

The Story Teller---The Haven of the Clock

WE CHILDREN, who were visiting our grandparents at the old homestead in Virginia, were all gathered about grandfather one rainy afternoon begging for a story, when the huge old clock struck 4. The sound seemed to remind grandfather of just the incident, for his face lighted up, and after taking Robbie and Ruthie upon his lap he began:

"It was during the war, when I was an aide in a regiment under General Grant, that one day my life was in great peril and that old clock protected me. We were encamped some fifteen miles south of Appomattox in this state when one day General Grant came to me with a letter which he ordered me to carry to the commanding officer of some troops north of Petersburg, no very great distance, but still it was no easy matter to get a message from one camp to another in those days.

"I started at once, dressed in the guise of a farmer's boy, and mounted on an old nag, with a huge sack of corn in front of me. The message was secured between the linings of my trousers. I was prepared to tell any who might accost me that I was going to 'Tim Jones' mill.' I had ridden some ten miles when I became aware that I was being pursued.

"I cut a large hole in the sack of corn so as to lighten the burden of my horse and urged him on. They were rapidly gaining upon me when a turn in the road brought me to a lane, which I knew must lead to some residence. I jumped from my horse, placed the now almost empty sack of corn upon his back, threw my coat over it, and laying my whip smartly about the poor beast's sides, bade him go. Then I took to the lane and ran my fastest. I soon came to the driveway gate, scaled it and rushed into the yard of a fine old country seat. Seeing a smiling young girl at an open window I asked her for a drink. She bade me enter the house and then brought me a glass of water. As I drank she asked me if I were hungry, and upon my saying that I was, she gave me some bread and butter. Then without any warning she stepped toward me and said in a low tone:

"Do you know that I—I don't think you're an ordinary tramp. I don't think that you're a southerner, and—and you needn't be afraid to tell me if you're a union soldier in disguise, for even though my father is a confederate my heart is with the north, and I'll protect you if you came here to hide."

"I looked into those honest brown eyes and knew that the little miss before me spoke the truth. I glanced out of the win-



She opened the door of the clock and bade me step in.

now and saw that my pursuers, who had run down my horse and thus learned my little game, had come back to search the house for me. Turning to the fair young housekeeper I said:

"For God's sake, for the sake of your country, hide me." "She was about to lead me upstairs, when the confederates galloped into the yard. Just then the old clock which stood near the stairs struck 4.

"Oh," she exclaimed, "I won't have time to take you there." "Then she turned, opened the door of the clock and unfastening the huge pendulum bade me step in and stay there until she came for me. I obeyed, there being nothing else to do. She fastened me in and then opened the front door for the officers who had pulled the huge knocker some seconds since.

"They entered and asked immediately if she had seen a young boy of about 18 within the past half hour. Dorothy (for that was the name of the young hostess) said that she had been sitting at the window and had seen no one enter the yard.

"But," she said, "he may be hiding about the place. You had better search." They went first to the out buildings, Miss Dorothy reminding them as they left of the potato dug-out.

"After an unsuccessful search they returned and went through the house. Miss Dorothy then served tea, to the confederates and as they sat sipping it comfortably one remarked the fine old clock.

"Yes," replied Miss Dorothy, "it belonged to my grandfather, and it kept good time until recently, when it stopped altogether."

"I can tell you what ails it in a minute," said one of the men, "if you will permit me to examine the works." He stepped forward and I felt his hand on the door. My heart stood still as I thought of the precious message, of my personal safety and of the danger of the fair young girl who was sheltering me.

"But Miss Dorothy's ready wit came to my rescue. She laid a detaining hand upon his arm and said timidly: 'You will excuse me, sir, but without my father's consent I could not allow anyone to touch it.' The men left shortly afterwards and as soon as possible I left, too, going on my errand without being further molested.

"When the war was over I returned to Appomattox to teach school and then I came here and wooed and won the young lady who had protected me in the time of my great peril. She is your grandmother now, children, and this is the very house and that the very clock in which I hid."

B Ninth Grade,
Central High School.

—Myrtle M. Harker,
1726 Elliot Avenue S.



