THE ONLY REPUBLICAN NEWSPAPER AND THE BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM IN CARROLL COUNTY.

AMERICAN SENTINEL.

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$1 PER ANNUM. WESTMINSTER, MD., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 1, 1905. VOL. 74--NO. 35.

REMEMBER!

IT IS TO YOUR INTEREST TO GO TO

MITCHELL'S ART GALLERY

when you want a Photo or Family Group, in short anything in Photography. Fresh Kodak Films on sale.

J. D. MITCHELL, Proprietor of Mitchell's Art Gallery, over Bowers' Store, Westminster, Md.

feb 19 04 1y

AUGUST CLEARAINC SALE!

To close out our stock of Men's, Boys' and Children's

STRAW HATS

we are selling all this season's shapes at

HALF PRICE.

5 doz. Men's Straw Hats, sizes 7 to 7½, worth up to $1.50, at 10 cts.

We have a great many bargains in Men's, Women's and Children's OXFORDS. Come in and be fitted up.

WM. C. DEVILBISS. 22 W. Main St., Westminster.

dec-23 04-1y

C. E. NUSBAUM & CO.,

POPULAR CASH STORE.

Seasonable articles from our Grocery Department.

Mason's Ball Fruit Jars—Pints 50c doz., Quarts 55c doz., half Gallon 75c doz. Gum Rings for Mason's and Lightning Jars, 5c, 8c and 10c doz. Porcelain Lined Tops for Mason's Jars.

Spices of all kinds. Pool's Insect Powder 5c Package.

Sitcky Fly Paper 3 Double Sheets 5 Cents.

Granulated Sugar in 100 lb. lots 5¼c lb.

National Biscuit Co. Cakes and Crackers of all kinds Always Fresh Here.

We sell only first-class and strictly pure goods in our Grocery Department, and at prices as low as can be named on dependable merchandise.

Give us a call and be convinced.

C. E. NUSBAUM & CO., Popular Cash Store, New Windsor, Md.

my 26 1y 8

Come to See Us:

Or let us come to see you. We can and will save you money on anything in the Building Material Line. We have the largest and best assorted stock in Carroll county to select from.

WE KEEP STAIR WORK IN Stock.
WE KEEP PORCH WORK In Stock.
WE KEEP SASH, DOORS and BLINDS

in stock, and everything else that should go in a building. Get our prices and look at

Our Lumber

and be convinced that you get good grades for the least money from

SMITH & REIFSNIDER, WESTMINSTER, MD.

jan-1-99 Local and Long Distance Telephones.

JOHN D. BOWERS.

Fancy and Staple Groceries.

JUST TO THINK that you can get the best quality of goods at our Store and

Do Not Pay Anymore for them,

than you would elsewhere. I have acquired this by long service in the business, and close attention to stock. This is not acquired in a few years but a lifetime in this business. Cleanliness and good appearance of our Store

Does Not Cost You One Cent,

nor does it cost me but little.

WHITMAN'S CONFECTIONS.

YOU KNOW THE REST.

We give one Soda Ticket with every cash purchase of ONE DOLLAR.

Call early so as you may no longer be without the benefits which I am able to give you.

JOHN D. BOWERS, 47 and 49 East Main St., Westminster. Both Phones.

jan 23 04 1y 5

The Westminster Steam Laundry,

153 WEST MAIN STREET, WESTMINSTER, Md.

See your Soiled Linen and send it to the Westminster Laundry. It has a reputation worth having. SHIRTS and COLLARS the FINEST.

ju 8 tf W. M. and C. & P. Phones. R. N. SNADER, Proprietor.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND SEEDS.

IF YOU WANT A Roller, Feed Cutter, Drill, See Us Before Placing Your Order.

Wagon, Harrow, Plow,

Strictly New Crop TIMOTHY SEED.

Repairs for GEISER ENGINES and SEPARATORS.

THE W. H. DAVIS COMPANY,

CORNER MAIN AND JOHN STREETS, WESTMINSTER, MD.

ap 1 03

THE OLD RELIABLE FERTILIZER!

We call the attention of all Farmers that we still handle the well known brands of Fertilizer, Pure Dissolved Raw Bone Phosphate and Peerless.

Very Respectfully, JOHN T. ROYER.

au 18 3t N. I. GORSUCH SON Co. Westminster, Md.

SPECIAL BARGAINS.

Three Weaver Organs, 1 Packard, and 1 Carpenter, all nearly as good as new, that were taken in exchange on Pianos. All but one have large Mirrors, in top. Will guarantee all of them for 5 years, the same as new ones. Will sell them on very reasonable terms and at bargain prices. Call and see them early if you want a good bargain as they sell quickly.

