

# JOHN BURT

By FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS

Author of "The Kidnapped Millionaire," "Colonel Monroe's Decline," Etc.

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## CHAPTER EIGHT—Continued.

When the launch approached, Arthur Morris was seen in the bow. There were several richly dressed young women in the party. John Burt saw at a glance that Morris and some of his companions were under the influence of liquor. Jessie guessed as much, and her suspicions became a certainty when Morris stepped unsteadily to the landing and came toward her, a vacant smile mantling his face.

"A thousand pardons, Miss Carden," he said, his voice husky and his body very erect, but wavering. "A thousand pardons! Detention unavoidable, assure you—unavoidable detention, assure you! 'Sall right, though; 'sall right now. Allow me, Miss Carden," and he stepped forward to offer his arm. John Burt remained by Jessie's side.

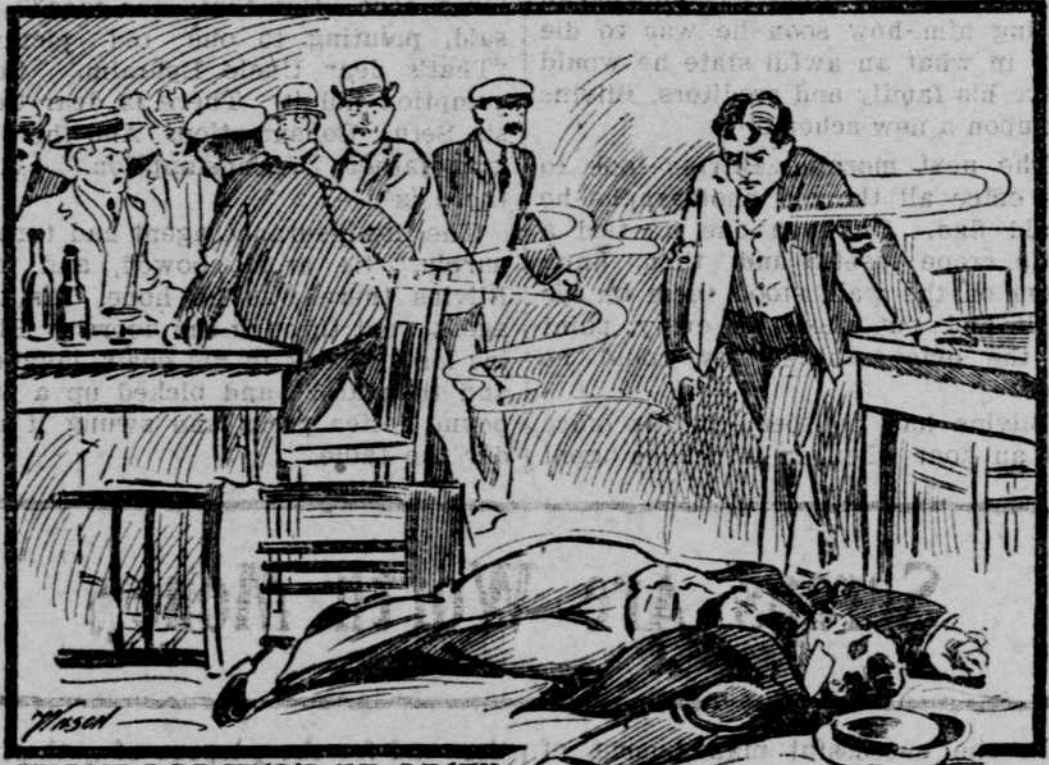
"Do not dare to speak to me, sir!" cried Jessie, shame and anger driving the crimson to her face. "Don't let him come near me, John!" she exclaimed, clinging to Burt's stalwart arm.

"Stand back, Morris!" said John in a low, clear tone, a glitter in his dark gray eyes. "You are in no condition, sir, to meet Miss Carden."

The flashily-dressed throng of guests was grouped behind Arthur Morris. One of the young women grasped Arthur Morris by the lapel of the coat.

"Come on, you fool!" she said with a vindictive little laugh. "Don't you see you're not wanted?" She turned him half round and Kingsley grabbed him by the arm.

"Come along, commodore," said that young blood. "You are in the wrong way, commodore! Cheer up, sad sea dog; we may be happy yet! And with laughter and taunts the guests of the Voltaire led the yacht's befuddled owner along the pier into the grove.



MORRIS LAYS STRAID AND DEATH LIES; A FROTHING OF HIS EARS.

Jessie shed tears of vexation, but anger dried her eyes. She turned to John with a wistful little smile on her lips.

"Take me out in your boat, John," she said. "Let's get as far as we can from those dreadful people."

In a few minutes the Standish bobbed saucily at the landing, and Jessie stepped on board. The wind had scarcely filled the sail when Morris came running down the pier. He stopped at he saw the pair in the boat, and glared at them as they glided away, brute rage showing in every feature of his flushed face. His friends followed and led him back.

