



Solitary Confinement.

BY HELEN FORREST GRAVES.

The brief, decisive battle was over. The seven-year-old enemy routed, though not subdued, was carried off, kicking, in his nurse's arms, screaming at the very pitch of his infantile lungs. "I won't! I won't! I wo-o-o-n't be a good boy!" while the last glimpse his mother caught was a scarlet countenance where the heels should be, and the two be-slipped feet oscillating like human pendulums.

Mrs. Jessamy looked after little Tommy in maternal tribulation.

"Do let me go to him, Solomon!" she pleaded, "I am sure I could quiet him."

But Mr. Jessamy—a bald-headed sage of five-and-fifty, with round goggles that gave a preternaturally wise expression to his countenance, and a spotless white waistcoat, festooned with seals and chains—laid a detaining hand on her arm.

"Sarah," quoth he, oracularly, "I am astonished at this very culpable weakness on your part. The boy has committed a great fault in thus giving way to an uncontrolled temper, and he must be punished accordingly."

"But, Solomon, he is such a mite of a thing!" pleaded the mother, piteously.

"That makes no difference. My dear, solitary confinement, on bread and water, is what will break his spirit."

"But he may come out to supper, Solomon?"

Mr. Jessamy settled the goggles on the bridge of his nose, with an aristocratic dignity of movement.

"He will remain in the back store-room until tomorrow morning, Sarah."

"Alone?" gasped the nervous mother.

"Alone!" pronounced the domestic grand mogul. "Believe me there is nothing like solitary confinement. It has been proved, my dear, more than a score of times. That boy of yours"—Mr. Jessamy spoke as if he himself had nothing whatever to do with the proprietorship of Master Tommy—"has a temper, and that temper has got to be broken. Pray, Mrs. Jessamy, do not annoy me with any further misguided intercessions."

And thus pronouncing his ultimatum, Mr. Jessamy stalked out into the garden, to view the ripening globes of netted melons and the budding tuberoses, for Mr. Jessamy was a man of hobbies, and the latest hobby was horticulture, the more satisfactorily to ride which he had rented this little villa on the banks of the Schuykill, with an abundance of gables, honeysuckle leafage and water fountains.

"Simmons!" said Mr. Jessamy, sharply, as he stood with both hands in his pockets surveying his domains.

"Sir!" grunted Simmons—a lank specimen of the genus general gardener, who appeared to exist with a spade over his shoulder and a measuring-line half-way out of his pocket.

"How are the egg-plants?"

"Getting along nicely, sir."

"And the cherry tomatoes?"

"Well, sir, the dry weather helps 'em along amazin'."

"And, Simmons—"

Mr. Jessamy bent down, settled his goggles and then resettled them.

"Sir."

"Where is the big melon that I had here—a watermelon, Simmons, on a slate, just close to this stake?"

"Well, sir, I up and throwed it away," owned Simmons; "for what a watermelon, sir, was doin' among them cantelopes—"

"You scoundrel! You rascal!" roared Mr. Jessamy. "How dared you do such a thing? Do you know, sir, that you have frustrated one of the finest scientific experiments of the age—a watermelon grafted on the stem of the cantelope vine—grafted by my own hands? And you to go and throw it away as if it were a blighted pumpkin or a half-ripe squash! How dared you, I say? Villain! wretch! get out of my sight!"

And Mr. Jessamy, stopping short in his infuriated war-dance, made such a dive at poor Simmons that that worthy, fearing for his bodily preservation, whisked around among the young cauliflowers and ran for his life, crashing through hot-bed sashes and entangling his long ankles in mats of sweet potato vines.

"I never knowed a gentleman with such a temper before!" panted Simmons, as he bolted head foremost into his tool-shed, among a grove of dahlia poles and flower pots. "It's as much as a poor workin' man's life is worth to live with him!"

Mr. Solomon Jessamy, left alone with his blighted "scientific experiment," danced around about it, in a frenzy of wrath, uttering mingled lamentations and maledictions.

Suddenly a hand was clapped on his shoulder, and a hoarse, chuckling voice rumbled into his ear:

"I've got you now!"

"Who are you?" barked out Mr. Jessamy, turning so abruptly that the goggles fell off his nose and tumbled into the grass. "Are you aware, sir, that you are trespassing on private property?"—to a second individual, tall and spare, and apprehensive-looking, who kept at a safe distance.

