The Broad Highway

"Which We Call Life"

.... By ....
Jeffery Farnol

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(Continued from yesterday.)

"Beast!" she cried. "Liar! Oh, that I had the strength to grind you into the earth beneath my foot. Oh! you poor, blind, self-deluding fool!" and she laughed, and her laughter stung me most of all. "As I look at you," she went on, the laugh still curling her lip, "you stand there—what you are—a beaten hound. This is my last look, and I shall always remember you as I see you now—scarlet-cheeked, shamefaced—a beaten hound!" And, speaking, she shook her hand at me, and turned upon her heel, but with that word, and in that instant, the old, old demon leapt up within me, and as he leapt, I clasped my arms about her, and caught her up, and crushed her close and high against my breast.

"Go?" said I. "Go—no—no, not yet!"

And now, as her eyes met mine, I felt her tremble, yet she strove to hide her fear, and heaped me with bitter scorn; but I only shook my head and smiled. And now she struggled to break my clasp, fiercely, desperately; her long hair burst its fastenings, and enveloped us both in its rippling splendor; she beat my face, she wound her fingers in my hair, but my lips smiled on, for the hammer in my brain had deadened all else.

And presently she lay still. I felt her body relax and grow suddenly pliable and soft, her head fell back across my arm, and, as she lay, I saw the tears of her helplessness ooze out beneath her drooping lashes; but still I smiled.

So, with her long hair trailing over me, I bore her to the cottage. Closing the door behind me with my foot, I crossed the room, and set her down upon the bed.

She lay very still, her bosom heaved tumultuously, and the tears still crept from beneath her eyes and looked at me, and shivered, and crouched farther from me, among the pillows.

"Why did you lie to me, Charmian; why did you lie to me?" She did not answer, only she watched me as one might watch some relentless, oncoming peril.

"I asked you once if you ever saw men hereabouts—when I was away, do you remember? You told me, 'no,' and while you spoke I knew you lied, for I had seen him standing among the leaves, waiting and watching for you. I once asked you if you were ever lonely when I was away, and you answered 'no,'—you were too busy—'seldom went beyond the Hollow'—do you remember? ?And yet you had brought him here—here, into the cottage—he had looked at my Virgil—over your shoulder—do you remember?"

"You played the spy!" she whispered with trembling lips, yet with eyes still fierce and scornful.

"You know I did not; had I seen him I should have killed him, because I love you. I had set up an altar to you in my heart, where my soul might worship—poor fool that I was! I loved you with every breath I drew. I think I must have shown you something of this, from time to time, for you are very clever, and you may have laughed over it together—you and he. And lately I have seen my altar foully desecrated, shattered, and utterly destroyed, and with it, your sweet womanhood dragged in the mire and yet—I loved you still. Can you imagine, I wonder, the agony of it, the haunting horrors of imagination, the bitter days, the sleepless nights? To see you so beautiful, so glorious, and know you so base! Indeed, I think it came near driving me mad. It has sent me out into the night; I have held out my arms for the lightning to blast me; I have wished myself a thousand deaths. If Black George had but struck a little harder—or a little lighter; I am not the man I was before he thrashed me; my head grows confused and clouded at times—would to God I were dead! But now—you would go! Having killed my heart, broken my life, driven away all peace of mind—you would leave me! No, Charmian, I swear by God you shall not go—yet awhile. I have bought you very dear—bought you with my bitter agony, and by all the blasting torments I have suffered."

Now, as I ended, she sprang from the bed and faced me, but, meeting my look, she shrank a little, and drew her long hair about her like a mantle, then sought with trembling hands to hold me off.

"Peter—be sane. Oh, Peter! be merciful and let me go—give me time—let me explain."

"My books," said I, "have taught me that the more beautiful a woman's face the more guileful is her heart; and your face is wonderfully beautiful, and, as for your heart—you lied to me before."

"I—oh, Peter!—I am not the poor creature you think me."

"Were you the proudest lady in the land—you have deceived me and mocked me and lied to me!" So saying, I reached out, and seized her by each rounded arm, and slowly drew her closer. And now she strove no more against me, only in her face was bitter scorn, and an anger that cast out fear.

"I hate you, despise you!" she whispered. "I hate you more than any man was ever hated!"

Inch by inch I drew her to me, until she stood close, within the circle of my arms.

"And I think I love you more than any woman was ever loved!" said I; "for the glorious beauty of your strong, sweet body, for the temptation of your eyes, for the red lure of your lips!" And so I stooped and kissed her full upon the mouth. She lay soft and warm in my embrace, all unresisting, only she shivered beneath my kiss, and a great sob rent her bosom.

