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And, actually, tears stood in her eyes, as again she held out both hands. They were the only people in the parlor, and in an instant, with quick, sudden, irresistible action, he had clasped and drawn her to his breast, and though she hid her face and struggled, passionate kisses were printed on her disheveled hair. It was the first time he had dared.

And then he did not sail Saturday. Prime, Sr., was held by most important business. They gave up the Saturday sunbather and took the midweek White Star, and those four additional days riveted poor "Gov's" chains and left her well-nigh breathless with excitement. The strain had been intense. It was all she could do to make the boy try to behave in a rational way in the presence of others. When alone with her he raved. A fearful look was lifted from her spare little shoulders when the Teutonic sailed. Even Nita had worried and had seen her sister's worry. Then no sooner did "Gov" reach Europe than he began writing impassioned letters by every steamer, but that wasn't so bad. She had several magazine correspondents, some of whom wrote as often as Frank, but none of whom, to do her justice, got letters as often as he did, which, however, was saying little, for she hated writing. "Gov" was to have stayed abroad three months, piloting the pater and sister about the scenes so familiar to him, but they saw how nervous and unhappy he was. They knew he was writing constantly to some one. Mildred had long since divined that there was a girl at the bottom of it all, and longed and strove to find out who she was. Through the last of June and all through July he resolutely stood to his promise and did his best to be loving

glancing back over her shoulder and smiling sweetly at him. He rushed to his trunk, dragged out his evening clothes and stood at the wall looking on until the last note of the last dance—a, a noted German leader in the younger set and the best dancer of his years in Gotham. Not so much as a single spin had he, and he longed to show those tight-waisted, button-strewn fellows in gray and white how little they really knew about dancing, well as many of them appeared on the floor. His reward was tendered as the hop broke up. She came gliding to him with such witchery in her upraised face. "Now, sir, it is your turn. I couldn't give you a dance, for my card was made out days ago, but Mr. Latrobe was glad enough to get rid of taking me home. He is daft about Nita, and of course she can't let him take her to more than one hop a week. Mr. Stanton is her escort to-night."

Then she placed her little hand on his arm, and drew herself to his side, and when he would have followed the others, going straight across the broad plain to the lights at the hotel, turned him to the left. "I'm going to take you all the way round, sir," she said, joyously. "Then we can be by ourselves at least ten minutes longer."

And so began the second period of Gouverneur Prime's thrallhood. A young civilian at the Point has few opportunities at any time, but when the lady of his love is a belle in the corps, he would much better take a long ocean voyage than be where he could hear and see, and live in daily torment. One comfort came to him when he could not be with Mrs. Garrison (who naively explained that "Gov" was such a dear boy and they were such stanch friends, real comrades, you know). He had early made the acquaintance of Pat Latrobe, and there was a bond of sympathy between them which was none the less strong because, on Prime's side, it could neither be admitted nor alluded to—that they were desperately in love with the sisters, and it was not long before it began to dawn on Prime that pretty Nita was playing a double game—that even while assuring her guardian sister that she had only a mild interest in Latrobe, she was really losing or had lost her heart to him, and in every way in her power was striving to conceal the fact from Margaret, and yet meet her lover at hours when she thought it possible to do so without discovery. As the friendship strengthened between himself and Latrobe they began using him as Cupid's postman, and many little notes and some big ones found their way to and from the Fourth division of cadet barracks. Mrs. Frank was only moderately kind to her civilian adorer then, granting him only one dance at each hop, and going much with other men, but that dance was worth seeing. Prime's was the only black "claw-hammer" in the room, and therefore conspicuous, and cadets—who know a good thing when they see it—and many a pretty girl partner would draw aside to watch the perfection of their step and the exquisite ease with which they seemed to float through space, circling and reversing and winding among the other dancers, he ever alert, watchful, quick as a cat and lithe and strong as a panther—she all yielding, limber, airy grace. That dance was "Gov" Prime's reward, and almost only reward, for hours of impatient waiting. Other women, charming and pretty and better women, would gladly have been his partners. Some two or three whom he met at the hotel even intimated as much. But not until Lady Garrison told him he must—to protect her from scandal—did he ask another to dance. At last came the end of the summer's encampment, the return of the corps to barracks and studies, one blissful week in which he was enabled to spend several uninterrupted hours each day at her side, and then a cataclysm. A letter intended only for Nita's hands fell into those of her sister. It was bulky. It was from Latrobe. She hesitated only a moment, then, with determination in her eyes, opened and read—all. Two days after Nita was whisked away to New York, and within another week, leaving two most disconsolate swains on the Hudson, the sisters, one of them bathed in tears, went spinning away to the west, where Frank Garrison was on duty at department headquarters. Prime was permitted to write once a fortnight (he sent a volume), and Latrobe forbidden, but already the poor boy owned a thick packet of precious missives, all breathing fond love and promising utter constancy though she had to wait for him for years. For a month Nita would hardly speak to her sister, but in October there were lovely drives, picnics and gayeties of all kinds. There were attractive young officers and assistant old ones, and among these latter was Frost, with his handsome gray mustache and distinguished bearing, and that air of conscious success and possession which some men know so well how to assume even when their chances are slimmer than my lady's hand. The sisterly breach was healed before that beautiful month was over. Frost died at the Garrisons' four times a week and drove Miss Nita behind his handsome bays every day or two. In December he asked a green-

