

THE OVERTON CLAIM.

By MARTHA M'ULLOCH WILLIAMS.

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Patsy looked at the couple in front of her rapidly vanishing over the hill's crest, saying to herself:

"Spec dem two be much better pleased 'dout me 'an wid me. Any way I'm gwine back. Miss Dare des called me ter keep dat man 'm sayin she want him ter court her, when de good Lord knows hit 'pear lik' he des er dyin ter do hit, an I gwine gib 'im one chance of he don't nobber git no yuther one."

With that she trotted back, following leisurely the track of the other party, and so it came about that when, an hour later, Dare drew rein after climbing along a sharp hill she found herself in its high solitude alone with Royal Cleve.

Upon the very crest of it a little clearing made a smashing way in the dark forest. On one hand the ground fell so sharply away that through the rift in the trees you could see miles and miles



Dare drew rein after climbing along a

of woodland ridges lying all summer fair in the shimmering heat, with lappings and foldings of palest soft haze along the far fading lines that ran down to the river's brink. A wild world it seemed, full of savage, untouched beauty. Dare studied it long and earnestly, then took away her eyes, with a shiver, saying:

"One might fancy all the giants of the fairy tales were dead and buried here under these long leafy graves."

Royal Cleve caught the hand that lay lightly upon her pommet, laid his lips upon it and said in a shaken voice:

"Dare, darling, is not a living lover worth as much in your eyes as a dead giant?"

"It depends," Dare said breathlessly, refixing her horse away, a quick flush staining her neck and brow.

In a flash Cleve was beside her, but said, not attempting to touch her:

"It depends upon what, Miss Overton? Nothing impossible, I hope?"

"Upon who he was, whether I cared for him and the way he told his love," Dare said spiritedly. "I am sure I should not care what befell him if he took advantage of—of circumstances to thrust unwelcome declarations upon me."

"Ah! Then they are unwelcome now? Will they always be so?" Cleve asked quietly, with a dark flush rising in his cheek.

Dare looked him full in the eyes and said slowly:

"I hardly know what you mean, or that you mean anything. Let us agree that you do not, Mr. Cleve. It is a pity that anything should come up to spoil the day's pleasure for either of us."

"But I do mean something, mean that I love—that I am mad about you, as I have been about no other woman alive. Ever since I saw you I have tried to tell you so. You slipped away from the subject—laughed at, flouted me until in very desperation I am forced to speak here, to take the 'advantage of circumstances' that you fling in my teeth. Dare, Dare, be pitiful, be kind, for your own sake even more than mine!" the young man entreated, sinking from anger to pleading.

A fine faint scorn touched Dare's lips as she answered:

"I have been taught, Mr. Cleve, that in matters of this sort a woman's will is always a gentleman's pleasure. Believe me, it is my will that the subject be never again mentioned between us. Oblige me now, please, by riding on. I am anxious to get back to my aunt, whom I acknowledge I should never have left as I did. No doubt you mistook me, thought that that licensed you to speak as—as you have done. I pray you to pardon me if I misled you and take me back at once."

"I will some day," Royal Cleve said, speaking through hard set teeth.

CHAPTER XIX.

Side by side, with set faces, with burning eyes, neither speaking a word, those two rode for hours through the heart of the wilderness, threading dark hollows where the fern either side of the single track brushed the saddle cloths with rank green fronds; skirting perilous hillsides, where a single misstep might send you instantly to rocky dells below.

A cloud had risen and veiled the sun.

Low mutterings of thunder came up from the south. The wind sank to fitful gasps sobbing through the tree tops. Not a bird sang. A curious resonant stillness lay over and possessed the world.

At length Dare stopped her horse short, saying:

"Surely, Mr. Cleve, you have missed the way! You said we could easily get to the old forge by 12 o'clock. It must be near 2 now, and I see no sign of it."

"Don't you? Look ahead there to the left," Cleve said, indicating with his whip an opening at one side of the road.

