



CHAPTER THREE—Continued. ILLUSTRATIONS BY IRWIN MYERS.

"Blenkinsop, I'd like to help you to recover your lost Self and be a useful, respected citizen of this town," said Mr. Singleton. "You can do it if you will and I can tell you how."

"I know—I know. It's a hard old world, but at last you've found a man who is willing to be a brother to you if you really want one."

"Then come with me," the minister commanded. "First, I'm going to improve the outside of you."

"I used to stand in the pulpit there and look down upon a crowd of handsomely dressed people," said Mr. Singleton in a low voice. "There is something wrong about this," I thought.

"I heard the good God love an' help ye! I heard about it." "Ye did?" "Sure I did. It's all over the town. Good news has a lively foot, man. The Shepherd clapped his hands when I told him. Ye got to go straight, my liddle buck. All eyes are on ye now. Come up an' see the boy. It's his birthday!"

"I feel better inside and outside," said Blenkinsop as they were leaving the church. "When you are tempted, there are three words which may be useful to you. They are these, 'God help me,'" the minister told him.

"When the judge had gone, Blenkinsop put his hand on the dog's head and asked with a little laugh: "Did

ye hear what he said, Christmas? He called me Mister. Never done that before, no sir!"

"Not yet," the young man answered, and his voice was like the wind in the chimney. "But I have come to tell you that I, too, am glad."

"I know you," he whispered. "Please come in."

CHAPTER FOUR.

In Which Mr. Israel Sneed and Other Working Men Receive a Lesson in True Democracy.

Next morning, Mr. Blenkinsop went to cut wood for the Widow Moran. The good woman was amazed by his highly respectable appearance.

"I know you," he whispered. "Please come in."

"I hope your plumbing hasn't gone wrong," he remarked with a smile. "No, it's worse than that," said Mr. Sneed ruefully.

"There's a new look in the faces of the young. Every variety of evil is spread before them on the stage of our little theater. They see it while their characters are in the making, while their minds are like white wax. Everything that touches them leaves a mark or a smirch. It addresses them in the one language they all understand, and for which no dictionary is needed—pictures. The flower of youth fades fast enough, God knows, without the withering knowledge of evil. They say it's good for the boys and girls to know all about life. We shall see!"

one busy at high wages, and the banks overflowing with deposits, we felt safe. We ceased to produce the necessities of life in a sufficient quantity. We forgot that all-important things are food, fuel, clothes and comfortable housing—not money. Some of us went money mad. With a feeling of opulence we refused to work at all, save when we felt like it. We bought diamond rings and sat by the fire looking at them. The roofs began to leak and our plumbing went wrong. People going to buy meat found the shops closed. Roofs that might have been saved by timely repairs will have to be largely replaced. Plumbing systems have been ruined by neglect. With all its money, the town was never so wretched."

Mr. Sneed, who was a member of the committee, slyly turned the ring on his finger so that the diamond was concealed. He cleared his throat and remarked, "We mechanics had more than we could do on work already contracted."

"Yes, you worked eight hours a day and refused to work any longer. You were legally within your rights, but your position was ungrateful and even heartless and immoral. Suppose there was a baby coming to your house and you should call for the doctor and he should say, 'I'm sorry, but I have done my eight hours' work today and I can't help you.' Then suppose you should offer him double fee and he should say, 'No, thanks, I'm tired. I've got forty thousand dollars in the bank and I don't have to work when I don't want to.'"

"Or suppose I were trying a case for you and, when my eight hours' work had expired, I should want to walk out of the court and leave your case to take care of itself. What do you suppose would become of it? Yet that is exactly what you did to my pipes. You left them to take care of themselves. You men, who use your hands, make a great mistake in thinking that you are the workers of the country and that the rest of us are your natural enemies. In America, we are all workers! The idle man is a mere parasite and not at heart an American. Generally, I work fifteen hours a day. This little lad has been knitting night and day for the soldiers without hope of reward and has spent his savings for yarn. There isn't a doctor in Bigville who isn't working eighteen hours a day. I met a minister this afternoon who hasn't had ten hours of sleep in a week—he's been so busy with the sick, and the dying and the dead. He is a nurse, a friend, a comforter to any one who needs him. No charge for overtime. My God! Are we all going money mad? Are you any better than he is, or I am, or than the doctors are who have been killing themselves with overwork? Do you dare to tell me that prosperity is any excuse for idleness in this land of ours, if one's help is needed?"

Judge Crooker's voice had been calm, his manner dignified. But the last sentences had been spoken with a quiet sternness and with his long, bony forefinger pointing straight at Mr. Sneed. The other members of the committee clapped their hands in hearty approval. Mr. Sneed smiled and brushed his trousers.

"We're all off our balance a little, but what is to be done now?" "We must quit our plumbing and carpentering and lawyering and banking and some of us must quit merchandising and sitting in the chimney corner and grab our saws and axes and go out into the woods and make some fuel and get it hauled into town," said Judge Crooker. "I'll be one of a party to go to-morrow with my axe. I haven't forgotten how to chop."

