

NOT VASTLY RICH

Ancient Men of Wealth Just Comfortably Off.

Compared With the Stupendous Fortunes of Today Those Old Fellows Would Have Been Considered Merely as "Pikers."

For a long time the names of Croesus, Crassus and Monte Cristo were used in comparison to express great wealth. The two first historical figures represented riches in Greece and Rome and the fictitious figure of the latter did the same for recent times. How rich Croesus was there is no way of judging. The value of the treasure which he displayed to Solon cannot be estimated. A saying ascribed to Crassus gives at least some idea of what he considered affluence. He declared that no one could be considered rich who could not maintain an army. This, of course, would be a great undertaking even at that period, though an army then was not in size anything like an army of today, nor was the equipment or sustenance nearly as costly. At Pharsali, Caesar had 22,000 legionaries, 1,000 cavalry; Pompey 45,000 legionaries, 7,000 cavalry. Also history records that at the time of his election to the consulate with Pompey he feasted the Roman populace at 10,000 tables and gave each family corn for three months.

The question which came up, however, was in regard to the financial resources of Monte Cristo. Nowhere in the novel are figures given from which a complete answer can be derived. The prices which the count paid for his possessions and for producing his spectacular effects are frequently mentioned, but not so often that the sum total can be known. However in the very last chapter, just before Monte Cristo disappears in the East, a hint is dropped as to the wealth which Dumas had in mind as originally belonging to the count and what accordingly he believed constituted almost fabulous riches at that time. In

almost his very last words in the book, Monte Cristo says: "You do not know all the joy which life affords with a great fortune. I possess nearly 100,000,000." By this, of course, he would mean francs and therefore at the end of his career of reward and vengeance the count had \$20,000,000. When Monte Cristo arrived in Paris he had his first interview with the banker, Danglars, which threw the latter into such consternation that the count had an unlimited credit. He declares definitely that he will need for the year during which he expects to remain in France 6,000,000 francs, perhaps more, though he says that he scarcely thinks that he will exceed that amount. The interest on 100,000,000 francs would have been about 6,000,000 so that really Monte Cristo appears to have been living nearly within his income. There is little or nothing to indicate that he considered or rather that Dumas considered that his famous character had in any degree impaired his fortune. Therefore, the inference is that the figures set by Dumas in his mind as the wealth of Monte Cristo at the beginning cannot have been very much more comparatively than \$20,000,000. That, of course, is a goodly fortune even in these days, but nothing very remarkable and certainly not fabulous. Of course, the purchasing power of money was considerably greater in Dumas' lifetime and his hero might be supposed to do much more with his riches.

Putting Pest Damage to Profit.

Every one who has a garden detests a mole—every one, perhaps, but a certain woman gardener out in Bryan county, Okla. This ingenious person, who reported her experience to the United States department of agriculture, puts them to work. A number of these pests undermined her garden, digging diminutive tunnels here, there, and everywhere. It would have discouraged the average woman; it didn't disturb this one. She started a little irrigation plant of her own, using its tunnels as irrigation ditches. She filled the tunnels with water repeatedly, until the garden was well watered, and finally drove the moles off the premises.

GRANDMA DIXON

By HELEN PATTERSON.

Carefully Grandma Dixon loosened the moist earth around the roots of her famous larkspur, shook the particles of dirt from the trowel and, before standing erect, touched the tender shoots lovingly with her fingers.

The larkspur meant more than tall blue flowers to her. It meant memories of the past; memories of the morning when a young soldier in a faded blue uniform had found her rejoicing over their first blossom. There had been four weary years of war and this, their first meeting, the larkspur had witnessed. Since that morning the flower had occupied a place of honor in her garden.

"Want any help, grandma?" asked a young man looking over the fence. "You know, I'm great on digging."

"Bless you, Dick. Of course I know it, when I look at this garden, but there is nothing to do this morning. Thank you. Come here and tell me about your work."

"I'll come over, but there is nothing to tell. I haven't any yet."

"Do you mean to say, Richard Hawkins, that you are not going back to your old work?" asked grandma, as the young man vaulted the low fence and stood beside her.

"That's just it, grandma. Your humble servant has to find a new job. You know, the girls are doing our work so well that many firms are keeping them, and Bolton & Mason's is one of them."

"But the girls will certainly resign when they know you are home again," said grandma. "I remember when Abner came home from the Civil war, I gave up his school I had been teaching and we were married."

"I'll bet you did," answered Richard, "but whose coming through the gate?"

"Why, bless me! If it isn't Betty."

PUBLIC SALE!

Having sold my ranch, I will sell at Public Sale on Section 30-17-33, twenty miles north of Sutherland, on the O'Brien ranch. Just above the forks of the Birdwoods, on

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1919,

Commencing at Ten O'clock sharp, the following described property, to-wit:

Six Hundred Head of Cattle

Consisting of 125 head of three year old steers; 250 cows, mostly all good grade White Faces; 75 two year old steers and heifers; 100 yearling steers and heifers; 125 spring calves; nine young bulls, seven of them registered; eight milch cows. These cattle are in good condition and nearly all of them White Faces.

Fifty-eight Horses and Mules

Consisting of thirty head of good work horses, most of them young mares and in foal to a good jack; ten head of yearling colts; six two year old colts; ten head of young work mules, good big ones, 3 to 7 years old; one stallion; one jack; and five good saddle horses.

270 HOGS

Consisting of 150 hogs, weight 150 to 250, 20 Brood Sows, balance thrifty shoats.

Corn, Oats, Rye, Harness, Saddles, Tanks, Ford Tractor.

