AMERICAN SENTINEL.

$1 PER ANNUM. WESTMINSTER, MD., SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1897. VOL. 66--NO. 10.

TRUSTEE'S PUBLIC SALE OF A

Valuable Farm,

IN FRANKLIN DISTRICT.

Pursuant to a decree of the Circuit Court for Carroll county, in cause No. 3487 Equity, of said Court, the subscriber, as trustee thereby appointed, will offer at public sale, on the premises, on

TUESDAY, MARCH 23rd, 1897,

at 1 o'clock, P. M., all that farm, situated in Franklin district, Carroll county, Md., about two miles southeast from Taylorsville, on the Gilliss public road, one mile east from the Mt. Airy road, now occupied by G. Washington Horn, tenant, containing

131 ACRES, 11 PERCHES OF LAND,

more or less, being the same land devised by the late David Dudderar, of Frederick county, deceased, to his daughter, Ellen R. Runkles, wife of Upton Runkles, during her life time, with power to dispose thereof at her death to any of said testator's family she might choose, which power she executed by her will, admitted to probate after her death, by the Orphans' Court of Carroll county. Said land adjoins lands of Thomas Pickett on the north and Dennis W. Dudderar on the south. The improvements consist of a large Log Weatherboarded Dwelling House, two stories high, with seven rooms in front and back building, and good cellar; good sized frame bank barn; wagon shed and corn crib attached to barn; carriage and tool house, meat house, chicken house and necessary outbuildings, well and pump of excellent water near the dwelling, with arrangements convenient for watering stock, &c. There is a large apple orchard of well assorted kinds, about 20 pear trees and all the usual kinds of fruit and a good garden. The improvements are all in good condition.

About 30 acres of this farm consists of Woodland of the best kind. The rest is arable land, well laid off and fenced, of good quality of soil, and productive. It has been well farmed and all limed over recently.

This farm lies in a good neighborhood, convenient to schoolhouse, churches, stores and postoffice. No better chance than this for a good bargain is now on the market.

The tenant's right to one-half of the grain in the ground, about 25 or 30 acres, will be reserved; but the other half thereof will be offered and sold with the land, on terms to be mentioned at sale. The said tenant will show the land to all desiring to purchase; and for further particulars call on the trustee, living near Wartzelsburg.

Terms of Sale as prescribed by the Court are:—That one-third of the purchase money is to be paid in cash on day of sale, or ratification thereof by the court; one-third in one year, and one-third in two years from sale, with interest from the day of sale, the credit payments to be secured by the notes of the purchaser with sureties to be approved by trustee.

ALBIN L. DUVALL, Trustee.
Reifsnider & Reifsnider, }
Geo. L. Stockdale, } Solicitors.
Joseph M. Parke, }
F. A. Crawford Auct. fe-27-ts

Executor's Sale

OF ONE OF THE MOST

DESIRABLE RESIDENCES

In the City of Westminster, Maryland.

By virtue of the power and authority contained in the last will and testament of Lucretia E. Van Bibber, deceased, and an order of the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, the undersigned, as executor, will sell at public sale, on the premises, on

SATURDAY, MARCH 6th, A. D. 1897,

at 2 o'clock, P. M., all that lot or parcel of land, containing

17 819 SQUARE FEET, More or Less

The improvement thereon is a large Two-Story and Attic Frame and Weatherboarded DWELLING HOUSE, consisting of twelve rooms, bath room and water closet, slate mantels, furnace with hot water, gas and all modern conveniences. Chandeliers, gas fixtures and range will be sold with the house.

This residence has been erected within the past three years and is constructed of materials of the best quality. It is situate on Willis street, opposite the house of the Order of the Holy Cross, is convenient to Churches, Railroad Station, &c., and is the same where in Miss Van Bibber resided at the time of her decease. The location of this property, character of the building, and ample ground makes it worthy the attention of persons desiring a convenient and attractive residence. Possession given upon compliance with the terms of sale.

Terms of Sale.—One-third cash on the day of sale, or on the ratification thereof, the residue in two equal payments, the one payable in six and the other in twelve months from the day of sale, the credit payments to be secured by the notes of the purchaser or purchasers, with approved security, bearing interest from the day of sale, or all cash; at the option of the purchaser.

CHAS. T. REIFSNIDER, Executor.
Jno. T. Diffenbaugh, Auct. fe-6-ts

Mortgagee's Sale

OF A

Valuable Farm,

In Woolery's district, Carroll county, Md.

