

THE HOMESTEADER.

Wind-swept and fire-swept and swept with bitter rain—
This was the world I came to when I came across the sea—
Sun-drenched and panting, a pregnant, waiting plain
Calling out to humankind, calling out to me!



Estelle's mother sat at the breakfast table reading a letter, a look of consternation growing on her face as she followed its contents.

"Mercy me, daughter, what do you think? Uncle Ned and his young son—whom we have never had the pleasure of seeing—are passing through our town to-morrow and will stop off to pay us a few hours' visit between trains.

Estelle sat thinking a minute. Then she said: "To-morrow is Saturday. That's good luck, anyway, mamma, for I shall be at home to help you."

"No, dear; you'll have your music lesson to take in the morning and your Sunday-school lesson to prepare in the afternoon, and you know you invited Sadie Martin over to spend a part of the evening with you."

Estelle had risen from the table and was quickly clearing the things away. "Now, mamma, it's getting close upon school time, and I must help you with the breakfast work before I go."

"Estelle, you're going to be a practical, capable woman; I know it." And the mother stopped stacking up dishes long enough to kiss the cheek of her pretty daughter, who was bustling about as busy as a bee.

"Well, mamma, I hope I shall always know how to act in an emergency," Estelle replied, putting on a big kitchen apron and beginning to wash the dishes.

"And it's the emergency that puts me all out and gets me frustrated," said the mother. "I never was good at planning ways and means."

"Well, we'll have our ways and means this time," laughed Estelle. Half an hour later Estelle was off to school, her bright face serious as she hurried along.

That afternoon after school Estelle hurried round to the grocer's and the butcher's, giving orders for the following morning. "You'd best deliver the chicken this evening, so that I may have it all picked and prepared for roasting to-morrow morning," she said to the obliging butcher.

When Estelle reached home she found a new complication. Her little brother, called Baby, had crushed his finger between some stones in the yard and required much of his mother's attention.

the table, though she had already placed a great bowl of them there.

Just as she was stooping to gather some of the finest flowers she heard a step behind her, and, looking around, beheld a tall, handsome young chap of about seventeen years of age.

"With pleasure," smiled Frank, reaching for the blossoms. "And whom have I the pleasure of thanking for these?" he asked.

"Yes, a cook, and you shall sample my dinner in five minutes," declared Estelle, "and I beg your pardon, sir, for being so bold as to speak to you; but I think you are one of the newly arrived guests, aren't you?"

And then she tripped away, going into the kitchen and closing the door behind her, leaving Frank looking after her in amazement.

"Well, I know there was a mistake somewhere," Estelle said. "No, just a good joke," laughed Estelle. And then as they all enjoyed the delightful dinner Frank explained their dilemma regarding their cook, saying: "And it is Estelle's own dinner, planned and prepared by herself that you now have before you."

"Ah, wonderful," cried Uncle Ned. "And now I understand why Estelle did not come to greet us on our arrival."

"If you'd caught her as I did—back in the garden," said Frank, knowingly, "you'd have seen her in her kitchen regalia. And it's awfully becoming, too."

SUCCESS.

BOSTON FIRM RECENTLY OFFERED a prize for the best definition of what constituted success. A Kansas woman was awarded the prize, and this was her answer:

"He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche, has accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or rescued soul; who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it; who has always looked for the best in others and given the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose money a benediction."

did not come to greet us on our arrival." "If you'd caught her as I did—back in the garden," said Frank, knowingly, "you'd have seen her in her kitchen regalia. And it's awfully becoming, too."

"You'd best pay attention to your grape fruit, sir," said Estelle with mock gravity. "And as for kitchen regalia—well, how do you like flirting with the cook?"

"I'll have to keep a watchful eye on you, Frank, if you're given to visiting the little cook's flower garden. Next thing we'll have you seeking her to take a stroll with you through the park, eh?"

And so Estelle saved the day, and the dinner and the visit were a decided success, and Frank at parting said, bending over her pretty hand: "Cousin, what would you think if I should tell you that I should love to correspond with a cook-lady?"

"In order to get all her secret recipes for dainty dishes, I presume," retorted Estelle. And again Frank was the subject of laughter.—Washington Star.

"Madam," said the teller of a bank in Baltimore to a woman who had handed him a check to cash—"madam, you have forgotten to endorse."

