Continued on Eighth Page.

THE PENNYCOMEQUICKS

—Written for THE DISPATCH by—

S. BARING GOULD,

Author of "Mehalah," "Court Royal," "John Herring," "The Gaverocks," Etc

SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS.

CHAPTERS I. AND II.—Mrs. Sidebottom, whose maiden name was Pennycomequick, and her son Captain Pennycomequick, who had taken the name by special license, are sitting together considering ways and means. With ambitious notions and extravagant tastes she finds it difficult to live on the £400 annually, which is her income. Both she and her son are reckoning upon the possible fortune that may be theirs on the death of a wealthy relative, Jeremiah Pennycomequick (half-brother to Mrs. Sidebottom), whom they have just entertained at dinner, but who is disgusted with their overdone professions of interest in his welfare. Living with him is a niece, Salome Cusworth, one of two sisters, the elder one having left his roof to marry a French manufacturer. Mr. Pennycomequick gradually becomes drawn toward the fatherless Salome, and something of a tenderer feeling springs within his breast. A casual joke from Captain Pennycomequick with reference to Salome and himself reveals to him his heart, and, as he meets her in his own home after the Sidebottom banquet, he dare not meet her eyes.

CHAPTERS III. AND IV.—Jeremiah Pennycomequick, unable to declare his love for his niece, leaves his house at midnight, for a "composing draught of fresh night air." As he walks by the side of the canal he is alarmed by news conveyed by a man on horseback, who told him to "Get back, as Holroyd Reservoir had burst." The old man enters the hut of the locksman on the embankment, the only shelter from certain death, which seems at hand.

CHAPTERS V. AND VI.—In his perilous position Jeremiah encounters the full force and volume of the flood, which bears down all obstacles, pianos, pigs, a woman's corpse with a dead child in her arms, everything impelled against the tottering walls of the hut. He is joined by another terrified man, anxious to save his life, but regretting in a half-maniacal way that he had lost his bullock, which he might have sold the day before. Jeremiah wraps round his half-naked form his own overcoat. As the hut slowly but surely crumbles away, Jeremiah reaches a tree top to which he clings. His fellow sufferer declines to leave the hut, and as the tree passes Jeremiah sees the hut dissolve like a lump of sugar in boiling water and disappear.

CHAPTERS VII. AND VIII.—Mr. Jeremiah Pennycomequick having disappeared from view, apparently drowned in the flood, his relatives, the Sidebottoms, take possession. Salome takes the liberty of telegraphing to Philip Pennycomequick, and he receives the message as he is on his way to Mergatroyd. In the same compartment of the carriage is a young lady who turns out to be the wife of the French manufacturer, twin sister to Salome. Philip is not impressed with her Frenchified coquettish manners, and when the train stops, unable to proceed further for the flood, he considers it a nuisance to act as guide and friend to his somewhat objectionable companion.

CHAPTERS IX. AND X.—Philip Pennycomequick, accompanied by his companion, arrives at last at the house of his uncle, and is met by Mrs. Sidebottom. As all the hotels are full, he decides to stay at the house of his late uncle, whose body has not been found. Soon after his arrival another search is resolved upon by the villagers, this time by means of a local superstition—the loaf and the candle. A loaf of bread with a lighted candle stuck in a hole in its side is sent on the stream, the idea being that the body of him they sought would be found by some mysterious occult power which impelled it on its way. And strange to say the light floats toward a certain portion of the flood, and stopping suddenly the light is extinguished. The searchers continued their quest, and the dead body of a man with his face dreadfully battered is found. Salome and Mrs. Sidebottom arriving on the scene they declare that the body is that of Mr. Jeremiah Pennycomequick, for his great coat containing his cardcase is found upon it. The body is conveyed to the house.

CHAPTER XI.—EXPECTATION.

As Philip Pennycomequick came next day to the house of mourning—mourning, because three dressmakers were engaged in making it—he saw that all the blinds were down. In the hall he met Salome, who was there, evidently awaiting him. She looked ill and anxious, and her eyes were bright with a feverish luster. She had not slept for two nights.

The extraordinary delicacy of her complexion gave her a look as of the finest porcelain, a transparency through which her doubting, disturbed and eager spirit was visible. Her pallor contrasted startlingly at this time with the gorgeous tone of her luxuriant hair. Her eyes were large, the irises distended as though touched with belladonna, and Philip felt his mistrust fall away from off him, as in some fairy tale the armor of a knight loosens itself, drops, and leaves him unharnessed before an enchantress. But the enchantment which dissolved his panoply of suspicion was an innocent one, it was the manifestation of real suffering. He could see that the girl was rendered almost ill by the mental distress caused by the loss of her friend and guardian. That she had loved him, and loved him with an innocent, unselfish affection, seemed to him undoubted.

"I beg your pardon for waylaying you, Mr. Pennycomequick," she said, in a timid voice; one white hand lifted, with an uncertain shake in it, touching her lips. "But I very much desire to have a word with you in private before you go upstairs to Mrs. Sidebottom."

"I am at your service."

She led the way into the breakfast room, recently cleared of the meal. She went to the window, and stood between the glass and the curtain, with her left hand entangled among the cords of the Venetian blind. In her nervousness it was necessary for her to take hold of something. Her delicate fingers ran up the green strings and played with them, as though they were the strings of a harp on which she was practicing, and, strangely enough, Philip felt within him every touch; when she twanged a cord, some fiber in him quivered responsive, and was only lulled when she clasped the string and stopped its vibration.

A faint tinge rose in her white face to the cheekbones and temples, touching them with more than color, an apparent inner light, like the Alpine glow after sundown on the white head of the Jungfrau. As she spoke she did not look at Philip, but with eyes modestly lowered on the ground, or out of the window looking sideways down the street.

"What I wished to say to you, Mr. Pennycomequick, will soon be said. I shall not detain you long. I am sorry to differ from Mrs. Sidebottom; but I cannot share her conviction that the body found last night is that of your uncle."

"You do not dispute that he is dead?"

"No," she sighed; "I think there can be no question about that."

"Or that he was last seen on the canal bank at no great distance from where the discovery was made?"

"No," she said, and her fingers unconsciously played on the blind cords the time of the melody in Chopin's "Marche Funebre."

"Why do you say no?"

"Mr. Pennycomequick was full dressed when he went out—that is to say, he had on his great coat and his boots and—in fact it was not possible that he could be discovered in the condition in which the body recovered from the canal was found."

"It is, of course, difficult to account for it, but not impossible. My aunt declares that she went up to the bedroom of my uncle the same night, found the bed disturbed, and the dress clothes, or some of them, on the chair. She concludes that he pulled on his overcoat and went out half-dressed, and he got caught by the water somewhere in some place of temporary refuge, and saw that his only chance of escape was to strip and swim. That he drew on his great coat again as a protection against the cold till the proper moment came for him to make the plunge—but she concludes that he never did start to swim, either his courage failed him, or the flood rose too rapidly and carried him away before he had removed the overcoat. This may be an over-ingenious explanation, nevertheless it is an explanation that accounts for all."

"Not for all—the body is not that of Mr. Pennycomequick." Salome spoke decidedly, and as she spoke her hand gripped the strings hard.

Philip stood by the table, resting his hand on it. The morning light fell strong on her face, and illumined her auburn hair. Philip took occasion to examine her countenance more closely than had been possible before. She was like her sister in build, in features and in tone of color, indeed strikingly like her, but in that only—certainly, Philip thought, in that only.

All at once she looked up and met Philip's eyes.

"No—a thousand times, no," she said. "That is not uncle. He was brought here because Mrs. Sidebottom desired it, and is convinced of the identity. No objection that I can raise disturbs her. I thought that possibly, last night, I might have judged on insufficient evidence, and so I went this morning into the room to look at the corpse. Mrs. Sidebottom had sent last night for women who attended to it, and it was laid out in the spare room." She began to tremble now as she spoke, and her fingers played a rapid movement on the blind cords. "I had made up my mind to look at him, and I did."

She paused, to recover the control that was fast deserting her, as the delicate glow of color in her face had now left it. "It is not my uncle. I looked at his hands. The head is—is not to be seen, nothing is distinguishable there—but the hands are not those of Mr. Pennycomequick."

