CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

"Oh, Luce Luce; I didn't want to do it, you know I didn't!" she whispered, crushing her hands together against her breast. "It was accident, you know it was accident, Luce; but who'd believe it? who, knowing my awful temper, would believe it?"

The outside shutters were carefully closed, but two slats were broken out of one of them, which let in a little light. There was a newspaper spread out on the brilliant carpet over the spot where the morning sun shone through the break.

The room was furnished with the pea-cock-blue plush parlor suit which Nathan had brought from the city just after they were married. Fluffy red worsted mats spotted the shining top of the center table; the paper shades, each drawn down to the exact middle of the lower sash, were bright green, decorated with crimson roses, and the wall paper was yellow. All was bright, staring, inharmonious, no tender, mellowing touch of sunlight was ever allowed to blend and soften the brilliant, warring hues.

Mrs. Schack sat down on the edge of a plush-covered armchair, and folded her hands tightly upon her knees. In her dark calico gown, with her old black "flat" still tied down under her chin, she seemed a blot on the raw, glaring color of the room. In the midst of this chaos of color, her angular figure held bolt-upright, her feet in their shapeless Congress gaiters planted heavily before her side by side, Mrs. Schack was seeing visions—visions of her children left alone with Nathan Schack. Even if her story was believed, would they let her go free? And would they believe her? If it were accident, why had she said no word to Mrs. Pettis as she passed; why had she not called out for help, people would say. She saw the folly of her silence now. She had condemned herself by it; there was no escape, she told herself; it must be either Nathan or she. And what of the children?—the children whom she loved with a passionate intensity of which her stern, undemonstrative manner gave no hint. The temptation was strong and insidious—she had only to hold her peace.

The crimson and purple roses at her feet faded, the twilight soothed the warring colors into peace. Mrs. Schack's face alone was not softened; it gleamed out ever whiter and sterner and harder through the dusk, framed in the black circle of the rusty "flat." The women outside listened at the door, frightened by the silence within, but did not dare disturb her.

At last Mrs. Schack rose quietly from her chair, and felt her way to the door. Nathan Schack's fate was sealed. She untied her hat strings and hung the hat methodically on its nail, smoothing back her hair with her hand. One of the neighbors had the baby in her arms.

"I can't do a thing with her, she jest keeps crying for her ma," she said.

The baby stretched out its arms to its mother, but Mrs. Schack shrank back.

"I ain't fit!" she cried.

"Of course you ain't" exclaimed Mrs. Pettis, misunderstanding; "you're all wore out. Sit right down and I'll make you a lovely cup of tea, you poor soul you!"

By and by they began questioning her.

"I haven't anything to say; I wasn't there when Nathan came home," she said to the end. "I haven't anything to say."

"If they go to hang him I'll tell," she thought.

Nathan Schack was sentenced to twenty years in the Penitentiary, the circumstantial nature of the evidence, and the recognized possibility of accident, saved him from a life sentence, or from death.

When the trial was over Mrs. Schack went to the city. People said that she felt the disgrace, and wanted to get away where she was not known.

What in truth she felt was that she was a Pariah, a lost, degraded being, no longer fit for the society of the good, honest folk among whom she had lived. Luce's death lay heavy on her soul, but of that she knew herself, in intention at least, to be innocent; it was the sin against her husband, unexpiated, unrepented of, which haunted her day and night. To Mrs. Schack, steeped from her childhood in sternest Calvinism, the thing that she had done damned her eternally. Sometimes she pleaded with herself that perhaps her misery in this world might count for something; that because she, too, like the sinning woman in Christ's time, had loved much—her children if not her God—she, too, might be forgiven; but her stern morbid conscience put all such palterings quickly aside. Repentance, expiation, then pardon—such was the law; and repent she did not, make expiation she would not, not even for her soul's sake, lest her children should suffer in her st[illegible] she had counted the cost on[illegible] sitting in the gaudy, [illegible]best room" at Bloomville, a[illegible]made her sacrifice. It was mo[illegible] her life she was giving for her c[illegible]ren then as she looked upon it—it was her soul. It would have been, not punishment, but the lifting of an intolerable burden to Mrs. Schack, to have taken her husband's place, and served out the sentence in his stead; but if sometimes the temptation assailed her, visions of her boys sunken and debased, grown like their father for want of her guiding hand, rose up and conquered it. How could she leave them in the hand of God, when the Father of the fatherless, the God of tenderness and pity, was not the God she knew?

