AMERICAN SENTINEL.

$1.00 PER ANNUM. WESTMINSTER, MD., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1895. VOL. 64--NO. 47.

STATEMENT

Of Receipts and Disbursements on account of the Public Schools of Carroll county, for the year ended 31 July, 1895.

In accordance with the provisions of the law, which requires its publication in the month of November, I submit herewith a statement of the Receipts and Disbursements on account of the Public Schools of Carroll county, for the school year which ended with July 31, 1895.

The annual report to the State Board of Education, from which the figures are taken, shows that there were in operation during the year 121 white and 12 colored schools, with an enrollment of 6,821 pupils, occupying 160 rooms and employing 162 teachers, of whom 93 were males and 69 were females. Of the white pupils 3567 were boys and 2824 were girls; of the colored 239 were boys and 191 were girls.

The average salary paid the teachers was $328.27 for seven and one half months' service, or $30.44 per month.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasury 31 July, 1894	$ 65.39
State School Tax	14,561.00
State Free School Fund	2,382.95
State Donations, Manchester Academic Fund	200.00
County School Tax	29.4 0.00
Amount of Levy, $30,000.00	
Interest on Investments, Taneytown ground rents	10.00
Book Fees, including $568.50 tuition from non-resident pupils	3,959.94
Sales of Books	90.85
State appropriation to Colored Schools	1,312.53
Sale of Taneytown Ground Rents	250.00
License Fees	4,470.97
Rent of room at Manchester	13.00
Rent of room at Double Pipe Creek	20.00
Temporary Loans	8,500.00
Total	$65,206.72

DISBURSEMENTS.

Teachers' Salaries--White Schools	$34,921.10
Fuel	2,864.30
Incidental Expenses of Schools	1,255.68
Rent	213.75
Books and Stationery, including ($1,950.00 balance due on book account of year ending 31 July, 1894	6,490.72
Building School Houses, balance on new house at Mt. Airy	1,621.20
Repairing School Houses	1,300.26
Furniture, Black Boards, and Stoves	485.75
Interest	1,435.45
Salary of Secretary, Treasurer and Examiner	1,100.00
Salary of Assistant	700.00
Per Diem of School Commissioners	600.00
Office Expenses and Account Books	184.05
Printing and Advertising	106.00
Paid to Colored Schools	247.25
School Libraries	20.00
Freight, drayage, postage, &c	162.31
Institutes and Associations	16.52
Counsel Fees	100.00
Amount paid to Charles B. Rogers, treasurer of the Baltimore county School Board, for tuition of Carroll county pupils who attend school in Baltimore county	156.00
Amount paid to Ephraim L. Boblitz, treasurer of the Frederick county School Board, for tuition of Carroll county pupils who attend school in Frederick county	10.00
Amount paid for water right at Baile's schoolhouse	5.00
Debt	400.00
Repayment of Temporary Loans	8,500.00
Balance in Treasury 31 July, 1895	103.58
Total	$65,206.72

GEORGE A. DAVIS,
Secretary, Treasurer and Examiner.
no-23 3t

THE *INDEPENDENT.*

NEW YORK.

A Religious Literary and Family Newspaper.

Undenominational, unbiased and impartial. A paper for clergymen, scholars, teachers, business men and families. It discusses every topic of the day--religious, theological, political, literary, social, artistic and scientific. Its contributed articles are by the most eminent writers of the English language.

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The Independent announces to its subscribers, and to any who may become so, that it is prepared to furnish any papers and magazines published in this country, England, France and Germany, at a very large reduction from publishers' rates. This opportunity is open only to subscribers of The Independent. Upon receiving list of papers or magazines from individuals or reading rooms, an estimate will be given by return mail.

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nov-23

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WEST MAIN ST., - NEAR RAILROAD, WESTMINSTER, MD.,

will keep constantly on hand Chamber Suits, Parlor Suits, Dining Sets and all kinds of office Furniture,

At the very Lowest Prices.