Little was said between the two as the boat moved swiftly along. Each was busy with thoughts, and both seemed under the spell of threatened trouble. John pointed the boat for Minot's Light, and having passed inside followed the rocky shore, avoiding the reefs and shoals, which were to him as an open book.

"Tell me a story, John, or anything. We're both awfully stupid today. Don't you think so?"

"I will tell you a secret—two secrets," said John, gravely.

"Don't tell me secrets if you wish them kept, John," laughed Jessie. "I'm a regular tell-tale!"

"You will keep those secrets—at least, one of them," replied John. "I'm going away. That's the first secret."

"Going away?" echoed Jessie.

"Where, John?"

"Out West—to California."

"Going to leave Harvard? Going to California? Surely you're joking! What does this mean, John?"

"The little fact was serious now."

"That is the second secret, Jessie."

There was that in his voice and in his eyes which thrilled the girl by his side. Jessie's soft brown eyes opened wide, then dropped as they met his fervent gaze.

"I am going away, Jessie, because I love you."

The little hand became imprisoned in a tender clasp, and she listened as in a dream to the words which clamored for her love.

"Listen to me, Jessie—listen to me!" His voice was commanding in its earnestness. "I do not ask you to love me now. I do not ask you to promise to be my wife. I only ask you to know that I love you; to know there is one man who has no thought other than your welfare, who cherishes no ambition other than to see you showered with all the blessings and honors which God can grant to a good woman. That is my love, Jessie! If some day I have an honest right to ask your love in return, I shall do so, making no claim on our old friendship. May I love you that way? Say that I may, Jessie!"

"I—I want you to love me, John, but please don't speak of it again, John!" said Jessie, raising her eyes glistening with tears. "I mean not to speak of it for years, John. I have not thought of love, at least, I don't think I have. Please, John, promise me that you will not say anything more about it, unless I ask you to."

John Burt's face was radiant as he made the promise.

The sail was raised, and they started back toward the grove. John helped Jessie to the landing, and turned to see Sam Rounds running toward them.

"Excuse me," said he breathlessly to Jessie. "I want you, John!" He drew John aside. "Arthur Morris and his friends are drunk in the hotel," he said excitedly. "He says he's going to kill you, and he's insulted Miss Carden half a dozen times."

"John's teeth were set and his hands clenched, but his voice was calm as he turned to Jessie.

"I must go to the hotel for a few minutes. I'll meet you and Sam later," he said. "You'll excuse me, won't you, Jessie?"

"Oh, John, for my sake don't get into trouble!" pleaded Jessie, who guessed something of the truth.

John walked hurriedly away. Entering the hotel, he saw Arthur Morris and five of his male companions seated around a table loaded with champagne bottles and glasses.

John stood unobserved in the deepening twilight, he saw Arthur Morris was attempting to sing, hammering on the table with a cane to beat time.

"You're a fine Lothario, commodore!" said Kingsley, as he slowly filled his glass. "After all your boasts you let a yokel cut you out, shake his fist in your face, and sail away with the fair maiden! Your amours weary me!"

"Hold your tongue, Kingsley!" growled Morris. "You'll sing a different tune a few weeks from now. As for this fellow, Burt, I'll horsewhip him the first time I meet him! You need not worry about my success with the Carden. I'll wreck you that in less than a year I will!"

John Burt glided across the room, grasped him by the shoulders, drag-

ged him from the chair, and with a grip of iron shook him as a dog does a rat. His wingless fell with a crash to the floor.

"Another word, you drunken insulter of women, and I will beat your head to a pulp!"

Morris' guests threw themselves between the two men, and John relaxed his grasp on Morris' neck. Dazed for the moment, Morris recovered himself, and his face became distorted with rage. Seizing a heavy bottle, he hurled it at John's head. The bottle missed its mark and crashed through a mirror. Reaching into his pocket with a quickness wonderful in his condition, he drew a revolver, and before any one could interfere fired pointblank at John Burt, who was not three yards away.

Like a panther, Burt leaped under the leveled arm. A second shot struck the ceiling. In a writhing, struggling mass, amid overturned chairs and tables, and the flight of panic-stricken spectators, both men lurched heavily to the floor, John Burt uppermost. As they fell, a third shot was fired, the report being muffled as the shell exploded within their close embrace.

The smoking weapon fell to the floor from the nerveless grasp of Arthur Morris. John Burt seized it and thrust it into his pocket, but the precaution was unnecessary. Morris lay on the sandal floor of the inn, stark and deathlike, a frown upon his face.

On the white fannel shirt above his heart was an ominous smear of red, slowly widening in a circle with each respiration, before the eyes of the men who bent over him. A frothing with blood oozed and bubbled from his mouth.

