MINE THOUGHTS

"I feared it would be so!"

Days of Suspense.

BY FRANK H. SWEET

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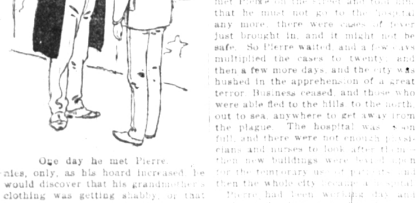
At fourteen Pierre was already dreaming and planning for his future. He would be a physician and surgeon, like his father, and he would own cotton and sugar plantations and be good to everybody, just as his father had been. Only he did not say much of this to his grandmother. One day when he had mentioned it, she had caught him to her with a wild passionate "Now, now, my Pierre! My little one! Do not forget your father! You are all that I have left, little Pierre, my baby! You must never leave me. Surely the good God cannot ask more!"

Since then, Pierre had kept his ambition to himself. He helped provide the necessities for the house, and bought little luxuries for his grandmother, and even after these expenditures, was able to save occasional pennies from his papers and errands and chores to purchase books on the science he loved. As he grew older, he longed for an opportunity to go away to the great medical schools, as his father had done. He worked harder, and began to store up dollars instead of pennies.



One day he met Pierre's friends, only, as his board increased, he would discover that his grandmother's clothing was getting shabby, so that there was some expensive food or cordial in the market that would please her; and then his money would melt away. But it did not matter, he would tell himself consolingly, la grand'mere was getting old and needed these things; there was plenty of time.

So he saved more money, and spent it for the grandmother, and hoarded again, and again lavished it on the grandmother. But all the time he was working and studying and thinking. He bought books when he could, and borrowed books and pamphlets from the free library, and from an old physician who was becoming interested in him. And this same old physician took him to the hospital and explained cases, and occasionally even allowed him to assist in the work. At eighteen, Pierre had a general knowledge of hospital practice, and his untrained course of reading had been shaped and made ready by the advice and companionship of the old physician. But there was much yet for him to learn, and more and more he realized the necessity of spending a few years in a good medical college.

He was earning steady wages now, and with his strong shoulders the grandmother was getting more feeble, and every day there were household expenses and new things to be purchased for her comfort. The college was a long way off, but it would come. He told himself confidently. Some day the grandmother would see the future as he did, and then her strong self would be the first to bid him go. For the present, he was young and could wait. He would not urge matters, the grandmother had suffered, ah! how she had suffered! Few women were called upon to sacrifice husband, sons and brother in one short week. No, no, he would not urge matters. Every year there were rumors of yellow fever in the city, but only once or twice in a lifetime did it become the tidal wave of death which had desolated the grandmother's life. Pierre had been only a child then, but each year it was brought home to him by the mute terror which the rumors brought into the dear old eyes. At such time he would draw her close to him and promise never to leave whatever happened.

The old physician had even promised to take Pierre as a student, and had always treated the grandmother with the deference and sympathy. One day he met Pierre on the road and told him that he must not go to the hospital any more, there were cases of fever just brought in, and it might not be safe. So Pierre waited and a few days multiplied the cases to twenty, and then a few more days, and the city was hushed in the apprehension of a great terror. Business ceased, and those who were able fled to the hills to the north, out to sea, anywhere to get away from the plague. The hospital was soon full, and there were not enough physicians and nurses to look after them. Then new buildings were hastily built for the territory in the plague-ridden, then the whole city became a hospital. Pierre had been working for two days and nights at the drug store, but that was not enough. He had a fair knowledge of medicine, and that was a wonderful help. An appeal had been made to the country at large, but it would take time for volunteers to arrive, and just now every moment was precious. He left the drug store and went home.

Thank God! that you are come, Pierre," said the grandmother fervently, as he entered. "I have been counting our money, and we have twelve dollars. It will take us back among the hills. We can get along some way, mon cher, and at least you will be safe."

But Pierre threw back his head and looked at her silently, and the grandmother after one swift, agonized glance at his set face, fell back into her chair with a low cry.

