(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

mates of the cost of the various sections, and showed how they were affected by reductions and modifications of the character of the road He contended that a reduction of expenditure was in the interest of the country. Coming to Mr. Blake's objection against selecting the Union Pacific as the standard, he contended that the contract meant the Union Pacific as completed. He had traveled over it in 1871 at high speed, and found it a good road. Its history showed few accidents. The Central Pacific and other roads had much higher grades than the Union Pacific. There were steep grades, but such would not be necessary on the Canadian Pacific owing to a lower elevation of the pass through the Rocky Mountains. A company owning and bound to operate the railway would build it thoroughly. The exemption from duty did not apply to iron rails, hence the company would use steel rails. If the Government had not allowed exemption from taxation they must have given more money to build the road. Last year the Opposition complained that the country would be ruined by being compelled to operate the road; now, when relieved of it by the present scheme, they were not satisfied. The Northern Pacific had a right of way, 400 feet wide, free of taxation, while the syndicate were only allowed 100 feet free of taxation, and we did not want to have the syndicate coming to us for more money. We return to the scheme of last year—only the lands sold would be taxed. He argued that it would be to the interest of the syndicate to sell their lands and, once sold, they would be taxed and the country would not lose by exemption. Any part of Canada, where there was no railway, would grant exemption from taxation if railways could be obtained in that way. If the lands were now worth $5 an acre, the leader of the Opposition should apply that calculation to 50,000,000 acres proposed to be set aside by the late Government; that would be $275,000,000 the road would then cost. The country would judge favorably of the scheme as the best that could be got. There were things in the Confederation scheme that he would have had otherwise, and in this scheme too, but the question was, could we do better? The leader of the Opposition had contended that the syndicate would make millions out of these lands, while the Government's alternate lots would be of little value. Could not we sell as fast and well as they? The cost of the survey was only an outline of the sections which we should make in any case. He contended that the penalty was ample for compelling the syndicate to complete the work if they had such a good bargain.

