The COMING of the MILLION or FIGHTING for a MILLION

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CHAPTER XXVII.

In the Counterfeiters' Den.

The evening before the beginning of the investigation, Lang visited Schiller and explained to the king that he was ready to go to work, requesting that Schiller give him permission to visit the counterfeiting den. He did it was known that Louis was a printer and that the work would presumably make a valuable addition to that force. His request was granted and he obtained his pass, which he presented at the door of the "den" very early the next morning.

Lang was met at the door of the office by the chief counterfeiter in person, who was none other than Marcus Milton, one of the shrewdest rascals ever-born. He has been instrumental in flooding certain districts in the United States with counterfeit money to such an extent that "good" money is thrown out as worthless. It is estimated by experts that he and his gang have succeeded in placing fully one million silver dollars on the market that are not known from the genuine, containing full weight metal, but at a profit of over $500,000. He was caught in the act and sentenced to Auburn for thirty years, but managed to escape. He was engaged at the present in the manufacture of $10 notes under the protection of the city.

Milton read the order presented to him by Lang and very politely conducted Louis into the "office," where they chatted together about Chicago and things in general.

"I am a-printer," said Louis, "but I have never seen any bills of the character of money printed."

"The 'printing' of money," said Milton, who liked to hear his knowledge about the business, "is never seen by any but trusted government officials, and perhaps no one man sees a bill 'printed' in its entirety. By 'printing,' I mean lithographing, the making of the paper, the numbering, signing, etc. Here one man does one sell; I do. For we have but one press, and that is operated engraving to work from. The paper we use here is furnished by a firm which deals in bank-note paper and confederate money. It is the nearest approach to the real paper that any one has yet devised. The threads interwoven in the paper are almost identical, save the particular circular, instead of straight up and down, weave and the flattened ends, which none but experts can detect.

"I print the front of the note first," said Milton, guiding Lang into the press room, "so that should there be a flaw in the press work (which is different from engraving)—for instance, a blurred impression—the printing of the back, which is very seldom glanced at as critically as the front, will flatten out the note. Then by a process devised by myself, a new note is made to look as if it were about a year old. I have so much time to myself that I do not care to print the front and back together. They are too valuable to run any chance of mutilation. While one half is on the press the other half I keep locked in my private safe. The engravings were made by Glen Hall, the die-maker, and cost $10,000 in good money to produce. It is the finest 'tool' outside the government office today. It has cost ten lives to keep from the authorities so far."

Thus far into the morning none of the counterfeiters had deported to work. Lang and Milton were startled by hearing the discharge of cannon. Milton very hastily took the plate off the press and ran out into the office, closely followed by Lang. Milton became suspicious immediately, but he tried not to show it. Lang charm—he scarcely dared to think there was a plot on foot.

Looking out through the grated window of his office Milton saw the troops getting ready to fire upon the walls and government building.

"A riot!" he exclaimed. "Guard the plate while I bring in the numbering machine," and he ran to plate with Lang while he ran into the pressroom and brought in the numbering machine. "This little machine is what makes our bills proof," he added. "If I was not on to the system of numbering the bills you would be easily detected. The system of numbering is more intricate than the signing, which is a matter of imitation, when you know how." While talking Milton laid down the machine beside the engraving of the front of the note upon the plate, locked the safe, while he reached down and began to turn the knob of the safe to form the combination.

The pressroom hall, thrown from position near the right wall of the room, struck the side of the den; Milton turned his face first; Lang ran to the window. They looked out; the town was alive with people. The convicts had been released from prison, and armed to the teeth were now madly fighting their way towards the king's mansion and the general supply store, and some were confined toward the printing office.

"Quick!" cried Louis; "get the plate together and get away."

Milton again stooped down to unlock the safe. Louis drew his revolver, Milton thought for the defense of the plate, but Louis was only waiting to see the door swung back before engaging in a death struggle for the possession of the same.

"Too late! Too late! lives! Would there be an eleventh? Milton never would yield the treasure while life and consciousness remained. The scene was in Lang's favor).

It was the intention of the convicts to capture every prominent building that they could. They arrived at the door of the printing office demanding admission.

Louis grew impatient. He did not wish to be seen carrying off the plate. It was his intention to make his escape unnoticed from the rear in the confusion.

Milton grew nervous. Something made him hesitate. At the final turn, instead of unlocking, he turned the lock wrong and could not open the safe. Louis saw by the expression of the man's face that he suspected the plot, and he came a hand to hand struggle. Milton hurled himself against Lang.

"I see it all!" snarled Milton. "This is a plot to rob me of the plate! Is a plot to rob me of the plate! Is now your death or mine!"

