

FROM POORHOUSE TO PALACE

BY MARY J. HOLMES

CHAPTER II.—(Continued.)

At last Frank, pulling the old blue jacket from under his head and passing it to Mary, said: "Take it to Billy Bender—he offered me a shilling for it, and a shilling will buy milk for Alice and crackers for Frank—take it."

"No, Frank," answered Mary, "you would have no pillow, besides, I've got something more valuable, which I can sell. I've kept it long, but it must go to keep us from starving—and she held to view the golden locket which George Moreland had thrown around her neck.

"You shan't sell that," said Frank. "You must keep it to remember George; and then, too, you may want it more some other time."

Mary finally yielded the point, and gathering up the crumpled jacket started in quest of Billy Bender. He was a kind-hearted boy, two years older than Frank, whom he had often befriended and shielded from the jeers of their companions. He did not want the jacket, for it was a vast deal too small; and it was only in reply to a proposal from Frank that he should buy it that he had casually offered him a shilling. But now, when he saw the garment, and learned why it was sent, he immediately drew from his old leather wallet a quarter, all the money he had in the world, and giving it to Mary, bade her keep it, as she would need it all.

Half an hour after a cooling orange was held to Frank's parched lips, and Mary said, "Drink, brother; I've got two more, besides some milk and bread," but the ear she addressed was deaf and the eye dim with the fast falling shadow of death. "Mother! mother!" cried the little girl, "Franky won't drink, and his forehead is all sweat."

Mrs. Howard had been much worse that day, but angry made her strong. Springing to his side, she wiped from his brow the cold moisture which had so alarmed her daughter, chafed his hands and feet, and bathed his head, until he seemed better and fell asleep. Fast the shades of night came on, and when all was dark in the sick room Mary sobbed out, "We have no candle, mother, and if I go for one, and he should die—"

The sound of her voice aroused Frank, and feeling for his sister's hand, he said, "Don't go, Mary; don't leave me—the moon is shining bright, and I guess I can find my way to Joe just as well."

Nine—ten—eleven—and then through the dingy windows the silvery moonlight fell, as if indeed to light the way of the early lost to heaven. Mary had drawn her mother's lounge to the side of the trundle bed, and in a state of almost perfect exhaustion Mrs. Howard lay gasping for breath, while Mary, as if conscious of the dread reality about to occur, knelt by her side. Once Mrs. Howard laid her hands on Mary's head, and prayed that she might be preserved from harm by the God of the orphan, and that the sin of disobedience resting on her own head might not be visited upon her child.

After a time a troubled sleep came upon her and she slept until roused by a low sob. Raising herself up, she looked anxiously toward her children. The moonbeams fell upon the white, placid face of Frank, who seemed calmly sleeping, while over him Mary bent, pushing back from his forehead the thick clustering curls, and striving hard to smother her sobs, so that they might not disturb her mother.

"Does he sleep?" asked Mrs. Howard, and Mary, covering with her hands the face of him who slept, answered:

"Turn away, mother—don't look at him. Franky is dead. He died with his arms around my neck, and told me not to wake you."

Mrs. Howard was in the last stages of consumption, and now she lay back, half-fainting upon her pillow. Toward daylight a violent coughing fit ensued, and she knew that she might be spared from her side, she whispered, "I am leaving you alone in the wide world. Be kind to Ella and our dear little Alice, and go with her where she goes. May God keep and bless you my precious children—and reward you as you deserve, my darling."

The sentence was unfinished, and in unspoken awe the orphan girl knelt between her mother and brother—shuddering in the presence of death, and then weeping to think that she was alone.

CHAPTER III.

Just on the corner of Chilcopee Common, and under the shadow of the century-old elm which skirt the borders of the grass plot called by the villagers the "Mall," stands the small red cottage of Widow Bender, who in her way was quite a curiosity. All the "ills which flesh is heir to" Widow Bender, if she could ascertain the symptoms, was sure to have in the most aggravated form.

On the morning following the events narrated in the last chapter Billy, whose dreams had been disturbed by thoughts of Frank, arose early, determined to call at Mrs. Howard's and see if they were in want of anything. But his mother, who had heard rumors of the scarlet fever, was up before him, and on descending to the kitchen Billy found her sitting before a blazing fire—her feet in hot water and her head thrown back in a manner plainly showing that something new had taken hold of her in good earnest.

