

THE VOICE.

There is ever a voice that calls, my dear, Even to you and to me. There's the voice of the moon and the voice of the star, There's the voice from near and the voice from afar; But the voice that seems to us sweetest, my dear, Is the voice of love, you see.

THE MEANNESS OF PA JONES.

Pa Jones rubbed his stubby chin anxiously. "So you really think, Wilson, that the critter's pretty bad off?" "Waal, I ain't sayin' 't it'd be impossible to cure him, but—" His eyes twinkled under their heavy brows and he winked slyly at Bob. This effort to establish an understanding, however, was lost upon the lad as he bent over the 'critter' in question.

"I'm afraid nothin' won't do no good," said Pa in a discouraged tone. "I been here I'd lose that calf ever since Johnson made me see a good offer for him." "How much?" queried Wilson. "Hundred an' fifty, cash, soon's he's old enough to be took from his ma."

"He's worth it, every cent, too," indignantly, for his neighbor's astonishment, somewhat strongly of contempt. "Why, he's got a pedigree as long as your arm. Pure blood. Registered; yes, sirree!" "Too bad you got to lose him," sympathized the hypocritical Wilson, enjoying it.

"Tell you what I'll do, Bobbie," turning to his son, "I'll give you that calf, an' if you can bring him through you can have him." Wilson's sympathy had done away with his last remnant of hope. "I'm plum beat. You can have him. He's yours." Bob's boyish face changed, but he said nothing.

"You can have him, I say," reiterated Pa. His son's silence seemed to indicate a lack of appreciation of the greatness of the gift. "Yes; I can have him to look after till he dies, or till he gets well. If he dies he's my calf; if he lives he's yours." He had written give to me before. The boy's past experience rankled.

"Ain't I givin' him to you?" asked Pa. "Yes; so did you give me the sorrel colt." Pa needed. "I took care of him for three weeks straight, all of my spare time, an' when he got well an' you sold him, you gave me a quarter for my share."

"Well, now, Bob, that was different. You misunderstood me then. But if you can't take your old Pa's word for it," with an effort to be pathetic, which, all things considered, proved rather a failure. "Here's Wilson as witness. You can have him, I say." "They ain't any earthly chance of him gettin' well, so I'm safe in givin' him to Bob," he said to himself. "But even if he should get well—well Bob always was a reasonable boy." Then noting the boy's silence: "Take him or leave him. It's your feedin' time," and Pa Jones walked off, followed slowly by his son.

"I say, Bob," he called. "The boy turned. "They're really no danger of that calf dyin'." I was jes' givin' the old man a little. I've had half a dozen like that, an' never lost but one." He gave a few directions as to the calf's treatment. "I never thought you'd give up so quick." Bob's face fell. "At that rate I'll have to give him back," he said. "Um, well, no, I wouldn't. Your Pa intimated that 'twasn't because he's dyin' he gave him to you. I'd hang on."

"Savin'?" Pa pricked up his penny sharp ears. "Savin' what?" "Now, Pa," in an exasperated tone, "you know you said 'at I end have all I end raise over and above three hundred chickens each year, an' I've saved five dollars an' a quarter—"

"Too much," began the head of the family, but his wife checked him as though at last patience had indeed ceased to be a virtue. "Now, see here! I've scrippled an' saved, an' wore calico dresses an' turned wool ones, fer twenty three years next Tuesday, an' I've never spent one cent 'at I didn't have to, 'cept that Fourth-a-July six years ago, when I bought two glasses of lemonade fer Bobbie an' one fer myself. I've never said a word about you buyin' rappers an' mowers, an' rakes, an' goodness knows what all machin'ry, 'cept I guessed the money was yours, an' you had a right to spend it. But this money's mine. I'm goin' to spend it as I please. There!"

Ma was surprised at her own temerity, but there was, too, a kind of exhilaration in having given voice to the feelings so long repressed. Pa stood silent in open-mouthed amazement. Never before had he known his wife to give way to such an outburst. "But wimmin folks is queer," so he discreetly returned to the subject of expenses.

"Now be reasonable, Marthy. 'Tain't only the fare. You've got to get rooms, an' meals, an' things do cost—"

"A room fer two wimmen costs much more'n a room fer one," said Ma in a pathetic tone, her indignation giving place to entreaty, "an' they's lunch counters an' such where you can feed fer almost nothin'." I ain't a hearty eater," pleaded the little woman desperately. "I know 'most everythin' that's there. I've read every word I could get hold of ever since the thing commenced, so I'd know just what to go an' see. Seem as though I just can't give it up."