THE WORLD



WILHELMINA, queen of the Netherlands, was married Thursday, Feb. 7, at The Hague, to Duke Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The duke made his formal entry into the capital of his future wife on the evening of Jan. 31, and was enthusiastically received by the Hollanders. The intervening days until the wedding were spent by Wilhelmina and the duke in various festivities and in drives about the city. The Hague was profusely decorated, one special feature being large orange colored lanterns hung in the fir trees that lined the streets, making them look like quaint orange trees weighted down with huge fruit. The ceremony itself was a double one. The civil marriage took place at the palace at 11:30 a. m. in the presence only of the families of the principals. Immediately afterwards the procession started for the church, headed by fifty Hussars, the queen and the bridegroom riding together in a golden state coach. The church ceremony was performed by the court chaplain, the wedded pair exchanging rings in the usual Dutch custom. Then the party returned to the palace where a wedding breakfast was served. Vast crowds were in the streets early and the early trains brought thousands in from the country. The queen's wedding dress was of the finest silver tissue, embroidered with pearls. One noticeable feature about the wedding was the democratic air pervading everything. There were no guards of honor—the queen was merely a loved young woman whose marriage was solemnized in the midst of loyal friends.

English sentiment has turned emphatically in favor of Emperor William. Next to King Edward himself, he was the royal personage greeted with the most enthusiasm. Relations have been strained for some time between the kaiser and his English relatives, but his unaffected grief at the death of his grandmother and his willingness to put himself comparatively in the background have won the favor of his royal relatives as well as of the public.

Nothing is known definitely as to the date of King Edward's coronation, but it is expected that it will occur within six months.

The talk of a marriage between the king's only unmarried daughter and Grand Duke Michael, the heir apparent of the throne of Russia, is hardly likely to be more than talk. The two are first cousins, and the Greek church, the orthodox church of Russia, especially refuses to sanction marriage between cousins. There is also a well defined feeling that the long visit to be paid by the crown prince of Germany to his English relatives is the forerunner of an alliance with some of the English princesses. There are marriageable young women in the families of the Duke of Connaught and of the Duchess of Albany.

The queen's private fortune is estimated at about \$10,000,000 in addition to landed property—Osborne House and Balmoral—plate, jewels and works of art. This property she was free to will as she pleased. Everything else belonging to the crown goes unreservedly to the king. When Victoria came to the throne she found the personal estates left by her uncles, George IV, and William IV, hopelessly tangled with the crown belongings, many valuable crown jewels having been made away with by private parties. Victoria at once ordered an inventory of all the crown possessions that came to her, and at the same time began a record of what she bought for her personal possession. Each of the latter articles was specifically described, and the history of the purchase given, so that there is now no confusion in the separation and distribution of her effects.

The Filipino insurrection is gradually being estimated at its true value by the natives, who have now had time to contrast the rule of the Filipino chiefs with that of the Americans. They are not only beginning to swear allegiance to the United States in large numbers, but in sections where there are no American troops the natives are rising decidedly against the insurgents, notably in Mindoro, where they killed the insurgent governor.

It has been given and taken between the American forces and the insurgents this week. First, a small force under Lieutenant Hicken was trapped by the insurgents while crossing a river in the island of Cebu and five men were killed before reinforcements

reached them. On the other hand, the camp of General Trias, commanding the insurgents in Marindique, was captured and destroyed by a detachment of the Forty-sixth regiment.

The provincial government bill has been passed by the Philippine commission, and representatives of the commission will at once make a tour of those southern provinces which General MacArthur considers sufficiently pacified, for the purpose of organizing the new system of government.

A representative of the recently organized federal party has returned from the island of Mauidique, where he has been organizing branches of the party, and he brings rolls containing 5,000 signatures of membership. He claims that these signatures mean the death of the insurgent cause in that island.

The powers have sprung another surprise upon the Chinese envoys in their recent demand that each one of the twelve princes specified in their first note as guilty of creating the trouble should be beheaded. Several have already paid the penalty, but it is demanded that the rest be treated likewise. The two possible exceptions are Prince Tuan and Duke Lan, who are so closely related to the imperial family that the emperor may be allowed to commute the sentence of death to banishment to Turkestan.

A number of the Chinese residents of Peking have presented General Chaffee with several umbrellas. They took occasion when the presentation was made to express their high regard for General Chaffee personally and for the troops under his command, owing to the consideration shown them by the Americans.

Dr. Morrison, the representative of the London Times, who has been in China during the trouble, says that China is able to pay without serious burden \$20,000,000 annually for a service loan and \$400,000,000 as indemnity. The most popular proposition is that China should take up bonds for the amount, determine the proper allotment of the indemnity to each power and agree to redeem the bonds within forty-five years.

