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II. A LOVER ON HORSEBACK.

It is curious to observe how easily the strands of repetition become twined into the strong yarn of habit, and how, almost of its own volition, the thread thus twisted weaves itself into the fabric of human life.

"Why, my dear Hester, did you expect to find him wearing a uniform, with a coat of arms and a pen trenchant for a crest?" she inquired.



"Poor Hugh! He'd be heart-broken if he knew." common things that he wouldn't care in the least what a foolish girl thought or said about him.

Mrs. Ludlow smiled. "If you knew him as well as I do—if you could have seen him when he was struggling for recognition, with everything against him and no encouragement outside of his own conviction that the gift of authorship was in him; when every fresh disappointment only made him more determined to succeed—if you could have known him in those days, you wouldn't have thought him commonplace. And even now, if you'll give him a hint of the superhuman part you expect him to play, he'll make a brave attempt to rise to the occasion. I'm quite sure I shouldn't do it, though, for I fancy that in gaining your demi-god you might lose a pleasant every-day acquaintance."

"Then I'll not do it, I promise you; pleasant acquaintances are not so plentiful in Tregarthen that one can afford to experiment with them, not even for the sake of restoring a cherished idol."

Having obtained a foothold at "The Laurels," Ringbrand made good use of his opportunities; and as Hester came to know him better she began to forgive him for breaking the idol. As Ludlow had foretold, there was no limit to the colonel's hospitality; and from strolling up to the plateau at irregular intervals after supper, Ringbrand soon fell into the habit of spending the greater number of his afternoons at the home of the Latimers, and Hester soon found herself looking forward to his visit as to something without which the day would be incomplete.

what was required of him; but, unfortunately, the ability to portray dexterity in virile English does not necessarily imply its possession by the artist. He took his place rather awkwardly beside Hester and made a step of his hand, holding it so high that she hesitated, "Just a little bit lower, if you please," she said, demurely, and his last shred of self-possession took flight as he complied. Since Miss Latimer was anything but ethereal, the first attempt broke his hold and covered him with confusion; putting his strength into the next, he lifted so vigorously that nothing but Hester's ready agility saved her from falling out of the saddle on the opposite side. It was too much for her equanimity, and she burst into a ringing laugh.

Ringbrand straightened up and wiped the perspiration from his face. "I beg your pardon—indeed I do; I told you I was but an indifferent horseman," he apologized.

"Please don't mention it," she said, as soon as she could speak. "It's awfully mean in me to laugh, but I couldn't help it. I shall have an immense respect for your strength after this."

Ringbrand took Pluto's bridle from the grinning boy and tried to mount, forgetting, in his embarrassment, that well-trained saddle-horses are prone to object to approaches from the wrong side. He did not realize his mistake until he had one foot in the stirrup and was hopping about breathlessly in a desperate endeavor to make Pluto stand still long enough to enable him to spring into the saddle; but with the knowledge came a sudden access of obstinacy, and he determined to succeed if it took the remainder of the afternoon. Hester was convulsed with laughter, and it was some moments before she could find breath to suggest that Pluto was unaccustomed to receiving his rider from the off side.

"I know—it isn't custom—ary," gasped Ringbrand, making violent efforts to keep near the plunging animal, "but—I—usually—do it—this way."

Just then his foot slipped out of the stirrup, and Pluto's enthusiastic and reproachful protests ceased. The discomfited cavalier mopped his steaming face again, and beckoned to the boy.

"Just hold him a second, will you?" he said, and, backing away for a short run, he vaulted into the saddle before the astonished charger knew what was happening.

"Bravo! bravo!" exclaimed Hester, clapping her hands in delighted approval. "That was certainly original. Where did you learn to vault, Mr. Ringbrand?"

"I used to do a little of it at the university," he replied, modestly forbearing to add that he had held the record for the running high jump in his class.

"Do—do gentlemen usually mount that way in New York?" she inquired, innocently.

"I can't say they do—not always," he responded, as they ambled down the long avenue and turned into the mountain road. "Now that you speak of it, I'm not sure that I ever saw anyone do it in that way—at least not outside of a circus."

