

A QUESTION OF COURAGE

Ringbrand completed his hasty toilet, and they went down to the dining-room, where Mrs. Ludlow was waiting to serve the returned wanderer. He took his accustomed place and made a ravenous onslaught upon the hastily prepared supper that astonished and gratified the sympathizing hostess. "How dreadfully hungry you were!" she said, calling Aunt Mima to replenish the empty bread-plate. "Haven't you had anything to eat all these days?" "Not very much. I'll tell you all about it the first chance I get."

"Are you going away to-night?" she asked, when Ludlow went out to hitch up the horse.

"Yes; we are going up to 'The Laurels,' and it may be late before we get back."

"I'm so glad! If you're going there, I'll be good and not ask a single question—until to-morrow."

"Why are you glad?"

"Because Hester is worried, and I want her to know you are alive and well."

They heard Ludlow drive out to the gate, and Ringbrand pushed back his chair. "Have you anything else to tell me?" he asked.

She shook her head with precise energy. "Not a single, solitary word—except that you're to give my love to Hester."

"I'll certainly do that," he promised. "Good night." And he ran down the walk and sprang into the phaeton beside Ludlow, who drove off rapidly up the mountain road.

The colonel and his son were sitting on the veranda when the phaeton turned into the avenue, and Hester, grieving silently in the darkness of her room, heard Ringbrand's voice answering the hearty welcome of her father. She ran to the stairway, stopped a moment to regain her self-control, and then went down to meet him. They had all gone into the parlor, and when she followed them Hester felt for a swift instant that the whole world read her secret in her face. Ringbrand rose to meet her, and took her extended hand in both of his. "I told you good-by for some purpose after all, didn't I, Miss Hester?" he said, smiling.

"I should think you did," she answered, reproachfully. "Where in the world have you been? And what makes you look so thin and pale?"

"I tumbled into a hole on the mountain," he explained, and, leading her to a chair, he seated himself beside her and recounted his adventures, carefully suppressing all mention of the Hymns, and leaving her to suppose that he had simply met with an accident.

"I should think you would have been starved almost to death," she said, pityingly. "How was it that some of the men didn't find you?"

Ringbrand had heard nothing of the search party, and she told him of the efforts that had been made to find out what had become of him. When she told how the men had scoured the plateau, shouting, he remembered the cry that had reached him just as he had placed the first round of the ladder, and he held her attention with a graphic description of the sudden hope and its disappointment, while Ludlow took the colonel aside and told him of the intended attack. Ringbrand saw the look of grim determination come into the eyes of the elder Latimer, and a moment later Ludlow came over and began to talk to Hester, while the colonel and his son left the room. When they came back the conversation became general, and Ringbrand was glad of this, for he felt that the one thing impossible under the circumstances was a tete-a-tete with Hester.

After a little, the colonel suggested to his daughter that she retire, adding that they had a little matter of business to talk about that would keep them up awhile longer. She went willingly enough, being in a beneficent frame of mind which would have made her obedient to a much more unreasonable request, and when they heard the door of her room close behind her they drew their chairs together, and Ringbrand gave a rapid outline of his plan for the capture of the marauders.

Upon hearing it, Col. Latimer denounced at once because of the danger attending Ringbrand's part in the undertaking; but he acquiesced finally when Ludlow added the weight of his advice, and the young man glanced gratefully at his friend for the timely assistance. When the details were arranged, and Ringbrand had appealed to Henry not to fly unless it became plainly necessary, the colonel spoke again: "In that conversation in the cave, Mr. Ringbrand, did you happen to hear anything that might throw any light on this?"—handing a soiled and greasy note to the young man.

Ringbrand unfolded it and spelled out the contents penciled in crabbed characters scrawled irregularly across the sheet.

"Here, Miss Hester," it ran, "hit most be a heap beter of you loud not to stay on the mounting two nite suppose you go down T Ludlos fer a spel yure friend."

"Where did this come from?" he asked.

"That's what's a-puzzlin' us, Hester found it wrapped round a piece of flint rock lyin' on the floor of her room this mornin', and she reckoned somebody'd throw it in at the window."

"I think I know who wrote it," said Ringbrand, reflectively, recalling the words of the conspirators. "One of them asked: 'How about the girl?' and the other replied: 'Needn't mind about her; she'll look out for herself,' and then he added: 'I shouldn't wonder if Jed would be glad enough to take care of her if she'd allow it.' Jed is the one who will hold the horses, I believe."

"Blame his cursed impudence!" exclaimed the colonel, blazing up wrathfully. "What right has he got to be thinkin' about my Hester?"

