THE RIGHTFUL HEIR

By M. T. CALDOR.

CHAPTER VII.—(CONTINUED.)

"Citizens, if I am to be your orator, now is your time to listen to me. You all know who I am; the trusted messenger from Robespierre cannot be accused of loyalty to a cause he has so long secretly and openly fought against, or of treachery to the cause of the people. Do not misjudge me, then, when I bid you forego your intention to yonder trembling group. Why, friends, what a poor revenge is that! look you—how soon the terrors have fled from the fiery youth, who sent young Christophe to his last account. He who has helped pile up a lifetime of misery for hundreds of us! Shall he only suffer a few seconds' strangling, and then be safe where our revenge cannot reach him? I ask keener pangs for those that are left, the bitter, agonizing hours of suspense, the gnawing of remorse, the nameless horrors of a slowly but surely approaching doom.

"Friends, citizens, let me tell you why I think I have a right to pronounce the sentence in this case," continued he, his voice swelling full and deep. "In the group yonder, stands Count Germain, as he was known in the days gone by, as he will never be known again. As some of you know, I was once a peasant on his estate. He hears me—do you see him cower? Ah, ha! I shall bring a more painful choking to his throat than your halter did for his son. It is right you should hear this story tonight. I had a sister—we were a thriving family in spite of his oppressive taxes, and she was tenderly reared. She was known then as the Rose of Chestnut Hollow, and no rose was ever half so sweet or beautiful as Valerie. So fair a flower might be plucked even by a nobleman, and Count Germain sought to win her by his wiles. He won her love, but she was pure as the mountain dew, and this man whose blood is so much nobler and better than ours, was forced to stratagem to win his ends. He persuaded her with his smooth words that he was ready to lift her to his own estate; that his love overlooked their different stations, and he would give her a legal marriage. The innocent girl trusted him! But hark you! The poor tool who was to personate the priest, and make a mockery of the sacred rite, confessed to me what was about to happen. That was my first move against this man, when I found a veritable priest, and managed that that which his lordship believed to be a sham ceremony to appease the scruples of a virtuous girl, became a legal marriage. I kept the papers myself, and revealed the secret to no one, and the priest died two months afterward. My sister was too confiding and happy to demur because she was kept immured at the chateau, but she was not long to remain so. Six months, and my lord, the count, was tired of his peasant plaything. One day he gave her a roll of gold, told her the trick he had played upon her, and sent her from the chateau to a neighboring cottage, promising to see her often, until his marriage to a lady high born and wealthy, suitable for a countess. She was a woman, and you all do know what tender stuff their hearts are made of. She drooped wan and white in silence even after her babe was born, and a cold, plain faced countess reigned at the chateau. I soon learned what had happened, and with the papers in my hand, I sought the count. Ask him, some of you, if he has forgotten that meeting. Did I think, he asked, that the government—and that meant the king and nobility; the people, mind you, had nothing to do with the government, nothing but to be ground into the dust, and submit passively—did I think the government would listen to the word of a peasant against a nobleman, and in such a cause as this? I saw my case was hopeless through the tyranny that bound France and made slaves of two-thirds of her people. I crushed back the rage that filled my heart, and demanded that the child should be better educated than his mother had been, but while I spoke I was registering an oath within me, that if it took a lifetime devoted to but one hidden end, hour should be avenged. I have toiled, I have hoarded, I have strained every nerve of mind and body, five and twenty years, and tonight my end is consummated. Will you give him but an hour of wretchedness for my long years of grief, my sister's life of misery, her son's blasted hopes? Answer me, citizens!"

Like the roar of a tempest amid a forest, or the deafening dash of surf against the rocks, came one great cry.

"Away with him to prison. Let the fiends take him by piecemeal. Let him die by inches. Long life and honor to citizen Jean," and amid shouts and jeers the prisoners were seized and borne away to prison by the soldiers.

Count Germain cast one questioning look at his wife, as rude hands bore him past where, still unable to rise, she was lying on the grass. She understood his meaning, and answered haughtily:

"It is nothing new. I knew it long ago, and so did my Emile. You might have guessed why we hated Hugo."

It had been a trying experience for Bernard, while his uncle spoke. His chest heaved, his eye flashed, he almost forgot the cold hand that grasped his arm, until Violante whispered:

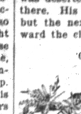
"I can bear no more, my strength is failing."