JOHN T. ROYER, au 25 3t* Westminster, Md.

POSTERS, Sale Bills, Cards, Tags, &c., done at short notice at this office.

JOB Printing on all kinds done promptly at reasonable prices. Call for estimates.

GUY W. STEELE, Solicitor.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF A DESIRABLE

HOUSE AND LOT and Several Unimproved LOTS OF LAND in WINFIELD, and a SMALL FARM and 10 BUILDING LOTS adjacent to Winfield, in Carroll County, Md.

By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court for Carroll county in equity, in a cause therein depending in which Charles S. Pickett and wife are plaintiffs and Catherine E. Pickett and others are defendants, the undersigned trustee will offer at Public Sale on the premises, on

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 1905,

at 1 o'clock, P. M., the following Valuable Real Estate, to-wit:

Town Lot No. 1. All that lot of land containing 54 Square Perches, more or less, situated at the intersection of the Liberty and Sams Creek roads. This is the finest building lot in Winfield.

Town Lot No. 2. All that lot of land containing 52 8-10 Square Perches. It adjoins town lot No. 1, and faces on the Sams Creek road.

Town Lot No. 3. All that lot of land containing 51 6-10 Square Perches, adjoining the properties of James Franklin and Marcus D. L. Pickett. This was the Home Property of the late Charles R. Pickett, and is improved by a good 2½ story Frame Dwelling House of 7 rooms, a two-story Carp nter Shop, Stable, Wagon Shed, and all necessary outbuildings. It was an Undertaker's stand for 45 years and the buildings are unusually well adapted for it or a similar business.

Town Lot No 4. All that lot of land containing 40 Square Perches, more or less, that lies on the Sams Creek road between the store property of A. J. Stem, and the property of John H. Stem. It is improved by a Frame Dwelling House of 2½ stories containing 4 rooms, and all necessary outbuildings. There is a good well of water at the door.

FARM.—All that small farm containing

17 ACRES, 3 ROODS AND 6 PERCHES

of land, more or less, that was owned by the late Charles R. Pickett. It lies on the west side of the Sams Creek road adjacent to and partly within Winfield, adjoining the properties of the late Joseph Cover and the land of Issac Frizzell. The land is all under cultivation and is highly productive. It is improved by a building 60x16 feet used for a Stable and Barrack, and has on it a most excellent building site.

Also the 10 following fine BUILDING LOTS, lying along and facing on the east side of the Sams Creek road, immediately adjacent to Winfield, beginning at the property of the late Wm. H. Pickett for Lot No. 1, and thence out said road as follows, viz.:

Lot No. 1. Containing 158 Square Perches of Land, more or less.

Lot No. 2. Containing 154 Square Perches of Land, more or less.

Lot No 3. Containing 172 Square Perches of Land, more or less.

Lot No. 4. Containing 165 Square Perches of Land, more or less.

Lot No. 5. Containing 156 Square Perches of Land, more or less.

Lot No. 6. Containing 167 Square Perches of Land, more or less.

Lot No. 7. Containing 166 Square Perches of Land, more or less.

Lot No. 8. Containing 159 Square Perches of Land, more or less.

Lot No. 9. Containing 158 Square Perches of Land, more or less.

Lot No. 10. Containing 239 Square Perches of Land, more or less.

These lots offer unusually fine opportunities for persons desiring to build. They all lie well and face the west, the land being high and dry. The completion of the proposed Electric Road from Baltimore to Frederick will make them exceedingly valuable.

TERMS OF SALE.—One-third cash on the day of sale or on the ratification thereof, by the court, the residue in two equal payments, one in one year and the other in two years, the credit payments being secured by the notes of the purchaser or purchasers, bearing interest, with approved security, or all cash, at the option of the purchaser or purchasers.

CHAS. S. PICKETT, Trustee.

F. Albert Crawford, Auct. au 11 5

PUBLIC SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

Situate in Franklin District, Carroll Co., Md.

By virtue of the power and authority contained in the last will and testament of Thomas N. Shipley, late of Carroll county, deceased, and of an order of the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, the undersigned will sell at Public Sale, on the premises, situated about 1 mile from Taylorsville, on the Ridge road in Franklin district in said county and State, on

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 1905,

at 12 o'clock, M., sharp, all those five parcels of land hereinafter mentioned.

