

O. HENRY AND AL. JENNINGS

(Continued from last week)
CHAPTER FIFTY-EIGHT

If Porter caught the Value of the City) no other way, if he reached the veins leading to his heart. It is because he was an inveterate prospector, forever hunching his pick into the asphalt. He struck it rich in the streets and restaurants of Manhattan. Running through the hardfaced granite of its materialism, he came upon the deep shaft of romance and poetry.

Shot through every humdrum strata, the mellow gold of humor and pathos glared before his eyes. New York was his Goldfield. But his lucky strike was missed by Relentless Purpose, not Chance. No story writer ever worked more persistently than O. Henry. He was the Insatiable Explorer.

The average man adopts a profession of a trade. In his leisure he is glad to turn his attention to other hobbies. With O. Henry, his work made up the sum total of his life. The two were inseparable.

He could no more help noticing and observing and mentally stocking up than a negative could avoid recording an image when the light strikes it. He had a mind that innately selects and recounts the story.

Challenged Gold Found in Gravel. Sometimes as came upon the

gold already separated, as in the story Sue told him. Sometimes there was but a sparkle. In fact, it was seldom that he took things as he found them.

His gravel went through many a wash before it came out O. Henry's unalloyed gold. What would have been but so much crushed rock for another, gleamed with unguessed dust for him. So it was with "The Halberdier of the Rheinschloss."

"I'll introduce you to Pilsner," he said to me one night, when we started out on our rounds. "You'll like it better than your coffee strong enough to float your bandit bullets."

We went to a German restaurant on Broadway. We took a little table near the foot of the stairs. In one of his stories, O. Henry says that "the proudest consumption of a New Yorker's ambition is to shake hands with a spaghetti chef or to receive a nod from a Broadway head waiter." That mark of deference was often his.

The Pilsner was good, but the thing of chief interest to me was a ridiculous figure standing at the landing of the stairs tricked out as an ancient Halberdier. I could not take my glance from him. He had the shiftest eyes and the weakest hands. The contrast to his mighty coat of steel was laughable.

Story Written In Twelve Hours.

When I got to his room the big table where he did his writing was littered with sheets of paper. All over the floor were scraps written in long hand.

"When I get the returns on this I'll divvy up with you," Porter picked up a thick wad of sheets.

"Why?"

"It was you that gave me the thought."

"You mean the cigarette fiend in the armor?"

"Yes; I've just finished the yarn."

He read it to me. Just the merest glint had come to him from that steel plated armor. The Halberdier himself would never have recognized the gem Porter's genius had polished for him. The story just as it stands today was written by Porter some time between midnight and noon.

And yet he looked as fresh and rested as though he had slept ten hours.

"Do you always grab off an inspiration like that and dash it off without any trouble?"

Porter opened a drawer in the desk. "Look at those." He pointed to a crumpled-down heap of papers covered with his long freethair.

Trouble in Making One Story "Go."

"Sometimes I can't make the story go and I lay it away for a happier moment. There is a lot of unfinished business in there that will have to be transacted some day. I don't dash off stories. I'm always thinking about them, and I seldom start to write until the thing is finished in my mind. It doesn't take long to set it down."

I have watched him sit with pencil poised sometimes for hours, waiting for the story to tell itself to his brain.

O. Henry was a careful artist. He was a slave to the dictionary. He would pour over it, seeming to take an infinite relish in the discovery of a new twist to a word.

One day he was sitting at the table with his back to me. He had been writing with incredible rapidity, as though the words just ran themselves automatically from his pen. Suddenly he stopped. For half an hour he sat silent, and then he turned round, rather surprised to find me still there.

"Thirsty, Colonel? Let's get a drink."

"Bill," my curiosity was up, "does your mind feel a blank when you sit there like that?" The question seemed to amuse him.

"No but I have to reason out the meaning of words."

"Bill Porter Truest Man I've Known"

There was no ostentation in Porter, either in his writing or in his observations. I never saw him make notes in public, except once in a while he would jot a word down on the corner of his napkin.

He didn't want other people to know what he was thinking about. He didn't need to take notes, for he was not a procrastinator. He transmuted his thoughts into stories while the warm beat throbbed in them.

Careless and irresponsible as he seemed—almost aimless at times—I think there was in Bill Porter a purposiveness that was grim and so determined that he would allow no external influence to interfere with his plan of life.

I have sometimes felt that this passionate will to be himself at all times made him so aloof and reclusive. He sought companionship freely with strangers, for he could dispense with their company at will. He wanted to live untrammelled. And he did. He was incorrigibly stubborn minded. Of all the men I have ever known Bill Porter ran truest to the natural grain.

(Continued next week).

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE WITH POULTRY THERE CAN BE DONE HERE WITH POULTRY

The Success of a Well Known Douglas County Man With Poultry on a Commercial Scale Can be Repeated in the Salem District; Including Nearness to Markets.