"I feared it would be so, my little one! my poor little one!" she moaned. "The good God has dealt hardly with me, and I hoped that he would let this pass. No, no," as Pierre was about to speak, "I know what you would say. There are hundreds dying, and no one to minister to them. You would give your life. Ah, my God! I know it is right! I have been through it before, and gave all I had. But it was hard, my little Pierre. I am an old woman now, and not as strong as I was when your father and grandfather, and your two boy uncles came and looked at me as you do now. Not one of them came back to me, little Pierre—not one!" She rocked to and fro, and moaning a soulless implore, Pierre sprang to her side and threw his arm across her shoulders.

"No, no," he whispered, tenderly, "I will never leave you. We will go back among the hills."

The grandmother shivered as though from a blow, and as she rose slowly from her chair, there came to her face the same abstracted expression which Pierre remembered to have seen on her in his childhood.

"It is meet that you should go, Pierre," she said softly. "I know that I was selfish. The good God has given you to me. Yes, in answer to my prayer. I know it now. Take me back to the place where I gave my husband and my sons to God, and I will be content. Yes, I will be content."

The Physician

[illegible]

[illegible] Pierre, the grandmother was [illegible] and Pierre stood before her, big-eyed and emaciated.

The plague has run its course, he said wearily. "They have no further need for me."

The grandmother look at him wondeningly, incredulously, then, as she caught him in her arms, a look of ineffable joy drove the expression of stony resignation from her face.

"The good God has blessed me," she said reverently, "even while I was repurting Him. Let us not forget my little Pierre."

WILL HARNESS THE RIVER.

Electric Power Will Be Developed in the Grand Colorado Canyon.

It is proposed now to utilize the power of the Colorado river, which bears its way through the Grand Canyon with force enough to move the machinery of a thousand mills. For many months hydraulic engineers have been studying the project and they have just made a report. They declare that in 150 miles of the river's course a dozen times more electrical energy can be secured than is taken from Niagara falls. Part of the canyon is in the forest reserve and it also passes through several Indian reservations. If the government's consent can be secured it is intended to establish an electrical plant at the great size to furnish electrical power to cities, towns and mining camps within comparatively easy reach of the Colorado, and then to increase the scope of the company until all Arizona and most of the down part of California can be supplied from the canyon forces. If success attends the plans of the company one of the chief cities will be the place in open [illegible] of many miles of lake which have been the dreams of land speculators for years. The plant intends to use the furnishings of motive power and light to all the cities within reach and to electric railways. It is proposed to build an electric line along the rim of the canyon for a distance of fifteen miles, the better to enable tourists to view the wonders of the great chasm.

Prefer to Remain Slaves.

According to correspondence issued by the London foreign office, 98 per cent of the slaves of Zanzibar and Pemba prefer to remain slaves. Some years ago, a few hundred slaves were set free by the British government, most of the slaves know that they are not likely to gain much personal advantage owing that the government has made it difficult for them to make a living. The masters have been kinder since the slave legislation was enacted, and seek to make their service more attractive.

The Hayes group of copper mines near Alberniere, the west coast of Vancouver island, has been sold for $600,000.

TALMAGE'S SERMON.

FINANCIAL PANICS THE SUBJECT LAST SUNDAY.

From the Seventeenth Chapter of Jeremiah, Verse 11—The Refinements of Life and Unnecessary Expenses of the Home and Family—Live Economically.

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Washington, July 14. In this discourse Dr. Talmage shows the causes of great financial disturbances which take place every few years and arraigns the people who live beyond their means, text, Jeremiah xvii. 11.

"As the partridge sitteth on eggs and hatheth them not, so he that getteth riches and not by right shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool."

Allusion is made to a well known fact in natural history. A partridge or a quail or a robin brood two eggs of another species in the young at the same time that she has laid to brood them, but at the first opportunity will count with their own young. Those of us who have been throughout all the country have seen the thrush of the farmyard hen hatching the cuckoo egg. Soon after it is hatched the young cuckoo, under the wings the property of others, not it, as I after, pushes its rival out of the nest in a way that is predetermined to make him feel very silly.

Extravagance Causes Ruin.

What has caused all the black days of financial disasters for the last [illegible] years? Some say it is the credit system. Some say it is the [illegible] of the times. Extravagance, [illegible] thing [illegible] of the [illegible] which [illegible] the value of money [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]