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WAVERLAND.

A TALE OF OUR COMING LANDLORDS. BY SARAH MABIE BRIGHAM.

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what a contrast! I have not needed my umbrella once since I came into Illi-nois. In London and Ireland it would "Are you living on one of Lord Sanders' have been in constant demand. Yet the fields of growing grain are in fine condition. I think it must rain when we are asleep, to keep the earth looking so fresh

and green." We left the cars at the little station and soon were riding over roads in the most perfect condition. We called at one place where there was quite a comfortable house

"This is one of the farms I mentioned," said the agent.

While the duke and the agent were walking about talking business, I interviewed an old man who had been cultivating the corn.

"Sir," I asked, "can you tell me how this land came to be in the market?" "Yes, sir," said he, "this was once my home. I came here from Ohio when land was cheap. I bought this hundred and sixty acres of land, paid part down, and gave a mortgage for the balance. I put on improvements as fast as I could. I worked my farm carefully, and for a few years everything went well. Then times became hard, crops were not good, and what I could sell brought a very low price. But good crops or poor, good times or bad, the interest on the mortgage kept growing all the time. We began to live more carefully; wife would make one hundred dollars do the work of three in living and clothing. We kept less help and worked early and late, but to no purpose. The time came when the mortgage was due, and the our own time for selling our grain we interest had accumulated until it ate up. all there was over the mortgage. Then

ant where I hoped to be the owner."

"Where do you place the blame of your

unfortunate circumstances?" "The scarcity of money is the first cause. That makes hard times. I can raise just as much wheat to the acre when it brings asked the dake, after a few words of inone dollar per bushel as when it brings fif- troduction. ty cents. With the dollar f can meet my obligations. With half a dollar I must raise twice as much grain, or fall. The price of wheat indicates, I think I may are so cheap out west?" and bankers who are willing to secure a brother who went west. He made him-landlordism! I say God bless the Farmthemselves by a mortgage on our real estate, and help us by loaning money at the buildings. He had quite a start and was law-givers so that just laws shall be enactmoderate rates of frem one, two, or even three per cent per month. if the men whose only business is to deal in the circulating medium of the country are permitted to increase or decrease the quantity as they please, they have the advantage over the laboring and producing classes. When farmers are in debt, and money all the time growing senreer, there is no hope but to sacrifice their homes for much less than their real value. Large tracts of land are being obtained by speculators in this way, and held at moderate prices. This tempts rich foreigners to invest large sums of money here. They are willing to wait for the time when they can realize good profits on their investments, while in the meantime they secure a good income by leasing their lands to tenants."

topies of your country," I said. Yes, sir," he replied, "I am a member | the taxes and the rent, and have a little to keeps us posted on all that concerns us as

"Then you are opposed to foreigners coming here and buying lands?" I asked. "I am. We have no lands for people who only care to bleed us!" he said vehemently. "Any man that wants a home and will come here and live on the lands he buys, I am ready to welcome.

"You have large land monopolies among your own people," I said.

"We have, I am sorry to say. But our motto should be, 'No American land monopoly, either foreign or domestic!"

CHAPTER XIII - TENANTHY IN AMERICA. The day following the one on which the dake finished his purchase he said to me: Sanders' estate and see how his tenants wheat and corn.'

feel on the landlord subject."

"Then what if

To which of his estates shall we go?" I dake

maple trees. We passed through a country of sale used to be in slavery times!" that lay before us like an immense map | marked off by different shades of green, do not suit you," remarked the dake. growing fruit, great red harns that told of care and comfort, towering wind milis that could rival the imaginary giants of Don Quixote, full corn cribs laden with the golden cars, past villages full of business, fine churches, large school houses, cozy dwellings and substantial stores, Commerce, culture, society and religion were all provided for in response to the needs and industry of man. Then came a change-little rough shan-

ties, straw barns, and rail cribs without

We entered a little tumble-down village without church or school-house. There, the conductor told us, was the place our tickets called for.

"Are we still in America?" I asked. This seems more like Ireland and a ten-

"It is a tenant village." said the duke, as we walked from the steps of the old, rickety depot. "Can it be that tenantry has been so long in America as to have caused its

loathsome form to cover this fair land?" "Now, Waverland, I did not come to hear you preach. I came to see the chances of success with American tenants," said the duke, as we crossed to a little, low, wooden shanty with one window, a door and a hole in the roof for the stovepipe to pass through. The duke knocked at the door and a woman about thirty opened it. I was surprised at the neat appearance of the interior of the cabin. The ceiling and the walls of the room ifad been papered with newspapers and looked clean. The woman was bright, intelligent looking, and neat in a simple gown. She had been washing and a little boy was putting cobs, picked from the pig pen, into the stove to make the kettle boil. A bed in one corner of the room looked neat and

In place by a knot on the under side, full "Well, sir, we would be willing they Dickens' stories, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," table, completed the inventory of the to grind the life out of the unfortunate

"Yes, sir," said the woman, "we rent from his agent."



