

# The Scourge of Damascus

A Story of the East.  
By SYLVANUS COBB, JR.

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## CHAPTER III.

### Love in Danger.

A bright, beautiful morning, with a gentle breeze sweeping down the fragrance of flower and shrub from the mountain slope. Ulin had eaten her breakfast, and with Albia by her side, sat upon an open window, gazing out upon the park of fountains. As she thus sat, the slave woman Calypso entered the apartment and announced that the robber wished to see the Lady Ulin.

"What robber?" asked the princess. "The same one that came yesterday."

Ulin did not stop to think whether the visit would be pleasant or otherwise. The man had signified his purpose, and as he was master in the palace, she had no idea of opposing him. Calypso withdrew, and presently afterwards the robber entered. He came in with the same noble step and bearing; the same pleasant, genial face; and with the same look and salute of reverence and respect.

"I trust that the Lady Ulin has passed a quiet night," he said, in deep sincerity.

"I have rested well, sir," she replied.

"Good. I am glad that I feared you might have had dreams."

"Not many, sir."

"Ah—and did you have any such?"

"Not—not many."

"You dreamt that Julian was a demon, eh?"

"No, no, sir—my dreams were not of him."

"I hope, sweet lady, that you dreamt not darkly of me."

"No, sir. It was of—"

The maiden hesitated, and seemed troubled; but her visitor came to her assistance.

"Never mind, lady. I meant not to inquire into the secret twinnings of your mind. I only hoped that I had not been unfortunate enough to excite the apprehension of your slumbering fancies."

He smiled as he spoke, at the same time moving a step nearer, and then adding:

"I am glad you have not suffered from our coming; for I have the more courage to ask you if you will see Julian."

"You said you would accompany him, sir."

"Yes."

"Then I may as well see him at one time as another. You may inform him that the lady Ulin rests her safety and honor in his manhood."

"He has been so informed, fair lady."

"Then, let him come."

"Gentle lady, pardon me if I have led you upon a fanciful way of thought. I am Julian. I am he whom men call the Scourge of Damascus. And now I crave your indulgence; but still I shall bow most humbly to your commands. At your word I leave this apartment; yet, I should like to speak a little further. I should like to explain more fully why I am here."

Was Ulin frightened? Not at all. She was startled when she first knew that the man before her was the dreadful Scourge of whom she had heard so much; but it was an emotion of astonishment. At first she could hardly believe that she had heard the truth.

"You—Julian?" she murmured, gazing into his face.

"Aye, lady." And then he added, with a smile, "I suppose you expected to find me black and ugly, like the foul goblin whom Solomon imprisoned in the sea. Am I right?"

"I did not think you were Julian," the maiden said, after some hesitation. As she spoke she seemed to gain new confidence and composure; and presently she added, "I had heard so much of your terrible deeds, that I expected to find a—"

"A monster," suggested Julian, helping her out.

"Not exactly that," returned Ulin, with a smile, "though I am free to confess that I should not have been so much surprised as I have been, if I had seen a worse looking man."

"Thank you," cried the robber laughing. "I shall take that as a compliment, and lay it up among the most precious of my recollections. I understand you; so, upon this point, I need only assure you that I am Julian, and that I must own the somewhat dubious title which has been bestowed upon me. And now, lady, may I sit here for a few moments, and speak with you further?"

The very thing Ulin had been upon the point of suggesting. She did not like to see him standing before her; nor was she anxious that he should leave her. She had a strong curiosity to hear him speak further. There was something in the appearance of the youthful adventurer that deeply interested her. She bade him be seated, and then, without intending to be heard, she murmured:

"So young!"

"Aye, lady," he said, catching the whispered words. "I am young—youthful, perhaps, than I look. Only three-and-twenty years have cast their shadows upon me. At that age the youth of the city just breaking from the bonds of parental restraint, is as a child; but with me it has been different. A parent I never knew. A kind, generous woman, who was my nurse, took the place of a mother during my earliest childhood; and a white-haired old man, who lived apart from the world, gave me my first lessons of life, and led me up hill I could protect myself. A father's fostering care I never knew. A mother's love I never realized. The cruel blow which shattered the cup of my joys, killed my poor mother ere my tongue could utter her name. As I grew to manhood I knew that I was an orphan, and that my misfortune was the work of the King of Damascus. Oh how the iron settled into my soul. I had grown strong and resolute, as though heaven would enable me to work retribution upon the tyrant. Do you ask me if I

