

In the Desert

A Story Illustrating the Horrors of War
By H. B. WELSH...

CHAPTER IX.—(Continued.)

"He is living yet, thank God!" said the colonel. And he thought of his sister, who, after much pleading and resolution, had, along with Dr. Margaret Crawford, come as far as Berber. "We must send him back to Berber," said the colonel. "We are on the march almost incessantly now, and he cannot live unless he is properly attended to. We shall send him there at once."

And so, under an escort of Arab "boys," Cleland was taken by river and rail to Berber, the "Queen of the Soudan." Adrienne and Margaret were there, the latter attending to a few sick soldiers who had been left in the hospital. The time was not up for her entering upon her duties, and she felt that she could not leave the Soudan until she learned whether Paul was living or dead.

Adrienne had told her all Rayburn's dying confession, and now, when probably it was too late, Margaret recognized the fact that the barrier she had thought insurmountable was no barrier after all.

As Margaret was stooping over a sick man one day, one of the native attendants came to tell her Mrs. Breynon wished to see her. Margaret went to the door, and at first sight of Adrienne's face she grew pale as death, and leant for support against the doorway.

"Tell me—you have heard that he is dead?" she gasped, rather than spoke. "No, my dear," Adrienne passed her brave, unshrinking hand round the woman Paul loved and supported her with it.

"He has been found, he is coming here; but he is ill, unconscious, Margaret. Still, God may be merciful, and we shall pray until He must hear us, Margaret."

Margaret lifted her pale face, glowing with a strange joy, and clasped her hands.

"I shall nurse him, at least," she whispered. "Oh, thank God!"

And she did, until the ebbing life began—very slowly, but quite perceptibly—to flow again.

It was one evening—ah, should Margaret ever forget it as long as she lived—while she sat beside him on her camp-stool, looking through the open window at the brilliant moonlight making a pool of light for itself on the brown sand of the desert, that Cleland, quite suddenly and quietly, as if he were awakening from sleep, opened his eyes and looked at her.

"Margaret, is that you? I dreamt you were there. My darling, are we both dead, and is this my first awakening on the other side?"

"No, no, Paul! You are still on earth, thank God, and I am here beside you, never more to leave you now, if you wish it so, dear, for the barrier is gone for ever."

A strange flash came into the sick man's eyes, but for a moment he was silent.

At last he spoke.

"I do not know if I am still dreaming or if I have heard aright. Margaret, say it again, and I shall be satisfied. You are mine for ever now?"

"For ever, Paul, if you will have me," she answered, with a sob in her throat.

He drew her face to his, and then their lips met in one long, long kiss—such a kiss as surely those who have loved each other on earth may give when they meet for the first time "beyond the bourne of time and space."

Presently Adrienne came in. She approached the bedside, and as she came near she paused, a strange expression on her lips and in her eyes; for she saw then that happiness had come to Paul and Margaret at last.

Paul saw her and smiled, holding out his weak, thin hand.

"You, too, my friend! Surely I am recompensed for all I have suffered by knowing that I have the friendship of one noble woman and the love of another. Yes, it is true, Mrs. Breynon. Margaret and I are quite happy, and we owe our happiness she has told me, to a large extent to you."

"And bless you both," said Adrienne. She held his hand in her own, and then, turning to Margaret, kissed her with brave unquivering lips.

(The End.)

HER SISTER'S SECRET

I had vowed never to enter the Dormers' house again; but when they sent word that Maisie was dying I went there as fast as a hansom would carry me. We had always been such friends—the child and I. But she was not a child now, at seventeen.

"We never quarreled," she said, holding my hand tightly. "There is not much time to quarrel now. You won't will you, Fred?" I shook my head. A lump in my throat kept me from speaking. "Promise me before I tell you—something."

"My poor little Maisie!" I cried brokenly. "I promise." She had been a pet of mine from the days when she was a toddling baby and I a big, awkward boy.

EVILS OF SPOILATION

Institute for the Blind at Nebraska City Crippled by Incompetency.

LOOSE METHODS ARE EMPLOYED

In Transacting the Business of the Institute—The Administration Severely Arraigned and Openly Impugned by Fusion Officials Themselves.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Aug. 27.

To the history of mismanagement, incompetency, party spoilation and political preferment in the conduct of state institutions under the fusion administration, the Institute for the Blind at Nebraska City furnishes an unenviable chapter. This institution, like all the rest, has been made an asylum for those of the fusion party who by reason of party service have, in the eyes of the fusion leaders, merited recognition to the extent of having their names on the pay roll.