"In what does the difference consist?"

"I cannot describe it. I knew his hands well. He often let me take them in mine, when I sat on the stool at his feet by the fire, and I have kissed them." The clear tears rose in her eyes and rolled down her cheeks. "I am quite sure—if those had been his dear hands that I saw on the bed this morning, I would have kissed them again, but I could not," she shook her head, and shook away the drops from her cheeks. "No—I could not."

"Miss Cusworth," said Philip, "you are perhaps unaware of the great alteration that is produced by immersion for many hours."

"They are not his hands. That is not uncle."

"She was so conspicuously sincere, so sincerely distressed, that Philip relaxed his cold manner toward her, and said in a gentle tone, "Did my uncle wear a ring? There was none on the hands of the man found yesterday."

"No—he wore no ring."

"With what did he seal his letters?"

"Oh! he had a brass seal with his initials on it, with a handle, that was in his pen tray. He used to joke about it and say he was a J. P. without the Queen's commission."

"For my own part," said Philip, "I am beyond forming an opinion, as I have seen my uncle but once since I was a boy, and then under circumstances precluding exact observation."

Salome said nothing to this, but heaved a long breath. Presently Philip said, "Your mother—has she been taken upstairs?"

"Oh, no!" exclaimed Salome, excited as by a fresh terror. "You do not know my mother. She has heart complaint, and we have to be most careful not unduly to excite and alarm her. She has suffered much on account of what has taken place; and the shock of seeing —"

She shivered. "It cannot be."

"And your sister?"

"She turned faint when brought to the door, and I could not persuade her to enter. She has been much tried by the German invasion of France, and her hurried journey."

"Is there anything further you have to say?"

"No—Mrs. Sidebottom is wrong, that is all."

Philip withdrew.

The girl had gained in his estimation. There was strength in her such as lacked in her sister. She must have had courage and determination to go by herself into the room where lay the mutilated corpse, and she had formed her own opinion, independently, and held to it, with a firmness there was no breaking down.

Philip ascended the stairs thoughtfully. It had seemed to him at the time that his aunt had rushed at identification with undue precipitation, still—she was the sister of Uncle Jeremiah, and therefore better capable than anyone else. Now he was himself uncertain.

When he entered the study where Mrs. Sidebottom was, she saluted him with "Well, so you have had your interview with Salome. She has been hanging about the hall all the morning for the purpose of catching you."

Philip made no reply. Her light tone jarred on his feelings, coming as he did from the presence of a girl full of sadness.

"Has she gained you over to her side?"

"Upon my word I do not know what to think."

"Fiddlesticks," said Mrs. Sidebottom, "she has made eyes at you. Girls with good eyes know how to use them; they are better advocates than their tongues."

"The difficulty to identification seems to me insuperable."

"Pshaw! I have no doubt at all. He had been to bed; he went out without his coat and waistcoat. He was last seen on the canal bank; not so very far from the place where the corpse was found. The body is discovered wearing the great coat. I have told you how I explain that. I suppose Salome has made a point to tell you that the night shirt was not that of uncle Jeremiah. Her mother looked after his linen."

"No, she said nothing of that."

"But I identify the shirt."

"You, aunt?"

"Yes, it is one I gave him."

You—gave him. An extraordinary present."

"Not at all. I was his sister; and I know that an old bachelor's wardrobe would be in a sad state of neglect. I intended to replenish him with linen altogether."

Philip was greatly surprised. He looked fixedly at his aunt, to make out whether she were speaking seriously. She dashed off, however, at once on another topic. "That girl," she said, "naturally resisted the conclusions at which I have arrived."

"Why naturally?"

"Oh, you greenhorn! Because if it be established that Jeremiah is dead, out goes the whole Cusworth brood. They have lived here and preyed on him so long that they cannot endure the notion of having to leave, and will fight tooth and nail against the establishment of his decease."

"Not at all. You misjudge them. They allow that he is dead, but disbelieve in the identity of the corpse found with my uncle who is lost, which is another matter."

"Out they shall go," said Mrs. Sidebottom.

"It is painful for them to leave a house where they have been happy, and in which the young ladies have grown up from childhood."

"Other people have to undergo painful experiences," said his aunt; and again, "Out they go."

"Not at once."

"As soon as the funeral is over."

"But why act with such precipitation?"

"Because I cannot endure them. Do you remember the story of the Republican judge, when a gentleman contended before him for his paternal acres against a sans-culotte, who had appropriated them? 'These acres,' said the plaintiff, 'have belonged to my family for 400 years.' 'High time,' said the judge, 'that they should be transferred to others;' and he gave sentence for the defendant. These Cusworths have been in possession quite long enough. High time that they should budge, and make room for me."

"But you must consider the feelings of the old lady. You have no excuse for acting peremptorily."

"I shall inquire what wage she has received, pay her a month, and send her off. That is to say," added Mrs. Sidebottom on further consideration, "I will pay her as soon as I have got some of Jeremiah's money out of the bank."

"And that cannot be touched till his will has been proved."

"There is no will."

"How do you know that?"

"I have searched every drawer, closet and chest. I have looked everywhere. There is no will."

"It will be at the lawyers."

"Jeremiah never had a lawyer. That was one of his fads."

"Then at the bank."

"I wrote to the bank the moment I heard of his death. I have received an answer. There is no will at the bank."

"There is time enough to discuss this later."

"No, there is not," said Mrs. Sidebottom, peremptorily. "The factory must not be allowed to come to a stand, and the business to drift away. You have no claim."

"That remains to be seen. If there be no will, I shall have a claim, and a pretty substantial one."

"Your father withdrew his share from the concern. I did not. I have my interest in the business, and will see that it be kept up. Where is Lamb?"

"The Captain will be here directly. Hush! I hear him in the hall."

In another minute Lambert Pennycomequick entered the room, very fresh, well dressed, and pleasant.

"Lamb!" exclaimed his mother, "there is no will."

"Then, I suppose," said the Captain, "we shall have to take out an administration. I don't understand these things myself, but Cousin Philip is here on the spot to manage for us."

"If there be no will," explained Philip, "you, Aunt Louisa, as sole surviving sister of Uncle Jeremiah, will have to act. You will have to take oath that he is dead, and that he died intestate. Then you will be granted administration as next of kin. If I had any doubt about his death I would enter a caveat and prevent the grant; and then the death would have to be proved in solemn form in court. But I have no doubt that my uncle is dead, though I may think it an open matter whether the body in the other room be his."

"And, if I am granted administration as nearest of kin, all the property comes to me?" said Mrs. Sidebottom.

"Not so—most certainly."

"Why not? I am nearest. I alone have a stake in the mill. Yours was withdrawn long ago. I am his sister, you only a half-nephew."

"For all that, you do not take everything. I have my share."

"Well, if it must be, we will divide into three. I take a third in addition to what I have by my marriage settlement; Lamb has a third, and you the remainder."

"Wrong again, aunt. Lambert is out of the running.

The estate will be divided between you and me in equal proportions."

"This is monstrous. My Lambert is a nephew every whit as much as you."

"Yes, but you intervene. Such is the law."

Mrs. Sidebottom was silent for a moment. Then she said irritably, "I wish now, heartily, that there had been a will. I know what Jeremiah's intentions were, and I would grieve to my heart's core to have them disregarded. In conscience, I could not act differently from his wishes. If he omitted to make a will, it was because he knew nothing of law, and supposed that everything would devolve to me, his sister. Philip, knowing the rectitude of your principles, I am sure you will decline to touch a penny of your uncle's inheritance. You know very well that he never forgave your father, and that he always regarded his leaving the business as an acquittal of all further obligations toward him."

"I must put you out of doubt at once," said Philips. "I shall most certainly take my share."

"I do not believe that my brother died without a will. I never will believe it. It will turn up somehow. These old fogies have their odd ways. Perhaps it is at the mill in his office desk. What a world of contrarieties we do live in! Those persons to whom we pin our faith as men of principle are just those who fail us. However, to turn to another matter. I presume that I am in authority here. You have no caveat to offer against that?"

"None at all."

"Then out go the Cusworths, and at once."

"Not at once. That is indecent. If you will have it so, after the funeral give them notice. You must act with humanity."