A worried smile came to the woman's face; but she took the paper and wrote something on the back thereof. When again the teller looked at the check he found that the woman had endorsed as follows:

"The ——— Bank has always paid me whatever it owed, and you need have no worry. Therefore, I endorse this check. Very truly yours, Anna M. Blank."—Harper's Weekly.

The United States has the greatest variety of postage stamps.

LABOR NOTES

Indications point to a general resumption in the Klondyke and Connellyville coking fields. Fred C. Kelchley, superintendent of the Oliver & Snyder Steel Company's three plants at Oliver, has given orders to put every oven in full operation on December 1.

W. H. E. Royce, superintendent of the Republic Iron and Steel Company's plant at Republic, received orders to put the entire plant in full operation Monday.

O. W. Kennedy, general manager of the Orient Coke and Coal Company, said next Monday will see the 480 ovens of that plant burning in full. The fact that the independents are preparing for a resumption in full is regarded as evidence that the H. C. Frick Coke Company will soon send out notice of a general resumption.

The last statement of George B. Irwin, secretary of the Independent Coke Producers' Association, showed 53 per cent of the independent ovens in blast and 46 per cent of the corporation ovens burning. It showed a gain of 3 per cent over that of last week. The shipments have shown a noticeable increase.

Few of the foreigners who left the coke region a year ago have returned. Coal miners are hard to get and for this reason many ovens must remain idle until the former workmen come back.

The Republic Iron and Steel Company has sent out a request for miners. The Orient Coal and Coke Company is similarly situated.

The coal and coke trade in the Irwin field has shown marked improvement since the election. It is estimated that fully 100,000 tons of slack has been piled up during the past six months on account of mills with patent stokers having been idle. This slack is now going out.

The Jamison Coal & Coke Company reports all its idle ovens have been fired, except 150, which cannot be operated on account of shortage of water.

The Keystone Coal & Coke Company reports orders that insure full operations within a few days. The Penn Gas Coal Company has been running full the last week, while the Westmoreland Coal Company reports the receipt of large orders in the last few days.

The government experimental station for the testing of explosives used in mining, the plant being located in Arsenal Park, Pittsburg, will be formally opened December 4, while the convention of the American Mining Congress is in session here. The opening of the station will be attended by several hundred of the leading scientists and engineers of the country.

Members of the national advisory board on fuels and structural materials appointed some time ago by President Roosevelt to aid in the conservation of the national resources of the country, will be the guests of honor. The board includes such men as Dr. C. B. Dudley of Altoona, chief testing engineer of the Pennsylvania railroad; Prof. W. F. M. Goss, dean of the department of engineering, University of Illinois; George Webster, chief engineer of the Philadelphia water works system, and James Knox Taylor, the supervising architect of the treasury.

The experimental station has already been of much service in showing how dangers of mining may be eliminated. Discussing this Saturday, J. F. Callbreath, Jr., secretary of the mining congress, said:

"The fact that a number of the well-known and widely-used so-called 'safety explosives' have ignited the fire damp in the explosives' chamber at the plant, when all these, if they lived up to their names, should not have touched off the deadly gases, has brought vividly to the mind of the underground toiler the constant dangers of his work."

"The fact also, that in practically every instance, in the tests, the coal dust has been exploded, has left a deep impression upon the minds of both the miner and the operator. One of the strange things about mining is that the practical men, the miners and the owners, are the last to believe that coal dust is as dangerous an explosive as fire damp. This has led to much carelessness in watering of mines."

"Now that the government plant already has shown several hundred miners and owners that coal dust is a dangerous explosive, I expect to see much more care given to the sprinkling of the mines. This will be of great aid in lowering our disgraceful death rate in the mines, which is now four times as great for every 1,000 men employed as any country of Europe. I learn from unofficial sources that the number of deaths this year in the coal mines will be about 1,000 less than the year before. This is partly due to the agitation at the time of the big explosions last December, but more particularly to the moral effect of the federal government taking up this question."

John Mitchell and President Thomas L. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers, and several prominent coal operators of the State, will meet with Congressman John C. McHenry, in Shamokin, Pa., November 25, to consult on the framing of a bill to provide for a State tax to be used for the aid of injured miners and families of men killed in the mines.

