



# THE ROMANCE OF A HAUNTED HOUSE.

the shade and fruit trees that surrounded the house.

## CHAPTER IX—Continued.

With this the two forms dissolved back into invisibility. The young man could have been none other than Don Ben's master, and the venerable black had been on hand he could have had the pleasure of embracing his real "masa" instead of a person who resembled him.

## CHAPTER X.

I went down stairs, and seeing the door of one of the forbidden rooms ajar, I entered. Upon the floor in the corner of this room stood a small iron safe with its door partly open.

## CHAPTER XI.

I went down stairs, after the adventure described in the previous chapter, and stepped into the sick man's room to give a few words of cheer.

## CHAPTER XII.

Five rusty-hinged doors swung creaking open on the north side of the old hall up stairs, and shadowy forms in sable covering floated to and fro in the rooms of mystery.

## CHAPTER XIII.

In each room a pale corpse lay still and cold upon the bed awaiting to be deposited in the dark casket that sat so grimly beside.

## CHAPTER XIV.

It was in the fore part of the day and I had sat at the head of his couch for some hours keeping the cool, damp cloths upon his brow, that they might fit as much as possible the grateful mission of soothing the fever in the brain.

## CHAPTER XV.

The morning sun smiled placidly through the fast evaporating fog that a light breeze was lifting from its night's rest upon the bosom of the bayou.

## CHAPTER XVI.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

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doors swung abroad, and a breath of flowers floated in; then gentle music, such as we hear in dreams, came whispering along the air as if it were too holy-god to speak its happiness aloud.

A haze of perfumed atmosphere filled the room, lighting it with a phosphorescent glow that rendered delicately throughout the rainbow's most imitable tints.

"Senora," said I, "the hour is here, the spirit and the bride say come."

A bright and happy light came to his eyes as he heard me say this, and he stretched out one hand to me.

Seemingly in obedience to a motion from Burton, the fair Zeyna bent forward and kissed the brow of the mother, whose few tears of joy gazed upon the happiness of her son.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### CONCLUSION.

It is fit to end this story now, as I have followed the two chief characters to the end of my knowledge of them; but there are a few things to be said in connection with the haunted house of which the reader may demand to know as to the conclusion of affairs concerning my mission there.

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No tear of sorrow came to call for sympathy at this weird funeral. The mourners were happy smiles and spoke cheerful words; for they were not the frail beings known as mortals.

The Don Juan landed in New Orleans near the time expected, and Montini's heir came up to see his business.

It is quite likely that many an observant person has witnessed a similar scene to the one described below, since the characters are types that are distributed world-wide.

A very small, bright-looking, and chipper man was doing nearly all the talking, and evidently having everything his own way.

"The situation is like this," said the small man, with great vigor.

"Oh, that," replied a bystander, "is Ben Stomas! He's a shoemaker, and a mighty poor one. Rich? Oh, dear, no! Failed so many times that he can't fail any more, because no one will trust him."

And the large man? "That is Colonel Duval, Vice President of the D. G. R. Road, owner of the marble quarry, and one of the biggest capitalists in the State."

## HOME AND THE FARM.

### A DEPARTMENT MADE UP FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

**How to Preserve the Fertility of the Land**  
—Symptoms of Lump Jaw—Oil Meal for Stock—Simple Methods of Grating—Household and Kitchen.

#### Maintaining the Farm's Fertility.

IT has always seemed to me, says a writer in the Practical Farmer, that the farmers of the United States used less reason in their treatment of the soil than in any other thing they do.

No one cares to try the experiment of fattening hogs or cattle without food of any kind, except air and water.

First on the list of soil-restoratives is found stable and barn-yard manure. In the North, where manure sheds and covered barn-yards preserve the elements of fertility contained in it, and in the South, where the milder winters allow open stables to be constructed from which the manure is seldom removed until it is scattered on the fields, and which preserve to a great extent the good qualities of it, stable manure gives more satisfactory results than any other fertilizing material.

Under all conditions young animals make the gain in proportion to the food eaten. CATTLE REARED ON SKIMMILK can readily be made to make a very satisfactory growth.

**Red Polled Cattle.**  
Red Polled cattle have been generally classed among the beef breeds, says an exchange, but there seems to be evidence now that they have some claim to be recognized as dairy animals, or at least, as good "general purpose," uniting good beef and good milking qualities.

**ORCHARD AND GARDEN.**  
**How to Graft.**  
Anyone possessed of fair intelligence and a good degree of care may practice some of the more simple methods of grafting and with good success, says a correspondent in Farm and Home.

Fig. 1. will usually bear in from two to five years, which, with the certainty that the fruit will be true to name, gives it a great advantage over nursery stock.

**LIVE STOCK AND DAIRY.**  
**The Symptoms of Lump Jaw.**  
Farm and Home says, lump jaw or actinomykosis usually begins with a swelling somewhere about the face or the lower jaw.

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issue of the bone makes an opening for itself, either through the mouth or externally at some point on the jaws, and from this time on, the case is one of a hard tumor of more or less irregular outline and discharging matter mixed with fragments of bone.

**Oil Meal for Stock.**  
A Smith Center (Kan.) subscriber of the Stockman writes: Will it do to feed breeding stock ground oil meal?

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planting time. There are many different methods, such as saddle, side, splice, whip or tongue, cleft and crown-grafting. The last two are the most simple to practice, the most common and the most likely to be successful in the hands of a novice.

**Fig. 1.** illustrates a grafting hook which is useful for this; a is the blade, b the Fig. 4. wedge and c the hook to hang it by. After the cleft is made, keep it open with the wedge (Fig. 2) until the scions are inserted.

**Fig. 5.**  
The scions should be cut wedge-shaped in two ways, as in Fig. 3 and also in Fig. 4, which show a cross-section of the scion.

The important points to secure success are 1, a clean smooth cut upon the scion; 2, the perfect union of the two inner bars; 3, rapid work, that the cut parts may not long be exposed to the air.

**Fig. 6.**  
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**Care of the Cook Stove.**  
No cook stove, though it is in continual use, says the New York Tribune, should have a fresh coat of blacking applied oftener than once a month, though every stove should be polished off with a stove brush every morning before the cooking begins.

**HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.**  
ALWAYS use a wooden spoon or fork to stir salads.  
The best way to fry apples is to halve them, remove core, put some butter in frying-pan and put in the halves, the cut side down; then add a little water and let boil dry; then fry.

TO FRIDGE celery, cut it in pieces two inches long, stick several needles into a cork, and comb the celery with it, or split it down into several parts with a sharp knife.

The order of washing dishes is of some importance. Glass should be taken first, then silver, then china. If there is a specially choice dish, search it out, wash and wipe it by itself, and immediately set it away, that the chances of breakage may be reduced to a minimum.

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