JOHN BURT

By FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS

Author of "The Kidnapped Millionaire," "Colonel Monroe's Doctrine," Etc.

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CHAPTER XIII—Continued.

At the sight of the ore, and of the dull gloss of the nugget, a wonderful transformation took place in John Hawkins. He gazed at the ore with the rapt look of an enthusiast. The weight of the nugget told its own story.

"Go ahead and tell me about this," he said abruptly. "You look like an honest man, and it's a waste of time to lie to me. What have you got, and how did you get it?"

In a matter of fact way John Burt related the story of the discovery and development of the Sailor Mine.

"This may be worth looking into," said the capitalist. "I'll send an expert to investigate it and make a report." He rang a bell and a boy responded. "Go and tell David Parker I want him," he ordered.

"Until we have arrived at some tentative agreement or understanding, I don't care to have your expert examine this property," said John Burt, when the boy had closed the door. "Your expert will find one of two things—either that my estimate of these claims is accurate, or that it is not. In the latter event you would drop the matter. If, on the contrary, your expert confirms my estimate—as he will—it then becomes necessary to act under a definite understanding. In brief, the question is this. What agreement will you make, assuming that your expert confirms my statements?"

"That sounds like business," roared John Hawkins, a gleam of admiration for an opponent worthy of his attention showing in his eyes. "Make your proposition. You're selling; I'm buying. What's your terms?"

"You will assume the payments on the Blake option, which amount to three hundred thousand dollars," said John. "In addition to that, you will advance the money necessary for the development of the property and for the handling of the ore. Fifty per cent of the net profits will revert to you until the money paid to Blake is refunded. In consideration of the capital thus advanced, your interest in the property will amount to forty per cent and mine to sixty per cent."

"I won't do it!" thundered John Hawkins, slamming down the cover of his desk. "I must have control when I invest. Make my interest fifty-one per cent and I will talk to you. Fifty-one per cent or nothing."

"Very well," said John Burt, rising; "it is impossible for us to agree, and well we should know it in advance. Good-day, Mr. Hawkins. I am stopping at the Palace Hotel, and letters sent there will be forwarded when I leave the city. Good-day, sir."

Two days later John Burt received a message from David Parker, asking him to call at his office. Scientific tests had shown a much higher percentage of gold than those indicated by the crude experiments made in the cabin by John Burt.

"I had an interview with Mr. Hawkins this morning," said David Parker, after greeting his visitor. "Mr. Hawkins is a very peculiar man—very peculiar—as I have told you. He says you are the hardest man to deal with he ever saw—a great compliment for you, Mr. Burton, I assure you. He has had his lawyer draw up a provisional agreement in conformity to your terms—as he understood them—and instructs me to say to you that we are invited to dine with him at his club this afternoon, when the matter may be finally arranged. If so, I am to accompany you to the mines to-morrow."

John thanked Parker and arranged to meet him with Mr. Hawkins at a later hour. He then called on an attorney and submitted the agreement to his inspection. After making a few minor alterations, the lawyer assured John that the agreement fully protected his interests.

Over a dinner such as is possible only in San Francisco the agreement was ratified.

CHAPTER XIV.

Success and Failure.

David Parker's report on the Sailor Mine was submitted to Mr. Hawkins ten days later, and it more than confirmed the statements made by John Burt. Upon receipt of it, the magnate proceeded to the mine with Burt and Parker, taking several miners in whom he had absolute confidence. New claims were located on the mountain-side, and in the valley below in anticipation of possible placer deposits.

Jim Blake was delighted when informed of John's progress. "Hope you make millions, and am betting you will," said Jim as they shook hands and separated.

Mr. Hawkins, David Parker and John Burt spent three nights in the cramped quarters of the log cabin, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. On their return to San Francisco a formal agreement was signed, and John Burt and John Hawkins became partners in the Sailor Mine and in the scores of claims surrounding it.

