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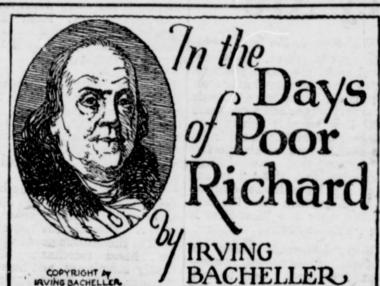
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(Continued) CHAPTER XIX

The First Fourth of July. Mrs. Scott and her child lived in the family of General Herkimer for a month or so. Settlers remote from towns and villages had abandoned their farms. The Indians had gone into the great north bush perhaps to meet the British army which was said to be coming down from Canada in appalling numbers. Hostilities in the neighborhood of The Long House bad ceased. The great Indian highway and its villages were deserted save by young children and a few ancient red men and squaws, too old for travel. Late in June, Jack and Solomon were ordered to report to General Schuyler

at Albany. "We're getting shoveled plenty," Solomon declared. "We'll take the womern an' the boy with us an' paddle down the Mohawk to Albany. They kind o' fell from heaven into our hands an we got to look a'ter 'em faithful. Fust ye know ol' Herk'll be movin' er swallered hull by the British on' the Injuns, like Jonah was by the whale, then what 'ud become o' her an' the Leetle Cricket?

We got to look a'ter 'em." "I think my mother will be glad to give them a home," said Jack, "She really needs some help in the house these days."

The Scotts' buildings had been burned by the Indians and their boats destroyed save one large canoe which had happened to be on the south shore of the river out of their reach. In this Jack and Solomon and "Mis' Scott" and the Little Cricket set out with londed packs in the moon of the new leaf, to use a phrase of the Mohawks, for the city of the Great river. They had a carry at Wolf Riff and some shorter ones but in the main it was a smooth and delightful journey, between wooded shores, down the long winding lane of the Mohawk. Without fear of the Indians they were able to shoot deer and wild fowl and build a fire on almost any part of the shore. Mrs. Scott insisted on her right to do the cooking. Jack kept a diary of the trip, some pages of which the historian has read. From them we learn:

"Mrs. Scott has bravely run the gauntlet of her sorrows. Now there is a new look in her face. She is a black-eyed, dark-haired, energetic, comely woman of forty with cheeks as red as a ripe strawberry. Solomon calls her 'middle sized' but she seems to be large enough to fill his eye. He shows her great deference and chooses his words with particular care when he speaks to her. Of late he has taken to singing. She and the boy seem to have stirred the depths in him and curious things are coming up to the surface-songs and stories and droll remarks and playful tricks and an unusual amount of laughter. I suppose that it is the spirit of youth in him, stunned by his great sorrow. Now, touched by miraculous hands he is

be no doubt of this: the man is ten years younger than when I first knew him even. The Little Cricket has laid hold of his heart. Whig sits between the feet of Solomon in the stern during the day and insists upon sleeping with him at night.

"One morning my old friend was laughing as we stood on the river bank washing ourselves.

"'What are you laughing at?' I

"'That gol durn leetle skeezucks!' he answered. 'He were kickin' all him ag'in me to keep the leetle cuss warm.

with his mother? I asked.

"'Wall, if it takes two to do his sleepin' mebbe I better be the one that suffers. Ain't she a likely womern?' "Of course I agreed, for it was evi dent that she was likely, sometime, to make him an excellent wife and the

thought of that made me happy." They had fared along down by the forts and villages traveling stealthly at night in tree shadows through "the Tory zone," as the vielnity of Fort Johnson was then called, camping, now and then, in deserted



farmhouses or putting up at village inns. Setting out from their last camp an hour before daylight they had heard the booming of cannon at sunrise. Solomon stopped his paddle and lis-

"By the hide an' horns o' the devil!" be exclaimed. "I wonder if the British have got down to Albany."

They were alarmed until they halled a man on the river road and learned that Albany was having a celebration. "What be they celebratin'?" Solomon asked.

"The Declaration o' Independence," coming back to his old self. There can the citizen answered.

"It's a good idee," said Solomon.

"When we git that this 'ere of rife o' mine 'll do some talkin' if it has a chanst."

Church bells were ringing as they neared the city. Its inhabitants were assembled on the river front. The Declaration was read and then General Schuyler made a brief address about the peril coming down from the north. He said that a large force under General Burgoyne was on Lake Champlain and that the British were then holding a council with the Six Nations on the shore of the lake above Crown Point.

