



A QUESTION OF COURAGE

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"I shouldn't have put it in any such uncharitable form," responded Ludlow, reflectively, "but, since you've mentioned it, I'll say what's been in my mind ever since you told me what brought you to Tregarthen. Hester Latimer's husband will have to do one of two things—help fight the family battles or refuse to have anything to do with them. The first may cost him his life, and the last will be very sure to cost him his happiness. I'm no hand to meddle, as you know, Hugh, but it's well enough to consider these things before it's too late."

"That's the pity of it, Tom," replied Ringbrand, quietly. "I'm afraid it's too late now. I realized two things pretty clearly last night—one was that life without Hester wouldn't be worth living, and the other was that I'd rather die than have her find me out for what I am."

"That's putting it rather harshly; you haven't any good reason for thinking that you are—"

"A coward—say it, Tom; I ought to be able to bear the truth, and that is the truth. I know it; I've known it all along, only I've been trying to make myself believe it wasn't so. That's what was at the bottom of all those little things you remember in the university days; you don't know how I despise myself when I think of it all."

"No, I don't remember anything but what I said a moment ago—that you were always a peaceable sort of fellow."

"That isn't it; it's one thing to be peaceable from principle, and quite another to be restrained by a wholesome fear of consequences. It's always been the latter with me. I can look back over my life and see how I've been continually dodging. When I was a little fellow, the fear of a whipping was the strongest incentive to good behavior, and the same argument has held good ever since. You know that, Tom, if you'd only admit it."

"No, I don't know anything of the kind," protested Ludlow.

"Well, it's true. You remember that affair with Turnbull in the last year—when he went out of his way to insult me. You took occasion to praise my self-control, but I want to tell you now that it was the merest sham; I was afraid to resent it, and that's the truth."

"Nonsense!" retorted Ludlow; "you did just right not to demean yourself by fighting with a cub of an undergraduate."

"I'm not arguing about that—it's the motive; it was cowardice, pure and simple; there's no other name for it. What are you laughing at?"

"It's amusing to hear you vilify yourself. But seriously, Hugh, this is a crisis that's got to be met. I take your word for it that you're properly in love with Hester Latimer; if she does you the honor to return your affection—which, I take it, is not yet a foregone conclusion—why, you're a lucky fellow, and you should be thankful enough to fight her battles, and those of her father and brother if need be. It may not require such a phenomenal degree of physical courage, but it'll ask for some of the moral variety; and there's always a wide possibility that it'll demand both in heroic proportions. If I were in your place I should fight the battle beforehand; then, if you find you're not going to be up to it, the honorable thing is to pull out while the girl is yet fancy free. That's pretty straight talk; but you know me of old, and you have invited frankness."

They were nearing the furnace yard, and Ringbrand did not reply until they reached the gate; then he grasped Ludlow's hand and pressed it warmly. "You're a good friend, Tom. I'll think it over and try to do as you advise. Only if I can't bring myself up to the mark, you mustn't be surprised if I should drop out unexpectedly. I don't believe I could face you or Mrs. Ludlow after that."

ular gap in the edge of the thick seam of coal. While he was examining a miner's lamp which he found sticking in a crevice, he felt a breath of cold air which seemed to come from above, and, looking up, he saw a narrow rift in the sandstone roof of the tunnel from which the draught appeared to issue. Lighting the lamp and thrusting it up into the aperture on the end of a stick, he could see that the rift widened above the opening and that it extended indefinitely into the mountain at right angles to the direction of the tunnel. The opportunities for further exploration seemed promising, and Ringbrand, yielding to an inquisitive impulse, drew himself up into the crevice by the help of a coal pick. By the smoky flare of the lamp he could see that he was standing in a natural tunnel of considerable height, running crosswise of the coal working and communicating with it by the aperture through which he had entered. As it was evident that the latter opening was artificial or accidental, he determined to ascertain if there was any other means of egress from the cavern. Turning to the left, the exploration came shortly to an end against a wall of broken rock and detritus which completely filled the crevice; retracing his steps, he pushed forward in the opposite direction, meeting with no obstacle for a considerable distance. The cleft was of irregular width, but its walls were perpendicular and smooth, rising above his head until their outlines were lost in the gloom. At several points they approached each other so nearly that he had some difficulty in squeezing through; but after the passage of one of the narrowest of these rocky straits he came out into a large chamber, in which the murky darkness was diluted by a thin stream of sunlight filtering through a hole in the roof. He stood gazing upward at the small aperture far above, wondering if it could be used as an entrance without the help of a rope ladder. The question had scarcely taken shape before its answer appeared in the form of a double row of rude niches cut in the wall and running in irregular lines up to the gash in the roof. In the fine damp sand at his feet he saw the imprint of a man's boot, and there were many more of them just beyond it. The explorer examined them carefully, and then sat down upon a rock to classify his findings. "I wonder if I haven't stumbled upon something that'll help Ludlow out?" he mused. "This is evidently an entrance to the coal mine that he doesn't know about. It's quite clear



By the smoky flare of the lamp he could see that he was standing in a natural tunnel.

that it has been used, too, and some one has taken a deal of trouble to make it available. I wonder if there's any other way out of the place? I suppose there isn't."

