THELIGHT IN THE CLEARING

A TALE OF THE NORTH COUNTRY IN THE TIME OF SILAS WRIGHT

IRVING BACHELLER

EBEN HOLDEN, D'RI AND I, DARREL OF THE BLESSED ISLES. KEEPING UP WITH LIZZIE, ETC., ETC

BARTON GETS NEW INSPIRATION FROM THE THE WORDS OF THE GREAT SILAS WRIGHT.

Sympsis.-Barton Baynes, an orphan, goes to live with his uncle, Penbey Esynes, and his Aunt Deel on a farm on Rattleroad, in a problem called Lickitysplit, about the year 1826. He meets Sally Translationer, about his own age, but socially of a class above the Barton and is fascinated by her pretty face and fine clothes. Barton miss meets Roving Kate, known in the neighborhood as the 'Silent "Amos Grimshaw, a young son of the richest man in the townis a visitor at the Baynes home and Roving Kate tells the boys' formers, predicting a bright future for Barton and death on the gallows Reproved for an act of boyish mischief, Barton runs away, intending to make his home with the Dunkelbergs. He reaches Canton and folls asleep on a porch. There is he is found by Silas Wright, Jr., a men prominent in public affairs, who, knowing Peabody Baynes, takes Button home after buying him new clothes. Silas Wright evinces much Barton and sends a box of books and magazines to the Buy bome. A short time later the election of Mr. Wright to the Thated States senate is announced. Barton learns of a wonderful power known as "Money," and how through its possession Grimshaw is the must powerful man in the community. Grimshaw threatens to take the Burnes farm if a note which he holds is not paid.

CHAPTER V-Continued.

speriplite home.

per journey. It was a warm, hazy Indian-summer day in November. As we passed "the mill" we saw the Si-Warran looking out of the little striker of her room above the blackswith shop-a low, weather-stained, theme building, hard by the main med with a narrow hanging stair on the side of it.

The keeps watch by the winder Knows all that's goin' That women-knows who goes to he wilinge an' how long they stay. Then Crimenaw goes by they say she matter off down the road in her rags. The looks like a sick dog herself, but For heard that she keeps that room hers just as neat as a pin."

Near the village we passed a smart-Moting huggy, drawn by a spry-footof lorse in shiny harness. Then I medited with a pang that our wagon was covered with dry mud and that herses were rather bony and our homess a kind of lead color. So I was in an humble state of mind when

me endured the village. There was a crowd of men and women in front of Mr. Wright's office and through its open door I saw many of his fellow townsmen. We waited at the down for a few minutes. I crowded maine Uncle Peabody stood talk-Ing to a willager. The Senator caught with of me and came to my side and was bis hand on my head and said:

Hello, Bart! How you've grown! and how bandsome you look! Where's gon much?" "Sa's there by the door," I an-

"Was be's go and see him."

Wright was stouter and grayer grander than when I had seen Min how. He was dressed in black musichth and wore a big beaver hat was aller and his hair was alwat wite. I remember vividly his whent, kindly, gray eyes and ruddy

Thismrs, I'm glad to see you," he will bearthy. "Did ye bring me any setted ment?"

Think of it," said Uncle But I've got a nice young are all jerked an' if you're fond o' wat in laring ye down some to-mor-

Will like to take some to Washingwas I wouldn't have you bring IN MID TOUT."

"I'd like to bring it-I want a wheneve to talk with ye for half an hour or such a matter," said my unwie. The got a little trouble on my

The Senator took us into his office introduced as to the leading men of the county.

"Here," said the Senator as he put hand on my head, "is a coming mun in the Democratic party."

The great men laughed at my Mushes and we came away with a are sense of pride in us. At last I that equal to the ordeal of meeting the Duikebergs. My uncle must have shared my feeling, for, to my delight, he went straight to the basement shore which was the modest Dunkelberg, Produce."

Well I swan!" said the merchant in the treble voice which I remem-This is Bart and Pea-How are you?"

