

# In Sheep's Clothing.

By Capt. Ormond Steele

## CHAPTER XL

SOME REFERENCES TO THE PAST WHICH IT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND.

Colonel Graham was a very weak man, and at best a very angry one, though it would not do for him to show it.

He played sick and he cursed—to himself—the doctor who had turned his mean pretense into a frightful reality.

He was in no amiable mood when Othello came in on tip-toe, and, in response to his master's demand to know "who was making that noise out there," made answer:

"It's my daddy, sah."

"What he hasn't done so before is a mystery. What does she want?" The Colonel pushed himself higher up on the pillows and glared at the black man, as if ready to slay him if he did not at once give a satisfactory answer to the question.

"She wants foh to see yeh," said Othello, his tremulous voice indicating the fear he felt of his master.

"Yes, en I'se got to see yeh. No use a tryin' to keep me out. Ef ye sick, I've got yarts to cure ye; so in I comes—en 'ow does yeh do, me lad?"

The door was opened and closed with a sudden bang, and Dinah stood in the middle of the floor, bowing in a way that to any other man than that sitting bolt upright on the great "four-poster" bed would have been extremely ludicrous.

"I am sick, woman, and want to be alone," said Colonel Graham, but even Othello noticed that he did not speak with the impudent voice that usually distinguished him.

"So we does." The old woman turned to her grandson, and enforcing her command by extending her lean, black arm in the direction of the door, she continued: "Git out! 'Thello, me en, yer mas' wants to be 'long. Don't ye go foh to stand grinnin' w'd yer mouth open, but go out. Tell 'im to go out to once."

Dinah turned to the bed, and the colonel, falling back on his pillows with a sigh of mingled wrath and pain, said:

"Leave me alone for a little while, Othello."

Amazed at his grandmother's audacity, Othello went out, but he did not go out of hearing. His curiosity was aroused, and he made up his mind to learn, if possible, the secret of the old woman's power. So far it had been his firm belief that there was not in all the world a being who would dare to oppose the wishes of his fierce master.

Dinah had not been in town for some days, and thought she had heard of the departure of the Wanderer, she as yet did not know that Capt. Denham had left on that ship.

"I have offered you gold to leave me alone and to keep your cursed tongue quiet," said the colonel. "Now, what do you want?"

Before replying to this the old woman drew back the bed curtain, so that she might get a better view of his face, and then, coming so near that she could look into his cold, glittering gray eyes, said in a voice that was not a whisper, but which sounded far away and sepulchral:

"I want to keep on leadin' of abettal life, en I can't go foh to do it wen yer round."

"Leave me alone, and I'll soon be away." The colonel threw a pillow under his shoulder, so that he could rest on his elbow without flinching. Suddenly, as if he had decided on different tactics from those he would pursue if he continued acting in accordance with his feelings, he said:

"Sit down, Dinah, and let us have a chat; let us be friends, as we were in the old times. You must excuse me, but I have been sick in mind and body for some time."

"I'd rather stan' up," replied Dinah, and she placed both hands on the top of her long staff, and, resting her chin thereon, she still watched him.

After a pause, she continued:

"Ye's sick in min' en body, on no wondah. W'y ye's alive arter all de min' en body sickness yo' had yarsel' em made odds foh to hab is do mos' 'spish' ting. Ize ever heard on, Ize been libbin' now nigh onto fow-a-h score on ten."

"Never mind that," interrupted the colonel, restraining with a terrible effort his tendency to laugh. "Let us talk about yourself and what you have been doing since last I saw you. Let me see, it must be one-and-twenty years ago?"

"Jes' dat time. I couldn't forgit it, en you couldn't forgit it. We was bofe in Bermuda den, en I was the slave of de Gov-nah. Does yer remember who that Gov-nah war?"

The hog cocked her head to one side, and leaned forward on the staff for an answer.