It is a matter of common notoriety that J. E. Harris, the present superintendent, acquired this position through a deal made on the floor of the convention, whereby he was to step aside as candidate for Lieutenant Governor and give way to Lieutenant Governor Gilbert, a free silver republican. His eligibility and fitness entered into the deal only as a secondary consideration, notwithstanding that the position carries with it a great deal of responsibility. But Harris was in the way of a tripartite arrangement and to remove the obstruction, the head of Superintendents Jones went into the basket and Harris was given his position, which among other things, carries with it a salary of \$1,800 a year and board and lodging.

UNFITTED FOR SUPERINTENDENT. At one period in his life Superintendent Harris was young and agile. That was many years ago. Senility in its irresistible pilgrimage has reclaimed him from the paths of youth and has bent his once tall and robust form to its will. The elasticity of step has disappeared, and the visitation of time is indicated by a head white from the frosts of many winters. Irrespective of his mental qualifications, age and physical decrepitude combined to incapacitate him for duties incident to the superintendency of such an institution. Nor can it be denied that age militates against Mr. Harris. The fact is that he does not teach at all, though the custom, as well as the rule, has always been for the superintendent to teach one or more of the branches.

When asked why he did not teach Superintendent Harris frankly stated that he was too old. He also stated that before assuming the position he informed Governor Poynter that he would not teach, yet despite this he was appointed.

DISSEMINATION OF FUNDS. Few business houses in Nebraska could conduct their affairs along the same line of this institute without in the end going into bankruptcy. In the first place, only about eighty blind children are in the institution all told. Strange and startling as it may seem, it is nevertheless true, as attested by vouchers on file in the auditor's office, that the number of people on the pay roll is equal to more than 60 per cent of the number of inmates. The June vouchers show fifteen teachers and thirty-two other employees (see vouchers B45994 and B45997). This does not include the superintendent and his wife, nor the steward and his wife, all of whom are on the pay roll, making in all a salary list of fifty-one people. The story of this raid on the treasury is fully recited by the numerous vouchers on file in the auditor's office and the consequent depletion of the funds. The wife of the superintendent has had her name on the pay roll only a short time, and the fact that it is there can be regarded only in the light of a testimonial to fusion persistency, which knows no adversity in the attainment of pecuniary triumph.

The school has upwards of fifteen teachers on the pay roll at from \$50 to \$65 per month each. So far as the pay roll is concerned, it reflects a most prodigious spirit on the part of the administration, and strongly indicates that the primary object of fusion dominance is to gather in the loaves and fishes. Apply the per capita expense of education in this institution to all other institutions of learning in the state, making due allowance for the character of the instruction, and the state in a few short years would be debt-ridden from one end to the other.

DIVIDING THE LOAVES AND FISHES. The manner in which Superintendent Harris was appointed has been told. With slight modification the story might be applied to nearly all the employees of the institution. In nearly every appointment can be seen traces of political spoilation. The damage done as a result of this reaches a limit that is incalculable. Nor is it to be presumed that there have not been frequent changes without consequent demoralization. In proof of this assertion all that needs be cited is excerpts from the official report. In the biennial report of the institution under date of December 14, 1898 (see page 248), Mrs. Caroline Metzger evidences her lack of knowledge of her duties by openly stating in her report that: "My experience in the work is too limited to enable me to say with any great degree of certainty what pupils may accomplish."

W. B. Woods, another teacher, unconsciously throws the searchlight on the ephemeracy of the tenure of office in the same report by calling attention to the fact that "an experience of three months in teaching English in a school for the blind, in addition to a year's experience in teaching other subjects, is entirely too brief to make any conclusions of much value."

And this is the history of state institutions under fusionism.

There is such a mad scramble for spoils and such little regard for the

public weal that scarcely is one appointee inducted into office than he is put out to make room for another. This keeps the institutions in constant restlessness and turmoil, keeps them in the hands of inexperienced individuals, with the result that those for whom these institutions are maintained derive little or no benefit. Since the fusionists acquired control, two different superintendents have been appointed at Nebraska City and numerous changes have been made in the list of teachers. In each instance, or nearly so, the change has been made for political reasons.

