

THE SWAMP SECRET.

A STORY OF THE FRONTIER.

By EDEN E. REXFORD.

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CHAPTER XVI.

CONTINUED.

"I know the don't," said Samanthu. "She feels awful about you. Crises n't takes on the way, an' blames herself like a fool. But do go in. I got me a new dress, a single minnit. I shan't draw a decent breath till I think you've got to the camp."

She lifted the party window noiselessly, and Dick crawled through it and dropped lightly to the ground.

She watched him make his way to the garden-house, where he was lost in the shadows of night.

She stood by the window and waited for some minutes. Nothing happened.

"There, thank the Lord, he's safe for a spell. I reckon," she exclaimed, drawing a breath of relief. "Would he have thought of the morning, when they go to leave him, an' find he's missing?"

Then she went back to bed, but the excitement of the night would not allow her to sleep. Visions of escaping men came to her, followed by visions of men dancing from a rope, and then she would start up from the doze into which she had fallen, only to fall into another doze, in which the same sights were repeated.

"I haven't rested much," she said, with a grim smile, when daylight came.

CHAPTER XVII.

A POSTPONED HANG-UP.

Morning broke. With the first streak of red in the east, the men who had been on guard were stirring.

One of them came to the door of the milk-house and listened.

"Listen to the steps," he reported. "Answer the door, an' you're round."

"Wait, let him have his sneeze out," said Bill Green. "It's probably the best cure he'll enjoy for a right-armed spell."

As soon as it was fully light men began to stir.

"They came from all parts of the settlement, and before eight o'clock the entire male portion of the neighborhood was on hand.

It was evident from the stern and resolute look on the faces of most of them, and the determined air which characterized them that they felt that something of grave and weighty import was about to be done.

"Well, it's eight o'clock," announced Bill. "Shall we proceed to business?"

"How do you want to get at it?" asked some one.

"Why, go at it an' do it," answered Bill. "There hasn't no sense in standing round an' a'kin' how a thing is to be done. That'll never do it. Git right down to business an' it won't take long."

"Well, then, fetch out the prisoner an' let's hear what he's got to say for himself," said Deacon Sledge.

"That's the talk," said Mr. Blakcomb. "Let's hear his story, first of all."

"Yes, trot him out," chuckled Samanthu, who was an interested spectator and listener. "Trot him right out. I'm jest a'kin' to see ye do it."

Bill Green, as master of ceremonies, unlocked the door of the milk-house.

"Come out o' that!" he called out, in a tone that was meant to convey terror to the occupant of the milk-house.

Hearing it and watching the way in which Bill swelled up like a turkey-gobbler as he delivered his order, Samanthu chuckled all over.

No reply came from the milk-house and no person emerged therefrom.

"P'raps he's asleep yet," some one in the crowd suggested. "Holler an' wake him up, Bill."

Samanthu's amusement increased.

Bill put his hand in at the door very cautiously and looked around the room.

"He ain't here!" he cried in dismay. "He's gin us the slip, fellows, as sure's ye live!"

"I could ha' told ye that, as considerable spell ago I'd felt like it," chuckled Samanthu from her post of observation by the pantry window. "He's gone, sure enough, Bill Green, an' I reckon ye won't git yer clutches on him right away, nuther."

The excited and incredulous crowd made a rush for the door to see for themselves if Bill Green's statement was true. It hardly seemed possible that their prisoner could have eluded them after getting out of the milk-house, to say nothing of getting out of it.

But an inspection of the room satisfied them that it was empty. The bird had flown.

"Who could have helped the critter to get away?" cried Bill, black with rage and disappointment. "I tell ye what, there's been some netherhand doin's summers, an' nobody needn't tell me there ain't. If we c'd only find out who 't was, I reckon we'd make it mighty interestin' for him. I do so."

"But the trouble is, how're ye goin' to find out?" chuckled the delighted Samanthu, to whom the sight of Bill's

wrath was a pleasure too intense for description.

Investigation succeeded in eliciting nothing satisfactory, beyond a knowledge of the manner in which escape had been made.

