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## OUR NEW HOUSE.

"Eureka! I have found it!" I cried, as I entered the house.

"Found what?" queried Mrs. Dobb.

"The house, my dear. The very house we want."

"Oh! have you?" exclaimed my wife, with an intensity of emphasis that sufficiently explained her appreciation of the horrors of house-hunting. "I am so glad! It relieves my mind of more anxiety than you think, James. Where is it?"

"Here, in the paper."

And I pulled the morning paper from my pocket, where I had carried it all day, and struck it open triumphantly with one sweep of my strong right hand.

"Oh! James!"

I despair of conveying in print a clear idea of the expression my wife put into the utterance of those two words. It was the cry of a deceived and wounded spirit. Mrs. Dobb's face looked almost ghastly. It seemed as if the light was all struck out of it as by the crash of a sudden woe.

"Yes, in the paper," I went on, feigning not to perceive the havoc I had created in the sensitive breast of woman. "An advertisement, you know. What a blessed institution the advertising system is."

"Well, read it."

I read it:

"To RENT.—A snug, cozy house in the suburbs, handy to a line of horse cars. Will be let to a careful tenant at fifteen dollars per month. Apply at No. 25 That street. Take a Blank street car."

"Now, then!" I cried, exultant.

"Ridiculous!" said Mrs. Dobb.

"Ridiculous, Susan! Not a bit of it. I believe that house to be a prize. I'll go at once and see it. There'll be a hundred applicants for it."

Mrs. Dobb smiled incredulously.

"And so cheap, too," said I. "Fifteen dollars a month! Did you ever hear of such a thing?"

But Mrs. Dobb was by no means favorably impressed with my new enterprise. She argued the point long and earnestly with me, reminding me that cheap things were invariably the dearest in the end; and at last, in the terror of discussion, I did a very rash thing.

I agreed with Mrs. Dobb that if, on visiting the house I had in view, it did not prove every way desirable, I would release her in toto from all further trouble regarding a house—I would do the house hunting this time myself.

I may say briefly that I bitterly repented of my promise afterwards. That house was a worthless affair. And then I had to go out on a house hunt.

I need not recount my sorrowful experience. To those who know what house hunting is I could tell nothing new, and to those who do not I have only to express kindly hope that they never will. I had doors banged in my face by irascible house-keepers, who declared their carpets were being ruined; I was asked what my name was; what my business was; how many children I had; where I lived; in fact, I never had so many questions asked me in the same number of hours before since I was examined by a life insurance physician. One man even asked me to lend him five dollars, but he had no house to rent. At night I came home weary and worn, and no nearer my object than when I began.

"This is an unprofitable business, Susan," said I. "I shall pursue it no longer."

"But what will you do, James? Stay here?"

"No; we can't stay here at the advanced rent."

"Then, what will you do?"

"I'll go to a house agent. I ought to have thought of that in the first place."

I called on an agent the next day, and had some conversation with him.

"If you tell me about what sum you wish to pay for a house, Mr. —"

"Dobb is my name."

"Mr. Dobb, I have no doubt I can suit you to a T."

I named a sum a little in advance of

what I had paid the past year for the house I now occupy, and the agent replied—

"There is a house, in one of the most genteel and agreeable neighborhoods in the city, which is to be vacated in a few days, which I can let you have at the price you name, and is really a treasure at that figure. It has ten rooms, an enclosed piazza in front, overten with flowering vines in the summer, and is two stories high. I can recommend it in every respect, sir. The conveniences are such as to admit of no criticism, and I promise you, and stake my reputation on the event, that you will find it quite to your liking. The rent is not low, to be sure, as things go; but the neighborhood is one of the choicest in the city. It has been occupied the past year by a very careful tenant, to whom no objection is entertained, that I can learn, except that he has children."

"So have I children," I said, very decisively; "four of them; and I intend that they shall occupy the same house with me, during the next twelve months, at all hazards. So, if that is the objection, I believe we can drop the subject where it is."

