# FRIDAY THE 13th

By Thomas W. Lawson

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### CHAPTER IX.—Continued.

"This was easy, because Barry Conant, not knowing of my newly invented trick, could buy only what he could pay for on the morrow, or, at least, what he believed his clients could pay for; while I, not intending to deliver what I sold—unless by smashing the price to a point where I could compel those who had bought to resell to me at millions less than I sold at—could sell unlimited amounts—literally unlimited amounts. When Barry Conant had bought all that he thought he could pay for, he was obliged to beat a retreat in front of my offerings, and I was able to smash, and smash, until the price was so low that he could not by the use of what he had bought, as collateral, borrow sufficient to pay me for what I had sold him. Then he was compelled to turn about and sell what he had bought from me, and when I had bought it for ten millions less than I had sold it for, the trick had been turned. I had sold him 100,000 shares say at 220. He had sold them back to me say at 120, and he stood where he had stood at the beginning. He had none of the 100,000 shares. Both of us stood, so far as stock was concerned, where we had stood at the beginning, but as to profits and losses there was this difference: I had ten millions of dollars profits, while Harry Conant's clients, the 'System,' were ten millions losers—and all by a trick. The trick did not differ in principle from the one in constant practice by the 'System.' When the 'System,' after manufacturing Sugar stock, sell 100,000 shares to the people for $10,000,000, they so manipulate the market by the use of the $10,000,000 that they have taken from the people as to scare them into selling the 100,000 shares back to them for $5,000,000. After they have bought they again manipulate the market until the people buy back for $10,000,000 what they sold for $5,000,000. The 'System' commits no legal crime. I committed no legal crime. I had not even infringed any rule of the exchange, any more than had the 'System' when they performed their trick. Since my experimental panic I have repeatedly put the trick in operation, and each time I have taken millions, until to-day I have in my control, as absolutely as though I had honestly earned them, as the laborer earns his week's wages, or the farmer the price of his crops, over $1,000,000,000, or sufficient to keep enslaved the rest of their lives a million people.

"What do you intelligent men think of this situation? You know, because you know the stock-gambling game, that the American people, with their boasted brains and courage, come year after year with their bags of gold, the result of their prosperous labors, and dump them, hundreds of millions, into this gambling inferno of yours. You know that they are fools, these silly millions of people whom you term lambs and suckers. You chuckle as, year after year, having been sent away shorn, they return for new shearing. You marvel that the merchants, manufacturers, miners, lawyers, farmers who have sufficient intelligence to gather such surplus legitimately, would bring it to our gambling hell, where upon all sides is plain proof that we who conduct the gambling, and who produce nothing, are obliged to take from those who do produce, hundreds of millions each year, for expenses, and hundreds of millions each year for profits—for you know that we have nothing to give them in return for what they bring to us. You know that every dollar of the billions lost in Wall street means higher prices for steel rails, for lumber and cars, and that this means higher passenger and freight rates to the people. You know that when the manufacturer brings his wealth to Wall street and is robbed of it, he will add something to the price of boots and shoes, cotton and woolen clothes, and other necessities that he makes and that he sells to the people. You know that when the copper, lead, tin, and iron miners part with their surplus to the 'System,' it means higher prices to the people for their copper pots and gutters, for the water that comes through lead pipes, for their tin dippers and wash boilers, and for their rents, and all those necessities into which machinery, lumber, and other raw and finished material enters. You know that every hundred millions dropped by real producers to the brigands of our world means lower wages or less of the necessities and luxuries for all the people, and especially for the farmer. You know that it is habit with us of Wall street to gloat over the doctrine of the 'System,' which the people parrot among themselves, the doctrine that the people at large are not affected by our gambling, because they, the people, having no surplus to gamble with, never come into Wall street. And yet, knowing all this, you never thought, with all your wisdom and cynicism, that right here in this institution, which you own, and control, was the open seasame for each or all of you, to those great chests of gold that your clients, the System,' have filled to bursting from the stores of the people. What, I ask, do you wise men think of the situation as you now see it?"

There was an oppressive stillness in the floor. The great crowd, which now contained nearly all the members of the exchange, listened with bulging eyes and open mouths to the revelations of their fellow member.

