

JIM THE CONQUEROR

By PETER B. KYNE
Illustrated by Allen Dean

SYNOPSIS

Don Jaime Miguel Higuera, Texas rancher, and Tom Antrim, sheep owner, have a bitter animosity. Capt. Ken Hartz, former Texas ranger, now Don Jaime's manager, finds the don wounded after shooting it out with Antrim. Don Jaime takes possession of Antrim's sheep.

Roberta Antrim is advised of her uncle's death. "Crooked Bill" Latham, another uncle, wants her to marry his friend, Glenn Hackett. Roberta leaves for Texas. She stays at the Higuera's ranch, where Don Jaime of duplicity, but finds she cannot dislike him.

CHAPTER XXI.—(Cont'd.)

"I fear," said Roberta, slipping down out of the huge high bed, "that you have a romantic strain in you, Mignon."

"It's Sunday," Mignon reminded her discreetly. "What will you wear, Miss?"

Roberta had given considerable thought to that very subject the night previous. "That sports suit I bought just before leaving New York," she answered promptly.

"You're beautiful as an army with banners, Miss Antrim," he announced in the matter-of-fact tone in which one proclaims that two and two make four or that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. "Not so much a compliment or the natural desire of a man to flatter a woman, as a definite statement of fact. Nor did he look to see whether his statement pleased her or otherwise, he was drawing out her chair, in fact, and wondering if she had seen what he now saw, to wit, a fly in the cream jug!"

Roberta flushed—and hated herself for it, because it was not her habit to exhibit such apparent pleasure at compliments from men.

He tucked her into her seat, sat down opposite, looked at her casually and said: "I see you had a good night's rest in the gigantic bed of my ancestors. You appear much refreshed and I am very glad of it. And you arrive for breakfast promptly at eight. Punctuality is a paramount virtue, particularly in women, so just for that you win a rose." And he leaned back and plucked one from the vine that clambered around a pillar of the gallery.

"You're too red," he remarked, as she ramblingly handed it to her, "this lovely mauve rose is just the right shade."

"I'm not red. I'm aburn. Thanks for the rose, however. It's lovely."

"Well, whatever it is, it suits me fine." An order in Spanish and the cream jug disappeared, clutched in the dusky hand of the serving maid.

"How does one say in Spanish, 'Heras mit the cream jug; there's a fly in it?'" Roberta queried innocently.

Instantly his guard was down. With all the eagerness and insouciance of a little boy he said: "You and I are going to be the best of friends, Roberta."

"Well, I like them fast on their feet—and you're a whiz-bang, Jimmy. I've been trying very hard to dislike you, but I must concede it's an uphill job."

"Of course, it's very unethical to like me," he admitted demurely.

"Let us say it is unusual and let it go at that."

His eyes devoured her. "Roberta, you're mighty sweet. I think, if I may, I'll call you Bobby."

"My friends all do, Shamus. Fire away, old-timer."

She saw him swallow something—and it was not food. Then she observed his guard come up, as it were. The fire died out of his eyes, and the sudden, wistful, little-boy look faded and was replaced by gravity, sternness, masculinity.

"He's nice," the girl thought. "He wouldn't take advantage of the fact that I'm his guest to appear to rush me."

Oh yes, Roberta knew men. She could read their faces and, inversely, their minds. For had not Don Jaime Miguel Higuera just assured her she was as beautiful as an army with banners!

His two setters slouched apologetically to the table and he appeared to forget Roberta, to become absorbed in the dogs, feeding them strips of bacon and little pieces of bread steeped in bacon grease, talking affectionately to them the while as if they were human. Roberta reminded herself that Don Jaime was the first young man who had ever neglected her to curry favor with a pair of English setters, and was interested to discover that she did not resent his action.

"What are you going to do about Roberta?" she inquired presently.

