CURRENT EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Doings of the World at Large Told in Brief.

General Resume of Important Events Presented in Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

Mexican rebels have been victorious in many night attacks.

Premier Asquith was attacked and beaten by English suffragettes.

A 12-year old boy of Lebanon, Ky., died of injuries received in a football game.

Insurgency is rife among the Democratic members of the coming congress.

Internal revenue receipts are reported to be $12,000,000 ahead of the previous fiscal year.

Millionaire mining fakirs arrested in New York did not attempt to procure bail and are remaining in jail.

An aviator at Mobile, Ala., struck the eatrh while flying low, wrecking his machine. He escaped without injury.

Eleven Austrians left Portland to return voluntarily to their native land, where they will have to serve three years in the army. They all expect to return to this country after visiting and doing their military duty.

The steamer Beaver rammed and sunk the tramp freighter Selja off San Francisco harbor in a dense fog. The only fatalities were the drowning of two Chinese members of the Selja's crew, although the injured steamer went down within 15 minutes after being struck.

Mexico has seized all telegraph lines on the plea of military necessity.

Out-of-date railroad metnods are blamed for high rates in the East.

New Mexico's proposed constitution is much shorter even than that of Oregon.

It is reported that two Mexican cities have fallen into the hands of the rebels.

Vessels of all kinds are limping into Coast ports and report terriffic gales and desperate struggles for safety.

President Taft, on board the U. S. cruiser Tennessee, experienced a 40-mile gale at sea, and enjoyed it hugely.

The U. S. government wireless station at Mare Island picked up every word of a message between two Atlantic coast stations.

An "apple train" consisting of 13 carloads of prize-winning fruit left Spokane apple show en route to Chicago to be displayed there.

In opening a new naval academy at Merwick, Emperor William laid great stress upon temperance as a necessary qualification for good soldiers.

In districts of Alberta largely settled by Americans, objections have been raised to the use of English national airs for singing lessons, and in some places the songs have been discontinued.

Several mining swindlers in New York have been arrested by the postal authorities for using the mails to defraud. They are believed to have bilked the public of $40,000,000 to $50,000,000.

New York City has discarded five of its city automobiles as expensive and unnecessary.

Secretary Wilson predicts a return of hard times under a Democratic control of congress.

Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, has been dangerously ill for some time, but is now improving.

More than $166,000 was earned by students of Columbia university, New York, during the past year.

The full committee on elections and privileges in the senate will investigate the bribery charges against Senator Lorimer.

Aviator Hoxsey made a fine flight at Denver, reaching an altitude of 2,500 feet and going into the clouds dring a heavy snow storm.

In the constitutional convention in Arizona, the effort to abolish taxes for road purposes failed, and the state debt is limited to $200,000.

Representative-elect Littleton, of the First district of New York, which includes Oyster Bay, in a speech roundly scored the "New Nationalism."

Five men made a balloon trip of 110 miles in a 65-mile gale in Rhode Island. All were badly bruised on landing and one was rendered unconscious.

Modern sanitary methods have lowered the death rate in Manila from 40 per thousand to 34.9. The death rate is lowest among the American residents.

A Princeton graduate now living in Canada has presented the university with a small tin of tea which is alleged to be a part of the cargo thrown overboard in Boston harbor by the famous Boston Tea Party in 1773.

New Mexico will vote on her new constitution December 19.

Prohibition and woman's suffrage were both defeated in Arizona.

A 13-year-old New York boy died of injuries received in a football game.

Secretary Wilson says the Western homesteader is increasing the cost of meat by taking up the ranges.

England's house of lords will submit to reforming, rather than lose the veto power.

Striking garment workers in Chicago resume rioting and one policeman was wounded by a revolver shot.

The inspector of weights and measures of the U. S. department of commerce, found nearly every merchant in Butte, Mont., was giving short weights.

HUGE FRAUDS EXPOSED.

American Public Bilked of $100,000 or More.

