

Tallyrand and Firefly

By J. MacNEILL JOHNSON

CHAPTER XX (Conclusion)

Now, boys, our story is told. We might hold your interest for a few weeks longer by telling how Tallyrand and Firefly shot buffaloes, and how Juda Magruder actually outran a fleeing buffalo bull, and leaped from his horse onto the hump of the bull, and rode him to death; or how little War Cry called up the Fairy lady by reciting to a bumble bee the following lines:

"Uumble Bee, Uumble Bee,
Come and bring my wish to me,
For two, for four, for one, for three,
Bring me my horses, umble bee!"

We might tell you that at the close of his curious incantation there appeared before the boys four wild geese, saddled and bridled, while at the same time the four boys diminished in stature to about the size of a half grown rabbit, and they leaped into the saddles on the strange horses, and how the wild geese rose and flew to the cave of Old Man of the Mountain, who, it will be remembered was a brother of Old Horseshoe, and of Red Cloud, as well as a brother of the dead father of Firefly and War Cry; we might hear all about the mysteries of hunting big game in the Rocky Mountains from the mouth of Old Man of the Mountains himself; for this and all this, is as true as the rest of the story:—

We might be interested in the long down-river trip of our boys after they spent the summer in the far west; how on their arrival at Verdun Plantations they found many strange things had happened—among them the fact that Juda Magruder's sister Nancy, who had been a student at Floral College had come home and finding that Juda was in the west visiting the Chief, Red Cloud, had accepted Mrs. Studebolt's invitation to Verdun to await her brother's return: how that soon after her arrival at Verdun, young Jack Turnbull had left Tulane University, and sailed up the Mississippi River with the full intention of slaying his father's slayer—who we know was none other than Colonel Simon Magruder, himself, the truly begotten grandfather of Juda Magruder, and this same Miss Nancy. We surely would be interested in the fact that when Jack Turnbull's boat arrived at a point near Verdun Plantations, it, that is the boat, was "stabbed" by a "Sawyer," that is by a saw-log, one end of which was sunk to the bottom, and the other end floating and bobbing up and down, like a man sawing with an old-fashioned whip-saw; how that many passengers were drowned, and that Bill and Ned, in an almost miraculous way, saved Jack Turnbull, and brought him to Verdun Plantation much in the same manner as in which our friend Juda was introduced there:

We might tell how when Jack Turnbull first opened his eyes after an unconscious day and night, his eyes fell upon the face of Nancy Magruder, and after that IT WAS ALL UP WITH HIM! How the age-long Vendetta of the Feud was broken by love. All this we might tell, for it is all as true as the rest of the story.

We might also mention how, as the cruel Civil War tore the country in twain, Juda Magruder, whose warm heart was ever his controlling factor, joined the forces of John Morgan, the Raider; but went through the trying ordeal of demoralizing war without ever taking the life of a fellow mortal; for this, too, would be as true as the rest of the story.

We might, and may be, ought to mention how Tallyrand, and his kinsman and tutor, Donald Ross, went to Washington, and accepted service under Mr. Lincoln's administration, and how Tallyrand rose by steady graduations until he became the private Secretary of President Lincoln, which position of trust he held till his chief had been assassinated by the fanatic

John Wilkes Booth, and how, because of his splendid qualities he was retained in the same position by President Andrew Johnson, until he was ousted by Thad Stephens, the wickedest criminal that has lived in the world since Tamerlane the Tartar. We might explain that Tallyrand fell under the hatred of Old Thad by reason of his siding with President Johnson in resisting the iniquitous crime of Reconstruction; for all this is quite as true as the rest of the story.

We might, and may be, ought to mention how Firefly became lonely at Verdun after his friend Tallyrand had gone to Washington, and on one of his frequent visits to the Shaws of Shawandossa, showed his human heart to his cousin Minnehaha with more sentiment than is usually accredited to members of his race; and how Minnehaha, in imitation of her illustrious name-sake, as told by Mr. Longfellow answered:

"I will go with you, my husband!"

We might mention how, after the war had been fought to the last ditch, and came to a close by reason of sheer exhaustion of the Seceding States, and as the swarm of irresponsible Negroes with the untried and unproven armour of Citizenship thrust upon them by Old Thad Stephens and his henchmen, Zeke, and went at once to the Mains Plantations' private burial ground, where he had been told his old Master Colonel Bolter had been laid to rest; how Zeke stood uncovered by his Old Master's grave, and wept copious tears, and begged his dead master to pardon him "fo' breckin' Mr. Soakem's back." All this and many other things I might mention; for this is all as true as the rest of the story.

