

The Scourge of Damascus

A Story of the East...

By SYLVANUS COBB, JR.

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CHAPTER IV. The Israelite.

When the king left his affianced bride he was sorely perplexed; and the longer he reflected upon what had transpired, the deeper grew his rage and chagrin.

"About Cassem, what think you of this outrage which the Scourge of Damascus has now committed?"

"I think it is high-handed and startling," replied the minister. "Has your daughter explained more to you than I have yet heard?"

"She has told me all she knows, sire. The robber came, according to his own account, for the purpose of wresting her from the King of Damascus; but she refused to go with him; and so urgent was she in her protestations, that Julian finally went away and left her. I think, however, that his retreat was hastened by the fear that your majesty might be upon him with a dangerous force."

"I have no doubt that such is the case, about. But the end of this is not yet. This daring demon has run off large long enough. He has already stricken fearful blows upon our commerce, and now he takes a new course of attack upon our defenceless daughters."

"If I succeed," he said, "you will hear from me as soon as success crowns my efforts. If I fail, you will perhaps never hear from me again."

"And when will you set forth?" asked the king, almost beside himself with hopeful anticipation.

"At once, sire. This very day, if I can get ready."

"Do you want help?"

"I would select two of your most trusty guards."

"Take as many as you want."

"Two will be enough, sire."

"Will you take them from those who have been on duty here?"

"No, sire. That would not be safe. The robbers might recognize them. I will have two who came with us from Damascus yesterday."

"As you will, Judah. Select the men you want, and they shall accompany you."

The Israelite promised that he would have all his arrangements made before the king was ready to depart, and with this assurance he went away.

By the middle of the forenoon the king was ready to set forth on his return to Damascus. Ulla and Albia were placed within a comfortable box upon the back of a stout camel, and around them were posted a hundred armed men. The remainder of the retinue was arranged under the direction of Aboul Cassem, the king's prime minister, and only the order was needed to set the whole in motion.

At this point the king withdrew to the palace, where he found Judah ready to set forth on his dangerous mission, and with him were two guards, Osmir and Selim, two resolute, intelligent fellows, who seemed to love the excitement of the work upon which they were about to enter. The king was pleased with the choice Judah had made.

"I might not have hit upon them," he said; "but I know they will serve you. And now, what more can I do?"

"Nothing," replied Judah. "I have all that I can use, and am ready for the work. If I succeed, you will hear from me in good time; and if you never hear from me, you may at least be assured that I failed from no lack of will to serve you."

With a few words of encouragement the king left his servant to pursue his own course, and proceeded to join his army, which was soon in motion; and before the close of another day he arrived at Damascus, where Ulla was once more suffered to find shelter beneath the roof of her father. Touching her marriage, it was understood that the ceremony should be performed as soon as the period of mourning had passed, which would be in two weeks; and until then she was to remain in close retirement. Horam asked that she might not be suffered to go out, for he feared to have her see too much of the outer world before he had secured her hand.

We must now return to the Palace of the Valley, where we left those who were to go in search of the robber chieftain. As soon as the king had gone, Judah repeated the instructions he had already given to the guards. They were not to accompany him; but they were to come after him, in a manner agreed upon, and were to conduct themselves towards him in all respects as though they had never before seen him.

Towards the latter part of the afternoon Judah stripped himself bare to the skin, and caused one of the men to beat him with a leathern thong until long livid ridges were raised upon his shoulders and back. After this he resumed his clothing, and as soon as the shades of evening began to fall, he mounted a fleet horse, and rode away to the northward towards the plains of Abilena. He knew that Julian had taken that course, and he hoped to overtake him before many hours. Until midnight he sped on quite rapidly; but after that he moved more cautiously, peering and listening, upon the right hand and upon the left, as he advanced. So he rode until day had

"But, Judah, you are not to breathe a word of this. My slaves must not mistrust your object."

"I understand you, sire; and I will be guarded. Shall it be as I have said?"

"Yes, only bear in mind that the thing must be accomplished if accomplishment is possible."

"I understand you, sire; and be assured that my wits shall be stretched to their utmost."

"About Cassem," said the king, after Judah had gone, "what do you think?"

