

A MODERN MARTHA

BY MATE MATTHEW.

CHAPTER IX.

John Austin's work for Farmer Freeman, who lived near Mapleton, was almost completed, and he was rejoicing that he would soon be able to take enough money to Maria to make her and the children comfortable until he could go to Olney and secure work.

While he was rejoicing over the prospect of seeing his family and smiling to think how fast Beth would talk when she saw papa, and wondering what new words Baby Rob had learned, a conversation was being carried on between Sheriff Mill of Mapleton and Cyrus Benham, who was a director in the Bank of Mapleton.

"You have another night," said Benham. "That is all the time you need. You can have Justice Coran issue a warrant in blank, some of the justices have issued them that way in Chicago, and you can get your man when he starts home."

"This fellow," said Benham, "not only tries to injure me, but also the bank, and he has been trying to interfere with our political plans. I want to break up the ring of which he is the leader. It is getting stronger and stronger. It isn't his vote so much as his influence that I want to dispense with."

"That will be proved later," said Mill. "I have been working since daylight on this robbery case and everything points to you. The shoe prints are your size. I took the precaution to measure your tracks while you were in the open night."

fully from the depot towards the jail. When he heard the click of the key in the lock which deprived him of his liberty, which he had always enjoyed, and when he looked about him at the stone walls and iron bars he felt in a very despondent mood at this sudden and deeply humiliating calamity.

"I am only acquainted with one man who seems to me wicked enough and who would dare to do such a thing; doubtless there are others; but I can't see what would be any person's desire in Mapleton of placing me in jail, or who would wish to see me become an object of scorn," said Austin.

"I have played a great game," said he. "I have been unconsciously laying plans to defeat myself in one of the most promising ventures that I have ever had in view. A mutual friend of Miss Potter's and mine has been trying to negotiate terms for me to take charge of her vast amount of property. He thinks I could double the amount she has in a short time, and so I could, and procure as much, or more revenue for myself than I get from all other sources. If she is on as friendly terms with John Austin as his letter would indicate, you can easily imagine what his advice would be if his opinion were asked, and I know him well enough to be certain that he will give his advice unasked if he learns that I am thinking of controlling her money. I can't see why she hasn't helped him heretofore, but he writes as though he were going to Olney, and perhaps she intends to help him there. I must make him feel indebted to me some way and overcome his antagonism, if I can. Let me see, I will help release him—or better still, I will let go his bail."

"Sir," said Mill, "the goods which were stolen can all be easily found secreted in some straw on the farm where Austin was working. And as he was going home without them he can be dismissed, if you so desire."

"I think," said Benham, "that he would feel under more obligations to me if I were to go his bail first. I must go to work and undo and practically unseat all that I have done and said in the past to Austin, and make him my friend. I know it is humiliating; but I must pursue that course. Miss Potter has it in her power to ruin both David and me, and if I fail, so do you and several others besides me. I don't know whether she realizes her power, but that contemptible rascal of an Austin will, and he will not hesitate to reduce Mosely, Dorden and me to the verge of starvation and think he is doing the Lord a great service in so doing. Ah, he isn't half so stupid as he pretends to be. I shouldn't wonder if he were laying his plans for me all the time. Several insinuating remarks he has made seem clear to me now. Oh, how I detest the camp!"

"Why not leave him here, then?" said Mill, "he can't do much to injure you while he is behind these bars."

"Yes he can," said Benham. "That wealthy cousin of his will be here looking for him if she, or his wife, doesn't hear anything from him, and then there will be an investigation that will not be very pleasant for you. And of course you will draw me into the trouble," said Benham in an injured tone as though he had been assisting Mill in a plan which had been exposed, while Mill was playing the traitor by revealing his part of the scheme.