enjoy the life I have led. I answer—I have made enjoyments for myself. I have felt a peculiar satisfaction in knowing that the king feared me. When I have heard my name spoken by the rich and powerful with fear and trembling, I have liked it; and when I have known that Horam dreaded my approach, I have felt that my labor was not without their result. But these have not been my joys. In Damascus the name of Julian is a terror; but there are other places where that name is spoken with love and gratitude. Upon the plains of Abilene, and in the mountain passes of Lebanon, where the busy craftsmen prepare timber for Jerusalem—there Julian is hailed as a friend and benefactor. The grim satisfaction of torturing the cruel King of Damascus is tempered and softened by the calmer atmosphere of these friendly regions."

Why did Ulin sit so still and listen with such rapt attention to the words of the speaker? She bent her head as though soft music were stealing over her senses; and she gazed upon the man before her as though a grand, inspiring picture had been unfolded to her vision. His words carried truth in their very sound, and all her sympathies had been aroused. She was a woman whose nature had not been warped by art; and the avenues to her soul were guarded only by the pure instincts of virtue and humanity. Not always the safest guard; but still the happiest when surrounding influences are not evil.

"And now, lady," pursued Julian, "I must tell you why I am here; and in doing this I speak only those words necessary to the truth. On my way from the plains I met a messenger, who informed me that a fair maiden had been shut up in the Palace of the Valley. I could not believe that a beautiful young virgin had willingly given herself to the desires of Horam. I thought she had been shut up thus against her own pleasure. With this belief I resolved to release her. The result you know. I have heard your story from the lips of the black slave who attends upon you, and she informs me that you are affianced to the king by your own consent, and without any desires on your part to the contrary. Is it so?"

"The slave told you truly, sir," replied Ulin, bowing her head, and speaking in a very low tone.

"And you came here to this place of your own free will?"

"Yes, sir. My period of mourning was not passed, and the king brought me hither that I might be more retarded."

"And but for the death of your mother you would have been the king's wife ere this?"

Ulin replied in the affirmative; but her voice trembled, and she seemed to shudder at the thought thus presented.

"Lady," said Julian, showing some emotion, which he evidently did not mean to show, "for my seeming wrong I most humbly beg your pardon. I had thought to wrest from the grasp of the king one who was an unwilling captive; but since I find myself mistaken I will do all I can to make amends. A—"

"And," said the robber, rising to his feet, "it is better that I should leave you at once."

He stopped, and swept his hand across his brow, and when he resumed, his speech was very low, and his voice tremulous:

"This has been a most strange adventure; and as I now look upon it, it seems as though some mischievous spirit had planned it. As I live I thought when I came hither but such as I have told you of. I have met you, lady, and for the first time in my life I have felt my heart drawn warmly towards my native city. Henceforth there will be something in Damascus towards which my thoughts will turn with other sentiments than those of bitterness. Lady Ulin, we may never meet again. In this moment of our strange companionship, may I not take you by the hand?"

She could not have refused had she wished; but that she had no wish so to do was evident from the free and friendly manner in which she arose to meet him. She gave him her hand, and suffered him to raise it to his lips.

"Dear lady, should we never meet again, I trust that you will bear one kindly thought of Julian. If you are forced to think of the wrongs he has done, let a memory of the wrongs he has suffered be some extenuation. Bless you, lady! All good spirits guard and protect you; and peace be thine forevermore! Farewell!"

He turned and was gone. Ulin felt a warm spot upon her hand—a drop of moisture—a tear! She gazed upon it, and knew that it came not from her eye. It fell there with the kiss. A strange tribute from the Scourge of Damascus!

"Albia, I think I shall never see that man again; but I shall remember him with emotions far removed from fear or terror."

"You will remember him as little as possible, my mistress," said the slave girl, taking a seat close by Ulin's side, and resting her hand upon her arm.

"What mean you, Albia? Why should my memory be narrowed or shortened?"

"Because you are to have a husband who will demand your every thought and feeling. Horam is deeply versed in all the secrets of the female heart, and his eyes will not sleep while you have a thought which he does not understand."

