# NOBODY'S PROPERTY.

Continued from First Pour. Finally, when she had brought a bright er look to his face, she exclaimed

"Did you know, Alfred, that while you were fighting Yankees at the front my mother and I were nursing one at

"Indeed, no?" replied Layburn, much Interested. "I wrote you of it in my last letter,

which you failed to receive. One of the Federal prisoners here was very ill with typhoid fever, and the surgeon said he would die if he were not moved to a more airy room and given better care. My mother heard of it and had him brought here." "Did he recover?"

"Yes. He began to improve almost immediately and in a few weeks was quite recovered. You see, he had passed the crisis of the disease and was dying merely from the lack of favorable conditions-proper food, care and all that kind of thing. He was a ceptain and really a fine fellow. I did not believe a Yankee could be so nice. Mother be-came quite attached to him, and he was the most grateful being I ever saw. He said we had saved his life. You should have been here the day he



"Now, boys, I have a grand scheme." went away. It was pathetic-the parting. I truly believe he was sorry to leave."

"I've not a doubt of it," said Layburn, a little uneasily. Pretending not to note the slight change in the man's voice, the young girl continued:

"But listen. I haven't told you all The strangest thing is to come, and it bales of the south's great staple. The reminds me of a novel. Captain Adams -that's his name-has returned. He has been appointed to command the Federal garrison, and since he came back he is constantly attempting to do mother some kindness. He insists upon supplying her with groceries from the barracks at cost. He would like to make her a present of them, but he knows she would not accept them." "Does he come to call?" asked Lay

burn, a little glumly. metimes.

With a strong effort Layburn strove to strangle the demon that rose for a moment in his heart. It was not beuse Adams was

say you are equal to 'em." interpolated the old man, with a smile. "Thank you, Mr. Paimer," said Mertweather, twisting his body impatiently.

"But, for heaven's sake, go on!" "Steady, boys, strady," said Paimer, with keen enjoyment. "This isn't a cav-airy charge; it's a scheme. So just listen and possess your souls in patience." Layburn gave Meriweather a cuutioning glance not to Interrupt again, and after blowing his nose the old man resumed.

"Perhaps you boys know, or perhaps you don't, that a part of the Confeder ate taxes was collected on the tithe system. This applies especially to farm produce. The tax in kind of po-tatoes and breadstuffs was quickly sent to the front and consumed by the army, but it was not the case with the tithes of cotton. This tax was collected by special agents and stored away till the government found opportunity te

sell it, and orders were given these agents to conceal the cotton whenever there was reason to apprehend a raid by the Federal army, and on its approach to burn it when in danger of falling into the enemy's hands. Some-

times this order has been executed, but in numerous instances only the part relating to concealment has been carried you? out. Consequently when Lee surrendered there were thousands of bags of cotton hidden in the hills and swamp

all over the south, Now, where is that cotton at the present-moment, and to whom does it belong? Well, boys, there are hundreds of bags in this very coun

ty, and, according to my opinion- and I hold myself an honest man-it is no-body's property. To return it to the "Jack." said Layburn when taxpayers is utterly impracticable, and, such being the case, it seems to-me,

since the Confederacy is no more, that to one has a better right to the cotton or stands in more need of it than the surprise. "By Brown." poor ragged soldier boys who have

ought for the soil that produced it." "Bravo, bravo!" exclaimed Jack Meriin the community."

"Do you know where any of this co ton is concealed?" asked Layburn ea gerly. 'You are an inhuman old man if you

don't after all this preamble," added Meriweather. "I do, boys, I do," said the old plant-

weather.

"Hurrah, hurrah!" cried Meriwea-

ther. . "Stop your racket," said the planter sternly, for Meriweather had attracted the attention of several Federal soldiers on the street.

"If you don't move on the dead quiet you will ruin everything. All this Confederate cotton is being seized as soon as discovered by the Yankee garrisons as government property." "Mr. Palmer," said Layburn serious

ly, "if you will tell us where this cotton is concealed and give us your advice in regard to securing it, we will be supremely grateful and endeavor to follow your counsel in every particu | feet.

