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## 'UP-HILL WORK.' A LIFE SKETCH.

BY SYLVANUS COBB, JR.

"Ah! me! This is up-hill work!"  
So said Albert Fairfield in the morning of his life.

And how many thousands of earth's toiling sons are giving breath to the same mournful complaint.  
"It is up-hill work!" sighs the boy turning his eye from the page of his lesson-book and gazing out beyond the boat-school-room to the hills and woods that rise so invitingly in the distance. "It is up-hill work!" says the youth, bending over his bench, and thinking of the time when his apprenticeship will expire, and he can be his own master, and work for himself. "It is up-hill work!" says the laborer, as he wipes the sweat from his brow, and gazes off upon the long stretch of ground yet to be subdued ere he can count upon the harvest. "It is up-hill work!" groans the poor debtor, bowing beneath the weight of a long score yet to be overcome.

Aye—so it is. It is up-hill work—all of it.

"Ah! me! This is up-hill work!"  
Albert Fairfield said to me the second time. When he first spoke I dropped my eyes to the ground and thought, "Albert was two-and-twenty years of age, and was by trade a machinist. He loved Sophy Winthrop and Sophy Winthrop loved him. Sophy was an orphan, two years younger than Albert; she was my niece, and her home was beneath my roof. She was an only child of my sister, and I loved her as though she had been my own. When Albert Fairfield asked me if he might have Sophy for his wife, I wanted time to consider. I knew that he was a young man of unblemished character, of excellent standing; and of fair intellect. I knew that he was poor but that was nothing against him. I made myself sure that Sophy loved him, and then I gave him my answer. I told him when he could pay for a home he should have my niece for his wife."

Said I— "Sophy is willing to marry you now, but I do not think it best. I should prefer that you would at least own a house before you marry. If you will purchase the house, Sophy shall furnish it from top to bottom—so her expenditure will be about equal to yours, and you may then commence your married life with a good start. With another I might not have made this stipulation; but I knew Albert's weakness, and I sought to overcome it. I knew that he had powers enough, but they were not self-reliant ones. He had yet a lesson to learn in life, and I thought it better to learn it before marriage than after. When I first gave this conditional consent to his marriage with my niece, he received it gratefully, and said he would go ahead. He thought then only of the prize to be won.

A year had elapsed, and Albert Fairfield seemed weary and disheartened.  
"Ah! me! This is up-hill work!" And he leaned back, and he told his hand upon his knee.

"Of course it is," said I. "Had I not known that it would be up-hill work I should not have asked you to do it."  
He looked up at me inquiringly.

"How steep is the hill?" I asked him.  
He still gazed upon me and I repeated the question.

"How steep is the hill?"  
"It is steep and long," he replied.

"But you are part way up," I suggested.

He shook his head, and said, "It will take me a long time to climb to the top."

"Others have reached top before you?"

"Yes."

"Thousands of them?"

"Yes."

"And they were no stronger than you are?"

"But," said Albert, after a little hesitation, "they may have had more help."

"Ah, my boy," I returned, with an admonitory shake of my head, "you are showing me your weakness. Do you remember a year ago, the conversation we had?"

"Yes."

"You asked me for the hand of my niece. I intimated to you that she could pay, as much towards furnishing the house as it would cost you to build it. I believe it would be better for you both if you could commence on the same level. As far as means were concerned, Sophy was in advance. (Circumstances had placed her upon the top of the hill.) I showed you where she stood and you promised me that you would go at work to reach her. Has your heart failed you?"

Albert made no reply.

"Do you love Sophy less?"

He answered quickly: "No, no, I love her better than ever."

"And yet you would sit down and fold your hands upon the hill-side. Albert I did not think this of you. With such a prize on the top I had supposed that you would push on without faltering. Look—look, and see the work you have before you—see how many have gone up in advance. Look, Albert, from where you stand. Look up, and look down. Will you join those at the top or will you fall back, heart-faint and weak, and join those at the bottom?"

He bowed his head reflectively.  
"Up-hill work!" I cried, resting my hand for a moment upon his shoulder. "What is life but a hill? There may be a state for instance, for drone and stroller, down in the endless valley; but the Life of the living acting man is up the hill—up, up, the higher the better. Do you tell me you have not disappointments? Then overcome them. Don't let them overcome you. If you have found the path choked up by some impediment, move it out of your way. If you cannot move it then work your way over it, or round it, as may be best. Look up, Albert, and see who stands highest in the world. See who have most honor and most respect. You shall find them to be those who have met and overcome their most misfortune in their way up the hill. Look up—look up, my son, and behold the proud conqueror. See the man whom all delight to honor. See what he did in his journey up the hill. What did he do with misfortunes? He bent them to his will, and changed them in blessings. He made them stepping-stones of experience, and pushed his way upward with renewed energy."