Bob Brownley paused and looked down into the faces of the breathless gamblers with a contempt that was superb. He went on:

"Men of Wall street, it is writ in the books of the ancients that every evil contains within itself a cure for a destroyer. I do not pretend that what I am revealing to you is to you a cure for this hideous evil, but I do say that what I am giving you is a destroyer for it, and that while it will be to the world a cure, it may leave you in a more fiery hell than the one of which you now feel the flames. I do not care if it does. When I am through, any member of the New York stock exchange who feels the iron in his soul can get instant revenge and unlimited wealth. You who are turning over in your minds the consideration that your great body can make new rules to render my discovery inoperative, are dealing with a shadow. There is no rule or device that can prevent its working. There are 1,000 seats in the New York stock exchange. They are worth to-day $95,000 apiece, or $95,000,000 in all. Their value is due to the fact that this exchange deals in between one and three million shares a day. Were any attempt made to prevent the operation of my invention, transactions would because of such attempt drop to five or ten thousand shares per day, or to such transactions as represented stock that will be actually delivered and actually paid for. To make my invention useless it must be made impossible to buy or sell the same share of stock more than once at one session, and short selling, which is now, as you know, the foundation of

Robert Brownley Glared Down Defiantly as a Sullen Growl Arose from the Gamblers.

the modern stock-gambling structure, must likewise be made impossible. If this could be done the $95,000,000 worth of seats in the exchange would be worth less than five millions, and, what is of far greater import to all the people, the financial world would be revolutionized. Men of Wall street, do not fool yourselves. My invention is a sure destroyer of the greatest curse in the world, stock-gambling."

A sullen growl rose from the gamblers. Robert Brownley glared down his defiance.

"Let me show you the impossibility of preventing in the future anyone's doing what I have done to you so many times during the past five years. All the capital required to work my invention is nerve and desperation, or nerve without desperation. It is well known to you that there are at all times exchange members who will commit any crime, barring, perhaps, murder, to gain millions. Your members have from time to time shown nerve or desperation enough to embezzle, raise certificates, give bogus checks, counterfeit stocks and bonds, and this for gain of less than millions, and when detection was probable. All these are criminal offenses and their detection is sure to bring disgrace and state prison. Yet members of this exchange desperate enough to take the chance, when confronted with loss of fortune and open bankruptcy, have always been found with nerve enough to attempt the crimes. I repeat that there are at all times exchange members who will commit any crime, barring, perhaps, murder, to gain millions. That you may see that my successors will surely come from your midst from time to time during the future existence of the exchange, I will enumerate the different classes of members who will follow in my footsteps:

"First, the 'In God We Trust' schemer who is of the 'System' type, but who is outside the magic circle. A man of this class will reason: 'I know scores of men, who stand high on the Street and in the social world, who have tens of millions that they have filched by 'System' tricks, if not by legal crimes. If I perform this trick of Brownley's, the trick of selling short until a panic is produced, I shall make millions and none will be the wiser. For all I know, many of the multi-millionaires whom I have seen produce panics and who were applauded by 'the Street' and the press for their ability and daring, and whose standing, business and social, is now the highest, were only doing this same thing, and having been successful, they have never been detected or suspected. But even suppose I fail, which can only be through some extraordinary accident happening while I am engaged in selling, I shall have committed no crime, and, in fact, shall have done no one any great moral wrong, for if I fail to carry out my contract to deliver the stock I have sold in trying to produce a panic, the men to whom I have sold will be no worse off for not receiving what they bought; in fact, they will stand just where they stood before I attempted to bring on a panic.

"Second, if an exchange member for any reason should find himself overboard and should realize that he must publicly become bankrupt and loses all, he surely would be a fool not to attempt to produce a panic, when its production would enable him to recoup his losses and prevent his failure, and when if by accident he should fail in his attempt to produce a panic, the penalty would simply be his bankruptcy, which would have taken place in any event.

"The third class is that large one that always will exist while there is stock-gambling, a class of honest, square-dealing-play-the-game-fair exchange men who would take no unfair advantage of their fellow-members until they become awakened to the knowledge that they are about to be ruined by their fellow-members' trickery.

