The VALLEY OF THE GIANTS

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A BLACKBERRY PIE.

Synopsis.—Bryce, in the employ of a lumber firm in Portland, Or., is sent to the Valley of the Giants, a tract of virgin timber owned by his employers and covering many square miles. Bryce and Adam Arnt (grandfather of Jimmie Arnt, the present owner) are the only white men in the valley. Bryce is impressed by the majesty of the trees and the Valley of the Giants, sacred to Jimmie and Adam Arnt as the burial place of their mother and just outside their ground. When Bryce goes to work for Colonel Pennington, owner of the adjoining timber, he learns that his employer's daughter has fainted at the sight of a man. Bryce is seeking to take advantage of the situation to make his fortunes.

CHAPTER V—Continued.

"Certainly they can. But I shall have to wait until they are completely matured and I have become completely blind; then a specialist will perform an operation on my eyes, and it will probability my sight will be restored for a few years. However, I have not given the matter a great deal of consideration. And I am almost ready to quit now, I like to, in fact. I'm tired."

"Oh, but you can't quit until you've seen your redwoods again," Bryce reminded the old man. "Suppose you've a long time to live and you've visited the Valley of the Giants—your long exile from the woodlands is made up to you a trifle gloomy, I'm afraid."

John Cardigan nodded. "I haven't seen them in a year and a half, Bryce. Last time I was up I stopped between the logs on that old washout. Remember it? Where my son Jim was killed?"

"Pal, it wasn't fair of you to make me stay away so long. If I had only known—if I had remotely suspected——"

"You'd have spoiled everything, of course. Don't scold me, son. You're all I have now, and I couldn't bear to see you go until you'd finished your thing." His trembling old hand crept over and closed upon his boy's hand a firm but free from signs of toil. "It was my pleasure, Bryce," he continued, "until you wouldn't deny me my choice of sports, would you? Remember, lad, I never had a boyhood; I never had a college education, and the only real travel I have ever had was when I worked my way around Cape Horn as a foremast hand, and all I saw then was water and hardships; all I've seen since is my little world here in Sequoia and in San Francisco."

"You've sacrificed enough, too much—for me, Dad."

"It pleased me to give you all the advantages I wanted and couldn't afford until I was too old and too busy to consider them. Besides, it was your mother's wish. And you have enjoyed your little run, haven't you?" he concluded wistfully.

"I have, Dad." Bryce's great hand closed over the back of his father's neck; he shook the old man with mock ferocity. "Stubborn old Limber Jack!" he chided.

John Cardigan shook with an inward chuckle for the loving abuse his boy had formed a habit of heaping on him never failed to thrill him. In effectively Bryce had realized that bright oblivion, sympathy, confidence expressed was not the medicine for his father's bruised spirit; hence he elected to regard the latter's blindness as a mere temporary annoyance, something to be considered lightly. If at all; and it was typical of him now that the subject had been discussed briefly, to resolve never to refer to it again.

"Tomorrow morning I'm going to put a pair of overalls on you, arm you with a tin can and a sack, and set you to greasing the skidways Partner, you've deceived me."

"Oh, nonsense. If I had whimpered that would only have spoiled everything."

"Nevertheless, you were forced to cable me to hurry home."

"I summoned you the instant I realized I was going to need you."

"No, you didn't, John Cardigan. You summoned me because, for the first time in your life, you were panicky and let yourself get out of hand."

His father nodded slowly. "And you aren't over it yet," Bryce continued, his voice no longer bantering but lowered affectionately. "What's the trouble, Dad? Trot out your old panic and let me inspect it. Trouble must be very real when it gets my father on the run."

"It is, Bryce, very real indeed. As I remarked before, I've lost your heritage for you." He sighed. "I waited till you would be able to come home and settle down to business; now you're home; and there isn't any business to settle down to."

Bryce chuckled, for he was indeed far from being worried over business matters, his consideration now being entirely for his father's peace of mind. "All right," he retorted. "Either has lost his money and we'll have to let the save pay go and give up the old home. That part of it is settled; and now, mother, tenderly nurtured little Bryce Cardigan must put the furies to the work and get busy."

Bryce's father chuckled. "Bryce, Bryce, you're incorrigible. I'm afraid I've spoiled you."

"Not until dinner was finished and father and son had repaired to the library for their coffee and cigars did Bryce Cardigan advert to the subject of his father's business affairs.

"Now, Dad," Bryce declared comfortably, "suppose you start at the beginning and tell me everything right to the end. George Sol Otter informed me that you've been having trouble with this Indian commissioner, Colonel Pennington. Is he the man who has designs on the last stick of timber?"

The old man nodded.

"The Squaw creek timber deal, eh?" Bryce suggested.

Again the old man nodded. "You wrote me all about that," Bryce continued. "And I sent him blocked wheels. Did that settle the matter?"

