

## AN INVOLUNTARY BATH

By ALDEN CHAPMAN

(Copyright, 1929, Western Newspaper Union.)

"You had better get home now, Walt," spoke Robert Bryce, suspending operations on the barrel upon which he was putting the finishing touches as an expert of the cooperage art.

"What for? I'm afraid!" came a voice from anywhere, nowhere, certainly not emanating from any person in view.

"Well, Dan Milton has just gone down the road and he's got a stick with him. Now, Walt, you follow my advice and sneak home. Get into the house as quick as you can, and maybe he'll forget to hunt you up and all about your breaking that jug today."

"Not him!" scoffed the same mysterious voice, and then its owner protruded a head, and then a pair of thin, ragged shoulders into view from the depths of a barrel standing at one end of the old cooper's work bench. "Say, I can't stand it no longer, being half starved and lammed for nothing and treated like a dog! I'm going to run away from home, I am!"

"Don't you do it, son," counseled Robert Bryce, seriously. "It never pays. Stay and fight it out. You're nothing but a homeless orphan boy buffeted about at everybody's will, but such have come to the top as great, good men in my knowing."

"Why don't you get me away from Dan Milton and make a cooper of me?" suggested Walt earnestly. "If I am nobody's boy, you can get me, can't you? You like me, and so does Miss Bosy, and so does Ned Townsend, and I'd die for any one, or all three of you together, if it had to be."

"What has Ned Townsend got to do with it?" demanded the old cooper, pricking up his ears.

"He—oh, well, he's Roxy's fellow, or hopes to be, and wants to be. Don't you like him, Mr. Bryce?"

"Like him well enough," growled out the old cooper, "but he's poor as we are, and I'm not going to let Roxy join her life with a fellow who can't give her better than she's got. Now, you run home. It's your chance."

But it was not Walt's chance. He crawled from the barrel and made a dash across lots only to run squarely across the path of big, wicked faced Dan Milton, who had doubled on his tracks, it seemed.

"Hi! You come here," yelled Dan. "I've a rod in pickle for you."

Walt uttered a weak, terrified wail. Then he formed a sudden resolution. His little limbs increased vivid action. It was getting on towards dusk. A clear stretch spread out before him. Beyond that was rising ground and straggling timber, further on yet the wilderness of derricks and tanks marking the oil fields active and experimental. There were a thousand places where he could hide.

Dan Milton pursued, kept up half a mile chase then halted, irate and breathless, to shake his club menacingly at the refugee, who dove into a swampy stretch of brush, rock and timber and was lost in its depths. There was a splash, a cry, a sense of pain then disgust. Past some sheltering vines Walt plunged, to land up to the neck into a small, but deep pool. His feet

touched bottom, but a heavy, sticky substance overcoated him completely. It was with difficulty that Walt waded, climbed and crawled out of his predicament. Even then he staggered as he walked. The substance adhering to him seemed heavy as lead. The oily odor emanating from it was more nauseous than pungent.

"And now I'm in a fix!" he dolefully meditated. "I've spoiled my clothes and I'd be about skinned alive if I went home this way. Oh! it's get far and fast away from Alton for me," and Walt turned his face away from the town, feeling that it would never do to return. Half a mile laboriously covered, Walt halted, and his longing glance was fixed on a light in a little clean cabin he knew well.

"I shouldn't wonder if Ned Townsend would house me till I got these clothes scraped off and rested a bit," mused Walt, and hopefully trudged over to the shack where his friend lived. Ned was foreman of a well-boring crew. He smiled a pleasant welcome as Walt crossed the threshold of his humble domicile. Then he stared at him almost in stupefaction. Then he came closer and sniffed, and then ran his hand across the glistening stuff that coated Walt as if he were a matted knight and examined it closely.

Meantime Walt stumbingly told his story. There was a vivid token of interest in his auditor's eyes.

"Say, lad," he spoke, and there was a trace of keen excitement in his tones, "can you lead me to where you fell into that pool of oil?"

"I sure can," assented Walt, and did. And then, more roused up than ever, Ned took him back to the cabin. A better meal and a more comfortable couch Walt had never enjoyed, and, seeing his young guest comfortably settled, Ned Townsend scurried from the house, and far into the night was engaged in examining the oil and pool and seeking out and negotiating with the owners of the property around it, securing options upon it for a mere song.

The next day Ned Townsend for a small sum secured the consent of Dan Milton to adopt Walt. The next it was known that the hidden pool was the outlet of a gusher far down in the bowels of the earth and Ned was a wealthy man.

Then pretty, willing Roxy Bryce came into the lives of Ned and Walt as a devoted wife and a loving adopted mother.

