

Circumstantial

By DONALD CHAMBERLIN

The lawsuit between the MacGregor and MacAllister estates had been decided in favor of Fergus MacAllister, cousin to Alexander MacGregor, who had been long in possession of the estate. Both were bachelors, and, neither having children, the property would have gone in any event to MacAllister had his cousin continued to live single. But Fergus had heard that Alex was about to be married, and, since there was a doubt as to whether he or his cousin was legally entitled to the estate, he had commenced suit to gain it.

MacGregor was too honorable to permit Helen Cameron to become his wife till it was decided whether he would be rich or poor, and when the case was decided against him he released her. He made preparations to leave the homestead to his cousin, and when all was ready and he was about to leave Fergus drove up to the homestead, alighted and went into the house.

Andrew Cummings, a collier, was passing that way at 6 o'clock in the evening. He noticed MacAllister's chaise before the gate, and at the moment Alex MacGregor came out evidently in a rage and passed down the road. MacAllister did not return to his home to dinner, and, since it was known that he had gone to the homestead during the evening, a servant was sent to find out if possible if he was there. He found his master lying on the floor of the library dead. His skull had been fractured, apparently with an iron poker that showed signs of having inflicted the blow.

Alexander MacGregor was suspected, but it was not till Andy Cummings told of what he had seen that Alex was arrested. His story was that just before leaving the homestead his cousin had come in. The meeting was a trying one to Alex, who had just been dispossessed. He had upbraided his cousin, saying that he had not a cent in the world and knew not where to go for a lodging. Fergus had taken out a handful of gold pieces and offered them to him. Alex had scornfully declined to take them and had left the house in an excited state of mind.

MacGregor's misfortune was too much for Helen Cameron, who, despite her father's commands, visited him in jail and sat beside him during the trial, declaring that she would marry him, whatever the verdict might be. Since no one saw the murder committed her lover was not convicted, but there were few but believed that he had killed his cousin. Indeed, there was a special motive for his putting Fergus out of the way, for at Fergus' death he came again into possession of the estate he had lost.

For a time Alex refused to permit Helen to make the sacrifice of marrying a man who had been convicted by opinion if not by the courts. But when it was found that if she were not permitted to bear her burden with him her life would still be wrecked his parents begged Alex to withdraw his opposition. The pair were married privately and lived, not where the murder had been committed, but at Helen's home.

Alex drooped under the stigma of being considered his cousin's murderer. He was cut by his old friends, and had it not been for his wife not a human being would have crossed his threshold. Life to him was an intolerable burden. He preferred death to such a life.

One day his wife went to the homestead to examine the room where her husband had told her he had had an interview with Fergus with a view to discovering a clew to the real murderer. She made a search of the room where the corpse had been found and under a baseboard caught a glimpse of something yellow. Withdrawing the object it proved to be a gold sovereign.

MacGregor had told of the offer of the gold pieces by his cousin, but had no proof of his story. Helen, without a word to her husband, took the sovereign to her lawyer. He carried it to the only bank in the vicinity, and after an investigation it was learned that they had received a considerable number of sovereigns of the same coinage (1848) just before the date of the murder and on the morning of the day MacAllister was killed had paid him fifty of them.

The piece Helen had found was the only one that was traced up to this time. Andy Cummings some time after the murder was remembered by one of his neighbors to have offered a gold sovereign to be changed into silver. The attorney got out a warrant to search Andy's premises, and five sovereigns, coinage of 1848, were found in a stacking hidden under the eaves of his cabin.

Andy was arrested. He at first explained having the sovereigns in his possession by the statement that MacAllister had owed him money, but when pressed for what the debt was for he broke down and made a confession.

On seeing MacGregor come out of the homestead curiosity had moved him to go in and investigate the cause of his wrath. In the library he had found on a table the gold Fergus had offered Alex. Cupidity seized him. He was gathering them in when Fergus appeared. A struggle followed. Andy seized the poker by the fireplace, struck his opponent on the head and killed him.

To divert suspicion from himself he had told what he had seen.

Queer Cases of Jilt.

A well known novelist was once jilted by a girl who took exception to the inadequate punishment meted out to one of his fictitious villains. She declared that as he regarded vice with so lenient an eye he must himself be at heart a reprobate and unworthy of true love and that she must request that their acquaintance cease.

