

A CAPTAIN IN THE RANKS

By George Carey Eggleston

(Continued from Last Week.)

dragged the wagon deep in mud. Worse still were those stretches of road which had been corduroyed with logs, for there some of the logs were floating out of place and some were piled on top of those that were still held fast in the mud.

In dragging the wagons through the mud reaches it was necessary to stop every few minutes to give the horses a breathing spell. On the corduroy stretches it was often necessary to stop for half an hour or more at a time. Thus the caravan moved slowly onward, with many haltings and much of weariness.

It was midnight when at last the flare of the torches told Barbara that the journey was done. Not knowing whether the wagons should be taken, Barbara bade Bob and Duncan.

When the young man heard of Barbara's arrival he and Dick Temple hurried to her, full of apprehension lest the journey and the exposure should have made her ill, and fuller still of fear that the conditions of life in the camp might prove to involve more of hardship than she could bear. For the first time in his life Guilford Duncan felt like scolding.

"What on earth are you doing here, Barbara?" he asked, and before he could add anything to the question she playfully answered: "Just now I'm waiting for you to tell the teamsters where to drive the wagons."

"But, Barbara!" "Never mind the rest of your scolding. I've already rehearsed it in my imagination till I know it all by heart forward and backward. Tell the men where the cooking place is."

"But what are we to do with you in all this food and mud and in the incessant rain?"

"Just let me alone while I 'help in earnest,' as you said in your dispatch that you wanted me to do. You telegraphed me that you wanted two good cooks, so here we are, Bob and I, for really Bob has learned to cook as well as I can. I only wonder you didn't send for us sooner."

A little while later Bob and the two negro women who had hitherto done the cooking went out among the men at work, bearing great kettles of steaming coffee for the refreshment of the well nigh exhausted toilers.

Bob accompanied his share of the coffee distribution by a little speech: "Dar now! Dat's coffee as is, an' it's hot an' strong too. 'Little Missie' done mek it wif her own han's, and she's de lady wot sen's it to you. She's done come out inter de wilderness jes' to cook victuals fer you men, and you jes' bet yer bottom dollar you'll git a breakfast in de mawnin'."

Realizing the situation and stimulated by their deep drafts of coffee, the men set up a cheer for "Little Missie."

CHAPTER XXXI.

WHEN Duncan and Temple went to Barbara's fire for their breakfast after the workmen had been served both were quick witted enough to see that the little lady was in no condition to endure emotion of any kind. She had slept little on the night before leaving Cairo, very little more at the night camp during the journey and not at all on the night of her arrival. Her first words indicated a purpose on her part to fend off all talk that might touch upon personal matters.

"Good morning, gentlemen," she said. "I'm very well, thank you, so you needn't ask me about that, especially as there are more important things to be discussed. I brought all the supplies I could, but after seeing the men eat I realize that we shall run short of food very soon. How many more days are there?"

"Four more, including today." "Then you must telegraph at once to Cairo for more beef or we shall run short. Please go and telegraph at once, Guilford. Then come back and your breakfast will be ready."

When he had gone the girl turned to Temple and said:

"Everything is ready for you two. Bob will serve it, I think I'll go and sleep a little now." With that she tripped away to the canvas covered wagon which Duncan had detained at the camp to serve her as sleeping quarters.

Late in the evening of that day the two teamsters, who had started early in the morning on their return journey with the other wagon, rode back into camp. They had been obliged to abandon their wagon, wholly unable to make their way farther owing to the floods.

"Then we shall get no more provisions," said Barbara sadly.

"And that's a pity," answered Temple, "for the men's spirits have greatly revived under the stimulus of your improved commissariat, Miss Barbara. How long will your supplies last?"

"I've enough coffee, flour and molasses," she answered, "to last through, but the fresh meat will be exhausted by tomorrow night. The hams will help out for breakfast, but they won't go far among 200 men. I'm sorry I couldn't have brought more."

"You could not have got through at all if your loads had been heavier," said Duncan. "We must simply do the best we can. I still have hopes that we shall win."

"Oh, we must win, you know. You mustn't allow yourself to think of anything else."

