



The COW PUNCHER

By Robert J.C. Stead

Author of 'Kitcheners, and other poems'

CHAPTER IX.—Continued.

Night had settled when Dave left the office. A soft wind blew from the southwest; June was in the air. June too, was in Dave's heart as he walked the few blocks to his bachelor quarters.

He dressed with care. It was not until he was about to leave his rooms that he remembered he must dine alone; he had been dressing for her, unconsciously. The realization brought him up with something of a shock.

Her number did not answer. He thought of Edith Duncan. But Edith lived at home, and it was much too late to extend a formal dinner invitation. There was nothing for it but



Dave Paused for a Moment, but in That Moment His Eye Fell on Conward.

to eat alone. He suddenly became conscious of the great loneliness of his bachelor life. The charm of bachelorhood was a myth which only needed contact with the gentle atmosphere of feminine affection to be exposed.

When at length Mrs. Hardy began to show signs of weariness Irene served coffee and cake, and the two men, taking that as an intimation that their welcome had run down, but would rewind itself if not too continually drawn upon, left the house together.

Several days passed without any word from Irene, and he had almost made up his mind to attempt another telephone appointment, when he met her, quite accidentally, in the street.

"How about a cup of tea," said Dave. "And a thin sandwich? And a delicate morsel of cake? One can always count on thin sandwiches and delicate morsels of cake. Their function is purely a social one, having no relation to the physical requirements."

"I should be very glad," said Irene. They found a quiet room. When they were seated Dave, without preliminaries, plunged into the subject nearest his heart.

"I have been wanting an opportunity to talk to you—wanting it for weeks," he said. "But it always seemed—"

"Always seemed that you were thwarted," Irene completed his thought. "You didn't disguise your annoyance very well the other night."

"No. But I rather blame you for showing it. You see I was annoyed too."

was so glad you happened in. You have had wonderful experiences. Mr. Conward is charming, isn't he?"

Dave did not know whether the compliment to Conward was a personal matter concerning his partner or whether it was to be taken as a courtesy to the firm. In either case he rather resented it. He wondered what Irene would think of this "ennobling" business in the drab days of disillusionment that must soon sweep down upon them. But Irene apparently did not miss his answer.

"We shall soon be settled," she said as Mrs. Hardy and Conward were seen approaching. "Then you will come and visit us?"

"I will—Reenie," he whispered, and he was sure the color that mounted to her cheeks held no tinge of displeasure.

CHAPTER X.

Elden lost no time in making his first call upon the Hardys. Irene received him cordially, but Mrs. Hardy evinced no more warmth than propriety demanded. Elden, however, allowed himself no annoyance over that. A very much greater grievance had been thrust upon his mind. Conward had preceded him and was already a guest of the Hardys.

Dave knew Conward well enough to know that purpose always lay behind his conduct, and during the small talk with which they whiled away an hour his mind was reaching out acutely, exploring every nook of possibility, to arrive if it could at some explanation of the sudden interest which Conward was displaying in the Hardys.

These explanations narrowed down to two almost equally unpalatable. Conward was deliberately setting about to capture the friendship, perhaps the affection, of either Mrs. Hardy or Irene. Strangely enough, Elden was more irritated by the former alternative than by the latter. Perhaps this attitude was due to subconscious recognition of the fact that he had much more to fear from Conward as a suitor for the hand of Mrs. Hardy than as a rival for that of Irene.

The more he contemplated this aspect of the case the less he liked it. To Conward the affair could be nothing more than an adventure, but it would give him a position of a sort of semi-paternal authority over both Irene and Elden.

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Dave turned the situation over in his mind with some impatience. Irene had now been in the city for several weeks, and he had had opportunity for scarce a dozen personal words with her. Was he to be balked by such an insufferable chaperonage as it seemed the purpose of Mrs. Hardy and Conward to establish over his love affair? No. In the act of undressing he told himself, "No," sulking to the word such vigor of behavior that in the morning he found his shoes at opposite corners of the room.

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"Always seemed that you were thwarted," Irene completed his thought. "You didn't disguise your annoyance very well the other night."

"No. But I rather blame you for showing it. You see I was annoyed too."

"Then you had nothing to do with—with bringing about the situation that existed?"

"Certainly not. Surely you do not think that I would—that I would—"

"I beg your pardon, Reenie," said Dave, contritely. "I should have known better. But it seemed such a strong coincidence."

She was toying with her cup, and for once her eyes avoided him. "You should hardly think, Dave," she ventured—"you should hardly conclude that—that has been, you know, gives you the right—entitles you—"

"To a monopoly of your attentions? Perhaps not. But it gives me the right to a fair chance to win a monopoly of your attentions."