An eminent lawyer in his younger days met with a similar mishap. The lady to whom he was engaged, chancing to hear that he had delivered a most skillful though futile speech in defense of an arrant rogue, went, saying that she must decline to know one who could thus strive speciously to excuse crime. In return he pleaded the exigencies of the profession, but in vain. The lady was adamant and soon afterward, by the strange irony of fate, married a man who was ultimately convicted of gross fraud, mainly through the forensic eloquence of her former lover.

Paper Lifeboats.

Rear Admiral Yokoyama of the Japanese navy has invented a collapsible lifeboat, or, rather, raft, made of paper. Having found a very tough paper known as bashkirazu, made from mulberry tree fiber, he sought for and discovered a chemical treatment to make it waterproof. After experiment he found that the best device was to take several phyllo bags and place them side by side as in a raft. As finally given forth it is a life raft quite immune from wreck and so collapsible that it could be stowed in a submarine and always be ready for use.

Not Much Room For Argument.
"You owe everything to your wife," said the severe maternal relative.
"Maybe I do," replied Mr. Meekton.
"Anyhow, she gets around regularly every pay day and collects."—Washington Star.



AN ALL ENVELOPING COAT.

A color combination of castanet brown and buff is this suit, with redingote enveloping the figure from the tips of the ears almost to the ankles. Peau de chamois facing the cuffs and high turnback collar give the note of buff, and the newest note in fashion is sounded in the basque effect of the body of the coat. Modish button boots are worn with this costume.

Sale Dates Claimed

P. J. Beirne's Sale.

P. J. Beirne and Sons, who live six miles south of Vail, are announcing in this issue of the Review a public sale, which they will hold on Monday, February 15th. Mr. Beirne has sold his farm and will move to town and for that reason will dispose of his property. The sale is one of the largest yet announced and doubtless there will be a big crowd of buyers on hand sale day. There is listed 19 head of horses, 16 head of cattle, 27 head of pure blooded Duroc Jersey brood sows and a complete line of farm machinery. Read his announcement on another page of this issue.

Poland China Sale.

Farmers should not fail to read the announcement of C. M. Pederson in this issue. He is to hold his fourth annual sale of pure bred Poland China sows and gilts at the sale pavilion in Dunlap on Tuesday, February 16th. Here is a sale that many have been waiting for and those who wish to purchase some good Poland China stock should by all means attend this sale. He is listing 45 head, the tops of his herd, and every animal is in first class condition and guaranteed. Space does not permit our giving details in regard to this sale, but interested parties should write for a catalogue.

Sam Ager to Come.

Mr. Sam Ager, the horse buyer representing the Chicago Horse company, will be in Denison Thursday, February 11th, at the Laub barn. He is advertising in this issue for 500 head of horses and mares from 5 to 19 years old, weighing 1200 to 1400 pounds. Bring in your horses and let Mr. Ager look them over and make you an offer on them.

Frank Hanley to Buy Horses.

It is not a common thing to have two horse buyers in Denison on the same day, but this will be the case on Thursday, February 11th, for Sam Ager and Frank Hanley will both be at Laub's barn on that date. Mr. Hanley is announcing in this issue that he wishes to purchase horses for the eastern market. Read his advertisement over carefully and bring in your horses.

H. N. MAC CRACKEN.

The New President of Vassar College.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES
Side Lights on Next Sunday's Lesson for Teachers and Pupils
Edited by Charles K. Meyers.

Feb. 7—Ruth Chooses the True God, Ruth 1.
We have for our lesson this week one of the most delightful and interesting portions of the bible. We are to learn about one of the great women of the bible, one who has made a record of honor which will last for all time. As very many will be glad to have their minds refreshed as to the history of Ruth, we will briefly set it forth and then make such comments as space and the needs of the lesson demands.
The time is some 1200 years before Christ was born and the place our modern Palestine and country to the immediate east. The book opens at

the home of a Jewish family of whom the man of the house was Elimelech, the wife Naomi and two sons. It would appear times were hard in Israel and the husbandman hearing that in Moab, an adjoining territory, there were good harvests and a chance to make a living, it was decided to seek a new home. This was done. In course of time the two sons married young women of the land of Moab, the names of the two brides being Ruth and Orpha. Not long after the father died and then the two sons, leaving the widowed women, Naomi hearing that now there was plenty at the old Jewish home and wishing to live again with a people worshipping Jehovah, decided to return. The matter was well talked over by the three women, Naomi giving it as her mind that the two daughters-in-law remain, marry again and live with their own people.

