

The Robbers of Markham Swamp

The following story is founded on fact and as the author aptly said "everyone in this part of the country who is not deaf has heard of the gang at Markham Swamp." The story was first published in 1886. It will run as a continued story in The Liberal.

SYNOPSIS

The story starts about eighty years ago in a small village near the town of Little York. Mr. Roland Gray is fleeing for his life as the result of having shot Mr. Ham in a duel caused by the affection each has for Miss Astor who lives with her father. Gray is captured by the chief of the robbers of Markham Swamp. While held captive he learns of the evil doings of each member of the gang. In the previous chapter he hears how one under the assumed name of Rev. Mr. Jonas preaches every Sunday in a nearby church as well as performing a minister's duties during the week. While doing this he steals, commits murder or carries off to the swamp any one he may choose. Nancy also begins to tell Gray her life history before being taken captive.

"But this is the horrid swamp, where they say the robbers live. Lots of men have come here, and never came out again. Do you not feel afraid?"

"I feel no alarm my timid child. I have wandered many a day through the aisles of this sombre wood. The boughs grow so heavy and the trees so close as you advance, that you will find that dim religious light that the gifted poet writes of."

"Oh, if you are not afraid, Mr. Jonas, why should I be?" and this unsuspecting dove followed the monster toward the snare.

"I will not harrow your feelings by describing the bewilderment, horror and despair that fell upon that beautiful maid when the naked, odious, hellish truth was put before her. The Reverend Mr. Jonas, of course claimed her as his prey; and no one gainsayed his right. Ah, it was horrible. A week later, through some means or another, the poor girl made her escape from the den, but the old woman and Silent Poll speedily followed. A short way from the road they overtook her; and when the fugitive saw the wretches she screamed murder, and appealed for help. But her cries were soon ended; for the old woman knocked her senseless with a club; and the two together accomplished the murder. That night she was buried beneath the roots of a great pine tree and I often go there and sit and think; and watch the violets that I planted upon the grave.

When the girl ended there was a speechless horror in our hero's face; and two or three times tears glistened in the eyes of Nancy as she hurried through the horrible recital.

"I do not understand what motive the chief could have had this morning in tolerating your rebellious attitude. Nobody has ever dared cross him except Joe, who once or twice while intoxicated forgot himself. But he is too good a man to put aside. I am sure that the chief must have made up his mind that you shall aid him in some desperate enterprise he has in mind. He speaks much of some beautiful girl he is bent on capturing. I believe that he expects your assistance in the enterprise.

"He and his hellish crew shall rob me of my last drop of blood before I will so much as raise a finger to aid either him or them in any work of infamy or crime. He knows that; and I do not think that he will try any more persuasion."

"Do not be too certain. If he did not expect to make use of you, you would have been put to death this morning as coolly as if you had been a dog."

"Well, to make that matter easy, more than the chief would have been needed at the killing."

"Ah, you know not his giant, brutal strength. I fear that he could crush you like an infant."

"I have no fear. I do not dread, either with or without arms; and I rather concluded this morning that the fellow is as much coward as bully."

"Well, it may be so. But your safety is by no means assured. Lying as you did in a doorless room last night, you were at the mercy of Murrey's knife. And I well know what a stealthy murderer he is. Your danger to-night would be two fold, for

you have made of the old woman a deadly enemy; and of Silent Poll the same.

"You will require to be unceasingly on your guard against treachery; and it will be never safe for you by night or day if you have not your knife or pistol at your hand. I would recommend both."

"Then what is to be my safeguard in the night? I must sleep sometimes; and I shall surely be murdered."

"I am glad to say that the chief this morning ordered that you should have an inner room, to which there is a sturdy door. This will be locked upon you every night from the outside. I believe that the captain is half afraid you will attempt to escape because you said this morning that you would give yourself up to justice rather than stain your honor. You will be able to sleep without alarm therefore; but lest an attempt should be made by the old woman or by Joe to open your door from the outside, you had better barricade it from the inside. You have done well in making a friend of the Lifter, for he is very devoted to myself, and bitterly jealous of Murrey whom he detests. To me, therefore, you must appear as to Silent Poll; and henceforth I shall be more discreet than I was last night."

"And why were you indiscreet? Why did you drink so much of that fiery spirit?"

"I hardly know; but I think it was the pleasure that I felt at seeing such a face as yours, one so noble, frank and honorable at the table."

"But drinking in that way, it becomes impossible for you to preserve yourself unsullied, as you say you have done."

Here the poor girl blushed again.

"I grant that appearances are much against me; but I have told the truth. Seldom since coming here have I indulged so freely as you saw me do last night. But even last night I had full control of my reason."

"Ah! brandy is accursed stuff, my poor girl. Shun it as you would a deadly poison. I perceive by your face that your drinking habit is a stronger one than you yourself imagine. I have therefore a favor to ask. It is this that whatever comes, you drink no more spirits."

She looked into his face, and the tears started to her eyes.

"Oh! this indeed is something that I had never expected. It is like a voice speaking out of the tomb of Hope. But what would be the use of this unless you have some hope for my future. I have none. Have you, oh! have you any hope for me?" Her voice was piteous, passionate, pleading.

