

# Old Mizzkook's Stratagem

By HERMAN CALLAND.

Maps of British North America, such as were issued ten years ago, one will find an extensive region about the head waters of the Peace River, across which is printed the word, "Explored."

It is a tract as large as the State of Maine, walled round to the south by that transverse range of the Rockies in which the Fraser River rises; and the scene of this narrative is the valley of a small tributary now known as McDougal's Creek.

Along the creek for a distance of several miles there are grassy plains of alluvial meadows of such fertility and such sylvan beauty that in the summer of 1894 one Roscoe McDougal was tempted to settle here, having it in mind to keep cattle and sheep. Lofly crags sheltered the valley on the west side; and against the almost perpendicular face of one of these McDougal constructed a comfortable shack of pine logs and "splints," and adjoining it built a log shed for the three cows, which one by one he led up here from the nearest human habitation, fifty miles lower down the river.

To this remote spot, during the summer of 1895, he brought his wife and two little boys, Donald and James, aged ten and eight. Potatoes and turnips are said to have grown well here, and McDougal might perhaps have made a home for himself and family and done well. But he seems to have lacked the patience to work and wait; and during the season of 1897, having heard glowing accounts of the gold found in the Klondike region, he grew disheartened, and left his family. He cannot be said to have deserted them, for he left them a good stock of flour in sacks, and other supplies; the cows, too, afforded milk and butter in abundance. Yet it was little less than foolhardy to leave a woman and two boys at such a distance from human aid and companionship. They appear, however, to have passed the following winter without accident or trouble, but in all that time did not see a human being, except an Indian squaw, who came occasionally to beg.

But in April calamity fell on them. Mrs. McDougal suffered a serious injury while attempting to lead one of the cows. Inflammation ensued, from which she died on the fourth night after, without medical aid, and attended only by the boys and the squaw, who chanced to come to them. The grief and terror of the poor lads knew no bounds.

The squaw, a sallow, hideous old creature, took up her abode with them. Perhaps the dying mother had asked her to do so. She cooked their food after a manner, but was very wasteful and dirty. At times, however, she went off to snare ptarmigan and hares, and once fetched home a beaver, the tail of which she cooked with curious ceremonies and devoured with much gusto. Her name was Mizzkook—at least, that was what little Jimmy and Donald called her. Sometimes she slept over a day or two and would not get up to prepare food. When she had cooked, she gorged herself, then slept again. The lads learned to make a kind of flour pone for themselves, which they ate in milk; during these long periods of slumber.

After this fashion they lived through the summer, the boys hoping every day that their father would come back. Donald got out the scythe and put up a little hay in the meadow. They also planted a patch of potatoes. Their cows now gave but little milk; but as the season advanced they gathered berries.

Neither Indians nor wild beasts had troubled them thus far, in summer or winter; but one day in September of that autumn they heard their three cows and their calves bawling in a frightful manner at a distance up a meadow, and on running to learn the cause of the commotion, beheld a terrible spectacle.

An enormous animal, the like of which they had never seen, had killed one of the cows, and was carrying it away to the woods. The calf followed after, bawling pitifully. The other two cows stood at a distance, bawling loudly.

To Donald and Jimmy the huge animal seemed to be white, or nearly so. It was probably a "silver-tip" grizzly bear. It seemed to them to be larger than any one of the cows, and its strength must have been prodigious, for it carried the body of the cow, a large one, with apparent ease.

The fear inspired in Jimmy and Donald by this savage incursion cannot be easily described. Awestruck, they stared at the white monster, then ran back to the shack to call old Mizzkook. The latter, rousing from her slumbers of repletion, issued forth, and on seeing the great tracks of the bear in the black loam of the meadow, was at no loss to comprehend what had happened.

"Nesqueem! Nesqueem!" she muttered, in some excitement, and bade the boys drive the cows to the shed and shut them up.

