JOHN BURT

By FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS

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

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CHAPTER XXII—Continued.

The moment for action had arrived for James Blake. He compressed his lips, strode through the room and a moment later entered John's office. In the final struggle passion was triumphant, and he nerved himself as best he could for the ordeal.

John Burt looked up. The haggard expression on Blake's face alarmed him.

"What's happened, Jim? You're pale as a ghost!"

"It's a tooth," said Blake, rubbing his hand tenderly over his face. "I'm all right now, but it gave me a bad night. The dentist drew it this morning. I dined with General Carden. I—I suppose——"

"Has Jessie returned? Did you see her, Jim?"

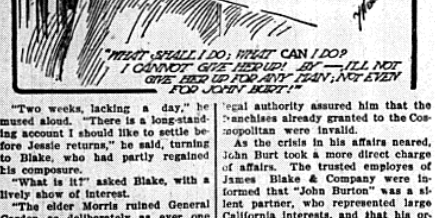
"Miss Carden has not returned, but she is expected to sail next Tuesday," said Blake, nervously lighting a cigar. "I had hoped to bring you better news, John, but this is the best I can do. I thought it would be indelicate to ask General Carden for her address, since nothing but a cablegram could reach her before the sailing date."

A shade of disappointment passed over John Burt's face when Blake spoke, but a smile chased it away when he mentioned the time of her departure.

"You did right, Jim," he exclaimed. "Let's see: Tuesday is the thirteenth. I'm glad Jessie isn't superstitious. That should bring her to New York on the twentieth. That's thirteen days from now."

Blake turned ashen when the second thirteen was announced, but John's eyes were fixed on the innocent calendar, his thoughts were four thousand miles across a heaving ocean, and he didn't notice the superstitious agony imprinted on the other's face.

John Burt leaned back in his chair and half closed his eyes.



"Two weeks, lacking a day," he mused aloud. "There is a long-standing account I should like to settle before Jessie returns," he said, turning to Blake, who had partly regained his composure.

"What is it?" asked Blake, with a lively show of interest.

"The elder Morris ruined General Carden as deliberately as ever one man did another," declared John Burt, his deep gray eyes flashing a menace as he brought his hand to the desk with a blow which made it rattle. "The proceeds of that villainy have been turned over to his son. Two weeks from to-day Arthur Morris shall have made restitution to the man his father wronged. The certainty of this reconciles me to her longer absence. I shall win this campaign, Jim, and it's my last one. When did Hawkins wire that he would be here?"

"Thursday," answered Blake.

"I shall not wait for Hawkins," said John Burt, abruptly. "He owns a block of this L. & O. stock and I shall assume that I have his co-operation. I shall have control of L. & O. before he reaches New York. How did it close last night?"

"Twenty-eight and a half," replied Blake.

"It opens to-day at a quarter," said John Burt, standing over the ticker. "Take all offerings up to thirty, but do not force matters. You understand, Jim? Watch it closely and keep me advised."

"I understand," said Blake, as he arose to go.

"Wait a minute," called John, as the other stood by the door. "Sam Rounds was in to see you yesterday, was he not?"

"Yes."

"Send for him at once. Tell him it's something important. That's all."

Blake entered his own office and flung himself into a chair. He felt as if he had aged years in the hour that had passed.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Measuring Lances.

When Randolph Morris retired in favor of his son he transferred no small burden of responsibility to the shoulders of the latter. Arthur Morris inherited his father's money and his ambitions, but not his masterly grasp of affairs. Arthur Morris had little sympathy with that fine old conservatism which stops short of direct participation in corruption. He believed, as has been stated, that every man has his price, and was willing to pay it, provided it promised returns.

Ambitious to pose as a Wall Street leader, Arthur Morris had assumed an enormous load of stocks, and the success of his ventures had given him the following which ever attends the leader in a rising market. In addition to this speculative risk, Morris had secured several valuable franchises, and was confidently in expectation of others at the hands of the city officials.