"Indeed, Albia," cried the princess, with a look of amazement, "you misunderstand me."

"It such be the case," replied the girl, very quietly, "you will forgive me for what I have said; and of Julian we will think no more."

"Ah—was it so? Had Ulin been misunderstood? Had the keen-eyed Albia been mistaken? Would there be no more thought of Julian?"

The day passed away, and towards evening Aswad returned from the mountains. He said he had not fled from the robbers; but that, when he saw that defeat was inevitable, he had sought safety from capture so that he might communicate with Damascus. Perhaps he told the truth. At all events, he resumed his command, and once more posted his guards about the valley; and then came to assure the princess that she was safe.

It was in the evening, just as the last gleams of day were fading out, and before the lamps had been lighted—at that season when the thoughts are most apt to wander and strange fancies visit the mind.

It was not to be that Ulin should spend the allotted time at the Palace of the Valley. The king had heard of the attack of Julian, and he came with a large army to bear the princess away from a place which was no longer safe. He was somewhat surprised when he found that the Scourge of Damascus had been within the palace, and had withdrawn again; and when he had heard the story from Calypso, he ordered one half the palace guardsmen to be executed within the valley.

The maiden had heard from Calypso of the bloody deed which had been done by the king's order, and when she knew that he was coming, she declared her intention of refusing to see him. But Albia persuaded her to a different course.

"As you value your future welfare," pleaded the bondmaid, "so must you behave before the king. If you would live in peace, let him have no occasion to mistrust your real feelings. He is coming. Beware!"

The warning was most reasonable; and Ulin, by obeying it so conducted herself that Horam thought she only suffered from the dreadful fright occasioned by the appearance of the terrible Julian. He spoke to her words of cheer and assurance, and announced his purpose of carrying her back to Damascus.

"We will rest tonight, sweet love," he said, "and on the morrow you shall find a safer shelter."

Ulin gazed upon the wrinkled face, and upon the quaking limbs, and upon the sparse gray hairs; and she could not repress a shudder. She looked upon the thin, hard hands of the monarch, and they seemed covered with blood. She watched him as he departed with her father; and when he had gone she sank down, and leaned her head upon Albia's bosom.

"O," she murmured, "I fear that I have undertaken more than I can accomplish. I cannot be that man's wife! I never knew him until now. He will kill me!"

"Peace!" whispered the bondmaid. But she whispered in vain.

(To be Continued.)

## EXAMINING THE DOCTORS.

Farlady's Examination of the Health of the Public.

Medical examinations in this state are strict, but not severe, says the Philadelphia Times. Certainly no person should be allowed to take human life into his hands unless he was able to answer the few questions that are asked, and yet those who fail consider their fate a personal hardship. They probably forget the interests of the people they would practice upon, if allowed to hang out their signs. Consider for a moment that in many other states in this country young men enter at once into the practice of medicine from imperfectly managed schools which turn them out in short order. If put to the Pennsylvania test, they could never practice medicine, but with imperfect education, with scant training, and as a rule with little natural aptitude for the work, they physic the body and occasionally operate upon it with knives and saws. Considering the thousands of partially educated doctors who are turned upon the country every year, it is wonderful that the longevity of the nation is increasing. Still that may be explained by the fact that most sensible people nowadays are not taking medicine except under compulsion, and many of our best doctors are stronger in demands about food, exercise and fresh air than they are about their prescriptions. The wife of one of the most successful and most noted physicians in this country complained the other day that she never got an opportunity to give her children medicine, except when the doctor was called out of town.—Philadelphia Times.

## ECCENTRIC WILLS.

Benjamin Franklin Left a Small Sum Which is Now Available.

When Benjamin Franklin died, in 1790, he left a small sum of money, which was not to be used until the twentieth century. His gift is at last available, and the sum now amounts to \$375,000, having been invested at compound interest, says the Pittsburgh Press. The trustees of the Franklin fund have decided to use the money for the erection of a Franklin institute in Franklin square, Boston. Curious provisions made by will are more common than one would suppose. Within the last few months, there have been several examples of eccentric dispositions of property. To one young woman has been left \$25,000 by her brother under the express condition that she neither marries nor becomes a nun. If the conditions are not fulfilled, the money is to be distributed among other relatives. To his three daughters an Italian who recently died left \$600 a year each if they remained single and \$2,500 each a year if they married. A late member of the English parliament left by will to his two daughters \$720,000, with the provision that the money is only to be payable if they attain the age of 35 years, without marrying either a citizen of the United States or a Hebrew.