"And I also think," said I, "that, because of the perfidy of your heart, I hate you as much as you do me—as much as ever woman, dead or living, was hated by man—and shall—forever!"

And while I spoke, I loosed her and turned, and strode swiftly out and away from the cottage.

CHAPTER XXXIV

In Which I Find Peace and Joy and an Abiding Sorrow.

I hurried on, looking neither to right nor left, seeing only the face of Charmian, now fearful and appealing, now blazing with scorn. And coming to the brook, I sat down, and thought upon her marvellous beauty, of the firm roundness of the arms that my fingers had so lately pressed. Anon I started up again, and plunged, knee-deep, through the brook, and strode on and on, bursting my way through bramble and briar, heedless of their petty stings, till at last I was clear of them, being now among trees. And here, where the shadow was deepest, I came upon a lurking figure—a figure I recognized—a figure there was no mistaking and which I should have known in a thousand.

A shortish, broad-shouldered man, clad in a blue coat, who stood with his back towards me, looking down into the Hollow, in the attitude of one who waits—for what? for whom?

He was cut off from me by a solitary bush, a bramble, that seemed to have strayed from its kind and lost itself, and, running upon my toes, I cleared this bush at a bound, and, before the fellow had realized my presence, I had pinned him by the collar.

"Damn you!—show your face!" I cried, and swung him round so fiercely that he staggered and his hat fell off.

Then, as I saw, I clasped my head between my hands, and fell back—staring.

A grizzled man with an honest, open face, a middle-aged man whose homely features were lighted by a pair of kindly blue eyes, just now round with astonishment.

"Lord!—Mr. Peter!" he exclaimed.

"Adam!" I groaned. "Oh, God forgive me, it's Adam!"

"Lord! Mr. Peter," said he again, "you sure give me a turn, sir! But what's the matter wi' you, sir? Come, Mr. Peter, never stare so wild like—come, sir, what is it?"

"Tell me—quick!" said I, catching his hand in mine, "you have been here many times before of late?"

"Why—yes, Mr. Peter, but —"

"Quick!" said I; "on one occasion she took you into the cottage yonder and showed you a book—you looked at it over her shoulder?"

"Yes, sir—but—"

"What sort of book was it?"

"A old book, sir, wi' the cover broke, and wi' your name writ down inside of it; 'twas that way as she found out who you was —"

"Oh, Adam!" I cried. "Oh, Adam! now may God help me!" And, dropping his hand, I turned and ran until I reached the cottage; but it was empty, Charmian was gone.

In a fever of haste I sought her along the brook, among the bushes and trees, even along the road. And, as I sought, night fell, and in the shadows was black despair.

I searched the Hollow from end to end, calling upon her name, but no sound reached me, save the hoot of an owl, and the far-off, dismal cry of a corncrake.

With some faint hope that she might have returned to the cottage, I hastened thither, but, finding it dark and desolate, I gave way to my despair.

O blind, self-deceiving fool! She had said that, and she was right—as usual. She had called me an egoist—I was an egoist, a pedant, a blind, self-deceiving fool who had wilfully destroyed all hopes of a happiness the very thought of which so often set me trembling—and now—she had left me—was gone! The world—my world, was a void—its emptiness terrified me. How should I live without Charmian, the woman whose image was ever before my eyes, whose soft, low voice was ever in my ears?

And I had thought so much to please her! I who had set my thoughts to guard my tongue, lest by word or look I might offend her! And this was the end of it!

Sitting down at the table, I leaned my head there, pressing my forehead against the hard wood, and remained thus a great while.

At last, because it was very dark, I found and lighted a candle, and came and stood beside her bed. Very white and trim it looked, yet I was glad to see its smoothless rumpled where I had laid her down, and to see the depression in the pillow that her head had made. And, while I stood there, up to me stole a perfume very faint, like the breath of violets in a wood at evening time, wherefore I sank down upon my knees beside the bed.

And now the full knowledge of my madness rushed upon me in an overwhelming flood; but with misery was a great and mighty joy, for now I knew her worthy of all respect and honor and worship, for her intellect, for her proud virtue, and for spotless purity. And thus, with joy came remorse, and with remorse—an abiding sorrow.

And gradually my arms crept about the pillow where her head had so often rested, wherefore I kissed it, and laid my head upon it and sighed, and so fell into a troubled sleep.

CHAPTER XXXV

How Black George Found Prudence in the Dawn.