Crefty well," I answered, my unense of propriety. "How is Sal-

to my tarbarrassment. lie's geiting right down to busiwait my uncle

"That's right," said Mr. Dunkelberg. "Why, Bart, she's spry as a cricket To Aunt Deel wagon grease was and pretty as a picture. Come up to the worst enemy of a happy and re- dinner with me and see for yourself."

Uncle Peabody hesitated, whereupon We hitched our team to the grass- I gave him a furtive nod and he said harger spring wagon and set out on "All right," and then I had a delicious feeling of excitement. I had hard work to control my impatience when they talked.

By and by I asked, "Are you 'most ready to go?"

"Yes-come on-it's after twelve o'clock," said Mr. Dunkelberg. "Sally will be back from school now."

So we walked to the big house of the Dunkelbergs and I could hear my when she min't travelin'," said Uncle heart beating when we turned in at the gate—the golden gate of my youth it must have been, for after I had passed it I thought no more as a child. That rude push which Mr. Grimshaw gave me had hurried the passing.

I was a little surprised at my own dignity when Sally opened the door to welcome us. My uncle told Aunt Deel that I acted and spoke like Silas Wright, "so nice and proper." Sally was different, too-less playful and more beautiful with long yellow curls

covering her shoulders. "How nice you look!" she said as she took my arm and led me into her playroom.

"These are my new clothes," boasted. "They are very expensive and I have to be careful of them."

I behaved myself with great care at the table-I remember that-and, after dinner, we played in the dooryard and the stable, I with a great fear of tearing my new clothes. stopped and cautioned her more than once: "Be careful! For gracious

sake! be careful o' my new suit!" As we were leaving late in the afternoon she said:

"I wish you would come here to

"I suppose he will some time," said Uncle Peabody. A new hope entered my breast, that

moment, and began to grow there. "Aren't you going to kiss her?" said Mr. Dunkelberg with a smile.

I saw the color in her cheeks deepen as she turned with a smile and



"I'm Not Afraid of Him."

walked away two or three steps while the grown people laughed, and stood being too slow of speech to suv. with her back turned looking in at seemed not to think of it. the window.

"You're looking the wrong way for The two men laughed heartily, much the scenery," said Mr. Dunkelberg. She turned and walked toward me ty face and said

her warm lips upon my own-that was so different and so sweet to remember in the lonely days that followed! Fast flows the river to the sea when youth is sailing on it. They had shoved me out of the quiet cove into the swift current-those dear, kindly, thoughtless people. Sally ran away into the house as their laughter continued and my uncle and I walked down the street. How happy I was! I observed with satisfaction that the village boys did not make fun of me when I bassed them as they did when I wore the petticoat trousers. Mr. and Mrs. Wright came along with the crowd, by and by, and Colonel

We kissed each other and, again,

that well-remembered touch of her

hair upon my face! But the feel of

"I'm west afraid on aim."

laws and I remember a remark of my uncle, for there was that in his tone which I could never forget: "We poor people are trusting you to look out for us-we poor people are trusting you to see that we get

Medad Moody. We had supper with

the Senator on the seat with us. He

and my uncle began to talk about the

treated fair. We're havin' a hard time." My uncle told him about the note and the visit of Mr. Grimshaw and of

his threats and upbraidings. "Did he say that in Bart's hearing?"

asked the Senator. "Ayes!-right out plain."

"Too bad! I'm going to tell you frankly, Baynes, that the best thing I know about you is your conduct toward this boy. I like it. The next best thing is the fact that you signed the note. It was bad business but it was good Christian conduct to help your friend. Don't regret it. You were poor and of an age when the boy's pranks were troublesome to both of you, but you took him in. I'll lend you the interest and try to get another holder for the mortgage on one condition. You must let me attend to Bart's schooling. I want to be boss about that. We have a great schoolmaster in Canton and when Bart is a little older I want him to go

"We'll miss Bart but we'll be tickled to death-taere's no two ways about that," said Uncle Peabody.

there to school. I'll try to find him

a place where he can work for his

The Serator tested my arithmetic and grammar and geography as we rode along in the darkness and said by and by:

"You'll have to work hard, Bart. You'll have to take your book into the field as I did. After every row of corn I learned a rule of syntax or arithmetic or a fact in geography while I rested, and my thought and memory took hold of it as I plied the hoe. I don't want you to stop the reading. but from now on you must spend half of every evening on your lessons."

