"THAT'S JUST M'CLUNE."

But He Was a Hero Who Held the World in Light Esteem.

For a Friend's Sake He Laid Down His Life Without a Murmur.

Chivalry not Dead, but in the Hearts of the Youth as Truly as Ever It Was.

[Written for THE HELENA INDEPENDENT.]

"THEY HAVEN'T THE STAMINA." The professor of Greek, sitting on his comfortable settee just outside the ropes during a famous match, was laying down rules irritably to the professor of Latin on the decay of chivalry in the rising generation.

"I was a child of the war myself," objected the professor of Latin, "and I know how the soldiers of out-going regiments looked as they strained out of their car windows gazing at us. But if another crisis comes, that boy out there on the diamond would go to the front with just as little fuss as—a brother of mine did, thirty years ago." And the professor's blonde face flushed.

The professor of Greek followed the direction of the other's pointing arm. "Why that's just McClune!" said he.

At this moment time was declared, with victory for the academy, and McClune, a strapping figure in the captain's belt, was cheered and borne off the field in noisy but uncomfortable state.

"I say, Smith," said this McClune a little later, when the 'bus dropped the academy team at the station. "I've got to have these tickets straightened. The bloody goose of a conductor took off double fare. He goes up with us, I hear."

"No, he don't. He takes the special down, but there'll be time for a hack at him if you're sharp. Our train leaves first."

"That's he. Come along Smith. You saw him take 'em off."

Before them on the second track lay the academy train, which consisted of a couple of rocking cars full of roaring young humanity. The first track seemed very much cleared; but it was thus, no doubt, for the city special, which would back in as soon as the academy boys moved out.

The conductor in question, not a first-class man for his place anyway, and to-day "worried" by the students, and at the last moment to his intense disgust finding himself assigned to their returning train instead of the special, turns on McClune savagely.

"No such thing. I didn't take a mile more'n your fare."

"But see," cried McClune and Smith, thrusting forward the book of tickets and beginning to count.

But the anger on the face before them changes to panic, and as the excited youths become conscious suddenly of shouts and gesticulations, they feel a hot wave and turn to see the great locomotive of the through express coming down upon them.

There is room on this little platform between the tracks if they keep cool heads. The conductor drags McClune mechanically up the steps of the academy train; and McClune turns to Smith, but Smith has stepped off, and bewildered by the frantic cries which resound on all sides has completely lost his head and is looking helplessly to right and left.

So near that McClune could almost touch them, stood a line of pale people staring at him with that absorbed, awful directness which comes on our faces when we meet death ourselves, or witness others meet him. As he jerked himself free of the conductor and leaped down on the track he had a glimpse of his own train rimming him in on the other side, so that a flickering thought of the walls of faces around the gladiators in the arena rose in his mind. And then, picking up Smith in his strong arms, he fairly threw him to the bystanders. Smith landed all right, but the laws of space and motion are inexorable, and there was no time left for McClune.

PICKED UP SMITH IN HIS STRONG ARMS.

McClune was stunned, of course, but regained his senses sooner than was expected. He aroused himself to a surprised sense of being in the station waiting room instead of a car. And then he remembered.

His clothing was his first thought, for he was a poor boy, working his way, and the suit he was in was his best; somehow he did not seem to be able to work his neck, and after an attempt, eager enough, but so pitifully ineffectual it was imperceptible, he gave up trying to survey his person.

There was a great odor of drugs. People were working over his limbs. It seemed odd if they did not hurt him. He wondered if the train had left.

"This is too bad," he said again despondently. "The Prex paid me in advance today for his woodpile." McClune was an honorable man and the captain of the nine; and in the great democratic academy no one dreamed of commenting on the fact of his sawing wood and weeding gardens for the faculty to aid his ways and means. "I've spent the money; and here I am, likely to be laid up for weeks. Something's up with my legs. There's not a mite of feeling in them."

An engine slowed outside, and a famous surgeon hastily summoned from the city stepped off the caboose and went in to McClune.

The blonde professor of Latin, whom the students nicknamed Fluffy, came out of the strange stillness and twilight with brandy, which McClune swallowed somewhat painfully.

"Where are the boys, sir?" he said. But with reviving strength the twilight became daytime again to McClune, and he saw that some of them were there with him. What on earth was his stern professor of Greek crying for?

"I'm sorry you waited for me," he said to pallid Smith, whose face was down by his on the pillow. "It's so inconvenient for the rest. And I guess I've got to wait till next train anyway."

Twilight began to thicken again, inclosing Fluffy and Smith with him.

By this time there was a group of medical men by the hastily made bed, lifting him gently, endeavoring to make his position more easy, but saying nothing yet about his legs. McClune wondered at their leisurely ways, but made no comment, keeping up a nervous talk with the professor of Latin and with Smith upon the ball match. Someway everybody avoided mention of the accident.

The surgeon finished his examination—entirely painless—altered a few wrappings, and seemed to be going.

"How much am I hurt, sir?"

Now, this great man was accustomed to pronounce sentences. But his professional calm forsook him, as he looked down into those young, brave eyes.

"Do you want me to tell you?"

"Is it so bad as that, sir?" with a sudden white despair passing across his face as a cloud passes. "How soon?"

"As soon as the circulation starts up."

The eyes asked the next question.

"O, not at once, my boy! It may be in an hour—or less."

