



## Farmer Brown's Wonderful Adventures In the Moon.

BY MORDUE

(Continued from No. 145.)

### CHAPTER V.—CONTINUED.

"That is the Ice Mountain we have to climb."  
"It is very steep, Your Majesty."

"Yes, it is steep, but be not alarmed, our pioneers will make the ascent easy. See! they are at work already."

Farmer Brown looked and saw a number of the sprites busily engaged in cutting steps up the side of the mountain, and so quickly did they work that the army were soon enabled to gain the summit. Here each was given a piece of board.

"Now," said His Majesty, as he seated himself on his board and bade Farmer Brown do likewise, "Hold on firmly, and just let yourself go. Are you ready?"

"Yes," gasped Farmer Brown, who couldn't help feeling a little frightened as he looked down the glistening side of the mountain.

"All right! start us," cried the Man-in-the-Moon.

It was easy enough to start His Majesty, but Farmer Brown required a vast deal of shoving from a number of sprites before he could be started, but he soon overtook the Man-in-the-Moon and shot past him at a tremendous rate with his mouth wide open and his eyes staring wildly.

"Hold on! cling to your board!" called out His Majesty.

"Bless my heart, I should think so!" called back Farmer Brown.

"Well, how did you like it?" asked the Man-in-the-Moon, as they reached the bottom.

"Glorious! Your Majesty. Never experienced anything like it! So smooth and swift; not a jar or a shake."

"Considerably better sliding than you have on your planet, eh!"

"Our planet is not to be compared to this, Your Majesty, everything is so beautiful here."

"It is, so far as you have seen; but alas! all parts of my domain are not so beautiful; in fact, there are places where no one could live; but I will tell you more later, for I see one of the scouts coming this way."

The scout brought word that they were now close to the enemy's camp, who were totally unaware of their approach.

Silence was strictly enjoined as they moved forward to the attack. Before ascending the hill which hid them from the enemy—who were encamped in a valley below—the Man-in-the-Moon sent for two of his warriors and whispered to them to remain with Farmer Brown through the battle and take every care of him.

Then turning to Farmer Brown, he said:—"These are two of my most experienced warriors, called Squibbs and Squibbles; they will take you into the company they belong to. And now I must leave you, as the attack is about to commence," and waving his hand His Majesty hurried forward to speak to his General.

### CHAPTER VI.

THE BATTLE

Clear and shrill sounded the bugles for the charge, and with a cry of "Long live the Man-in-

the Moon," they rushed down the hill, the archers leading. Though taken by surprise, the General of Queen Venus' army quickly formed his men into a solid phalanx and awaited the onslaught.

Showers of arrows now began to fall fast and furious between the two armies, but as His Majesty's drew near, their archers fell back and allowed the spearmen to advance. These came forward at the double-quick, their long, slender spears forming a glittering line of steel. Faster and faster sped the arrows from the bows of the enemy as the spearmen advanced. But on they came, with so fierce a rush that the archers were swept aside. Crash—steel has met steel, but the solid phalanx remains unbroken. Again and again did General Quicke lead his men to the charge, but each time the enemy's ranks remained unbroken.

Finding it impossible to force his way through, General Quicke commanded the retreat to be sounded, for he saw he must try other tactics.

When the retreat sounded Squibbs and Squibbles had fairly to drag Farmer Brown back; for, by this time, he was worked up to the highest state of excitement.

"A retreat, you dogs!" panted he, in great wrath. "Not a bit of me will retreat while I have a leg to stand on! It is a shame to run away!"

"But we are not running away; we will charge again. See, they are already forming."

"Dear! dear! Well, it is a queer way to fight, I must say, running away and then back again."

Suddenly the bands of His Majesty's army struck up a blast of such martial music that it sent the blood tingling through Farmer Brown's veins and made him long for the fighting to recommence.

"What are we waiting for? the men are all ready. Why don't we charge?"

"Have patience. Really, Farmer Brown, you surprise me!" chuckled Squibbs. "I had no idea you would make such a valiant warrior. Your geese seem to be imbued with the same lively spirit as yourself; look up yonder and see what a dance they are having."

