

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 Bill Bender—he offered me a shilling for it, and a shilling will buy milk for Alice and crackers for mother—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 the golden locket which George Moreland had thrown around her neck."

"You shall 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 his 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 cold!"

Mrs. Howard had been much worse that day, but agony 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 God just as well."

Nine—ten—eleven—and then through the dingy window 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 trouble 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 and kept 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 lay quietly sleeping, while over him Mary bent, pushing back from his forehead the thick clustering curls, and striving hard to soothe 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 pale, half-fainting upon her pillow. Toward daylight a violent coughing fit ensued, and she knew that she was dying. Beckoning Mary to 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 oaks 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 "bills" 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 which showed that something new had taken hold of her in good earnest.

"Oh, William," said she, "I've lived through a sight, 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 he can't fetch the doctor; but before you go hand me my small box and put the canister top heapin' full of tea into the teapot."

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

illment he hurried away toward Mrs. Howard's. The sun was just rising. Within the cottage there was no sound or token of life, and, thinking its inmates were asleep, Billy paused several minutes upon the threshold, fearing that he should disturb their slumbers. At last, with a vague presentiment that all was not right, he raised the latch and entered, but instantly started back in astonishment at the scene before him. On the thumble bed lay Frank, cold and dead, and near him, in the same long, dreamless sleep, was his mother, while between them, with one arm thrown lovingly across his brother's neck, and her cheek idly moist with tears which, though sleeping, she still shed. On the other side of Frank, and nestled so closely to him that her warm breath lifted the brown curls from his brow, was Ella. But there were no tear stains on her face, for she did not yet know how bereaved she was.

For a moment Billy stood irresolute, and then, as Mary moved uneasily in her slumbers, he advanced a step or two toward her. The noise aroused her, and instantly remembering and comprehending the whole, she threw herself with a bitter cry into Billy's extended arms, as if he alone were the protector she now had in the wide, wide world. Ere long Ella, too, awoke, and the noisy outburst which followed the knowledge of her loss made Mary still the more violent in grief in order to soothe the more violent grief of her excitable sister. Billy's tears were flowing, too, but at length rising up, he said to Mary, "Something must be done. The villagers must know of it, and I shall have to leave you alone while I tell them."

In half an hour from that time the cottage was nearly filled with people, some of whom came out of idle curiosity, and some of whom came out of sympathy. But there were others who went there for the sake of comforting the orphans and attending to the dead, and by noon the bodies were decently arranged for burial.

"There will be no trouble," said one, "in finding a place for Ella, she is so bright and handsome; but as for Mary, I am afraid she'll have to go to the poorhouse."

"Were I in a condition to take either," replied Mrs. Johnson, "I should prefer Mary, for in my estimation she is much the best girl; but there is the baby, who must go wherever Mary does, unless she can be persuaded to leave her."

Before anyone could reply to this remark, Mary, who had overheard every word, came forward, and, laying her face on Mrs. Johnson's lap, sobbed out, "Let me go with Alice; I told mother I would."

Billy Bender, who all this while had been standing by the door, started for his home, never once thinking, until he reached it, that his mother more than six hours before, had sent him in great haste for the physician. On entering the house he found her, as he expected, rolled up in bed, apparently in the last stage of scarlet fever; but before she could reproach him he said, "Mother, have you heard the news?"

Mrs. Bender had a particular love for news, and now forgetting "how near to death's door" she had been, she eagerly demanded, "What news? What has happened?"

When Billy told her of the sudden deaths of Mrs. Howard and Frank, an expression of "What? That?" passed over her face, and she said, "Dear me, my snuff. Billy, both died last night, did they? Hain't you nothin' else to tell?"

"Yes, Mary Judson and Ella Campbell, too, are dead."

Mrs. Bender, who, like many others, courted the favor of the wealthy and tried to fancy herself on intimate terms with them, no sooner heard of Mrs. Campbell's affliction than her own dangerous symptoms were forgotten, and, springing up, she exclaimed, "Ella Campbell dead! What'll her mother do? I must go to her right away. Hand me my double gown there in the closet, and give me my lace cap in the lower drawer, and I'll go to her with the teakettle biled agin I get back."

"Before you go anywhere, suppose you stop at Mrs. Howard's and comfort poor Mary, who cries all the time because she and Alice have got to go to the poorhouse."

"Of course they'll go there, and they ought to be thankful they've got so good a place."

"I want to ask you," said Billy, "can't we—couldn't you take them for a few days, and perhaps something may turn up?"

