



A CANDLE IN THE WILDERNESS

A Tale of the Beginning of New England
By IRVING BACHELLER

"Sit down with us and drink to all the wise men," said the dominie as he ordered beer to be brought for them. The women are busy baking the great cake. It will look like a snow-covered mountain. Here's hoping that one of you may be the Bean king."

Numbers of Englishmen from Virginia and from the colonies in New England—dissatisfied with the outlook or the courts—had come to New Amsterdam. More than a score of these malcontents were now at the fete. Suddenly in a group of noisy merry-makers Robert discovered Roderick Leighton—the friend of James Rosewell—whom he had seen at the governor's house in Boston. A fear came to Robert, for he knew that the friends would probably have met in New Amsterdam when Rosewell came down from the north. Leighton was overcupped.



"If That Is Not Enough He Will Hire a Fiddler and a Wit to Keep You Merry."

With three hundred merry-makers in the big house there was little danger of a recognition. Robert and Amos made their way to another room and sat down in a shadowed corner with some happy Dutchmen who were smoking and drinking beer at a round table. Near them a little group of Englishmen were telling drolls and gossiping. They said that there were not five people in New Amsterdam outside the Company's office who could read or write and that the governor himself signed with a cross.

It would seem that Fate had its own plans for the boy Robert. Suddenly a singular event thrust him into unwelcome prominence. The great Twelfth Night cake was a kind of treasure mountain. A gilded bean had been dropped into its batter before the baking. He who found it in his portion was the Bean king—the Balthasar of the fete—to whom all present had to render homage. Robert Heathers drew the bean. Immediately he became the center of interest. The crowd gathered around him. The burgomaster led him to the big room and introduced him in a humorous speech. The young man accepted this in excellent good humor. He summoned Amos, who translated each sentence after it was spoken.

"Greatness was always beyond my hope," Robert answered. "Like most greatness it comes to me by accident. It's an ill fit. I feel as I did once years ago when I put on my father's breeches. My throne is founded on a bean but no king could have a fairer kingdom—lovelier ladies and more gallant gentlemen to yield him homage as undeserved as that of the king of my native land. I only wish it were my prerogative to kiss all my female subjects, but I am happy, nevertheless, in looking at them."

He was a popular king. All the ladies came and congratulated him and made deep curtsies as they shook his hand, and some offered him their cheeks to be kissed. Then they brought him food and drink and soured.

pioneer with his clear vision would have been up and doing instead of lying down for needed sleep.

Robert slept little and often heard the shout calling the hours and declaring that all was well. The celebration of Twelfth Night continued twenty-four hours with a diminishing and diverted fervor, some time being needed for recovery.

Robert and Amos were among the crowd that gathered on the plain at ten o'clock to witness the lively, merry pastime of "clubbing the cat." A lightly cooped barrel with a cat in it was roped upright between posts. The contestants stood about a hundred feet and threw clubs at the barrel. The one who broke it and released the cat got a bottle of good wine. The barrel was no sooner broken than all the throwers set out in a rush for the scared cat, who got away from that place with no unnecessary delay.

The noisier game of "Pulling the Goose" followed. A goose whose neck and head had been thoroughly greased was hung by its feet to a cord stretched between posts about ten feet high. Men rode under the goose at a gallop and by seizing its head endeavored to pull it free—a most difficult undertaking. The slippery goose was himself the reward of the successful contestant.

At midday Robert and Amos returned to the house of the director general to find that its atmosphere had changed. Their host met them with a sober face in the hall. He was polite but eager to get rid of them. He had learned that the Hector, an English ship, was anchored in a harbor off the Connecticut shore near a small settlement called Quinnepiac. It would be sailing within a week or so. Many traders on the Long Island were taking their furs to that ship, as there might be a moon's wait or more before a Dutch vessel would arrive. At a point beyond the Hellegat river they could cross in a shallop to an English trading post on the East bay. There they could soon find conveyance to the ship. He would give them horses and a guide to take them northward to the shallop ferry.

The matter was not open to argument. They went that afternoon. They found a small settlement of English people a mile or so from the landing.

There they learned that the Hector was tied in and would not be sailing before the moon of the bright lights late in March or early in April. They were made welcome by a man who lived in a comfortable cabin and who spent his winters hunting and trapping and clearing his land. A small farm kept him busy in the summer. That evening Amos said to Robert: "I didn't like Mr. Van Twill-

er's change o' front. Can ye explain it?"
"It's an easy riddle," said Robert. "Roderick Leighton fell in with Jim Rosewell and Jim told him that I was trying to escape the hangman's noose waiting for me in Boston. Of course, he couldn't help seeing me last night. He has told the director general that I'm an outlaw and a fugitive. The poor man was anxious to wash his hands of me before the news spread."