By virtue of a power of sale contained in a deed of mortgage from Hanson T. Bartholow and Mary Ann Bartholow his wife, to John G. Shipley, bearing date the 27th day of March, 1889, and recorded among the Real Estate Mortgage Records of Carroll county, in Liber F. T. S. No. 14, folio 310, &c., the undersigned mortgagee will offer at public sale, at the Court House Door, in the city of Westminster, Md., on

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10th, 1897,

at 1 o'clock, P. M., all those parts of tracts of land containing

97 ACRES OF LAND, More or Less,

situate, lying and being in Carroll county, Md., on the Nicodemus road, about ¼ mile east of Bird Hill, and adjoining the lands of Hanson Davis, Mrs. H. Shilling and others. It is improved by a two-Story Dwelling House, in good condition, good Barn and other necessary outbuildings; water near the house. It is convenient to churches and schools.

Terms of Sale, are:—One-third of the purchase money to be paid cash on the day of sale, or upon the ratification thereof by the Court, the residue in two equal payments of six and twelve months, to be secured by the notes of the purchaser, with approved security, bearing interest from the day of sale, or all cash, at the option of the purchaser.

JOHN C. SHIPLEY, Mortgagee.
Jas. A. C. Bond, Solicitor.
P. A. Gorsuch Auct. fe-13-ts

STATEMENT

Showing the condition of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Carroll County, Md, Dec. 31st, 1896.

ASSETS.

Value of Real Estate and Ground Rents owned by the Company, less amount of encumbrance thereon	$	2,935.00
Stocks and Bonds absolutely owned by the Company (market value)		17,940.00
Premium notes in force	$ 297,088.00	
Total admitted Assets..		$20,875.00

LIABILITIES.

Premium Notes in force	$297,088.00	
Surplus as regards policy-holders		$20,875.00
Total Income	10,993.31	
Total Expenditures	10,993.31	
Amount of Policies in force in United States on 31st December, 1896.	4,330,164.00	
Amount of Policies written in Maryland during the year 1896	424,750.00	
Premiums received on Maryland business in 1896	1,698.88	
Losses paid in Maryland during 1896	7,260.09	
Losses incurred in Maryland during 1896	7,260.09	

STATE OF MARYLAND,
Insurance Depart., Commissioner's office,
Annapolis, February 17th, 1897.

In compliance with the Code of Public General Laws, I hereby certify that the above is a true abstract from the statement of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Carroll County, Md., to December 31st, 1896, now on file in this Department.

F. ALBERT KURTZ, Insurance Commissioner.
feb-20-3t

Sawed Lumber.

THE undersigned is prepared to fill orders for Sawed Oak Lumber of all kinds, for House and Barn Frames, Fence Boards, Palings &c. I have for sale White Oak Lumber, in any length or thickness. All orders will be delivered if desired.

WILLIAM Y FRIZZELL,
oct-21-tf Bloom, Carroll county, Md.

You surely will not buy a wheel without first seeing our '97 Crescents.

Such beauties and backed by the right kind of a guarantee.

Leave us your name for a catalogue.

Geo. Mather,
AGENT.
At the New York Bargain House,
Westminster.

Still Booming!

Our Removal Sale, we mean. Are you taking advantage of the opportunity it affords you to secure bargains? Such rare values as these are not to be picked up every day, but we have enough, we think, to supply you all, if you don't delay.

Men's Fine Fur Alpine Hats	97 cents.
Best Quality Felt Window Shades	10 cents.
Good Holland Shades, mounted on Spring Rollers	25 cents.
Good Calico, per yard,	4 cents.
Fruit of the Loom Muslin, per yard,	7 cents.
Table Oil Cloth, per yard,	12½ cents.
Odds and Ends in Misses' Shoes	50 cents.
Ladies' Fine Dongola Shoes, warranted,	$1.50.
10 piece Decorated Toilet Set	$2.25.
Two Quart Granite Coffee Pot	39 cents.
Two and a Half Quart Stew Kettle	22 cents.
Heavy 10 Quart one piece Dish Pan	12½ cents.
Extra Heavy 14 Quart Dish Pan	19 cents.
Painted Chamber Buckets	25 cents.

Yours to serve,

NEW YORK BARGAIN HOUSE,

T. W Mather 44. W. Main Street, Westminster.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Galvanized Fencing Wire at prices that have never been known to the trade.

Lead and Oil so cheap that anyone can afford to Paint, this season.

Ice is plenty. We have a large stock of the best make of Freezers and Refrigerators.