New York — In raids so important that Postmaster General Hitchcock took charge in person, inspectors took action against two concerns which they charge with swindling the public out of more than $40,000,000 by fraudulent use of the mails.

Sheldon H. Burr, president; Eugene H. Burr, secretary and treasurer, and Frank H. Tobey, vice president of Burr Bros., were arrested in the first raid and held in $20,000 bail each. The government charges that the firm sold between $40,000,000 and $50,000,000 of mining and oil stock worth little or nothing.

Charles L. Vaughan, a director of the Continental Wireless Telegraph & Telephone company, incorporated in Arizona, was taken in the second raid and held in $10,000 bail. Inspectors say his company has sold stock amounting at least to $1,000,000 which has brought no returns to investors. Vaughan is treasurer of the Columbia Finance company, which acts as fiscal agent for the Continental Wireless Telegraph & Telephone company, and had charge of the Continental office in this city.

Both raids are further evidence that the government in its warfare againt interstate swindlers means business and no longer will be content with issuing fraud orders denying them the use of the mails, but will press for convictions on criminal charges.

The present campaign began some months ago, and has resulted in the arrest of Louis A. Cella, of St. Louis, and his associates, charged with operating a string of bucket shops; the officers of the United Wireless company, of the El Progresso Banana company, of the United Exchange, of Chicago; of the Steel-Miller Cotton firm, of Corinth, Miss., and of more than 60 other firms in all parts of the country.

Postmaster General Hitchcock estimates that the public has been fleeced out of at least $100,000,000 by get-rich-quick concerns in the last five years, but he says their heyday has gone. He says that other arrests, involving corporations that had sought investors throughout the country, were expected shortly.

"The arrest by postoffice inspectors of the principals in two important companies, Burr Brothers, with offices in the Flat Iron building, and the Continental Wireless company, with headquarters at 50 Pine street," said the postmaster general, "constitutes two more cases in the series of investigations which postal officials have been making in their crusade against the fraudulent use of the mails."

U. P. GETS NORTH COAST.

Mysterious Line In Eastern Washington Was a Speculation.

Portland—The North Coast railroad, which for five years or more has been engaged in construction work in Eastern Washington, will cease to be a mystery, it is said, before the close of the present week.

The announcement, when it comes, will place the identity of the railroad with Harriman interests. It is understood that the Harriman control of the property has already been revealed to Northern Pacific officers and that the mind of the public is to be relieved by an official statement within a few days.

That the full story of the North Coast road will ever be told is not at all certain, but the accepted version among railroad men now is that Robert E. Strahorn, the promoter of the enterprise, was backed by men financially able to take a long chance and that he expended the money provided him in making surveys and building sections of track here and there with the definite plan in view of disposing of the property to any one of the several big railroad systems that might be inclined to pay the price.

It is believed that the Union Pacific acquired the property about the time of the visit to the Pacific Coast of Robert S. Lovett, president of the system last summer.

As a Harriman enterprise the road will probably, for a number of years, be devoted principally to giving the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company access to the Yakima valley and also a shorter and better line between Portland and Spokane.

Conscience Money Sent.

Walla Walla—Again the conscience-stricken president of the defunct Walla Walla Saving Bank has sent his check to cover loses through the failure of that institution 17 years ago. About $800 was received in the city, John Smails being lucky to the extent of about $50. His son Lloyd, at that time a mere baby, for whom his father had deposited more than $100 in nickels, received every cent of his deposits. Edminston has signified his intention of paying off every cent, which will mean tens of thousands of dollars.

Big Aviation Meet Planned.

San Francisco—Fifty prominent citizens announced through Paul Beck, U. S. A., that an exhibition and competition aviation meet will be held in this city soon after the first of the year. Fifty thousand dollars in prizes will be guaranteed. It is stated that nearly all of the prominent aviators will fly here, including Brookins and Hoxsey, of the Wright team; Glenn H. Curtiss, Ely, and Willard, of the Curtiss team; Moissant, Latham, Garris, Audemar, Hamilton and probably De Lesseps. A flight of 100 miles will be a feature.