"I see through that barn door," Amos answered. "I wish ye had told me this afore now. It's that hang-by-cullion Rosewell just because he wants to kill ye out o' his way as a rival. Don't let it plague ye. We'll fix the flint o' this wortical."

They spent seven weeks in this little settlement on the Long Island, helping their host with his clearing and burning near the cabin. In the first thaw of the spring they went in a pinnace loaded with furs to Quinnepiac.

They reached the ship's side only to learn from her Puritan captain that he could take no more passengers. At the little settlement on the shore they ran upon John Samp—the Boston constable, who immediately seized Robert and disarmed him.

"I began to see it as soon as you told me," said Amos. "We've stepped into a trap. Rosewell got it all set and ready before he left the island."

The constable showed his warrant. "Well, I'm glad to see you," said Robert, "but I look for no resistance. I'm tired of this matter and am ready to see the end of it, whatever it may be."

His friend put in a word here: "And before it ends Amos Todkill will have something to say. Hang on to yer courage."

The ample Samp with a look of wise severity thus admonished his prisoner: "Make a clean breast and throw yourself on the mercy of the court. It will be better for ye. If ye don't I wouldn't give a cat's whiskers fer yer life."

"Do ye think that ye can scare this boy, ye old nincompoop!" Amos answered. "He'll throw himself nowhere. He'll just stand still and keep still and let 'em prove it if they can."

The last entries in the diaries of Robert and Amos were written while they waited in the rude house of a settler as the constable was storing his pack with food for the journey. It is likely that they followed the Hequet path, but the historian has no knowledge of their adventures on the way.

CHAPTER XIII

Peggy Weld Takes Charge of the Case of Robert Heathers.

PEGGY had bought a bit of wild country that pleased her. She had built a house on it. She and her brother—an amiable youth much devoted to his sister and two years younger than she—would be moving into it soon, with a number of servants.

When Rosewell, having returned from his quest, came to see her at the house of Ex-Governor Winthrop he gave her a dark account of Robert's look and behavior.

"He is a scapegrace—a roynish clown," Rosewell said. "We have evidence to hang him. He will try to get across the sea, but I think that the righteous arm of the law may prevent it and bring him to the punishment he deserves."

The keen-minded Peggy answered: "If anything pulls him here it will not be the righteous arm of the law, it will be the jealous arm of James Rosewell."

(Continued Next Week)

Market for Crops Found Uncertain

Second Release of Outlook Report Shows Much Depends on Coming Events

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis—(Special.)—The market outlook for Oregon crop products in 1932 depends a great deal upon the course of demand as well as upon the volume of production this year, says O. S. C. extension service in the second and final section of outlook report just released. The situation for the various field crops, fruits and vegetables varies a great deal, both with respect to supplies and in regard to demand.

The trend of business and credit conditions will have a good deal to do with the demand for farm products this year, just as farm prices have been affected by the world-wide depression during the past two years, according to the report.

Soft Wheat Crop Short

The wheat outlook is still more or less uncertain because information is lacking on the probable plantings of spring wheat in this country and in foreign countries, according to the report. Present prospects are for a much smaller crop of winter wheat in this country than last year, and the world acreage is believed to be slightly less. As near as possible to tell, the carryover next July 1 will again be large. One thing of interest to Oregon wheat growers is the possibility of a comparatively short crop of soft red winter wheat in the states east of the Rocky Mountains, which might improve the domestic demand for western white wheat somewhat.

Although hay and feed grain supplies are pretty short in western states, conditions look favorable for better yields of these crops in 1932. The California winter barley crop is now very promising, whereas a very small crop was harvested last year, says the outlook report.

Weak Apple Market Possible

The apple situation in general indicates that supply will continue heavy in relation to demand in seasons favorable to apple production. Other kinds of fruits are increasing in volume, says the report, so that apples meet more competition each year. The production of citrus fruits, especially grapefruit, is expected to continue to increase rapidly for a good many years. Planting of the Delicious variety of apples has

been especially heavy in the eastern states.