## Soap Shampoo.

Melt a cake of pure olive oil soap in a quart of boiling water. This will make almost a jelly. Take about two tablespoonfuls of this jelly and a piece of common washing soda about the size of a filbert; mix the two together, and, after wetting the hair, rub thoroughly in.

## The Elbow Sleeve.

The elbow sleeve, with turned-back cuffs, falling lace frills or gathered under sleeves, will constitute one of the retained fashions of next season. Advance styles will show the use of either two contrasting colors or fabrics or both, or again of one material in different shades, to be used also for Nainsook, gumpies and vests.

## NOT AS BAD AS THEY LOOKED.

Englishman's Use of a Word Made Him Seem Vulgar.

An unpublished episode of the late Matthew Arnold's visit to this country in 1883-4 is interesting in that it shows that, while many Americans show bad manners abroad, some Englishmen are equally guilty of a lack of them when away from home. In 1883-4 Matthew Arnold lectured in this country. He brought with him his daughter, at Baltimore they visited the family of the late Mr. Whittridge, a rich ship owner, to whom the Arnolds had been very polite in England. At the breakfast there were buckwheat cakes. In those days the buckwheat cake did not look as it does now. It was a thick, soggy, indigestible-looking mass, but it was good to the taste. A stranger, it can be said for the distinguished Englishman, was excusable for looking on it with suspicion. When the cakes were passed the daughter refused them. Mr. Arnold took one, to be polite, and found it good. So when they were again passed to his daughter he said: "You had better take some, daughter; they are not half so nasty as they look." An Englishman, in defending Mr. Arnold, said that he used the word as it is used in England, where it has not the same meaning as it has here.—New York Times.

## A Son's Devotion.

Wallace, Mich., August 26th:—A striking example of a man's dutiful and attentive care of his mother is seen in Mr. Oscar Swanson of this place.

Mr. Swanson's mother has suffered much with Kidney and Urinary Trouble and Female Weakness. Her son has sought out and procured for her everything that he thought could possibly benefit her.

She did not improve, till at last he bought her a box of Dodd's Kidney Pills. In a few days she was completely cured, and her faithful son has the reward for his loving efforts, in the knowledge that she is now strong and well.

## A Russian Philanthropist.

The will of a Moscow capitalist, M. Solodovnikov, bequeathing large sums for educational purposes, was recently approved by the Russian courts after a hard legal struggle. The relatives received modest allowances. The remainder of the estate, estimated at \$10,710,000, is to be divided into three parts, of which two will form funds for the establishment of elementary and professional schools in the governments of Colodga, Archangel and Tyer, and the third will be devoted to the erection of workmen's dwellings in Moscow. The rent for each family is not to exceed about \$2.50 a month.

## The Parrot Was Watching.

A correspondent writes: "I was visiting a friend some time ago and naturally in due time wished to take a bath, so, having let a goodly supply of water into the tub, in I stepped, with much pleasure at the prospect of a delightful scrub, when a most matter-of-fact voice said, 'Going to take a bath?' My heart stood still with terror, and, vainly endeavoring to stretch my washrag to the dimensions of a sheet, I glared wildly around and saw a parrot placidly blinking at me from his cage in the window."

## Dumb Friends May Be Our Equal.

We shall respect ourselves none the less if we find animals are nearer to us intellectually than is generally supposed. About 100 smart men have been credited with the saying: "The more I see of men the better I like dogs." There is much truth in the saying, that there are some men in this world whom animals would probably be ashamed to recognize as equals. Let us wait on the scientists. They may teach us much that will be helpful.—Philadelphia Enquirer.

## A "Goodie" for the Afternoon Tea.

Here is a recipe for little chocolate biscuits that are nice for 5 o'clock tea: Melt half a pound of butter in a large basin over hot water and stir in gradually, in the following order, two beaten eggs, half a pound of white sifted sugar, two large tablespoonfuls of cocoa and a pound of flour. Sprinkle over the whole a heaped teaspoonful of baking powder, roll out thin, cut into biscuits about the size of a wine glass and bake on a buttered tin in a quick oven about ten minutes.