The duke knocked at the door and a woman about thirty opened it.

"Do you make a comfortable living?" I "Not very comfortable, though we never

suffer," said the woman, with a peculiar look in her dark eyes. "If we could choose could do better. There comes my husband," she said, "he can tell you better the place was sold. Now, here I am a ten- than I about the place."

A large, fine looking man drove near the shanty with a team and cultivator. We bade the woman good-lay and went to interview the farmer bimself.

"Six years," said the man, "and I am as

"Have you been on this place long?

poor to-day as when I came here." "Why do you stay here then, when lands

"You must know it costs a good deal to get a start even if lands are cheap. I had self a good farm with good comfortable had made from the wild prairie of the, here to rent. I keep hoping that by working a little earlier, a little later and a little pointing across the road to where a neat little frame house stood, shaded by tall maple and cottonwood trees. "He is making money every year, and has some comfruits that add to the comfort and value of his place. I came here the same year that "You seem familiar with the important he bought there. I work just as hard as that were living on Lord Sanders' estate.

"Then you pay the taxes," said the

duke. "Yes, sir," said the man," "I have the taxes to pay, though they are not half as high as Jones's are. Lord Sanders is rich there!" and knows better than to improve his lands, and then we cannot even have a decent school to send our children to because the agent will not permit us to vote as we please. Oh, he's a shrewd one, is just as much rent for that old shanty with a few poles and a straw stack for a barn,

as though be had good buildings.". "What is the causon you can not make as much as your mel closer! I usked. "Are ed and eager for a change. But they did the hand of mateir-

his crops better then years?"
"No, sir," said the man. "We raise "Now, Waverland, we will visit Lord bushel; we did lest year of both seemed and discontented as they were, "Then what is the trouble?" asked the

To the nearest one. It will only take a good choose his own time for selling his bushel for his wheat and twenty-dve cents might be much, whereby my lord would shower had fallen in the night. Every- a bushel for his corn: That to sell when be forced to sell his lands, and then they Loof Sanders' agent demanded the rent, expected a chance to purchase. They We passed out from the buzz and and got sixty cents per bushel for my needed the stimulus of hope. Want and interior of the noisy city into the calm, cool wheel and aftern cents for cora. On the disconragement was visible in every home air of the country. We saw large heeds of two you can see quite a margla for free- we visited. herses and caule lazily feeding in great dom; yet freedom! I am bound under an as clean as possible, yet the one room,

"But you need not stay here if the terms | shantles were always cheap, rough and

"That's true. But here I have a shelter; to the chilling winds of whiter or the brollmy wife and calld are quite comfortable. Ing sun, without the kindly shelter of tree tlat. On, on we sped, past large farm If I should leave here I might do even or shrub. worse. Some of the tenants on Lord Sanders' estate have a terrible struggle to get Iy a few farmers who had any show of along. One day last winter when the comfort I said: thermometer was twenty degrees below zero. I went to a tenant's house, and there from starving. Their fire was made of roots dug from the earth ten miles distant | future. and brought home to burn to keep them of sufferings that would make your heart ache. If there is any more suffering in Ireland than right here on Lord Sanders' among a herd of asses. estate, God pity them! Here in this beautiful country where everything grows in that he is working for the same landlord abundance! I went round to the different here that he was under in Ireland?" families and gathered up provisions to keep one family from starving to death."
"What made the people so poor?" asked

"Because they had to sell all they could raise to pay the rent, that the greedy landlords may live in ease and luxury in some foreign city, where he cannot see or hear of the misery he causes. While the thrifty farmers, like neighbor Jones, who have their own homes, must pay their own law-

ders beside." Why man how do you make that out?" asked the duke. "Your neighbor has im- agents he could procure. proved his lands, while Lord Sanders has not, that makes the difference."

ful taxes and a portion for my Lord San-

"That is just where the injustice comes in. If Lord Sanders had to pay taxes on perty in America had added thousands of that naked land and not on the improvements, he would soon be willing to sell good success that I was tempted to put so some of his hundred thousand acres. But while he can shirk out of the taxes and re- If the people are beginning to think and ceives a good rent, he will not sell any of his broad fields, though offered five times

their real value." "You are rather hard on the land owner," said the duke. "If you could carry your theory into practice you would make a fine mess of the finances of your country. It might benefit the small farm- may annoy us as the farmer said, if they ers, but it would be hard on the landlords should establish a law to levy taxes on the wages." who hold large estates.'