Kaiser Opposes Rum.

Flensburg, Prussia—In opening the new academy at Muerwick, Emperor William read an address laying stress on the qualifications necessary to naval officers and, later, speaking extemporaneously, made a plea for temperance on the part of cadets. The times, the emperor said, required iron-hearted men. Character was the first essential and character was founded on strong moral and religious convictions.

Overstudy Kills Youth.

Baltimore—Following a mental collapse, brought on by over-study, William Mitchell, 19 years old, of South Dakota, a candidate for entrance to West Point, died in a hospital here. Heart trouble was given as the direct cause of death. Mitchell was studying at Annapolis when he broke down.

VOTE IN DETAIL AS REPORTED BY COUNTY CANVASSING BOARDS

COUNTIES.	Congressman, First District. Elmore	Hawley	Sherman	Smith	Congressman, Second District. Crawford (S.)	Lafferty (R.)	Manning (D.)	Pratt (P.)	Governor. Bowerman (R.)	Eaton (P.)	Richards (S.)	West (D.)
Baker	190	1,075	78	744	350	1,638	1,158	116	1,460	193	1,706	298
Benton	412	2,681	420	1,834					2,084	246	2,036	246
Clackamas					265	1,377	693	112	3,811	1,175	1,435	1,175
Clatsop	267	1,155	155	1,055	267	1,177	1,106	106	1,926	90	1,647	90
Columbia						690	482		1,449	149	1,368	149
Coos	209	1,325	576	843	173	922	567	98	1,174	174	1,111	174
Crook	33	214	38	196					1,888	160	1,621	160
Curry	263	2,022	408	1,415	40	457	271	16	440	13	391	13
Douglas					104	1,022	290	83	523	50	552	50
Gilliam					79	674	249	52	1,365	211	1,317	211
Grant									799	164	692	164
Harney									1,030	56	1,024	56
Hood River	540	1,295	604	1,335					1,425	61	1,347	61
Jackson	221	1,788	221	796					2,800	217	2,724	217
Josephine	136	588	172	490					1,025	164	692	164
Klamath	115	864	115	588					1,025	58	1,025	58
Lake	54	2,230	65	1,268					1,025	164	1,025	164
Lane	744	2,625	174	2,203					2,304	50	2,304	50
Lincoln	838	1,918	351	1,721					1,725	50	1,741	50
Linn									2,304	50	2,304	50
Malheur	638	3,754	424	2,230	110	900	635	54	4,425	517	4,425	517
Marion									1,725	50	1,741	50
Morrow	94	2,912	94	2,182	33	544	244	33	2,574	210	2,562	210
Multnomah	15,262	10,715	15,262	10,715	13	1,695	1,695	13	1,695	1,695	1,695	1,695
Polk	190	1,118	190	1,064	45	1,030	1,030	45	2,253	49	2,253	49
Sherman	92	682	151	512	69	411	299	69	1,025	164	1,025	164
Tillamook						2,352	2,352		2,025	206	2,025	206
Umatilla						1,285	1,285		1,965	161	1,965	161
Union						1,065	1,065		1,157	154	1,157	154
Wallowa						2,352	2,352		2,025	206	2,025	206
Wasco						2,352	2,352		1,965	161	1,965	161
Washington						1,065	1,065		1,157	154	1,157	154
Wheeler						2,352	2,352		2,025	206	2,025	206
Yamhill	287	2,065	222	1,065	20	1,259	1,259	12	1,965	161	1,965	161
Totals	414	1,655	210	1,061	342	184	212	12	1,254	271	1,254	271
Pluralities	4,885	26,564	4,981	18,333	5,383	26,620	19,037	3,464	18,701	6,945	8,043	1,526