With respect to the onion outlook, the report says that the present high prices for onions are due to a record short crop which resulted mostly from unfavorable growing conditions for late onions in many states last year. It points out that in 1928 the late onion crop was short for similar reasons. In 1929 growers increased the acreage and good yields were obtained with the result that onion prices were very low during the 1929-30 marketing season. Further increases in acreage were made in 1930, and prices declined to still lower levels.

The report, which is available from all Oregon county agents, contains sections on various seed crops, potatoes, celery, cauliflower and other vegetables, and on cherries, peaches, pears, prunes, hops and other crops.

The Open Forum - -

DEAR EDITOR—I am not convinced that you are altogether right in your editorial of last week in which you analyze the official weaknesses of the members of the city council. While I am not so well informed as you concerning the problems that have come before the mayor and council, and the manner in which these problems have been disposed of, I do believe that the present mayor and council have had the interest of the city and community always foremost in their minds when deciding any question before them.

It has been the opinion of a number of good citizens of Vernonia that the mayor and council would, if left to themselves, have finally adjusted their differences. People who serve the public become more or less sensitive to the criticisms of the public, and are apt, at times, to repel suggestions made by any one whose motives they doubt or whose friendship they may think is lacking.

It was to be expected that the council would be criticized for failing to provide for their successors in office in case they were recalled, but just how many of their critics would have done other than they did, under the same conditions? These men feel that they have done their duty as officials and that there is no cause for the voters subjecting them to a recall.

Besides working for a reduction in taxes, the mayor and council have cooperated with the var-

ious civic organizations of the community to make Vernonia a better town in which to live.

Timberline

Editor Nelle Green
Asst. Editor Bob Fox
Senior Reporter Verla Messing
Junior Reporter Edgar Crawford
Sophomore Reporter Zonweiss Douglass
Freshman Reporter Leona Hillman

VERNONIA LOSES CLOSE GAME TO SAINTS

Vernonia lost its chance for second place in the county championship by losing to St. Helens Monday night on the local floor. The score was 27 to 30.

Vernonia started the scoring by getting the first baskets. St. Helens started scoring and they soon had the lead. During the second quarter St. Helens was able to stay ahead and at the half they had a seven point lead.

At the start of the second half the Saints got the jump and increased their lead. It began to look as if the Vernonia boys were going to be far outscored when they finally got going and got some baskets. They held St. Helens scoreless for quite awhile and they had soon cut down St. Helens' lead. Although they came close, Vernonia was not able to take the lead and the game ended 27 to 30 in St. Helens favor.

The game was somewhat spoiled by stalling on the part of the St. Helens team. This victory gives St. Helens the undisputed position of second place in the standings of the county.

The line-up for Vernonia was Magoff and Aldrich, forwards; George, center; Smith and Barker, guards. For St. Helens: Abrams and Oliver, forwards; Erickson, center; Harper and Kovach, guards.

The Vernonia B team lost to St. Helens B team in a preliminary game by 21 to 18.

The St. Helens boys took home a victory that will give them second place in the league and Vernonia third. Rainier is first with one defeat, St. Helens second with two defeats, and Vernonia

third with three defeats, and they all have one game yet to play.

VERNONIA DEFEATS PACIFIC UNIVERSITY FRESHMEN 32 TO 31

The Vernonia high school basketball team defeated the Pacific university freshmen Friday night on the Washington grade school floor with a score of 32-31.

Pacific university opened the game by making the first basket. By the middle of the first quarter they were seven points ahead of Vernonia. At the end of the first quarter Vernonia had evened up the score so that it stood 10 to 7 in favor of P. U.

During the second quarter Magoff of Vernonia tied the score 12-12 by making a free shot. At the half Vernonia had a one point lead, the score being 13 to 14.

The third quarter showed what the teams were made of. Three times the score was tied, and as the whistle blew for the end of the third quarter, Vernonia's ball slid through the basket, making the score 22-22.

Pacific university started the fourth quarter with a basket which was rapidly succeeded by one for Vernonia. The high school was three points ahead of the university but just as the whistle blew, Pacific's ball cleared the basket thus giving Vernonia the game by one point, the final score being 32-31 in Vernonia's favor.

Vernonia's high point man was Ralph George. Lorán Woodaage of St. Helens refereed the game.

Helen Charlesworth, Gertruda Ek and Marian Lindley spent the weekend in Portland.

The high school orchestra furnished music for the Women's Relief corps banquet last Thursday noon. Helen Lamoreaux also gave a whistling number. After the music the ladies treated the high school students to a dinner.

A Timely Tip

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