He was speaking low and earnestly, and his voice had a deep, rich timbre in it that thrilled and almost frightened her. She could not resent his straightforwardness. She felt that he was already asserting his claim upon her, and there was something tender and delightful in the sense of being claimed by such a man.

"I must have a fair chance to win that monopoly," he repeated. "How did it happen that Conward was present?"

"I don't know. It just happened. A little after you telephoned me he called up and asked for mother, and the next thing I knew she said he was coming up to spend the evening."

Dave dropped into a sudden reverie. It was not so remarkable as it seemed that Conward should have telephoned Mrs. Hardy almost immediately after he had used the line. Conward's telephone and Dave's were on the same circuit; it was a simple matter for Conward, if he had happened to lift the receiver during Dave's conversation with Irene, to overhear all that was said. That might happen accidentally; at least it might begin innocently enough. The fact that Conward had acted upon the information indicated two things: first, that he had no very troublesome sense of honor—which Dave had long suspected—and, second, that he had deliberately planned a conflict with Dave's visit to the Hardy home. This indicated a policy of some kind; a scheme deeper than Dave was yet able to fathom. He would at least guard against any further eavesdropping on his telephone.

He took a card from his pocket and made some figures on it. "If you should have occasion to call me at the office at any time please use that number and ask for me," he said. "It is the accountant's number. There's a reason."

The cups were empty; the sandwiches and cake were gone, but they lingered on.

"I have been wondering," Dave ventured, at length, "just where I stand with you. You remember our agreement?"

She averted her eyes but her voice was steady. "You have observed the terms?" she said.

"Yes, in all essential matters. I come to you now, in accordance with those terms. You said that now we would know. Now I know; know as I have always known since those wonderful days in the foothills; those days from which I date my existence."

"I realize that I owe you an answer now, Dave," she said frankly. "And I find it very hard to make that answer. Marriage means so much more to a woman than it does to a man. . . . Don't misunderstand me, Dave. I would be ashamed to say I doubt myself or that I don't know my mind, but you and I are no longer boy and girl. We are man and woman now. And I just want time—just want time to be sure that—that—"

"I suppose you are right," he answered. "I will not try to hurry your decision. I will only try to give you an opportunity to know—to be sure, as you said. Then, when you are sure, you will speak. I will not reopen the subject."

His words had something of the ring of an ultimatum, but no endearments that his lips might have uttered could have gripped her heart so surely. She knew they were the words of a man in deadly earnest, a man who had himself in hand, a man

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By REV. F. B. FITZVALENT, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

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LESSON FOR JANUARY 18

THE BOLDNESS OF PETER AND JOHN.

LESSON TEXT—Acts 4:1-31.

GOLDEN TEXT—Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. I Cor. 16:13.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Matt. 5:39-42; Acts 5:12-42; II Tim. 4:6-5; 19-15; Heb. 11:32, 38.

PRIMARY TOPIC—The Story of Two Brave Men.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Peter and John Standing Up for Jesus.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Courage to Do the Right.

1. Peter and John Arrested (vv. 1-4).

1. By Whom Arrested (vv. 1, 2). The priests and Sadducees. The priests were intolerant because these new teachers were encroaching upon their ministerial functions. The Sadducees opposed them from doctrinal considerations. They denied the resurrection from the dead and the future life. Although they were the intellectual liberals of their day they were cruelly intolerant. The most outstanding bigots of our day are the professed intellectuals whose watchword is "scholarship."

2. The Result (vv. 3, 4). Peter and John were now put in confinement till the next day, it being too late for trial that day. Though the apostles were held by chains Christ continued to work for the number of believers had now greatly increased. Opposition helps God's cause.

II. Peter and John on Trial (vv. 5-12).

1. The Inquiry (vv. 5-7). They were asked, "By what power, or in what name, have ye done this?" This inquiry admitted the reality of the miracle.

2. Peter's Answer (vv. 8-12). With stinging sarcasm he showed them that they were not being tried as evil doers, but for doing good to the helpless and needy man. He showed the absurdity of dealing with men as criminals who had merely relieved the suffering and helpless man from distress—thus the rulers were placed in a most ridiculous and embarrassing position. Since they could not deny the miracle, Peter boldly declared, "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand before you whole. This is the stone which was set at naught by you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other form; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby ye must be saved."

III. The Impression Upon the Sanhedrin (vv. 13-22).

1. They marvelled (v. 13). The fact that the apostles spoke so boldly, being unlearned men, caused them to marvel. They saw that the behavior and words of Peter were as unusual as the miracle.