Farmer Brown glanced up and saw the whole corps of geese over the enemy rising and falling in time to the music.

"Bless my heart! whatever are they going to do?"

"They are waiting for the signal to dash down upon the enemy. The scouts are armed with long spears; these they will thrust with great quickness among the enemy, and then, when they are thrown into confusion, we will charge."

"Wonderful! wonderful!" murmured Farmer Brown.

Just then the music changed into a piercing wail, and down dashed the corps of geese with shrill cackles and, to the dismay of the enemy, they found themselves attacked from above.

Thrown into wild disorder, they broke their ranks and fled, hotly pursued by His Majesty's army. Several times did the General who commanded Queen Venus' army succeed in rallying his men, but they were as often routed. But he endeavoured to make one stand more, and the soldiers, animated by his gallant conduct, took up their position on a slight eminence and once more faced their adversaries.

Farmer Brown and the two warriors were among the foremost of their pursuers as they turned a bend in the valley round which the enemy had vanished from view.

"Back! back! Farmer Brown," cried Squibbs and Squibbles, as soon as they saw the position occupied by the enemy. "We must wait for the rest to come up, or we will be cut to pieces."

"But with a shriek of "Long live His Majesty," he darted towards the enemy, brandishing his spear. Upon seeing this, the two warriors followed, resolving to die with him rather than be false to their trust.

"Seize that tall warrior and the other two. We will keep them as hostages," called out the General.

The three were soon overpowered and made prisoners and marched off just as cries of "To the rescue! to the rescue of Farmer Brown," fell upon their ears.

They were hurried quickly along till they came to a place where a great deal of the baggage and other stores of the enemy were drawn up under a strong guard. Here they were given in charge of the officer who commanded.

"A queer specimen," said the officer, as he eyed Farmer Brown. "Said you he was in the Man-in-the-Moon's army?"

"Yes, taken along with these other two; and the orders were to see that they were well guarded."

"I will take them to Her Majesty; she may gain some information from them."

Accordingly they were conducted to a tent before which stood two soldiers with drawn swords. Above the door of the tent hung a shield of wondrous beauty, from which shone a mingling of most exquisite lights, but so soft and mellow as not to dazzle the eye.

"It is the shield of Queen Venus," whispered Squibbs to Farmer Brown. "I have heard tell of its beauty."

As they entered, they saw on a richly ornamented seat one of the most lovely beings what eye ever rested upon. This beautiful little woman was dressed in a suit of armour of delicate and intricate workmanship, over which hung a mantle of silk.

"Whom have we here?" she asked, as the officers, bowing low, presented the three.

"Prisoners taken in battle, Your Majesty."

"Say you so? Then our General is gaining ground, and before long he will send me the Man-in-the-Moon, ay! and his whole army will come as prisoners to my tent. The victory is ours, is it not?" she said, turning to the officer.

"Your Majesty, pardon me, but the General has just sent word that he is making a last desperate stand, and in case that fails we are to hold ourselves in readiness to flee."

"What!" cried Her Majesty, starting up, "then I shall myself go to the field of battle and take command. Bring me my shield and helmet."

"May I beg of Your Majesty," interrupted Farmer Brown, timidly, "not to think of such a thing—"

"How now! where are your manners, sir, that you presume to dictate to me?" And clapping her hands, she said to the warrior who answered the summons, "Chop this man's head off."

"And ours also," cried Squibbs and Squibbles, each frantically grasping hold of Farmer Brown.

The warrior hesitated, and looked enquiringly at Her Majesty, who thereupon ordered them to be taken from her presence. At this moment a messenger came running with breathless haste to say that the General was defeated and the whole army in flight. All was confusion and excitement for some moments, but finally Her Majesty, seeing that their case was now hopeless, gave the order to commence their retreat.

### CHAPTER VII.

FARMER BROWN RECEIVES A LESSON IN  
ASTRONOMY.

As Queen Venus and her body-guard fled, they were from time to time overtaken by fugitives from the main army. These brought word that the Man-in-the-Moon's army was still pursuing and that many of their warriors had been slain in the last stand made.

As night came on they halted for a few hours rest before continuing on their way.

(To be continued.)