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FROM

POORHOUSE TO PALACE

BY MARY J. HOLMES

CHAPTER VI.

Mary had been at the poorhouse about three weeks when Miss Grundy one day ordered her to tie on her sun-bonnet and run across the meadow and through the woods until she came to a rye stubble, then follow the footpath along the fence until she came to another strip of woods, with a brook running through it. "And just on the fur edge of them woods," said she, "you'll see the men folks to work;" and do tell 'em to come to their dinner quick."

It was a mild September day, and Mary determined not to hurry. She had not gone far when she came suddenly upon a boy and two little girls, who seemed to be playing near the brook. In the features of the boy she recognized Henry Lincoln, and remembering what Billy had said of him, she was about turning away when the smallest of the girls espied her, and called out: "Look here, Rose, I reckon that's Mary Howard. I'm going to speak to her."

"Jenny Lincoln, you mustn't do any such thing. Mother won't like it," answered the girl called Rose.

But whether "mother would like it" or not, Jenny did not stop to think, and going toward Mary she said: "Have you come to play in the woods?"

"No," was Mary's reply. "I came to call the folks to dinner."

"Oh, it was you that screamed so loud. I couldn't think who it was, but it can't be dinner-time?"

"Yes, 'tis; it's noon."

"Well, we don't have dinner until 2, and we can stay here till that time. Won't you play with us?"

"No, I can't; I must go back and work," said Mary.

"Work!" repeated Jenny. "I think it's bad enough to have to live in that old house without working; but come and see our fish pond;" and taking Mary's hand, she led her to a wide part of the stream where the water had been dammed up until it was nearly two feet deep and clear as crystal. Looking in, Mary could see the pebbles on the bottom, while a fish occasionally darted out and then disappeared.

"I made this almost all myself," said Jenny. "Henry wouldn't help me because he's so ugly, and Rose was afraid of blacking her fingers. But I don't care. Mother says I'm a great—great—I've forgotten the word, but it means dirty and careless, and I guess I do look like a fright, don't I?"

Mary now for the first time noticed the appearance of her companion, and readily guessed that the word which she could not remember was "slattern." She was a fat, chubby little girl, with a round, sunny face and laughing blue eyes, while her brown hair hung around her forehead in short, tangled curls. Altogether she was just the kind of little girl which one often finds in the country swinging on gates and making mud pies.

Mary was naturally very neat; and in reply to Jenny's question as to whether she looked like a fright, she answered, "I like your face better than I do your dress," because it is clean."

"Why, so was my dress this morning," said Jenny, "but there can't anybody play in the mud and not get dirty."

Jenny drew nearer to Mary and said: "If you'll never tell anybody as long as you live and braeathe, I'll tell you something."

Mary gave the required promise, and Jenny continued: "I shouldn't like to have my mother know it, for she scolds all the time now about my 'vulgar tastes,' though I'm sure Rose likes the same things that I do, except Billy Bender, and it's about him I was going to tell you. He was so pleasant I couldn't help loving him, if mother did say I mustn't. He used to talk to me about keeping clean, and once I tried a whole week, and I only dirtied four dresses in all that time. Oh! how handsome and funny his eyes looked when I told him about it. He took me in his lap, and said that was more than he thought a little girl ought to dirty. Did you ever see any boy you loved as well as you do Billy Bender?"

Mary hesitated a moment, for, much as she liked Billy, there was another whom she loved better, though he had never been one-half as kind to her as Billy had. After a time she answered: "Yes, I like, or I did like, George Moreland, but I shall never see him again;" and then she told Jenny of her home in England, of the long, dreary voyage to America, and of her father's death; but when she came to the sad night when her mother and Franky died, she could not go on, and laying her face in Jenny's lap she cried for a long time. Jenny's tears flowed, too, and she, softly caressing Mary, said: "Don't cry so, for I'll love you, and we'll have good times together, too. We live in Boston every winter, but it will be 'most six weeks before we go, and I mean to see you every day."

"In Boston?" said Mary, inquiringly. "George lives in Boston."

Jenny was silent a moment, and then suddenly clapping her hands together, she exclaimed: "I know George Moreland. He lives just opposite our house, and is Ida Seldon's cousin. Why, he's 'most as handsome as Billy Bender, only he teases you more. I'll tell him about you, for mother says he's got lots of money, and perhaps he'll give you some."

