

# THE SPENCER CRESCENT

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF LABOR, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION.

VOL. I.

SPENCER, N. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1908.

NO. 53.

## LIFE'S MIRROR.

There are loyal hearts, there are spirits  
That leave, and there are hearts that true,  
Then give to the world the best you have,  
And the best will come back to you.

Give love, and love to you will flow,  
A strength in your utmost need;  
Have faith, and a score of hearts will show  
Their faith in your word and deed.

—Madeline S. Bridges, in Boston Cooking School Magazine.

## THE PURSUIT FROM MACKINAC

By W. D. HULBERT.

Old Mr. Howard did not stop talking when he had told the family party about his victory over Alec Prevanche and the other ram-drinking voyagers whose wood-chopping on Bois Blanc Island had been sent to overseas when he was sixteen years old. The boy still had to pay penalty for his previous, patting with the voyager who had tempted him to desert from his enlistment of five years in the Astor Fur Company's service, and the old man went on to tell what that penalty turned out to be.

When I went to bed after that first day on Bois Blanc Island I was proud and happy. I had found that I could command men, and the discovery changed my views of fur-trader's life. But in the midst of my satisfaction I suddenly remembered how I had encouraged Francois Robidoux's plan that he and I should slip away in two days, taking some of the company's boats with us. Now I saw my conduct in its true light, and in the darkness of my tent I shame came over me, and I felt that I was a sneak. But when I thought of my sister lying ill, perhaps dead, and of my natural longing to go home and share the family grief, I could find some excuse for myself, although not enough to justify me in my own mind.

It was on a Saturday that I returned to Mackinac. The few days at Bois Blanc and the change from sorting furs in the warehouse had done me good. I knew I could do my duty, and I resolved to do it cheerfully to the end of my five years' term.

Early on Sunday afternoon I met Francois who had been looking for me. "He wanted me to be ready to steal away on Tuesday night with a party of deserters. I told him I was not going."

"Eh, not going?" he said.

"I promised to stay with the Fur Company five years," I told him, "and I'm going to stay."

"Francois was white with anger. "And I suppose you're sneak enough to tell Mr. Crooks or Mr. Stewart?" he said, cursing me. "If you do, I'll kill you!"

"He's no sneak!" I told him, for the faint made me angry.

"Then you'll promise that you won't tell on the rest of us," Francois said, and without stopping to think, I did promise. He had cleverly thrown me off my guard.

Monday evening it happened that Mr. Stewart sent me to the warehouse to bring him the tally book, and before I left the storeroom I happened to notice that a very valuable pack of marten, otter and silver fox skins was not in the place where I had last seen it. I hurried back to the office and told Mr. Stewart, who made nothing of the report, for all he said was:

"Oh, some of the boys must have moved it just before they locked up. No one could possibly have got in and stolen it."

But I was not satisfied. I had seen Francois watching that pack very eagerly as it was being made up that afternoon. If he would steal a bateau and three weeks' provisions, he might not be above stealing a bale of furs. I left the store and walked down to the beach, thinking that the deserters might have decided to start twenty-four hours earlier than had been planned. I wished I had not promised not to report them, but at any rate I would make sure that they were not carrying off any peltries.

I found no one on the beach but some Indians in their wigwags. A storm was rising in the northeast, although as yet there was no wind. It was too dark for me to see any great distance, but as I stood on the shore I thought I heard the dip of oars to the southward—the direction that the deserters had planned to take. I ran to the house where Francois Robidoux boarded. He was gone.

I felt sure that Francois' party had embarked only a few minutes before, and that they had stolen a bale of the company's finest furs. Of course, I should have at once told Mr. Crooks or Mr. Stewart all that I knew, but my mind was confused by my promise to Francois.

Suddenly I saw a way. I would take a canoe and catch the deserters. What I should do next I did not foresee, but some plan would suggest itself. It was as reckless a project as boy ever made, but I was in a mood for a desperate adventure.

I broke into a run; there was not a moment to lose. I went first to the boarding-house for my gun, and then hurried back to the beach. I picked out one of the best of the smaller canoes, and paddled away into the darkness.