It was 6 o'clock on the morning of the last day when the night gave its first intimation of a purpose to come to an end. In the slow coming gray of the dawn the torches still flared, casting long and distorted shadows of the work weary men as they continued their toil. During that last night the

entire company had been kept at work in a last desperate effort to accomplish the end so vitally necessary. All night long Duncan had done what he could to encourage the toilers, while Temple had given his attention to such devices as might shorten the task or otherwise facilitate its doing. All night long Barbara had busied herself furnishing limitless coffee as an atonement for the insufficient food the men had had since her supplies of meat ran out two days before. (Conclusion next week.)

A ROMANCE OF THE DESERT.

(Continued from page 3)

\$200 an acre. The town is beginning to send out hay, butter and farm products generally. Sugar beets are being planted, and a factory is about to be erected. The desert is disappearing before the very eyes of the stranger. The Oregon Short Line built a branch line into the country, and is planning to change its route so that Twin Falls will be on the main line. Two or three other towns have sprung up on the desert all of them as ambitious as Chicago.

Plenty of Electric Power. Electric power to the extent of 20,000 horsepower has been developed at Shoshone Falls, and poles and wires are being strung along Snake River and into Twin Falls. In a few weeks the town will be lighted and operated by Shoshone Falls. An electric railroad fourteen miles in length is being constructed connecting the towns of Twin Falls and Buhl.

The irrigation system which has worked such wonders on the desert has its beginning at Milner Dam on the Snake River about eight miles above Twin Falls, which is in turn only a few miles above Shoshone Falls. Two small islands in a rocky gorge furnish an admirable dam-site. The main canal leading from the dam carries 1,000 second feet of water, and smaller canals distribute the supply in all directions. Two years ago not an acre was under cultivation. Now 46,000 acres are producing crops, and next year nearly 100,000 acres will be cultivated. The Milner dam diverts sufficient water to irrigate over 200,000 acres, and the land lies there ready for the water, in a compact body.

Thirty-five miles above Milner Dam, at Minidoka, the United States government has built a dam a mile long, raising the height of the water forty-seven feet and providing for the irrigation of another body of 130,000 acres. Every acre of this land has been entered upon by homesteaders under the reclamation act. The sagebrush desert is dotted for miles with little cabins. The dam will be completed this month. The canals are a little behindhand, but it is expected that water will be turned in early next year, sufficient to irrigate 60,000 acres. The settlers are mostly from the Middle West, and are from the higher priced irrigated lands in Washington, California and Utah. Few men in the East have ever heard of Minidoka, and fewer still have the enterprise of these Westerners who are quick to grasp the chance to make a comfortable fortune.

The Minidoka "project" is expected to be a grand success, both from the government's and the settler's point of view. It will cost, completed, \$2,540,000. This includes the cost of maintenance for ten years, when, under the law, the system will be turned over to the settlers, who will have paid for their lands, and the system which makes them productive. This land will have cost the settlers \$26 an acre, and long before the government has been paid its last installment the settlers will be on homes worth from \$100 an acre upwards. Three towns have been started on the Minidoka tract, all of them on the Oregon Short Line. They will have electric lights, trolleys, and all other modern conveniences. The Minidoka dam will develop 11,000 horsepower, which the government is authorized by act of Congress to utilize for the benefit of the project or to lease to private parties.

While the settlers have been waiting for the completion of the system they have been employed by the reclamation service at building lateral canals. A man earns \$2.50 a day and his team earns another \$2.50. Some of the settlers will have enough money to begin fruit growing, although they came to Minidoka with bare hands. It was a poor man's chance while it lasted. Not an acre is left open to settlement. Here, as upon all other irrigation works projected by the government, the settler is far ahead of Uncle Sam. The land hunger of the American is never appeased. Here and there in the heart of the sagebrush, are cleared places where settlers raise crops of grain without even irrigation. The Minidoka system will irrigate land sufficient to sustain a population of 75,000.

