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POETRY.

The Bell of the Angels.

There has come to my mind a legend, a thing I had half forgot,
And whether I read it or dreamed it, ah well, it matters not;
It is said that in heaven at twilight a great bell softly rings,
And man may listen and hearken to the wondrous music that rings
In the presence of his heart's inner chamber,
all the passion, pain and strife,
Heartache and weary longing that throbs in the pulse of life--
If he thrust from his soul all hatred, all thoughts of wicked things,
He can hear in the holy twilight how the bell of the angels rings.
And I think there lies in this legend, if we open our eyes to see,
Somewhat of an inner meaning, my friend, to you and me.
Let us look in our hearts and question: Can pure thoughts enter in?
To a soul that is already the dwelling of thoughts of sin?
So, then, let us ponder a little--let us look in our hearts and see
If the twilight bell of the angels could ring for us--you and me.

STORY.

THE Ghost of Handcock Holler.

BY JACK HYDE.

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CHAPTER XV.

Monday morning there was no school. The trial was to be in the schoolhouse at 10 o'clock and the teacher took the roll and dismissed us shortly after nine. Long before ten the crowd commenced to assemble. Everybody for miles around was there to hear the trial of Mr Streets. Last of all came old Josh. He didn't say anything, but I could see that he was interested in the proceedings.

At a few minutes past ten o'clock the court was opened by Mr Lyons, stipendiary magistrate for the district, and the cause of the Queen vs. Streets called. The information was read by the magistrate, charging Mr Streets with having violated the provisions of the second part of the Canada Temperance Act by selling spirituous and intoxicating liquors. After reading the information, the magistrate asked Mr Streets if he had any cause to show why he should not be convicted of the offence charged against him.

Says Mr Streets: "I don't know why I should be brought up here on any such charge. I generally try to attend to my own business and if other people did the same it'd be better for 'em."

"Yes," put in old Josh, "that's just the matter. That's what we're complain' of. You're attendin' to yer business too. But it's the business we're not satisfied with. A business that'll make honest men rogues, peaceful citizens quarrelsome, affectionate parents unnatural brutes, that'll turn out murderers, thieves, outcasts of society--that's the kind of a business we want to stop; and I for one am glad that somebody's got enough spunk to try to stop a man from attending to a business that's so full of damnable results."

The schoolmaster, Mr McGee, being called upon to open the case, stated as the outstart that he had made this complaint against Mr Streets simply in the interests of justice and morality. He had been a resident of Handcock but a short time, but long enough to see the baleful influence of unrestricted indulgence in the use of intoxicating drinks. Even among his pupils, he could discover unmistakable evidence of the drinking habit. He was fully aware that it would be a difficult task to get witnesses who were in the habit of drinking at Mr Streets's bar to give such evidence as would lead to his conviction, and as he did not believe in the practice of sending persons to purchase that which they would not under ordinary circumstances purchase or try to, he should only call such witnesses as he believed could give honest evidence such as would convict, and he believed that some of them at least, if not all, would be honest enough to give straightforward answers to such questions as should be asked them. Without any further remarks on his part he would proceed to examine his witnesses and would call Deacon Klum.

A smile was visible on the audience

when his name was called. Everybody knew he took a little now and again and wasn't ashamed of it. But he wouldn't want to have Mr Streets convicted and of course it wouldn't do for him as a deacon to say he never bought any there when everybody knew he did. Nobody thought the schoolmaster would like to see upon him, as he boarded there. They chuckled at the shrewdness and fearlessness of the young schoolmaster and thought he was going to be too much for Mr Streets.

Deacon Klum being duly sworn, the schoolmaster proceeded to question him as follows:

"Where do you reside, Mr Klum?"
"At Handcock."
"What is your occupation?"
"I am a farmer."
"Do you know the defendant, Mr Streets?"
"I do."
"How long have you been acquainted with him?"
"Ever since he came to Handcock."
"What business does Mr Streets follow?"
"He is a hotel-keeper."
"Have you ever been in his hotel?"
"I have."
"Do you know if Mr Streets keeps a bar in his hotel?"
"I know that Mr Streets keeps a pair of bars behind his barn, but do not know of what use they could be put to in his house."
"They thought this was a great joke and the crowd laid back and laughed till they fairly shook themselves."

"You will please answer my question without evasion, Mr Klum. Do you know if Mr Streets keeps a bar in his hotel where intoxicating liquors are sold?"

"Mr Streets could not sell intoxicating or any other kind of liquor on such a bar as he has behind his barn," answered Deacon Klum, following up the joke, "and if he could I do not believe he has such a one in his house."

"Do you know if Mr Streets sells intoxicating liquors?"

"How should I know what Mr Streets sells? I am not his keeper."

"Did you ever purchase or drink at Mr Streets's bar or in his hotel or on his premises any spirituous or intoxicating liquors, wine or cider, within six months?"

"Within six months? Let me see, Spirituous or intoxicating liquors, wine or cider? Now I cannot tell so long ago as six months."

"Have you within six months purchased from Mr Streets any kind of liquor that would intoxicate?"

"I never drink a sufficient quantity of liquor at one time to get intoxicated and therefore I cannot tell whether Mr Streets's liquor is intoxicating or not."

"Have you drunk at Mr Streets's within six months any brandy, rum, gin, whiskey, ale or porter?"

"Well, now, Mr McGee, that is a pretty hard question to answer. I never made any brandy, rum or other kinds of liquor such as would be supposed to intoxicate and I have not the appliances neither do I know how to test these liquors and am therefore unable to say."

"Did you ever drink anything other than water, tea, milk or coffee at Mr Streets's?"

"Oh, yes, many's the time."
"Well, now, tell us what it was and how you came to drink it."