For eighteen months John directed the efforts of an army of men, swarming like ants on the mountain-side. A village sprang up in the valley and clustered about the stamp mills of Hawkins & Company. Churches, gambling houses, stores and saloons contended for patronage. Thousands of claims were staked out; but nature had ceased from her gold sowing when she finished the broad layers of the Sailor Mine and its outcroppings. The mines produced eight hundred thousand dollars in gold the first year. After deducting Blake's price, John's share in the profits was more than a hundred thousand. His dividends in the following six months were three hundred thousand. Following Mr. Hawkins' advice, he so invested his profits as to become a millionaire before he had been in California two years.

Having placed the mining property on a permanent footing, and in charge of competent managers and superintendents, he transferred his headquarters to San Francisco. He still made periodical visits to the mines, where he had an office in the old log cabin; orders having been issued not to destroy it under any circumstances.

When Jim Blake received his first instalment of a hundred thousand dollars, he gave a dinner in John Burt's honor in the Occidental Hotel. Twenty guests were present. This social function cost Blake a thousand dollars, and ten days after the feast he was without a dollar.

"Mining stocks," he explained to John Burt. "I plunged on Robert Emmet, and they trimmed me."

John advanced Jim ten thousand dollars, and gave him advice which was worth more than the money. Blake followed the advice for a month. When his second instalment was due, he had drawn so heavily against John that he had a balance of only forty-five thousand. Two months after he had received a check for the final payment, which terminated his original property rights in the mines, he admitted to John Burt that his total assets did not exceed five thousand dollars.

"I have a plan," said John, "one which will give full scope for your talents. I've been thinking for some time, Jim, of making a proposition to you. I recently purchased seats on the mining and stock exchanges and wish to become a silent partner in an investing and brokerage firm. I will furnish most of the capital; but for reasons that you will appreciate, I prefer to remain in the background. How would you like to become the nominal head of such a concern, under the title, we will say, of 'James Blake & Company'? In order that you may have a substantial interest in the firm, I will advance you a hundred thousand dollars on your future profits from the Sailor Mine, and invest with the firm four hundred thousand of my own money. What do you think of my proposition?"

"Nothing would suit me better, but I'm afraid I'm not qualified for such a position," said Blake, delighted beyond measure. Once more the path to wealth opened out before him.

"I know your qualifications," said John. "You will become the most popular and capable broker in San Francisco."

Announcement of the establishment of the new firm was made the following week. Mr. Hawkins refused to confirm or deny the popular rumor that he was the banker of the concern; and no one suspected that John Burt had any financial interest in it.

Blake & Company first attracted speculative attention by its masterly handling of the corner in the stock of Don Pedro Smelting and Mining Company. The profits of the firm were estimated at a million and a half. John Hawkins was publicly named as the manipulator and principal winner, but James Blake was hailed as the daring operator whose brilliant generalship had crowned the success of the deal. In the speculative firmament he suddenly blazed forth as a star of the first magnitude.

James Blake suddenly developed traits which bewildered his friends and surprised himself. Under the guidance of John Burt he mastered the details of the business, displaying ability in dealing with the intricacies which formed the daily routine. Incapable of acting for himself, he could follow a chartered course with the precision of a pilot.

Nature had denied to James Blake that spark of genius which inspires the leader, but he possessed in a high degree those traits which leadership attracts and invests with power. He grasped Burt's plans of campaign with the intuition of a Bernadotte, and executed them with the dash and skill of a Murat. In the two years which followed, wealth poured into the coffers of James Blake & Company. Blake's name figured in great financial transactions, and his opinion was eagerly sought in matters of commercial moment. Handsome as Apollo, and the reputed possessor of a large fortune, he became a society lion, a popular club man and the target for matrimonial archers.

Blake accepted his honors with dignity and modesty. He was willing and proud to shine in the reflected light of John Burt. He would have endured unmerited disgrace as serenely as he wore unwon honors.