"Come, now, none of that!" cried he, as Mr. Jessamy tried to wriggle out of the grasp of the stouter and shorter of the two, who was holding him, as it were, in a vise. "No violence—it will do no good. Solitary confinement—that is the thing! Hold on to him tight, Fisk! That's right. Into the boat with him!"

And, before Mr. Jessamy could raise his voice to halloo for help, they were darting down the river as fast as strong arms and a pair of broad-bladed oars could propel them.

"What is the meaning of this—this outrage?" he panted.

"Solitary confinement—that's the thing!" said the tall man—solitary confinement!"

Mr. Jessamy stared; a curious sensation came over him, as if he were his own seven-year-old boy, going to be shut up for getting into a passion.

"Eh!" he faltered, "Am I mad?"

The short, stout man grinned; the tall one nodded oracularly.

"A lucid interval, most probably," said he. "All the better, Simpson; it won't be necessary to handcuff him."

Mr. Jessamy jumped up in the boat.

The tall man and the short man fell on him with one accord, and forced him back into his seat; and almost at the same moment, the boat drew up at a little pier or landing, half hidden in water willows.

"Whither are you taking me?" breathlessly demanded our hero.

"Solitary confinement—solitary confinement—that's the only thing," murmured the tall man, taking snuff.

"Sir, are you mad?" cried Mr. Jessamy.

"No; but you be!" said the short stout man. "Easy now, Mr. Parrott!"

"That's not my name," said Mr. Jessamy. "There's some mistake here."

"Oh, no, there ain't!" said the man. "You're Malaichi Parrott, and you've escaped from the Sanitary Home; but I guess you won't ag'in!"

My name is Solomon Jessamy, and I won't be made a madman in spite of myself!"

"Gammon!" said the assistant keeper of the insane asylum. "I've heard such stories afore."

And, in spite of his remonstrances, Mr. Jessamy was hurried off to a dreary stone building, up an immensity of stairs into a small room, with a barred window, an iron bedstead and a three-legged stool, with the agreeable prospect of passing the night therein as a recaptured lunatic.

As the iron door banged upon him with the "click! click!" of a spring lock, and an indescribable sensation of loneliness crept over him, he thought of poor little Tommy, in the dark bed-room, supperless, and sorely in fear of ghouls and goblins.

"If I ever get out of this alive," thought he, "I'll adopt a new system of discipline toward the boy—hanged if I don't!"

But just as the dismal shadows of dusk were beginning to gather in the angles of the cell, the spring lock clicked again, and the moon-like countenance of the keeper beamed in.

"It's all a mistake," said he; "and it never would have happened if we and Mr. Ellys hadn't been new hands.

We've found Parrott down fishing in the woods. And Mr. Ellys, he hopes you ain't been seriously discommoded, sir, while he's ready to make all apologies. Anything we can do for you, sir?"

Mr. Jessamy grew scarlet.

"I shall lay this matter before the proper authorities, you may rest assured!" said he. "This—this atrocious assault shall not go unpunished!"

And he stalked dignifiedly out of the "Sanitary Home," followed by the profuse apologies and protestations of the whole staff and faculty thereof.

"But we never should have suspected you," said the tall man, courtously, "if we had not seen you dancing and jumping around in such a peculiar fashion, sir."

When Mr. Jessamy reached home, his first act was to release little Tommy from the durance vile of the back store-room.

"I'll be a good boy now, pa," whined Tommy, with swollen eyelids and tear-besprinkled countenance.

"So will I, my son," said the philosopher.

"It's very wicked to get angry, ain't it, pa?"

"Very wicked, indeed, my son," said Mr. Jessamy.

And they had their supper together—a lobster, with plenty of cream toast, and peaches sliced in sugar—as amiably as possible.

How One Book Was Written.

Dr. Hoffman of Frankfort, Germany, whose "Shock-headed Peter" is one of the most famous child's books in the world, tells as a good joke how he happened to make it, for he is a quaint old German scientist, though good humored. One Christmas he had been searching high and low for a suitable picture book for his two-year-old son, but in vain. At last he purchased a blank copy book and told his wife he was going to make a picture book for the boy—"one he can understand, and in which the tedious morals 'be obedient,' 'be clean,' 'be industrious,' are brought home in a manner which impresses a young child."

