

The Scourge of Damascus

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

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CHAPTER XIX.—(Continued.)

He had taken her hand and was... "No! not now!" she murmured. "Pardon, lady. I meant no offense."

CHAPTER XX.

A King's Story. The first person whom Ulin met after entering the cave was Esabel...

may have anticipated some gain of reward by carrying intelligence to Aboul Cassem.

A low cry of pain from Ulin told how directly the fear had touched her; and again her lover sought to calm her.

"We must leave this place," he said, "and seek shelter in the wood. You and I and Albia will go, and the guards will join us outside."

Ulin had drawn a mantle about her shoulders, and Julian had turned to speak apart with Ben Hadad, when Osmir came rushing into the cave...

"Who are coming?" "They are the king's soldiers, led by the captain, Benoni!"

On the next instant the clash of arms was heard at the entrance. "Back, back, sweet love," said Julian...

He grasped a sword as he spoke, and leaped toward the entrance; but he was too late. Already a score of armed men were rushing in...

CHAPTER XXI.

Innocence of Helen. The king of Damascus had grown very old and very sour within those last few days.

"I tell thee, Aboul Cassem," he said, addressing his minister, "the fair, frail Ulin must suffer for this."

Omar could not help noticing that his friend was in trouble, and he took the liberty to ask what had gone wrong.

"Alas!" cried Horam, "everything goes wrong. And he told how he had put away all his wives for the daughter of Aboul Cassem..."

"By my life," exclaimed Omar, "you have been most sorely afflicted."

"But the worst is yet to be told," pursued Horam, clenching his hands, and gnashing his teeth.

"Do you mean the Lady Helena?" "To be sure I do. Mercy! have you forgotten?"

"And as false as she was beautiful," added Horam. "Is it possible? I did not think she would come to that."

"How!" exclaimed the king of Damascus. "Does your memory fail you?" "What mean you, Horam? My memory is good."

"Then why do you wonder when I speak of the faithlessness of my first queen? Was it not yourself that gave to me the proofs of her infidelity?"

"Yes," responded Horam. "Jabal was the man, and I slew him. It was your evidence that convicted both him and Helena."

"And was the queen guilty after that?" "Guilty after that?" repeated Horam, slowly and irresolutely.

"In mercy's name," cried Omar, "what do you mean by this speech? Do you remember Sanballed and Ben Huram?"

"Yes," replied Horam. "They were two of my chamberlains, who accompanied you to Aleppo at the time of which we have spoken."

"No," said Omar. "They did not quite go to Aleppo. I sent them back before I reached my capital. They brought to you my message?"

"I never saw them again after they went away with you," returned Horam. "Never—saw—they. Good spirits of mercy! Are you in earnest, Horam?"

"And they did not come!" uttered Horam, with his hands working nervously in his bosom.

"What He Might Do. The custom of preserving the business name of a firm years after the founders have passed away or disappeared finds its reproof in a story related by the New York Evening Post."

"I should like to see Mr. M.," mentioning the first name of the firm. "Very sorry, sir, but Mr. M. has been dead three years," was the answer.

"Are not all true men that live or that ever lived soldiers of the same army, enlisted under heaven's captaincy, to do battle against the same enemy—the empire of Darkness and Wrong?"

"Read not much at a time, but meditate on what you read, as much as your time, capacity and disposition will give you leave, ever remembering that little reading and much thinking, little speaking and much hearing, frequent and short prayers, and great devotion, is the best way to be wise, to be holy, to be devout—Bishop Doane."

ARTIFICIAL EYES.

It is not known precisely when or where artificial eyes originated; but the annals plainly show that in ancient times the priests in Egypt and Rome, who practiced as physicians and surgeons, made artificial eyes, hands, arms, and legs—the Egyptians as early as 500 B. C.

The earliest known mention of modern artificial eyes—that is, eyes worn inside the orbit—occurs in an exceedingly rare illustrated work on surgery, written by a French surgeon named Ambroise Pare, and published in Paris in 1561.

The second device was a hollow globe of gold, eye-shaped and enameled, which was worn inside the socket—the first recorded artificial eye thus worn.

"Never—saw—they. Good spirits of mercy! Are you in earnest, Horam?" "Aye. If they started on their return, they must have been robbed and killed, for I never saw them after they left your retinue."

"The king of Aleppo clasped his hands in agony. "O, Horam! Horam!" he exclaimed, "what a fearful mistake was that! Bear with me—forgive me!"

"Innocent!" gasped Horam, starting to his feet, and then sinking back again. "Yes, my brother," replied Omar, in trembling tones, "she was as innocent as in that natal hour when first she rested upon her mother's bosom."

"At Bangalore, India, not long ago a battle between a monkey and a snake was witnessed by a party of Europeans. The reptile, a cobra, was enjoying a sun bath near the highway, far from the beaten track of jungle travel, when the monkey espied him and deliberately put an end to his siesta by hurling at him every missile he could find."

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"Nichts Da Wasen. "Oh, doctor," exclaimed a rheumatic patient, "I suffer dreadfully with my hands and feet."

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Big Bets Compared. Elections have not produced the biggest bets. In August, 1900, a New York firm wagered \$250,000 on McKinley's election, but in 1843 Lord George Bentinck bet \$720,000 on one of his race horses in England.

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Goodness! I do hope our young minister won't marry that Miss Strong-mind. "I didn't think you took so much interest in him as to care very much."

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