1st. All that farm or parcel of land, containing

69 ACRES, 2 ROODS AND 13 9-10 SQUARE

Perches of land, more or less, improved by a Grain Shed and 2 Barracks. This land is in a high state of cultivation, and well watered by a running stream. This property is known as a part of the home farm of the late Thomas N. Shipley, is situate in Carroll county, about 6½ miles from Mt. Airy and about 1 mile from Taylorsville on the Ridge road, and adjoins the lands of Nathan H. Franklin, Thomas Pickett and others.

2nd. All that property containing 10 Acres of land, more or less, improved by a comfortable 2-story frame Dwelling House, with four rooms, good Stable, hen house, meat house, corn house, and all other necessary outbuildings. The land is in a high state of cultivation and has upon it a fine orchard of apples and other choice fruits. This property adjoins the first parcel and the land of William Gunn.

3rd. A Wood Lot, containing 5¼ Acres of land, more or less. This lot is well covered with Oak and Chestnut Timber. It is situate on the Mt. Airy road and adjoins the above first parcel and lands of Joshua Spurrier and others.

4th. All that desirable little property, containing 12 Acres, 1 Rood and 21 Square Perches of land, more or less. It is in a high state of cultivation, with fine spring of water.

This property is known as the Wright property and adjoins the lands of Geo. E. Wright, Joshua Spurrier and others.

5th. All that land, containing 14¼ Acres of land, more or less. This land is well covered with Hickory, Oak and Chestnut Timber. It is situate on the Gilliss road and adjoins the property of Ephraim B. Condon, David Dudderar and others.

The sale of the above mentioned properties offers an excellent opportunity to persons wishing to purchase small property and wood lots.

Terms of Sale.—One-third of the purchase money to be paid on the day of sale or on the ratification thereof by the court, and the residue in two equal payments, one payable in 6 months and the other in 12 months from the day of sale, the credit payments to be secured by the bonds or single bills of the purchaser or purchasers, with approved security, bearing interest from the day of sale, or all cash, at the option of the purchaser or purchasers.

CHARLES E. SHIPLEY,
JOHN W. SHIPLEY,
aug 18 5t Executors.

E. Oliver Grimes, Jr., Solicitor.

RECEIVER'S SALE OF AN Entire Plant, Fully Equipped FOR THE Manufacture of Felt Hats,

Situated in the City of Westminster, Carroll County, Maryland.

Under and by virtue of an order of the Circuit Court for Carroll county sitting as a court of equity, passed in cause No. 4226 equity on the equity docket of said court, wherein J. Wesley Biggs is plaintiff and the Westminster Hat Company, defendant, the undersigned, receiver therein appointed, will sell at Public sale, at the building occupied by the said The Westminster Hat Company, on Liberty street, near Green street in the city of Westminster, Carroll county, Maryland, on

MONDAY, 4TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER,

A. D. 1905, at 10 o'clock A. M., all the plant and machinery belonging to said corporation, consisting of a Six-horse Power Engine and Boiler, Flange Plates, Spinners, Shafting, Friction Wheels, 1 Automatic Ironer, 1 Reed Rounding Machine, 3 Brim Pressers, 1 Singer Hat Sewing Machine, 1 Hydraulic Hat Press, Steam Oven, Gas Oven, Office Chairs and many other articles too numerous to mention.

The above plant is in good running order and equipped with up to date machinery.

Terms of Sale.—All sums of $10 and under, cash; on all sums over $10 a credit of 6 months will be given to be secured by the note of the purchaser, with approved security, bearing interest from the day of sale, or all cash, at the option of the purchaser.

W. FRANK THOMAS,
au 18 3t Receiver.

WHY do they all want to use Elk Garden Coal? Try some and learn the reason why. Sold by Smith & Reifsnider, Westminster, aug 11 4t

PUBLIC SALE OF VALUABLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.

By virtue of power contained in the last will and testament of Sallie Longwell, late of Carroll county, deceased, and an order of the Orphans' Court of said county, the subscriber, as executor, will sell at Public Sale, on the premises of said deceased, being for many years the residence of the late Col. John K. Longwell, situated in

WESTMINSTER, CARROLL COUNTY,

Md., BEGINNING ON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th, 1905,

at 10 o'clock, A. M., all the Household Goods and Personal Property of said deceased, contained in the Mansion House and on the premises, consisting in part of a large number of

VALUABLE MAHOGANY PIECES,

besides other Furniture, an extensive and beautiful collection of

CHINAWARE, SILVERWARE

AND BRIC-A-BRAC, together with

BED AND TABLE LINEN, MATTRESSES,

CARPETS, FINE RUGS, BEDDING, &c.

This sale presents the largest collection of elegant Household Furnishings ever offered at a Public Sale in this county.