Don't you need a Gasoline or Oil Stove for summer cooking? We have them; they are cheap.

Door and Window Screens of various styles.

A full line of First-class Cooking Stoves and Ranges, of long established reputation, at reduced prices.

A call will soon convince you that the bottom has been completely knocked out of the price of Nails.

Glass, Oils, Paints and Putty, Plastering Hair, Cement, and in fact everything in the Building Hardware line can be found, as well as low prices, at the old established stand of

GILBERT & GEHR,
Cor. Main & Liberty Sts.,
Westminster, Md.

Plumbing, Heating, Spouting and Tin Roofing is our specialty. ja-20-1y

A Chance to Make A GOOD INVESTMENT.

I will close out my entire Winter Stock of Goods at wonderfully low figures. I have some beautiful.

FINE SUITINGS,

that I will make up at rock bottom prices. They are first-class, suitable for almost any season and almost half price. They must go, and now is your chance. Also, a large stock of

GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS,

such as Underwear, Shirts, Drawers, Gloves, Neckwear, of every description, at and below, cost. I will make this special offer for the next thirty days, intending to make some change in business. Come and get the first choice.

Now is your chance to get a fine first-class

HAT,

latest style. All new goods, as I have no old accumulated stock to offer. Will give you a great bargain.

A lot of Gum Coats and Mackintoshes at half price.

If you are looking for a good investment now is the time to get it.

JOHN T. ANDERS,
oc-25 W. Main St. Westminster Md.

Westminster Conservatories.

Having completed my new Greenhouses, I am now prepared to furnish any kind of Cut Flowers. Keep on hand Choice Roses, Carnations, Smilax, Chrysanthemums, &c. I am also prepared to furnish any kind of funeral or wedding design. Finest in the county at moderate prices.

Greenhouses, Cemetery Gate, Westminster, Md. Flowers for sale and orders also received at A. H. Wentz's Jewelry Store.

Respectfully,
oc-19-tf MARIA A. BROOKS.

BEST and Cheapest Refrigerators, at GILBERT & GEHR.

1897. The Sun! 1897.

Baltimore, Md.

The paper of the people, for the people and with the people.

Honest in Motive. Fearless in Expression. Sound in Principle. Unswerving in its Allegiance to right theories and right practices.

The Sun publishes all the news all the time, but it does not allow its columns to be degraded by unclean, immoral or purely sensational matter. Editorially, The Sun is the consistent and unchanging champion and defender of popular rights and interests against political machines and monopolies of every character. Independent in all things, extreme in none. It is for good laws, good government and good order. By mail Fifty Cents a month, Six Dollars a year.

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The Weekly Sun publishes all the news of each week, giving complete accounts of all events of interest throughout the world. As an Agricultural paper the Weekly Sun is unsurpassed. It is edited by writers of practical experience, who know what farming means and what farmers want in an agricultural journal. It contains regular reports of the work of the agricultural experiment stations throughout the country, of the proceedings of farmers' clubs and institutes, and the discussion of new methods and ideas in agriculture. Its market reports, Poultry Department and Veterinary column are particularly valuable to country readers. Every issue contains Stories, Poems, Household and Puzzle Columns, a variety of interesting and instructive selected matter and other features, which make it a welcome visitor in city and country homes alike.

One dollar a year. Inducements to getters up of clubs for the Weekly Sun. Both the Daily and Weekly Sun mailed free of postage in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Payments invariably in advance. Address

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SUCCESSOR TO DR. CHARLES BILLINGSLEA,

DENTIST.

Office 114 East Main Street, Opposite Union National Bank, Westminster, Md.

Will visit the following places:
UNION BRIDGE—1st Wednesday of each month. 23-tfs

New Coach and Carriage Factory,

PFEFFER & SON,

Manufacturers of

VEHICLES of all KINDS.

REPAIRING AND PAINTING done in the best manner.

Thirty years experience.

We guarantee that all work entrusted to us will be turned out in the most satisfactory manner.

Call and see us, we will save you money.

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Protect Yourselves from Loss BY WIND-STORMS.

Wind-Storm Insurance Policies Issued very low and losses promptly adjusted. No charges for Policy to persons who have their Fire insurance in this Agency. Drop a postal card to or call on

JAMES E. SMITH,
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No. 7 Court Street,
ap-28-tf Westminster, Md.

W. B. Wooden, C. E.,

Civil Engneer and Surveyor.