Mary felt that she wouldn't for the world have George know she was in the poorhouse, and she quickly answered, "No, no, you mustn't tell him a word about me. I don't want you to. Promise that you won't."

CHAPTER VII.

One afternoon about the middle of October Mary sat under an apple tree in the orchard, weeping bitterly. It was in vain that Alice, who was with her, and who by this time was able to stand alone, climbed up to her side, patting her cheeks and trying in various ways to win her attention. She still wept on, unmindful of the sound of rapid footsteps upon the grass, nor until twice repeated did she hear the words, "Why, Mary, what is the matter? What's happened?" Then looking up she saw Billy Bender, who raised her in his arms.

Laying her head on his shoulder, she sobbed out: "She's gone—she's gone, and there's nobody left but Sally. "Oh dear, oh dear!"

"Gone! Whose gone?" asked Billy.

"Jenny," was Mary's reply. "She's gone to Boston, and won't come back till next May; and I loved her so much."

"Oh, yes, I know," returned Billy. "I met them all on their way to the depot; but I wouldn't feel so badly. Jenny will come again, and besides that, I've got some real good news to tell you."

"About Ella?" said Mary.

"No, not about Ella, but about myself; I'm coming here to live with you."

"Coming here to live!" repeated Mary with astonishment. "What for? Are your folks all dead?"

Billy smiled and answered, "Not quite so bad as that. I went to school here two years ago, and I know I learned more than I ever did at home in two seasons. The boys, when Henry Lincoln is away, don't act half as badly as they do in the village; and then they usually have a lady teacher, because it's cheaper, I suppose, for they don't pay them half as much as they do gentlemen, and I think they are a great deal the best. Anyway, I can learn the most when I go to a woman."

"But what makes you come here, and what will your mother do?" asked Mary.

"She's got a sister come from the West to stay with her, and as I shall go home every Saturday night, she'll get along well enough. I heard Mr. Parker in the store one day inquiring for a boy to do chores. So after consulting mother I offered my services and was accepted. Won't we have real nice times going to school together?"

Three weeks from that time the winter school commenced, and Billy took up his abode at the poorhouse, greatly to the satisfaction of Sally and Mary and greatly to the annoyance of Miss Grundy.

"Smart idea!" said she, "to have that great lummox around to be waited on!" and when she saw how happy his presence seemed to make Mary, she vented her displeasure upon her in various ways, conjuring up all sorts of reasons why she should stay out of school as often as possible, and wondering "what the world was coming to, when young ones hardly out of the cradle begun to court! It wasn't so in her younger days, goodness knows!"

Much as Mary had learned to prize Sally's friendship, before winter was over she had cause to value it still more highly. Wretched and destitute as the poor crazed creature now was, she showed plainly that at some period or other of her life she had had rare advantages for education, which she now brought into use for Mary's benefit.

Each night Mary brought home her books, and the rapid improvement which she made in her studies was as much owing to Sally's useful hints and assistance as to her own untiring perseverance. One day when she returned from school Sally saw there was something the matter, for her eyes were red, and her cheeks were flushed as if with weeping. On inquiring of Billy, she learned that some of the girls had been teasing Mary about her teeth, calling them "tushes."

As it happened, one of the paupers was sick, and Dr. Gilbert was at that time in the house; to him Sal immediately went, and after laying the case before him asked him to extract the offending teeth. Sally was quite a favorite with the doctor, who readily consented, on condition that Mary was willing, which he much doubted, as such teeth came hard.

"Willing or not, she shall have them out. It's all that makes her so homely," said Sal, and, going in quest of Mary, she led her to the doctor, who asked to look in her mouth.

There was a fierce struggle, a scream, and then one of the teeth was lying upon the floor.

"Stand still," said Sal, more sternly than she had ever before spoken to Mary, who, half frightened out of her wits, stood still while the other one was extracted.

"There," said Sal, when the operation was finished, "you look a hundred per cent better."

For a time Mary cried, hardly knowing whether she relished the joke or not; but when Billy praised her improved looks, telling her that "her mouth was real pretty," and when she herself dried her eyes enough to see that it was a great improvement, she felt better, and wondered why she had never thought to have them out before.