"Oh, William," said she, "I've lived through a slight, but my time has come at last. Such a pain in my head and stomach. I do believe I've got the scarlet fever, and you must run for the doctor, quick."

"Scarlet fever!" repeated Billy; "why, you've had it once, and you can't have it again, can you?"

"Oh, I don't know—I never was like anybody else and can have anything a dozen times. Now be spry and fetch the doctor; but before you go hand me my snuff box and put the canister top heapful of tea into the teapot."

Billy obeyed, and, knowing that the green tea would remove his mother's

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.

A new Russian loan of 424,000,000 francs is authorized.

Fire in suburb of Detroit, Mich., did \$800,000 damage.

General Dewet, the Boer leader, has resumed operations.

Pennsylvania beat Annapolis in the intercollegiate boat race.

National organization of machinists has ordered a general strike.

Yale beat Harvard 57 to 47 in the annual track and field contest.

The Porte has ordered all foreign postoffices removed from Turkey.

The steamer Princess Louise was wrecked in British Columbia waters.

An attempt was made to sell confidential documents in the Neely case.

Seattle men have bonded 1,000 acres near Willapa bay and will bore for oil.

Esterhazy has made an affidavit that he was the author of the Dreyfus bordereau.

Embezzlement charged against ex-School Land Clerk Davis, of Oregon, may be outlawed.

Trouble between the managers of the Buffalo exposition and union workmen for a time threatened a complete tie-up of work, but the difficulty has been settled.

A grip containing dynamite was in process of fumigation at Port Townsend, Wash., when owner told contents, causing a panic among the steamer passengers.

Mrs. McKinley is ill, and has been taken to San Francisco for a rest. Her illness, while not serious, may cause curtailment of programme for the remainder of president's tour.

Two lives were lost in a New York fire.

The presidential party is now in California.

Eastern wool market shows no improvement.

Martinielli has received the red beretta at Baltimore.

The steel trust will close down the Everett mill works.

English coal miners have decided not to strike at present.

Fire in Augusta, Ga., destroyed \$169,000 worth of cotton.

A fire in Seattle destroyed property to the amount of \$200,000.

A naval war college is to be established for the naval officers.

The industrial commission is investigating rate discriminations.

The steamer Tantillon Castle, wrecked near Cape Town, is a total loss.

The contract plans for the cruiser St. Louis have mysteriously disappeared.

Forest fires in Pennsylvania are destroying immense quantities of valuable timber.

Much disturbance continues among the educated classes in Russia, and the police are kept busy.

A woman of Baker City defended herself successfully with a pitchfork when attacked by a tramp.

Union Pacific has gained control of the Northern Pacific and will prevent the proposed Burlington deal.

The sultan of Turkey has gotten himself in trouble with the ambassadors to Constantinople by interfering with their mails.

The United States Weather Service will be equipped at several points with wireless telegraphy outfits, in the hope of rendering aid to shipping.

Those Porto Ricans who have immigrated from their native country to Hawaii are well pleased with the prospects and say they are doing better there than in Porto Rico.

A new gun now nearing completion at the Watervliet arsenal is expected to throw a projectile weighing 2,370 pounds a distance of 21 miles. It will be on exhibition at the coming fair in Buffalo, N. Y.

News has just arrived of a \$75,000 fire at Dawson.

The allies defeated the Chinese west of Kalgan.

Secret societies at Nankin, China, have joined the reformers.

A well of boiling hot water has been discovered at Vale, Or.

China will ask powers to obtain for her a loan to pay the indemnity.

The Cuban constitutional convention adopted the Platt amendment.

It is said that 1,000 pounds of poultry will cost less to raise than 1,000 pounds of beef, and will sell for almost twice as much.

While finding that the seed trade of England, generally speaking, is well conducted, the departmental committee appointed by the board of agriculture recommends the establishment of a central station for the purpose of testing seeds sent to it for official examination.

Clever Soapmaker.

Friend—Why do you dump all the dirt into your soap kettles?

