

EXTRACTS FROM THE AUTO-BIOGRAPHY OF JANE GREY SWISSHELM First Newspaper Woman of Minnesota.

CHAPTER XXXVI. The Minnesota Dictator.

Every day, from my arrival in St. Cloud, evidence had been accumulating of the truth of that stage-whisper about Gen. Lowrie, who lived in a semi-barbaric splendor, in an imposing house on the bank of the Mississippi, where he kept slaves, bringing them from and returning them to his Tennessee estate, at his convenience, and no man saying him nay.

He owned immense tracts of land; had and disposed of all the government contracts he pleased; traveled over Europe with his salaried physician; said to this man "go," and he went, to that "come," and he came, and to a third "do this," and it was done. But of all his commands "go" was most potent; for, as president of a claim club, his orders to pre-emptors were enforced by Judge Lynch. He never condescended to go to Congress, but sent an agent; furnished all the Democratic votes that could possibly be wanted in any emergency, and nobody wondered when a good list came from a precinct in which no one lived.

Republicans on their arrival in his dominion, were converted to the Democratic faith, fast as sinners to Christianity in a Mafia meeting, and those on whom the spirit fell not, kept very quiet. People had gone there to make homes, not to fight the Southern tier, and any attempt against such overwhelming odds seemed madness, for Lowrie's dominion was largely legitimate. He was one of those who are born to command—of splendid physique and dignified presence, superior intellect and mesmeric fascination. His natural advantages had been increased by a liberal education; he had been brought up among slaves, lived among Indians as agent and interpreter, felt his own superiority, and asserted it with the full force of honest conviction.

On all hands he was spoken of as Dictator, and there was both love and respect mingled with the fear by which he governed. His father was a Presbyterian minister, who taught that slavery was divine, and both were generous and lenient masters. He was the embodiment of the slave power. All his private pretenses, plausibility, civility, all the good and bad of the Southern character; all the weapons of the army of despotism were concentrated in this man, the friend of my friends, the man who stood ready to set me on the pinnacle of social distinction by his recognition. Across the body of the prostrate slave lay the road to wealth, and many good men had shut their eyes and stopped over.

The territorial government under Buchanan was a mere tool of slavery. Every federal officer was a Southerner, or a Northern man with Southern principles. Government sold freely in that channel, and to the eagles Gen. Lowrie had but to say, as to his other servants, "come," and they flew into his exchequer. So thoroughly was Minnesota under the feet of slavery that the General, in 60, after we thought the State redeemed—the house of William D. Babbitt, in Minneapolis, was surrounded from midnight until morning by a howling mob, stoning it, firing guns and pistols, attempting to force doors and windows, and only prevented gaining entrance by the solidity of the building and the bravery of its defense. It was thus besieged because its owner and occupant had dared to interfere to execute the common law in favor of freedom.

Minneapolis and its twin-city St. Anthony each had a large first-class hotel, to which Southern people resorted in great numbers, to keep slaves, holding them often for months, and taking them back to the South, no one daring to make objection; until one woman, Eliza Winston, appealed to Mr. Babbitt, who took her into court, winder her hands, and decreed her freedom, on the ground that her claimant had forfeited his title by bringing her into a free State.

At the rendering of this decree, Rev. Kautzsch, pastor of the only Protestant Episcopal Church in the city, arose in open court, and charged the judge with giving an unrighteous judgment. He condemned the law as at war with Scripture and the rights of the master, and pronounced it as injurious to the best interests of the community. It was the old story of Demetrius; and the people, already keenly alive to the profit of boarding Southern families with their servants, were glad to have a mantle of piety thrown over their love of gain. The court room was packed, and under the eloquent appeal of the reverend gentleman, it soon became evident the populace would make a rush, take the woman out of the hands of the law, and deliver her to the master.

She and her friends had about lost hope, when an unlooked for diversion called attention from the front to the head of "Bill King," afterwards post-master of the U. S. House of Representatives, arose, like the burning bush at the foot of Mount Horeb, and his stentorian voice poured forth such a torrent of denunciation on priest-craft, such a flood of solid swearing against the insolence and tyranny of ecclesiasticism, that people were surprised into inactivity, until Mr. Babbitt got the woman in his carriage and drove off with her.