Then, taking advantage of the confusion that followed the removal of the doomed prisoners, and the rush to renewed pillage, he led her to a seat in an arbor, that hid from her sight the dangling corpse, and charging her to recover composure as well as strength, he left her, for hearing his name loudly called, he dared not excite suspicion by refusing to appear. His uncle came to him and whispered:

"Secure what valuables you can, for the sake of her you describe to me as a friend to the worthy, whatever their descent. If you have managed her escape, be wary. I heard a citizen loudly declaring Lady Violante was not among them."

Bernard glanced into the house, but made no attempt to enter, and as soon as he believed his movements unobserved, he hastened to the arbor. It was deserted. Lady Violante was not there. His heart grew sick a moment, but the next he plunged forward toward the cliff.

CHAPTER VIII.



VIOLANTE, screened by the arbor from the observation of the rude throng around her, and sickened by the horrible oaths and bloodthirsty imprecations that continually reached her ears, laid her head back wearily against the railing, too dizzy and stunned with rapidly accumulating horrors, to realize her own emotions. Closing her eyes she tried to cease thinking, and to calm her nerves to a steadiness that should be able to endure what further lay before her, before she should reach safety. Growing accustomed to so much noise and shouting, she did not notice approaching steps, nor suspect the presence of any one in the arbor, until a rude hand was laid upon her shoulder.

"Who is this?" exclaimed a sinister, ferocious-looking man, clad in a butcher's blouse, with two women at his side. "I'll venture to swear that is a Beauvais profile. Who said they were sure Lady Violante was not that sobbing, puny girl clinging to the count?" and then seeing the wild terror with which Violante sprang up, he added, "I'll be bound this puny stripling will turn out to be the haughty wench. Here, Lizette, come and see."

He laid his huge hand upon the collar of her jacket to tear it open, but with the energy of desperation, Violante sprang away from him, slipped between the gaping women.

With a loud whoop the butcher started after her. At first fear lent her new power of endurance, but soon an iron clog seemed to drag her back, her limbs grew weak, trees, sky and roadside swam dizzily before her eyes. She heard the heavy clanging steps of her pursuer close behind her, his exulting shout echoed like thunder reverberations in her ears. But the cliff was before her. On she sped, wavering, staggering, sinking. A short by-path, which Bernard had shown her, gave her a few moments' advantage; the shrubbery hid her crouching form, and the fierce citizen paused a moment in doubt. That was her safety. With desperate exertion of expiring strength she sank on her knees before the rock, and gave a low, faint blast.

Low and faint as it was, it reached the strained ear behind the rocky wall. The stony door swung open; a tender pair of arms seized the fainting figure, and drew it in; the rock closed to its place, and when, panting and cursing, butcher Jean came to the summit of the crag, utter silence reigned there. Searching diligently but fruitlessly, with the aid of others who came up, upon receiving the alarm he peered down at length into the river rolling tranquilly beneath, as the stars were shining peacefully above on this night of horrors, and exclaimed:

"She has thrown herself into the water. It is a more decent grave than an aristocrat deserves, but it can't be helped."

And within, in the rocky saloon with its crimson hung walls, and huge supporting pillars, knelt Valerie, chafing the cold hands, and using every tender means to recall the life that seemed forever fled from the beauteous form.

Violante had just recovered consciousness, and had flung herself sobbing and weeping into the arms of the pale and beautiful woman, whose history she had heard in such burning words that very night, but who claimed her warmest affection as the mother of Bernard, when Bernard himself came hurriedly from the low and tardy cove entrance.

"You are here," exclaimed he, with an exclamation of intense relief. "I dare not tell you what harrowing suspense I have endured. They told me you were drowned. I had hoped of a better fate, but my fears were painfully acute. They are searching on the cliff even yet, so I came through the cove, crawling on my hands and knees through the slimy water," added he, smilingly to Violante, "which accounts for my having such a face and toilet. Ah, mother dear, it has been a terrible night. You must send Lady Violante with an opiate to your own couch. She has undergone enough to prostrate an iron constitution. Do not ask me to repeat anything in her presence."

"Heaven bless you for your kindness," sobbed Violante; "oh, Bernard, Bernard, what of my father?"