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

After Recess.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN resumed his speech. He expressed surprise at the statement made by Mr. Blake that the division of money and lands between the various sections was not fair, nor calculated to serve the public interest. The Government had given this matter very close attention in their negotiations with the syndicate. The division was fair and the interests of the country were thoroughly protected. After reading from the contract the figures for the different sections, he quoted from the speech made by Mr. Blake last year, as reported in the *Hansard*. The hon. leader of the Opposition had reckoned then that the cost of the central section of the road would be $42,500,000, while the ends would cost $77,000,000; altogether, about $120,000,000. Now when it was proposed to have the road built for $73,000,000 it was condemned as too much. He thought the truth of the matter was that the Opposition did not want the railway built at all. The interest of the company would be to build branch lines in order to procure traffic for their main line. But the same privilege was obtainable by any other company or corporation. The effect of these lines being built would be that the country would be filled up with settlers, and not only would the railway be benefited but the whole country would reap advantage. He contended that it would result in great good to the country that the power of building branches was given to the company. Replying to the objection that the company would only invest five millions and would soon recoup themselves by the sale of lands, he contended that there could be no unfavorable results from such procedure. The sooner the lands were sold the better, for that would inevitably mean a speedy settlement of the country, and that was precisely what the Government wished to bring about. Another objection made by the Opposition leader was that there would be a monopoly given to the syndicate, who could lock up the whole of the Northwest. He wondered how that could be, if they had to recoup themselves soon by selling their lands; and again, there were 250,000,000 acres of land in the Northwest, while the company were only to receive 25,000,000 acres. According to the leader of the Opposition, no Irish need apply in the Northwest. He (Mr. Langevin) refused to subscribe to any such doctrine. If Irishmen wished to leave their own land to go anywhere else, by all means let them come to Canada. The leader of the late Government had declared his preference for Chinese labor. Doubtless the hon. gentleman would prefer it to Irish labor, but he (Hon. Mr. L.) would say that there were lands enough to make homes for all the Irish people who would come out to Canada. The railway, he claimed, would be essentially a Canadian railway, a road for the benefit of our own country. The leader of the Opposition wanted the Sault Ste. Marie branch built so as to make connection with the American lines, but what the country wanted was a line which would build up the Northwest. That would bring immigrants to the Dominion instead of sending them to the States. He read extracts from Mr. Blake's Pacific railway speech. Strong bids had been made for the support of the Quebec members. Though he (Mr. B.) was an Ontario man he had said, in effect, that if they would support him for another five years he would be in favor of giving them such railway facilities as would bring the trade of the Northwest down to Montreal. Most of the objections of the hon. gentleman (Mr. B.) he had met, and as there were other gentlemen on the Ministerial side to speak such objections as he might have omitted would be answered by them. He had claimed that the bargain made was a good one for the country, and he had shown, he believed to the satisfaction of the House, that it was so. There might be some minor features of the scheme which would be objected to by some, but the great question was, Would the measure as a whole be a good one for the country? Would it result in beneficial effects to the people of the country, bringing increased wealth and prosperity to the nation? He believed Parliament and the country would say the bargain was a good one, and that the interests of the country had been well conserved. Not long ago, when another great measure had been brought down, certain provisions were objected to by one and another, but as a whole all approved of it. He expressed his pride at being in the House and in the Government at this time, and of being one of those who had taken part in perfecting a scheme which would infallibly result in great wealth, magnificent effects to the Dominion. (Cheers.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT said that for seventeen years he had had a seat in Parliament, and had heard Mr Langevin from time to time make clear and forcible speeches. His failure to be clear and forcible now was doubtless owing to the difficulties of the position. There was a wide difference of statement between the Minister of Railways and the Minister of Public Works. The former had represented this to be the best bargain ever made. Had he said for the syndicate he (Cartwright) would agree with him. The Minister of Railways had said it would be a substantial legacy which he could leave to his children.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER rose and said that the hon. gentleman was making a statement which the House knew and which he himself knew to be entirely at varience with fact. It was a piece of gross and deliberate misconstruction.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT endeavored to defend himself by reading from the *Hansard*, but was compelled to acknowledge that the words were "proudest legacy." He was sorry for what he had said and sorry for the poor children too. (Groans). He went on to say that the Minister of Public Works admitted that it was not as good as he wished, but the best they could do under the circumstances He (Cartwright) held that the people of Canada would view it differently. It was almost as hard to find out what the Ministers mean as to find out what become of the $32,000 in connection with the former contract. (Hisses). Were there no other than personal objections he would say let this bill pass; it would be an election bonanza to the Liberal party, though the promoters of the scheme would perhaps find it a bonanza in another sense. (Groans). He had always admitted there were in the Government men of questionable ability and unquestionable unscrupulousness. (Laughter). He could only account for them bringing down this scheme on the ground that they were temporarily demented. Was the Minister of Railways signing the contract as the party of the first part, or really as the agent of the party of the second part. (Renewed laughter). He read from the speeches of Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper in England, and quoted from the London *Examiner* in condemnation of their course. Ignorance and incapacity he said characterized the proceedings of the Government. The contract was a capitulation without the honors of war. Lessons of the past were set at naught. We bought out a land monopoly in Prince Edward Island, and now set to create another an hundred fold more dangerous in the Northwest. The price paid was exorbitant and much of the work undertaken would be valueless. The Government had abdicated all power in the Northwest, and it only remained for them to give the syndicate power of life and death. The first and greatest blunder was to undertake the construction of the line north of Lake Superior. Other things being equal he would prefer the road through British territory, but considering the cost of $25,000,000 it was a piece of utter stupidity and blindness to undertake this part of the work. He did not believe the syndicate intended to build it, and they could evade the bargain by a small penalty. He read a detailed account of the cost of the Northern Pacific from Bismarck to Puget Sound, which would be an average of $17,000 per mile, against an average cost of $36,200 per mile, which we pay for the Canadian Pacific. He strongly object to monopoly of connecting lines, and he doubted whether any member knew how much was contained in that clause which gave the syndicate power to locate the road where they pleased. (Sir Richard here produced a map, which was held up by two pages, to illustrate his remarks.)