There came a day of parting and the two daughters-in-law went out from the village to accompany Naomi on her homeward way. At last the critical time of parting came and Naomi urged both women to turn back. Orpha kissed her mother-in-law and set her face toward Moab. Ruth yearned in her heart to go with Naomi and this desire became so strong that in a burst of loving devotion to Naomi and what her life represented she spoke these now historic words:

"Treat me not to leave thee or to return from following after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge; thy people shall be my people and thy God my God. Where thou diest I will die and there will I be buried, the Lord do so to me, and more also, if I ought but death part us."

Ruth won her cause and was allowed to go to Bethlehem-Judah. There she went to work at the humble occupation of gleaning after the reapers in the barley harvest. Such was her kindly ways, good deportment that the owner of the land, Boaz, looked on her with favor and soon honorable steps to make her his wife. In time they were married. Their first born was a son, who in due time became the grandfather of David, the great man of the Old Testament. Thus from an obscure Moab girl, Ruth came in the royal line of the kings of Israel and in time, through her posterity, the earthly father and mother of Jesus the Christ had place in the world.

In looking through the bible there are certain "mountain top" occasions where decisions of the greatest moment were made. One of these was the time when Abraham and Lot met to settle their difference over the pasture for flocks and herds. It will be remembered that Abraham gave Lot his choice, offering to take either direction left after Lot made his choice. Lot, noticing the well watered plains where there were a number of little cities inhabited by idolatrous people, decided to cast his fortunes that way. Visions of earthly gain influenced him. He went among the idolatrous people, fell in with their ways, did

not stand for his God, his city became so wicked that it was destroyed and he escaped just with his life. So his decision resulted in awful failure. I now present the case of Moses and his stand when it became a question of whether he would live the life of an Egyptian prince or cast his life and fortunes with his despised Jewish kinsmen. The great Apostle Paul sets forth the decision of Moses in Hebrews 11:24, 25. "By faith, Moses when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Great decision, noble man. His choice led him on to be Israel's law giver, one of the most remarkable men of all times.

There was Joshua, the valiant man of faith and leader of Israel. There was no half way decision in his case as to whether he would serve God or the heathen gods. He called his fellow Jews together and boldly said, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve, but as for me and for my house we will serve the Lord." Daniel in later years was put in a place where he must decide whether he would remain a Jew, faithful to his religion, or fall in with the ways of his captors at the court of Babylon. The record says that "He purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself." With Daniel for example thousands of young men and women have "purposed in their hearts" to stand for God and a righteous life.

These are all instances of great decisions for the right taken from the bible. These are but a few examples without number of men and women in all ages who have heroically stood for God and thus their lives became the sources of the greatest good to the race. In our lesson the two women had equal light. Orpha had the right to choose the God of her mother-in-law, she need not have gone back to idolatry. Her decision was wrong, and that of Ruth right.

This matter of decision for or against God is a living one today. Every reader is confronted with it. A decision for God means a life of honor, freedom from those things which degrade, and pull down both body and soul in this world and everlasting life in a hope which Jesus says He has gone to prepare for us. The decision for God means reunion with loved ones gone before, makes us joint heirs with Christ, of the eternal favor of God, puts us in a more "royal line" than was Ruth.

In closing, I urge that the words and decision of Ruth be that of all. Decide to place your all with God and His people. You may not thus get into the limelight of publicity as Ruth of old, but St. Paul says it hath not entered the heart of man to comprehend what God has in store for those who love Him, but whatever it is can be realized by those who, like Ruth, Moses, Joshua, Daniel and their kind, decide for God, and to follow His son Jesus, our blessed Savior.

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Poland China Sow Sale

To be Held in Heated Sale Pavilion at
Dunlap, Iowa, Tuesday, February 16

45 Head Big Type Poland China Sows-Gilts

THE TOPS OF MY HERD. I am including in this sale a grand lot of the biggest and best sows I ever owned or bred, and as to size they will weigh from 300 to 700 pounds on sale day. They are bred and fed under my personal care and supervision, and have received a balanced ration each day. My offering is sired or bred to my three big herd boars, **Henry Big Bone 66650, Chief of Wonders 68895, L. Orange 65298**

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POSTPONED AUCTION!

On account of bad weather my auction has been postponed until

Monday, Feb. 8

Please Take Notice

F. W. Schroeder

Section 4 Nishnabotny Township