The committee thought this a good suggestion. They all rose and started on a search for volunteers, except Mr. Sneed. He tarried, saying to the judge that he wished to consult him on a private matter. It was, indeed, just then, a matter which could not have been more public although, so far, the news of it had traveled in whispers. The judge had learned the facts since his return.

"I hope your plumbing hasn't gone wrong," he remarked with a smile. "No, it's worse than that," said Mr. Sneed ruefully.

"Faithful woman!" the judge exclaimed as they went out on the street. "What would the world do without people like that? No extra charge for overtime, either."

"Then, as they walked along, he cunningly paved the way for what he knew was coming. "Did you notice the face of that boy?" he asked.

"Yes, it's a God's blessing to see a face like that," the judge went on. "Only the pure in heart can have it. The old spirit of youth looks out of his eyes—the spirit of my own youth. When I was fourteen, I think that my heart was as pure as his. So were the hearts of most of the boys I know."

"It isn't so now," said Mr. Sneed. "I fear it isn't," the judge answered. "There's a new look in the faces of the young. Every variety of evil is spread before them on the stage of our little theater. They see it while their characters are in the making, while their minds are like white wax. Everything that touches them leaves a mark or a smirch. It addresses them in the one language they all understand, and for which no dictionary is needed—pictures. The flower of youth fades fast enough, God knows, without the withering knowledge of evil. They say it's good for the boys and girls to know all about life. We shall see!"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF

Timely News Culled From All Parts of the State, Reduced for the Busy.

SCORES OF EVENTS COVERED

Business men of Wolbach have organized a community center. A number of artesian wells are being developed near the town of Cook.

An American Legion baseball team has been organized at Crawford. The State Dental society will hold its annual meeting at Omaha May 16 to 19.

Beatrice is putting on a drive for increased membership in the Chamber of Commerce. The state fire inspector has condemned as unsafe, several old buildings at Callaway.

Mrs. Ida Lyons, of Madison dropped dead while landing a drink of water to her little son.

Paving contracts amounting to over \$400,000 will be completed this summer at Fullerton.

General John Pershing will deliver the commencement day address at the state university, June 4.

Fire of unknown origin at Loreto destroyed the restaurant building belonging to John Courtney.

A chapter of the Eastern Star has been organized at Chester with a charter membership of fifteen.

The state college of agriculture is planning a short course for junior farmers May 30 to June 4.

Truman W. Bass of Broken Bow has been nominated for register of the land office located in that city.

Will S. Jay, a well known Nebraska newspaper man, died at the home of his son in Kansas City last week.

The Woman's club of Hebron gave a home talent play April 25, for the benefit of the soldier's monument fund.

Ex-Governor Keith Neville of North Platte has been appointed receiver for the Skinner Packing Company at Omaha.

Elijah Smith, 71 years old, dropped dead in a business house at Bloomfield last week, supposedly from heart trouble.

Bonds for bridges for \$250,000 and building on poor farm, \$30,000, failed to carry in Dawes county at a special election.

The commencement exercises of the Beaver City High school will be held May 20. The class has twenty-four members.

A boys' home to care for youths between five and fifteen years of age, has been opened by the Masonic order at Omaha.

Fire resulting from explosion of a gasoline engine, caused the loss of the elegant farm home of Joseph Umland, near Stella.

Mrs. J. T. McGill of Center suffered serious injuries when the horse which she was driving became frightened and upset the buggy.

W. F. Parker of Woodlake has been appointed receiver of the Brown county state bank at Long Pine, which closed its doors recently.

The Cheyenne district court is in session at Sidney with the longest docket in its history. There are eighteen divorce cases.

Francis Swanson, a 5 year old Napoleon lad, was instantly killed when a shotgun which an older brother was handling, was accidentally discharged.

The Ladies' Glee club of Doane college at Crete, composed of sixty-six girls under the direction of Prof. Aller, are making a tour of the state and meeting with unbounded success.

The boys' and girls' club agent of Fillmore county reports nineteen organized clubs with a total enrollment of 186 boys and girls. The clubs consist of fourteen poultry, three pigs, two gardens and one cooking and baking club.

Harry W. Scott, county clerk of Pawnee county, paid \$102.50 bounties for wolves one day last week at his office at Pawnee City. A. N. Aylor of Table Rock received \$54 for the scalps of some baby coyotes he captured a few days previous.

A novel plan of financing the community church at Greenfield has been adopted by the board of that organization. They have rented a farm of thirty-two acres, which has been plowed, harrowed and planted, and will be cultivated by its members for the benefit of the church.

Hogs are 6 cents per pound on the Calloway market and wheat is 90 cents which is the lowest price on these things in five years. Collections made by the European relief committee in Platte county for the aid of the suffering children in central Europe, totaled \$2,756.93.

West Point is considering the call of a special election to vote bonds for the erection of a municipal light and power plant.

Mrs. Ben F. Robinson has been placed in charge of the high school at Chappell to fill the unexpired term of Superintendent Frank L. Smith, resigned.

The state-wide campaign against graduation extravagance being conducted by the state agricultural college, is winning popular favor all over the state.