There could no longer be a question of her legal right to her own body and soul; but her friends knew that the law of freedom had lain too long dormant to be enforced now without

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further serious opposition, and Mr. Babbitt brought into use his old training of the underground railroad to throw the blood-hounds of the scent so secreted the woman in the house of Prof. Stone, and prepared his own strong residence to bear a siege. For that sleep preparations were made by the clerical party during the afternoon and evening, without any effort at concealment, and to brute force the besieging party added brute cunning.

It was known that in my lecturing tours, I was often Mr. Babbitt's guest, and might arrive at any hour. So, shortly after midnight, the door-bell was rung, when Mr. Babbitt inquired: "Who is there?" "Mrs. Swisshelm."

"It is not Mrs. Swisshelm's voice?" "William Griffin (a colored porter) is with her." "It is not William Griffin's voice."

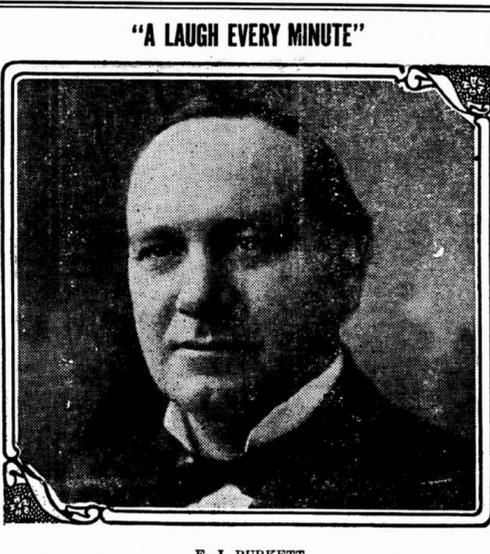
A rush was made to burst in the door, but it was of solid walnut and would not yield, when the assailants brought fence-posts to batter it in, and were driven back by a shot from a revolver in the hall. The mob retired to a safer distance, and the leader—mine host of a first-class hotel—mounted the carriage-block and harangued his followers on the sacred duty of securing the financial prosperity of the two cities by restoring Eliza Winston to her owners, and made this distinct declaration of principles:

"nigger thief," and called "Eliza." No arrests were made, and he has always felt it fortunate that Mrs. Messer prevented the shooting of the man in the side-light, as he thinks to this day that in the state of public sentiment, the man firing the shot would have been hanged for murder by any Northern county jury, and his home razed to the ground or burned.

Eliza Winston was sent by underground railroad to Canada, because Minnesota, in the year of grace, 1860, could not or would not defend the freedom of one declared free by decision of her own courts.

When such events were actual facts in '60, near the center of the State, under a Republican administration, what was the condition of public sentiment in the northern portion of the territory in '57, when there was scarce a pretense of law or order, and the Southern democracy held absolute sway? I soon understood the situation; had known for years that the Southern threats, which Northern men laughed at as "tin kettle thunder," were the desperate utterances of lawless men, in firm alliance with the "Hierarchy of Rome for the overthrow of this Republic.

New fiction added to the shelves recently: The Oakleyites, (Benson). Coast of Adventure, (Bindloss). The Dardoville, (Davies). Alice and a Family, (Ervine). Life and Gabriella, (Glasgow). Hemphfield, (Grayson). Alice Devine, (Jepson). Love at Large, (Kerr). Side of the Angels, (King). Held to Answer, (MacFarlane). Her Husband's Purse, (Martine). Come Out of the Kitchen, (Miller). Proof of the Pudding, (Nicholson). Five With Wings, (Onions). Just David, (Porter). Fifth Wheel, (Prouty). Under the Country Sky, (Richmond). Nan of Music Mountain, (Spearman).



"A LAUGH EVERY MINUTE"

E. J. BURKETT

When Mr. Taft was a candidate for the nomination of President in 1908, New England was at first inclined to be against him. A big meeting of the Massachusetts State Republican club was arranged at Boston, to be known as a New England dinner, at which representatives from that portion of the country were to be present. Senator Burkett was selected to deliver the speech of the occasion. He evidently got away with the goods for the meeting went wild with enthusiasm, and New England was captured for Taft. This address in Boston was a part of the fight that Roosevelt was then making to nominate his Secretary of War as President. The Boston Globe said: "He got a laugh every minute and a burst of applause on the half minutes."