Also Sash, Doors, Blinds, &c., which I will sell as low as they can be bought anywhere in the State. Call and get prices before purchasing. oc-12-1y

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Having Remodeled our Mill with the very Latest Improved Machinery, known as the

PLANSIFTER SYSTEM,

We are now prepared to manufacture a flour that we

GUARANTEE TO BE EQUAL

to any flour manufactured from winter wheat. Bread made from this system is whiter, sweeter and will stay moist longer than any winter wheat straight grade flour manufactured.

Ask for Engler's Family and Plansifter Flour. Once tried always used.

Highest cash price paid for choice milling wheat.

Feed of all kinds always on hand. Hoping for a liberal share of the public patronage we are respectfully,

S. P. ENGLER & SON,
ap13-1y New Windsor, Md.

WAKEFIELD ROLLER MILLS.

Manufacture and keep constantly on hand

FLOUR, FEED, HOMINY, MEAL

--AND--

CHOP OF ALL KINDS.

Highest Cash Prices Paid for Grain

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Will attend PROMPTLY to all legal business.

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LEADERS and ORIGINATORS.

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For the Children is our Newly Opened Toy Department.

TOYS! DOLLS!

MECHANICAL TOYS!

Big, Little and All Kinds of Dolls,

WAGONS,

HOBBY-HORSES,

PICTURE BOOKS,

Games, Puzzles, &c.

Everything to delight the Children and there is nothing that gives us more pleasure than to please the Children. We want them all to visit us every day from now till Christmas and stay as long as they want. Mothers bring your little ones. We are showing the greatest array of useful and ornamental Holiday Presents, for old and young, ever shown in this city. Make your purchases early before the rush and we will store them for you and deliver them when you want them.

Old Santa Claus

has promised to be with us again, this year. His time of arrival will be announced later. This is one of the letters he has already received:

DEAR OLD SANTA CLAUS:--I want a Christmas tree, a Doll with Pink Silk Dress on, a new Muff and a pair of Gum Boots.

You can get them at

MILLER BROS'.

Popular Stores.

fe-1-95-23

THE NAME OF THE NEXT

President of the United States

WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN

THE NEW YORK WEEKLY TRIBUNE

OF NOVEMBER 4TH, 1896.

Public interest will steadily increase, and the disappointment of the men whose votes turned the scale at the last election, with the results under the administration they elected, will make the campaign the most intensely exciting in the history of the country.

THE NEW YORK WEEKLY TRIBUNE,

the leading Republican family newspaper of the United States, will publish all the political news of the day, interesting to every American citizen regardless of party affiliations.

Also general news in attractive form, foreign correspondence covering the news of the world, an agricultural department second to none in the country, market reports which are recognized authority, fascinating short stories, complete in each number, the cream of the humorous papers, foreign and domestic, with their best comic pictures, fashion plates and elaborate descriptions of woman's attire, with a varied and attractive department of household interest. The "New York Weekly Tribune" is an ideal family paper, with a circulation larger than that of any other weekly publication in the country issued from the office of a daily. Large changes are being made in its details, tending to give it greater life and variety, and especially more interest to the women and young people of the household.

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Write your name and address on a postal card, send it to GEO. W. BEST, Room 2, Tribune Building, New York City, and a sample copy of The New York Weekly Tribune will be mailed to you.



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Once tried, always used. Will cure Colic in 10 minutes; cures curd or sour stomach, relieves all forms of indigestion, can be given to babies 1 day old. Will prevent Cholera Infantum and keep the baby in good, healthy condition through the period of teething. An over dose does no harm; nothing injurious in it. 25 cts. at druggists.

Made only by DRS. D. FAHRNEY & SON, HAGERSTOWN, MD.

Trial bottle sent free if you mention this paper.

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ALL IRON (POST, RAILS AND PICKETS NOT WIRE.

From 15 cents to 50 cents a foot, according to variety and weight.

Send for circulars, giving full description, or call on the undersigned in person. AGENTS WANTED.

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Coaches, Carriages, Buggies, Jagger Wagons, Phætons, &c.

Special attention given to repairing.

All orders promptly filled and work of every kind warranted. se-12

J. T. Orndorff's Sons.

It has become a household word and an adage, that for honest and GOOD GOODS AT LOW PRICES GO TO

ORNDORFFS'.

If you will look at these few reminders you will find some extraordinary values offered for the coming week.

NOTION DEPARTMENT.

