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NO. 45.

## TENDERNESS.

Not unto every heart is God's good gift  
Of simple tenderness allowed; we meet  
With love in my relations when we lift  
First to our lips the waters of life sweet.  
Love comes upon us with resistless power,  
Of careless passion, and with headstrong will,  
It plays around like April's breeze and shower,  
Or calm down, a rapid stream, and still  
It comes with blessedness to the heart.  
That welcomes it aright, or bitter fate!  
It wrings the bosom with so fierce a smart.  
That love, we cry, is crueler than hate.  
And then, ah me, when love has ceased to bloom,  
Our broken hearts cry out for tenderness.

We long for tenderness like that which hung  
About us lying on our mother's breast;  
A wish feeling that no pen nor tongue  
Can praise aright, since silence sings it best.  
A love, so far removed from passion's heat  
As from the chilliness of the dying fire;  
A love to lean on when the falling feet  
Begin to totter, and the eyes to tire.  
In youth's brief day-day hottest love we seek,  
The reddest roses, and the bluest blue,  
God grant that later blossoms, violet meek,  
May spring for us beneath life's Autumn skies  
God grant that some loving one be near to bless  
Our weary way with simple tenderness!

## Ike Brennan's Watch.

"If you think your cousin is a second  
young man, why say the word, if  
it's necessary to say anything. It's  
mean to shake and sigh, and shake a  
man's good name away with a shake of  
your head—that's what I think." And  
Ike Brennan pushed back his Panama,  
and looked with anything but approval  
upon Lyman Sneed, leaning in spotless  
white duck, against the China tree.

In spite of his dagger appearance, he  
was not a pleasant young man to look  
at. He had that uncertain, nervous  
and so irritating to the honest and pur-  
posive, and it stood written on his face  
that he had not loved a living soul. No,  
not even the pretty Nona Duval, whom  
he quit like to go and meet. He thought  
he loved her, but no feeling that pos-  
sessed him was a more thoroughly self-  
ish one.

His cousin, Dick Burleson, loved  
Nona—that was quite sufficient to make  
Lyman Sneed sure that she was neces-  
sary to his happiness, so he went  
eagerly now to meet her. Ike watched  
him up the street, muttering:

"Of two evils choose the least, but  
I've already noticed that women, of two  
men, choose the worst; wonder if little  
Nona'll do that same thing? Her father  
role through many a fight by his side—  
calculate I'll take sides here—yes, sir."

He rose slowly, lifted his rifle, and  
went trailing up the hot avenue. He  
was on the lookout for Dick, and very  
soon found himself among a lot of  
rough teamsters who were looting in  
one of the principal stores. Dick was  
reading to them a New York paper, and  
backing up his own side of some politi-  
cal question with considerable fervor.  
The men were pulling their beards and  
listening with that true Texan pluck  
which might at any moment plunge into  
any reasonable passion.

He waited until the end of one of  
Dick's flowing periods, and then said:  
"That, Dick, that'll do for the busi-  
ness of the United States; supposing  
now you come with me and look after  
your own a spell."

It was so unusual for Ike Brennan to  
meddle in any one's affairs that Dick  
gave instant heed to his invitation, and  
with a final broadside of splendid ad-  
jectives for his own party, he joined Ike,  
and they sat down together in the first  
quiet, shady seat.

"Lyman Sneed is playing the mischiev-  
ous game of your good name, Dick. It's  
against my habit to look after anybody's  
but my own, but I've reasons contrary  
to this time."

"Lyman Sneed! He is, is he?" And  
Dick instinctively put his hand on the  
leather sheath that held his knife.

"No tools, Dick, of that kind. It's  
me that's making this quarrel, you  
know, and I let nobody do my fight-  
ing."

"What did he say?"  
"That is it; he says nothing you can  
get hold of. Pities his uncle—pities  
Nona Duval—and is sorry you will—"

"What?"  
"He don't say—shakes his head and  
shrugs his shoulders, and the shaking  
and shrugging stand for drinking,  
gambling, or anything you like to  
make it."

