

an answer. The truth was Abby had fallen ill, and had been in bed for many weeks with an attack of pleurisy.

*

It was quite late in the spring when the invalid ventured forth and was able to walk as far as the disputed territory. She had lost heart considerably in the affair, and she had also begun to apprehend that what with one circumstance and another, her hopes of gaining a livelihood out of the good, red earth had waned and grown dim. The problem would have to be faced, in what other manner she might add to her resources, once the present scanty pittance upon which she lived was exhausted. As a last, desperate venture with regard to the strip of land, she had sent her neighbor a lawyer's letter. Better that the matter should be decided one way or another and at once.

It was an exquisite day. Spring reigned supreme in the air, the earth emitted a warm, delightful odor, the trees were sending forth buds, green things were growing in every direction. A vital current was rousing all things to live, and sending new hope and joy into the human heart. Despite her anxieties, Abby was not insensible to this influence. She felt as if she had grown young again, and instead of twenty-nine was sweet nineteen.

All at once, as she stood there surveying the ground which she had had dug up by an Italian laborer who chanced to pass, she was aware of the approach of some one. That some one she was certain must be her neighbor. She did not fear him any longer, but what was this new feeling that set her heart beating and her pulse tingling, and made her remember those petitions which he had put into his last letters for a speedy answer.

She turned, however, and faced him. There he was on the other side of the boulder, upon which he leaned his arms. He was clad in a rough-and-ready

suit of tweed, showing his fine figure to advantage. He took off his slouch-hat as she turned, and displayed the close-cut brown hair with its obstinate determination to curl, and she met his dark eyes that had something of the honesty and directness of a dog in their glance. They had something else, too, in their depths, which caused Abby to color swiftly, and to turn away her glance.

'I got your lawyer's letter,' the neighbor began slowly; 'that's all right, though I do think it a pity for us to go on fighting about this bit of land.'

Abby gazed at him defiantly, with a little flash of triumph.

'Oh,' she said, 'you are afraid, are you?'

The young man shook his head.

'No,' he answered. 'I ain't easily frightened. I'm good for a fight in a court of law, or anywhere else for the matter of that.'

He stopped and looked upward. A wild bird was sounding its strange, sweet notes overhead. The good, red earth was sending forth its rich, moist smell where Abby had had it dug up upon the disputed territory.

'You've been digging, I see—which is clean contrary to justice, since the land is mine; but,' he stopped and, stretching out his arm, picked up a bit of the clay, 'why should two human beings be quarrelling about the very earth given them by their Creator?'

He raised his hat reverently as he spoke. Abby's heart gave a leap, while her neighbor continued in a lower tone:

'There's a way of settling it out of court that's satisfactory to me, anyhow.'

'What way?' asked Abby, strangely fluttered and unable to find any of the words which had come so glibly to her pen.

The young man cleared his throat.

'This land's been a long time in dispute. It might as well be settled.'

W. G. ROSSITER

PAWNBROKER, WATCHMAKER, JEWELLER AND OPTICIAN.

A choice Stock of Gold and Silver Watches and Jewellery, Silver and Plated Goods, Field and Opera Glasses, Musical Striking, Alarm, Cuckoo, and Fancy Clocks—Bargains. Also, Musical Boxes, Instruments, Billiard Pockets, Guns, Rifles, Revolvers, Cameras, Sewing Machines, and Gun Fittings for Sale at Great Bargains.

Buyer of Old Gold and Silver, Diamonds, and Precious Stones. Watches, Clocks, and Jewellery carefully Repaired by W. G. R.

Special Attention Given to Country Orders.

Note Address—GEORGE STREET, DUNEDIN.

"Tir nam Beann nan Gleann s'nan Gaisgeach."

McKENZIE'S . . .

Hondai Lanka Ceylon Tea

Is the best substitute for "Glenlivet" or "Usquebaugh."

1/6—1/9—1/10—2/—2/2—2/4.

RAILWAY HOTEL

OREPUKI.

KIERAN D'ARCY.....Proprietor.

Mr. D'Arcy wishes to inform his friends and the public that he has purchased the above Hotel. The building has undergone a thorough renovating from floor to ceiling, and now offers unrivalled accommodation to tourists, visitors, and travellers. The bedrooms are well and comfortably furnished, and the fittings are all that could be desired. Travellers called in time for early trains.

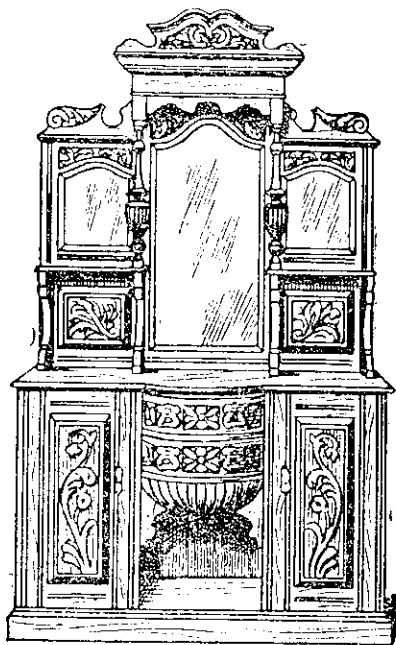
The Wines and Spirits are of the Best Procurable Brands.

Good Stabling. Horses and Buggies for Hire. Hot, Cold, and Shower Baths.

J. M. Mitchell

333 Colombo Street,

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE FURNITURE WAREHOUSE IN CHRISTCHURCH.



A large Staff of Skilled Workmen employed in all Branches of the Trade.

Prices will be found moderate, consistent with skilled Workmanship, and Satisfactory Terms made to meet the Requirements of Customer.

Inspection of our Showroom invited.

WANTED KNOWN—That Bill-heads, Circulars, Cards, Programmes, and General Printing of every description are executed at the Tablet Office. Moderate rates.