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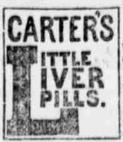
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BEST FOR THE BOWELS

# MARION'S BRIGADE

By MAJOR J. H. ROBINSON

CHAPTER VII.

The bugles gave a merry blast, the sabers jingled, and the brigade swept forward.

"I shall have to pulverize this fellow yet," said Ben Rowan. "What's the trouble now?" asked

Frank. "He's a humbug."

"Didst thou address me, good Benjamin? said Dawson. "Verily thou art irascible."

"I shall want you to hold my coat, bat and other fixin's," continued Rowan to Frank.

"What for?" inquired the latter. "While I pulverize him." "I think that would be ungrateful; he

saved your life," remonstrated Forstall. "That's the very thing," said Rowan; 'he saved my life and won't own it. I don't like to be fooled and have the wool pulled over my eyes. There's nothing like pulverizing such chaps; it does 'em a monstrous sight of good; it deepens heir relegious convictions, and keeps

em in their place." "Thou art in the gall of bitterness, friend Benjamin, observed Dawson. "If I was a regular saint I couldn't bear it," said Ben, in the tone of a person conscious that he was practicing he sublimest forhearance

"And in the strong bonds of iniquity," mided Job, relidly.

"To think that such a humbug should dare to save my life! It makes me mad enoughers ear my nava subser" continued. Henry sentimentally.

The brigade encomped at its former position on the Santee. At that place Gen. Marion spent several days drilling the men, while many hastened to join libs ranks. One morning the general was Informed that a man from Rocky Creek washed to see lam; and in a few moments after Capt, Nichdemus Hawes was ashered late his presence.

"I'm cap's of the Independent Fire-Enters," sald Hawes, "I've hearn of year gallant explites, and have come down to fine you with my fellers; and they're 'turnel cristers for a tussle as any you can find anywhere in these diggin's."

"Just such follows as I want?" claimed the general, with a smile. "You think they're made of the right kind of material?

"Warrant 'em to whip in all cases," figure is a follows. Let one person rejoined Hawes, kneanically, "I've got hold a large rang upright as high as 'em straightened up in line jest out youthe child can comformably reach. In our, and if you'll step out I'll put 'em raising the arms to touch the ring through the gamat a few times to show you what they can do.'

The Independent Fire-Enters were pawill expand the chest, and the lifting raded, and Hawes proceeded to exercise

"Attention the hull! Straighten up, and no squintin'. If any on ye hain't been to breakfast, say so. This man that you see here is Gen. Marion, and, as you all know, he's arter the Britishers until it becomes necessary for the with a sharp stick, and he means to child to stand on tiptoe to reach, thus | fellow 'em like the ceaseless footsteps of everlastin' death. Toe out, you 'tarnal critters. Endeavor to rise with the subject and feel that each on ye has enough of the real grit to make a dozen heroes and a good dog, besides leaven' a small remnant at that. Stand firm-hold upthrow out your chists! Corporal Higgins, there's a kink in your section. John Smith, try to look an inch and a half taller. Shoulder-firelocks. Very well; dew it agin. Work a little faster, boys. Perkins, you ain't quite orthodox enough yet-your toad-sticker is on hindside afore. All eyes to the front. Present-arms. Let the muzzles fall a little more; that'll do. Charge-baganets. Be brisk, my lads, and imagine the enemy is right afore you. Very well done -perwidin' you all had baganets, Shoulder 'em up again. Lieut. Anderson will now shove you through the firin's, marchin's and wheelin's."

The captain ceased and Gen. Marion expressed himself pleased with the per-

"To-night," he added, "I intend to surprise a company of Tories under Capt, Barfield, who are posted not far from here, between us and the Pedec. If I am successful, I shall have horses enough A good cover for irons when being to mount you all to-morrow. You have

> "Yes, and he's collectin' men in the neighborhowl of Rocky Creek. You may depend on't, he means to do mischief." replied Hawes.

> "He cannot do more than equal the enormities of Tarleton and Wemyss,"

said the general. "I should like to have a hand in this Barfield affair," added Capt. Nick,

"I shall be glad to have your company, captain, with what men you can mount." auswered Marion.

