PRISON LIFE IN TEXAS.

Capture, Imprisonment and Escape of J. N. Howard, Co. "E," 32 Iowa Volunteers.

CHAPTER V.

We traveled on as usual until the ninth day, when our provisions failed us and we had again to look for food. We traveled on two nights more without finding any chance to get anything to eat except grape vines and basswood sprouts. The eleventh it rained all day, commencing before daylight. Food scarce, hungry, wet and cold we made up our minds to have something to eat, or make a big effort too at any rate. Just before sundown we started to find a road. We had not far to go until we came to one. Following it about a mile, we came to one of those big, double houses with a portico between so common in the south. As we came up to the house there was a young white lady with a milk bucket on her arm, putting the cow in the yard for the night. Jewitt said:

"Madam, what is the nearest town on this road?"

She answered "Mt. Pleasant,"

"How far is it?" he asked.

"Five miles" she replied.

She never turned her head to look at us, and with thanks for the information we passed on. After getting out of ear shot, I said.

"Did you see any negroes?"

"No," they answered.

I said "I believe they are a union family, as they do not appear to be sociable with the soldiers."

"I believe they are myself," said Jewett.

"Well," said Packard, "If you think they are, let us pick out a good place to camp, and Jewett go to the house and stop as a rebel soldier on a furlough, and if they are union, get some food."

"Oh," said Jewett, "that is too risky. Let us stop here and try to steal something to eat."

Packard then asked me if I would attempt it.

After some little study I thought it too hazardous, but Packard, who was a tonguey sort of a fellow, and a brave boy, decided to go and try, so we turned from the road into the timber where we picked out a place so that he could find us again, and changeing hat and coat, he made a detour so that he came up to the house from the opposite direction. It was raining hard all the time. As he came up to the house there was an old lady standing in the door.

"Madam" said he, "can you keep a poor soldier over night?"

"We are not in the habit of keeping folks she said, with slight hesitation, but I would not turn a dog off such a night as this." "Come in."

Accepting the invitation to the warmth of an open fire place, the old lady began to quiz him immediately; asking all sorts of questions, where had came from; where he was going to; when he thought the war would end; what side he thought would whip; and many other questions too numerous to answer here. There appeared to be no other person around, which seemed strange to him. While they were still talking, the old gentleman came in, he civilly bade him good evening and after some little conversation, in which his wife informed him that Packard was a soldier stopping for the night. The old gentleman began questioning him, following nearly the same line of questions as did the old lady.

While in conversation with the old gentleman, Packard was so eager to learn his sentiments, that he became incautious, and in speaking of the union forces used the pronoun "us" or "we". He noticed the oversight immediately and watched to note the effect on the old people. They didn't seem to notice it, but he could not say as much for the other members of the family which consisted of two young ladies who sat behind him while he noticed that the old gent sat suspiciously near a loaded rifle. He was more cautious after this slip of the tongue.

At eight o'clock in the evening he had supper. Never did minutes seem so long to any poor mortal as it did to him while it was in preparation.

I said to Packard as he left us, "if you get anything to eat bring something to us if possible." So at the supper table he tried to slip some food into his pocket unseen, but failed to do so, as only he and the old folks at the first table, while the daughter and daughter-in-law waited upon the table, and one or the other was watching him all the time. He ate as long as the old people did and for some time after, then did not have near enough but forced himself to stop as they began to gaze at him on account of his extraordinary apatite.

At ten o'clock they spoke of retiring to rest. Packard put on his shoes; (which he had taken off to dry his socks,) and started for us boys as fast as the darkness and the density of the timber would admit. he went as near as he could to where he had left us and softly called us by name.

No answer.

He called, and still the same result.

We heard him all the time but did not dare to answer. He began to think he was deserted but he called again as loud as he dared. We gave him; a faint answer, and he followed the sound and found us concealled under a log to protect ourselves from the storm.

The first question I asked him was "have you anything for us to eat."

"No" he answered.

I then asked him if they were union people and he replied that he could not say for certain, but he thought they were.