Dr. Hoffman was the head physician of the Frankfort lunatic asylum, and knew nothing of drawing, but he set to work and produced the gruesome picture of all the naughty boys and girls which everybody knows. His child was delighted, and when some of his circle of literary friends saw it, they urged him to have it published before the boy spoiled it, and Dr. Loning the publisher, said he would bring it out.

"Well," said Dr. Hoffman, "give me eighty gulden (about twenty-five dollars), and try your fortune. Don't make it expensive, and don't make it too strong. Children like to tear books as well as to read them, and nursery books ought not to be heirlooms. They ought to last only a time." An edition of 1,500 was quickly sold, and now 175 editions have appeared in Germany and forty in England, and it has been translated into Russian, Swedish, Danish, Dutch, French, Italian, Portuguese, and it has penetrated India, Africa and Australia—Paper World.

Why The Colonel Was There.

Senator Walthall tells a story on himself, which is none the less good by reason of the fact that the scene is laid during the late Civil War. At that time the senator was a colonel in command of a Confederate regiment and had brought his men into position, occupying a sunken road. A Federal battery was pouring shot and shell all around the adjacent territory. This fire, however, passed over the regiment hidden in the roadway, and they were to all intents and purposes out of danger.

On the high bank in front of the place where Colonel Walthall stood was a giant pine tree about a dozen feet in circumference. Acting on the spur of the moment, the colonel thought a fine opportunity was presented to give his men an object lesson in personal bravery without any risk to himself. Accordingly he climbed up the bank and stood behind the pine tree. The next minute a shell struck the tree and sent a shower of bark and splinters flying in all directions, when Walthall overheard the following dialogue between two of his men lying in the roadway beneath:

"I tell you, Jim, it was a mighty good thing for the colonel that that pine tree was there."

"Yes, Tom," replied the other, "but if it hadn't been for the big tree the colonel would never have been there in the first place."—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

A watch which is in good running order in one year's time ticks 157,680,000 ticks

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

The watermelon grows wild all over Africa. It was cultivated in Egypt B. C. 2500.

Dr. Fayette Hall of New Haven, Ct., buried his pet parrot last week in a silk lined-coffin.

Thomas Finanigan, of Elmwood, Ind., is the happy owner of a four-legged Plymouth Rock rooster.

Among the curiosities that a Cobalt (Ct.) dentist left after his death were all the teeth that he had ever pulled.

Many of the inhabitants of India believe that elephants have a religion, and engage in acts of divine worship.

Little oak trees, an inch and a half in height, are grown by Chinese gardeners. They take root in thimbles.

Count Tolstol always replies to letters in the language in which they are written, and he gets letters in several languages.

A land-locked salmon was recently captured in Lake Quinsigamond, Worcester—the first of its kind ever seen in those waters.

Johann Kirchebner of Steinaeh, in the Austrian Tyrol, is a tanner. What's more, so have been the male Kirchebners before him for 366 years.

Chicago's board of education announces that it proposes to forbid the teachers in its employ to smoke pipes or cigarettes, or to chew gum.

The republic of Andora, in the Pyrenees, has a population of 6,000 and the republic of San Marino, in the Apennines, a population of 8,200.

A laborer grubbing roots recently in Bowmanville, Ill., found, three feet below the surface, and under the roots of a tree 300 years old, a fine three-pound stone axe.

They say that Grey never got a cent out of his immortal elegy, though his publisher made \$5,000 by it. Grey held that a poet should not degrade his art by taking money for it.

Dawson Oldham, a seventy-eight-year-old resident of White Hall, Ky., never has missed a sermon at the Methodist Church in that place in the forty years he has been a member.

In the private chapel at Windsor Castle, which is octagonal in shape, with a lantern roof, the Queen's pew is in the gallery, in the division next to the organ loft. The household sit below, the women on one side and the men on the other.

A gray African parrot owned by a family in Providence, R. I., has a vocabulary of 140 words, and can imitate the sound of a clanging bell with astonishing clearness. It is believed to be at least sixty years old, and has been in the possession of one owner for twenty-seven years.

