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The CALL of the CUMBERLANDS

By CHARLES NEVILLE BUCK
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS
OF SCENES IN THE PLAY
CHAPTER X—Continued.

Indian summer came again to Misery, flaunting woodland banners of crimson and scarlet orange, but to Sally the season brought only heart-achy remembrances of last autumn, when Samson had softened her stoicism as the haze had softened the horizon. He had sent her a few brief letters—not written, but plainly printed. He selected short words—as much as the primer as possible, for no other messages could she read. There were times in plenty when he wished to pour out to her torrents of feeling, and it was such feelings as would have carried comfort to her lonely little heart. He wished to tell frankly of what a good friend he had made, how this friendship had softened his love for Sally. There was in his mind no suspicion as yet—that these two girls might ever stand in conflict as to the right-of-way. But the letters he wished to write were not the sort he cared to have read to the girl by the evangelist-doctor or the district-school teacher, and alone she could have made nothing of them. However, "I love you," are easy words—and those he always included.

The Widow Miller had been alling for months, and, though the local physician diagnosed the condition as being "right pory," he knew that the specter of tuberculosis which stalks through these badly lighted and ventilated houses was stretching out its fingers to touch her shrunken chest. This had meant that Sally had to forego the evening hours to study, because of the weariness that followed the day of nursing and household drudgery. Autumn seemed to bring to her mother a slight improvement, and Sally could again sometimes steal away with her plate and book, to sit alone on the big bowlder, and study. She would not be able to write that Christmas letter. There had been too many interruptions in the self-imposed education, but some day she would write. There would probably be time enough. It would take even Samson a long while to become an artist.

One day, as she was walking placeward from her lonely trysting place, she met the battered-looking man who carried medicines in his satchels and the Scriptures in his pocket, and who practiced both forms of healing through the hills. The old man drew down his bag, and three one leg over the pommel. "Evenin', Sally," he greeted. "Evenin', Brother Spencer. How ar ye?" "To'able, thank ye, Sally." The body-and-soul mender studied the girl awhile in silence, and then said bluntly: "Ye've done broke right smart, in the last year. Anything the matter with ye?" She shook her head, and laughed. It was an effort to laugh merrily, but the ghost of the old instinctive blitheness rippled into it. "I've jest come from old Spicer South's," volunteered the doctor. "His aillin' pretty considerable, these days."

"What's the matter with Unc' Spicer?" demanded the girl, in genuine anxiety. Every one along Misery called the old man "Unc' Spicer." "I can't jest make up," her informant spoke slowly, and his brow corrugated into something like sullessness. "He ain't jest to say sick. That is, his organs seems all right, but he don't 'pear to have no heart fer nothin', and his vitals don't tempt him none. He's jest pury, thet's all."

"I'll go over ther, an' see him," announced the girl. "I'll cook a chicken thet'll tempt him."

The girl spent much time after that at the house of old Spicer South, and her coming seemed to waken him into a fitful return of spirits.

"I reckon, Unc' Spicer," suggested the girl, on one of her first visits, "I'd better send fer Samson. Mebbe hit mout do ye good ter see him."

The old man was weakly leaning back on his chair, and his eyes were vacantly listless; but, at the suggestion, he straightened, and the ancient fire came again to his face.

"Don't ye do hit," he exclaimed, almost fiercely. "I knows ye mean hit kindly, Sally, but don't meddle in my business."

"I—I didn't 'low ter meddle," faltered the girl.

"No, little gal." His voice softened at once into gentleness. "I knows ye didn't. I didn't mean ter be short-answered with ye either, but that's jest one thet I won't 'low nobody ter do—an'th'et's ter send fer Samson. He knows the road, er when he wants ter come, he'll find the door

He's told me all about her." Horton shook his head, dubiously. "I wish to the good Lord, he'd go back to her," he said. (To be continued.)

GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

Items of Interest Gathered From All Around the World.
Railroads of Nebraska are preparing to give work to 10,000 unemployed men, as section hands, repair gangs, etc.

The Chinese government has extended for a period of 99 years the Japanese lease of the ports of Dalian and Port Arthur.

More than 15,000 miners of the New River, W. Va., coal fields are threatening to go on a strike, over a question of a scale of wages.

Major Benjamin F. Rittenhouse, U. S. A., retired, committed suicide in Philadelphia, last Saturday, and was buried at Arlington Wednesday.