Packard agreed to try in the morning and get the old man out doors, away from his rifle, and find out whether he was union or not.

"Packard, come to us as soon as you can, for pity's sake, as we are almost starved." He promised compliance, and returned to the house and went to bed, pulling off his shirt as well as other clothing. By this time our clothing had become pretty well seeded with graybacks. He took a sweet sleep and arose as early in the morning as any of the family and again tried to pump the old man and learn his sentiments, but could get him to say nothing for or against either side. He gave up the job until after breakfast, which they did not eat until eight o'clock. In the conversation the night before he had learned the names of the different ferry's on Red river and to cross on the one that he wished to, the old man said he would have to take a different road, and he would go and show him a path leading to it that would shorten the distance.

The object was to get the old man away from the family that he might ascertain his true sentiments. After getting a short distance from the house the old gents little grand-child came running after them with a couple of biscuits in her hand saying "ma says put them in your pocket for a lunch;" he accepted them and they started on into the timber out of sight of the house, Packard turned square about and said, "old man, I suppose you think I am a rebel soldier, do you not?"

"Well, yes, you said you were."

"Well I am not, I am a union soldier trying to escape from the rebel prison and I believe you to be a union man, and if you are, now is the time to show it."

"Ah, ha, you can't fool me that way" said the old man.

Packard replied, "I was fooling you last night, but am telling you the truth now."

After some further conversation in which he failed to convince him that he was what he claimed to be (a union soldier) he said to him, "do I talk like a southern man?"

"No, but you said last night that your former home was in Missouri and I supposed that was the reason that you talked different from us."

Packard answered "my real home is in Iowa and I have a couple of comrades out here in the brush that are nearly starved, having been without food for two days. And if you are a unionist now is your time to say so."

The old man looked him square in the eye for nearly a minute, and finally said, "you look as though you were telling the truth and I will have to trust you if I do get bit. I will now tell you why I was so suspicious of you. The rebels suspected my disloyalty to their cause and sent a soldier to entrap me, in precisely the same manner in which you have come. I was loth to express my sentiments and the result was, the rebs had me arrested and I laid in jail at Mt. Pleasant for over three months. I did not care for such an experience again. Go and get your two comrads and if they are alright you will find me the same."

Packard came to us and the first question was "what luck Packard?" "They are union to the back bone." He then gave us the two biscuits and we though they certainly were the sweetest morsels we had ever tasted. After washing at the brook we repaired to the house, and I tell you we got a good breakfast. Packard said it was better than he got.

They made us a good cup of what they called Lincoln coffee which they had had in the house ever since the first of the war, and kept it on hand in case of emergency. The old gentleman asked Packard if he did not want some more breakfast but he replied that he had enough for that morning but had arose from the table hungry the night before. The old gent's daughter said that she had noticed Packard's mistake in speaking the evening before; but had thought it another plan to entrap her father and so let it pass as though not noticed. We stayed there that day.

The girls killed and cooked three chickens and baked nine pies and filled our haversacks with biscuits and fourteen pounds of bacon. Besides all this, the girls kept watch while we rested as we were within 5 miles of Mt. Pleasant where there was a regiment of rebel soldiers who were passing and repassing the house. The arrangments were that if any of them should stop we should step up stairs, but fortunately for us, they did not call. We remained at the house until after dinner. The family then expressed a desire that we should retire to the cotton gin as they were quite uneasy for fear that they would be detected in concealing union soldiers. We complied with their request and went to the cotton gin and remained there until dark, when we were called to partake of a splendid supper of hot biscuits and butter, chickens, cake and pie, and a fine cup of coffee, which we enjoyed with a relish.

It was now time for us to start on our journey. We were loth to leave our friends for it was the first act of kindness and the first sympathy shown us since we left our father's home. We left those friends in tears. The old gentleman accompanied us ten miles in order to show us how to avoid a certain swamp. Let me say right here that as long as I live I shall not think of that family without heartfelt gratitude for their timely assistance.