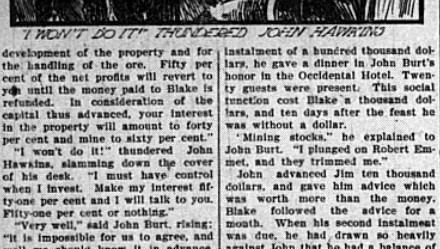
From the moment when Peter Burt stood with uplifted arms in the lightning's glare and gave him a blessing, John Burt had no doubt of his financial future. With his eyes fixed unwaveringly on an immediate purpose, he had boldly commanded fortune to do his bidding.

A profile portrait of Jessie Carden rested on an easel which stood near the desk in his library. It was the work of an artist of local fame, drawn from a tintype photograph—his sole memento of the women he loved. The pink paper frame, with a design in hearts and roses, which surrounded the photograph, was frayed and torn, but Jessie's sweet face was revealed on the glossy surface of the metal—the face which had looked into his one summer day when they rode to Hingham, and Jessie proposed they should "have their tintypes taken."

Jessie was in her sixteenth year when the picture was taken, but the long riding-habit and the queenly pose of her head against the plain background added dignity to the nascent charms of face and figure. John would sit for hours during the long evenings and gaze at this portrait. It was the one visible connecting link between the past and the present, the ocular inspiration for his future. Again and again he attempted to picture the Jessie Carden of the present. With his eyes fixed on the portrait, and his mind centered on its original, he struggled to span the void of miles and years which parted them, and to hold communion with her. At times he imagined the message was received, and that a loving answer came, bidding him to have faith and to persevere. Surely such correspondence was not in violation of his promise to Peter Burt! Then he would turn to his books, and with a light heart toil far into the night. In this room he mastered the secrets of finance and of commerce. With himself as tutor, he took a postgraduate course in business. No detail was too slight, no problem too intricate, to escape his attention. The world was the chessboard of his future operations, and he explored its past and studied its present with zeal unflagging and faith unbounded.

But when slumber fell upon him, and his soul wandered into unknown regions, he dreamed—dreamed not of millions nor of triumphs over master minds. He dreamed of Jessie Carden.

(To be continued.)



"I WON'T DO IT!" THUNDERED JOHN HAWKINS

UMBRELLAS OLD AS MAN.

Though Rain Shields Are 10,000 Years Old They Need Improving.

"How rich I'd be," said an umbrella salesman, "if I had patented the umbrella."

The floorwalker smiled.

"You might as well talk," said he, "of a patent on swimming or cooking. Umbrellas appear to have existed always. Wherever we excavate—Babylon, Ninevah, Nippur—traces of the umbrella are found. This instrument is coeval with mankind.

"It is of oriental origin. The English didn't begin to use it until 1700. Shakespeare, with all his genius, had no umbrella to protect him from the rain. Jonas Hanway was the first English umbrella maker."

The floorwalker paused to brush a white thread from his long black coat. Then he resumed:

"Now, what you might do would be to patent some new sort of umbrella—some rain shield built on better lines. We have proof that the umbrella has existed for 10,000 years, and yet in all that time it has not once been improved. Consider it. It is by no means perfect. It turns inside out readily, and it only protects the head and shoulders from the rain. Change all that. Give us an umbrella that is a complete rain shield. Then you will become a millionaire."

Paradoxical Doc.

"Doctor, you are the most jovial, even tempered man I ever met—do you never get out of temper?"

"One has to get out of patience to lose one's temper, and, as I am never out of patients, I am never out of patience."

ILLINOIS NEWS

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

SAY MINERS ARE PEACEABLE

Leaders Declare Men Evicted From Zeigler Plan No Trouble.