The Absent-Minded Man Again.

The absent-minded man took his seat at the restaurant table, and, as usual, buried his face at once in a newspaper. A waiter placed a bill of fare, a napkin and a knife and fork in front of him, and stood two or three minutes unnoticed before asking:

"What shall I bring you sir?"

"What's that?" said the absent-minded man, starting up suddenly, not remembering what it was all about.

"What do you want for lunch, sir?" the waiter asked again.

"O, yes," said the absent-minded man, trying to collect his wits. "Bring me a cup of coffee and a ham sandwich."

The waiter supplied the order, and put a large pasteboard check for it down on the table, the absent-minded man continued to read his paper. The waiter went away to attend to the wants of other people, and about 15 minutes later came back.

"Do you wish any more?" he asked politely.

"Yes," snapped the absent-minded man somewhat viciously. "Go and get me a fresh ham sandwich. The one you brought was as dry as a bone."

"Why, here is the sandwich I brought sir," said the waiter, pushing the plate toward him. "You've eaten the check."—Chicago Tribune.

Uses of Sawdust.

A growing industry in this city is the sawdust business. Forty years ago the lumber mills were glad to have sawdust carted away; twenty-five years ago it could be bought for fifty cents a load; now it brings \$3.50 a load. It is used in hotels, saloons, groceries, and other business houses for the absorption of dirt when sweeping. Plumbers use it a great deal about pipes and walls to deaden sound. Soda water men and packers of glass and small articles of every kind use it, as well as in the manufacture of dolls. —Philadelphia Record.

DECLARE FOR A GOLD STANDARD.

THE PLATFORM.

Principles of the Republican Party Plainly and Ably Set Forth.

The following is the platform adopted by the Republican National Convention:

"The Republicans of the United States, assembled by their representatives in national convention, appealing for the popular and historical justification of their claims to the matchless achievements of thirty years of Republican rule, earnestly and confidently address themselves to the awakened intelligence, experience and conscience of their countrymen in the following declaration of facts and principles:

"For the first time since the civil war the American people have now witnessed the calamitous consequences of full and unrestricted Democratic control of the government. It has been a record of unparalleled incapacity, dishonor and disaster. In the administrative management it has ruthlessly sacrificed indispensable revenue, eked out ordinary current running expenses with borrowed money, piled up the public debt \$292,000,000 in time of peace, forced an adverse balance of trade, kept a perpetual menace hanging over the redemption fund for pawned American credit to alien syndicates and reversed all the measures and results of successful Republican rule. In the broad effect of this policy it has precipitated panic, reduced work and wages, halted enterprise and crippled American production while stimulating foreign production for the American market. Every consideration of public safety and individual interest demands that the government shall be rescued from the hands of those who have shown themselves incapable of conducting it without disaster at home and dishonor abroad, and shall be restored to the party which for years administered it with unequalled success and prosperity.

"We renew and emphasize our allegiance to the policy of protection as the bulwark of American industrial independence and the source of successful development and prosperity. This true American policy taxes foreign products and encourages home industry; it puts the burden of revenue on foreign goods; it secures the American market for our own producers; it insures the American standard of wages for the American workman; it puts the factory by the side of the farm and makes the American farmer less dependent on foreign demand and price; it diffuses general thrift and increases the strength of all our industries. In its responsible application it is just, fair, and impartial, equally opposed to foreign control and domestic monopoly to sectional discrimination and individual favoritism. And in its administration we proudly honor the wisdom, patriotism and heroism of the men who administered it with unequalled success and prosperity.

"We denounce the present Democratic tariff as sectional, partisan and one-sided. Its disastrous effects on the country and the lives of business enterprise and we demand such an equitable tariff on foreign imports which come into competition with American products as will not only furnish adequate revenue for the necessary expenses of the Government but will protect American labor from degradation and the wage level of other lands. We are not pledged to any particular schedule. The question of rates is a practical question to be governed by the conditions of times and of production. No ruling and uncompromising principle is the protection and development of American labor and industry. The country wants a right settlement and then it wants rest.

"We believe the repeal of the reciprocity arrangements negotiated by the last Republican administration was a national calamity and we demand the renewal and extension on such terms as will equalize our trade with other nations, remove the restrictions which now obstruct the sale of American products in foreign countries, and give us secure enlarged markets for the products of our farms, forests and factories.