"At present we are unprepared to meet this great force but I suppose that help will come and that we shall not be dismayed. The modest man who leads the British army from the north declares in his proclemation that he is 'John Burgoyne, Esq., lieutenant general of his majesty's forces in America, colonel of the Queen's Regiment of Light Dragoons, governor of Fort William in North Britain, one of the commons in parliament and commander of an army and fleet employed on an expedition from Canada!' My friends, such is the pride that goeth before a fall. We are an humble, bardworking people. No man among us can boast of a name so lavishly adorned. Our names need only the simple but glorious adornments of firmness, courage and devotion. With those, I verily believe, we shall have an ally greater than any this world can offer. Let us all kneel where we stand while Rev. Mr. Munro leads us in prayer to Almighty God. for His help and guidance."

It was an impressive hour and that day the same kind of talk was heard in many places. The church led the people. Pulpiteers of inspired vision of which, those days, there were many spoke with the tongues of men and of angels. A sublime faith in "The Great Ally" began to travel up and down the land.

CHAPTER XX

The Ambush. Mrs. Scott and her little son were made welcome in the home of John Irons. Jack and Solomon were immediately sent up the river and through the bush to help the force at Ti. In the middle and late days of July, they reported to runners the southward progress of the British. They were ahead of Herkimer's regiment of New York militia on August 3 when they discovered the ambush-a misfortune for which they were in no way responsible. Herkimer and his force had gone on without them to relieve Fort Schuyler. The two scouts had ridden post to join him. They were afoot half a mile or so ahead of the commander when Jack heard the call of the swamp robin. He hurried toward his friend. Solomon was in a thicket

of tamaracks. "We got to git back quick," said the

latter. "I see sign o' an ambush." They hurried to their command and warned the general. He halted and faced his men about and began a retreat. Jack and Solomon burried out ahead of them some 20 rods apart. In five minutes Jack heard Solomon's call night like a mule fightin' a bumble again. Thoroughly alarmed, he ran boe. 'Twere a cold night an' I held in the direction of the sound. In a moment he met Solomon. The face of the latter had that stern look which "'Hadn't you better let him sleep came only in a crisis. Deep furrows ran across his brow. His hands were shut tight. There was an expression of anger in his eyes. He swallowed as Jack came near.

"It's an ambush sure as hell's ahead."

he whispered. As they were hurrying toward the regiment, he added:

"We got to fight an' ag'in big odds-British an' Injuns. Don't never let verself be took alive, my son, lessen ye want to die as Scott did. But, mebbe, we kin bu'st the circle."

In half a moment they met Herkimer. "Git ready to fight," said Solomon. 'We're surrounded."

The men were spread out in a halffircle and some hurried orders given, but before they could take a step forward the trap was sprung. "The Red Devils of Brant" were rushing at them through the timber with yells that seemed to shake the treetops. The regiment fired and began to advance. Some 40 Indians had fallen as they fired. General Herkimer and others were wounded by a volley from the Savages.

"Come on, men. Foller me an' use yer bayonets," Solomon shouted. We'll cut our way out."

The Indians ahead had no time to Scores of them were run through. Others fled for their lives But a red host was swarming up from behind and firing into the regiment. Many fell. Many made the mistake of turning to fight back and were overwhelmed and killed or captured. A goodly number had cut their way through with Jack and Solomon and kept going, swapping cover as they went. Most of them were wounded in some degree. Jack's right shoulder had been torn by a bullet. Solomon's left hand was broken and bleeding. The savages were almost on their heels, not 200 yards behind. The old scout rallied his followers in a thicket at the top of a knoll with an open grass meadow between them and their enemies. There they reloaded their rifles and stood waiting.

"Don't fire-not none o' ye-till I give the word. Jack, you take my rifle. I'm goin' to throw this 'ere bunch o' lightnin'."

Solomon stepped out of the thicket and showed himself when the savages entered the meadow. Then he limped up the trail as if he were badly burt, MAY 29, 1924 HALSEY ENTERPRISE



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moment he had dodged behind cover and crept back into the thicket. There were about 200 warriors who came running across the flat toward that point where Solomon had disappeared. They yelled like demons and overran the little meadow with aston-

in the fashion of a hen partridge when

one has come near her brood. In a

ishing speed. "Now hold yer fire-hold yer fire till I give ye the word, er we'll all be et up. Keep yer fingers off the triggers

He sprang into the open. Astonished, the foremost runners halted while others crowded upon them. The "bunch of lightning" began its curved flight as Solomon leaped behind a tree

and shouted, "Fire!" "Tain't too much to say that the cover flew off o' h-l right thar at the edge o' the Bloody Medder that minnit-you hear to me," he used to tell his friends. "The air were full o' ou'sted Injun an' a barrel o' blood an' grease went down into the ground. A dozen er so that wasn't hurt run back ercrost the medder like the devil were chasin' 'em all with a red-hot iron. I

reckon it'll alius be called the Bloody Medder." In this retreat Jack had lost so much blood that he had to be carried on a litter. Before night fell they met Gen. Benedict Arnold and a considerable force. After a little rest the tireless Solomon went back into the bush with Arnold and two regiments to find the wounded Herkimer, if possible, and others who might be in need of relief. They met a band of refugees coming in with the body of the general. They reported that the far bush was echo-

the shricks of tortured cap-"Beats all what an amount o' sufferin' it takes to start a new nation,"