"Take courage, my beloved one, you have seen for yourself what influence my uncle wields. He will be the dictator, here at Grenoble. If we can only move him from his bitter spirit of revenge, all will be well for everyone. We have our own account to urge; surely my mother and I, the only beings on earth that he loves, may plead successfully. Put away your fears, Violante, and pardon me that in this hour of affliction a wild joy thrills my heart with the hope that now I may win her whom I have loved so devotedly but hopelessly."

Later, on that eventful night, when poor Violante's terrors were banished in the slumber the opiate had brought to her exhausted frame, the cavern saloon saw a strange sight. There was citizen Jean, who had preached so furiously to the mob for the downfall of the nobility, with his sister and his nephew at his feet, clinging to his hands, and with tender appeals and heart-wrung tears, imploring him to forego his fatal revenge. For a long time he was implacable and obdurate. At length his sister, in the wretchedness of despair, exclaimed frantically—"Oh, Jean, Jean, it is in your power to give me a few peaceful days at the close of my eventful life. You may send me too to your dreadful guillotine, for if the father of my child perishes by its fatal axe, I shall die of shame and horror and remorse."

Then the stern face quivered, the fiery eyes lost their fierce blaze in a gush of tears, and M. Jean exclaimed ruefully:

"You have conquered, you shall have your way."

And that way brought about, that in the dead of night, two wretched fugitives arrived at the cliff, and received shelter and comfort within its hidden walls.

Count Beauvais, completely cured of pride and obduracy, with tears of thanksgiving, caught his recovered daughter in his arms, and giving her to Bernard, gave also his warmest and most grateful blessing.

For Count Germain was in a more critical situation. To meet as preservers and benefactors the wronged wife and son was almost equal to ascending the guillotine. But remorse and misery had wrought purifying work. Besides he came there to receive their pardon and die. The countess had in some way obtained a paper of poison which she had administered to him as well as herself. What was speedy death for her was a slower process upon his stronger frame. He died, penitent and hopeful, breathing his last in the cavern, surrounded by his weeping wife and forgiving son, and leaving his papers to reinstate Bernard in his lawful position, if the bloody crisis of the country should pass away. The escape of the two counts was always a marvel, but rapidly surging events swept it away from the minds constantly familiar with new and as desperate tragedies, and no one had been bold enough to question M. Jean, the noted Jacobin. No one either suspected the existence of the wonderful cavern, which he had enlarged and fitted up for the secure retreat of his sister and her child. There Violante and her father remained in safety, until an opportunity came through Christophe's sloop to escape to England with Bernard, his mother and uncle, who, upon the fall of Robespierre, knew that France was no longer a safe retreat for him.

When prosperity and peace, under Napoleon Bonaparte, once more smoothed away the agitation of the land, among the first to return and claim their estate and title was Count Bernard Hugo Germain, with his young and lovely wife and her aged father, Count Beauvais. M. Jean was left behind in an English grave. The spirit that had burned so vividly and chafed and fretted against the bars of fate, was early exhausted and extinguished. Need I add one of the dearest spots to the young heirs of both Germain and Beauvais, was the romantic cliff that leaned over so frowningly upon the blue rolling Isere?

[THE END.]

KEEPING HUBBY AT HOME.

Clever and Successful Ruse of a Young Kentucky Wife.

Friends of William Willson, a well-to-do farmer of Fayette county, are enjoying a joke at his expense, at the same time expressing general admiration for the ingenuity of his pretty young wife. Willson, a genial fellow and popular among his friends, had contracted the more or less reprehensible habit of staying away from home a good deal of the time evenings, and Mrs. Willson set about putting a stop to the habit. Something like a fortnight ago a story to the effect that Mrs. Willson had shot and mortally wounded an unknown tramp who had insulted her went the rounds of the Kentucky press. Several times since then the body of the supposed tramp has been reported as found in swamps and ravines and meadows in the vicinity of the Willson home. Each time the report has proved false. The truth of the matter is that the "tramp" story was an invention. Mrs. Willson became enraged because her husband continued his practice of leaving her alone at home, and to prevent his going away in the future she concocted a scheme which seems to have the desired effect. She took down the rifle from its pegs over the door and, enticing the house cat on the front porch, shot it. The cat bled profusely. She threw away the carcass and left the blood on the porch. When her husband on his return saw the blood and heard the "tramp" story he organized a party and went gunning for the "wounded tramp." Mr. Willson has stayed so closely at home since then that his wife a night or two ago in the fullness of her pity unfolded to him the story of her ruse to keep him by the hearthstone.