Sir LEONARD TILLEY said the terms of the contract provided that the location was subject to the approval of the Government.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT, resuming, stated that he believed the company intended to deflect the line southward in a manner that would carry all the traffic by way of Duluth, and render useless the line north of Lake Superior. If this was done but a very small portion of the latter would be built. The lowest figure at which the value of the lands could be placed was $2.50, and the company might exact tolls amounting to 10 per cent. on a capital of $150,000,000 before the tolls could be reduced. If the Government parted with the road they should reserve power to resume the road at a fair valuation. In Australia the government roads are operated at a profit to the country. He called attention to the gradation of the road. It might be for the interest of the syndicate to thoroughly construct the prairie section when the traffic would be large. The balance could be built, keeping within the terms, yet making a road worthless for traffic. There were ten objections to the scheme, all of sufficient importance to lead to a division of the House. He hoped to hear from the Minister of Finance as to the financial arrangements. There existed still an arrangement, signed by a late colleague of the Ministers, binding them to recoup Sir Hugh Allan for his assistance in the election of 1872. Was there an understanding? He read from the *Hansard* what Sir John said in 1878 against railway land monopolies in the Northwest. He (Cartwright) only saw one chance for the people of the Northwest. From personal acquaintance with the members of the syndicate and some of their sleeping partners, he hoped they would not abuse their power. But they might sell out to others. At any rate the monopoly would outlast the lives of the present members. The Government had deliberately turned their backs upon the good features of the American system and adopted the worst one. The Northwest had cost in various ways $87,000,000. Up to last July all the possible land sales would not pay the interest on this sum. Under such circumstances we should pause before committing the country to further enormous expenditures. The question had not been before the country at the last election, and the opinion of the country had not been expressed on it. A great monopoly was to be given over to a country as large as France, Spain, Germany, the British Islands and half a dozen smaller principalities. He argued that when half a million of people were settled in the Northwest there would be great danger of rebellion, and he did not believe the Government would be able to control them. Sixty million dollars, he claimed would go as far to day in the construction of a railroad as $100,000,000 would go ten years ago. He admitted that Mr. Foster had been unable to go on with his contract for 85 miles, notwithstanding the large subsidy in money and land which had been given him. He urged that time should be given the members of the House to consult their constituents so as to ascertain their feelings and opinions on the subject. He stated that the St. Paul & Manitoba Railway Company had already sold over 600,000 acres of their lands at an average price of about $7 an acre. There was, he said, great interest taken in this matter all over Canada, as there was scarcely a township in which there were not men who had personally made examination into the state of that country. He complained of the absence of the leader of the Government from the House while the Opposition speeches were being delivered. 'Such a course was scarcely fair. Referring to the price of lands, he maintained that the estimate made by the hon. leader of the Opposition was correct. In conclusion he warned the Government that in passing the railway contract they were but inviting defeat--such as had befallen them in 1873.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER rose, he said, for the purpose of noting the remarks made by the previous speaker at the commencement of his speech. He believed he was in the judgment of the House when he stated that that hon. gentleman had, by reading from the *Hansard*, convicted himself of having given utterance to a gross and utterly unwarranted misconstruction of language. (Applause.)

Sir LEONARD TILLEY—Nothing better could be expected of him. It's his nature.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER, continuing, condemned in the strongest terms the course of the member for Centre Huron, which he characterized as disgraceful and unmanly, and degrading to the dignity of the House. Vile and baseless insinuations had been made against himself, such as had been made against him in the columns of a certain newspaper from time to time. He was glad the editor of that paper was in sound of his voice, as it gave him an opportunity of saying that these insinuations had been manufactured by the venom of his own black heart. (Cheers and uproar). Two years ago gentlemen on the opposite side of the House had every paper and every document placed before them in reference to a department with which he had been connected. They had not had the courage then to formulate a single charge against him in a way in which it could be met. Last session a similar opportunity of making charges against him on the floor of Parliament was offered, but they had not taken advantage of it. He now challenged any gentleman on the Opposition side of the House to formulate a single charge such as had been insinuated against him in the base, lying and slanderous utterances of the paper he had referred to. (Cheers). If he had been in the position of the man occupying the position of Minister of Finance, and had gone to England to negotiate the sale of three millions of bonds, and had departed from the usual practice of putting these bonds up for competition, and instead had sold them to private parties, whose names he had to this day refused to disclose, then he would be willing to admit that the insinuations thrown out against him were as well deserved as they really were by the hon. gentleman who had made them. (Tremendous cheering).

Sir R. CARTWRIGHT arose amid hisses and groans from the Ministerial side of the House. He said he could well understand the indignation of the hon. Minister, with a ten thousand dollar man on one side and a thirty-two thousand man on the other side. Whether really guilty or not he held the hon. Minister as an accomplice after the fact in the Pacific scandal. (Renewed groans and hisses).