Three hundred miles above Minidoka, in Wyoming, in the Jackson Hole country the reclamation service is building a dam across the outlet of Jackson's Lake. This will make a reservoir storing a million acre feet of water—that is, enough water to cover a million acres one foot in depth. Some of this water will be sold for irrigation down along the river, and the rest of it will be conducted down along the river to Minidoka dam, for use in the low stages of the river. The government engineers calculate that with this storage system there will never be a time when the settlers, either on the Minidoka or the Twin Falls system, will be short of water.

Work on the Jackson's Lake dam has been held up temporarily by a gentleman named Sheffield who stands with a rifle and dared the engineers to come on. He is a Squatter, who makes a little money piloting parties through the Wyoming hunting grounds. Uncle Sam is not disposed to be harsh upon Brother Sheffield, and is taking steps to push him out of the way without calling out the armed forces of the nation and the several States. For the time being, however, he is lord of all he surveys.

IN THE CITY CHURCHES.

The Norwegian and Danish Methodist church, 1795 Duane street. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. The morning and evening services will be conducted by Rev. Elias Gjerding, who has just arrived in the city. He was appointed by Bishop H. W. Warren at the annual conference, recently held at Everett, Wash., to take charge of the Scandinavian Methodist church work in Astoria. A cordial welcome is extended by the pastor to all Scandinavian people, young and old, to attend the services of the church as far as possible.

Congregational Church.

Sunday is Rally Day. We specially request all pupils of the Sabbath school and all the parents to be present at the morning service. Let not anything that can be avoided keep you away from church on Sunday morning and evening. The pastor will preach at both services and will have a message for you. Morning service at 11 o'clock, subject, "Ready for the Reckoning." This will be a sermon with an object lesson. Evening service at 8 o'clock, subject, "Worth more Than Wealth." A sermon of especial interest to young people. Sunday school at 12:20. Young People's meeting at 7:30. We desire all the young people to be present as we shall organize a society at this meeting. Midweek meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p. m. The pastor will be pleased to meet all Congregationalists who are resident or visitors in the city. Strangers, visitors and residents in the city not connected with other churches will be welcome at all these services and are invited to attend. G. E. Moorehouse, Ph. D., Pastor.

Grace Episcopal Church.

Sunday services at Grace church at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 12:30 p. m. The Rev. W. E. Potwin, of St. Elizabeth's Church, Honolulu, is expected to be present and to preach.

First Lutheran Church.

Gustave E. Rydquist, pastor. Sunday school at 9:30 a. m. Miss Aelma Nyland, Superintendent. Morning service in Swedish at 10:45. Evening service at 8 o'clock, always in English. Subject for sermon, "The Angels; Their Relation and Service to Man." All are cordially invited to attend these services. On Saturday, the 6th of October, a confirmation class will be organized. All who wish to avail themselves of the religious instruction prior to confirmation should meet the pastor at the parsonage on the above date at 2 o'clock p. m.

Alderbrook Presbyterian Church.

T. P. Howard, pastor. Preaching service at 10 a. m. Sunday school at 11 a. m. Y. P. S. C. E. meeting at 7:30 p. m. If you are without a church home you are cordially invited to worship with us. Warrenton Presbyterian church meets for worship at the Warren Hall at 7:30. Mrs. C. S. Melroy will sing. All are cordially invited.

Norwegian Lutheran Synod Church.

Corner of 29th and Grand Avenue. Services tomorrow morning at 10:45, a din the evening at 8 o'clock. Sunday school at 9:30 a. m. The Ladies' Aid Society meets next Thursday afternoon at the parsonage. Theo. P. Neste, pastor, 417 29th St.

First Lutheran.

Morning service will be held at 10:45 o'clock and evening service at 8 o'clock; both services in English. Subject of evening discourse will be "The Angels; Their Relation and Service to Man." All are cordially invited to attend.

M. E. Church.

Morning worship at 11 o'clock. "We Are Able." Sunday school, 12:15; Y. P. S. C. E., 7:00; evening worship, 8:00. "A Young Man's Vision." Rev. P. M. Ellefsen will preach in the M. E. church morning and evening.

Baptist Church.

Morning service will be conducted by Prof. S. K. Diebel. Sunday school and meeting of the Young People at usual hours. There will be no evening service.

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