Rapidly and pleasantly to Mary that winter passed away, for the presence of Billy was in itself a sufficient reason why she should be happy. He was so affectionate and brother-like in his deportment toward her that she began questioning whether she did not love him as well, if not better, than she did her sister Ella, whom she seldom saw, though she heard that she had a governess from Worcester, and was taking music lessons on a grand piano, which had been bought a year before. Occasionally Billy called at Mrs. Campbell's, but Ella seemed shy and unwilling to speak of her sister.

"Why is there this difference?" he thought more than once, as he contrasted the situation of the two girls—the one petted, caressed and surrounded by every luxury, and the other forlorn, desolate, and the inmate of a poorhouse; and then he built castles of a future when, by the labor of his own head or hands, Mary, too, should be rich and happy.

CHAPTER VIII.

As spring advanced Alice began to droop. Sally's quick eye detected in her infallible signs of decay. But she would not tell it to Mary, whose life now seemed a comparatively happy one. Mr. and Mrs. Parker were kind to her. Uncle Peter petted her, and even Miss Grundy had more than once admitted that "she was about as good as young ones would average." Billy, too, had promised to remain and work for Mr. Parker during the summer, inteading with the money thus earned to go the next fall and winter to the academy in Willbraham. Jenny was coming back ere long, and Mary's step was light and buoyant as she tripped, singing, about the house, unmindful of Mrs. Grundy's oft-expressed wish that "she would stop that clack," or of the anxious, pitying eyes Sal Furbush bent upon her, as day after day the faithful old creature rocked and tended little Alice.

At last Mary could no longer be deceived, and one day when Alice lay gasping in Sally's lap she said, "Aunt Sally, isn't Alice growing worse? She doesn't play now, nor try to walk."

Sally laid her hand on Mary's face and replied: "Poor child, you'll soon be all alone."

There was no outcry—no sudden gush of tears, but nervously clasping her hans upon her heart, as if the shock had entered there, Mary sat down upon her bed, and burying her face in the pillow, sat there for a long time. But she said nothing, and a careless observer might have thought that she cared nothing, as it became each day more and more evident that Alice was dying. But these knew not of the long nights when with untiring love she sat by her sister's cradle, listening to her irregular breathing, pressing her clammy hands and praying to be forgiven if ever, in thought or deed, she had wronged the little one now leaving her.

And all this time there came no kind word or message of love from Ella, who knew that Alice was dying, for Billy had told her so.

The end came peacefully. There was some talk of burying the child in the poorhouse inclosure, but Mary pleaded so earnestly to have her laid by her mother that her request was granted, and that night when the young spring moon came out it looked quietly down upon the grave of little Alice, who by her mother's side was sweetly sleeping.

* * * * * * *

Three weeks had passed away since Alice's death, and affairs at the poorhouse were beginning to glide on as usual. Mary, who had resumed her post as dishwasher in the kitchen, was almost daily expecting Jenny; and one day when Billy came in to dinner he gave her the joyful intelligence that Jenny had returned and had been in the field to see him, bidding him tell Mary to meet her that afternoon in the woods by the brook.

Mary bounded joyfully away to the woods, where she found Jenny, who embraced her in a manner which showed that she had not been forgotten.

"Oh," said she, "I've got so much to tell you, and so much to hear, though I know all about dear little Alice's death—didn't you feel dreadfully?"

Mary's tears were a sufficient answer, and Jenny, as if suddenly discovering something new, exclaimed, "Why, what have you been doing? Who pulled your teeth?"

Mary explained the circumstances of the tooth-pulling and Jenny continued: "You look a great deal better, and if your cheeks were only a little fatter and your skin not quite so yellow, you'd be real handsome; but no matter about that. I saw George Moreland in Boston, and I wanted to tell him about you, but I'd promised not to; and then at first I felt afraid of him, for you can't think what a great big fellow he's got to be. Why, he's awful tall—and handsome, too. Rose likes him, and so do lots of the girls, but I don't believe he cares a bit for any of them except his cousin Ida, and I guess he does like her."

Here the chatterer was interrupted by Henry Lincoln, who directly in front of her leaped across the brook. He was evidently not much improved in his manners, for the moment he was safely landed on terra firma he approached Mary, and, seizing her round the waist, exclaimed, "Halloo, little pauper! You're glad to see me back, I dare say."

