



HALF A CHANCE

By Frederic S. Isham,

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

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A long time he battered and battered in vain with his rocks; but, after an hour or so, he succeeded in splintering his way through the tough pine. In his befuddled, half crazed condition he had thought only of bottles. What he found proved a different sort of merchandise.

Maddened, he tossed and scattered the contents of the box on the beach. The ocean had deceived him, laughed at him, cheated him. He turned from the shore unsteadily, walked back to his camp and knocked the neck from one of the two remaining bottles. A few hours later, sodden, sordid, he lay without motion, face to the sky. And as he breathed thickly, one bleeding hand still holding the empty bottle, a bird from an overhanging branch looked down upon him—a tiny bird, little bigger than his thumb, that carried a bright, beautiful spot of red on its breast, cocked its head questioningly.

CHAPTER IV.

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE.

LONDON in the spring! Sunshine, the Thames agleam with silver ripples, singing as it flows; red sails! Joyous London that has emerged from fogs and banks beneath blue skies! On such a day about 10 o'clock in the morning three persons whose appearance distinguished them from the ordinary passers-by turned into a narrow thoroughfare not far from the Strand.

"Quite worth while going to hear John Steele conduct for his client, I assure you, Lord Ronsdale," observed one, a tall, military looking man, who walked with a slight limp and carried a cane. "He's a new man, but he's making his mark. When he asked to be admitted to the English bar he surprised even his examiners. His summing up in the Dougherty murder case was, I heard his lordship remark, one of the most masterly efforts he ever listened to. Just to see the circumstantial evidence to pieces and freed his man! Besides his profession at the bar, he is an unusually gifted criminologist, takes a strong personal interest in the lowest ruffian, is writing a book, I understand—one of the kind that will throw a new light on the subject."

"Just what is a criminologist?" The speaker, a girl of about eighteen, turned as she lightly asked the question to glance over her shoulder toward several persons who followed them. "One who seeks to apply to the criminal the methods of psychology, psychiatry and anthropology," he answered, with jesting impressiveness. "When one is only a sort of country cousin," the girl waved a small, daintily gloved hand to the little group of friends who now approached and joined them. "Captain Forsythe is trying to persuade me it is a legitimate part of our slumming plan to take in murder trials, uncle," she said lightly, addressing the foremost of the newcomers, "just because it's a fad of his. Speaking of this acquaintance or friend of yours, Mr. Steele—you are something of a criminologist, too, are you not, Captain Forsythe?"

"Well, every man should have a hobby," returned that individual, "and, although I don't aspire to the long name you call me, I confess to a slight amateur interest."

"Slight!" she repeated. "Would you believe it, aunt?—to a portly lady among those who had approached—'he never misses a murder trial? I believe he likes to watch the poor fellows fighting for their lives, to study their faces, their expressions when they're being sentenced perhaps to one of those horrible convict ships!'"

"Don't speak of them, my dear Jocelyn!" returned that worthy person, with a shudder. "When I think of the Lord Nelson and that awful night—"

"You were three days in an open boat before being sighted and picked up, I believe, Lady Wray?" observed Captain Forsythe.

"Every one behaved splendidly," interposed Sir Charles. "You," gazing contemplatively at the girl, "were but a child then, Jocelyn."

She did not answer. The beautiful face had abruptly changed. All laughter had gone from the clear blue eyes.

"She is thinking of the convict who saved her," observed Sir Charles in an explanatory tone to Captain Forsythe.

"And the amazing part of it is the fellow looked like a brute, had the low, ignorant face of an ex-convict."

"You must not speak of him that way!" The girl's hands were clasped; the slender, shapely figure was very straight. Her beautiful blue eyes, full of varying lights, flashed, then became dimmed. A suspicion of mist blurred the long, sweeping lashes. "He had a big, noble spark in his soul, and I think of him many, many times," she repeated, the sweet, gay lips trembling sensitively. "Brave fellow! Brave fellow!"

"Pity he should have been drowned, though," Captain Forsythe went on.

"He would, I am sure, have made a most interesting study in contrasts."

Here Ronsdale lifted his hat. "May happen back this way," he observed. "That is," looking at Jocelyn Wray, "if you don't object."

"I? Not at all. Of course it would bore you—a trial! You are so easily bored. Is it the club?"

"No, another engagement. Thank you so much for permission to return for you. Very kind. Hope you will find it amusing. Good morning!" And Lord Ronsdale vanished down the narrow way.

The others of the party entered the courtroom and were shown to the seats that Captain Forsythe had taken particular pains to reserve for them.

"That's John Steele cross examining now," Captain Forsythe whispered to the girl. And the witness—that's Dandy Joe, as he's called, one of the police spies, cheap race track man and so on, in the box. He came to the front in a murder trial quite celebrated in its day and one I always had my own little theory about. Not that it matters now," he added, with a sigh.

But the girl was listening to another voice, a clear voice, a quiet voice, a voice capable of the strongest varying accents. She looked at the speaker. He held himself with the assurance of one certain of his ground. His shoulders were straight and broad. He stood like an athlete, and when he moved it was impossible to be unconscious of a certain physical grace that came from well trained muscles. He carried his head high, as if from a habit of thought of looking up, not down, when he turned from the pages of the heavy tomes in his study. His face conveyed an impression of intelligence and intensity. His eyes, dark and deep, searched fully those they rested on.