Under such conditions is it any wonder that the teachers do not feel fully qualified to give an opinion on the best methods in teaching the blind, or that the institution itself should in its achievements fall far short of contemplated statutory requirements?

FARMING OUT PATRONAGE.

The man with a "pull" is very much in evidence at Nebraska City. It was a "pull" that placed Frank Marnell on the pay roll as steward at \$800 per year, along with his wife at \$180 per year. Marnell is so fortunate as to have a brother in the newspaper business. He publishes a fusion daily at Nebraska City. This is why he was deemed fitted for steward. Nor does the Marnell family stop at that. The Nebraska City News boasts of too potent a leverage in the affairs of the fusion party to be placated or pacified by a stewardship. It not only boasts but it commands, and it therefore receives more substantial recognition than is ordinarily accorded fusion publications. Filed away in the archives of the auditor's office are vouchers bearing testimony to the frequent exactions of the publisher of the News across the plains from Nebraska City to the treasury at Lincoln. Most of the money is for job work, work given the News, it is reported, at its own price and without competition.

Without last year the News has managed to gather in about \$200 of the state's money without much exertion and at very little cost to itself. (See vouchers B31302, B35576, B35889, B37601, B41404, B43388 and B46295.)

Others besides the News people are keeping in close and sympathetic touch with the treasury. It is a noticeable fact that the books contain the firm name of Cardwell & Leidigh, though the same Mr. Cardwell is the president of the Board of Trustees of the institution. Though Cardwell & Leidigh are in the hardware business, the firm's name is found as creditor in the "living expense" account of the institute.

It is a strange anomaly that, which places the employe in a position to "order and direct" his employer. It would also be strangely anomalous were the system prevalent over the land for an official to be his own auditor or account examiner. But here is an example of it:

"This voucher is hereby approved by the Board of Trustees this 4th day of May 1901, and the Auditor of Public Accounts is hereby ordered and directed to draw his warrant for the sum of \$25.35 in full payment and satisfaction of the same, and this claim is found to be correct and approved in all things."

"J. J. CARDWELL,
"President Board of Trustees."

The voucher above referred to was for the firm, of which Cardwell is a member, for goods sold to the state. (See voucher B45931.) This firm's name appears on the books in several instances, as having sold goods to the institute. In addition to this it is currently reported that some of those contractors who have from time to time secured contracts for building and repairing have been for some unaccountable reason partial to this firm in placing their orders for material. During the last year the amount of building and repair work has reached over \$5,000, but as all the vouchers are made in omnibus form and in the name of the contractor, there is nothing of record to show just who or what firm came in for the plunder.

LAX BUSINESS METHODS.

The omnibus system of making out vouchers has become notorious under the present administration. That it opens an avenue to the commission of fraud few will gainsay. It is a common occurrence to find vouchers for large amounts made out in the very indefinite terms of "for labor and material," without specifying how much of either. These terms are employed as frequently in rendering bills where there is no contract as where there is. In the last year a barn costing about \$450 was built without advertising for bids, and that the state paid dearly for the luxury is quite apparent. A running track and laundry alley was built in the gymnasium at a cost of \$900, and the voucher reads: "For material, \$500; labor, \$400." There is nothing in the voucher to show specifically how much material or how much labor the state received.

As a rule, the methods employed in the conduct of the institute, are equally as vulnerable. The manner in which bills are made out affords an opportunity for a vast amount of fraud. It is safe to say that there is scarcely an article in the grocery line, but what there are several grades of it. In many instances, especially in canned and bottled goods, there is not only a difference in quality but a difference in quantity. The bills rendered the institute in no way recognize this very important distinction. If a bill be rendered for bottled goods, such as catsup or table sauces, it simply gives the number of bottles, never mentions the brand, which in the grocery line is a synonym of quality, and seldom gives the size of the bottle or quantity. This course may be pursued without an object, but it can be seen at once that it affords an opportunity for fraud, both in letting contracts for favorites and in charging for goods never delivered. No one seems to question the honesty of Superintendent Harris or of Steward Marnell. What complaint is made is made against the Board of Trustees and the governor for placing and maintaining people in office to manage the affairs of a state institution who have little or no conception of their duty or of ordinary business methods.

A BAD MIXTURE.