The wind was beginning to come in puffs from the northeast, and the clouds were rising fast. It was too dark for me to see the land ahead,

but I thought I could get across to Bois Blanc before the last of the stars were blotted out. As long as I could see them I could tell which way to steer. If they disappeared, I would keep the wind on my left shoulder and a little behind me. I felt sure that I could cross.

The deserters, I knew, would follow the west shore of Bois Blanc until they reached its southwestern point. What they would do then I could only guess, but I was inclined to think they would keep to the shelter of the island as long as possible, and would creep along under the lee of the southern shore before crossing to the mainland. If the storm should be very severe, they might possibly camp there, trusting the weather to keep back any pursuit.

I crossed to Bois Blanc all right, but then a squall burst and I was obliged to go ashore for a few minutes. Its worst fury was soon over, and I set out again, keeping in the smooth water under the lee of Bois Blanc.

There were no more squalls, but the wind settled down to a steady gale. I was pretty well protected from it, however, and when an occasional gust reached me it usually came from behind and was a bit of help. I was making good time, but the bateau, manned by five or six stout voyagers, was probably doing better. I wondered if they would dare to hoist the sail. Suppose they should be swamped! And suppose I should be swamped, too! Mr. Crooks and Mr. Stewart would, of course, suppose I had died as a deserter and a thief!

But there was no stopping now. I rounded the southern point of the island and started eastward, following the southern shore; and now my troubles began in earnest. Although still sheltered for the most part from the wind and sea, stray gusts came from ahead rather than from behind. It had begun to rain, the stars had disappeared, and I could see hardly a rod ahead. I crept along very slowly, sometimes steering in the shallow water close to shore and feeling the bottom with my paddle. Of course I could have pushed on much faster if I had not been afraid of striking a rock and tearing a hole in the birch bark.

After three hours or so, I found myself becoming tired, and I was drenched with rain from head to foot. But I paddled on, right into great luck. My bow struck something that was neither rock nor sand nor gravel. My canoe slid along the thing, and I put out my hand. It grasped the stern-post of the bateau. One end was evidently drawn up on the shore while the other projected into the water, and if I had been a foot farther from the beach I might have missed it altogether.

I stepped ashore and began to examine the boat very cautiously. Under a tarpaulin I found the bale of furs, a bag of corn and some other provisions. A mast and sail and three pairs of heavy oars lay across the thwart. The men were gone. I grasped the stern-post of a very faint beam of flashlight among the trees at some distance. Toward this I started.

Crawling through the bushes, I saw a tarpaulin stretched on poles so as to form a tent. A fire was burning brightly in front of it, and I made out four men lying on the ground under the tent, while a fifth sat with his back to a tree. A gun lay across his knees and two others were beside the sleepers. The man on guard was also Prevanche, from whom I had taken the jug of rum a few days earlier. He had another jug beside him and seemed to have drawn freely from it. Probably all five had been drinking ever since they left the canoe. Then I saw the two or three times in the next half-hour I saw Alec give a start and rub his eyes with his hands, but at last his head sank down on his breast, his mouth opened and he began to snore. I waited a little longer and then, very cautiously, carried the guns one by one out of the circle of firelight. Then I took them down to the beach and placed them in the same way. From the bateau I took the provisions. Then I had all the little canoe could carry. Pushing well out from the land, I threw them all overboard.

Then I went back, took the mast and sail and all the carabots, and towed them until the wind took hold of them and let them drift away in the darkness. Next, I transferred the bale of furs to my own craft, moored the canoe to the stern of the bateau with a cord, and sat down to wait.

This was the hardest part, but a July night is short here at Mackinac, and the dawn came at last, gray and dreary. A little later the five voyagers burst through the bushes and came running down across the beach. "Hold on!" I said, raising my gun. They all stopped short. Francois, with a great volley of French oaths, asked what I was doing.