When little Annie, whom she loved with a dumb, pathetic intensity, took sick and died, just when she was beginning to toddle round the house by Mrs. Schack's side, and make her pattypans on baking days, and play at helping Mother, Mrs. Schack, with tearless eyes, only said: "It is the judgment of God."

She looked at Dan and Johnny sobbing in the corner, and wondering whether God meant to take them, too, and render her sin useless, and leave her free to confess it and be saved. For a moment she almost hoped that it might be so, and then the passion of mother-love in her surged up and drowned the thought. "Oh, no," her heart cried out—"oh no, no, no!"

The boys grew slowly up into steady, repressed little fellows, pathetically well brought up. They went duly to school, and sat soberly down to their books every evening in the shadow of Mrs. Schack's mournful eyes. On Sundays, rain or shine, they swung their short legs on one of the back benches of the grim Methodist meeting house near by, sitting patiently through the long prayers and longer sermon, and returning punctually to Sunday-school and second session in the afternoon. It is to be hoped they fell into mischief sometimes, but nobody could find out that they did. As for Mrs. Schack herself, she never went inside the church walls.

At the end of fifteen years Nathan Schack, his term of imprisonment shortened for good conduct, was released. His wife met him at the penitentiary gate, and took him home. They went through the streets in silence, furtively studying one another. Nathan was strangely altered; it seemed as if at last the good side, upon which his friends had insisted, had been turned outward.

When they reached the house Mrs Schack motioned her husband to a chair, and then took one herself, the table standing between them.

"Nathan," she said, "we've got something to say to each other; leastwise I've got something to say to you."

"Yes," said Nathan. "I s'pose you have, Anna Maria."

"In the first place," said Mrs. Schack, "we've left Bloomville for good; I can't ever go back there, Nathan."

Nathan nodded.

"I've got a place for you," she went on; "good pay and not too hard work; and here, where nobody knows us, you can make a new start for yourself, Nathan. You ain't really old; you can forget what's been and done with and start fresh; can't you Nathan? Say you can!" Her voice broke into an imploring cry.

"It was a bad job for you when you married me, Anna Maria," said Nathan, gloomily; "but I swear I'll make it up to you the best I can. I ain't the man I was when I went in; I've had my lesson, and an awful lesson it was." He leaned his head on the table before him and groaned.

Mrs. Schack watched him for a moment, clasping and unclasping her hands nervously in her lap. Suddenly she rose and stood beside the table, looking across it at him. She rested her hands on it to steady herself, for her knees trembled.

"Nathan Schack, I told you I had something to say to you, and I have not said it yet," she began.

Nathan raised his head and looked at her, and their eyes met.

"You're awful changed, you poor girl," he said. "I guess it's been harder on you than it has on me even."

"It has!" she cried, "O, my God, it has! You've been in prison, Nathan; but I've been in hell. Nathan Schack, you never laid a finger on Luce that time—I did it; I killed her; do you hear? I—I!"

The table shook beneath her trembling hands; but she held herself defiantly erect.

Nathan Schack turned white to the lips; he leaned across the table and grasped her by the arm.

"Do you mean I didn't kill her?" he cried, bewildered.

"You never touched her," said Mrs. Schack.

Nathan sank back in his seat, burying his head on his folded arms: "Thank God, thank God!" he sobbed aloud.

Mrs. Schack stood opposite—waiting, her haggard face white and set.

"Ain't you going to say anything to me?" she cried, at last. "Ain't you going to curse me for what I done to you?"

"I can't do nothing now but jest be glad, Anna Maria," he answered brokenly. "Tell me all how it was; make me understand it's true. They told me I'd killed her, and I have believed it for fifteen years; make me believe now I didn't."

And Mrs. Schack, thus bidden, began her story, and told it all, sparing neither him, nor herself, nor the dead. It was almost a relief to her to pour out the whole tale of her temptation, her sin, her subsequent misery.