She laughed again, a sweet bubbling over of unrestrained merriment that made him think of happy children and singing birds. "Didn't you know, sure enough, that you were on the wrong side?" she asked, naively.

"Honestly, I didn't at first," he confessed, "but I began to suspect some such dreadful thing before you spoke. Then it occurred to me that Pluto was unreasonably particular about such a small thing, and I thought it might be well to convince him of the fact."

"I think you've succeeded; but I'm afraid you have hurt his sense of the proprieties beyond recovery. He is almost as conventional as I used to think you were."

"I hope you don't think it any more, after seeing my interpretation of 'boots and saddles,'" he protested. "And while we're on the subject of horseback riding, let me make an open confession; I know less than nothing about it, experimentally, and I shall be deeply indebted to you if you'll teach me how to behave in a becoming manner."

She leaned over and disengaged her skirt from its entanglement in his stirrup. "May I?" she asked.

"I shall be very grateful."

"Well, then, I—I believe it is customary for a gentleman to ride on the other side," she began.

Ringbrand had quite recovered his self-possession by this time, and he pulled Pluto around to her right. "Of course, I should think that would suggest itself naturally to anyone but a book worm like myself; I assure you I shouldn't have made my hero in a story guilty of such awkwardness. Now, how about these stirrups? they seem to me to be too short, or too long, or something."

She looked at them critically: "I think they are a little too short. Shall I hold Pluto while you dismount to let them down?"

"No, thank you; I think I can manage it from the deck," he replied, slipping his feet from the stirrup irons and adjusting the straps to a more comfortable length. "There, how is that?"

"That looks better. Now, shall we try a little gallop?"

"If you please. I'll do anything you tell me to."

They swept along the level road at an easy canter, and Ringbrand profited by Hester's suggestions as well as he could in the short intervals which his furtive admiration of her graceful carriage and radiant beauty spared him from a consideration of his own shortcomings. The road led them finally to the western brow of the mountain, and they pulled up at the edge of the cliff to enjoy the view spread out before them.

"Your surroundings are a perpetual inspiration, Miss Hester," said Ringbrand, feasting his eyes with the keen appreciation of an artist upon the magnificent panorama of the mountains and valleys and forests stretching away to the westward.

"I am glad you like Tennessee," replied the girl, with a touch of pathos in her voice. "So many people—especially northerners—seem to think it an unprofitable wilderness."

"Who could be so unappreciative as to say that?"

"Miss Bradfern, for one. She is from Boston, and she visited friends in Dunbar last summer. She was continually pining for New England in general and Boston in particular. I'm sure I can't understand how she will be able to live here."

"Is she coming here to live?"

"Yes; as the wife of our rector in Tregarthen. I tell him he's setting a bad example by going so far from home."

"Then I presume he is a southerner?"

"He is; he's a Georgian; but I believe he was educated in the north."

"Am I to understand that you think one ought not to marry out of his section?" he asked, making the rector's case a possible opportunity for ascertaining his own standing.

"Oh! I wouldn't say anything so radical as that," she replied, stroking her horse's mane; "only, it seems to me, there are many reasons against it. You don't understand—you can't understand—how much sectional feeling there is in the south."

"I know there used to be, but I thought it was a thing of the past, since the war."

"To be continued."

Fruit Prospects.

The weather of the past few days has not been cold enough to destroy the fruit buds, and unless something unusual in that line happens, there will be a tremendous output of fruit in Wasco county. Mr. P. J. Stadelman says there will be a profitable demand for good fruit the coming season, and Mr. Schanno, speaking upon that subject, says that Alaska will from this on furnish a constantly growing market for fruit, especially winter apples.

The trouble is that a great deal of fruit raised by the growers is next to worthless. Some standard variety should be selected, and enough trees planted of one kind to make it an object to purchasers. There is no danger of overstocking the market. The best grade of apples are now selling for \$2 a box, as good a figure as ever before, and the yield increases greatly each year. When a fruit grower hears of some one about to plant 160 acres of orchard it should not cause him alarm that the price for fruit will drop because of the increased yield. If every acre in Wasco county capable of nourishing a fruit tree were planted to a single variety of some good winter-keeping apple, there would be no trouble about selling every box of the fruit. The competition would not be among the growers, but among the buyers, who would be here from all over the western half of the United States to buy Wasco county apples.