"Reely, now, Marthy," adopting a sprightly tone, "thet's actually better'n seein' it. You know all about it, an' don't get so fagged out. They do say it's dreadful t'rin' on you see I was lottin' on takin' you with the money 'at I was to get fer the Herford calf, but he ain't feelin' no well, an' I turned him over to Bob. He's sure aint him these last four years."

Over Bob's boyish face came a look of anger, followed by one of determination. Plainly his resolve was taken, and whatever he may have intended to do about returning the gift to his father he no longer thought of doing so.

"Mrs. Jones cast an apologetic glance at her son. She understood perfectly the condition of the calf. But the look hardened slightly as it returned to her husband, who in a wheedlesome tone, as though soothing an importunate child, continued: "Now, mother, you be good, an' let me go, an' I'll bring you the prettiest red dress I can find in Omahaw. Gingham, mebbe, or calico."

"It'll be calico," put in Bob grimly, who knew enough about "women's gear" to know that it was the cheaper of the two. Pa's face changed. He had been unaware of Bob's presence, and confusedly muttering something about "seein' to the pigs" he hurried out.

After he was gone Bob turned slowly about, rage and contempt blended on his face. "Well, of all the blame—"

"I'd love to go. Seems as though I couldn't bear no more." "So you shall; an' we'll go right, too," and Bob marched off with shoulders squared, and the lines of his boyish lips straight and firm.

Tuesday, the first day of the "reduced rates," came at last, and Pa Jones departed in a high state of satisfaction, much relieved at the cheerfulness with which Ma stayed at home.

"I'll soon be back," he remarked to his wife as she put the finishing touches to his homely lunch, "an' next year, if the crops is good, an' the stock does well, an' we don't have no bad luck no ways—you'll see!" This somewhat hazy promise was followed by a genial and expressive wink, which was supposed to convey the idea he was "safer not to be too explicit in his own promises."

Wednesday morning dawned bright and fair, and Bob and his mother started on their journey in gay spirits. Only now and then a slight twinge of conscience reminded Mrs. Jones that she was doing something that her husband would consider unnecessary and wasteful, but with a recklessness she herself, scarcely dared think upon, they went on their way, buying their meals at the eating stations instead of eating dry lunch from a basket; buying fruit and confections in really moderate quantities, but with what to them, seemed wildest extravagance.

The long trip by rail, so wearisome to most people, was a dream of delight to this country bred woman.

Bob proved an excellent companion, for like most boys within easy reach of the western prairie, he had several times made trips as assistant caretaker on stock trains, and being observing, knew more of the places through which they passed than many more experienced travelers.

After a good night's rest they started early for the Exposition grounds, stopping a short time on the way for a little modest shopping. The remainder, and particularly the precious china, was to be left until the last day before they went home, so after figuring up the amount of their expenses and deducting it from the amount on hand, Bob divided the remainder with his mother.

"Here, Ma; here's half of what will be left after I've paid up. It's yours. The only cent I'll make is that you spend every cent."

"Oh, Bob, that's too much!" she protested. "Take it!" he said, with loving firmness. The fingers in the shabby cotton glove closed over the money with a convulsive movement.

"I never had so much money to spend all by myself at one time since I was married," she said. "Now I can get some towels, an' a white tablecloth, an' a dress, an' mebbe with the chicken money I'll have enough to get my chiny. Though, to be sure, I had to spend some of that fer a hat. Zeel chiny, I mean. Thet came wanted real chiny ever since you was a tiny baby," and she smiled happily.

"Be sure to get it then, mother. Now's your best chance, an' you'll have plenty of money for a few pieces."

A SAMPLE BALLOT AND HOW TO VOTE IT. To vote a straight party ticket, mark a cross (X) in the square opposite the name of the party of your choice in the first column. A cross mark in the square opposite the name of any candidate indicates a vote for that candidate. The voter may insert in the blank space at the bottom of each group, the name of any person whose name is not printed on the ballot for whom he desires to vote.

Table with columns for REPUBLICAN, DEMOCRATIC, PROHIBITION, SOCIALIST, CITIZENS, INDEPENDENCE, LABOR, STATE TREASURER, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT, ASSOCIATE JUDGE, and AUDITOR GENERAL. Includes names of candidates like William L. Mathews, Thomas A. Morrison, etc.

To vote the Democratic Ticket Place Cross (X) in Square in Block marked Democratic, as shown in above. Above is a fac-simile of the official ballot, as certified from the State Department. County Commissioners will add the names of county candidates, grouped under the title of the office for which they have been nominated, similar to the block shown under the head of Associate Judge.

Instructions to Voters.

Elections—When to Be Held. General election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 1903. To be opened at 7 o'clock A. M., and closed at 7 o'clock P. M.