Congressman McHenry wants to have the bill presented to the Pennsylvania State Assembly. He introduced a like bill in the last Congress, but it was killed.

The Iron City Trades Council had \$974.31 to their credit as the result of last Labor Day.

State Mine Inspector Henry Loutitt was wheeled over the principal streets of Monongahela City, Pa., Saturday, by Mrs. Elizabeth Spence Coatsworth in payment of a presidential election bet. Nearly a thousand people followed them and burned red fire. The bet was that the wife of the loser was to wheel the winner and Mrs. Coatsworth proved herself a good Democrat.

The International Typographical Union has \$222,225.62 in its treasury. Of this amount \$90,982 belongs to the old age pension fund.

The International Typographical Union paid out \$2,775 to bury its dead last month. It has also paid pensions to the amount of \$6,358 for September.

Members of the International Typographical Union are advocating the adoption of an insurance feature to its other laudable efforts.

At the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Mothers' Congress held at Old City last week, a paper by Prof. Mussey of Bryn Mawr College was read, in which he said Pennsylvania uses more child labor than any other of the Middle States, having as many children under 16 years at work in manufacturing as Massachusetts, New York and Illinois combined. He declared there is a greater proportion of illiterate children in Pennsylvania than in all the New England and Middle States together, besides the most inadequate and most weakly enforced laws for the protection of women and children in industry to be found in any Northern State. This is the effect of having a politician as factory inspector instead of a workman like "Jim" Campbell.

A revolt against the continuation of Tom Lewis as president of the United Mine Workers has broken out in some districts and some unions are nominating John Walker for the presidency. In a few districts John Mitchell's name has been endorsed for the presidency, but Mitchell says he will positively decline to run.

W. D. Ryan will retire to become a commissioner for the Southwestern Operators' Association.

Vice President J. P. White will retire "because of his health."

Rya and White are Mitchell men, and their retirement will remove almost the last of the old Mitchell crowd.

Conservative leaders in the United Mine Workers in all parts of the country are reported as realizing that a crisis has been reached in the history of the organization.—Joplin (Mo.) Trade Unionist.

The Pittsburg Plate Glass Company has issued orders to have its big mines at Mosgrove, Pa., placed in full operation as quickly as possible. The plant has been closed down for months and several hundred men are employed.

A special from Birmingham, Ala., says: Alabama iron manufacturers sold 50,000 tons of pig iron in the first 24 hours after the election and inquiry for a large tonnage is in hand.

The iron sold is to be delivered during the first quarter of the coming year.

Having saved the life of Harry Jones, General Manager of the Hazel mine of the Pittsburg & Buffalo Coal Company at Canonsburg, and proved the practical utility of oxygen helmets in fighting mine fires, Government mine and explosive experts attached to the arsenal testing plant returned to Pittsburg last Friday.

Wearing the recently invented helmets, the experts carried the unconscious form of Mr. Jones several hundred feet, until a point in the mine was reached where the air was fairly pure. For 30 minutes they gave him the oxygen treatment, finally resuscitating him. It was the first practical test of the method. They carried with them a trunk containing the proper appliances.

So close did the experts approach the seat of fire that solder on their helmets was melted and their necks were blistered under the protection. Miners gained confidence by the example and soon rivaled their instructors in advancing far into the mine, wearing the new appliances. Thousands of dollars to workmen and operators have been saved by prompt action of the experts in two mine fires within the last 10 days. They lent their aid in subduing the fire which broke out in the mine of the Washington Coal & Coke Company at Star Junction on October 20, and have won a second victory at Canonsburg. In each case under old methods it is believed the fire would have burned for weeks.

Smokeless coal mined in Somerset county was given a thorough test which proved successful in Pittsburg last week. The coal was taken from the new Somerset mine of the Fisher Coal Company and is handled by the Rex Carbon Coal Company, of Pittsburg. The coal is brittle and cannot be taken out in lump form.

On account of the poor facilities for ventilation there has been considerable trouble in using bituminous coal in the furnaces of some of the buildings in the downtown section of the city, but without success. Some of the coal brought here from the new mine was given a thorough test in the furnace of the McCane building, Liberty and Seventh avenues, with the result that there was no smoke.

BALLADE OF THE RECEPTION.