Then drawing her head over so that he could look into her face, he continued, "Had your tusks out, haven't you? Well, it's quite an improvement, so much so that I'll venture to kiss you."

Mary struggled, and Jenny scolded, while Henry said, "Don't kick and flounce so, my little beauty. If there's anything I hate it's seeing girls make believe they're modest. That clodhopper Bill kisses you every day, I'll warrant."

(To be continued.)

New Ideas.

The Kaffirs have had an opportunity to learn something of the art of surgery since the soldiers and the military doctors have overrun Africa. Possibly advanced methods will not altogether supersede primitive surgery among these people, however, for they are not fond of change.

Time was when a Kaffir with a broken leg submitted to peculiar treatment. It was customary to place the limb in a hole dug in the earth, and keep it there till the bones were knit together again.

The Leisure Hour tells of a case in which the bones of a certain Kaffir lad, having been set by European aid, the Kaffir father dissented from the method employed. He had the splints removed, carried the boy home on horseback, and then took the usual course of setting the limb in the earth. The consequence was that it took six months to effect a cure.

Kaffir doctors are hereditary, the cleverest son in the doctor's family being usually chosen to succeed his father. There are other modern things that a Kaffir has to learn besides the newest mehods in surgery. In his language there is no such term as "Thank you." He is beginning to learn it, however, although he does not think it becoming to show any emotion—whether of gratitude or anything else.

When two Kaffirs meet one says, "I see you," which is answered by "Yes." More poetical is his parting word, "May peace go with you," to which comes the response, "May peace stay with you."

An Effect Spoiled.

"After the ceremony the bride wept."

"Grief at leaving her home?"

"No; she forgot herself, and held up her beautiful long satin train going down the aisle."

EVENTS OF THE DAY

FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

A Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Presented in a Condensed Form Which Is Most Likely to Prove of Interest to Our Many Readers.

The America's cup race will begin September 21.

France wants her treaties with Tunis abrogated.

Mrs. Mckinley is standing the return trip well.

An unknown man committed suicide near Kalama, Wash.

Three prisoners escaped from the county jail at Salem, Or.

Army frauds have been discovered in Leyte, Philippine islands.

Suicide of a Russian financier may embarrass many institutions.

Senators Tillman and McLaurin, of South Carolina, have resigned.

Cailles and Malver, Filipino leaders, have been forced to surrender.

Thirty-two bodies have so far been recovered form the Sengheny colliery.

Oregon ores are being collected for the International Mining Congress.

President McKinley has pardoned Alexander McKenzie, the Nome receiver.

The output of the Sumpter, Or., mining district was never so great as now.

The American legation guard at Pekin is having trouble with the Germans.

Publication of the St. Petersburg Novoe Vremyra has been prohibited for a week.

Five persons were killed and 40 injured in a trolley car collision near Albany, N. Y.

The cases against Carman, Carranza and other insurgent leaders, have been abandoned.

The steward of the German Lloyd steamer Kaiser Wilhelm was arrested for stealing gold bars.

Washington capital question has been settled by the purchase of Thurston county courthouse.

The last of the American troops have left Pekin.

President McKinley reviewed the troops at the Presidio.

Bresci. the assassin of King Humbert, of Italy, committed suicide.

The expelled West Point cadets will appeal their cases to the secretary of war.

There is a mysterious steamboat plying on the Columbia river without a license.

Two men were held up at Midway, B. C., and robbed of $450. The robbers escaped.

Flood in Elizabethtown, Tenn., drowned three people and destroyed $1,000,000 worth of property.

The cup challenger, with a royal party on board, including King Edward, was struck by a squall and wrecked. The yacht is badly damaged. No lives were lost.

The report of the examiners of the suspended Vancouver, Wash., bank shows its liabilities to be $232,465.53 and assets $249,373.84. Depositors will receive about 50 cents on the dollar, as many of the assets are valueless.

The naval board of construction has recommended the construction of a battleship of 16,000 tons displacement. This would give the United States the largest vessel afloat, as the present largest one has only a little over 15,000 tons displacement.

Mrs. McKinley continues to improve slowly.

Ex-Congressman Boutelle, of Maine, is dead.

Nearly 1,000 firms have signed the new machinists scale.