The Troubles of Ireland.

On one occasion Hartley Coleridge had listened with deep apparent interest to the voluble discourse of a well-known Irish enthusiast, who spent much of his time traveling about England and enlightening the English mind on the subject of popish errors, especially in Ireland. After dinner Hartley requested to be presented to a man so remarkable. On the presentation he took the far-famed traveler and philosopher by the arm, while a few of the guests gathered around, and addressed him with awful solemnity: "Sir, there are two great evils in Ireland." "There are, indeed, sir," replied the Irish guest; "but please to name them." "The first," resumed Hartley, "is—popery!" "It is," said the other; "but how wonderful that you should have discovered that! Now tell me what is the second great evil?" "Protestantism!" was Hartley's reply, in a voice of thunder, as he ran away screaming with laughter. His new acquaintance remained panic-stricken.—"Recollections of Aubrey de Vere."

Decline of Mortality in Prussia.

A German observer has shown for northern Germany a remarkable decline in the mortality from typhoid fever and diarrhoea, and in the deaths after surgical operations in hospitals (doubtless influenced by antiseptic methods and by new and sanitary buildings), which has been observed in Prussia and in Germany generally, since the sanitary awakening of twenty years ago. In the successive quinquennial, from 1875 to 1894, the death rates per 10,000 living from typhoid fever were 6.17, 4.99, 2.78 and 1.86, and those from diarrhoea, 1.63, 1.59, 0.45 and 0.3.

'TWEEN THE LAKES.

MICHIGAN NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD FOR MICHIGANDERS.

Trolley Cars Meet Head-on Between Two Hills—Three Killed—Many Injured—A Couple Arrested for a Double Murder.

Awful Trolley Collision.

Icy rails, an almost impenetrable fog, a misunderstanding of orders or gross carelessness on the part of someone, were the principal factors in the cause of a terrible collision of two new heavy trolley cars of the Detroit & Pontiac electric railway. The place where the accident occurred also largely contributed to the serious results. A southbound car in charge of John Savage, superintendent of the road, started [illegible] about midway between Pontiac and Birmingham, about the same time a northbound car left the top of another hill a half mile nearer Birmingham. In the sweep between the hills the track curves somewhat and it was at this point that the two cars, well loaded with human freight, collided while going at full force and three souls were instantly hurled into the presence of their Maker. A heavy fog hung over this valley and prevented the motormen from seeing each other's car until they were quite close together, and then the glare of ice which covered the tracks and the momentum of the down grade prevented the proper service of the brakes and the crash was terrific and was heard at the farm houses on the adjoining hilltops. In an instant the cars were reduced to a mass of wreckage, filled with the stunned bodies of those who had been passengers, and containing the corpses of three men instantly crushed to death—Supt. John Savage, of Birmingham; Motorman Chas. M. Whitehead, of Birmingham; and John Kelley, a passenger, of Farmington. Mrs. Chas. Pratt, of Carleton, had both legs broken and was fatally injured internally, and over a score of others, principally residents of Detroit, Birmingham and Pontiac, were more or less severely injured.

A Couple Arrested for a Double Murder

The coroner's jury in the case of Margaret Hartman, of Sciota township, Shiawassee county, who recently died, brought in a verdict that she came to her death from morphine poisoning. Suspicion rested upon Wm. Ream, alias Gage, and Emma Ream, his alleged wife, as being the guilty parties and they were arrested. The Hartmans were quite well-to-do. The husband and wife died within a few days of each other, apparently from the same causes. The Reams lived with the Hartman's and are alleged to have purchased large quantities of morphine recently.

After her arrest the Ream woman "confessed" that she saw John Hartman, Jr., pour a white powder into his parents' medicine and that he threatened to kill her if she said a word about it.

State Fair Cleared $66.99.

The official statement of expenses and receipts of the state fair at Grand Rapids, shows that the total receipts were $19,175.29; total expenses, $19,108.30, leaving a net profit of $66.99. The executive committee will meet Jan. 10, when it will be decided whether or not to hold another fair. Grand Rapids will make a pull for it. The fact has developed that there is a lively row on among the directors over the election of the president of the association. Secretary Henry S. Fralick got into hot water because he advocated turning down President Ball and the election of a younger man.