Mr. PLUMB said he had been seven years in the House, five of which had been spent on the Opposition side, and during all that time he had never seen the dignity of Parliament so outraged, the proprieties so violated as by the member for Centre Huron. (Loud cheers). That hon. gentleman had persisted in his degrading system of vitriol throwing, and he had time and again deported himself in a manner which was degrading to the dignity of the House. He was glad to see his hon. friend the Minister of Railways have an opportunity of vindicating himself, and of hurling back in the face of those who had uttered them the vile insinuations made against him. (Cheers). The member for Centre Huron had spent years vilifying the right hon. leader of the Government, but had it done him (Sir John Macdonald) any harm? (Voices, "no, no, no"). His right honorable friend stood to-day more firmly in the affections of the people of the country than ever before. The tactics of the member for Centre Huron had been disastrous to himself and party through the speeches delivered by him in the campaign of 1878, the effects of which had been intensified by their publication in extenso in the columns of his favorite organ, for it was chiefly through those agencies that the late Finance Minister and his friends had been driven from a place of plenitude and power to the position they now occupied. (Loud cheers.)

Hon. Mr. BLAKE expressed regret at the tone of the remarks made by the member for Niagara and the Minister of Railways. If the latter had anything to complain of, he would have obtained more of the confidence of Parliament by refraining from the use of unparliamentary language. He quoted some of the objectionable terms, which had been used, such as "base," "lying," and "slanderous." (Voices—"Quite right.") He thought the hon. Minister by giving way to such language did not improve his cause in any way. He hoped that during the future debate there would be a better spirit and a more Parliamentary course on both sides of the House.

Mr. BOULTBEE criticized the remarks of the hon. leader of the Opposition, who had, in giving advice to the House, reproved the hon. Minister of Railways and the member of Niagara, but had no word of reproach for the hon. gentleman beside him. (Hear, hear.) If the hon. leader of the Opposition had been honest he would have condemned the course of the ex-Finance Minister, who had been the first to violate the rules of Parliamentary debate and had goaded the hon. members on the Ministerial side into replying. (Applause.)

Mr. BOULTBEE said the course of the debate was bad for the chances of the Pacific Railway. He asked the House to adjourn till it would get in better shape. (Laughter.)

Sir L. TILLEY moved the adjournment of the debate. In reply to Hon. Mr. Blake, Mr. Tilley said it was probable that on Monday the Government would signify their intention respecting the time of adjournment for the holidays.

The House adjourned at 11.45 p.m,

THE LIME-KILN CLUB.

"Down on de Central Market de odder day," began the old man, "I hearn a man longin' fur a chance to become a hero. He wanted to perform some brave act. He wanted to lay hisself out on suntain' heroic. He wanted to have hisself pinted out as a big gun, and he sorrowed bekase de day of heroics had passed. I moved aroun' him an' looked him ober. He had on a shirt two weeks ole. His ha'r was long an' greasy. His face an' hands needed soap an' water. I 'spect dat his chillen war' bar' futed an' his wife obleeged to take in washin'. He war sighin' to be a hero, an' de chance war right befo' him. Few of us kin be on de spot in time to save railroad trains, steamboats an' hotels from fire and kolishun. We can't dishiver plots to blow up opera houses. De water am so cold dat we hate to jump into de ribber an' save de lives of a skule house full of chill'en. But since I saw dat would be hero I'ze been wonderin' if de man who works steadily, takes good keer of his family, pays his debts, tells de truf, keeps on de bes' side of de golden rule, an' carries a clean mout aroun' wid him am not about as big a hero as de nineteenth century kin bring forth. It's my opinyun dat he am, an' I'ze gwine to insist on greetin' sich men as entitled to admiration an' respect."

PETITIONS.

The petitions numbered twenty-eight, representing seven different States, and the numbers of elders and deacons were fully up to the average.

ELECTION.

It took just seven minutes by the old eight-day clock to elect the following candidates:

Elder Davis,	Deacon Oban,
Col Parr,	Joab Tool,
Trayler White,	Sincere James
Pardon Huber,	Rev. Kyan.

RELICS.

The janitor reported that the Tecumseh tomahawk, lost by him on the street three or four weeks ago, had been found and returned to the hall. He had also received for the club a photograph of the King of the Sandwich Islands, a looking-glass once owned by Queen Elizabeth, and a coffee-pot used by Napoleon when he crossed the Alps. The Secretary was directed to return the thanks of the club to the several donors, and the janitor was ordered to have the coffee-pot put in good repair.

CHILBLAINS.