Non shrinking Wool Soap, 10c.

Odds and ends of Ribbon, all widths and colors, 5c. a yard.

1 lot Ladies' Hoods, were 75c., reduced to 50c.

Black Feather Boas, long Feathers, good length, 50c.

Black and White mixed Boas, 75c., Boas curled and straight feathers, at $1.50 & $2.00, Ostrich feather Boas, $4.00.

Latest in Ladies' Pique Gloves, all colors and Black, $1.00.

A full line of Perfumes, Toilet Waters, Extracts and Smelling Salts.

DRESS GOODS.

Lot of Dress Patterns used in decorating, some slightly damaged; you will find them on our center tables.

Some Remnants of Black Goods, including Crepons and Boucles.

1 lot double width Cotton Worsted, at 10c., is worthy of your notice.

We except none when we say, the best Canton Flannels in town for 8, 10 and 12½c.

RUGS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS,

Moquettes, Jute, Japanese, La Paris, Oriental, Royal, Wiltons, good Sheepskin, Smyrna and Logerria, from 50 cents to $10 00.

COATS. ORNDORFFS' LEAD.

The first cut in Coats that are in style. Misses' Short Coats, from 12 to 18, that were $3.00 reduced to $2.50. A few Ladies' Long Coats, from last season, were $5.00 and $10.00 will be sold at astonishingly low prices.

ROBES.

The largest line of Fur and Mohair Robes and Horse Blankets in town. Fur Robes from $3.00 to $20.00. Robes made of Wild Cat, Prairie Wolf, Siberian Dog, Goat and Western Cow Hides. Three Horse Head and 5A Blankets.

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A Boot at $1.50 that is hard to beat. A rich and rare combination. Stetson Hats at $3.50 and Hess Shoes at $6.00. Fine styles of Patent Leather and Enamel Shoes, from $3.00 to $6.00. A line of nobby Winter Tans, $4.00 and $5.00. A full line of the latest in Neckwear, Collars and Shirts.

A line of Gloves of all kinds, Working Gloves, Street Gloves and Gloves for Dress.

10 doz. of Men's heavy Jersey Top Shirts, sold as a leader. The best thing you ever saw at 25c.

If you want a little better article at a little less price than you expected to pay, go to

J. T. ORNDORFF'S SONS,

sept-8 94 1y-23 NEAR DEPOT, WESTMINSTER, MD.

Extra Reduction IN Ladies' Coats and Capes

--AT--

OAK HALL,

NEW WINDSOR, MD.

15 to 20 $8.00 and $10.00 COATS for $5.00 to $6.00.

STORM OVERCOATS from $1.00 to $8.00.

About 25 Overcoats to be sold at Half Price.

The next 10 to 15 days will witness wonderful Bargains at our store.

50 pairs of Boots to be sold at half price.

We must clean up to make room for Christmas Goods.

Come at once and secure the bargains.

Children's Underwear, 10 cents.

Respectfully yours,

GEORGE C. ANDERS,
ap4-16-95 New Windsor, Md.

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Protect Yourselves from Loss BY WIND-STORMS.

Wind-Storm Insurance Policies Issued very low and losses promptly adjusted. No charges for Policy to persons who have their Fire Insurance in this Agency. Drop a postal card to or call on

JAMES E. SMITH,
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Its a Daisy:

OUR STOCK OF

Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Trunks, Valises and Umbrellas.

Daisy Assortment,

Daisy Qualities,

Daisy Styles, and

DAISY PRICES.

See our Shoes and Hats and you want them. Price our Shoes and Hats and you buy them.

We make every price just as low as is can be made for an honest article. Nothing can be sold cheaper than we sell it, unless it is of an inferior grade. Our Shoes and Hats are right and can't be sold a cent cheaper than the prices asked by us.

Men's Boots, $1.50 and up.

Ladies' Button Shoes, $1.00 and up.

Baby Shoes, 25 cents and up.

Ladies' Rubbers, 25c. and up.

HATS! HATS!

Men's everyday Hats, 25 cents and up. All of the latest Stiff Hats, in Dunlap and Zeoman's styles. Come and look at our Shoes and Hats. They will verify our statement.