Mark Levy, the commission man of Portland had a letter yesterday from a Hood River grower, who writes: "Have had very severe weather up here; the thermometer went down to 32 degrees. The peaches will have to be steel clad and copper fastened to withstand that."

"The fruits," said Mr. Levy, "that will be chiefly damaged by the frost are the peaches and strawberries—apples not being far enough advanced yet. When fruit is in full bloom, as it is now, it doesn't take much to catch it."

B. S. Pague, of the weather bureau, takes a very optimistic view of the freeze up, and scouts the idea that it has done any serious damage. Mr. Pague thinks that the frost has merely pruned the blossoms and will not affect the fruit to any extent, as the trees are now too heavily loaded with blossoms.

Forecast—Fair tonight and tomorrow; warmer.

A Bank Failure.

AN INVESTIGATION DEMANDED.

A general banking business is done by the human system, because the blood deposits in its veins whatever wealth may gain from day to day. This wealth is laid up against "a rainy day" as a reserve fund—we're in a condition of healthy prosperity if we have laid away sufficient capital to draw upon in the hour of our greatest need. There is danger in getting thin, because it's a sign of getting down in health. To gain in blood is nearly always to gain in wholesome flesh. The odds are in favor of the germs of consumption, grip, or pneumonia, if our liver be inactive and our blood impure, or if our flesh be reduced below a healthy standard. What is required is an increase in our germ-fighting strength. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery enriches the blood and makes it wholesome, stops the waste of tissue and at the same time builds up the strength. A medicine which will rid the blood of its poisons, cleanse and invigorate the great organs of the body, vitalize the system, thrill the whole being with new energy and make permanent work of it, is surely a remedy of great value. But when we make a positive statement that 99 per cent. of all cases of consumption can, if taken in the early stages of the disease, be cured with the "Discovery," it seems like a bold assertion. All Dr. Pierce asks is that you make a thorough investigation and satisfy yourself of the truth of his assertion. By sending to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y., you can get a free book with the names, addresses and photographs of a large number of those cured of throat, bronchial and lung diseases, as well as of skin and scrofulous affections by the "Golden Medical Discovery." They also publish a book of 160 pages, being a medical treatise on consumption, bronchitis, asthma, catarrh, which will be mailed on receipt of address and six cents in stamps.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Wednesday. Mr. Wm. Myers went to White Salmon this morning.

County Judge Fulton of Sherman county came in town yesterday.

Conductor M. F. Rice is confined to his room by an attack of erysipelas.

Miss Vanderal left this morning for Hillaboro, where she has a class in elocution.

Rev. Wood went to Lyle today to conduct the funeral services of the late J. A. Gilliam.

Mrs. J. A. Speare, a teacher at the Warm Springs reservation, took the Regulator this morning for Portland.

Mr. T. J. McCarrick of Albina, who came to The Dalles to attend the funeral of Peter Johnson, returned home on the local train today.

Captain Fiske of Portland was at the locks yesterday testing the hydraulic apparatus which operates the lock gates. The test was very satisfactory.

Thursday. Mr. H. C. Newman went to Portland this morning.

Mrs. H. C. Levit of Lyle left for Portland today and will visit her brother in that city.

Miss Smith of Portland, who has been visiting Miss Ketchum of this city, returned to her home in Portland this morning.

Captain Ward, the former captain of the Salvation Army here, now stationed at Corvallis, is stopping with the army at The Dalles for a three weeks' visit.

Mrs. J. P. Stewart, who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Myers for several years, went to Portland for a few weeks absence, where she will visit her son.

