TENTH YEAR

HEPPNER, MORROW COUNTY, OREGON, TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1893.

SEMI-WEEKLY NO. 520.

## SEMIWEEKLY GAZETTE

Tuesdays and Fridays -nv-

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CHAPTER XII.



Pressing her hand and carrying it to his lips, Mark passed out. Souri determined to attempt to get service with the jailer's wife. She hoped that she might be received with suspicion while the prisoner was

away. Besides she non-communicate with her brother as soon as possible. She went into the jail and found a woman, whose hair was streaked with

gray, sweltering over a cooking stove.
"Y ain't got no washen ner nuffin fur
me, hab y'?" said Souri, suddenly appearing before her. "No! git out o' hyar."

"Any cooken?" "Cooken? Can ver cook? I don't want no nigger to cook fo' me, but there's niggers in the 'black hole' I wish I had some un ter cook fur."

"I'll cook fo' 'em.' Who owns v? "Tze a free nigger."

'Waal, I ain't got no money ter pay fo cook, and I reckon I'll have to sweat it out. Git long.

"I don't want nuffin but sump'n ter I can sleep at my aunt's, ober de hill.

boilen." And she drew away from the stove and mopped her face. Souri took hold and showed a pleasing aptitude at baking corn bread and

boiling some coarse meat which simmered in a pot on the stove. Presently the jailer came in, and tak-

ing some of the food lifted a trap door and lowered a meal to those below in the black hole. "Hyar's a gal," said his wife, "ez

hankers ter do some cooken fo' me."
"Ain't got nothen ter pay with."
"Don't want no pay," said Souri. "Tze starven. Want sump'n ter eat." "Waal, y' won't git much hyar," said the jailer, "but I reckon it's good nuff

fo' niggers." So Souri was allowed to help, but there was no understanding that her services should extend beyond the present moment.

She was leaning over the stove when been sentenced, and there was a haggard, hopeless look on his face as he passed the girl without noticing her. He was put in his room, and it was hard for Souri to keep from following to tell him of her coming. Jakey came in with

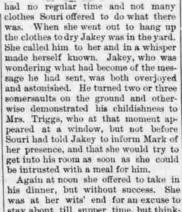
In the afternoon Souri saw that she must make work for herself or there would be no excuse for her to stay about the place. So, without saying a word, she took a pail of water and a scrubbing brush and began to scrub the floor. Then she suggested to Mrs. Triggs that she sweep her bedroom. The woman concluded that, as it had not been swept for more than a month, Souri "mought's well" do it, especially as the girl seemed to be willing to do all this work for a

little boiled meat and corn bread. "Ye' don' look right smart, Miss Triggs," said Souri, after cooking the supper and eating her share, "'n I don' know whar I gwine t' git any breakfast less I come 'n cook fur y'.

Mrs. Triggs succeeded in getting her husband's consent to Souri coming back in the morning, and the man went out to the gate with her and told her if the guard did not pass her in to send for him. She was at the jail bright and early and got in on telling the sentinel that was Mrs. Triggs' servant. She she cooked the breakfast, and when she saw Triggs about to carry Mark's meat and corn bread into him she offered to do it, but Triggs paid no attention to the offer

and carried it in himself. Then she asked Mrs. Triggs when she did her washing, and as the old woman





stay about till supper time, but think ing that Mrs. Triggs' wardrobe might need mending she offered to undertake the task, and spent the afternoon over the old woman's threadbare garments. All this while Souri was thinking of a plan for Mark's escape. She learned that he was to be banged in a few days and knew there was little time. The most natural plan under the circumstances occurred to her—a plan by which more prisoners have made their

escape than any other one methodwalking out before the guard in women's clothes. Souri determined, if she could secure an entrance into Mark's room at any time after dark, she would give him in the south at the time he knew he not, especially with Mark, to be comher dress and sunbonnet and leave him to make an attempt. Then she began to think over a plan to gain an entrance at a specified time.

