The Mississippi Bubble

HOW THE STAR OF GOOD FORTUNE ROSE AND SET AND ROSE AGAIN, BY A WOMAN'S GRACE, FOR ONE JOHN LAW OF LAURISTON

A Novel by EMERSON HOUGH.

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CHAPTER IV.

The Pathway of the Waters.

The news of the intended departure was received with joy by the crew of voyageurs, who, on the warning of an instant, fell forthwith to the simple tasks of breaking camp and storing the accustomed bales and bundles in their places in the great canot du Nord.

"La voila!" said Tete Gris. "Here she sits, this canoe, eager to go on. 'Tis forward again, mes amis! Forward once more; and glad enough am I for this day. We shall see new lands ere long."

"For my part," said Jean Breboeuf, "I also am most anxious to be away, for I have eaten this whitefish until I crave no more. I had bethought me how excellent are the pumpkins of the good fathers at the Straits; and indeed I would we had with us more of that excellent fruit, the bean."

"Bah! Jean Breboeuf," retorted Pierre Noir. "'Tis but a poor-hearted voyageur would hang about a mission garden with a hoe in his hand instead of a gun Perhaps the good sisters at the Mountain miss thy skill at pulling weeds."

"Nay, now, I can live as long on fish and flesh as any man," replied Jean Breboeuf, stoutly, "nor do I hold myself, Monsieur Tete Gris, one jot in courage back of any man upon the trail."

"Of course not, save in time of storm," grinned Tete Gris. "Then it is 'Holy Mary, witness my vow of a bale of beaver!' It is—"

"Well, so be it," said Jean Breboeuf, stoutly. "'Tis sure a bale of beaver will come easily enough in these new lands; and—though I insist again that I have naught of superstition in my soul—when a raven sits on a tree near camp and croaks of a morning before breakfast—as upon my word of honor was the case this morning—there must be some ill fate in store for us, as doth but stand to reason."

"But say you so?" said Tete Gris, pausing at his task, with his face assuming a certain seriousness.

"Assuredly," said Jean Brebeouf. "'Tis as I told you. Moreover, I insist to you, my brothers, that the signs have not been right for this trip at any time. For myself, I look for nothing but disaster."

The humor of Jean Breboeuf's very gravity appealed so strongly to his older comrades that they broke out into laughter, and so all fell again to their tasks, in sheer light-heartedness forgetting the superstitions of their class.

Thus at length the party took ship again, and in time made the head of the great bay within whose arms they had been for some time encamped. They won up over the sullen rapids of the river which came into the bay, toiling sometimes waist-deep at the cordelle, yet complaining not at all. So in time they came out on the wide expanse of the shallow lake of the Winnebagoes, which body of water they crossed directly, coming into the quiet channel of the stream which fell in upon its western shore. Up this stream in turn steadily they passed, amid a panorama filled with constant change. Sometimes the gentle river bent away in long curves, with hardly a ripple upon its placid surface, save where now and again some startled fish sprang into the air in fright or sport, or in the rush upon its prey. Then the stream would lead away into vast seas of marsh lands, waving in illimitable reaches of rushes, or fringed with the unspeakably beautiful green of the graceful wild rice plant.

In these wide levels now and again the channel divided, or lost itself in little cul de sacs, from which the paddlers were obliged to retrace their way. All about them rose myriads of birds and wild fowl, which made their nests among these marshes, and the babbling chatter of the rail, the high-keyed calling of the coot, or the clamoring of the home-building mallard assailed their ears hour after hour as they passed on between the leafy shores. Then, again, the channel would sweep to one side of the marsh, and give view to wide vistas of high and rolling lands, dotted with groves of hardwood, with here and there a swamp of cedar or of tamarack. Little herds of elk and droves of deer fed on the grass-covered slopes, as fat, as sleek and fearless of mankind as though they dwelt domesticated in some noble park.