Even when the death struggle came Lang did not like to kill Milton, and time again as the combatants, locked in each other's embrace, wrigled and turned and doubled and twisted, smuffled around the room, Lang tried to hit his foe across the head with the butt end of his revolver, but Marcus Milton parried the blow.

Milton was a strong man, but his work, although not confining, had made him slow of action. He was capable of but one thought—the idea of killing Louis, though in doing so he gave up his own life.

The convicts had heard the scuffle on the inside; they grew tired of waiting for a reply to their summons, and commenced a battering ram to play upon the door, shattering the door into fragments.

The combatants on the inside had managed to throw themselves out of Milton's way and Milton had Louis pinned down, and the man was squeezing the wind out of our hero. Up to this time Louis had refrained from firing his pistol. The time for desperate action arriving, Louis thrust the gun against the counterfeiter's breast and pulled the trigger. His antagonist fell to the floor, without a murmur, just as the convicts sprang across the threshold.

The convicts, under the leadership of Bill Hawks, rushed upon Louis and in a moment he was dead. Hawks defiation by Louis that he was one of them awaited him; the convicts seemed amazed that he was an enemy and proceeded to tie his hands behind his back. The leader of the gang in the meantime had kneeled before the safe and proceeded to open the same first he took his knife and cut a gash in the index finger of his right hand, to attempt to feel when the combination struck the right click. For about a minute Hawks worked at the safe, turning the knob very slowly, at last he seemed to have struck the right combination, and in a jiffy he guessed two numbers which to him seemed to fit the first combination, and strange to say opened the safe. Bill Hawks, the safe cracker, was a very diverse gentleman in this line.

Bill Hawks, we may say, was no fool. He knew just what he was doing when he went after the plate. "I know you, Louis Lang," Hawks said, when he and Louis were left alone together in the pressroom. "How much will you give me for that plate?"

"Nothing," replied Louis, surprised at the man's tone.

The man leered at Louis, instantaly. "I am not blind! It was never your intention to deliver this plate to Black Jack. You and Black Jack mean to play me out."

Louis couldn't guess whether Hawks was trying him or not. Things began to look very serious for him, but he managed to keep calm. "You are what you like. I am a personal friend of Black Jack's, and to Black Jack I am known as his leader in this revolt. You are the man who will be held responsible for the loss of the plate."

"Enough of this folly!" Hawks exclaimed. "I know who and what you are. Will you take your chance? Forever? From him I want my life for this plate—and I get it, or get your life!"

Lang was dumfounded. This was a fix he had not anticipated getting into. "What would be best for him to do under the circumstances? "If you know who I am why don't you give me the plate and trust me to protect you from him?"

"Because I can't trust you! I want to see Black Jack."

"I cannot make a bargain with you, then."

"Then I march you into Schiller's camp as a traitor and a spy," said Hawks.

Under ordinary circumstances Lang would have done well to have bought off Hawks, but he considered that he had not authority to make Hawks might or might not be really aware of the co-partnership existing between Denver and Black Jack, and dare to trust the schemer too far. So Lang refused to compromise, resolving to risk being taken before Schiller, and trusting to be liberated by that gentleman in view of the partnership existing between them.

The victorious party, after ransacking the place, set off toward the palace of the king. Whether they were really to go to him or to some one who they said would be in charge is only conjecture. Half of the city was in ruins, the walls and several buildings were partially or totally destroyed, but the bombardment had ceased. The convicts had mastered the situation, and consequently thought they had been fighting for nothing—and had gained their freedom. To continue to demolish and kill would only be to cripple themselves. They reasoned when almost too late, that they had been made dupes of by Black Jack's band of conspirators who now were leaving them to answer for their sins. Dodgers, Golden and Black Jack, during the first melee, had managed to make their escape unobserved. But Lang, unfortunately, was left in the hands of the mob!

(To be continued.)

A Lucky Awkwardness.

An old, steady-going farmer was accustomed to tie his horse and hitch upon a rather bad-tempered horse. One day his boy Bob brought the animal, who was especially vicious that morning, round to the door, and held him by the bridle while waiting for the farmer to come out.

The horse tried to bite and kick the lad, and gave him a good deal of trouble, but at last the farmer appeared, mounted the horse with some difficulty and began walking it out of the yard. The horse, who still entertained ill-feeling against the animal, caught up a stone and flung it at him with all his force, but as his aim was erratic and the missile struck his master on the back of the head, half-dazed for a moment, the farmer turned slowly round in his saddle, and, never suspecting the real cause of the blow, he scattered with his eye the distance from the horse's hind hoofs to his own head, and, set off himself to the nearest village, started his mount into a trot with the remark:

"Well, he always was a awkward beggar."