## How's That?

We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

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West & Texas, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Walcott, Druggist, Toledo, Ohio. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 50 cents per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

## Secrecy in Watch-making.

There are processes in the manufacture of watches which are a secret except to the manufacturers themselves. Different gangs of workmen take part in making the fittings covered by the processes, and one gang is not informed of the methods used by the other. The men are sworn to secrecy and a violation means dismissal.

## The Elbow Sleeve.

The elbow sleeve, with turned-back cuffs, falling lace frills or gathered under sleeves, will constitute one of the retained fashions of next season. Advance styles will show the use of either two contrasting colors or fabrics or both, or again of one material in different shades, to be used also for Nainsook, gumpies and vests.

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## The Twelve railway companies of England and Wales employ between them \$12,000 men. The Scotch and Irish companies employ 40,000 men between them.

## THE TALENTED GIRL.

A young minister, recently settled over a Massachusetts parish, has already learned the lesson that age is not a positive but a comparative term. His parishioners are scattered over a large area, and he has not yet seen them all, although he has made as many calls as his other duties permit. His round brought him one day to the house of a little old lady who was nearly eighty-five and bedridden. She was delighted to see him, and when he rose to go, after a long call, she told him how much pleasure he had given her. "Now I want you to go to see the girls," she said, earnestly, "the Talented girls. They were up here a few days ago, and they're looking forward to a call from you. Living alone as they do, since their ma and pa died, they have some pretty lonesome times, and they set a great deal by callers."

"I certainly will try to go there soon," said the young minister, and when he met one of the deacons of the church on his way home he spoke of the old lady's request. "I think I don't know the girls by sight," said the young man, "but I didn't wish to hurt the old lady's feelings by saying so. Where do they sit?" The deacon smiled. "In the last pew but one in the gallery," he said. "But I hardly think you would recognize them as girls. Miss Emily is sixty-one and Miss Frances sixty-three, according to the records."—Youths' Companion.

## Product of Southern Saw-Mill.

In 1880 the southern lumber mills had an output valued at \$38,176,000. In ten years this had advanced to \$105,575,819. Since then there has been a steady increase in production, until today it may be conservatively estimated that the value of the output, including the material used for cross-ties, fuel and fencing, and the naval stores by products, is between \$325,000,000 and \$350,000,000.

## Do you like Mrs. Austin's new dress?

Ban on Music.

Paris and Limoges both have laws which the brain workers of many British towns will deeply envy. In Paris no street music is allowed after 9 o'clock in the summer and 6 in the winter, while in Limoges bells must not be rung before 6 in winter or 5 on summer mornings.

## Ladies Can Wear Shoes

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## Goose Journey Without Food.

About 300,000 geese are annually brought from Russia to Saxony. A carload consists of 1,700 and they have no food or drink during the journey.

## Do you like Mrs. Austin's new dress?

Governments of the Earth.

The whole human family is under fifteen principal governments, of which only six are absolute monarchies and fifteen are limited monarchies.

## Irving Bachelier's second great story, entitled "D'ri and I" is a border tale of the war of 1812 and the scenes are laid in the same forth country which was depicted in "Eben Holden," extending, however, beyond this to the French domain in Canada. Its appearance in serial form has called forth the highest praise of representative criticism and there is no doubt but that Mr. Bachelier has created in "D'ri" another character equally interesting with his famous "Uncle Eb." The story is full of action and is drawn with a skillful appreciation of the three types represented, French, English and American. About fifty thousand copies have already been sold, with three weeks remaining before the date of publication.

## As a remedy for red hands, rub this paste on them at night and wear loose gloves: Beat together one ounce of clear honey, an ounce of almond oil, the juice of a lemon, and the yolk of a raw egg.

## Alaska has the smallest population of any possession of the United States.

Lane bark makes a young man feel old. Wizard Oil makes an old man feel young. See your druggist.

## Sarcasm never hurts much unless it confines itself to the limits of truth.

Pisco's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. SAMUEL, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1900.

## A cemetery for dogs has now been established in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, &c. &c. A bottle.

There are 40,000,000 fewer sheep in Europe than ten years ago.

## Do you like Mrs. Austin's new dress?

To loiter originally meant nothing more than to walk slowly.

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