Havana and the action of the Cuban assembly is keeping the government at Washington on the anxious seat these days. At present the Cubans show no intention of granting the concessions which the United States feels are absolutely necessary for its own protection, and when they understand that our government will insist on proper guarantees of stability, there may be trouble of various kinds. At the same time, business men in Havana dread the idea of Cuban rule, unrestrained by the United States, and so business in Cuba is suffering. No one cares to invest much either in land or business until the constitution is formally adopted and permanency and security established.

The transport McPherson struck on a reef near Matanzas and will be a total loss. Passengers and crew were saved, and much of the freight, but a hole was pounded in her side so that if she is pulled off the reef she will sink.

Lord Kitchener has at last begun an offensive movement against the Boers with the expectation of driving them from the eastern half of the Transvaal. Seven columns will operate in a wide fan-shaped order from bases extending from the Delagoa railway on the north to the Natal railway on the south.

The Portuguese fear an attack upon Lourenzo Marquez and have requested British interference. It is thought that the burghers intend to attempt to rescue the Boer prisoners on Portuguese soil, and the Portuguese authorities have decided to remove to Madeira all Boer prisoners and refugees who refuse to surrender to the British.

Modderfontein was rushed at night by the Boers, who killed or wounded thirty British and captured 200 more. These latter were subsequently released.

The total death list for the British since the beginning of the war is 12,989.

General Nelson A. Miles has been nominated lieutenant general of the army, the highest grade possible, and his name has been sent to the senate for confirmation. General Miles is not a graduate of West Point and in spite of his record as a fighter and especially in the Indian campaigns of the past quarter cen-

tury, West Pointers have been decidedly against his advancement.

The output of United States postage stamps during January was the largest in the history of the government, the total number being 504,676,615, of which 9,564,840 were in the little book form.

The boundary between the United States and British America in Alaska has been established by the joint commission appointed two years ago. The commission was unanimous in giving the United States nine-tenths of the disputed territory. The Canadians claimed the whole of the Lynn canal. The United States contended that the boundary line ran around the head of that body of water. The survey not only upheld this claim but took the boundary twenty-five miles farther north, and above canoe navigation. The monuments marking the boundary are only temporary but it is not at all likely that either government will question the accuracy of the work by the commission. The Chilcoot and White passes are the actual or political boundaries.

Venezuela has just taken an important step in its opening of the delta of the Orinoco to the navigation of the world. About fifty arms of the river flow directly seaward, but only seven of them are accessible to large vessels.

Major Stanley Paterson of England, who made an extensive journey up the Orinoco valley, in 1898, says the valley will some day develop into one of the richest commercial regions of the western world. Countless herds of cattle may be raised there, the forests yield large quantities of natural products, such as rubber, quinine and other drugs, and some traces of gold and other valuable minerals have been discovered.

The telephone mileage in Alaska will probably be more than doubled during the coming year. Automatic telephones are being installed at Skaguay.

The official flag of the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo was selected from 300 designs and is the production of Miss Adelaide J. Thorpe. In the upper corner is a single white star on a blue field, typifying North America. In the opposite corner on a red field are four stars representing the southern cross constellation and South America. The center of the flag is a diagonal white bar, bearing the golden eagle of liberty with a green scroll in its talons, inscribed, "Pax, 1901."

German plantation experts say that the Samoan islands have a great future in coffee, tea, tobacco, cotton and like products. A company is forming in Germany to lay out plantations and build narrow gauge railways.

The French budget commission has approved of the plan to build new embassies worthy of France at Washington and Vienna.

The Italian senate has just passed a bill making the house in which the celebrated composer, the late Giuseppe Verdi, was born, a national monument. His remains and those of his wife will be interred at Milan, in the institution for old musicians founded by Verdi.

The state legislature of Connecticut has been asked for an appropriation to purchase the homestead in West Torrington in which John Brown was born. Relic hunters have been carrying it away piecemeal.

The Japanese consul to British Columbia is on his way to Ottawa to try to secure the veto of the Canadian government to the recent bill passed by British Columbia restricting Japanese immigration and labor. The people of British Columbia fear he may be successful, as the eastern portion of Canada does not understand the reasons for the attitude of British Columbia in regard to oriental immigration.