Substitutes and Its Dangers.

Only yesterday one of the typo subs in this paper asked O'Sullivan why he kept continually harping on substitution.

O'Sullivan said: "Substitution is a snake in the grass, one of those things you have to deal with." However, in our particular business we see that it is better to be the other fellow.

"True enough, old sport," said the sub; "only last night I tried it when hungry, visited one of our Bohemian boarding houses and ordered a sirloin steak. They put up a steak, but it was not a sirloin. The amount was taken off the check, and 'we don't go there any more' for sirloin steak."—Boston Globe.

Silent Woman.

The opposition to the payment of the income tax in Scotland is occasionally relieved by a joke. Lord Kyle recently Rev. J. Stephenson, a Free church council, received to face a week's imprisonment rather than submit to taxation. He had no property which could be distrained upon, and on the form which he received on which to state what he was willing to hand over to be sold he wrote:

"Self."

In the next column, in which he was required to state the value of the goods, he inserted:

"Wife won't say."—London Standard.

Both Stuck.

Bill—What's the matter with Farmer Furrow?

Hill—Oh, he's got that baby horse of his!

"Indeed, it do."

"Well, he traded it off for an automobile and now the machine won't have anything to do with the horse, dat's what."

STATE BOARD ACTS ILLEGALLY

Live Stock Commissioners Exceed Right in Inspecting Meat.

The state board of live stock commissioners has been performing work altogether foreign to the purposes for which it was created, according to Attorney General Stead's interpretation of the law under which the board was created and operates. The purpose of the board, says the attorney general, is to stamp out infectious diseases among live stock. Instead of confining itself to this, the board has been inspecting cattle with reference to fitness for meat for human consumption, and this, the attorney general says, the board has no authority to do. Inspections have been conducted under state supervision at the Union stock yards, Chicago; at East Dubuque stock yards at East St. Louis, and at the Peoria stock yards. Under the attorney general's opinion, just handed down, there is no necessity for the board to have an inspector at either place.

JUSTICES PLAN A STATE UNION

Seek Legislation So That Their Fees May Be Increased.

A state organization of justices of the peace is to be formed within a short time, if the intentions of magistrates are at the head of the movement and organizations are springing up in all parts of the state, with the object of bringing the whole together in a state association. The purpose of organization is to secure legislation in their own interests. The matter of compensation is worrying the justices. Under present laws a justice receives pay only in cases where he collects money for fines. For criminal prosecutions he receives nothing, and the same result follows a discharge. In only two or three cases out of every ten heard, it is said, is he remunerated.

Wife Forgets Husband's Name.

Charles Roscoe, a Slav, was arrested in Alton on a charge of intoxication and entering an officer with the determination that the officer was enticed to club him. Roscoe's wife, who was with him, said that before she and Roscoe had been married seven years, but that she could not remember his name. After quarreling with her husband an instant, she said his name was Charles Roscoe. The husband was fined $5 and costs.

Central Labor Union Officers.

The Dupuiu Central Labor union has elected these officers for the ensuing term: President, J. H. Greenfield; vice-presidents, C. Armstrong and E. T. Burbank; recording secretary, H. C. Roorbach; financial secretary, Theodore Rosenwald; treasurer, Joe C. Davison; sergeant-at-arms, Pat Bann; statistician, Charles Ross.

Celebrates 106th Birthday.

Mrs. Margaret Dooley, the oldest person living at Waukegan, celebrated her 106th birthday Jan. 5. Clark County, Ohio, is her native place. For six sixty-eight years, celebrated his 90th birthday. He lives just within the south limits of Jacksonville, and openly defies the Zion authorities by smoking a pipe wherever he goes.

Wisconsin Preacher for Springfield.

The Rev. Robert James Bell, LL. D., of Waterloo, Wis., has been appointed assistant to the Rev. Frederick A. Bennett, rector of St. Paul's pro-cathedral of Springfield. The Rev. Mr. Bell was reared in Detroit, Mich., where his parents reside. He obtained the degree of LL. D. from the Detroit law school.

Safety Appliance Inspector.

Eugene Wright of East St. Louis has been appointed state inspector of railroad safety appliances for the state road and warehouse commission. The position created by an act passed by the last session of the legislature. William R. Miller of Enfield has been appointed public administrator of White county.

Pastor Goes to Kansas.

Rev. A. M. Eells, former pastor of the First Presbyterian church at Nashville, has departed with his family for Osage City, Kan., where he will be pastor of the Presbyterian church.