"I think the fellow will study up some grand plot between now and morning. At all events, sire, I do not believe you can find a better man for your purpose."

At an early hour the king retired, and all night long his sleep was troubled with very unpleasant dreams. He dreamed two or three times that the Scourge of Damascus had robbed him of his beautiful bride, and once he dreamed that his throne had passed from him. In the morning he was more anxious for the apprehension of the robber than before, and impatiently did he await the coming of the Israelite.

At the appointed hour Judah made his appearance and announced that he would undertake the task of delivering up the terror of the Scourge.

"If I succeed," he said, "you will hear from me as soon as success crowns my efforts. If I fail, you will perhaps never hear from me again."

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dawned, without seeing or hearing anything worthy of note. But he was coming upon something very soon. Just as the sky began to glow with the rich, red glare of the rising sun, he came to a point where a narrow pass between two steep hills opened into a pleasant vale, and just here his horse was stopped by a stout man who advanced, spear in hand, from some trees by the wayside.

"Hold!" said the sentinel. "Who are you?"

"A wayfarer, as you may see," replied Judah.

"Whither are you traveling?"

"To the north."

"Of what are you in pursuit?"

"Just at this present moment I am in most urgent pursuit of something to eat."

"Have you money in your purse?"

"Enough for present use."

"Are you afraid of losing it?"

"How?"

"By robbers."

"Bless you, no. I am rather anxious to see some of these robbers."

"You may see them sooner than you would like."

"That cannot be, sir; for I would like to see them at once."

"Ah—what would you wish them?"

"Never mind. If I am so fortunate as to find them, they shall know."

"Perhaps I can find them for you."

"I believe you can; and, my good sir, if you will conduct me into the presence of Julian, I shall thank you."

"Upon my life, you give me credit for wonderful power."

"I give you the credit of belonging to Julian's band; and as I am very anxious to see him, I ask you once more, to lead me to him."

The man hesitated a moment, and finally said, with a smile breaking over his sunburnt features:

"You are free-spoken, and seem to be honest; and I think I will lead you to the man you seek. But my bold friend, you have need of some fair purpose."

"Lead me to Julian, and I will be answerable for the rest."

"Very well; you shall not ask again. Dismount, and follow me."

(To be continued.)

TOO MUCH FAULTY ENGLISH.

People Have Grown Careless in Their Rhetoric—Familiar Errors.

The books of rhetoric used to tell us that the great qualities of style were perspicuity, energy and elegance, or clearness, force and grace; and that as a means toward these and for other reasons it was important to be concise to avoid needless words, writes Frederick M. Bird in the Literary Era.

Whether they no longer teach thus, or their pupils disregard their instructions, you can scarcely read a page or a column anywhere without meeting words that add nothing to others with which they are immediately connected. Thus: Thought to himself. How else should he think? If he thought aloud you would have to say so. Either he "said to himself"—which is another way of putting it—or he simply "thought." Nodded his head. If he had nodded his legs or his elbows the case would be more notable. He might properly "shake his head," for he could shake other things; but in the present state of language one can nod no other part of himself or of creation than his head. Together with. If John went to town with his wife they went together; if they went together he was necessarily with her. Month of May, summer season, etc. Everybody knows that May is a month and summer a season. Rose up. If people were in the habit of rising down, or if it were possible to do so this would not be tautological. It will not do to say that these specimens abound in the best writers and are therefore justifiable. They are not the best writers when they write in this way, through pure carelessness, for they know better. Homer sometimes nods, but his nodding did not produce the "Iliad." We want to follow the best writers in their excellencies not in their errors.

Women Physicians in Russia.

Russia has long prided herself on having the first women physicians. The Chantiquan refers to the career of Nadeshda Susloff, one of the earliest and best women doctors, as particularly interesting. Born a serf, and freed, with her parents at the emancipation in 1861, she and her brothers and sisters received the best possible education at home and abroad, for her parents were both extremely intelligent and her father acquired wealth after gaining his freedom. Everywhere in Russia and in the continental school Nadeshda was brilliantly successful. For thirty years there has been no manner of doubt as to the sympathy of the public and of the medical world with the idea of thorough medical instruction for women. Men started the movement. In 1870 one professor and two other men undertook to establish courses for instructing women. In ten years there were 959 women students the majority coming from the "privileged classes"—that is to say, not peasants. The majority were members of the Russian church, but there were several Jewesses, Roman Catholics and Lutherans. In 1877 twenty-four students were sent to the seat of war, during the Russo-Turkish campaign, and did so well that they received imperial permission to call themselves after due examination, "women physicians," and to wear a badge.