Building contractors of Chicago, are threatening to suspend all work in that city in case the lathers strike, following their demand for \$6 a day.

The total prison population of New York state for the year ending September 30, 1914, was 16,578, an increase over the previous year of \$1,717. The total number of commitments during 1914, was 118,327.

General Goethals, at a recent dinner at Panama, announced that he had asked the war department to relieve him from his work on the canal, that it might be turned over to a younger man.

The political complexion of the next congress will be as follows: Democrats, 232; Republicans, 194; Progressives, 7; Independent, 1; Socialist, 1.

A dispatch received at Boston, from the captain of the American steamer Pacific, cotton laden, from Galveston, held up last week at Deal, England, says the ship has been released and is proceeding to Rotterdam.

The Countess Szechenyi, formerly Miss Gladys Vanderbilt of New York, is ill in a Budapest hospital with smallpox, having contracted the disease while acting as a nurse in a hospital for Hungarian soldiers.

The French liner La Touraine, from New York on Feb. 27, arrived at Havre, France, Monday, after sending out a distress signal on account of a fire on board while 1,000 miles at sea. Several ships responded to the call for help, but were not needed.

The Holland-American line steamer Ruydam left New York Wednesday for England, carrying mails. The Ruydam is the only passenger carrying vessel sailing from New York to England this week, and was sent on the trip especially to carry the mails.

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A belated letter received in Boston a few days ago from a missionary in Mexico, tells of a railroad catastrophe that occurred on January 18, on the line between Colima and Guadalajara. A special train of twenty cars, loaded to capacity, inside and out, plunged down a steep incline and off into an abyss. Six hundred persons were killed outright, 300 injured and only six were unhurt.

President Wilson has set May 10 as the date for a conference between leading bankers of the United States, and finance ministers and leading bankers of Central and South America. The conference will be held in Washington and its purpose is to develop more cordial business relations between the United States and the nations to the south of us. The visit will be entertained by the government.

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MONARCHY OF KING COTTON

Must Be Limited for the Sake of Safety.

OVERPRODUCTION MEANS WEAKNESS.

Great Crop of the South Basis of the Financial Strength of the Union—So Long as the Yield is Small the Selling Price is Great; But When the Crop is Great, the Throne of the King Becomes Shaky.

Following is the text of address delivered by W. P. G. Harding of the Federal reserve board, before the Baltimore chapter, American Institute of Banking:

Events of the past seven months have demonstrated in a forcible way the importance of cotton as a factor in local, national and international trade and finance.

The cotton belt of the United States extends across the continent from the Imperial Valley in California through parts of Arizona and New Mexico to Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas and south Atlantic states to the Gulf and the Gulf of Mexico. About one-fifth of the entire population of the country is resident in the cotton belt, and is either directly engaged or closely concerned in the production and marketing of the crop.

It may be interesting to consider for a moment some of the elements that enter the production of cotton from planting time until the staple is ready for conversion into finished goods.

The preparation of the ground before planting stimulates raising of livestock, as the motive power drawing the plow is either a horse, or a mule, or an ox. Plow points, trace chains and cotton ties connect the farmer with the metal trades, while the plow handles, made of hardwood, are contributed by a branch of the lumber industry.

Fertilizer, generally used throughout the belt east of Texas, is the product of a highly specialized manufacturing industry, which assembles its raw material and in marketing its output employs thousands of men and furnishes a vast amount of tonnage for transportation lines. In most cases the food and clothing of the cotton farmer and his family, from the time his crop is planted until it is marketed, is bought on credit, as well as the fertilizer which enriches the soil.

The outbreak of the war in Europe, occurred in the cotton belt. The Ryndam is the only passenger carrying vessel sailing from New York to England this week, and was sent on the trip especially to carry the mails.

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reserves were threatened, and the extremely sluggish movement of a great commodity that had been counted upon to produce \$500,000,000 of foreign exchange, affected the finances of the world. The greatest financial leaders in the country were at a loss to find a remedy, although expedients of all sorts were proposed, among them the "buy-a-bale" plan, which resulted in the sale of a limited amount of cotton at 50¢ per bale by a comparatively small number of producers, which merely shifted the ownership of the cotton involved without increasing its consumption or adding to its market price, and which also tended to give holders wrong ideas as to actual values.