"And Nathan Schack," she cried, with the defiance of despair, "to save them from the life you'd have led them, to keep them from growing up into men like you, I'd do it again. Do you hear me, I'd do it again; I don't repent. I don't—I don't! And there's no forgiveness for me here or hereafter. Nothing but hell in this world and in that to come. I hear God's curse. I hear it night and day: 'Unless ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.' Unless ye repent—repent."

"You poor soul," said Nathan, pityingly. He stretched out his hand and drew her nearer. "You shall have forgiveness here, whatever you get afterward," he said. "I led you an awful life, and I see how you come to do it. I don't blame you. It's been the saving of me, Anna Maria. I'm a different man to what I was, and I'll prove it to you if I can. We'll start fresh together, Wife, tho we are old folks; and I guess we'll start fairer long as both of us have something to forgive. And I guess if we forgive each other, the Almighty'll find out some way of forgiving too."

"Oh, Nathan, do you mean it?" faltered Mrs. Schack. Her hard face softened and quivered; stretching out her hands she dropped on her knees at his side, and he drew her into his arms.

"I guess even God must forgive me, if you can," she cried.

Then the two worn, lined faces met; and for almost the first time in their lives, Nathan Schack and Anna Maria his wife kissed one another.

THE "KISSING BUG" SCARE.

The North Atlantic seaboard has recently had a visitation of insect poisoning, reaching from Richmond, Virginia, to Augusta, Maine, which has been treated to the usual newspaper exploitation and sensation mongering and has been dignified by the daily press with the sobriquet of "The Kissing Bug Plague." In the parlance of yellow journalism, the "kissing bug," which they would lead their readers to believe is an entirely new creature, presumably discovered by some enterprising reporter, is none other than the well known Melanolestes picipes, of the sub-family Piratina. Perhaps an occasional reader of these sensational accounts of serious illness and even of death from the "bite" of this insect has stopped to wonder how it has come that this species, with its death-dealing powers, has suddenly sprung into notoriety. If the mere puncture from its powerful proboscis is capable of such results, and the fondness for puncturing the human lips, from which it derives its newspaper name, is one of its principal characteristics, how does it come that, although known to science for nearly a century, its terrors have been left for this last year of the nineteenth century to disclose?

The "kissing bug" is no commoner this year than usual; of the genus Melanolestes, the two not uncommon species, M. picipes, with black, piceous legs, and M. abdominalis, with the sides and sometimes the whole upper surface of the abdomen red, are to be observed by the entomologist around electric lights in our parks, or in decayed matter, or under stones in our woods, with about the same frequency as always before. "They are active, bloodthirsty insects, and inflict a severe wound upon the hand of the incautious collector," has been said of them; although to describe them as blood-thirsty" gives a false idea of a creature which, probably, never uses its proboscis on man for any purpose other than self-defence. There is no proof whatever that they are blood-thirsty, in the sense that that term may be applied to the mosquito. I have handled scores of both species, and have been bitten but once; and then only because I carelessly pinched picipes too tightly between thumb and finger, in lifting it from the ground to my killing jar. The wound made in my thumb was excessively painful, because my powerful little antagonist had no difficulty in piercing to the bone; but there was no more poison about it than about the puncture of a clean knife blade. For Melanolestes is not possessed of any virus or poison-secreting apparatus whatever; the occasional poisonous effects observed as following a wound from its proboscis are entirely due to the food or the enviroment it is lately from.

Its present reputation depends on the fact that an attache of our Agricultural Department in Washington, and a gentleman in Wilmington, Delaware, both captured specimens of M. picipes in the very act of biting, and, in one of these cases, a slight degree of poisoning followed. The specimens captured were identified by U. S. Entomologist L. O. Howard and—the newspapers did the rest!

Since this took place in early June, the leading papers have reported about forty cases, so far as I have been able to find by recourse to a careful clipping service. In only three of these cases has Melanolestes been an undoubted offender; and in every one of these the pain of the puncture and a slight amount of poisoning in two cases is all there was of it. In five cases mosquitoes seem to have been suspected, and in four "an ordinary fly" was claimed to be at the bottom of the trouble. It is worth remarking, in passing, as a sample of newspaper disregard for anything approaching accuracy, that in several cases where the text refers only to a fly or mosquito, the editorial headlines, or "scare heads," as they are technically called with unconscious humor, allude to the work of the "kissing bug," the "dread Melanolestes," etc., although there is no warrant whatever for such a charge.