It was a land obviously but little known, even to the most adventurous, and as chance would have it, they met not even a wandering party of the native tribes. Clearly now the little boat was climbing, climbing slowly and gently, yet surely, upward from the level of the great Lake Michiganon. In time the little river broadened and flattened out into wide, shallow expanses, the waters known as the Lakes of the Foxes; and beyond that it became yet more shallow and uncertain, winding among quaking bogs and unknown marshes; yet still, whether by patience, or by cheerfulness, or by determination, the craft stood on and on, and so reached that end of the waterway which, in the opinion of the more experienced Du Mesne, must surely be the place known among the Indian tribes as the "Place for the carrying of boats."

Here they paused for a few days, at that mild summit of land which marks the portage between the east bound and the west bound waters; yet, impelled ever by the eager spirit of the adventurer, they made their pause but short. In time they launched their craft on the bright, smooth flood of the river of the Ouisconsins, stained coppery-red by its far-off, unknown course in the north, where it had bathed leagues of the roots of pine and tamarack and cedar. They passed on steadily westward, hour after hour, with the current of this great stream, among little islands covered with timber; passed along bars of white sand and flats of hardwood; beyond forest-covered knolls, in the openings of which one might now and again see great vistas of a scenery now peaceful and now bold, with turreted knolls and sweeping swards of green, as though some noble house of old England were set back secluded within these wide and well-kept grounds. The country now rapidly lost its marshy character, and as they approached the mouth of the great stream, it being now well toward the middle of the summer, they reached, suddenly and without forewarning, that which they long had sought.

The sturdy paddlers were bending to their tasks, each broad back swinging in unison forward and back over the thwart, each brown throat bared to the air, each swart head uncovered to the glare of the midday sun, each narrow-bladed paddle keeping unison with those before and behind, the hand of the paddler never reaching higher than his chin, since each had learned the labor-saving fashion of the Indian canoeman. The day was bright and cheery, the air not too ardent, and across the coppery waters there stretched slants of shadow from the embowering forest trees. They were alone, these travelers; yet for the time at least part of them seemed care-free and quite abandoned to the sheer zest of life. There arose again, after the fashion of the voyageurs, the measure of the paddling song, without which indeed the paddler had not been able to perform his labor at the thwart.

"Dans mon chemin jai rencontre—"

chanted the leader; and voices behind him responded lustily with the next line:

"Trois cavaliers bien montes—"

"Trois cavaliers bien montes—"

chanted the leader again.

"L'un a cheval et l'autre a pied—"

came the response; and then the chorus:

"Lon, lon laridon daine—
Lon, lon laridon dai!"

The great boat began to move ahead steadily and more swiftly, and bend after bend of the river was rounded by the rushing prow. None knew this country, nor wist how far the journey might carry him. None knew as of certainty that he would ever in this way reach the great Messasebe; or even if he thought that such would be the case, did any one know how far that Messasebe still might be. Yet there came a time in the afternoon of that day, even as the chant of the voyageurs still echoed on the wooded bluffs, and even as the great birch-bark ship still responded swiftly to their gaiety, when, on a sudden turn in the arm of the river, there appeared wide before them a scene for which they had not been prepared. There, rippling and rolling under the breeze, as though itself the arm of some great sea, they saw a majestic flood, whose real nature and whose name each man there knew on the instant and instinctively.

"Messasebe! Messasebe!" broke out the voices of the paddlers.

"Stop the paddles!" cried Du Mesne. "Voila!"

John Law rose in the bow of the boat and uncovered his head. It was a noble prospect which lay before him. His was the soul of the adventurer, quick to respond to challenge. There was a fluttering in his throat as he stood and gazed out upon this solemn, mysterious and tremendous flood, coming whence, going whither, none might say. He gazed and gazed, and it was long before he drew a sigh.

"Madame," said he, at length, turning until he faced Mary Connynge, "this is the west. We have chosen, and we have arrived!"

CHAPTER V.

Messasebe.

The boat, now lacking its propelling power, drifted on and out into the clear tide of the mighty stream. The paddlers were idle, and silence had fallen upon all. The rush of this majestic flood, steady, mysterious, secret-keeping, created a feeling of awe and wonder. They gazed and gazed again, up the great waterway, across to its farther shore, along its rolling course below, and still each man forgot his paddle, and still the little ship of New France drifted on, just rocking gently in the mimic waves which ruffled the face of the mighty Father of the Waters.

