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"USELESS JIM"

By William J. Lampton

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Jim Doty was the son of industrious and thrifty parents, but he was no exemplar of the doctrine of heredity. As a boy he had gone to school because if he had not gone there the truant officer would have made existence elsewhere uncomfortable for him, and Jim dearly loved to be comfortable. At school it was easier to remain at the foot of his class than higher up, so he philosophically chose the easy thing and stuck to it. Jim was not a mischievous boy or a bad one in any sense, because those attributes require effort to maintain them. As somebody had to be at the foot of the class, and there were those who were discontented there, the teacher accepted Jim as a special providence and made the most of him.

It's beyond me about Jimmie," his mother was wont to say. "He ain't a bad boy nor up to no mischief, and you'd think when he went to school he'd learn his lessons just because he didn't want to learn nothing else, but he won't learn a single thing, good or bad. He just seems to be everlasting do-less—settin' around and settin' around and settin' around. And I'm sure he don't get it from the Anderson side of the house neither."

Mrs. Doty was an Anderson, and this conclusion of hers was an unsupported assumption upon Mr. Doty because that worthy man not only made a very comfortable living, but owned a small farm and had money laid away for a rainy day.

When Jim was old enough to go to work, his father secured a place for him to learn the carpenter trade, which was rather a surprising selection, as success in that depended upon a skill which did not appear to be one of the characteristics of the young apprentice.

"I put him at that," Mr. Doty explained to an inquiring friend, "because I've seen that boy set on a soapbox in the shade and whittle for six hours hand runnin'. Of course he never whittles nothing out of the wood he uses up, but I kind of thought maybe he would learn to if I put him at carpenterin'."

Time, and not a very long time either, proved the speciousness of Mr. Doty's logic, and Jim was no longer seen about the shop where he had essayed to handle the drawknife and the saw.

After this attempt to make a skilled laborer of his son Mr. Doty thought possibly there might be an undeveloped instinct for agriculture in the youth, and Jim was sent to a farm not far from the village. His usefulness in that field was manifested within three days by his return to the parental roof.

"What's the matter now?" inquired his father when Jim walked into the house at supper time and calmly took his accustomed place at the table as if he had not missed a meal.

"Dunno," replied Jim unconcernedly. "Old man Sparks said he reckoned the mortgage on the place was about all the load it could carry at present, and he told me I could go."

Mr. Doty smiled. He couldn't be very harsh with his only son, because, while he did nothing to add to the glory and honor and wealth of the name of Doty, he did as little to bring shame or sorrow upon it. Mr. Doty recognized in Jim a negative blessing, and many fathers would be only too glad if they had such sons.

By the time Jim had reached his twenty-fifth year he had tried his hand at every kind of work the village and vicinity had to offer, and he had acquired nothing except the title of "Useless Jim." But Jim did not worry. He was a philosopher, and his good nature was imperturbable.

"Why the dickens don't you go to work, Jim?" said Hanks, the groceryman, one day as Jim sat on a salt barrel in the shade chipping away at the chine with his knife.

"Got a job you'd like to give me?" responded Jim in a willing tone, and the groceryman disappeared. He might be anxious enough to see Jim have a job, but he did not care to assume the relationship of employer.

As nothing else of a permanent character offered itself, Jim concluded, entirely on his own volition, to fall in love. They say an idle brain is the devil's workshop, and surely he found a fine place for his business in Jim. Why Jim ever fell in love nobody could say, and he did not know himself, nor did he think it worth the effort to discover. It was enough for him that he was in love, and he was serious about it, too—so serious, indeed, that he wanted to marry the object of his choice forthwith, thereby displaying a wholly unsuspected energy.

This object was Mary Canby, the blacksmith's daughter and also the village schoolteacher. She was pretty and bright, and she liked Jim because, although disinclined to bodily exertion, he was not slow of wit and he could talk well.

"For goodness sake, Jimmie," said his mother—she called him Jimmie, as if he were still a boy—"whatever do you want to marry for? You can't support yourself, much less a wife and family, and married women can't schoolteach to support their husbands."

"I dunno, mother," replied Jim, whittling a stick down to a fine point.

"Well, you ought to know," she said, letting her temper show itself. "You just can't marry, that's all. You're the uselessst thing on earth now, and married you'd be worse."

"I guess there's some use for me in the world, mother," Jim contended. "If there hadn't 'a' been, what do you s'pose the Lord put me here for?"

She looked him over as he stood in the doorway the very picture of careless indifference and shiftless good nature.

"Well," she replied, "he's the only one that knows, and he ain't told yet."

When Mary Canby discovered that Jim was beginning to "act foolish," she promptly but kindly told him of the utter uselessness of his suit.

"Why don't you want to marry me, Mary?" he asked in a dazed way, as if not comprehending the full purport of her decision. "We've always been friends, and you know you like me."

"I know, Jim," she said gently, "but like is not love, and one cannot marry without love."

"Do you love anybody else?" he asked, quickening a little. "I've heard that you thought a good deal of Jack Murfin and him of you."

Mary Canby was not coquetting with Jim Doty.

"Yes, Jim, I do," she answered frankly, "and Jack and I are to be married as soon as school closes for the summer."

Jim choked, and the tears came to his eyes.

"Mother said I wasn't any use in the world, and I guess I ain't," he said bitterly, hopelessly.

"Oh, yes, you are, Jim," she encouraged him. "Your chance hasn't come yet, but it will."

"I dunno," he sighed despairingly, and, turning away, he walked slowly homeward alone.

The village knew what was the matter with Jim for the next month or more, but it was considerate of his suffering, and he heard no jeering word nor the laugh that hurts.