Superintendent Harris undertakes to manage the school and the "farm" at the same time, with the result that neither is properly managed. The "farm" is a ten-acre piece of ground, and is little more than a play yard

yet Superintendent Harris manages to make it a luxury and an expensive one to the taxpayers. With only three horses, a half dozen hogs and four cows to look after there are several "farm laborers" at the institute whose duty it is to care for the stock (?) and attend to the "crops." Quarters could be secured for all the stock on the "farm" at the best hotel in the state for less money than is expended for their keeping at the institute. As a patron of husbandry, so far as profits to the state are concerned, Mr. Harris is anything but a brilliant success.

And there are leaks in the institution as well as in the "farm." Irrespective of the large pay roll, there are leaks that in the long run make a noticeable increase in the cost of maintaining the school.

One of these leaks is the department of chemistry. Another is in the teaching of zoology, botany, biology and mineralogy. Considerable money has been consumed by the department of chemistry, though few familiar with that branch of study—who would recognize at once the necessity of sight—would think of placing chemistry in the curriculum of the blind. Reviewing this very problem, Prof. McTaggart of the department of science and mathematics of the institute, in his biennial report to the superintendent, (in 1898, page 329) says:

"In the study of chemistry, biology and mineralogy the nicest discriminations and most accurate measurements must be made, involving the use of instruments requiring sight. No adequate knowledge of zoology or botany can be had without the use of the dissecting knife and microscope. In chemistry, analytical and quantitative determinations require the most delicate and complicated processes which cannot be carried on by persons who have lost their sight. This statement is so nearly self evident that it hardly needs to be made."

In the face of this, however, a department of chemistry is maintained, though only to the extent of purchasing the necessary instruments and material. None of the expense is removed, though the teaching of this and kindred sciences has practically been abandoned. Only recently an order for \$50 worth of material for this department was given, though it is apparent from the foregoing reason, that it is a clear waste of money.

DANGER OF SICKNESS.

Nothing goes farther in evidencing decrepitude and inactivity on the part of the management than the general appearance of the institute. The walls and floors at the close of school this summer were very filthy, and it is a remarkable stroke of fortune that sickness has not wrought sad havoc among the inmates. According to reports, the buildings have, hygienically speaking, never been kept properly regulated since the fusionists have had charge. In bad condition as they are now, according to Superintendent Harris, things were much worse when he was appointed and took charge one year ago. Speaking of the condition of things at that time Superintendent Harris said:

"It was a most terrible sight. The buildings were fairly alive with bed-bugs. After we came here my wife and I worked for six months before we finally got rid of the bed-bugs. The bugs were in every room, in the beds and paper on the walls, and even the rooms occupied by the superintendent and his family were alive with them. It was the worst sight I ever beheld."

This is what one fusion official says of the management of another fusion official. Assuming that Superintendent Harris found the building in the condition stated he has made some improvements, yet there is wide room for further improvements along the line of cleanliness, and if additional steps in that direction are not taken disease and pestilence may result at any time. It is no doubt true that Superintendent Harris has waged a successful warfare against the apterous creatures which he found inhabiting the bedding and furniture of the institute when he took charge, but there is yet an ample opportunity afforded him for distinction in other directions. On the whole, there is room for many beneficial changes at this institute, both in the way of stopping raids on the treasury and improving the faculty. Under fusion control grades in this institution exist only in theory and not in practice, and the many graduates much in the way a stone rolls down hill—picking out its own way without any well defined route or limitation as to time. Properly managed, the institute can be maintained at much less expense and to much greater advantage. So long, however, as positions in this and other institutions are given out in liquidation of political debts the theory of reform, so conspicuously pictured by the fusion leaders, becomes at once a ludicrous incongruity. When Superintendent Harris was asked why he did not grade the school he said:

"I would like to, but you know our term of office is so indefinite that one hardly knows what to do. If I felt secure in my position for any material length of time I would do so."

This is the whole story in a few words. Under fusionism frequent changes have demoralized the institutions, and time which should be devoted to the good of the institution is spent in contriving plans to keep the official head beyond reach of the gillolette.

The Trap "Worked."

For some time Isaac Mulford, a farmer living near Bridgeton, N. J., has been missing chickens, so he sat a man trap without letting the family know. His son, Alfred, stayed out late the other evening, and, while slipping up to the house, was caught in the trap. Fearing a dressing down from his father for staying out so late the young man stayed there all night. His martyrdom was in vain, for the first party to see him next morning was his father.

Hopeful as to Results.

