

PECANOE

By SAMUEL McCOY
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Recounting the adventures and love which came into the lives of David Lawrence and Antoinette O'Bannon, in the days when pioneers were fighting red savages in the Indiana wilderness

XVII.—Continued.

"You saved my life just now," he went on. "I would have thanked you for ending it, as you ended the love of the one I loved most in the world. For the sake of that dead love I promise you that no one shall know from what you have been, what you are, or what you will be in the future. The groveling creature at David's feet raised a face of incredulity. "You give up the Brothers' vengeance?" "Absolutely." "You will not hold to your oath?" "I have said no."

Scull looked at him, a radiance transfiguring his face. "God bless you, Lawrence," he said chokingly. "You do not know what death means. You have only your own life; I have—God help me!—two lives to live for!" Lydia stooped quickly and lifted David's hand to her lips. She went hastily from the room. The two men stood facing each other and for a while there was silence. Then David spoke slowly: "Are you going to remain here?" Scull straightened himself up. "No! We shall go back to England. I have robbed you of everything, and you have given me everything. You do not wish to see my face again. But before I go I will tell Toimette the truth."

David nodded wearily and went out. A cold and dreary rain was still falling, but a ray of light shone from the tavern door on the upturned face of the dead Indian. David stopped and looked down upon the slightest visage for a moment and then laughed. The dreadful features were twisted into a smile as to ultimate victory, and a little rivulet of rain trickled unceasingly from the corner of the mouth. No more of wretched life; no more of dreariness!

David's hand stole unconsciously to the pistol that hung heavily within the folds of his own blouse. His fingers tightened on it and his lips drew together in a harder line. "Why not? The thing so easily, so quickly done. . . . Why not?" Was there anything remaining to make him hold to life any longer? What though Blackford did believe in him? What though a hundred friends believed in him? A fat matter of their friendships, their stupid greetings, the little kindnesses of daily intercourse? What did his dreams of great things to be done in this new land amount to? Petty dreams, petty tasks, buying and selling, squabbling over pennies, wrangling over little gains—a sordid prospect, the heritage of fools!

The rain fell steadily, chilling him to the very bones. Through his gray, heavy coat he felt the cold, unchilling rain in his hair, on his forehead, on his cheeks, on his lips. He bowed his head upon a chair and bowed his head upon his hands, there to sit for hours in a numb, writhing, bittered state that were beyond his power to shake off. After a long while, he rose and drew the pistol from its place—wiped the dampness from its shining barrel and gazed at it with waning eyes.

"I am no angel—I'm Toimette!" David did not believe her denial; never believed it. "Father sent me for you. He's going to give a great dinner at the tavern and you're to sit in the place of honor. Come, you mustn't keep your cook waiting." And she held out her hand. But David did not stir. The look of haggard suffering had returned to his face. Her loveliness and his despair once more burning through his veins. For the first time he found a voice, a voice trembling with emotion. "I cannot . . . I cannot . . . please go!" She opened her eyes wide and shot a blue radiance of hurt surprise at him. Then she went swift and straight to the point, a woman not to be put aside by evasions: "Indeed, I will not. You mustn't stay here alone."

He had regained control of himself, but the struggle left him deadly pale. He could not bear to face her as he spoke. "I am going away. I cannot live without you." The words were hardly more than a whisper. She took two quick steps forward. Her hand fell upon his shoulder, light as a floating strand of gossamer. But he felt it and thrilled through all his being. Slowly, slowly, he raised his head and she saw his face, that he had gone into the valley of the shadow of death. In the hush of the wilderness his scarcely audible words seemed to beat on their hearts with the measured beating of an inexorable judgment. "A dry reed, shaken in the wind of despair? But her voice rang like a song to the morning: "It is not brave to turn back from the plowing. I have heard my father say that courage should be lifted to such a height as to maintain its greatness even in the midst of miseries, holding all things under itself."

"I call the immortal truth to witness that no fear, either of life or death, can appall me, having long learned to set bodily pain in the second form of my being. And I do now think it the act of a coward to die." The girl had grown paler as she read his determination in his face, white and rigid as a mask. David was silent. In the morning sunlight that dappled the little glade, the frozen branches of the trees stood motionless. A white snowflake shaped across the space before David's eyes and his vision followed it up, up into the cloudless blue beyond. In the quiet, it seemed to Toimette as if she could hear her own heart beating. David spoke again, slowly: "And if we be lieutenants of God in this troubled world, do you not think that we have right to choose a new station when he leaves us unprovided of good reason to stay in the old?" "No, certainly I do not," she said, with a rebuke levelled because it lay in her sweetly troubled voice, "since majesty what time he will help us; the uttermost instant is scope enough for him to revoke all things to one's own desire."