2. They took knowledge that they had been with Jesus (v. 13). They saw that though they had killed Jesus, his life and work were being reproduced in his disciples. Being with Christ (1) gives an experiential knowledge of him. The one who really knows Christ can and will testify of him and for him. (2) Gives freedom from fear. Peter, who shortly before this quailed before a Jewish maid, was now bold before the most august assembly of the Jews. (3) Opens a man's lips. What the heart feels, the mouth must speak out.

3. The judges commanded them not to speak in Christ's name (v. 18). They could not deny the miracle nor gainsay the accusation which Peter brought against them, so they attempted to intimidate them.

4. Peter and John's reply (vv. 19, 20). They expressed their determination to disobey their instructors—they openly defied the Sanhedrin. "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye; for we cannot speak the things which we have seen and heard." By this declaration they repudiated the authority of the rulers of Israel and set the church in a place of independence from the Jewish state.

5. Their release (v. 21). Having farther threatened them, the Sanhedrin let them go, as it had no way to punish them, since the people were on their side.

IV. The Church at Prayer. (vv. 23-31).

As soon as Peter and John were set free they hastened away to their disciples and rehearsed to them their experience. They took the matter to God in prayer, and in their communion they turned to the Holy Scriptures for comfort and strength.

Forgive and Forgiven.

Of him that hopes to be forgiven it is indispensably required that he forgive. It is, therefore, superfluous to urge any other motive. On this great duty eternity is suspended, and to him that refuses to practice it, the throne of mercy is inaccessible, and the Savior of the world has been born in vain.—Johnson.

Fellow-Worker With God.

We are God's fellow-workers in the work of human salvation. He is depending upon our co-operation.

BOYS' YEARS OF SILENCE ENDED

Youths Rescued From Mountain Hut in Washington Had Never Spoken.

MARVEL AT CITY LIFE

Brothers, Who Lived With Deaf Mute Sister and Who Communicated in Sign Language, Learning to Talk.

Seattle.—Ernest and Herbert Koss, ten and twelve years old, respectively, rescued from the cabin they built in the Green river wilderness in Washington with their nineteen-year-old deaf mute sister, are in a children's hospital at Seattle, learning the wonders of writing and speech. While the lads are able to build a house, keep a fire, plant and till crops and shoot squirrels out of tree tops, when juvenile court officers found them they had never played nor spoken a word.

The boys had grown up together, communicating by the sign language taught them by their silent sister. Their father thought they, too, were mutes. Loving by nature, healthy, strong, passionately fond of each other's company, clever at shooting and fishing on the 50-acre homestead taken up by their father, William Koss, in the Cascade mountains, Ernest and Herbert have seen for the first time an automobile, a street car and a moving-picture show. Nurses in the hospital are confident that the boys will learn to talk.

Father's Strange Story.

Born in the province of Westphalia, Germany, William Koss, the father, said he had spent three years in the army. The major of his battalion was the former kaiser, then Prince William. The day following his marriage he sailed for the United States and, in 1888, settled on the eastern shore of Green river. Eleven children were born.

Koss said the mother was ill nervous and irritable during the last eight or nine years of her life. This caused her to pass the two small boys on to the care of the others very often. Each member of the family, he said, apparently preferred his or her own solitude, and the two boys, Herbert and Ernest, were left to the care of their deaf mute sister.

Tried to Help Boys.

"And that's how they never learned to talk," said the father earnestly.



She Made Signs to Them and They Returned These Signs.

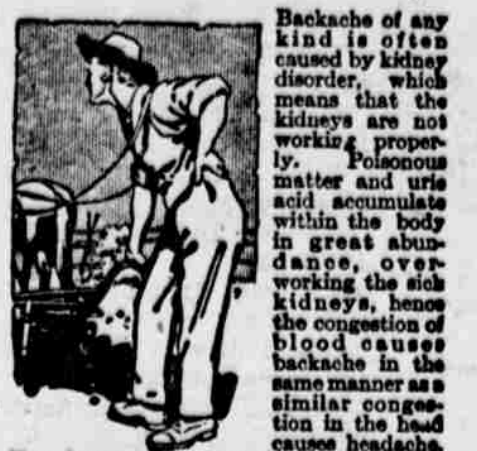
"They lived almost wholly with Clara, and she made signs to them and they returned these signs. It wasn't until the last several years that I came to see that they were not deaf and dumb like Clara. Then I tried to do what I could for them."

The aged father purchased a phonograph. The boys learned, he declared, to sing "My Old Kentucky Home," a story of a Chinese "washee-washee" man and a German song. These three songs they reproduced with accurate melodic effect, according to the father, although he admitted that they did not know the meaning of the words they repeated. Later on they made their own phonograph and installed it in the little house they built in imitation of their older brothers, an instrument, however, as dumb as themselves.