Various other schemes were suggested, looking to the purchase of cotton at five prices by the National Government by the states, but no legislative action resulted except the enactment of an excellent warehouse law in the state of South Carolina.

The city of St. Louis, the commercial gateway to the Southwest, and a great distributing center for the entire south, was perhaps, more directly affected by the distress prevailing throughout the cotton belt than any other financial center, and to a banker of that city, Mr. Festus J. Wade, is due the credit for the initiation of a relief measure whose evolution into a great cotton loan fund was undoubtedly instrumental in ending the cotton panic. Out of a total sum of \$101,038,000, subscribed by and through banks in the north, east and west, New York subscribed \$52,000,000, Chicago \$12,045,500, St. Louis \$12,004,900, Philadelphia \$5,179,000, Baltimore \$2,451,000, Boston \$2,085,000, Cincinnati \$2,000,000, Cleveland \$2,000,000, Pittsburgh \$2,000,000, and several other cities more than \$1,000,000 each. Altogether there were 639 subscribers in 64 cities situated in 19 states and the District of Columbia. While the funds provided were barely touched, the total loans having been only \$28,000, the plan was nevertheless effective in creating the mental attitude necessary, as a result of the restoration of orderly methods and normal conditions, yet while the funds were being subscribed much opposition was manifested and the idea condemned in some quarters as illegal, economically unsound, dangerous and visionary.

The essential feature of the plan adopted, however, was co-operation between banks of the south, who as a rule, already had a large equity in the cotton crop by virtue of advances made to the farmer by growing and banks in other sections, whose interests were remote and whose participation was due to a patriotic public spirit. The members of the Federal reserve board, in their individual capacities, consented to act as a central committee in general charge of the management of the fund. A loan committee was appointed, composed of two members of the Federal reserve board and of six well-known bankers representing the cash subscribers. The south was to subscribe \$35,000,000, and Southern banks were allowed to pay their subscriptions in notes secured by cotton collateral, and loan committees were appointed in each of the cotton-growing states, who, in turn, selected a large number of local committees throughout their respective states. The plan provided, in effect, for a moderate valorization of cotton, as loans were to be made upon the usual margin, on a basis of 6 cents per pound. The prominent part taken by the secretary in the formation of the fund, and his unflinching efforts to its accomplishment was due to the attempts of its opponents to defeat the plan, the interest taken in the matter by the president, who requested the attorney general of the United States to give an opinion as to its legality, which opinion held that it was not in contravention of any of the anti-trust laws—all served to give this measure of relief the widest possible publicity. Not only throughout the United States, but abroad as well. As soon as spinners throughout the world were impressed with the fact that cotton, after all, had a tangible value, but holders could secure loans upon it on the basis of 6 cents per pound, they began to buy. Other circumstances about this time tended to broaden the demand, the Federal reserve banks were opened, money rate began to drop, Great Britain announced that cotton would not be regarded as her cotton contraband to Germany, sales of the cotton in the south liquidated pressing indebtedness, and in a short time the whole situation was sensibly relieved. Despite our limited shipping facilities, handicapped further by vessels having to pass through mine-infested seas, exports of cotton for the past two months have been without parallel. The war risk insurance provided by the government has been most effective, and last fall has been most effective, and has facilitated a would have been in prices. With occasional fluctuations, prices have advanced to more than 8 cents per pound, and the general bankruptcy that threatened the South when the situation looked darkest has been averted.

The \$100,000,000 gold pool which was formed last fall for the purpose of reducing the price of foreign exchange so as to render possible the liquidation of our indebtedness abroad has been dissolved, the first installment only having been called, and much of that unused. Cotton exchanges have been reopened, stock exchanges are again doing business in a normal manner, our foreign indebtedness has been liquidated by exports of cotton, wheat and other commodities, and we have shown an ability to absorb without inconvenience the securities offered for foreign account. Quotations for sterling exchange, which were more than \$5 per pound when the gold pool was formed, have sunk below normal, and the record low figure of \$4.79 was reached a few days ago. Foreign countries have come to recognize the United States as the financial Gibraltar of the world, and if newspaper reporters are correct, agents of many governments are now seeking loans direct and indirect in our leading financial centers.