tion. In December there was an announcement that called forth a score of congratulations around headquarters, and in January the wedding quarters went all over the union—some to West Point, but to Latrobe, who had been looking ill and anxious for six weeks, said his classmates, and falling off fearfully in his studies, said his professors, only a brief note inclosing his letters and begging for hers. At reveille next morning there was no captain to receive the report of roll call from the first sergeant of company B. "Where's Latrobe?" sleepily asked the officer of the day of the cadet first lieutenant. "I don't know," was the answer, and to the amazement of Latrobe's roommate, who had gone to bed and to sleep right after taps the night before, they found evidence that "Pat" had left the post. He had not even made down his bedding. His cadet uniforms were all there, but a suit of civilian clothes, usually in a snug package up the chimney, that had been used several times "running it" to the hotel after taps in August, was now, like its owner, missing. After three days' waiting and fruitless search, the superintendent wired Latrobe's uncle and best friend, old Gen. Drayton, and that was the last seen or heard of "Pat." In the spring and ahead of time his class was graduated without him, for the war with Spain was on. In the spring an irate and long-tried father was upbraiding another only son for persistent failures at college. "Gov" Prime will get the sack, not the sheepskin," prophesied his fellows. And then somehow, somewhere the father heard, somewhere a married woman with whom his boy was so deeply in love, and there were bitter, bitter words on both sides—so bitter that when at last he flung himself out of his father's study "Gov" Prime went straight to Mildred's room, silently kissed her and walked out of the house. This was in April. The next heard of him he had enlisted for the war and was gone to San Francisco with his regiment with the prospect of service in the Philippines ahead of him, but that was full four months after his disappearance. Thither, late in July, the father followed, bringing Mildred with him and—the reader knows the rest.

CHAPTER X.

One of Col. Frost's consuming ambitions was to be the head of his department, with the rank of brigadier general, but he had strong rivals and knew it. Wealth he had in abundance. It was rank and power that he craved. Four men—all with better war records and more experience—stood between him and that coveted star, and two of the four were popular and beloved men. Frost was cold, selfish, intensely self-willed, indomitably persevering, and though "close-fisted," to the scale of a Scotch landlord as a rule, he would lose his purse strings and pay well for services he considered essential. When Frost had a consuming desire he let no money consideration stand in the way, and for Nita Terriss he stood ready to spend a small fortune. Every body knew Mrs. Frank Garrison could never dress and adorn herself as she did on poor Frank Garrison's pay, and when she appeared with a dazzling necklace and a superb new gown at the garrison ball not long after Frost and his shrinking bride left for their honeymoon, people looked at her and then at each other. Nita Terriss was sold to "Jack" Frost, was the verdict, and her shrewd elder sister was the dealer. Mrs. Frank knew what people were thinking and saying just as well as though they had said it to her, yet she smiled sweetly and bliss on every side. Frankly she looked up into the faces of her sisters in arms: "I know you like my necklace. Isn't it lovely? Col. Frost's wedding present, you know. He said I shouldn't give Nita away without some recompense, and this is it."

But that could have been only a part of it, said the garrison. An honorarium in solid cash, it was believed, was far the greater portion of the consideration which the elder sister accepted for having successfully borne Nita away from the dangers and fascinations of the Point—having guarded her, drooping and languid, against the advance of good looking soldier lads at headquarters, and finally having, by dint of hours of argument, persuasion and skill, delivered her into the arms of the elderly but well preserved groom. All he demanded to know was that she was fancy free—that there was no previous attachment, and on this point Mrs. Frank had solemnly averred there was none. The child had had a foolish fancy for a cadet beau, but it amounted to absolutely nothing. There had been no vows, no pledge, no promise of any kind, and she was actually free as air. So Frost was satisfied.

To be Continued.

Story of a Slave.

To be bound hand and foot for years by the chains of disease is the worst form of slavery. George D. Williams, of Manchester, Mich., tells how such a slave was made free. He says: "My wife has been so helpless for five years that she could not turn over in bed alone. After using two bottles of Electric Bitters, she is wonderfully improved and able to do her own work." This supreme remedy for female diseases quickly cures nervousness, sleeplessness, melancholy, headache, backache, fainting and dizzy spells. This miracle working medicine is a godsend to weak, sickly, run down people. Every bottle guaranteed. Only 50 cents. Sold by K. O. Wold, druggist.

Austin Steam Laundry.

Patronize home institutions and have your laundry work done at the Austin Steam Laundry in the highest style of the art. No chemicals used. Laundry delivered free of charge. Give us a trial.

T. M. BURMAN, Proprietor.

Petition for Appointment of Commissioners.