It will be sufficiently accurate to designate the Morris enterprise by the name of "The Cosmopolitan Improvement Company," and to state that its assets consisted in its acquired and prospective franchises. While purporting to afford relief from existing monopolies, it was in fact nothing more nor less than a well-planned attempt to acquire competitors. In the parlance of finance it was a "sand-bag."

Arthur Morris took up the work so auspiciously begun by his father—the wrecking of the L. & O. railroad company. In this campaign, General Carden and many others had lost their fortunes. Morris held control of the bonds, and looked forward to the day when the stock would be wiped out and this splendid property fall into his hands. It was an open secret in railway circles that the L. & O. would then be absorbed by one of the two powerful companies which intersected its lines.

John Burt detected a flaw in this conspiracy. He set aside three battalions of a million dollars each, and held them in reserve against the entrenched wealth in the Morris vaults.

Then he again scanned the field of action, and with unerring judgment placed his finger on the weakest point in the Morris defenses. The Cosmopolitan Improvement Company was a rampart on paper. John Burt proposed to enfilade it. The highest legal authority assured him that the franchises already granted to the Cosmopolitan were invalid.

As the crisis in his affairs neared, John Burt took a more direct charge of affairs. The trusted employes of James Blake & Company were informed that "John Burton" was a silent partner, who represented large California interests, and that his orders must be followed without question.

In response to James Blake's message, Alderman Samuel Rounds called and was conducted to the private office of the famous operator.

Blake had anticipated with zest the meeting between John Burt and Sam Rounds. It had been contemplated for several weeks, but now that the hour was at hand, he took little interest in it. He found it difficult to respond to Sam's hearty greeting, and terminated the interview as soon as possible.

"Heou are ye, Jim; heou are ye!" exclaimed Sam, as he greeted Blake in his luxurious office. "Don't it beat time, as uncle Toby Haynes uster say, that you an' I are here in New York, an' you are rich, an' I am—well, say fair to middlin'. There were only three of us young fellers 'round Rocky Woods; you an' John Burt an' me. Do you suppose we'll ever hear from John Burt, Jim? I've allers said he'd turn up on top, some day or nother."

"Would you like to hear from him?" asked Blake, without raising his eyes.

"Would I? D'ye know anything erbout him, Jim? Dew ye really?"

"There's a man in the next room who knows a lot about him," replied Blake. "Come and meet him."

Blake opened John Burt's door and stood in the way as Sam entered. John was seated at his desk and did not turn his head or make a move when Blake said:

"A derman Rounds wishes to speak to you."

Blake stepped outside and closed the door. John deliberately blotted an unfinished letter, rose and advanced to meet Sam, who stood awkwardly by the door, hat in hand.

"I am glad to meet you, Alderman Rounds," he said, extending his hand. "I have heard of you and wish the pleasure of your acquaintance. Pray be seated, Alderman."

The sharp blue eyes of the visitor were fixed on the speaker, and only for an instant was he in doubt.

"I know ye, John! God bless ye, John! Heou are ye, John Burt! I'm plumb tickled ter death ter see ye! Well, well, well!"

His honest eyes glistened as he threw his hat to the floor and grasped John's hands with a grip which have made the average man wince.

"And I'm glad to see you, Sam! It seems like coming back to life to meet you. Sit down and tell me all about yourself and Rocky Woods."

"The last time I saw ye, John," he said, "was under them maple trees in front of the Bishop house. I reckon you ain't forgot that night. You galloped away in the dark on my horse an' I ain't seen ye since. Now you begin at the place like in them stories which run in the Fireside Companion where it says 'to be continued in our next,' and keep right on up to the present time."