George Bagwill of Murphysboro, president of the Seventh district union mine workers of Illinois, and W. P. Morris of Duquoin, member of the state executive board, were present at a meeting of the executive board in the state headquarters in Springfield, and expressed great indignation over the general situation at the Zeigler mines of Joseph Leiter in southern Illinois. They reported that the union men will not make trouble. The mines are garrisoned by armed guards, but the miners have made no threats. At Christopher thirty tents are occupied by miners. This was done when the men were ejected from Zeigler and no houses were available. It is reported as being a camp of tented houses, and is not a menace to the peace of the community. The report of the Illinois miners' officials is that there has been but one affray and that was when a guard shot a union miner. The men are willing to arbitrate the difficulty, says the report, something which Leiter absolutely refuses to consider.

FAVORABLE WEEK FOR CROPS

Weather Conditions Have Been the Best of the Season.

The weekly crop bulletin for the week ended July 25 says the weather condition have been highly favorable to crop development and farming operations during the week, decidedly the most favorable of the season.

Corn has made rapid growth and is mostly laid by. Many fields are in tassel.

The cutting of oats will be in active operation in the northern district during the ensuing week; the work is practically finished in the central and southern districts and some threshing has been done.

Wheat, rye and barley are in shock. Considerable wheat has been threshed and an average yield of good quality resulted. Reports indicate a yield of hay below average, but of superior quality.

Gardens are yielding good, and the outlook for potatoes is promising. Plums, blackberries and raspberries are ripe. Grapes continue promising. Some apple orchards are bare.

Prohibitionist Rally.

The Prohibitionists of Washington, St. Clair and Randolph counties will hold a rally in the city park at Centerville on Friday, Aug. 12. Hon. Robert H. Patton of Springfield, candidate for governor of Illinois; Rev. W. B. Minton of Greenville, candidate for congress in the Twenty-second district, and Rev. C. F. Friest of Dongola, candidate for congress in the Twenty-fifth district, will be the principal speakers.

Epworth League Officers.

The Epworth League at Irvington has elected the following officers: President, Dr. L. T. Granay; first vice president, Mrs. Robert Campbell; second vice president, Mrs. E. A. Hartley; third vice president, Miss Edna McCullough; fourth vice president, Miss Winnie McCullough; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. George Sanders.

Token of Esteem.

Frank M. Doan has retired from the position of superintendent of the Jacksonville Gaslight and Coke company, which position he has held for fifteen years. The employes of the gas plant presented him with a handsome seventeen-jeweled watch as a token of their esteem.

Train Beheads Laborer.

A local freight on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad bumped into a boarding car on a side track, near West Alton, Mo., under which a number of Italian laborers were eating their breakfast, cutting off one man's head and injuring several others.

Preacher Is Insane.

Elder Joseph W. Armstrong, a well-known Primitive Baptist preacher and a farmer of Foster township, was adjudged insane in the county court at Salem. Some weeks ago he suffered a paralytic stroke and continued ill health led to his derangement.

Hospital Is Burned.

The Mount Vernon hospital was burned to the ground by a fire which originated in a barn near by. There were several patients in the hospital building, but all were removed to safety. The total loss is $8,000, there being $5,000 insurance.

Twelve Are Baptized.

Fifty-three persons received the full membership in First M. E. church at Mount Vernon, when twelve were baptized.

Telephone Company Files Papers.

Articles of incorporation of the Troy Telephone company have been filed for record; capital stock, $10,000; incorporators and principal stockholders, J. H. Steinhaus, J. W. Gornet and Chris Busse, Jr.

Must Paint the Poles.

The Chester city council has passed an ordinance that all telegraph and electric light poles must be painted red ten feet from the ground and white the remaining distance to the top.

STATE FARMERS ELECT OFFICERS

Economic Union Closes Successful Convention at Duquoin.

The state farmers' social and economic union has just closed one of its most successful state conventions in Duquoin by the election of the following state officers for the year: President, A. H. Evers of Perry county; vice president, J. A. Houser of Washington; secretary, G. H. Winter of St. Clair; treasurer, N. R. Lesley of Randolph; organizer, J. W. Crawford of Franklin; lecturer, G. B. Sanders of Randolph; trustees, Adam Bitner of Jackson, J. W. Lemens of Perry, J. J. Randall of Washington, J. W. Crawford of Franklin, Martin Feurer of St. Clair and Grant Kennedy of Gallatin.