"Oh, Robbie. Nothing very much wrong with him. He requires sunlight and lots of it. Every day he lies out in the sunlight. I gave it to him in small doses, so he wouldn't sunburn. Now he's tanned. One arm and one leg are affected, but not very badly. The muscles are weak—atrophied. I'll build up those atrophied muscles slowly but surely. When Robbie has his growth, he'll walk with a slight limp, because one leg is going to be a trifle shorter than the other, but otherwise he'll make a hand. It's going to be lots of fun to make Robbie over."

"He adores you, Jimmy."

"Well, if children and dogs do not like a man that's a sign he had better begin to take a look of himself. I like Robbie. I like all children—even terrible children. I'm grandfather to one hundred and eighty-seven and after mass this morning I'll take on

the one hundred and eighty-eight."

"Is that why you have never married? Or have you?"

"I haven't. When an Higuera marries, it takes. And I haven't married because you've been such a long time showing up at my ranch."

"Why, Jimmy?"

"I thought for a while I'd surely have to go to Hillcrest, Dobbs Ferry, Westchester County, New York, and point out to you the error of your way, but thanks to your Uncle Tom I was spared that expensive journey."

Then, too, I probably wouldn't have showed to such good advantage in your country, because of the competition. I loathe competition. It makes me just a little bit jealous."

For the life of her Roberta couldn't help laughing. She had a habit of laughing at men when they were proposing to her or on the brink of it.

To her chagrin he laughed with her, and instantly a horrible suspicion crossed her mind. Was he merely telling her the complimentary things he thought she desired to hear?

Hot rage swelled in Roberta's heart, and her laughter ceased abruptly.

"This is very sudden, Jimmy." Her voice was cool.

"That habit of being sudden is a trait that runs in the Higuera's blood. By the way, may I photograph you after we return from church, and may I have a print? Just one, please. Then you may destroy the plate, if you will."

"I never give my photograph to gentlemen on such short acquaintance."

"That isn't answering my question."

"Then I'll have to get along with the one I have. It isn't so good, but it will do."

"Where did you possess yourself of my photograph?"

"I got it out of a magazine. It's the one where you're jumping a light hammer over a low fence. By the way, I don't think much of your horse. Now if you give me a new photo of yourself, I'll give you a horse that's a horse."

"You keep your horse and I'll give you the photograph, Jimmy. I had some taken just before I left and I'll send for one."

"Thank you, but I also want you just as you are this morning. I want you standing in that doorway. Then, after you go away, I can look at it and think how fine it would have been if you had stayed—there is your own doorway looking out at me. Perhaps I may be able to fool myself into fancying you standing there watching for me to come home."

"Not that, Jimmy. Think of me standing there awaiting the arrival of one of your men with the information that the rest of the boys will be here with the body directly."

"Have another egg and some more bacon." Don Jaime urged hospitably.

"We're talking too much and there goes the first bell for mass."

CHAPTER XXIII.

The bell in the cupola of Don Jaime's little adobe church was calling its last summons to the faithful when Roberta and her host left the house on foot. The streets of the pueblo were deserted, save for some semi-naked babies and an uncountable number of cur dogs, as they passed through.

As Don Jaime's firm step sounded in the tiled entrance the congregation, which had been seated on benches, rose en masse—and since the padre had not as yet appeared on the altar, Roberta realized that here was a gesture of profound respect to the lord of the rancho.

Don Jaime led her down the main aisle and crossed with her over to the organ which stood against the wall. The choir sat on benches in the rear of the organ and an upholstered chair stood beside the organ seat.

"For company," Don Jaime muttered, "for company," Don Jaime muttered, "for company."

H.R.H. at British Fair



The Prince of Wales meets the president of the British Industry fair at Birmingham. Members of the royal family have done much to popularize the "Buy British" campaign.