The sale will begin promptly at 10 o'clock, each day, and close at 4 o'clock, P. M., with an intermission of one hour, from 12 o'clock, M., to 1 o'clock, P. M., and will continue from day to day until all is sold. Positively no goods to be removed from the premises until settled for.

Terms of Sale as prescribed by the Court.—All sums of $10 and under, cash; on all sums over $10 a credit of 6 months will be given, to be secured by note of purchaser, with approved security, and bearing interest from day of sale, or all cash, at the option of the purchaser.

Catalogues furnished by the Executor, upon application.

JOSHUA W. HERING,
Executor of Sallie Longwell, deceased.
Elias N. Davis, Auctioneer. aug 25 5t

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

I take pleasure in announcing that The Westminster Nursery, conducting its business on the Gorsuch road three-quarters of a mile from the corporate limits of the City of Westminster, Md., on the farm formerly owned by Wm. Struth, is now prepared to supply the trade with all stock furnished by a first-class nursery. All my stock is strictly true to label, clean and healthy.

The Nursery Packing Grounds have an ample supply of water on tap, which enables me to do packing for the proper preservation of the stock.

I was formerly a member of the firm composed of C. A. and J. E. Stoner, trading as "The Battlefield Nurseries," at Gettysburg, Pa., and will supply my trade also from my undivided one-half interest in the growing trees that belonged to the "Battlefield Nurseries," at the time of my retirement therefrom, May 17, 1905.

I shall pay strict and careful attention to the business and trade of a wholesale and retail grower of Select Nursery Stock. All my trees will be fumigated. My specialties are Strawberry, Raspberry and Asparagus Plants, Carolina Poplar, and the Breeding of S. C. White Leghorn and B. Plymouth Rock Poultry.

I invite the general public to trade with me. Your patronage is respectfully solicited and the best efforts will be made to please. All inquiries promptly answered; low prices extended; catalogue free.

Choice kind of Strawberry Plants supplied also, for Sept 1st planting.

J. E. STONER,

Sole Proprietor of The Westminster Nursery.
R. F. D. No. 3, Westminster, Md.
Long Distance C. & P. Telephone 103 R.
jy 21 3m.

PUBLIC SALE.

The subscriber will sell at Public Sale, on the premises of Lewis A. Myers, deceased, half mile west of Warfieldsburg, adjoining the Rezin Cook and Clifton Cook property, on

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 1905,

at 2 o'clock, P. M., a tract of land containing about NINE ACRES, more or less, with a good spring of water; the land is in good cultivation; fruit of all kinds; the improvements are a two and a half story Brick Dwelling House, of 7 rooms, frame barn, hog house, hen house, and all necessary buildings in good repair.

Terms made known on day of sale.

au 18 4t* JESSE W. MYERS.
au 25 2t

NO. 4220 EQUITY.

In the Circuit Court for Carroll County in Equity.

James E. Lowe et al., plaintiffs, vs. Alfred Lowe et al., defendants.

Ordered, this 24th day of August, 1905, that the sale of the property mentioned in these proceedings, made and reported by James E Lowe and Alfred Lowe, trustees, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 25th day of September next; provided a copy of this order be inserted in some newspaper printed and published in Carroll county, once in each of three successive weeks before the 18th day of September 1905. The report states the amount of sale to be $1,396.60.

DAVID P. SMELSER, Clerk.

True copy,—Test:
au 25 3t DAVID P. SMELSER, Clerk.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

This is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, Md., letters Testamentary on the estate of

JOSHUA WILSON,

late of Carroll county, deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated, to the subscriber, on or before the 21st day of March, 1906; they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

Given under my hand this 21st day of August, 1905.

WILLIAM WILSON,
au 25 4t Executor.

NO. 4189 EQUITY.

In the Circuit Court for Carroll County.

Mary A. E. Reinecker and others, plaintiffs, vs. John Ickes and Jessie Ickes, defendants.

Ordered, this 25th day of August, A. D. 1905, that the account of the Auditor filed in this cause, be finally ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 11th day of September, next; provided a copy of this order be inserted for two successive weeks before the last named day in some newspaper published in Carroll county.

DAVID P. SMELSER, Clerk.

True Copy—Test:
au 25 2t DAVID P. SMELSER, Clerk.

NOTICE TO VOTERS.

The Board of Supervisors of Election of Carroll County will meet at their office in the city of Westminster on THURSDAY, September 14th, 1905, at 9 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of granting transfers to the registered voters of Carroll county. Persons desiring transfers must apply in person. Those whose names have been erased can get a certificate to that effect by writing to the Board.