U. L. REAVER,
Reliable Shoe House,
Next Door to Postoffice,
Leading Shoe and Hat House of Westminster, Md.
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NEW STOCK.

LOW PRICES FOR ALL.

COME AND SEE ME.

Having taken the old and well known Reifsnider Stand, W. Main street and Pa. avenue, Westminster, (formerly occupied by J. C. Hull,) have a clean and fresh stock of

FAMILY GROCERIES,

consisting of

Sugars, Coffees, Teas, Spices,

Syrups, Canned Goods, at rock bottom prices; Fruits, Nuts, Cakes, Candies, &c., Queens, Glass, Stone, Tin and Woodenware Tobaccos and Cigars,

Flour, Butter, Eggs, Bacon, Lard.

Country Produce taken in exchange for Goods at the highest prices.

I make a specialty of Red C. and White C. Coal Oils.

All goods delivered free of charge and orders called for Tuesdays and Fridays. Thankful for past favor I solicit a continuance of the same. Respectfully yours,

1s-30-1y S. MORITZ ZEPP.

ADMINISTRATORS' SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.

BY virtue of authority contained in the last will and testament of William Engleman, late of Carroll county, deceased, and an order of the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, dated November 28th, 1895, the undersigned, administrators D. B. N. C. T. A., will offer at Public Sale, on

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, 1895, at 1 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, situate on the road leading from Linwood to New Windsor, and about half a mile from the former place, the following parcel of land, containing

3 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

The improvements thereon are a substantial two-story Frame Dwelling House, Stable, Orchard, water convenient to house, and other necessary improvements. The above is conveniently located in relation to railroad, schools, churches and post office.

For personal property, see hand bills.

TERMS OF SALE.--One-third of the purchase money to be paid to said administrators D. B. N. C. T. A. on the day of sale, or on the ratification thereof by the said Court, and the residue in two equal payments, the one payable in six months and the other in twelve months from the day of sale, the credit payments to be secured by the bonds or single bills of the purchaser or purchasers, with sufficient security, bearing interest from the day of sale; or all cash, at the option of the purchaser.

MARTHA E. RICHARDSON,
JAMES H. RICHARDSON,
Administrators D. B. N. C. T. A.
MICHAEL E. WALSH, Attorney.
Samuel Crawford, Auctioneer. nov-30-ts

Mortgagee's Sale OF A DESIRABLE GRIST MILL PROPERTY AND FARMS,

Near Winfield, Carroll county, Md.

BY virtue of the power contained in a mortgage from Catharine E. Pickett and George Pickett, her husband, to Benjamin W. Bennett, dated April 14th, A. D. 1888, and recorded among the real estate mortgage records of Carroll county, in liber G. A. M. No. 22, folio 483, &c., and duly assigned to the undersigned; also a mortgage from the said Catharine E. and George Pickett to the undersigned, dated April 9th, A. D. 1894, and recorded as aforesaid in Liber B. F. C. No. 35, folio 120, &c., will sell at public sale, on the premises, on

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12th, A. D. 1895, at 2 o'clock, P. M., all the property described in said two mortgages.

First. All that parcel of land consisting of

31 ACRES and 1 ROOD, More or Less.

The improvements thereon are a comfortable Two-Story Log and Weatherboard DWELLING HOUSE, with back building, large barn, dairy, smoke house, Three-Story Frame and Weatherboarded Grist Mill, Saw Mill, and other outbuildings. The mill has a good custom and is so located as to greatly increase the business.

Second. A parcel of land containing

93 ACRES AND 30 PERCHES,

more or less. On this parcel there is a Log Dwelling House and several small buildings. There is a due proportion of timber and meadow land. The water power is good.

The above property is situated on the public road known as the Pickett Road, leading from the Liberty Road to the Mount Airy Road, is about 1½ miles from Winfield, 1½ miles from Taylorsville, in Franklin district, Carroll county, Md., adjoins the lands of Wm. H. Cronk, Grafton Cummings, and others, and is now occupied by the said Pickett.

