

Letter From Dr. J. V. Scott

The 2nd installment of an interesting letter from Dr. J. Vinton Scott, formerly a well known dentist of St. Johns. Owing to its length and the shortness of our space it will be published in installments:

Continued.

About two hours out of Shanghai we pass the city of Soochow. This city is a big silk center. It is also a city whose only means of conveyance is either a donkey or sedan chair, both of which are very comfortable riding, altho there is less trick about the chair than the donkey.

As we pass Soochow it is a pretty sight to gaze back on the city with its great walls, its mammoth gates, the hill back of it dotted here and there with pagodas and temples. As we pass on we wonder if there is a flood, but on inquiry find it is not but the ordinary high water which comes over the whole country every fall. The country is one expanse of water with the compounds on dry land just a few inches above the water. The land is covered by two feet or more of water. Some of the wheat has been gathered in. Other places one sees the wheat in shock, but the shock is propped up above the water on three forked horse so it is high and dry. When the farmer is ready to thrash he goes out in his boat or more properly an oval shaped tub which is about five by seven feet made the same as our wooden tubs at home are made. He goes from one shock to another and piles it on his tub until his load is about as high as it is broad. This he takes into his home where it is stacked. As we roll along we see women and children in smaller tubs, many of them no larger than an ordinary tub, following the course of the canals gathering seeds, which grow on the different water plants. They paddle from one cluster to another with their hands.

To be continued.

Plans and estimates for the construction of a concrete sidewalk from the ferry landing to Linton school on Linton road will be ready for bids within the next ten days. A. G. Johnson, assistant commissioner of public works has announced. The city formally took over the sidewalk area from the county several days ago in order to construct the sidewalk to assure school children a safe and dry pathway to school, thus stopping the practice of children walking along the paved highway, where they were endangered by passing automobiles. Bids will be advertised for as soon as the plans are completed and construction will be rushed through, there being no opposition to the improvement, Johnson said.

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HEARTS OF GOLD

By Otilia Frances Pfeiffer



HERE had come a great change over Judson Marsh during the brief space of a year and Cedar Grove marvelled. Marsh had usually made the holidays a wild, riotous occasion of revelry, such as "shooting up the town," distributing time and money squanderingly in games of chance, indulging in a fist fight daily, generally maintaining a terrorizing influence. Always had he disdained the gentle cheer of Christmas and the good pledges of New Year's, but this especial Yuletide period he had remained quietly on his ranch, had donated freely to charity and only his eagle eye had flashed and his lips became stern and firm as some derisive pal of the past sneeringly intimated that he had reformed and had taken "the goodly, goodly pledge."

No one could trace the cause of the remarkable alteration in manner and deed except Marsh himself and he was a close mouthed man. Perhaps Gladys Revere suspected, but if so she said nothing. She had come to the crude, wild settlement to teach school.

The Marsh ranch was ten miles from the settlement and there was no school in its immediate vicinity. Its owner was a young man not over twenty-five years of age, but he maintained quite an establishment. His widowed sister had lived with him until she died, leaving a shy, puny little girl, Madeline, who was idolized by Marsh. "I have come to see you about my little niece, Miss Revere," spoke Marsh, and his face and manner did not belie what she had heard of his being a well educated member of a prominent Eastern family. "She is lonesome where we live; never has any young companions. I have heard of your kindly care for these little ones. Won't you find her a good boarding place in the town and sort of look after her?"

"She shall be as an own sister," replied Miss Revere spontaneously, taking the shy, retiring child in a tender embrace, and the result was that little Madeline became an occupant of the home where Miss Revere boarded.

Once a week Judson Marsh called to pass half an hour with Madeline. Up-



on each succeeding visit it pleased him to note the change for the better in the child. Her devotion to her teacher was something pathetic. This was the period when Judson Marsh changed his course of life. A time too when the merest passing word with Miss Revere seemed to cause him to lift his head higher, and the influence of a worthy resolve was noticeable in his bronzed, impressive face.

It was about a month before Christmas when the settlement was visited by Marsh on horseback. There was something about him that reminded of his old time briskeness and forcible, imperative ways. In turn he visited twenty of the leading men and presented to each his proposition. Time was when anything Marsh suggested was carried out from motives of policy. In the present instance he found willing auditors, interested and sympathetic.

"It's about a Christmas present for Miss Revere," said Marsh. "I understand she is a proficient musician, and there isn't a piano in the place. She has been royally good to all of our children, little Madeline among them. I'll head the subscription list."

"And who'll pick out the instrument?" one of the town committee-men asked.

"Oh, I'll go to the city and attend to that. You can trust me, boys," answered Marsh readily. "I was something of a player myself years ago. Now then, this is to be a secret until Christmas."

That was agreed upon. Also it was arranged so that on Christmas Eve the scholars gave a concert in honor of their devoted teacher. The piano had been smuggled into the home at dusk while she was at the schoolhouse. She came home alone, as it was planned that she should. She noticed

a light in the house as she neared it. As she fitted the key to the door a stream of pretty music met her ear. The next moment she stood at the parlor threshold.

There at the piano sat Judson Marsh. He was softly playing "Love's Old Sweet Song." Gladys noted a wreath on the piano holding a card-board disc reading:

"Merry Christmas—A token of love from the people of Cedar Grove."

"Oh! It is impossible!" began Gladys, and broke down from emotion. And then as the hand of Judson Marsh gently clasped her own, with downcast eyes and happy, happy bewilderment she listened to his fervent avowal of the love that had made him a better man.

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