"The girl is insolent. She has the temerity to dispute my assertion that the dead man is Jeremiah?"

"She is justified in forming her own opinion, and expressing it."

"Of course, you take her part. She has been ogling you with good effect. Lamb, will you go down and call her up. I must have a word with her at once, and ascertain the amount of wages her mother has received and how much is due."

"Remember," said Philip, "that Mrs. Baynes has come here from Normandy, and that Mrs. Cusworth is ill, and that houses are scarce at present in Mergatroyd."

"Then let them go elsewhere. To Jericho, for all I care."

Philip was very angry. He was offended at his aunt's insinuations about himself, and indignant at her want of feeling toward those who had been companions and friends to his uncle.

Lambert had left the room as desired.

"Aunt Louisa," said Philip, "I insist upon your acting with courtesy and consideration toward the Cusworths. I do not mean to threaten you; but I shall not tolerate conduct that appears to me as ill-judged as unjust. As you said yourself, we must remember and act upon the wishes of the deceased: and it would be contrary to them that the old lady and her daughters should be treated with disrespect and unkindness."

"You leave me to deal with them," said Mrs. Sidebottom, somewhat cowed by his manner.

"You know my opinion. You will find it not to your advantage to disregard it," said Philip, laughingly.

Mrs. Sidebottom shuffled her feet, and arranged her skirts, frowned, and examined her pocket handkerchief, where she discovered an iron-mould.

Then Lambert reappeared with Salome, and as they entered the door, Philip turned toward it and took up his position near the girl, facing his aunt, as if to protect Salome from insolence and injustice. Mrs. Sidebottom understood the signification of the movement, bit her lips, and said with constraint, looking on the ground, "May I ask you, Miss Cusworth, to favor us by taking a chair. There is no occasion for you to stand in my presence. I have taken the liberty to send for you, because my poor dear brother is dead, and as no reasonable doubt remains in any unprejudiced mind that his body has been found—"

Salome's lips closed. She looked at Philip, but said nothing. She had made her protest. One on this occasion would be superfluous.

"We desire in every way to act according to the wishes of my darling brother, whom it has pleased a beneficent Providence"—she wiped her eyes—"to remove from this vale of tears. As his sister, knowing his inmost thoughts, the disposition of his most sacred wishes, his only confidant in the close of life, I may say I know what his intentions were as well as if he had left a will."

"There is a will," said Salome, quietly.

"A will! Where?"

"In my workbox."

A silence ensued. Mrs. Sidebottom looked very blank.

"On the very night he died he gave it me to keep, and I put it away in my workbox, as I had nothing else that locked up. My workbox is in my room upstairs. Shall I fetch the will?"

"No," said Philip, "let it stay where it is till after the funeral."

CHAPTER XII.—SURPRISES.

When the funeral was over, and the family of Pennycomequick was assembled in the house of the deceased, or assumed to be deceased, manufacturer, Mrs. Sidebottom sent her compliments to Salome, with a request that she would favor her with an interview in the dining room.

Mrs. Sidebottom was dressed in fresh black satin and crape, that became her well, as her hair and face were fair. Of this she was aware, and she took the opportunity of surveying herself in every mirror that she passed. Really in her mourning she looked young again. The black seemed to produce on her much the same effect as the photographer's stipple, wherewith he effaces the wrinkles of the negative. It was as though the life of Pennycomequick were a capital of which, when Jeremiah lost hold, his heirs had taken possession. Not Mrs. Sidebottom only, but also her son seemed to have come in for a bequest of vitality. The captain looked brighter, less languid than he had for long.

Philip's suspicious nature had been displeased by the statement of Salome that the will was in her possession. It appeared to him strange that the old man should have intrusted so important a document to the care of a girl of 19 or 20. It roused in his mind that mistrust which had been laid. He asked whether the fact of this consignment did not show that the Cusworth family were deeply interested in the will; whether this taking possession of it were not the conclusion of a conspiracy to get the old man to make a testament altogether in their favor.

He did not, on this occasion, move to meet Salome when she entered the room, but took his position apart, with arms folded, and face imperturbable, and set hard, as if a frost had congealed it.

Philip was not by any means unconcerned as to the disposition of his uncle's property. He would have been raised above the passions and ambitions of human nature had he been unconcerned, for the disposition was likely to affect materially his whole after life.

Philip was now aged 34 years and was only a solicitor's clerk. The utmost he could expect, without a windfall, would be when well advanced in years to be taken into the firm of Pinch & Squeeze for his mastery of the details of the business. He would be incapable of purchasing a partnership, as he was wholly without capital. What means his father had possessed had been thrown away, and therewith his prospects.

Philip's only chance of recovering his proper position was through a bequest from the uncle whose will was about to be read.

If Jeremiah had died intestate, he would have come in for a share of the business, and for a good lump sum of money, for it is quite certain that his uncle had saved money. He might then have either purchased a partnership in a good legal house, or carried on the factory, remaining at Mergatroyd.

It was true that he knew nothing of the technique of linen weaving, but his training had taught him business habits, and he was confident that in a short time he would be able to master the ramifications of the business. There is a tool sold by ironmongers that contains in the handle, saw, file, gimlet, turnscrew, chisel, bradawl and punch. The nozzle of the handle is provided with a grip that holds or discharges such of the tools as are required or done with. Thus the instrument can be converted at pleasure into whatever is desired.

A business education makes a man into such a convertible tool, ready, as required, to be saw, file, turnscrew or punch. Philip was conscious of his mental flexibility, and confident that if he resolved to make a new departure he could fit himself to it. The knowledge that he had been without means had not soured him as it had his father, but had hardened him. His profession had conduced, as this profession does in many cases, to foster in him a strong and touchy sense of rectitude. Brought into contact with mankind in its ignoble aspects, seeing its sordidness, selfishness, laxity of principle where self-interest is concerned, he had framed for himself a rigorous code of honor, from which nothing would make him swerve by a hairsbreadth.

In the past he had made no calculation on receiving anything from his uncle, but now that the possibility of his getting something was presented to him, he could not contemplate the decisive moment with equanimity. The tiger that has tasted human blood, ever after disdains the food that previously satisfied its maw; and the young lady who has been through a London season, or only ventured into a first ball, will not afterward return to the sobriety and monotony of country life. If Philip had been left to plod on at Nottingham without expectations, he would have accommodated himself to his situation with dull resignation; but now that a prospect of independence had been dangled before his eyes, he could not return to his old career without intensified distaste.

Yet he was far from forming great hopes. He knew that Jeremiah had been a vindictive old man, never forgiving his brother a mistake which had cost that brother more suffering than it had Jeremiah. It was more probable that the old manufacturer would leave everything to his sister and her son, with whom he had always maintained unbroken connection, than that he should favor him. Whether Jeremiah liked and trusted his sister and her son, and to what extent he liked and trusted them, Philip had not the means of judging, that alone could be revealed by the will.

If he should be disappointed, his disappointment would be more grievous to bear than he cared to acknowledge to himself. He was, indeed, angry with himself for feeling any flutter of hope. If he should be disappointed, he would return to Nottingham, to his former routine of life, and spend the rest of it in a subordinate position, destitute of that brightness and ease for which a man of education craves as an atmosphere in which his soul can breathe and expand. He did not desire ease because indolent, but to obtain scope for his faculties to develop in other directions than those to which they were professionally turned; and to polish the other facets of the inner self than those exposed to the daily grindstone. He would like to buy books, to take a holiday on the continent, to purchase small artistic treasures, to be able to rise out of the contracted circle of petty clerk life, with all its small prejudices and narrow interests.

For 15 years he had lived this life, that was uncogenial, and unless his uncle's money gave him wings to rise out of it, he must remain in this Stymphalian bog. Consequently it was with a beating heart, and with inward fluctuations of hope and fear, that he awaited the decision; but none of this unrest could be seen in his face, that did not bear in it a sign of expectation.

As Salome entered, Mrs. Sidebottom waved to her to take a seat. The girl, however, with a slight acknowledgment, stepped up to Philip, and extending to him the will, said: "It was given to me to keep safely, should anything occur. I cannot even now resign it absolutely, as Mr. Pennycomequick told me that I was to keep it and prove it."