"By our Lady!" cried Du Mesne, at length, and tears stood in his tan-framed eyes as he turned, "'tis true, all that has been said! Here it is, Messasebe, more mighty than any story could have told! Monsieur L'as' 'tis big enough to carry ships."

"'Twill carry fleets of them one day, Du Mesne," replied John Law. "'Tis a roadway fit for a nation. Ah, Du Mesne! our St. Lawrence, our New France—they dwindle when compared to this new land."

"Aye! and 'tis all our own!" cried Du Mesne. "Look; for the last ten days we have scarce seen even the smoke of a wigwam, and, so far as I can tell, there is not in all this valley now the home of a single white man. My friend Du L'hut—he may be far north of the Superior today for aught we know, or somewhere among the Sauteur people. If there be any man below us, let some one else tell who that may be. Sir, I promise you, when I see this big water going on so fast and heading so far away from home—well, I admit it causes me to shiver!"

"'Tis much the same," said Law, "where home may be for me."

"Ah, but 'tis different on the lakes," said Du Mesne, "for there we always knew the way back, and knew that 'twas down stream."

"He says well," broke in Mary Connynge. "There is something in this big river that chills me. I am afraid."

"And what say you, Tete Gris, and you, Pierre Noir?" asked Law.

"Why, myself," replied the former, "I am with the captain. It matters not. There must always be one trail from which one does not return."

"Oui," said Pierre Noir. "To be sure, we have passed as good beaver country as heart of man could ask; but never was land so good but there was better just beyond."

"They say well, Du Mesne," spoke John Law, presently; "'tis better on beyond. Suppose we never do return? Did I not say to you that I would leave this other world as far behind me as might be?"

"Eh bien, Monsieur L'as, you reply with spirit, as ever," replied Du Mesne, "and it is not for me to stand in the way. My own fortune and family are also with me, and home is where my fire is lit."

"Very well," replied Law. "Let us run the river to its mouth, if need be. 'Tis all one to me. And whether we get back or not, 'tis another tale."

"Oh, I make no doubt we shall win back if need be," replied Du Mesne. "'Tis said the savages know the ways by the Divine river of the Illini to the foot of Michiganon; and that, perhaps, might be our best way back to the lakes and to the mountain with our beaver. We shall, provided we reach the Divine river, as I should guess by the stories I have heard, be then below the Illini, the Ottawas and the Miamis, with I know not what tribes from west of the Messasebe. 'Tis for you to say, Monsieur L'as, but for my own part—and 'tis but a hazard at best—I would say remain here, or press on to the river of the Illini."

"'Tis easy of decision, then," replied Law, after a moment of reflection. "We take that course which leads us farther on, at least. Again the paddles, my friends! To-night we sup in our own kingdom. Strike up the song, Du Mesne!"

A shout of approval broke from the hardy men along the boat side, and even Jean Breboeuf tossed up his cap upon his paddle shaft.

"Forward, then, mes amis!" cried Du Mesne, setting his own paddle blade deep into the flood. "En roulant ma boule, roulant——"

Again the chorus rose, and again the hardy craft leaped onward into the unexplored.

[To be Continued To-morrow.]

Sharon, Pa.—The malleable iron combine is formed; capital $20,000,000.

Waltham Watches.

"Right as a trivet."

"The Perfected American Watch," an illustrated book of interesting information about watches, will be sent free upon request.

American Waltham Watch Company, Waltham, Mass.

Petticoat Special

Black Petticoats, made of a fine mercerized sateen, trimmed with tailored stitched ruffles; extra dust ruffle. Splendid value, at..... **$1.19**

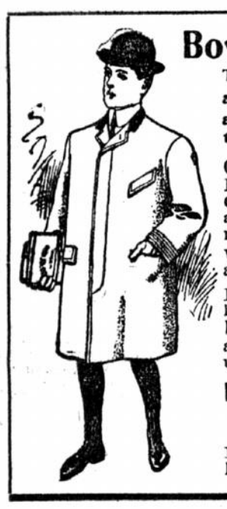
DONALDSON'S GLASS BLOCK.

Remarkable Economical Opportunities for Saturday.