After the old gent left us we struck a small piece of prairie land, the first we had seen in Texas. It was two miles wide we discovered that we were coming down to low land or a swamp. We always had warning of the swamp before we got near it, by the hooting of the owls and croaking of the wonderful frogs that inhabit those places. How lonely and desolate it seemed. As we neared the timber we began to come to mud and water which was over our shoe tops. Our road for two miles was in this swamp and then we came to a stream; we had no little difficulty in crossing. It now being nearly day light we concealed ourselves in the bushes and lay down to rest. Here we remained until three o'clock, when we made up our minds, as there was no settlements, that we would risk traveling in daylight. We must have tramped some ten miles between that time and dark, when we came into some rough bluffy land. We thought it had the appearance of the Red river country, but we made no halt until about twelve o'clock that night, at which time it got so dark that we were compelled to stop. As we were being guided by the north star in cloudy weather we had to lay by. I told the boys we would make a fire and try to bake us some bread for we still had some meal that we got from the negroes. Now to do this was the next question, as we were minus a dish to mix our bread or bake it in but as necessity is the mother of inventions we appropriated to our use some very large oak leaves, spreading them out on the ground and bringing some water from a brook near by in a goard we mixed it up. By the use of some more leaves placed on top of the dough we were enabled to cover it with ashes and fire. We got our fire kindled and placed some pine boughs around it to hide the reflection of the light. I told the boys to lay down and sleep and I would bake the bread, which they did. They had just got to sleep nicely when I heard something coming directly toward us, I said nothing, at first. I thought I would see what it was or find out whether it was after us or not, I waited until I founn that it was something on our track, and its tread in the leaves sounded like the walk of a man. I now called the boys. After an anxious study we decided that it was a bear or some wild animal, which reassured us for we knew if it was we could keep it from us by the use of fire, but whatever it was, it came up to within ten rods of us, and stopped for some little time, then passed off taking a circutious route until it was directly opposite us, then dissappeared.

By this time I had the bread baked and burned until it was as black as a coal. The sky was now clear and we could resume our march. We had not gone but a short distance when we came on low land covered with water, shoe deep. Here we struck an old road but we did not know where we were though we hoped we were on the Red river bottom. We must have traveled five miles when we came to a stream with very steep banks. It seemed to be dead water and no current. We made up our minds that it might be a tributary to Red river. I went down to the water and dipped some of it up in a goard and brought it to the boys who on examination decided that it was Red river water. Now how to get across on the other side we could not tell but we followed along the bank for a short distance when we came to a large tree that had fallen directly across it. This seemed providential or otherwise a very lucky chance. We got across and passed up the bank through very thick brush for a quarter of a mile when we came to a fence. We now looked across a large plantation and on the opposite side we could see what looked like a small village. Now we must get around this place if possible without being discovered. We started across the field leaving the village to our left. As we came to the other side of the plantation we found ourselves on the bank of Red river. We were now just one hundred miles from where we had left our comrades in prison and here was the greatest obstacle that we had found, How to get across with our clothing was the problem. Something must be done without delay as it was in the after part of the night, and we must be on the other side by daylight. We looked along the river's edge for a skiff, but we could not find any. The river was very wide and full of alligators. After rambling up and down the stream and waking all the dogs in the village and meeting with no success we made a raft of dry logs tied together with basswood bark with the same for two ropes. I mounted the raft with a long pole in my hand and paddling with all my might while Packard and Jewett swam for the other shore. The current was very strong and down the stream we went but Packard was an extra swimmer in fact they were both good. It did not take them very long to reach the other shore. We gave our raft a shove and sent it down stream, for by this time it was nearly daylight and we could look back and see the little village and the inhabitants moving about.

Now the great barrier was past and I felt greatful to the boys for helping me across the river. I thought it providential that we had got across without being discovered. We now made our way across the bottom which was about five miles wide and struck the bluffs. Here we stopped in the thick brush for the day, but had just got settled when we heard someone hallooing and the deep baying of hounds, but we knew that they were not after us as they were in the opposite direction. When they came in sight we saw that it was an Indian out hunting. He passed without seeing us.