"Not the least bit in the world,

colonel," replied Ludlow, good-naturedly; "but don't let us forget that he had enough humanity in him to send this note; he knew quite well that he did it at the risk of his neck, and it's the first decent thing I ever knew one of them to do."

Ringbrand looked at his watch. "I think we'd better be taking our places, gentlemen," he said. "They set no time, but we had best be ready for them."

Henry extinguished the light, and the four men fled noiselessly out of the house to their several stations. The colonel and Henry, armed with repeating rifles and provided with buckets of water for use in case the fire spread too rapidly, concealed themselves in the shrubbery to the right and left of the small clump of laurel-bushes; Lud-

Ringbrand unfolded it and spelled out the contents.

low went down the avenue and crouched in the black shadow of a low-branched pine; and Ringbrand, armed only with the revolver which had been his companion in the cavern, took his stand against the trunk of a great oak, whose spreading limbs overshadowed the ambush selected by the mountaineers.

Up to the moment when the completion of the arrangements for the capture of the conspirators had begun to cancel the factor of excitement, Ringbrand had not reflected upon the peculiarly trying nature of the test he had proposed for himself. When the plan had suggested itself, he had welcomed it gladly, hurrying forward to its culmination with the eager impatience of one who imagines he sees the turning-point of his life in the perspective and runs impetuously to double it. After he had taken his position under the oak, however, the suspense, and the darkness and silence of the night, began to dampen the fire of enthusiasm; the flood-tide of excitement turned and ebbed slowly away; and the heroic requirements of the part he had volunteered to take in the approaching drama stood out in vivid and disconcerting relief. Common sense awoke and demanded a reason for the hazardous plan, pointing the finger of ridicule at the melodramatic stage setting, and suggesting that nothing had been omitted save a calcium light to be flashed upon the scene at the critical moment. He saw the absurdity of it all, and how much more sensible it would have been to take Ludlow's suggestion, surrounding the house with a posse of armed men whose numbers would have made resistance on the part of the mountaineers useless and hence improbable.

And what was there to be urged against such a safe and practical plan of procedure? Nothing, or less than nothing; merely the demonstration of an abstruse metaphysical problem within himself; the application of a heroic test which had no place outside the realm of fiction. And with this thought it occurred to him that he had unconsciously planned the whole thing upon the lines that would have made it most effective in a story! And then the suggestion of the calcium light and the alarmed young woman looking down upon the theatrical tableau from her window came again, making him sick with disgust.

Looking at it from any point of view, the romantic project, which was more than likely to cost him his life in the executing, was merely a fantastic idea of proving himself in some way a knight without fear—a modern type of gawky medieval personage who went about slaying impossible dragons and disemboweling mythological giants. It was absurd—ridiculous—preposterous! and from this point in the argument the descent to the Avernus of terror was easy. At the end of a half-hour he felt the premonitory spinal chill heralding a return of the well-known symptoms; in five minutes more the paroxysm was upon him, and he was struggling furiously in the grasp of his familiar demon, blind, deaf and helpless, with every fiber of his being straining itself for flight in an impulse so real that he turned and grasped at the rough bark of the tree to keep himself from being carried bodily away by the whirlwind of terror.

To be continued.

Germany and Sound Money.

Chicago Times-Herald.

A large proportion of the Germans living in the United States were born in the fatherland long enough ago to have seen the effect of free coinage of silver in actual operation. They have been witnesses of the benefits conferred upon the industries and commerce of the new empire by substitution of the gold standard for the silver standard.

The sons of these Germans have profited by the experience of their fathers.

There are 1087 papers in the United States in the German language. Of this number there are only forty-seven not advocating maintenance of the existing gold standard, no matter what their party affiliations.

No more BILLS, no more PIMPLES Use Kinerly's Iron Tonic. The Snipes-Kinerly Drug Co. Telephone No. 3.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Wednesday.

Judge Mays is in the city today.

Mr. T. A. Hudson left for Sherman county today.

Mr. C. E. Dawson and family went to 8-Mile today for an outing.

Robert Mays, Jr., came in from his ranch at Antelope yesterday.

Mr. A. R. Thompson and family will return from Nahcotta this week.

Miss Mabel Riddell came up on the Regulator last night from Stevenson.

A. J. Johnson and family and Mrs. C. Covington left for Trout Lake this morning.

Mr. Geo. Dekum, who has been in the city several days, left this morning for Portland.

Miss Anna Hawthorne left on the Regulator this morning for a trip down the river.

Miss Dollie Mosier, who has been visiting Mrs. Fish, returned to Mosier this afternoon.

