JOHN BURT

By FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS

Author of "The Kidnapped Millionaire," "Colonel Stamer's Daughter," Etc.

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CHAPTER XXVII—Continued.

"When I made my start tradin' horses I was tickled to death if I sold a hoss an' made twenty dollars' profit. That ten thousand dollars meant the sellin' of more than five hundred hosses, an' all I had to do was to reach out an' take it. An' I passed at that money an' thought how it would look in my bank book, an' I said to him, 'Mr. Morris,' says I 'I'm your man.' An' then, seein' how easy it was to make money here in this city council, I made a deal with him by which I was to buy up six other aldermen an' turn 'em over to him, same as if they were a lot of hosses or bags of potatoes. Then we drew up an agreement to vote for the ordinances an' gave it to Mr. Morris. Here, Mr. Chairman, is the duly certified copy of that contract. Part of the money was in cash an' the rest in a certified check, an' I have brought it here for your inspection. You will note that it is signed by Mr. Arthur Morris and drawn on his bank.

"Now, Mr. Chairman, an' members of this honorable body," said Sam, turning and facing his astonished listeners, "I want to say to you that I have changed my mind about voting for these ordinances. My lawyer tells me I don't have to keep this agreement with Mr. Morris, an' I'm goin' to sacrifice that ten thousand dollars an' the ten thousand more which would have been mine when these ordinances pass. Acting on the advice of my lawyer, I therefore turns this money over to you, with the certified check an' the agreement we signed. Thankin' you for your kind attention to this explanation, I votes 'no.'"

A scene of wildest confusion followed. Half of the members were on their feet demanding recognition. The chairman pounded his gavel into slivers in a vain attempt to restore order. The storm gradually subsided, and Alderman Hendricks secured recognition from the chair.

"In view of the remarkable statements made by my colleague," he said, "I move a postponement of the vote, and the appointment of a committee to investigate these curious charges."

There were vigorous protests, and the chair ruled that the vote must proceed. Each of the six aldermen associated with Sam Rounds substantiated the charges made, and deposited the bribery money with the chairman. Realizing that defeat was inevitable, all of the ringsters excepting Alderman Hendricks recorded their votes against the ordinances. A motion to adjourn was declared passed, and the excited mob poured into the corridors.

"NO," HE SAID, RISING UNSTEADILY TO HIS FEET "I'M GOING. GOOD NIGHT!"

CHAPTER XXVIII.

The Love of a Man for a Woman.

It was not the fault of the chef or of the service that Arthur Morris did not enjoy his dinner. Jessie's beauty, which once charmed him, now inspired him with jealous rage. For Blake he felt unalloyed hatred, and for Gen. Carden a contempt which he did not try to conceal. He impatiently awaited the morrow, when he hoped to crush James Blake to to extinguish the general. He prayed the news of the council's decision might be brought to him at dinner.

As he brooded a messenger boy approached and handed Morris an envelope.

"Ah! I presume this is it!" he exclaimed. He adjusted his monocle with elaborate care, broke the envelope and read:

"My Dear Morris: The Cosmopolitan franchises were defeated by a practically unanimous vote. Rounds and six others charge you with bribery. Rounds exhibited your certified check. Am on my way to the Hoffman House. Meet me there at once. Destroy this.

"H."

The note fell from the speculator's hand and fluttered to the floor. He stared wildly around, but no words came to his lips.

"Any answer, boss?" The piping voice of the messenger boy, as he stood, cap in hand, recalled him to earth.

"No," he said pushing his chair from the table and rising unsteadily to his feet. "I'm going. Good-night!"

"Forty-five cents, boss," demanded the messenger.

"Get out of the way, damn you! Pay this boy, Blake!" and he rushed for the dressing room.

Blake picked up the note and tore it into pieces. He knew the purport of the message which had caused the precipitate departure of Arthur Morris, but he did not disclose it.

"Some important Wall street matter, I suppose," he ventured, in answer to the questioning surprise of Jessie and Edith.

"His expression positively frightened me!" said Edith. "Did you notice how white he turned when he read that note? It must have been something awful! Perhaps his father is dead?"

The impending overthrow of Morris fed the flames of James Blake's impatience. According to the falsehood he had told John Burt, Jessie was due to arrive in New York in a few days. He saw a thousand chances for the exposure of his duplicity to one for its success. Only in Jessie's presence did his hope surmount its fears. He invented innumerable schemes and dismissed them one by one. One chance remained—an immediate proposal, its unhesitating acceptance, and a hasty marriage. He could carry the citadel of her heart by storm, and bear her away in the confusion and turmoil of the coming battle.