John laughed and gave Sam a hurried sketch of his career. He told of his voyage around Cape Horn, his arrival in San Francisco, the search for the mine described by the dying sailor, his meeting with Jim Blake, the discovery of the gold mine, his association with John Hawkins and the incidents which led to the formation of the firm of James Blake & Company. John said nothing to lead Sam to think that Blake was only a representative, but the shrewd Yankee guessed the truth.

"I swan, John, this is tew good tew be true!" he gasped, shaking hands again. "You ain't told me half the truth, an' ye don't have tew. I can guess the rest. You're James Blake & Company. You're the man who's taught these Wall Street chaps a lesson! I'm proud of ye, John! Didn't I allers say somethin' like this would happen? An' you can't have too much good fortune to suit me, John. An' there's a thing from ye. I just like tew see ye win, because—well, because ye orter win."

"Thank you, Sam."

"Don't it beat thunder how things turn out?" observed Sam. "I saw Jim when he was down tew Rocky Woods a few months ago, an' when he told me that he was the Jim Blake, you could a' knocked me down with a willow switch. I said tew myself then, that had it been John Burt I wouldn't been surprised. An' now, by thunder, it was John Burt who did it after all. But how erbout Jim Blake, John? If you're James Blake & Company, who'n the dickens is Jim?"

"I am not James Blake & Company," said John with a smile. "I am the Company. Jim has a substantial interest in the firm, and has done much towards its success."

"I'm mighty glad tew hear it," declared Sam, "but I reckon I can guess who does the thinkin'. Jim's a fine feller, but he allers was reckless an' careless, though mebbe he's outgrown it. Where is he? Send for him, John, an' we'll all talk it over together, like we did in the old days back in Rocky Woods."

John pressed a button and an attendant responded.

"If Mr. Blake is not busy, say that I should like to see him," he said.

"There's one thing you haven't told me erbout," said Sam, shifting his feet awkwardly. "I don't want tew pry into your private affairs, John, but have you seen her yet—I mean Miss Carden?"

The door opened softly and James Blake entered so silently that neither heard him.

"I have not seen Miss Carden," replied John. "She is not in the city."

"Yes she is," asserted Sam eagerly. "I saw her yesterday ridin' down Fifth avenue."

(To be continued.)

Dangerous Mexican Weed to Smoke.

Manuel Guerrero and Florencio Pino had the "marihuana" habit, and for the last few weeks had been smoking big cigarettes in which tobacco was mixed with the dangerous weed.

Tuesday afternoon the two men smoked cigarettes composed of tobacco in smaller proportion than marihuana, and after a few minutes ran amuck.

They went out into the street shouting, vociferating and attacking everybody. First they marched hand in hand, declaring that they were the bravest men on earth and would kill anybody who dared to say a word to the contrary, but at last Pino declared that Guerrero was still braver than his friend, and a fight followed, the two receiving dangerous wounds.

They were captured and sent to the hospital, where they had to be put into straightjackets. It is feared that the two men, if they recover from their wounds, will lose their minds permanently, as is often the case with marihuana smokers.—Mexican Herald.

Reading the Bible.

It was the meeting of the Christian Endeavor society. Near the close the leader suggested that each one should tell what part of the Bible he read the most, and give the reason.

The last one to speak was a lad, who said with a little hesitation that he read the first chapter of Genesis more than any others.

A look of surprise and curiosity was manifest in all the listeners, as he went on to give his reason:

"Why, sir, I always resolve every New Year that I will begin and read the Bible through, but I never get very far, and, of course, I always have to make a new beginning."—New York Tribune.

Franklin's View of Life.

When I reflect, as I frequently do, upon the felicity I have enjoyed, I sometimes say to myself, that, were the offer made me, I would engage to run again, from beginning to end, the same career of life. All I would ask should be the privilege of an author to correct in a second edition, certain errors of the first.—Franklin.

ILLINOIS NEWS

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

RAINFALL BENEFITS FARMERS

Well Distributed Showers Put the Ground in Fine Condition.