Garden Chats

Rock Gardens

Rock gardening offers the solution for handling any steeply rising piece of ground and, in addition to beautifying such a spot, forms one of the most fascinating bits of work a person may tackle. In this sort of gardening the underlying principle is to create an environment for alpine plants. We turn our actual slope, or a artificial one, into a miniature section of the Alps or the Rocky Mountains. We have our peaks, our upper gravelly valleys and our lower alpine meadows. It is advisable to use irregular stones, arranging these carefully so as to get the mountain effect, but also so that they are securely anchored in the soil with the earth between connected up with the core of the slope so that the roots can penetrate to fairly permanent moisture. Where an elaborate garden is planned, one should provide himself with special literature as in creating a difficult replica of this kind there is great danger in overdoing the thing. It is usually necessary to bury the stones about two-thirds their depth in the soil and the site must be well drained. All seed catalogues list suitable rock garden plants.

Heavy Yielding Vegetables

It is really remarkable the amount of vegetables that can be produced in a small area. Sufficient tomatoes for a small family can be produced on six or eight plants. These, of course, should be staked and may be set in eighteen inches apart. The stakes are six feet long and are driven in close to the plant when the latter is set out. Pinch off all side shoots, trailing the single main stem along the pole and trying it about every foot. Every week during the growing season the plants should be inspected and all side shoots nipped off. In between where the tomatoes are going to be planted we can grow lettuce, using an early and late type, and also the Cos variety which will supply us during the late summer and early fall. One or two rows of beans are advisable as these yield very heavily for the amount of space taken up. Make two plantings about two or three weeks apart. Fifteen inches sufficient space between rows. Carrots and beets will give very good returns and should have from twelve to fifteen inches between rows. Spinach is also a heavy yielder and as it comes early is out of the way before the later vegetables require full room. On this account it, as well as lettuce and radish, can be planted in between the rows of carrots, beets and tomatoes. Swiss Chard will supply a huge quantity of greens from ten or fifteen feet of row. The large stalks are used like asparagus and the leaves like spinach. Onions could be included in the small garden and only need about eight inches between rows. Corn takes up quite a lot of room, but as it is never quite so good as taken fresh from the garden it is well to include it. It yields an average of three cobs to every two stalks and it may be planted in hills about a foot apart. Along the fences one can grow melons and similar trailing things. Peas require rather too much room for the small garden, but at least fifty feet of row will be required to give meals for a small family.

Do Not Be in a Hurry

The temptation is to sow all flower seeds outside as soon as the soil is dry enough in the spring, not thinking of the cold, frosty weather which is to follow, writes W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist. The result is that many seeds rot in the ground without germinating, and others germinate but soon after the plants appear above the ground they are killed with frost. Among the hardiest annuals and those which may be sown as soon as the soil is dry enough are the Sweet Pea, Virginian Stocks, Poppy, both the Shirley and California, Alyssum, Cornflower, Pot Marigold, Larkspur, Celandine, Coriopsis, Candytuft, Cosmos and Linum. Included in the more tender annuals, which should not be sown until the plants come up, are the Nasturtium, Balsam, Zinnia, Marigold, Aster and the ordinary Stocks. There is also the temptation to set geraniums, petunias and other especially potted plants outside too early, especially in the winter. In most parts of Canada these should not be planted outside until nearly the end of May. Cannas and Dahlias should not be planted outside until danger from frost is practically over, although Gladiolus can be set out as soon as the soil is dry enough. With roses, shrubs, climbers and fruit trees the sooner these are planted out in the Spring while there is plenty of moisture in the soil, the more likely they are to grow.

Fair and Fit

What, then, is the beautiful? and what is beauty? What is it that attracts and wins us to the things we love? For unless there were in them a grace and beauty, they could by no means draw us unto them. And I marked and perceived that in bodies there was a beauty, from their forming a sort of whole; and again another as of a part of the body with its whole, or a shoe with a foot, and the like. And this consideration sprang up in my mind, out of my inmost heart, and I wrote "on the fair and fit" two or three books.—Conf. St. Augustine.