A Chicago photographer has invented and patented an automatic "nickel in the slot" photographing machine, which will make a complete picture in 20 seconds. The machine is called the "photographist," and is said to be as simple as it is remarkable.

SLEPPER AS GLASS.

(INCIDENT IN CAREER OF BETTINA GIRARD.)

Whose Marriage and Divorce Were Once the Sensations of Two Continents—Romantic Record of Wrong Doing.

In one of the old and aristocratic houses of Denver a woman, who was once the talk of two continents, is quietly spending the summer. Her present name is Mrs. Francis Witter, though she is best known to the American people as Bettina Girard. Hers has been an eventful career.

She is the daughter of the late Gen. Ordway, who died in New York in 1897, as the result of a broken heart as much as anything else. Gen. Ordway was commander of the militia of the District of Columbia. He was wealthy, a club man and a social favorite. Bettina, or, as she was christened, Elizabeth, was so beautiful that when she was sent to the convent at Georgetown the nuns predicted a brilliant future made up of joy and love and well-doing. She finished her education at a private finishing school, where the society women of Washington were educated. She played and danced, and excelled in outdoor sports. In addition to this, she was a splendid linguist. Her entrance into society was a brilliant occasion. She was the brightest when a contest of wit was on. She was the life of a dinner. She was the one woman looked at in a ball-room. The summer following her debut, with Gen. and Mrs. Ordway, she went to White Sulphur, Virginia's famous summer resort. At a dinner remarkable for the number of diplomats present, a young attaché of the French legation, who had fallen deeply in love with her, clasped his hands when a toast was proposed to her. He had taken her to dinner.

The Slipper Incident.

"You will not listen to me," he said; "I am young, unknown. The men who

lay you court are distinguished, famous. Mon Dieu, if fame would only come to me!"

"Bien," Bettina answered, "Monsieur I shall make you famous."

She sprang to the seat of her chair. "Listen," she cried. "This gentleman will drink my health, and the health to fame."

Amid perfect silence she slipped off her satin slipper, filled it with sparkling champagne and handed it to the young Frenchman. Although he blushed crimson in his embarrassment, he drank it off. Bettina snatched the slipper from him and drained another health.

It was talked of all over the country. Gen. Ordway and his wife, scandalized, hastily left White Sulphur, taking their daughter with them.

Shortly after this she met Arthur Padelford, the only son and heir of one of Boston's wealthiest men. She married him. The wedding, which took place at St. John's church in Washington, was attended by all of the best social set.

"A good thing," said her friends; "the girl will now settle down."

The honeymoon was spent in Europe. They wandered happily down the Rhine, across the Alps, went into Italy and the wild spirit of the maiden seemed to have become tamed in the bride. At Vienna a child was born to them. It was over this child that they had their first quarrel. Padelford left her in Vienna, returning to this country. Many rumors followed him. As if to bring disgrace upon the name of Padelford she decided to go upon the comic opera stage. In her debut she shared the honors with Henry Dixey. She was only 21.

Marriage and Divorce.

Divorced, she married a man named Girard. She dropped the name of Padelford on her advertising matter upon the payment of \$50,000 in cash from her former husband. And then, in quick succession, came marriage and divorce, marriage and divorce. Separating from Girard, she married Jack Rolfe, a tenor who had been stabbed nearly to death a few months before by Robert Monroe. Then she became the wife of John Harrison Wolf, an actor. Then came William Beach, another actor. A divorce suit was brought by Mrs. Philip Schuyler in which she figured as co-respondent. When it was ended Beach was divorced and Bettina added Schuyler to her already long list of names. Her father, Gen. Ordway, offered her an annuity of \$1,000 for life to leave the country. She went to London with Schuyler, and collapsed physically when she made her debut.