The Chairman of the committee to whom had been referred the matter of chilblains—their origin, benefit and cure—announced that he was ready to report as far as the committee could handle the subject. They had spent more than a week in research and could not declare themselves satisfied with the result. Chilblains, as near as could be determined were caused by the presence of frost in the sole of the foot. As a preventative, the sole could be protected by a layer of pitch or tar. As to their benefit, authoritities did not agree. Scratching the sole of the foot had an exhilarating effect on some people and creating a feeling of despondency in others. There were various cures given, but what would work a speedy cure in one case had no effect in another. Much depended on how much of the winter weather had been absorbed by the foot, and more depended on the size of the pedal itself. The committee recommended lime-water, lemon-juice, smart-weed, sweet-oil, peppermint and whiskey as pretty certain to alleviate, if not cure.

RESOLVED.

Elder Standby thereupon offered the following resolution, which was adopted by a vote of fifty-nine yeas to thirteen nays:

Resolved, "Dat it am nuthin' derogatory to de character of a member of dis club an' a gentleman to pull off his bute in prayer-meetin' or on de street kyar an' scratch his chilblains."

THE BEAR-TRAP.

"Shold heah in my hand," said the President as he tumbled over half a peck of correspondence, "a letter from the New York State Agricultural Society axin' me to 'splain how we cum by our B'ar Trap, an' what mem'ries am connected with it dat we hold it so sacred. De day we took possession of dis hall myself an' Sir Isaac Walpole hung dat trap in its present posishun. At dat time dis club numbered only sixteen pussons, while to-day de rolls show a membership of ober 1,300. When poo' old Uncle Kellup Johnson, who has bin under de sod dese many long months, heard of our organizashun, he brought dat ba'r-trap ober to my house. It had bin in his family fur ober a hundred y'ars. It had catched b'ars an' wolves an' 'possums an' coons an' woodchucks for three generashuns. It had brought ebery owner good luck. Whar' dat trap abided ole aige was long comin'. Ef de chill'en had de measles dey had em light. Ef thieves broke in dey got shot. Ef de winter was hard de fam'ly had plenty. Dat trap was presented to de club as an emblem of innercence an' good luck. Its aige makes it sacred, an' de strength of its jaws compels respect. It am symbolical of days gone by, an' it will stand all de tests of de fucher."

A CASE OF CONSCIENCE.

A person connected with the Navy Yard at Brooklyn forwarded a communication in which he asked the following question: "If a young man of 20 should steal half a pound of dollar tea and carry the crime on his conscience until he was 40 years old, would it then do him any good to make restitution and ask forgivene s?"

"As a gineral rule," replied the President, as he put away the letter, "it am nebber too late to right a wrong, but in dis case I shouldn't say nuffin' bout it. If de grocer war live I'd slump inter his sto' some day an' accidentally drap a five dollah bill whar' he'd findit."

NO PARTIALITY.

The Secretary announced a communication from a leading colored citizen of Nashville named Pulverized Polk, who stated that he was the inventor of a new sausage named "Polk's Particular Choice." He wanted capital to help bring it out, and in this emergency he bethought him of the Lime Kiln Club. There was money in it, and he was willing to divide.

Samuel Shin moved that the club purchase an undivided one-half interest.

Particepate Smith moved that a committee of one be sent to Nashville to inspect and report.

Waydown Bebee thought it would be an excellent idea to send for the photographs of the sausage and inventor.

"Gem'len of de club" replied the President, "nex to capital nuthin' am so sensitive as sassage. It takes alarm at de first word of slander, an' it goes up two cents a poun' at the fust word of praise. Nuthin' would ruin dis club so quick as to pledge itself to one partickler brand of sassage. While we favor all and show partiality to none, de 50,000 butchers in dis kentry am our friends. When we select one make ober all udders all the butchers save one am our enemies. I shall darfore declar' all moshuns out of order an' sot down on de hull sassage biznes. We will now abandon ourselves homewards."—*Detroit FreePress*

—At this critical period in politics more than fifty members of the House of Lords are wintering abroad. A tax was imposed some centuries ago on Englishmen living in France, as it became a custom with many wealthy men to do so. This was alluded to by O'Connell in a speech advocating the taxation of Irish absentees, a measure which Lord North had at one time under consideration.

QUEENIE HETHERTON.

By Mrs. Mary J. Holmes, author of "Tempest and Sunshine," "Ethelyn's Mistake," "Forrest House," etc.

CHAPTER XLVII.

