

TALES OF THE PINERIES

BY HAZEL GARLAND.

A LYNCHING IN MOSINEE

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The Dimplebacks were defeated, the Ripapagins were victorious, and Mosinee, like countless other towns that night, was in an uproar of jubilation such as had not been seen since the celebration of the great Dimpleback victory of 1885, after successive defeats for a quarter of a century.

Every school yawned like a crater and uttered noises like the mouth of hell. Laughter was loud and noisy and then the shrill convulsions of a drunken lumberman rose above the clamor, the trample, the clatter of passing teams and the braying of tin horns.

All the county was in Mosinee. The Ripapagins had assembled for the parade, and the Dimplebacks were there to look on and jeer. It was the day after the presidential election. New York had been carried, and that settled it. The parade was hurried forward at once, and preparations for speeches and bonfires went forward simultaneously. Very little business was doing. All trade, all talk was of the election and its results.

Dan Clark, the sheriff (and a Dimpleback), was not depressed. As he sat at supper with his wife, in the county jail, that night, he said, prophetically: "Just you wait, Annie. They're going to pass high tariff bill, and then you'll hear something drop. The people won't stand it."

"Mrs. Clark was a small woman with a round face and piercing blue eyes, with little outward indication of the courage she was known to possess. "Are you going out again to-night?" she asked.

"Yes, I'm a little afraid of trouble. The town is full of hands from the mills and camps, and the saloons are all open. Why? Want to go down and see the parade?"

"No, but something is going on in there," she said, looking toward the prison part of the house.

"So? What makes you think so?" "Well, they've been pretty lively in there—singing a good deal, and I've caught Jack and Shorty talking to each other suspiciously."

"Confound 'em! What do they take on tonight for? Well, I won't be gone long. I'll look in, before going down."

As they ate their supper, the far-off clanging of the prisoners' voices could be heard as they sang in their cells. It was a wild sound, but Mrs. Clark was used to it, and paid attention to it only as one might study the mean of the

wind as a sign of the weather. She was almost as renowned as Dan; for once, alone, she had quelled a murderous row, and at the point of a revolver had driven six escaping convicts back into their cells. Like many county jails in the west, the building was divided into dwelling and prison by a heavy wall cutting the building through the middle. A heavy door opened from the hall of the dwelling into a main corridor running at right angles to the wall of the house. This main corridor was in turn separated from the corridor before the cells by a heavy iron grating. There were two stories of cells, and during the day the prisoners had the run of the entire prison proper.

The change from Mrs. Clark's pleasant dining-room, to this prison, was as sudden as it was gruesome. A dim light at noonday, a sepulchral light at night, a cold clammy place at all hours; badly ventilated, having that indelible, sickening odor which becomes an intolerable horror to the sensitive prisoner; and, worst of all, nothing for the convicts to do. Their quarters were clean, in a way, food abundant enough, but no employment. Modern civilization is slow in finding its way into a county jail and almshouse. In such an atmosphere guilty men (not to mention possible innocent cases), grow listless, morbid, bitter, even insane, and go back into the open sunlight educated to crimes. If such prisoners were once excusable, they are no longer.

As Clark rose to go into the jail he could hear the song beginning again. He listened a little, critically.

"They're all right. A little excited, that's all. They hear the noise outside, and it stirs 'em up."

He appeared to be speaking of a den of leopards.

As he opened the door, the song burst through, hollow, reverberating, thrillingly wild.

"Light in the darkness, sailor. Day is at hand!"

These were the words, but the singers managed to give them the ferocity and abandon of a robber's yell in a resounding cove. Each man stood at the door of his cell, his face to the little grated window; thus each cell was a voice, and the iron walls vibrated like a violin.

As the door opened, some one gave a piercing whistle and instantly all fell silent.

"Hello, boys, what's the row?" "Our evening hymn, Dan," said a voice from the open tier of cells. "Well, don't say y'r prayers in that same key. Want the latest?"

"Yes, yes. Let's have it," shouted a half-dozen voices.

"The Ripas are in it. New York goes!"

"Some of the fellows cheered, others doubted. "Is it settled?"

"Well, yes. New York Herald concedes the victory."

"What's goin' on in town to-night?" asked one voice eagerly, wistfully.

"Parade," said Dan. "Now no more questions and don't make any more noise than is necessary."

"They're all right," he reported to his wife. "But I'll come back early. Keep your ear to the tube, and if you hear anything suspicious, send Julia down to Jim's."

When he got out into the street he found everybody else there, and the procession was nearly formed. Torches were flying here and there, the bandmaster was bawling the "fall in," and the main street roared with voices, in song, in whoop, and in jest.

The electric lights sputtered, dying almost out at times, to the derisive groans of the crowd. They had but lately been put up, and every evidence of failure was hailed with joy by some, and with abasmy by others.

Just behind the band Capt. Frank Willey, the master of ceremonies, had dismounted, and was arranging the boys' brigade, which was to lead. Willey was a cashier in the bank, and one of the finest men of the town, an almost universal favorite. Handsome, in his slouch hat, gold-braced coat, and his ruffled dark red sash, he was a great figure in the eyes of the boys, who held their flaming torches aloft with the gesture of veterans.