As I was going to bed the Senator called me to him and said:

"I shall be gone when you are up in the morning. It may be a long time before I see you; I shall leave something for you in a sealed envelope with your name on it. You are not to open the envelope until you go away to school. I know how you will feel that first day. When night falls you will think of your aunt and was a sharp spur with which he conuncle and be very lonely. When you go to your room for the night I want you to sit down all by yourself and open the envelope and read what I shall write. They will be, I think, the most impressive words you ever read. You will think them over but you will not understand them for a long time. Ask every wise man you meet to explain them to you, for all your happiness will depend upon your understanding of those few words in the envelope."

In the morning Aunt Deel put it in my hands.

"I wonder what in the world he wrote there-ayes!" said she. "We must keep it careful-ayes !- I'll put it in my trunk an' give it to ye when ye go to Canton to school."

"Has Mr. Wright gone?" I asked rather sadly.

"Ayes! Land o' mercy! He went away long before daylight with a lot o' jerked meat in a pack basketayes! Yer uncle is goin' down to the village to see 'bout the mortgage this afternoon, ayes!"

It was a Saturday and I spent its hours cording wood in the shed, pausing now and then for a look into my grammar.

What a day it was !- the first of many like it. I never think of those days without saying to myself: "What a God's blessing a man like Silas Wright can be in the community in which his heart and soul are as an open book!"

As the evening came on I took a long look at my cords. The shed was nearly half full of them. Four rules of syntax, also, had been carefully stored away in my brain. I said them over as I hurried down into the pasture with old Shep and brought in the cows. I got through milking just as Uncle Peabody came. I saw with joy that his face was cheerful.

"Yip!" he shouted as he stopped his team at the barn door, where Aunt Deel and I were standing. "We ain't got much to worry about now. I've got the interest money right here in my pocket."

We unhitched and went in to supper. I was hoping that Aunt Deel would speak of my work but she

I went out on the porch and stood looking down with a sad countenance. Aunt Deel followed me.

"W'y, Bart!" she exclaimed, "you're with a look of resolution in her pret- too tired to eat—ayes! Be ye sick?" I shook my head,

Peabody," and catter this boy nes worked like a beaver every minute since you left-ayes he tas! I never see anything to beat it-never! want you to come right out into the wood-shed an' see what he's donethis minute-ayes!"

I followed them into the shed. "W'y, of all things!" my uncle exclaimed. "He's worked like a nailer,

ain't he?" There were tears in his eyes when he took my hand in his rough palm and squeezed it and said:

"Sometimes I wish ye was little again so I could take ye up in my arms an' kiss ye just as I used to. Horace Dunkelberg says that you're the best-lookin' boy he ever see."

I repeated the rules I had learned as we went to the table. "I'm goin' to be like Silas Wright if

can." I added. "That's the idee!" said Uncle Peatightness of money and the banking body. "You keep on as you've started an' everybody'll milk into your pail."

I kept on-not with the vigor of that first day with its vew inspiration -but with growing strength and effec-



One Day Mr. Grimshaw Came Out in the Field to See My Uncle.

tiveness. Nights and mornings and Saturdays I worked with a will and my book in my pocket or at the side of the field and was, I know, a help of some value on the farm. My scholarship improved rapidly and that year I went about as far as I could hope to go in the little school at Leonard's Corners.

"I wouldn't wonder if ol' Kate was right about our boy," said Aunt Deel one day when she saw me with my book in the field.

I began to know than that ol' Kate had somehow been at work in my soul-subconsciously as I would now put it. I was trying to put truth into the prophecy. As I look at the whole matter these days I can see that Mr. Grimshaw himself was a help no less important to me, for it tinued to prod us.

My Second Peril.

One day Mr. Grimshaw came out in the field to see my uncle. They walked away to the shade of a tree while the hired man and I went on with the hoeing. I could hear the harsh voice of the money-lender speaking in loud and angry tones and presently he went away.