Nor would she permit them to be turned out the next day, but assisted the boys to cut and fetch dry grass and water from the creek for them. The calf had not come back.

Nothing further was seen of the bear for a week or more, and they turned to the cows again when the silver-made a second descent on them, killing and carrying off another cow. A calf, too, was disabled; and the foray was made so near the shack that the boys saw the bear approach and heard his terrific roar as it rushed upon the little herd.

So frightened, so filled with horror was little Jimmy that he shrieked and ran to hide himself in the farthest corner of the shack. Old Mizzkook came forth, and stood muzzling, rolling her eyes, grunting strange exclamations. Donald, who was old enough to think of defending their property, longed for a gun; but they had nothing in the way of weapons save a bull scybe and a duller.

For another week they were not molested—while the bear found the cow sufficient for his wants. Then one night they were waked by the mournful howling of the cow and the calves, and looking out, they saw the huge pale specter of a beast standing at the door of the shed. The grizzly had come for more beef.

But the log walls and door appeared to puzzle the animal. It ran to and fro, swinging its head, snorting and snuffing, and presently came to the shack door. One blow of the bear's huge paw would have crushed it.

The boys covered in their bed, shivering with fear, but the squaw kindled a fire, and as soon as brands were blazing, she threw one out at the little window on that side. The bear snorted and retired to a distance, where it stood for a time, as if in astonishment, then came round near the cow shed again. Immediately the cow resumed her plaintive howling.

The bear stood up and pawed the walls of the shed, and would probably have torn the structure down, but the squaw, opening the shack door, threw brands at him. The huge beast went away, but returned toward morning, and but for the squaw's firebrands would have secured the cow. At sunrise it snuffled away up the meadows.

Not once during that long night had the boys closed their eyes; but they now fell asleep, and were only awakened several hours later by the sound of blows. The cow and one of the calves were in the shack. The squaw was wielding the ax at the shed; and on going out there Donald and Jimmy secretly recognized her.

From a grunting, apathetic old creature, she appeared transformed into a gleaming-eyed fury. They were afraid of her, she looked so wild and dashed to and fro with such agility. She had chopped at the rafters of the shed roof at both ends, where they rested on the log walls of the shed, but supported them by two props underneath, as she worked she sang some sort of savage chant over and over, ending it every time with an eldritch whoop.

The lads were wholly at a loss to know what had come over her, or what she was doing in such a mood. She appeared entirely forgetful of their food, nor could little Jimmy induce her to turn her attention to cooking.

During the afternoon she set both youngsters fetching stones from the foot of the crags a few yards away, and these she piled on the roof of the shed. In a word, the squaw was setting a bear trap—probably after the manner of her tribe. The task had roused her from her overfed apathy. She drove the lads to and fro with handfuls of stones, and fetched large ones herself, till a weight of several tons had been piled on the splits of the shed roof.

The squaw had left the lame calf in the shed, tied at the far end of it, and would not allow Donald to lead it out; but the other calf was with her in the shed. At sunset she set the door of the shed ajar, and the boys now began better to comprehend her stratagem.

For if the bear entered at the door of the shed to seize the calf at the far end, he would have to pass between the two props, the bases of which she had set on round sections of a pine log. The props stood so near together that the grizzly's body would displace them, causing the logs to roll outward.

As night drew on they retired to the shack, and remained quiet there, without light or fire.

Toward midnight the cow began to low. The bear was coming. After a time they heard it snuffing near the door, and again a great fear fell on little Jimmy. But he dared not cry.

Not long after this they heard a savage roar, accompanied by a clatter. A moment later there was a tremendous crash, followed by hoarse, awful outcries and roars of distress.

Old Mizzkook ran out and danced about the shed, singing and whooping in savage glee. Her trap had sprung. But Donald and Jimmy were thinking of their poor lame calf.

