

A TURN OF THE ROAD

(Continued from page 492.)

you all. It hardly seems possible that six months ago we were complete strangers, and now I feel as if you were my own kith and kin. That little maid of yours has found a very soft place in 'Uncle Jim's' heart. I must think what I can do. I wish those lads were a few years older. I wish that Gilbert was twenty-seven instead of seventeen. He'll make a first-rate farmer when he's settled down. He'll do better than David, without any of the worry David spends on it, for Gilbert's got the knack of managing men. David has made them all respect him by sheer pluck and determination, but Gilbert is the sort of chap who inspires confidence unconsciously. Seems a bit sulky though, sometimes. What's the matter? An attack of calf-love?"

Mrs. Lane sat down and briefly outlined the story of Gilbert's apparent infatuation for Dr. Graham. The old soldier listened, with his heavy eyebrows drawn down over his dark eyes, evidently thinking deeply. "I'm glad you have told me this. I shall certainly have to think out the future very carefully. I owe Graham my life, but I would not trust him as a friend."

Mrs. Lane was surprised to find that Colonel James was so keenly alive to the boys' characters and her own difficulties. She had been deceived by his apparent unconcern; she knew now that he had noticed much, though he had said nothing.

"Now don't worry, dear lady. Take my word that we'll find some way out of our present perplexities. Gilbert will come out all right though he seems in an awkward stage just now. He's a fine, manly chap, with lots of good hard commonsense, though there's some nonsense to be knocked out of him, I admit. Don't say anything to the children about this business of mine. Please God, I'll last a bit longer, and we don't want to worry them too long beforehand. Only let me just say now—for I might not have a chance to speak again—that your coming has been a godsend to a lonely old man. Now I'm tired. Do you think Martha could find me some more of her excellent beef-tea?"

After that day Colonel James grew suddenly better and stronger. It seemed as if the confirmation of his own suspicions had removed a worrying uncertainty from his mind, and he even drove with David round the farm, entering into details with more interest than at any time since his illness. He was much struck by the dogged determination which David evinced in mastering the details of his work, and his pluck pleased the old soldier.

But no amount of determination could conceal the fact that the work was not congenial to the lad; he had to put forth a very real effort to be interested in it. Some parts of it indeed appealed to him. The science which underlay the hexagonal method of planting the trees, the whole system of irrigation, the budding and grafting and experimentation in the nurseries—all this was to him an exquisite though unexplored fairyland. He had never dreamed of such applications of science to the humdrum work of farming. Even the book-keeping was not distasteful to him as it was to Gilbert.

But at the same time he loathed and dreaded with his whole soul the daily necessity of coming in contact with men of rough manners if of kind hearts, who did not trouble to conceal their contempt or amusement when the "Britisher" made a mistake. Though he strove to ignore them, their vulgar jests cut him to the quick, wounding him far more than their perpetrators intended or even dreamed of. Had their respective positions been reversed, he would patiently—even gladly have received orders from Gilbert and

would have made an excellent book-keeper or, in time, a successful scientific nurseryman.

Nobody realized—and David would have died rather than confess—the agonies which he suffered when it became necessary for him to dismiss one of the men. They themselves took their "time" (or rather their wages) with the utmost indifference, and gave notice on the most flimsy pretences, but David suffered something like a martyrdom when he had to pass sentence of dismissal, and unfortunately he masked his nervousness under an apparently contemptuous pride.

The men realized that he was "straight" and that he would give them a "square deal" and respected him for his integrity; but most of them cordially disliked him, while Gilbert was popular by reason of his easy friendliness.

Colonel James watched the two boys, anxiously desirous of making good plans for the future, and he was speedily convinced of the necessity of providing a man to take his own place as senior partner in the farm. It would be cruel to leave David alone to cope with this enormous responsibility. But where should he find such a man? He reviewed mentally his neighbours and rivals in the fruit industry. For one reason or another each seemed unsuitable, though almost all of them would have paid highly for a share in the well-known Otter Lake enterprise. He was glad to feel that his health was really improving, contrary to his own and the doctor's expectations, since any reprieve was welcome which might enable him to make a better settlement of his affairs, but he felt that the improvement could not be long maintained.