Colonel Graham shot a glance at the door and saw it was closed, then he threw back the curtain still further and looked over the room before he said:

"The Governor of Bermuda, at that time, was my brother."

"En day called 'en Colonel Gra'moot' for me to come."

"You know they did, Dinah."

"En if he libbed den dat Gov-nah'd been Lord Palton?"

"What of it?"

"But dat Gov-nah didn't lib. Kazey w'y? Doan't you know, sah?"

"He died," replied the colonel, with another impudent glance about the room.

"En w'y did 'e die?"

It is so difficult to reproduce with accuracy the strange dialect of this woman, that for the present we shall discontinue it, and give a summary of the facts developed by her shrewd questions and her ready and frequently grotesquely humorous answers.

Twenty-one years before the date of our story, Colonel—the Right Honorable Ralph Denham Graham, the eldest son of Lord Palton of Ayr and Cumberland—was the Governor General of the Bermudas.

He lived at Hamilton, the capital, which was located on one of the Bermudas, known as "Long Island," though it is much less in area than its namesake in New York. Col. Graham was a knightly man, greatly devoted to his wife and only child, a son, at that time aged between five and six years, and named after his father.

The climate not agreeing with Lady Denham, she went to England, but at the earnest request of her husband she left her little boy with him.

Col. George Graham, a younger and only brother of the colonel, lived in his family, and acted as "colonial secretary," a position which had but little

"En ye mean foh to say ez I'm dat woman?"

"I do, Dinah."

"Den if I hole back, what's ye gwine foh to do?"

"I intend meeting Captain Denham in New York in a few days, and I will make him independently rich."

"En w'y doan't ye tell 'im now?"

"He is not here."

"War's 'e gone?"

"To New York."

"W'en?"

"This morning, he sailed with Captain Fox to the Wandering."

"Did Cap'n Dobbel' ye doan't mean to go to me to ez Ralph Den'm hez gone of wild dat red-headed mu'd-er? Did you sen' 'im? Hev ye come toot?"

The bag reached out her long, black fingers, the mals of which were like claws, and gathered herself as if about to spring on the man in the bed, and rend him in her fury.

"Tell the truth, woman!" cried the Colonel, his anger making him desperate.

"Make a disturbance here, and I will kill you and throw you out the window. You hog, you hog, you forget that I hold you worthless life in my hands."

The old woman did not move, did not manifest any fear; on the contrary, she bore herself like one who was unconscious that she had proved herself to be the mistress of the situation, and was confident of her ability to maintain it against all comers, and more particularly against the opponent now in the field.

"Ef arm should come to Ma's Ralph Den'm, en so be it so, we'll soon know it, den dar'll be lots en lots of trouble to dem ez as brought all dia on. Mark dem words en I'se 'ast spoke," said Dinah, moving in the direction of the door, but still keeping her wild, blared eyes fixed on the Colonel's face.

"Where is your home; where am I to speak to you without being disturbed?" asked the Colonel, desperately, yet pleadingly.

"Ef so be ye wants foh to fin' me, ax any de buckras at de inn; but don't ya go fo' to feah ez we won't meet again. Ye can't git away, en I know it. Ef so be I was to ax fo' fer ye life, a 'un'd Montauk men 'ed git um bar'ous and lie in de woods war ye was gonna. Mars Ralph Den'm ee'ez got to come back safe en sou'. You 'ears dat?"

"Go, Dinah, go, and I will come to see you."

The Colonel looked as if he were going to faint, and the old woman went out.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

### Pneumonia.

Very many of the cases of pneumonia which are constantly reported owe their existence to negligence.

The disease, which consists in an inflammation of the proper substance of the lungs, is often brought on by prolonged exposure to cold; and it is always dangerous, as can be seen by the weekly records of mortality in this city, which shows that it destroys more lives here than any other disease.