"Do you call it up-hill work?" Albert asked.  
"Aye—it is up-hill work—glorious honorable work. And what will you do? You are on the hill even now? Will you go back to the valley of shades—will you sit listlessly where you are—or will you summon your manhood and move up? Answer me."

The young man bowed his head for a little while upon his hands, and then he "gazed up into my face." I saw that the current of his feelings had changed. His lips were set more firmly; a manly flush was upon his cheek; and a new fire was in his eye. He arose to his feet; he swept the hair away from his brow; and presently he said—

"Wait. You shall see."  
"I knew what he meant—I knew how strongly his resolution had been fixed; but I could not suffer him to depart without one more word of counsel."

"Albert," I said, taking his hand, "suffer me to speak once more. In your upward march you will meet obstacles, and the most perplexing of obstacles will be such as result from your own oversight and indolence. Under no more shall you. Every moment of repining is a step backward; every thought of regret is a barrier thrown across your path; and every feeling of envy, spent upon those who are ahead of you, makes additional load which you must bear with you as you go."

He said that he understood me; and he told me again to wait.

I did wait. I waited patiently, and with growing hope. I watched the youth, and I saw that he had commenced the up-hill work in earnest. From a hesitating, dreaming, wishing man he grew to be a living, acting, working man. He walked the street no longer with his head bent; but he walked erect, with his gaze fixed straight before him. He grew stronger and stouter—I could see it in the firmness of his step, in the outgrowing of his chest, and in the healthy tone of his face.

Two years more, and Albert Fairfield came to me again; and this time he claimed his wife.

"You have your house?" I said.

He handed me a deed by which was conveyed to him one of the prettiest cottage residences in the town.

"I should have built," he explained, "but the owner of this was about to leave the country, and he gave me a grand bargain—so grand a bargain, sir, that I have paid for the property, and have some three hundred dollars left."

"You shall have your wife," I told him.

"She is ready to marry with you, and she has been ready this long time—been ready with her love and changeless devotion. Go to her, Albert, and make such arrangements as you please."

Albert and Sophy were married, and when they were settled down in their new home, I went to see them. After tea—after I had seen what a paradise of earthly bliss their home was—I drew Albert aside, and asked him if I had not been right.

He told me that I had.

"You have had to work?" I asked.

"Yes."

"And you have met with trials?"

"Yes."

"And now, in this hour, how do you regard the labor of the past?"

He caught me by the hand, and, while his eye beamed, and his face flushed, with deep feeling, he said:

"In this hour, standing as I do upon the top of the first grand eminence of life, I look back upon the past as a pleasant scene of hope and of useful labor. I have met with trials, and I have met with disappointments. In the hour when they came they seemed dark and thankless, but now looking back upon them from the hill of success, I find them to have been really so many blessings, made so by the effort of own will. Ah, sir, you were right. The only true life is that which moves upward as it moves onward, and the only effective labor is that which leads us up the hill. The lesson, to be a safe one, must be above us. Yes, yes—you were right, and I thank God that I have had the strength to follow your counsel."

## JEFF. DAVIS'S MESSAGE TO THE SOUTHERN CONGRESS.

The Richmond papers contain the message of Jeff Davis to the Southern Congress.

"After the usual congratulations, he says: 'The operations of the army, soon to be partially interrupted by the approaching winter have afforded a protection to the country, and shed a lustre upon its arms through the trying vicissitudes of more than one arduous campaign, which entitle our brave volunteers to our praise and our gratitude.'"

Further on he says: "After more than seven months of war the enemy have not only failed to extend their occupancy of our soil, but new States and Territories have been added to our Confederacy; while instead of their threatening march of unchecked conquest they have been driven at more than one point to assume the defensive, and upon a fair comparison between the two belligerents, as to men, military means and financial condition, the Confederate States are relatively much stronger now than when the struggle commenced."

He speaks in high terms of the people of Missouri, who have conducted the war, in the face of almost unparalleled difficulties, with a spirit and success alike worthy of themselves and of the great cause in which they are struggling.

"Finding that the Confederate States were about to be invaded through Kentucky, and that her people, after being deceived into mistaken security, were unarmed and in danger of being subjugated by the Federal forces, our armies were marched to that State to repel the enemy and prevent their occupation of certain strategic points which would have given them great advantages in the contest—a step which was justified not only by the necessities of self defense on the part of the Confederate States, but also by a desire to aid the people of Kentucky. It was never intended by the Confederate States to conquer or coerce that State, but on the contrary it was declared by our Generals that they would withdraw their troops if the Federal Government would do likewise. Proclamation was also made of the desire to respect the neutrality of Kentucky, and the intention to abide by the wishes of her people as soon as they were free to express their opinions."