Delegates to the national convention were elected as follows: T. M. McMurry of Perry and A. A. Hinckley of Washington; alternates, Martin Feurer of St. Clair and Adam Bitner of Jackson.

District delegates—Hardy Crews of Jackson; S. S. Bayfield of Perry; Robert Stewart of Randolph; Louis Sheets of St. Clair; J. A. Houser of Washington; E. Smith of Monroe; S. C. Grader of Gallatin.

The next meeting will be held in Benton.

Log Rolling at Virginia.

The Modern Woodmen have made arrangements for a big "log rolling" at Virginia August 9. E. D. Reynolds and Freeman Plants, state consul and general attorney of the order, will make addresses and the famous Springfield watch factory band has been engaged. Heavy premiums have been offered for the log-rolling contests, a baby show and for the largest delegation of Woodmen from any one camp.

Will Build Illinois Monument.

The Culver Construction company of Springfield has been awarded the contract for the construction of the Illinois monument on the Gettysburg battlefield. Culver's bid was $192,000. The monument will be immense. On the interior of the dome-shaped structure will be bronze tablets bearing the name of every Illinois soldier who participated in the battle.

Will Adopt Drive Wells.

The special committee of the Springfield city council, consisting of Aldermen Maisenbacher, Fehr and Daughton, has returned from neighboring cities where drive well systems are used. The report made to the council is that the drive-well system is a success and will be put in use in Springfield, where experiments have been made.

Elevator Is Destroyed.

Fire broke out on the top floor of the Columbia elevator, situated near the Wiggins ferry company railroad in East St. Louis, completely destroying the building and about 4,000 bushels of wheat. It is believed that the fire was due to spontaneous combustion in the wheat on the top floor.

Lightning Fires Barn.

During an electrical storm lightning set fire to the large dairy barn on the farm of Mrs. Richardson, two miles east of Trenton. Joseph Albinger, tenant on the farm, succeeded in saving all the horses and cattle in the barn, but the building, hay and grain were totally destroyed.

Lebanon Epworth League.

Nashville has been chosen as the place for holding the next annual convention of the Lebanon district Epworth league. The session will be held next May. Miss Cassie Poole, a Sunday school worker of Nashville, was chosen second vice president of the association.

Democratic Chairman.

Lee G. Metcalf of Illiopolis has been elected chairman of the Sangamon county Democratic committee, to succeed Charles Werner of Clear Lake. Charles M. Woods was chosen secretary.

Fine Is Heavy.

Theodore Yaeger of O'Fallon has been fined $1,000 on a charge of raising a disturbance in Bruce Walsh's saloon at O'Fallon, when James Piesen, the bartender, tried to eject him.

Thieves Take Souvenirs.

Burglars entered the home of L. H. Coleman at Springfield and stole a large quantity of rare coins and souvenirs Miss Mary Coleman has just brought home with her from Europe.

Voluntary Bankrupt.

Charles A. Hartwell, a merchant of Casey, has filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in the federal court at Springfield, scheduling liabilities at $5,415; assets, $4,490.

To Attend G. A. R. Convention.

Stephenson Post, G. A. R., under command of Sam H. Twyman, will be well represented at the thirty-eighth national encampment of that organization at Boston August 18-20. Over 200 will attend from Springfield.

Y. M. C. A. Building.

Plans are being prepared for the erection of a new Y. M. C. A. building adjoining the First Presbyterian church, corner of Seventh street and Capitol avenue, Springfield. The building will cost $75,000.

PUTS BAN ON CONTESTING HEIRS

Edward Seymour Decrees That They Shall Lose Share if They Object.