Terms of Sale.--Cash, or if desired by the purchaser or purchasers, credit terms will be given as follows: one-third cash on the day of sale, or on the ratification thereof, one-third in nine and the other one-third in eighteen months from the day of sale, credit payments to be secured by the notes of the purchaser or purchasers, with approved security, bearing interest from the day of sale. A cash deposit of $100 will be required on the day of sale on each parcel.

GROVE A. SHIPLEY,
Assignee and Mortgagee.
Reifsnider & Reifsnider, Solicitors.
nov-16-ts

G.W. MORNINGSTAR

DEALER IN

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CANNED GOODS, FRUITS,

CONFECTIONERY,

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TINWARE, LAMP GOODS, &c

Everything that is found in a FIRST-CLASS

GROCERY AND QUEENSWARE STORE.

A CALL IS SOLICITED.

G. W. MORNINGSTAR,
No. 38 WEST MAIN STREET,
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A weekly Non-Political, Non-Sectarian Paper. "Determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ."

50 CENTS A YEAR.

Sunday School Officers and Teachers, Christian Endeavorers, King's Daughters, Epworth Leaguers, and any other bodies of Christian Workers.

We want the names and addresses of members of above societies, and to any friend who will send us a good sized list of such we will send a copy of our picture (postpaid), "HOW SLOWLY THE TIME GOES."

Address SABBATH READING,
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Notice Against Trespassing.

Notice is hereby given that the law will be enforced against all persons found trespassing upon the land and premises of the undersigned, by hunting with dog or gun, or in any other manner.

JOSEPH LINDSAY,
J. THOMAS HAINES,
MRS. ANN R. HAINES,
JOHN W. DUVALL,
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no-16-5t*

For Rent.

A new 7-room Dwelling House, on George St., in Westminster, with water and all necessary conveniences. Apply to

JNO. E. ECKENRODE,
Coach Builder.
no-16-4t Cor. Liberty and George Sts.

Select Story.

GRAY MAID.

A Romantic Tale of the Opening Days of the "Cherokee Strip."

Practical people are fond of telling us to distrust every thing that may not be passed upon by one or more of the five physical senses. What are five paltry senses to an immortal soul? There are a number of people who can tell you of things which are to be apprehended by none of them; but only by a faculty so fine, so mysterious that we who have glimpsed the invisible beyond by aid of its quick flashes, are loth to call it by any name. But we know there is a higher mode of discernment, which may be called the sixth sense.

Recent hypnotic experiments have demonstrated that life is more complex than the consciousness of man would seem to indicate. That here lie behind him a score of experiences, which suggest other kingdoms than the merely human.

From my boyhood, I have seen visions. I have seen in a waking state, but with partial suspense of physical perception, events both past and future, pass before me as in a picture. Apart from this peculiarity, there has seemed nothing abnormal about me to distinguish me from others. As a boy, I was strong, active and full of fun and mischief. As a man, I think I had hopes and ambitions as other men; I had, until--

One of my visions I first saw when I was about twenty years old. It is the age, you know, when

A young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.

I had an ideal--who has not?--of what my future wife should be like. Beautiful, of course, I always imagined her, with fair hair and melting blue eyes, and character as lovely as her person. We forget, sometimes, in our yearning for an angel, how un-angelic we are ourselves.

I was with a crowd of young people, and the evening was merry with dance and song. Suddenly everything faded out, and I saw as in a framed picture, a young girl seated on a gray horse. There was no background, only the two living figures. The girl had heavy, dark hair, and wore a gray dress with a bunch of red geraniums pinned on her breast. A canteen hung from a strap passed across her shoulder. As I wondered what the canteen meant, she turned her head and with a smile, flashed glorious dark eyes on me.

The vision disappeared, and all must have taken place in an instant, for I heard my companions call, laughing. "What is —— staring at? Do you see a ghost? Come, old fellow, it is rather uncomplimentary to be so absent of mind in good company." But I did not so soon recover myself. The glance from the dark eyes thrilled me with a rapture as delightful, as it was new. I grew silent and abstracted, spending hours alone trying to recall every feature of the girl I had seen, or to invoke the shadowy presence again.

It was months before the impression wore off, and then it was always with a sense of loss that I thought of it.