Dr. A. A. Witham, physician and surgeon, is now in the city, en route to Grass Valley, and is the guest of Dr. Frazer of this city, an old friend and fellow student. It has not been long since Dr. Witham has been entitled to attach the coveted "M. D." to his signature. His name appears in the list of 21 members as having graduated from the medical department of the university of Oregon, at the commencement last night. He at once took the train for The Dalles.

Friday. Mr. James McMillan of Wasco is registered at the Umatilla House.

Mrs. Frank Wood of University Park is visiting her son, Rev. J. H. Wood of this city.

Mr. M. Dichtenmuller, constable of Mosier precinct, was up today on legal business.

Mrs. Golden of Goldendale was in the city last night, and went to Portland this morning.

Miss Eliza Lockwood of Los Angeles is visiting Mr. C. W. Dietzel and family of this city.

Mrs. Chas. Wingard of Arlington was a passenger on the Regulator this morning for Portland.

The condition of Hon. W. H. Biggs unfortunately does not improve, and he is reported today to be very ill.

Mrs. J. D. Lee, a former resident of The Dalles, is in the city for a few days visiting her daughter, Miss Lorene Lee.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Smith and two children of Sacramento are touring the coast and were passengers on the boat this morning for Portland.

Water Commissioners' Regular Meeting.

The regular meeting of the water commissioners occurred last evening. A full board was present. These were T. A. Ward, president, Robt. Mays, J. T. Peters, H. C. Nelson, J. O. Mack, J. B. Crossen and H. Chrisman.

Meeting called to order by president, T. A. Ward. The reading of previous minutes were read and approved.

On motion the following bills were read and ordered paid: Mays & Crowe, supplies, \$7 30

I. J. Norman, salary, 75 00

W. S. Norman, helper, 55 00

H. Chrisman, secretary, 5 00

Maier & Benton, supplies, 2 60

C. J. Crandall, exchange, 17 35

The superintendent's report was read and accepted, showing a total book account of \$1,456.60; amount collected \$902.45; delinquent \$554.15.

Application of J. J. Eoff for superintendent of Dalles water works read and on motion placed on file.

even on the street, Gracie Cummings, Edith Newton, Winifred Stewart, Rita Dixon, Lonnie Deane, Geo. H. Emerick, (the author of the play,) Clayton E. White, Bert Leslie, Chas. Lamb and Vincent Minelli comprise the balance of the company.

Schedule of Expenditures.

Showing the amounts of all claims presented, the names of all claimants, the article or claim for which payment is made, the amounts allowed and the claims continued or rejected at the March term, 1896, of the county court for Wasco county, Oregon. The following list, however, does not contain any claim for which the salary or fees are provided by statute:

Table with columns for name and amount. Includes E M Shutt, sec'y stock union, bounty on wild animals, 60 00; H Teague, bounty on wild animals, 3 00; M W Morris, 1 00; W H Odell, 4 00; Alex Dairyville, 1 00; Ralph Doyle, 4 00; Ralph Walters, 2 00; E T Greene, 2 00; Geo Sherrill, 1 00; M Allen, 1 00; Ralph Doyle, 1 00; L A Daly, 1 00; J W Brown, 2 00; John Templemire, 2 00; F C Cloner, 2 00; W A B Campbell, 7 00; W R Winans, 2 00; Tommy Thompson, 2 00; E Danemore, 2 00; Robert Hayes, 1 00; Joseph E Enaley, 4 00; Ed Hill, 1 00; David Miller, 2 00; Frank Bonner, 1 00; Chas Davis, 1 00; W H Howell, 4 00; S P Ward, 6 00; Phil Wagner, 1 00; Robert Hayes, 1 00; Sam Vickers, 1 00; C A Gibou, 1 00; J F Jones, 1 00; Bert Davidson, 1 00; W H Kenney, 3 00; Peter Slatter, 1 00; D Davidson, 3 00; W J Davidson, 1 00; W J Harmon, 1 00; W L Hendricks, 3 00; J W Fennington, 1 00; J L Hanna, 1 00; M M Morris, 3 00; A J Grubb, 1 00; Frank Johnson, 1 00; D Nelson, 1 00; Henry Sullinger, 2 00; H Moses, 1 00; N J Spichenger, 1 00; L Cover, 2 00; M Thornburn, 15 00; Tom Tanuwa, 1 00.