"These declarations were approved by me and I should regard it as one of the best effects of the march of our troops in Kentucky, if it should end in giving to her people liberty of choice, and a free opportunity to decide their own destiny according to their own will."

"While," he says, "the enemy has been chiefly instrumental in prosecuting the great contest, the Navy has also been effective in full proportions to its means."

He speaks of the difficulties attending to mail transportation, some of which can be overcome only by time, and the improved condition of the country, on the restoration of peace, but others by legislation.

"As to the financial system, it has worked well so far, and promises good results for the future. To the extent that Treasury Notes may be issued, the Government is enabled to borrow money without interest, and thus facilitate the conduct of the war. This extent is measured by the portion of the field of circulation which these notes can be made to occupy. The proportion of the field thus occupied depends again upon the amount of the debts for which they are receivable, and when due not only the Confederate and State Governments but to corporations and individuals and payable in this medium a large amount of it may be circulated at par. There is every reason to believe that Confederate Treasury Note is fast becoming such a medium. The provision that these notes shall be a convertible into Confederate stock bearing 8 per cent. interest, at the pleasure of the holder, insures them against a depreciation below the value of that stock, and no considerable fall in that value need be feared so long as the interest shall be punctually paid. The punctual payment of this interest has been secured by the act passed by you at the last session, imposing

such a rate of taxation as must provide sufficient means for that purpose."

"But not content with violating our rights under the law of nations, at home they have extended these injuries to us within other jurisdictions. The distinguished gentlemen whom, with your approval at the last session, I commissioned to represent the Confederacy at certain foreign courts, have been seized by a Captain of a United States ship on board a British steamer, on their voyage from the neutral Spanish port of Havana to England. The United States have thus claimed a general jurisdiction over the high seas, and by entering a British ship sailing under its country's flag, violating the rights of embassy, for the most part held sacred even among barbarians by seizing our ministers whilst under the protection and within the dominions of a neutral nation."

"These gentlemen were as much under the jurisdiction of the British Government upon that ship and beneath its flag, as if they had been on its soil, and a claim on the part of the United States to seize them on the street of London would have been as well founded as that to apprehend them where they were taken."

## Extraordinary Incidents on the Niagara River.

We are indebted to Mr. Charles Trebble of Chippewa, for the following, written on the 4th inst:

About 6 o'clock last evening two scows arrived from Port Robinson by the tug Whip. The Hotspur, Capt. Martin, was loaded with 1,250 bushels barley, the property of D. Thorpson, Esq., of Indiana, and 252 barrels flour owned by Jas. Donelson, Esq., of Mount Healy, and the Atlantic, Capt. Tibbs, was loaded with lumber. When about a quarter of a mile from the place they separated from the tug for the purpose of bringing up when reaching the dock, but the freshet causing such an immense current baffled every exertion to bring either of the vessels ashore or the tug of rendering them timely assistance. Herculean like they swept on with the mighty element, bidding defiance to everything that opposed them. The ponderous swing bridge that spans the Welland river at this place instantly gave way, causing no greater impediment in their way than the pillars of the temple to the strength of Sampson. Disregarding the entreaties of man and the cries of a woman, they boldly stood for that river (Niagara) just above the cataract. Finding every effort unavailable as to saving either vessel or cargo, a boat was immediately manned by two brave hearted fellows, John Cooper and David Lauzen, who after great exertion and imminent risk effected the rescue of the females. Capt. Tibbs wife and the balance of the crew. The two vessels at this period were sweeping on towards the mighty cataract more majestically than ever, soon entering the rapids and almost at the same moment lost to our vision, when all was given up for lost. Here comes the almost fabulous part of my narrative, but being on the spot I vouch for its authenticity, as every one in this neighborhood will support. The Hotspur had a valuable black horse on board which was found this morning unhurt, grazing about 150 feet above the precipice with halter about his head fastened to staunchion, measuring 8 feet long and 3 1/2 by four which was the only visible portion of the wreck above and almost the largest portion of the vessel seen below the Falls. The first time in the history of the world as far as known that a domesticated animal entered the rapids in the middle of the river and reached the Table Rock in safety.

