



SYNOPSIS.

The scene at the opening of the story is laid in the library of an old worn-out southern plantation...

CHAPTER V. (Continued.)

When Betty Malroy rode away from Squire Balaam's Murrell galloped after her. Presently she heard the beat of his horse's hoofs as he came pounding along the sandy road...

"I believe he is," said Betty with a curt little air.

"May I ride with you?" he gave her a swift glance. She nodded indifferently and would have urged her horse into a gallop again...

"Oh, Yancy will have his hands full with that later—so will Bladen," he added, significantly. He studied her out of those deeply sunken eyes...

"Yes."

"I know your half-brother, Tom Ware—I know him very well."

"So you know Tom?" she observed, and frowned slightly. Tom was her guardian, and her memories of him were not satisfactory.

"I hope you'll like west Tennessee. It's still a bit raw compared with what you've been accustomed to in the north."

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THE PRODIGAL JUDGE By VAUGHAN KESTER

ILLUSTRATIONS BY D. MELVILLE



"I Don't Know but What I Should Pull You Out of That Saddle and Twist Your Neck."

out of that saddle and twist your neck!" said Carrington hotly. Murrell's face underwent a swift change.

CHAPTER VI.

Betty Sets Out for Tennessee.

Bruce's first memories had to do with long nights when he perched beside his father on the cabin roof of their keel-boat and watched the stars or the blurred line of the shore where it lay against the sky...

Betty saw Carrington when she took her seat, and gave a scarcely perceptible start of surprise. Then her face was flooded with a rich color. This was the man who saw her with Captain Murrell yesterday!

He was on his way to Fayetteville, where he intended to spend the night, and perhaps a day or two in looking around, when the meeting with Betty and Murrell occurred.

He was still thinking of the girl when he ate his supper that night at Cleggett's Tavern. Later, in the bar, he engaged his host in idle gossip.

He had met a gentleman and a lady on the road that day; he wondered, as he toyed with his glass, if it could have been the Ferrises? Mounted? Yes, mounted. Then it was Ferris and his wife—or it might have been Captain Murrell and Miss Malroy.

Betty became reserved and did not attempt to resume the conversation. A day later they rumbled into Washington, and as Betty descended from the coach Carrington stepped to her side.

"I suppose you'll stop here, Miss Malroy," he said, indicating the tavern before which the stage had come to a stand.

"If I can be of any service to you—" he began, with just a touch of awkwardness in his manner.

Malroy the day before he saw her again, with Ferris and Judith and a pile of luggage bestowed by the wayside. Betty did not observe him as the coach stopped, for she was intent on her farewells with her friends.

From the door of the tavern the figure of a man emerged. He was black-haired and bull-necked, and there was about him a certain shagginess which a recent toilet performed at the horse trough had not served to mitigate.

"Howdy?" he drawled. "Howdy?" responded Mr. Yancy. "Shall you stop here?" asked Murrell, sinking his voice. Yancy nodded.

"I reckon that's what I'm here for," said Slosson. Murrell glanced about the empty yard. "Slack," observed Slosson languidly. "Yes, sir, slack's the only name for it."

"You stop in Washington?" said Carrington. Betty shook her head. "No, I am going on to Wheeling."

"You're fortunate in being so nearly home," he observed. "I'm going on to Memphis."

"Why, I am going to Memphis, too!" Betty exclaimed. "Are you? By canal? Cumberland, and then by stage over the National Road to Wheeling?"

"They say it's going to be bad for the river trade when they're built on something besides paper," answered Carrington. "And I happen to be a flatboatman, Miss Malroy."

"No more was said just then, for Betty became reserved and did not attempt to resume the conversation. A day later they rumbled into Washington, and as Betty descended from the coach Carrington stepped to her side.

"No, I thank you, Mr. Carrington," said Betty quickly.



"Good night . . . good-by." He turned away, and Betty saw his tall form disappear in the twilight.

A month and more had elapsed since Bob Yancy's trial. Just two days later man and boy disappeared from Scratch Hill. Murrell was soon on their trail and pressing forward in hot pursuit.

"Well, Nevvy," he said, "we've put a heap of distance between us and old Scratch Hill."

"Why—Bob Yancy!" he cried in apparent astonishment. "Yes, sir—Bob Yancy. Does it happen you are looking for him, Captain?" inquired Yancy.

"No—no, Bob. I'm on my way west." Murrell slipped from his saddle and fell into step at Yancy's side as they moved forward.

"They were mightily stirred up at the Cross Roads when I left, wondering what had come of you," he observed.

"That's kind of them," responded Yancy, a little dryly. There was no reason for it, but he was becoming distrustful of Murrell, and uneasy.

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Let Them Go On Training. The woman who thinks she has the best husband in the world probably doesn't know any better.