## CHAPTER NINE.

The Parting.

John felt the touch of a hand on his shoulder, and, turning quickly, faced Sam Rounds.

"For God's sake, get out here, John, as soon as you can!" whispered Sam. John hung back defiantly.

"Come on, John, Jessie's waitin' fer you!"

At the sound of Jessie's name a wave of agony swept over John Burt. With a glance at the motionless form of Morris, he turned and followed Sam Rounds. His hand was raised to stop him. The witnesses of the tragedy, held in a spell, had eyes for naught but its victim.

Jessie ran forward to meet him, her face white with fear.

"Oh, what has happened, John? What has happened?" Her voice trembled and her lips parted with a vague terror. "Are you shot? Are you hurt, John? Oh, tell me, John!"

"I'm not hurt, darling," said John, looking into the uplifted eyes. "Something has happened, and we must leave at once. I will tell you about it on the way home."

By a stern effort John Burt mastered his emotions and calmly told Jessie what had happened. He said no word of the shameful insults in which her name had been bandied in a public drinking place. He explained that a quarrel had arisen during which Mor-

ris had been shot with his own weapon. Jessie listened breathlessly. It had grown so dark that John could not see her face, but there was a tremor in her voice when she asked: "Will he die, John?"

"I fear so," replied John.

It might have been imagination, but he thought that Jessie shuddered, and drew away from him. They heard the rapid beat of hoofs behind them and she clutched his arm.

Out of the darkness a horse, madly ridden, dashed forward, and was pulled back on his haunches by the side of the carriage. A face peered in—the homely but welcome face of Sam Rounds.

"Drive on as fast as you can, John," gasped Sam. "I've thrown 'em off the scent. I ran the Standish out inter the bay, set 'er tiller an' let 'er go, an' come back an' told 'em you had given 'em the slip that way. Pretty slick, eh? You bet none o' them dimes can get the best of Sam Rounds!"

Sam gave the horses a cut of the whip which sent them dashing down the road. A few minutes later they reached the Bishop farmhouse. Sam held the excited horses while John helped Jessie to alight.

"Jump on my horse and git!" said Sam in a whisper.

John drew Jessie to the shadow of a maple and held her hands in his.

"Jessie, I am innocent, but the world will hold me responsible for the death of that blackguard. Sweetheart, I had dreamed of bridging the gulf between us. I had faith that some lucky star would smile on my ambitions; that my youth and health would one day make me worthy of the greatest gift God gives to man—the love of the woman he worships! That hope is not dead, but it has gone far from me. I must endure either imprisonment and disgrace at home or exile abroad. I can face, either, Jessie, if I have the support of your friendship, and the knowledge that you hold me guiltless. Can you give me them, sweetheart?"

"Both, John," said Jessie, softly. "I shall pray for your success. Go now, John. Take Sam's advice and mine. Good-by, dear!" There were tears in the sweet voice.

"Will you kiss me, Jessie?"

(To be continued.)

## A Teacher Taught.

Dr. Vaughan, for many years headmaster at Harrow, once had an amusing encounter with a small boy who carried off the honors of the occasion. The incident greatly pleased the doctor.

A frightened child named Dodd was brought before Dr. Vaughan, charged with some dire scholastic offense.

"What is your name?" asked the master, with due severity.

"Dodd, sir," answered the trembling boy.

"Dodd! Do you spell it with one 'd,' or with two?"

"No, sir, three," answered the boy.

The doctor put his head upon the desk, covered it with his hands a moment, and then dismissed the dangerous criminal with a warning.

He said afterward: "I could no more have punished that boy than I could have flown. Nobody before ever gave me such a lesson in spelling!"—Short Stories.

## A Bright Boy.

Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the Steel Trust, used to live in the Illinois town of Wheaton.

"One day in Wheaton," Judge Gary said recently, "I took dinner with a clergyman and his family. The clergyman had an eight-year-old son called Joe, and Joe was a very bright boy."

"Look here, Joe," I said during the course of the dinner. "I have a question to ask you about your father."

"Joe looked gravely at me.

"All right; I'll answer your question," he said.

"Well," said I, "I want to know if your father doesn't preach the same sermon twice sometimes?"

"Yes, I think he does," said Joe, "but the second time he always hollers in different places from what he did the first time."

## Quite Feasible.

Joseph M. Edwards, who travels for a Baltimore dry goods house, told the following at the Grand the other evening:

"In Baltimore there's an old bachelor I'm acquainted with who's a bit of a wit in his way. He lives, or rather died, before the fire, as it burned him out, in a very dilapidated house, and his rooms were always in great disorder. One day he got married."

"Why don't you get married?" I said to him one day. "Then you would have some one to keep the place tidy, and make it homelike."

"The fact is, I've never thought of it," he replied, "but it seems quite feasible that a better half would be a better quarters."