Farmers' Delegate.

Marion Marker of Nashville has been selected to represent Washington county as a delegate at the annual session of the Illinois Farmers' Institute in Olney February 20-23.

Local Option for Galesburg.

A largely attended public meeting was held in Galesburg Sunday, at which plans were considered for starting a fight for local option in the city and county.

Woman Dies From Fall.

Mrs. Margaret Smith, aged 67, is dead in her home seven miles south of Chatsworth, as the result of a fall from a hayloft, where she had climbed to gather eggs. She leaves a family of grown children.

W. R. C. Installation.

The annual installation of the Woman's Relief Corps was transferred before an exceptionally large crowd at Nashville. At night the recently elected officers of the G. A. R. were inducted into office.

STATE SHOULD CLOSE SALOONS

Prohibition Leader Declares Attorney General Stead Erred.

In a long signed statement Robert H. Patton of Springfield, candidate in the last election for the prohibition ticket for governor of Illinois, replied to Attorney General Stead's recent opinion that the governor has no authority to interfere when the saloon closing law is violated. Mr. Patton declares that the attorney general should enforce the closing act.

"H. Patton begins that Gov. Joseph W. Folk of Missouri has closed the saloons in St. Louis on Sunday, and as a consequence the saloons of East St. Louis are flourishing, a harvest each Sabbath in open defiance of the laws of Illinois. The matter is one of vital public concern. Gov. Deneen, and the people ought not to accept the attorney general's conclusion as final.

"I maintain that it not only is within the power, but it is the duty of the governor of this state to see to the faithful execution of the laws governing drug shop keepers, as well as all other. This is on the part of the people of the city," he decares.

"Section 6 of article 5 of our constitution provides that the supreme executive power of this state vested in the governor, who shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

"By what rights, then, can it be said that the saloon shop laws are not a part of the laws of the state which are included in the expression 'execute the laws?'"

QUEER BORROWER IS TO RETIRE

Freeport Man Who Asked One Dollar Loans in Business Here.

The action of Daniel Y. McMullen, a prominent business man of Freeport, in asking business men making loans of a dollar from each person approached was the occasion for a visit to that city of his friends, David McMullen of Chicago, who is the president of the Freeport Hardware company, of which the former is secretary and treasurer. J. D. McMullen and David became personally involved to such an extent that he offered an appeal with his brother, who tried to make them do desired effect. He said his confidence in the business men of the county was responsible for his action. David McMullen after an interview with his brother said that the latter had without the knowledge of his closest friends become personally indebted to the amount of over $100 in considerable extent. He will take a rest for awhile. The Freeport institution the McMullens are interested in is solvent. Mr. McMullen has always had a very high standing in business and church circles.

Marriage of the Apes.

A marriage ceremony out of the ordinary has taken place at Mount Carmel, in which a number of local business men took part. Bismarck, a large ape which has made his home at the Lotta hotel for some time, was married to Miss Bismarck, another one of the kind. The bride arrived on the evening train and was looking fine as a fiddle. Judge H. Rinehart officiated, and the ceremony was very solemn and impressive. George Lauhender was best man and Jake Kerb was made of honor. Sheriff Barry gave the bride away. Refreshments were served after the ceremony. Announcement cards have been sent out. Mr. and Mrs. Bismarck will begin housekeeping at once and Jake Kerb, where they are at home to their many friends.

Half Million for Orphans.

The will of P. B. Kemmerer of Assumption, filed in the probate court at Taylorville, gives practically all of his $150,000 estate to found an orphans' home at Assumption. The institution is to be under the control of the Presbyterian churches of central Illinois. Mr. Kemmerer had no children. He bequeaths his wife $2,000 and an annuity of $200.

Peoria Revenue Collections.

The collections of internal revenue at Peoria Tuesday fell to $58,831.02, a drop of over $70,000 from the collections of Monday and a figure about $40,000 below the yearly average. At Peoria last year the collections were running from $110,000 to $130,000 daily. This is due to a stoppage of weekly orders following recent price cutting.

Transfer Insane Women.

Twenty-five insane women from the Dunning asylum of Cook county have been sent to the state hospital at Jacksonville. This transfer will be followed by as many more each month until 200 are removed from the Dunning institution. Previously the Bartonville institution accommodated 250 women, formerly inmates of Dunning.

Louisville G. A. R.