The will of Edward Seymour, formerly of Payson, has been filed in the Adams county court. He left an estate which is valued at $500,000. A trust fund of $5,000 is placed with seven nieces and nephews for the maintainance of Eveline A. Seymour, an aged sister of the deceased. Loren B. Seymour is to receive the sum of $7,000 in cash. The Congregational church in Payson, Th university, and the Center school district are to receive $100 each. Farms in Vernon county, Mo., are bequeathed to Ellen F. Nelson, Lucy C. Green, Fannie Green and Fannie McClure, all nieces. Stella M. Starr, another niece, is given a section of land and $2,000 in cash. Lucy C. Green and Fannie McClure each received $4,000 in cash. The farm property in Illinois, including live stock, farming implements and furniture, go to two nephews, Henry M. and Lyman K. Seymour. A codicil in the will increases the amount given to Lucy C. Green and Fannie Seymour to $1,500 each. The will provides that in case any of the heirs attempt to contest the distribution of any part of the property they shall lose all rights to a share of the estate. Henry M. Seymour and Lyman K. Seymour are appointed executors.

QUEER EVIDENCE IS ACCEPTED

Operator's "Touch" Figures in Divorce Case at East Alton.

John Teipel of East Alton, it is said, will apply in the circuit court for relief from an order to pay his divorced wife a fixed amount of alimony, alleging that she was married in St. Louis recently. It is said that he will also ask for the custody of their child, which was given to the mother. When the divorce suit was tried six months ago testimony was given by a telegraph operator, who heard a message go over the wire, sent by Teipel, who was an operator, making an appointment with another woman. The "touch" of the sender was established by the operator who heard the message, and it was largely on this evidence that the wife secured a decree.

Reading Classes in Church.

Rev. Naboth Osborne, pastor of the Congregational church at Mattoon, has announced that he will conduct a series of reading classes, beginning early in the fall. Among the poets to be studied are Tennyson, Browning, Walt Whitman and John Milton.

Manages to Secure Bail.

Harry Sommers of Ashley, who has been confined in the county jail at Nashville, charged with resisting an officer, has been released on bond of $200, under which he was placed at his preliminary trial.

Boy's Arm Is Fractured.

Willie, the 10-year-old son of former Sheriff A. H. Cohlmeyer, of Nashville, sustained a fracture of the elbow joint of the left arm in a fall from a tree in Rountree's grove.

Traveler Is Bankrupt.

Forest W. Ettroth, traveling salesman of Quincy, has filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in the federal court at Springfield, scheduling liabilities as $1,500; assets, $233.

Coal Mine Reopens.

The coal mine just west of Lebanon operated by the Lebanon Coal and Machine association has resumed operations, after being closed down for over two months for repairs.

Neck Broken in Runaway.

Manuel Marcellus, an old and respected pioneer resident of Downs, was killed there in a runaway accident, being thrown out of a buggy. His neck was broken.

McKendree College Increase.

The new catalogue of McKendree college at Lebanon shows a total enrollment for the year 1903-04 of 215 students. This is an increase over the previous year.

Ballplayer in Jail.

The bondsmen of Eddie Gaebe, the ballplayer, charged with larceny, have withdrawn from his bail and he has again been remanded to jail in Nashville.

Fire Destroys Meat.

A large quantity of meat was destroyed by fire in the smokehouse at the Luer Packing company's plant in Alton.

Soldiers' Reunion at Chandlerville.

The annual Cass county soldiers' reunion and fish fry will be held at Chandlerville Wednesday, August 17.

Headstones for Soldiers.

The Beardstown Grand Army post on Wednesday received thirty-one headstones, which are furnished by the United States government, to be placed in the cemetery at the soldiers' graves which are not already marked.

Rattler Bites Farm Hand.

Charles Tobin, aged 18, of Oldenburg, was bitten by a rattlesnake while at work in the harvest field. He was taken to St. Louis immediately for medical treatment.