Belief

I am not going to say that belief in the possibilities of scientific progress is the most important. The most important thing in the world is a belief in the reality of the moral and spiritual values. It was because I lost that belief that the World War came, and if we do not now find a way to regain and to strengthen the belief, then science is of no value.—Dr. Milliken.

Seen and Unseen

Let us do our work as well. Both the unseen and the seen, Make the house where God may dwell. Beautiful, entire, and clean.—Longfellow.

Newspapers in the School of Future?

Schoolbooks and newspapers may become as inseparable as the three Ps if parents heed the advice of Prof. Walter B. Pitkin of Columbia University. Professor Pitkin advises that children be drawn into the family circle of news discussion—this to serve as an important supplement to their school work and arouse their interest in world affairs.

The suggestion is an excellent one. But to carry it out with benefit to the children, parents and "big" sisters and brothers will have to assume a responsibility sometimes overlooked when news is discussed at home. They will have to make a habit of thinking and speaking on constructive subjects and avoiding the printed gossip they sometimes repeat to their own and their children's detriment.

The suggestion that newspapers be used to aid in educating their children therefore implies that only the best publications of this class can be used. In selecting a paper for this purpose parents should ask themselves what sort of thinking they would have their children do. Would they have them develop outlook through which they might view world affairs with some understanding? Would they have them finding out how mankind is advancing economically, politically, religiously? Or would they have taken exercise their curiosity in finding out in how many ways a crime may be committed? By their answers to these questions they may guide themselves in the purchase of their newspapers and in their discussion of affairs with their children.

It is doubtful parents will acknowledge that by following Professor Pitkin's advice they will gain as much as their children. For they know that to answer the direct questions of a child requires a clear knowledge of the subject under discussion. The discipline thus put upon their thinking would result in a more alert mentality and in something of that simplicity for which sages have admired children.

Another noteworthy aspect of Professor Pitkin's suggestion is that it would place upon newspapers a responsibility that too many of them deny—the responsibility of molding thought. The newspaper already has taken an important place in education, whether or not it cares to accept that fact. And no amount of side-stepping can release it from the duty of occupying that place to the benefit of the newspaper reader.—The Christian Science Monitor.

Dandelions

What is the colour of the dandelion? There are many dandelions; that which I mean flowers in May, when the meadow-greens has started and the flowers very early in the year has a thickness of hue, and is not interesting; in autumn the dandelion quite change their colour and are pale. The right dandelion for this question is the one that comes about May with a very broad disc, and in such quantities as often to cover a whole meadow. I used to admire them very much in the fields by Surlinton (strong clay soil), and also on the towing-path of the Thames where the sward is very broad, opposite Long Ditton; indeed, I have often walked up that towing-path on a beautiful sunny morning, when all was quiet except the nightingales in the Falaise hedge, on purpose to admire them. I dare say they are all gone now for evermore; still, it is a pleasure to look back on anything beautiful.

What colour is this dandelion? It is not yellow, nor orange, nor gold; but a sovereign on it and see the difference. They say the gipsies call it the yellow-gold-orange plant. In the winter, on the black mud under a dark, dripping tree, I found a piece of orange peel, lately dropped—a bright red orange speck in the middle of the blackness. It looked very beautiful, and instantly recalled to my mind the great dandelion discs in the sunshine of summer. Very certainly they are not red-orange. Perhaps, if ten people answered this question, they would each give different answers. Again, a bright day or a cloudy, the presence of other colours, alters it very much; for the dandelion is not a glass colour, like the buttercup, but sensitive. It is like a sponge, and adds to its own hue that which is passing, sucking it up.—Richard Jefferies, in "Field and Hedge-row."

Good Thoughts

Good thoughts are no better than good dreams, except they are put in act.—Sir Francis Bacon.

The hotter the argument the cooler it makes some friendships.