"I'll tell Lyman Sneed—"  
"You'll say neither good nor bad,  
Dick. Lyman is like a pine cone—if  
don't burn he blackens. Only don't  
throw your chances away for Lyman to  
pick up—that is just what he wants you  
to do—give in a bid to the old man; he  
oughtn't creation of you, and if you  
won't try to please him, why Lyman  
will, that's all."

"I'm not going to take my politics  
and my opinions from uncle Jack Bur-  
leson—no, not for all his hog-wallow  
prairie, and his cattle and gold and  
old thrown in."

"He is an old man, Dick. Life is a  
country Jack Burleson has got pretty  
thoroughly over—stands to reason he  
knows more 'an you."

"He contradicts me half the time for  
the very sake of a fight. He does not  
go to court now, and he has no lawyers  
or juries to bully. But he won't make  
Dick Burleson say black is white to  
please him—you bet he won't."

"Dick, you are right, darned if you  
aren't! But old Jack is wise and  
good, and knows a sight more 'an is  
written in books. Say 'yes' when you can."

"And don't meddle in my fights,  
Dick. If Lyman Sneed needs a hiding  
I know just how much will be good for  
him."

Dick saw that the conversation was  
over, and, looking at his watch, saw  
also that he was behind office hours.  
As it happened, a number of trifles had  
irritated the old lawyer, and Lyman's  
lifted eyebrows and ostentatious dilige-  
nce irritated Dick. He flung his  
books on a desk, dashed his hat in a  
corner, and lifted his feet to a com-  
fortable attitude. His big boots and  
loose flannel hunting shirt gave his  
uncle great offense, and he said so.

Dick replied that "he had been talk-

ing with the Lavacca teamsters and had  
forgotten to dress."

"Lavacca teamsters, indeed! I don't  
see what makes you run after every  
drover that comes in town."

"I was getting their votes for my  
side, uncle; and making friends against  
the day I want their votes for myself."

A flash of keen pleasure shot into the  
old man's eyes; but he was too full of  
fight to abandon the dispute. He first  
attacked Dick's politics, then his personal  
appearance and abilities, without being  
consciously now provoking he was.

"One bitter word followed another, till  
all three men were on their feet, and  
Lyman, with a little scream, had rushed  
in between his uncle and cousin. Dick  
laughed uproariously at the interven-  
tion, and kicking him out of his way,  
said:

"Good-bye, uncle; I'm not going to  
quarrel any more with you. The world  
is big enough, I reckon, for both of us  
—and our opinions."

He went straight to Ike, who was  
sitting just where he had left him, and  
said:

"Ike, tell uncle in a couple of days  
on the way West, and that there's  
no ill blood between us—and, Ike,  
watch Nona for me until I come after  
her."

"You are bound to go, then?"  
"Yes, the old man is better, and I am  
gunpowder; we are here apart—  
that's all."

"Go long, then; I'll watch what  
you leave behind."

Dick felt uneasy enough at leav-  
ing Nona. She lived alone with her  
father, and he was not always the best  
of protectors. Dick spent the rest of  
the day by her side, and left town in  
the cool of the evening in no very  
despondent mood. Nona had promised  
everything he asked of her, and all the  
rest seemed possible.

He had some land and cattle on the  
San Marcos, and he purposed putting  
up a pretty house there gradually,  
mainly with his own hands. In two  
years he would sell some of his increase,  
purchase a farm, and run for the Legisla-  
ture. When he went back he would put  
all right with his uncle, and, being so far  
apart, they could keep quiet; and if not,  
and he lost his share of Jack Burleson's  
estate, made money was better than  
any money anyway.

For a week after Dick's departure  
the old man hoped against hope, but  
one day, when Ike Brennan carelessly  
asked, "What is Dick coming back  
from the West?" he knew that the  
lad had gone to shift for himself,  
and, lonely as it left him, he thoroughly  
liked Dick for doing it. After this Ike  
and the Judge spent much time to-  
gether. They kept up a perpetual  
quarrel, but they were well matched,  
and after a year's disputing, the vic-  
tory on every single point was a dis-  
puted one. Sometimes, at the end of a  
long argument, and a long silence, the  
Judge would say, "Have you heard  
anything?" and then Ike, shaking his  
head, and shaking the ashes from his  
pipe, would rise and go away.