The old planter, seeing that the two young men had sobered down and were now in the proper frame of mind to be trusted with this great secret, drew to one side and revealed to them the situation of the cumbersome but valuable first thing to do was to convey the bags from the recesses of the swamp, where plain but satisfying meat, of which

they were hidden, to some stable or outhouse and remove the Confederate label and give each bale a private mark This accomplished, it would not be difficult to ship it by a night boat to Mobile, where it could be easily sold or sent to Liverpool and there marketed. "The main obstacle," concluded the old man, "is the hiring of a wagon

with which to bring the stuff out of the swamp. It is a risky business, and no body likes to let a wagon and mules for such a purpose. The work has te be done at night, and if you are caught

if conscience if we can get the coffon without being captured by the blue-coats," said Meriweather debonairly. "Yes: that's the difficulty, that's the rub." said Brown prusively. "Adams. the commander of the garrison, is very active. He has confiscated a great deal of government cotton in the county, and there isn't much left. I am in clined to think these fifty bags that Palmer has told you of are the last of

"I presume, Mr. Brown," said Layburn after a pause, "that you are go-ing to hire us your wagons and teams. that the young men were inclined at first to distrust it. They would have We are willing to pay you the highest liked it better had it presented more price." obstacles, but every attempt to find a "I was just coming to that," sold reasonable objection was met and over-

Brown, with oily suavity. "I really want to oblige you, and we shau't edge of skiffs, flatboats and the neigh-boring river was founded upon the exquarrel about teruis. When do you wish the wagons?" "Tonight," said Leybern.

"You mean business, I see," smilled to circumvent more surely Brown's the merchant. "But, gentlemen, it is suspected trickery it was determined

impossible to accommodate you to night. One of my wagons has gone to to execute it that night. At Ben's request the preliminary arrangement Gainsville, and one of the mules that | were left to him, and the meeting addraw the other wagon is lame. Now, Journed. if you'll put it off two nights I can let As the young men left the stable you have both wagons. There's really Layburn remarked that their return to no hurry, you know. You'll wait, won't

civil life was apparently destined not to be devoid of excitement. The man's tones were almost be "True," replied Meriweather, "but running off Confederate cotton is not a

seeching. "I suppose we must," said Meriglorious occupation." weather, greatly disappointed. "What glorious as seeking the hubble reputs

do you say, Alf?" "We will let the matter rest for the

"Jack," said Layburn when they reached the street, "If we follow Brown's advice and wait till Thurs

day night we will be forestalled." "By whom?" asked Meriweather in

"Oh, no, Layburn. He would not do such a dirty trick. It would ruin him

"You don't understand. He will carry off the cotton and then evince the greatest surprise and indignation when

we tell him we have been to the place and found it missing. The thing will be managed so neatly that there will not be a shred of evidence against him.

But there he is at the window watching us. Let us walk on," said Layburn, fitting his pipe. "Well, what can we do in the matter?

"Well, what can we do in the matter? ty feet in length that Ben had provid-We can't insult the man by manifest-ing any discust," said Merianthese defor the propulsion of the boat, and ing any distrust," said Meriweather when they had turned a corner.

"Of course not," returned Layburn. They stopped under a large china tree on a side street and leaned against the fence in silent meditation. Baffled in the first move and conscious that delay was dangerous, for a few moments their thoughts were as confused and formless as the dappled sunlight that, sifting through the wind shaken boughs, quivered on the sand at their

Meriweather looked Layburn in the

"We won't give it up, Alf?"

"Never, Jack. We've got to have that cotton," replied Layburn. "Come home with me and we'll talk it over with old Ben." It was quite dinner time when they

reached the Layburn mansion, After a



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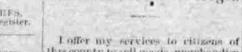
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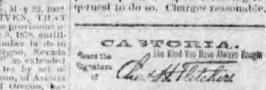
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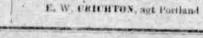
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ers made the air heavy with Tragrance, while from the banks on either hand came the sounds of the swamp, the melancholy voices of whippoorwills in reiterant song, and ever and anon some owl would ery "tuwho, tuwhoo," and

king round.

his breath.

skiff.

sum," replied Meriweather.

logs and roofed with bark.

weather angrily.

To be Continued.

then break into a peal of glastly laughter. After about an hour and a half old

Ben exclaimed: "Marse Alf, we's mighty nigh dar."

CHAPTER IL

come by the old negro, whose knowl

perience of a lifetime. After a long

"No," responded I syburn, "not as

tion at the cannon's month, but I

promises to be vastly more incrative."

During the intervening time befor

o'clock, the hour appeinted for the

expedition, Uncle Ben waxed marvel-

"Ole man," said his wife, Nancy, aft. er a series of subbings, "what's de

matter wid yo'? Yo' atruis moun

lak yo' done when old marse bought

"Shet up, 'eman, an' scour dat shill

let! Yo' gwine see me drivin' fine

At 8 o'clock that evening Layburg

'e thousand dollar carriage horses."

ously self important.

horses ag'in of 36' live."