"You prove it!" exclaimed Philip, glancing at her suspiciously.

"You—!" cried Mrs. Sidebottom. "Fiddlesticks. That is to say, impossible."

"You must remain in the room, Miss Cusworth," said Philip, "while the will is read, after which we will remit it to your charge."

"I object to such as are not of the family being present," said Mrs. Sidebottom.

"Your objection must be put aside," answered Philip. "As Miss Cusworth has been intrusted with the document, and required to prove it, she must remain."

Mrs. Sidebottom tossed her head.

Philip drew his penknife from his pocket, opened it, and leisurely cut through the top of the envelope, extracted the document, and unfolded it. He glanced at the heading, and then, with lawyer-like instinct, at the end, then with a sharp look of surprise at Salome, who waited with lowered eyes, he said, "This is worthless. The signature has been torn away."

"Torn away!" echoed Mrs. Sidebottom.

Salome looked up in astonishment.

"This is a cancelled will," said Philip. "It is of no more value than waste paper. When do you say my uncle intrusted it to you?"

"Shortly before he left the house on the night that he disappeared. I am quite sure he thought it was of importance, from his manner toward me in commending it. He said it was a trust, an important trust."

"Then," said Philip, "there is some mystery behind unsolved."

"Read it," urged Mrs. Sidebottom; "and see if that will clear it up."

"I will read it, certainly," said Philip; but it is a document entirely devoid of legal force."

Philip began to run his eye over it before reading aloud.

"Well, upon my word," said Mrs. Sidebottom, "you are inclined to keep us on tenterhooks. The will, if not valid, is still interesting, no doubt."

"This," said Philip, in a tone that had harshness in it, "this is a most extraordinary document. It is in the first place clearly made up from some of those formulas which are found in popular handbooks; for aught I know picked out of 'Inquire-Within-for-Everything,' or the 'Family Save-All.' The last portion is also clearly taken from no formula at all, but is the expression of my uncle's peculiar idiosyncracies."

"Well, read it, and pass your comments on it later," said Mrs. Sidebottom, shifting her position in her seat and rearranging her skirts.

Before reading, Philip cast a searching glance at Salome. He now seated himself at the table, and proceeded to read.

"I, eJremiah Pennycomequick, of Mergatroyd, in the County of York, and the West Riding of said county, manufacturer, being in sound health and in full possession of my faculties, do give, bequeath, and devise all the real and personal estate of which I shall be possessed or entitled at the time of my decease, together with my factory, my house with garden, which are all leasehold for 21 years, together with all the appurtenances thereof, unto Salome Cusworth, my adopted daughter, absolutely: chargeable, however, with such sum annually to be paid out of the profits, *pro rata*, to my half-sister, Louisa Sidebottom, as was agreed by her marriage settlement. And I further direct and bequeath to my nephew, Lambert Sidebottom, and to my nephew, Philip Pennycomequick, to each severally an annuity of one hundred pounds, to be paid to the said Lambert Sidebottom and the said Philip Pennycomequick during their respective lives, in half-quarterly payments. And I hereby request my executor to invest a sufficient sum in the purchase of such annuities out of the moneys arising from my personal estate. And I further appoint the aforesaid Salome Cusworth, my adopted daughter, sole executrix of my will, and revoke all the former wills by me at any time heretofore made.

"And, whereas I have been during the whole course of my lifetime an enemy to lawsuits, and what little I leave I desire may not be squandered away on the gentlemen of the long robe, for whom all the veneration I have is at a distance, and wishing that there was more justice and less law in the world, I devise that should any legatee trouble my executor by going to law, by commencing any suit of law, in any tribunal whatsoever, the said person be deprived of the benefit of the legacy hereby bequeathed." *

Philip paused, then added, "The will is dated about a twelve month ago, and is witnessed by Marianne Cusworth, widow, of Mergatroyd, and John Dale, surgeon, of Bridlington." The silence that had been maintained during the reading continued unbroken for a couple of minutes after it was concluded.

The first to break it was the captain, who said, "A bad job for me. I lose my hundred a year, and am left as before, dependent on my mother's apron string."

Philip looked at Salome; she saw by the contraction of the irises of his eyes that there was aversion in his heart.

"Miss Cusworth," he said in metallic tones, "There is but one explanation of this extraordinary matter, this explanation, that presents itself to my mind is not to your credit. Shall I say what I think, or shall I forbear?"

"Tell me what your opinion is," she said quietly.

"This will was drawn up, clearly without advice and by his own hand, by my uncle, Mr. Jeremiah Pennycomequick. What can have induced him to make such an unjust disposition of his property in your favor, you can best tell."

"I cannot tell. It is unjust. I am glad that the will is worthless."

"Sour grapes," muttered Mrs. Sidebottom to her son.

"That undue influence was exercised, I make no doubt. Had this will been perfect, with signature complete, Mrs. Sidebottom, who risks nothing by the outrageous proviso in the second part, would have contested it; this I doubt no more than I doubt that pressure was brought to bear on an old, and perhaps feeble man, to make this will."

Salome's blood flamed up to the roots of her hair.

"After this will had been made and duly attested, my uncle on thinking the matter over cancelled his signature. He had changed his mind. You, I presume, still exercised pressure on him, and to relieve himself of this, he gave the will into your custody; it was a deception probably justifiable under the circumstances. He unquestionably intended to make another will with quite different provisions, but was prevented by death from executing his intentions."

"You think," exclaimed Salome, her bosom heaving and her color changing rapidly, "You think I could behave so unworthily."

"I can find no other solution."

She was cut, wounded to her heart's core.

"You say that the will was given you to keep. For what reason? Because it interested you extraordinarily?"

"Yes," said Salome, "so Mr. Pennycomequick said when he gave it me."

"But why did he think it necessary to give it you when he knew it was invalid? He must have done it to quiet your importunities. I can see no other reason."

"You wrong me," said the girl, with pain and dignity. "I'm sure that he did not know it was worthless when he handed it to me. His manner was so serious."

"You do not suppose it was tampered with after it came into your possession?"

"Oh, no, certainly not. It was locked up in my workbox under the tray where are my cottons and needles."

Mrs. Sidebottom watched their faces and followed the dialogue with almost breathless attention. Now she smiled sarcastically.

"It is disappointing," she said, "after the toils have been laid to lose the game."

Salome again crimsoned.

"You think that I used my position in this house, took advantage of my nearness to Mr. Pennycomequick to induce him to commit an injustice?"

Philip bowed stiffly.

"You charge me with the grossest breach of honor, with wicked ingratitude to the man who has been to me as a father?"

"We do not accuse you personally," said Lambert, who thought that, as he would have expressed it, his cousin and mother were "down on the girl too hard." "But we think it awfully queer that uncle should have made such a will. Your mother, for instance—"

"My mother is as incapable of such meanness as myself," said Salome. "To such as can think of me so basely, no justification I could make would be of any avail. With your leave—"

She bowed, and now white as ivory, with spots of fire in her temples, she swept out of the room.

*The conclusion of this will is taken verbatim from one made by a member of the author's family, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (Bedford f. 167).

[*To be continued next Monday.*]

THE NATIONAL REMEDY, PRAISED BY ALL.

BILIOUS HEADACHE,

Biliousness, Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Constipation, Dizziness

Positively cured by

LITTLE HOP PILLS,

The People's Favorite Liver Pills.

They act slowly, but surely, do not gripe, and their effect is lasting; the fact is they have no equal. Small dose; big results. Sugar coated and easy to take. Send for testimonials. 25c, at all druggists, or mailed for price. Prepared by an old apothecary. Five bottles $1.

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no1-MWF

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SILKS, PLUSHES, DRESS GOODS, SATEENS, SEERSUCKER, GINGHAMS, PRINTS, and CHEVIOTS.

For largest assortment and lowest prices call and see us.

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FEATURES OF TRADE.

The Week's Record in Produce, Cereals and Hog Products.

DAIRY PRODUCTS MORE ACTIVE.

A Glut of Vegetables---Choice Fruit Moving More Freely.

HEAVY HOGS, MESS PORK ADVANCE

OFFICE OF PITTSBURG DISPATCH, SATURDAY, March 9, 1889.