SAVED IMPORTED DRESS

After a little wearing, a lovely green voile—an imported dress—lost colors so completely that it was not wearable. A friend who had admired it asked me why I wasn't wearing it any more. On hearing the reason, she advised dyeing it and recommended Diamond Dyes. To make a long story short, it turned out beautifully. I have a lovely new dress that really cost just 15 cents—the price of one package of Diamond Dyes.

"I have since used Diamond Dyes for both tinting and dyeing. They do either equally well. I am not an expert dyer but I never have a failure with Diamond Dyes. They seem to be made so they always go on smoothly and evenly. They never spot, streak or run; and friends never know the things I dye with Diamond Dyes are dyed at all!"

Mrs. R. F., Quebec.

The Household Word For Tea

"SALADA" TEA

"Fresh from the Gardens"

Do You Know—

When a chamois leather begins to wear out, it is a good plan to cut away the bad parts and machine the middle of a big, soft duster. The leather should first have been well washed in a soapy lather, and some of the soap left in it so that it is soft to work upon. Quite a new lease of life can be got out of a window leather which is treated in this way.

Your Kitchen Window

If a damp cloth is sprinkled with a few drops of metal polish and is rubbed over the window after it has been cleaned with a leather, the result, when the glass is polished, will be an attractive brilliance and, what is more important, greasy steam will not cling to the pane.

Ink Stains

If you are unlucky enough to get an ink stain on your polished table, treat it with spirits of nitra (nitric acid). Great care must be taken on applying the acid, as it must not touch any of the surrounding wood. Apply it with a little cork or feather, touching the stain with the acid, and as soon as it fades, wiping the place with a cloth soaked in cold water. Polish when dry in the usual manner.

A Washing-Up Hint

When next you buy a new dishcloth, before using it, sew a pearl button in one corner. It is so useful for scraping the brown from the edge of a pish-dish. It will not scratch the enamel like a knife does.

Removal Motor Oil Stains

Fuller's earth or powdered magnesia spread on to a stain of motor oil on tweed or cloth clothes will often entirely absorb the grease if it is applied at once and left on for several hours. When the powder is brushed off the grease will come away with it. If a mark still remains, however, a piece of blotting paper should be placed under and over the spot and a warm iron applied. The heat will draw out the remaining grease.

It is such a good idea to fix an asbestos mat on your ironing-board. This is quite easy to do by means of tacks. When this is in position, you can put your iron down on it and so save constant lifting on to an ironing-stand.

The String of Self

You cannot produce a pleasing melody by harping on the string of self.

Lice and Mange Mite

The two pests of swine, lice and mange mite, are frequently associated with bad living conditions. However, when once established in a pig, these pests will persist, in spite of improvement in living conditions, unless something is done to destroy them. Oils of various kinds may be used effectively, if applied thoroughly and frequently. Pigs should have access to an oil soaked rubbing post, or to an oil soaked sand wallow. Such equipment is easily prepared and requires no cash outlay. Crude oil or the old "crank case oil from car or tractor" mixed with a little lard oil, are highly efficient in treating conditions of mange. Lime-sulphur dips are advised. Boar pigs that receive many visitors require protection against lice and mange, so something should be done to protect these animals, which frequently become centers of infection for a district. Spent oil from the crank case can be used by soaking it on burlap, sackcloth, rope or old carpet, which is attached to a wall or post. See Ontario Dept. of Agriculture Bulletin 340, "Parasites Injurious to Swine." Sand wallows can be made by staking narrow boards on edge to enclose a load of sand. The old crank case oil is poured over the sand from time to time and the pigs allowed to use it as a wallow. An oil, skin is destructive to both lice and mange mites. Mange mite infestation can be so severe as to be the primary cause of death in young pigs. These pests cost money. Do your part to protect your pigs, or be prepared to take the loss that lice and mange can inflict.

Cultivation

It is the lowest style only of the arts, whether of painting, poetry, or music, that may be said, in the vulgar sense, to be naturally pleasing; the highest efforts of those arts, we know by experience, do not affect minds wholly uncultivated.—Sir Joshua Reynolds.



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