In the evening her patience was re

grasped her hand. "Souri! God bless you!" he said in a "I ain't got no time ter talk. I'm

watchin fur a chance ter giv y' my clothes ter go out with." "But what would you and Jakey do? "Waal, take hold hyar fur a spell; I'm | he asked hurriedly. "Th' ain't goen ter hang a boy or a gal Pertend ter be sick termorrer 'n ask fur some medicine. Mebbe the:'ll send me

With that she went out. When Mrs. Triggs came in she was bending over the

"Whar's the Yank's supper?" she "Oh, 'twar gitten cold, 'n I toted hit

in ter him. Souri made herself so useful that she next day. She managed to keep an indifferent mien to all about her, but within there was a tempest. The next morning Mark was to swing, and preparations were being made for the purpose. "If there war only time," thought Souri, "I mought help him away, but tomorrer!" and no one being near to see her she wrung her hands. There seemed but little chance that, having only one Mark was brought back. He had just evening to effect her plans, she would

succeed. It could only be by good luck. In the afternoon Mark began to moan. what was the matter. Mark told him that he was ill. As the afternoon wore away the prisoner groaned and moaned told him that he thought he was going to die. Mrs. Triggs carried in his supper, but he refused to eat.

"What v' got? she asked. "Cholera, I reckon." "Good Lord!" "I want some medicine," said Mark "If you'll send the black girl for it I'll pay you and her well."
"Y' ain't got no money.

"Yes, I have, but y' don't know whar Mrs. Triggs reported the matter to her busband, who, fearing that the prisoner

would not be in condition for the hanging which was to occur the next morn ing, consented. Mark was furnished with a scrap of paper and a pen, and wrote the name of a mixture he remem bered for cholera morbus. Triggs told Souri to warn the druggist not to send poison, for he feared Mark might be intending to make way with himself to es cape the gallows. She was furnished with money extracted from Jakey's boot and hurried to town.

When she came back it was quite dark. Only a faint line of light was left in the west. As she entered she met Triggs going out of the gate. She quickly mounted the staircase with her heart in her throat. As soon as she entered the building she saw that Mrs. Triggs was not there; she was in her room

Souri went on tiptoe to Mrs. Triggs' call, and the man stood looking after door and looked in. The woman was him, doubtiess suspecting that the girl sitting on a chair by the window wait- was a runaway slave. ing her return. Souri went as quickly At last the grateful sight of the river

"Here, quick! A burnt cork. Rub't on yer face," she whispered.

Mark seized the cork and applied it. Souri stood in the corner with her back to him, and taking off her dress threw it

With perfect coolness.

He stood for a moment beneath a low to him. Mark took off his outer clothes and threw them to her. Each put on the other's garments, Mark inclosing his

head in the sunbonnet. Looking the gratitude he did not dare to speak; pressing her hand and carrying it to his lips, Mark passed out.

Then taking off his dress and shoes and bonnet he put the dress and the shoes in

so tall and strapping. Going out of the door and down the stairs, Mark went to the gate and walked listening a moment to make sure be was by the sentinel posted there, as Souri

had often done. The guard also noticed how tall she looked and called to her; but by this time Mark was well out of his reach and pretended not to hear. The sentinel, not thinking it worth while to follow and leave his post unprotected, let him go and thought no more about the



Mark had very little idea how long a time would elapse before it would be discovered that Souri was in his place and he had escaped. It might be a few minutes, it might be half an hour, it might possibly be not till morning, though of this he had little hope. He believed that within half an hour he

would be traced by bloodhounds. He had been about the town enough to know the direction of the river and started toward it. During the day he had thought over what he would do in warded. Mark's supper was standing on the stove. Triggs was not in the jail, and made up his mind that any delay in the store, and Mrs. Triggs went down the stairs getting across the river would be fatal, and a chance for his life.

In the evening ner patience of the stairs and made up his mind that any delay in into the river, for he then felt that he had a chance for his life.

In the position on his back he could be successful, and made up his mind that any delay in the water, and delay in the water water. the yard.

Souri caught up the supper and walked straight past the guard into Mark's room with it. Mark, who had been informed of her coming by Jakey, was expecting her. When he saw the mulatto girl he grasped her hand.