"I rather think I should," said Mill, with one of his most significant laughs. "I think we had better let the matter drop and hush it up," said Benham. Then he affected the role of one unaccustomed with the place and asked Mill to show him about the jail like one visiting it for the first time. He talked to Mill like a perfect stranger and suggested several changes and improvements in the jail, which he thought would be very advantageous for both the jailer and prisoners. He walked by Austin, not seeming to see him and when he came back again, he paused near him to examine a radiator and make some queries and suggestions about the heating apparatus, and when he chanced to look up and see Austin, he stood for a moment like one who thought that his eyes were deceiving him.

"What are you here for, I should like to know?" said Benham. "That's what I should like to know, too," said Austin, bitterly. "Ask him," added John, looking towards Mill. Benham and Mill walked a little farther down the room and engaged in a low conversation for a few minutes. Then Benham returned and said (laughingly and in a hearty manner): "Now look here, Austin, I have a grand opportunity to 'heap coals of fire upon your head,' and prove to you that I am not half so bad a fellow as you have always tried to make me appear. I am going to bail you out of jail, and then we will see what we can do about this matter."

to the affront. I presume you are angry with every one for being thus falsely accused and imprisoned. I don't, for an instant doubt your integrity. I presume I should talk as bitterly myself under such circumstances," said he soothingly. "I shall go and argue with the sheriff—perhaps he will release you. There certainly isn't much proof against you. Why," said he, laughing heartily, "you are not the only man in Mapleton who wears a number eight shoe. But your being a stranger here, and making preparations to leave, and what few traces they found seemed to point in the direction you lived, I suppose, were the reasons that they acted so hastily."

As Benham left the jail he seemed to be restraining with Mill. In the course of a couple of hours Mill came and released John. He went to the hotel and passed the night as it was too late to take the train for Cambridge. He wrote Maria all that had transpired and told her that as it was too late for him to vote he thought that it would be best for him to go on to Olney. And that he would send for them as soon as he found work and a house to live in.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The use of Hall's Hair Renewer promotes the growth of the hair, and restores its natural color and beauty, frees the scalp of dandruff, tetter, and all impurities.

The Labor Movement in England

The congress of the English trades unions, at which all the unions, even the most conservative, were represented, held its first session at Norwich the week in September. The following is an extract from the opening address of the president of the congress, Mr. Frank Delver:

There is one kind of propaganda despised by all representatives of organized labor, to wit: the propaganda of the knife, the revolver or dynamite. Strikes will soon be a prehistoric weapon; we want to get everything by independent political action and the concentration of all our forces.

Our motto is now: "By means of legislation." It gave us already the eight-hour labor day at the docks, in the government arsenals, and minimum wages in these institutions. "And this is all the more significant, because the industrial barometer is lowering toward losses."

"It looks as if the industrial machine could only produce too much or too little; it is never working normal. This is because it is too big, too powerful. Production is constantly balancing between over-production, which causes falling prices and lockouts, which starves the laborer."

"The cause of these troubles consist in the workmen being controlled by the markets, instead of the workers controlling the markets."

"This last condition is what we want. The conditions under which men must live should be established first, and the markets can then regulate themselves accordingly."

"All our immediate efforts must therefore tend to diminish child labor, to pay the laborer of women as well as men, and regulate the hours of labor so as to do away with idleness."

EIGHT-HOUR LABOR DAY. The congress voted, for the eight-hour day, with 205 votes against 5.

The parliamentary committee of the trades unions was ordered to lodge a bill for the legal introduction in all trades of the eight-hour day.

A resolution has been accepted, with 219 votes against 61, asking the nationalization of the soil and the means of production and distribution.

The miners complained subsequently because the number of hours being fixed to forty-eight a week, their number of hours would be increased instead of decreased, whereupon it was decided that the vote was not applicable to miners.

American laborers, such is the change of front of the conservative English trades unions, until a little over a year ago, scorned the idea of government interference and thought themselves all powerful to bring the millionaire employers to terms. But the last gigantic strikes has shown them their weakness against the power of concentrated wealth, although they have partially been successful, and instead of despising any longer, as they did the continental workers for their international socialistic propaganda, they now become a gigantic factor in helping to abolish wage slavery and establish international co-operation.

Americans, how much longer will you prefer wage slavery and degradation, above plenty and national co-operation?