The chill of dawn was in the air when I awoke, and it was some few moments before, with a rush, I remembered why I was kneeling there beside Charmian's bed. Shivering, I rose and walked up and down to reduce the stiffness in my limbs.

The fire was out and I had no mind to light it, for I was in no mood to break my fast, though the necessary things stood ready, as her orderly hands had set them, and the plates and cups and saucers twinkled at me from the little cupboard I had made to hold them; a cupboard whose construction she had overlooked with a critical eye. And I must needs remember how she had insisted on being permitted to drive in three nails with her own hand—I could put my finger on whose very nails; how she tapped at those nails for fear of missing them; how beautiful she had looked in her coarse apron, and with her sleeves rolled up over her round white arms—how womanly and sweet; yet I had dared to think—had dared to call her—a Messalina! Oh, that my tongue had withered or ever I had coupled one so pure and noble with a creature so base and common!

So thinking, I sighed and went out into the dawn; as I closed the door behind me its hollow slam struck me sharply, and I called to mind how she had called it a bad and ill-fitting door. And indeed so it was.

With dejected step and hanging head I made my way towards Sissinghurst (for, since I was up, I might as well work, and there was much to be done), and, as I went, I heard a distant clock chime four.

Now, when I reached the village the sun was beginning to rise, and thus, lifting up my eyes, I beheld one standing before "The Bull," a very tall man, much bigger and greater than most; a wild figure in the dawn, with matted hair and beard, and clad in tattered clothes; yet hair and beard gleamed a red gold where light touched them, and there was but one man I knew so tall and so mighty as this. Wherefore I hurried towards him, all unnoticed, for his eyes were raised to a certain latticed casement of the inn.

And being come up, I reached out and touched this man upon the arm.

"George!" said I, and held out my hand. He turned swiftly, but, seeing me, started back a pace, staring.

"George!" said I again. "Oh, George!" But George only backed still farther, passing his hand once or twice across his eyes.

Continued Tomorrow.

Drink Two Bottles A Day

If you are not feeling up to 100% efficiency you probably require a tonic, and here is one in a most palatable and delicious form—

Ready's Extra Stout

Recommended by the medical profession as a tonic of the highest order. Inexpensive, yet possessing those qualities that produce strength, energy, good appetite and perfect digestion.

Have a few bottles sent to your home.

Prices and further particulars gladly furnished.

Ready's Breweries, Ltd.
St. John, N. B.

TENDERS.

SEALED TENDERS will be received at the office of the Common Clerk, City Hall, addressed to him and marked "Tender for Painting Ferry Steamer Governor Carleton," up to noon Monday, May 1st, 1916.

A cash deposit equal to five per cent of the estimated full value of the contract at price named in tender will be required. The City does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. Specifications can be seen at the office of the Ferry Superintendent, 51 Water street, city.

J. V. RUSSELL,
Commissioner.

ADAM P. MACINTYRE,
Comptroller.

St. John, N. B., 27th April, 1916.

The above tender closing date has been extended until Monday, May 8th, 1916, at noon.

TELEPHONE INSTALLATIONS

Please Add to Your Directories.