"Since the fire I have not seen the old fellow, and no one seems to know of his present whereabouts."—New York Globe.

## Historic Farm for Sale.

Corley Hall farm, a picturesque English homestead on the main road between Newton and Corley, is to be offered at public auction. Within a short distance was born the Warwickshire novelist, George Eliot, and in Adam Bede's Corley Hall farm figured conspicuously. Here it was that the immortal Mrs. Poyser lived, and with her the unfortunate Hetty Sorrel. George Eliot described the place as it was in the earlier half of the nineteenth century. Since then it has undergone considerable renovation, but is still yearly visited by tourists from all parts of the world.

## Wealthy Woman Evangelist.

Miss Mary B. Robinson of Pittsburg, Pa., is the richest woman evangelist. She is the niece of John G. Evanson, secretary of the Pittsburg and Lake Erie railway; has a fortune of \$500,000 in her own right and owns one of the most luxurious homes in the smoky city. She is young, pretty and has such a glorious voice that an im-



Cotton Crepes.

Crepe Marquise is one of the new spring and summer fabrics that can be washed. It has a crepe ground of monotones, and is distinguished by embroidered dots. Crepe Jacqueline, another silk and cotton goods in monotones, runs through the gamut of colors from pale ivory to black, with overrunning Jacquards. Crepe Armaize is similar to crepe Marquise, save that silk stripes instead of dots break its surface. Crepe princess is all cotton, but is a charming fabric. Voile duchess is a new and cheap all-cotton goods, with three threads woven together in such a way as to prevent sagging of the material. Pompadour crepe is another new dress material, with the softness of crepe and the lustre of silk, and printed in Pompadour designs.

## Blouse Eton.

Walking costumes made with short coats and skirts that clear the ground are the latest shown and are charmingly graceful as well as hygienic and comfortable. This one is made of mixed homespun, in tans and browns, with revers of tan colored cloth, and includes the fashionable tucks in both blouse and skirt. The drop shoulders, the wide sleeves and the crushed belt all mark the blouse as essentially smart, while the skirt with front and back alike and short tucks between is one of the newest and best liked. To make the blouse for a woman of medium size will be required 3 1/2 yards of material 27, 2 1/2 yards 44 or 2 yards 52 inches wide; to make the skirt 7 1/2 yards 27, 5 yards 44 or 3 1/2 yards 52 inches wide.

A May Manton pattern of blouse, No. 4674, sizes 32 to 40, or of skirt, No. 4673, sizes 22 to 30, will be mailed to any address on receipt of ten cents for each.

Louis XV Ribbons.

There is a suspicion of the influence of Louis XV in the new ribbons. A beautiful long white satin cloak has a cape composed entirely of puffs of chiffon, toning from dark to light. Other effects are produced in evening gowns by placing one color over another; pink, gold and blue produce a quite delightful nuance, and there are many others, deep purple shading up to the palest mauve, brown to flame color. Panne, velours, mousselines, beautiful in themselves, are capable of displaying lovely coloring to enhance their grace. Borderings of such fur as ermine and miniver are a beau-

tiful accompaniment to orchid tones. The various shades that characterize bunches of violets now are notably beautiful, and they often peep out from a background of arised velvet, while light blue gains an added charm in contrast to the Russian violets.

# Your Corner

The Latest of the Decrees of Fashion—Crepe Marquise One of the New Spring and Summer Fabrics—Japanese Satins That Are Bound to Be Popular.

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Crepe Marquise is one of the new spring and summer fabrics that can be washed. It has a crepe ground of monotones, and is distinguished by embroidered dots. Crepe Jacqueline, another silk and cotton goods in monotones, runs through the gamut of colors from pale ivory to black, with overrunning Jacquards. Crepe Armaize is similar to crepe Marquise, save that silk stripes instead of dots break its surface. Crepe princess is all cotton, but is a charming fabric. Voile duchess is a new and cheap all-cotton goods, with three threads woven together in such a way as to prevent sagging of the material. Pompadour crepe is another new dress material, with the softness of crepe and the lustre of silk, and printed in Pompadour designs.

Walking costumes made with short coats and skirts that clear the ground are the latest shown and are charmingly graceful as well as hygienic and comfortable. This one is made of mixed homespun, in tans and browns, with revers of tan colored cloth, and includes the fashionable tucks in both blouse and skirt. The drop shoulders, the wide sleeves and the crushed belt all mark the blouse as essentially smart, while the skirt with front and back alike and short tucks between is one of the newest and best liked. To make the blouse for a woman of medium size will be required 3 1/2 yards of material 27, 2 1/2 yards 44 or 2 yards 52 inches wide; to make the skirt 7 1/2 yards 27, 5 yards 44 or 3 1/2 yards 52 inches wide.