Two weeks before the school closed Jim was down at the railroad shops where Jack Murfin was foreman. He was there chiefly because he did not happen to be elsewhere at the moment, and he was sitting in the shade whittling. Possibly he was somewhat more active than usual and was thinking, for he had just seen Jack Murfin walking across the yards toward a gap in the fence, and he knew the date of Jack's wedding day. They were not friends in the sense of associates, but Jack did not care how much Jim enjoyed himself about the place so long as he did not interfere with business, and Jim had never been given to interfering with business if it did not interfere with him.

Intent upon his thoughts, Jim continued whittling until presently he was recalled to his surroundings by a shout of alarm. It was Jack's voice, and, looking through the gap in the fence, he saw Jack lying across the rails, with his leg twisted under him and his foot fast in a frog. He had passed out to the main tracks, and Jim heard a train coming. Quicker than he had ever moved before in all his stagnant life, he cleared the space between them and stood in the track over his rival's body. The heavy engine coming down had been reversed, but too late, and no power on earth could stop it. But Jim never faltered. Lifting the prostrate man to a sitting position, he wrrenched his foot from the fatal clutch, and, with a giant's strength, he flung him outside the rails.

When Jim's body was picked up a few minutes later, a little life remained—just a fluttering spark, but enough to give the light that never fades.

"Jim, Jim!" cried Murfin, taking him in his arms.

"It's all right now, Jack," whispered Jim, opening his eyes and smiling. "Mary said I was some use in the world and my chance would come some time. Tell her!"

His words had come painfully and in gasps, and they stopped with the sentence unfinished. But Jack knew what to tell Mary.

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For full information please inquire of your local agent.

W. F. COMAN,
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HENDRICKS' ADDITION TO EUGENE.
To those desiring to purchase city lots, I have laid out an addition on the south side of the city and north of College Hill Park. I have 120 lots in this addition, and am selling them very low so as to enable every one to have a home of their own. The price of these lots is from \$50 up.

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I have some very desirable lots in this addition, in the very heart of the city and within a few blocks of Willamette street.

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I have 100 lots in this addition. The price now is \$50 each. I will advance the price soon. We expect College Hill Park to become the most desirable residence property in or near the city.

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We have 70 lots for sale cheap in this addition; also 40 or 50 acres of very choice fruit land. I have on this place 1300 young fruit trees, about 400 Bartlett pear trees, and 200 black walnut trees, also apples, plums and small fruits. This place has a good farm house, barn and out-houses, and is a most beautiful suburban piece of property. It is known as the Locust Hill farm, and there is no place in the state more beautifully and pleasantly situated.

I am not in real estate business as a business—we sell our own lands only. I employ no agents. Any one desiring to purchase any of this property will find me at the First National Bank. I will be pleased to show property and give prices. I might exchange some of this property for good timber land. Come and see me.

New Addition to Eugene.

R. F. Baker & Co. have platted the R. F. Scott land consisting of 82 lots situate two blocks south of the Patterson school building. These are desirable lots and are for sale at reasonable prices. For further information call on

R. F. BAKER,
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I offer for sale at a low price 120 acres of land 2 1/2 miles southwest of Eugene; about 45 acres of same cleared; plenty of water. Also 41 acres 2 miles west of Eugene, and 5 acres close to the corporate limits on the west. Also 16 acres of nice bottom land 3 1/2 miles north of Eugene on river road.

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Help Wanted.

MILKER WANTED.—Inquire of S. M. Douglas, Eugene.

WANTED.—Girl to do general housework. Enquire of Mrs. R. McMurphy.

WANTED.—One hundred teams to haul ore from Bohemia (Helsa No. 2) to Hedrock. Price \$3.00 per ton. Roads good. Teams can earn as high as \$40 per week. W. F. Morphy, Ore Hauling Dept., Pacific Timber Company, Cottage Grove, Oregon.

WANTED.—Several persons of character and good reputation in each state (one in this county required) to represent and advertise old established wealthy business houses of solid financial standing. Salary \$18.00 weekly with expenses additional, all payable in cash each Wednesday direct from head office. Horse and carriage furnished, when necessary. References. Enclose self-addressed envelope. Manager, 306 Caxton Building, Chicago.

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LOST.—On road from Eugene to McKenzie Bridge a pair of No. 3 ladies' new shoes. Finder please leave at GUARD office.

LOST.—A blue silk umbrella. Finder will please leave at the home of Mrs. Minnie Washburne.

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Ar Portland	8:30 a.m.	8:30 p.m.	
Ar Eugene	2:08 p.m.	1:15 a.m.	
Ar Ashland	12:30 a.m.	12:58 a.m.	
Ar Sacramento	5:00 p.m.	4:25 a.m.	
Ar San Francisco	7:45 p.m.	8:15 a.m.	
Ar Ogden	5:45 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	
Ar Denver	9:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	
Ar Kansas City	7:25 a.m.	7:25 a.m.	
Ar Chicago	7:45 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	
Ar Los Angeles	1:20 p.m.	7:00 a.m.	
Ar El Paso	6:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	
Ar Fort Worth	6:30 a.m.	6:30 a.m.	
Ar City of Mexico	9:55 a.m.	9:55 a.m.	
Ar Houston	4:00 a.m.	4:00 a.m.	
Ar New Orleans	6:25 p.m.	6:25 p.m.	
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Leaves Corvallis.....1:50 P.M.

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Leaves Corvallis.....11:30 A.M.

Arrives Albany.....12:15 P.M.

No. 3 for Detroit.....

Leaves Albany.....1:00 P.M.

Arrives Detroit.....5:45 P.M.

No. 4 from Detroit.....

Leaves Detroit.....6:30 A.M.

Arrives Albany.....11:00 A.M.

Trains 1 and 4 arrive in Albany and connect with the S.P. bound train as follows giving two or three hours in Albany for departure of S.P. north bound train.

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