The Last Chapter.

She returned to America and went into a private sanitarium, distipation having so weakened her. It was in November of 1897 that Gen. Ordway, Mrs. Ordway and Miss Padelford, Bettina Girard's daughter, returned from Europe to New York. They found

Bettina lying deserted by her friends at Bellevue Hospital. The old general shook his head when a reconciliation was mentioned; but Mrs. Ordway, the mother, pleaded with him sobbingly. November 21 Gen. Ordway died at the Hoffman House. Before he passed away, and due to the pleading of his wife, he permitted an interview with Bettina, and was making plans for a return to Washington with her and a reunion of the family when he died. Bettina finally recovered her health and recently in Chicago she married Francis Witter, a youth just entering upon a promising theatrical career.

ROCK OF GIBRALTAR.

The Town is One of the World's Most Cosmopolitan and Picturesque.

A writer, speaking in a current monthly, of Gibraltar, says: The incoming steamer anchors in the bay half a mile from shore, passengers are taken off in boats, and before entering the city they pass a rigid examination by the police, who ask a number of pertinent and important questions. The name, nationality, occupation and mission of the stranger in Gibraltar are entered in a book; he receives a card which entitles him to the hospitality of the rock for 24 hours. If he desires to stay longer, a bond of \$50 for good behavior will secure him immunity from molestation for not more than 30 to 60 days. This permission, however, can, with the proper kind of influence, be renewed many times.

The town is quaint, picturesque and quiet, with its 19,000 people, mostly English and Spanish, though the number of different nationalities represented makes it one of the most cosmopolitan places in the world—Jews, Turks, Levantines, the natives of Gibraltar, called "rock scorpions," Africans and refugees from all nations jostling each other in the three badly-built and irritatingly narrow streets of the town. The garrison numbers about 6,000 persons, making the population of the rock about 25,000. The soldiers are, for the most part, regulars brought home from foreign service for rest and recuperation. The governor of the rock lives in the government house, formerly an old convent.

THE ARMY CANTEN.

England's Method of Quenching Her Warriors' Thirst.

The use of spirituous liquors has been established in the British army for many years and the issuance is still carried on in the same manner that it was years ago, writes an American correspondent with the English column in South Africa.

I do not think there is as much tobacco used in the British army as in ours, although I have nothing but personal observation to judge by in the supposition; but the Britisher wants his "grog" in the army quite the same as in the navy. The issue is about half a gill of rum per day. The quality used is of the very best known, and it comes from a stock bought by the government in Jamaica about 40 years ago. The last of that old supply is now being used. The use of liquor as a part of the ration in the British army is almost as old as the army itself, and although it has been fought by prohibitionists for several years it still continues. There is not enough issued to cause any intoxication, and the use of the amount which the men receive undoubtedly works effectively against drinking to excess. A man naturally wants what he cannot have, and if he is denied the use of liquor he immediately craves it, and to satisfy that crave he takes too much.

The Clothes of England's Ruler.

King Edward VII pays less for his clothes than many well-dressed society and business men in this country. His morning suits cost \$40 each. The price was fixed by the King's private secretary, Sir Francis Knollys. These suits are ordered by the half-dozen at a time. There is also a fixed price of \$17 each for his trousers. Twelve evening suits a year at \$80 each are ordered. The king never wears any pair of trousers more than four times, and as discarded clothes of royalty are not allowed to be appropriated by the valets, but are preserved, there is stock of thousands of them stored at Marlborough house. But this need surprise no one, for when King George IV died, his clothes were sold at a public auction which lasted over three weeks, there being no less than 500 fur-lined coats alone. All the present king's clothes, old and new, have always been kept at Marlborough house in what is known as the "brushing rooms," several men being employed to look after them. His hats for some unknown reason are kept at Sandringham. All the king's gloves, and he has hundreds of pairs a year, are made by a house in Brussels where models of the two hands are preserved in the same manner as a bootmaker preserves the lasts of his customer's shoes.

To Grow Rubber in India.