They dared not go near the shed, however, even after it had grown light the next morning. The grizzly continued its outcries at intervals all that day and through the next night, moaning, groaning or roaring in anguish. It must have died a horrible death under that weight of stones. But the outcries were music in old Mizzkook's ears. She danced and sang in unbounded delight, nor when the bear finally expired was she averse to feasting off its flesh.

Her stratagem had at least saved one cow for them; and in praise of her fidelity, such as it was, must be said that she remained there until McDougal's return in October, when he removed his boys to Juneau, Alaska.

They left old Mizzkook in possession of the shack, and also of the cow and calf.—Youth's Companion.

**The Literary Ignorance of Girls.**  
The students were one year and a half removed from their preparation for entrance. Out of 186, fifty-three could not tell when Shakespeare lived, although either the sixteenth or seventeenth century would have been accepted as correct. Two students placed him in the twelfth century; four in the fourteenth; twenty in the eighteenth and four in the nineteenth century. Sixteen students did not attempt to assign him at all. One hundred and fourteen students did not know in what century Milton lived. He was assigned to the eleventh, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Fifty-four placed him in the eighteenth century, which the student, by the entrance requirements, is obliged to know better than any other period. Eighty-seven did not attempt to assign him to any century. One hundred and twenty-seven students did not know who Samuel Johnson's biographer was, 103 not trying to assign a biographer, and twenty-four assigning the biography variously, or with a bright idea to "Himself."—Jeannette Marks, in the Critic.

# A WOMAN HANGED

## The First Female Legally Executed in Years

### LEGAL EFFORT FOR MRS. ROGERS

#### Mary Rogers Left Her Husband Over Two Years Ago—Afterwards Affecting Reconciliation at a Meeting Place Agreed Upon.

Windsor, Vt., Special.—Mrs. Mary Rogers, the woman who murdered her husband some two years ago and for whom so much has been done to have the sentence of death changed to life imprisonment, was hanged Friday afternoon at 1:40 o'clock, at Windsor, Vermont. This ends one of the most celebrated cases in the criminal history of this country.

Mrs. Rogers went to her death without any show of emotion. She made no statement or confession. A short religious ceremony was held with Father Delaney, just before the march to the gallows. Before the signal was given to spring the trap she nodded her head that she was ready.

Every ingenious device, known to law, was used to save Mary Rogers from the gibbet, and it was not until the case was disposed of by the Supreme Court of the United States late last month that all hope was given up of saving the woman's life. Had there been one mitigating circumstance; had there been one spark of womanliness in Mary Rogers, had she shown slight possibilities of regeneration, Governor C. J. Bell, of Vermont, might have interfered. The murder was as brutal as that of Mrs. Martha Place, who hanged her stepdaughter to pieces because of jealousy, in Brooklyn. Gov. Roosevelt declined to interfere and save her from electrocution in March, 1899.

#### Fearful Conditions Prevail.

St. Petersburg, Special.—Intense alarm prevails here. Communications with the outer world by telegraph ceased when the Finnish operators joined their Russian comrades. The embassies, legations and banks are hastily organizing courier services to both Finnish and German frontiers. The population is almost in a state of panic, fearing that the railroads will stop running and that the inhabitants therefore will have no mode of flight in the event of the cataclysm, which they seem to fear is imminent.

#### First Train to Knoxville.

Nashville, Special.—A big crowd gathered at the Tennessee Central depot to see the first Illinois Central and Southern trains leave. This first Illinois Central train left at 8:55 o'clock. It will run regularly between Nashville and Princeton, Ky. At 9:40 o'clock the first Southern train left going on to Knoxville, instead of stopping at Harrison as heretofore. The American Express company also entered Nashville along with the Illinois Central railroad. It is expected that by December 10, through services in both directions will be inaugurated, as well as a great improvement in the local service.

#### Architects Win.

Columbia, S. C., Special.—A mistrial was ordered in the celebrated \$200,000 suit of the State against Architect Frank P. Milburn and Contractors Melvain, Unkefer & Company for alleged faulty and fraudulent completion of the State capitol. The jury had been out since 10 o'clock Wednesday morning.