Soap Manufacturer—If folks don't find the water dirty after washing they think the soap is no good.—New York Weekly.

THE ARTILLERY ARM.

Secretary of War Will Increase It to Its Full Strength.

Washington, May 13.—Secretary Root is a man to whom wide discretion in the matter of interpreting and administering the laws might have been given. This is shown in his determination to increase the artillery corps at once to its full strength. Congress, in its abject fear of criticism, placed a provision in the bill which looked as if the artillery corps of the army was to be increased only 20 per cent each for five years. But the men who drafted the bill knew what they were doing, and when it came out as a law it provided that not less than 20 per cent should be raised the first year, and not less than 20 per cent each succeeding 12 months until the full strength of the artillery was reached. Secretary Root interprets the "not less" to mean that it is not prevented from making the entire increase at once, and so he directed that it should be done.

This is a very good thing. No branch of the military service needs men so much as the artillery. The fortifications and the equipment of the fortifications with valuable guns has been far in advance of the increase of the artillery. In the Spanish war congress was induced to increase the artillery from five to seven regiments, and the last congress was induced to make the increase to 18,000 men, but with an intimation on the wording of the bill that the increase was to be made only gradually at 20 per cent a year for five years. Every coast state, every state where fortifications are needed, and where they have been erected will applaud the action of Secretary Root, as it means more heavy artillery, and fortifications already in place and fortifications to be erected will have artillery placed upon them, and received the care of trained and efficient men, a care that very valuable defenses have not received during the past three years.

Another thing where Secretary Root showed his judgment was in constraining the stupid provision of the Spooner amendment to the army bill, relating to the Philippines. There were two amendments, one prepared by Senator Spooner, giving the president authority to control the Philippines, and Senator Hoar secured the adoption of another regarding franchises, which would prevent anything from being done to improve the condition of the islands. Soon after the Philippine amendment was passed the Taft commission, a reply was received showing that if it was adhered to strictly, it would mean great hardship to the people of the Philippine islands. After mature deliberation the secretary decided to allow the regulations for the cutting of timber which the Philippine commission had enacted to remain in force and not to be interfered with by the Hoar amendment to the army bill. It would have been well, perhaps, to give the secretary some authority in modifying affairs in Cuba, for he has a way of making such modifications of the best interests of the government and the people who are governed.

NEWS OF THE STATE

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL OVER OREGON.

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

A hotel will be built at Enterprise if citizens will give a bonus of \$1,200. Strong indications of natural oil and gas have been found near Milton.

The receipts of the Oregon state land office during April were \$23,459.56.

The contract has been let for building a school house at John Day. The price is \$3,466.

Baker City wheelmen are having trouble with miscreants who stealthily puncture their tires.

The Southern Pacific is putting in a 1,900-foot siding at Rice Hill. Other repairs are being made along the line in that vicinity.

Citizens of Enterprise have organized an immigration board, and will try to secure the co-operation of other towns in the same county.

All but eight or 10 men employed at the Mineral City smelter have been discharged and work has been suspended for a time.

The stages between Canyon City and Burns are now traveling on the summer schedule, and the entire distance of 70 miles is covered in one day instead of two as heretofore.

Six cases of small pox are reported near Athena.

Columbia county will be entirely out of debt by September, 1901.

The bond on the Republic mine, on Griffin creek, Jackson county, has been extended.

Dr. D. F. Lane, of Salem, has been appointed county physician for Marion county.

The Samuels creamery will be moved from La Grande to Baker City and the capacity doubled.

The horse show at Pendleton this year eclipsed anything of the kind ever given in that city before.

A new lumber company is to be opened up at Huntington by the Kelsey Lumber Co., of Weiser, Idaho.

It is reported that a rich strike has been made in the Roaring Gilet mine, situated not far from Gold Hill.

The Ashland mine is yielding more ore now than ever before. The mill is crushing about 25 tons of ore per day.

Reports from the Grand Ronde valley indicate that the prospects for this year's crop of sugar beets is better than ever before.

Mr. Wright, owner of the Big Foot mine, Gold Hill section, has started a force of men at work on the Dougan mine on Sams creek.