Mrs. and Miss Scott of San Francisco went to Mosier this morning to visit the McNulty's.

Mrs. E. M. Wilson is recuperating, and sat up today for the first time in many days.

S. S. Woolover, a merchant, and John Baker, a sheepman, of Grant county are in the city today.

Judge A. S. Bennett and family returned last night from Newport, where they have spent some time.

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Houghton went to Tygh Valley this morning, where they will spend a week with friends.

Mr. W. E. Sylvester and family started for the Meadows, near Mt. Hood, this morning, on a two weeks camping trip.

Mr. B. F. Laughlin, who came in from Glennwood to attend the funeral of Dollie Evelyn Houghton, returned this morning.

Mr. C. R. Bone of Hood River is in the city. Mr. Bone is already in the field as a wheat buyer. Fifty cents has been paid in Portland.

Vic Marden left this morning for Stevenson. He will go to Rock creek in search of the yellow metal. Will Gronow also left for the same section with a pack horse and accessories.

Thursday.

Mr. C. J. Pease and wife left for the coast this morning.

Mrs. Filloon left for the Stevenson camp this morning.

Mrs. D. M. French left for Centerville, Ilwaco beach this afternoon.

Mrs. C. Chandler and daughter left this afternoon for Portland.

Mr. M. H. Nickelsen and wife of Hood River are in the city today.

Misses Louise Ruch and Minnie Lay went to Stevenson this morning.

Miss Cople and Miss Cora Cople left for Hood River this morning.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Lord left on the early morning train for the seaside.

Mr. Truman Butler and Miss Pearl Butler left for Vancouver this morning.

Mr. Smith French sat up Tuesday for the first time, and though very weak had improved considerably.

Attorney E. B. Dufur and family, Mrs. Wheelon and Katie Bayard will leave in the morning for a trip in the country, to be gone till the 1st of September. Mr. Dufur will return at intervals on business.

Friday.

Mrs. W. R. Dunbar of Goldendale is registered at the Umatilla house.

Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Nickelsen returned home today to Hood River.

Miss Dot McFarland was a passenger on the local train today from Portland.

Mrs. Geo. Thomas and family left for their home in White Salmon this morning.

Mr. Ed. Mays returned to Portland today. He has been in town since Tuesday.

Messrs. G. W. Phelps and J. F. Hampshire returned from their outing last night.

Mr. A. R. Thompson and family returned from the seaside on the local today.

Mr. and Mrs. Schanno and Mrs. Schuter are spending the day at the Locks.

Miss Alma Schmidt came up from their camping grounds at Gear Lake yesterday.

Mr. James Hazell returned yesterday from England, where he went on a visit two months ago.

The Messrs Lang, Mrs. Bronson and Mr. B. S. Moses left for Lyle this morning on a sketching trip.

Miss Edna Stinson, daughter of Kikikat county's sheriff, was in The Dalles this morning en route to Victoria on a visit to friends.

Mr. A. A. Urquhart returned last night from Sherman county. He reports that the farmers have commenced hauling their wheat to the river.

Messrs. C. Gropper, John Wachten and Theo. Prinz left for Stevenson this morning. They will investigate the new mining country on Rock creek, and have a pack horse with them.

Capt. Lewis returned last evening from a very pleasant visit of two weeks to old army friends in Portland. The noise at the fire Wednesday night reminded the Captain of the old days of the volunteer department when everybody was giving orders.

Major James Jackson, of the 2nd cavalry, Brevet Lieut. Col. of the A. S. A., is in the city and called at The Chron-icle offices this afternoon. This is the second visit of the major to The Dalles within a year. He is here on an inspection of the O. N. G.

Tygh Valley Roller Flour Mills.

Tygh Valley Roller Flour Mills are running full time on No. 1 wheat. Flour equal to the best always on hand. Prices to suit the times. Also mill feed in quantities to suit.

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RETURNED FROM IOWA.

B. S. Cook Tells of Political Conditions There.

B. S. Cook, of the Oregon Land Co., and John Pemberton returned to Salem yesterday from Marshalltown, Iowa, and other points in the middle west.

When asked about the political outlook in his old home state, Mr. Cook said to a Statesman reporter: "I will give you a few of the sayings and things which I heard in four weeks' travel throughout the Middle West on the political situation and questions of the day. Iowa will give McKinley from 70,000 to 80,000 majority, based on polls taken of a number of localities in that state. This is a conservative estimate, as 90 per cent. of the business men are favorable to the Republican ticket and the farmers will give the ticket a strong and hearty support.