"William Bender," said the highly astonished lady, "what can you mean? A poor, sick woman like me, with one foot in the grave, take the charge of three pauper children? I sha'n't do it, and you needn't think of it."

"But, mother," persisted Billy, who could generally coax her to do as he liked, "it's only for a few days, and they'll be much trouble or expense, for I'll work enough harder to make it up."

"I have said no once, William Bender, and when I say no, I mean no," was the answer.

Next morning she would be less decided the next time the subject was broached, so for the present he dropped it, and taking his cap he returned to Mrs. Howard's, while his mother started for Mrs. Campbell's.

Next morning between the hours of 9 and 10 the tolling bell went forth its summons, and were long a few of the villagers were moving toward the brown cottage, where in the same plain coffin slept the mother and her only boy. Near them sat Ella, occasionally looking with childish curiosity at the strangers around her, or leaning forward to peep at the tips of the new morocco shoes which Mrs. Johnson had kindly given her; then, when her eyes fell upon the coffin, she would burst into such an agony of weeping that many of the villagers also wept in sympathy, and as they stroked her soft hair, thought, "how much more she loved her mother than did Mary," who, without a tear upon her cheek, sat there immovably, gazing fixedly upon the marble face of her mother. Alice was not present, for Billy had not only succeeded in winning his mother's consent to take the children for a few days, but he had also coaxed her to say that Alice might come before the funeral, on condition that he would remain at home and take care of her.

CHAPTER IV.

Scarcely three hours had passed since the dark, moist earth was heaped upon the humble grave of the widow and her son, when again, over the village of Chilcopee, floated the notes of the tolling bell, and immediately crowds of people, with seemingly eager haste, hurried toward the Campbell mansion, which was soon nearly filled.

On a marble table in the same room lay the handsome coffin, and in it slept young Ella. Gracefully her small waxen hands were folded one over the other, while white, half-opened rosebuds were wreathed among the curls of her hair. "She is too beautiful to die, and the only child, too," thought more than one as they looked first at the sleeping clay and then at the stricken mother, who, draped in deep black, sobbed convulsively. And yet she was not one-half so desolate as was the orphan Mary, who in Mrs. Bender's kitchen sat weeping over her sister Alice, and striving to form words of prayer which should reach the God of the fatherless.

"My mother, oh! my mother," she cried, as she stretched her hands toward the clear blue sky, now that mother's home. "Why didn't I die, too?"

There was a step upon the stairs, and looking up, Mary saw standing near her Mrs. Campbell's English girl, Hannah. She had always evinced a liking for Mrs. Howard's family, and now after finishing her dishes, and trying in vain to speak a word of consolation to her mistress, who refused to be comforted, she had stolen away to Mrs. Bender's, ostensibly to see all the orphans, but in reality to see Ella, who had always been her favorite.

The sight of Mary's grief touched Hannah's heart, and sitting down by the little girl she tried to comfort her. Mary felt that her words and manner were prompted by real sympathy, and after a time she grew calm, and listened while Hannah told her that "as soon as her mistress got so anybody could go near her, she meant to ask her to take Ella Howard to fill the place of her own daughter."

"They look as much alike as two beans," said she, "and s'poken Ella Howard ain't exactly her own flesh and blood, she would grow into liking her, I know."

That night after her return home Hannah lingered for a long time about the parlor door, glancing wistfully toward her mistress, who reclined upon the sofa with her face entirely hidden by her cambric handkerchief.

"It's most too soon, I guess," thought Hannah. "I'll wait till to-morrow."

Accordingly next morning, when, as she had expected, she was told to carry her mistress' toast and coffee to her room, she lingered for awhile, and seemed so desirous of speaking that Mrs. Campbell asked what she wanted.

"Why, you see, ma'am, I was going to say a word about—that youngest Howard girl. She's got to go to the poorhouse and it's a pity, she's so handsome. Why couldn't she come here and live? I'll take care of her, and 'twouldn't be nigh so lonesome."

At this allusion to her bereavement Mrs. Campbell burst into tears, and motioned Hannah from the room.

"I'll keep at her till I fetch it about," thought Hannah. But further persuasion from Mrs. Lincoln called that afternoon, and after assuring her friend that she never before saw one who was so terribly afflicted, casually mentioned the Howards and the extreme poverty to which they were reduced.

Here Mrs. Campbell commenced weeping, and as Mrs. Lincoln soon took her leave she was left alone for several hours. At the end of that time, impelled by something she could not resist, she rang the bell and ordered Hannah to go to Mrs. Bender's and bring Ella to her room, as she wished to see how she appeared.