And she sealed her lips with the moistness of her tears, which followed all one another like a precious rope of pearls. David suddenly realized how ineffably sweet life was a wonderful, tragic, joyous worthy of music, worthy of tears. The pistol fell to the ground unheeded. David took a step forward. "No," she said, "do not tell me, Doctor Elliot has told me all. He and Lydia have gone. Forgive me, forgive me, David! Let the dreadful past go with them! See, you have made me cry—are you sorry? And by this time there's no dinner for either of us." They laughed together. They were young. "I'll get dinner for you," promised David. "I knew a butcher's son once upon a time."

"Once upon a time!" she repeated. "That sounds like a story. That's the way they always begin." And so it was the beginning of a story; but David did not tell it to her then. They went home together. At Toimette's door, little Mr. O'Bannon hailed David with a shout. "I sent my dove into the wilderness," he said, his eyes twinkling, "but you're the most sizable olive branch I ever saw!"

CHAPTER XVIII. The Uttermost Instant. It was the day following Scull's departure. David walked swiftly, deep into the leafless forest, and strode along Little Indian Creek, gazing under its ivy to the spot where Toimette O'Bannon had first smiled at him in the April noon. It was there his new life had begun. And there, kneeling by the rocky ledge, he prayed, as at a shrine. An end of all things had come to David. His long quest was over and the snarl of his passion had spent itself in foam. Had it been worth while to forgive? All that he had lived for was torn from him. Toimette could know that she had judged him unjustly; but would that knowledge bring back what

CHAPTER XIX. The Story Begins. In the little stone courtyard on that Sabbath morning a hundred voices were lifted in the stirring music of Giardini's triumphal hymn. The people of the countryside had gathered to give thanks to God for the victory over their savage foes. The vigor of the "chan" swelled in a stern strength which was made beautiful by the rough voices of the pioneers. In the little room the hymn echoed with the majesty of a cathedral chant: Come, thou Almighty King, Help us by thy name to sing. Help me to praise, Father, all glorious, Or all victorious, Come and reign over us, Ancient of days! David felt himself thrill in every nerve; his wife's hand trembled in every hand and he knew that, like himself, she felt the mighty glory of life and love, of trial undergone, of good triumphed over ill, of yearnings toward the ineffable. Tears of happiness stood in his eyes. The pean of victory ceased. The minister, a man of God, rose slowly to his feet. He, too, felt tears rising from the depths. Love had made him the apostle of the people of the wilderness and he had said their hearts to

CHAPTER XX. The King Signs the Laws. Most people will tell you that the king must sign every act of parliament before it becomes law. It will astonish these people to know that acts of parliament are never signed by King George. When parliament passes an act, as, for example, the recent military service act, which conscripts all the single men, a copy of the bill is placed in safe custody in the house of lords and indorsed by the clerk of parliament. If the act is one concerning money, as, for instance, the budget, the veto copy is also indorsed by the speaker. How does the parliament give his consent to an act of parliament? Well, he gives it by what is known as a royal commission. All the various acts that are passed at about the same time are united in this commission, and the king signs this commission, but should he be, for any reason, unable to do so, the royal signature may be specially stamped upon the paper. But according to the law, the stamp can only be used "in his majesty's presence and by his majesty's command given by word of mouth." A stamp of the king's signature is always kept ready for this purpose.—Pearson's Weekly.

Courtesies. Somebody has called courtesies the small change of life. Be that as it may, we all get into the habit of expecting them, and when we do an obliging thing we hold out our hand for our "change." Most of us keep account books, into which we should like to have others look—kept all the same, though written only upon the pages of an unconquered sharp memory. What we prettily call love is too often only a loan—not indeed to be paid in kind, but in degree, with handsome interest. We are affectionate and obliging and friendly, we help somebody in a moment of dire emergency, and then we hold out our hand for our "change." We are a little uneasy lest it should not be generally known how good we have been, and lest it should be hidden under a bush, we take all the bystanders into our confidence.—Selected.

Typographical. Robert's father had given him a printing press in order to interest him in the mysteries of the press. It was Robert's task to make up a news page for his father to see—and maybe to reward the printer. The world progressed until Roumania entered the war. The typographical difficulties of the situation, with Roumania winning in Transylvania, bothered Robert as they have many a newspaperman. Robert told his story to the printer. "We can all understand this letter of complaint," said a goodly host of

"I am going away—I cannot live without you." Great timbers of the walls which you are raising will be strengthened by heavy iron rods which your sons will like a welded yoke; and their sons will rear the roof above, and still another generation will make it a house abutting on the four winds of the earth; and your grandsons' sons will make it that day nor reap any of its rewards; but of us shall the unseen cornerstones be made. Today is the glory of victory; tomorrow begins the clatter of toil. Where is the house that you build unto me? Where is the place of my rest? . . . THE END.