The first week of March shows a more active movement in country produce lines than any week of February. This has been true particularly of dairy products and eggs. The demand for country butter shows a most marked improvement the past week or two over any time the past winter. There has been a special reason for this activity, namely, the terrorizing of oleomargarine dealers by action of the courts. The losses of butterine dealers have inured to the gain of the old-time product of the churn.

The arrival of Lent has given new strength and greater activity to cheese trade, but prices stand unchanged. For a number of seasons cheese has advanced about the beginning of Lent, but, contrary to general expectations, there has been no advance this season. This, too, in face of the fact that the visible supply at the world's commercial centers is much below the average for this time of the year. The failure of cheese to advance as well as anything can do demonstrates the sluggishness of this spring's produce trade.

A leading jobber of creamery butter and cheese said to-day: "Our trade has been more satisfactory this week than at any time since the year opened. Business with us has not been as lifeless for years as it was the latter half of January and greater part of February. It now looks as if the tide had turned and a revival of trade is at hand."

Lenten Food Advancing.

A leading produce commission merchant gave substantially the same view of the situation, while admitting that there was no sign of improvement in certain lines which will be noted. Said he: "The first half of this week was a decided improvement on our experience of a few weeks' past. While trade did not hold up well to the close of the week, there has been a gain, and we are confident that the worst is past. The demand for butter and eggs has much improved, also for choice apples and tropical fruits. Florida oranges have advanced 50 to 75c per box in the week past.

"The weak factors of trade are vegetables. Potatoes have not been as slow and low for a dozen or more years; in fact, we would have to go back to trade records before the war to find market as depressed in vegetables. Farmers are rushing their surplus potatoes, onions and cabbage into markets, and the result is, we are having a glut. Potatoes in carload lots are selling at 30c to 33c, and well authenticated reports are heard of sales below the lower figure. The time draws near when last season's vegetables will have to give way to the new crop, and the old must be worked off at whatever it will bring. The old potato trade will be practically at an end about the 1st of May.

"The trouble has been all this season that stuff has been over abundant. And it now remains for the unfortunate producer to work off his surplus on the best terms he can, and prepare for the new season in the hope and faith that there will not be another year of such plenty right away."

Grain, Hay and Hogs.

We cannot note any improvement the past week in the grain and hay markets. It is with this trade as with produce—supplies are too liberal for the demand. With receipts of 217 cars this week and 231 last, and not more than a dozen or two cars sold on call in the week, it is evident that the markets are anything but lively. The sales made outside of the Exchange, the terms of which cannot be gathered, are, no doubt, made by concessions on the part of holders.

Wheat has at last tumbled to the situation of sluggishness and is off 10c to 15c from the highest point reached a few weeks ago at Chicago for May delivery. Flour has eased some under the drop in wheat, but the consumer has not yet received any benefit from the decline for large job lots.

Mess pork has been advanced $1 per barrel within a few days. Lard, also, has taken an upward turn, and is 25@30c per cwt higher than last week. Packers here have made no changes in their quotations, but present firmness points to an early rise. A marked feature of the week's trade has been an improved demand and better prices for heavy hogs, which have dragged all season. For heavy weights prices are 15@20c higher than a week ago.

The run of hogs at Chicago this week has been little more than one-half that of last week. The light run is charged up to wretched roads of the West. A fact stated by one of our packers will illustrate the situation: "An Iowa farmer five miles from a railroad station with 42 hogs, weighing 400 pounds each, was compelled to take eight wagon trips through the half-frozen mud in order to get his hogs into market."

TRADE IN GOOD FORM.

Business Men Inclined to the Belief That the Worst is Over.

Business the past week afforded encouraging indications of improvement. The volume of transactions was larger than for the previous week, and prices were steadier for all staple commodities. The speculative markets were moderately active, but in several lines prices were not maintained. This was especially true of petroleum, which closed weak and 1⅜ cents lower than the opening Monday morning. In local stocks the features of the week were advances in Westinghouse Electric and Switch and Signal, and depression in gas and traction shares.

There was greater activity at the banks. Iron manufacturers reported more inquiry and a decidedly better feeling. Real estate of all kinds was in active demand and values were fully maintained. In short trade in all branches was of satisfactory proportions for the season, with good prospects of a steady enhancement. "We have passed the worst" was the general sentiment of representative men.

* * *

The features of the stock market yesterday were further advances in Electric and Switch and Signal, the former selling up to 46⅞, and the latter to 21. Recent decision favorably affecting the former, and good business prospects of both make them desirable investments, as is shown by the demand for them. Tractions and the gassers were the weak spots. La Noria was unchanged. The demand for it seems to have been fully supplied. There was the usual clamor for bank stocks, but only one small lot changed hands. Bids and offers were:

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

By Telegraph.

KANSAS CITY—Cattle—Receipts, 1,540 head: shipments, 563 head; best dressed beef and shipping steers, steady; medium, slow and weak; choice cows steady, and common dull; stockers and feeding steers, slow and weak; good to choice cornfed, $3 75@4 10; common to medium, $2 75@3 50; stockers and feeding steers, $1 60@3 15; cows, $1 25@2 70. Hogs—Receipts, 11,774 head; shipments, 611 head; market weak and full and 10c lower; good to choice, $4 50@4 55; common to medium, $4 25@4 40. Sheep—Receipts, 96 head; shipments, none; lambs, steady; good to choice muttons, $4 30@4 60; common to medium, $2 50@3 90.

CHICAGO—Cattle—Receipts, 2,000 head; shipments, 1,000 head; market slow and weaker; choice beeves, $4 00@4 25; steers, $2 90@3 90; stockers and feeders, $2 10@3 35; cows, bulls and mixed, $1 70@2 90. Hogs—Receipts, 16,000 head; shipments, 7,000 head; market strong and 5@10c higher; mixed, $4 60@4 80; heavy, $4 65@4 85; light, $4 60@4 90; skips, $3 75@4 40. Sheep—Receipts, 2,000 head; shipments, 1,000 head; market slow and weaker; natives, $3 50@5 00; western cornfed, $4 40@4 65; lambs, $4 75@6 00.

ST. LOUIS—Cattle—Receipts, 100 head; shipments, 800 head; steady; choice heavy native steers, $3 80@4 30; fair to good do, $3 10@3 90; stockers and feeders, $2 00@3 20; rangers, cornfed, $2 75@3 50; grass-fed, $1 90@2 80. Hogs—Receipts, 2,500 head; shipments, 2,500 head; strong; choice heavy and butchers, $4 70@4 85; packing, $4 60@4 75; light grades, $4 50@4 65. Sheep—Receipts, 700 head; shipments, 100 head; steady; fair to choice, $3 00@5 25.

BUFFALO — Cattle — Receipts, 800 head through; 140 head sale; strong feeling; shade higher; asking advanced prices; nothing sold. Sheep and lambs—Receipts, none through; 2,400 head sale; sheep active and 25c higher; choice, $4 75@5 15; lambs active and firm at $5 75@6 25. Hogs—Receipts, 3,240 head through; 900 head sale; active and 10@15c higher; mediums, $5; Yorkers, $5 15@5 25.

CINCINNATI — Hogs stronger; common and light, $4 00@4 70; packing and butchers', $4 65@4 90. Receipts, 1,800 head; shipments, 1,100 head.

Whisky Markets.

Finished goods are in good demand at $1 03.

DOMESTIC MARKETS.

Potatoes Plenty and Slow---Choice Apples in Good Demand.

DAIRY PRODUCTS STILL ACTIVE.

Bulls and Bears in a Life and Death Struggle.

CEREAL SUPPLY BEYOND DEMAND

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURG DISPATCH, SATURDAY, March 9, 1889.

Country Produce—Jobbing Prices.

Eggs are very firm at quotations. A choice article in small lots sells readily at 16c.

Cheese failed to keep up the record it made in former Lenten seasons, but is active and firm. Genuine butter goes off like hot cakes since oleomargarine has been knocked out. Trade in vegetables gives no sign of improvement. Potatoes are coming in freely and prices are if anything lower than in the fall. The same is true of onions, cabbage and turnips. Choice apples are in better demand. An improved demand for tropical fruits is also reported by dealers, especially for Florida oranges, which are growing scarce. In the line of dairy products and hen fruit, a leading dealer reports the week now closing as the best for trade since the beginning of the year.