Steamer Burned in Mid-Lake.

The Detroit steamer Egyptian coal-laden, caught fire on Lake Huron below Thunder Bay, burned to the water's edge and sank in 170 feet of water. The Rockefeller steamer, Sir William Fairbairn, happened along, attempted to save the burning steamer, and failing in that, rescued her crew. The Fairbairn arrived at Detroit with the crew aboard, and towing the two yawls of the Egyptian in which the shipwrecked men had taken passage from the burning boat. The Egyptian was commanded by Capt. Frank Goodrow, of Bay City.

Schooner Lost on Vermillion Point.

Abandoned by her towing steamer, the H. B. Tuttle, and unable to work her way off a lee shore in a heavy northwest gale on Lake Superior, the schooner Joseph Paige went ashore at Vermillion Point and became a total loss. The crew was rescued by the life savers from Vermillion station without the loss of a single man. The casting adrift of the Paige saved the Tuttle from a similar fate. Both were loaded with iron ore. The Paige was built in 1872, was valued at $16,000 and was owned John Wedow, of Cleveland.

MICHIGAN NEWS ITEMS.

Farmers are putting in telephones in Montcalm county.

Over 80 Indian children are being educated at the Catholic school at Harbor Springs, entirely at the cost of the church.

H. Roscoe Wheeler, of Detroit, has been disbarred from practice before the U. S. patent office, because of "irregularity in practice."

Deputy Sheriff George Darling was found frozen to death in the woods near Wolverine. He had left home on a hunting trip two days before.

The board of trustees of Albion college unanimously elected as president of the college Dr. John P. Ashley, principal of the Genesee Wesleyan seminary, Lima, N. Y. He will take charge Jan. 1. Horace Hitchcock, of Detroit, was elected president of the board of trustees.

Wm. B. Selley, head compounding druggist with the A. H. Lyman Drug Co., at Manistee, suicided by taking a dose of bichloride of mercury, which he swallowed in the presence of his wife and children. They were unaware of his intention until too late. A doctor was hastily summoned, but it was of no avail.

Capt. Chas. W. Gray, aged 69, committed suicide at Saginaw by shooting himself through the head while standing in front of a mirror. He had been despondent ever since the death of his daughter Daisy, a year ago. He leaves a widow and seven children.

An alarming epidemic of hog cholera is prevalent north of Lansing, one farmer losing over 30 head of hogs.

Otto Nickel, a grocer of Manistee, lost his property through a tax title. He became despondent and hanged himself in his barn. Nickel began life as a rag peddler.

John Dagle, late postmaster of South Boardman, was sentenced to the Detroit house of correction for two years and fined $470 in the United States court for embezzling that amount.

Mrs. Lurena Bedell, aged 90, who died at Bay City, leaves 7 children, 47 grandchildren, 87 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild—143 descendants altogether.

Jos. Ferguson, aged 28, of Detroit, was found frozen to death at St. Clair Flats. He had evidently been thrown into the water by his duck boat capsizing, and was so completely exhausted on reaching land that he could not reach shelter.

Isaac Helms, of Oscoda county, gets two years and pays $250 fine; Henry Niles, the Saginaw bill-raiser, gets three years and the same fine; John Brandel, Saginaw county counterfeiter, one year and $250 fine. All three were tried at Bay City for counterfeiting.

A bold and wholesale robbery of sheep occurred on the farm of C. C. Speer, in Maple Grove township. This is 30 miles from Saginaw, yet an entire flock of merinos and other fine varieties of much value were driven there, killed and disposed of before the owner discovered that a portion of his farm stock had been stolen.

Gov. Pingree's object in getting possession of a Venezuelan asphalt lake is now asserted to be for the purpose of breaking the asphalt combine, so that municipal ownership of asphalt paving plants may be assured, and to permit laying of asphalt payments by local contractors instead of allowing the combine to monopolize the business.

The house occupied by Joseph Heim at Bay City was almost totally destroyed by fire. Heim was asleep on the floor when the fire was discovered. Neighbors went to the place, broke in the door and dragged the unconscious man out of doors just in time to save his life. He was dazed and fought fiercely against being disturbed while slumbering. The loss is about $1,000.