The old Shamrock beat the new by half a minute in the last trial.

The striking machinists have gained many recruits to their ranks.

The coal tax in England is injuring the manufacturing interests of the nation.

The recent punitive expeditions of Germany in China are now pleasing to the Russian ruler.

Nearly 2,000 more United States volunteers are now on the way home from the Philippines.

Interior regions of British Columbia are threatened with serious floods by reason of the late spring.

A band of fifty-seven gypsies seeking admission to the United States from Germany have been deported.

A clerk in the adjutant general's office at Manila is charged with forging General MacArthur's name.

The party of Ohio congressmnen who accompanied President McKinley to the West are now in Portland.

Two missionaries who made fortunes in the Nome district are to build a hospital in Chicago.

Recent census statistics in Italy show that the proportion of population not able to read or write has decreased to 39 per cent.

The faculty of Stanford University in California has directed that saloon and cafe advertisements must be omitted from the Daily Palo Alto, the college paper.

HIS STAY AT AN END.

Presidential Party Complete Their Programme and Start for Home.

San Francisco, May 25.—President McKinley has completed his program in this city, having met every organization included in the original schedule, and Mrs. McKinley's health has so far improved that the president and his party began their return journey to the national capital at 10 A. M. today.

The president's pulbic functions yesterday included a reception at the Scott mansion to the members of the foreign consular corps of this city, a reception at the Palace Hotel by the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution and the Loyal Legion in honor of the president, and a review of the school children of Oakland by the president.

Last night President McKinley attended an impromptu reception at the California street M. E. church, given by the Epworth League and Christian Endeavor societies. Special precautions were taken to prevent any annoyance while the president and his wife were being driven to the ferry. A route was chosen that secured perfect comfort for Mrs. McKinley. The party was taken to Oakland on a special boat. The two trained nurses who have attended the patient in this city will also go to Washington with her. No fast time will be made and the train will run slowly to Stockton.

ECLIPSE PHOTOGRAPHS.

Satisfactory Results Obtained by the Lick Party in Sumatra.

San Jose, Cal., May 27.—The following has been received from the director of the Lick observatory:

"Lick Observatory, May 27.—Astronomer Perrine, in charge of the Crocker eclipse expedition from the Lick observatory to Sumatra, has cabled the gratifying information that some results were secured with all the instruments taken with him. This, taken in connection with his cable of last week, is taken to mean that his successful photographs were secured between clouds drifting across the vicinity of the sun. As this was an unusually long eclipse, it is quite probable that his results will compare favorably in quality and quantity with those secured at the short eclipses of the past three years. The hoods of the coronal streamers, first observed at the Indian eclipse of 1898, are recorded on the plates of the present eclipse. Further details of the results secured are not expected until the arrival of Mr. Perrine's letters."

TO DEFINE BOUDARY.

Internal Survey Party Will Locate United States-Canada Line.

Vancouver, B. C., May 27.—An international survey party, consisting of United States and Canadian engineers, is about to begin the task of defining the international boundary between the United States and Canada from the Pacific coast to the Rocky mountains. It is contended that this work was inaccurately performed in the surveys of 1859 and 1961. One of the most important matters to be determined is the question of the national locaton of Mount Baker mining district. Valuable mines are embraced in this section, and the territory is claimed by both the American and Canadian governments.

Lieutenant Sinclair, of the coast and geodetic survey, will be at the head of the United States party, and J. H. McArthur will lead the Canadian surveyors. The work will begin this week.

MULTIPLEX TELEGRAPHY.

The Rowland System is Being Introduced Into Germany.

Baltimore, May 27.—The multiplex system of telegraphy, invented by the late Henry A. Rowland, of Baltimore, which is being introduced into Germany, permits of the transmission of eight messages simultaneously over a single wire, four in each direction at the rate of 40 words a minute. The messages are sent by means of a keyboard similar to that of a typewriter, which can be operated by an ordinary typewriter opreator, and are recorded at the other end of the wire by a small machine. It is possible to either print the message upon a sheet of paper or upon a long tape like that which is used in the ordinary ticker service.

Slide More Serious Than Reported.