He was at home in the water, and determined that he would not attempt to only look upward at the stars. There was the great done above him spangled with myriads of bright points and spanned by the "milky way." He had always been fond of the stars, and in order to divert his mind picked out good swimmer. Once across the dogs other side, and if he should permit the current to carry him far down the until his nerves became quite steady.

stream the difficulty in doing so would be greatly increased Though Mark had been in prison but a few days the transition from duress to freedom was very grateful. It was a soft summer evening, and the larger stars had already begun to shine. Casting a glance to the right he saw a streak of light over Missionary ridge and or money refunded. Price 25 cents per of light over Missionary ridge and or money refunded. Price 25 cents per knew that before long he would be at a box. For sale by Slocum Johnson Drug disadvantage from the rising of a full Company. moon. He walked briskly whenever any person was in sight, and when he thought that he was unobserved he ran. When he first left the jailyard his heart was in his throat. His agitation diminwas permitted to stay about the jail the ished as he proceeded, and in five minutes he had come down like one in a race to a concentration of all his faculties-a gathering of all his forces for the struggle between life and death before him. With these well in hand the dreaded scope of the morrow acted as a

remendous and effective stimulant. No one of the few people who passed the strapping negro girl, whose face was hidden within the blue check sun bonnet, dreamed that a Union soldier was passing; that the scaffold was being cheated; that a messenger with the se-Triggs went in to see him and asked cret of one of the most important moves any Confederate general had made or was destined to make during the war was on his way north in the person of the party and went with Mark into his till Triggs went back to him, and Mark the negro woman hurrying on toward the river. And it was fortunate for the flying soldier they did not, or he would ever even have got half a mile from the jail.

He sped onward, running and walking briskly alternately, till he came to a place where a board fence was capped by a narrow strip. He mounted it and by a narrow strip. He mounted it and walked as far as the fence extended, perhaps a hundred yards, hoping by this means to throw the dogs off the scent for a few minutes, and thus gain a little time. Then he jumped down and hurried forward. A man passed and called to him, but he paid no attention to the

as she could go without being heard to met his gaze. It cheered him and seemed to becken him on to rest upon the prisoner's room.

"Medicine," she said to the guard and passed in without waiting permission, dreadful tragedy of the morning, to find passed in without waiting permission, oblivion beneath its surface. Between the river before him, and the jail, the dogs and the gibbet, for a time his feelings of hope and fear neutralized each other and left his faculties free to act

to wait for it to go by. He lost five minutes, but it seemed half an hour. The guard wondered why Souri looked the bonnet and tied the strings around his neck, resting the bundle on his back. not observed, he waded out as far as he could touch bottom, and then began to

As it was midsummer he had expected to find the water warm. His expecta-tions were realized to a reasonable degree, and he felt that he could remain in it a long while without being chilled. His plan was to drift down a considerable distance. He might be expected to swim across as rapidly as he could, and the current in this case would land him perhaps a mile below the town. Those who would follow him with dogs would doubtless track him to the river margin, then take the dogs across and endeavor to pick up the scent some distance below on the other side. Mark had weighed all these circumstances, and determined to drift down as far as possible, land at the mouth of a creek if se could find one, enter it and swim or walk up it in the water, thus rendering

it difficult for the dogs to track him. He swam slowly till he reached the middle of the river; then, floating with scarcely any motion of his hands and feet, he permitted himself to drift down with the current. A favorite way with him, when a boy, of resting in the water, had been to float on his back. Unmindful of the wetting he would give the clothes tied around his neck, he turned over and drifted with his arms spread beside him, his eyes turned

directly to the sky. It may seem singular that a man who was being carried from so dreadful a death should have thought of anything else. But Mark did not want to think of it. He had never been unnerved except after his sentence, with an almost certain execution before him, and felt it would be pursued, and as he was well best to let his mind drift into other acquainted with the methods in vogue channels. Then danger is not, and was pared with certain destruction. soldier on the field of battle is a differcase Souri's ruse should be successful, a changed man from the moment he got

some of his favorites and traced a few would have to pick up the scent on the constellations with which he was familuntil his nerves became quite steady.

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