Dare was inexpressibly relieved to see that long opening, a big weather stained building. Springing down before Cleve could swing himself from the saddle, she flung the reins loose upon her tired horse's neck and ran forward, calling eagerly:

"Aunt Mel, Aunt Mel, did you think we were lost? I am sure we have been, though Mr. Cleve would not say so."

The noise of hoofs made her turn suddenly to see Cleve lash both horses so sharply that at once they dashed away into the dim woods beyond.

"Why did you do that? What do you mean?" cried Dare, now thoroughly aroused. Cleve stood with folded arms, looking at her from under darkling brows.

"Oh, nothing!" he said quietly.

"Come, let us look for our friends."

Dare darted before him into the open

door, to find herself facing vacancy in a huge desolate room, where for more than 20 years the spiders had been spinning undisturbed their tapestry of ruin.

"Why, they have gone and left us! We must follow them at once," she said, standing up very tall and straight, her eyes full of contemptuous light. Royal Cleve came close and said in a repressed voice:

"That will not be easy, for they have not been here."

"Where are they? Take me to them at once!" Dare said, with a little stamp of her foot. Cleve smiled faintly, saying:

"As nearly as I can estimate it, they are about leaving the old forge, 15 miles as the crow flies from where we stand, and 50 at least if you count hills and windings of the road."

Dare's heart gave a wild leap, but her blood, neither the brave Overton strain nor the hot tide of the Dares, had no taint of cowardice. Unquailing, she looked at the man who held her so entirely in his power and said, low and hard:

"So it is as I feared. You purposely misled me. May I ask what you hope or expect to gain by it?"

"The thing I care most for in all the world—yourself," Cleve said, drawing a pace away and continuing: "I do not say 'fear not.' I see there is no need for it. Upon my life, Dare, I never loved you so well as now, when I see of what superb mettle you are. Any other woman so placed would be vixenish or hysterical. You only look at me with the eyes of an insulted goddess. I am sorry, more than sorry, that you forced me to this extremity. You might have escaped it had you given me the merest shred of hope."

"Excuse me. I must be going. I cannot listen longer," Dare said, making as if to pass him where he stood.

At once he stepped into the door, spread his arm across its space and said, with an undertone of thick tremor:

"Go back, Dare. Don't force me to touch you. Even if I let you pass, you would but go to your death. This place is the farthest of the outlying works. In the broadest daylight you would starve before you could find your way out. With night and storm approaching, you would indeed have small chance. Be assured, when we do not return, they will seek for us and find us tomorrow."

"When, I suppose, you think I will marry you?" Dare said, with cheeks aglow.

"You must. Your family will demand it," Cleve said, looking at her with kindling eyes.

For a minute Dare faced him in silence, then came close to where he stood and said, looking up at him with fearful eyes:

"Mr. Cleve, I never thought you a ruffian. Please show me that I was not mistaken by letting me pass."

Cleve caught his breath and said hurriedly:

"I cannot. I dare not. Don't you see it is too late? It would be madness to venture together even. I could not find the way back on foot. We must wait for

rescue. It will surely come. Meantime let me make you comfortable as may be. Come, sit on this bench. There must be food and wine somewhere."

"Ah! You prepared for all this. It is like a romance," Dare said, walking away to the window at the room's far end and peering through its small dusty panes. Heavy wooden shutters hung flapping outside, the freshness of their inner surfaces showing that it was but a little while since they had been flung wide.

The sash likewise showed signs of recent opening. No doubt the place had been made ready for her detention in case she dared to balk the conspiracy against her house, for conspiracy it must be. This man would surely never have dared to offer her so great, so terrible an affront had he not felt sure that his villainy would be glossed over until it could be effectual. Clearly Hawkins was in league with him. He would delude her aunt into letting him head the search and so manage that they should be found exactly as had been planned.

Even had she felt free the flame of anger in her breast had burned it away. In the strength of it she felt able and willing to defy the conspirators, the elements, the wrath of heaven itself.