But I must remember that my readers are boys, and I have promised them only boys' stories, and it is now time to close; but if you will some day sail up the Mississippi River from Memphis to Louisville, Kentucky, you will pass most of the places of interest in the story of Tallyrand and Firefly. Maybe you will search with interest for Verdun Plantations, the beautiful boyhood home of Tallyrand; and on the opposite, or Arkansas side, you may search for the Mains Plantations of Colonel Bolter where the bloodhounds "stood" Tallyrand. You will surely look with interest for the location of the Shaws of Shawandossa, where our young friends, Tallyrand and Firefly killed so many wolves: Then, after you shall have turned into the Ohio River you will look for the great Old Mansion of Colonel Simon Magruder. You might find the mansion, but Juda Magruder would be the oldest man on the great old stock farm, and he might show you the marble slabs that mark the graves of Gramper and Aunt Polly, each of which bore the inscription:

"The Vendetta of the Feud has vanished before LOVE."

If you should have leisure to accept the pressing invitation of Juda to spend a Sunday with him, you would almost surely meet Colonel Jack Turnbull and his lady, whom we knew in the story as Nancy Magruder, with their numerous offspring, who come from the city of Louisville once a week to visit the old home of their childhood.

And if you should turn from all these scenes to your river boat to return to Memphis, it would be in pensive mood, and if you were tempted to sing the old African melody of the boat song of long ago, it would surely be in low and subdued tones, but it would partake of the same words, and the same rhythm:

"Down the river row,
Down the river row,
I pull my paddle, and I row my boat,
And its down the river row."

THE END

SCHEDULE OF HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

Big Oak, August 14th, 2:00 p. m.—Pickling.
Eagle Springs, August 15th, 2:00 p. m.—Sewing.
Cameron, August 16th, 2:00 p. m.—Pickling.
Pinehurst, August 17th, 11:00 a.

m.—Cooking.
Jackson Springs, August 18th—Hand enameled and decorated vases.
Horse Shoe, August 18th, 8:00 p. m.
Spies, August 19th—Farmers picnic, public Dinner. Everybody invited.

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No. 11	6:16 P. M.	Hamlet, Points East, South & West

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERN

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, Teacher of English Bible in Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR AUGUST

SECOND RETURN FROM

LESSON TEXT—Ezra 7:1-8.
GOLDEN TEXT—The hand is upon all them that seek his help—Ezra 8:22.

REFERENCE MATERIAL 10:17.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Ezra's Help.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Ezra's Help on a Journey.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Ezra: Teacher and Leader.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Religious Teachers: A Need for Opportunity.

I. The Leader—Ezra (7:1-8)

1. Who he was (vv. 1-5). The leader of the company was Zerubbabel, military governor. The great thing was for a religious leader to see from the noble reformer Ezra effected. (2) A reformer (v. 6). He was a teacher of God.

2. His high ambition (1) "He set his heart to see of the Lord" (v. 10). He dealt out with the noble purpose of God's Word. To be successful in this one must set out with Daniel was a success because of his heart." Many Sunday-school teachers set their hearts on this set purpose. (2) He set his heart to obey the Lord (v. 10). He was only concerned with knowing God's Word, but to obey it. God's Word must be known by the heart. It must be experienced. The qualification for a teacher of God's Word is obedience to God's Word. He set his heart to teach the Word, and judgments (v. 10). He only had a love for God's Word, and he desired to implant it in the hearts of others. When one has a knowledge of God's Word, he should teach it to others.

3. His commission (7:1-8). King Artaxerxes gave him the decree authorizing him to go back to Jerusalem empowered (1) to collect taxes (v. 16); (2) to levy tribute (v. 22); (3) to appoint magistrates (v. 25); (4) to execute the law (v. 26). So great was his confidence in Ezra that he gave these powers into his hands. He had great honor. Ezra lifted up his voice in thanksgiving. He was concerned with the fact that he should be able to beautify the Lord's name. He acknowledged that God had put his purpose into the king's heart.

II. The Company (8:1-10)

The company was small, but including women and servants, there were 10,000 people in this caravan.

III. Ezra's Prayer (8:21-23)

The first thing he did was to pray for God's guidance. Not only for himself, but all Christians should seek divine guidance and help in every new job or undertaking—every new piece of new work, every new venture, every new relation which we cannot invoke upon should not be undertaken. Further, success can only be obtained when God's blessing is upon it. We did not minimize the danger.