing, he led Bennett down a steep ladder into the subterranean chamber in which Tong Wah had so recently been preparing his mysterious potion.

As Bennett sank into a chair and passed his hands over his brow in utter weariness, Long Sin poured into a cup some of the liquor of death which Tong Wah had mixed. He handed it to Bennett, who drank it eagerly.

"How do you propose to help me to escape?" asked Bennett huskily.

Without a word Long Sin went to the wall, and, grasping one of the stones, pressed it back, opening a large receptacle, in which there were two glass coffins apparently containing two dead Chinamen. Pulling out the coffins, he pushed them before Bennett, who rose to his feet and gazed upon them with wonder.

Long Sin broke the silence: "These men," he said, "are not dead; but they have been in this condition for many months. It is what is called in your language suspended animation."

"Is that what you intend to do with me?" asked Bennett, shrinking back in terror.

The Chinaman nodded in affirmation as he pushed back the coffins.

Overcome by the horror of the idea Bennett, with a groan, sank back into the chair, shaking his head as if to indicate that the plan was far too terrible to carry out.

With a sinister smile and a shrug of his shoulders Long Sin pointed to the cup from which Bennett had drank.

"But, dear master," he remarked suavely, "you have already drank a full dose of the potion which causes insensibility, and it is overcoming you. Even now," he added, "you are too weak to rise."

With a malicious chuckle Long Sin moved closer to his victim and spoke again.

"Divulge where your seven million dollars are hidden," he suggested craftily, "and I will give you an anti-dote."

By this time Bennett, who was becoming more rigid each moment, was unable to speak.

Slowly, and after a desperate struggle, he managed to raise one hand and pointed to his breast pocket. The Chinaman instantly thrust in his hand and drew out a map.

For some moments Long Sin examined the map intently, and, with a grin of satisfaction, he placed it in his own pocket. Then he mixed what he declared was a sure antidote, and, pouring some of the liquor into a cup, he held it to Bennett's lips.

As Bennett opened his mouth to drink it, Long Sin with a laugh slowly pulled the cup away and poured its contents on the floor.

By this time I was slowly recovering my senses in the secretary's office, where Bennett had left me in the disguise of the Clutching Hand. Elaine, the secretary and the clerks were gathered around me, doing all they could to revive me.

Meanwhile Kennedy had enlisted the aid of two detectives and was scouring the city for a trace of Bennett or the taxicab in which he had fled.

Somehow, Kennedy suspected, instinctively, that Long Sin might give a clue to Bennett's whereabouts, and a few moments later we were all on our way in a car to Long Sin's house.

Though we did not know it, Long Sin, at the moment when Kennedy knocked at his door, was feeling in his inside pocket to see that the map he

had taken from Bennett was perfectly safe. Finding that he had it, he smiled with his peculiar oriental guile. Then he opened the door and stood for a moment, silent.

"Where is Bennett?" demanded Kennedy.

Long Sin eyed us all, then, with a placid smile, said, "Follow me. I will show you."

There was Bennett, seated rigidly in the chair beside the table, from which the vials and cups, about which we knew nothing, had been removed.

"How did it happen?" asked Ken-

neddy. "He came here," replied Long Sin, with a wave of his hand, "and before I could stop him he did away with himself."

"Well, we've got him," mused Kennedy, shaking his head sadly, adding after a pause, "but he is dead."

Elaine, who had followed us down, covered her eyes with her hands and was sobbing convulsively. I thought she would faint, but Kennedy led her gently away into an upper room.

As he placed her in an easy chair, he bent over her, soothingly.

"Did you—did you—really—him?" he asked in a low tone. Still shuddering, and with an a look at Kennedy, Elaine shook her beautiful head.

Then, slowly rising to her feet, looked at Craig appealingly.

"Forgive me," murmured she, holding out her hand. Then she spoke in a voice tense with emotion, "You for saving me."

Kennedy took her hand. For a moment he held it. Then he drew his ward him, unresisting.

THE END.



Merry Christmas

TIMES

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