

THE CONTESTANTS.

The writer has no disposition to crow over any of the defeated contestants in the townsite matter, not even Mr. Jackman, who quarreled with him because he expressed views nearly two years ago which were sustained in the award of the commissioner. Indeed but for Jackman's disposition to traduce and injure those who held opinions in reference to this matter in opposition to his views and interests, the contest on his land, excepting the Plummer eighty, would never have arisen. So far as the Tribune is concerned, however, no obstacle shall be thrown in the way of Mr. Jackman in his contest for what he believes to be his rights, though the writer has no faith in his ability to maintain his position, yet Mr. Jackman more than all others appears to have been responsible for the contest which has hung over the city for three years past, and which would long since have been settled but for him, and if, in his pursuit of others he has lost his own, he can only blame himself.

Notwithstanding all this Mr. Jackman deserves sympathy, but far more than he does Mr. Hackett, who, during the past two years, has many times had cause to think that his claim was so good that the railroad company was ready to treat with him, and in his contest he has acted on the advice of lawyers whose opinions were entitled to weight. But since the contest was initiated, a new hitch has been taken which carried to the ground his structure and utterly annihilated the foundation on which he builded. The contest in the first place was between Hackett and supposed pre-emptors for the Puget Sound Company. Hackett and Proctor were both carried into the contest on that view of the case, but since then these pre-emptors have stepped aside and the people have preferred a townsite claim which has carried everything before it.

But now is no time to crow over the misfortunes of our neighbors. It is our duty rather to harmonize conflicting interests and prepare for the tide of prosperity which is very certain to strike us in the spring.

CARROLL VS. BENION.

A correspondent of the Benton Record quotes an item from the Bismarck Tribune to deny it, and says the TRIBUNE is noted for untruthful shipping items as regards the shipping interests of Montana. That may be so, but this is the first item of shipping news which originated in the TRIBUNE that we have ever seen contradicted, excepting the report of an injury to a Benton boat, and our information in that instance came from the Captain and pilot of the boat that it was claimed we misrepresented. The TRIBUNE aims to give reliable information, and if it at any time gave other it is because it was misinformed. Great care has always been exercised in gathering its shipping news, and where it has pretended to give details they have been absolutely correct. The TRIBUNE is certainly not prejudiced either for the Carroll or against the Benton route, and if it pays more attention to one than it does to the other it is because one is peculiarly linked with Bismarck and the other is not; but the TRIBUNE will not knowingly misrepresent any interest.

The following is the item referred to: "The route to Montana via the Northern Pacific and Carroll is proven practical beyond question. By this route freight reached Helena ten days earlier than boats reached Benton this spring."

The correspondent denies that freight reached Helena via the Carroll route earlier than boats reached Benton, and claims that Benton freights reached Helena prior to the Carroll freights. The TRIBUNE's information, however, was deemed reliable at the time, and this is the first denial that we have seen.

MOVING ON.

A question has been raised as to whether persons can prove up at the land office on the lots occupied by them. They could under the old law and Gen.

Brown, who is (almost) uniformly correct in his conclusions, being fully posted, believes this provision of the old law is extended to the new. The only decision on this subject, to which our attention has been called, is the following:

A letter of Commissioner S. S. Burdett, of U. S. General Land Office, to Register and Receiver of Land Office, Lowell, Nebraska, June 29, 1874—in the second section or subdivision there of states as follows: "After the issue of patent, this office has nothing to do with the disposal of the lots, this being conducted under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by legislative authority of the State or Territory in which the same be situated. In the absence of a State law, there is no United States law on the subject."

This decision does not set the matter at rest for the reason that the patent has not been issued and it rather strengthens the position of Col. Brown. On the other hand the award is to the corporate authorities in trust for the inhabitants according to their respective interests, not to the inhabitants according to their respective interests and the residue in trust to the corporate authorities as would seem should be the case if it was intended for the occupants to prove up through the land office.

Sec. 2394, Revised Statutes of 1868, contains the following provision: "but nothing contained in the sections herein cited shall prevent the issuance of patents to persons who have made or may hereafter make entries, and elect to proceed under other laws relative to townsites in this chapter set forth."

This in reference to all laws on the subject which are recited in the chapter, and which give the right to prove up as stated. It is not held, however, that people must prove up under this law, but it seems they may do so.

THE THIRD TERM.