Here we stopped until night fall when we again started on our journey.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

EFFECT OF TOBACCO ON THE HEART.

Experiments by Dr. Schall, of New York, on the effects of cigaretts upon the nervous system, are described in The Medical Times (January). The subject of the experiments, a well-known New York actress, was chosen on account of her robust health, which might be supposed to resist the effects of nicotine, if anything could do so. The results are thus described: "In the presence of two or three physicians, the sphygmograph [pulse-indicator] was attached to the wrist and a tracing taken of the heart-beats. The tracing showed not one particle of variation from perfect health. The whole venous and arterial circulation was perfectly normal. At the end of fifteen minutes, after having smoked the half of two cigaretts, the tracings showed a maniest disturpance of the heart's action, and at the end of forty-five minutes, after parts of six cigaretts had been smoked, the tracing showed the beat of the heart to be unequal; at times rapid, at times in jumps, evidently under the effect of some powerful drug agent. From this fact alone may we not conclude that much of the neurasthenia, including a general disturbance of digestive organs, now so common in that portion of the female sex who have ample means and leisure to indulge in any luxury agreeable to their taste, or which, for the time being, may contribute to their enjoyment, is due to narcotics, which should only be used medicinally?"

Dr. John Watson' better known perhaps as Ian Maclaren, said to an English interviewer on his return home that American women "dress very well, and have, as a rule, vivacious and sympathetic temperaments, with charming manners." This is quite to the point, but the doctor adds that wome in this coun, try "do not take nearly so much parin public life as English women do. For instance, they took no part in the recent presidential election. Female canvassers are unknown in the states." The novelist is not as accurate in this as in his preceeding remarks, Although American women voted for President in but four small states, and in those voted wrong, their influence in the states that named the next Chief Magistrate was no slight element in securing the victory. It would pobably be found on close coparrison that there is a feminine side to poltics in this country more effective in its quiet way than anything of the kind known in England.

Mr. Ward L Smith, of Fredericks-town Mo., was troubled with chronic diarrhoea for over lhirty years. He had become fully satisfied that it was only a question of a short time until he would have to give up. He had been treated by some of the best physicians in Europe and America but got no permanent relief. One day he picked up a newspaper and chanced to read an advertisement of Chamcerlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhea Remedy. He got a bottle of it, the first dose helped him and its continued use cured him. For sale at Delta Drug store.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the will of Robert Imbrie, deceased, late of Washington County, Oregon, and appointing the undersigned executor thereof, has been duly admitted to probate in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Washing on county, and letters testamentary thereon issued to the undersigned, and that I have duly qualified and entered upon the discharge of m duties. All persons therefore having claims against said estate of Robt. Imrie, deceased are hereby requested and required to present them, with the proper vouchers, to me at the office of the County Clerk in Hillsboro, Washington County, Oregon, within six months from the date hereof.

JAMES A. IMBRIE,
Executor of the last will and Testament of Robert Imbrie, deceased.

Dated at Hillsboro Oregon, this 8th day of January 1897. 36-40.

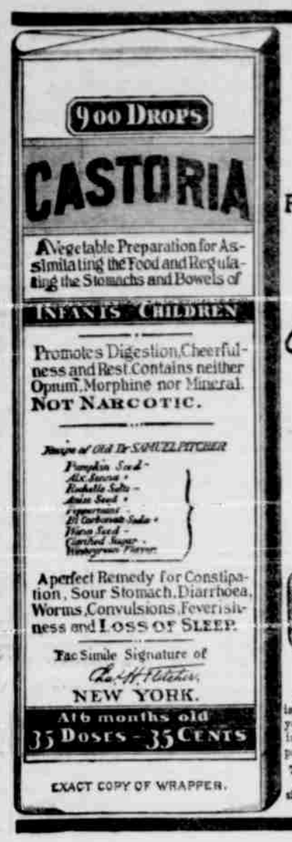
ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT in pursuance of an order of the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Washington County, made on the 11th day of January 1897, in the matter of the estate of J P Vaughn deceased, and to me as administrator thereof derected.