The scow Atlantic threaded her way down among the rocks and breaers, bringing up at Mr. Streets Pagoda Island, when she was found this morning with the greater part of her cargo, without a particle of water in her cabin and her table as spread for supper when so unceremoniously deserted last night. Scarcely a plate or teacup moved from its position or the lamp removed from its stand which must have cheered and bid defiance to the raging element in its onward course, for it ceased only to perform its functions when the liquid it contained was completely consumed.—Toronto Leader.

## Something About Furs.

A large proportion of the furs used in the world are cured or dressed in London, and although England does not use expensive furs, yet the British metropolis is the great market of the world. The ermine is considered the most precious and next to that the Russian sable. But the real sables are rare, for according to the latest Russian statistics, only twenty-five thousand skins of this beautiful little animal were produced during an entire year, in the czar's empire. The skins paid them are almost fabulous, a fine set being worth two thousand dollars. The sable for lining one of the Emperor's cloaks

exhibited at the World's Fair in 1861, was valued at £1,000. Next to the sable in popularity and costliness ranks the mink. American Sable—a fur rich and high priced, yet so fashionable as to be almost universally sought for. The Hudson Bay sable is next in value, and are almost as expensive as the Russian. Next is the Mink—pre-eminent for beauty, wear and durability. It is not, perhaps, so delicate looking as the Stone Marten, or so artful looking as the African Monkey, or so captivating as the Ermine, but it is quite and graceful and more thrifty than them all. Besides the Mink, the Stone Marten, the Fitch, the Siberian Squirrel, and the Persian and Russian Lamb, are in daily use. The skin of the Black Bear forms the most magnificent sleigh robes—a good turnout of which including robe and apron, costs upwards of \$125. The Canadian furs most esteemed in Europe, and of which they have no representatives, are the Black Fox and the silver Fox. These are found only in the Hudson Bay Territory, or on the north shore of the St. Lawrence. The Raccoon and the Muskrat are also confined exclusively to this continent. In England valuable furs are, but little worn—the climate not requiring the lengthened wear of furs at any one time. The Muskrat and the Rabbit, and the American Hare, dyed form therefore the bulk of the furs worn there. The value of those exported from the United States 1857, was \$1,116,041.

## THE HON. JAMES BROWN, IN SCOTLAND.

The Hon. James Brown, of New Brunswick, lectured in Glamis on Saturday evening, and in Charleston of Glamis on Monday evening. In both places the meetings were largely attended, especially the latter, the school-room being crowded to excess, many standing outside unable to obtain admission. In this parish Mr. Brown (being the place where he was for the most part brought up) was recognized by many of his old friends, and acquaintances at the meeting, with whom he expressed much joy. He commenced his lecture by giving a description of the changes which had passed since his departure from the parish, alluding more especially to the farm on which he spent his younger days, which is now divided between Jerry Hillock and little Gilmundie. He here created a laugh by his allusion to the burn in the Glen, which, by the late rains, has done great damage to the surrounding fields. He also referred to the friends whom he knew in the district, and very feelingly touched upon those who departed this life since he left Scotland, also intimating his remembrance of the ombones in the churchyard here. In reference to this place, he said that the best part of his education, so as to suit him for a colonist was received by his climbing the trees for crows' nests, he having been employed in New Brunswick in laying out roads, in his capacity of Surveyor-General, which caused him, from the nature of the colony, to have frequently to climb trees. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Brown compared the stone and seal houses of Bindare with the houses of New Brunswick, holding the latter to be superior, which called forth the laugh of his audience. When he spoke of the parties he wished for colonists, he said—"We want men and women. We want honest men and bonie lasses. (A laugh.) Not men but women too. We encourage early marriage. We do not wish them to live separately, but want people used to country work—strong, hale and hearty men and women. All of you who are well off and have a prospect for yourself and family I would not advise to come; but those not contented, and without a prospect for their family, would be better to come to the colony at once. Single women are sure to get married when they go there." (A laugh.) A good number of the female sex were present on Monday night.—Dundee Advertiser, Oct. 17.

CONTRADICTION.—The Halifax papers now say, that the report to which publicity was given at their News Room, respecting the arrival of the Steamer "Trent" in England, and that a Frigate had been despatched to America, was incorrect. The error is said, originated in this way.—Messrs. Stedell and Mason were expected in England, and an American ship-of-war, the James K. Adams, was lying off the coast of England waiting to intercept them; and the fact having come to the notice of the authorities at home, a frigate was sent off to watch the movements of the American vessel, and if necessity demanded, to see that the vessel which the Southern Commissioners were aboard of, was not interfered with.—[News.]

Why will next year be the same as last? Because last year was eighteen hundred, and sixty, and next year will be eighteen hundred and sixty—two.

THE QUEEN will return next Christmas upon the Isle of Wight.