Sam Blythe, in "The Saturday Evening Post," at one time called Senator Burkett a sentimentalist. He was then joining in the ridicule of the Senator for attempting to get the U. S. Senate to recognize Mother's Day. However, a succeeding Senator passed the resolution and Mother's Day has been nationally recognized and is one of the most universally celebrated days of the calendar, and Senator Burkett has lived to see his former critics applaud the sentiment.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "Senator Burkett was one of the men whom I especially relied on while I was President, both while he was in the House and in the Senate. I was able to accomplish what I did accomplish in Washington only because of the way I was backed by men like Senator Burkett."

RINGO LAKE. Ringo Lake, June 12—Leslie Bahlund, the Crow agent from Willmar, was seen in our vicinity last Monday. The picnic at Jalmar Larson's last Tuesday was well attended. Miss Mabel Ekblad returned last Tuesday after a two weeks' stay at Willmar. Olaf Peterson called on friends last Tuesday. Mrs. Hedin of New London is dress-making at Albert Monson's. Miss Hanna Swenson returned to her home here last Friday after a two weeks' stay in Willmar. A few from here attended the social at Alfred Olander's last Thursday evening. Ekblad's called at John Monson's last Saturday afternoon. Henning Lovander left for Willmar last Monday. Walter Anderson returned to Kandiyohi last Tuesday after a few days' visit at his home here. Mrs. John Monson returned last Friday from a few weeks' stay in Willmar. Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Hauser called at the Anderson home last Tuesday. Alfred Swenson and Russell Carlson spent Sunday at John Monson's. Mrs. Swenson and daughter, Hanna called at John Monson's Sunday afternoon. Mrs. F. O. Anderson and daughter Stella spent a few days at the Fred Anderson home in Mamre. Mr. and Mrs. August Moller and son spent Sunday at the Albert Monson home. Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Danielson entertained a few friends Sunday afternoon. Aaron Carlson has resided his barn. Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Carlson spent Sunday at Halvorson's near Eagle Lake. Mrs. D. Monson has been visiting at August Moller's.

MAMRE. Mamre, June 19—Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Reed called at the D. C. Beck home Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bodman spent Sunday at Elling Ellingson's. Mrs. C. G. Carlberg and son, Peter, called at J. O. Hagman's Saturday evening. Mrs. Sven Ojeda called at J. O. Stahelle's Tuesday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. August Peterson called at the J. O. Hagman home Sunday afternoon. Christ Olson spent Sunday evening at Gilbert Sorenson's. Miss Myrtle Anderson spent a few days of last week with her friend, Ingeborg Swenson. Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Hagman spent a few days last week at Green Lake. They went to Litchfield for an over Sunday visit with relatives and friends. Mr. Richard Danielson and daughters returned to Minneapolis Thursday, after a few months' visit at their parental home here. The Mamre congregation will have their annual midsummer festival at Mamre, Saturday, June 24. A good program has been prepared and dinner and the usual refreshments will be served. Everyone welcome. Mrs. Berger Alkerson, Amos Abrahamson, Ingeborg and Paul Swenson spent Sunday evening at J. O. Hagman's. Mrs. G. A. Swanson and daughters returned to Minneapolis Thursday, after a few months' visit at their parental home here. C. W. Hedman and family were Willmar visitors Wednesday. There will be no services or Sunday school in Lundby next Sunday. Mr. Richard Danielson and sisters, Minnie and Edith visited at August Hokanson's in Hayes, Sunday. Miss Viola Hokanson accompanied them home.