COUNTIES.	Secretary of State. Benson (R.)	Davis (P.)	McDonald (S.)	Oliver (D.)	Treasurer. Butler (P.)	Kay (R.)	Otten (S.)	Justice Supreme Court, 4-yr. term (two elected). Bean (R.)	Bright (P.)	McBride (R.)	Myers (S.)	Ryan (S.)	Slater (N-P.)	Justice Supreme Court, 6-yr. term (two elected). Burnett (R.)	Jones (S.)	Kline (N-P.)	Moore (R.)	Ramp (S.)
Baker	1,190	203	1,200	208	1,207	146	146	1,145	1,145	1,284	312	256	256	1,155	1,151	1,141	1,141	1,172
Benton	1,165	2,305	1,205	2,305	1,165	2,305	2,305	1,165	2,305	1,165	2,305	1,165	2,305	1,165	2,305	1,165	2,305	1,165
Clackamas	1,175	1,435	1,175	1,435	1,175	1,435	1,435	1,175	1,435	1,175	1,435	1,175	1,435	1,175	1,435	1,175	1,435	1,175
Clatsop	90	1,647	90	1,647	90	1,647	1,647	90	1,647	90	1,647	90	1,647	90	1,647	90	1,647	90
Columbia	149	1,368	149	1,368	149	1,368	1,368	149	1,368	149	1,368	149	1,368	149	1,368	149	1,368	149
Coos	174	1,111	174	1,111	174	1,111	1,111	174	1,111	174	1,111	174	1,111	174	1,111	174	1,111	174
Crook	160	1,621	160	1,621	160	1,621	1,621	160	1,621	160	1,621	160	1,621	160	1,621	160	1,621	160
Curry	13	391	13	391	13	391	391	13	391	13	391	13	391	13	391	13	391	13
Douglas	50	552	50	552	50	552	552	50	552	50	552	50	552	50	552	50	552	50
Gilliam	211	1,317	211	1,317	211	1,317	1,317	211	1,317	211	1,317	211	1,317	211	1,317	211	1,317	211
Grant	164	692	164	692	164	692	692	164	692	164	692	164	692	164	692	164	692	164
Harney	56	1,024	56	1,024	56	1,024	1,024	56	1,024	56	1,024	56	1,024	56	1,024	56	1,024	56
Hood River	61	1,347	61	1,347	61	1,347	1,347	61	1,347	61	1,347	61	1,347	61	1,347	61	1,347	61
Jackson	217	2,724	217	2,724	217	2,724	2,724	217	2,724	217	2,724	217	2,724	217	2,724	217	2,724	217
Josephine	164	692	164	692	164	692	692	164	692	164	692	164	692	164	692	164	692	164
Klamath	58	1,025	58	1,025	58	1,025	1,025	58	1,025	58	1,025	58	1,025	58	1,025	58	1,025	58
Lake	164	1,025	164	1,025	164	1,025	1,025	164	1,025	164	1,025	164	1,025	164	1,025	164	1,025	164
Lane	50	2,304	50	2,304	50	2,304	2,304	50	2,304	50	2,304	50	2,304	50	2,304	50	2,304	50
Lincoln	50	1,725	50	1,725	50	1,725	1,725	50	1,725	50	1,725	50	1,725	50	1,725	50	1,725	50
Linn	50	2,304	50	2,304	50	2,304	2,304	50	2,304	50	2,304	50	2,304	50	2,304	50	2,304	50
Malheur	517	4,425	517	4,425	517	4,425	4,425	517	4,425	517	4,425	517	4,425	517	4,425	517	4,425	517
Marion	50	1,725	50	1,725	50	1,725	1,725	50	1,725	50	1,725	50	1,725	50	1,725	50	1,725	50
Morrow	210	2,562	210	2,562	210	2,562	2,562	210	2,562	210	2,562	210	2,562	210	2,562	210	2,562	210
Multnomah	13	1,695	13	1,695	13	1,695	1,695	13	1,695	13	1,695	13	1,695	13	1,695	13	1,695	13
Polk	49	2,253	49	2,253	49	2,253	2,253	49	2,253	49	2,253	49	2,253	49	2,253	49	2,253	49
Sherman	164	1,025	164	1,025	164	1,025	1,025	164	1,025	164	1,025	164	1,025	164	1,025	164	1,025	164
Tillamook	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206
Umatilla	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161
Union	154	1,157	154	1,157	154	1,157	1,157	154	1,157	154	1,157	154	1,157	154	1,157	154	1,157	154
Wallowa	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206
Wasco	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161
Washington	154	1,157	154	1,157	154	1,157	1,157	154	1,157	154	1,157	154	1,157	154	1,157	154	1,157	154
Wheeler	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206	2,025	206
Yamhill	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161	1,965	161
Totals	8,043	54,833	8,043	54,833	8,043	54,833	54,833	8,043	54,833	8,043	54,833	8,043	54,833	8,043	54,833	8,043	54,833	8,043
Pluralities	1,526	11,402	1,526	11,402	1,526	11,402	11,402	1,526	11,402	1,526	11,402	1,526	11,402	1,526	11,402	1,526	11,402	1,526