Mr. Porter was accused of having aided the prisoner in getting away. This he stoutly denied, and being a man for whom his neighbors had implicit confidence, his assertion of innocence was generally believed. This Porter, as everybody knew who knew anything about her, was too timid a woman to attempt anything requiring cool and steady nerve. Wagon, as everybody knew, had no iron ship for Dick, and no one suspected him of having assisted him in making his escape. Suspicion seemed to center on Samanthu for some reason, and she met many dark and angry looks as she trooped to the observations of the crowd. The suspicion with which she was regarded gave her a sense of exultant pleasure which she could not keep from showing in her face. But none of them were fit to say anything to her.

Perhaps the neighbors were somewhat tired of what the result might be if they caught her leaper. Samanthu had in her eye once given those who interfered with her a taste of what might be expected if she "got mad." It is possible that they may have felt it unbecomingly the dignity of a man to quarrel with a woman. It is possible that they hardly thought it fairly worth while, now that the bird had flown, to bandy words about the manner of his flight, since a passing avowal of complicity in the matter was not going to give him back into their hands. For the reason what it might, Samanthu was not openly charged with having helped Dick to get away from them and the penalty of the crime of which most of them considered him really guilty.

Mr. Porter was severely blamed for not having mentioned the mysterious passage between the milk-house and cellar. Many were even doing that if Mr. Porter or other members of the family had not helped Dick to make his escape, they had been sure that he would let himself out of prison by means of this passage, and therefore they had kept silent regarding it. It was plain to be seen that both Mr. Porter and Mr. Brown were silent that he was gone.

Later in the day there was a little clash of arms between Samanthu and Bill Green.

"There's a nigger in the fence," said Bill, with a snarl, glowering look at Samanthu. "Ye sinner, a gold-durned big nigger, in F'd like nothin' better in 't to run by the wood. I would no. Let Dick Brayton get out o' there, please, I'm a liar."

"Mebbe ye be, anyway," said Samanthu, dryly, exultant at the prospect of a set-to with her old enemy, to whom she had never felt friendly disposed since the time when he called her an old maid. That was years ago, but Samanthu had a good memory.

"I wa'n't talkin' to you," said Bill, not relishing the idea of a quarrel with her when there was any one by to listen to it. He was rather fearful of offending out second best.

"Oh, wa'n't ye? I thought ye was by the way ye glared at me," said Samanthu, coolly. "Dat don't make no difference, one way or t'other. I'm goin' to give ye a lesson, an' ye can take it, jest as ye like. Dat's go round the kentry huntin' fer boogers with niggers in 'em. Same day, mebbe, ye'll find the nigger ye lookin' for, an' it won't be healthy fer ye."

"Shaw, now, I want to know," said Bill, at a loss for anything else to say.

"Sh'd judge ye nought ha' had a tussel with a nigger, or somethin' rather lately, by the looks of ye face," said Samanthu, looking Bill's swollen and discolored countenance over critically. "An' ye good fer huntin' fer boogers, an' ye got 'em, but the best medicine for 'em is to mind yer own business an' not fool with suthin' ye can't handle."

Bill turned away with what was meant to represent lofty disdain expressed on his black-and-blue features.

Samanthu put on her sunbonnet and ran over to Mr. Boone's.

Nannie met her at the gate.

"That young woman's eyes were red and swollen, and she looked as if she had passed a sleepless night."

"Oh, Samanthu," cried Nannie, beginning to cry again, "they'll hang poor Dick. I know they will!"

"They'll hev to git him first, I hinder reckon," said Samanthu, with a wink and a grin.

"Oh, Samanthu, what do you mean?" cried Nannie, eagerly. "Has anything happened? Have they found anything out?"

"Yes, they've found him out," chuckled Samanthu, "out o' the milk-house."

"Oh, oh!" cried Nannie, all in a quiver of excitement. "Has he got away from them?"

"They thought I'd got him where nothin' or nobody c'd git him when they shet the milk-house door on him last night, but it seems as if suthin' or somebody must ha' got to him an'

FARM AND GARDEN.

Conserve Sublimates For Potato Scab.