The ordinary symptoms of it are coughing, pain in the side, feverishness, accelerated breathing; and just as soon as any one is affected by these symptoms a doctor should be sent for, while the sufferer must keep indoors. The doctor will at once order the patient to bed, if he be not there, and then try to give him relief by the administration of those drugs that have the approval of experience.

A cure can thus be effected in a good proportion of the cases of pneumonia.

Many of the diseases that prove fatal can be successfully treated, if treated in time. Americans, when taken ill, are apt to postpone the duty of sending for a doctor, fancying that they will soon be well again; they dislike to be ordered to bed and kept away from their business, they can't bear to make a fuss over their ailments; they hate to take medicine; they would rather not run up doctor's bills. Lives are very often lost because of such foolishness. Innumerable people would live through diseases that prove fatal to them if they would act with judgment and prudence when first taken ill.

Better be particular about catching a cold at this season of the year, and in all the other seasons. If you catch it, better try to get rid of it as soon as you can. Many are the diseases to which it renders people liable.

—New York Sun.

### Don't Eat Potato Skins.

The skin of a nicely served baked potato is certainly a temptation to any who have tasted it, but it is just as well to resist the temptation.

Quite a large percentage of potatoes are shipped in from a distance after having been preserved and packed away carefully to avoid sprouting, which quickly spoils a stack of potatoes and leaves them almost worthless.

In some parts of the country sulphuric acid is used to make sprouting impossible. The potatoes are dipped into a bath with some of the acid dropped in, and as result the little eyes are killed, and any intention of sprouting nipped in the bud.

It is said that the acid cannot possibly penetrate the skin, and this is no doubt true. At the same time, enough of the poison may have been absorbed by the skin itself to make eating it, even after careful washing, decidedly dangerous.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*.

### The Influence of the Table.

Nowhere is the family life so exhibited as at the table. Here the family is united; here one disposition is contrasted with another; selfishness and generosity, boorishness and refinement, consideration and thoughtlessness—all are more clearly observed against the background of their opposites.

Where the table is regarded as merely a feeding place, it is degraded to the same position as the trough among some lower animals. Three meals a day, a neatly kept and a well-spread table certainly form a delightful adjunct to enhance the pleasures of home, but when the body craves all attention, at the expense of the intellectual and moral faculties, the daily meal is not elevating, though it may renew the body.

### Figures on Coal.

The production of bituminous coal in the United States is now double that of anthracite. In 1892 there were 110,000,000 tons of bituminous coal mined, against 52,000,000 tons of anthracite.

The area of production of soft coal is ten times greater than the area of production of hard coal. In the form of coke, bituminous coal is constantly encroaching upon the field of anthracite production.

### Perquisites for Poultry.

When fowls are shut up in the winter they often want for some things which are essential to their well-being, and which can be supplied with a little labor and thought. The dust

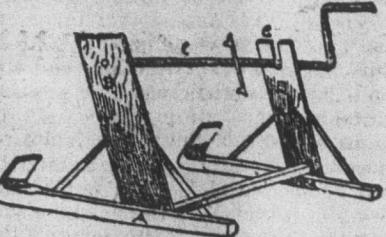
## HOME AND THE FARM.

### A DEPARTMENT MADE UP FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

How to Handle Barbed Wire with Convenience—Saving Young Pigs in Winter—A Halter for Cows—Fruits and Vegetables in Cellars.

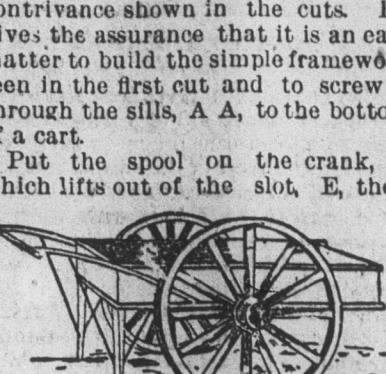
#### Barbed Wire.