Furniture Prices.

The holiday season is almost upon us and with its approach comes the demand for space. We have cut deep into Furniture prices. This will be good news to buyers of high class stuff. The sweeping reductions we are now making must strike economical people very forcibly.

Take Elevators to Fourth Floor.



Boys' and Youths' Clothing.

The new lines of Boys' and Young Men's Suits are the nobbiest ever turned out in style, fabrics and tailoring. They're a long way ahead of any thing we've ever before had to offer.

Glass Block Special—The best Suit, Reefer and Long Overcoat in the Twin Cities for the money. Comes in sailor, Russian blouse, Norfolk two and three button double breasted sack styles. A new suit free for any suit that will not wear well. Special at..... **$4.98**

Boys' Long Pant Suits, 13 to 20 years, all broken lines that sold early in the season at $8.50. Blues, blacks, browns, grays. These are genuine bargains for Saturday at..... **$6.00**

Large Assortment of Ladies', Boys' and Children's Sweaters.

Red and white camel's hair Tams, regular price 98c, Saturday **89c**

MILLINERY

First Floor.

ENORMOUS BARGAINS FOR SATURDAY.

300 HATS trimmed to sell at $3.50, all to be closed out for, each **$1.98**

All outing hats will be closed out Saturday for exactly ..... **Half Price**

All children's cloth tams, for **Half Price**

Pompons, white and black, each..... **29c**

Draping nets, in all colors, per yard..... **10c**

Fatton's Ostrich Feathers always in stock at lowest prices.

Two Specials in French Flexibone Corsets.

MODEL 709—This is a full gored, straight front corset, with medium height of bust and long skirt, made from fine English twill and trimmed with wide lace; has tabs for hose supporters in front; adapted for a wide range of figures 10½-in., 5-hook clasp and side steels; in white. Price.... **$1.00**

MODEL 739—This is one of the latest Flexibone Models; has the new habit front and cross sectional boning and with hose supporters attached to the front; made from a fine quality English twill and attractively trimmed with wide lace, ribbon insertion; has 11-inch 5-hook clasp and side steels; in white. Price.... **$1.50**

Bargain Basement.

Sensational prices in this department will continue but a short time.

SHOES—About one hundred pairs of women's, misses' and children's fine shoes, odds and ends, extraordinary value for Saturday, Bargain Basement, pair.. **19c**

SHOES—We have about 150 pairs of women's fine kid and enameled shoes, in lace and button, good styles, sizes from 6 to 8, val. to $3; Bar. Basement **$1.49**

BOYS' SUITS—A small lot of boys' two-piece suits in grey mixtures and checks, sizes to 15 years, while they last, closing out price, Bargain Basement, suit.. **50c**

WASH GOODS—A big assortment of percales, dark sateens and fleece lined goods, all good designs, a very exceptional bargain, closing out sale, Bargain Basem't yd. **5c**

BED SPREADS—About five dozen dark colored fringed quilts large size fast color, regular price $1.25, closing out price, Bargain Basement, each..... **75c**

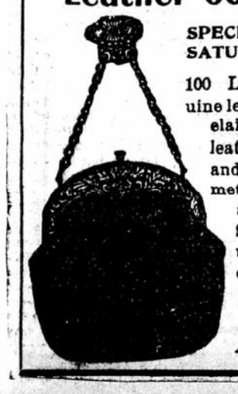
SHIRTS—One lot of men's colored laundered shirts with cuffs and negligee flannel shirts with tie, good fast colors, regular $1 goods, Saturday special price, Bargain Basement, each..... **39c**

POLES—About 200 four and five feet 1⅜ inch thick, oak and cherry poles, Bargain Basement, each **5c**

Brass finished fixtures for same, set..... **4c**

BIG SNAPS—
Women's white aprons, each.. **10c**
Men's working gloves, pair... **10c**
Fine white lawn, yard..... **3¾c**
Veiling, Saturday only, yard.... **5c**
Fancy frilled Elastic 1½ in. wide, **5c**
Perfume, all odors, bring bot., oz. **5c**
Big lot of dress trimmings, clean up, yard..... **5c**

Leather Goods.