"Next, let us consider further whether it is possible for our exchange to prevent my device from being worked, now that it is known to all. Suppose the governing committee was informed in advance that the attempt to work the trick was to be made. If, at any session, after gong-strike, the governing committee, or any exchange authority, could for any reason compel a member to cease operating, even for the purpose of showing that his transactions were legitimate, the entire structure of stock-gambling would fall. Think it through: Suppose a man like Barry Conant or myself, or any active commission broker, begins the execution of a large order for a client, one, say, who has advance information of a receivership, a fire at a mine, the death of a president, a declaration of war, or any of the hundred and one items of information that must be acted upon instantly, where a delay of a minute would ruin the broker, or his house, or its clients. If the governing committee could thus call the broker to account, the professional bear or the schemer, who desired to prevent him from selling, would have but to pass the word to the president of the exchange that the broker in question was about to work Brownley's discovery and he could be taken from the crowd and before he returned his place could be taken by others and he could be ruined.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

### QUALITIES OF THE OYSTER.

**One Particularly Good Point Which Bore Might Emulate.**

A San Francisican has discovered a new method of cutting short recitals that promise to become too long-winded. An acquaintance of his, who has a local reputation as a bore, was one day holding forth at some length when the Californian interrupted him with: "By the way, did I ever tell you the story of the oyster?" On receiving a negative reply, he continued: "It seems that when oysters are taken from the sea they often open their shells so that the juice or liquid runs out. As this is undesirable, the experienced oyster gatherer has a tub of water close at hand into which the oyster is plunged as soon as it begins to open its shell." "Well, and what then?" asked the other as the narrator paused. The San Francisican smiled. "Oh, after a while the oyster learns to keep its mouth shut," he remarked quietly.

You cannot sin with your eyes and be stainless in your heart.

# IS THE TUNA COMING FOOD?

The prickly pear of the American and Australian, the Indian fig of the Englishman, the Barbary fig of the Frenchman, the tuna of the Spanish American, and the higos chumbos of the Spaniard is a fruit concerning which there are more varied beliefs, contradictory opinions, and grades of appreciation than concerning any known to us. The plant and its fruits are subjected to both praise and abuse.

While the Mexican prays that there may be no rain when the plants are in bloom that the fruit may set well and produce a good crop of tunas, the legislative assemblies in some of the Australian colonies pass laws looking toward their eradication.

While the Australian governments spend much money to eradicate the "weed," some ranchmen find that it can be fed to stock with profit.

While the southern Texan was imploring the government in the early nineties to conduct investigations looking to the eradication of prickly pear, shrewd cattlemen and ingenious machinists were devising means whereby it could be divested of its objectionable characteristics at small expense and turned to a profitable use.

While the minister of agriculture of India pronounced against its use in unqualified terms, it was found in this country that it could play a profitable role in both beef and dairy production in at least one section of the United States. While the South African is said to revile its presence, the poorest inhabitants of the Island of Sicily are said to largely subsist on its fruit for three or four months each year.

The average American traveling in Mexico can see no value whatever in the tremendous stretches of prickly pear upon the plateau, but the native peon grows these plants and similar ones in his orchards and gives them fully as careful attention as any plants which he attempts to cultivate.

Enthusiastic magazine writers would revolutionize conditions in the arid region by the establishment of plantations of prickly pear without spines, thus converting the most arid deserts into populous, prosperous communities. Experience teaches, however, that the spineless varieties of cultivation are not hardly under natural desert conditions; that all of the valuable spineless species which produce either fruit or forage in economic quantities require considerable precipitation at some time during the year; and that economic species are not known which thrive under a maximum temperature of less than ten degrees F. One exception to this may be noted in the case of opuntia arborescens of Colorado; but the amount of stock feed produced by this species is comparatively small and its distribution limited.

Conservative judgment based upon observation and experiment, on the other hand, would pronounce many species of prickly pear to be decidedly susceptible to cultivation and highly productive of both fruit and forage under proper conditions of temperature and moisture.

There are in Mexico many varieties of prickly pear which are found only in cultivation. This is especially true of the spineless forms in general. Others are native and may or may not be cultivated. Of the first group peon may speak collectively as manasas or tame forms, but he has names for all of the varieties which are grown in his orchards as well as for the wild ones of the mountains.