"Ah! yes," says the agent, blandly. "It is only an objection of principle, however. The owner is opposed to renting his houses to families with children on principle; and the house to which I refer forms the only exception to this rule. I have no doubt he could be induced to make the same exception in your favor, sir."

"But if for me, why not for his present tenant?" I asked.

"Oh! he would for his present tenant, he told me; but the gentleman refused to pay the increased rent, I am informed, and has found another house."

Some farther conversation followed. I was shown a plan of the offered house, and its various excellencies were explained to me. I was fully convinced it was an excellent residence; and, after my weary experience in house hunting, I felt quite a glow of satisfaction at the prospect of release on such comparatively reasonable terms. I engaged the house at once.

"Have a lease prepared to-day," said I to the agent, "and to-morrow I will call and sign it."

Mrs. Dobb was everjoyed when I told her all about it that day at dinner. It was plain to see that we had secured a good home for the future.

"But, James," said my wife, "you have not told me where the house is situated."

"Well, that's a good joke," said I. "Upon my word, I never thought to ask. I'll do so after dinner."

I did so. The agent said it was in Sutch street.

"Is it?" said I. "Well, that's pleasant. We shan't have far to move, then, probably, for I live in Sutch street, now, and a delightful street it is. What did you say was the number?"

"The number is seventeen."

"Seventeen," I cried, in astonishment.

"Yes, sir."

"West side?"

"Yes. You know the house, perhaps?"

"I should think I ought to," was my response, in a hysterical tone; "I've lived in it for the past year."

Yes. I had rented my own house at a comfortable advance on last year's figure. When I told Mrs. Dobb about it she laughed till she cried.

I went roaming over the house, examining its merits critically, and scrutinizing all the rooms with quite a new and peculiar interest.

"It is a good house, Susan, at any rate. That we know."

"It is, James. I am very well satisfied. To be sure, the kitchen is rather small, and there is more room up stairs than we really need; but, taken altogether, I don't believe we could be better suited."

"And then, my dear wife," cried I, in a tone of exultation, "think what an escape from the horrors of moving. No exorbitant charges to carmen—no broken mirrors and scratched furniture—no sleeping on the parlor floor—no going to a restaurant for dinner for the family. Here we can be as happy as the shepherds of Arcadia."

## OUR NEED OF PEACE.

It is customary with our countrymen in speaking of the possibility of a foreign war to assume as a matter of course that we should come off victorious, and that right speedily. The extraordinary trouble we had in subduing a rebellion backed by no financial resources whatever ought to induce us to be less confident in this assumption, since the financial, naval and military power of nations like England and France far transcend what we encountered in the late southern war. But it must not be forgotten that these European Powers are fully impressed with the magnitude of our resources and the warlike character of our population, and that as, in the case of the war with Russia, a great combination was resorted to for the purpose of rendering success certain, and as the intervention in Mexico was begun under similar auspices, and the conduct of England and France toward us during our civil war was regulated by agreement, and was in point of fact an alliance against us, we must, in case we undertake a foreign war, expect a great and powerful alliance against us, over which it might tax our powers to the very utmost to prove successful.

Then the question arises, should we come off victorious in such a contest, would we not be ruined for all subsequent efforts by the vast mountain of debt it would leave us? We have now as much as we can manage to provide for our existing obligations, and it remains to be seen whether, in an era of peace, without the patriotic excitement of the war to buoy them up, our people will patiently bear the load of taxation rendered essential by the war debt. It is true that in a great foreign war the patriotic fervor to which we have alluded would be tenfold greater, but the loads of debt would be far beyond all our present ideas, so far, indeed, as to lead even patriotic people to deliberate as to our ability to bear such burdens.

If we assume that we could solve the fiscal problem, let us ask whether the condition of our empire at the present time is one to be risked in a great war against a powerful European alliance? There can be no reasonable doubt that all the Indian wars of the last four years were fomented by rebel emissaries on the one hand and agents of the British fur companies on the other. With the French in full possession in Mexico they would be much more vigorous than the rebels in fomenting wars among all the central and southern tribes, while from the north the British fur traders would work with a hearty good will, because it is to their interest to discourage the progress of our settlements on their border. Our Pacific colonies are fully three thousand miles distant from the military and naval resources which would have to defend them, and although we are able to make ourselves felt at sea, it is doubtful if we could contend there successfully against England and France combined. Within ten years we shall have a railroad built to the Pacific, supported by a chain of settlements all along the route. With shrewd forecast, Jeff. Davis, when he was President Pierce's Secretary of War, saw these things, and urged the Pacific Railroad as a military necessity.