The crop bulletin for the week ended Sept. 19 says well distributed showers occurred, putting the ground in fine condition for plowing and seeding. Farming operations were prosecuted under favorable conditions. A considerable area has been sown to wheat, rye and timothy, but much seeding of wheat remains to be done. Some early sown fields are showing green.

Corn was practically unscathed by frost. A portion of the crop is now safe and the remainder is advancing toward maturity. Some early fields have been cut for fodder.

Grasses have been revived by recent rains and ample fall feed is indicated.

Broomcorn is being harvested. An average yield of good quality is indicated.

Grapes are yielding bountifully. Pears and plums are promising. Apples will give a fair yield in the northern section, but in the central and southern districts they are very unpromising.

WEALTH BRINGS ITS TROUBLES

Wife Abuses Her Husband When Fortune Is Left to Her.

Joseph Elfgen, ex-highway commissioner of Alton, was granted a divorce from Annie Elfgen in the city court. He alleged that his wife was guilty of extreme and repeated cruelty, that she struck him on the head with a poker, beat him with a club and locked him out of the family home, "The Maples," and kept him out for a week. Neighbors testified that they had seen Mrs. Elfgen assault her husband. Mrs. Elfgen was a Mrs. Molloy, with a large family of children, when Mr. Elfgen married her. Subsequently, it was claimed, a relative in Buffalo, N. Y., died and left the Molloys $20,000, and Elfgen says his troubles began with the receipt of the legacy. Mrs. Molloy and children moved to St. Louis some time ago.

Bandit Shoots Saloonkeeper.

A bandit entered the saloon of George Goyen at Steward about 10 o'clock at night and ordered Goyen and three men at the bar to throw up their hands. On their refusal the bandit shot Goyen just above the heart. The man was overpowered and lodged in jail at Dixon. He refused to give his name, but said he was from Chicago.

Water Meters for Springfield.

At the city council meeting Mayor Devereux of Springfield cast the deciding vote in favor of the ordinance providing for the purchase of water meters to be used by all consumers of city water; that the mayor and comptroller do the purchasing and choose the kind of meter.

Children Are Burned in Explosion.

Mrs. Mary Casteel, a widow, of Quincy, went to her work, leaving her children at home. In her absence a daughter, aged 9, and a son, aged 7, attempted to start a fire with gasoline. Both received burns which will probably be fatal.

W. C. T. U. Election.

At the county convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance union, which was held at Coulterville, officers were elected as follows: President, Miss Mary Patterson; recording secretary, Mrs. McElroy; treasurer, Mrs. Moulie.

Guarantees to Repair Streets.

The Alton Light and Traction company has filed a bond of $5,000 for the restoration of the city streets to their former condition after they have been torn up for the laying of gas mains.

Falls Down Flight of Stairs.

Mrs. Pembroke, wife of Dr. Pembroke, fell down a flight of stairs at her home in East St. Louis, sustaining severe injuries. She was sent to St. Mary's hospital.

Methodist Memorial Hospital.

Rev. E. S. Wamsley has been employed by the Illinois M. E. conference to raise $40,000 for the purpose of building a memorial hospital at Mattoon.

Buys Land at East Pana.

W. S. Lofferty of Clinton has purchased thirty acres adjoining East Pana, including the baseball grounds, from J. A. Barding. Consideration, $5,000.

Fire Destroys Iron Works.

Fire broke out in the Central iron works at Quincy. The building was almost totally destroyed. Loss, $10,000, fully insured.

Work for 200 Miners.

The air shaft at the St. Ellen coal mine, one mile west of O'Fallon, has been completed and the mine will be put in full operation at once, giving employment in a short time to about 200 miners.

Police Chief Is Shot.

Chief of Police William G. Goodin of Litchfield was shot in the right leg just below the knee by the accidental discharge of his revolver Thursday. It is thought the wound will not result seriously.

FORMER SOLDIERS ARE HONORED

Business Houses Close to Permit Employes to Attend Reunion.