MAGNOLIA PARK.

Thirty years before our story opens, Magnolia Park was one of the finest places in middle Florida. But after the death of Mrs. Hetherton, who had been born and married there, and who spent a part of every winter in her old home, there was no one left to care particularly for it, as Mr. Hetherton had lands enough of his own to look after. So the place began to go down, and when the war swept like a wave of fire over the South, it was left tenantless and unprotected save by an old negro, Uncle Sim, and his wife, Aunt Judy, who lived in the whitewashed cabin on the grounds, paying no heed to the rumors of freedom which reached them from time to time, as the terrible conflict between brother and brother went on. They were as free as they ever wished to be, they said, and all they asked was to be left alone and left to die on the old place. So they staid, and did their best to guard the house of which they were so proud, and which, at two different times, was made a kind of hotel for the soldiery, who were scouring the country. A night and a day the Boys in Blue halted there, carrying off whatever they conveniently could of the many valuable articles with which the house was furnished, and one of them, an officer, having a hand-to-hand fight with old Judy, who tried to wrench from him a pair of silver candlesticks he was stuffing in his pockets. He took away the candle-ticks and also a black eye and a bloody nose which Aunt Judy had given him as a memento of his stay at Magnolia Park.

A week later, and a party of the Boys in Gray swooped down upon the place and spent the night in the house and fed on Judy's corn cakes and bacon and killed Uncle Sim's big turkey and turned the once handsome rooms into barracks, but were prevented from committing as extensive depredations as their predecessors had done, simply because, aside from the six legged piano, on which they pounded Dixie vigorously, and the massive bedsteads and chairs and tables, there was little or nothing to steal. Warned by the lesson learned from their first visitors, Sim and Judy had dug a deep hole at the side of their cabin, and lining it with blankets had filled it with the remaining valuables of the house; then covering them with another heavy blanket, they heaped dirt and sand upon them, and built over the spot a rude hen-house, where several motherly hens brooded over their young chickens. After this, Sim and Judy lived in comparative ease until the war was over and peace and quiet reigned once more in Florida. Then the premises were let to a young Kentuckian, who soon grew tired off his bargain, and gave it up, and the house was empty again.

When Mr. Beresford first took charge of the Hetherton estate, he wrote to Frederick, asking why he did not sell the Florida lands, which yielded him nothing. But this Frederick would not do. Magnolia Park had been his mother's home, and a place where, as a boy, he had been very happy; and, as he could afford to keep it, he wrote to that effect to Mr. Beresford, telling him to let it if he could, and if not, to let it alone. So Mr. Beresford let it alone except when some one wished to rent a few acres of the land, which was the case when Reinette decided to go there. Then he wrote to the man whose plantation adjoined Magnolia Park, telling him that a daughter of the late Mr. Hetherton was about to visit Florida, and asking him to see that a few of the rooms were made comfortable for her. Unfortunately this letter was miscarried or lost, so that Reinette's arrival was wholly unexpected and produced the utmost consternation in the white-washed cabin, where Uncle Sim and Judy were taking their evening meal, and feeding the four dogs hanging around them.

Reinette had traveled day and night until she reached Thomasville, Ga., where her strength gave out, and she was obliged to rest a day or two. Her striking face and foreign air together with her singular escorts, Pierre and Axie, attracted much attention from the guests at the hotel, who were very curious to know something of her. But Axie whose parisian injunction from her mistress had been "to keep her mouth shut, and not go to blabbin' about Reinet," was wholly uncommunicative, except to say that the young lady was a Miss Hetherton, of Merrivale, who was going to visit her father's plantation in Florida; while Pierre took refuge in his native tongue, and never spoke a word of English to any one. To question him, therefore, was impossible; so nothing definite was learned with regard to the beautiful stranger, whose manner repelled anything like familiar advances, and who, the second morning after her arrival at the hotel, started for Magnolia Park. Every other day the mail was brought from Tallahassee to Thomasville in an open vehicle, which was neither large nor comfortable, and this was the only overland communication between the two towns. Fortunately, however, for Queenie, a gentleman and his wife, who were returning to their home in the North, had come from Tallahassee in a hired carriage, which was both covered and roomy, and of this she availed herself on its return.