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Saved from St. Vitus Dance.

"Our daughter, Blanche, now fifteen years of age, had been terribly afflicted with nervousness, and had lost the entire use of her right arm. We feared St. Vitus dance, and tried the best physicians, with no benefit. She has taken three bottles of Dr. Miles' Nerve and has gained 31 pounds. Her nervousness and symptoms of St. Vitus dance are entirely gone, she attends school regularly, and has recovered complete use of her arm, her appetite is splendid."

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The Problem of Irrigation.

[CONCLUDED.]

[Paper read before the Irrigation convention at Kearney, Dec. 19, 1894, by Hon. John H. Powers.]

3. The tree belts (for trees will always flourish along the banks of streams) would so obstruct the force of the wind that hot winds would be impossible, and our climate would become the most pleasant and equable in the world.

4. Millions of permanent and happy homes would be established on soil of unsurpassed fertility and brought in close proximity to cheap and regular water transportation so that the industry of the inhabitants would be well required.

5. Cheap transportation of the vast mineral deposits of the mountains would be secured.

But I know it will be objected to by some that such a plan is chimerical and would never be adopted by the government or sanctioned by a majority of the people.

It is also true that the education and traditions of our people have been such as to prejudice them against dependence on irrigation for successful agriculture. The original settlements of the United States having been exclusively from those portions of Europe where there is abundant rainfall, and the eastern part of our country, where the same conditions prevail, having been settled first, it is but natural that the opinion should prevail that where there is not sufficient rainfall to produce good crops farming is necessarily unprofitable.

Two courses of action seem necessary at the present time to fully develop the highest state of prosperity in our country, and they should be followed simultaneously. The one is to educate the people to the advantages of a general and comprehensive system of irrigation which is under the direction of the government, thereby producing such a public sentiment as will insure the adoption of such a plan by the government.

And the other, to adopt as far as possible the best private and partial plans that are attainable under the present circumstances.

And first in the line of education: The first fact that should be taught is that application of water to the soil is usually very wasteful of its fertility. This is proved by the fact that so large a part of the rainfall every season runs off into the streams and carries with it those properties and ingredients of the soil which are most necessary for the growth of vegetation. And even in those parts where the surface incline is not sufficient to carry off the surplus water, the land is not available for agricultural purposes until by a system of drainage the same waste of fertility is secured. Any one who doubts this conclusion should be referred to the rich and superfluous alluvial deposits in such valleys as those of the lower Mississippi and the Nile, and be shown the fact that these vast deposits are but a moiety of what is plundered from the fertile uplands, plains and valleys which form the watersheds for these rivers. This great water waste is often overlooked in calculations for artificial irrigation, forgetting that where there are thirty-two inches of rainfall in a year, that probably not more than eight inches on an average are absorbed by the soil, the rest carrying away a portion of its best constituents.

Then again the fact should be emphasized that by general artificial irrigation the land will support a far greater population, thus removing the inconvenience so prevalent in farming communities which always accompany a sparse and scattered settlement. The influence of such a condition of uniform and regular returns for labor, in encouraging the industry of the people, fostering their equal rights (which can only be fully realized by equal prosperity), improving their morals and giving them time and encouragement to improve their intellectual and spiritual natures, should all be assiduously taught and inculcated until the people shall be led to appreciate the truth and put it to practical application.

In the way of irrigation immediately available much may be accomplished by wisely directed efforts.

And first let me give a word of warning against relying on ditches owned by corporations who rely on water rents for their profits. The testimony of the farmers who till lands thus watered by ditches long established, is general, that as soon as the actual profits can be ascertained the corporations put up the water rent so as, on an average, to absorb the whole profit.

I think our legislature should enact a law permitting and encouraging the construction of irrigation canals along all the streams in the state which are available for the purpose, and providing for the expenses of the same by taxation on all the land which can be fully irrigated by such canals.