He rose and walked across the chamber to the point where the crevice appeared to continue its way into the mountain. There was a narrow slit showing that the cleft extended still farther, but the contracted passage was only a few inches in width. Fastening the hook of the lamp upon one of the points of the pick, he pushed the light into the crevice as far as he could reach, and by this means was able to discern the dim outlines of another chamber similar to the one in which he was standing. In moving the light about to get a better view, the lamp tumbled off and rolled out of reach; and in endeavoring to recover it with the pick the point of the latter became so firmly fixed in a crack in the rock that he was unable to extricate it. "That was a bright thing to do," he said, pausing to wipe the perspiration from his forehead. "I suppose it would have been all the same if my life had depended upon that trumpery excuse for a light. Fortunately, I can get out either way without it."

He cleeted to go back by the way he had come, and when he was once more in the open air he found that he had just time to walk back to Tregarthen before dinner. On the way down the mountain he debated with himself as to whether it were best to tell Ludlow of his discovery at once. There was no apparent reason why he should not do so, but he argued that there was also no occasion for haste; a delay of a few days could make no difference, and in that time he might be able to gather additional information which would fit into the discovery and so make it more valuable. Taking this view of the matter, he determined to say nothing to Ludlow about the existence of the crevice-cave; and in reaching this conclusion he forged the first link in a chain that was to bind him at a time when he would have given life itself for an hour of freedom.

Passing the furnace on his way to the village, he called for Ludlow, and they walked home together. In answer to his friend's question, Ringbrand replied that he had spent the forenoon on the mountain. "I've been thinking about the story you told me this morning," he added. "Can't you give me more of the details?"

"About the feud, you mean?"

"Yes."

Ludlow complied by giving a minute account of the rise and progress of the vendetta, repeating his suspicions about the agency of the Bynums in retarding the work of the McNabb.

"What reasons have you for suspecting them?" asked Ringbrand.

"No one else had any motive for interfering with us, and I am sure that some one blew down the roof of the tunnel more than once."

"How can you be sure of that?"

"I saw the marks of the blasts, and I smelled black powder; our workmen were using nothing but dynamite. Besides I questioned some of the people living in the valley near the McNabb, and several of them had heard the explosions."

"Did you have the tunnel guarded at night?"

"No; I didn't reach any conclusion about it until just as we had decided to abandon the work. When we began again, as I expect to within a few days—I shall leave a watchman up there at night."

"The place will ask for a brave man. I can find one," rejoined Ludlow, cheerfully. "Don't you want the job?"

"I'm afraid I shouldn't be of much use; but I'll take it, if you say so."

Ludlow looked incredulous. "That doesn't sound much like the line you took this morning."

"No, I know it doesn't; but perhaps I'm a little like the man who wanted a drink of whisky in order to ascertain what effect it would have on him. I've tried moral suasion on my weakness until I'm convinced there's no virtue in that kind of treatment, and it has occurred to me that a heroic dose of carnage may be what is needed."

"It may be, but I shouldn't go around hunting for the occasion if I were you," replied Ludlow, holding the gate open. "Perhaps I'll have to," said Ringbrand, as they entered the house. "Possibly the occasion will hunt me."

To be continued.

Horticultural Party.

Poets have sung the joys of winter hospitality, when the snow storm roars outside and the logs in the fireplace roar inside, and the bright welcome is only equalled by the bright cheer of happy guests as they thaw their frozen members by the ingle-side. We Oregonians do not have any of these joys, but the ladies who were the recipients of the gracious hospitality of Mrs. French and Mrs. J. W. Condon do not feel there was anything missing. Great bowls of brilliant tulips, vases of geraniums, banks of pansies are very satisfactory substitutes for the winter ornaments of icicles and snow banks. The floral decorations of the beautiful parlors, in their profusion and grace, made one forget the stiff wind outside.

The amusement of the afternoon, aside from the merry talk, was decidedly horticultural, and several of the guests went home able to think of many more names of tree than they could when the contest began. Mrs. Fish, owing to the happy accident of the long straw, and good guessing, was the fortunate recipient of the prize, a potted "silk oak."