It was a long ride of more than thirty miles, but Queenie enjoyed it thoroughly, the country was so different from anything she had ever seen. When she left Merrivale the snow was on all the hills and winter was everywhere; but here in southern Georgia and middle Florida the warm spring sunshine lay on everything, and the day was like early June, with a clear blue sky and balmy air, filled with the perfume of the yellow jassmine, just in its glory. Thousands of Cherokee roses were climbing over the fences and showing their white faces on the tops of the shrubs and vines, which seemed to embrace them lovingly, while here and there a tall magnolia grew with its wax-like leaves of dark green.

To Queenie, who loved nature in all its aspects, every turn in the road, or change of scenery, brought fresh delight, and in her enthusiasm she forgot for a time her trouble, and was much like her former self, flashing and sparkling with all her old brightness and talking continually to the driver, a very intelligent young mulatto, who rejoiced in the dignified name of Boston. It did not take Queenie long to get his whole history, for his boyish heart was completely won by her beautiful face, her animated gestures, and the way she had of looking at him with her bright, restless eyes. He was born two years before the breaking out of the *war*, he said, and his father and mother lived near Tallahassee, on the very spot whar they was raised, and he boasted that of all the hundred blacks on "de ole plantation" his father was the only one who didn't "cut an' run when de Yankees comed an' sot 'em free."

"Spec's though, he wanted to go mightily," he said, "so he wanted to see what sort of ting dat freedom was dey was all gwine to see; but he wouldn't leave his old mistis who was sick in bed, so he staid behime with me and mother, an' has staid there ever since, gettin' very far wages, and laying up a little something every year."

His mother, he said came of another line, and belonged to the "old Marsell estate, which was now run out an' gone to ruin."

"What estate did you say?" Queenie asked, "Do you mean the Marshall property—Magnolia Park?"

"Why, yes, miss," and Boston turned quickly toward her, while something like a smile of scorn curled his lips; "they calls it Magnolia Park, sometimes, but it's more like a swamp dan a park, with all the weeds and truck grown thar higher dan yar head. Mighty big house, though, with heaps of rooms, but looks like old stable now—all de winders broke, an' de do'os off de hinges. My gran'pa, an' gran'ma, lives dar, an' has lived ther always sense dey's born. Dey's dreffful proud of de ole hut, too, an' shot three or four dem Federals who's tryin' to carry off de pianner."

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"And are there no neighbors—no people near?" Queenie asked, beginning to feel a sense of loniliness at the prospect of a park like a swamp, and a house like a stable with only two old negroes for companions.

"Neighbors," Boston replied. "Yes, miss, neighbors 'nuff, an' all of dem de quality. Thar's Miss Strong, de ole governor's daughter, what cried when dey pulled de stripped flag down—de governor cried. I mean, not Miss Strong. She's de very fustest quality, wid a head full of brains: writes for every paper in de country, I reckon. She's awful nice; and her daughter, too, Miss Nina, with eyes a heap like yourn, an' de same way of turnin' her head like a bird, an' lookin' at yer till you feel so quar. Specs, mebby, sh'es yer kin: she favors you mightily."

And Boston looked admiringly at Queenie, who had bewildered and intoxicated him as she did everyone who came within her sphere. But Queenie knew nothing of Mrs. Strong, or her daughter Nina. She had no relations in Florida, she said, and the resemblance between herself and Nina Strong, if there was any, was merely accidental.

The day was drawing to a close by this time, and the sun was just setting when they at last turned off from the highway into the road which wound through the fields for a quarter of a mile or more up to Magnolia Park.

"Dat's 'em; dat's de place," Boston said, pointing to a huge wooden building standing upon a little rise of ground, and surrounded by tall magnolias.

Once it must have been a little paradise, but now it was stripped of all its glory, and stood there desolate and dreary, with the lights broken from the lower windows, while here and there a door was gone, and the shutters hung on one hinge, or swung loosely in the wind.

Involuntarily Queenie held out her hand to Axie, who took it in her strong palm, and said, encouragingly:

"It may be better inside. Anyway, I can soon fix it up, and the situation is lovely."

Attracted by the sound of wheels, the four dogs now came rushing down the road, barking so furiously that Queenie turned pale with fright, and clung closer to Axie. But when the noisy pack saw Boston, their barking changed into whines of recognition, which brought Uncle Sim and Aunt Judy round the corner of the house, where the latter stopped and with her hands on her fat hips, eyed the strangers curiously.

"Somebody gwine to visit Miss Strong most likely, but why did Boston fetch 'em here," she thought.