Baker City, Or., May 27.—The landslide at the Climax mine, which occurred about two weeks ago, in consequence of a water ditch overflowing, has proven far more serious than at first reported. The mouth of the main tunnel was closed with timbers, boulders, gravel and debris of all kinds, so that it required heavy blasting and 10 days to open it up. It will require several weeks more to put up the buildings destroyed and restore the other property lost in the flood.

No Smallpox on Indiana.

Pekin, May 27.—The doctors who were instructed to make a report as to what length of time must elapse before it will be safe to allow the troops on board the United States transport Indiana, where it was supposed a case of smallpox had developed, have decided that the suspected case was not smallpox. The troops will go on board the Indiana today.

NEWS OF THE STATE

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL OVER OREGON.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Importance—A Brief Review of of the Growth and Improvemeuts of the Many Industries Throughout Our Thriving Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

There was a $3,500 fire at Oregon City the first of the week.

Arrangements are being made to celebrate the Fourth at Baker City.

The Grand lodge of Odd Fellows held their encampment at Baker City.

Efforts are being made to develop the Kaolin deposits, near Huntington.

The people of Forest Grove and vicinity are trying to secure a Sunday train service.

Farmers near Salem say grain is looking as well as it ever did and they expect a large crop this year.

Mrs. Thomas Campbell, aged 60 years, an old resident of Oregon, died at her home in Monmouth last week.

The Baldwin Sheep & Land Company, of Hay Creek, will sell at public auction, June 1, 1,000,000 pounds of wool.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Columbia River Packers' Association it was decided to raise the price of canned goods.

Reports from Willamette and Clackamas river fishermen, near Oregon City, say this is the best season for their work for several years.

The board of trustees of the State Reform School has let bids for the laying of 4,500 square feet of concrete work, for basement floors and walks.

The cost of repairing the Albany bridge amounted to $1,837.57.

The new ice plant at Baker City will be in operation by July 1.

The annual meeting and barbecue of Wheeler County Pioneers will be held at Richmond on June 12 and 13.

The advance in the price of potatoes has caused the planting of more potatoes than ever before in the vicinity of La Grande.

The Albany council has resolved to turn over the bridge across the Willamette at that place to Linn and Benton counties or to Linn county, when the city shall be reimbursed for the recent improvements.

A rural mail delivery route from Eugene will be recommended to the postal deparrtment. The route will be as follows: From Eugene north on river road to the Miller fruit dryer and return to Santa Clara school house, thence west to Irving road, thence southeast to Siuslaw stage road, thence west to Kemp school house thence south to foot hills by way of Martin brick yard and return to Eugene via Hawkins road. The trip will be made six times a week. Service will not be established before July.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 60c.; valley, nominal; bluestem, 61@62c. per bushel.

Flour—Best grades, $2.90@3.40 per barrel; graham, $2.60.

Oats—White, $1.35@1.40 per cental; gray, $1.30@1.32½ per cental.

Barley—Feed, $17@17.50; brewing, $17@17.50 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, $17 per ton; middlings, $21.50; shorts, $20.00; chop, $16.

Hay—Timothy, $12.50@14; clover, $7@9.50; Oregon wild hay, $6@7 per ton.

Hops—12@14c. per lb.

Wool — Valley, 11@13c; Eastern Oregon, 7@10c; mohair, 20@21c. per pound.

Butter — Fancy creamery, 15@17½c.; dairy, 13@14c.; store, 11@12½c. per pound.

Eggs — Oregon ranch, 12@12½c. per dozen.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 13@13½c.; Young America, 13½@14c. per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $3.50@4; hens, $4@5.00; dressed, 11@12c. per pound; springs, $3@5 per dozen; lucks, $5@6; geese, $6@7; turkeys, live, 10@12c; dressed, 14@16c. per pound.

Potatoes—Old, $1@1.15 per sack; new, 2¼@2½c. per pound.

Mutton — Lambs 4¾@5c. per pound gross; best sheep, wethers, with wool, $4.25@4.50; dressed, 6@7c per pound.

Hogs — Gross, heavy, $5.75@6; light, $4.75@5; dressed, 7@7½c. per pound.

Veal—Large, 6½@7c. per pound; small, 7½@8c. per pound.

Beef—Gross, top steers, $5@5.25; cows and heifers, $4.50@4.75; dressed beef, 8¼@8½c. per pound

A dispatch from Tangier says the French commercial attache recently sold 100,000 rifles to the Shereefian government.