of books. I saw Emerson's prose works, should suffer a little. They have bled the people long enough. Beside, the lands of and a good many other good friends in this country were intended for the many, that little rough shanty. When we had not for the few. I would like to see the taken the seats she had offered as, (two old | man who owns the lands live on them and wooden chairs, which, with a rough deal use them himself, and not have the power man who has not been blessed with rich relations, fat offices or lucky opportunities, by which he can buy or steal titles to lands that God made free as the air we breathe, for all to enjoy and use, not to monopolize

> "Then you would make null and void all titles to lands?" asked the duke.

"As a means of wealth and speculation I would, but not as a means of life. I believe laws should be made, by which titles to lands would be granted for use and occupation only. And that all taxes should be levied on land values, but nothing on improvements. Why, as it is now, there is a premium offered to the man who can hold the most land and make the least improvements. As it is now, if you build a house you are taxed for it. If you plant a tree or shrub, or do anything to add beauty to your home, you must pay for the luxury in additional taxes. Lords Sanders knows how that is. He will not even put a coat of paint on that old shanty or dig a well for fear of his taxes being heavier."

"Are there many of your opinion in this settlement?" asked the duke.

"Yes, sir, nearly all the tenants and farmers generally believe as I do. But we tenants are not free to vote as we please. We must follow an unprincipled agent and vote with him or be evicted. Talk about freedom and progress! We are not free, but we belong to a class of serfs and slaves. We are slaves of the foreign landlord all because he has been allowed to invest his wealth in American soil. But it will not always be so," said the man with warmth, "These foreign landfords," he continued, "think they are riding an ass, I ounty in this sin - and in the United endanad new incockes into our hearts. on this great land menopoly and defeat the foreign landlords. The Alliance sends er's Alliance! And may be send us wise proud and happy in his new home, that he ed and fairly administered and human west. But he had taken lands that were afterward gobbled up by the railroad compeople. Then we can defeat tyranny at home and abroad.

"We have no need to import landlords! They are of no more use to us than a pack harder, that I can get a start here. There of wolves in a flock of sheep. They pro- But you notice there is no low, flat, is neighbor Jones who has the same num-duce nothing. They do not even spend ber of acres that I work," said the man, the money they obtain from us in this country, but it goes to England or some other foreign nation. Why, Lord Sanders makes his boast that he receives from his forts for his canily besides. He is all the dollars every year. Good day, gentlemen, tenants in America two hundred thousand time making improvements. He has a I must go on with my work," said the nice young orchard, grape vines and small man, starting for the field with his team

he does, but I can only raise enough to pay One was an Irishman. When the duke asked him if he liked living in America, he said:

"Och, and it's bad luck to me that I iver ame to America at all! for I am under the self-same old master as I was in Ireland! woe be to him! He evicted me

"What do you mean?" I asked. "Lord Sanders had hundreds of us turned out at once, like pigs in a stye; ye see he wanted the land for cattle. But we made him sick of it, and he sold his land that Lord Sanders. He knows he can get there and bought here. Bad luck to him! And I'm one of his tenants again. I left | thing of the famous lab is law work Ireland and came to free America to get

ot dare to leave for fear they would not ; they all realized that there were plenty of other men waiting to get even a chance on a place. Nearly all were hopeful that "Well, sir, I can tell you the trouble. He times would sometime be better, and that

As we left the little settlement, with on-

"I see the same conditions here that we have in Ireland, except that here we find they were boiling whole corn to keep them | intelligent people who make an effort to | improve themselves with some hope of the

"And," said the duke, "if the people are from freezing. Oh, I could tell you tales forming into unions and clubs to work against us, we will soon find ourselves as the man said, in a den of tigers instead of "Do you believe the Irishman's story,

> "It may be true. Lord Sanders once owned the estate Sir Wren now owns in

"Why, was he the man Sir Wren told | shrewdness." me had three hundred tenant farmers

evicted because he wanted to make the whole estate into a tenant farm?" "I presume he is the man," said the

"Well, he did not have a very pleasant time of it. Sir Wren said that the enraged tenants would drive off his stock as fast as he could buy it in spite of all the dogs and

"That was his reason for selling. He told me he was very thankful for the change; that putting his money into prodoilars to his wealth. It was through his much money into lands in the new West. inquire it may not be so safe trusting to cow-hov force and barb wire-fences to hold these lands as we were thinking. In making my last purchases I have had that in mind, and have been very careful in getting bona fide titles to the lands I purchased. But here is another trouble that

would soon change our profits into losses. Yet it will be a long time before that will come to pass. Only a few have thought of that yet, and the people of this country have to be educated into any change, said the duke.