(To be continued.)

STRANGEST OF ALL FISH.

Denizen of the Deep that Angles or the Food Is Devour.

Most remarkable of strange fishes is the angler fish, whose very name seems a paradox. The fishing fish is nevertheless a reality, and as a stern one to all that approach those awful jaws of his. With a body the color of mud, he generally lies in the shadow of some rock on the bottom of the sea, waiting motionless for the approach of his prey. He is provided with an odd kind of fin just over the mouth, and this is held out in front of him to give warning of the coming of something to be swallowed. One taken alive was experimented on and it was found that if this projecting fin was touched with a stick, even though the stick did not come near the mouth, the jaws closed convulsively. This shows that the fin, by some provision of nature, closes the jaws as soon as it is touched.

The mouth is tremendous, growing to the width of a foot, while the whole fish is only three feet long. One of these anglers was caught not long since and, although it was only twenty-five inches long, a fish fifteen inches long was found sticking in its throat. The angler is provided with a peculiar set of teeth. In double or treble rows along the jaws and at the entrance of the throat. Some of these teeth are a foot long. He is not a pretty fish to look at, but he attends strictly to business and will swallow anything that touches his warning fin, whether it be meant for food or not. All kinds of things have been found in the stomach of anglers, from bits of lead and stone to fish almost as large as the angler itself. This is without doubt one of the most peculiar and interesting fish in the whole ocean.

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 washin' they think the soap is no good.—New York Weekly.

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 financial panic was narrowly averted in London.

The powers have protested against Turkey's postal measures.

A band of American brigands has been broken up near Manila.

The new Philippine tariff will probably go into effect June 1.

President McKinley has made his official entry into San Francisco.

Mrs. Nation's attorneys have set up the plea of insanity as a defense in the trial for joint smashing.

Edward A. Cudahy says he is willing to pay \$50,000 reward for the man who abducted his son, if necessary.

The president of the French company which owns the right of way for the Panama canal is in the United States to make an effort to sell the company's concessions.

The employees of every machine shop and factory in Seattle, numbering over 250, have walked out. They demand nine hours instead of 10 and a 12½ per cent increase in wages.

Riot followed the attempt of the Union Traction Company, of Albany, N. Y., to resume the operation of its electric street railway system. One nonunion motorman was fatally injured and a car derailed.

Mrs. McKinley is much improved in health.

Lacuna has promised to surrender his command.

Shamrock II was beaten by Shamrock I in a trial race.

A watchman in a Utah refinery stole \$15,000 in silver bullion.

The Chinese are astonished at the amount of indemnity demanded.

Twenty-five thousand regulars will be returned from the Philippines.

A Russo-German tariff alliance against the United States is proposed.

The military governor of Bataan has been reprimanded by MacArthur.

Governor Nash and party are visiting the various interesting places in California.

Rear Admiral Schley will cut short his visit in London on account of sickness in his family.

Russia is standing steadfast for peace, according to an official statement received at Washington.

One mail clerk was killed and another injured in a wreck on an Illinois Central train in Louisiana.

A steamboat on the Mississippi river was wrecked near Chester, Ill. Two passengers were drowned and 22 deckhands are missing.

Unless the sultan of Turkey yields on the question of interference with foreign mail, the powers will present an ultimatum, backed by naval demonstration.

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 boat 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 borderau.

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.

The congressional appropriation of \$3,000,000 for the extension of the rural delivery postal service becomes available in three months.

The Roman Catholic archbishop of Montreal has forbidden the members of that church from countenancing cremation in any way.

The public printer of Minnesota beat all records by issuing the laws passed by the recent legislature within two days after adjournment.

REGULARS RETURN.

Philippine Army to Be Reduced 25,000 Men—Orders Sent to MacArthur.

Washington, May 15.—By direction of the secretary of war, instructions were cable to General MacArthur to send to San Francisco at his earliest convenience, the following organizations of the regular army: Fourteenth, Eighteenth and Twenty-third regiments of infantry; Fourth regiment of cavalry; Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, Thirty-second and Thirty-third companies of coast artillery; First, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth and Thirteenth batteries of field artillery.

General MacArthur is instructed to transfer to other commands all men in the above organizations in their first enlistment having more than one year to serve, also men wishing to remain in the Philippines. All men of other organizations having three months or less to serve, not intending to enlist, are to be transferred to the returning organizations.