The contemplated movement was carried into effect successfully. Frank Forstall took an active part in the engagement and attracted the particular attention of Gen. Marion. He was promised a lieutenancy as soon as a vacancy should occur. This was very gratifying to Frank's inudable ambition, and he wondered whether Mis Ruth Strickland would feel any pleasure when she heard that he had conducted himself in a soldier-like and becoming manner,

No one watched the progress of events with deper interest than Forstall. Gen. looked forward with hope to new and to ride furiously into the ranks of the

foe, but he affirmed that his horse was unruly, and he had been carried into danger against his will.

This version of the affair Ben Rowan would by no means accept, for he stoutly and perseveringly asserted that he had seen him spur his horse into the teeth of the enemy, overturn two Tory borsemen and cleave a third with his huge saber. When honest Job assured his somewhat choteric friend Ben that there must be some illusion about what he professed to have witnessed he flew into a violent passion, and if Forstall had not interfered he would doubtless have proceeded to extremities, as he was greatly in favor of the pulverizing system in all cases of "humbug" and obstinacy, or what he chose to consider as such.

There was evidently some mystery about the character of Joh Dawson which neither Frank Forstall nor any of his acquaintances could solve. The peculiarities of the Quaker had attracted the attention of not only the men. but of the officers, and even Marion him-

self regarded him with much curiosity. It seemed singular to Frank and others that Dawson should linger after he had concluded the estensible object of his appearance among them. If he really "hated bloodshed" why did he not leave the brigade as soon as he was at liberty to do so? Did he stay with the dragoons because he believed he should be safer with them than anywhere else? Had his horse borne him into the couflict against his wishes? Had be wielded his suber deliberately, or in a moment of excitement, when half demented by an excessive fear? These were questions which very few felt competent to answer. But Rowan was the most confident of any in the premises, and was apparently fully reseived that Job should prove a hambug in one way or another; Nor was this quite all. He resolved, furthermore, to flagellate him soundly whenever a favorable opportunity should offer. This determination was not a passing whim, but a fixed and deliberately formed purpose, for he had conserved the extraordinary idea that his some required it. But Job Dawson kept on in the even tenor of his way, without appearing in any manner disturbed by what others thought or said of him. The Quaker moved among them a continual wonder, and a continual subject of remark.

Mr. Henderson had accompanied Capt. Hawes to Marion's camp, and he was fren observed in conversation with Dawson. The nature of those conversations no one knew, but they seemed gether in the presence of others it was seldom that a word passed between them, and they might have been supposed

niter strangers to each other, Young Adair, who had been released from his dangerous position at Britton's Neck, had joined the brigade, and as Dawson had been the most active in setting him at liberty, the query naturally arose whether any previous acquaintance had existed between the parties. If the affirmative of this was true, how long had such an acquaintance existed, and under what circumstances had it commenced? But these inquiries were as unanswerable as the others. Frank Forstall, though well acquainted with the inhabitants of Britton's Neck, did not remember of ever hearing the name of Job Dawson.

The one engrossing idea that now or cupied and agitated the mind of Forstall was the captivity of Mr. Strickland. There were several good reasons why he wished to achieve his liberation. He was an old man and respected neighbor, and Frank loved his handsome daughter. But our here was not an especial favorite with Mr. Strickland, who was somewhat prejudiced against him. The very idea that Mr. Strickland did not feel friendly toward him made our hero still more anxious to serve him; for he very naturally wished to prove that Mr. Strickland's antipathy (if it really amounted to antipathy) was entirely unfounded.

Forstall cogitated deeply on the subject of Strickland's captivity, and many were the plans he formed to effect his release; many of his schemes were wholly impracticable, and all of them full of danger.

## CHAPTER VIII.

The news that Col. Ferguson was approaching Rocky Creek with a large body of dragoons, marking his footsteps with blood and fire, produced general consternation among the inhabitants who remained at home.

There were quite a number at Rocky Creek favorable to the royal cause; and they resolved to organize and choose a leader. The tidings of Ferguson's proximity served to quicken their zeal and hasten their movements.

A young man by the name of Dix was very active in the contemplated organization. Having provided himself with a list of those who were friendly to the cause, he rode up and down the country, inviting them to assemble at a decignated place in the vicinage of Rocky Creek. Cyrus Dix lived not far from Rev. William Martin's, and knew wellthat he was a stanch patriot. The for-Marion's high qualities as a leader had mer felt an earnest desire to change inspired him with confidence, and he the latter's mode of thinking. Dix was well acquainted with Kate Martin, knew more brilliant achievements. During the her worth, and had felt the power of engagement with Barfield's band of her dazzling beauty. He had ardently Tories Job Dawson had again been seen sought her company for many months. Dix was at heart a bad man, but he

took the best care to disguise his true character, and to appear to Martin's eyes like one who honestly and conscientiously differed with him in opinion, The day before the royalists of that and the adjaining districts were to assemble, with a view to ch armed and permanent organization, Dix walked over to Mr. Martin's, in order to make a final effort to shake his patriotism to its founda-

Nor was this the sole object of his visit. After doing all that he could in that particular direction he had determined to make a full declaration of his sentiments to the peerless Kate.