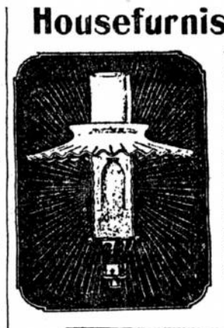


SPECIAL FOR SATURDAY.

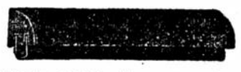
100 Ladies' genuine leather Chatelaine Bags, all leather lined and with fancy metal frame and chain. Special Saturday only, each, **49c**

A bargain.

Housefurnishings.



Gas Lamp. Complete with burner, globe and shade—guaranteed; Glass Block mantle, regular 65c; sale price **45c**



WEATHER STRIP—Keeps your house warm and saves coal bills.
No. 0 size—per hundred feet..... **45c**
No. 1 size—per hundred feet..... **55c**
No. 2 size—per hundred feet..... **65c**
No. 3 size—per hundred feet..... **85c**
Felt for doors at..... **1½c, 2c, 3c** per foot

COAL HODS—Extra heavy riveted bottom fancy band, with funnel **40c**

COAL HODS — Galvanized iron, for rough usage, extra strong, large size **40c**

COAL OIL HEATERS. Patent smokeless top—heavy wrought steel frame, nickel trimming, regular $4.00, for **$2.95**

Trunks! Trunks!

IN THE BUSY BASEMENT.

Special sale of fine Trunks, canvas covered, square top, linen lined, excelsior locks, two sole leather straps, extra well made, in 3 sizes—34, 36 and 38-in.; $11, $11.50 and $12 trunks; special..... **$10**

$9 and $9.50 Trunks. Special..... **$7.50**

$15, $16 and $17 Trunks. Special, **$13.50**

Barrel top Trunks, sizes 30 and 32-inch; $5 and $5.25 trunks. Special.... **$4.25**

Wash Goods.

200 pieces apron checked Ginghams, indigo blue prints, comforter prints and figured challies; also figured dress percales, on special bargain tables, for Saturday only, at, per yard **5c**

Flannelette Remnants.

6,000 yards fancy striped and checked flannelettes; values up to 10c a yard, on bargain tables, for Saturday only, at per yard..... **6½c**

Fleeced Wrapper Flannel.

10000 yds. fleeced wrapper flannels, mostly navy blue and black grounds, with white dots and figures, always sold at 10c. While this lot lasts Saturday we will say only at, per, yard..... **5½c**

Quantity limited. None to dealers.

Special Silk Offerings for Saturday.

Here are a few good things we picked up at the end-of-season sale of an eastern jobber of high repute. We bought them cheap, and will sell them accordingly low-priced.

25 PIECES HEAVY MOIRE VELOUR, in black. This is the rich, weighty silk so much used this season for walking coats, carriage robes, etc., ¾ yard wide; usually sells at $1.25 a yard. Saturday all will be sold at, yard.... **89c**

CORDED TAFFETAS — 18 pieces new novelty Corded Taffetas, in both street and evening shades. We will let you judge how much they're really worth—a good deal more than we ask. Saturday..... **58c**

BLACK SILK VELVETS—2,500 yards Silk Velvets, in black only; this is one of the best imported German velvets that is sold universally at a dollar. Saturday all will be sold at only, per yard **69c**

Silk Remnants In addition to the bargains mentioned above we have a large assortment of Silk Remnants on sale at just..... **Half Price**

Our Great Cloak and Suit Room

Offers for Saturday Some Phenomenal and Extraordinary Bargains.

Now is the time to buy. Stock was never so complete with new ideas of correct styles at correct prices as at the present time.

LADIES' COATS—Lot of Ladies' Jackets and Box Coats, come in Cheviots, Coverts and rough effects—tight and half-fitted backs, well tailored perfect fitting garments, no such values to be found elsewhere—among them many sample coats and worth up to $10. Your choice on Saturday, each..... **$5.00**

Just received a new lot of Ladies' Box Coats, Monte Carlo Coats and Short Jackets—made of finest cloths in Kersey and Montanac, all made to our order, lined with best quality Satin—worth $15. Special Saturday, each..... **$10**

GIRLS' JACKETS—Made of fine, smooth faced Melton Cloth, double breasted, storm collar—nicely tailored and trimmed, sizes 6 to 14 years. Come in red, blue and castor, worth $4.50 and $5.00. Saturday at, each..... **$3.75**

Special.