"What's the rip?" I asked as my uncle returned looking very sober. "We won't talk about it now," he

In the candle-light of the evening Uncle Peabody said:

"Grimshaw has demanded his mortgage money an' he wants it in gold coin. We'll have to git it some way, I dunno how."

"W'y of all things!" my aunt exclaimed. "How are we goin' to git all that money—these hard times?ayes! I'd like to know?"

"Well, I can't tell ye," said Uncle Peabody. "I guess he can't forgive us for savin' Rodney Barnes."

"What did he say?" I asked. "Why, he says we hadn't no business to hire a man to help us. He says you an' me ought to do all the werk here. He thinks I ought to took you out o' school long ago."

"I can stay out o' school and keep on with my lessons," I said.

"Not an' please him. He was mad when he see ye with a book in yez hand out there in the corn-field."

What were we to do now? I spent the first sad night of my life undoing the plans which had been so dear to me but not so dear as my aunt and uncle. I decided to give all my life and strength to the saving of the farm. I would still try to be great, but not as great as the Senator.

Barton passes through what are looked upon as the second and third of the four perils predicted for him by "Rovin' Kate." Don't fail to read of his experiences in the next installment.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

and begins asking questions

It's Ended Then. Youngham-"How can L tell when the honeymoon is over?" Oldham-"When your wife stope telling thing

EMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

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LESSON FOR MARCH 23

ISRAEL WARNED AGAINST COM-PROMISE.

(May be used with Temperance Applica tions.

LESSON TEXT-Joshua 25:1-16. GOLDEN TEXT-Evil companionships corrupt good morals.-1 Corinthians 15:23. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL - Numbers 83:50-56; Joshua 9:3-27; Judges 3:1-3; 3:1-6; Colossians 2:8. PRIMARY TOPIC-I,oving and obeying God.-Joshua 24:16-28.

JUNIOR TOPIC-Standing up for the INTERMEDIATE TOPIC - Dangerous company.

Joshua, knowing that his life was drawing to a close, summoned the leaders of Israel to appear before him. He knew the tendencies which the nation was developing and the peril which faced it as his leadership was coming to an end. His jealousy for God and solicitude for them prompted him to assemble them and point out the great dangers which confronted

I. A Review of What God Had Done (23:3, 4).

1. God had fought Israel's battles (v. 3). He gave them victory over the strong nations which inhabited Canaan. Striking evidences of this are the capture of Jericho and victory at Gibeon when the sun stood still at Joshua's command. This victory had been secured quickly, which indicates that God had interposed in their behalf. 2. God by the hand of Joshua had

apportioned the land among the tribes (v. 4) for an inhericance. In chapter 24 Joshua rehearses the wonderful things God had done for the nation extending from through the ages.

11. Points Out the Promises as Yet Unfulfilled (23:5-10).

1. "He shall expel them before you" (v. 5). The actual possession which God had given was the pledge that he would give them full possession. God's promise was the guarantee of this. In view of God's faithful performance of all his promises there should be no room for doubt.

2. "One man of you shall chase a thousand" (v. 10). The reason of this was because the Lord God would fight for them. To have the Lord fight for us is to have the assurance of victory regardless of how few or how many. 3. The condition upon which these

promises would be realized. (1) "Be very courageous" (v. 6). At a time like this it required courage to look to God for all the nation's needs. (2) "Keep and do all that is written in the law of Moses" (v. 6). Fidelity to God's law was essential. Turning aside in any particular would forfeit their claims upon him. (3) "Keep aloof from the Canaanites" (v. 7). This separation was to obtain with reference to (a) marriage among them (b) idolatrous customs. (4) Cleave wholly unto God (v. 8).

III. Solemn Warnings Issued (23: 11-16).

1. Take good heed that you love God sincerely (v. 11). Love to God is the sum total of duty toward him.

2. Refrain from intermarriage among the Canaanites (v. 12). For God's people to intermarry among the heathen is to set in motion influences which would issue in confusion and disaster.

3. God will make the heathen snares, traps and scourges instead of giving victory over them (v. 13). 4. Evil things will come upon them just as good things had been done for

them even to their destruction (v. 15). 5. The wrath of God kindled against them (v. 16).