A solution to the problem came from an unexpected quarter. One day Mrs. Lane received a telegram signed "Claude" asking if he might come down to Otter Lake for a visit. With true western hospitality, Colonel James insisted that Mrs. Lane should invite him at once for as long as he liked, and in two days' time, Claude arrived. He looked pale and thin, and admitted he had been "seedy" lately, and not able to sleep.

"Keeping a hotel is the sort of game one gets tired of," he said half apologetically: "Sandy can manage quite well without me and I felt as if I must have a change. I thought I might perhaps persuade some of you to go camping for a week or ten days. A chap who was staying at The Rat's Tail this summer told me there was splendid fishing in some lakes about fifteen miles beyond Albertville. He has some tents, and a boat and canoe in a shack up there, and gave me leave to use them. What do you say, Mrs. Lane, would you and Miss Marjory come? I brought some fishing tackle down with me?"

Mrs. Lane's first impulse was to say such a thing was impossible, but the delight which the mere suggestion caused to the young people made her hesitate. Colonel James supported the suggestion warmly.

"An excellent idea, Claude. The apples are all packed and shipped, the weather seems set fine and it is not too cold yet, and these young folk haven't had much fun this summer. I shall be all right with Jack and Martha. I have some good fishing tackle and all necessities for camping if you will hunt them out of the barn where I left them. You'd better start to-morrow, and spend this afternoon in preparation!"

The two boys went immediately in search of Jack, while Marjory undertook to see that Martha should provide them with a good baking of loaves of bread.

Mrs. Lane began to protest that she was too old to go camping, but was silenced by Claude's remark:—

"Oh do come, Mrs. Lane; we will take every care of you; and I suppose



Far more effective than Sticky Fly Catchers. Clean to handle. Sold by Druggists and Grocers everywhere.

STAINED GLASS
MEMORIAL
WINDOWS.
designs & estimates on request
specialists for sixty years
ROBT M'CAUSLAND LIMITED
113 SPADINA AVE TORONTO

R. Pr. noc Whirlwind Estd. 1889
Carpet Cleaning Co.
Carpets lifted cleaned and laid. Carpets cleaned on floor. Carpets and rugs scoured Persian rugs washed, restoring original colors Special terms during Summer to churches
Bloor and Montrose Avenue
College 3555

REG. CAN. PAT. OFFICE
O-Cedar
Polish
MADE IN CANADA
Dusts,
Cleans,
Polishes,
at the one
operation
From your dealer
25c. to \$3.
CHANNELL
CHEMICAL
CO., LIMITED
TORONTO,
CAN.

Health
in Old Age
As age advances the blood gets thin, the nerves exhausted and vitality runs low.
By building up the nerve force of body and mind Dr. Chase's Nerve Food is an unbounded blessing to people of advanced years.
50 cents a box, all dealers.
Dr. Chase's
Nerve Food

Cooking Utensils



Cleaned and Polished Quickly and Thoroughly by—



Miss Marjory could not go unless you came too, and she would be so disappointed."

Mrs. Lane was privately of the opinion that the speaker himself would also be disappointed if Marjory were not included in the camping party, and she at once decided to go.
(To be continued.)

FLEET OF VESSELS
VICTIMS OF MINES

Germany's Method of Undersea Warfare will be Exemplified at the Exhibition.

The ever present perils which must be faced and circumvented by the British Navy when scouring the broad bosom of the sea for a glimpse of the Hun vessel sneaking furtively about, hiding itself under water or sowing treacherous, death-dealing mines broadcast, will be vividly pictured at the Canadian National Exhibition. Hidden mines, torpedo attacks and desperate onslaughts by the aerial corps will each afternoon threaten a sturdy ship of war, which will eventually succumb to the murderous action of an undersea mine, the magazine exploding with a deafening chash, throwing tons of water and wreckage high in the air. Surrounding mines will explode at intervals while the land batteries and anti-aircraft guns devote their energies to the invading air-men, who are hovering about endeavouring to drop their explosive cargoes on a vital spot. It will be a picture of war never excelled at the Canadian National.

ACCIDENT
SICKNESS
INSURANCE

— THE —
Dominion of Canada
Guarantee and Accident Insurance Co.
TORONTO

CHURCH BELLS SCHOOL

Ask for Catalogue and Special Donation Plan No. 70. Estd. 1858. BELLS for Churches are DUTY FREE. The C. S. Bell Company, Hillsboro, Ohio, U.S.A.