"I want you to go back to Mackinac with me," I said. "I told you Francois, that I wouldn't tell Mr. Crooks or Mr. Stewart that you were going, and I haven't told them; I didn't suppose that you were going to break into the warehouse and steal the best of the furs. Now I've taken your guns and your provisions and oars and thrown them into the lake. You can't go on without them. If you'll go back to Mackinac and give yourselves up, I'll try to get Mr. Stewart to be easy on you; but if you won't, I'll go back myself and tell him where you are."

"You will, hey?" Francois dashed forward without heeding my gun. Before he could reach the bateau I cut the cord, and with a quick shove sent the canoe well out from shore.

But Alec Prevanche caught up a heavy stone and threw it. It struck my paddle and grazed the gunwale without doing any damage. Two inches lower and it would have crashed through the birch-bark sides as if they had been paper.

"Try that again and I'll shoot you!" I remarked, and brought the rifle to my shoulder.

Alec picked up another stone, but the other men took him by the arms and held him.

"I'll give you ten minutes to think it over," I said, "and if you are not ready to start by that time I'll go. The five went off among the bushes to hold a consultation, but they soon reappeared.

"You've got us tight," Francois said. "If we go back will you fix it with Mr. Stewart and Mr. Crooks?"

I told them I would try to do so, and they took their places in the bateau, looking sulky and muttering French curses.

Alec stood in the stern and sculled with the one oar that was left, and I followed in the canoe. The short summer gale had nearly blown itself out and the wind was rapidly subsiding.

We had made our way several miles up the shore of the island and were nearing its southwestern point, when Francois gave a shout. A bateau full of men was coming round the point, and in its bow stood Mr. Stewart. The sight was too much for the deserters. They ran their boat ashore and dashed across the beach and into the woods.

I never saw them again, but I afterward learned from Indians that they remained on the island for some time, living on berries and a little corn which they had carried up from

the bateau from the spot where I had found them. They finally built a raft of driftwood, crossed over to the south shore, and made their way through the woods and along the beach to Detroit and Lower Canada. No one ever knew how they got the bale of furs out of the warehouse.

Well, that night's work helped me to tell the whole truth to Mr. Stewart. Two weeks later my arrangements were all made for going back into the Indian country in charge of two bateaux and half a dozen men. The brigade to which I was assigned was to leave the next morning, and in the evening I was summoned to the private office, where I found Mr. Crooks and Mr. Stewart.

They both greeted me kindly, as well as those which we give on behalf of the American Fur Company, for the seal you have at all times evinced, and your unremitting attention to the interests of the concern."

It was more than I deserved, for I had not been all the time zealous and attentive. But it does some men good to get more than they deserve. I felt bound to deserve after that.

The next morning I took my seat in my bateau and sailed away up the Straits of Mackinac, my five years' service fairly begun. When it was ended, I had done as well for John Jay and his partners that I found them disposed to do well by me.—Youth's Companion.

## SCIENCE & MECHANICS

An inch of rain is rain falling at the rate of about 100 tons to the acre.

Arrangements will soon be perfected for the proper protection of American patents in Japan. At present the Japs appropriate anything that suits their fancy.

Signor Caminada, a hydraulic engineer, has drawn up a scheme for the construction of a canal to cross the Alps and connect Genoa, Italy, with Lake Constance, Switzerland.

An Austrian journal tells of a plant called Parkia biglobosa, recently discovered in Africa, which produces a fruit containing twenty per cent, of liquid sugar, which puts it in the first rank of sugar-producing plants.

One of the biggest pieces of engineering in New England is a 2500 horsepower dam in the Union River, at Ellsworth, Me. It is constructed of hollow concrete, and cost nearly \$500,000.

Three naval officers, acting on behalf of the French Admiralty, succeeded on August 5 and 6 in telephoning without wire between Paris and Dieppe, a distance of about ninety miles. The experiment included an ordinary conversation, songs and whistling, all of which were heard perfectly clearly. The experiment has been kept a secret until recently, and no details of the apparatus have yet transpired.