GIRLS' DRESSES—An odd lot of Girls' Dresses, made of fancy mixed Suitings and Cashmere—elaborately trimmed in Velvet and braid. All colors and sizes—from 4 to 14 years, values from $2.00 to $3.50. Choice on Saturday, each..... **$1.00**

Mail Orders. We have just completed the mailing of our Fall and Winter Catalogue for 1902-1903. In the distributing of an edition of 50,000 errors on our part, as well as the postal authorities, we are sure have been the cause of non-delivery of many. We therefore would consider it a favor if you will notify us that you have failed to receive it. ☞ We have still a limited number of catalogues left and will be glad to send you one free upon receipt of name and address.

Waists.

LADIES' MAN-TAILORED WAIST made of fine flannel front, has stitched plaits, stitched stock and cuffs to match; made in a pretty line of colors, finely tailored throughout; exceptional value, at..... **$1.25**

SILK WAIST OFFERING — Rich taffeta or peau de soie Waists, trimmed with handsome lace insertions, hemstitching or elaborate tuckings; stylish stocks and sleeves; all dressy effects; made in a handsome line of shades. Offered Saturday at the exceptionally low price..... **$5.98**

Dress Goods.

Grand clearance sale of remnants and odds and ends of fancy waistings, camel hair suitings, figured challies, granite cloth and satin striped albatross; values 50c and up to 85c. Choice Saturday only, per yard..... **39c**

CAMEL HAIR SUITING—48 and 50-inch new Camel Hair Suiting, all the leading fall shades; worth $2.00, on sale Saturday at, per yard..... **$1.59**

Ladies' Knit Underwear.

Oneita $1.00 natural wool plated Union Suits. These are mended seconds, warm and well made, each..... **69c**

Fine Merino, in natural or white, vest with fine crochet front and neck, pants to match at, each..... **75c**

Men's Undershirts

Men's heavy fine natural wool undershirts and drawers, the drawers have double gusset and turn under seams throughout. Special Saturday..... **89c**

Cut Flower Dept.

To give the public the benefit of our choice stock of Cut Flowers and Plants, we offer the following special prices for Saturday only.

All our $3 Mums, per doz... **$2.00**
Our 75c Mums, per doz..... **38c**
In Pink Roses our regular $2 grade, doz.... **$1.25**
Our $1.50 grade, at per doz..... **75c**
A choice stock of Carnations, per doz..... **50c**

We have a large stock of Crysanthemum Plants, Asparagus Ferns, Boston Ferns and Palms.

Design Work and Decoration a specialty. Telephone your orders early and get the best stock.

Children's Outfitting Dept.

Children's Short Coat, made of fine cloth richly trimmed, stylish collar and sleeves, sizes 2 to 3 years. Saturday Special, at..... **$2.98**

Child's Short Cream Colored Bedford Cord Coat, made with cape and trimmed with fancy ribbon; dainty and pretty; sizes 6 months, 1 and 2 years. Very special at..... **$1.98**

Hose Supporters.

Ladies' and Children's Hose Supporters, made of the best heavy cable web and with best nickel plated fastenings, the button fastening with the rubber covered post, actually worth 20c a pair. Special Saturday only, pair... **10c**

Drug Dept.

10c long 6-in. bar Glycerine Soap; special..... **5c**

25c size Tokolon Cream of Roses, for chapped skin; sold by us for years; per bottle..... **7c**

Pine Tar Toilet Soap; special per cake..... **1c**

Jewelry Dept.

5½-inch oxidized frame, steel beaded bags, new shipment.. **75c**

New importations of Swiss Cuckoo Clocks, **$5.50, $6.50, $7.59, $10,** etc. Greatest values ever shown.

$2.00 and $1.50 triple plate Butter Dishes, Cake Basket, Lemonade Jugs, Pickle Jars, Bread Trays, Glass Fruit Dishes, to close out..... **59c**