Ionia militia men are sore because their new company was not mustered into the state service. The officers claim they had the assurance of the three members of the military board that they should surely have the preference and intimate that the name, the White Guards, given the new Grand Rapids company so tickled Q. M. Gen. White's vanity that he forgot his promises.

Unusual preparations are being made for the forty-seventh annual meeting of the Michigan State Teachers' association, to be held at Lansing, Dec. 28, 29 and 30, and it is expected that the attendance will reach fully 1,500 and will exceed that of any previous meeting. The stellar attractions will be Bishop John H. Vincent, of Buffalo, and Dr. Jacques W. Redway, F. R. G. S. of New York.

J. H. Fraser, who owns a cigar factory at Ann Arbor has mysteriously disappeared. In September his wife disappeared and was found dead in the mill race. Fraser seemed brokenhearted and at the first announcement of his disappearance it was suggested that he had followed her by committing suicide. The police, however, say Fraser has lived under a cloud and that the woman drowned was not Fraser's wife at all, but had run away and lived with him. The police hint at very sensational developments soon.

For two and a half days the steamer H. E. Runnells, of Port Huron, was ashore on the end of Point Abbaye, before the first news reached a place from which help could be summoned, when the mate and one sailor arrived at Pequaming. The Runnells struck on the Point in a heavy snow storm, about midnight. She was laden with coal for Lake Linden. A heavy sea was running and to prevent pounding on the rocks the captain ordered the ship scuttled. In spite of this, the hull received hard usage on the rocks and is very badly damaged and was released with much difficulty.

NEWSY CONDENSATIONS.

Fire destroyed the general merchandise store of Price & Gillette, at New York. Loss, $100,000.

The pension appropriation agreed upon by the sub-committee of the House is $141,218,830.

"Trading stamps" have been declared illegal by Judge Shepard of the court of appeals of the District of Columbia. He holds that they come under the law prohibiting lotteries and gift enterprises.

The special U. S. commissioner to the Paris International exposition, Maj. Moses P. Handy, of Chicago, asks congress to appropriate $919,600 for a creditable display on the part of the United States.

The Spanish press is apparently pleased with the President's message as it is believed to strengthen the cause of Spain in Cuba and shows the there is no cause for intervention by the United States.

Forty-three companies, with a total capital of $102,325,000, have been floated in various parts of the country, but more especially in New York, for the purpose of developing the wonderful gold finds of the Klondike. People in all parts of the country appear to have gone gold-mad, and hundreds of thousands of dollars have gone into soap bubble concerns which have faded away like a dream. Already two of the most promising companies have gone under and thousands of people have lost their investments.

Jacob Krall choked to death on beefsteak in a restaurant at Oshkosh, Wis.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Butler college at Irvington, will be represented in the state oratorical contest next month by a colored man, Ezra G. Roberts of Kokomo.

Pittsburg, Pa.—The washhouse operatives in tin plate mills have formed a union and will make application for admission to the American Federation of Labor.

Dubuque, Iowa—The police are hunting for a woman who appeared in Dubuque two weeks ago. She bears a striking resemblance to the missing Mrs. Luetgert.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS PICKED PROMISCOUSLY.

The Insurgent Forces in Cuba Win in Several Battles With the Spanish Troops — Famous Spanish General, Pando, Among the Slain.

Madrid: The queen regent presided at the cabinet council when Senor Sagasta, the premier, reviewed the general situation. He said that the military operations in the province of Pinar del Rio, Cuba, showed it to be an important center of rebellion, although Gen. Weyler had declared the district pacified. Gen. Bernal, the premier said, has been ordered not to relax his energy in pursuing the insurgents.

Havana: The insurgent Gens. Rabi and Salvador Rios besieged the village of Guisa, about 15 miles from Bayamo. Their artillery destroyed several block houses killing the military commander and one lieutenant. The Spanish garrison, after having lost also 90 soldiers killed and 180 wounded, surrendered. The insurgents plundered the stores securing rich booty, two months' supplies, a quantity of ammunition and 200 rifles.

The report that Gen. Pando, who was placed in charged of military operations in Cuba by Capt.-Gen. Blanco, has been killed in an engagement with insurgents in Santa Clara province has caused the most intense excitement in the palace and official circles. A battle occurred near Matanzas, in which the Spanish forces were routed and driven from the field. This engagement was bitterly fought, and it is asserted that the losses of the Spaniards were very heavy.