The clang of the door made her turn to see Royal Cleve carefully barring it in place.

"It's coming on to rain and blow," he said. "This old barrack will be damp enough at best. I must see to it that it gives you all the shelter possible."

Without speaking, Dare unfastened the belt of her heavy riding skirt, dropped it upon the floor and stood revealed in a close frock of dark wool that came just to the instep. Still in silence she went up to the rough table, where some food had been spread, and though all unconscious of hunger forced herself to eat.

Cleve looked at her, half in compassion, wholly in worship, but came no nearer than the door, against which he still leaned. After a little he said:

"Dare, if you do not, cannot love me, I wish I had never seen you. I know what I am doing—how intolerably vile it all is. With you in the balance, the shame, the villainess has not a feather's weight. Tell me now truly, do you love any other man?"

Dare's only answer was a quick, scornful look. She went on eating, swallowing slowly and with such evident difficulty that Cleve came forward, saying:

"Will you drink a little wine?"

Dare shook her head.

"No," she said. "Conspirators stop at few things. I know you do not mean to harm me bodily, but drugs are potent, and I have no doubt you would like to keep me quiet until tomorrow."

In spite of himself Cleve's eyes fell

"There is no harm in the wine," he protested. "I will drink with you if you don't it."

"I will take your word for it," Dare said. "In return, as I really am very thirsty, will you not let me go outside for water? There must be a spring close at hand."

"I will show it to you if you will take my arm," Cleve said, unfastening the door and waiting for her beside it. "We must hurry," he went on. "The storm is almost upon us. We shall barely have time to go and come before it breaks."

Holding Dare's hand close to his side, he led the way to where a cold stream gushed from under mossy rocks at foot of a huge hill. The house they had just quitted stood at the head of a long valley, narrow, winding and crisscrossed with the stream that here had head. This had been the storehouse and superintendent's quarters. Lower down came the furnace itself, the stack of it fallen half way, the sheds and outbuildings utterly ruined.

Dare glimpsed it all faintly through gaps in the thick growth about her. Cleve took a silver drinking cup from his pocket, filled it from the spring's head and placed it in her hand, saying:

"Pardon me that I did not think of this sooner. I shall not soon forgive myself, though, for letting you go thirsty with water so close at hand."

Dare dropped on her knees beside the well head, flung off her hat and said coldly:

"Stand back a little, please. I want to bathe my face."

Cleve drew a little away, but kept his eyes full upon her, while with quick, impatient motions she dashed the water higher and on. At last he said courteously:

"Pardon me, but really we must get to shelter. It has begun to rain."

Dare got slowly to her feet, took up her hat in one hand and walked toward him. Just at his side she dropped it, apparently by accident. A gusty wind caught it and sent it whirling along the path. Instinctively Cleve darted after it, caught it 20 yards away and turned to find himself alone. Dare had vanished as if by magic.

CHAPTER XX.

Royal Cleve got white to the lips.

"Dare! Dare!" he shouted. "Come back! Come! You are mad. Come! I will take you out of this. I will, on my soul. Come! For God's sake, come! It is murder to let you go thus. Only come, and I will take you wherever you will."

All in vain. No word came back to him from the dim, tangled depths. No stir of bush or brake, no noise of foot on rock or pebble gave him hint of her presence. Spite of his calling, his crying out, his wild running to and fro, he found no trace of her.

Dare was lost to him, to the world, it might be to life itself. At the spring's brink she had noted a blind path running down the jungle hillside above it. As Cleve for a second took his eye from her she had run swiftly toward it, gained it and was crawling upward, safe hid by its overhanging growths. Face downward, flat upon the earth, she drew herself painfully toward the hilltop, with the wild adjurations of the man she had balked falling full in her ears.