JOHN M. ROBERTS, President;
HENRY S. MUSSELMAN,
J. THOMAS ROOP,
Board of Supervisors of Election of Carroll County.
aug 18 4t Test:—SAMUEL J. STONE, Clerk.

FINE FARM AT PRIVATE SALE.

I offer at Private Sale my Farm, containing 70 ACRES, about halfway between Westminster and Hampstead, all under cultivation except about 6 acres of Woodland. Land is in fine condition, well watered, very productive, and none waste. Improvements are Weatherboarded House, with 9 rooms, and all necessary outbuildings, all in first-class condition. Fencing all good. Abundance of fruit. Address or call on

DAVID H. ZIMMERMAN,
au 18 tf R. F. D. Carrier No. 3.

FINE FARM AT PRIVATE SALE.

I offer my fine Farm of 121½ acres, near Trevanion in Uniontown district, at private sale. The arable land is in a high state of cultivation; 10 or 12 acres are in timber; running water through the farm; fruit of all kinds; all necessary buildings in good condition. Possession April 1st, 1906. Apply to or address

SOLOMON MYERS,
au 11 tf Trevanion, Carroll county, Md.

Take Hering's

COMPOUND SYRUP OF BLACKBERRY.

The kind your parents used years ago, for Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Cholera Infantum, Cholera Morbus and Pains in the Bowels. Price 25 CENTS. For sale by Druggists generally. J. J. ROSE,

Rose's Pharmacy, Westminster, Md.
au 25 7t

DO you remember the Elk Garden Red? This is the coal all the Threshers wants. For sale by Smith & Reifsnider, Westminster.

HARVEST MOON.

—:o:—

The sun went down, the harvest moon arose,
And 'twixt the slim trees of that fruitful close
They saw the corn still falling 'neath its light,
While through the soft air of the windless night
The voices of the reapers' mates rang clear
They told, and its delights, and now and then
The rougher voices of the toiling men
Joined in the song, as one by one, released
From that hard toil, they sauntered toward the feast
That waited them upon the strip of grass
That through the golden glimmering sea did pass.
But those old men, glad to have lived so long,
Sat listening through the twilight to the song,
And when the night grew and all things were still
Throughout the wide vale from green hill to hill,
Unto a happy harvesting they drank
Till once more o'er the hills the white moon sank.

—Wm. Morris, "The Earthly Paradise."

POP'S LUCK.

—:o:—

(By ALICE LOUISA LEE in the Youth's Companion.)

It had come at last, the long-looked-for good fortune, and "Pop" Laffin whistled loudly as he urged his horses up Laffin Hill. His whistle was gay, in spite of the tune, which was the only one he knew:

"Plant ye a tree
That shall wave over me
When I am gone, I am gone."

The horses, as usual, stopped at each "thank you-ma'm" on the hill. Pop lounged back on the seat and pitied them because they had to do harder work on less food than any other horses in the neighborhood. Now he whistled and talked alternately: "'Plant ye a tree'—g'lang there, Dandy! There's oats ahead of ye—'That shall wave over me'—git ep, Jim! You folks shall have new harness next week—'When I am gone, I am gone.'"

At the top of Laffin Hill, which was the longest, steepest and stoniest in the country, stood the Laffin house, surrounded by the unpainted outbuildings. Everything about the place had a forlorn look, as if it had grown old and weather-beaten trying to appear homelike.

At the lane gate stood a woman whose appearance was part and parcel of the place. Her dress was old and scant, her face worn and brown. An apron was thrown over her head, and the hands which clutched the tops of the pickets trembled.

Laffin did not speak until the horses stopped of their own accord before her. Then he climbed out over the wheel and said, "Well, ma?"

The woman opened the gate and came through, sitting down weakly on the horse-block. She clasped her hands tightly in her lap and turned her head away from her husband.

"I can't get up courage to ask, pa. It ain't like us to have things turn out right." She leaned her muffled head against the wheel and sobbed.

"Well, I swan!" exclaimed Laffin. "Why, Myry, this ain't like ye!" He sat down on the horse-block and put his arm round his wife and drew her to him. "Thar, thar, Myry, don't cry! It's all right this time. Luck has come our way at last, and the money's safe and snug in the Wilkesbarre bank."

"It seems too good to be true. There! I won't give way another mite." She straightened herself. Her husband's face beamed again.

"Now, Myry," he said, "you run in the house and clean off the kitchen table, for I want to spread out the things I got."