While it cannot be said that there has been a revival of produce trade, the tone has improved in the past week or two, and the few mercy drops that have already come are greeted by commission men as omens of the coming shower for which all hope and pray.

BUTTER—Creamery, Elgin, 31@32c; Ohio do, 26@28c; fresh dairy packed, 20@23c; country rolls, 20@23c; Chartiers Creamery Co. butter, 31@32c.

BEANS—Choice medium, $2 00@2 10; choice peas, $2 05@2 15.

BEESWAX—23@25c ⅌ ℔ for choice; low grade, 16@18c.

CIDER—Sand refined, $6 50@7 50; common, $3 50@4 00; crab cider, $8 00@8 50 ⅌ barrel; cider vinegar, 10@12c ⅌ gallon.

CHEESE—Ohio cheese, fall make, 12@12½c; New York, fall make, 12½@13c; Limburger, 11½c; domestic Sweitzer cheese, 11½@12½c.

DRIED PEAS—$1 45@1 50 ⅌ bushel; split do, 2¾@3¼c ⅌ ℔.

EGGS—15@16c ⅌ dozen for strictly fresh.

FRUITS—Apples, $1 50@2 00 ⅌ barrel; evaporated raspberries, 25c ⅌ ℔; cranberries, $8 00 ⅌ barrel; $2 40@2 50 per bushel.

FEATHERS—Extra live geese, 50@60c; No. 1 do., 40@45c; mixed lots, 30@35c ⅌ ℔.

HOMINY—$2 65@2 75 ⅌ barrel.

HONEY—New crop, 16@17c; buckwheat, 13@15c.

POTATOES—Potatoes, 35@40c ⅌ bushel; $2 50@2 75 for Southern sweets; $3 25@3 50 for Jersey sweets.

POULTRY—Live chickens, 65@75c ⅌ pair; dressed chickens, 13@15c ⅌ pound; turkeys, 13@15c, dressed, ⅌ pound; ducks, live, 80@85c ⅌ pair; dressed, 13@14c ⅌ pound; geese, 10@15c per pound.

SEEDS—Clover, choice, 62 ℔s to bushel, $6 ⅌ bushel; clover, large English, 62 ℔s, $6 25; clover, Alsike, $8 50; clover, white, $9 00; timothy, choice, 45 ℔s, $1 85; blue grass, extra clean, 14 ℔s, $1 00; blue grass, fancy, 14 ℔s, $1 20; orchard grass, 14 ℔s, $2 00; red top, 14 ℔s, $1 00; millet, 50 ℔s, $1 25; German millet, 50 ℔s, $2 00; Hungarian grass, 48 ℔s, $2 00; lawn grass, mixture of fine grasses, 25c per ℔.

TALLOW—Country, 4½@5c; city rendered, 5@5½c.

TROPICAL FRUITS—Lemons, fancy, $3 00@4 00 ⅌ box; common lemons, $2 75 ⅌ box; Messina oranges, $2 50@3 50 ⅌ box; Florida oranges, $3 00@3 50 ⅌ box; Jamaica oranges, fancy, $5 00@5 50 ⅌ case; Malaga grapes, $5 50@7 00 ⅌ per keg; bananas, $2 50 firsts; $1 50@2 00, good seconds, ⅌ bunch; cocoanuts, $4 00@4 50 ⅌ hundred; new figs, 12@14c ⅌ pound; dates, 5½@6¾c ⅌ pound.

VEGETABLES—Celery, 40@50c doz. bunches; cabbages, $3 00@4 00 ⅌ 100; onions, 50c ⅌ bushel; Spanish onions, 75@90c ⅌ crate; turnips, 30@40c ⅌ bushel.

Groceries.

GREEN COFFEE — Fancy Rio, 21@22c; choice Rio, 20@21c; prime Rio, 20c; fair Rio, 18½@19c; old Government Java, 27c; Maracaibo, 22@23c; Mocha, 30½@31½c; Santos, 19@22½c; Caracas coffee, 20½@22c; peaberry, Rio, 20½@22c; Laguayra, 21@22c.

ROASTED (in papers)—Standard brands, 24c; high grades, 26@28c; old Government Java, bulk, 32½@33½c; Maracaibo, 27½@28½c; Santos, 23@24c; peaberry, 27c; peaberry Santos, 22@24c; choice Rio, 25½c; prime Rio, 23c; good Rio, 22½c; ordinary, 21½c.

SPICES (whole)—Cloves, 21@25c; allspice, 9c; cassia, 8@9c; pepper, 19c; nutmeg, 70@80c.

PETROLEUM (jobbers' prices)—110° test, 7c; Ohio, 120°, 8½c; headlight, 150°, 8½c; water white, 10½c; globe, 12c; elaine, 15c; carnadine, 11½c; royaline, 14c.

SYRUPS—Corn syrups, 26@29c; choice sugar syrup, 33@38c; prime sugar syrup, 30@33c; strictly prime, 33@35c.

N. O. MOLASSES—Fancy, 50c; choice, 48c; medium, 45c; mixed, 40@42c.

SODA—Bi-carb in kegs, 3½@4c; bi-carb in ½s, 5½c; bi-carb, assorted packages, 5¾@6c; sal-soda in kegs, 1⅜c; do granulated, 2c.

CANDLES—Star, full weight, 10½c; stearine, per set, 8½c; paraffine, 11@12c.

RICE—Head, Carolina, 7@7½c; choice, 6¾@7c; prime, 5½@6¼c; Louisiana, 6@6½c.

STARCH—Pearl, 3c; cornstarch, 5½@7c; gloss starch, 5½@7c.

FOREIGN FRUITS—Layer raisins, $2 65; London layers, $3 10; California London layers, $2 50; Muscatels, $2 25; California Muscatels, $1 85; Valencia, new, 6@7c; Ondara Valencia, 7½@7¾c; sultana, 8½c; currants, new, 4¾@5½c; Turkey prunes, new, 4¾@5c; French prunes, 8½@13c; Salonica prunes, in 2 ℔ packages, 8c; cocoanuts, per 100, $6 00; almonds, Lan., per ℔, 20c; do Ivica, 19c; do shelled, 40c; walnuts, nap., 12½@15c; Sicily filberts, 12c; Smyrna figs, 12½@16c; new dates, 5½@6c; Brazil nuts, 10c; pecans, 11@15c; citron, per ℔, 21@22c; lemon peel, per ℔, 13@14c; orange peel, 12½c.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples, sliced, per ℔, 6c; apples, evaporated, 6¼@6½c; apricots, California, evaporated, 15@18c; peaches, evaporated, pared, 22@23c; peaches, California, evaporated, unpared, 10@12½c; cherries, pitted, 21@22c; cherries, unpitted, 5@6c; raspberries, evaporated, 24@24½c; blackberries, 7½@8c; huckleberries, 10@12c.

SUGARS—Cubes, 7¾c; powdered, 7¾c; granulated, 7¼@7⅜c; confectioners' A, 6⅞c; standard A, 6⅞c; soft whites, 6⅝@6⅞c; yellow, choice, 6⅜@6½c; yellow, good, 6¼@6⅜c; yellow, fair, 6⅛c; yellow, dark, 5⅞c.

PICKLES—Medium, bbls. (1,200), $4 75; mediums, half bbls (600), $2 85.

SALT—No. 1 ⅌ bbl, 95c; No. 1 ex, ⅌ bbl, $1 05; dairy, ⅌ bbl, $1 20; coarse crystal, ⅌ bbl, $1 20; Higgin's Eureka, 4 bu sacks, $2 80; Higgin's Eureka, 16-14 ℔ pockets, $3 00.