Even with the Pacific Railroad built and in operation, we should have hard work to contend against an Anglo-French alliance, with France operating from Mexico as a base, and England drawing her resources from India and Australia, and using British Columbia as a base. What we need is time to enable us to populate and organize our immense western domain. It is not merely railroads and stage roads and mining settlements that we want there. We must have a population with resources to draw upon in case of war. We must have agriculture, commerce, and the mechanic arts established in those remote wildernesses. We must have society permanently organized there, with all the institutions which attach man to his home and render him willing to fight for it.

Looking to the northwestern border, we find our colonies weak in numbers, deficient in all respects, and standing in great

need of all that we can do for them; while on the southwestern border we are far worse off. We have been much engrossed by the effort to build up a strong chain of settlements along the central overland route, which, as it must be the strongest military position, from being the most distant from the frontiers, was wisely thus attended to first. But in case of war there would be serious danger of the French taking southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico, and of the English taking Washington, Idaho and Montana.

Those who doubt this do not know the enormous cost of transporting troops such vast distances overland as we would have to do, and the losses incurred in those enterprises. It has been truly observed that this was the greatest drawback under which Russia labored in the last war, and that she lost more men by the way than she did in actual conflict. In case of a great war our Pacific coast might be lost to us by a combined English and French attack, in consequence of their vast naval power, before we could send thither, around Cape Horn, a fleet strong enough to prevent it. We have before us, therefore, the task of building up on the Pacific navy yards, iron-works, and everything else requisite to enable us to meet any such emergency. We must have there a navy which can be put in service at short notice; and the means of increasing it with great rapidity. We must also be able to draw from the Pacific States all the men requisite for their defence, and this we could not now do if the allies made a formidable attack.

## FENIANS BEWARE!

We have not heard of the arrest of the agent of the so-called Fenian loan, and yet it is an act which, if not done, ought to be done at once. However deeply Americans may sympathize with the people of Ireland touching the injuries received at the hands of the English Government, they are not such fools as to encourage open resistance on the part of the poor peasantry of the Emerald Isle against the gigantic military power of Great Britain. This Fenian loan business is not exclusively a question of Irish repugnance to English rule. It is a matter of downright swindling. Every sensible man in this country, and the very people who are engineering this loan, know that every dollar subscribed to it will find its way into the pockets of vagabonds who will never account for any money that they may receive. The most noticeable feature of the whole movement is that it is controlled almost exclusively by unknown Irishmen. The attempted revolution of 1848 furnished the world with the names which, at least, had a recognized standing, such, for instance, as Smith O'Brien, Thomas Francis Meagher, John Mitchell, Richard O'Gorman, and others which might be mentioned. But the Fenian movement of 1865 is confined to porter-house keepers, briefless lawyers, and a set of characterless nobodies without responsibility, influence, or even notoriety. The subscribers to this loan will be the day-laborers, servant girls, and other poor ignorant people who have no means of judging of the chances for or against an attempted revolution in Ireland. To obtain money from these people is swindling, pure and simple, and it is due to the good name of the American nation that the strong arm of the law be interposed to protect them against such an imposition.

We call upon our citizens to frown down this whole scheme. We call upon the press of the country to denounce it as it deserves, and, last of all, upon the officers of the law to promptly arrest and properly punish every person who is engaged in directing the loan or in receiving money in exchange for Fenian bonds. While we sympathize with the people of Ireland in their complaints against the English government, we wish them to distinctly understand that the majority of the American people do not deem them fit for self-government. The same objections to granting the elective franchise to the colored population in the South will hold good with reference to the question of Irish Independ-