In five minutes more Layburn saw a break in the margin of the stream, fringed with caue and overhung by grapevines. It looked like the begin-ning of a bayon. It was in reality the mouth of Blackherry crash fringed with caue and overhung by ning of a bayon. It was in reality the mouth of Blackberry creek.

and Mer'weather found that all was in readiness on the beech shaded bank of the river adjacent to the Layburn gin house. On the explicious dathoat Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878 which was almost concealed by the NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION willows and muscadines that bordered and festooned the marge of the stream, UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE. NOTICE IS HEREICY OUNS, Mag 12, 1962 were several poles twenty-five or thir-

ed for the propulsion of the boat, and tied to one end of the boat, and roomy skiff for the navigation of In the States of California, "reg u, Nevau and Wayshingto, herethery" as defende to all the Public Land. States is a si-suggest 4, 1897, Lizzae Yaya of Astron county of Classop. States of Origina, he this day filed in this office his size cose; No. 5602, for the urahase of the S W Section No. 9 for T.3 X R 5 W, and w offer proof to show that the function of the for agricultural unreases and to establish for agricultural unreases and to establish Blackberry creek. Mariweather complimented the old negro on the completeness of arrangements, much to his satisfaction, In a few moments they were loosed from the moorings and gliding down stream. Aided by the current, Hen de-

clined the assistance of the two young men. He declared that one pole was sufficient to propel the flat, but said that when the boat should be loaded and the flow against them he would be glad to receive their help.

be glad to receive their heip. The lack of the moon was not la-mented. The stars afforded all the light that was needed, and their sol-emm faces were reflected on the dark waters. The breath of myriad bay flow-Clars K. Carson, or Chars K. Carson, or Chars K. Carson, or Anw and all persons of immer advers by the showedscribed indis are requested to ble their claims in this office on or before said s h day of Anoust, 1902 (14 & 8 B. MOOLES. Institute.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

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N in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1578, entitl-ed "An act for the sale of timber in ds in the States of California Oregon, Nevala and Washington Territ Ty," in extended to all the Public Land et the by we a Answer 1 See There is a set of A

that he was tempted to hate him. He felt sure that the fellow had fallen in love with Mary. How could he spend ten days in the house with her and help it? But why should he fret? If Mary were not a little bit to blame he hoped she was not-the affair was merely one of the accidental occurrences of life, And so, after a little more chat, he took his leave and resumed his way to town. On arriving at the principal street of the village Layburn fell in with Jack Meriweather, Mcriweather was a kindred spirit, Like Layburn, he had just returned from the army, and his finances were, if possible, in a more desperate condition. The two men met for the first time after a separation of four years, for, while Layburn had been serving under Lee in Virginia, Meriweather had been fighting along the Mississippi,

"By George, Layburn," said Meriweather after a few minutes' conver-sation, gazing at his friend's rusty black suit, then looking at his own shabby clothes of the same color, "your appearance and mine remind me of two old black crows."

"Scarecrows, you mean," amended John Palmer, an old planter, joining the two men with aslaugh. "I want to hire you two chaps to stand in my cornfield and frighten the birds."

"Better not make any rash propositions, Mr. Palmer," said Layburn, "for Jack and I are quite as needy as we look and are ready for a contract of any description."

Yes; it isn't safe to bluff us. What did Burns says of 'honest poverty?' Whateyer it was we inderse it. I am willing to drop corn, scrape taters, do chores or anything. Aren't you, Alf?" "Certainly, when I've put on my second best suit," laughed Layburn.

"Now, boys, do you know that's just what I reckoned-that you'd be short of funds and needing a few dollars to start with," said the old man kindly. You've both got somebody depending on you, and it's going to 'be durned hard at the beginning. Now, boys, I "Pshaw! Brown baye a grand scheme. It's such a good the confiding Jack. thing I'd work it myself if I were not so old.

"What is "it ?" said both the young men in a breath, intensely interested.