CANNED GOODS—Standard peaches, $1 30@1 90; 2ds, $1 30@1 35; extra peaches, $1 50@1 90; pie peaches, 90c; finest corn, $1 00@1 50; Hfd. Co. corn, 70@90c; red cherries, 90c@$1 00; lima beans, $1 10; soaked do, 85c; string do do, 75@85c; marrowfat peas, $1 10@1 15; soaked peas, 70@75c; pineapples, $1 40@1 50; Bahama do, $2 75; damson plums, 95c; greengages, $1 25; egg plums, $2 00; California pears, $2 50; do greengages, $2 00; do egg plums, $2 00; extra white cherries, $2 90; red cherries, 2 ℔s, 90c; raspberries, $1 15@1 40; strawberries, $1 10; gooseberries, $1 20@1 30; tomatoes, 82½@92c; salmon, 1-℔, $1 75@2 10; blackberries, 80c; succotash, 2-℔ cans, soaked, 90c; do green, 2 ℔s, $1 25@1 50; corn beef, 2-℔ cans, $1 75; 14-℔ cans, $13 50; baked beans, $1 40@1 45; lobster, 1 ℔, $1 75@1 80; mackerel, 1-℔ cans, broiled, $1 50; sardines, domestic, ¼s, $4 15@4 50; sardines, domestic, ½s, $8 25@8 50; sardines, imported, ¼s, $11 50@12 50; sardines, imported, ½s, $18 00; sardines, mustard, $4 00; sardines, spiced, $4 25.

FISH—Extra No. 1 bloater mackerel, $36 ⅌ bbl.; extra No. 1 do, mess, $40; extra No. 1 mackerel, shore, $32; extra No. 1 do, messed, $36; No. 2 shore mackerel, $24. Codfish—Whole pollock, 4½c ⅌ ℔.; do medium George's cod, 6c; do large, 7c; boneless hake, in strips, 6c; do George's cod in blocks, 6¼@7½c. Herring—Round shore, $5 00 ⅌ bbl.; split, $7 00; lake $2 50 ⅌ 100-℔. half bbl. White fish, $7 ⅌ 100-℔. half bbl. Lake trout, $5 50 ⅌ half bbl. Finnan hadders, 10c ⅌ ℔. Iceland halibut, 13c ⅌ ℔.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—2½@2¾ ⅌ ℔.

OATMEAL—$6 30@6 60 ⅌ bbl.

MINERS' OIL—No. 1 winter strained, 58@60c ⅌ gallon. Lard oil, 75c.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

Total receipts bulletined at the Grain Exchange, 34 cars. By Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago, 7 cars of hay, 5 of oats, 6 of flour, 1 of middlings, 1 of wheat. By Pittsburg, Cincinnati and St. Louis, 2 cars of corn, 1 of flour, 5 of hay. By Baltimore and Ohio, 1 car of hay. By Pittsburg and Western, 1 car of hay, 1 of barley. By Pittsburg and Lake Erie, 3 cars of hay. The only sale on call was 1 car of No. 2 timothy hay, $12 25, 5 days, Pittsburg and Lake Erie. Another week closes without any activity in cereal markets. Wheat appears to be in the hands of speculators. One day bulls are on top, the next day it is bears. At latest accounts bears were in the ascendant. The fluctuations of May wheat have been 15c in the past two weeks. Markets for everything in grain and hay lines are in favor of buyers by a large majority. Flour is easy, and the drift is toward a lower level of prices, but wholesale dealers have as yet made no changes in prices. In job lots the best flour going can be had at $6 50 and the customer with cash might do even a little better than this. Total receipts bulletined at the Grain Exchange for the week were 217 cars against 231 last week.

WHEAT—Jobbing prices—No. 2 red, $1 05@1 06; No. 3 red, 93@98c.

CORN—No. 2 yellow, ear, 40½@41c; high mixed ear, 39½@40c; No. 1 yellow, shelled, 38@39c; No. 2 yellow, shelled, 37½@38c; high mixed, shelled, 36@37c; mixed, shelled, 35@36c.

OATS—No. 2 white, 32@32½c; extra No. 3, 31@31½c; No. 3 white, 30@30½c; No. 2 mixed, 28@29c.

RYE—No. 1 Western, 60@61c; No. 2, 55@56c.

BARLEY—No. 1 Canada, 95@98c; No. 2 Canada, 85@88c; No. 3 Canada, 70@72c; Lake Shore, 78@80c.

FLOUR—Jobbing prices, winter patents, $6 50@6 75; spring patents, $6 75@7 00; fancy straight, winter and spring, $5 75@6 00; clear winter, $5 25@5 50; straight XXXX bakers', $5 00@5 25. Rye flour, $4 00.

MILLFEED—Middlings, fine white, $18 00@20 00 ⅌ ton; brown middlings, $14 50@15 00; winter wheat bran, $14 75@15 25; chop feed, $15 00@18 00.

HAY—Baled timothy, choice, $15 00@15 25; No. 1 do, $14 25@14 50; No. 2 do, $12 00@13 00; loose from wagon, $18 00@20 00; No. 1 upland prairie, $9 75@10 00; No. 2, $8 00@8 50; packing do, $6 50@7 00.

STRAW—Oats, $8 00@8 25; wheat and rye straw, $7 00@7 25.

Provisions.

Hogs were advanced 10c at Chicago to-day. Mess pork and lard are on the rising scale. While prices here are unchanged it cannot be many days with the present situation of markets that higher prices will be reached.

Sugar-cured hams, large, 10½c; sugar-cured hams, medium, 10¾c; sugar-cured hams, small, 11c: sugar-cured breakfast bacon, 10c; sugar-cured shoulders, 8¼c; sugar-cured boneless shoulders, 9½c; sugar-cured California hams, 8½c; sugar-cured dried beef flats, 8c; sugar-cured dried beef sets, 9c; sugar-cured dried beef rounds, 11c; bacon shoulders, 7½c; bacon clear sides, 8½c; bacon clear bellies, 8½c; dry salt shoulders, 6⅝c; dry salt clear sides, 7¾c. Mess pork, heavy, $14 00; mess pork, family, $14 50. Lard—Refined in tierces, 7c; half barrels, 7¼c; 60-℔ tubs, 7⅜c; 20 ℔ pails, 7⅝c; 50-℔ tin cans, 7⅛c; 3-℔ tin pails, 7¾c; 5-℔ tin pails, 7⅝c; 10-℔ tin pails, 7½c. Smoked sausage, long, 5c; large, 5c. Fresh pork links, 9c. Pigs feet, half barrel, $3 75; quarter barrel, $1 75.

Dressed Meat.

Armour & Co. furnish the following prices on dressed meats: Beef carcasses, 450 to 550 ℔s, 5c; 550 to 650 ℔s, 6c; 650 to 750 ℔s, 6½c. Sheep, 7c ⅌ ℔. Lambs, 8½c ⅌ ℔. Hogs, 6½c.

MARKETS BY WIRE.

Failure of a Bold Attempt to Hold Up the Wheat Market—A Break All Along the Line, With a Panicky Feeling.

CHICAGO—A large business was transacted in wheat to-day and a weak and panicky feeling was developed. May wheat opened 1c lower, held steady for a while and recovered ½c of the decline, then became weak and declined 3¼c, or to a point 3⅜c below yesterday's closing, improved some and closed easy and about 3⅜c lower than yesterday. June also declined 3¼c below yesterday's closing and closed 3c lower. July declined 2½c below yesterday's closing and closed 1⅜c lower.

At the opening there was a feint made to hold the market under fair buying by a prominent local trader, and the market even advanced some, but when it dropped back to the opening figure it was discovered that the early support was wanting, that the peg around $1 01½ for May had been removed, as it were, and with free speculative offerings the market broke badly all around, and a great deal of long wheat came out on the decline. The break was no doubt assisted considerably by the reported financial panic in Paris. Favorable crop prospects here and improved conditions in California on account of rain also had a weakening effect.

There was only a moderate trade in corn, the activity of the other markets withdrawing interest from the pit and fluctuations were confined within ⅝c range.

Oats were active, excited and weak. Several heavy lines were unloaded, one operator disposing of 500,000 bushels. Shorts bought heavily, but prices declined ⅜c, rallied ⅛c and closed easy and ⅛@⅜c lower than yesterday.

Mess pork was active and irregular. Early prices advanced 20@25c, then receded 25@30c, but recovered 5@7½c.

Lard was moderately active, but unsettled. The price advanced 2½@5c, declined 10@12½c, recovered 2½@5c and closed steady. Short ribs followed about the same course.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

WHEAT—No. 2 March, 98¼@98¼@96¾@96¾c; May, $1 01½@1 02@98¼@98¾c; July, 88@88@86½@86¾c; June, 95¼@95¼@93@93¾c.