M1750-21—Andrews, B., 66 Winter, No. changed from M1374-11, address from 6 Charles.
M2119-12—Boyd, H. H., Res. Drury Cove. No. changed from M1503-21, address from 240 King east.
M3293-11—Barnes, Miss Marion I., Res. 129 King East. No. changed from M2176-11, address from 278 Princess St.
R22-21—Balantine, Miss. Res. Rothesay.
R21-51—Branscombe, F. W. Res. Renforth.
W217-42—Catherwood, Robt. Res. North St., Fairville.
M3183-31—Crowley, Alfred. Res. 219 King East. No. changed from M1490-31, address from 5 Leinster.
M1690-31—Cromwell, F. W. Res. 141 Orange.
W403-21—Charlton, R. H. Res. 239 Union, W. E.
M2983-21—Draper, Mrs. J. A. Res. 16 Peter. No. changed from M1420-21, address from 104 Carmarthen.
M3051-11—Duncan, Jas. Res. 24 Adelaide. No. changed from M3194-31, address from 141 Durham.
W215-12—Fitzgerald, F. C. Res. 161 Queen. No. changed from W152-41, address from 149 Winslow.
M2287-31—Fawcett, Fred C. Res. East St.John.
W534-22—Farren, W. J. Res. 248 Guilford.
M1917—Grant & Horne, Marsh Road.
M2318-22—Gale, A. H. Res. 46 Adelaide. No. changed from M2725-11, address 116 Adelaide.
M3073-21—Profitt, A. S. Res. 77 Exmouth. No. changed from M1537-21, address from 479 Main.
W428—Ready, Mrs. Jas. Res. Manawagonish Rd. No. changed from W274.
W367-31—Raynes, Geo. D. Res. 98 Church ave., Fairville.
M2960-32—Sherwood, W. H. Res. 19 Horsefield.
W370-12—Smith, W. A. Res. 1 Union. No. changed from W178, address from 115 Duke.
W328-41—Tippett, G. H. Res. 74 Main, Fairville. No. changed from W217-41.
M1715-22—Trainor, A. P. Res. 53 Kennedy.
W368-12—Wight, Miss Eva M. Res. 123 Rodney, W. E.
M2947-21—Warren, Harry. Res. 222 Brittain. No. changed from M2450-11, address from 136 Broad.
W429-11—Harding, W. L. Res. 152 Watson, W.E. No. changed from M2751-11, address from 115 Germain.
M3058-11—Horgan, Miss G.A., Grad. Nurse, 235 City Rd. No. changed from M2912-41, address from 64 Spring.
R21-31—Jack, Andrew. Res. Riverside.
M3061-31—Johnston, Mrs. T. M. Res. 29 Adelaide. No. changed from M2696-31, address from 117 Adelaide.
M3057-11—Kee, C. A. Res. 33 Paddock. No. changed from M2960-21, address from 19 Horsefield.
W430-11—Mersereau, J. W. Res. Manawagonish Rd. No. changed from M1956-21, address from 43 Elliott Row.
M3073-41—Murphy, Miss Gertrude. Res. 11 Exmouth. No. changed from M2319-41, address from 207 Duke.
M1503-22—McNeil, Jas. A. Res. 249 King East.
M2932-21—McLaughlin, John F., Res. 41 Elliott Row. No. changed from M2815-11, address from 77 Exmouth.
M696-41—McCrossin, H. E. Res. 341 Marsh Road. No. changed from M614-11.
W147-21—McCafferty, J. E. Res. 13 Clifton. No. changed from W198-41, address from 171 St. George.
M503-11—Millican, W. H. Res. Brunswick Place. No. changed from M1458-11, address from Douglas Avenue.
M1229-32—Pearson, A. F. Res. 322 Princess. No. changed from M2984-41, address from 68 Mecklenburg.
M514-12—Phinney, C. F. Res. Rockland Ave. No. changed from M2119-11.
M1984-31—Potter, Edwin. Res. 19 Murray.

NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION ACT

R. S. C. Chapter 115.

The New Brunswick Provincial Department of Public Works hereby gives notice that it has, under Section 7 of the said Act, deposited with the Minister of Public Works at Ottawa, and in the District Registrar of the Land Registry District of Queens County, New Brunswick, at Gagetown, Queens County, N. B., a description of the site and the plans for the proposed new Upper Jemseg Bridge over Jemseg River, Parish of Cambridge, Queens County, N. B.

And take notice that after the expiration of one month from the date of the first publication of this notice, the New Brunswick Provincial Department of Public Works will, under Section 7 of the said Act, apply to the Minister of Public Works at his office in the City of Ottawa for approval of the said site and plans, and for leave to construct the said Bridge.

Dated at Fredericton, N. B., this 29th day of April, 1916.

JOHN MORRISSY,
Minister of Public Works
Province of New Brunswick

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SAINT JOHN AND QUEBEC RAILWAY COMPANY

Notice to Contractors

Sealed tenders addressed to the undersigned at the office of the company, Fredericton, endorsed "Tender for Construction," will be received until noon on Friday, the fifth day of May, 1916, for the construction by sections of the uncompleted portions of this railway.

Plans and profiles with the specifications can be seen at the office of the company at Fredericton, N. B., where forms of tender may be obtained.

Tenders for each section are to be accompanied by a certified cheque on a chartered bank for the sum of $100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) made payable to the order of the Saint John and Quebec Railway Company, which cheque will be returned to the respective contractors whose tenders are not accepted. In case of the acceptance of any tender said cheque will be retained as a guarantee for the due completion of the contract.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

F. W. SUMNER,
President.

Fredericton, N. B., April 20th, 1916.

NOTICE.

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the New Brunswick Telephone Company, Limited, will be held in the Company's Office, Fredericton, N. B., on Thursday, May 18th, 1916 at four o'clock, p. m.