When I was twenty-five, I met a young girl who seemed to meet my first ideal; she was a perfect blonde, gentle and beautiful. One night after an evening spent in her company, I sat thinking, and had resolved that I would ask her to be my wife. I was smoking, and idily watching the rings of smoke as they floated over my head. All at once, a ring of smoke enclosed a picture. A boundless, billowy prairie, a girl with a gray dress speeding on the back of a gray horse, across its grassy surface. Involuntarily I stretched out my hands. She turned her starry eyes on me as before, but, it seemed, reproachfully.

As I gazed in recognition, the vision faded away, and I found myself staring at a blank wall in my lonely room, and my pipe gone out.

My resolve was taken. No blue-eyed maiden for me. Somewhere in the world this dark-tressed maiden waited. I was convinced of it. I would search the earth over for her, or remain forever true to my darling who had called me from out of the land of shadows. I left my old home and went West. The vicissitudes of fortune found me, at the time of the Cherokee Strip, practising law at Dallas, Texas.

In the midst of fair practice, I became resistlessy impelled to join the mad throng at Orlando. I camped there for ten days, undergoing all the hardships and discomforts, the intense heat and blinding dust--for what? I hardly knew, but I thought then it was the universal desire that all men have at one time or another to possess a bit of the earth. I know now that I was called.

With the incidents of those wretched days just previous to the opening, all the world is familiar. How the sun shone like brass, and the unceasing wind, as from a furnace, scorched and withered the face of the already dry and thirsty earth. There were ten thousand men, women and children crowded into that little frontier town, with water, food, and all the decencies of life woefully lacking.

On the morning of the 16th I was in line waiting the sound of the bugle. I think men went mad that first half hour after the notes were sounded. A mighty roar and rush, and I saw the soldier who had given the signal go down in a cloud of dust, while a thousand horses and wheals trampled his dead body. I rode in a narrow road wagon with Tom Merriam, who owned two of the fleetest horses in Texas. We were going to try for some town lots at Perry.

At first, in the wild flight, I could see nothing but a sea of moving faces; but as we got further out, and the excitement of the start had worn off a little, I began to distinguish features among our swiftly moving neighbors. There were several on horseback, some of them women, to the left of us. I turned my head as we bore more to the right and away from them. A girl on a gray horse flashed on my sight; and as she sped by, a glance from two intense dark eyes, and a bunch of crimson flowers against her gray dress, set my heart on fire. Not knowing what I did, I seized the lines and exclaimed:

"This way, this way, Tom, oh, this way!"

"Why man, you're crazy. Let go, I tell you, we'll be cut off. What ails you anyway?"

"I tell you I must go to left. I saw her go that way."

Meantime my struggle for the lines had resulted in checking the horses considerably, and Tom was very angry. Men lose sight of the ties of friendship when the madness of avarice runs riot in their veins. He wrested the lines from me, and with a cut of the whip, the horses started forward again. In despair I threw myself from the wagon and fell, stunned and breathless, to the ground. It was a miracle that I was not run over, but the crowd was thinning, and when I recovered my senses, I was comparatively alone, except for the group here and there disputing at a corner stone, or an occasional belated boomer forging ahead on bicycle or horse.

I turned my eyes in the direction in which the girl of my vision had gone. How, in all that trackless prairie, among hundreds of strangers, could I, alone, and on foot, hope to find her?

That whole afternoon I tramped, never making an inquiry. I could not bring myself to do that, but always going close to groups where I saw women.

As the sun dropped down behind the western horizon like a ball of fire, my strength seemed to go with it, and I could go no further. So, foot-sore and aching in every limb, I sank down on a little rise near a ravine to pass the night. Some boomers had given me a drink of water in the afternoon, but it was warm and saltish. Of course I had no supper, for Tom had carried our provisions and blankets off in the wagon. Notwithstanding my uninviting bed, I slept the dreamless sleep of exhaustion, and, strange to say, awoke feeling somewhat refreshed. Before the sun had risen, I started on my search again.

You may think it very strange that a man should go hunting through all that territory for a girl of whom he had just caught a glimpse. But remember the strange way in which I had twice seen her. And then I can never make you understand how her presence had impressed me during those years. I felt just as sure of finding her, and in some way that she belonged to me, as that I lived.