"As I understand it, from those I have talked with, the object of the Farmers' Alliance Club is to educate the common people on this very subject. The people, I mean the masses are being educated in the one grand principle of equality. There are unions, clubs and orders devoted entirely to this subject. The people are a power in this nation, when once thoroughly aroused. And," I continued, "when men like these tenant farmers groaning under the injustice of unfair rents and unjust taxes finally band together for mutual protection and just laws, they will create a force that even money cannot control!"

CHAPTER XIV.-DAKOTA.

Leaving Chicago we went northwest, passing through Wisconsin, that grand state so famous for cheese and batter: through Minnesota with its broad fields of growing wheat, clear rivers and bracing air, into Dakota, the new, the great, the grand; the giant of the northwest. Here little homes dot the prairies, giving evidence of growth. Here the hardy pioneers come to taste the romance of taming nature and to coax wealth and happiness from the fertile soil. We passed over rivers whose waters were clear as crystal; through villages full of enterprise and

"This seems a growing state," I said, looking out over the expanse of country

thickly dotted with cosy little homes. "It is among the first," said the duke, in answer to my question. "It claims a greater number of postoflices than anyone of the twenty-three other states and territories, and pays more revenue into the postoffice department than any one of the thirty-two of them. It has colleges, norbut they may yet find the beast to be an | mal schools and institutions endowed by enraged tigress instead. They cannot bind the territory. Its educational fund, deus body and soul forever. The Farmers rived from lands donated by the general Alifance clubs that meet in almost every government, promises to be the largest belonging to the state. The official reports states are putting new than this into our show that there is less sickness in Dakota than in any other state or territory in the which inspire us with new Lopes. If we Union. Immense beds of coal are being only in the in our efforts we will yet crush discovered in many parts of the territory, Time was, they tell me, when all these fertile plains belonged to what we knew in good reading into the tenants' homes and our school days as the Great Amercan ebildren will learn that the greatest crime | Desert. But not a trace of the desert remains on any railroad map of to-day. I remember picturing the sand on the desert here, as playing the same pranks as in the Great Sahara of Africa. But imagine that great desert becoming a blooming garden!"

"How much this looks like Illinois," I said as we were riding along.

"Yes, Waverland, you will be surprised to find that all prairie lands have some of marshy land here. The surface of the prairie, both upland and valley, is everywhere undulating," said the duke, "while the river courses, fringed with timber. afford a grateful relief from the monotony of the prairies."

"Here we are at our destination," said the duke, as the train came to a halt at a little station where everything looked new. Even the business signs seemed to smell of new paint.

We found comfortable rooms in a little house occupied by the duke's agent. The agent kept a provision store and postoffice. His wife, a fair, intelligent woman, took charge of the office and did her own housekeeping. She was a stout energetic woman, kept things in order, gave us good meals, and the tenants their mail.

"Then this is your El Dorado," I said to the duke, when, after a comfortable dinner, we started out to see something of this new American duttedon."

"Yes, this is my El Dorado," he answered laughlag. "You have not seen any-

Every tenant we visited was discontent- ing vertices. It was a country thesh from



our tennits?" I asked.

"Yes; they may look small to us, but to these poor beliefs who have been cooped up in crowded tenements it rivals even the famous El Dorado. There are families here, with all their uncles, aunts and cousins, until the whole settlement seems one family of kin folks. They are from the north of Europe, where they have been trained to unquestionable obedience and plodding industry."

"How much did it cost you to bring them here?" I asked, as we were riding from place to place on the estate. Seven dollars a head," he answered, as

though speaking of a herd of cattle. "I see you have been in America long enough to have learned some of her

"How so?" "You could never have brought people here without some previous arrangement. How did you manage it?"

"Very easily. You see I had bought large tracts of lands from the railroad company and they were under some obligations to me. I asked for honest rates to bring settlers in. At first I could not get rates that would justify me in bringing them. But after a great deal of consultation, we arranged with different railways and line of steamers, until the fare was just seven dollars per head by the family." "These buildings, how did you arrange

for them?" "There again the railroads helped me. I got rates for everything. Each house as it stands cost me fifteen dollars. The tenants built them, themselves,'

"How will you ever get your money back?" I asked

"Each man is hired by the year, until the land begins to produce something, then they will rent. Whatever I pay for building or living expenses is kept from