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THE TEACHER OF THE JEWS (vv. 1-8). A great majority of the disciples of Jesus came from the common people (I Cor. 1:26) yet for all classes he had the same message. "Ye must be born again." The answer of Jesus was according to the condition of the man before him, the deepest need of his soul. Literally, he said, "Most assuredly, except a man (anyone) be born again (anew or from above) he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." To be born anew means to be born again. It matters not what your parentage may have been. If any man could do without a new birth, Nicodemus was that man. He was moral, religious and sincere. The instrument through which this birth is effected is the word of God (I Peter 1:23; James 1:18; John 15:3) and the author is the Holy Spirit (v. 5; Titus 3:5). Water is a symbol of the word (Eph. 5:26). Literally translated, this passage would read, "Except one be born of water and wind." And as wind "by universal consent refers to one factor in regeneration, the Spirit, so the water manifestly refers to the other element of regeneration, the word." The main contention is that the word is the instrument in the regeneration. Although not expressly mentioned here, it is elsewhere. Nicodemus was a teacher of Israel (v. 10 R. V.) and yet he did not know so fundamental a truth as the new birth, though the Old Testament taught it. There is no speculation or guess work about Jesus' own teaching. He could say, "We speak that we do know" (v. 11). He had been in heaven, and in speaking of heaven he spoke of the things which he, himself, had seen.

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INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 4

JESUS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

LESSON TEXT—John 3:1-18. GOLDEN TEXT—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

This most famous interview in history occurred probably in some room in Jerusalem where Jesus was a guest, so that he could receive visitors privately.

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WOMAN'S WORLD

Among the many women who have established an order of well-following letters and illustrations, we have published a new series of Popular Bible Lessons for women to know what

proved and I am now the mother of a fine baby girl and do all my own work."—Mrs. ALICE B. FINKHAM, 1000 St. Paul St., Lynn, Mass. In many other homes, such children are now being born because of the fact that Lydia E. Finkham's Vegetable Compound makes women so healthy and strong. Write to the Lydia E. Finkham Vegetable Compound Co., Lynn, Mass., for advice. It will be confidential and helpful.

Too Suggestive. First Tramp—I wish I could get these fast freights for a ride in a first-class coach. Second Tramp—Every cloud has its silver lining. In de passenger coach there is an ax and saw to remind you of a wood pile.

TAKES OFF DANDRUFF HAIR STOPS FALLING

Girls! Try This! Makes Hair Thick, Glossy, Fluffy, Beautiful—No More Itching Scalp. Within ten minutes after an application of Danderrine you cannot find a single trace of dandruff or falling hair, and your scalp will not itch, but what will please you most will be after a few weeks' use, when you see new hair, fine and downy at first, but really new hair—growing all over the scalp.

A little Danderrine immediately makes the beauty of your hair. No interference how dull, faded, brittle and scraggy, just moisten a cloth with Danderrine and carefully draw it through your hair, taking one strand at a time. The effect is amazing—your hair will be light, fluffy and wavy, and have an appearance of abundance; an incomparable softness and luxuriance. Get a 25 cent bottle of Danderrine from any store. That your hair is as precious as any—that it has been so injured by careless treatment—all—your surely can have beautiful hair and lots of it if you will just try a little Danderrine. Adv.

FIXING IT WITH EVANGELINE

How Could She Possibly Think Clarence a Coward After Such a Perfect Explanation? Clarence, age nine, was making it not strictly truthful. He had the contemptuous gaze of Evangeline, age eight, from next door with the steady eye that betokens a clear conscience. Said Clarence firmly: "No, Evangeline, I am not a coward." Evangeline was pitiless. "Yes, you are—a silly little coward!" Why, I saw you running for your life this morning from that red-haired boy who— "Evangeline, I was not running away from him. I was simply running to get him somewhere where his mother could not see me smite him." "Well, did you smite him at last, then?" Clarence never faltered. "No, Evangeline; for, when we got out of sight of his house, we were so close to mine that my mother would have seen me do it, and that would have upset her, so I ran indoors to be out of temptation!"

Suitable Match. "What became of Mily?" she asked a duck of a girl. "Yes, and she married a quack."

A movement is under way to buy the vacant lots of New Orleans for vegetable gardens.

Instant Postum

School teachers, doctors and food experts agree on points—that the child needs a hot drink, and that drink shouldn't be coffee. Postum fills the need abundantly and its very extensive use among thoughtful parents coupled with the child's need for this flavory, nourishing food-drink, is completely satisfying.

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