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WHITTAKER'S PLACE

"Good land, so you ain't!" he exclaimed. "What in the world—Humph! I wonder!"

He went to the lower drawer of a tall "highboy" and from the tumbled mass of apparel therein took one of his own night garments.

"Here's one," he said, coming back with it in his hand. "I guess you'll have to make this one do for now. It'll fit you enough for three times to once, but it's all I've got."

A small hand reached round the edge of the door, and the nightshirt disappeared. Captain Cy chuckled and resumed his pacing.

"I'm tucked up," called Miss Thomas. The captain entered and found her in bed, the patchwork points and diamonds of the Rising Sun quilt covering her to the chin and her head denting the uppermost of the two big pillows. Captain Cy liked to "sleep high."

"Got enough over you?" he asked. "Yes, sir, thank you."

"That's good. I'll take your togs out and dry 'em in the kitchen. Don't be scared. I'll be right back."

In the kitchen he sorted the wet garments and hung them about the cook stove. It was a strange occupation for him, and he shook his head whimsically as he completed it. Then he took a fatiron, one of Mrs. Beasley's purchases, from the shelf in the closet and put it in the oven to heat. Soon afterward he returned to the bedroom, bearing the iron wrapped in a dish towel.

"My ma always used to put a hot flat to my feet when I was a young one and got chilled," he explained. "I ain't used one for some time, but I guess it's a good receipt. How do you feel now? Any more icicles?"

"No, sir. I'm ever so warm. Isn't this a nice bed?"

"Think so, do you? Glad of it. Well, now, I'm goin' to leave you in it while I step down street and see about havin' your box sent for. I'll be back in a shake. If anybody comes to the door while I'm gone don't you worry. Let 'em go away again."

He put on his hat and left the house, walking rapidly, his head down and his hands in his pockets. At times he would pause in his walk, whistle, shake his head and go on once more. Josiah Dimick met him, and his answers to Josiah's questions were so vague and irrelevant that Captain Dimick was puzzled and later expressed the opinion that "Whit's cookin' must be pretty bad; acted to me as if he had disney of the brain."

(To be Continued)

The annual convention of the California State Federation of Labor will be held in Fresno, commanding October 6.

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CONCRETE ROADWAYS

(Continued from page 3)
roadway. Two of these strips are placed together with a strip of tar felt between, allowing for expansion and contraction in heat and cold, the strip being removed to the end of the section, later when the next section is laid. From these steel plates small steel strips extend into the soft cement, and once becoming hardened or imbedded in the concrete, act as a firm holder to the block, thus preventing any possibility of its displacement. These plates are known as the Baker Armored Joints. They have been installed in one and a quarter million square yards of concrete pavement, and thus far they have never failed.

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"Don't you think you'd better send for the box?" repeated the child, shivering a little under the big coat.

"Hey? What say? Never mind, though. Just keep quiet for a spell, won't you? I want to let this soak in. By the big dipper! Of all the solid brass cheek that ever I run across this beats the whole cargo! And Betsy Howes never hinted! Probably you would be glad to take— Be glad! Why, blast their miserable, stingy— What do they take me for? I'll show 'em. Indiana ain't so far that I can't— Hey! Did you say anything, sis?"

The girl had shivered again. "No, sir," she replied. "It was my teeth, I guess. They kind of rattled."

"What! You ain't cold, are you, with all that round you and in front of that fire?"

"No, sir, I guess not, only my back feels sort of funny, as if somebody kept dropping icicles down it. Those bushes and vines were so wet that when I tumbled down 'twas most like being in a pond."

"Sho, sho! That won't do. Can't have you laid up on my hands. That would be worse than— Humph! Tut, tut! Somethin' ought to be done, and I'm blessed if I know what. And not a woman round the place, not even that Debby. Say, look here! What's your name—er—Emmie? Hadn't I better get the doctor?"

The child looked frightened. "Why?" she cried, her big eyes opening. "I'm not sick, am I?"

"Slek? No, no! Course not, course not. What would you want to be sick for? But you ought to get warm and dry right off, I s'pose, and your duds are all up to the depot. Say, what does— what did your ma used to do when you felt—er—them icicles and things?"

"She changed my clothes and rubbed me, and if I was very wet she put me to bed sometimes."

"Bed? Sure! Why, yes, indeed! Bed's a good place to keep off icicles. There's my bedroom right in there. You could turn in just as well as not. Bunk ain't made yet, but I can shake it up in no time. Say—er—you can undress yourself, can't you?"

"Oh, yes, sir! Course I can! I'm most eight."

"Sure you are! Don't act a mite babyish. All right; you set still till I shake up that bunk."

He entered the chamber, his own, opening from the sitting room, and proceeded literally to "shake up" the bed. It was not a lengthy process, and when it was completed he returned to find his visitor already divested of the coat and standing before the stove.

"I guess perhaps you'll have to help undo me behind," observed the young lady. "This is my best dress, and I can't reach the buttons in the middle of the back."

Captain Cy scratched his head. Then he clumsily unbuttoned the wet waist, glancing rather sheepishly at the window to see if any one was coming.

"So this is your best dress, hey?" he asked, to cover his confusion. It was obviously not very new, for it was neatly mended in one or two places.

"Yes, sir."

"So. Where'd you buy it—up to Concord?"

"No, sir. Mamma made it a year ago."

There was a little choke in the child's voice. The captain was mightily taken back.

"Hum! Yes, yes," he muttered hurriedly. "Well, there you are. Now you can get along, can't you?"

"Yes, sir. Shall I go in that room?"

"Trot right in. You might—er—maybe you might sing out when you're tucked up. I—I'll want to know if you've got bedclothes enough."

Emmie disappeared in the bedroom. The door closed. Captain Cy, his hands in his pockets, walked up and down the length of the sitting room. The expression on his face was a queer one.

"I haven't got any nightgown," called a voice from the other room. The captain gasped.

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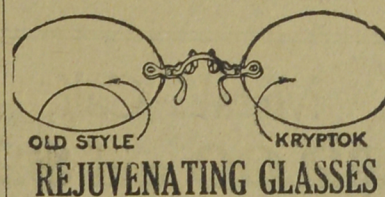
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