The twenty-second annual reunion of the Southern Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' association was held at Duquoin. This was one of the most successful reunions in the history of the association. Every firm in the city suspended business at 12 o'clock and their employes were given a half-holiday. Among the speakers were Gen. F. J. Osterhaus of St. Louis, Gen. O. O. Howard, Hon. Isaac Clements of Danville, Col. Robert Mann Wood, department commander, and Col. Pat Dyer of St. Louis. At the annual business meeting of the association the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Commander, Gen. James S. Martin of Salem; vice commander, Gen. C. W. Pavey of Mount Vernon; assistant vice commander, Capt. N. B. Thistlewood of Cairo; adjutant, Maj. L. Krughoff of Nashville; officer of the day, Maj. J. C. Crooker of Mount Vernon; aides, Capt. George L. Pittinger of Centralia, Capt. G. W. Nors of Anna and Capt. Moses Martin of Duquoin; officer of the guard, Capt. H. W. Adams of Tamaroa; chaplain, Rev. G. W. Danbury of Duquoin; quartermaster, Capt. E. Dillon of Benton.

POSTMASTER DIES.

Clarence A. Murray, well known to politicians in the northern part of the state, died at Waukegan of Bright's disease. For ten years he had been postmaster, and conducted the office in an acceptable manner. Being a hotel man, his acquaintance with the traveling public was extensive. Mr. Murray was 53 years old. He was born in Elgin, and had lived here since 1862. For ten years he served as chairman of the Republican committee of Lake county.

Frankfort & Ohio River Line.

Articles of incorporation have been filed at Springfield of the Frankfort & Ohio River Railroad company. The principal office is to be in Chicago. The capital stock is nominally placed at $50,000. It is proposed to construct a railroad from West Frankfort through the counties of Franklin, Williamson, Saline and Gallatin to a point on the Ohio river in the county of Gallatin. The incorporators and first board of directors are: Jonathan P. Reeves, Edward H. Senneff, John J. Duck, Fred W. Krohn and Harrison F. Jones, all of Chicago.

Body of Man Found in Slough.

Deputy Coroner Brichler of East St. Louis held an inquest on the body of a man apparently about 60 years of age, who was found dead in a slough near Bixby, a small settlement on the Valley railway, in the southern portion of St. Clair county. It is believed that the deceased fell from a trestle which crosses the slough, and that he was drowned. He wore a black coat and gray trousers, and was partially bald.

To Preserve Post Archives.

A district soldiers' union has been formed by the G. A. R. posts of the townships about Eureka. The object is to preserve the archives of all the posts and to form a union, having headquarters at Eureka. The officers are as follows: President G. W. Horner, El Paso; vice-president, G. Tobias, Washington; secretary and treasurer, W. H. H. Moberry, Eureka.

To Entertain Miss Gould.

Mis Helen Miller Gould of New York will be the guest of the Young Men's Christian association in Decatur on Oct. 24. She will arrive on a noon train and remain until midnight. She has contributed about $3,500 to the Decatur branch of the association.

Race on Sunday.

The Breese Driving association will hold another meet at their park at Breese Sunday afternoon, Sept. 25. Four hundred dollars has been offered in premiums.

Aged Woman Falls From Bed.

Mrs. F. Fischer of Douglas, four miles south of Belleville, was taken to St. Elizabeth's hospital, suffering with a fracture of the left leg. She is 71 years old and sustained the injury by a fall from her bed.

Lightning Destroys Barns.

The barns of John Walters, Thomas Fink and J. W. Soor, near Pana, were struck by lightning and burned. Five head of hogs and 100 tons of hay were also destroyed. The loss will reach $4,000.

MINE EXAMINER MEETS DEATH

Fall of Slate Kills Official at the Ridge Prairie Mine.