When next the Dalles ladies pass an examination on their horticultural knowledge they will know that to be heard talking of "cashew" is not a sure sign one is taking a gripper.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Wednesday  
Miss Allen is still in a critical state with pneumonia.

Mr. Simon Fulton left this morning on the Regulator for Astoria.

Mrs. J. S. Schenck went to Portland this morning for several days absence.

Mr. Thos. Fargher and wife of Dufur are in the city today, and made THE CHRONICLE a pleasant call.

Mr. Stump was a passenger on the Regulator last night, coming in from Canas Prairie and returned this morning.

Miss Gertrude Wyers of White Salmon, who has been visiting Miss Roberts of The Dalles, returned home this morning.

President Campbell, of the state normal school at Monmouth, was in the city yesterday, and spent most of the day visiting the schools.

Mr. E. Beck, who has been in the employ of the O. R. & N. Co. for a number of years, left on the train Monday night for Salt Lake, where he expects to remain the balance of the summer.

Thursday.  
Mr. C. P. Balch of Dufur was in town today.

Miss Mary Adams of Salem is visiting relatives in the city.

Mrs. A. M. Williams and son Griffith, went to Portland today.

Mr. J. S. Messinger of Tygh went to Hood River this morning.

Mr. D. J. Cooper returned last night. His family are yet at Saileu.

Mr. Hayward Riddell has returned from a short absence to San Francisco.

Mrs. A. B. Andrews of Cascade Locks is visiting friends and relatives in the city.

Mrs. J. E. Andrews of Oswego is visiting her son, J. E. Andrews, in this city.

Mr. E. Jacobsen left today for a week's absence in Antelope and Sherman county.

Mr. J. D. Middlewart arrived today with a car of household effects and stock. He will settle at Mosier.

Mrs. Whittaker, the well-known colored woman, affected with dropsy, took the afternoon train for Portland today.

Miss Fannie Condon of Eugene, who has been in the city several days visiting her uncle, J. B. Condon, and family, returned home this morning.

Mrs. A. B. Andrews, wife of the engineer for the Day Bros. at the Locks, has been visiting Mr. Thos. Haslam and family and returned this morning.

Dr. Logan went to Salem on the local train today and will return Saturday. He will attend the silver wedding of Dr. J. A. Richardson and wife. The doctor was a former partner of Dr. Logan's.

Messrs. J. G. and I. N. Day are in the city today.

Mr. W. H. Zell of Sherman county is in the city.

Mr. W. H. Mears went to Portland this morning.

Miss Ketchum went to Portland on the 2:30 train.

Mr. Herrick was a passenger for Portland today on the local train.

Messrs. John Booth and Alex Watt of Mosier are in town today.

Hon. F. P. Mays arrived in the city last night, and will spend a few days in the city and country.

Mr. T. G. Hart of Sherman county was a passenger on the Regulator this morning for Tacoma, where he goes on a business trip.

Proposals for the Erection of School Buildings.

U. S. Indian Service, Warm Springs Agency, Oregon, April 11, 1896.

Sealed proposals, endorsed "Proposals for the Erection of School Buildings," and addressed to the undersigned at Warm Springs, Crook county, Oregon, will be received at this Agency until one o'clock p. m. of Wednesday, May 6, 1896, for the furnishing of the necessary materials and labor, and erecting and completing on the sites selected therefor, near this Agency, one frame dormitory building, one frame mess hall, one kitchen, one frame school and assembly building, one frame laundry building, one frame hospital and one frame employes' quarters—all in strict compliance with the plans and specifications hereof, which may be examined at the office of this newspaper and at the Warm Springs Agency.

Considerable quantities of lumber, shingles and laths are now on hand at this Agency, manufactured for the purpose of entering the construction of said buildings, and bidders are therefore requested to submit alternative proposals, first for the construction of each building, the contractor to furnish all materials and labor; and second, for the construction of each building, the contractor to utilize such of the lumber, etc., on hand as may be adapted for the purpose, and to supply the labor and necessary additional materials. A form of proposal is attached to the specifications for each building. Bidders are invited and requested to visit the Agency and to inspect and measure the sites, etc., on hand before submitting their proposals.

The attention of bidders is invited to the Act of Congress, approved August 1, 1890, entitled "An Act relating to the limitation of the hours of daily service of laborers and mechanics employed upon the public works of the United States and of the District of Columbia," and also to the Act of Congress approved August 13, 1891, entitled "An Act for the protection of persons furnishing materials and labor for the construction of public works."