"Women have been won in a day," he mused, "and by knights less well armed than myself. I'll propose tomorrow night! She must accept me—she will accept me. Then, an immediate marriage and a trip to Europe. Why should that not win? It's got to win; I'll make it win."

Thus argued James Blake during a lull in the conversation. This was worthy of his reckless nature. He could not turn back. The smoke of burning bridges was behind him; the spoils of conquered love awaited his coward march.

"It seems impossible that I have known you only a week," he said, raising his eyes and looking tenderly into Jessie's face. "I feel as if I'd been acquainted with you for years, and not for a few brief days."

Millions of lovers have voiced the same discovery, and millions more will do it again.

"You are singularly forgetful, laughed Jessie, "of our early acquaintance in Rocky Woods. That was not weeks, but years ago."

"I must give Mr. Morris credit for that bit of imagination," said Blake. "It has become a reality to me, and I can see you as you were back in those years, and picture you among the rocks and fields we knew so well. Do you go there this season, Miss Carden?"

"We leave on the Thursday evening boat," was the reply. Nothing could have suited Blake better. He would tell John Burt that Jessie had postponed her departure from France. He then would plead ill health and join Jessie in Hingham, and their marriage and wedding trip should follow. The first cards had fallen in his favor, and he determined to press his advantage.

"May I call to-morrow evening, and not plead business with the general as a pretext?" he asked boldly. "I may not get another chance to see you before you leave. You see I'm already presuming on these years of friendship."

"Gen. Carden attends a banquet to-morrow evening, but Edith and I will be at home and we'll be delighted if you'll drop in to relieve the monotony," replied Jessie. "Uncle Tom plays a splendid hand at whist and you can take papa's place."

Blake's spirits mounted high as hope fed the springs of his longing. The hour was late when he bade his fellow-guests good-night at the carriage door, and his being thrilled with the touch of her hand and the light of her smile at parting.

Blake strolled slowly up the avenue, in the direction of his apartments. He had not gone two squares when he met John Burt. In all the years in San Francisco and New York this was the first time they had met in a public thoroughfare. One of the horses hauling a wagon laden with stage settings had fallen and blocked the street.

Blake concealed his confusion by looking up and down the street for a carriage. He finally hailed a driver, and they were rapidly driven to his apartments.

"We must perfect our plans for to-morrow," said John. "The city council defeated the Cosmopolitan franchises to-night and I shall move against L. & P. to-morrow morning."

The voice was calm, but it held a note of triumph and of quiet confidence. It hinted at no suspicion, and Blake drew a long breath of relief as he thought of his third escape.

He shuddered to think of what would have happened had Gen. Carden postponed his departure from the dining room by a few minutes. He pictured John Burt entering the room, his steady gaze fixed first on himself and then on Jessie Carden. So vivid was the imaginary picture that he felt all the horror of the situation.

"This is my last speculative campaign," said John. "For years I have been a gold-grubbing and money-making machine, and I hope my better instincts have survived the strain. We shall triumph to-morrow, and when it is ended you shall be, in fact as well as in name, the head of the firm of James Blake & Company. I can retire from active participation in its affairs as quietly as I entered, and you have fairly won whatever of prestige attaches to the name."

Before Blake could find words to reply, the carriage stopped in front of his apartment. They entered and found Hawkins awaiting them.

"I'm making myself at home, Blake," he said. "I've kept your man busy getting cigars and refreshments. Let's get down to business, gentlemen. It's past midnight, and we'll need all the sleep we can get."

For nearly two hours they worked at the plans for the battle which was to come. At times Blake was absorbed in the discussion, again his mind wandered to the woman he would buy at the price of his honor.

Then he thought of John Burt's primely pledge, and like a flash there came to him an impulse which thrilled his very soul with a happiness in which were throbs of poignant pain.

Not many blocks away another conference was in progress. Staid bank directors and financiers associated with Arthur Morris had been aroused from their slumbers and were assembled in his rooms. Bewildered for the moment by the unexpected blow, Morris took measures for defense with a vigor which was keyed by a sense of imminent danger. His suspicion that James Blake was the cause of his defeat became a certainty when a reporter informed him that Blake and Samuel L. Rounds were boyhood companions, and that the latter had been seen in Blake's offices.

