The Bree Press Short Story

A Forfeit, a Forfeit, a Very Fine Forfeit

By P. H. CHELEY

HE six young occupants of the Meade bungalow were scated on the broad front porch discussing plans for the next day's entertainment. They were in the best of spirits, after Aunt Lizzie's delicious supper of pancakes, broiled bacon, apple-turnovers and buttermilk. The title "aunt" was by courtesy only, Elizabeth Abbot being what Alan Meade called a "community relative." So capable and motherly a person was she that Mrs. Meade had felt no hesitation in putting the young people in her charge during their spring

"What a gorgeous setting you've provided us. Miss Laurelt" Clay Shelby addressed Alan's stater. "You couldn't have done better if you had searched the entire length and breadth of Ken-

The scene spread out before them was indeed beautiful. The Meade property sloped down to a murmurous stream, now swollen to about double its ordinary volume by the spring freshets. On the opposite bank wooded mountain sides rose steeply to a flaming sunset sky.

"Dad's good taste, not mine," laughed back Laurel. "The only drawback is the getting here from town. You saw how impossible the roads are."

"Which makes you all the more of a games." brick, Vera," pronounced Alan, "to let your car in for the rough treatment it pested Brends. received."

Vera Rowan, a cousin of Clay's and Lexington, stopping for the others, with one of the six. the exception of Clay, in Dixville. was the least I could do, wasn't it," she miswered back, "for -- the invitation" I begged for this medical relative of In Boston, had, it seemed, bobbed up "A forfelt, a forfelt, a very time forfelt unexpectedly just as Vera was leaving.

"And mighty glad we are you did," remarked Alan, hospitably. "Thanks," acknowledged Clay.

country across there ever manage to get about?" "Slipping, mostly, I reckon," spoke up drew all eyes in that direction.

Peter Lisle, fifth member of the group. "And aliding," supplemented Brends, his sisteri

Peter and Bronds were friends and hesitantly crossed the threshold. in Dixville. So far they had been rather quiet due perhaps to their being a trifle; shy and self-conscious in Vera's presence, be the nurse?" she inquired of Brends. for they knew that her family were social leaders in Lexington. In fact, there was considerable of the leader about Vera herself. Even Laurel was always careful not to oppose her.

"What a life!" exclaimed Clay. "The poor outcasts are surely to be pitied." "Well, save your pity," broke in Vers orisply. "If those mountaineers had an atom of ambition, they'd have moved to some town long before this. They are not in the least important, anyway. What is important is our program for to-morrow. What's it to be?"

Laurel opened her mouth in defence of the isolated mountain-dwellers, then cheed it again without speaking. It Bade medded in the affirmative. was not lack of sympathy that kept her stient, but lack of courage. Being Vera's hostess, how could she dispute the girl? you should have taken the turn to the "What's the matter with our mas-

querading as old-timers?" came Alan Meade's suggestion.

oried in charus. "We'll admit only early Kentucky ed out a crumpled scrap of paper."

ladies and gentlemen," continued Laurel. "Does Daniel Boone come under that head?" inquired Alan laughingly. "Well, not, I mean to impersonate him." -"Au-for-your-Clay,"-put-les-Vora, "there

is only one Kentuckian possible, seeing you're a namesake of Henry Clay's." "Right-o," responded her cousin.

"I wonder." went on Vera still asuming charge, "who Peter ought to be Would an early governor of the state-"The very thing," Peter finished for

To assign three corresponding roles for the girls of the party was the work of but a few minutes. Laurel could not help noticing that it was Vera always had the deciding voice. Brenda was to be an Indian maid of Boone's day, Laurel, Mrs. Clay ("though I have not the faintest idea whether Henry was ever married or not," confessed Vera), while for herself, the governor's lady was selected.

"Mrs. Clay," she addressed Laura with mock seriousness, "could you provide any crinolines, old lace, waistcoats, stocks, or other furbelows for your distinguished guests?"