There are certain facts mentioned in many other of the news items that clearly indicate to the pathologist the work of "a common fly." It is well known, of course, to all students of insects, that our common house fly, Musca domestica, is incapable of puncturing the human skin, and that its proboscis, a flabby, weak structure, is only adapted to sucking up juices, the human perspiration being, unfortunately for our comfort, a choice tidbit in the muscine menu.

There is, however, a second cousin of Musca, who is very differently armed, and whose well developed proboscis is both a sharp and quickly wielded lance and a powerful pumping tube, whereby blood is drawn up. This species, the "stable fly," Stomoxys calcitrans, while remarkably like the house fly, at first sight, may be distinguished from it by the manner of holding the wings rather more spread apart, when at rest, and by the more slender, straight and rigid proboscis. On close examination, also, the color pattern of the thorax will be seen to be quite different from any species of Musca. Stomoxys is a famous tormenter of cattle, well knowing, the thinner points where their hides may be pierced, and it has for them, what it retains when attacking man a fondness for easily reached surfaces of the mucous membrane. The inner curve of the lips being the most accessible point of that sort, it is well entitled by its fondness for biting in that locality to the name of the kissing fly. The larvæ of Stomoxys live in fresh horse manure, and the adult insect spends much of its time, according to its sex, in either sipping the moisture from that substance or in laying eggs therein. It thus comes that its habits hardly fit it for human and especially not for auscultory companionship. Fortunately, Stomoxys is not a very common visitant to our homes, although it is a species that is excessively common and multiplies by thousands. It prefers stables and cow yards, and only before heavy storms and late in the fall, when seeking shelter from cold nights, is it usually to be observed in dwellings. There is a great diversity of opinion among those who have rather hastily studied its habits, as to the danger of its bite, as there is of that of its near relative, Glossina morsitans, the celebrated and dreaded "Tsetze" fly of Africa, which is charged with frequently killing cattle. This difference of opinion is doubtless due to the fact that here, again, we have to do with a creature devoid of any poison of its own, but dependent on outside agencies for the troubles it occasionally causes. Hence it comes that one specimen, fresh from some germ-laden repast, carries disease, perhaps death, within its proboscis, while another, innocent of such infection, causes nothing worse than a temporarily painful puncture of the flesh. —Dr. Eugene Murray-Aaron, in Scientific American.

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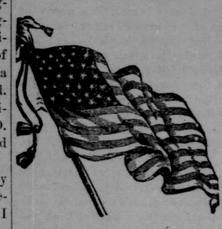
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SHOES, HATS,

Trunks, Valises and Umbrellas.

Ladies' high grade Shoes, in bright and dull Dongola, almost every shape, from $1.00 to $3.50. Misses Dongola, Button and Lace, from $1.00 to $2.50. Boys' and Youths' Lace Shoes, from 75c to $2.00. Men's Dress Shoes, in Tan and Black, Vici and Calf Shoes, in all the latest style toes, from $1.00 to $4.50.

Our Carlisle Ladies' Shoes have no parallel in Footwear. Our new Spring stock of

Stiff and Soft Hats

affords great attractions to buyers who can appreciate superior quality. We know what you want, & good quality, the correct style and the low price. In Dress Cases we have something new and cheap. We keep a very complete assortment in all departments and the best is our kind always. We are the oldest Shoe and Hat House in Westminster, and have made a study of Shoes and best prices for our customers.

Don't handle any shoddy goods.

Yours Respectfully,

U. L. REAVER,

Wantz Building, opp. Catholic Church,

fe-2-1y Westminster Md.

E. O. GRIMES,

AT THE

Principal Depot, Westminster, Md.

PAY the highest cash price for Wheat, Corn, Rye, Oats, and all kinds of Country Produce Constantly on hand a full line of

Choice Groceries

CANNED GOODS,

Cigars, Tobaccos, &c

THE BEST BRANDS OF

FLOUR AND FEED

OF ALL KINDS.

GUANOS AND PHOSPHATES

of all the principal dealers for sale at manufacturers' prices. Agent for Laflin & Rand's Blasting Powder and Judson's Dynamite for Stump Blasting, &c.