"The money question is talked by everybody—men, women, children, travelingmen, trainmen, tourists, farmers, tramps, hoboes and politicians discuss it. On every corner, in all hotels, on the streets, on all trains, in the country, in small towns as well as the cities you hear the discussion. You will see groups of men standing together and as you pass are sure to hear gold and silver discussed. It is about as bad a craze as the greenback question was a few years ago.

"Many of the things heard about McKinley are flattering in the extreme. He is called 'strong and able; a man who favors the protection of the laborer of the country as well as the manufacturer. He favors a dollar that when earned by a man's labor, will be worth 100 cents in any spot or place and will buy a dollar's worth of goods for the laborer's family.'

"Many jokes are cracked at the expense of the candidates. A traveling man said a few days ago: 'Did you hear that McKinley was having trouble with his wife?' The reply was quickly made: 'No, what is it?' to which the traveling man replied: 'He is getting too thick with Hanna!' An admirer of the Democratic candidate made the remark in my hearing that 'McKinley was going to be salted with Bryan (brine).'

Hired by Silver Mineowners.

The Charge That Bryan is in the Pay of the Silver Millionaires.

Of Bryan, the Chicago Chronicle, the great Democratic newspaper of Illinois and the West, in its issue of July 11, said: "There was a time when the owners of the big bonanzas of the Far West were glad to occupy purchased seats in the United States senate. Sharon, Stanford, Fair, Jones, Stewart and others gratified their fancy in this manner until the novelty wore off, and then they deputized attorneys and other employes to take their places and vote for protective tariffs and free silver. Of late years, owing to the encouragement they have received from the Republican party, which always does something for silver, when it passes a tariff bill, the proprietors of the big bonanzas have found it profitable to keep a large number of orators, lecturers and other spokesmen on the road, preaching to people, already limping as a result of bites by the free-silver cur, the sovereign remedy of applying the hair of the dog to the wound.

"Among the men who have been thus employed and carried on the payroll of the big bonanzas for a number of years is William J. Bryan, of Nebraska. A paid agent of and spokesman for the silver combine, he has not, since his retirement from congress, had any other visible means of support.

"The richest men in the world, the proprietors of the big bonanzas, hire orators like Bryan exactly as other wealthy men hire fiddlers, and value them about as highly. Silver orators, like fiddlers, come in at the back doors of the big bonanzas and eat at the servants' table."

"This charge was recently reiterated by Senator Thurston on the stump, and has never been denied by Bryan.

Wants All the Improvements.

East Oregonian.

An Eastern bicycle factory recently received the following letter from a Kansas farmer:

"Dear Sir:—I live on mi farm near Hamlin Kansas, am 57 years old and just a little sports. Mi neffew in Indiana bot hisself a new bisicle and sent me his old un by frate and I've learned to ride sum. It's a pile of fun but mi bisicle jolts considerable. A fellar came along yesterday with a bisicle that had a hollow injun rubber tires stuffed with wind. He let me try hisen and mi! it run like a skushen. He told me you sell injun rubber just like hisen. How much will it be to fix mine up like hisen? Mine is awl iron wheels. Dew you punch the holler hole through the injun rubber or will I haf to do it myself? Dew you sell it by the yard or the peaz? how do you stick the ends together after you get done? If your rubber is already holler, will it cum any cheaper empty? I kin get all the wind I want out here in Kansas free. ERENEZER Y. JUDD. P. S.—How much do you charge for the doodad you stuff the wind into the rubber with and where do you start? E. Y. J.

Drowned in Coos River.

Hal Bonebrake, a boy about 14 years

old, drowned in Coos river, near Marshfield, last Sunday. The boy was enjoying himself with the others in the water, when suddenly he commenced crying frantically for help, and seemed to be utterly powerless to make an effort to keep afloat, leading many to believe that he was seized with a fit. His companions went to his assistance, but were unable to rescue him, and he sank almost immediately, never coming to the surface after he once disappeared. A. Smith, whose residence is close to the bathing place heard the cries for help and lost no time in getting there and plunging into the water; but though he dived until exhausted, he could find no trace of the missing boy. The searchers were finally rewarded by finding the body, close to where the unfortunate boy disappeared, in about ten feet of water. The boy was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Bonebrake of Coos river.

ASSIST NATURE

A little now and then in removing offending matter from the stomach and bowels and you thereby avoid a multitude of distressing derangements and diseases, and will have less frequent need of your doctor's services.

