

# EGYPTIAN ROMANCE.

of Love and Wild Adventure, founded upon Startling Revelations in the Career of Arabi Pasha.

Author of "NINA, THE NIBBLIST," "THE RED SPOT," "THE RUSSIAN SPY," ETC., ETC.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### THE SUGAR PLUM CASTLES IN THE AIR.

Frank Donnelly had left the presence of Mrs. Trezarr burning with indignation. Each party was perhaps all the more incensed because they had given him no opportunity of showing it, for chilly politeness as well as politeness, does not afford even a faint temperamental valid excuse for such a course.

"Indeed, no, Frank. I will not marry you, knowing that you love another better." "Love another better! Nellie, you must have taken leave of your senses or you would know that to be impossible."

"Can you then honestly deny that you don't love the terrible woman who sent me this deadly warning and then attempted my murder by means of hired assassins, better than you do me? If she had not some strong claim upon you, why should she have been enraged at your daring to look at me in the theatre last night—so angry as to want to kill me? Aye, so angry as to kill me—for very sure am I that the armed Bedouins who attacked our carriage were her agents."

"Nellie, my darling, you both astound and bewilder me. I know what you mean, and I am aware also that she was at the theatre last night, but I have never seen nor held speech with her for weeks, and on the very night of the fête at the Gezira Palace, and within a quarter of an hour from the time when your mother found and took you away from me, I returned her her gift, the opal ring, which had caused you so much terror and uneasiness."

"You did this and for my sake! Then that is why she hates me. Oh, I am so glad of it, and I do not fear her hate now, in the least. See, Frank, this—is this what she sent me?"

As she spoke Nellie drew from her bosom and handed to the young dragon the symbolical warning from the "Eagle" unto the "Dove" which had been forced upon her acceptance by the huge black hand in the vestibule of the opera house the preceding night.

As Frank Donnelly received it a perturbed and anxious expression came into his face, which he vainly endeavored to hide.

Then finding that she was regarding him intently, he said, with a forced laugh: "By George, I believe an Oriental woman is capable of any iniquity; but we will defeat her machinations, and those of the crafty Arabi as well. I now put to you the question which I should have put the day succeeding the fête at the palace, had I not feared that your returning me an affirmative answer would have marred rather than made your happiness. I swear to you, Nellie, that 'twas for your welfare only that I held back. Now, however, that changed circumstances have irreversibly altered the case, I urge you of two evils to choose the least, and to secretly elope with me and become my wife."

"Why secretly, Frank? Everything that is secret seems to me to be also wrong." "Nellie, it is sometimes legitimate to fight a certain dark complexioned gentleman with his own weapons. Your parents could prevent our marriage because you are under age. Now, don't look indignant, for I did not apply the demonic smile to them, but to Arabi Pasha, who is a man of great power, and one who would not be likely to let you slip from between his fingers after he had obtained your parents' consent that you should be his wife; for a betrothal according to his creed, is almost as binding as a marriage, and he would not comprehend your having any right to dispose of yourself contrary to the expressed will of your parents. He would for these reasons think it proper to legitimize and proper to seize upon you and slay me, and he is in a position at present to couple both deeds with the will."

"Oh, Frank, I am very loth to lead you into danger, but what is to be done? I know that if I remain here mamma will sacrifice my happiness to her ambition. She has never failed to win papa over to a single one of her pet schemes yet, nor will she in this case. My only hope of safety lies therefore in flight, but I can escape alone. Two hours will take me by train to Alexandria, and I do not despair of getting away to England by some ship or other, for there is nearly always one on the point of sailing."

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### IN WHICH THE IRISHMAN TRUSTS TO THE SWORD AND THE EGYPTIAN TO HIS.

All things being at last arranged, even down to the minutest details, Frank blurted out to Nellie that it would be more prudent for them to part, for that, were they seen together, or should it even be discovered that they had met, suspicion might be aroused and, as usual, steps be taken which would render an elopement impossible.

Nellie saw the sense of his line of argument, and yielded to it at once.

She rose to go and Frank sprang to his feet to bid her farewell and then take himself off to town.

The sudden action caused his sword to clatter in his sheath, and, strange to say, the fair girl for the first time noticed that he wore one.

She took alarm at once and said: "Why do you wear a sword when not in uniform, and when simply coming out to pay a morning call? Is there any real need for it? Is Cairo at all disturbed?"

"The canaille is disposed to be a trifle insolent; that is all, or very nearly all, Nellie. And then you know a sword is a kind of emblem of respectability in a semi-barbarous city like Cairo. Those are some of the reasons why I buckled mine on this morning."

Frank Donnelly's chief reasons were far more serious ones, but he did not dare to give them utterance, for he knew that did Nellie once get it into her head that danger menaced her parents, nothing would induce her to leave them whilst it remained.