Purchasers may rely upon getting the best goods in my line that the market affords, at the lowest cash rates.

an-5-1y E. O. GRIMES.

Central Drug Store.

OPPOSITE CATHOLIC CHURCH,

Main St. Westminster, Md

JOSEPH B. ROYLE,

SUCCESSOR TO WELLS BROS.

DEALER in Pure Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Perfumery, Fancy Articles, Hair and Tooth Brushes, Combs, Toilet Soaps, &c Also Trusses and Shoulder Braces.

Pure Wines & Liquors

FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES.

Patent Medicines, Horse and Cattle Powders &c. A fine assortment of

STATIONERY.

Physicians' orders promptly filled and Prescriptions carefully and accurately compound ed. jar-18-tf

Dr. J. W. Helm, Surgeon Dentist

(Graduate of Md. University, Baltimore),

New Windsor, Carroll County, Md

OFFERS his professional services to the Public in all its branches. He will visit Taneytown—on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Nitrous Oxide Gas administered.

A liberal share of public patronage solicited.

Respectfully,

J. W. HELM, D. D. S.

Western Maryland Railroad

CONNECTING WITH

P. & R. R. at Shippensburg and Gettysburg & Norfolk & Western R. R. at Hagerstown, B. & O. Railroad at Hagerstown and Cherry Run; Penna. R. R. at Bruceville, and P. W. & B., N. C. and B. & P. Railroads at Union Station, Baltimore, Md.

MAIN LINE AND CONNECTIONS

Taking effect June 25th, 1899.

TRAINS WEST

LEAVE	1. AM	11. AM	15. AM	23. PM	29. PM	53. PM	
New York							
Philadelphia							
Washington							
Baltimore	4.30	8.11	10.17	4.11	5.47	9 5	3 23
Arlington		8.76	10.40	4.23	6.46	10 00	2 59
Mt. Hope		8.20	10.43	4.27	6.49	10 05	3 02
Pikesville		8.46	10 50	4.34	6.57	10 1	3 09
Owings Mills		9 00	11.02	4.47	7 09	10 22	3 21
Glyndon	5.10	9.11	11.14	4 58	7 17	10 33	3.34
Emory Grove		9.13	11.15		7. 8	10 31	3.35
Finksburg		9 21	11.25	5.12	7 30	10. 6	3.47
Carrollton		9.27	11.38	5.55	7 46	10 9	4 00
Westminster	5.38	9.53	11.53	5.42	8 [illegible]	11.16	4 17
Avondale		10 00	12.00	5.49	8 12	11.23	4. 7
New Windsor	5.50	10.10	12.16	6.02	8 28	11.34	4.22
Linwood		10.15	12.15	6.07	8 29	11.40	4.45
Union Bridge	5 57	10 20	12 26	6.13	8 33	11.45	4.50
Middleburg		10.26	P M.	6.19	P M.	AM.	P M
Bruceville	6.03	10.28		6.23			
D. F. Creek		10.33		6.27			
Rocky Ridge		10.40		6.36			
Thurmont	6.21	10.55		6 47			
Edgemont	7.06	11.45		7 35			
Waynesboro	7 24	12.02		7.52			
Chambersb'g	7 57	12.29		8.28			
Shippensburg	†	1.16		8. 5			
Hagerstown	7.36	12 0		8. 5			
Williamsport							
	AM	P.M.		P.M.			

TRAINS EAST.