Bidders will state in their bids the proposed price of each building and the length of time proposed to be consumed in its construction.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or any part of any bid, if deemed for the best interests of the service.

CERTIFIED CHECKS.  
Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check or draft upon some United States depository or solvent national bank in the city of the residence of the bidder, made payable to the order of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for at least FIVE PER CENT, of the amount of the proposal, which check or draft will be returned to the United States in case any bidder or bidders receiving an award shall fail to promptly execute a contract with good and sufficient securities, otherwise to be returned to the bidder.

Bids accompanied by cash in lieu of certified checks will not be considered.

For any further information, apply to  
LEUTENANT C. W. FARRER,  
April 11 Acting U. S. Indian Agent.

SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Wasco.  
A. S. Bowers, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
P. A. Snyder and Claude Markham, Defendants.

You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above-entitled cause by the first day of the next term of the above-entitled court following the expiration of six weeks publication of this summons, beginning on the 11th day of April, 1896, or on or before Monday, the 25th day of May, 1896, and if you fail to answer said complaint, for want thereof the plaintiff will take judgment against you and will apply to the court for the relief prayed for in plaintiff's complaint, to-wit: for a judgment against you for the sum of \$4,450, with interest thereon at the rate of six per cent per annum from the first day of April, 1896, and for \$400 attorney's fees and the costs and disbursements of this suit, and a decree of foreclosure of the mortgage mentioned in plaintiff's complaint upon and covering the following described premises, situated in Wasco County, Oregon, to-wit: The South half of the Southeast quarter of Section 20, and the North half of the Northeast quarter, and North half of the Northwest quarter, and the Southeast quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 29, in Township 2 North of Range 10 East of Willamette Meridian, containing in all 230 acres, more or less, and for such other and further relief as may be equitable and just.

This summons is served upon you by publication thereof for six weeks in The Dalles Weekly Chronicle by order of Hon. W. L. Bradshaw, Judge of the Seventh Judicial District of the State of Oregon, made on the 10th day of April, 1896.

W. H. WILSON,  
April 11 Attorney for Plaintiff.

Summons.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Wasco County.  
Mattie E. Moody, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
Willis E. Moody, Defendant.

You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above-entitled cause by the first day of the next term of the above-entitled court following the expiration of six weeks publication of this summons, beginning on the 11th day of April, 1896, or on or before Monday, the 25th day of May, 1896, and if you fail to answer said complaint for want thereof the plaintiff will take judgment against you and will apply to the Court for the relief prayed for in plaintiff's complaint, to-wit: for a decree of divorce, and for the care and custody of her minor child, Agnes, and for such other and further relief as may be equitable and just.

This summons is served upon you by publication thereof for six weeks in The Dalles Weekly Chronicle, by order of Hon. W. L. Bradshaw, Judge of the Seventh Judicial District of the State of Oregon, made on the 7th day of April, 1896.

W. H. WILSON,  
April 11 Attorney for Plaintiff.

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 Prather, 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 when the County Court room in Dalles City, Oregon, as the place for hearing said final account and objections thereto and to the settlement of said estate.

J. M. HUNTINGTON,  
Administrator of estate of Silas Prather, deceased.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

LAND OFFICE, The Dalles, Or., April 30, 1896.  
Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the register and receiver of the U. S. Land office, The Dalles, Or., on June 13, 1896, viz:

William A. Doyle,  
Hd E. No. 357, for the NW 1/4, Sec 19, Tp 18 R 13 E W M.  
He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: George W. Covert, J. A. Wagner, and Pat Higgins, of Enderby, and Joseph Means, The Dalles.

JAS. F. MOORE, Register.

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of an execution issued out of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon on the 7th day of May, 1896, in a suit therein pending wherein J. M. Huntington is plaintiff and Wm. R. Winans, Mary Winans and M. V. Harrison are defendants, to me directed and commanding me to sell all of the following described real property lying and situate in Wasco County, Oregon, to-wit:

Eggs! Eggs! Eggs!  
FROM THOROUGHbred FOWLS.  
Rose Comb Brown Leghorns  
Pen No. 1, \$2.00 per 13.  
Pen No. 2, 1.50 per 13.  
Pen No. 3, 1.00 per 13.  
Pen No. 4, 1.00 per 13.  
Golden Wyandotte Eggs,  
\$2.00 per 13.  
A few more choice Cockerels. Send for circular. Address  
ED. M. HARRIMAN,  
Feb 22-4m Enderby, Wasco County, Oregon.

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.  
Also the Michelbach garden and fruit orchard, with buildings for occupation. Apply to George Williams, administrator of the Michelbach estate. apr 11

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Feb 10 The Dalles, Or.

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