The state military board has decided on plans for the coming O. N. G. encampment. The Fourth regiment and First Separate battalion will go into camp, and the Third regiment will engage in a practice drill.

\$800,000 FIRE.

Suburb of Detroit the Scene—Blaze Started in Idle Mill.

Detroit, May 14.—Fanned by a 35-miles-an-hour wind, fire this afternoon swept the west bank of the Rouge river in Delray, a suburb to the south of Detroit, for three quarters of a mile, and destroyed over \$800,000 worth of property.

The fire originated in the roof of a saw mill. The plant has not been running for several months, and the roof was as dry as tinder. The building was soon in ashes and the fire swept across a block to where a dredge was tied up. Despite the efforts to save her, this craft was burned to the water's edge. Great embers were picked up by the wind and dropped in several directions, setting fire to buildings.

Delray has a small fire department, which responded with three engines and the fireboat Battle. Even the greatest streams of the fire were powerless to check the flames which were rolling down the river bank for hundreds of feet. When darkness fell the glare from the burning piles illuminated the sky for miles. The firemen worked on the fire almost all night to keep it from spreading to other property.

A TRICKY BANK TELLER.

His Scheme for Making Money Led to His Arrest.

New Orleans, May 14.—Samuel Flower, paying teller of the Hibernia National bank, has been arrested here charged with a shortage of \$36,000. The Fidelity & Deposit Company, of Baltimore, is on Flower's bond for \$25,000. It is alleged that Flower, expecting an examination, sent to another bank in this city a government sealed package said to contain \$40,000 and received in exchange for it \$40,000 gold clearing house certificates of the denomination of \$5,000 each. His cash having been counted by the National bank examiner the evening before and found correct, it is alleged he returned the clearing house certificates to the bank from which he had received them and received in return his unbroken government package, said to contain \$40,000. This package was received by the Hibernia National Bank from the sub-treasurer of this city, in March last, and contained \$4,000 in \$1 bills. It is alleged that Flower had preserved the label from an old government package that did contain \$40,000 in denominations of \$10 each, which he pasted on the package, containing only \$4,000 in \$1 bills, thereby making it a \$40,000 package to all appearances. This package was opened and counted after his departure from the bank.

PHILIPPINE POLICE FORCE.

Already Organized, Including Over Six Thousand Natives.

Washington, May 14.—An extensive resume of the organization and varied conditions of the Philippine native police force is contained in a statement made public by the division of insular affairs of the war department. The reports recite that, because of the poverty of the municipalities, the Philippine commission appropriated the sum of \$150,000 to provide increased pay for the body, and offered through General MacArthur, further incentive in the way of increased compensation for cases of meritorious and faithful service. Late reports received at the war department indicate that an efficient and loyal force of native police has now been organized, with prospects of further extension and increased activity. The total force now numbers 6,349 officers and men, a great many of whom are on the meritorious list and receive additional pay. The body at present is concentrated in Northern Luzon principally, although the Visayas, Mindanao, Jolo and Southern Luzon have police forces of considerable strength. In many of the towns the men are fully uniformed.

KLONDIKERS IN LUCK.

Miners Are Enjoying Greatest Harvest in the History of the District.

Port Townsend, Wash., May 14.—Returning Dawson passengers on the Victorian, which arrived from Skagway report that the miners of the Klondike are enjoying the greatest harvest in the history of the country, owing to the abundance of the surface water, which is being utilized in sluicing the dirt taken out during the winter months, and the yield of yellow metal will exceed the best expectations of the mine-owners.

The Victoria reports considerable excitement in the north, caused by the smallpox epidemic, and various settlements are taking every precaution to check and wipe out the disease. At Skagway a mass meeting was held, the Indians were driven out of the city, and a strong guard was placed around the town to prevent their return. Nearly all sections are in quarantine. Every stranger arriving is held up and inspected.

Northwest Postal Orders.

Washington, May 14.—The post-office at Brinnin, Jefferson county, Wash., has been moved one mile to the south, without change of postmaster. The office at Kaufman, Fremont county, Idaho, has been moved two miles north, without change of postmaster.

The Minnesota game warden is hatching 100,000,000 wild eyed pike.