"Keep cool," said Palmer, leisurely alone. As soon as they had entered he cutting off a chew of tobacco, with a secured the door behind them. twinkle in his eye. "I'm not going to be hurried. I lay awake half the night over, gentlemen, and I feel sure that turning it over in my mind. Says I to old Paimer has put you on a pat myself, it's a royal chance for some- thing," said the merchant when they body, and who has a better right to it were seated. "As the old man says, it than some of our poor boys just back is nobody's property, and no southernfrom the war, with hardly a dime in | er need feel any scruples about belping their pockets? So I determined to get himself. It is merely a kind of inform on my horse after breakfast and come al administration. This concealed cot-

n town and unfold the plan to some Ideerving party, and I don't know any two boys that I think more of than I do of you. You see, I knew your fathers before you not that I mean to

by the Federals you will be sent to jail and the wagons and teams will be confiscated." "We are willing to pay a stiff hire,"

said Layburn. "You'll have to," said Palmer. hundred dollars a team is the price for night work. Let me see," The old man rubbed his chin meditatively. "You couldn't do better than to try Jim Brown. He has two wagons and teams Jim's been transacting a little business in this line on his own account, and no doubt he'll be willing to help two de serving fellows for a consideration. There's Jim, now." And the old planter beckoned to a stout man a little past middle life who was standing in the door of the nearest corner store. Brown was a country merchant who dealt in farm supplies and the various articles needed on a southern plantation.

When he approached the group, Palor in a few words related all the particulars of the business in hand, even to the location of the cotton.

"Now, Brown," concluded the old man, "these boys need a wagen and team, and I've told 'em if anybody could help 'em out it would be you, and if you couldn't you'd keep the whole thing quiet."

"Of course I'll be as silent as the grave," said Brown good humoredly, but as for letting out my stock at night-it's risky, very risky!" "The boys understand and are will-

ing to pay," hastened Falmer. "Well, gentlemen," said Brown, "drop

in at 1 o'clock, and we'll talk it over.' "By George, Layburn," said Meri-weather when Brown had left them and they had parted with the planter, "old man Palmer is a trump, and this scheme of his seems a direct interpost tion of Providence."

Layburn's burden of care was much lightened, but he was not so jubilant.ai Meriweather.

"Yes," said the former, "but I an sorry the old man told Brown where the cotton was concealed."

"Pshaw! Brown's all right," replied "Time will decide," returned Lay-

When they came back at 1 o'clock,

they found Brown in his counting room

"I have been thinking the matter

ton is the estate of the defunct Confederacy, and you are the heirs." Brown paused a moment to beam his kind feeting. "I don't think-we'll suffer any pangs



buttermlik and hoecake constituted th chief course, the two ex-Confederates cat nor possum totin' a lantern. It's folks," Interviewed old Ben at the stables. The old negro listened with the deep est interest.

"I know de place; I know de place rreak?" said Layburn. I could go dar wid my eyes shet. 'Tain't mor'n two hund'ed yards from de river. It's on Blackberry creek, which jines de river at Palmer's bend." "Now, isn't it a pity we can't get

Brown's teams till Thursday night?" said Layburn. He dropped the remark with a purpose and glanced at Meriweather. "Marse Alf, did yo' say dat Mr.

Brown knowed whar dat cotton was?" Old Ben rolled his eyes sugaciously.

"One mule gone lame - t'other team gone to Gainsville-wait till Thursday flight. Look here, Marse Alf, don'.

yo' smell a mouse?" "What do you mean, Ben?" asked Meriwesther.

"I mean, Marse Jack, dat Mr. Brown want dat cotton hisself." "There, Jack," said Layburn; "I told you so.

"But we gwine git ahead ob him," sald Ben, chuckling. "How, Uncle Ben?" asked Layburn

engerly. "Do you know where we car e wagons and mules?" "Marse Alf, we don't need no mules

an' wagons to do dis job. Jes' put yo'r trus' in dis ole nigger. He gwine pull yo' through." Layburn and Meriweather were thoroughly puzzied and exchanged glances. Old Ben intercepted the looks and read

their meaning. "No, Marse Alf, de old man ain' los' his mind. He's eighty year old, but he's got his jedgment yit."

"Well, Ben," said Meriweather, "if we don't hire wagons, will you please inform us how we are to get that cotton out of the swamp?" "Sut'nly, sah. What you got to say,

Marse Jack, ag'in a flatboat?" "A flatboat!" echoed Layburn and Meriweather simultaneously.

"Yes, sah, a flatboat, what don't have to wheels, don't need no mules an' don't make no noise," said old Ben tri-

umphantly. \* "Unche Ben, Blackberry creek is too small for a flathoat," said Layburn.