"The unfinished room under the roo What the young folks found up under the caves proved a genuine treasure-trove for their excursion into the past. A very acceptable sextet of Kentucky's finest gathered in the living room after lunch

"Tableaux will be better for evening, don't you think?" said Laurel. "Let's start off with a few old-fashloned

next day.

decided to accept the suggestion. Dura classmate of Laurel's at boarding- ing the next hour, amid hilarious laugh! school, had motored all the way from ler, a forfeit was extracted from every

It fell to Laurel's lot to impose the

respective times. She seated herself on a hassock; spreading her flowing, beruffled skirts about her, while Vera proceeded mino?" Clay, who was studying medicine to hold the first forfeit over her head what will the currer do to redoem It? Laurel was reasonably sure it was her own mocklace that Vera held. A slight "But metallic sound gave her the cue. Before

tell me, how do folks in that wild she had a chance, however, to think of an amusing way of redcoming her possession, a timid knock at the front door Brenda, who was nearest, admitted a most unexpected visitor. An undersized

child of about eight, clad in faded calico, next-door neighbors of the young Meades | looked from one to the other of the masqueraders with a wondering, halfscared look in her dark eyes. "Where "Nurse?" . What murse?" returned

"Her that stope at Creek Bend."

"Birt I don't understand-" "T'do," interrupted Laurel rising, "The child is evidently looking for Miss Cross who is in charge of the new nurses bureau here in the mountains."

The wiscord face of the small visitor brightened. "Yes, Miss Oross," she "What is your name?" asked Laurel "I'm Bade," responded the child, "and I live with Paw and Maw in Gower's

Guch." "You haven't walked all that

"But you've gone far out of your way, went on Laurel. "To get to Creek Bend left the other side of the bridge."

"Is anybody sick?" inquired Clay. "Maw's awful," came Sade's reply. "So "Oh, lot's!" several enthusiastic voices Paw writ this, saying as how I should take it to the nurse." The child smooth

"Please nunie kum rite away woman miley sick," ran the unpunctual ed, misspelled scrawl which Clay read anyway, whether you'd class a rough- aloud to the little group. His face grew and-ready ploneer as a gentleman or sober. "An S. O S. surely," he com-

> "Ohr. how tiresome!" broke in Vera exasperatedly. "Laurel, do tell the child I how to get back to the right road." "It will save time if I do what I can

for Sade's mother myself. Could a car make it to Gower's Guich?" Clay asked "But you're hurt!"

"Whose car?" demanded Vera sharply. "Well seeing yours is the only one "-aldaliava

"Not available for any such unneces sary errand as this!" came the retort.

"Unnecessary?" repeated Clay. "For you, I mean. Let the district nurse do it. That's what she's here for isn't it? Though what her idea is, goodness knows. I've heard of these mountain missionaries before, travelling horseback all hours of the day and night-" "But, Vera." remonstrated Clay gently,

think of the lives they're saving-" "Well," came back the retort," suppose they do save them, is that any sign they

None of the others took sides in the argument between the cousins. Laurel was miserable. She knew Clay was in the right and that the should back him. as much as the nurse, perhaps more. left off. Ar before, however, she was intimidated by what Vera might say or do.

are worth saving?"

It did not make Laurel any more comfortable to know that it was in her power to provide a substitute for the car. Her asiddle horse. Gem. was sure-footed on the steepest of the mountain roads. "Come, Sade," spoke up Clay.

The child placed her small hand confidingly in his big one and they moved toward the door. An awkward stlence followed, which was broken by 'It's mighty decent of you. Clay." he stammered, "but really do you think you're called upon to go all the way to Gower's Gulch? It's a stiff hike."

Clay set his law resolutely. "If Sade

could do it. I guess I'm good for it." Impulsively Laurel followed the queerly assorted pair out onto the perch. It was still not too late to offer Gem. As "How about forfeits?" timidiy sug- she determinedly made up her mind that the would do so, a peal of mocking By a unanimous vote the company laughter floated out from inside. "He's done the most ridiculous things all his life!" It was Vera's voice. "What in the world are you doing, Laurel?" she con-

> When Laurel was settled on the hassock one more, "A forfelt, a forfelt, a very fine forfelt," recumed Vera; "what will the owner do to redeem it?"

opinion should prevent her. owner," she announced, "will get Gem and ride him for a half hour."

"Oh, come now," pouted Vera, "don't be absurd. Laurel. Name something pensible and indoors."

"I don't know of anything more ensible," maintained Laurel.

"Well, it happens to be your own necklace," announced Vera persist in redeeming it the way you say we can't prevent you. Only, for a hostess to leave her guests in this way and go-"I'm sorry, Vers." interrupted Laurel, but I must, that's all. I'll explain when get back."