"I was at Mr Streets's some little while ago and he told me that his cow had calved and asked me if I would like to try the milk. I told him I wouldn't mind if I did. He then went to a closet and took out three or four bottles and asked me to help myself. I took up one bottle and smelled of it and put it down. I then took up another and did likewise. The third bottle I came to smelled so good that I turned out nearly a tumbler full and drank it right down, and I can tell you it was a right smart beverage and I wish I had a plenty of it."

"What did Mr Streets ask you for it?"

"Ask me for it? Do you think Mr Streets would ask me to drink and then ask me to pay for it? Mr Streets is an honorable man and would not stoop to such a mean act as that."

"Did Mr Streets ever ask you to pay for that kind of a beverage at any

time within six months?"

"No; I never would wait for Mr Streets to ask me to pay for anything that I might owe him, for I would pay him before he could get the chance."

"Then you say upon your oath, Deacon, that you never bought any spirituous or intoxicating liquor, wine or cider, from or at Mr Streets's within six months?"

"I should be sorry to say any such thing and I do not intend to perjure myself, and therefore simply say I do not know."

The schoolmaster evidently thought it useless to ask the Deacon any more questions. He was a hard witness to question. He evidently wasn't going to say anything to convict Mr Streets if he could help himself. The schoolmaster sat down disgusted.

The magistrate told Mr Streets that the witness was now in his hands to be cross-examined if he wished to cross-examine him. But Mr Streets declined. He probably thought that his cause would be injured rather than benefited by such a course.

Bob Fletcher was next called and sworn. He testified that he had never been at Mr Streets's hotel, never saw any liquor there, did not believe that Mr Streets ever sold any liquor, and was prepared to swear to anything, judging from appearance, that would tend to the dismissal of the complaint against Mr Streets.

Harry Streets was also called, but no evidence could be got from him that would prejudice his father's case.

Things were beginning to look pretty blue for the schoolmaster. He was getting excited at the way things were going. It looked as if he was going to lose the case. Old Josh sat in his seat glum and sober, but he looked to me as if he had something in his mind. He motioned to the schoolmaster, and he went over.

Coming back the schoolmaster called to the stand a young Mr Jones who had been staying down at the Handcock House for the past week or two. After being regularly sworn he was examined by the schoolmaster as follows:

"Where do you reside, Mr Jones?"
"My home is in Toronto, but I have been staying at Handcock for the last week or two."

"Do you know the defendant, Mr Streets?"

"Yes; I have been staying at his house since I came to Handcock."

"Did you ever purchase from Mr Streets since boarding with him any spirituous or intoxicating liquor?"

"No; I never indulge in the drinking habit."

"Do you know if Mr Streets keeps a bar in connection with his house?"

"I think he does."
"Were you ever in it?"
"Yes, frequently."
"Have you ever seen any persons drinking at Mr Streets's bar?"
"Yes, a number of times."
"What were they drinking?"
"Brandy, whiskey, gin, &c."
"Did you see any one pay Mr Streets for liquor drunk at his bar?"
"Yes, more than once."
"Can you tell me the names of any of the persons you have seen drinking at Mr Streets's bar?"
"Yes, I can name some of them, but the most of them were strangers to me."
"Will you name some of them?"
"I have seen Deacon Klum there several times and young Bob Fletcher and his chum, young Streets, a great many times."
"Did you ever see Bob Fletcher buy or drink any liquor at Mr Streets's?"
"I think I am safe in saying that there has not a day passed since I have been staying at Mr Streets's that Bob Fletcher did not both buy and drink liquor at Mr Streets's bar."
I looked over to Bob and he was turning red and looked as mad as a hornet. Old Josh looked as sober as a judge, but I could see that he was interested. The crowd didn't know what to make of it. Evidently things were going to take a different turn. But Mr Streets was composed. He wanted to cross-examine this last witness. He was permitted and commenced:

"You say you saw people buy and drink intoxicating liquor at my bar and you say that you never drink your

self, then how do you know it was intoxicating?"

"I only could judge by the condition some of those who drank got into shortly after."

"Were you ever intoxicated?"
"No."
"Then how do you know what kind of a condition an intoxicated person would get into?"

"I only know from information obtained from those who have been in this condition."

"Will you swear that the liquor you saw me sell to these persons named by you was intoxicating liquor?"

"No; I cannot from personal knowledge."
"Then you know nothing positive about the matter?"
"No; nothing further than that I saw and heard persons asking for brandy, gin, whiskey and rum, and in response bottles were handed down bearing labels corresponding to the liquors called for and money paid for it over the bar."

Mr Streets seemed to be very well satisfied with the evidence given and believed he had completely destroyed the evidence of Mr Jones, as he informed the magistrate that the last witness did not know whiskey from water as they both looked alike, and it was impossible for a man to swear to a liquor that he had never tasted, and the magistrate seemed to be of the same opinion.

The schoolmaster was non-plussed. He took his seat. He was beginning to give up hope. Evidently the case would go against him. Mr Streets looked cool and unconcerned, and Deacon Klum sat back with a broad grin on his face. The crowd were chuckling to themselves at the joke the schoolmaster had got off on himself. One man behind me said: "I guess the schoolteacher will find out he'd better mind his own business--prosecutin' rum-sellin'." The idea--a person like him settin' himself up! I hope it'll cost him a good lot and be a lesson to him another time." Old Josh was mad, I could see that. His eye flashed fire. There would be fun after the trial or else it would be a caution. Wouldn't he go for the magistrate and Mr Streets and everybody else!

The evidence for the prosecution was considered through and the case looked blue for the schoolmaster. Just as the magistrate was about to stir up the evidence, there was a stir back by the door and I looked around to see what was going on. What do you suppose it was? Someone had got up and was wedging his way up through the crowd.

(To be Continued.)

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