COUNTIES.	Water Supt. Div. 2. Coehran	Saxton	Div. 1. Chinnock	Engineer. Lewis (R.)	Koob (S.)	R. R. Com. Miller (R.)	McLain (D.)	Labor Com'r. Hoff (R.)	Curry (S.)	Houston (D.)	Printer. Bylander (S.)	Dunlway (R.)	Godfrey (D.)	School Supt. Steel (P.)	Horner (D.)	Hinsdale (S.)	Alderman (R.)	Atty.-Gen. Crawford (R.)	Brix (S.)
Baker				1,158	208	1,158	1,174	1,174	208	1,174	1,174	1,174	1,174	1,174	208	1,174	1,174	1,174	208
Benton				2,305	1,165	2,305	2,305	2,305	1,165	2,305	2,305	2,305	2,305	2,305	1,165	2,305	2,305	2,305	1,165
Clackamas				1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175	1,175
Clatsop				90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Columbia				149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149
Coos				174	174	174	174	174	174	174	174	174	174	174	174	174	174	174	174
Crook				160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160
Curry				13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Douglas				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Gilliam				211	211	211	211	211	211	211	211	211	211	211	211	211	211	211	211
Grant				164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164
Harney				56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
Hood River				61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
Jackson				217	217	217	217	217	217	217	217	217	217	217	217	217	217	217	217
Josephine				164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164
Klamath				58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58
Lake				164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164
Lane				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Lincoln				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Linn				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Malheur				517	517	517	517	517	517	517	517	517	517	517	517	517	517	517	517
Marion				50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Morrow				210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210
Multnomah				13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Polk				49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
Sherman				164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164
Tillamook				206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206
Umatilla				161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161
Union				154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154
Wallowa				206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206
Wasco				161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161
Washington				154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154	154
Wheeler				206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206	206
Yamhill				161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161	161
Totals				8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043	8,043
Pluralities				1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526	1,526

Three Brick Blocks at Coquille.

Coquille—The Merchants bank building, the last of three brick blocks to be erected here this summer, is finished and tenants are moving in. The building is double, the bank occupying the corner room. The banking room is finished in solid mahogany, except the wainscoating, which is of Alaskan marble, as is also the tops of the dealing counters. The pillars at either side of the main entrance are 18 inches in diameter, and of Red Beach granite, and the steps are of Tennessee marble.

Hops Sell at 14 Cents.

The Dalles — Houser & Wertz, wealthy Tygh Valley ranchmen, brought in and delivered to the Eastern Oregon Brewing company 14,000 pounds of hops, for which they received 14 cents a pound. These farmers raise from 14,000 to 20,000 pounds of hops each year, which they sell to the local brewing firm. The variety is the English cluster and the men received first prizes on these hops when they were exhibited at both the Lewis & Clark exposition in Portland and the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition.

Elkhorn Vote Was Expensive.