A suspicious light named in her friend's eves. "Oh, Y understand!" sald Vera meaningly. "That child Sade has bewitched you as she did Clay and-"

Laurel, walting to hear no more, rushed to the kitchen. Leaving word with the astonished Aunt Lizzle to pack some food and simple home remedies, she hurried to saddle Gem. While the packed the saddlebags, her mind was busy trying to decide on the shortest way to overtake Clay and Sade. They must have crossed the bridge and turned back on the Gulch road parallel with the river. Buddenly Laurel know! She would ford the

Down the steep slope Gem carefully lcked his way to the water's edge; then understanding he was expected to gross the river, he gave a whinny of delight. Laurel urged the horse toward midstream. There, to her surprise, the fording was not so easy as she had anticipated. A -green, -swirling mane of water, released by the up-river thaws, challenged her advance. The spirit of play suddenly left Gem. He realised he had hard work ahead. At times the swift current threatened to sweep him down stream. Pinally, in a desperate attempt to keep his direction he gave a sudden sharp jerk. Laurel was wrenched nearly out of the saddle. She fought to regain her balance; lost it, and the next moment was thrown into the greenish which

Something hit her on the head and everything went black. She woke to find herself prostrate on by R. J. SCOTT the bank. Gem and a strange horse were standing quietly by, while an unfamiliar person bent over her. "How not

> you now?" asked the woman. "All right, thanks," breathed Laurel, "My head- what happened to it?" She' could feel the pressure of a bandage.

"You must have struck a snag in the river," came the answer, "but I'm sure it isn't serious. Glad I came along." "So am I," returned Laurel gratefully. "Do you mind telling me who you are

so I can thank you properly?" "MISS Crass." "Oh, the head of the new bureau?"

"The mine," smiled back her deliverer. The stream is treacherous at this time of year. What made you-"

"I simpy had to get across to save time," explained, Jaurel. "You see, I cidn't want to miss him. Have you seen anybody go by?".

"When were you looking for?" "Henry Clay."

Miss Cross gave a bewildered laugh "Surely not the Heavy Chry?" Explanations followed. In the midst of them. Laurel caught wight of a tall form approaching with swinging strides. Sade was perched on "Henry Olay's" shoulder At aight of Laurel the young mar stopped in speechless amazement. "How-

ever did you-" he began, then broke off. By OLIVER N. WARREN

"Not much." Laurel assured him. "Enough for me to get you home" "I'll do that, if you don't mind," un

erposed Miss Cross. "I've this minute heard about the call for belp Gower's Gulch. Suppose you hurry ahead on the horse this impulsive but courageour girl has crossed the river to provide you with. I'll follow directly." "But how?"

"Oh," said the nurse, indicating her horse, "Caesar can easily take us both." Clay helped the two to mount. He sald no word of thanks at the moment, but the look he gave Laurel was thanks

the interrupted game of forfeits that the front sect. He only had 2 worms evening. Even Vera seemed changed, and the fish was all drowned. unlike her usual domineering self. Clay had returned with news that Sade's

"Only," she said to Laurel," "I ought | Thursday: Down town yestiddy Ik to explain that, after you left, we took Tubbs, husbend to Lizzy Tubbs are matters in our own hands and decided how the forfeits should be redeemed. owners ekkenomick confrince & the You've already redeemed yours, of course, skeeker ast did it pay to put much So has Olay. Do you want to hear what munney in coes & Ike spoke rite up rethe rest of us are to do?"

Mystified, Laurel assented. "To get my forfelt back," said Vera, I promise to buy Sado a new dress and take it to her."

o give her a pair of new shoes." visions to the Guich," announced Peter, shened. "And I," finished Alan, "will be responsible for whatever medicine the nurse and Doctor Henry Clay here

'And I." Brenda followed next.

particular one has been rather exciting." gave him. "I'll may no!" agreed her companions:

The Many Purpose Oil.—Both in the house and stable there are scores of uses for Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil Use it for cuts, bruises, burns, scalds, the pains of rheumatism and sciatica, sore throat and a factor of considerable importance to chest. Horses are liable very largely to the poultry industry in Western Ontario similar ailments and mishaps as attlict as a result of the tariff reductions made In a flash Laurel knew what the owner mankind, and are equally amenable to effective under the recent Canada-United would do to redeem it! Breathlessly she the healing influence of this fine old States Trade Treaty. During January, spoke the words before her fear of Vera's remedy, which has made thousands of 1936, shipments of live poultry to nearby "The firm friends during the past fifty years. United States points, chiefly Buffalo, N.