Consisting of 2000 bushels of corn; 600 bushels of oats; 800 bushels of rye; 200 tons of hay and millet; 50 tons of oats and rye straw; 25 bushels of potatoes; 3 bushels of beans; 14 sets of good farm harness; 5 saddles, bridles and blankets; six 55 gallon gas tanks; three big steel water tanks; 1 cream separator; 1 Ford roadster with Knickerbocker tractor attachment with a field and road gear; 2 Ford truck bodies; 1 single buggy; 1 single harness; buff ilo overcoat; 1 bear skin overcoat; 1 pair of hip boots; 4 dozen chickens; a lot of household goods; 2 rifles; 2 shot guns; and many other articles too numerous to mention.

BIG FREE LUNCH AT NOON.

TERMS OF SALE—Sums of \$25 and under cash; on sums over \$25 six months time will be given on approved notes with interest at ten per cent. No property to be removed until terms of sale are complied with.

T. J. O'BRIEN, Owner.

COLS. R. I. SHAPPELL and ED. KIERIG, Auctioneers. RAY C. LANGFORD, Clerk

said grandma, hurrying to meet a young girl dressed in a stylish suit and a very becoming small hat. "Come on Dick, you know Betty. Why, you used to play with her when she was a tiny girl. You remember, she is the only grandchild I have."

Nothing loath, Richard followed Grandma Dixon down the garden path and was reintroduced to Betty. For a moment a pair of laughing blue eyes, the color of the larkspur, looked into his while they uttered a few commonplace remarks, and then Betty followed grandma into the house. It was not until Richard had walked the length of the garden that he remembered, with a queer feeling, that he had seen those same blue eyes in the girl that occupied his desk at Bolton & Mason's office.

In the meantime, Betty in the house had casually asked grandma "When had Richard's people moved back to the old homestead?"

"They haven't moved back," answered grandma. "Richard is spending the week with me trying to recuperate from his work of the last two years."

"Was he in all of the war?" asked Betty.

"Most of it," replied grandma, "although it's little he talks about it. Just now he's all upset over not getting his old work back."

"But grandma," protested Betty, "perhaps the girl needs the money she is earning as much as he does. I know some of the girls in our office are taking care of their mothers and younger brothers and sisters."

"It may be all right for those girls to keep our returned soldiers out of a job, but what about the girls like you, Betty Dixon, that don't really need to work?" indignantly asked grandma.

"Why—grandma—you know we girls took up their work so the boys could go and fight, and we have all bought Liberty bonds and worked for the Red Cross," stammered Betty as she thought of the young man she had casually glanced at at the cement works yesterday.

"Yes, you all did your best while the war was being fought and won, but now that it's over, show your gratitude to the boys in a more substantial way than cheers. I'm ashamed of you."

"You won't need to be ashamed of me any longer, grandma," said Betty meekly. "I'll make good. I just hadn't thought about it before; and now I'm going to look at your tulips."

But it wasn't tulips; it was Richard that Betty found sitting disconsolately on an old seat by the lilacs. No one could resist Betty when she wanted to be extra charming and soon they were talking and laughing like children.

The next day Betty returned home and the day afterwards Richard received two letters; one was from Betty, which after reading, he kissed and put in his inside pocket. The other one was from Bolton & Mason, inviting him to call at their office.

It was at the close of the summer, on one moonlight night that the tall blue flowers awoke from their sleep to hear a low voice say:

"Betty, I'm to be made sales manager next week and the salary is very good—and oh, Betty, dear, I've always loved and wanted you. Won't you please say 'Yes?'"

But as Richard's arms closed around Betty the larkspur discreetly turned away and whispered:

"Did you hear that?"

"Yes," answered another sleepily,

"and it reminds me of the story of another young girl and the soldier in blue."

New York's Beginnings.

The first street railway in the world was the New York and Harlem road, built on the Bowery in New York city and opened for travel from Prince street to the present site of Union square, in November, 1823. Two horse-drawn vehicles fashioned somewhat like a stage coach of the period were run over the line on the day of the opening, carrying as passengers Mayor Walter Bowne, the city councilmen and other invited guests. The affair attracted many spectators and convinced the most skeptical that the new horse cars were certain to be a great convenience. The road was extended to Murray Hill in 1838 and reached the Harlem river in 1839. Fares were paid in silver sixpences of the old Spanish currency then in circulation, and one of the road's original features still in existence is the old Park avenue tunnel under Murray Hill. Horse cars were discontinued in New York city on July 26, 1917, when a few officials of the New York Railway company and the public service commission boarded an old car of the Bleeker street line, and took turns in driving the antiquated vehicle on its final trip.

LOTS FOR SALE

I want to sell three lots, location very desirable, west 12th street. Need the money. J. W. LB MASTER. 90ft

Origin of Sand.

It is calculated that nine-tenths of the coasts of the world are covered with sand. What is the origin of this sand and to what circumstances is its abundance due? Men of science, says the New York Sun, have explained this in part by saying that it is due to the erosive effect of the waves upon the rocks, but it is generally admitted that this is not sufficient to account for the vast quantity of sand that borders our beaches. Undoubtedly a very considerable portion represents the material carried to and toward the ocean by the storms and glaciers of the ice age.

Pennsylvania's Bituminous Mines.

According to D. H. Downey, in Pennsylvania the greatest number at one time of bituminous mines employing ten men or more underground was 2,000. There were in 1918 probably as many as 2,000 small temporary workings, but the aggregate production of these small operations was less than one per cent of the whole output.

Peppermint Production in Japan.

The production of peppermint in the prefecture of Okayama during the last fiscal year amounted to 90,725 kin, valued at 611,255 yen. This is a reduction in quantity from the year before amounting to 6,973 kin. But owing to the rise in price there was an increase in its valuation amounting to 59,000 yen.—New York Post.

"Knew we'd get together"

—Ches. Field

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