He was delighted to think that his innocent subterfuge was accepted by her without question, but as a further precaution against her putting to him any more awkward questions he hurried their parting over, and felt glad when he beheld her steering her way towards the house so as to gain the rear thereof by the route of a thick shrubbery and a door in a wall which he knew led into the kitchen garden.

Not so delighted was he, however, when, upon entering the cloak-shaped summer house in turn, he sought as quickly as possible to regain the Choubrah road and his hotel (the world famed Shepherd's, which, with its lovely gardens, stands in the very outskirts of Cairo), he espied Arabi Pasha, the war minister, coming directly toward him across the lawn, and already so near that to avoid him was a matter of sheer impossibility.

man, so methinks that you are the greatest coward of the two in this bawling and menacing a man who is obliged to devote his sword and his life to nobler purposes than common brawl."

What reply the dragon could have made to this unskillful rebuff of the Egyptian it is impossible to say, for at this juncture through the door of the cloak-like summer house burst, sword in hand, the war minister's two white orderlies, whose duty it was never to lose sight of their master for more than a few seconds at a time; and by these herculean fellows, who were negroes of the South; with faces, throats and hands as black and shining and polished as ebony Frank Donnelly's arms were pinioned in an instant and held as in a vice.

"Inshallah, methinks it is I who now possess the power to force an apology from you," said the war minister, calmly. "But," he added, "I will be magnanimous, for the winner of so great a prize (you know well to what I allude) can well afford to forgive the chagrin of the loser. Moreover, that which I refused to thrust I grant as a free offering—my regrets for my hasty speech. So salient aliecom, and may God be with you. Let the Feringhee gentleman go in peace."

His last words were addressed to his two black orderlies, who at once released the young Irishman's arms, though to place themselves in such a position between them and their master as to be able instantly to frustrate any attack that might be made upon the latter.

But Frank Donnelly had no longer either a desire or an excuse for such an attack. The proverbial coals of fire had been heaped upon his head, and though they burned and tortured him exceedingly, as such coals always do, it would have been most ungrateful to have received them discourteously, or to have made any effort to get rid of them. The young officer therefore bowed, sheathed his sword and hurriedly retired, leaving Mount Carmel by the route that he had originally intended, and thereafter making his way along the Choubrah road as quickly as possible, for rapid movement is always the best antidote for a troubled mind, and Frank's was particularly troubled and sore.

"He has interviewed Nellie's parents, dashed them into sanctioning his suit and entertaining his abhorred proposals. Then they referred him to the dear girl herself, and failing to discover her in the house, directed him to what they knew to be her father's haunt—the cloak summer house. How fortunate it was that I saw her and that we had time to arrange all our plans before we were interrupted. As it is, she can suffer only a few hours of persecution at the most, and then we will have left it and its origin alike behind."

Such were Frank's reflections, mingled, however, with many an anxious fear that something might now occur to frustrate all their plans, for he felt that he was no match as far as scheming went, with an Oriental, especially one who possessed the almost unbounded power of Arabi Pasha.

He would have felt infinitely more uneasy still could he but have heard what passed between the war minister and his black orderlies after he had quitted them.

"Youssoof and Mansour," the pasha had said to them impressively, at the same time laying a hand on the shoulder of each, "that Feringhee dog from whom you have just preserved me is staying at the Hotel Shepherd. Now attend, the dinner hour there is at seven, the meal lasts an hour, and as a Feringhee would almost as soon lose his life as his dinner, exactly at eight, or to be quite safe, a few minutes previously, he must be lured forth on some spurious pretext or other, be made prisoner and assigned to a dungeon from which by no possibility will he be able to escape. Do you clearly understand me?"

