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HANDY REFERENCE.

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Blacksmiths.

J. Jepsen. Blacksmithing and buggy repairing.

Tlock & Lembrick, blacksmithing, repairing, horseshoeing, agricultural implements, binders, buggies, plows of all kinds.

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John Geis, manufacturer and dealer in Cigars Tobacco and pipes Factory No. 37.

Draying.

Jas. Gregory. Prop. Dwight 'bus line. Draying and teaming.

G. H. Martin. General teaming, leave orders at Conrad's office.

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Miller Bros. Dry goods, clothing, general tailoring, gents' furnishing goods.

McWilliams & Smith. Dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes.

Gordon Bros. Dry goods, clothing, boots, shoes, ladies' and gents' furnishings.

S. Bloom. Dry goods, clothing, jewelry, shoes, glass and tin ware and stationery.

Deutsch Bros. Dry goods, notions, boots and shoes, ladies and gents furnishing goods.

Feed Mills.

H. E. Selgert. Prop. Flour Mills, Electric Light Plant. Grinding and feed.

Hornberger & Allen, flour, hay, grain, ground feed, straw, etc. Dwight.

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G. L. Kern & Bro. Groceries and meat market.

W. T. Scott and J. S. Spencer. Staple and fancy groceries, candies and cigars.

J. J. Knudsen. Staple and Fancy Groceries, Dwight, Ill.

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John L. Simantle & Co. Musical Instruments, instruction. Office Deutsch Bros., store.

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W. G. Bier, Photographer, at Mazon Ave. and East Street near the track.

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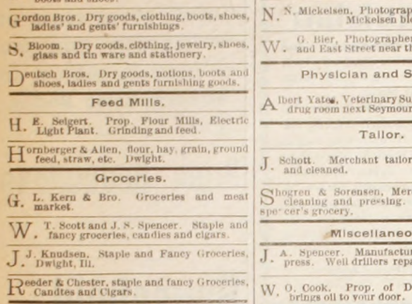

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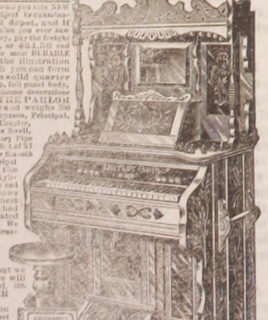

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"Mr. Gray was detained by some duties in camp," explained Miss Prime, with just a trace of reserve that was lost upon neither their new companion nor the colonel. It settled a matter the placid officer was revolving in his mind.

"Pardon us, Mrs. Garrison," he said briefly. "We must hurry. Go on driver."

"Oh, I can keep up," was the indomitable answer, "even on this creature." And Mrs. Garrison proved her words by whipping her steed into a lunging canter, and, sitting him admirably, rode gallantly alongside, and just where Mr. Prime could not but see and admire, since Col. Armstrong would not look at all. He had entered into an explanation of the ceremony by that time well under way, and Miss Lawrence's great soft brown eyes were fixed upon him attentively when, perhaps, she should have been gazing at the maneuvers. Like those latter, possibly, her thoughts were changing direction.

Not ten minutes later occurred the collision between the hack and the heels that resulted in the demolition of one and "demoralization" of the rider of the victor. While the latter was led away by the obedient Mr. Ellis lest the sight of him should bring on another nervous attack, Mrs. Garrison was suffering herself to be comforted. Her nerves were gone, but she had not lost her head. Lots of Presidio dames and damsels were up on the heights that day in such vehicles as the post afforded. None appeared in anything so stylish and elegant as the carriage of the Prime party. She was a new and comparative stranger there, and it would vastly enhance her social prestige, she argued, to be seen in such "swell" surroundings. With a little tact and management she might even arrange matters so that, willy nilly, her friends would drive her thither instead of taking Col. Armstrong back to camp. That would be a stroke worth playing. She owed Stanley Armstrong a bitter grudge, and had nursed it long. She had known him ten years and hated him nine of them. Where they met and when it really matters not. In the army people meet and part in a hundred places when they never expected to meet again. She had married Frank Garrison in a hand gallop, said the garrison chronicles, "before she had known him two months," said the men, "before he knew her at all," said the women. She was four years his senior, if the chaplain could be believed, and five months his junior if she could. Whatever might have been the discrepancy in their ages at the time of the ceremony no one would suspect the truth who saw them now. It was he who looked aged and careworn and harassed, and she who preserved her youthful bloom and vivacity.

And now, as she reclined as though still too weak and shaken to leave the carriage and return to saddle, her quick wits were planning the scheme that should result in her retaining, and his losing, the coveted seat. There was little time to lose. Most of the crowd had scattered, and she well knew that he was only waiting for her to leave before he would return. Almost at the instant her opportunity came. A covered wagon reined suddenly alongside and kind and sympathetic voices hailed her: "Do let us drive you home, Mrs. Garrison; you must have been terribly shaken." She recognized at once the wife and daughter of a prominent officer of the post.

"Oh, how kind you are," she cried. "I was hoping some one would come. Indeed, I did get a little wrench." And then, as she moved, with a sudden gasp of pain, she clasped Miss Lawrence's extended hand.

"Indeed, you must not move, Mrs. Garrison," said that young lady. "We will drive you home at once." Miss Prime and her father were adding their pleas. She looked up, smiling faintly.

"We will drive you home at once."

"I fear I must trouble you," she faltered. "Oh, how stupid of me! But about Stanley Armstrong—I haven't even thanked him. Ah, well—he knows. We've been—such good friends for years—dear old fellow!"

CHAPTER V.