To say that any of the forms are cultivated as we think of cultivation in this country, however, is a gross error. They are rarely ever cultivated. Cuttings are put into the ground and surrounded by a fence to protect them from animal depredations. Aside from this they get little or no cultivation.

It is common for the peon to get a large portion of his living during the tuna season from the plants as they stand in the field. A large part of the crop is therefore consumed directly from the plants.

The solid matter in the fruit is about an average of that found in other fruits. Like all other fruits the amount of solids differs for the different varieties, amounting to from 5.33 to 11.60.

It is seldom that one can get any idea of the amount of boiling and evaporating to which the tuna juice is subjected by talking to the men who make the queso. Fortunately, in 1906, an opportunity was had to visit Los Campos in season. Through the kindness of Senor Enrique Guerra a day was spent at the queso factory.

At six o'clock in the morning of the day spent at the factory the kettles were charged with 65 gallons of the juice of tuna cardona, a portion of which had been seeded the night before. A brisk fire was started at the same time of wood of the same species of prickly pear. During the day 25 gallons more of the juice were added as evaporation proceeded. The evaporation was carried on very slowly and somewhat irregularly until eight o'clock in the evening. But little attention was paid to the kettle until toward evening, when the juice was constantly stirred. The juice was secured from 150 gallons of peeled tunas from which the rind had been completely removed, the shrinkage in seeding being very largely due to the bulky seed. The melcocha which was kneaded into queso the next day measured 12 gallons and weighed 130 pounds.

A very distinctive feature of the markets of the different cities of the highland region of Mexico is the space or booths assigned to the sale of the tunas. The business is generally carried on by the poorer population in the most simple and primitive way. Not that the poor are the only ones who eat them, but they are eaten more extensively by the poorer class than any other. One of our illustrations gives a good idea of the appearance of the tuna markets.

By far the greater amount of fruit is sold unpeeled. This is especially true during the season when fruits are not abundant, for less waste attends it.

### Positive Proof.

"John has wrote a sketch," said the old man, "and had it printed in the paper."

"Goin' to be a literary man, is he?"

"I reckon so. He's just drawed on me for $50!"

### HOW POSIES ARE FAKED.

**All Sort of Tricks Played on Unsuspecting Customers.**

The gentle art of "faking" flowers is flourishing exceedingly, and one may purchase at many of the florists' shops green carnations and lilies of the valley. White flowers readily absorb the dye, and so perfectly natural are the green tints that only an expert well versed in the natural colors of flowers could possibly detect the deception.

The flowers are cut just before they are fully developed, and their stalks are then placed in a solution of aniline dye.

Flowers so treated readily absorb the solution, and pass it upward into the cells of the petals, thus converting the neutral white surface into a green tint.

Scarlet and green shades of color seem so far to be the most popular, but other tints are produced in the same way.

Genuine lovers of flowers taboo this color "faking," and regard it as a gross outrage on the natural beauties of the flowers so treated.

They know that there is no such thing in nature as a scarlet daffodil, or a green lily of the valley, carnation, or pansy, and therefore are not likely to be deceived into purchasing "faked" flowers. It is only those lacking an intimate knowledge of flowers, who would be tempted to buy dyed blossoms and then endeavor to procure bulbs or seeds thereof.

Plant or flower "faking" is an old art. One of the most familiar examples of it is the "Carrot fern."

This merely consists of the crown of a carrot cut off, fixed firmly by means of wooden pegs in a pot of soil, then allowed to produce a tuft of green foliage and in this state palmed off on unsuspecting folk as a rare or choice fern at sixpence or so each.

Beet, parsnip and even mangold roots are treated in the same way and disposed of as the latest floral wonder during the spring months.

The skeleton in the closet wouldn't be so bad if it would only stay where it belongs.

### A MATTER OF TRAINING.

**Briton and Scot Have Bootless Argument About Boyhood Dishes.**

Two men had just come from the dining room of one of the downtown hotels, says the Kansas City Star. Sitting down and lighting a pair of black cigars, each was prepared to convince himself at least that the other didn't know much about good things to eat.

"Well," said the one with the florid countenance, blowing a cloud of smoke toward his right eye, "I've eaten in pretty nearly every good hotel in this country, but I've never found anything to compare with the grub my mother used to set us back home."