History records no war conducted on a scale so gigantic as that which

is now devastating Europe, and nowhere in the story of American finance can be found a commercial and banking situation so serious as that which developed almost overnight during the closing days of last July. Nor has there been a crisis through which a secretary of the treasury displayed better generalship or handled matters more promptly, skillfully and fearlessly, and never before has there been so rapid a transition from an acute situation of the utmost gravity to one of comparative ease and assured safety.

In the Southern States, where cotton is king, his power and glory mean always prosperity to his subjects, and his weakness or dethronement, his influence extends far beyond his own domains to every section of this country and to the uttermost parts of the earth. His fall and partial restoration, however, convey a lesson that we should ponder over and take to heart, which is, that he should never again be permitted to become an absolute monarch, but that his sovereignty should be limited, and that the present demand for cotton is due to an appreciation of the fact that it can be had for less than its average cost of production. Foreign and domestic spinners are laying in supplies, with an eye to the future, in excess of their immediate needs. At the close of the present cotton year there will be probably a surplus of 5,000,000 bales.

The war still rages with unabated violence, and the danger of shipping increases daily. Cotton may at any time be declared contraband, and an effort to produce another large crop this season would be supreme folly, and such a result might be attained with grave consequences. The mercantile and financial interests of the entire country and the farmers of the South should work together now as never before for the cause of crop diversification. Cotton acreage this spring should be greatly reduced and every possible acre planted in food-stuffs for man and beast. The 11,000,000-bale crop in 1910 sold for more money than did the 16,000,000-bale crop of 1911, and not only is it certain that 10,000,000 bales produced in 1915 would bring a greater cash return than would 15,000,000 bales, but it is evident also that the large yield may be made disaster, while the smaller, if used for food crops, would utilize the land released by properly utilizing the result of King Cotton to this throne and would permit his subjects once more to trip along the primrose path of prosperity.

HAPPENINGS IN THE STATE

Items of Interest from All Sections of South Carolina.

The State Teachers' association meets in Florence March 24.

During the month of February, 669 persons were tried in the Columbia city court. Fines collected amounted to \$1,413.75.

James M. Baker, secretary of the United States senate, is spending a few days with relatives in Lowndesville, his native town.

Will Sherard, a negro, killed Irene Washington, a negro, near Ware Shoals last Saturday, by severing her jugular vein with a pocket knife.

B. C. Trippett who shot W. L. Jones in Sumpter last Friday night, inflicting wounds from which Jones died Saturday, has been released on a \$2,000 bond.

A report from Spartanburg is to the effect that J. Broadus McKnight, the fifteen years secretary to Senator Tillman, who was appointed as clerk of the Western district of South Carolina.

A large barn on the plantation of R. H. Aman near Bishopville, was destroyed by fire Monday, bushels of corn, and roughness valued at \$500. The cotton was insured.

As a result of the primary election for municipal officers of the city of Greenwood, which was held Tuesday, A. S. Hartzog and E. R. Goodwyn will have to make a second race for mayor. The vote for mayoralty candidates was as follows: Hartzog, 230; Goodwyn, 211; P. W. DeVore, 190, and F. S. Evans, 118.

Fire in Sumter late Tuesday night, destroyed two large frame buildings occupied by the Harry-Epworth stores, together with a quantity of horses and some score of mules and cows. The total loss is about \$15,000.

Mrs. Ellen Lovell of Zoar, Chesterfield county, died Thursday from the effects of a poison tablet she took by mistake last Sunday.

Citizens of Eastover have preferred charges with the Richland county assessor board against W. H. Thompson, dispenser at that place. Among other things, Thompson is charged with being perjuriously active in politics and is also alleged that he has been receiving each month for the salary of a porter when no porter has been employed.

S. Curtis Armstrong, master mechanic of the Orr cotton mills, of Anderson, Tuesday night shot and instantly killed W. C. Green, an itinerant mill operative, who broke into the former's house, after members of the family had retired and who acted as though he was drawing a pistol from his pocket when Mr. Armstrong discovered him in the house and called on him in vain for an explanation as to his presence there.

A Preacher Judge—The Rev. J. H. J. Rice, who has been acting as police judge for the last nine months, has "made good," in the judgment of some of his enemies who were at first skeptical, says an Emporia, Kan., dispatch. Here are some of the things which have been noted especially in the conduct of the Emporia police court.