To take up barbed wire where a temporary fence has been thrown around a crop or a portion of a pasture or garden is a disagreeable task,



but a correspondent of the Rural New Yorker has found an easy plan for handling the wire with the aid of the contrivance shown in the cuts. He gives the assurance that it is an easy matter to build the simple framework seen in the first cut and to screw it through the sill, A A, to the bottom of a cart.

Put the spool on the crank, C, which lifts out of the slot, E, then



one man pushes the cart and another turns the crank, and the taking up of any amount of wire is a pleasure and not a painful duty. The upper pieces, B B, are framed to stand ahead, so that when the cart handles are raised for pushing the frame stands perpendicularly, and when at rest the weighted spool rests ahead of the center, so as not to upset the cart.

Saving Young Pigs in Winter.

It was a quick-witted Irishwoman, who, when remonstrated with for allowing her pig the freedom of her kitchen, quickly replied: "Sure, and who has a better right? Isn't he the gentleman that pays the rint?" In these days, when pork is bring very high prices, and every pig, however small, seems unusually valuable, the story seems, applicable to many farmers, who, if they have not rent to pay, have taxes, interest on mortgages, and the thousand and one expenses, towards whose payment piggy will prove an important factor after he is grown and fattened. If a litter of early or later winter pigs should come, must they be lost, or, what is quite as bad, so stuited by cold that all the pork they can ever make will cost more than it comes to. Not at all, and the pig need not be allowed the freedom of the kitchen, either. Put the pigs in a close box, and all the better if enclosed in another close box. In a few days after the pigs are taken off, then the sow may be bred again for a spring litter. All that the pigs will need at first will be milk warmed to animal heat or a trifle above. As soon as they will eat more, boil an oatmeal porridge in water, and stir this in with the milk. There is nothing better than this to make young pigs thrifty. The double box will keep them warm in any building, and the pigs will be thrifty in the spring. —American Cultivator.

Halter for Cows.

A useful halter for cows, and one they seem to like, was employed by owners at the fairs last fall. It consisted

of a heavy strap about the neck and another around the nose connected with it by straps running from one to the other on the face and under the chin.

On the face strap a ring is strung so it plays from nose to horns as the tie strap which is snapped in it is tightened or loosened. —Ex.

Quinces Not Bearing.

It is undoubtedly the fact that more disappointments occur to growers of quinces than to growers of almost any other kind of hardy fruit. The trees often are killed outright by severe winters in exposed localities.

If not killed the trees are unproductive. Quince trees require rich, deep soil, kept moist enough through the winter so that it does not freeze deeply. Dressing of wood ashes are especially beneficial to quince trees.

Ashes not only furnish mineral fertilizer the tree needs to perfect its fruit, but they also help to keep the soil moist and open for the reception of rains.

Scalp Legs on Pows.

When the legs of a fowl are covered with an unsightly, rough crust, which become thicker as the bird advances in age, the time will come when it will walk with difficulty, as the formation of the crust is due to the work of minute parasites, which are found in countless numbers, each adding to the crust.

Grease of any kind destroys them, and if a mixture of one part kerosene and ten parts cottonseed oil, linseed oil, or melted lard be applied once a week, two or three times the scales will soon begin to soften and finally disappear altogether.

Fruits and Vegetables in Cellars.

Apples and vegetables that have been stored in the cellar in boxes, barrels, or upon shelves, should be sorted over at least twice during the winter, and all injured, decayed, or decaying specimens removed. In the case of apples, where only a decayed spot is found, the remainder will be utilized by the economical housewife for culinary purposes, especially if the fruit be scarce. Vegetables should be carefully looked over, particularly potatoes, as the emanations from the decaying ones are positively unhealthy, and a decayed tuber infects its neighbor.

While ordinarily the keeping of either ducks, geese or turkeys can be made more profitable than chickens, only the better breeds should be kept.

There is one economical result in poultry keeping that is often lost sight of, and that is the large amount of waste food that the fowls eat.

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Quality