Cinderella



Dismissed three weeks ago from an orphanage in Indianapolis, where Ellen Huggins, 18, has landed a job as one of the "Glorified American Girls" in "The Great Zeigfeld" which is being filmed at a Holly-wood studio. Miss Huggins worked as a nursemald and washwoman at 13 a week just before going to the

PREVENT DANGERS OF CONSTIPATION*

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"Constitution dus to insufficient "bulk"

SLATS' DIARY

Sunday: Snub Post, are oitty's, looding collidge gradgeate, is on the sts. with blacked eye. & when some boddle act hint how did it happen he sed he kist o bride & it was 3 mos. 2 long after the wedling.

Monday: Littel Jonnie Tommases muther was a teeching Jonnie about the Proddiget Sun & Taked Kall this a. m. & Jonnie started to yell & cry & etc. He sed he was so sorry for the kaff. 1 diddent do nothen and Jonnie.

Tuesday: In skool today the teecher ast are class what did night most likely do while he was on the ark & they was so mutch watter. He fished sed Jake. A rather subdued little group resumed No he diddent sed the littel new boy on

Wednesday: Joe Hix was a tryin t take out some more his on his better 1/45 mother had been made comfortable and life today & the ing agt, ast him what was out of danger, and Vera now asked idld her grand parrents die of. Joe te-With his medical knowledge he could do if they might not go on from where they plide & sed he wassent sure but node it wassent no thing servous.

> housedoner, .. wag .. atending -a ... home plide Not if your wife is a good I & watches for holes in your pockets.

Friday: Mobbe Blisters aint so dum I that he was utter all. He joined hands with me in not noing when the teacher ast him who is George Washerton & Aberham Linken but new O.K. when "I contract to carry a basket of pro- Dizzy Deen & Wallis Bearie was men-

Saturday: We was a tellen each another about the creashen at supper tonite & Ma ast Pa why did he expect God made Adam first befour Eve & Pu Vera gave an hysterical little laugh, must have made a hit with her backards I always used to think forfelts a rather when he sed So Adam could get a chants tame name," she confessed, "but this to tawk sum. Judging by the look Ma

POULTRY SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES

The trade in live poultry from Canada to the United States has again become

Y., amounted, according to unofficial fluures, to 11,233 head. In January, 1935, shipments totalled only 565 head. By the terms of the Treaty the United States duty on live poultry was fixed at four cents per pound. It previously had been eight cents per pound.

Shipments are made up largely of fowl. Prices on live fowl at Montreal and Toronto at the present time are approximately five cents higher than last year.

SAVE THE HORSES

The cubby leaned confidingly towards the very stout woman who had just given him the exact fare, but no tip. for the journey.

"Pardon .me, ma'am," he said, with exaggerated politeness, "but would you mind walking the other way and not passing the horse?"

She looked inquiringly at him. "But why?" she asked. "Because if 'e sees wot 'e's been carrying for a shilling 'e'll probably 'ave

ni," replied the cabby.

is delicious



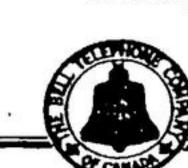


a few cents a DAY"

"Yes. that's what I work for, and I'm the most willing worker you ever hired!