CORN—No. 2 March, 34⅜@34⅜@34¼@34¼c; May, 35⅞@36@35⅝@35⅝c; June, 35⅝@35⅝@35½@35½c.

OATS—No. 2 March, 24⅞@24⅞@24½@24½c; May, 26½@26½@25¾@26c; June, 26¼@26¼@25⅞@26c.

MESS PORK, per bbl.—March, $11 80; May, $12 00@12 25@11 95@12 00; June, $12 07½@12 27½@12 07½@12 07½.

LARD, per 100 ℔s.—March, $6 87½@6 92½@6 82½@6 82½; May, $6 95@7 00@6 87½@6 90; June, $7 05@7 05@6 92½@6 95.

SHORT RIBS, per 100 ℔s.—March, $6 17½; May, $6 27½@6 37½@6 22½@6 25; June, $6 40@6 30@6 30.

Cash quotations were as follows: Flour quiet and unchanged: No. 2 spring wheat, 96¼@96⅝c; No. 3 spring wheat 85¾@93c; No. 2 red, 96¼@96⅝c. No. 2 corn, 34½@34⅝c; No. 2 oats, 24¾c. No. 2 rye, 42c. No. 2 barley, nominal. No. 1 flaxseed, $1 49. Prime timothy seed, $1 36@1 37. Mess pork, per barrel, $11 95@12 00. Lard, per 100 lbs, $6 85@6 87½. Short ribs sides (loose), $6 20. Receipts—Flour, 6,000 barrels; wheat, 31,000 bushels; corn, 16,000 bushels; oats, 74,000 bushels; rye, 1,000 bushels; barley, 48,000 bushels. Shipments—Flour, 8,000 barrels; wheat, 20,000 bushels; corn, 123,000 bushels; oats, 99,000 bushels; rye, 1,000; barley, 39,000 bushels.

On the Produce Exchange to-day the butter market was unchanged. Eggs unchanged.

NEW YORK—Flour dull and heavy and 5@10c lower in some instances. Wheat—Spot dull and ⅛@⅜c lower; options dull and ⅜@⅝c lower. Cornmeal steady. Rye quiet. Barley quiet. Barley malt dull. Corn—Spot dull and weaker; options dull and easier. Oats—Spot firm and quiet; options steady and quiet. Hay firm and in good demand: shipping, 65c; good to choice, 85@95c. Hops firm and quiet. Coffee—Options opened steady and 5@25 points up; closed barely steady and unchanged to 5 points up from yesterday; sales, 40,500 bags, including March, 17.15@17.20c; April, 17.05@17.20c; May, 17.10@17.25c; June, 17.15@17.35c; July, 17.30@17.45c; August, 17.40@17.55c; September, 17.50@17.70c; October 17.60@17.75c; November, 17.60@17.80c; December, 17.70@17.85c; January 17.80c; spot Rio less firm, fair cargoes, 19c. Sugar—Raw strong; refined firm and in fair demand. Molasses—Foreign strong; 50° test, 22½c; New Orleans quiet; open kettle, good to fancy, 28@42c. Rice quiet and firm; domestic 4⅝@6¾c; Japan, 4¾@6¼c. Cottonseed oil steady; crude, 42@43c; yellow, 48c. Tallow steady and quiet; sales of city at 4¾c. Rosin steady and quiet; strained, common to good, $1 15@1 17½. Turpentine barely steady at 51½@51½c. Eggs—Stated Western, 14½c; receipts, 5,122 packages. Pork firm; cut meats quiet; pickled bellies, 6⅞c; do shoulders, 5⅝c; do hams, 9¾@10c. Lard steadier and quiet; sales of western steam at $7 30; city, $6 85; March, $7 29; April, $7 29; May, $7 33; June, $7 30; July, $7 32; August, $7 32; September, $7 38, closing at $7 36. Butter steady and in fair demand; Western dairy, 14@21c; creamery, 18@28c; Elgin's, 29@29½c. Cheese quiet and steady; Western, 9½@11½c.

ST. LOUIS—Flour firm and market inactive owing to light demand. Wheat lower: all other markets on down grade and general advices of of a bearish tendency led to free selling and a decline of 1⅜@1½c. Buying was active and the close was somewhat firmer at ¼c for May and ⅜c for July above the bottom: No. 2 red, cash, 94½c; May, 94⅜@95½c, closing at 94⅜c; July, 81⅝@82⅝c, closing at 81⅝c. Corn weak: No. 2 mixed, cash, 29c; May, 30¾c, closing at 30⅝c asked; July, 32⅝@32½@32⅜c, closed at 32⅝@32⅜c bid; August, 33⅜c, closed at 33⅜c. Oats easy: No. 2 cash, 25c bid: May 27@27⅜c. Rye dull; No. 2, 43½c. Barley—Neglected. Flaxseed, $1 45. Provisions quiet.

CINCINNATI — Flour dull. Wheat dull, nominal; No. 2 red, 95@96c; receipts, none; shipments, 1,000 bushels; Corn weaker; No. 2 mixed, 35c. Oats quiet; No. 2 mixed, 26½c. Rye, dull; No. 2, 52c. Pork barely steady at $12 25. Lard easy at $6 90. Bulkmeats and bacon steady. Butter steady. Sugar stronger. Eggs steady. Cheese firm.

MILWAUKEE — Flour steady. Wheat easy; cash, 88⅝c; May, 89⅜c; July, 87⅜c. Corn firmer; No. 3, 31½@32c. Oats dull; No. 2 white, 27@28c. Rye steady; No. 1, 43½c. Barley dull; No. 2, 57c. Provisions easier. Pork at $11 80. Lard at $6 82½. Cheese quiet; cheddars at 11@12c.

PHILADELPHIA — Flour—Demand very light and prices weak. Wheat—Options neglected and closed 1½@2c lower; higher grades quiet but steady. Corn—Demand light but prices firm. Oats—Carlots very quiet but prices steadily held.

BALTIMORE—Provisions quiet and unchanged. Butter steady; best roll, 14@18c; creamery, 27@28c. Eggs firmer at 13½@14c. Coffee quiet; Rio, fair, 18⅜@19c.

TOLEDO—Cloverseed dull and steady; cash, March, $4 80; April, $4 75; shipments, 632 bags.

Mining Stocks.

NEW YORK, March 9.—Mining quotations closed: Amador, 100; Belcher, 270; Best & Belcher, 395; Bodie, 120; Chollar, 250; Crown Point, 425; Consolidated California and Virginia, 762; Commonwealth, 450; Deadwood T, 150; Eureka Consolidated, 200; El Cristo, 120; Gould and Curry, 245; Hale and Norcross, 370; Horn Silver, 120; Iron Silver, .325; Mutual, 140; Ophir, 512; Plymouth, 1,087; Savage, 275; Sierra Nevada, 285; Silver Cord, 100; Union Consolidated, 350; Yellow Jacket, 360.

Metal Markets.

NEW YORK—Pig iron firm and quiet. Copper offered more freely; only nominal bids; awaiting further developments, Lake, March, $15 55. Lead dull and firm; domestic, $3 75. Tin quiet and steady; straits, $21 30.

Other Oil Markets.

OIL CITY, March 9.—National transit certificates opened, 91⅛c; highest, 91⅛c; lowest, 90⅝c; closed, 90⅝c.

BRADFORD, March 9.—National transit certificates opened at 91c; closed at 90⅝c; highest, 91⅛c; lowest, 90⅝c.

TITUSVILLE, March 9.—National transit certificates opened at 91⅛c; highest, 91⅛c; lowest, 90⅝c; closed, 90⅝c.

NEW YORK, March 9.—Petroleum opened dead at 91c, and, after a slight advance in the early trading, became weak and declined to 90⅝c. A slight reaction followed, on which the market closed steady at 90⅝c. Consolidated Exchange—Opening, 91c; highest, 91⅛c; lowest, 90⅝c; closing, 90⅝c. New York Stock Exchange—Opening, 91⅛c; highest, 91⅛c; lowest, 90⅝c; closing, 90⅝c. Sales, 551,000 barrels.

Wool Markets.

ST. LOUIS—Wool quiet, dull and unchanged.

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