At a recent meeting of scientists in Dublin, Professor G. Elliott Smith, the Egyptologist, said that the earliest known human remains found in the Nile Valley, when compared with those of later times, demonstrated the fact that at a very remote period Egypt and Nubia were inhabited by the same race which had existed in Egypt with little or no change in physical characteristics throughout the intervening 6000 years until the present day. They had been, and still were, a small people, the average height of the men being about five feet three inches at every period of their history.

No Hurry.

The minister of a certain parish in Scotland was walking one misty night through a street in the village, when he fell into a deep hole. There was no ladder by which he could make his escape, and he began to shout for help.

A laborer passing heard his cries, and, looking down, asked who he was. The minister told him, whereupon the laborer remarked: "Weel, weel, ye needna kick up sic a noise. You'll no be needed after Sabath, an' this is only Wednesday night."—Pittston Gazette.

Heard in the Barnyard.

The hen and the duck were in conference.

"I just laid an egg with the Democratic candidate's name on it," said the hen. "Why don't you lay one with the Republican's name on it?"

The duck quacked softly.

"Thanks, no. Ducks prefer water. I'll lay one with the Prohibition candidate's name on it."—Boston Post.

The Shah Not Horse Crazy.

When the Shah was in London they wanted to take him to Goodwin [the racetrack]; but he declined to go. "That one horse can run faster than another," he said, "I am perfectly aware; which one it is doesn't matter to me in the least."—Washington Star.

## CHINA WELL PLEASED

Sends Special Envoy to Bring Friendly Greetings

## TONG DELIVERS FORMAL THANKS

Special Ambassador From the Flowery Kingdom Presents to the Chief Executive of the United States a Letter From the Late Emperor Tendering That Country's Gratitude For the Remission of the Indemnity Incident to the Boxer Rebellion.

Washington, Special.—"Long may your excellency enjoy good health and happiness. May the American people be ever blessed with prosperity and peace. These are our heartfelt wishes."

The above are the sentiments expressed in a letter from the late Emperor of China to President Roosevelt, presented to him by Tong Shao Yi, the special Chinese ambassador, thanking the United States for the remission of \$12,000,000 of the indemnity guaranteed by China for damages resulting from the Boxer rebellion.

The Emperor's Letter.

"The Emperor of China to the President of the United States of America.

"Greeting. Mr. President: China has always maintained the most friendly relations with the United States since the establishment of intercourse between the two countries. By taking the initiative in proposing the remission of a portion of the indemnity as provided by treaty your excellency has won the respect of mankind for magnanimity and just dealing. Furthermore, the Congress has given signal proof of friendliness by giving effect to your excellency's recommendations. In sincere appreciation of this generous action, we hereby appoint Tong Shao Yi, an official with the rank of president of a ministry and governor of the province of Feng Tien, as special ambassador to proceed to the United States for the purpose of presenting this our letter. We have always placed entire confidence in your ability, clear perception and sterling integrity. We have specially commended him, in the discharge of his duties, to convey to your excellency the expression of our grateful thanks, and testify to our lasting friendship. It is our hope that the relations of the two countries will be further strengthened by mutual confidence. Long may your excellency enjoy good health and happiness. May the American people continue to enjoy prosperity and peace. These are our heartfelt wishes."

"Given on the 24th day of the 8th moon in the 34th year of Kwang Hsu (September 19th, 1908)."

In presenting the letter, Ambassador Tong said every line of it breathes friendship and good will for the government and people of the United States and voices the sentiment of all China.

"The action of the United States in remitting a portion of the indemnity as provided by treaty has touched the government and people of my country with a deep sense of gratitude," said Ambassador Tong.

The President's Reply.

In reply the President said: "The letter which you bear, I receive with great appreciation; and on behalf of the government and people of the United States I accept it with quite exceptional sentiments as a message of special friendship from your august sovereign, whose death and the demise of her imperial majesty the late Emperor Dowager we lament. I receive it with the more profound sentiments in that you bring it now no less from the Emperor, the celebration of whose accession makes this day doubly auspicious, and from that enlightened government which all the world feels will add new lustre through his reign to the immortal history of China."