I will, on Saturday the 20th day of February 1897, at the south door of the Court House, in Hillsboro, Washington County, Oregon, at the hour of ten o'clock a. m. of said day, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real property, to-wit:

All of lots numbered seven (7) and eight (8) of and in blk no. three (3) of and in south Park add to the town of Forest Grove, and also the undivided one-third int in and to th of lots numbered one (1) two (2) three (3) and four (4) of and in blk numbered nine (9) and all fractional blk no ten (10) in the town of Dilley Washington County, Oregon.

J. C. CLARK.
Administrator of the estate of J. P. Vaughn deceased. 35-39



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EXECUTOR'S SALE OF REALITY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT in pursuance of an order of the County Court of the State of Oregon for Washington County made on the 11th day of January A. D. 1897 in the matter of the estate of Alois Hardweiger, deceased, the undersigned was authorized and directed to sell at private sale certain real estate belonging to aforesaid estate and in said order and hereinafter particular described, I will on and after the 19th day of February 1897 offer at private sale on the premises, all of the interest of aforsaid Alois Hardweiger, deceased, at the time of his death or since acquired by his estate in the following described real estate to-wit: Situate in Washington County Oregon and being the S ½ of the N E ¼ and the N W ¼ of the S E ¼ of sec 26 T 2 N R 4 W of the will. mer., containing 160 acres.

Terms of Sale: Gold Coin of the United States, one-half of purchase price in hand, the balance payable on the 1st day of September. Deferred payment to be secured by note and mortgage on the premises sold. Expenses of deed and mortgage to be at the expense purchasers.

JOSEPH HARDWEIGER.
EXECUTOR.

CITATION.

IN THE COUNTY COURT, OF THE State of Oregon, for Washington County.

In the matter of the estate of Sarah J. Mull, deceased.

To Charles Henry Willoughby, John W. Masters, Mary E. Lystrop, Chris. Lystrop, Elizabeth A. Jack, Calvin Jack, Laura Steeples, D. P. Steeples, Sarah Curran, James Curran, Thurston L. Masters and William Masters and to all persons interested in said estate. Greeting:

In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby cited and required to appear in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Washington, at the Court room thereof, at Hillsboro, in the County of Washington on Saturday the 23rd day of February 1897, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, then and there to show cause, if any exist, why an order of sale of the following described real property, situate in Washington County, Oregon, and described as follows to-wit: First tract: That part of the Donation land claim of A. J. Masters and Sarah J. Masters his wife in t 1, s r 2 w, Will Mer boundded and described thus: Commencing at a point n 1° 30' e 45.28 chs and 4.11 chs e from the s w corner of the n ½ of said donation land claim thence n 12.12 chs thence e to a line of railroad thence s 81° 40' e to the n w corner of land now owned by Hansen in said claim thence s 1° 30' w 9.30 chs to a line of James Rasmussen land in said claim thence westerly on said n line of James Rasmussen land to the place of beginning containing 18¾ acres. Second tract: a part of the s ½ of the donation land claim of A. J. Masters and Sarah J. Masters his wife in t 1 s r 2 w Will Mer bounded by commencing at a point on the e line of the s ½ of said claim said point being 25.80 chs n of the s line of said claim thence running s 1° 30' w 8.80 chs thence s 87° 15' w to the west line of said claim, thence n on said w line to the n w corner of said south half of said donation claim, thence e on said n line of said s ½ to the place of beginning containing 13.21 acres more or less should it not be made as prayed for in the petition of Thos. Humphries Executor of the last will and testament of Sarah J. Mull deceased filed in this court and cause.

Witness, the Hon. R. P. Cornelius, Judge of the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Washington, with the seal of said Court affixed this 20th day of January 1897.

Attest: J. A. IMBRIE, Clerk.
[SEAL]
35-39 By W. W. McKinney, Deputy

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