The east was crimsoned with sunlight before the conference ended. The weary men of money left Morris' rooms and sought a few hours of rest before facing the ordeal of the day For mutual protection they had formed a pool; had pledged themselves to support the market against the expected onslaught of Blake's millions.

Why were these masked millions drawn up in battle array? Why did men of vast affairs wait with drawn faces and bated breaths the hour when the clash of opposing fortunes should sound the signal for merciless conflict?

Because of a woman—a woman pure as an opening bud and gentle as the dew which kisses it.

Why had James Blake proved false to the man who unselfishly befriended him? Why had he sought to repay loyalty with perfidy?

Because of a woman—a woman whose loving heart was incapable of deceit.

(To be continued.)

Red Hair's Triumph.

Fashion changes even in the color of a woman's hair. Twenty years ago hair with a reddish tinge was called "carrots"; now titian-colored locks are reckoned a definite beauty, and are possessed by several of the most popular women in London.

In an old book written by the late Mrs. Haweis, entitled "The Art of Beauty," there is a clever chapter on "Visible and Invisible Girls," in which the first word was said in favor of the long-neglected red-haired sisterhood. And they were seriously advised to dress in the pre-Raphaelite style.

Now how strange it all seems! Time changes all things. At last week's private view of Mr. Reginald Pannett's "Sketches of the Women of To-day," a charming lady of much Parisian chic was cleverly pictured with red hair, attired in a rose-red gown, and the effect was perfect. The bright-haired beauty has come to her own.—M. A. P.

Landsmen Best Naval Gunners.

Three of the best marksmen in the United States navy, curiously enough, hail from far inland Oklahoma. One is C. W. Johnson, who made the world's record with the huge 16-inch gun recently installed at Fort Wright, on Fisher's Island, New York harbor. J. W. Creitz, of the new battleship Maine, made eight shots in a minute with a 6-inch gun and hit the target eight times at 1,600 yards, the ship meantime going twelve knots an hour. Bart Barnes, a son of ex-Gov. Barnes, of Oklahoma, is now a first lieutenant in the navy, but previous to his promotion he made an excellent record at the target. He is now on duty at Panama.

A Family Fire Drill.

A family fire drill occasionally, where there are little children, is an excellent plan. Provide them with a wool dressing gown and slippers to keep near the bed, and teach them at the first alarm of fire to slip them on, throw a blanket or rug over head and shoulders, and if possible tie a wet handkerchief, preferably silk, over their mouths and then take the most direct way out.

Teach them how to put out a small fire with rugs or blankets, stopping direct draughts by closing doors or windows, and, above all, to keep cool and collected.

Illinois News

Choice items from over the state, specially selected for our readers

PRINTING CONTRACT AWARDED

Binding Is Given to H. W. Rokker of Springfield at $26,000.

The state board of contracts, which had rejected all bids for printing for the first and second class, and for binding, owing to the high prices which had been bid for the printing and the suspicion that a combine existed to keep up prices, has awarded the contract for binding to H. W. Rokker of Springfield, the bid being $26,000. Other bids aggregated as follows: First-class printing—Schnepp & Lauer, Springfield, $8,900. This firm failed to file a bond and a duplicate bid with the governor. Second-class—Phillips Bros., Springfield, $73,500; Journal company, Springfield, $63,400; Schnepp & Lauer, Springfield, $34,529 Phillips Bros. was the only firm which had bid in September. Their bid then was $74,000, or $500 more than this time. Schnepp & Lauer again failed to file a bond.

Panama Appointments.

Among the appointments made by Chief Engineer J. F. Wallace of the Panama canal, which have just been announced, are: T. R. Cummins, formerly roadmaster of the St. Louis division of the Illinois Central railroad, as assistant chief engineer, at a salary of $12,500; H. H. Hadsell, who was engineer in chief of the construction of the concrete bridge across the Big Muddy near Carbondale, as superintendent of masonry; George Ruggles, division engineer of the St. Louis division, as superintendent of excavation.

Smallpox Is Disappearing.

Supplementing a statement made by Mayor Cook that the new pesthouse in East St. Louis is one of the most modern institutions of its kind in the country and that few deaths are being reported from there, the city authorities have also issued a statement that smallpox in East St. Louis and vicinity is on the decrease and that few new cases are being reported by physicians.

Church Changes Home.

The congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Salem sold its house of worship on East Main street to C. L. McMackin. The congregation has since bought a lot on South Washington avenue and begun work on its new edifice. Mr. McMackin will shortly dismantle the old church, and on the lot and one adjoining will erect a brick business block.

Survey Is Completed.

The survey for the extension of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad from Centralia south is about completed. It touches the coal mining towns of Christopher, Herrin, Johnson City and Carrier Mills, extending to a point in Gallatin county, on the Ohio river. The citizens of Johnson City have offered a site for depot and yards.

Telephone Operator Seeks Education.

Miss Clara Heller, chief operator at the Jerseyville telephone exchange, resigned and enrolled as a pupil at Forest Park university. Miss Heller's place in the telephone office is filled by Miss Nelle Cone, who, with Misses Rie Voorhees, Josephine Quinn, Hattie Spencer, Etta Bohannan and Lyda Houghtlin, compose the force.

School Council.

The southern Illinois school council will be held in the parlor of the university at Carbondale November 11 and 12. Congressman W. A. Rodenberg of East St. Louis will speak.

EVANGELIST TO PAY WOMAN $250

Payment to Stepmother Settles Charge of Illicit Intimacy.

The action of Mrs. Maggie E. Cummins ex rel. Miss Oletta Graham against Rev. W. J. Thompson at Springfield, which has been of a highly sensational character, has been settled by the payment of $250 by the defendant. Sensational charges made in the arguments of the attorneys almost precipitated a fight in the circuit courtroom. Thompson is an aged traveling evangelist and has a wife and children. He is charged with having been unlawfully intimate with Miss Graham while touring southern Illinois. St. Elmo, Effingham county, being one of the towns mentioned in the charge. When they returned to Springfield, Mrs. Cummins, stepmother of Miss Graham, brought the suit.

Plans to Catch Pesthouse Thieves.

The Alton health officer has decided to take unusual precautions to prevent thieves from plundering the supplies at the unoccupied pesthouse. She found, the second time, that the place had been raided and that a quantity of food had been prepared and eaten in the building, consequently she has decided to establish a system of wires around the building, which will be connected with the Alton electric power house, so that persons attempting to get into the building in future will be severely shocked.

Burlington's Illinois Coal Line.

The rumor which has been prevalent several months with regard to the extension of the Burlington into the southern Illinois coal fields is confirmed. The road is to be built from Centralia south through Christopher, Johnston City, Carrier Mills and to Shawneetown on the Ohio river. At Christopher the road will pass through the famous Franklin county fields, including Joe Leiter's plant; at Johnston City it will tap the Williamson county field, and at Carrier Mills the Saline fields, as yet undeveloped.

Sunday School Officers.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year at the thirty sixth annual convention of Sunday schools of Montgomery county, which was held at Fillmore: President, Lyman Ware of Butler; first vice president, J. R. Easley, Irving; second vice president, T. H. Lane, Litchfield; secretary and treasurer, G. A. Walten, Hillsboro.

After Delinquent Taxes.

The committee of the board of supervisors having in charge the collection of omitted taxes is instituting suits against a number of persons at Salem. Each suit instituted is for $10,000. The committee alleges omission for five years, the penalty for which cannot exceed a $2,000 fine for each offense.

To Protect Farms.

The river improvement fleet has completed raising all the wing dams in the channel from Portage island to Grafton, which had sunk and become inefficient, and is now at work building a revetment at the mouth of the Missouri to protect the Illinois farms from washing.

Judge Foree Is Dead.

Judge Samuel B. Foree, aged 55, died at his home in Elsah township, near Jerseyville. The funeral took place from the Melville church. He is survived by his widow, two sons, George H. and John M., and three daughters.

CHILDREN'S HOME IS DESTROYED.

The Middlesworth home at Shelbyville of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid society, which was burned Oct. 19, was given to the society four years ago by Abram Middlesworth, whose residence it had been. It was a handsome brick structure, was beautifully situated, and was considered by the society the safest and best of its four homes. Accommodations were provided for forty children. The building and grounds were valued at $10,000. Two children were lost in the fire.

Rob Former County Clerk.

The home of former County Clerk J. W. Johnson at Tonti was entered by burglars while Mr. Johnson was alone in the house. After administering chloroform they relieved him of $75 in cash and a number of notes and other valuable papers.

Revival Meeting at Alton.

A series of revival meetings have been inaugurated in the German Methodist church at Alton by the pastor, Rev. W. E. Isler.

Verdict Against Railway Company.