Election Board. 1—The election boards shall consist of: 2—Two inspectors, to be elected annually. 3—Overseers appointed by the courts. 4—Watchers appointed by the parties. 5—Each inspector shall appoint his own clerk, who must be a qualified voter of the district.

Qualifications of Voter. Every male citizen twenty-two years of age, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections: a—He shall have been a citizen of the United States at least one month. b—He shall have resided in the state one year, or, if having been a qualified elector in another state, he shall have returned, then six months) immediately preceding the election.

Preparation of Ballot. Upon entering the voting shell or compartment and drawing the curtains, or shutting the screen or door, he shall proceed to prepare his ballot. a—If he desires to vote the STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET, or in other words, for every candidate of a political party, he can do so by placing a cross (X) thus in the square opposite the name of his party on the left hand side of the ticket. This single mark or cross will be equivalent to a cross mark against every name in the column and will be counted as one vote for each candidate named in that column.

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Enclosed by the guard rail unless his right to vote be challenged.

Enclosed by the guard rail unless his right to vote be challenged. b—If his name is not upon the said list or if he is challenged by a qualified voter in his district, he shall remain outside the guard rail until his right to vote is determined, but he may be challenged any time before the vote is cast. (It is recommended, however, that challenges be made before the voter enters the guard rail, or before he receives his ballot. His right to vote shall be established in the same manner as provided by law.)

Enclosed by the guard rail unless his right to vote be challenged. c—Only one ballot shall be given to a voter, and he must receive it in the margin when he may obtain another upon returning the spoiled one. d—Upon his receiving the ballot, the check list shall be marked with the letter "B" against his name in the margin of the list by election officers, but no record of the number of the ballot shall be made on said list, and the voter shall forthwith, and without leaving the space enclosed by guard rail, retire to one of the voting shelves or compartments.

Enclosed by the guard rail unless his right to vote be challenged. e—Only official ballots can be voted, and only those which have been obtained otherwise than provided by the act, shall be sent by the judge of elections to the district attorney for his official action.

Enclosed by the guard rail unless his right to vote be challenged. f—The voter upon entering the voting shell or compartment must: a—Draw the curtain or shut the screen or door, and shall prepare his ballot. b—To assist him in preparing his official ballot, he may mark a sample ballot before going to vote and take it with him into the voting compartment to copy from in preparing his official ballot. He must vote the official ballot only.

Enclosed by the guard rail unless his right to vote be challenged. g—No voter within the election room shall electorally declare to the judge of election that he desires assistance in the preparation of his ballot, by reason of any disability, he shall be permitted to employ a qualified voter, or a qualified voter of the election district, to assist him, such preparation being made in the voting compartment.

Enclosed by the guard rail unless his right to vote be challenged. h—Any person who shall disclose the contents of any ballot that has been prepared by his help, or who, except when lawfully commanded by a return judge or a competent clerk, shall loosen, cut or unfasten the corner pasted down over the number on the ballot, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Missappropriation of Public Revenues.

License Monies Taken Needlessly From People to Serve Politicians. Conditions Are Disgraceful. Funds That Ought to Be Retained In Local Treasuries For Road Improvements Put Into the State Treasury and Returned, In Order to Make Profits For Public Officials.

The platform adopted by the Democratic state convention which nominated the admirable ticket now before the people for their suffrage reprobrates the present system of taxation as "burdensome and cumbersome, and because it 'necessarily breeds extravagance.' Continuing, it declares that "as at present administered it collects from the people unneeded revenues, passes them through the state treasury and then returns depleted portions to the localities in which they were collected. 'It results,' continues the document, "in the accumulation of a large and unnecessary surplus in the state treasury for distribution among political or favored banks, and presents a constant temptation to extravagant appropriations and expenditures."

Among the items thus employed for political uses are the license fees. During the last fiscal year the mercantile, eating-house, billiard and other license taxes, including the licenses for the sale of liquors, amounted to \$2,729,055.53. This vast sum was taken from the county treasuries and placed in the treasury of the state, a percentage being retained by the county treasurer as a fee for the services. After it has served the purpose of helping to swell and maintain the enormous surplus kept on hand for the benefit of favored bankers as a "time deposit" for a period, a portion of this surplus is returned to the county treasury, a percentage being again charged by the county treasurer for handling the money. The double handling of the funds and the double charge of the fees amounts in the aggregate to a considerable sum, not less than \$200,000. The amount drawn from each county by this process follows:

Table with columns for County and Amount. Lists counties like Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Bucks, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Westmoreland, Wyoming, York. Total: \$2,729,055.53.