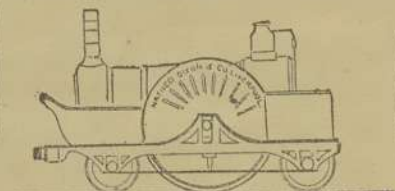
She had no thought of going back. Better a hundredfold death or madness than to feel herself once again helpless in his hands. The fitful rain had ceased. It came out of a broken cloud that had deluged the lower valley, but here sent down only a scattering fall. The air was hot and humid. The wind came in long gusts, heavy freighted each with the presage of further storm. The night would doubtless be wild, but there were still some hours of daylight. If they did not suffice to take her to safe shelter, they at least made it possible to put a long space betwixt her and her so violent lover.

[CONTINUED.]

TEN-FOOT DRIVING WHEELS.

Type of Locomotive Used in England Fifty Years Ago.

English locomotives have always been conspicuous for the great size of the driving wheels. While the drivers of American locomotives are usually less than six feet in diameter, seven or eight feet is not uncommon among English engines, and in the early days of railroading it was believed that the best results were to be obtained by the



OLD-TIME STEAM ENGINE.

use of wheels of even larger size. On engines built for fast running a single pair of huge driving wheels seems to have been a distinguishing feature since the earliest days of locomotive construction. In England that type of engine is still a familiar one.

The accompanying sketch, which was sent to the Engineer, London, by John Wilson, of Glasgow, shows the outline of a locomotive with driving wheels ten feet in diameter, which was built in Glasgow fifty years ago. Two or more of these engines were built, but it was found so difficult to get up speed in starting that they were abandoned.

The Latest in Hairdressing.

The latest device in hairdressing is to make use of a coil of jute or curled hair, in other days called a "rat." This coil is much the shape of a very large cruller, and it is pinned exactly in the center of the head, one's own hair being first drawn through the opening in the center of the ring. When adjusted, the hair is twisted around this ring, and gives the effect of a very large coil of hair. In case the wearer's hair is not luxuriant, the cruller shaped piece is first lightly covered with hair the exact shade of these meager tresses.—New York Post.

Cutting Teeth at Seventy-seven.

Mrs. Hannah Masonhall of Sedalia, Mo., 77 years old, is cutting a full set of teeth, upper and lower. For ten years she has not had a tooth in her head, and this queer action on the part of Dame Nature is the marvel of all who are acquainted with Mrs. Masonhall.

About Politicians.

About the worst feature in a statesman getting on his ear is his thus incapacitating himself from hearing both sides.—Philadelphia Times.

POPULIST PLATFORM.

Adopted by the National Convention Held at St. Louis.

Following is the Populist platform, as agreed upon by the committee on resolutions and adopted by the St. Louis convention:

"The People's Party, assembled in national convention, reaffirms its allegiance to the principles declared by the founders of the republic, and also to the fundamental principles of just government as enunciated in the platform of the party in 1892. We recognize that, through the connivance of the present and preceding administrations, the country has reached a crisis in its national life, as predicted in our declaration four years ago, and that prompt and patriotic action is the supreme duty of the hour. We realize that, while we have political independence, our financial and industrial independence is yet to be obtained by restoring to our country the constitutional control and exercise of the functions necessary to a people's government, which functions have been basely surrendered by our public servants to corporate monopolies. The influence of European money changers has been more potent in shaping legislation than the voice of the American people! Executive power and patronage have been used to corrupt our legislatures and defeat the will of the people, and plutocracy has thereby been enthroned upon the ruins of democracy. To render the government independent by the fathers of the country for the welfare and prosperity of this and future generations, we demand the establishment of an economic and financial system which shall make us masters of our own affairs and independent of European control by the adoption of the following declaration of principles:

Finance.

First—We demand a national money, safe and sound, issued by the general government only, without the intervention of banks of issue, to be a full legal tender for all debts, public and private; a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people and through the lawful disbursements of the government.

Second—We demand the free and unrestricted coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, and without waiting for the consent of foreign nations.