Solomon used to say. Next day Arnold fought his way to the fort, and many of St. Leger's Rangers and their savage allies were slain or captured or broken into little bands and sent flying for their lives into the northern bush. So the siege

of Fort Schuyler was raised. CHAPTER XXI

The Binkussing of Colonel Burley. Solomon had been hit in the thigh by a rife bullet on his way to the fort. He and Jack and other wounded men were conveyed in boats and litters to the hospital at Albany where Jack remained until the leaves were gone. Solomon recovered more quickly and was with Lincoln's militia under Colonel Brown when they joined Johnson's Rangers at Ticonderoga and cut off the supplies of the British army. Later having got around the lines of the enemy with this intelligence he had a part in the fighting on Bemus Reights and the Stillwater and saw the defeated British army under Burgoyne marching eastward in disgrace to be

conveyed back to England. Jack had recovered and was at home when Solomen arrived in Albany with

Solomon spent a part of the evening at play with the Little Cricket and the other children and when the young ones had gone to bed, went out for a walk with "Mis' Scott" on the river

front. Mrs. Irons had said of the latter that she was a most amiable and useful

person. "The Little Cricket has won our hearts," she added. "We love him as we love our own.'

When Jack and Solomon were setting out in a hired sloop for the Highlands next morning there were tears in the dark eyes of "Mis' Scott."

"Ain't she a likely womern?" Solo mon asked again when with sails spread they had begun to cut the water. Near King's Ferry in the Highlands on the Hudson they spent a night in the camp of the army under Putnam. There they heard the first note of discontent with the work of their beloved Washington. It came from the lips

16 10 FM T MATE 1 1 1 1

of one Colonel Burley of a Connecticut regiment. The commander in chief had lost Newport, New York and Philadelphia and been defeated on Long Island and in two pitched battles on ground of his own choosing at Brandywine and Germantown.

PAGE 3

The two scouts were angry. It had been a cold, wet afternoon and they, with others, were drying themselves around a big, open fire of

logs in front of the camp post office. Solomon was quick to answer the complaint of Burley.

"He's allus been fightin' a bigger force o' well-trained, well-paid men that had plenty to eat an' drink an' weer. An' he's fit 'em with jest a shoe string o' an army. When it come to him, it didn't know nothin' but how toshoot an' dig a hole in the ground: The men wouldn't enlist fer more'n six months an' as soon as they'd learnt suthin,' they put fer hum. An' with that kind o' an army, he druv the British out o' Boston. With a leetle bunch o' 5,000 unpaid, barefoot, ragged-backed devils, he druy the British out o' Jersey an' they had 12,000 men in that neighborhood. He's had to dodge eround an' has kep' his army from bein' et up, hide, horns an' taller, by the power o' his brain. He's managed, to take keer o' himself down thar in Jersey an' Pennsylvaney with the British on all sides o' him, while the best fighters he had come up here to help Gates. I don't see how he could 'a' done it-d-n if I do-without the help

o' God." "Gates is a real general," Burley said. "Washington don't amount to a hill o' beans."

Solomon turned quickly and ad-

"I didn't 'spect to find an enemy o' my kentry in this 'ere camp," he said in a quiet tone. "Ye got to take that back, mister, an' do it prompt, er ye're

goin' to be all mussed up." "Ye could see the ha'r begin to brustle under his coat," Solomon was wont to say of Burley, in speaking of that moment. "He stepped up clus an growled an showed his teeth an"

then he begun to git rootned." Burley had kept a public house for sailors at New Haven and had had the reputation of being a bad man in a quarrel. Of just what happened there is a full account in a little army journal of that time called the Camp Gazette. Burley aimed a blow at Solomon with his fist. Then as Solomon used to put it, "the water bu'st through the dam." It was his way of describing the swift and decisive action which was crowded into the next minute. He seized Burley and hurled him to the ground. With one hand on the napeof his neck and the other on the seat of his trousers. Solemon lifted his enemy above his head and quoited him

over the tent top. Burley picked himself up and having lost his head drew his hanger, and, like a mad bull, rushed at Solomon. Suddenly he found his way barred by

"Would you try to run a man through pefore he can draw?" the latter asked. Solomon's old sword flashed out of its scabbard.

"Let him come on," he shouted. "I'm more to hum with a hanger than I be

with good vittles." Of all the words on record from the lips of this man, these are the most immodest, but it should be remembered that when he spoke them his

blood was hot. (Continued on page 5)

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