All kinds of Land and Town Surveying done on shortest notice. Am equipped with first-class modern instruments and have access to most valuable papers in the county. Terms reasonable. P. O. address, Box 46 Hampstead, Md. my-2-tf

CASTORIA

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. is on every wrapper.

CASTORIA

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF A DESIRABLE

Hotel Property,

In Hampstead, Carroll county, Md.

By virtue of the power contained in a mortgage from Luther A. Martin to Jeremiah Rinehart, dated December 7th, A. D. 1896, recorded among the Real Estate Mortgage Records of Carroll county, in Liber R. F. C. No. 36, folio 68, the undersigned, as attorney for Sarah A. C. Plank, wife of John E. Plank, the undersigned, attorney or agent therein named, will sell at Public Sale, to the highest bidder, at the Court House door in Westminster, Md., on

MONDAY, MARCH 22nd, 1897,

at one o'clock, P. M., that desirable Hotel Property, in the town of Hampstead, Carroll county, Md., consisting of about TWO ACRES of land. The improvements thereon are a large Two-Story Log and Weatherboarded Hotel Building, with back building, large Barn, Stable, with ample stabling and sheds, wood house, hoggen, and other outbuildings; water convenient to all the buildings, excellent orchard, &c. This property is centrally located on the corner of the Main street and the Westminster road and is now conducted as a Hotel.

This property has long enjoyed a large share of public patronage, and its superior location commends it to the attention of purchasers.

Terms of Sale.—Cash; or if desired by the purchaser credit terms will be given, as follows: One-third cash on the day of sale, or on the ratification thereof, one-third in nine and the other one-third in eighteen months from the day of sale, the credit payments to be secured by the notes of the purchaser or purchasers, with approved security, bearing interest from the day of sale; or $1,000.00 can remain on mortgage.

CHAS. T. REIFSNIDER,
Attorney or Agent named in Mortgage.
Reifsnider & Reifsnider, Solicitors. f-27-ts

ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE.

BY virtue of the power contained in a mortgage from Eliza H. Robinson and George W. Robinson, her husband, to J. Henry Hoppe, dated September 30th, A. D. 1875, recorded among the real estate mortgage records of Carroll county, in liber F. T. S., No. 13, folio 355, &c., and duly assigned to the undersigned, I will sell at Public Sale, at the COURT HOUSE DOOR in Westminster, Md., on

MONDAY, THE 22ND OF MARCH,

A. D., 1897, at 1 o'clock, P. M., all that parcel of land, described in said mortgage, containing

3 ACRES, 2 ROODS AND 5 SQUARE

Perches, more or less. The improvements thereon consists of a comfortable two-story Log and Frame dwelling House, Stable, and other outbuildings. Water convenient to the premises. This property is located on the county road leading from Mexico to Hampstead, is in Manchester district, Carroll county, Md., and is about 1 mile from Mexico. The store is now conducted on the premises as is now in the occupancy of the said Eliza H. Robinson.

Terms of Sale, Cash; or if desired by the purchaser, terms of credit will be given as follows: One-half cash, on the day of sale or on the ratification thereof, and the other one-half in six months from the day of sale, the credit payment to be secured by the notes of the purchaser or purchasers, with approved security, bearing interest from the day of sale.

CHAS. T. REIFSNIDER, Assignee.
Reifsnider & Reifsnider, Solicitors.
feb-27-ts

RATIFICATION NOTICE.

In the Orphans' Court of Carroll County:
FEBRUARY TERM, 1897.

Estate of Lucretia E. Van Bibber, deceased.

On application it is ordered, this 9th day of February, 1897, that the sale of the Real Estate of Lucretia E. Van Bibber, late of Carroll county, deceased, made by Charles T. Reifsnider, Executor of the last will and Testament of said deceased, and this day reported to this Court by the said Executor, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause be shown to the contrary on or before the 4th Monday, 22nd day of March, next; provided a copy of this order be inserted for three successive weeks in some newspaper printed and published in Carroll county, before the 3rd Monday, 15th day of March next. The report states the amount of sale to be fourteen hundred dollars ($1400.00).

JACOB RINEHART,
ALBERT SCHAEFFER,
WILLIAM Y. FRIZZELL, } Judges.

True Copy,—Test:
GEO. M. PARKE, Register of Wills.
feb-20-3t

RATIFICATION NOTICE.

In the Orphans' Court of Carroll County:
Estate of Ann Croft, deceased.
FEBRUARY TERM, 1897.