"It is very gratifying to me to receive as his imperial majesty's special ambassador so distinguished a statesman and so worthy a representative. I know you have been in the United States before. I hope your present sojourn will be agreeable."

"I ask you to express to your august sovereign and to the Chinese government my appreciation, and that of the government and people of the United States of the sending of this special embassy, which so finely signifies a fresh manifestation of that sincere confidence, good will and friendship between the United States and the Chinese empire which it is a cherished aim of this government to foster for all time."

Maddox Atlanta's Mayor.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—Robert F. Maddox was elected mayor of Atlanta Wednesday by a majority of more than 3,000 votes over James G. Woodard, regular Democratic nominee and twice mayor of the city. Maddox carried every ward in the city except the third and fifth. The election passed off quietly.

## TO SAVE RESOURCES

The Conservation Commission Completing Inventory

## GOVERNORS MEET NEXT WEEK

Movement Inaugurated by President Roosevelt's Meeting Friday—Commission to Hold Joint Meeting With Governors of States—Making an Inventory a Tremendous Task.

Washington, Special.—With the opening day of the first fall meeting of the National Conservation Commission, the movement inaugurated by President Roosevelt for conserving the nation's resources, is nearing fruition. At Tuesday's session the first steps will be taken towards putting into tangible shape the results of the six months' hard work on taking stock of the country's waters, forests, lands and minerals.

Next week after the commission has gone over the inventory, it will hold a joint meeting in Washington with the Governors of the States and Territories, or their representatives. At the meeting the Governors will discuss the work which the National Conservation Commission has been carrying on during the summer and fall. The outcome of this work is the first thorough inventory of the nation's natural resources the Federal government has ever made. The inventory is now practically complete. On this inventory, which the conservation commission expects to have before the Governors, the report which President Roosevelt has requested the commission to make to him not later than January 1, will be based.

With less than six months with which to make up the inventory, the four branches into which the commission is divided, aided by the cooperation of the government departments, have brought together what is probably the most useful collection of facts about the material things on which national industry and progress are based that has ever been assembled at one time. Reports presenting these facts and pointing out their significance have been prepared. These reports, summarized and indexed, will be submitted to the commission at its present meeting.

The work is now practically done. The facts are there, in dollars and cents, tons of coal, board feet of timber, acres of land. And the possible reform measures have been weighed. The fiscal report to the President will be a note of warning. The report is expected to show that the warning must be heeded if the exhaustion of natural resources is not, one day, to impoverish the nation and it will also undoubtedly bring out how the country's resources can be developed so as to last the longest possible time and serve the greatest good to the people.

Next week will be a conservation week in Washington. Besides the meeting of the Governors the Country Life Commission will hold a meeting. The Southern Commercial Congress will be in session December 7 and 8, and will then merge with the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, which will hold its annual meeting December 9 to 11.

Street Car Held Up in City of New York.

New York, Special.—Three men armed with revolvers held up a Third Avenue surface car and robbed the conductor. One highwayman forced the motorman to keep the car moving at the point of a pistol while the other two seized the conductor and forced him to turn over his money. The robbers then made their escape.

Metcalf Quits.

Washington, Special.—Another change in the Roosevelt cabinet took place when Victor H. Metcalf, of California, formally relinquished the portfolio of Secretary of the Navy, and was succeeded by Thurman H. Newberry, of Michigan, who had been assistant secretary in name, but secretary in fact, since November, 1905.

Depot at Milton Broken Into.

Milton, Special.—Wednesday night the depot here, was broken open and it is now minus a chewing gum cabinet with all its contents, which included \$5 or \$6 in pennies. There were two white men, strangers in town that night, supposed to be highwaymen, but there is no doubt but that they are the thieves. This is the second time the Milton depot has been broken into within the past few years, the express office having been robbed two years ago and the criminals are now serving a two years' sentence in the State penitentiary.

Georgian Acquitted of the Murder of His Cousin.

Macon, Ga., Special.—W. N. Kitchens was acquitted in Bibb county Superior Court of the murder of his cousin, Daws Kitchens, in this city. Kitchens reached a verdict less than half an hour after being given the case. Both men were from Jones county. They met on the streets here and the shooting resulted from an old feud.