J. H. Clark, Winchester, Or., poultryman, has just completed a new laying house to accommodate 800 chickens, which addition gives him one of the largest and most modern poultry farms in southern Oregon. Mr. Clark has made many substantial improvements on the farm which he recently bought and now has what is perhaps the best equipped plant in Douglas county. The building was started several weeks ago and is of the very latest type and contains many new features which will greatly assist in handling and caring for poultry in addition to providing suitable nests. Dust banks are located under the front part of the structure, which is 80 by 82 feet in size, making a very valuable addition to equipment already on the place.

Mr. Clark was one of the first residents of the Roseburg district to go into the poultry business on a commercial basis. He started with a 10 acre tract in Eden-bower, where he was able to carry about 1000 chickens. He developed this place to a very high point and was finding it very

profitable when he sold it at a very attractive figure to F. E. Chase, who still operates it at a substantial profit on his investment.

Mr. Clark then bought the 24-acre tract he now occupies at Winchester and has given his entire time and attention to its development. He will install all the latest and most improved devices and will have his place thoroughly equipped for the handling of poultry. He has given much study to the industry and has succeeded in conducting the business in a thoroughly efficient and profitable manner.

His present location gives him a large amount of available land on which he can raise all the feed necessary to keep the fowls in perfect condition, and in addition has room for his own home garden. His place adjoins the railroad and the Winchester station so that his shipping facilities are unexcelled.

Mr. Clark started in with a small investment and faith in Douglas county as a suitable place for poultry raising, and has demonstrated the correctness of his belief as well as provided himself with a well paying business. His success has led many others to engage in the industry until at the present time the county is rapidly becoming a poultry center.

Salem and Marion county offer

as many advantages to the poultryman as does Douglas county, and more, from the fact that soil and climatic conditions are similar, but this district is much nearer the Portland market, and other large markets, affording the advantage of cheaper freight and express rates for all poultry products, as well as such feedstuffs as the poultryman does not raise himself. With all the advantages found here in the way of cheap foothill, stump, or gravelly land,

all well adapted to poultry raising, plenty of building material right at hand for needed improvements, good roads and a nearby city market, most any man with a little capital and some knowledge of the poultry business should be able to duplicate the Clark's achievement and succeed here in the Willamette valley.

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"The History of the A. E. F.," by Captain Shipley Thomas.

"A Short History of the Italian People, from the barbarian invasions to the attainment of unity," by Janet Penrose Trevelyan.

"The United States in Our Own Times, 1865-1920," by Paul L. Haworth.

"Americans by Adoption," brief biographies of nine great citizens born in foreign lands, by Joseph Husband.

"Is Violence the Way Out of Our Industrial Disputes?" a dispassionate and proposed solution through arbitration courts and the encouragement of labor cooperative enterprises, advanced by John Haynes Holmes.

"High Speed in Typewriting," being a series of advanced lessons for the development of expertness in the operation of the standard keyboard typewriter, by A. M. Kennerly.

"Vocal Mastery," a collection of interviews with famous singers concerning their art, by Harriette Brower.

"Self-Help in Piano Study," practical lessons in piano technique and plain talks with piano teachers and students, by Harriette Brower.

"The Life and Letters of Paul the Apostle," by Lyman Abbott.

"Oliver Wendell Holmes: the Autocrat and His Fellow Boarders," an appreciation of the poet by S. M. Crothers, together with a few of Holmes' poems.

"The Rim of the Desert," by Ada Woodruff Anderson.

"Lister's Great Adventure," by Harold Bindloss.

"The Best of a Bad Job," by Norman Duncan.

"The Woman Haters," by Joseph C. Lincoln.

"Children's Books

"Boy's Motley," the story of the rise of the Dutch republic retold for boys from Motley's book, by Helen Ward Banks.

"Bird Gossip," by Harriette Wilbur.

"Pets and How to Keep Them," by Frank Finn. Among the pets included are birds, fish, tortoises, chameleons, frogs, lizards, newts, monkeys, and many less common beasts, as well as domestic animals.

"The Apple Tree Sprite," a story telling much about how the apple tree and fruit grow and weaving in many old stories about apples, told by Margaret Warner Morley.

"Flower Lore and Legend," by Katherine M. Beak.

"The Little People of Japan," a story of Japanese child life, by Lenore E. Mulets.

"The Story Readers First Year," by May Langdon White.

"The Story Readers Primer," by May Langdon White.

"First Reader," by Florence Bass.

"Stories to Act," by F. C. Wickens.

"The Holton-Curry First Reader," by M. A. Holton.

"The Holton-Curry Primer," by M. A. Holton.

"Storyland in Play," by Ada M. Skinner.

"Story Hour Plays," by F. S. Mintz.

"The Kendall First Reader," "Nixey Bunny in Holiday Land," by Joseph C. Sindelar.

Fire Department Holds "Open House"

GREAT FALLS, Mont., April 16.—The fire department of Great Falls held "open house" recently to the school children of the city and in addition being given the privilege of sliding down the poles in the station they were given instructions in the use of the apparatus.

Demonstrations with the trucks and ladders and exhibitions in life saving were other features. Upwards of 39 children are estimated to have attended and Fire Chief A. J. Trodick plans to have the children visit the department at least once annually in the future.

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