(To Be Continued)

Milk to Suit The Taste of All

Department of Agriculture has Issued Valuable Circular

It is universally known that milk, besides being a refreshing drink, is a very valuable food, supplying the necessary elements for growth and health in an easily digestible form. Unfortunately, many adults and some children have a distaste for milk in its natural state. The Dominion Department of Agriculture recently issued a small circular distributed free by its Publication Branch, Ottawa, which gives a number of recipes for milk drinks to suit any taste. They are easy to prepare, delicious and refreshing. In making them, ordinary household flavoring extracts, spices, juices from fresh or canned fruit or fruit syrup may be used. These recipes will be especially valuable in the case of children who have a fancied dislike for milk and for invalids whose food consists mainly of liquids, and who would relish a change in the flavor and appearance of the milk they drink.

The mackerel is said to have great muscular development. When fried the carp is also strong.

We're a democratic people and most of the big jobs are held by men who once licked cake batter from a mixing spoon.

Dry measure: Two pints of bootleg liquid made a peck of trouble.

Alimony: The price of a mistake for two.

Thinking lengthens life, says a physician. If you think quick enough perhaps.

YORK MILLS

(Special to the Liberal)

A Lay gathering was held on Thursday evening, October the 21st in the Parish Hall, York Mills to honor the Rector who is retiring after 2 years' work in the Parish.

A. Guttridge outlined the good work done by the Rector and Mrs. Ashcroft and also asked all present to support the new Vicar, Mrs. Little then presented the Rector with a purse of gold from the congregation and friends and little Miss Roberta Guttridge presented Mrs. Ashcroft with a bouquet of roses.

The Rector responded very feelingly afterwards. Mrs. Ashcroft presented Mrs. Bert Arnold with a bouquet from the A. Y. P. A. Miss Patterson recited several numbers and was much applauded. Refreshments were served by the ladies, bringing an enjoyable evening to a close.

Vanquished

Magistrate—(severely to old offender) "So you've been fighting your wife again. Liquor?"

Prisoner—"No, she licked me."

Predicts Mild Winter
An old Indian, steeped in tribal lore, who resides near St. Thomas predicts a mild winter. He bases his prognostications on the condition of the sub-soil, and not on the extent of the nut crop, the amount of husks on the corn or the behavior of the squirrels, ground hogs and snakes. The old Indian claims that there is much heat that has not escaped from the earth, and that this heat will come out during the winter and greatly moderate the temperature in Ontario. The ancient brave did not think those who usually go south for the winter had any occasion to worry in case they are unable to migrate this year. We take off our hat to the Indian Brave, and trust he knows what he is talking about. This is the kind of prediction we are glad to publish.

Knew His Business

Judge—Do you mean to say that you stood by and let your wife be brutally assaulted by the prisoner without rendering any help?"

Witness—"Well, I didn't think he needed any help."

Dodging The Issue

According to a laundry expert the causes of ruined collars are, stiff beads, pointed collar buttons and bulky neckties. Another cause, not mentioned by the expert, is laundries.

SAND and GRAVEL
FOR ROAD OR CEMENT WORK
At Our Pit
CEMENT BRICKS AND BLOCKS
Get Our Prices Before Placing Your Order.
G. S. REAMAN
Phone 849
CEMENT MIXERS FOR RENT
MAPLE ONTARIO

The Leader Store GROCERIES

Fresh and Pure at Very Attractive Prices

A shipment of new China has arrived and we are offering a very choice line of novelties, salt and peppers, vases and assorted crockery and glassware at exceptionally moderate prices.

J. & M. STEIN

CHINA, CUT GLASS, GROCERIES
AND FRUITS
Centre and Yonge Streets Richmond Hill
Phone 8

Kidney Diseases

If you have pains in the small of the back, difficulty in urinating, discharge of pus or blood from the bladder, swelling of ankles, puff under the eyes, tired feelings, etc., don't neglect treating the kidneys, bladder and urinary organs.

Dr. Thuna's Herbal Kidney and Bladder Treatment

will prove beneficial and quick results

Write in for this Treatment To-day

DR. THUNA, The Herbalist

1832 QUEEN ST. EAST

TORONTO, ONT

"Nature's Way is Best"

HAPPY—at home with a KING



The music and entertainment of half the world is yours if you have a King Radio

FAMOUS orchestras, noted singers, great speakers—with a King Radio young folks like to stay at home and entertain their friends.

Once the family knows the thrill of getting the great things off the air, once daughter knows she can roll up the rugs and set the dial to her favorite jazz station, or mother finds that she can get a new recipe every morning from the food expert, or the old folks learn that they can sit at home in comfort and listen to the old hymns and a sermon from their favorite church—then you'll never want to part with your King Radio for a single day.

We will be glad to send you this King Radio—or any other King model—let you try it three nights and prove its value to yourself. We install the set complete ready to receive—and show you how easy it is to operate.

You pay only a small amount down—the balance in convenient monthly amounts as you enjoy the set.

Come in today and see the King Radio line—or phone that you want to try one at home—and we will have it in your home before tomorrow night.

HALL'S SERVICE STATION
RICHMOND HILL, ONT.

KING RADIO "Most Radio Per Dollar"

Small Down Payment
Puts this Set in Your Home

Then pay the balance in small monthly amounts out of income. "Pay for it as you enjoy it" is our plan. Remember, your friends will never have a better radio if you have a King.

Bonds

Dominion, Provincial
REAL ESTATE
Loans and all lines of
INSURANCE

J. R. Herrington

Office Phone—87
Residence Phone—11M
Richmond Hill, Ont.