"Protection and reciprocity are twin measures of Republican policy, and go hand in hand, and both must be re-established.

"Protection for what we produce; free admission for the necessities of life which we do not produce; reciprocity agreements of mutual interests which gain open markets for our products, and open markets for others; protection builds up domestic industry and trade and secures our own market for ourselves; reciprocity builds up foreign trade and finds an outlet for our surplus.

"The Republican party is unreservedly for sound money. It caused the enactment of the law providing for the resumption of specie payments in 1879; since then every dollar has been as good as gold. We are unalterably opposed to every measure calculated to reduce the gold standard or impair the credit of our country. We are, therefore, opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver, except by international agreement, with the leading commercial nations of the world, which we pledge ourselves to promote, and until such agreement can be obtained the existing gold standard must be preserved. All our silver and paper currency now in circulation must be maintained at parity with gold, and we favor all measures calculated to maintain established obligations of the United States and all our money, whether coin or paper, at the present standard, the standard of the most enlightened nations of the earth."

"We condemn the present administration for neglecting to make the best sugar producers of this country; the Republican party favors such protection as will lead to the production on American soil of all the sugar which the Americans use, and for which they pay to other countries more than 90 cents annually.

"To all our products—to those of the mine and the field as well as to those of the shop and the factory—to hemp, to wool, the product of the great industry of sheep husbandry, as well as to the finished woollens of the mill—we promise the most ample protection.

"We favor restoring the early American policy of discriminating duties for the up-building of our merchant marine and the protection of our shipping in the foreign carrying trade, so that American shipping the product of the American labor employed in American ship-yards sailing under the stars and stripes and manned, officered and owned by Americans, may retain the carrying of our foreign commerce.

"The veterans of the union army deserve and should receive fair treatment and generous recognition. Whenever practicable they should be given the preference in the matter of employment, and they are entitled to the enactment of such laws as are best calculated to secure the fulfillment of the pledges made to them in the dark days of the country's peril. We denounce the practice in the pension bureau, so recklessly and unjustly carried on by the present administration, of reducing pensions and arbitrarily dropping the names from the rolls, as deserving the severest condemnation of the American people.

"The Hawaiian Islands should be controlled by the United States, and no foreign power should be permitted to interfere with them; the Nicaraguan canal should be built, owned and operated by the United States; and by the purchase of the Danish Islands we should secure a proper and much needed naval station in the West Indies.

"The massacres in Armenia have aroused the deep sympathy and just indignation of the American people, and we believe that the United States should exercise all the influence it can properly exert to bring these atrocities to an end. In Turkey American residents have been exposed to the gravest dangers, and American property destroyed. There and everywhere American citizens and American property must be absolutely protected at all hazards and at any cost.

"We reassert the Monroe doctrine in its full

extent, and we reaffirm the right of the United States to give the doctrine effect by responding to the appeals of any American State for friendly intervention in case of European encroachment. We have not interfered and shall not interfere with the existing possessions of any European power in this hemisphere, but these possessions must not, on any pretext, be extended.

"We watch with deep and abiding interest the heroic battle of the Cuban patriots against cruelty and oppression, and our best hopes go out for the full success to their determined contest for liberty. The government of Spain, having lost control of Cuba, and being unable to protect the property or lives of resident American citizens, or to comply with its treaty obligations, we believe that the government of the United States should actively use its influence and good offices to restore peace and give independence to the island.

"We favor the continued enlargement of our navy and a complete system of harbor and coast defenses.

"For the protection of the quality of our American citizenship and of the wages of the workingmen we demand that the immigration laws be thoroughly enforced and so extended as to exclude from the entrance to the United States those who can neither read nor write.

"The civil service law was placed on the statute book by the Republican party which has always sustained it and we renew our repeated declarations that it shall be thoroughly and honestly enforced and extended wherever practicable.

"We demand that every citizen of the United States shall be allowed to cast one free and unrestricted ballot and that such ballot shall be counted and returned as cast.

"We proclaim our unqualified condemnation of the uncivilized and barbarous practices well known as lynching or killing of human beings, suspected or charged with crime, without process of law.