"Mr. Lamont," reaching forth to the professor of Latin, "won't you write to my father, the Rev. John McClune, Coffeyville, Kan. Tell him the insurance is all right. I'm insured, sir, for father, for a thousand dollars, and I sent off an assessment this morning. One dollar and seventy-five cents. Doctor Soule paid me in advance for cutting up his wood so I could send it, sir, and the letter went on the 11 o'clock mail. Tell Clarkson he can have that tennis racket for that money—he's offered me two-fifty for it—and pay the doctor, please. The e's no other debt. I wish Jones could have my job of sweeping the halls. I know he needs it."

"And, Mr. Lamont, don't have them send me home. Father will want it done, but he can't afford it. His salary is dreadfully small. And don't let them run up a big bill for—for things, you know. Father thinks I'm going to succeed and get him out of the woods, and it's the least I can do to not swamp him with expense about—about this."

It was eight o'clock in the morning in the spacious chapel of the academy. The bell was flinging out its last peals and all the faculty were on their platform.

The professor of Greek and the professor of Latin looked haggard.

But the professor of Greek rose and led the morning service and the school choir sang the usual morning hymn. As its final strains ceased the professor rose again behind the desk. He had something to say, and every student supposed he knew what was coming. None did, however, with the exception of the professor of Latin.

"Boys," said he, and they fairly started. Never before had there fallen such a tone from the lips of the severe and somewhat cynical professor of Greek. "Yesterday I said to my friend here by me that I could echo Burke, that the days of chivalry are dead.

"I like you. In some respects you are finer fellows than the boys of '61. You are keener generally, and you're much more humane.

"But, on the other hand, you seem less Spartan. You take pretty good care of yourselves, and you take your surroundings pretty well into consideration. In short, as a class, you're accustomed to be waited upon. And so yesterday I passed a cruel judgment upon you.

"And in two hours from the time the words were out of my mouth God let me see a hero out of your number die! How weak and worldly I was! I stand rebuked before you. The fashion of this world passeth away, but mankind is the same from age to age. For no Spartan in the renowned past, lying out all night with his sash tied fast to the next man's, so there could be no skulking, and waiting till—

"The morning sun
Should rise and give him light to die,"

and no knight in the days of old—those days which so fascinate you, my boys—ever counted life as dross more than McClune did."

He stopped short, in amazed silence of the school. Then there was a hesitating clap or two, and then a quick, shrill bark of applause, which grew and grew until the roof rang.

After all the classes had given their cheers, and McClune's own had added a three times three, the boys became aware that a white-headed minister of the place was upon his feet and endeavoring to be heard.

"My young friends!" cried he, in a pathetically worn voice, "I'd like to make a suggestion. I came in here like a good many of the townspeople to hear a choice requiem, which it has been rumored the school choir is going to render now in memory of their departed comrade.

"But it doesn't appear to me young McClune needs any requiem. It is permitted to few to be the inspiration he is at this moment. I, too, thought we had fallen upon days of flesh and brawn, and not much besides; and here is this lad going just as modestly and quietly as the lads used to.

"I wish to make the suggestion that instead of the requiem, we sing the hymn on the eighty-fourth page, common meter,

"'there is a land of pure delight
Where saints immortal reign.'"

The choir was well bred, and laid by the sheet music in favor of the old-fashioned tune, the school looking slightly quizzical at first. But one by one the hymnbooks strewed upon the benches were opened, and the volume of voice augmented, until from the sporting set who neglected music to the hard workers who had no time for cultivation of their voices, every fellow of them was joining, and sending their blood tingling from heart to finger tips of the old minister; but as they reached the last line the subtle sadness underlying the majestic words touched their quick feeling to remembrance of McClune, and the melody sank to caressing depths as the three hundred sang with the matchless charm of young emotion,

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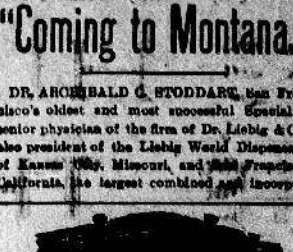

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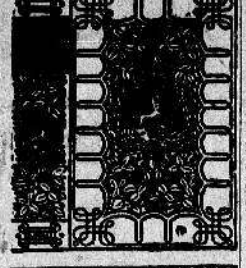

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Ida Anderson, plaintiff, vs. Alfred Anderson, defendant.

The state of Montana sends greeting to the above named defendant:

You are hereby required to appear in an action brought against you by the above named plaintiff in the district court of the first judicial district of the state of Montana, in and for the county of Lewis and Clarke, and to answer the complaint filed therein, within ten days (exclusive of the day of service) after the service on you of this summons, if served within this county, or, if served out of this county, but within this district, within twenty days; otherwise within forty days, or judgment by default will be taken against you, according to the prayer of said complaint.

The said action is brought to obtain a decree dissolving the bonds of matrimony existing between the plaintiff and defendant, and to obtain general relief. For cause of divorce the plaintiff alleges that the defendant has treated her in a cruel and inhuman manner and with extreme cruelty as more fully appears in complaint on file herein.

And you are hereby notified that if you fail to appear and answer the said complaint, as above required, the said plaintiff will apply to the said court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

Given under my hand and the seal of the district court of the First judicial district of the state of Montana, in and for the county of Lewis and Clarke, this 23d day of August, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two.

(Seal District Court.)

JOHN BEAN, Clerk.
By H. R. THOMPSON, Deputy Clerk.
W. W. PHELPS, Attorney for Plaintiff.

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