



BY CHARLES CLARK MUNN

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SYNOPSIS.

Chip McGuire, a 17-year-old girl living at Tim's place in the Maine woods, is a half-breed. She runs away and marries Martin, his wife, upon Raymond Street in Boston. Her story is cared for by Mrs. Frisbie.

CHAPTER II.—Continued.

Angie smiled, while Martin stared at the girl with increased astonishment. He knew who this McGuire was and something of his history, and that Tim's place was a hillside clearing far up a river, inhabited by a family devoted to the raising of potatoes. He had halted there once, long enough to observe its somewhat staid condition, and to buy pork and potatoes; but this tale was a revelation, and the girl herself a greater one.

This case in the wilderness was fully 40 miles above her usual connection with civilization was a seldom-used log road which only an experienced woodman could follow, and how this mere child had dared it, was a marvel.

But there she was, squat on the ground and watching them with big black, pleading eyes. And there she was, one thing to do, to care for her now, as humanity insisted, and Angie made the first move. It seemed good to her, for entering the tent, she soon appeared with some of her own extra clothing, soap, and towels, and made the girl follow her up the river a few rods.

The moon was shining clearly above the treetops, the camp-fire burned brightly, and Martin, who had been lounging near it when the two returned, and in one an astonishing transformation had taken place.

Angie had gone away with a part of it in respect to clothing, her skirt evidently made of gunny cloth and reaching but little below her knees, and for a waist, what remained of a man's red flannel shirt, and both in rags. Soiled with black mud, and bleeding, she was an object pitiable beyond words. She returned, however, almost, almost, in stature, her face shining and rosy, and her eyes so tender with gratitude that she almost wept.

Another change had also come with cleanliness and clothing—a sudden bashfulness. It was some time ere she could be made to utter a word beyond words she returned, however, almost, almost, in stature, her face shining and rosy, and her eyes so tender with gratitude that she almost wept.

It was a fantastic, weird, almost speakable—the specter she had seen were so real to her that the telling made them seem almost so to the west, and beyond that, as if she were like a young witch, with her shadowy eyes and furtive glances, added to the illusion.

But not come a diversion, for Levi freshened the fire, and at a nod from Angie, Ray brought forth his banjo. It was his one pet fiddle, and it went with him, wherever he went, and he was glad to exhibit his talent. He was not an expert—a few licks and plantation and he was gone, and the moonlight glistened through the spruce boughs, the river murmuring near, and the stars shone down on the camp. Angie remained with closed eyes, and "Old Uncle Ned," "Jim Crack Corn," and the like, and see the two dusky lovers who had sat down on the bank of the river and feel the pathos of "Nellie Gray" and "Old Kentucky Home."

Ray sang fairly well and in sympathy with each other. Angie, however, the real it was not ordinary, but to this wall, who never before had heard a banjo or a dinky song, it was marvellous. Her face lit up with interest, her eyes grew misty at times, and once two tears stole down her cheeks.

For an hour Ray was the center of interest, and then Angie arose. "Come, Chip," she said pleasantly, "it's time to go to bed, and you are to share my tent."

"I'd rather not," the girl replied bluntly. "I ain't fit. I kin jist as well curl 'longside of the fire."

Angie insisted, and the girl followed her into the tent.

Here occurred another incident that was not without its own interest, devout, and somewhat puritanical, and one who never forgot her alms-giver, and now, when ready for slumber, she knelt on the bed of twigs, and by the light of one small candle offered her usual petition, while Chip watched her with wide and wondering eyes. As might be expected, however, was mentioned, and with deep feeling, "Do ye s'pose God heard her?" she queried with evident quiver, when Angie answered, "Why, certainly, 'cause the earnest answer: 'God hears all prayers.'"

"There are no such creatures as 'spites,'" answered Angie, severely; "you only imagine them, and what that Indian has told you is superstition."

"But I've seen 'em, hundreds on 'em, big and little," returned the girl, stoutly.

"Put that notion out of your head, once for all," she said, almost sternly. "It is only a delusion, and no delusion to scare you."

distant city, invited a former school-mate, now the village doctor in Greenville to join him on an outing trip into the wilderness.

Here something of the history of a notorious outlaw named McGuire became known to Martin, and more important, that a queer old man had been discovered, dwelling in solitude on the shore of a small lake. He was, and why this strange manner of life, Martin could not learn, and he had already learned to wield a paddle, which carried the tent and luggage.