"I could not send them to school," Koss declared. "I knew that the other children would laugh at them because they could not talk and that the teacher would lose patience with them." He would not permit them to "cross the river," which means to civilization.

Jealous Girl Shot Fellow Student. Columbus.—Blanche Davidson, nineteen, an Ohio Wesleyan freshman, was confessed, according to the authorities, that she shot Gladys Incey, another student, on November 14. Both Miss Racey and Miss Davidson are said to have found favor in the eyes of a male student, and jealousy is given as the cause of Miss Davidson's act.

Backache and Kidneys



Backache of any kind is often caused by kidney disorder, which means that the kidneys are not working properly. Poisonous matter and uric acid accumulate within the body in great abundance, overworking the kidneys, hence the congestion of blood causes backache in the same manner as a similar congestion in the head causes headache.

You become nervous, despondent, sick, feverish, irritable, have spots appearing before the eyes, bags under the lids, and lack ambition to do things.

The latest and most effective means of overcoming this trouble, is to eat sparingly of meat, drink plenty of water between meals and take a single Anurio tablet between each meal for a while.

Simply ask your druggist for Anurio (anti-uric-acid) if you aren't feeling up to the standard. If you have lumbago, rheumatism, dropsy, begin immediately this treatment with Anurio.

The physicians and specialists at Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y., have thoroughly tested this prescription and have been with one accord successful in radiating these troubles. Patients having once used Anurio at the institution have repeatedly sent back for more. Such a demand has been created that Doctor Pierce decided to put Anurio in the drug stores of this country, in a ready-to-use form.

Omaha, Neb.—"I ached all over and felt so badly that I could not sleep at night. My bladder seemed weak, gave me considerable trouble, and caused stinging sensations. I read an advertisement for Dr. Pierce's Anurio (anti-uric-acid) and purchased a bottle. It was only a few days before I felt wonderfully relieved, and all the soreness left me. I am glad to endorse such a worthy medicine. My doctor will recommend it."—MRS. W. C. ZESSELMAN, 1832 N. 17th St.

HEARTBURN Caused by Acid-Stomach

That bitter heartburn, belching, food repeating, indigestion, bloating after eating—all are caused by acid-stomach. But they are only first symptoms. They warn you of awful troubles if not stopped. Headache, biliousness, rheumatism, scalding, that tired, listless feeling, lack of energy, dizziness, insomnia, even cancer and ulcers of the intestines and many other ailments are traceable to ACID-STOMACH.

Thousands—yes, millions—of people who ought to be well and strong are mere weaklings because of acid-stomach. They starve in the midst of plenty because they do not get enough strength and vitality from the food they eat.

Take EATONIC and give your stomach a chance to do its work right. Make it strong, cool, sweet and healthy. EATONIC brings quick relief for heartburn, belching, indigestion and other stomach troubles. Improves digestion—helps you get full strength from your food. Thousands say EATONIC is the most wonderful stomach remedy in the world. Brought them relief when everything else failed.

Our best testimonial is what EATONIC will do for you. So get a big box of EATONIC today from your druggist, use it five days—if you're not pleased, return it and get your money back.

EATONIC FOR YOUR ACID-STOMACH

PARKER'S HAIR BALM. Restores Color and Beauty to Gray and Faded Hair. Sold at 25c and 50c at druggists. (Wm. C. Parker, N.Y.)

Comfort Your Skin With Cuticura Soap and Fragrant Talcum. Soap 25c, Ointment 25 and 50c, Talcum 25c.

DANCING--FREE

Be an expert dancer. Learn at home. My new, wonderful, illustrated method of dancing. Send \$1.00 for the first lesson. One-Step and Fox-Trot with every order. Send for free booklet on Dancing.

PROF. G. ERICKSON Seattle, Wa. P. O. Box 412

Showing Them Off. A considerable amount of golf is played principally for the reason that some women think their husbands look well in knickerbockers.—Washington Star.

ARMISTICE!

Constipation, Headache, Colds, Biliousness, Sufferer to "Cascarets"

Bring back peace! Enjoy life! Your system is filled with liver and bowel poison which keeps your skin sallow, your stomach upset, your head dull and aching. Your meals are turning into poison gases and acids. You can not feel right. Don't stay bilious or constipated. Feel splendid always by taking Cascarets occasionally. They act without gripping or inconvenience. They never sicken you like Calomel, Salts, Oil or nasty, harsh Pills. They cost as little too—Cascarets work while you sleep.—Adv.

National Preference. "I don't like these cold English." "Neither do I. I prefer hot Scotch."

MURINE Night Morning Keep Your Eyes Clean, Clear and Healthy. Write for Free Eye Book. Murine Co., Chicago, U.S.A.