ON application it is ordered this 23rd day of February, 1897, that the sale of the real estate of Ann Croft, late of Carroll county, deceased, made by Charles T. Reifsnider, administrator de bonis non with the last will and testament annexed of said deceased, and this day reported to this court by the said administrator d. b. n. c. t. a., be ratified and confirmed, unless cause be shown to the contrary on or before the 5th Monday, 29th day of March, next; provided a copy of this order be inserted for three successive weeks in some newspaper printed and published in Carroll county, before the 4th Monday, 22nd day of March, next. The report states the amount of sale to be one hundred dollars. ($100.00.)

JACOB RINEHART,
ALBERT SCHAEFFER,
WILLIAM Y. FRIZZELL, } Judges.

True Copy.—Test:
GEO. M. PARKE, Register of Wills.
feb-27-3t

MUSIC SCHOLARS WANTED.

MRS. LETITIA PARKE WOOD, UNION BRIDGE, Piano and Organ Instructress, will take pupils at her home or will give lessons at their residences, as they may prefer. Prices moderate. oct-24-1y

Select Poetry.

A PRAYER 230 YEARS OLD.

O! that mine eyes might closed be
To what concerns me not to see;
That deafness might possess mine ear
To what concerns me not to hear;
That truth my tongue might always tie
From ever speaking foolishly;
That no vain thought might ever rest,
Or be conceived in my breast;
That by each deed and word and thought
Glory may to my God be brought.
But what are wishes? Lord, mine eye
On Thee is fixed, to Thee I cry;
Wash, Lord, and purify my heart,
And make it clean in every part;
And when 'tis clean, Lord keep it, too,
For that is more than I can do.

Thomas Elmwood, 1639, A. D.

Select Story.

CHRISTINA'S TRAMP.

"Christina! Christina! Come right away here in the house, my child!"

Mrs. Olsen's high-pitched voice sounded clear and far about a little sod-house.

"Yiss, mutter, I come now!"

The response came from somewhere in the region of the barn, and in a moment the little maiden followed her voice and appeared at the front door, where her mother awaited her.

Christina was a little surprised, as she passed the corner of the house, to see a spring wagon and a pair of horses standing in front of the door. She recognized them as belonging to Ulrich Strom, their nearest neighbor, whose house could be seen far away toward the horizon; and there, standing beside her mother, was Ulrich Strom's son.

The girl returned his greeting as politely as she could with her apron full of freshly-gathered eggs; but Mrs. Olsen allowed scant time for ceremony.

"Look, my child," she said, anxiously. "I must leave you and the little ones for the day and for the night. The mother of Gustave here, says she has scalded her arm very badly, and she sends to me for help. I will go to her without waiting, and you will cease to play, and will do my work."

Hurried instructions about household affairs, and about the care of the little brother and sister, followed; and before Christina fairly realized what had happened, she saw her mother and Gustave in the wagon, ready for departure.

"Nothing can harm you my child," Mrs. Olsen said, with her last kiss, "and let supper be waiting for your father and son Olaf when they come from the town to-night."

The next moment the wagon was speeding along the road which led across the prairie. Christina watched it until it was far away, and then [illegible] the farm was being paid for; but next year they were to build a handsome frame dwelling, and the same kind of style of housekeeping that would be proper for that was kept up now within the walls of sod.

It was a very busy and a very capable substitute Mrs. Olsen left in charge of matters.

Christina was only thirteen years old, but she had the deftness and industry of a much older housewife. She knew what to do, and how to do it; and, what is better still, she did it.

Not a detail her mother would wish attended to was neglected, and yet she found time—as her mother always did—to make play for the two little ones, and to arrange for them such light tasks as would make them feel that they were vastly useful persons. In the pauses of her work, Christina stood in the front door and looked out upon the world.

This was a favorite pastime of hers, and she found great enjoyment in it.

There was so much to see from that front door that she never tired of looking. The great prairie stretched away in all directions, in low, rolling undulations, like a green and brown sea which had been turned to dry land before its waves had quite died down.

Here and there, afar off, a house was visible, like a ship becalmed, and, in various directions, wagon-roads, marked the surface, as if each of the ships had left a brown wake across the solid sea.

People from the mountains would have been apt to call the landscape monotonous; but Christina never thought of that. The colors were so many and so various; a cloud in the sky made so many hurrying shadows on the ground; the birds and the gophers and the "tumble-weeds" gave so much animation to the scene, that she wondered at the variety.

And she did not feel the loneliness which people from the towns would have complained of.