It was evident from the man's accent that "back home" was somewhere in England.

"Yes," said the other man, who had mutton chop whiskers and touseled gray hair, "and the chances are the grub your mother pleased you with wouldn't go at all with me."

"I guess you never sat down to a dinner of Macclesfield bacon, Cheshire cheese and a treacle pudding to put on top. You know the forest fed bacon of Macclesfield is famous the world over."

"But what of that? I wouldn't give a dish of haggis like my aunt in Glasgow used to make for all the bacon in Chester—and the cheese and Cheshire cats thrown in."

"But, man, you have never tasted the real thing, and—"

"And the scones my aunt could bake would melt—"

"Oh, forget it," said the Englishman, throwing away his half-smoked cigar, viciously, missing the mark two feet. "Come on, Scotty, let's see if we can agree on what's good to drink."

### Fighting for Mud.

Mud seems to be the latest commodity which has been cornered. The monopolist is the well-known Bohemian watering place Franzenbad, whose wonderful healing mud baths are famous throughout the world. The news of Franzenbad's business enterprise has just become known in the course of a lawsuit at Eger between the Saxon government and the municipality of Franzenbad.

Saxony has a watering place also with mud baths, Bad Elster. Some time ago Bad Elster entered into negotiations to buy a large area of ground containing mineral mud deposites near Franzenbad.

When the Bohemian town heard what was going on they promptly decided to head off their Saxon rivals and stepped in and bought up the land themselves. The Saxons were greatly aggrieved and carried the matter into the Bohemian courts, which decided against them.

During the trial it was stated that although Franzenbad already possessed an inexhaustible supply of this precious mud the town had spent more than a million crowns in buying up all the mud lands in the surrounding country in order to secure exclusive possession for all time of this valuable healing remedy.

### Horse Dentists Needed.

A bright young woman who attends the horse shows remarked that she believed many horses indicated suffering from diseased teeth by restlessness and other forms of "bad manners." On giving the subject consideration one is led to the conviction that this is not only true, but that there is also room for much improvement in veterinary dentistry.

About the only treatment prescribed by the ordinary veterinarian and somtimes practiced by the coachman or groom, is "floating" or filing the teeth which become worn down on one side and leave the higher side sharp and sometimes jagged. But we never hear anything about filling the teeth, or otherwise treating them, especially if they or the gums be ulcerated. Instead pulling them out. As the young woman referred to also remarked, "What excruciating pain it must be to have a cold steel bit put on a sensitive tooth, possibly on a nerve exposed!"

There are many reasons for a horse's misbehavior, adds the Rider and Driver, aside from his "bad temper."

### Serious Young English Woman.

Mrs. Gladstone, wife of the home secretary of England, was brought up in the opposite political camp, for she was Miss Dorothy Paget, daughter of Sir Richard Paget, for many years a conservative member for Somerset. Her married sister, the youngest son of the great liberal statesman took places nearly six years ago. Though she has given no notable entertainments, this bright, pretty woman often receives the more serious—one might almost say learned—members of the liberal party, and also takes her share in her husband's devotion to the royal and ancient game of golf. She is thoroughly well read, takes an interest in politics and to a certain extent shares in Mr. Gladstone's love of outdoor life. But it was music that drew them together in the first place. She is very musical and he is specially fond of part singing. And while singing together they mutually fell in love.

### Records Depth of Water.

An instrument has recently been invented for recording the depth of water, and which makes a pen record something on the principle of the machine which records the rough places in a railroad track. A slab of metal attached to a rope is dragged over the bottom by a boat moving slowly. The other end of the rope extends over pulleys to the charting room, where a pen records the ups and downs, or peaks and valleys of the bottom, making a topographical map. Experts know how to translate these tracings into feet or fathoms. The results are much more accurate and vastly quicker than the old method of sounding with a hand line.

### The Whole Thing.

"It's called a 'loving cup,' you say? My! what a big cup it is! What's f

"The rum punch and things like that."

"But why is it called a 'loving cup'?"

"Because its for people loving rum punch and things like that."

## SAID TO BE SIMPLE

**EASILY MIXED RECIPE FOR KIDNEYS AND BLADDER.**

**Tells Readers How to Prepare This Home-Made Mixture to Cure the Kidneys and Bladder and Rheumatism.**

Get from any prescription pharmacist the following:

Fluid Extract Dandelion, one-half ounce; Compound Kargon, one ounce; Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla, three ounces.