1810, Joshua and Thomas, sons of Alex. Bell, contained in the steps of their father, each on his own account. It is not often that brothers, having embarked on their own account, join hands in business again, but these two separate firms were amalgamated in 1845, and the result is, the firm of J. & T. Bell stands to this day as one of the leading boot and shoe establishments in Canada engaged on the finer class of goods. The factory and ware-rooms comprise seven flats, the establishment turning out several thousand pairs per week. A fine corlies engine couples the basement, and the first floor is taken up with machines for cutting and shaping the soles of boots. A complete sole is cut out at each stroke of the machine, and another machine presses the sole into the shape of the foot. There are other machines for splitting the sole and for making it of uniform thickness; and again another machine cuts a groove in the edge of the sole so that the sewing can afterwards be done. On another flat the uppers are cut and passed in to another department to be sewn together. The sewing is done by machinery, of course, and this firm were the first to introduce shoe machinery of any kind into Canada, having as early as 1845 imported a Singer machine from New York to sew uppers with. From this time dates the adoption of machinery in the boot and shoe trade of Canada. Donald Barron, a man who has been in the employ of the firm for 43 years, mentioned the introduction of the machine as a great curiosity in the shop, adding that the circumstance was emphasized in his memory by receiving in the same case a Bible as a present from Mr. Bell. Judging from this incident, and the fact that many of the other employes have been with the firm for periods of 20 and 25 years—several girls having come as children and left only on the occasion of their marriage—there must have been a great deal of good will existing between the firm and its employees. Speaking of machinery, the change that has taken place in this respect in the boot and shoe trade is wonderful. Almost everything that was done by hand thirty years ago is now performed by machines, except the lasting process, and even this is now largely done by machinery in some of the lower grades of boots in the States. Although thirty years comprehends the era of machinery in this line the most important improvements have been effected within the last fifteen years. Making the button holes for button boots, for instance, was done by hand till within a few years ago. This once tedious process is now done on a peculiar machine, which will button-hole 60 pairs of boots, or a total of 1200 button holes a day. Another comparatively new machine will stitch and trim the edges of uppers at one operation, and does its work in the most exact manner. Still another machine does the "skiving" or beveling of the edge of an upper, and here again the machine work is an improvement on the hand process, being done quickly and evenly, whereas by hand it required a certain "knack" which many otherwise excellent workmen could not attain. There is one curious machine which turns an edge of leather in upon itself, and with the help of cement, will make a sort of hem complete in one operation. Another triumph of skill in this class of work is the machine which will sew in the sole of a boot in less than half a minute, and others are the heel trimmer, scourers and burnishers. The last named machine consists of a steel burnisher heated from within by a jet of gas, and moving round the heel, pressing hard to the heel as it moves back and forth and giving a perfect polish to it as it travels by an automatic motion over every part of the heel. One of these sets of burnishers will do 7 cases, or 420 pairs of boots a day. There are also buffing-machines which by means of sand-papered cylinders impart a finished and velvety feel and appearance to the soles of the boots; and many other contrivances which are an improvement on manual labor in point of speed and perfection of work, comprising in all some 30 or 40 different kinds of machines. On being asked as to the effects of the small pox epidemic on the business, Messrs. J. T. Gagar and John Stephens, the managing partners of the firm, said that as far as their own trade was concerned they had had a very satisfactory season; and now had samples prepared for their travelers to start out for the coming season, with every prospect of a good trade. They had a wider range of goods than before, having gone into men's as well as ladies' boots and shoes, which had been their sole specialty for some seasons past. While they worked only on the better class of goods and employed therefore the better class of workmen, they had taken extra precautions against small-pox, even though it was the opinion of some medical men that contagion could not be carried in boots and shoes owing to the disinfecting nature of the chemicals used in preparing the leather. They had withdrawn all work such as binding, etc., formerly done by work people outside, and had everything done on their own premises, and they had not only had all their employees vaccinated, but had caused an inspection of their premises to be made by an independent physician, and have had subsequent weekly visits to the factory made by a doctor who sees that none of the employees or their families are suffering from the disease. Hence with all these precautions, of which their customers have been aware, they have not suffered in business. Happily, also the disease has of late greatly abated, and this, together with the precautions taken by Montreal merchants generally, will restore general confidence in trade. Your correspondent was pleased to learn that it is the intention of two or three of the principal boot and shoe manufacturers here to send samples of their products to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to be held in London next year. They will certainly do Canada credit.

It is said that a man who eats onions will always keep a secret. This is partly due to the fact that the man who eats onions is rarely allowed to get within whispering distance of his fellow-men.

A correspondent of this paper, noting these facts, and anxious to see how boots and shoes were turned out in this wholesale fashion, visited one of the large factories of the city. The establishment in question—long known to the trade of Canada as J. & T. Bell—happened to be the oldest in Canada. To give an idea of the vitality of some of these Montreal firms, it may be mentioned that this firm has been in continuous existence since 1824. It was founded by the late Alexander Bell, whose brother Joshua had started in the boot and shoe line in

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## The Boot and Shoe Trade of Montreal.

During the past ten years the leather business has been developing as one of our great national industries; and it is probable that in a few more years Canada will have acquired no mean reputation abroad as a manufacturer of leather, and leather goods. These industries have developed greatly in the province of Quebec, owing partly to the cheapness of labor and its facilities for tanning the raw leather. Out of 60 tanneries for tanning sole leather, about two thirds are in the province of Quebec. Montreal alone has 25 tanneries, and out of \$10,000,000 worth of leather made annually in Canada, Montreal dealers and manufacturers take over \$5,000,000. There are some 35 boot and shoe factories in the city, a leather-board works, five factories for making trunks, valises, satchels, etc., and the total hands employed over 5,000, besides those to whom work is given out to do at their homes. These boot and shoe establishments produce 15,000 pairs every day or \$5,500,000 worth a year; about six per cent. of which are now sent to foreign countries.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)