Eugene Kidd, aged 45, a mine examiner employed in the Ridge Prairie mine, thirteen miles west of O'Fallon, was killed by a fall of stone and slate. It was Kidd's duty to enter the mine at about 5:30 each morning to examine the rooms and entries before the miners were permitted to enter to begin their day's work. At 7 o'clock the miners arrived for work, and as Kidd had not ascended from the pit an investigation was made and he was found in one of the entries dead. An inquest was held by Coroner McCracken, a verdict of accidental death being returned. Kidd was a former resident of Pilot Knob, Mo., and was one of the best-known coal mine examiners and managers in the country. He was engaged in the mining business in Missouri for many years. He is survived by his widow and four children.

HONOR FOR HUSBAND AND WIFE

Couple Head G. A. R. and W. R. C. for Washington and Alaska.

Frank M. Davis and wife, Mrs. Nancy E. Davis, of Seattle, Wash., are visiting in Alton on their way home from attending the G. A. R. and the Women's Relief corps annual encampment at Boston. Mrs. Davis is a sister of Charles King of Alton. The couple have the distinction of being the only husband and wife in the United States who are holding at the same time the offices of the department commanders of the two organizations, the Women's Relief corps and the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Davis is department commander for the G. A. R. of the department of Washington and Alaska, and his wife is department president of the Women's Relief corps for the same department.

Prisoner Pleads Case.

William Bradd, charged with burglary, conducted his own case so effectively as to secure an acquittal from a jury in the circuit court at Paris. He declined to have counsel appointed by the court, and after conducting a skillful defense, made a closing argument which caused half the jurors to shed tears. Judge W. N. Thompson denounced the finding as an outrage and a travesty on justice. Bradd's home is in Terre Haute.

Ziegler Striker Is Convicted.

Guiseppi Mascori, one of the strikers of the Ziegler Coal company, was tried in the United States circuit court at Springfield on the charge of contempt of court by violating Judge Humphrey's injunction against interfering with the operations of the Ziegler company's mine. He was found guilty on two counts and was sentenced by Judge Humphrey to ninety days in the Sangamon county jail.

Land Suit Is Remanded.

The case of the town of Bolo against John Liszewski has been remanded by the appellate court at Mount Vernon for a new trial on error in instructions by the Washington county circuit court. The case involves a section of land in Bolo township which Liszewski is alleged to have converted to private use. A jury returned a verdict in his favor.

Federal Labor Union.

Members of the Central Trades and Labor union and the officers of all unions at East St. Louis perfected arrangements for organizing the Federal Labor union, which will embrace all classes of labor, with representatives from the different labor locals.

Grant's Old Regiment Meets.

The annual reunion of the Twenty-first Illinois regiment was held at Bethany. This regiment had the distinction of being commanded by Gen. U. S. Grant. Over eighty members of the regiment were in attendance.

Sues Standard Oil Company.

Samuel Shelton of Decatur has started a suit for $20,000 damages against the Standard Oil company of Kentucky. He claims to have been seriously injured while employed by the company.

Recovers His Rig.

The horse and buggy of Ernest Borchelt, which was stolen from the court hitching rack in Nashville, was found tied to a tree on one of the streets of Ashley, ten miles away.

Brakeman Is Crushed.

Fred Zimmerman, a brakeman on the Illinois Central, was crushed between two freight cars at Tamaroa. His recovery is doubtful.

Thrown From Train.

James Clark of Ashley was thrown from a passenger train in the Illinois Central yards in Duquoin and suffered the loss of his left foot.

Lightning Fires Barns.

The barns of Jacob Leivan, John Schenck, Walter Leivan and Harry McDermott at Dixon were struck by lightning and destroyed by fire. A great many farmers lost stock by having it killed by lightning.

To Entertain Veterans.

The annual reunion of the 117th Illinois volunteer infantry will be held in Liederkranz hall, Belleville, Oct. 17. At the meeting of the Women's Relief corps arrangements were made to entertain the veterans.