It was far too early yet to see her father's wagon bringing him and Olaf back from the railroad town. They would not be home before dark; but yonder, away off toward the edge of the world, was a "prairie schooner," as the great white-covered emigrant wagons were called; and it was company just to think of the men and the women, and the little children it carried.

From another direction came the sound of a dog's bark.

There was sociability in that, although it was neither of their dogs that was barking.

They had two—big, noble fellows, both of them; but one had accompanied her father and brother to town that morning, and the other, as she now remembered, had scampered off after that wagon the carried her mother away.

That was rather a pity, for the children might want him for a playfellow before night.

From a field beyond one of the distant line-furrows—there were no fences anywhere in sight—neighbor Brown's hearty voice sounded, as he called cheerily to his team.

Indeed, there was plenty of companionship, even without considering the little brother and sister who kept the air full of laughter all the time.

About two o'clock, as Christina stood looking from the door, she actually saw a man walking along one of the roads.

That was a sight so unusual for that time of the day, that she called the two little children from their play to see it; and they all stood together and watched, with wild excitement, to see who it was and where he was going.

He was a stranger, and he was coming in the direction of the sod-house.

That was an event, indeed, to have a good, leisurely look at a strange man walking past their place.

Sometimes a man walked past there; but it was always a neighbor. Sometimes a stranger passed; but he always rode. This was a very exceptional case.

In a few minutes Christina began to wish that the stranger had been walking in the other direction, for as he came nearer, she did not like his looks.

He was very oddly dressed. He wore an old buttered silk hat, with a tall feather sticking up above the crown, and a dirty blanket enveloped the whole figure below the hat, one corner of the blanket being held up in such a way as to hide the man's face almost entirely. She knew he was an Indian, and she greatly feared he was a bad Indian.

The tribe that had occupied these lands originally had become civilized long before the Olsens made their home here. The Indian village, not far away, had its church, and its school, and its comfortable houses.

But some of the individual members of the tribe, as Christina knew, were bad; just as some members of almost any community are bad; and a bad Indian civilized, is apt to be worse, in some respects, than either a white man or a savage.

Christina knew that some of the Indians were bad. She did not know which were good; and therefore she wished they would all stay away—at least, until her father and brother came home.

She was pretty sure that if yonder fellow in the blanket intended visiting their house, he was coming for no earthly purpose but to rob the place.

Two or three of the neighboring houses had been robbed by these civilized savages, she knew; and the robbers were so cunning that it had been impossible to identify and punish them.

The Olsen house, as she happened to know, was a good one to rob, for Mr. Olsen, in spite of his wife's protests, persisted in keeping all the money he had saved—the money that was to build the new house next year—about the place.

Instead of depositing it in the bank, "where it was sure to be lost," he said, he kept it at home, "where no fire would ever burn it, and no thief would ever find it!"

The man in the feathered hat and the blanket slouched slowly along the toward the house.

As he came nearer, the girl was sure that he was "tramp," as the white people called the Indians who ranged about among the settlers, instead of working industriously with their own people. And he was evidently intent on making a visit at their house.

"He knows we'll be here alone," Christina whispered to herself. "Yiss, he did see mutter going away with Gustave; and the father and Olaf, too—he did see them all go; and the dogs likewise, one with the two wagons, and n t one with us, a'retty."

The tramp was near now, and he raised his head, looking from above the edge of the blanket toward the little homestead.

"He has hunger in each eye," murmured the girl. 'He is starved for the father's money. Ah, yiss, he knows it is here, with but three children to hold it! And we will hold it—yiss, till he shall have killed us!"

The tramp had come in front of the house by this time. He stopped and looked furtively all about to see if any one watched him. Nobody was in sight anywhere, unfortunately, and he turned from the road toward the house.

The little children, sharing their sister's fears without understanding them, had drawn behind her, and were out of sight within the room.

"Get into the dug-out," Christina whispered to them, over her shoulder. "Hasten, and shut the door after my little ones!"

They obeyed her, and she heard the inner door softly closed.

'It is there the strong box is; and it is to keep them all safe together I must try," the older child thought, although her pale face and trembling limbs promised but a weak defense.

She herself had been standing on the threshold, and as the man approached, she withdrew a little further within the doorway, but not enough to appear rude, for fear of making her visitor angry. Still she had the edge of the open door in her hand, ready for instant action if necessity arose.

"Ugh! Me poor—me hungry! Me want money to make no hungry!"

The indian was standing in front of her as he spoke, and his words were plainly not the plea of a beggar, but the demand of a robber.