It cannot be said with certainty how the jury stood, but members of the panel say that the vote stood throughout eight for a verdict against the defendants of \$65,000, three for a verdict for the defense and one willing to compromise on a small verdict against the defendants.

#### Lawyer Patrick Pleads.

New York, Special.—After making a final personal plea to the court in his own behalf, Albert T. Patrick, the lawyer convicted of the murder of William Marsh Rice, was sentenced to die in the electric chair in the week beginning January 22, next. Sentence was pronounced by Justice Rogers in the criminal branch of the State Supreme Court. Notice was given at once that an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States on a writ of error will be taken. The application for the writ, it is said, will act as a stay of execution.

#### Capt. Jones Gets 18 Years.

Norfolk, Special.—After having been out over ten hours the jury in the trial of Captain Edward W. Jones, Seventy-first Virginia Regiment, charged with the murder of Maude Cameron Robinson, returned a verdict of murder in the second degree at 11:19 o'clock fixing the penalty at 18 years in the penitentiary. A motion was made for a new trial.

#### Rumored Depew Has Resigned.

New York, Special.—A rumor has gained circulation that Chauncey M. Depew had resigned from the United States Senate. When questioned concerning the rumor, the Senator said, "I am tired of making denials of unpleasant questions, and am resolved not to talk further to newspapers. I will deny nothing nor will I affirm anything. I have learned a lesson from the past."

#### Receiver for Railroads.

Cincinnati, Special.—An application for the appointment of a receiver for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway and the Pere Marquette Railroad was filed in the United States Circuit Court here by Lawrence Maxwell, Jr., circuit judge. Lorton immediately began hearing the application and appointed Attorney General Judson Harmon as receiver for both roads. Insolvency is admitted.

#### Law Against Betting.

Nashville, Special.—On the first day of this month the law enacted by the last Legislature, prohibiting betting on horse races run on tracks in this State, went into effect. Tuesday a race was run on the Fair Grounds track at Shelbyville, Tenn., on which books were made. The law was intended to test the parties arranging the race. The sheriff of the county in which the race was held will be given a hearing at Shelbyville.

# RUSSIAN GENERAL KILLED

## Former Minister of War Sakharoff is Assassinated With a Revolver in the House of the Governor of Saratoff by a Woman Who Had Asked to See Him.

London, By Cable.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, in a dispatch dated December 5, sent by way of Edytukhnen, Prussia, says:

"Lieutenant General Sakharoff, former Minister of War, was assassinated."

"The government had deputized General Sakharoff to visit the province of Saratoff, for the purpose of quelling the agrarian riots there."

"A woman belonging to the so-called 'flying columns' of the revolutionary movement, called at the house of the Governor of Saratoff at noon and asked to see General Sakharoff."

"She fired three revolver shots at the general, killing him on the spot."

"The tidings reached St. Petersburg. Count Witte charged Lieutenant General Rudiger, Minister of War, with the task of breaking the news to Mr. Sakharoff."

"The event has created a profound impression in St. Petersburg, owing to fears that the revolutionists here will follow the example thus set."

"The spectre of a military dictatorship, which has been looming on the horizon, is slowly gaining consistency and sharpness of outline."

"I am personally convinced that Count Witte's faith in the good sense and political tact of the Russian thinking classes, which recently was as firm as a rock, is gradually weakening, and with it his hopes for the carrying out of the liberties promised in the Emperor's manifesto."

#### Counting Votes as Cast.

Upon Argument by Alton B. Parker Justice Amend Rules That He is Estopped From Questioning Validity of Any Ballots Counted by Election Inspectors, and Recount Begins.

New York, Special.—The recount of ballots in five ballot boxes used in New York's mayoral election contest was ordered to be begun Friday by Justice Amend in the Supreme Court.