"It settled nothing, son. The timber is blocked, in fact, that the only profits we have derived from his threats were you fearful lest you had raised your usual rich man's ire. If the sales you thousand acres of timber with the exclusive right to pay taxes on it, was in the least disagreeable to you, you should have informed me. But it did not please me, and I'm not sorry that I did it, and neither is my conscience disturbed in the least. It might make him feel like a badly jackass."

"On the other hand," his father responded, "no matter what the Colonel's feeling on that score may be, you know he's a man of his word. He's always been company, and not until I had pulled out of the Squaw creek country and started logging in the San Hedrin watershed did I realize that I had been considerable of a jackass myself."

"Yes," Bryce admitted, "there can be no doubt but that you cut off your nose to spite your face."

His thoughts harked back to that first season logging in the San Hedrin, when the cloud-burst had caught the river filled with Cardigan logs and whirled them down to the bay, to crash through the log-boom at tidewater and continue out to the open sea.

The old man appeared to divine the trend of his son's thoughts. "Yes, Bryce, that was a disastrous year," he declared. "The mere loss of the logs was a severe blow, but in addition I had to pay out quite a little money to settle with my customers. It was loaded up with low-priced orders that year, although I didn't expect to make any money. The orders were merely to keep the men employed. You understand, Bryce? I had a good crew, the finest in the country; and if I had shut down, my men would have scattered and—well, you know how hard it is to get that kind of a crew together again. Besides, I had never failed my boys before, and I couldn't bear the thought of failing them then. Half the mills in the country were shut down at the time, and there was a lot of distress among the unemployed. I couldn't do it, Bryce."

Bryce nodded. "And when you lost the logs, you couldn't fill those low-priced orders. Then the market commenced to jump and advanced three dollars in three months——"

"Exactly, my son. And my customers began to crowd me to fill those old orders. I couldn't expect them to suffer with me, my failure to perform my contracts, while unavoidable, nevertheless would have caused them a serious loss, and when they were forced to run elsewhere I paid them the difference between the price they had been compelled to pay and the price originally placed their orders with me. And the delay caused me further loss."

He smiled meditatively for a while. "I've always been lucky, Bryce," he explained apologetically. "Whenever I had fallen behind I had always managed in the San Hedrin watershed, however, I realized that some day the railroad would build in from the south, buy out timber and double it cruise. I've got to get my hand on that timber. I've got to have it. Bryce, I've got to have it."

John Cardigan's face spoke of a most important incident in the history of the making of the country, a border line of commercial warfare. Its results are current barriers. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been and are to be expended in the work of progress and development for years to come, as a result of which the Harbor bars will be made safe. With the exception of the railroad that connected Humboldt bay with the outside world, perhaps the most important factor in the development of the north coast country is the railroad that connects Eureka with the south. Indeed, the building of this railroad is the history of the county.

"Yes, but not my day. And when it comes a stranger man owns your San Hedrin timber and reaps the reward of my foresight."

"That's foolishness, Dad," Bryce declared. "I had my lesson that first year, but I didn't heed it. If I had abandoned my camps there, perfected my profit, paid Colonel Pennington two dollars for the Squaw creek timber, and rebuilt my mills at logging, I would have been all right. I would——"

But I was sidetracked. I'll played the game so long, you know—I didn't want to let that man Pennington outguess me. It's hard to learn old dog new tricks, and besides I was obsessed with the idea of protecting your heritage from all comers. I was a fool."

John Cardigan straightened up in his chair and laid the tip of his right index finger in the center of the palm of his left hand. "Here was the situation, Bryce. The center of my timber supply—Squaw creek—was cut off from me. Pennington had built a railroad from the south, and was logging in the Smith River country. But it is built in from Crescent City, Oregon, on the north, and the bulk of the timber tributary to it is on the Oregon side of the line. Pennington's Squaw twenty miles from the mouth of Smith river in the San Hedrin watershed!"

Bryce nodded. "In which event?" he replied. "We would be in much the same position with our San Hedrin timber as Colonel Pennington is with his Squaw creek timber. We would have the combined knowledge that we would not get a cent more for it than we could sell it for at the time we put it on the market."

"Right you are!" The thing to do, then, as I viewed the situation, Bryce, was to acquire a body of timber north of Sequoia and be prepared for either contingency. And this I did."

Silence again descended upon them; and Bryce, gazing into the open fireplace, recalled an event in that period of his father's activities. Old Bill Henderson had come up to their house to dinner one night and, quite suddenly, in the midst of his soup the old fox had glared across at his host and bellowed:

"John, I hear you've bought six thousand acres up in Township nine. Going to log it or hold it for investment?"

"It was a good buy," Cardigan had replied judgmatically; "so I thought I'd better take it at the price. I suppose Bryce will log it some day."