### Power from Volcanic Steam.

In 1905 Prince Glinori Conti, general director of the Larderello works at Larderello, Italy, decided to experiment with the natural steam springs of Larderello for obtaining motive power. His experiments were so successful that the company built a large power station at Larderello with three units of 2,500 kilowatts each. The work, says The Illustrated London News, was begun in 1914, but was delayed by the European war. The first unit was started in 1916, and the power station was completed in the same year. Four overhead lines at 36,000 volts carry electric current to Siena, Leghorn, Piombina and Massa. The holes bored to the natural steam pockets, which vary in depth from 198 feet to 465 feet, are lined with iron tubing sixteen inches in diameter. The steam is cleared of gas before it is carried to the turbine generators.

## MURDER MADE EASY MATTER

With Formula Possessed by English Chemist, Slayer Might Laugh at Human Law.

The lunch-time conversation of the scientists at the national physical laboratory, Teddington, shifts daily to all sorts of interesting subjects, and it was inevitable that the topic of murder should have been suggested by the "wave crime" in Great Britain (an epidemic that amounts to less than one homicide a week).

It was agreed that all the murders reported in the daily papers were commonplace, dull, sordid affairs, showing no ingenuity and deliberation. "If I had a murder to commit, how should I go about it?" became the theme.

The metallurgists, electricians, radiologists, physicists and other scientists had many astounding murder methods, but with a common weak point, writes an English correspondent. None of them disposed of the body so that detection would be not only improbable, but impossible.

It remained for a chemist to solve the problem. "I would not be so clever as you in the assassination itself," he said. "Any quick way of silent dispatch would do. But I could swiftly dissolve a body, bones and all, so that it could be poured as a liquid into a sewer and be thoroughly done away with. No; I mustn't give the formula." He was the victor in the discussion.

## MADE THEIR OWN OIL WELL

How Two Small Boys Reaped Rich Reward for the Exercise of a Little Ingenuity.

Two barefoot boys, respectively eleven and twelve years of age, earned forty-five hundred dollars in one week, according to the Oil Weekly of Dallas, Texas, by combining thrift and ingenuity in a telling manner. Much oil was going to waste in the Northwest Burkburnett oil field because the pipe lines were inadequate, when the boys, who are brothers, saw crude oil from a broken pipe running down a small ravine. Hitching a donkey to a rattle-trap spring wagon, they began to haul dirt to dam the ravine and succeeded after much hard work in collecting a great quantity of oil.

The owner appeared on the scene about that time, and he admired the pluck of the youngsters. He did not claim the oil outright, although it had been his, but offered the youngsters one dollar and a half a barrel salvage for it. The youngsters accepted his offer and, perching themselves on their new dam with stubs of pencils, checked out the oil as it was hauled away. It tallied exactly three thousand barrels, and the boys got their money.

### "Bump the Bumps" for Electric Iron.

In one of the large electric manufacturing companies which is among other things engaged in the manufacture of electric irons, a specimen iron from each hundred or so is taken and subjected to a severe test by a series of bumps on a hard surface, reproducing as far as possible the shocks which it receives while in use on the ironing board. A well-built iron will stand this treatment from 16 to 24 hours before it fails.



## The Lister That Spaces Rows Uniformly

Especially when you intend to use a two-row cultivator, it is a big advantage to plant your crop in rows that are spaced uniformly.

That is one of the big advantages that using our John Deere Trench Guide Lister gives you. It makes every row in the field exactly the same distance apart from one end of the field to the other.

Using a two-row cultivator on the rows planted with this lister is just as easy as using a single-row cultivator.

And more than that, this lister plants all kinds of seeds uniformly—you get uniform crop growth and increased yields.

It has a variable drop—you can change the planting distances to suit the varying fertility of your soil without changing plates. This change can be made instantly without stopping the horses.

It is easy to operate—double-bail foot-lift; one lever for leveling, and another for accurate depth regulation.

Its genuine John Deere bottom scours, wears well and opens up a good, uniform trench. Made of high-grade steel and malleable throughout. The beam is of special John Deere steel.

We want you to see why using this lister will make it easier for you to produce more bushels per acre. We will be glad to demonstrate it to you.

Come in and see the John Deere Trench Guide Lister

## THE LEYPOLDT-PENNINGTON CO.

LOCAL AGENTS

NORTH PLATTE, NEB.

THE TRADE-MARK OF QUALITY  MADE FAMOUS BY GOOD IMPLEMENTS

### Fewer Figs Reach Market.

The big yield of the Mayday of Alden has risen from approximately 9,000 tons raised on 10,000 acres of land about thirty years ago to about 23,000 tons raised on 25,000 acres. However, this advance in supply has not kept pace with the demand, and prices of figs have steadily risen. The big producing areas are, under normal conditions, exclusively tapped by the Ottoman (Alden) Railway company's system. The orchards, located mainly in the Meander valley, are owned chiefly by Turks. The best figs are produced in the Inovassi and Ortaxe districts. The product is marketed in Smyrna, where the figs are packed in accordance with the demand of the region to which the figs are exported. Blight, neglected fertilization and lack of communication have cut down this season's export output to about 10,000 tons. Exports went to the United States (about 4,000 tons), the United Kingdom (5,500 tons), and European entente countries (about 1,000 tons).