The scab of potatoes can be prevented by soaking the seed in a weak solution of corrosive sublimate. Dissolve two ounces of finely pulverized sublimate in two gallons of hot water and let it stand overnight or until the sublimate is all dissolved. Dilute this to seven gallons and permit it to stand in a wooden barrel four or five hours. Select the seed to be treated, wash off all dirt and fungus in the solution one and a half hours, after which dry the potatoes and cut and pot as usual, taking care not to plant any tubers that have previously been diseased potatoes. The potatoes may be kept better they are treated with this solution. Great care should be taken in using this sublimate, as it is a poison. The solution must not be placed in metallic vessels. This is the only effective treatment of scab to prevent scab, usually does not cure, and is so cheaply and easily applied that it ought to come into universal use wherever potato scab is prevalent.

Controlling the Bean Weevil.

The bean weevil does not breed in dried beans at any time during the storage period in the winter. The weevils are deposited in the green beans, the larva hatch in a couple of weeks, and gnaw out cells in the interior of the bean, where they attain their growth and pupate. Sometimes several are found in a single bean. The only way to get rid of them in a bin is to make a storage place as nearly airtight as possible, then place a layer of carbon bisulphide on top of the bin and close up the bin and let it remain closed for a day or two. Carbon bisulphide being heavier than air, and very volatile, permeates every portion of the bin and destroys every living thing among the beans. Care must be taken to keep the weevil during the treatment, as the bisulphide is very inflammable. It has been suggested that if the beans are heated to 125 degrees as soon as they are partially grown larvae will be destroyed without injury to the germinating quality of the seed. Late planting is also advised so that the crop will escape the ravages of the adult weevils.—New England Hort.

A Very Useful Implement.

Our illustration shows a long-made potato coverer that is very simple in construction. The two sides are pushed each other toward the rear ends, thus bringing the two sides directly across each of two rows lying side by side. When furrowing these rows the earth is turned outward in each of the two rows to be covered by the machine. This will result in drawing the earth back over the seed, and will not ridge up between the rows. The furrows can be made in any row, for this purpose. The handle is between the rows and the handle permit one to draw back over the seed just enough of the soil to cover them properly.

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The Question of Crops.

In all sections of the country there are many farms located from twenty to forty miles from large cities where it would not be profitable to raise truck. It is somewhat difficult to know what should be raised in order to realize the most profit. Of course, when such farms are large and have polished profitable crops it would be folly to make any radical change, but the small farmer is the one on which the problem of raising to pay nothing of profit is most difficult to solve. Many such farms might be brought to a high state of cultivation and yield a good profit if poultry, swine, calves and perhaps a few sheep were kept, using the manure with some mineral fertilizer to raise corn, clover and other grasses and grains for the stock.

The nitrogen and humus needed in best crops could be obtained by the use of crimson clover, cow peas, vetch, beans and the other legumes. Small fruits might be added to advantage with a cow or two a comfortable living could be had and all the time the farm would be gaining fertility by the method advised. It is difficult and expensive to bring up a worn-out farm, but location is sometimes a factor in this. As far as possible operate the farm on the lines of demand in the market to which your crops go. Don't raise cotton, unless the market demands beef and poultry, nor potatoes when your market is languishing for fruit.—Atlanta Journal.

Feeding the Calf.

The calf should be fed in such a way as to promote growth of frame and to develop a capacity for consuming food and digesting milk properly, and should not be fed so as to make her excessively fat. Fattening the calf or heifer will encourage the beef habit, which will be liable to cling to her through life to a greater or less extent, to the detriment of milk production.

The calf should be fed whole milk until about a week old, then gradually substitute skimmed milk by the time the calf is fourteen to eighteen days old the milk is all skim milk. This should be fed warm, the temperature of new milk, and sweet. When beginning to add skim milk a little oil meal should be added; at first not

TOSTOP "PEARL FEVERS."

THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROTECT MUSSEL FISHERIES.

The Government will protect the mussel fisheries of the United States. The United States Fish Commission is taking steps to protect the mussel fisheries of the United States. The Commission has issued a circular to the States, asking them to take steps to protect the mussel fisheries of the United States.

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