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Captain Blake and many another settler in the forest. But there was deep thankfulness and peace and goodwill in the hearts of that little band of pioneers that foregathered about the hospitable board of John Desborough. Christmas carols sprang spontaneously from their lips, and prayers of gratitude ascended to heaven throughout the day, and when evening fell they sat in the winter twilight about a huge Yule log of Canadian pine that blazed upon the wide hearth, and heard once more the story of the Christ-child who was born in a lowly manger. Who, likewise, had been without a home upon a Christmas morning long ago, but who now sat at the right hand of God the Father.

Of the hermit rider of the forest none ever heard again. Some averred that he had committed a crime in England and had escaped to colonial wilds, where remorse had eaten into his heart. Others maintained that he was mad and

had eventually killed himself. A very few remembered his good deeds.

There lives, however, a legend to this day to the effect that upon a snowy evening, as you approach Crossman's Bridge—it bears another name now—when the season is drawing near to Christmas, you may see a ghostly stage coach passing over it. It halts in the centre, and a rider on a black horse joins it. He leads the team backward and downhill, and they ford the river, if it is running, or cross silently over on the ice if the stream be frozen. Upon the farther bank a ghostly maiden steps from the coach door. The rider plucks off his squirrel-skin cap with its jaunty tail, and bends low. Their lips appear to meet. Then the maiden returns to the coach and re-enters it; the mysterious night sets spurs to his steed and the vision melts away as silently as it appeared, in a whirl of soft, falling snowflakes.

"The Home of the Sunbeams"

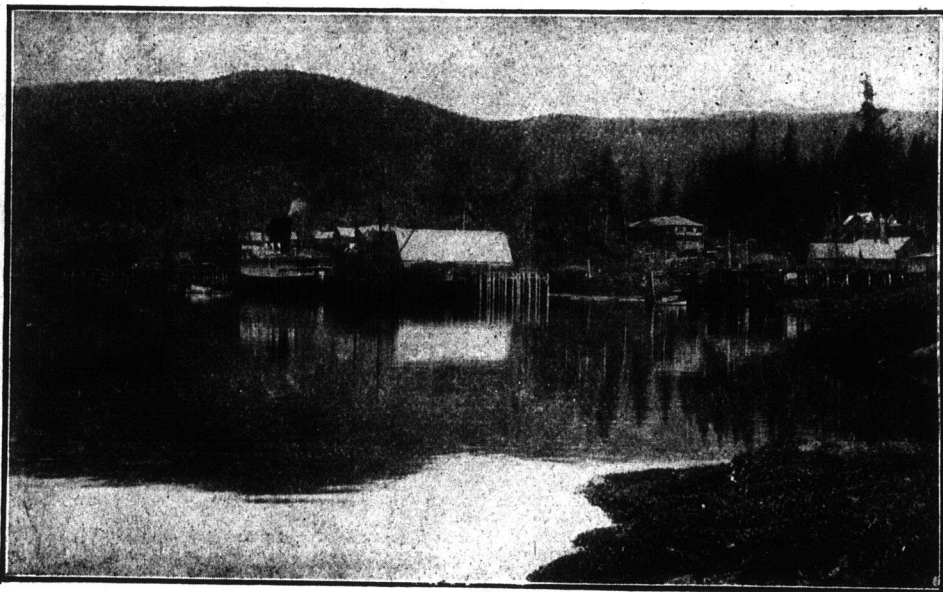
By Jessie Findlay Brown

ONCE upon a time there was a king who was unhappy. Weary and old was his heart. Bitter and sharp was his tongue. Yet in years he was not very old; he was only fifty-three. But the flavor of life had gone from him. He was tired, so tired, of living, and Remorse gnawed at his soul.

Yes, Remorse. For so harsh had this monarch been with his children that he

of the unhappiness there. Therefore, the page pitied the king, and pitying, loved him.

One day, as the king sat in the royal chamber, garbed in his rich apparel, there appeared before him a fairy, robed in white. The king gazed at her in astonishment, so extremely plain was her face. "I always thought fairies were beautiful," mused he.



View of Granby Wharf, B.C.

was now left all alone in his grandeur, with no one of his own to be kind to him. Had the good Queen lived, it would have been different. But she had died when the little princess was a tiny babe, and some said the king had never rightly recovered from the shock of her death. Be that as it may, the fact remains that to his motherless children he was anything but a kind father. His sons he estranged by severity, keeping them at arm's length, thundering at them and threatening them until they saw in him only the frustration of every boyish desire. Then they grew to hate him. Even the little princess feared him with all her gentle heart.

The elder of the princes, chafing beneath the rigid rule of his father, sought adventure in foreign wars and died in battle. Soon after the younger prince fell in a foolish duel and the king, now doubly bereaved, centred his failing hopes in his daughter. But how could she know he loved her so? Certainly he gave her no sign of affection. So, when a penniless young nobleman at the court offered her his love, away with him ran the shy little princess, hungry of heart, and the king was left alone. Then indeed did he pity himself and imagine himself the most abused monarch in the world. His daughter he disowned and forbade ever to see his face again. But the years went on, and self-pity gave way to remorse.

Now, at the court was a young page whose frank, fearless manners and pleasing countenance had made him the favorite of the king. And because his eyes were clear and true, free from the scales of self, and because his heart was clean, it was given to this humble youth to see into the thought of his royal master and to know

"I am the Fairy Truth," she said, and her voice was sweet as the peal of a silver bell. "You are unhappy, O King. I have come to help you—to tell you what will make you happy once again."

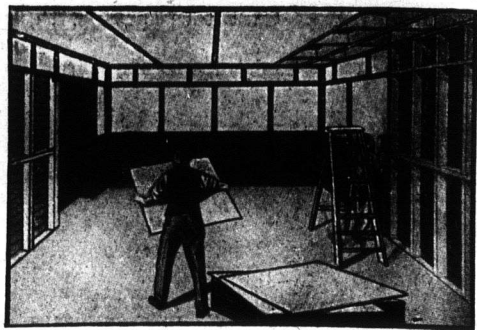
Her glance was so clear and divining that it seemed to the king as though she must know everything he had ever thought, or said, or done. He felt indeed that he was face to face with Truth. The fairy continued:

"You are just a little sorry that you were so harsh with your daughter. You would call her back, if you knew where she was, or if you thought she would come. You are beginning to see your mistakes in the treatment of your sons. You are wishing you could go over it all again. How differently you would act! Is it not so?"

Amazed at her strange knowledge of his inmost thoughts, the King silently nodded.

Just then a belated sunbeam stole shyly through the leaded panes, and fell in a long slanting shaft across the velvet carpet. It gleamed on the king's costly robes and glinted on the gold in his crown, then passing onward, lingered lovingly about the figure of the Fairy Truth.

"Ah, the Sunbeam," she cried. "Do you know why it has come? It is looking for a home. The sun will soon be setting, and the beams, who have played in the bright world all day long, must find a resting place. . . . It will not stay here. There is no place for it in all your grand palace. See, it is going!" And, following her gaze, the king saw that the sunbeam was indeed receding farther and farther towards the window, until soon it had vanished from sight.



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