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The "General's" Picnic

GOIN' into town, Mir'um?"

"Not today, gin'ral. Was there anything special?"

"No; only I thought if you was goin' to the postoffice—but 'tain' no matter."

"Not today, gin'ral; some other time."

She did not turn to look at him, but she seemed to see him just the same—his white hair blowing under his battered, wide rimmed hat, his bent figure shabbily dressed in a faded suit of blue.

"I wish he'd get his letter and his pension, poor old gin'ral!" she murmured. "The general!" was only a nickname, and most of the people at the poor farm said he was "cracked in the head" and that the things he talked about were "only his notions."

The general was not looking for a letter that evening. For once he had

from the first day.

The doctor made regular visits, and the gentleman whom the others addressed as "governor" came occasionally and meanwhile used that intangible but powerful thing called influence to set certain forces at work in Washington. The long delayed papers were speedily found and attended to, and one day, when the general had nearly recovered, the governor brought out a long envelope.

"Here's your pension, my friend—\$12 a month while you live and the neat little sum of \$1,100 for arrears."

"Seven hundred dollars in a lump, Mir'um, and \$12 every month as long as I live!" murmured the general.

"I'll never go back to the poor farm, an' if I can just find some place to live, kinder like this!"

"You can stay right on in these rooms that you like so well," said the farmer's wife, kind hearted, but wily also—"that is, if your daughter will live here, too, and help with the work. She can earn her own keep, and I'll pay her fair wages besides."

Miriam had been called his daughter many times during his illness, but now that he might possibly have something to bestow on her the word caught the old man's fancy, and by the aid of his friend, the governor, Miriam was legally adopted. — Ruth Cady in "Forward"

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SHABBLIY DRESSED IN A FADED SUIT OF BLUE

forgot the postoffice in the unwonted pleasure of a newspaper to read.

"Just think, Mir'um, they've been havin' an old soldier's picnic over to Jacksonville! There was an excursion in the cars to a place where they had a big dinner, and there was military bands and speeches—all about the battles they'd been in."

The loud clanging of a bell at the house announced that the evening meal was ready, and the light suddenly faded from the old man's face as he walked away. The dimming of his eyes, the droop of his shoulders, as he turned from her touched Miriam, and there flashed into her brain a thought so startling that she seized the first leisure minute to consider it. What if they should have an old soldier's picnic of their own—she and the general?

Oh, it was a wonderful plan! Miriam could scarcely sleep for thinking of it, and by morning she was ready to communicate it to her old friend.

In accordance with custom the progress of the new tariff bill through the senate will be conducted with the deliberation for which that august body is noted, and the schedules will be closely scrutinized. In order to facilitate matters and take up tariff revision in a scientific manner it has been arranged to divide the majority membership of the finance committee into three groups, with Chairman Simmons as ex officio member of each of the subcommittees.

It will be the duty of each subcommittee to carefully examine the schedules assigned to it, recommend changes, if any, and report the results of its labors to the full committee.

Charles Spaulding Thomas of Colorado, who has been assigned to the important wool schedule, is the newest member of the finance committee. He was born in Georgia sixty-four years ago, was graduated in the law from Michigan university in 1871 and since that year has lived in Colorado. He has served as city attorney of Denver, as governor of the state and has attended five Democratic national conventions as a delegate. In 1912 he won the state wide primary contest for governor of the United States for the term made vacant by the death of Senator C. J. Hughes. His term expires in 1915.

It is doubtful if any European tour, personally conducted or otherwise, ever gave such satisfaction as did this little trip. They tried slugging "Hall Columbia" and "John Brown" and derived a great deal of satisfaction, if not much melody, from the attempt. The little girl from a nearby farmhouse ran down and brought them some lemonade, and altogether it was a day crowded with pleasure.

But it was just at the close of the day that disaster came. They had lingered as long as they dared, and then when they started back to the station the feverish hurry of inexperienced travelers seized them.

A carriage with a party of gentlemen turned down a crossroad just as they approached the station, but the general, intent only on the train that was drawing up to the platform, saw nothing else and pushed forward. There was a warning cry, a shout to the horses, a groan.

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"Oh, he's killed, he's killed, and now I can't never take him back," sobbed Miriam.

But the general was not dead. One of the gentlemen, a physician, speedily assured himself of that.

"I do not believe he is dangerously hurt," he said after a swift examination, "but there is a fractured bone in the leg, and with that and the wound in his head he ought not to be moved. If he can be cared for near by—where does he live?"

All eyes turned upon Miriam, and the simple story of where they belonged and how they had won their day's pleasure was told between pitiful catchings of her breath as she tried to restrain her tears.

The station keeper suggested that the people at the farm near the grove had a comfortable house and had plenty of room and might be willing to care for the invalid until he should be able to travel.

"We will see that they are well paid for it," said the leader of the party, who instructed the volunteer messenger, and word was soon sent that the mistress of the house was willing if Miriam would stay to assist her.

So the general was gently removed to a pretty, roomy chamber, his wounds dressed, and he began to mend

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