The original order to open these five boxes was granted a few days ago. Justice Amend, in ordering the recount to begin, modified his original order so as to limit the canvassing to the candidates for mayor, comptroller and president of the board of aldermen, and also to eliminate from the recount the void and protested ballots.

Counsel for W. R. Hearst, Mayor McClellan and Assistant Corporation Counsel Butts engaged in a heated argument before the boxes were opened. Alton B. Parker, for Mayor McClellan, and Mr. Butts contended that the court had no right to make a re-canvass of the votes or to reconsider the result, but could compel the election inspectors correctly to state the result they reached on election night.

"You mean, then," said Austin G. Fox, for Mr. Hearst, "that you do not want the true vote ascertained, and that if a vote for Hearst has been counted for McClellan you don't want it known?"

"I mean," retorted Mr. Butts, "that I want the true vote ascertained according to law."

"And how may that be done?" inquired Mr. Fox.

"By quo warranto proceedings," was the reply.

"And such proceedings can only be undertaken after January," commented Mr. Fox. "I see."

Mr. Parker disclosed, that the court had no right to throw out any ballot which had been counted by the election inspectors. Justice Amend ruled that he is estopped from questioning the validity of the ballots and they must be counted as cast.

The first ballot box was then opened by inspectors in the court room and the recount was begun, with the representatives of the newspapers occupying the seats intended for jurymen.

# TAX ON DISPENSARY

## South Carolina Institution Will Not Be Exempt

### U. S. SUPREME COURT'S OPINION

#### Pretense That the Institution is Conducted as a Branch of the Police Power of the State is But Thinly Disguised, Says the Court in Affirming the Action of the Court of Claims on Petition for Recovery of \$20,000 Paid Since 1893.

Washington, Special.—The Supreme Court of the United States decided that the national government may properly tax the State liquor dispensaries of South Carolina. The opinion was delivered by Justice Brewer in the case of the State of South Carolina vs. the United States. This action was instituted by the State of South Carolina to recover \$20,000 paid to the revenue officers of the national government on account of the sale of liquors by the State and county dispensaries under the dispensary law. The State took the position that as the dispensaries sold liquors without profit they should not be taxed by the government, but the tax has been collected since 1893. This is said to have been the first case in which the State unites in one undertaking the exercise of its police power together with the prosecution of a commercial business. The Court of Claims dismissed the petition on the ground that the exercise of police power was but thinly disguised, holding that the real purpose was money making and this decision was affirmed.

The extension of the strike of the telegraphers to the postal system is complete and the paralysis of business is increasing the danger of a financial crisis.

The strike of the Moscow telephone operators, who cut the wires and tore up the poles, has severed the last means of communication with the ancient capital.

The present conditions are unbearable. Sympathy with the poorly paid post and telegraph employes is now turning into indignation against the strikers, and the public is supporting a formidable movement which has been started by all classes to throw off the yoke of the revolutionaries.

The government undoubtedly is encouraging the organization of these forces. The "Law and Order Party" took the lead, and is now being followed by the "Society of Strike-breakers," but the most important movement has been started under the leadership of Father Gapon, the former idol of the workmen, who since his residence abroad has become convinced that Russia is not prepared for a republic, and is appealing to his old comrades to cut loose from the revolutionary agitators. The latter are ready to charge that Father Gapon has been bought and that he is a traitor to the cause of the people. Father Gapon, however, is sincere and his influence undoubtedly is great.

If this movement should grow an effective split among the workmen be thereby created, it will prove of immeasurable service to the government in tiding things over until the meeting of the Douma.

#### Engine Smashes Street Car.

Bristol, Va., Special.—A switch engine of the Norfolk & Western Railway collided with an east-bound street car of the Bristol Belt Line Company on the State street crossing, demolishing the car and seriously injuring three passengers. The injured are: Miss Emma Campbell, cut about the face; Clarence Reynolds, a nephew of R. J. Reynolds, the tobacco-czar, leg badly crushed; James Bruce, cut about the face and head. There were five other passengers on the car, who escaped injury. The accident is said to have been due to the approach of two engines from different directions, the one coming from the South attracting the motorman's attention and causing him to move his car on the track unmindful of the engine from the north.