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REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS. Town of Willmar. June 15—Ed. F. Johnson and wife to Dwight Johnson, SE 1/4 of NE 1/4, exc. 5 a., sec. 22, \$1,000. June 15—Dwight Johnson to Lydia Johnson, SE 1/4 of NE 1/4, exc. 5 a., sec. 22, \$1,000. Town of Dovre. June 12—Albert Monson and wife to Almar Larson, lot 1, sec. 11, 37.50 a., \$3,000. June 12—Jalmar Larson and wife to Albert Monson, NW 1/4 of NW 1/4, sec. 11, \$3,000. Town of Mamre. June 12—Lars O. Blom and wife and Andrew T. Blom to Peter B. Hons, SW 1/4, SW 1/4 of NW 1/4, sec. 1, NE 1/4 of NW 1/4, sec. 11, \$17,250. Town of Irving. June 16—Probate Court to Karen Larson et al, NE 1/4 of SW 1/4, sec. 9. Town of New London. June 12—J. M. Ellis and wife to H. P. Rasmussen, lot 1 and part of lot 2, sec. 32, 58.60 a., \$3,516. June 15—Maggie A. Adams, widow to Maggie M. Allibone, part of lot 3, (150x150 feet) sec. 27, \$150. Town of Burbank. June 16—Anna Wroslon and husband to C. E. Mabee, W 1/2 of NE 1/4, E 1/2 of NW 1/4, sec. 5, \$1,000. City of Atwater. June 14—William Peterson, Administrator to Ole B. Samstad, lots 1 to 9 inc., block 4, Salter's 2nd Add., \$2,500. Village of New London. June 14—John Dokken and wife to Charles Peterson lots 6, 7, 1/2 of 8, block 3, Larson Add., \$1,800. City of Willmar. June 12—Victor H. Selvig and wife to Daniel A. Murray lots 13 and 14, block 8, Ferring's Add., \$550. June 12—August Johnson and wife to Charles Wallin, lot 5, 1/2 of lot 4, block 38, \$1,450. June 12—Claus G. Nelson and wife to Gustaf A. Erickson, lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, block 4, Glarum's Add., \$500. June 12—Lars O. Thorpe and wife to Joseph U. Estrem lot 7 exc. S. 150 feet, block 2, Nelson's Add., \$500. June 15—Silvert S. Glarum and wife to Jalmar E. Nyquist, S. 150 feet of lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, block 29, \$6,000. June 17—Emily Almel and husband to Richard C. and Samuel N. Bonham lots 1, 2, 13 and 14, block 116, \$600. June 17—John Erickson et al to Ida A. Anderson, lot 4, block 67, \$2,400.

RINGO LAKE. Ringo Lake, June 19—Mrs. Albert Monson called at John Monson's one day last week. A number from here attended the surprise party at Olson's, Tuesday evening. Mr. Albert Monson and Miss Mabel Ekblad left Thursday for a week's visit with relatives in North Dakota. A few from here attended the social at August Bengtson's Thursday evening. Arvid Pohl is visiting at the Berg home. Mrs. D. Monson is staying at the John Monson home. Mrs. Holm called at Monson's Thursday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Lovander and Henning Lovander called at Swenson's Sunday evening. Oscar Johnson visited over Sunday at Berg's. Mrs. Anderson and daughter, Stella returned Friday after a few days' visit in Mamre. Alfred Swenson and Ernest Berg were in Willmar on business last Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. John Peterson entertained some friends last Sunday evening at the home of Mrs. Magnusson called at Ekblad's Sunday. Miss Anderson spent a few days at Ida A. Anderson, lot 4, block 67, \$2,400.

SEVA. Seva, June 19—Mrs. Oscar Olson will entertain the Ladies' Aid Society Thursday evening and evening. A. O. Nelson spent Wednesday in St. Paul attending to business. Sigfrid Swenson is able to sit up now after having been confined to bed for five months with rheumatic fever. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Westberg were in Willmar on business last Sunday. Miss Ellen Nordstrom left Friday for Friday to her home in Lutherville. Mrs. P. N. Olson went to Beckville Friday to have her Lutherville convention at that place. Mrs. E. R. Rasmussen of Canada is visiting with relatives here. The ball game played Sunday afternoon resulted in a score of 10-5 in favor of the Union Sluggers. Several from here attended the telephone meeting at Willmar Saturday. Miss Mabel Backlund spent Sunday afternoon at her parental home in Roseland. Miss Olive Nelson was at Beckville Friday attending to business. Miss Marjorie Hitch has returned after spending the winter in the cities. Mrs. Alfred Haraldson is in Willmar at the Willmar hospital having her eyes treated. Westberg went to Minneapolis Monday to attend the funeral of his brother-in-law, Mr. R. H. Hegner, who died Friday.

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