The third term project is being revived again, and this time by persons not connected with the administration, or, indeed, with politics, except as voters. The Methodists in council at Boston on Monday declared unanimously in favor of Grant for a re-election, and the Methodists are a power in the land. The TRIBUNE long since took the position that there is no objection to a third term that does not apply with equal force to a second. The politicians could not force Grant on the people for a third term, and his strength as a possible third term candidate lies in the fact that the politicians have made haste to denounce it, and in the thorough movements for reform which Grant and his present cabinet have initiated. It is not improbable, though politicians may quake in their boots, that the people will select Grant and Bristow for their standard bearers in 1876; and for one, though opposed to Grant in 1872, because of evils permitted, the writer is inclined to favor him in 1876, the evils complained of having been corrected; and there are thousands who occupy the same position. The third term movement is certainly gaining force and is liable to sweep everything before it.

Whether parties may prove up or not through the U. S. Land Office, on the lots they now occupy, none who are not occupying leased lots need have any fears of the result; even those who have contracted with the Puget Sound Company will have no trouble in obtaining title if the city maintains its faith with that company and the railroad company in the contract made with them, for they distinctly withdraw all claims to any of the occupied lots. The writer would not hesitate to pay the full value to-day for any city lot held under a deed from the corporate authorities, taking his chances on appeals that may be taken, and on suits that may follow. But everything that can should be done to ward off suits, so that we may begin next season's operations with clean titles.

The detail for the Babcock court of inquiry is such that its conclusions will carry weight. The court is directed to first report testimony and afterwards give its conclusions. If guilty of complicity in revenue frauds Gen. Babcock will find no opportunity to escape. The people have confidence in the Generals who have been selected to investigate the matter.

WE AND OUR NEIGHBOURS.

The Records of an Unfashionable Street. (Sequel to "My Wife and I.") A Novel By HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "My Wife and I," etc., etc.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE VANDERHEYDEN FORTRESS TAKEN. "Now, Harry, I'll tell you what I'm going to do this morning," said Eva, with the air of a little general, as she poured his morning coffee.

"And what are you going to do?" replied he, in the proper tone of inquiry.

"Well, I'm going to take the old fortress over the way by storm, this very morning. I'm going to rush through the breach that Jack has opened into the very interior and see what there is there. I'm perfectly dying to get the run of that funny old house; why, Harry, it's just like a novel, and I shouldn't wonder if I could get enough out of it for you to make an article of."

"Thank you, dear; you enter into the spirit of article-hunting like one to the manner born."

"That I do; I'm always keeping my eyes open when I go about New York for bits and hints that you can work up, and I'm sure you ought to do something with this Vanderheyden house. I know there must be ghosts in it; I'm perfectly certain."

"But you wouldn't meet them in a morning call," said Harry; "that's contrary to all ghostly etiquette."

"Never mind, I'll get track of them. I'll become intimate with old Miss Dorcas and get her to relate her history, and if there is a ghost-chamber I'll be into it."

"Well, success to you," said Harry; "but to me it looks like a formidable undertaking. Those old ladies are so padded and wadded in buckram."

"Oh, pshaw! there's just what Jack has done for me, he has made a breach in the padding and buckram. Only think of my seeing them at midnight in their night-caps! And such funny night-caps! Why, it's an occasion long to be remembered, and I would be willing to wager anything they are talking it over at this minute; and, of course, you see, it's extremely proper and quite a part of the play that I should come in this morning to inquire after the wanderer, and to hope they didn't catch cold, and to talk over the matter generally. Now, I like that old Miss Dorcas; there seems to me to be an immense amount of character behind all her starch and stiffness, and I think she's quite worth knowing. She'll be an acquisition, if one can only get at her."

"Well, as I said, success and prosperity go with you," said Harry, as he rose and gathered his papers to go to his morning work.

"I'll go out with you," said Eva, and she snatched from the hat-tree a shawl and a little morsel of white, fleecy worsted, with the initiated surname "a cloud," and tied it over her head. "I'm going right in upon them now," she said.

It was a brisk, frosty morning, and she went out with Harry and darted across from the door. He saw her in the distance, as he went down the street, laughing and kissing her hand to him on the door-step of the Vanderheyden house.

Just then the sound of the door-bell—unheard of in that hour of the morning—caused an excitement in the back breakfast-parlor, where Miss Dorcas and Mrs. Betsey were at a late breakfast, with old Dinah standing behind Miss Dorcas' chair to get her morning orders, giggling and disputing them inch by inch, as was her ordinary wont.