ACREAGE REDUCED BY WET WEATHER

ONLY ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF COTTON HAS BEEN PLANTED IN COUNTY.

CONDITIONS ARE UNIFORM

Farmers So Far Are Unable to Concentrate Their Attention Either Upon the Cotton or the Corn Planting—Seriousness of Situation.

Charlotte.—Not more than 40 of the total acreage laid off for cotton in Mecklenburg county has been planted this season according to conservative estimates made by leading farmers of this community.

While this low percentage of cotton planted gives some idea of the seriousness of the situation; farmers do not deny that what cotton has been planted is not much more promising than for the corresponding period last year.

This year cotton planted has come up without trouble. The moisture in the ground produced good stands in the few fields that have been planted.

Politics in Haywood County. Interest in the race for the Democratic nomination for Congress in the district around Canton is waxing warm.

Heavy Rains do Much Damage. The county commissioners held a special meeting at Lenoir to consider the matters of rebuilding bridges washed away by the heavy rains.

Many Bales of Cotton Lost in Fire. Damage estimated approximately at forty-five thousand dollars was caused by fire which burned two compartments of the Charlotte compress.

North Carolina New Enterprises. Charters for new corporations issued are the Realty Trust Company, Charlotte, \$125,000 capital.

Investigating A Murder. The sheriff and coroner have just returned from the southern part of Granville county where they were called to investigate a murder.

Automobile Highway To Be Changed. It has been noised about that unless something is done by the authorities of Davidson county to provide better highways—in that county between Lexington and the toll bridge.

THE STATE FAIR FOR 1912

President McRae Announces the Members of Executive Committee of the State.

Raleigh.—In preparation for holding the 1912 state fair President E. F. McRae announces the executive committee composed of prominent men in every section of the state.

C. N. Allen, Auburn; George A. B. Andrews, F. B. Arendell, C. B. Barbee, Raleigh; R. B. Boyd, Warrenton; J. G. Boylin, Wadesboro; W. C. Brewer, Wake Forest; N. B. Broughton, Raleigh; J. A. Bryan, Newbern; A. H. Boyden, Salisbury; Walter Clark, Raleigh; H. Cole, Dillingham; A. L. Cox, C. B. Denton, Raleigh; L. S. Covington, Rockingham; R. A. Doughton, Sparta; John C. Drewry, N. A. Dunn, J. F. Ferrall, Raleigh; W. A. Graham, Oxford; J. O. W. Gravelly, Rocky Mount; N. Y. Gulle, Wake Forest; G. F. Hankins, Lexington; J. A. Harris, Hillsboro; P. H. Hanes, Winston-Salem; J. C. L. Harris, Leo D. Heardt, Raleigh; D. H. Hill, West Raleigh; R. E. Holman, Timberlake; George E. Hood, Goldsboro; C. W. Horne, Clayton; Cary J. Hunter, D. T. Johnson, Raleigh; D. L. James, Greenville; C. W. Johnson, Charlotte; W. N. Jones, Raleigh; B. W. Kilgore, West Raleigh; Governor W. W. Kitchin, Raleigh; L. B. Evans, Clarkton; J. J. Laughinghouse, Greenville; Julius Lewis, Raleigh; H. A. London, Pittsboro; J. A. McDaniel, Kinston; J. A. McKay, Dunn; A. A. McKinnie, Rowland; W. C. McMackin, Raleigh; J. F. McRae, Laurinburg; John A. Mills, F. O. Moring, Raleigh; J. Walter Myatt, Clayton; Charles L. Morton, Washington; F. A. Olds, John Nichols, T. B. Parker, Raleigh; W. S. Parker, Henderson; J. H. Pratt, Chapel Hill; I. M. Proctor, Raleigh; R. H. Ricks, Rocky Mount; A. S. Rascoe, Windsor; I. O. Schaub, West Raleigh; Ed Chambers Smith, Raleigh; N. A. Smith, Kipling; J. G. Staton, Wilmington; R. C. Strong, Raleigh; J. F. Taylor, Washington; J. M. Templeton, Cary; W. E. Utley, Apex; J. Van Landley, Greensboro; Frank T. Ward, Raleigh; C. A. Webb, Asheville; E. T. White, Oxford; W. E. White, Mebane; C. B. Williams, West Raleigh; R. W. Winston, Raleigh; W. P. Wood, Asheboro; F. A. Woodard, Wilson; J. S. Wynne, Raleigh.

Roper Given Conditional Pardon. Robert Roper, of Robeson county, was given a conditional pardon on account of bad health, the county physician stating that his death may soon follow any further confinement.

Politics in Pasquotank County. Local politics are beginning to take on life at this time and aspirants for Pasquotank county honors are looming up from every direction.