'My mutter likes not that I talk with strangers," replied the little maiden, with pretty dignity, and she stepped still farther back.

The Indian understood the action if not the words, and sprang forward.

He was too late. The door was slammed so vigorously in his face that he staggered backward, and before he could recover himself the door had been locked and bolted within.

What to do now was a question to occupy the thoughts of both the Indian and girl. The man pounded and kicked on the door, but it was solid and well-secured, for Mr. Olsen and Olaf had built the house themselves, and they had done every part of the work thoroughly.

He went to one side of the house, for the purpose of getting in at the window, but as he looked in, he saw the girl standing near with a dangerous-looking club in her hands, and apparently quite prepared to use it the moment his head appeared inside.

As she saw him Christina boldly approached the window.

'Go, you!" she called to him. "If not, I call the dogs from the barn."

And before he realized what she was going to do, she had swung the hinged sash inward and called loudly through the opening:

'Here, Wolff! Come, Thor! Come, boys! Here! Here!"

She followed her call with a series of whistles, for this little Swedish girl was accomplished, in her way.

Instinctively the tramp turned toward the barn to guard against the advancing dogs, and by the time he had discovered that there were no dogs there, the solid wooden shutter of the window had been slammed shut and bolted fast.

There were some thumps delivered upon the outside of the shutter, some more kicks upon the door and a volley of threats from the intruder; but for none of these did Christina care. She knew she and the little ones were safe for the present, at all events, whatever danger there might be later.

The Indian did not kick the door down, and he could not pound the window-shutter off its hinges. She had heard that savages sometimes set fire to houses to get possession of the occupants; but this house of sods could not be burned. The fellow outside might undertake to dig through the walls, but they were thick, and before he could get in that way her father and brother would be home.

Still she was very sure her visitor would find some way to break down the barrier between him and the strong box of money he was after; and what could she do to defeat him?

There were the two guns belonging to her father and her brother. She was far more afraid of them than the Indian would probably be; but still she would make a pretense of using them, and if matters became desperate, she would use them as well as she could.

There was no help from the outside to be hoped for in that solitary place. She might scream, but nobody would hear her; and no matter how much noise her enemy might make in wrecking the house, he would not attract the attention of any of the far-away neighbors.

If only one of the dogs had stayed at home! If only she could get word to Neighbor Brown, at work in his field!

Happily the children and the money were safely hidden in the dug-out. This was a large excavation in the breast of the low hill in the back of the house. Indeed, it had originally been the family dwelling-place; and when the sod-house was built, the old residence, with its chimney torn down, was utilized as a cellar and store-room.

This was the place to be defended to the last. If Christina could only keep the strong door opening into the dug-out, he might tear down all the rest of the house. She would not take refuge in there herself, for if there was any fighting to be done, it must be done in the sod-house. So, perhaps, she could keep that bad Indian from getting near the strong inner door.

But the enemy seemed to have given up the fight already. After the closing of the window-shutter he had pounded and kicked and howled for a few minutes, and then all demonstrations had ceased. Nothing had been heard of him since, and the besieged girl began to hope that he had gone away discouraged.

She stepped to the noor of the dug-out, and called to the imprisoned children in low tones of encouragement.

They spoke to her in reply, assuring her that they were not in the least frightened.

'My good children!" the young defender said cordially, "You are such two soldiers! but, my bruder, if I call to you, 'Now Peter!' do you hasten out of the back door, fly to the barn, mount upon the mule, and ride hard until you have told Neighbor Brown, in his field, to make only one step from that place to this. Do you know what I bid you, Peter?"

Little Peter understood, and shouted his approval of the orders. Christina was still listening to his words, when a dreadful sound made her spring from the place and sieze one of the guns.

The Indian was striking sounding blows upon the front door of the house with an ax. He was chopping away the barrier, and she could hear the chips strike the ground after each blow.

"Now, Peter! Now Peter!" she cried to the little brother within.

"Yiss, Christina!" responded the childish voice.

And she knew that Peter would do the task set before him unless the cruel Indian should discover and kill him.

The blows on the outer door continued. Would the barrier resist until help could come?

She aimed the gun in the direction of the sounds, but did not fire.

"I could not kill him through the door," she said; "but he might fear the next shot, and go otherwhere. It is better for Peter that he stay chopping at the door. The child will ride unseen behind the sheds to the road."