Shake well in a bottle and take a teaspoonful dose after each meal and at bedtime.

The above is considered by an eminent authority, who writes in a New York daily paper, as the finest prescription ever written to relieve Backache, Kidney Trouble, Weak Bladder and all forms of Urinary difficulties. This mixture acts promptly on the eliminative tissues of the Kidneys, enabling them to filter and strain the uric acid and other waste matter from the blood which causes Rheumatism.

Some persons who suffer with the afflictions may not feel inclined to place much confidence in this simple mixture, yet those who have tried it say the results are simply surprising, the relief being effected without the slightest injury to the stomach or other organs.

Mix some and give it a trial. It certainly comes highly recommended. It is the prescription of an eminent authority, whose entire reputation, it is said, was established by it.

### HIS MEMORY WAS GOOD.

**Commodore Vanderbilt Had Not Forgotten Old Days.**

The coming of age of Miss Gladys Vanderbilt and the payment to her of some twelve millions of dollars inheritance has brought out a new crop of anecdotes about the Vanderbilt fortune. One of the latest illustrates the democratic spirit of the old commodore.

Sitting on the porch of a fashionable hotel at a fashionable resort on one occasion, it is related, the commodore saw a lady sproaching with whom he was acquainted. His wife and daughter, who recognized her, could scarcely contain their anger when he arose and politely addressed her.

"Don't you know," said the daughter after she had gone, "that horrid woman used to sell poultry to us?"

"Yes," responded the old millionaire, "and I remember when your mother sold root beer and I peddled oysters in New Jersey."

### A Ventilation Test.

It is very hard to make an impression on those people who defend their possessions on all occasions. A lady was explaining to a visitor the many advantages of concrete hollow-block construction, of which the walls of her new home were built.

"The air space in the walls afford insulation against heat in summer and cold in winter," she explained. "Besides, such walls afford ventilation and insure a more healthful house."

The visitor reflected a moment, and replied:

"Our frame house must be quite as well built. Every night we lock the cat in the cellar, and have to let her out of the attic in the morning."—Youth's Companion.

### Chiropodist's Prescription.

A lotion and powder for tender and swollen feet: One teaspoonful of boracic acid to one pint of grain alcohol. After bathing the feet in lukewarm water, spray them with the lotion used in an atomizer, and fan until dry. The effect is delightful. Then rub over the foot this powder, or put it in the stocking:

Powdered starch, 35 grains, oil of bergamot, ten drops; oil of lavender, 6 drops; oil of wintergreen, 15 drops. Mix well, and pass through a sieve. Excellent.—National Magazine.

### All Explained.

There is a little story going round the house of commons about a certain member who abstained from voting on the deceased wife's sister bill. Questioned by one of his friends as to the reason for his abstention, he replied: "Well, my dear fellow, it's just like this—my wife has a sister."—John Bull.

### Catch of Japanese Fishermen.

Consul G. E. Goldman, of Nagasaki, reports the estimated value of the catch of the Japanese deep-sea fishermen in 1906 as $557,085. They also captured fish to the value of $140,415 along the Korean coasts, including whales, worth $68,000.

### Gathering Ostrich Feathers.

Ostrich feathers can be taken every eight months. The plumes are not, as some suppose, pulled, but are cut with a sharp knife. The stumps wither and fall out.

### TRANSFORMATIONS.

**Curious Results When Coffee Drinking Is Abandoned.**

It is almost as hard for an old coffee toper to quit the use of coffee as it is for a whisky or tobacco fiend to break off, except that the coffee user can quit coffee and take up Postum without any feeling of a loss of the morning beverage, for when Postum is well boiled and served with cream, it is really better in point of flavor than most of the coffee served nowadays, and to the taste of the connoisseur it is like the flavor of fine, mild Java.

A great transformation takes place in the body within ten days or two weeks after coffee is left off and Postum used, for the reason that the poison to the nerves—caffeine—has been discontinued, and in its place is taken a liquid food that contains the most powerful elements of nourishment.

It is easy to make this test and prove these statements by changing from coffee to Postum. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."