Salem — County Clerk R. D. Allen has figured that at the recent election the county paid at the rate of $9.43 a vote for the votes cast in Elkhorn precinct. The total cost of the election in that district was $113.20, and there were but 12 votes cast, of which Governor-elect Oswald West received 10 and Jay Bowerman received none. One of the other votes was a prohibition vote, and the remaining one was a Socialist vote.

Cows That Answer Two Purposes.

Portland — M. S. Shrock, deputy dairy and food commissioner, has returned from Wallowa county, where he held three dairy meetings in Enterprise, Josephine and Wallowa.

"There is quite an awakening of the dairy industry in Wallowa county," said Mr. Shrock. "This has been primarily a beef stock country. We found that the people are inclined to use what we call a dual purpose cow, namely, a cow that is as good for beef as milk. They can never be successful in dairying in this way."

Assessment Shows Lane's Growth

Eugene—Assessor B. F. Keeney, of Lane county, announces that the total footing of Lane county's assessment roll for this year will be approximately $36,500,000, as compared with $2,006,920 last year. This is only an estimate, but the assessor is pretty certain that this will be the total. The summary has been made up with the exception of the valuation placed on the Southern Pacific company's property, and the assessor has a good idea what the state tax commission will assess the propery at.

Timber Brings $100,000.

Astoria—Deeds were filed for record here whereby the Ferguson & Stewart Timber company and the Astoria Title & Trust company sell to the Crown-Columbia Pulp & Paper company, of Oregon City, 5,000 acres of timber land five miles south of Svenson in this county. While the consideration named in the deeds is purely nominal, it is understood the price paid is slightly over $100,000. Much of the timber is spruce, with some fir.

THE QUICKENING

BY

FRANCIS LYNDE

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CHAPTER XVIII.—(Continued.)

Bastrop Clegg, whose distinction was that of being the oldest loafer in the circle, spat accurately into the draft-hole of the stove, sat back and tilted his hat over his eyes.

"Well, boys, I reckon hit's erbout time, ain't hit?" he moralized. "Leetle Tom must be a-goin' awn two year old; and I don't recommember ez Tom 'r his pappy has ever done a livin' thing for Nan."

A half-hour later, Brother Japheth, trudging back to Deer Trace on the pike, saw the light in the long-deserted cabin back of the new foundry plant; saw this and was overtaken at the Woodlawn gates by Thomas Jefferson with Longfellow and the buggy. And he could not well help observing that the buggy had been lightened of its burden of household supplies.

Tom turned the horse over to William Henry Harrison and went in to his belated dinner somberly reflective. He was not sorry to find that his mother and father had gone over to the manor-house. Solitude was grateful at the moment; he was glad of the chance to try to think himself uninterruptedly out of the snarl of misunderstanding in which his impulsiveness had entangled him.

The pointing of the thought was to see Ardea and have it out with her at once. Reconsidered, it appeared the part of prudence to wait a little. The muddiest pool will settle if time and and freedom from ill-judged disturbance be given it. But we, who have known Thomas Jefferson from his beginnings, may be sure that it was the action-thought that triumphed. They also serve who only stand and wait, was meaningless comfort to him; and when he had finished his solitary dinner and had changed his clothes, he strode across the double lawns and rang the manor-house bell.

CHAPTER XIX.

The Deer Trace family and the two guests from Woodlawn were in the music-room when Tom was admitted, with Ardea at the piano playing war songs for the pleasuring of her grandfather and the ex-artilleryman. Under cover of the music, Tom slipped into the circle of listeners and went to sit beside his mother. There was a courteous hand-wave of welcome from Major Dabney, but Miss Euphrasia seemed not to see him. He saw and understood, and was obstinately impervious to the chilling east wind in that quarter.

Ardea lingered lovingly on the closing harmonies of a nocturne, and when the final chord was struck her hands lingered on the keys until the sweet voices of the strings had sung themselves afar into the higher sound heaven. Then she turned quickly and surprised her anesthetized audience.

"You poor things!" she laughed. "In another five minutes the last one of you have succumbed. Why didn't somebody stop me?"