Of all known agents for this purpose, Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets are the best. Once used, they are always in favor. Their secondary effect is to keep the bowels open and regular, not to further constipate, as is the case with other pills. Hence, their great popularity with sufferers from habitual constipation, piles and their attendant discomfort and manifold derangements. The "Pellets" are purely vegetable and perfectly harmless in any condition of the system. No care is required while using them; they do not interfere with the diet, habits or occupation, and produce no pain, gripping or shock to the system. They act in a mild, easy and natural way and there is no reaction afterward. Their help lasts.

The Pellets cure biliousness, sick and little "Pellet" is a laxative, two are mild cathartic. As a "dinner pill," to promote digestion, or to relieve distress from over-eating, take one after dinner. They are tiny, sugar-coated granules; any child will readily take them.

Accept no substitute that may be recommended to be "just as good." It may be better for the dealer, because of paying him a better profit, but he is not the one who needs help.

The Columbia Packing Co., PACKERS OF Pork and Beef. MANUFACTURERS OF Fine Lard and Sausages. Curers of ★ BRAND Hams and Bacon, Dried Beef, Etc. BAKE OVEN and MITCHELL STAGE LINE, THOMAS HARPEE, - - Proprietor. Stages leave Bake Oven for Antelope every day, and from Antelope to Mitchell three times a week. GOOD HORSES AND WAGONS. Administrator's Sale. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will, on Saturday, the 22nd day of August, 1896, at the hour of 2 o'clock in the afternoon, sell at the front door of the county courthouse in Dalles City, Wasco Co., Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in hand, the following described real estate belonging to the estate of C. V. Lane, late of Wasco County, Oregon, and now deceased, to-wit: Lots one (1) and two (2) and eleven (11) and twelve (12) and the north half of lots three (3) and ten (10) in block (8) in Bards Second Addition to the town of Antelope, in Wasco County, Oregon, said real estate will be sold subject to a mortgage thereon in favor of W. Bolton & Co., dated October 3, 1886, for the sum of \$29,230, and interest at the rate of 10 per cent per annum from said date. Dated at Dalles City, Or., this 21st day of July, 1896. E. JACOBSEN, Administrator of the estate of C. V. Lane, deceased. jy25-04-11

OVERWORK INDUCED Nervous Prostration Complete Recovery by the Use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla

"Some years ago, as a result of too close attention to business, my health failed. I became weak, nervous, was unable to look after my interests, and manifested all the symptoms of a decline. I took three bottles of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, began to improve at once,

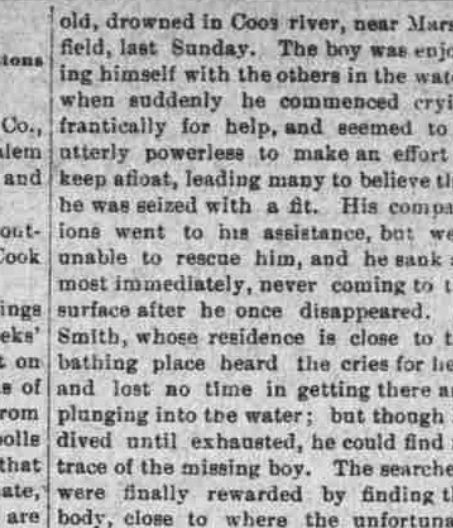
and gradually increased my weight from one hundred and twenty-five to two hundred pounds. Since then, I and my family have used this medicine when needed, and we are all in the best of health, a fact which we attribute to Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I believe my children would have been fatherless to-day had it not been for Ayer's Sarsaparilla, of which preparation I cannot say too much."—H. O. HISSON, Postmaster and Planter, Kinard's, S. C.

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SURE CURE FOR PILES (Itching and Bleeding. Freedom from Pain. Free Willing to send a DR. SO-SAN-KO'S PILE REMEDY, Stops Itching, Swelling, Bleeding, and Pain. Price 50c. Druggists or mail. DR. SO-SAN-KO, PHILADELPHIA.

THE DALLES COMMISSION CO., Commission Merchants. Fruits, Vegetables and Produce RECEIVED ON CONSIGNMENT. Prompt returns and best prices guaranteed. All kinds of Fruit and Vegetable Boxes and Crates furnished to shippers at lowest rates. Call and see us before making shipments. Corner Second and Washington Sts., The Dalles, Or.

MAIER & BENTON Are now located on Second Street, opposite A. M. Williams & Co., with a complete line, PLUMBING and TINNING A SPECIALTY. 167 Second Street, THE DALLES, OREGON



Portrait of a man, likely a doctor or a notable figure mentioned in the text.



Illustration of a woman and a child, part of the Ayer's Sarsaparilla advertisement.