W. J. Scaggs (Post No. 249), of Louisville, has elected the following officers: Commander, James M. Tanner; S. V. C., T. A. Ferguson; J. V. C., John Erwin; chaplain, M. M. Cranson; chaplain, M. C. Bowles; adjutant, H. H. Chesley; quartermaster, E. J. Edwards; O. D., Alfred Mathews; O. G., Philip Rinehart; S. M., Odell Gilbert; Q. M. S., R. W. Pierson. J. T. Clarkson was elected as delegate to the state encampment; alternate, W. McElyea.

STATE HISTORY TO BE THEME

Illinois Society Will Meet at Capital for Two Days.

Students of early Illinois events will convene in the senate chamber of the statehouse at Springfield Jan. 24 and 25, when the Illinois State Historical society will hold its annual meeting. Chicagoans have an important part and among them are Judge George Dupuy, Dr. Samuel Willard, Jane Addams of Hull house and Caroline B. Sherman, librarian of the Chicago Historical society.

The meeting will begin Jan. 24 at 9 o'clock in the morning with a meeting of the directors in the room of the Illinois state historical library. At 2:30 o'clock a business meeting will be held in the house of representatives. This will be followed at 11 o'clock the next day by a paper by Dupuy and Prof. C. W. Alvord, the State of Illinois, 1818. "Early Courts and Lawyers in Illinois" will be the subject of Judge Dupuy and Prof. Alvord will speak on "The Finding of the Kaskaskia Records."

The afternoon programme is: Orville F. Berry, Carthage, Ill., "Some Facts Hitherto Unpublished Relating to the Mormons in Illinois." Mrs. I. G. Miller, Springfield, "The Ierians in Illinois."

Dr. Samuel Willard, "Personal Reminiscences of Life in Illinois, 1830 to 1850."

W. D. Barge, "The Rejected County Names."

The evening session will be opened at 7:45 o'clock with an address of welcome by Gov. Deneen. Response will be made by Alfred Dendorff, the president of the society. An address will be made on "Sectional Influences in Western Illinois" by Frederick J. Turner, professor of history in the University of Wisconsin.

The next day will have sessions at 9:30 o'clock in the morning and 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

New Coal Line.

A survey has been commenced for a railroad from Gallatin, eight miles northwest of Harrisburg, to connect with the Illinois Central, running southeast through that city to a point on the Ohio river, at or near Rosiclare. This line is being promoted by capitalists who are interested in large coal lands and extensive mineral deposits in the hills south and east of here. The road is to be known as the Harrisburg and Ohio River railroad. It will traverse some of the richest coal fields in southern Illinois. The company has been organized and officers elected, as follows: President, F. M. Pickett; vice president, F. Bevin Bell; secretary, George Ledford; treasurer, W. B. Dorrie. So far there has been no trouble in securing the right of way, and it is believed construction work will begin by early spring.

After Free Delivery.

Postmaster Cauger of Granite City has sent the following report to Washington: "Granite City is to need in securing free delivery: Gross receipts for the first quarter, 1904, $1,799.53; same period, 1905, $2,000.00; last quarter, 1904, $2,120.99; last quarter, 1905, $2,341.34. The gross receipts for 1905 were $11,-190.04, the money order receipts for the last half of December, 1905, were $10,226.40.

Bondsmen Are Alarmed.

Kankakee bondsmen of State Treasurer Len Small notified Mr. Small that he must find other men to sign his new bond or they would not become surety again for him in office after Jan. 14, when his present bond expires. Gov. Deneen's action to compel former auditors and treasurers to return fees kept by them in violation of the law alarmed the bondsmen.

Illinois State Fair Date.

The Illinois state fair of 1906 will be held Sept. 28 to Oct. 5. This was decided at the annual meeting of the state board of agriculture held at Springfield. By this action the board ignores the decision of the state fair circuit that was made at a meeting of the national association held at Springfield. Premiums to the amount of $52,500 will be given.

Wealthy Farmer Missing.

Edward Griffin, a wealthy farmer of Shabbona Grove, went to Chicago for medical treatment and has mysteriously disappeared. Two of his brothers went to the city but could find no trace of him after they left the physician's office. Foul play is feared.

Reward for Murderers.

Gov. Deneen has offered a reward of $250 for the capture of the unknown murderers of Horace Bennett, on the night of Dec. 20, 1905, in Lawrence county.

Strike Oil Near Litchfield.

Oil was struck for the third time on the Vandalia Consolidated oil field, at a depth of 667 feet. The well belongs to Messrs. Hauer, Barb and Brown of Mount Olive. A refinery is to be built at once.

New Cashier for Bank.

W. L. Kemper, formerly cashier of the state bank at Waterloo, has been selected to succeed Thomas Kennedy, who recently resigned as cashier of the First National bank of Collinsville.

Choice home from over the state, carefully selected for our readers.