He spoke with boyish eagerness, to which his wife responded. She rose and tried to look into the box of the high wagon, but her husband, with a laugh, held her back. "You just go in and do what I say. Guess I can make your eyes stand out for once."

A moment later Laffin tramped heavily into the uncarpeted kitchen, his arms piled with bundles clear to his bearded chin. He spread the packages out and cut the strings. No boy could have been happier.

"There, ma, is your first silk dress, but it ain't your last. And, Myry, see that bonnet! I told Mis' Black to do her best, and she did it, I guess, by the price. But I was bound ye should go to meetin' once dressed as good as Cynthy."

Mrs. Laffin, with shining eyes, sat in the old wooden rocking-chair, and viewed the articles transferred carefully to her lap from the table. She was half-laughing and half-crying.

"Well, pa," she said, finally, when the last string had been broken, "where's your coat? You know we decided you needed a new one the first time there was any buying in this house."

A comical look of dismay passed over Laffin's face. "Why, ma, I never thought about a coat."

He pulled off his ragged straw hat and scratched his head in perplexity.

"And a hat?" asked Myry.

He squirmed guiltily, "I never thought of a hat."

"What did you git for yourself pa?"

He shifted his eyes uneasily to the pile of papers and string on the floor. He ran the fingers of both hands through his hair.

"Well, I swan, ma," he said, at last, "I never thought 'bout it!"

This was nothing unusual. It was merely the statement of a fact which accounted for many things—the unpainted house, the bare floor, all the differences, in short, between the poverty of "Pop" Laffin op Laffin Hill and the prosperity of his older brother, Ike, in Laffin Hollow, on the other side of the mountain.

There was silence a little while. Mrs. Laffin rocked over the loose, squeaking boards and fingered lovingly the heavy black silk and the chiffon of the bonnet. She had of late years given up all hope of wearing the pretty things which had so delighted the heart of the girl whom Abe Laffin, since nicknamed "Pop," had won over the determined rivalry of his brother.

"That was the only piece of luck I ever had," Pop was wont to say with a rough softness, "and how I ever did it is more'n I know."

He began to gather up the papers and put then into the wood-box, while Myra's chair came gradually to rest and a question grew strong in her eyes. At last she spoke hesitatingly: "Pa, did Ike act up any?"

Laffin got down on his knees stiffly and gathered up the cord. He tried to speak cheerfully: "Well, he acted as usual, meaner than dirt, but he couldn't do an earthly thing. Uncle John had made his will so it couldn't be broken, and Ike had to stand by and see me deposit my two thousand."

"Ma," he went on, after a pause, "I want to say something. I haven't ever said it these thirty year since we were married, but I tell you, I've thought of it a sight. It's not been out of my head day or night."

The man hesitated, pulled himself into a chair, and busied himself unraveling the cord merely as an excuse to avoid his wife's eyes. "You know, Myry, time was when you had your choice 'twixt Ike and me, and you took up with me. Every time I see Ike's place and his carriage and his wife togged out so fine, I sort of choke up, ma, on your account. I never spoke of it before, and couldn't now if I hadn't brought you them things and the promise of better times."

Myra rose, heedless of the "things" which were scattered over the floor. She stood beside her husband and stroked his gray hair.

"Pa," she said, "you ought to have told me this long ago, for I could have told you any minute this thirty years that I'd rather be here wearin' calico than down to Laffin Hollow togged out like Cynthy is."

Her husband rose and hurried out of the door. Half-way to the barn he drew a red handkerchief from his pocket and blew a resounding blast on it.

Two thousand dollars constituted a fortune to Laffin and his wife. It was to be their support in old age, and would give them a hundred little comforts and luxuries unheard of before on Laffin Hill. Its interest would eke out the meager income derived from the old stone quarry at the end of the long, barren farm.

Isaac Laffin had suddenly taken an overwhelming interest in his brother's welfare. Often during these July days he stopped at the lane entrance and hitching his horses, visited a few moments with Myra, or else strolled over to the quarry and talked over crops and the price of paving-stones with his brother.

He became gradually more and more genial, and even brought Cynthia occasionally. Finally, as the climax of brotherly love, he invited Myra and her husband to eat supper one Saturday evening in August at Laffin Hollow. It was the first time in many years that such an invitation had been extended.

"Ike's mighty changed, ain't he, ma?" remarked Pop, laboring with a new tie which Myra had purchased to harmonize with a "bought white shirt."

"Maybe he's changed, pa, but it would be like the leopard's spots if he has," returned Myra, hesitatingly. She could not quite believe in the goodness of a man who had thwarted her husband at every turn for thirty years.

