



HALF A CHANCE

By Frederic S. Isham,

Author of "The Strollers," "Under the Rose," "The Lady of the Mount," Etc.

Copyright, 1909, by THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY

The convict continued to gaze out over the ocean. Far away a dark fringe broke the sea line—a suggestion of foliage—an island or a mirage? Tantalizing, it lay like a shadow, elusive, unattainable as the "forgotten isles." The man staggered to his feet. His garments were torn. His hair hung over his brow. He shook his arms at the island—this phantasm, this vain, empty vision. He regarded it now as some savage creature might a bone just out of its reach. From his lips vile words fell—to be suddenly hushed. Between him and what he gazed at along the range of vision an object on one of the projecting timbers caught his eye. It was very small, but it gleamed like a spark sprung from the embers of the dawn.

"The dicky bird!" His dried lips tried to laugh. "Ef it ain't the dicky bird!" The bird looked at him. "Ef that doesn't beat!" But he could not think what it "beat." The bird cocked its head. "Ain't you feared of me?" It gave a feeble chirp. "Well, I'm dashed!" said the man and after this mild expression of his feelings forgot to curse again.

Toward noon the man began to suffer more acutely from thirst, and, drawing out a sailor's oilskin pouch, one of the few possessions he had been allowed by the police to retain, he took from it a piece of tobacco, which he began to chew. At the same time he eyed the rest of the contents—half a ship's biscuit, some matches and a mariner's tumbler. The biscuit he broke and threw a few crumbs where the timbers were dry, near the bird. For a long time it looked at the tiny white morsels, but, finally conquering shyness, hopped from its perch and tentatively approached the banquet. Hours went by. The man chewed and the bird pecked.

That night it rained in real, tropical earnest, and he made a water vessel of his shoe, drank many times, ate a few mouthfuls of biscuit and then placed the filled receptacle where he had thrown the crumbs. As he did so he found himself wondering if the dawn would reveal his little feathered shipmate or whether it had been swept away by the violence of the rain. The early shafts of day showed him the bird on its perch. It had apparently found shelter from the heavy down-pour beneath some outjutting timber and seemed no worse for the experience. The man's second glance was in the direction of the island. What he saw brought a sudden exclamation to his lips. The land certainly seemed much nearer. Some current was sweeping them toward it slowly but irresistibly. The Frisco Pet swore joyfully. His eyes shone. "I may do him yet!" he muttered. The bird chirped. He looked at it. "Breakfast, eh?" he said and tossed a few more crumbs near the shoe.

The second day he brooded a great deal. The sharper pangs of hunger assailed him, and he grew desperately impatient, the distance to the island decreased so gradually.

Hardly knowing what he did, he drew forth the last little bit of the biscuit, ground it between his teeth and greedily swallowed it. The act seemed to sober him. He raised his hand to his brow and looked at the bird. Through the confusion of his thoughts he felt he had done some spicable thing.

That weren't fair play, were it? he said, looking at the bird. "Ef it ain't like a pal," he repeated, the bird remained silent. He fancied such in its beaklike eyes. They led to bore into him. "And you a small chap, too!" he muttered. He turned his back on the island with head resting on his elbow no further complaint.

second day on the raft seemed nger than the first, the sect of infinitely greater duration preceding one, but dawn revealed island very near—so near, the bird made up its mind to chit. It looked at the man and then flew away. He reached it, a little dark spot, he could no longer see the breast. At length it was t, swallowed up by the

edged creature gone, the it. "Peared like 'twas such a pal," he thought the floating timbers be a intolerable. He kept if he could swim to ng his weakness from curbed his impatience. tired with staring at ot. He suffered the us and finally could nger, so, making his ndle, he tied them and slipped into the

ter found him prone n the yellow sands, ately trees nodded hand a great crab

regarded him with reflective interest, hesitating between prudence and carnivorous desire. Gluttonous inclination to sample the goods the gods had provided prevailed over caution. It moved quickly forward, when what it had considered only an unexpected and welcome piece de resistance abruptly got up. The tables were turned. That which came to dine was dined upon. A crushing blow demonstrated the law of the survival of the fittest. The weaker adorned the board. The man tore it to bits—ate it like the famished animal he was.

For a week nothing of moment interrupted the even tenor of his existence. He led the life of a savage and found it to his liking, pounced upon turtles and cooked them, kept his fire going because he had but few matches. One day a box was washed ashore, a message from the civilized centers to the field of primitive man. On its cover were the words, "Via Sailing Vessel Lord Nelson," followed by the address. The convict pried the boards apart and gave a shout. Rum, and plenty of it—bottle after bottle in an overcoat of straw, nestling lovingly one upon another! The man licked his lips, knocked off a neck, drank deep, and then, stopping many times, carried his treasure to his bow.