The fiercest battle fought in the province of Pinar del Rio since the death of Gen. Maceo is just reported from Havana. The Spanish columns under Gens. Bernal and Velasco combined to dislodge the 3,500 insurgents encamped in the hills of Romero, Madama and Los Palados, under Gen. Ducasi. The insurgents were well armed and repulsed several bayonet attacks made by the Spanish, and the latter retired to await reinforcements, after losing 100 men. The Spanish numbered 6,000 when the Aranjuez battalion arrived, and by sacrificing 67 more men they took the hights of Caimito at the point of the bayonet. The next day Ducasi took it again and the three Spanish battalions gave up the fight at close of the second day, having lost over 300 men.

A Dark Crisis Approaching in Austria.

The crisis in Austria is hourly growing more serious, and the outlook is very dark. All factions are lining up like contending armies. Germans on both sides of the line are uniting to keep the hated Czechs in check, while the latter make no secret of their desire to abolish the dual empire and establish a triple kingdom, placing Bohemia on an equal footing with Hungary. This would set Hungary on fire and completely destroy the foundation of the present imperial system. It is said that force will have to be used by Emperor Francis Joseph, but against which faction is not stated.

The question of the passage, by the Austrian reichsrath, of the provisional ausgleich bill (or agreement to prolong for a year instead of 10 years the the compact between Austria and Hungary, pending arrangements for a longer compact,) is, if possible, a question even more grave than the threatening civil war. If it is not passed the compact between the portions of the dual state lapses and though the status quo may be maintained temporarily Hungary will establish her claim to the right of independently disposing of these questions. It is easy to see that victory will only whet the Hungarians' appetite and that it will be but a short step to the dissolution of Austria which in turn will hurl Europe into a furnace of terrible possibilities.

HAYTI GIVES IN.

Two German Cruisers Suddenly Appear at Port au Prince.

Port au Prince, Hayti: The trouble between Germany and Hayti, as a result of the arrest and imprisonment of Herr Lueders, an alleged German subject, reached a crises when two German cruisers entered this port and an ultimatum from the German goverment was delivered to the Haytian government, giving the latter eight hours in which to grant the demands of Germany for an indemnity to Herr Lueders. In anticipation of trouble the citizens of German nationality sought refuge on board two steamers and the French steamer, Ville de Marseille, has been requisitioned by the French minister in order to serve as a place of refuge for French citizens. The population of this place is in a state of great excitement, but the Haytian government has strong forces of troops at its disposal and is resolved to maintain order. The government accepted the conditions imposed by Germany, so far as money indemnity is concerned, and it is also probable that, yielding to superior force and in order to avoid internal troubles, the government will accept the other conditions.

The interstate commerce commission has granted an extension of two years to the railroads in the matter of compelling them to place air brakes and safety couplers on all freight cars.

The Italian chamber of deputies has appointed a commission to investigate the charges against ex-Premier Crispi of complicity it the gigantic frauds which wrecked the three principal banks of Italy. The Crispi cabinet was driven from office as the result of these scandals. Crispi has already been subjected to the humiliation of of magisterial examination.

Wabash, Ind.—The suit of Clinton Whistler to break the will of John Whistler is on trial. Mr. Whistler left an estate of $100,000 to his widow and children, but so bound up in trust that they could not secure their portion for nearly a generation. It is to have the trust broken that the action is prosecuted.

Washington—Major Moses P. Handy, who has been seriously ill here, is better. As soon as he is stronger he will be taken to some place in the south, where the climate is more favorable.

"DOWN WITH GERMANS."

Czech Mobs Cause Bloodshed and Much Destruction in Bohemia.

The riots which broke up the sittings of the reichsrath of Austria at Vienna and caused the Badeni ministry to resign, under threats from street mobs of cutting off Premier Badeni's head by means of the guillotine, have resulted in violent demonstrations at other places, particulary at Prague, the principal city of Bohemia. There great mobs of Czechs gathered on the streets and the houses of Germans were bombarded with stones and a howling mob which gathered on Wenzel-Platz had to be dispersed by infantry and cavalry. The university buildings are threatened by the rioters and have to be protected by large bodies of police. The streets have been held by 12 battalions of infantry and a squadron of hussars. All traffic is suspended and the shops and business houses are closed.