The old door-bell had a rustling, harsh, rusty sound, as if cross with a chronic rheumatism of disuse.

"Who under the sun!" said Miss Dorcas. "Jack, be still!"

But Jack wouldn't be still, but ran and snuffed at the door, and barked as if he smelt a legion of burglars.

Eva heard, within the house, the dining-room door open, and then Jack's barking came like a fire of artillery at the crack of the front door, where she was standing. It was slowly opened, and old Dinah's giggling countenance appeared. "Laws bless your soul, Miss Henderson," she said, flinging the door wide open, "is that you? Jack be still, sir!"

But Eva had caught Jack up in her arms, and walked with him to the door of the breakfast room.

"Do pray excuse me," she said, "but I thought I'd just run over and see that you hadn't taken any cold."

The scene within was not uninviting. There was a cheerful wood fire burning on the hearth behind a pair of gigantic old-fashioned brass fire-irons. The little breakfast table, with its bright old silver and India china, was drawn comfortably up in front. Miss Dorcas had her chair on one side, and Mrs. Betsey on the other, and between them there was a chair drawn up for Jack, where he had been sitting at the time the door-bell rang.

"We are ashamed of our late hours,"

said Miss Dorcas, when she had seen Eva sit down in an old-fashioned, claw-footed arm-chair in the warm corner; "we don't usually breakfast so late, but the fact is, Betsey was quite done up by the adventure last night."

"Perhaps," said Eva, "I had better have tried keeping Jack till morning."

"Oh, no, indeed, Mrs. Henderson," said Mrs. Betsey, with energy; "I know it's silly, but I shouldn't have slept a wink all night if Jack hadn't come home. You know he sleeps with me," she added.

Eva did not know it before, but she said "Yes" all the same, and the good lady rushed on:

"Yes; Dorcas thinks it's rather silly, but I do let Jack sleep on the foot of my bed. I spread his blanket for him every night, and I always wash his feet and wipe them clean before he goes to bed, and when you brought him back you really ought to have seen him run right up stairs to where I keep his bowl and towel; and he stood there, just as sensible, waiting for me to come and wash him. I wish you could have seen how dirty he was! I can't think where ever that dog gets his paw, so greasy."

"Cause he will eat out o' swill-pails!" interposed Dinah, with a chuckle. "Greatest dog after swill-pails I ever see. That's what he's off after."

"Well, I don't know why. It's very bad of him when we always feed him and take such pains with him," said Mrs. Betsey, in accents of lamentation.

"Dogs is alters jest so," said Dinah; "they's arter nastiness and carron. You can't make a Christian out o' a dog, no matter what you do."

Old Dinah was the very impersonation of that coarse, hard literalness which forces actual unpalatable facts upon unwilling ears. There was no disputing that she spoke most melancholy truths, that even the most infatuated dog-lovers could not always shut their eyes to. But Mrs. Betsey chose wholly to ignore her facts and treat her communication as if it had no existence, so she turned her back to Dinah and went on.

"I don't know what makes Jack have these turns of running away. Sometimes I think it's our system of dieting him. Perhaps it may be because we don't allow him all the meat he wants; but then they say if you do give these pet dogs meat they become as gross that it is quite shocking."

Miss Dorcas rapped her snuff-box, sat back in her chair, and took snuff with an air of antique dignity that seemed to call heaven and earth to witness that she only tolerated such federations on account of her sister, and never all in the way of personal approbation.

The nature and admonition of Jack was the point where the two sisters had a chronic controversy, Miss Dorcas inclining to the side of strict discipline and vigorous repression.

In fact, Miss Dorcas soothed her violated notions of dignity and propriety by always speaking of Jack as "Betsey's dog"—he was one of the permitted toys and amusements of Betsey's more juvenile years; but she felt called upon to keep some limits of discipline to prevent Jack's paw from ruling too absolutely in the family councils.

"You see," said Mrs. Betsey, going on with her reminiscences of yesterday, "we had taken Jack down town with us because we wanted to get his photographs; we'd had him taken last week, and they were not ready till yesterday."

"Dear me, do show them to me," said Eva, entering cheerfully into the humor of the thing; and Mrs. Betsey trotted up-stairs to get them.

(Continued next week.)

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