#### Were Making Bombs.

Geneva, Switzerland, By Cable.—A number of Russians were severely wounded by an explosion here while they were preparing bombs in a private residence. An investigation by the authorities led to the discovery of a number of explosive, fraudulent passports and a secret printing press. Two of the men wounded in the explosion were taken to a hospital but the others succeeded in evading arrest.

#### An Unexplained Tragedy.

Harrisburg, Pa., Special.—After shooting Mrs. Mary Chatd, aged 42 years in the neck with a revolver, while on her way to a store near her home, Roy C. McCurdy, aged 19 years, the wife of a freight conductor on the Pennsylvania railroad, by which corporation McCurdy was also employed. McCurdy was unconscious when taken to the hospital and died without making a statement. The woman was shot in the neck and was able to leave the hospital after she was given medical attention.

#### Died of Murderous Blow.

New York, Special.—Walter J. Jarvis, of Charleston, S. C. died here from a blow on the head. The police believe that Jarvis was murdered. He was found alone and unconscious a week ago, early in the morning, in his apartment, at 209 West Twenty-First street. Jarvis never regained consciousness. Members of his family from Charleston, were at his bedside when the young man died.

#### Sons of Veterans.

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—Dr. Thomas M. Owen, Commander in chief of the United States Sons of Confederate Veterans, appointed Hugh McClellan, of Jacksonville, Fla., a commander of the division to succeed George G. Mathews, who formerly had the office. Another appointment was that of F. B. Hoof of Charleston, Va., as commander of the West Virginia division to succeed former Commander V. T. Churchman.

#### Perkins to Quit N. Y. Life.

New York, Special.—The Evening Post says: "George W. Perkins, of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., will retire from the vice-presidency of the New York Life Insurance Company, and from the chairmanship of its finance committee, at the coming election next April. A friend of Mr. Perkins declared that this step has been taken at the suggestion of Mr. Morgan himself, and that the decision would be formally announced very soon."

# HIRING OF TROUBLE

## Strong Efforts to Bring Order Out of Chaos

### RUSSIAN PUBLIC ORGANIZING

#### Present Conditions Are Unbearable and Sympathy for the Poorly Paid Post and Telegraph Employes is Turning Into Indignation.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—Although there appears to be no foundation for the prevailing fears that an outbreak is imminent, the population continues in a state of anxious suspense.

The garrison has now been re-organized by 42 battalions of infantry, 15 squadrons of cavalry and 12 machine gun batteries. The city is divided into four districts, under Generals Osaroff, Dubenski, Sterna and Trodski, respectively.

The government, it is reported, narrowly frustrated a plot whereby a thousand armed men had arranged to raid the State Treasury. One of the conspirators, it is said, betrayed his fellows, whereupon the leaders, knowing that their attack could be repulsed by the troops with great slaughter, abandoned it. The existence of this conspiracy led to a report that martial law would be proclaimed, but this is authoritatively denied.

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# THE SUN

## INTERNATIONAL LE FOR DECEMBER

Subject: Preparation For Mal. III., 1-12—Golden 1. 1—Memory Verses, 8-10—10 on the Day's Lesson.