"We favor the creation of a national board of arbitration to settle and adjust differences which may arise between employers and employees engaged in interstate commerce.

"We believe in an immediate return to the free homestead policy of the Republican party, and urge the passage by Congress of the satisfactory free homestead measure which has already passed the House and is now pending in the Senate.

"We favor the admission of the remaining territories at the earliest practicable date, having due regard to the interests of the people of the territories and of the United States. All the federal officers appointed for the territories should be chosen from bona fide residents thereof, and the right of self government should be accorded as far as practicable.

"We believe the citizens of Alaska should have representation in the Congress of the United States, to the end that useful legislation may be intelligently enacted.

"We sympathize with all wise and legitimate efforts to lessen and prevent the evils of intemperance and promote morality.

"The Republican party is mindful of the rights and interests of the laboring classes of American industries, equal pay for equal work, and protection to the home. We favor the admission of women to wider spheres of usefulness, and welcome the movement toward rescuing the country from mismanagement and misrule.

WAR-TIME SCENES RECOUNTED.

A MARCHING REGIMENT.

The 12th Wis. Covered 3,380 Miles in Twelve States During the War.

In a modest little book of 300 pages, written by H. W. Rood, Superintendent of Schools in Wisconsin, I find the history of the marches and campaigns of the 12th Wis., which contains a detailed account of their marches through the states of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia, covering the unprecedented distance of 3,380 miles on foot during three years of the civil war.

Having access to nearly all the great libraries of New York City and Brooklyn, and to the inexhaustible official records of that war now on file at Cooper Union Library, I can find no parallel to this remarkable feat by any foot regiment in the United States army. I then wrote to the Commanding General of the English, French and German armies, all of whom furnished me, through their Adjutant-General's department, with polite replies, but failed to find the record of any of their foot regiments at that time. The 12th Wis., of three years, had covered such a great number of miles on foot, even in times of peace.

The records also show that the regiment took part in the campaign at the extreme right flank of the entire Union army in the North in the early part of the war, and after participating in many of the principal campaigns of the central part of that army found themselves at the extreme left flank when the war was declared ended.

So, that after nearly a year of studious research and letter-writing I have no hesitation in placing the 12th Wis. as the champion marching regiment of the world.

The records also show that the 12th Wis., together with the 10th Wis., formed the first line of the brigade, of which the 20th, 30th and 31st Ill., formed the second line of the assaulting column of Gen. Sherman's army that charged and captured Leggett's Hill, the key to the position of the right flank of the Confederate army at Atlanta on the night of July 1864—W. H. MICHALL, 726 Broadway, New York.

One West Virginian's Experience.

I have read with pleasure the recent account of the Second Bull Run. I was with Siegel's Corps, Milroy's Brigade. We cut McDowell out of a serious place on the evening of August 28. The Eleventh Corps fought in the center the next day, McDowell on the left and Fitz John Porter lay back on the right.

At about 2 o'clock p. m., while charging on the railroad embankment, I received a gunshot wound in the left arm, entirely disabling the limb. I was carried back by the Johnnies to the pike, 100 yards distant. The next morning when the battle opened I was in range of our guns. I crawled to a small oak tree for protection, and by so doing no doubt my life was saved. I was again removed, September 2, a short distance in the direction of the gap, and in speaking distance of 40 or 50 wounded comrades, principally McDowell's men. We lay there with the earth for a bed and the heavens for a shelter until the evening of the 5th, when the ambulance train was announced. If there are joyers greater than ours when that ambulance train came I have never experienced them.

We were moved about one mile toward Alexandria and camped overnight; started out again on the morning of the 6th, arriving at Georgetown college at 4 o'clock a. m. on the 7th. I had to have my leg amputated after that.—E. M. HOFFMAN, Corporal Co. D, 81 W. Va., Marquess, W. Va.

WEYLER ON THE DEFENSIVE.

Openly Admitting What Cubans Long Have Asserted.

The Spanish Generals recently called to Havana, Cuba, for a council, met at the Palace and the difficulties of campaigning during the rainy season were discussed.

Surgeon-General Losada urged that military operations be limited to defensive movements for the present, and this was finally agreed upon.

Reports come from Remedios, Santa Clara Province, that many natives, driven from farms to villages and towns, have yellow fever.