STATE OF MINNESOTA,
County of Mower.
District Court, Tenth Judicial District.
In the matter of the petition of Albert Lea & Southern Railroad Company, for the appointment of commissioners to ascertain and determine the compensation to be made to the owners respectively of, and the tenants, incumbrancers and others interested in the lands; to wit: real estate in the county of Mower, Minnesota, proposed to be taken for the purpose of said railroad company.
To A. B. Anderson and Christina Anderson, his wife; Lewis F. Allen and Nora M. Allen, his wife; John J. Bess and Mary J. Bess, his wife; Harriet A. Owen and Foster Owen, her husband; Erastus H. Bedford and Althea Bedford, his wife; The Burlington Savings Bank of Burlington, Vermont; Julius C. Owen and Carrie Owen, his wife; George T. Howard; Charles Howard; the estate of Addison Howard, also known as A. Howard; A. Howard and Adeline Howard; Anna Folsom and Carlos Folsom; Calvin E. Cartwright and Mrs. Calvin E. Cartwright, his wife; Clarence A. Cartwright and Mrs. Cartwright, his wife; Henry Cartwright and Mrs. Henry Cartwright, his wife; Dennis Folsom; the estate of Walter S. Waugh, deceased; Mary A. Waugh; the estate of James Kilgore, deceased; Mary J. Kilgore; T. S. Kilgore and Mrs. T. S. Kilgore; M. O. Wilson and Son; Mary Richards; Matthew St. John; J. A. Peckard and Mrs. J. A. Peckard, his wife; Samuel Johnson and Annie Johnson, his wife; Samuel Bond; Joseph Wybroser and Nancy Jane Wybroser, his wife; Frederick Ebberts; C. A. Hildebrand and Louise Hildebrand, his wife; Hansmussen Nelson; Loreth E. Rhames; Christian Anderson; George Frederick Washington Sprinkhorn and Elizabeth Sprinkhorn, his wife; C. H. Owen; Even O. Eastlie and Julia Eastlie, his wife; John Paul Lumber Company; Martha E. Pope; Thomas A. Peterson and Mrs. Thomas A. Peterson, his wife; Mary Bernes and Richard E. Bernes, her husband; William Swain; William B. Swain and Mrs. William B. Swain, his wife; Erastus C. Bedford and Mrs. Erastus C. Bedford, his wife; Rachel V. Luce; John Trodler, Jr. and Mrs. John Trodler, his wife; Gustav Leuth and Magdalena Leuth, his wife; George W. Mitchell; Jacob Jacobson and Charlotte Jacobson, his wife; John Schumacher and Mrs. John Schumacher, his wife; Toris Thompson and Gunn Thompson, his wife, and all persons claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the petition.
You, and each of you, will please take notice, that the petition of Albert Lea & Southern Railroad Company in the above entitled cause, for the appointment of commissioners to ascertain and determine the compensation to be made to the owners respectively of, and the tenants, incumbrancers and others interested in the lands; to wit: real estate in the county of Mower, Minnesota, proposed to be taken for the purpose of said railroad company, is on file in the office of the clerk of the District Court in and for said county, Minnesota.
That said petition will be presented to the District Court of said Mower county, on the 12th day of May, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, at the office of said court, in the city of Austin, Minnesota.
That the object of said petition is to acquire, take and appropriate certain lands in said Mower county, by condemnation for the use of said railroad company, and for the construction, use, maintenance and operation of said railroad, together with the stations, side-tracks, telegraph lines and other appurtenances and instrumentalities which are necessary and convenient for the operation and construction of said railroad, and to secure an order of said court authorizing said Albert Lea & Southern Railroad Company to acquire and appropriate the lands lying between line parallel to, on each side of and 50 feet distant from the center line of the main track of the Albert Lea & Southern Railroad, in and for said county, Minnesota, and to place the same in the possession of said railroad, and appointing three competent, disinterested persons, residents of said county, commissioners to ascertain and determine the amount by said petitioners to be paid to the owners and each of them, or to the tenants, incumbrancers and others or her damages by reason of the taking or injuriously affecting any such lands, estate, property or interest, and to report thereon to said court, and to file the same with the clerk of said court, and to fix their compensation, and for such other and further relief as to the Court may seem just and equitable.
That the lands proposed to be taken and appropriated to the use of said petitioner for the purposes aforesaid are described as follows, to-wit: All that portion of the following described lands lying between line parallel to, on each side of and 50 feet distant from the center line of the main track of the Albert Lea & Southern Railroad, in and for said county, Minnesota, and to place the same in the possession of said railroad, and appointing three competent, disinterested persons, residents of said county, commissioners to ascertain and determine the amount by said petitioners to be paid to the owners and each of them, or to the tenants, incumbrancers and others or her damages by reason of the taking or injuriously affecting any such lands, estate, property or interest, and to report thereon to said court, and to file the same with the clerk of said court, and to fix their compensation, and for such other and further relief as to the Court may seem just and equitable.
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