When they reached the large, comfortable Laffin Hollow house, Isaac was not at home. "Gone to Wilkesbarre after meal," Cynthia explained, "but he'll be here before supper, no doubt. Ike scarce ever misses his meals."

True to the reputation his wife had given him, Isaac drove into the yard as they were sitting down to supper. He swore loudly at his horses for his delay. His voice had Pop's loud, hoarse tone without Pop's tenderness and good humor.

"I had to wait my turn at the mill," he announced, striding into the kitchen, "and it took an everlastin' while. Well, brother, I'm glad to see you."

Pop's kind heart melted under the long unseen term, "brother."

"Ike does seem changed," he said, musingly, to Myra, when in the twilight they turned in at the lane gate.

"Ain't those tracks fresh?" asked Myra, quickly, to avoid the assent she could not give.

She pointed at wide wheel tracks in the lane ahead of them. Pop looked up abstractedly and nodded, without noticing that the tracks ran on past the house and along the quarry road.

Early on Monday morning he harnessed the horses and hitched them to the heavy trucks, and loaded on his tools for the quarry.

Paving-stones were about the only produce on Laffin Hill. At the quarry the hill, so called, reared itself into one of those bleak cold mountains which rise abruptly behind Wilkesbarre. The quarry had been worked intermittently for half a century, and a wide, black hole had been blasted out under the overhanging mountain.

Pop Laffin, pickax in hand, went to work with a will at the back of the hole, digging among the debris which had been made by his Saturday morning blasting. Under the dirt and loose stones in the corner he pulled out some peculiar-looking stones, quite black. He regarded them carefully. They resembled coal.

He stopped, and pushing his hat back, scratched his head in his slow, puzzled way. He kicked the stones about and unearthed some pieces of slate. He wondered how they came there. Then he examined the sides of the quarry.

Was it his imagination or was the dirt blacker than usual in a certain vein, and was the stone dark? Could it be possible? He examined the suspicious chunks again. Yes, certainly they were coal. He had lived on the borders of Wyoming Valley all his life, and could not fail to recognize a piece of anthracite coal.

He became excited. Could it be that he had struck a coal vein? There was nothing unreasonable in the idea when great breakers raised their grim black roofs within five miles of him.

"If this is coal," he said aloud, "why, then, Myry, she—" But he did not finish the sentence. He suddenly walked out into the open and began to stroke the necks of his faithful, lean, old horses.

He hardly noticed his brother swinging along the hill road until the latter was within hailing distance.

"Hello there, Pop!" he shouted, "Ye look as if ye'd had a shock or something. What's up?"

"Why, I don't know, Ike," Pop spoke, slowly. "Come in here and look for yourself."

He led the way back into the quarry, and pointed out the coal and the black streak against the dim background, for in the best of lights the deep quarry remained shadowy and dim.

"By the great horn spoon, man," cried Isaac Laffin, "you've struck coal! You've struck coal!"

He pawed over the debris like a madman, all the time exclaiming, "You've struck coal, Pop! You're in luck! You've struck coal!"

Pop went home like one in a dream to tell his wife. "It don't seem real, ma," he said, slowly.

"Maybe it ain't real," she hastened to warn him. "Wait and see."

Pop sat down on the porch floor and ran his fingers through his hair. "Yes, that's what Ike says. He says, 'Be still about this and we'll see what's in it.' Ike is actin' halfway decent these days, Myry. He is going to see me out of this coal business, he says, if there's anything in it."

Myra's face fell into anxious lines at the mention of the brother's name. "I have no trust in Ike," she said, fearfully.

"Well, I ain't trusting him, ma, exactly. He's to come up to work for me, with all his hands. Think of Ike Laffin workin' for *me*?"

Isaac Laffin grinned half the way to Laffin Hollow, and slapped his leg in glee over some idea which he had not communicated to his dazed brother.

The day following he was early on Laffin Hill, accompanied by his men and his sons, with their heavy farm horses, ready for work at ruinously high wages.

Pop held his breath and tried to figure without worrying Myra. He could never manage figures very well, but he made this fact out laboriously, that it would not be long before the two thousand dollars would vanish while the coal vein was being opened.

Isaac was a good manager. Pop knew that, and yielded readily to his suggestions. Men came up from Wilkesbarre and erected a strong derrick to aid in the rapid removal of stones from the quarry. They charged an astonishing price, half of which they secretly paid over to Isaac, according to agreement.

"O pa, pa!" moaned Myra, when Pop at last confessed that the bank account had dwindled to a very insignificant sum.