LEAVE	22. PM	4. AM	8. AM	12. PM	18. PM	52. PM	54 PM
Williamsport							
Hagerstown	4.10		7.02		2. 5		
Shippensburg			6.00				
Chamb'rsburg			6.31		1.48		
Waynesboro			7.46		2.37		
Edgemont	4 [illegible]		7.58		2.36		
Thurmont	6 21		8.16		3.31		
Rocky Ridge			8.26		3.31		
D. F. Creek			8.32		3.38		
Bruceville	5.38		8.37		3.44		
Middleburg			8.39		3.46		
Union Bridge	5.45	6.37	8.46	12.15	3.54	6 45	3 18
Linwood		6 41	8.49	12.19	3 59	6 5	4 3
New Windsor	5.53	6.46	8.54	1.04	4.0	6 58	4 09
Avondale		6 6		1.14	4.17	7 4	4 0
Westminster	4.07	7.02	9.11	1.20	4.47	7.20	4 28
Carrollton		7 16	9.26	1.34	4 47	7 38	4 3
Finksburg		7 2	9.35	1 44	4.5	7 5	4 54
Emory Grove		7.2		1.55	5.43	8 12	5 14
Glyndon	6.37	7.46	9.48	2.04	5.44	8 19	5 15
Owings Mills	6.46	7.52	9 52	2.14	5.15	8.20	5 17
Pikesville		8.3	10.00	2.3	5 19	8.31	5.18
Mt. Hope		8.11	10.5	2. 9	5 16	8.38	5.15
Arlington		8.14		2.12	5.39	8.42	5 38
Baltimore	7.18	8.40	10.37	2.42	6 05	9 17	6 06
Washington							
Philadelphia							
New York	P.M.	AM	A M.	P.M.	P. M	M	P M

†Daily. ‡Daily, except Sunday. §Sunday.

BLUE MOUNTAIN EXPRESS, (Parlor Car) leaves Baltimore daily except Sunday, 3.22 p. m., stopping at Westminster, New Windsor, Union Bridge, Bruceville (connection for Frederick), Thurmont, Blue Ridge, Buena Vista Spring, Blue Mountain, Edgemont, ‡Smithsburg, Hagerstown. Returning, leaves Hagerstown 6.45 a. m. daily, except Sunday. Arrive Baltimore 9.31 a. m.

Passengers for and from Cherry Run, Williamsport, P. V. and intermediate points, from and for stations east of Hagerstown change at Hagerstown.

EMMITSBURG R. R. Trains Ea[illegible] will leave Emmitsburg daily, except Sundays, at 4.1[illegible] and 10.00 A. M. and 2.50 and 4.50 P. M., arriving Rocky Ridge at 7.40 and 10.30 A. M. and 3.10 and 5.20 P. M. Trains west will leave Rocky Ridge, daily, except Sundays, at 8.38 and 10.40 A. M. and 3.31 and 6.36 P. M., arriving at Emmitsburg 8.55 and 11.10 A. M. and 4.0 and 7.06 P. M.

FREDERICK DIVISION PENNSYLVANIA R. R., (Daily ex. Sunday.)—Trains for Frederick leave Bruceville at 8.38 A. M. and 9.55 and 10.40 A. M. and 5.38 and 6.25 P. M. Trains for Taneytown, Littlestown and Columbia leave Bruceville 9.47 A. M., and at 3.45 P. M.

Through Trains for Hanover and Gettysburg and points on Baltimore and Harrisburg Division leave Baltimore daily, except Sunday, at 7.52 A. M. and 3.32 P. M. Through cars for Gettysburg and intermediate points leave Baltimore also daily, except Sunday at 10.17 A. M.

BALTIMORE & CUMBERLAND VALLEY BRANCH.—Trains leave Hagerstown for Waynesboro, Chambersburg and Intermediate Stations at 6.25 a. m. Leave Hagerstown for Shippensburg and intermediate Stations at 11.20 a. m. and 7.06 p. m. Leave Chambersburg for Hagerstown and Intermediate Stations at 1.45 p. m. Leave Shippensburg for Hagerstown and Intermediate Stations at 6.00 a. m., and 3.00 p. m.

FOR CHAMBERSBURG VIA. ALTENWALD CUT-OFF.—Leave Hagerstown for Chambersburg and Intermediate Stations at 6.12 a. m. and 3.17 p. m. Leave Chambersburg for Hagerstown and Intermediate Stations at 7.18 a. m. and 7.49 p. m.

CONNECTIONS AT CHERRY RUN, W. Va.—B. and O. passenger trains leave Cherry Run for Cumberland and Intermediate points, daily, at 8.51 a. m., Chicago and Pittsburg Express, daily, at 1.56 p. m., Cincinnati, St. Louis and Chicago Express, daily, at 1.17 p. m., Chicago Express, daily, at 10.40 p. m. Passengers from W. M. train No. 21 for points between Hancock and Cumberland take B. and O. train leaving Cherry Run at 1.17 p. m