The British government is preparing to introduce the Mexican rubber tree into India, and a large shipment of seeds has just been made to Madras, where it is intended to devote great attention to the cultivation of rubber. Henry A. Case has acted as the agent of the British government in this matter. He has lived for years in India and has long believed that the rubber tree could be successfully grown there. After considerable investigation it was decided to make the experiment, and the Mexican rubber tree was selected as the best with which to begin.

Hyde Park, the Green Park and St. James' Park cost London between them nearly \$165,000 a year to maintain.

WHAT IS AGE?

A Definition That Drew Forth a New-man Anecdote.

Upon one occasion, when Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff was in the company of the distinguished physician, the late Sir Andrew Clark, their talk turned upon old age. Asked to define age, Sir Mountstuart took refuge in the conventional view by which a woman is the age she looks, and the man the age he feels.

"Well enough for society," commented Sir Andrew. "But what is age?" "Suppose you define it?" suggested Sir Mountstuart.

"It seems to me," replied Sir Andrew, "that age begins when we cease to be able to adapt ourselves to the changes of our environment. A man who cannot do that is already aged, whatever the sum of his years."

"That reminds me," said Sir Mountstuart, "of a story told of a caller upon Cardinal Newman during a severe illness. 'He is very ill,' the observer said; 'nevertheless, I don't think he is going to die. He has a great deal of Latin read to him, and he is made almighty cross by the false quantities!'"

"That is deep-sea sounding!" Sir Andrew remarked.

A Happy Boy

Oldenburg, Ill., Sept. 2d.—The doctors all failed in the case of little thirteen-year-old Willie Kell, who suffered with acute Rheumatism.

For over three months the poor little fellow suffered excruciating torture. His father, who had done everything he could think of, saw a new Rheumatism Remedy advertised—Dodd's Kidney Pills. He bought some, and soon his little son showed signs of improvement. Three boxes cured him completely, and he has not a symptom of Rheumatism left.

This miraculous cure of a case which had been given up by the physicians has electrified Madison County, and Dodd's Kidney Pills are a much talked of medicine.

Presents for Lady Graduate.

Various articles are suitable for presentation to a young lady on the occasion of her graduation, depending upon the means of the donor and their terms of intimacy. We will enumerate a few appropriate gifts: A set of books by a popular author, an opera glass, a beautiful pen, any article of jewelry, a neatly bound book of poems, or anything in the way of art novelties.

A Wonderful Bridge.

The most wonderful bridge in the world is one of solid agate in Arizona. It is a petrified tree, from three feet to four feet in diameter, spanning a chasm forty feet wide. More than 100 feet of its length is in sight, both ends being embedded in the sandstone of a the canyon.

A Delicate Compliment.

An Irish judge sitting in Four Courts, Dublin, in summing up a case in which the plaintiffs were a lady and her daughter, began: "Gentlemen of the jury, everything in this case seems plain—except Mrs. O'Toole and her charming daughter."

Youthful Diplomat at Washington.

The new Italian ambassador at Washington, Marquis Obizzi Malaspina di Carbonari, is one of the youngest diplomats ever accredited to this country. Only five years ago he was an under secretary of the embassy under Baron Fava.

Annual Loss of Ships.

Out of an average annual loss to the world's shipping of 2,173 vessels, ninety-four are completely missing and never heard of again.

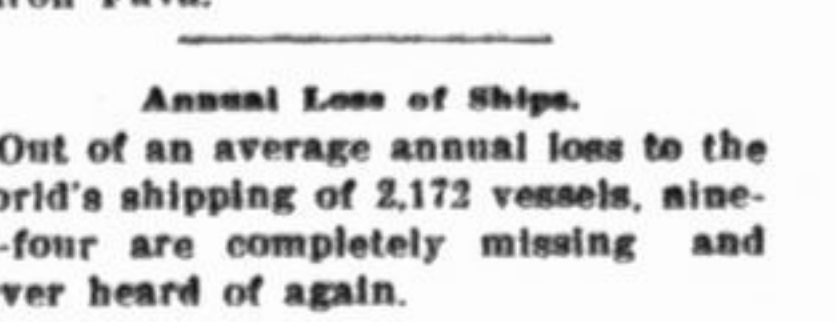
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