The iron-master said something about the heavy work of the day, and helped his wife to her feet. The Major came awake with a start and bestirred himself hospitably, and Miss Euphrasia rose to speed the parting guests—or, rather, the two of them who had been invited. In the drift down the wide hall Ardea fell behind with Tom, whom Cousin Euphrasia continued to ignore.

"I came to tell you," he said, in a low tone, snatching his opportunity. "I can't sleep until I have fought it out with you."

"You don't deserve a hearing, even from your best friend," was her discouraging reply; but when they were at the door she gave him a formal reprieve. "I shall walk for a few minutes on the portico to rest my nerves," she said. "If you want to come back——"

He thanked her gravely, and went obediently when his mother called to him from the steps. But on the Woodlawn veranda he excused himself, and when the door closed behind the two in-going, he swiftly recrossed the lawns to pay the penalty.

The front door of the manor-house was shut and the broad, pillared portico was untenanted. He sat down in one of the rustic chairs. The door opened and closed and Ardea stood before him. She had thrown a wrap over her shoulders, and the light from the music-room windows illuminated her. There was cool scorn in the slate-blue eyes, but in Tom's thought she had never appeared more unutterably beautiful and desirable—and unattainable.

"I have come," she said, in a tone that cut him to the heart for its very indifference. "What have you to say for yourself?"

"I'm afraid I haven't left myself much to say," he began, penitently. "I was born foolish, and it seems that I haven't outgrown it. But, really, if you could know——"

"Unhappily, I do know," she interrupted. "If I did not, I might listen to you with better patience."

"It did look pretty bad," he confessed. "And that's what I wanted to say; it looked a great deal worse than it was, you know."

"I am bound to believe what I see with my own eyes," she rejoined. "Perhaps you can make it appear that seeing is not believing."

"Of course I can't if you take that attitude," he complained. And then he said irritably: "You talk about friendship! You don't know the meaning of the word!"

"If I didn't, I should hardly be here at this moment," she suggested. "You don't seem to apprehend to what degrading depths you have sunk."

His sins in the business field rose before him accusingly and prompted his reply.

"Yes, I do; but that is another matter. We were speaking of what you saw this evening. Will you let me try to explain?"

"Yes, if you will tell the plain truth."

"Lacking imagination, I can't do anything else. Nan has had a falling-out with the old scamp of a moonshiner who calls himself her father. She came to me for help, and broke down in the midst of telling me about it. I can't stand a woman's crying any better than other men."

"And that was all—absolutely all, Tom?"

"I don't lie—to you," he said, briefly. She gave him her hand with an impulsive return to the old comradeship. "I believe you, Tom, in the face of all the—the unlikeliness. But please don't try me again. After what has happened—" she stopped in deference to something in his eyes, half anger, half bewilderment, or a most skillful simulation of both.

"Go on," he said; "tell me what has happened. I seem to have missed something."

"No," she said, with sudden gravity. "I don't want to be your accuser or your confessor; and if you should try to prevaricate, I should hate you!"

"There is nothing for me to confess to you, Ardea," he said, soberly, still holding the hand she had given him. "You have known the worst of me, always and all along, I think."

"Yes, I have known," she replied, freeing the imprisoned hand and turning from him. "And I have been sorry, sorry; not less for you than for poor Nan Bryerson. You know now what I thought—what I had to think—when I saw you with her this evening."

It was slowly beating its way into his brain. Little things, atoms of suggestion, were separating themselves from the mass of things disregarded to cluster thickly on this nucleus of revealment: the old story of his companying with Nan on the mountain; his uncle's and Japheth's accusation at the time; and now the old moonshiner's enmity, Japheth's meaning look and distrustful silence, Nan's appearance with a child bearing his own name, the glances askance in Hargis' store when he was buying the little stock of necessaries for the poor outcast. It was all plain enough.

"Tell me," he said, thickly; "you heard this: you believed it. Have I been misjudging you?"

"Not more than I misjudged you, perhaps. But that is all over, now; I am trusting you again