The Pope Slightly Ill.

Rome, By Cable.—Pope Pius had a slight fever and was obliged to remain in bed. Drs. Petacci and Maro Bisfava after a careful examination announced that with proper care and rest they felt sure that no complications would arise. All audiences have been suspended including those of Archbishop Glennon, of St. Louis, and Bishop Allen, of Mobile.

## TO STATE COURT

Virginia Rate Cases Are Reversed By Higher Tribunal

## WILL GO BACK TO STATE COURT

United States Supreme Court Directs That the Railroad Companies in the Old Dominion Should Have First Taken Their Protest Against the 2-Cent Rate Law to the Tribunal of Last Resort.

Washington, Special.—Justice Holmes announced the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the Virginia Railroads versus the State Corporation Commission of Virginia calling into question the order of the commission fixing a uniform rate of 2 cents a mile for carrying passengers in the State.

The decision reversed the judgment of the U. S. Circuit Court for the eastern district of Virginia, but only on the narrow ground that the railroads should have appealed from the commission's order to the Supreme Court of Virginia before seeking the intervention of the Federal courts.

In effect the court directs that the railroad companies take their case to the State court of last resort and that, in order to prevent injustice through the possible application of the statute of limitations, the case be retained on the docket of the United States Circuit Court by which it was originally decided favorably to the roads.

It is not the intention of the decision that the railroads should resort to the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and after its decision is rendered, appeal to the Federal Supreme Court, but that if the verdict of the Virginia court is not satisfactory the roads may resume the proceeding in the United States Circuit Court. On this point the court said:

"If the rate should be affirmed by the Supreme Court of Appeals and the railroads still should regard it as confiscatory, they will be at liberty to renew their application to the Circuit Court without fear of being met by a plea of res adjudicata. It will not be necessary to wait for presentation by the commission."

In this case the Virginia commission had fixed a rate of 2 cents per mile and was proceeding to publish the rate, and was taking the initial steps to enforce it. Thereupon the railroads went into the Circuit Court of the United States and obtained an injunction against the commission enforcing the rate, on the ground that it was confiscatory. To the bill in this case the members of the Virginia commission demurred, not raising the question of the merits of the 2-cent rate, but claiming that the commission in fixing the rate had exercised the authority and jurisdiction of a court, and that its order was, therefore, res adjudicata, and could not be inquired into or interfered with by the Circuit Court of the United States. It, therefore, denied the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court of the United States to inquire into and enjoin the rate, even though it might be confiscatory.

The Supreme Court overruled this contention, holding that the commission is not a court when making a rate, but is acting legislatively, and that its action is not res adjudicata, and is not beyond the reach of the Federal Courts if it violates any provision of the constitution of the United States. Under the Virginia system, however, an appeal is given as of right from the action of the commission making the rate to the Supreme Court of Appeals of that State.

A \$50,000 Fire at Knoxville.

Knoxville, Tenn., Special.—A three-story brick building on Jackson avenue, occupied by the Clark Hat Company, and the Knoxville Implement and Machinery Company, was greatly damaged by fire Monday night, causing an almost total loss of stock to each of the companies. The total loss is \$52,000, insurance \$43,000.

Explosion Sinks Schooner.

Jacksonville, Fla., Special.—The explosion of a gasoline tank on the schooner Marion R., owned by the Florida Fish company, Saturday morning badly injured Jack Cullen, white cook, tore two great holes in the schooner and she sank in the river off the foot of Ocean street. Eleven members of crew had narrow escapes and had it not been that the schooner sank fire would have exploded the main tank, causing a great loss of life. The Marion R. was valued at \$6,000 and is partly covered by insurance.

The Pope Slightly Ill.

Rome, By Cable.—Pope Pius had a slight fever and was obliged to remain in bed. Drs. Petacci and Maro Bisfava after a careful examination announced that with proper care and rest they felt sure that no complications would arise. All audiences have been suspended including those of Archbishop Glennon, of St. Louis, and Bishop Allen, of Mobile.