But when Queenie alighted, and gong up to her told her that she was Miss Hetherton, granddaughter of Miss Lucy Marshall who used to live at Magnolia Park, and that she had come to stay, her consternation knew no bounds, and while dropping a courtesy to Queenie, and saying to her, "An' shoo' you're welcome, miss," she was thinking to herself. "For de dea' Lord's sake, whatever'll I do wid sich quality as dis, and whar 'll I put her? Thar ain't a room in de whole house fit for a nigger or a cracker to sleep in. An' she's de real stuff dat ladies is made of. Can't chea dis chile."

"Honey," she said at last to Queenie, who was looking ruefully around her. "I's no whar to ax you to sit down jes dis minute but in my cabin, whar I done scoured de flo' dis blessed day. If I had known you're comin' I'd done somethin'."

Queenie explained that a letter had been sent to someone announcing her expected visit, and added, with a little shiver. "Let me go to your cabin. I am very tired and chilly."

So Aunt Judy lead the way to her quarters which were as neat and clean as soap and water and her strong hands could make them. A pine knot was blazing on the hearth, diffusing a delightful degree of light and warmth through the room, and Queenie felt better and less desolate than when standing outside in the chill twilight, which had suc eeded the warm spring day. Before entering the cabin, Axie, accompanied by Sim and Judy, made the tour of the house, deciding at once that to pass the night in that damp, cheerless place, was utterly impossible. Queenie might have gone to town and staid at a hotel until something like decency and cleanliness was restored to a few of the rooms, but Boston had gone, and so there was no alternative but to sleep in Judy's cabin. This, however, Queenie did not mind. Reared as she had been in France, she had none of the American prejudices against the African race, and ate her hot corn-cake, which Aunt Judy baked for her, and drank her coffee from Judy's cups with almost as keen a relish as she had ever dined at the St. Maurice. Once, indeed, as she remembered Chateau des Fleurs and Hetherton Place, and then glanced at her humble surrounding, there came a great lump in her throat, and her hands involuntarily struck at the air as if to thrust something from her. But she was a Miss Hetherton, of Merrivale, who was going to visit her father's plantation in Florida; while Pierre took refuge in his native tongue, and never spoke a word of English to any one. To question him, therefore, was impossible; so nothing definite was learned with regard to the beautiful stranger, whose manner repelled anything like familiar advances, and who, the second morning after her arrival at the hotel, started for Magnolia Park. Every other day the mail was brought from Tallahassee to Thomasville in an open vehicle, which was neither large nor comfortable, and this was the only overland communication between the two towns. Fortunately, however, for Queenie, a gentleman and his wife, who were returning to their home in the North, had come from Tallahassee in a hired carriage, which was both covered and roomy, and of this she availed herself on its return.

It was a long ride of more than thirty miles, but Queenie enjoyed it thoroughly, the country was so different from anything she had ever seen. When she left Merrivale the snow was on all the hills and winter was everywhere; but here in southern Georgia and middle Florida the warm spring sunshine lay on everything, and the day was like early June, with a clear blue sky and balmy air, filled with the perfume of the yellow jassmine, just in its glory. Thousands of Cherokee roses were climbing over the fences and showing their white faces on the tops of the shrubs and vines, which seemed to embrace them lovingly, while here and there a tall magnolia grew with its wax-like leaves of dark green.

To Queenie, who loved nature in all its aspects, every turn in the road, or change of scenery, brought fresh delight, and in her enthusiasm she forgot for a time her trouble, and was much like her former self, flashing and sparkling with all her old brightness and talking continually to the driver, a very intelligent young mulatto, who rejoiced in the dignified name of Boston. It did not take Queenie long to get his whole history, for his boyish heart was completely won by her beautiful face, her animated gestures, and the way she had of looking at him with her bright, restless eyes. He was born two years before the breaking out of the *wah*, he said, and his father and mother lived near Tallahassee, on the very spot whar they was raised, and he boasted that of all the hundred blacks on "de ole plantation" his father was the only one who didn't "cut an' run when de Yankees comed an' sot 'em free."

"Spec's though, he wanted to go mightily," he said, "so he wanted to see what sort of ting dat freedom was dey was all gwine to see; but he wouldn't leave his old mistis who was sick in bed, so he staid behime with me and mother, an' has staid there ever since, gettin' very far wages, and laying up a little something every year."

His mother, he said came of another line, and belonged to the "old Marsell estate, which was now run out an' gone to ruin."

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