Third—We demand that the volume of circulating medium be speedily increased to an amount sufficient to meet the demands of the business and the population of this country, and to restore the just level of prices and labor production.

Fourth—We denounce the sale of bonds and the increase of the public interest-bearing debt, made by the present administration, as unnecessary and without authority of law, and we demand that no more bonds be issued except by specific action of congress.

Fifth—We demand such legislation as will prevent the demonetizing of the lawful money of the United States by private contract.

Sixth—We demand that the government, in payment of its obligations, shall use its option as to the kind of lawful money in which they are to be paid, and we denounce the present and preceding administrations for surrendering this option to the holders of government obligation securities.

Seventh—We demand a graduated income tax, to the end that aggregate wealth shall bear its just proportion of taxation, and we regard the recent decision of the supreme court, relative to the income-tax law, as a misinterpretation of the constitution, an invasion of the rightful powers of congress on the subject of taxation.

Eighth—We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the savings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

Transportation.

First—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people on a nonpartisan basis, to the end that all may be accorded the same treatment in transportation, and that the tyranny of political power, now exercised by the great railroad corporations, which result in the impairment, if not the destruction of the political rights and personal liberty of the citizen may be destroyed. Such ownership is to be accomplished gradually in a manner consistent with sound public policy.

Second—The interest of the United States in the public highways built with public money and the proceeds of extensive grants of land to the Pacific railroads should never have been alienated, mortgaged or sold, but guarded and protected for the general welfare as provided for the laws organizing such railroads. The foreclosure of existing loans of the United States on these roads should at once follow default in the payment thereof by the debtor companies, and at the foreclosure sales of said roads the government should purchase the same, if it becomes necessary, to protect its interests, or if they can be purchased at a reasonable price, and the government shall operate said railroads as public highways for the benefit of the whole people, and not in the interest of the few, under suitable provisions for protection of life and property, giving to all the transportation interests equal privileges and equal rates for fares and freights.

Third—We denounce the present infamous schemes for refunding the said debts, and demand that the laws now applicable thereto be executed and administered according to their true intent and spirit.

Fourth—The telegraph, like the post-office system, being a necessity for the transaction of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

Land.

First—The true policy demands that the national and state legislation shall be such as will ultimately enable every prudent and industrious citizen to secure a home, and therefore the land should not be monopolized for speculative purposes. All lands now held by railways and other corporations in excess of their actual needs should, by lawful means, be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only, and private land monopoly, as well as alien ownership, should be prohibited.

Second—We condemn the frauds by which the land grants to Pacific rail-

road companies have, through the connivance of the interior department, robbed multitudes of bona fide settlers of their homes and miners of their claims, and we demand legislation by congress which will enforce the exemption of mineral land from such grants after, as well as before, patenting.

Third—We demand that bona fide settlers on all public lands be granted free homes, as provided in the national homestead law, and that no exception be made in the case of Indian reservations when opened for settlement, and that all lands not now patented come under this demand.

Direct Legislation.

We favor a system of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum, under proper constitutional safeguards.

General Propositions.

First—We demand the election of president, vice-president and United States senators by direct vote of the people.

Second—We tender to the patriotic people of Cuba our deepest sympathy in their struggle for political freedom and independence, and we believe the time has come when the United States, the great republic of the world, should recognize that Cuba is, and of right ought to be, a free and independent state.

Third—We favor home rule in the territories and the District of Columbia, and the early admission of the territories as states.

Fourth—All public salaries should be made to correspond to the price of labor and its products.

Fifth—In times of great industrial depression, idle labor should be employed on public works as far as practicable.

Sixth—The arbitrary course of the court in assuming to imprison citizens for indirect contempt and ruling them by injunction should be prevented by proper legislation.

Seventh—We favor just pensions for every disabled Union soldier.

Eighth—Believing that the election franchise and untrammelled ballot are essential to a government of, for and by the people, the People's party condemns the wholesale system of disfranchisement adopted in some of the states as unrepugnant and undemocratic, and we declare it to be the duty of the several state legislatures to take such action as will secure a full and free and fair ballot and an honest count.