BOUNTY ON COYOTE SCALPS.

Table with columns for name and amount. Includes S Brown, 9 00; J Ohlgeschleger, 1 00; John Elix, 1 00; Otis Barford, 2 00; H P Hall, 3 00; J F Markham, 1 00; Richard Carlisle, 3 00; W A Wickham, 1 00; W R Winans, 3 00; Elta Conkling, 1 00; Seth Morgan, 2 00; A Fields, 1 00; Robert McKenzie, 1 00; F M Walters, 1 00; C A Whitcock, 1 00; P H Evrick, 1 00; B F Laughlin, 1 00; DeSojo E Richardson, 3 00; Geo Ryan, 1 00; W Gilhousen, 2 00; W A B Campbell, 1 00; C J Nelson, 1 00; D D Fasher, 2 00; D Fasher, 1 00; Joseph Knebel, 1 00; J W Husky, 1 00; A J Brown, 2 00; A P Moore, 2 00; Charles Stewart, 2 00; Spencer (Indian), 1 00; Troy Shelly, exam teachers, 20 00; Anna Lang, do do, 24 00; Justin Neff, do do, 21 00; A S Roberts, wit circuit court, 8 00; E P Fitzgerald, viewing road, 2 00; Geo A Liebe, do do, 2 00; W H Harper, do do, 2 00; E F Sharp, surveying, 32 00; E F Sharp, services, 32 00; W H Brown, labor, 6 00; Ben E Miller, labor, 6 00; E F Sharp, est sac corners, 15 00; D W Wase, papering sheriff's and clerk's offices, 48 40.

STATE OF OREGON, County of Wasco.

I, A. M. Kelsay, county clerk of Wasco county, state of Oregon, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a full and complete statement of the claims presented and action taken there on by the county court of Wasco county, Oregon, sitting for the transaction of county business at the March term, 1896, thereof, save and except all claims, the salary or fees of which are provided for by statute.

Witness my hand and seal of the county court, affixed this 30th day of March, 1896.

[Seal] A. M. Kelsay, County Clerk. Deputy.

For Rent.

The lower story of the Michelbach block, corner of Second and Union streets, now vacant, will be rented on a long or short-time lease at reasonable figures.

For Sale.

Six thoroughbred White Pekin Drakes, Inquire of Mrs. Geo. W. Patterson, Eight Mile east of The Dalles. M. HUNT, wlv

Notice of Final Settlement.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed with the clerk of the County Court of the State of Oregon for Wasco County his final account as administrator of the estate of Silas Frasier, deceased, and that said County Court, by an order made and entered on the 1st day of April, 1896, has fixed Monday, the 4th day of May, 1896, at 2 o'clock p. m. as the time and the place for hearing said final account and objections thereto and to the settlement of said estate. M. HUNT, wlv

Peoples Party Voters Take Notice.

The Peoples Party county convention is hereby called to meet in the court house at The Dalles, Saturday, April 18, 1896. The convention shall consist of 62 delegates. The appointment to be as follows: One delegate at large for each precinct and one for each 10 votes cast for Nathan Pierce for governor in 1894. The several precincts are entitled to the following number of delegates:

Table with columns for precinct name and number of delegates. Includes Falls, 9; Deschutes, 2; West Hood River, 6; Eight Mile, 3; East Hood River, 5; Nanegane, 3; Baldwin, 2; Dufur, 2; Mosier, 2; Bakeoven, 1; West Dalles, 5; Tygh Valley, 2; East Dalles, 6; Oak Grove, 2; Trevitt, 2; Wamie, 2; Bigelow, 3; Kingsley, 2; Columbia, 3; Antelope, 1.

Primarys will be held Saturday, April 11, 1896. m21-5t

The rapidity with which croup develops calls for instant treatment; and yet few households are prepared for its visits. An admirable remedy for this disease is Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. It has saved hundreds of lives and should be in every home where there are young children.

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