In spite of the military a large Czech mob made a descent upon the German quarter and plundered houses and shops in several streets. The furniture of a well-known German cafe was piled up in the street and set on fire. When a detachment of troops approached to disperse the rioters, the soldiers were greeted with showers of stones, broken glass and other missiles. A mob attempted to storm a cartridge factory at Zizikow, a suburb of Prague. The troops stationed at the factory poured a volley into the crowd. It is known that at least two persons were killed outright, and it is feared that others were killed or wounded. In various other parts of the city and the suburbs windows were smashed and German signboards demolished. The constant cry of the rioters was "Down with the Germans," "Down with the Jews." Ladies venturing on the street were obliged to wear the Slav tri-color in order to avoid being attacked. German signboards were hastily removed by their owners and replaced with Czech inscriptions. Nobody dared to utter a word in German. The Kinsky palace was plundered of its furniture, which was thrown through the windows, heaped in the street and set on fire, the mob preventing the fire brigade from approaching.

The Wenzel-Platz, where the revolution of 1848 began, has been the chief center of excitement. It is about 60 yards in width and 750 yards in length and will hold 100,000 people. The police and the military have made 200 arrests, and it is reported that altogether 80 persons were injured.

Troops have been drafted to Judenstadt, owing to the mob threatening to run to riot there, and there is serious trouble theatened at Pilsen.

Japan Says Keep Hands Off of Hawaii.

Toru Hoshi, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from Japan to the United States, has just returned from Japan to Washington, carrying important instructions in reference to the Hawaiian treaty of annexation, which will be considered by the United States senate. Several months ago he hurriedly left Washington for Japan, just after the publication of his correspondence with Secretary of State Sherman with reference to the Hawaiian question, and it was said that he was angry with Mr. Sherman and the administration for their advocacy of annexation.

He now says: "I desire to say positively that Japan is opposed to the annexation of Hawaii by the United States. The recent reports that Japan had withdrawn her opposition are untrue. Japan has certain interests in the Sandwich islands which the United States should respect. There may be serious trouble if the United States annexes the islands without regard to our interests there. But I do not believe the United States will act unfairly. Japan is very friendly with this country and there is certainly a way by which the annexation question can be settled satisfactorily to both great nations."

The President's Mother Stricken Down.

Mrs. Nancy Allison McKinley, the venerable mother of the President, was stricken with paralyes at her home at Canton, and her death is believed to be only a question of a short time. She was born at New Linbon, O., in 1809, and came of the race of hardy pioneers who laid the foundation of the American republic.

As soon as President McKinley learned of the seriousness of his mother's condition he made hurried preparations and left Washington for Canton ton accompanied by Judge Day, assistant secretary of state. The President's stay at Canton will depend upon the condition in which he finds his mother. If she improves he will return to Washington.

China Yields All Germany Asks.

Dispatches from Shanghai say: It is reported that China is willing to pay an indemnity of 1,000,000 taels, about $781,250, and to grant all the German demands, including the temporary cessation of Kiao-Chau bay and adjoining territory.

Dr. Steubel, the German consul at Shanghai, has been ordered to Kiao-Chau to establish a regular German administration. Investigation shows that the coal deposits in the province of Shan Tung, which will become available to Germany, with railway and mining concessions are most valuable.

The Reed phosphate works' acid chambers at Charleston, S. C., were destroyed by fire; loss, $60,000.

Two tramps suspected of burglarizing the store of Cook & Wilson at West Mansfield were arrested at New London and each one was wearing three suits of stolen clothing.

The U. S. cruiser Yantic, which is to be a training ship for the Michigan Naval reserves at Detroit, has at last arrived at Detroit, after a most eventful voyage from Boston. She was at once put in the Detroit drydock to be placed in proper style.

Lincoln, Ill.—The Enterprise dry goods establishment has been closed by the sheriff to satisfy executions in favor of the John V. Farwell Company of Chicago for $2,000.

Waukegan, Ill.—Miss Mamie Sherwood, who disappeared from her home at Kenosha, Wis., has been located. She is visiting with relatives near the village of Antioch.

Monmouth, Ill.—John S. Clark is dead. He was born 76 years ago at Hudson, N. Y., coming to Monmouth in 1857, when he purchased the Monmouth Atlas. He edited it until 1886.