Ninth—While the foregoing propositions constitute the platform which our party stands upon and for the vindication of its organization will be maintained, we recognize that the great and pressing issue of the pending campaign upon which the presidential election will turn, is the financial question, and upon this great and specific issue between the parties we cordially invite the aid and co-operation of all organizations and citizens agreeing with us upon this vital question.

OLDEST LIVING MASON.

Charles R. Deming, of Geneseo, Ill., Said to Bear that Distinction.

Charles R. Deming, of Geneseo, Ill., is probably the oldest living mason in America. He was born on Oct. 8, 1804, at Sandfield, Mass. When 12 years old he came west with his parents as far as Ohio. The trip was made with a yoke of oxen and the emigrants were six weeks making the journey. They stopped at Brunswick, Medina County. Not long before the Demings passed through the county the British had burned Buffalo, and Cleveland was an insignificant town. The elder Deming bought a farm in Medina County and worked it until 1823. The younger



CHARLES R. DEMING.

Deming left farming in that year and in 1825 he went into Ashland County, was married in 1830 and returned to the farm near Brunswick. Two years later he removed to Ashland County and embarked in trade. From 1852 until 1894 he traded in cattle and in the last named year came to Illinois and settled in Henry County, where he has lived ever since. He was twice sent to the Ohio Legislature. His initiation into masonry took place in Ohio in 1826. Notwithstanding his great age Mr. Deming keeps pace with the march of modern progress. He reads the daily papers, and takes a special interest in politics. His health is good, his eye clear, and his mind bright.

BRAVE MAN, BRAVE DEED.

One of Custer's Fighting Soldiers Given a Medal by Congress.

Theodore W. Goldin, clerk of the circuit court of Janesville, Wis., has been presented with a bronze medal inscribed: "The Congress to Private Theodore W. Goldin of Troop G, Seventh United States Cavalry, For Most Distinguished Gallantry at the Little Big Horn River, Montana, July 26, 1876." General J. B. Doe, assistant secretary of war, presented the medal in the name of the president of the United States.

Colonel Goldin was a private in General Custer's fighting Seventh. When General Reno's command was besieged by 800 Indians, the wounded soldiers suffered under the blazing sun from a terrible thirst. Private Goldin, then a raw recruit, volunteered with three others to go down the bluff with a big camp kettle for water. All four came back, but the camp kettle, which they dragged between them, was pierced with bullets. Had it not been for canteens slung about their shoulders they would have brought back no water.

Long ago the other three men were decorated by congress. Colonel Goldin's modesty prevented the details of his achievement from being known, but his comrades were not content to let him remain in the background.

YOU ARE NOT "SHAKEN BEFORE TAKEN"

With malarial disease, but with prodigious violence afterwards, if you neglect immediate measure of relief. The surest preventive and remedial form of medication is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, the potency of which as an anorectic and tonic has been demonstrated for over forty years past. The liver is a disordered and congested, the bowels if constipated, and the kidneys, if inactive, are promptly acted by it, it is invaluable for dyspepsia, nervous debility and rheumatism.

Part of a cornfield at Joplin, Mo., which has never been undermined, has settled twenty feet.

I know that my life was saved by Pilo's Cure for Consumption.—John A. Miller, Au Sable, Michigan, April 21, 1895.

No fewer than 1,000,000 men, women and children die yearly in India from starvation.

\$100 REWARD, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dread-d disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address, F. J. CLEMENT & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

There were but twenty-eight foreign-born naturalized in Mexico the last fiscal year.

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Walk Right In; Take a Seat. Yes, plenty of time to talk, since I got the HERCULES GASOLINE ENGINE; runs itself, you know, Engineer? No, I am the Engineer, start it and it goes right along. You want one? Write for Catalogue and Price List to the American Type Foundry's Co., Second and Stark Sts., Portland, Or.

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