### Is It Still Coffee?

Two young men walking along Chestnut street the other evening met two girls, recent acquaintances, dressed in height of fashion—fur coats and hats, expensive looking shoes, and invited them to go to a high-class restaurant.

The girls agreed and after they had finished eating, they were asked if they would enjoy a demi-tasse.

They looked at each other. "Is it some sort of sundae?" inquired one as though there might be some hidden joke in the invitation.

"I don't think it would go good after a hearty meal," said the other.

The young fellows gave it up.

"Would you like some coffee?" asked one of them.

"Sure," replied the girls in chorus, "that's what we was waiting for youse guys to ask us."—Philadelphia Record.

### China Looks to France.

France as a field of study of a great people in a period of reconstruction and restoration is being commended to the progressive students of China by such an authority as Wang Tsing-wei, founder of the Societe Franco-Chinoise. He advises his fellow countrymen that the present is opportune for study by Chinese in France to learn from personal observation how strenuous measures are in the changing of national conditions. China, he says, with its vast population and area must, to bring about anything worthy of the name of reconstruction, rely upon the efforts of many Chinese to introduce the new civilization and to bring China up to date. He says if China can send abroad 100,000 students, then its motto should be "Let us have more."

### "MAXIM SILENCER" FOR SHIPS

It is Claimed They Will Absolutely Do Away With Noise Made by the Motors.

Eight ships now sailing the Pacific ocean are equipped with great silencers, weighing 8,000 pounds each, the invention of Hiram Percy Maxim, famous as the inventor of the gun silencer bearing his name. If successful, this newest "Maxim silencer" may stimulate the tendency toward general substitution of the speedier, more economical, oil-burning vessels driven by the super-powerful engines of the Diesel type, for the present-day steamers.

"The motor-driven ship is the ship of the future," Mr. Maxim said recently. "However, in the past there has been one great disadvantage, the terrific noise of the motors. The new silencer we expect will solve that problem."

Mr. Maxim said that, inasmuch as his patents have not been issued, he cannot disclose the construction of his new invention. However, in general principle it is not unlike other Maxim silencers, depending on accomplishing its work by absorbing the recoil and hence silencing the terrific exhaust. Mr. Maxim says it is not dissimilar in design to the smaller Maxim silencers on the market for several years for use of motor and power boats.

See us for wall paper, The Rexall Store. 141f

### Reproductivity of Pearls.

There is nothing new under the sun, and the idea of placing pearls in a bag with a little rice, and finding after many years that their numbers have increased, a very ancient practice, is claiming attention in the English press. That the rice has the appearance of being "pecked" adds a further touch of the familiar, and people are asking what kind of rice pearls like best. In the time of Boetius de Root, the reproductivity not only of pearls but of diamonds was a common belief. The explanation that the pearls now occupying attention are vegetable pearls from the Malay states would not have satisfied Boetius.

### No Time to Lose.

"This paper says the world'll only last another five million years." "By Jove, An' I ain't had my demobilization papers yet!"—Windsor Magazine.

### Heart Expels Bullets.

During the war surgeons did some extraordinary operations on the heart. An account of these and of the technique is given by Sir Charles Ballance, consulting surgeon of St. Thomas' hospital, London, in the Lancet. An interesting fact related by him is that bullets that penetrated the heart were often expelled through the aorta with the blood and were found at remote parts of the body where they had stuck in an artery.

Polarine  
MOTOR  
OILS

STANDARD OIL COMPANY  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

## For smooth engine operation

It's the quality of the lubricating oil that governs a motor's vibration—that keeps her running smoothly and quietly and minimizes wear.

But oil should do more—should keep compression tight at all engine heats and maintain an unbroken seal between pistons and cylinders so that fuel develops maximum power.

Polarine meets all these requirements. It cushions bearings and moving parts against both wear and noise and maintains a gas-tight seal in the cylinders under all conditions of engine operation and heat. It makes motoring more pleasant and less expensive.

Buy Polarine for your motor at the same place you buy economical, clean-burning Red Crown Gasoline—at first-class garages and service stations where you see this sign.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY  
(NEBRASKA) OMAHA

Polarine

INCORPORATED 1887.

Mutual Building and Loan  
Association,  
Of North Platte, Nebraska.

RESOURCES OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

The Association has unlimited funds at its command to assist in the building or purchase of homes for the people of North Platte. If you are interested, the officers of this Association will render every assistance and show you how easy it is to acquire your own home.

T. C. PATTERSON, BESSIE F. SALISBURY,  
President. Secretary.