Dear me, how do you do! I've longed to see you so. Why, what a pretty blue! It's new I'm certain—No! My dresses always show; But you—you've such a way—A bit of lace—a bow—(Yes, such a pleasant day!)

That Smith woman! Well, who invited her here? Oh, indeed! You like her, too? But she's so common, though; Yes, really quite de trop, and then the neighbors say—(Of course these stories grow—(Yes, such a pleasant day!)

Dear Mrs. Smith, it's you! Here I've looked high and low To find someone I knew! A song! How beautifully! And May!—voice like a crow. I loved that last one, May, It seemed so appropriate—(Yes, such a pleasant day!)

ENVOY. No, really, I must go. It's simply time to stay, But—"best of friends"—you know—(Yes, such a pleasant day!)



Briggs—"Even divorce, nowadays, offers no sure relief." Griggs—"How so?" "Why, in nine cases out of ten a man is free to marry again."—Life. Doctor—"You have not very long to live, my man." Patrique Doolligan—"Phatx, O! knowed that as soon as Iver yez commenced docthorin' me."—Judge.

"I wonder what becomes of all the newspapers?" "Most of them lose their identity in the paper mills, but the jokes keep bobbing up for years afterward."—Cleveland Plain Dealer. There was a red hen Who laid eggs in a pen, But I do not know how Nor do I know when Though I know she's a Henny-pen penny-pen hen. —Children's Magazine.

"They say Brushington is getting enormous prices for his pictures." "Yes, I've heard so." "I never thought he was a great artist." "He isn't, but as a salesman he's a wonder."—Chicago Record-Herald. A young fellow lived in Squedunk, Who said: "Life in these times is punk; Quite plainly I see They've waited for me To give them of wisdom a chunk." —Baltimore American.

"How did you come to write that thrilling story, so full of absorbing heart interest?" "Well," answered the eminent author, "the publishers wanted about 40,000 words with which to wedge the illustrations apart."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"If plants have thoughts, feelings and emotions similar to those of human beings—" "Well?" "How the average cantaloupe must chuckle with malicious glee at the look of disappointment on the face of the person who has just cut it open!"—Chicago Tribune.

"Has your order been taken?" asked one of the waiters. "Yes," said Mr. Walbroke, "fifteen minutes ago. If it isn't too late, though, I'd like to change it." "To change your order, sir?" "Yes; if you don't mind I'll change it to an entree."—Chicago Tribune.

"Your speech didn't impress me as containing any new ideas," remarked the friend doubtfully. "That's good," answered Senator Sorghum. "A speech with new ideas is very liable to result in giving your enemies a chance to denounce you as the champion of some sort of an 'ism.'"—Washington Star.

Mrs. Jones (a suffragette)—"I don't ask special privileges, Mr. Jones. What I should ask is that you, for instance, a man, should treat me exactly as you would another man. Instead of talking small talk, and treating me like a thing to be protected, and all that, assume towards me the attitude you do to Mr. Warrington. Treat me like a good fellow." Mr. Jones (quickly)—"Why, certainly, old chap. Lend me a five, will you?"—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Photography and the Moon.

It has been observed that on account of the absence of an atmosphere on the moon, and the consequent lack of gradation in shadows, the eye of the observer is seriously misled in judging the actual relief of objects forming the lunar landscapes.

Professor Prinz, of Brussels, has recently developed a method of avoiding this difficulty, and of seeing the craters and other details on the moon in their natural proportions, taking advantage of the fact that as the moon travels round the earth the eccentricity of its orbit produces the effect of a slow libration, or balancing to and fro, which causes its face to be inclined now a little one way and then a little the other way.

Professor Prinz makes two photographs of the lunar object to be studied, at opposite points in the libration, and then combines them in a stereoscope, whereupon the object stands forth in full relief. This principle has hitherto been applied only to photographs of the moon as a whole, and not to particular craters or regions.

The Elusive Carp.

To become a successful carp fisher the first essential is patience, as with the most suitable tackle, baits and weather, and with care taken to insure success, it is quite possible to fish for days without getting so much as a carp bite, and this, too, in waters known to be well stocked with them. Carp fishing is a very high branch of the angler's art.—Fishing Gazette.

The voice of a man has been known to carry three miles through a twenty-foot trumpet.