Early in the second year the Judge  
had an accident that completely in-  
valided him, and, after some months' de-  
cline he quietly passed away. Singu-  
larly enough there was no will found,  
and Lyman Sneed took possession of  
everything. No Dick appeared to dis-  
pute the claim, and he smoked away in  
his old shady corner, and smiled queerly  
at himself when he saw how diligently  
Lyman began to improve the city lots,  
and how cleverly he collected and in-  
vested the outstanding accounts of the  
estate.

In all but one way Lyman's fortune  
prospered—Nona still refused all his  
attempts. But as soon as the Judge  
was dead he began to use stronger  
means of persuasion. Nona's father  
owed him a large sum, and their home  
was mortgaged to him. Lyman's  
son-in-law and daughter see on  
what terms only the Duval place could  
be saved, and the father cared too much  
for his own indulgence not to press  
with all his power so desirable a method  
of clearing off his liabilities.

Nothing of this plan, however, came  
to Ike's knowledge, until one night,  
old Duval, in a fit of intoxication, re-  
vealed it. Then he went home full of  
anxiety. He had no money that would  
touch Nona's needs, and he had not yet  
heard anything from Dick. "I'd give  
twenty of my best cows to know if the  
fellow was alive or dead," he said, as  
he pushed open the latched door of  
his log cabin. A man was sitting in his  
own chair fast asleep.

"Dick at last!"  
One soul opened another, and Dick  
opened his eyes and answered:  
"Here I am, Ike."

"You tormenting youngster, where  
have you been?"  
"Everywhere, Ike, and precious  
little I got, either. At last I went to  
Yuba and Nevada, and tried hard to  
make my pile. Two months ago Jim  
Harrison strayed up there and told me  
uncle was dead and Nona going to  
marry Lyman Sneed. I couldn't stand  
that, and so I came along with what I  
had."

"How much?"  
"Only \$8000."

"That's enough. I guess you'll find  
yourself richer than you think."

The next morning Nona Duval com-  
pletely amazed Lyman Sneed by enter-  
ing his office, accompanied by Ike  
Brennan, and paying in full every  
claim which he had upon the Duval  
place, but he was still more amazed by  
an official notice to meet next day the  
heirs of Jack Burleson, and hear his  
will read. He found at the place ap-  
pointed Dick Burleson, Nona Duval,  
Ike Brennan, and three of the principal  
citizens of the place. The will, leaving  
everything to Dick, was without  
a flaw. Lyman simply received \$100  
for each month during which he had  
taken care of the estate.

"He took very good care of it, gentle-  
men," said Ike; "just as good as if he  
thought Dick would never come back.  
He has earned his money, you bet. But  
I'm glad my watch is over—very. I  
have been kept too wide awake for any-

thing, between a pretty woman and a  
clever lawyer."

## The Land Crab of Jamaica.

This crustacean is found in other  
parts of the West Indian Islands besides  
Jamaica in limited numbers. In the  
latter island they roam in large num-  
bers, furnishing food for many months  
of the year to a mass of the population,  
and truly they are delicious, as the  
most fastidious epicure admits on the  
first taste. They are in size about four  
to six inches in length by three broad,  
and weigh about eight ounces each.

They live in holes in the rocks in the  
mountainous parts of the island, and at  
certain seasons of the year (from March  
to May) collect in vast armies, and  
march down to the sea-shore to wash  
off the spawn. At this time they are  
very fat, and filled with a rich mass of  
eggs, and are then in their prime con-  
dition as food. They march straight  
on, not turning out of their way for  
any obstacle. If they meet a house  
they try to climb over it, and numbers  
fall and are killed in the attempt. On  
arriving at the seashore the females go  
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