Day after day turned its page, merged into the past; sometimes, perforce, he got up, and, not a pleasant thing to look at, staggered to the beach with his club. There he would slay some crawling thing from the sea, return with his prize to mingle eating with drinking until, sated with both, he would fall back unconscious among the flowers. But the prolonged indulgence began to have a marked effect on his store. Bottle after bottle was tossed off, the empty shells flung aside to the daisies. At length the day came when only two bottles remained in the case, one full pair, sole survivors of the lot. The man took them out, set them up and regarded them; a sense of impending disaster, of imminent tragedy, shivered through his dulled consciousness. He reached for the bottles and fondled them, started to knock the head from one and put it down. Resisting desire, he told himself he would have a look at the beach; the ocean had generously cast one box of well primed bottles at his feet; perhaps it would repeat its hospitable action and make him once more the recipient of its bounty. The thought buoyed him to the shore. The sea lapped the sand with Lydian whispers, and there, beyond the edge of L's soft singing ripples, he saw something that made him rub his dazed eyes.

A box, a big box, a box as tall as he was! No paltry dozen or two this time! Perhaps there was whisky, too, and the bubbling stuff the long necked lords had sometimes pressed upon him in the past when he had "ousted" his man and put quids in their pockets or some of that fiery vin—something he had once indulged in with a Johnny Frenchman before he took to the tunnel, when he had been free to swagger through old Leicester square. Anyhow, he would soon find out, and,

(To Be Continued.)

Medford, Oregon: This certifies that we have sold Hall's Texas Wonder for the cure of all kidney, bladder and rheumatic troubles for ten years, and have never had a complaint. It gives quick and permanent relief. Sixty days' treatment in each bottle. Medford Pharmacy. If

SCHOOL CLERKS' CALL.
Notice is hereby given that there are funds on hand for the redemption of all school warrants protested prior to January 1st, 1910, and that interest on such warrants will cease on the date of this notice, June 3, 1910.

ORIS CRAWFORD,
Clerk District No. 49.

NOTICE.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will apply to the city council of the city of Medford, Oregon, at its next regular meeting, for a license to sell spirituous, vinous and malt liquors in quantities less than a gallon at their place of business on lots 15 and 16 in block 21 in said city, for a period of six months.

RYAN & BROWN.

NOTICE.
Bids will be received by the board of directors of district No. 49, for a cement floor to be placed in the North school building. Bids to be per square foot. All bids to be filed with Oris Crawford, clerk, by 3 p. m. June 20, 1910. Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

ORIS CRAWFORD,
Clerk.

GROWERS ASKED FOR RATING VIEWS

It is Apparent That Ratings Were Not Fair to Many Apples As Some Varieties Have Improved in Past Thirteen Years.

Growers in the United States and Canada who exhibited their orchard products in competitions at the second national apple show last fall, will be requested by the board of trustees to give their views upon questions governing variety ratings, entering and judging of exhibits at the third exhibition in Spokane, November 14 to 1, when \$25,000 will be distributed in prizes and trophies in the various contests, which are free and open to the world.

The chief question is regarding scoring values. Ren H. Rice, secretary of the National Apple Show, incorporated, says in a letter to prospective exhibitors and growers that the rules of the American Pomological Society were adopted last year at the request of many entrainers; "but," he adds, "it was apparent that the ratings were not fair to many apples that have been brought to a higher standard since the society made up its list 13 years ago."

The present ratings are: Arkansas, 7-8; Arkansas Black, 5-6; Baldwin, 5-6; Ben Davis, 4-5; Cox Orange Pippin, 8-9; Delicious, 9-10; Gravenstein, 8-9; Grimes' Golden, 9-10; Jonathan, 8-9; McIntosh Red, 5-6; Northern Spy, 8-9; Rhode Island Greening, 7-8; Rome Beauty, 6-7; Spitzenburg, 10; Stayman Winesap, 8-9; King of Tompkins County, 8-9; Wagener, 7-8; Walthy, 6-7; White Permain, 8-9; Winter Banana, 8-9; Winesap, 7-8 Wolf River, 5-6, Yellow Bellflower, 8-9; Yellow Newtown, 9-10; York Imperial, 6-7.

The only changes proposed are: Arkansas, Arkansas Black and Baldwin, 6-7 each; McIntosh Red and Wealthy, 7-8 each; Delicious and Winesap, 8-9 each.

\$2.50 Corsets, 98c.
A broken lot of Royal Worcester corsets of batiste or coutil material, short or long models, medium or high bust. Our regular values up to \$2.50. Also Nemo corsets. Very special, to close them out, at 98c.

KENTNER'S

NOTICE.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will apply to the city council of the city of Medford, Oregon, at its next regular meeting for a license to sell spirituous, vinous and malt liquors in quantities less than a gallon at his place of business on lot 17, block 20, in said city, for a period of six months.

O. M. SELSBY,
Dated May 25, 1910.

REGISTRATION OF LAND TITLE.
In the circuit court of the state of Oregon for the county of Jackson.

In the matter of the application of Scott V. Davis to register title to the following described real estate, situated in Jackson county, state of Oregon, to-wit:

Lots one (1) and two (2) in block number twenty-three (23) of the original city (formerly town) of Medford as the same is marked and delineated on the recorded plat thereof.

vs.
Charles M. Meeker, Minerva A. Meeker, E. P. Purcell, Lucinda Purcell and P. E. Benson and all whom it may concern, defendants.