Peace and Righteousness.

Righteousness means victory with the help of the Spirit of God over ourselves, over our inclinations, our passions, our tempers, our whole sinful natures. There is no peace without victory in the spiritual life, and I am inclined to think that holds good between men and nations. There is no peace until righteousness is done. The Prophet said: "They have healed also the hurt of my people slightly, saying Peace, Peace, when there is no peace." There must be righteousness toward God and our fellowmen if there is to be peace and good will on earth.

If We Suffer.

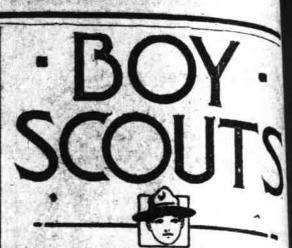
"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him," says St. Paul. What a crown is that for this, O sufferer! "Thy pains and sickness are all cured; thy body shall no more burden thee with weakness and weariness; thy aching head and heart, thy hunger and thirst, thy sleep and labor, are all gone. Oh, what a mighty change is this which shines as the brightness of the firmament !"-Baxter.

God's Will.

The kingdom of heaven is not come even when God's will is our law. It is come when God's will is our will. When God's will is our law, we are but a kind of noble slaves. When his will is our will, we are free children. -George Macdonald.

Follow Jesus Only.

Let this be thy whole endeavor, this thy prayer, this thy desire—that thou mayest he stripped of all selfishness. and with entire simplicity follow Jesus only.—Thomas a Kempis.



SEA SCOUTS TRAIN ASHORE

This is undoubtedly one of the most picturesque, if not the most appealing division of the scouting program. has to deal with that element in the boy's life which is seldom thoroughly satisfied unless he actually runs away and goes to sea.

The program includes every phase of nautical work. It is based on program outlined by and in charge of James A. Wilder. Mr. Wilder has had the heartiest co-operation in develop ing this from the high officials of the navy department.

The plan is a thoroughly working one and its promotion attracts a great



JAMES A. WILDER, Chief Sea Scout of the Sea Scouts of the Boy Scouts of America.

deal of attention. It is new and is intended to work with older scouts.

It's not, however, entirely a seaboard affair. It's so designed that an inland city can produce practically the

The idea of training seamen inland is not a new thing. It has been extensively done both in Sweden and Norway for generations.

HOW SCOUTS HELPED FRANCE.

A recent statement received at national headquarters of the Boy Scouts of American by General Baden-Powell, head of the English scouts, contains the following:

"The fighting is over at last, and the scouts, whether from home or overseas, have distinguished themselves in noticeable proportion throughout the war. Among the highest, three out of General Haig's five army commanders in France are scout commissioners -Sir Herbert Plumer, Sir William

Birdwood and Sir Julian Byng. "While at Lille I heard of the pluck of a boy scout during the German occupation. No sooner had the German staff received news by wireless as to the progress of the war and events in other countries than it was at once known by all the inhabitants of Lille.

"Till the time of their departure the Germans never discovered how the news leaked out. As soon as night fell every evening this boy rigged up his wireless apparatus on the roof of his home, received all the news that was going and had it typed and communicated to his friends. The apparatus was all down and slowed away before the day dawned."

NOT EASY TO STAY A SCOUT.

Being a scout stands for service. This service may mean a sacrifice of the changing of his entire mode of living, such as the rearrangement of his studies or the giving up of amusements or things he may like best. This of course is the real scout's program of unselfish and patriotic service to his country.

In these days each scout feels that he has been called upon to make just such sacrifices and still has a debt to pay to his brother scouts and scout

DOINGS OF THE BOY SCOUTS.

officials "over there."

Eleven scouts and a leader left Akron, Ohio, with tents, blankets, cooking utensils and food for a gypsy hike through the Ohio country, carrying their equipment on a wagon furnished by a local liveryman drawn by a horse

furnished by a farmer. War Savings stamp sales of \$54,606, Liberty loan sales of \$23,450, and 816 black walnut trees located, form the war record of Kalamazoo scouts. Since June 1, 212 scouts have been recruited

n that city.