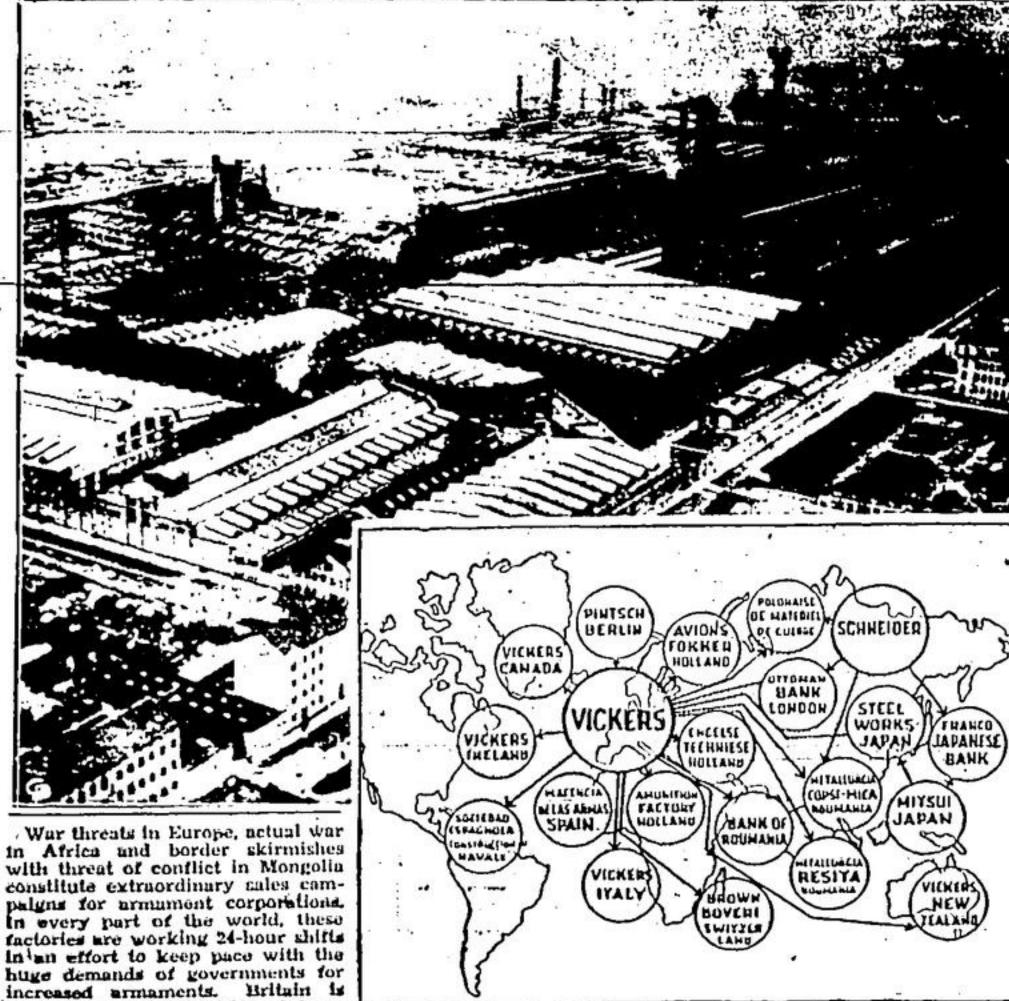
"Every hour of the day, seven days a week, I'm at your service, ready to run your errands, keep you in touch with friends, protect you against all kinds of emergencies.

"Give me a chance to prove my worth; you'll never want to be without me again."



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ARMAMENT CORPORATIONS PROFIT FROM WAR SCARES



project; in the U. S., the figures tions and armament industry in one of the largest in Europe, ig are close to a billion; in France, the world, has announced a divi- shown working full blast. Mean-Poland, Russia and Germany the dend of 8 per cent, on ordinary while, in Germany, the Krupp plant, figure reaches staggering totals. In shares, higher than for many years, is feeding arms to the new German all countries save Russis, the arma- The ramifications of the Vickers army at a tremendous rate, paying ment industry is privately owned. company is shown in the diagram. large dividends to their share-Vickers, perhaps the largest muni- The Skods plant in Czechoslovskie holders.

launching a \$1,500,000,000 defence

logg in London, Ontario.

SCOTTS SCRAPBOOK THE OLD MASTER JAKE SCHAEFER, SE WAS THE GREATEST BILLIARD PLAYER OF THEM ALL IN 1879 RULES MAKERS IN-VENTED B-INCH BALKLINE, HOPING TO HANDICAD HIM. WHEN HE BECAME UNBEATABLE AT THAT GAME, 14 INCH BALKLINE WAS DEVISED - THAT FAILED TO STOP HIM SO IB-INCH BALKLINE WAS CREATED - BUT "OLD JAKE" REIGNED SUPREME UNTIL THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. STARS IN BETHLEHEM ILLUMINATED STARS HAVE BERN PLACED ON LAMP

POSTE IN THE

PRINCIPAL

STREETS OF