There had been a morning of jubilee in the camp of the Fifth Separate brigade, and a row in the tents of the regulars. Up to within a fortnight such a state of affairs would have been considered abnormal, for the papers would have it that the former were on the verge of dissolution through plague, pestilence and famine due to the neglect of officials vaguely referred to as "the military authorities," or "the staff," while up to the coming of Canker to command sweet accord had reigned in the regular brigade, and the volunteers looked on with envy. But now a great martial magnate had praised the stalwart citizen soldiery whom he had passed in review early in the day, and set them to shouting by the announcement that, as reward for their hard work and assiduous drill, they should have their heart's desire and be shipped across the seas to far Manila. It had all been settled beforehand at headquarters. The "chief" had known for four days that that particular command would be selected for the next expedition, but it tickled "the boys" to have it put that way, and the home papers would make so much of it. So there was singing and triumph and rejoicing all along the eastern verge of a rocky, roughly paved cross street, and rank blasphemy across the way. To the scandal and sorrow of the ——teenth infantry some of the recent robberies had been traced to their very doors. A commissary sergeant had "weakened," a cartman had squealed, and one of the most popular and attractive young soldiers in the whole command was now a prisoner in the guardhouse charged with criminal knowledge of the whole affair, and of being a large recipient of the ill-gotten money—Morton, of the adjutant's office, a private in company K.

What made it worse was the allegation that several others, non-commissioned officers and "special duty men," were mixed up in the matter, and Canker had rasped the whole commissioned force present for duty in his lecture upon the subject and had almost intimated that officers were conniving at the concealment of the guilt of their sergeants rather than have it leak out that the felony was committed in a company of their commanding.

He and Gordon had had what was described as a "red-hot" row, all because Gordon flatly declared that while something was queer about the case of the young clerk, he'd bet his bottom dollar he wasn't a thief. Canker said such language was a reflection on himself, as he had personally investigated the case, was convinced Morton's guilt could be established, and had so reported to the brigade commander in recommending trial by general court-martial. Indeed he had made out a case against the lad even before he was arrested and returned to camp. Gordon asked if he had seen the boy and heard his story. Canker reddened and said he hadn't, and he didn't mean to and didn't have to. Gordon said he had—he had talked with the lad fully and freely on his being brought to camp toward nine o'clock, and was greatly impressed with his story—as would anyone else be who heard it. Canker reddened still more and said he wouldn't allow officers to interview prisoners without his authority. "I'll prefer charges against the next that does it," said he.

And not three hours later, Mr. Billy Gray, sprawling on his camp cot, striving to forget the sorrow of the earlier morning, and to memorize a page of paragraphs of army regulations, was suddenly accosted by an orderly who stood at the front of the tent, scratching at the tent flap—the camp substitute for a ring at the bell.

"A note for the lieutenant," said he, darting in and then darting out, possibly fearful of question. It was a queer note:

"I am a total stranger to you, but I were in brighter days the badge of the same society that was yours at the university. Three of the fraternity are in my company—one is on guard and he urged me to write at once to you. They know me to be a brother Delt, even though I dare not tell my real name. What I have to say is that the charge against me is utterly false, as I can convince you; but could not convince a court. I am confined at the moment of all others in my life when it is most vitally important that I should be free. Grant me ten minutes' interview this afternoon and if I do not prove myself guiltless I will ask no favor—but when I do convince you, do as you would be done by.

"Yours in $\Delta\ \Sigma\ X$,

"GEORGE MORTON."

"Well, I'll be blessed!" said Mr. Gray, as he rolled out of his gray blanket. "Here's a state of things! Listen to this, captain," he called to his company commander in the adjoining tent. "Here's Morton, back from 48 hours' absence without leave, brought back by armed guard after sharp resistance, charged with Lord knows what all, wants to tell me his story and prove his innocence."

"You let him alone," growled his senior. "Remember what Canker said, or you'll go in arrest. What call has Morton on you, I'd like to know?"

The lad flushed. Fraternity was a very sacred thing in the $\Delta\ \Sigma\ X$. It was "the most exclusive crowd at the 'varsity." Its membership was pledged to one another by unusual ties. It was the hardest society for a fellow to get into in any one of the seven colleges whereat it flourished, and its mystic bonds were not shaken off with the silken gown and "mortar board" of undergraduate days, but followed its membership through many a maturer year. It was a society most college men might ask to join in vain. Money, social station, influence were powerless.

No wonder Gray stood for a moment, the paper still in his hands, irresolute, even disturbed. Not to answer the appeal meant to run counter to all the tenets of his fraternity. To answer might mean arrest and court-martial for deliberate disobedience of orders. Canker has no more mercy than an Indian. It was barely 18 hours since he had been publicly warned by an experienced old captain that he would find no "guardian angel" in Squeers. It would seriously mar his prospects to start now with Squeers "down on him," and as that lynx-eyed commander was ever on watch for infractions of orders, Billy well knew that he could not hope to see and talk with the prisoner and Canker not hear of it. To ask permission of Canker would only make matters worse—he was sure to refuse and then reemphasize his orders and redouble his vigilance. To ask the consent of the officer of the day or the connivance of the officer of the guard was to invite them to court arrest and trial on their own account. He couldn't do that even to oblige a brother Delt. If only Ned Craven were officer of the guard some-

And off he went, leaving Brooke to wonder why he should be so bent on the arrangement.

To be Continued.

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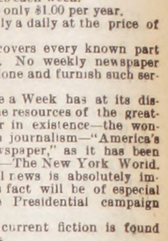

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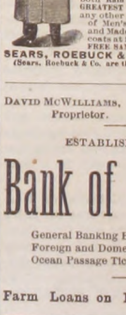

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