With the gun still in her hands, she ran across the room and opened the inner door. A glance into the dug-out assured her that Peter had gone and left the "back door" open after him. This back door was simple the hole in the ground at the rear of the dug-out, left by the removal of the chimney.

This opening had been kept closed by heavy planks, which were hidden from without by earth and sods placed on top of them. It must have taken all the strength of the two little children to open their passage, but they had done it.

A new fear had come into the girl's mind by this time. The Indian must have gone to the shed by the stable to get the ax, and perhaps he had taken the precaution to kill the mule.

It was terrible to think of that, for the two sisters might be killed long before the little fellow could run to Mr. Brown's field on his own two feet.

All at once Christina became conscious that the blows on the door had ceased. She looked in that direction and saw day-light streaming through an opening the axe had made; while she looked, the Indian's face appeared at the opening, and he seemed to take a deliberate survey of the room. As he saw the inner door which Christina had left standing open, he uttered a suppressed exclamation, as if a new iden had struck him.

The next instant he saw something else which seemed to surprise him still more. This was a gun, aimed straight at his face, and with Christina's finger on the trigger.

With a howl he sprang away, and the girl heard his footsteps passing steadily around the house.

"He will come next to the window," thought Christina.

But he did not; and the next sound she heard was a cry from the little sister in the dug-out room.

The elder girl ran again to the door; there she stopped and cried aloud with a new terror. The Indian had discovered the "back door," and was coming in upon them that way.

His feet were already dangling in sight, and he was struggling to force his body down through the hold.

But the opening was small, and this was a difficult task, which would take time. Christina's opportunity had come. She rushed into the dug-out, seized her little sister and dragged her into the living room.

Then she did the same with the box of money, and when that was safe beside the little one, she shut the inner door and barred it swiftly and so securely that no blows from the other side could loosen it.

In another second she had the outer door open, and thrusting the little child outside, she bade her run out upon the road to meet Mr. Brown and little Peter.

"She will be safe so," the elder sister said to herself.

Without an instant's pause or hesitation, Christina seized her gun, and the axe which the Indian had left behind him, and hurried to the back of the house.

There was the Indian, with his head and arms still above the ground. When he saw the girl, he tried to pull himself up out of the hole.

"You come not back," said Christina, resolutely, aiming the gun at the hat and feather. "You go down."

With a "Ugh" and a final struggle, he did go down, and she saw the tip of the feather disappear below the surface.

As calmly as if about to make a daisy chain, the girl sat down on the planks, gun in hand, to keep guard over her trapped prisoner until help should come.

"Got him in there, Christiny?" shouted Mr. Brown, racing up to her side on Peter's mule, a half-hour later. "Good girl! Just help me lay this log across the hole, and there he is till the constable comes. Sweet beeswax, if the girl ain't in a faint!"

Yes, Christina was "in a faint," but she had kept her senses long enough to secure the safety of her liitle brother and sister, to save her father's money, and to insure the punishment of the last "tramp Indian" in that neighborhood.

MEXICO'S EXECUTIVE MANSION.

Edward Gaston Page, in Ladies' Home Companion.

When the meal has finally closed, the ladies retire to the salon de fumar to enjoy a tiny cigarette or two, if so given, while the gentlemen linger over their cigaros. After dinner the visitors will be escorted, if they request it, through the high walls of the Castle, and the host and hostess will soon prove the most interesting of guides, as the way leads through salon after salon and great suits of apartments. Chapultepec is equipped in a truly palatial manner, but with a quiet elegance, and with none of the uncultured ostentation too often in evidence in the surroundings of foreign aristocracy.

The walls of the rooms of state in Chapultepec are hung in woven silk, bearing the coat of arms of the republic of Mexico, heavily hand inworked with the same material, and all the other tapestries are of the finest quality, the same costly rule applying to the general furnishings of both residences of the president. At Chapultepec many of the pieces of furniture in use have come down from more than three centuries ago, while each succeeding administration during that time has added some touch or other to the palace home of the Mexican ruler. There are priceless paintings from the royal galleries of Spain and Europe; furniture with its pearl mosaics and gold and copper inlaying, costing fabulous sums; rugs from the orient, brought over in the early days of regal splendor, and many tons of the finest of Italian and native sculpture in statuary and massive urns of finely grained marble and alabaster. Yet the general arrangement of it all is most skillful, and the furnishings exceedingly well distributed.

"So you do not think a minister ought to ride a bicycle?"

"No; I didn't say that at all. But I do think he ought not to tackle it unless he is sure his religion can stand the strain of learning."

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