

fully acquired in different quarters and with considerable trouble. These were carried in a despatch box, kept always under its owner's eye, and specially commended to Nelly's care when her husband left it behind in the city, with a view to avoidance of all risk incidental to a rough and very primitive style of travel. The last words she spoke upon the wharf, whither she had walked down to see us off, were a pledge of her faithful guardianship of the important package, and the last care that occupied myself, as we swept up the sluggish stream, within the dull gloom of the unchanging forest, was for its inviolability. The miasma reeking from the foul water, and the effluvia from the scores of decomposing carcasses of cattle, which the horrors of a long drought had driven to the brink only to find death beyond, were amply sufficient to occupy the attention disagreeably until towards nightfall, when we got hard aground near Ipswich, and, in a raid upon the steward's library for help to pass away the hours, had the chance to discover a certain recent volume of a popular English periodical, and to read therein a roseate description of the vile wilderness we were traversing, not without a vindictive desire to wreak personal revenge upon its author.

We were but three days absent before returning with a fair report of the land. This time Fred was to go up as pioneer, leaving us to follow as soon as he had fairly taken possession. The night before he started we were all in high spirits, and had temporarily forgotten previous trouble. Was there one of us then who had suspicion of how serious was to prove that parting, or of what utter and miserable separation it should work for friends who had held so long and so faithfully together?

I am perfectly aware that this simple story lacks all incident of sensation attraction. It was the sole purpose of the author in its commencement to present a true narrative of certain vicissitudes of his life, wherein his masonry had interfered to do him solid service. There has been, and there will be, nothing written down in his pages beyond an unvarnished statement of fact, such as he deems worthy of the observation of his fellow Craftsmen. Under the impression that a faithful recital of certain passages of autobiography will carry with it interest for those to whom the square and compass are emblems of a faith commanding the adherence of true devotion, he has penned the chapters containing a peculiar episode. And for any short-comings in the tale thus offered, he pleads the best excuse with which *raconteur* was ever furnished—that what he says is true, and that its truth is deserving of as wide a circulation as he can procure for its announcement.

*To be continued.*

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*Figaro* refers to "The Craftsman" as "the cheapest and best Masonic publication in America."