The police are instructed to make arrests only when absolutely necessary. Use preventive and educational methods instead of penal.

Only six times in nine months have lawyers appeared before the court for the accused. The prosecutor is in reality attorney for both sides.

It is strictly a court of fact, not of opinion.

Paroles are given to a large percentage of prisoners.

Not one case has been taken on appeal to a higher court.

Only three persons have been before the court more than once.

MERCY IN PARDONING POWER

Tremendous Responsibility Imposed by State Constitution.

RECOGNITION OF DEMANDS OF MERCY

Notable Article by Ex-Governor Cole L. Blaise, Discussing the Motives and Impulses in the Exercise of Clemency—Feels that the Downtrodden and Abused Convict is Entitled to a Fair Show in the Interest of Right and Humanity.

[This notable article reached us after the pages of this number were printed. It is in harmony with the subject and spirit of this issue of Case and Comment that we delayed the appearance of the magazine in order that the article might be inserted with special page numbering. No advocate of humanitarianism which is the essence of the "New Penology" has done more than Ex-Governor Blaise to demonstrate his faith by his works. —Ed. Note and Comment.]

It is my purpose to discuss, from a legal standpoint, the pardoning power of a state's chief executive. What I shall have to say must be understood as applying solely to the view which I held of my duty, as governor of South Carolina, under the constitution and statute laws of my state.

The constitution of South Carolina provides that the governor "shall have power to grant reprieves, commutations and pardons after conviction (except in cases of impeachment), in such manner, on such terms, and under such restrictions as he shall think proper," etc.

It also provides: "He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed in mercy."

During my four years as governor, I obeyed that mandate of the constitution as the Supreme Ruler of the Universe gave me the light to see the right.

It has been said, with great force, that "the pardoning power has too often been permitted to lie dormant."

When I took the oath of office as chief executive of my state, in January, 1911, I began a personal investigation of the penal institutions of South Carolina. I made a personal investigation of the penitentiary. I did not hesitate, when I was in the neighborhood of a county changing, to visit it. I found what I conceived to be most appalling conditions—and these conditions were the rule, and not the exception.

I found men serving life sentences who had been convicted of offenses which were trivial as compared with offenses committed by men who had served or were only serving a short term. I found a negro in the state penitentiary who had already served twenty-two years for stealing a watch valued at \$27. I found another negro who had served eleven years for stealing \$9.

But, even worse than these instances which I have cited, I found in operation, within the walls of the state penitentiary, a hoosier mill, operated by contractors to whom the convict were leased, which was a sure and rapid breeder of tuberculosis.

I immediately inaugurated a pardon and parole system, and began a fight for the abolition of this hoosier mill.

The general assembly of my state was politically opposed to me. Factional politics in South Carolina had been, and are yet, bitter. But when the facts in regard to this hoosier mill were brought out, the sentiment of the people was so strong that even a hostile legislature was forced to take notice. I wrote message after message to the legislature, and demanded that the state of South Carolina cease to condemn her unfortunate wards to a slow death by the most dreaded and dreadful disease—that she cease to commit legal murder by conducting a "tuberculosis incubator."

After one of the most stubborn fights ever waged in this state, the bill to abolish this hoosier mill passed the house of representatives by a good majority, and when it went to a hostile senate, it received every vote except one—and that one was the senator from Newberry county.

If I had accomplished nothing else, in my four years as governor except the destruction of this hoosier mill, I would be satisfied, because I feel that it was a service to humanity that that wiped a black spot from the escutcheon of one of the proudest states in the American Union.

I pardoned some convicts who ought not to have been convicted, and some others who were guilty, but who ought to have been pardoned long ago. I inaugurated a parole system, and granted hundreds of paroles. I was as vigorously condemned on the one hand, and as heartily praised on the other, for nearly every decision I reached upon each individual case, as any man who has ever been in public life in the history of this country. I cared not for the condemnation or the praise. I was seeking to do my duty under the constitution, to execute the laws faithfully in mercy, and striving to do the right, and to give human beings who had made mistakes a chance to correct them and to do their part for the benefit of society.

I have always entertained the view that the object of imprisonment should not be to make men suffer, and thereby make hardened criminals, but that it should be to correct. If a young boy gets into bad company, and is induced to steal \$20, the offense in this state is grand larceny, for which the punishment is severe. A jury, under their oaths, must convict