Witham, the Georgia bankers, and his party of cashiers and pretty girls, left New York for the south the last of the week. There have been no marriages as the result of the trip, although it is understood that matrimony was one of the objects of the junket. There is the consolation of knowing that seven engagements have been made, however, and doubtless the weddings will take place in Georgia in due time.

ARMY REMAINS IN CHINA

Preparation is Being Made for a Stay All Next Winter.

EARL LI'S APPEAL IS REJECTED.

Absence of Responsible Government at Peking Given as Reason—Conger Reports Chaotic Conditions—Chinese Capital is Practically in Hands of Allies.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—After a long conference at the White House the reply of the United States to the application of Li Hung Chang for the appointment of peace commissioners was completed and a copy of the reply sent to the Chinese Minister, Mr. Wu to be forwarded to Earl Li. The state department made a definite announcement that the reply had been conveyed to Mr. Wu, but added to its official utterances that the correspondence would not be made public until tomorrow morning. A copy of the reply was sent to other governments represented in China.

The American reply is chiefly characterized by its firm tone and its brevity. Its keynote is the president's attitude as laid down in the American note of July 3, and there is the strict adherence to the points enunciated at that time. While the document is open to the construction of being a rejection of Li Hung Chang's proposition for immediate negotiations, yet it is stated by those who have read the answer with care and have had a part in its preparation that "rejection" is probably too strong a term to apply to it. The United States places itself in the position of being ready at the proper time to take up peace negotiations, but in the present unsettled condition of affairs in the empire, the lack of knowledge as to who are the responsible rulers and what constitute the actual Chinese government, it is made clear that the time has not arrived for pursuing the negotiations proposed. The formal courtesy of diplomatic procedure is preserved, but at the same time the entire tenor of the document is marked by force and firmness. The government of the United States takes the position that negotiations are impossible with a government which cannot prevent hostilities against the forces of the powers which were sent to the Chinese capital to save the envoys. As long as attacks are made on the troops of this and other governments, such as have followed the occupation of Peking, and the attacks in the vicinity of Tien Tsin it is deemed that the Chinese government is either unwilling or unable to prevent these hostilities, and for this reason negotiations must be deferred.

The most important development of the day as to the actual conditions in Peking came late in the afternoon, when the state department made public a dispatch from Minister Conger, dated at Peking only three days ago. It was given out with the following statement:

"The state department authorizes the announcement of the receipt at an early hour this (Wednesday) morning through the consul at Che Foo of a telegram from Minister Conger in the department cipher to the following effect:

"PEKING, Aug. 19.—Secretary of State, Washington: The entire city with the exception of the imperial palace is occupied by Japanese, Russian, British, Americans and French. It is being apportioned into districts for police supervision. The Chinese army fled. The imperial family and the court have gone westward, probably to Sian Fu, in the province of Shensi. No representatives of the Chinese government are in sight in Peking and the conditions are chaotic. The palace is expected to be taken immediately. Many missionaries have started for home, while others remain in charge of the Christian refugees, numbering about 1,000."
CONGER."

EX-SENATOR INGALL'S WILL.

Leaves Estate to Wife Who is to Be Sole Executrix.

ATCHISON, Kan., Aug. 23.—The will of the late Senator John J. Ingalls, filed in probate court today, is as follows:

"Vice President of the Chamber, Washington.—In the name of God, Amen: I, John J. Ingalls, of the state of Kansas, mindful of the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, do make public and declare my last will and testament. I give, bequeath and devise unto my beloved wife, Anna Louise, all my property and estate, real, personal and mixed of every description, and wherever situated, and appoint her sole executrix hereof, without bond, surety or undertaking.

"In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, in the presence of the subscribing witnesses, who signed the same in my presence and in the presence of each other, this 24th day of August, A. D. 1889."
"JOHN JAMES INCALLS."
"Witnesses:
"F. J. HAIG,
"W. R. CLAY."

Huntington's Will.

NEW YORK, Aug. 23.—It was formally announced today that the will of Collis P. Huntington will be filed tomorrow or Friday. There were several conferences at the Southern Pacific office today and it was believed that the will would be read to the family this afternoon or evening.

Duello Popular in Italy.

LONDON, Aug. 23.—The Rome correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "During the last few weeks duels have caused a perfect slaughter in Italy. As many as four duelists were killed in different towns last Saturday."

"During the last year 2,400 duels have been fought in Italy and 480 deaths have resulted. Most of these combats were between army officers and based on the most trivial pretexts."