He had reached a point in his cross examination where he had almost thoroughly discredited this witness for the prosecution when, turning toward a table to take up a paper, his glance, casually lifting, rested on the distinguished party in the rear of the room, or, rather, it rested on one of them. Against the dark background the girl's golden hair was well calculated to catch the wandering gaze.

The flowers in her hat, the great bunch of violets in her dress added insistent alluring bits of color in the dim spot where she sat. Erect as a lily stem, she looked oddly out of place in that large, sombre room. There, where the harsh requiem of bruised and broken lives unceasingly sounded, she seemed like some presence typical of spring, waited thither by mistake. The man continued to regard her. Suddenly he started, and his eyes almost eagerly searched the lovely, proud face.

His back was turned to the judge, who stirred nervously, but waited a fraction of a second before he spoke.

"If the cross examination is finished"—he began.

John Steele wheeled; his face changed; a smile of singular charm accompanied his answer.

(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. tf

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Sealed bids will be received by S. M. Nealon, Table Rock, Oregon, until June 17th, 1910, for the erection of a frame public school building, according to plans and specifications prepared by Charles D. Lyon, architect, Medford, Oregon. All bids must be accompanied by a certified check payable to "school district No. 44, Table Rock, Jackson county, Oregon," for the sum of \$75.00 as a guarantee that the contractor will furnish an approved bond equal to 35 per cent of the contract within fifteen days after the awarding of the contract.

All bids must be made out on blank proposals for the same. Blanks furnished upon application by the clerk or architect. Plans and specifications may be had at the architect's office. The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

By order of school board, district No. 44.

S. M. NEALON, Chairman.

A. J. STEVENS, Clerk.

Jersey Cow.

Wanted—First class fresh Jersey giving not less than 12 quarts per day at least. Address Oak Vale Orchards, Larkin Reynolds, supt., Woodville, Or. 72*

TO RECOVER TIMBER LAND

Government Starts Ninety-one Suits to Get Title to Claims Valued at Half Million, Which Were Illegally Acquired.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 8.—Ninety-seven suits to recover title to 31 timber claims valued at half a million dollars, are pending today in the United States circuit court here alleged that the Curtis-Collins and Holbrook company of New York and the Pennsylvania Lumber company obtained title to the lands by fraudulent methods. United States District Attorney Devlin, assisted by Frank Hall, an assistant of Attorney General Wick-ersham, prepared the suits.

Eric Lyden, in charge of the field division of the United States general land office, discovered the alleged frauds and reported the matter to Devlin. Lyden asserts that the defendants proved up on timber lands in Plumas county six years ago, after obtaining title through dummies. The statute of limitations in criminal matters being three years, civil procedure was the government's only recourse.

MANY IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN GRANTS PASS

GRANTS PASS, Or., June 7.—This city is rapidly advancing. Material improvements are being made. Petitions are pouring in on the council from all parts of the city asking for improvements, such as paved streets, sewers, the opening of streets and building permits.

Paving contractors now have more than 100 men at work. Already there have been laid more than 4000 feet straight curb, and 180 feet of curved curb, and 12,000 feet of cement walk. Paving is expected to begin within a short time.

The electric light company has many workmen placing its wires in underground conduits preparatory to installing the cluster light system on Sixth street. The telephone company is also taking an interest in general improvements and is hastening to remove its wires from the streets where paving has been begun.

Activity in building begun in the early spring. Handsome residences and smaller cottages are springing up all over the city and the business section is growing. Many brick business blocks are under construction.

KENO PROPERTY OUT OF KLAMATH PROJECT

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., June 7.—Secretary Ballinger has sent word to the Klamath Water-Users' association that 5000 acres in the Keno lives unceasingly sounded, she seemed like some presence typical of spring, waited thither by mistake. The man continued to regard her. Suddenly he started, and his eyes almost eagerly searched the lovely, proud face.

His back was turned to the judge, who stirred nervously, but waited a fraction of a second before he spoke.

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(To Be Continued.)

NOTICE OF FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS.

In the district court of the United States for the district of Oregon.

In the matter of Baker-Hutchason Company, an Oregon corporation and the Hutchason Company, a partnership, composed of J. F. Hutchason, C. W. Zorn and — Kugler, bankrupts. In bankruptcy.

To the creditors of the Baker-Hutchason Company, an Oregon corporation, and the Hutchason Company, a partnership composed of J. F. Hutchason, C. W. Zorn and — Kugler, bankrupts, of Oregon, in Jackson county, and district aforesaid:

Notice is hereby given that on the 26th day of April, 1910, the said Baker-Hutchason Company, an Oregon corporation, and the Hutchason Company, a partnership composed of J. F. Hutchason, C. W. Zorn and — Kugler, were duly adjudicated bankrupt, and that the first meeting of the creditors of them or either of them will be held at the Jackson County Bank, at Medford, Oregon, on the 17th day of June, 1910, at two o'clock in the afternoon, at which time the said creditors may attend, prove their claims, appoint a trustee, examine the bankrupt, and transact such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

June 4, 1910.

HOLBROOK WITHINGTON, Referee in Bankruptcy.

The ad that the other newspaper reader merely glanced at may be the one you're looking for.

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Souvenir Spoons

The Largest and Most Complete Stock Ever Seen in Medford.

MARTIN J. REDDY
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I wish to announce that I have purchased the and will conduct a general feed and boarding establishment. Horses boarded by the day, week or month. I guarantee a square deal to all.

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

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JOHN S. ORTH, Cashier. W. B. JACKSON, Ass't Cashier.
Capital, \$50,000
Surplus, \$10,000
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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.

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