I. The coming of the Messiah (v. 1). 1. "I." That is, God. "My messenger." The New Testament clearly shows that the messenger referred to here was John the Baptist. Our Lord bore witness to John (Luke 7:27). See also Matt. 3:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 1:76. "Prepare the way before Me." That is, before the Messiah. Messengers sent before the Messiah prepared the way for the chariots and armies of their monarchs. A "king's highway" had to be carried through the open land of the wilderness, valleys filled up and hills leveled, winding by-paths straightened, for the march of the great army. Interpreted in its spiritual application, the wilderness was the world lying in evil. John prepared the way for Christ in a moral wilderness by preaching repentance and showing the need of a Saviour. "The Lord, whom ye seek." The Messiah whom ye are expecting. "To His temple." Shall soon be presented before the Lord in this temple. He shall cleanse it from its defilement and fill it with His glory. "Messenger of the covenant." He that comes to fulfill the great design in reference to the covenant made with Abraham, that in his seed all the families of the earth should be blessed. Christ was the mediator of the new covenant (Heb. 9:15) — the "better covenant," established upon "better promises" (Heb. 8:13; 10:10). "Ye delight in." They looked forward to His coming with pleasure.

II. The mission and work of the Messiah (vs. 2-4). 2. "Who may abide." Who will be able to endure the testing of character His coming will produce? They did not understand the meaning of what they desired, just as many desire and hope for heaven without realizing what they must do to gain heaven. "Like a refiner's fire." John the Baptist said, "His fan is in his hand." "He shall baptize you with fire." In the refiner's fire is placed the ore, a mixture of good metal with rock and other materials, and the fire (1) separates the metal from the dross, and (2) thus purifies the metal, but does not destroy it; but (3) it consumes the dross, or so separates it that it is cast one side as refuse. "Like fuller's soap" (R. V.). Soap such as we have was not known to the Hebrews, till long after Jeremiah's time, but they used ash lye.

3. "Shall sit," etc. There is an allusion here to the refiner sitting before his fire with his eye on the metal. He kept it in the furnace until he saw the dross to be completely removed by seeing his own image reflected (Isaiah 8:20). "Sons of Levi." The priests, God's ministers. "Furnace of cleansing." May offer service to God. The Lord loves righteousness; He accepts only a holy heart and Me (Rom. 12:1). 4. "Be pleasant." The spirit of praise, obedience and helpfulness are like sweet incense before the Lord (Heb. 13:15, 16). 5. "To judgment." To decide on your case and condemn you if guilty. "Swift witness." Acting suddenly and unexpectedly. "sorcerers." Users of witchcraft, alliance with spirits of evil; of amulets, charms, etc.; who really substitutes sorcery for religion; those who oppress the poor.

6. "Ye are in fear of the poor oppression." And fear not, ye were the foundation of all their weakness. 6. "I charge not." God is His covenant with His people. III. Admonitions and promises (vs. 7-12). 7. "From days," etc. All through their lives they had been given to backsliding. "Return unto Me." There was as chance to repent. "Wherein" did not know how far from God were. 8. "Will not man rob?" Sacrifice is the highest of crimes. The most guilty are those claiming to be God's people. "Ye have," etc. evil is not only the guilt of priests of the whole nation. "Tithes." Deut. 18:4. "Offerings." The fruits—no less than one-sixteenth of the corn, wine and oil.

9. "Ye are cursed." W and scarcity. God had the them for neglecting to be tithing the temple service. "Make good your souls." "tithes." Make good your souls with Nehemiah (Neh. 10:38). "Into the storehouse." The class which surrounded the temple on sides. "May be meat." That may be provision for the daily needs, and for the maintenance of priests and Levites. "Prove Take God at His word." "Window heaven." A poetical proverbial expression, signifying a great down-pour (Gen. 7:11; 2 Kings 7:2). "you out." "Empty of sin." It meant that he would empty forth vast reservoirs of blessings.

10. "Will rebuke." Proven coming. "The devourer." The banker-worms, the caterpillars all other destructive insects your sakes. "Because of My you, and for the sake of your joy." The devourer had been stayed as a reward for their righteousness. 12. "All nations." So many that the fame thereof will extend all nations, as in Solomon's time, people do in truth live in a dwelling land, a land of green pastures and waters, of dear companionship, delightful skies. Blessed are the people who render lovingly to God things that are His own. "Devour some land." Your country will again be known as the pleasant land, as it was formerly called.

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