"Then I wish Bryce wasn't such a boy, John. See here now, neighbor, I've got to up and say that every Pennington gave me for my Squaw creek timber and put it back into redwood in Township nine, slam-bang up against your holdings there. John, I'd build a mill on tidewater if you'd sell me a site, and I'd log my timber off."

"I'll sell you a mill-site, Bill, and I won't stab you to the heart, either. Consider that settled."

"That's bully, John; but still, you only dispose of part of my troubles. There's twelve miles of logging-road to be built to get my logs to the mill, and I haven't enough ready money to make the grade. Better throw in with me, John, and we'll build the road and operate it for our joint interest."

"I'll not throw in with you, Bill, at my time of life. I don't want to have the worry of building, maintaining, and operating twelve miles of private railroad. But I'll loan you—the money you need to build and equip the road. In return you are to shoulder all the grief and worry of the road and give me a ten-year contract at a dollar and a half per thousand feet, delivered in Eureka, to tidewater with your own. My minimum haul will be twenty-five million feet annually, and my maximum fifty million——"

"Sold!" cried Henderson. And it was even so.

Bryce came out of his reverie. "And now?" he queried of his father.

"I mortgaged the San Hedrin timber in the south to buy the timber in the north, my son; then after I commenced logging in my new holdings, came several long, lean years of famine, the market dragged in the doldrums, and Bill Henderson died, and his boys got discouraged, and ——"

A sudden flash of inspiration illuminated Bryce Cardigan's brain. "And they sold out to Colonel Pennington," he cried.

"Exactly. The Colonel took over my contract with Henderson's company, along with the other assets, and it was incumbent upon him, as assignee, to fulfill the contract. For the past two years the market for redwood has been most gratifying, and if I could only have gotten a maximum supply of logs over Pennington's road I'd have worked out of the hole long ago."

"He managed to build over to a million annual board feet, eh?"

John Cardigan nodded. "He claims he's short of rolling stock, that enough new cars have embargoed the road. He even advanced me money for taking logs to——"

"What does Colonel Pennington want, pal?"

"He wants," said John Cardigan slowly, "my Valley of the Giants and a right of way through my land from my timber to a landing on deep water."

"And you refused him?"

Naturally. You know the illness on that big timber. He could have sunk his last dollar. He'll still have Cardigan's redwoods next door for our neighbors. Cardigan redwoods and Pennington redwoods—and Bryce, the man he hates, a serf!"

"But I had to see what the loss of Cardigan's redwoods has to do with the impending ruin of the Cardigan-Redwood Lumber company," his son persisted. "It is evident you've all the timber you need."

"My customers contract has but one more year to run, and recently I tried to get Pennington to renew it. He was very disagreeable; he also intimated in a roundabout way that one of these days he might raise the dickens by increasing the rate on logs. That rate is prohibitive and puts us out of business."

"Then," said Bryce calmly, "we'll shut the mill down when the log-hauling contract expires, hold our timber as an investment, and live the simple life until we can sell it or a transcontinental road builds into Humboldt county and enables us to start up the mill again."

"An enemy has done this thing—and over her grave!"

(CONTINUED.)

PICTURESQUE IN THEIR RUIN

Famous Old Abbeys and Priories Abound in the English County of Yorkshire.

When it comes to selecting the region of abbeys and priories in England there is but one county to think of. That county is Yorkshire, which has no less than 25 famous abbeys and priories within its boundaries, several of them renowned all over the world as being the finest ruins of religious houses in England. Hexham and Tynemouth priories in Northumberland, Whitby in Yorkshire, Glastonbury in Somerset, Tintern in Monmouthshire, Melrose in Scotland, Kirkstall abbey in Yorkshire, Furness abbey in Lancashire, Netley abbey in Hampshire, Bolton priory in Yorkshire, Lindisfarne priory in Northumberland, Jedburgh abbey in Roxburghshire, Scotland, Holyrood abbey in Edinburgh, Scotland, Dryburgh abbey in Berwickshire, Scotland, Fountains' abbey in Yorkshire, Rievaulx abbey in Yorkshire, Byland abbey in Yorkshire, Bolton abbey in Yorkshire, Whitby abbey in Yorkshire, Kirkham priory in Yorkshire, Guisborough priory in Yorkshire, Easby abbey in Yorkshire, Jervaulx abbey in Yorkshire, Coverham abbey in Yorkshire, Egglestone abbey in Yorkshire, Monk Bretton priory in Yorkshire, Roche abbey in Yorkshire, Sawley abbey in Yorkshire, Kirkstead abbey in Lincolnshire, Crowland abbey in Lincolnshire, Thornton abbey in Lincolnshire, Haughmond abbey in Shropshire, Wenlock priory in Shropshire, Buildwas abbey in Shropshire, Lilleshall abbey in Shropshire, Shrewsbury abbey in Shrop