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TATTOOING CRAZE

DISFIGURING ONE'S SKIN NOW THE PROPER THING.

Americans in Europe Seem to Have Gone Mad Over the Subject According to an Authority in London.

Americans have gone tattoo mad. Such is the inference to be drawn from a recent conversation with Albert Gibson, a well-known English artist. According to the artist, the craze has reached the height of its popularity.

Certain well-known Americans, it is to be believed Mr. Smith, would present the appearance of animated pictures galleries could we see them in the nude. Their backs, chests, legs and arms are covered with crawling lizards, poined snakes and more or less beautiful women.

Many Americans have commissioned Mr. South to tattoo copies of pictures by their favorite artist on their foreheads, chests and backs. In this respect Charles Dana Gibson, who leads the field as the most popular American draughtsman.

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THE CANADIAN CROPS

THREE-QUARTERS OF THE AVERAGE YIELD IS REPORTED.

THE FARMERS DO NOT LOSE

Increased Prices for Grain More Than Compensates Them for the Decrease in Quantity—Reports from Crop Experts.

Most of the states of the union, after the unusually severe winter of 1905, and the effects of the succeeding spring were everywhere apparent. Corn was planted two and sometimes three times, the winter wheat suffered and generally there was a nervous feeling as the retarded growth was in evidence.

From the Dakotas to Texas the feeling of dread existed, and the fears were entertained that the crop of corn, wheat, oats and barley would be a distinct failure. How far this was the case is best left to those who passed through the experience. Naturally the same conditions were prevalent throughout the province of Manitoba.

The proceeds of this field of wheat, grown in western Canada, were sufficient to pay out of the one crop the price of every acre of land upon which it was grown.

toha, Saskatchewan and Alberta, in western Canada, and with from 250,000 to 300,000 farmers there from the United States a large degree of interest was manifested in almost every state of the union, for every state has some representative there. This interest was a nervous one and caused considerable speculation on the part of friends and others intending to follow. Those interested in injuring the country criticized the situation of the crop.

The above is the reproduction of a photograph of the home of a recent settler from Germany, who has been located in Saskatchewan, western Canada, for two years.

It is this year producing undoubted evidence that in agricultural possibilities and resources it stands among the first of food producers. A late spring delayed seeding from the usual April period until late in May, and in many cases well into June. And with what result? It is a little early to tell the result, but that there will be a three-crop year is almost a certainty.

The yield of wheat in 1906 was 59,000,000 bushels; 1907 it will be between 70,000,000 and 80,000,000. It could not be expected that June-sown grain would mature and ripen in any country. The May-sown crop is so great that the growing and ripening season, although shorter in number of days than in parts farther west, in hours is as great or greater.

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"I Never Had Notion" But Uncle "Ned" Said "You're a Cat."

almost the moment she lay down; but now she was evidently awake. Curious to note what she would do, Angie remained with closed eyes, and from the corner of the tent where she had curled up the night before, the girl now cautiously crept toward the older woman. Inch by inch, upon the bed of boughs, she moved nearer, until Angie, watching with half-closed eyes, saw her head bowed, and two soft, warm lips touched her hair.

It was a trifle. It was no more than the soft of a cat, who rubs her head against her mistress or a dog who licks his master's hand, and yet it settled once for all that that girl's fate and Angie's indelible.

CHAPTER III. Levi was starting a fire, Ray washing potatoes, and Martin, in his shirt-sleeves, using a towel vigorously near the canoe, when Mrs. Frisbie emerged that morning; and now while breakfast is under way, a moment may be seized to explain who the people were and their mission in the wilderness.

Many years before, in a distant village called Greenvale, two brothers, David and Amos Curtis had quarreled over an unfortunate division of inherited land. The outcome was that Amos, somewhat misanthropic, went to the death of his wife, and of peculiar amok, deserted his home and little daughter Angelina, and vanished. For many years no one knew of his whereabouts, and he was given up as dead.

In the meantime his child, cared for by a kindly woman known as Aunt Comfort, had grown to womanhood. She was, in her own right, a beautiful girl, and she was named Martha Frisbie, who had been gathering wealth in a distant city, invited a former school-mate, now the village doctor in Greenville to join him on an outing trip into the wilderness.

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