But irrigation of streams can never be relied on by the great majority of the farmers of Nebraska, for the following reasons:

1. The streams which have their rise in Nebraska can only be made available to water a small portion of the land, and that in their immediate vicinity. The Loup, Elkhorn and Blue rivers being the only ones of any importance. Those streams which rise outside the state will always be sources of vexation from the fact that the people of the states wherein they rise have the first right to use and control the water.

2. As a rule the reservoir system on a small scale for catching the rainfall, such as is being very extensively resorted to in eastern Kansas, though it may somewhat mitigate the hot winds and slightly increase the humidity of the air, can never be relied on for irrigation to any great extent, from the fact that they are usually only practicable on the lowest part of the farms on which they are situated and can only be utilized by forcing by pumps to the higher parts, or by water irrigating the farm of some neighbor.

The only method of irrigation which can be made generally available, aside from a comprehensive reservoir system supplied by the sources of the rivers, constructed and owned by the government, is by wells.

On most of the land of Webster county and central Nebraska a continuous supply of water can be obtained from wells at a depth not exceeding 250 feet. Wherever such supply can be reached let a reservoir be constructed on the highest part of the farm (no farm should exceed 160 acres), such reservoir to be in area not less than the ratio of one acre to the 160-acre farm, and a depth of six feet. As the surface of the uplands is

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Send Us Two New Names. With \$2. and your own subscription will be extended One Year Free of Cost. The least previous to which the arrangement should be made mostly by scraping from the outside. The seepage can be mostly prevented by pumping in enough water to create a mortar and then turning in a drove of cattle or hogs and driving them around until the porous soil is completely clogged. Supposing the water to be 100 feet from the surface. Four wells distributed around the reservoir, each with a four-inch cylinder pump of six-inch stroke and run by a twelve-foot windmill. With the average wind in southwestern Nebraska mills would fill the reservoir in four weeks, or thirteen times a year. Allowing for the necessary waste by evaporation, the reservoir full of water would apply three inches to twenty acres of land. Two such applications a year is all that ever would be necessary. But there is seldom a year in southwestern Nebraska when so much as six inches would be required. Much of the land near Greeley, in Colorado, has been injured and some of it ruined by excessive application of water, and experience has taught that after a few judicious applications of water much less is required. It has been conclusively proved that where the subsoil is well saturated with water in the spring, or late in the fall, little more is required to produce a full crop of corn or small grain. Of course, such an arrangement would not be sufficient to fully irrigate a quarter section of land at once, but for reasons mentioned they could be so managed as to furnish the whole farm with sufficient water. We are told by some that water cannot be profitably applied to growing crops. But as a proper preparation of the land before sowing is all that is necessary for spring grain, and water is very easily applied to fall grain which is sowed with the press drill, this objection is groundless. As to the cost. The reservoir can be constructed without the outlay of any money except for a little lumber for the sluice and gates and the mills and pumps, and if purchased at wholesale prices, would be not exceed \$200 each. About \$1,000 would be a safe estimate for such an arrangement, besides constructing the reservoir. This would amount to \$8.25 per acre and would give our fertile lands every advantage of irrigation possessed by the gravelly soils of the valleys of Colorado, California and the other mountainous states, while avoiding their endless contentions and litigations about water rents and equitable distribution. I know objections will be raised by some to these conclusions, but I believe they are, in the main, correct. And I hope to live to see a system inaugurated which shall eventually result in settling each section of fertile farm land in the state with at least eight prosperous families, the reward of whose industry, so far as it depends on water supply, shall no longer be determined by the rain from above or the natural overflow of the rivers.

Advertiser's Notice. The Executive Committee of the Nebraska F. A. and L. U. will soon publish a pamphlet of about 150 to 200 pages containing state and national constitutions, proceeding of annual meeting, etc., to be furnished free to our members. The edition is to be not less than 10,000 and will be distributed at once among the most influential farmers in every county of the state. To bear the expense they will accept advertising from reliable parties only at \$10.00 per page, \$5.00 per half page. Pages to be about 5 to 7 inches in size. Those wishing to take advantage of this advertising the secretary, Mrs. J. T. KELLIE, Hartwell, Neb.

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