In about an hour I came in sight of a flag planted at a corner stone, and standing beside it a woman. A man who had evidently just dismounted from a horse he was holding by the bridle, stood near her. I could see him gesticulating angrily, and presently he turned and seemed to see me, then hurriedly mounted and rode away.

My heart stopped beating for an instant, as I drew nearer, and saw that the young mare grazing near was a gray one, and the woman who kept her back turned toward me until I was quite close, had on a gray dress.

Some other power and will than my own moved my tongue to utter the word:

"Agnes!"

Turning swiftly, she gazed at me a moment, and then said dreamily:

"It is very strange. You know my name, and I know you, and yet I never saw you in the flesh. Where--"

Spang! A bullet whizzed by my ear. With a gasp she put her hand to her heart, where rested a bunch of faded geraniums. The blood poured ont and mingled with the red of the flowers.

I took her in my arms and turned with a dull fury to look who had done the murderous deed. The retreating horseman was just clearing a small stream and disappeared as I looked.

"My love," I murmured, "have I found you only for this? Tell me who has done this, that I may take vengeance on him."

"No, no; 'Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord;' and after all this life is not all. He was to have been my husband before I knew you in a dream. After that I could not marry him, for I knew I had never loved him, but only you."

She closed her eyes a few moments, then opened them with a faint smile.

"My poor Gray Maid," she said, fondly looking toward the little mare grazing peacefully, all unconscious of the tragedy, "you will take good care of her for me."

In an agony of baffled hope and love, I besought her to live, but the wound was mortal, and before many minutes her life had slipped away. I laid her beautiful head down on the blackened earth, and standing up, I shouted unavailing maledictions against God and man. Then I threw myself on the ground beside my dead love, and knew no more.

* * * *

When I recovered consciousness I lay in a board room, with straw on the floor and a few cooking utensils hung on the walls. At the sound of my voice some one got up from the doorway and came to me. It was Tom Merriam.

"Well, old fellow, you are better, eh? You won't tumble yourself out of a wagon going at a three-minute gate soon again, will you? Though you've made a mighty good mare by the caper."

"Who--where is she?" I whispered.

"Oh, she's all right; she's in the corral with my team."

I straggled to rise, but sank back weak and giddy.

"But Agnes, man; what have they done with her? Surely, Tom, you haven't buried her without letting me look on her face again?"

"Look here old man, you'd better be quiet awhile, you're feverish yet. I've had time enough hunting you after your crazy jump, and I propose taking care of you now. Here take this medicine the doctor left for you."

"But Agnes? Oh Tom, I found her only to lose her! But what have they done with her, only tell me that?"

Tom looked alarmed.

"Oh, I guess she's all right. Never mind her now. The thieg for you to do is to get well of this sunstroke, and you must lie as still as possible."

There was evidently an opiate in the dose he gave me, for I fell asleep again.

After a few days Tom allowed me to talk, but I saw he did not credit my story, for his own contradicted it in every way--excepting the presence of the gray mare.

When he reached the town site of Perry, and had secured a lot and put up a shanty, his heart reproached him, and leaving somebody in charge, he drove back to see if he could learn anything of me. He found me lying not far from where I had fallen, unconscious. A gray mare was tethered close to where I lay. No one knew anything about the animal, so he led her back to Perry with him, first getting some one to help lift me into the wagon.

"You must have dreamed the whole thing," said Tom.

"But I tell you I held her in my arms. I heard the bullet fired by the miscrant, and felt her warm blood as it poured over my hands. And look, there is a mark on this mare's left forefoot as if burnt with a rope, that I saw even in my grief, so plainly will a trivail thing impress us sometimes in our supremest moment."

"Yes, there is the mare, sure enough," assented Tom, soothingly, but I knew he did not believe in my sanity.

When I grew strong enough, I took the animal so strangely come by, and spent weeks riding about the new country, trying to find some trace of the woman whom I held to my heart those few moments. I think the settlers came to look on me as a harmless sort of lunatic.

I have given up my quest, but I know, that when I, too, shall pass over into the invisible, I shall meet her again.

SALLIE F. TOLER.

Clark's Horse Review.

The Lord gives His blessing as He gives the fruits of the earth--not to those that wish, but to those that labor.

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