"I have come to converse with you once more on the subject of our honest difference of opinion. I wish you could see as I do in this matter," said Dis

with much emphasis. "I respect your friendly earnestness, young man," replied the paster; "but pardon me when I say that I thoroughly detest your cause. I have not only wished that you might discover the error into which you have unwittingly fallen, but I have prayed that our common Father would mercifully open your eyes and quicken your understanding."

"I must regret your infatuation," returned Dix, earnestly; "and perhaps I might say hallucination. Your sacred profession prevents you from fighting with the ordinary weapons of human warfare. You are well known among the Royalists as having incited the hitherto peaceful inhabitants to arms, and they feel justly indignant against you. Who, then, will protect yourself, your wife and fair daughter from the vengeance of those marauding parties who are sweeping like lightning through the country?

"I have served the God of heaven many years, and I have never yet been forsaken," replied Martin, devoitly.

"Once more I appeal to you, sir. Will you not, at least in appearance, favor the Royal cause? Your own safety and that of your family require this much of

"Go, young man?" exclaimed Martin, sternly. "You forget the respect which is due one so much your senfor. I never was a hypocrite and I never will be. To persist in such language would soon rob you of the respect which I have hitherto entertained for you. Go, and never let this subject be renewed between us, unless you are led to see the fatal error into which you have been led."

"I am sorry for this," resumed Dix, artfully affecting some emotion. "I have esteemed you highly, and earnestly wish. to see you shielded from the svil which is sorely determined against you."

"Blessed are they who suffer for righteousness sake," responded Mr. Martin, fervently,

Dix despaired of shaking the constaney of such a man as the worthy paster. He accordingly sought Kate, to learn how matters stood in that direction. As it happened, a very favorable opportunity presented itself.

"I have been conversing with your father this morning in regard to his unto be confidential in character. When to- fortunate political sentiments," said Disc. "Have you succeeded in convincit

him of his heresy?" asked Kate, calmly, "I am sorry to say I have not," was the reply.

"Will you be kind enough to inform me why you regret the circumstances?" added Miss Martin.

"For several reasons, my fair neighbor," rejoined Dix, blandly. "First, because such a worthy man should be blinded in his judgment; second, because such sentiments endanger his personal safety; third, on your own account, for it naturally follows if your father suffers for the active part he has taken in the rebellion you will also suffer by the punishment."

While he was speaking Kate was quietly studying his character, and arriving at a very accurate conclusion in regard to the object of his apparently disinterested efforts.

"Perhaps, Mr. Dix," she said, with much seeming simplicity of manner, "it is in your power to aid us in this unhappy dilemma into which we have fallen."

"You speak to the point, my dear Kate," added the Loyalist, in tones still more confidential and patronizing. "Rocky Creek, at the present time, is left entirely to the mercy of the Royalists.

"But are they not too noble to make war upon defenseless females and old men?" inquired Kate, in the same confiding and apparently artless manner. "Our troops," added Dix, coloring

slightly, "cannot always be restrained on account of the cruelties practiced by the Whigs. It is my solemn conviction that the first party of British dragoons that sweeps through the settlement will make a terrific example of William Martin," "Unless," added Kate, "you should

sanguinary proceedings." "Just so, Miss Martin. I trust, dear young lady, that I have ever been a friend to you and the family!" returned

possess sufficient influence to stay their

Dix, sentimentally. "And I embrace this opportunity to xpress my thanks," said Miss Martin.

"I think I am not mistaken in you," resumed the Royalist, in a more tender and confiding tone, encouraged by the kindness of the maiden. "I feel assured that we understand each other."

"Yes," added Kate, averting her eyes timidly.

"There are moments when soul speaks to soul, and all the heart's precious secrets are suddenly and intuitively revenled."

Kate looked at the floor, and made no answer.

"Your condescension makes me extremely happy. Your heightened color assures me that I need not be more explicit on this particular theme. I will lay to my soul the flattering unction that I have awakened a gentle interest in your bosom."

(To be continued.)