"But it ain't too narrow for a skift

W (4.5 W ) See 3, E ( $3 \le 1 \le N$ ) by of Sec. No. (1)  $T \equiv N$ , Ito W, offer press to show that the limit more valuable for its funder or (1) Ben tied the flat to a low spreading bough of a cottonwood tree, and the party entered the skiff. The old man took his seat in the stern, and, gently padding, they began the ascent of the sluggish creek. When they had gone about fifty yards, they caught a cracparty entered the skiff. The old man about fifty yards, they caught a crac-

1902. "
If channes at witnessest John Denck, of Ohrey, Oregon John Ulaser, of John Garbe, of Astoria, " George Yees, of Astoria, " And and all persons chaining aircrasely the above described tands are requested o life their disma in this offlee on or before and why days of knows that "What's dat?" said the negro under "It must be a wildcat or an opos-Meantime old Ben had stopped the

chas, b. MOORES, "No, sah," said the negro. "Look Remister dar! See dat light? Yo' never seed no

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878-

#### NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION "Yes, Jack. Didn't you hear a wheel

UNITED STATES LASE OF SICK, "Bless God, somebody's after dat cotton! I hear 'em talkin'," returned NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVES THAT the negro. The three had now got out of the skiff and were advancing cautiously and peering through the undergrowth. "Perhaps the garrison had Informa-tion of the gotton and has come to tion of the cotton and has come to ion of the cotton and hus come to Chatsop, State of Oregon, has the in this office his sworth statement in this office his sworth statement for the purchase of the S W  $\leq$  Sec. 4, 5 E  $\leq$  5 for the the sworth statement is S W  $\leq$  Sec. 4, 5 E  $\leq$  5 for the sworth statement is sworth statement in the sworth statement in the sworth statement is S W  $\leq$  Sec. 4, 5 E  $\leq$  5 for the sworth statement is S W  $\leq$  Sec. 4, 5 E  $\leq$  5 for the sworth statement is sworth statement in the sworth statement in the sworth statement is S W  $\leq$  Sec. 4, 5 E  $\leq$  5 for the sworth statement is S W  $\leq$  Sec. 4, 5 E  $\leq$  5 for the sworth statement is sworth statement in the sworth statement in the sworth statement is sworth statement in the sworth statement in the sworth statement is sworth statement in the sworth st baul it away," said Meriweather. "No, sub; 'thin't no Yankees," suld for the purchase of the 8 W 14 N W 15 S W 15 Sec. 4. S E 15 S E 5 of Sec. 8. a S W 15 Sec. 4. S E 15 S E 5 of Sec. 8. a T 3 N R 0 W, and will offer proof is similar the 1 nd sought is cover vilad for the purchase of the 8 W 15 N W 15 S W 15 Sec. 4. S E 15 S E 5 of Sec. 8. a T 3 N R 0 W, and will offer proof is off in the 1 nd sought is cover vilad for the purchase of the 8 W 15 N W 15 is S W 15 Sec. 4. S E 15 S E 5 of Sec. 8. a T 3 N R 0 W, and will offer proof is off in the 1 nd sought is cover vilad for the purchase of will offer proof is off in the 1 nd sought is cover vilad for the source vilad for the purchase of will offer proof is offer the source vilad for the source vilad the source vilad for t

logs and rooted with bark. Under his supervision Brown's dusty Under his supervision Brown's dueby aids were working with celerity. It aids were working with celerity. It will shall shall and august, BSC. (PHAS, D. MOOTES, Red 1-1,

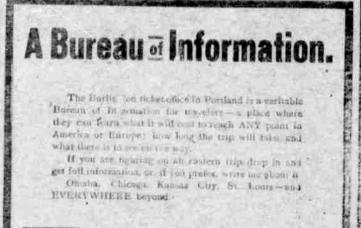
was not possible to remove all the col-ton at a single trip, and the basic was

### evidently occasioned by the desire to haul away the remaining bales that Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878 Layburn and Meriwcather to behold in NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

the light of the lantern the look of In- Usings States LAND OFFICE

the light of the limitern the look of fin tense satisfaction on Brown's traitory outs countenance, and when they pictured to themselves the hyporritical supprise and sorrow with which the frascal would condole with them their indignation was beyond the power of words to express. At whatever resolution they should arrive, the demand for action was urgent. In less thin ten finite the loading of the second was so would be completed and the wretch would be off.
 "Alf, I can't stand this, I'm going to shoot!" exclaimed Meriweather, breathing heavily.
 "Stop!" said Layburn. "If wo kill Brown, there will be an investigation, and we may not only lose the cottom, but also our lives, as the result of a second reset.

but also our lives, as the result of a George Vorge of Sturia, Chara Weiman, of Chara Weiman, of Are you going to let the scoundred the show-described lands are reposted to make off with the cotton?" asked Meriand 8th day of August, 1002 CHAS, B. MOORES.



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