Pop swallowed hard. "But, Myry, it seemed for the best. There's coal there. We run into it every day. And we'd be rich, Myry, if—"

Myra stooped and looked out of the small buttery window. "Why, Ike and all hands are loading up!" she exclaimed, in astonishment.

Pop swallowed again and walked slowly to the door.

"Yes, ma, Ike allowed they'd all stop awhile and tend to harvestin'."

"Just as he's used up the money—O pa!" Myra leaned against the buttery shelves. There was no note of reproach in her tone, only a deep grief, which cut Pop like a whip-lash.

In the barn he went about his work with a drawn look on his face. Once he stopped before the horses and stroked their noses. "It's me and you now, old fellows, back in the quarry," he said.

The twilight had merged into darkness before he finished the chores. Usually he was not half so long, but that night he felt almost unable to face Myra again.

"I was thinkin' of her more'n myself when I did it," he said to the cows, as he drove them out into the pasture and turned slowly toward the house.

"Come, pa, the biscuits will be cold, I'm afraid." Myra's voice sounded cheerfully from the kitchen door.

Pop's face lightened. "I might have known she'd be just the same—just the same!" he muttered.

She was just the same loving patient Myra in the dark days that followed, when Pop worked alone in the quarry, and wondered dully why no more coal came to light and no more slate was unearthed; when night after night he came home with no better news than the fact that the blasting had ruined his best paving-stones.

A month passed, and neither Isaac Laffin nor his men had gone over the mountain. They were all careful to go to Wilkesbarre by the valley road.

One afternoon Isaac sat idly on his porch. He was wondering what Pop was doing when he heard such a report from the mountain in front of him as he had never heard before. The window-panes behind him rattled. He burst out laughing, and muttered, "The big fool!" After a few moments another report came, louder and clearer than before.

Several days later, Isaac's curiosity being aroused, he drove up the mountain road and stopped at the old house, to find out how things were progressing. He was surprised to see two carriages standing in the lane.

Hitching his horses to the pickets of the fence, he went up the path to the side door, and paused. There was a confusion of voices inside. Isaac glanced in. A group of men were shaking hands with Pop and Myra. They were men of a different stamp from the inhabitants of North Lennox, well-dressed, clean-shaven, keen-eyed men. Among them he recognized the mine superintendent of "The Standard," one of the largest coal-mines in northern Pennsylvania.

He recognized the superintendent because not many weeks since he had some dealings at the Standard—a matter of a little coal and slate just as it had come from the mine. He wondered what those men were here for.

He stepped back as they came out of the house. Pop was with them, but he did not see Isaac. They went down the lane to their carriages, and Isaac entered the kitchen.

Myra Laffin stood in the middle of the room, her eyes glowing and a paper held tightly in both hands, as if it would escape.

"What's up, Myra?" Isaac inquired, sociably. "What are all those men doing here?"

Myra shut her lips as if she did not intend to speak, and then suddenly opened them again. She spoke clearly and slowly. The presence of her brother-in-law usually suppressed her. Now it seemed to stimulate her.

"It means, Ike Laffin, that we have just signed a lease which turns this farm over to the Standard Coal Company for ninety-years."

Isaac's eyes seemed to start from his head. He fairly yelled, "Leased yer land? Leased it on what?"

"On the vein of coal that runs through it." Myra's voice rang out triumphantly. For the first and last time in her life, another's chagrin was her pleasure. "An' it's a vein that doesn't run under Laffin Holler, neither, Ike Laffin!" she cried.

Ike's face darkened and he sprang toward the dor. By the great horn spoon! The fools leased on a vein of coal, did they? Well, I'll soon put an end to that. I'll tell 'em the truth. There ain't any vein of coal here."

Myra laughed a scornful laugh that arrested Isaac on the threshold. "You can save yourself the trouble, Ike. They know all about what you've been doin'." Again Myra laughed happily, and gazed at the lease in her hands.

"Your derrick men told in Wilkesbarre that we'd struck coal, and the Standard men came up to see last week. They put in two blasts of stuff that shook the mountain, and, Ike, they struck coal!"

Could any one blame her for the exultation in her voice as she held the lease before her baffled brother-in-law? "The two thousand is gone. No one knows that better'n you do, Ike Laffin. But what's two thousand to this?"

She snatched the precious lease to her bosom, and turned to watch Pop coming up the lane, his face aglow, the hair on his uncovered head rnffled up to a peak. Then the triumph and exultation died out of her face. It softened and became tender.

Suddenly she turned to Ike, and said, not unkindly, yet with a gesture of repugnance in his direction.

"I want that you should go now. I must see pa alone."

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