The crowd around the band was so thick it forced the passersby into the gutter, and the captain was saying, as the band struck up:

"Spread out, gentlemen. Don't crowd people onto the boys. All ready!"

A figure reeled off the sidewalk, toward the captain, with a revolver in his hand.

"Damn you, you're the man I've been looking for," he said, as he fired. The captain stiffened in his tracks, wavered a moment and fell.

"Take that," snarled the murderer again, as he fired a last shot and dung the revolver at the captain's face—then turned and walked away.

The unexpected finds men powerless to stir, and the fifty men who saw it stood appalled, unable to cry out or move till the man had passed on into the crowds further up the street.

Then a wild cry arose:

"Man killed!"

"Stop him—don't let him escape!" The house cry of murder reached Sheriff Clark, who was some distance down the street, talking with the city marshal.

"Trouble, Joe, come on!" cried Dan. They rushed toward the sound of the cries. There was a struggling mass of men just ahead of the band. Cars, wild cries and commands came from the group. Another smaller, silent swarm was concentrated around something on the ground across the street. Clark and the marshal rushed into the struggling mass.

Some one yelled: "The sheriff! Stand off!" and the crowd gave way before Dan's furious strokes as he fought his way toward the center.

"Kill him! Smash him!" yelled voices hoarse with passion. "Give 'im to me!" shouted Dan. As he laid hands on the wild-eyed, pallid, struggling wretch, foam was on his lips, his teeth were clenched, his face was bloody, his neck bare. He had been knocked down and trampled upon by the mob. He clung to Dan instinctively, but remained perfectly silent.

"I'm going down the street again. They need me. There's five thousand men out there, half of 'em full of whiskey, and Joe can't handle 'em alone."

A CHILD'S FAITH.

It is the Sweetest Thing on Earth in Its Simplicity.

The sweetest thing on earth is the faith of a little child. Who of us has not been comforted and made better and had our own faith brightened up through this innocent trust? Do you ever study closely the absolute faith child has in God and the power of the unseen? A little child is taught his prayers and told of God at an age when he cannot understand clearly, but he has faith in those who teach him, and through that a faith in a supreme being. This faith implanted in the little heart is greater than ever come to the mature heart, and oftentimes its strength and peculiarities are never realized by those who have taught it.

A little child whom I knew was playing by himself. His mother was sitting on the piazza "facing" the house. He had been running around the yard, picking flowers and gathering apples as they would fall from a tree. He assisted the apples to fall by occasionally throwing a stick or a stone at the tree. She finally heard him say:

"Do away, Dod, do away! Don't bodder me now."

And then he threw another stick. That one failed to bring down an apple. As he raised his hand and took aim again he said:

"Do away, I say! Tant 'oo want a minute?"

His mother called him to her and said: "Baby, to whom were you talking?"

"Dod," he replied in the most matter of fact tone.

"God," said the shocked mother. "Why, my child, where was he?"

"What did he say to me?"

"He said, 'Baby, baby! Don't throw stones, 'oo will hit the poor little birdies.'"

And the mother had nothing to say. Faith and conscience were taking care of the little soul, and teaching their lessons there in its own way.

Another time he was playing with a flying kite. He had indifferent success. There were storm clouds in the sky and the wind was fitful. He finally came running into the house for a piece of paper and a pencil. He said:

"I want to send a letter to Dod."

"What are you going to say?" asked his mother.

"I am doing to tell Dod that some naughty black angels won't let my kite do up."

"How will you get the note up to God, then?"

"Oh, Dod will send a good angel down for it. The angels know how to fly."

He scratched something on the paper, which to him was symbolic of his wishes, and his mother tied it to the kite and helped him to get it started on its mission. The wind had changed or grown stronger, and the kite sped up to the end of its linen thread. The little fellow was not at all surprised. His mother asked him why he thought God had received the letter. He said, "Es, I tink I saw a dear little white angel sitting on a cloud who took it to God."

The mother was worried as to what she would say to him when the Japanese intention came to her mind. He had written the white paper. His faith and ideas were so beautiful to her that she dreaded to dispel them in any way. She was saved an explanation. When the kite reached terra firma again the note was gone. She was surprised, but the faith of the child was so great that she looked for it and never mentioned it again.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Wit on the Stamp.

It must have been rather disconcerting to the declamatory speaker who, dispelling all technicalities, tried to storm his hearers by sheer force of eloquence, but who on uttering the words, "In the book of nature it is written," was interrupted by a quiet looking gentleman with a mild remark that he would "name the page."

Sometimes, however, the interrupter receives a "retort" concerning the letter he has gained, for, and a capital story illustrative of this is told of Lord Palmerston. His lordship, who was an inveterate joker, possessed a readiness of repartee and a quaint sense of humor that often stood him in good stead. Once when canvassing Hampshire in a "retort" concerning the letter he had gained, for, and a capital story illustrative of this is told of Lord Palmerston. His lordship, who was an inveterate joker, possessed a readiness of repartee and a quaint sense of humor that often stood him in good stead. Once when canvassing Hampshire in a "retort" concerning the letter he had gained, for, and a capital story illustrative of this is told of Lord Palmerston. His lordship, who was an inveterate joker, possessed a readiness of repartee and a quaint sense of humor that often stood him in good stead. 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