The jury at Springfield in the mechtried case of T. J. Condon, administrator of the estate of the late Alexander Moore, against the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis railway, returned a verdict awarding the plaintiff $3,000.

Woman Tries to Die.

Mrs. Frederick Burnick of Quincy, who has been acting strangely recently, attempted to commit suicide by drinking insect poison. The timely aid of doctors saved her life.

MONEY FOR Y. M. C. A. HOME

Alton Residents Contribute $7,500 as Nucleus for the Fund.

Announcement has been made of the voluntary subscription of $7,500, by Alton friends of the Y. M. C. A., as a nucleus for a building fund of $35,000, which it is proposed to raise at once to erect a Y. M. C. A. building in Alton. The initial offering was made by Alton people in connection with the close of the state convention. No effort had been made to secure subscriptions, but since the start has been made a determined effort will be made within the next month to get the whole amount. Five Alton friends of the Y. M. C. A. gave $1,000 each and the remaining $5,500 was subscribed by about seven others.

Presbytery Announces Changes.

The executive committee of the presbytery of Springfield has released Rev. R. E. Lashley from the pastoral charge at Marcoa, and granted him permission to work outside this presbytery. Rev. D. J. Mitterling has closed his work at Petersburg and will become pastor of the church at Centerville, Ia. Rev. George C. Fleit, second pastor at Farmingdale, was dismissed and will take charge of the church at Gladstone, Mich. The Farmingdale church has called Rev. Mr. Steen of Decatur.

Bullet Strikes Wrong Man.

Moses Herren, aged 55, is in a serious condition at his home at Alton as the result of a bullet fired by a young negro, Arnett Poindexter. Herren was standing at Second and Easton streets when Poindexter fired at Johnson Daily of Upper Alton. The ball passed through the abdominal cavity and lodged through the skin on the right side. Poindexter has not been captured.

College Y. M. C. A. Election.

The Young Men's Christian association of McKendree college at Lebanon has elected officers for the ensuing years as follows: President, Louis McDonald; vice-president, C. W. Moorman; recording secretary, J. E. Glotfelty; corresponding secretary, H. C. Brown; treasurer, C. H. McKnight; chorister, N. M. Stevenson.

Prisoners Are Transferred.

Mrs. Lydia Hughes, who is charged with murdering her husband, and Ira Upchurch and John Frederick, charged with the poisoning of Otto Ratti, all of whom have been prisoners in the jail of Quincy for the past few months, have been transferred to the Brown county jail, where the alleged crimes were committed.

Black Hawk War Veteran Dies.

John Cortew, a veteran of the Black Hawk war of 1832 and the war with Mexico, 1846, and the oldest resident of Montgomery county, is dead at the family residence near Litchfield, aged 93 years. He served as sheriff of Montgomery county two terms, being elected by the Democrats.

Traction Company Incorporates.

The secretary of state has issued a license to the Litchfield Traction company to incorporate. The capital stock is placed at $5,000. The incorporators are Charles B. Munday, Jr., M. J. Butcher and G. L. Setlemire. The object of the company is to operate a street railway.

Ironworker Is Burned.

John McManaway of East St. Louis, a heater at the Republic iron and steel works, was severely burned about the face and shoulders while at work.

Fisherman Breaks an Arm.

James Watson of East St. Louis fell from a wagon while returning from a fishing trip, and broke his right arm. His companion brought him home.

Deaf-Mute Is Killed.

It has been ascertained that the unknown man killed on the railroad tracks near Clayton was Jacob O. Bright, a deaf-mute of Minneapolis.

Rob Policeman's Home.

Burglars entered the home of Officer Haggerty of East St. Louis and carried off some wearing apparel and a small amount of money.

Recruiting Station at Pana.

Lieut. J. M. Black of the United States army is in Pana for the purpose of opening a recruiting station.

Carnival at Pana.

The Business Men's association has secured a carnival company to show in Pana the first week in November.

Morgan County Administrator.

Gov. Yates has appointed Ernest F. Johnson of Jacksonville public administrator of Morgan county.

Child Is Run Over.

Russel, the 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bailey of Decatur, was run over by a horse and buggy and badly injured.

Old Soldier Is Hurt.

William Killim, an inmate of the state soldiers' home at Quincy, was badly injured in a fall.

Wins Medal for Oratory.

Miss Bertha Hatfield of Decatur won a silver medal in the W. C. T. U. oratorical contest