Earl Landroth, residing near Broken Bow, is suffering from four broken ribs and several bad bruises, the result of an entanglement with a runaway team.

N. W. Gaines of the agricultural department of the state university will speak to farmers of the Burwell vicinity May 6. He will discuss agriculture and dairying.

Senator Hitchcock has nominated Robert W. Fling, Lincoln, as principal at the Annapolis naval academy, and Raymond Buffam of University Place as first alternate.

All farmers' selling and buying organizations in Nebraska will join into one mammoth organization, it was decided at a recent meeting of directors of these bodies.

The teaching force of the Hebron public schools was re-elected for next year's work, at a recent meeting of the board of education, and all the grade teachers have accepted.

Mrs. Marie L. Shaw, a pioneer of Table Rock and vicinity, died at the home of her sister in Elk Creek, where she was visiting, the cause of her death being heart trouble.

A. B. Allen of Tecumseh, has been recommended by the Nebraska delegation in congress to President Harding for appointment as collector of internal revenue at Omaha.

Fines and costs approximating \$500 have recently been assessed to violators of the state fish and game laws, according to George Koster, chief of the state bureau of fish and game.

Twenty-eight elm trees, to stand as memorials to the twenty-eight Adams county men who lost their lives in the world war, will be planted in Highland cemetery at Hastings.

The Madison county fair association has secured the services of a landscape gardener in making the grounds more beautiful and from year to year further improvements will be made.

Traveling within a mile of the trail of the disastrous tornado that destroyed Otoe (then Berlin) in 1913 a tornado swept through Otoe county, leveling buildings and killing some live stock.

Justin Lilly, who was a member of the national convention at Chicago that nominated Abraham Lincoln for president in 1860, is dead at his home in Plattsmouth. He was 84 years old.

The steel work on the steel bridge erected over the Platte river at Central City, is progressing rapidly. Fifty men are employed and it is estimated that the bridge will be completed early this fall.

Fire starting from a heated Journal destroyed the Leigh flouring mill, with a loss estimated at \$25,000. The fire department at Howells and Clarkson were summoned, but arrived too late to be of much assistance.

The Great Western Sugar company, operating factories at five Nebraska points, all except one in Scotts Bluff county, reports 63,000 acres of beets contracted for new, as against 74,000 at the corresponding date last year.

An unidentified body, horribly mangled, was found on the U. P. tracks near Ames, with the head crushed, one leg nearly severed from the body, and practically every bone broken. It is supposed he had fallen from a train.

Yeggs blew open the safe in the postoffice at Plattsmouth, and according to the postmaster, R. M. Hoban, obtained loot estimated at between \$4,000 and \$5,000. The loot included war saving stamps and money.

E. L. King, 66, former state legislator, county attorney and one of the most prominent men in Polk county, is dead at his home in Osceola following a stroke of apoplexy. He lived but ten minutes after being stricken.

F. H. Hebbard, for over thirty years an employe of the State Journal at Lincoln, was thrown from a bicycle when struck by an owl street car one morning last week, and received injuries from which he died a few hours later.

Fire starting from a gas leak in a coffee urn is believed to have been the cause of a blaze that practically destroyed the Hill Steinbach building at Fremont, gutting two business places and causing damage estimated at \$24,000. The loss is partly covered by \$18,100 insurance.

Pawnee merchants co-operated in putting on a big booster sale, selling many items below cost. The streets were filled with buyers, and several stores were sold out on many items in a short time.

A special summer school for disabled soldiers opened at the university school of agriculture April 18 and will continue until September 10. Thirty-one men have registered for the five months' training. Classes are conducted in stock judging and breeds, feeding, woodwork, forge work, crops, dairying, poultry raising, arithmetic, algebra and English.

Alton Tennant, of Crab Orchard, was seriously burned when he attempted to hasten a rather backward fire with kerosene.

The body of Orville Shields reached Hildreth last week and was buried. This is the first Franklin county soldier's body to be returned from France. Sixty American Legion members attended.

Herb Cotton, a paperhanger at Plattsmouth, who raises Leghorn chickens as a pastime, has been exhibiting an egg laid by one of the birds in his yard which measured eight inches in length and six in width.

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A man who yells at the top of his voice seldom wins an argument. The curtain of the future is always down.

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Mrs. MAUDE E. TAYLOR, 5 St. James Place, Roxbury, Mass.

Backache is one of the most common symptoms of a displacement or derangement of the female system. No woman should make the mistake of trying to overcome it by heroic endurance, but profit by Mrs. Taylor's experience and try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

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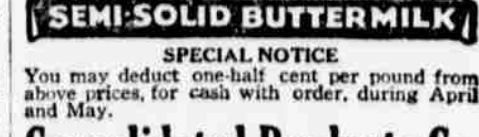


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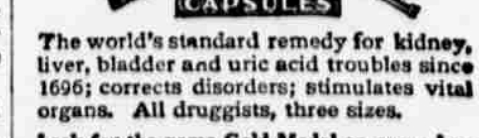


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