It is expected that this movement of troops will begin soon after July 1 next, by which time the homeward movement of the volunteers will have been completed. It is the intention of the department to replace the home coming regulars, so far as the military conditions in the Philippines require it, with troops recently organized in this country under the provisions of the army reorganization act.

These movements are predicated on the policy of the administration to reduce the army in the Philippines to 40,000 after the return of the volunteers.

The war department today published the reorganization order prescribing the strength of the various branches of the military service upon the basis of a total army of 77,287 men and a staff of 2,783, the enlisted strength being 74,504 men. By the order each cavalry regiment will consist of 12 cavalry troops of 85 enlisted men each, making the total strength of the cavalry branch 15,840 men. The coast artillery will consist of 126 companies of 109 enlisted men each, making 13,734, and the field artillery of 30 batteries of 160 men each, making a total artillery force, field and coast, of 18,862 enlisted men. The 30 infantry regiments will consist of 12 companies of 104 enlisted men each, making the infantry strength 38,520 enlisted men. The engineer battalions will have four companies of 104 enlisted men each, with a band and will, have a strength of 1,282 enlisted men.

The receipts of the Oregon state land office during April were \$23,459.36.

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.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 59¢@60¢; valley, nominal; bluestem, 61¢@62¢, per bushel.

Flour—Best grades, \$2.90@3.40 per barrel; graham, \$2.60.

Oats—White, \$1.30@1.35 per cental; gray, \$1.27½@1.30 per cental.

Barley—Feed, \$17@17.25; brewing, \$17@17.25 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$21.50; shorts, \$20.00; chop, \$16.

Hay—Timothy, \$12.50@14; clover, \$7@9.50; Oregon wild hay, \$6@7 per ton.

Hops—12@14c. per lb.

Wool—Valley, 11@13c; Eastern Oregon, 7@10c; mohair, 20@21c. per pound.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 15@17½c.; dairy, 13@14c.; store, 11@12½c. per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 12½@13c. per dozen.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 13@13½c.; Young America, 13½@14c. per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.50@4; hens, \$4@4.50; dressed, 11@12c. per pound; springs, \$3@5 per dozen; ducks, \$5@6; geese, \$6@7; turkeys, live, 10@12c; dressed, 13@15c. per pound.

Potatoes—Old, 90¢@1.10 per sack; new, 2½c. per pound.

Mutton—Lamb, 4½@5c. per pound gross; best sheep, wethers, with wool, \$4.25@4.50; dressed, 7½c. per pound.

Hogs—Gross, heavy, \$5.75@6; light, \$4.75@5; dressed, 7@7½c. per pound.

Veal—Large, 7@8c. per pound.

Small, 8@8½c. per pound.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$5@5.25; cows and heifers, \$4.50@4.75; dressed beef, 8½@8½c. per pound.

A Toledo, O., police judge says drunkenness is a disease, not a crime, and dismisses all plain drunks that come before him.

An Omaha man claims to have made out of common earth, petroleum and two secret ingredients a cheap and plentiful fuel.

Earl Grey, of Great Britain, has a plan to secure control of all saloons and to discourage the sale of intoxicating drinks there.

Cables are interrupted.

New York, May 15.—The Commercial Cable Company has issued the following notice: "We are advised that the cables between Tschifu and Tsingtau and Tsingtau and Shanghai are interrupted."

New Naval Academy.

The naval academy at Annapolis will be a fine structure. When completed the building will have cost \$3,000,000.

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.

Newport will have a Fourth of July celebration.

The new school house at Marcola has been completed.

Timber claims on the middle fork of the Coquille are being rapidly taken.

Operations have been resumed at the Eureka mine, at Selma, Josephine county.

The telephone line being extended from Springfield to Waterville is completed to Thurston.

The Southern Oregon Oil Company, operating near Ashland, has purchased a boring plant.

The machinery of the Summerville creamery has been received and will be in place within a few days.

Eighty-seven scalps of wild animals were presented for bounty in Jackson county in the month of April.

Contract has been awarded to the Athena Flouring Mill Company to pump water for the city for \$800 per year.

The Henry P. Smith farm of 199 acres, 1½ miles east of Dallas, has been sold to an Oklahoma man for \$6,400.

The Ontario Warehouse Company is building a warehouse on the Short Line right of way. The building will be 50x70 feet, fire proof, and will be pushed to a speedy completion.

The Sunset mill owners started their quartz mill on Forest creek again last week for a run of several months. They have a large amount of rock on the dump, some of which which will yield \$75 to the ton.

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.

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