A. W. McMACKIN,
Secretary-Treasurer.

St. John, N. B., May 2nd, 1916.

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given to firms and individuals who sell provisions or other supplies to Stewards of Canadian Government Ships under this Department, that the Department is not responsible for debts contracted by such Stewards.

Clause No. 8 of Contract with Stewards covering the Victualling of such Ships reads as follows:—

"It is distinctly understood by the "parties hereto that the said Department shall not be responsible for any "debts contracted by the said Steward, and the said Steward agrees to "notify all persons with whom he "wishes to contract for the purchase "of any such provisions, store or groceries, and before contracting for "same, that the said Department shall "not be responsible for any debt to be "contracted by him in that or any "other respect."

G. J. DESBARATS,
Deputy Minister of the Naval Service.
Department of the Naval Service,
Ottawa, March 21, 1916.

Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.—95346.

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST LAND REGULATIONS

The sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old, may homestead a quarter-section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. Application must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the District. Entry by proxy may be made at any Dominion Lands Agency (but not Sub-Agency), on certain conditions.

Duties—Six months residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres, on certain conditions. A habitable house is required except where residence is performed in the vicinity.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter-section alongside his homestead. Price $3.00 per acre.

Duties—Six months residence in each of three years after earning homestead patent also 50 acres; extra cultivation. Pre-exemption patent may be obtained as soon as homestead patent, on certain conditions.

A settler who has exhausted his homestead right may take a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price $3.00 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate 50 acres and erect a house worth $300.

The area of cultivation is subject to reduction in case of rough, scrubby or stony land. Live stock may be substituted for cultivation under certain conditions.

W. W. CORY, C. M. G.,
Deputy of the Minister of Interior.

N. B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.—64398.

WANTED.

WANTED—Male Teacher having Grammar school license for Principalship Sussex Public Schools. There is a staff of eleven teachers doing grade work, Grades I-II. There are Manual Training, Domestic Science and Elementary Agriculture with School Garden Department. Apply with references to J. Arthur Freeze, secretary of trustees, Sussex, N. B.

WANTED — Four men to work around machine ship, also one iron moulder. Thompson Mfg. Co., Grand Bay.

BOY WANTED, apply to L. L. Sharpe & Son, King street.

WANTED—A maid. Apply to St. John County Hospital, East St. John.

WANTED—Immediately, a man to work in slaughter house Apply Jas. Shortall, 10 Lady Hammond Road, Halifax, N. S.

WANTED—Board in a private family by refined young man. Apply Boarder, Standard office.

WANTED—Bright boys from 14 to 16 years of age to learn the dry goods business. Apply immediately Manchester Robertson Allison, Limited.

WANTED—Two good strong steady boys. Good pay. Steady Work. Apply 30 Charlotte St.

WANTED.
Pin boy wanted at the Y. M. C. A. Wages $2.75 per week.

AGENTS WANTED.

AGENTS WANTED—Salesmen $50 per week, selling one-hand egg-beater. Sample and terms 25c. Money refunded if unsatisfactory. Collette Mfg. Company, Collingwood, Ont.

FOR SALE.

SAFES FOR SALE—We have two excellent fire-proof safes, medium size, both in excellent condition. Prices $35 and $65. F. A. Dykeman & Co.

FOR SALE—Steam tug "Victoria." Registered length 64'-", beam, 17'-4", depth, 6'-6" Engines fore and aft compound, 10" and 20"x16", surface condensing. Vertical boiler, 150 lbs. working pressure. Apply to H. A. Bayfield, East St. John Post Office. Phone Main 2824.

FOR SALE—Pure bred Berkshire Pigs for sale. R. W. Bates, Lower Jemseg.

STAMPS FOR SALE—Packages contain a good assortment. Send 10c. for a trial package. Write Box C. B., care Standard office.

SAW MILL PROPERTY FOR SALE OR RENT—Steam and water power plant in Victoria county is being offered at a very low cost for immediate sale. Suitable terms can be made for renting and sawing out this season's cut of spruce and hardwood. Capacity about three million feet. For further particulars write P. O. Box 376, St. John, N. B.

TO LET.

TO LET—Flat, central location, gas range, electric light, furnished or unfurnished. Immediate possession. Apply P. O. Box 1125.

TO LET—Lower flat, house 218 Rockland Road. All modern improvements. Apply to T. H. HALEY, 8 Charlotte St.

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19 Water Street.

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St. John, N. B.

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One of St. John's first class hotels for transient and permanent guests, Prince William Street.

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WHOLESALE LIQUORS.
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