Take notice, that on the 16th day of April, A. D. 1910, an application was filed by Scott V. Davis in the circuit court for Jackson county, Oregon, for initial registration of the title of the land above described.

Now unless you appear on or before the 18th day of June, 1910, and show cause why such application shall not be granted, the same will be taken as confessed and a decree will be entered according to the prayer of the application and you will be forever barred from disputing the same.

Witness my hand and the seal of the court hereto affixed this the 2d day of May, 1910.

W. R. COLEMAN,
County Clerk of Jackson County and ex-Officio Clerk of the Circuit Court for said County and State. (Seal)
By M. B. TOWNE, Deputy.
B. F. MULKEY,
Attorney for Applicant.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS.

Notice is hereby given that the board of directors of school district No. 49, Jackson county, Oregon, will receive bids for the erection of an annex to the Washington school, including a heating plant to be installed in the whole building, as per plans and specifications now on file in my

office;
Also will receive bids for the erection of an East Side ward school building as per plans and specifications now on file in my office; all bids to be given separately, on mason work, wood work, electric work, plumbing and heating. All bids to be accompanied with certified check for 5 per cent of amount of bid. Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Land for Sale

I have a few choice tracts of good orchard land for sale. Tracts from twenty (20) to one hundred and sixty (160) acres. The land is situated in the famous apple belt, near the world-famed Tronson & Guthrie orchard, near Eagle Point, Or. Some of the land is improved and some unimproved.

I also have property in the town of Eagle Point for sale. Those intending to purchase please give me a call in person or call Eagle Point central by phone.

A. B. Zimmerman

Medford Iron Works

E. E. TROWBRIDGE, Proprietor.
FOUNDRY AND MACHINIST
All kinds of Engines, Spraying Outfits, Pumps, Boilers and Machinery. Agents in Southern Oregon for FAIRBANKS, MORSE & CO.

J. E. ENYART, President J. A. PERRY, Vice-President.
JOHN S. ORTH, Cashier. W. B. JACKSON, Ass't Cashier.

The Medford National Bank

Capital, \$50,000
Surplus, \$10,000
SAFETY BOXES FOR RENT. A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED. WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

PLUMBING

STEAM AND HOT WATER HEATING
All Work Guaranteed Prices Reasonable
COFFEEN & PRICE
11 North D St., Medford, Ore. Phone 303

Buy Where You Get Your Moneys Worth

When wanting high-grade Ice Cream or Sherbets in any quantity we are at your service. QUALITY is our watchword.

You remember the QUALITY long after the price is forgotten.

We have our own delivery and can supply you with milk, cream and buttermilk.

Ask your grocer for our Creamery Butter.

Rogue River Creamery
PHONE NO 2681 134 N. RIVERSIDE AVENUE

GOLD RAY GRANITE CO.

Office: 209 West Main St., Medford, Ore.

Operating Quarry at Gold Ray, Oregon

— DEALERS IN —

BUILDING, MONUMENTAL AND CRUSHED GRANITE

P. C. HANSEN TOM MOFFAT
We make any kind and style of Windows. We carry Glass of any size on hand.
MEDFORD SASH & DOOR CO., Medford, Oregon.

For Sale

Land that will cut six crops of alfalfa a year. U. S. Government irrigation. If you are interested, address
S. F. EHORN & SON
ORLAND, CALIF.

RESOLVED
The best resolution for you to make is to come to us for your next suit, if you want something out of the ordinary. We do the best work and charge the lowest prices.
W. W. EIFERT
THE PROGRESSIVE TAILOR

Roanoke Roanoke

One of the Most Beautiful Resident Sections of Medford

Roanoke Addition is just far enough out to eliminate all noise and bustle of the business section and yet it is just right for the man who is in business. Only ten minutes' walk from the railroad. This is becoming one of the most finished residence districts of Medford. The lots all face on Main street and Rose avenue. Cement sidewalk all in. Sewer and water mains laid. The lots are high and slightly, which gives them a great advantage. Building restrictions \$2000. There are already several fine new cottages on the property. These lots are quite large, being 50x137, which gives plenty of room for garden and garage and other necessary buildings.

Come and make your selections early. Prices \$735 to \$750 for east and west front lots.

J. W. DRESSLER AGENCY
Selling Agents

Roanoke Roanoke

Special Rates

for the
Portland Rose Festival
JUNE 6TH TO 11TH
on the

Southern Pacific Comp'y

(Lines in Oregon)
of

ONE and ONE-THIRD FARE
FROM ALL POINTS IN OREGON

Sale Dates—From Roseburg and all stations north thereof, including all branches, June 6th, 8th and 10th. From all stations south of Roseburg, June 5th, 6th and 8th. Final return limit June 15th.

For further particulars as to rates, etc., apply to any S. P. Agent or to

WM. McMURRAY,
General Passenger Agent. Portland, Oregon.