A telegram of 12 words is sent to any part of New Zealand by simply affixing to it a 6d stamp—12 cents.

Improvements already authorized or contemplated in New York city will cost the tremendous sum of $277,800,000.

The United States leads all other nations in the matter of fruit growing. Strawberries were valued at $80,000,000 last year and grapes at $100,000,000.

RACED FOR A SWITCH.

Terrible Accident Caused by Motormen's Carelessness.

Albany, N. Y., May 27.—Electric cars racing for a switch while running in opposite directions at the rate of 40 miles an hour cost five lives yesterday afternoon by a terrific collision in which over 40 prominent people were injured, some fatally and others seriously. The lobby of the local postoffice, filled with dead and wounded, hysterical women and children looking for relatives and friends, surgeons administering temporary relief, and ambulances racing through the city taking the wounded to the hospitals, were the early intimations of the accident.

The scene of the accident was at a point about two miles out of Greenbusch, on the line of the Albany & Hudson Railway. The point where the cars met on the single track was at a sharp curve, and so fast were both running and so sudden was the collision that the motormen did not have time to put on the brakes before south bound car No. 22 had gone almost clear through north bound car No. 17, and hung on the edge of a high bluff with its load of shrieking maimed humanity. One motorman was pinioned up against the smashed front of the south bound car, with both legs severed and was killed instantly, while the other one lived but a few moments.

The few women and children who had escaped injury were hysterical and added their cries to the shrieks of the dying and mutilated. Men with broken arms and bones, with dislocated joints and bloody heads and faces, tried to assist others who were more helpless. Help had been summoned from East Greenbusch and vicinity, and in a little time the bruised mass of humanity, with the mutilated dead, were loaded on empty cars and taken to Albany. The ambulances and physicians had been summoned and the postoffice turned into morgue and hospital. As far as the physicians could temporarily attend the wounded they were taken to their homes or to the hospitals.

With both motormen killed it was hard to get at the real cause of the accident, but it is pretty well determined that it was caused by an attempt of the south bound car to reach a second switch instead of waiting for the north bound car at the first siding. The cars weigh 15 tons each and are the largest electric cars built, and so frightful was the crash that both cars were torn almost to splinters.

SEVERE WIND STORM.

Caused Widespread Devastation in Five Western States.

Salt Lake, May 28.—The wind storm which swept over Nevada, Utah, Southern Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado, did damage that will run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. It resulted in almost complete prostration of telegraph and telephone service in the states affected and for nearly 24 hours during the height of the storm, the inter mountain region was practically cut off from the rest of the world. The storm was severest in Eastern Nevada and Utah, and in the fertile valleys in the northern part of Utah widespread devastation resulted. When the storm was at its height, the wind at some points reached a velocity of 50 miles an hour.

At Ogden the storm was felt worst. Here the wind tore roofs from a number of buildings, including the Baptist church, completely demolishing barns and outbuildings, and scattered them far and wide, uprooted many shade trees and tore others to pieces, blew in plate glass windows in business blocks and prostrated electric light wires, so that the city was in darkness. The damage in Ogden will probably reach $100,000.

At Five Points, Logan, Smithfield, Hooper and other places the damage was very great. Hundreds of fruit trees were completely stripped. The force of the wind was so terrific around Logan and Hooper that tomato vines were swept entirely from fields. It is estimated that fully one half of the crops were destroyed. Around Hooper, the sweep of the wind blew away the ploughed ground to the full depth that the plows had entered the earth, rendering the land practically useless.

Along the north shore of the Great Salt Lake the wind picked up the dry sand in great clouds and hurled it across the country with terrific force, half burying the railroad tracks for miles.

New Mexico Mine Accident.

Santa Fe, N. M., May 28.—One man was instantly killed and several seriously hurt at the Santa Rita copper mine, in Grant county, while cleaning out blasts which had failed to explode.

Sailed for Nome.

San Francisco, May 28.— Three steamers sailed today for Nome—the Conemaugh, with 2,600 tons of general freight but no passengers; the Portland with 400 passengers, three tons of mail and a full cargo. Nearly half of the passengers are employes of the Northern Commercial company, bound for Unalaska, Dutch harbor, St. Michael and Nome. The steamer Valencia, with about 200 passengers and supplies.