

JOHN BURT

By **FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS**

Author of "The Kidnapped Millionaire," "Colonel Monroe's Doctrine," etc.

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CHAPTER XXII—Continued.

John Burt had seated himself at his desk, which he was putting in order. Surprised at Sam's positive statement he turned quickly. He saw Blake standing by the door. A shaft of sunlight fell full on his face. His hand was on the knob, and he stood motionless as if riveted to the floor. There was that in his expression and attitude which challenged John Burt's attention.

Students of psychological phenomena may offer an explanation of the impalpable impression received by John Burt in that moment. His was the dominating mind; Blake's the subjective. By that mysterious telepathy which mocks analysis and scorns description a message passed to John Burt. He yet lacked the cipher to translate it. It dotted no definite warning and sounded none but a vague suspicion, but the vibration, though faint, was discordant.

John Burt glanced at Blake and turned to Sam.

"You surely are mistaken, Sam," he said. "Miss Carden is abroad and will not sail for New York for several days."

"Is that so?" Sam ran his fingers through his red hair and looked puzzled. "That's mighty curious! I've got an eye like a hawk, an' I'd a storm it was her. I met her once or twice when she was here before, an' thought sure it was her I saw yesterday. Must be wrong, though. Guess I'd better begin wearin' glasses. So ye ain't seen her yet, John? I'll bet she'll be plumb glad tew meet you. We was talkin' 'erbout ye the last time I saw her. That's two years ago. She hadn't forgot ye, John."

Blake closed the door and Sam turned at the click of the latch.

"Why, here's Jim! Well, well, well! Here we are all together. Thought I wouldn't know John, didn't ye? I

my tellin' ye 'erbout this fellow Morris. He's nothin' more er less'n a high toned thief. He owns, or thinks he owns the Board of Aldermen. Perhaps he does, but to my way of thinkin' he's likely to be fooled. There's er lot of new members who are agin him, an' some of the old ones that he bought before want er bought agin, an' they have raised their price. Morris was tew my house las' night. Say, John, I wonder what he'd think if he knew I was in your office now? Darned if this ain't a funny world."

"What did Morris have to say?" asked Blake, who did not need to counterfeit an interest in this new development.

"He had er lot tew say," replied Sam. "A year ago he offered me five thousand dollars for my vote. I told him then that I couldn't do business with him, an' he managed tew pass his bills agin my vote an' infloence. Guess he wants me pretty bad just now. Last night he raised his price tew ten thousand."

"These ordinances are all right an' fer the benefit of the public," says this self-sacrificing Morris. "I'm sorry, Alderman Rounds," he says, "that you're prejudiced agin them. If you'll change your mind there's six other aldermen who'll dew the same, an' when the bills are passed ye gits ten thousand more."

"That's what he said tew me," continued Sam, "an' I told him that he was a liberal sport, an' that I'd take his offer under consideration an' hold it in abeyance. Then I asked him who the six others were who'd follow my lead, an' he told me. The seven of us gives him a majority."

"Was that all?"

"I should say not," declared Sam. "I said tew him, says I, 'Mr. Morris, I know all these aldermen, an' they are my personal friends. I'm a business gent.' I says, 'havin' been in hoss

his heart beat high as Jessie frankly welcomed him.

Under the witchery of her presence, James Blake wondered that he had hesitated for a moment to risk life itself to win her. What was friendship, loyalty, fame or fortune in the balance with one smile from the woman he had learned so suddenly to love? His whole being thrilled with keenest joy as he felt the faint clasp of her hand, and his ears drank in the melody of her voice.

"Papa was saying at dinner that the market had taken a decided turn, and that he thought you would call this evening," said Jessie. "He felt so certain of it that we postponed a theater party. You are to be congratulated, papa, on your intuition."

"I am the one to be congratulated," said Blake, with a smile and a bow, "but I should preface my self-congratulations with an apology for the informality of my call. If Gen. Carden will stand sponsor for my plea that business exigencies cover a multitude of social improprieties, I may hope for forgiveness; and, if forgiven, I warn you that I shall commit the offense again!"

A delicate flush suffused Jessie's face and brightened the radiance of her eyes.

"You will never become an outcast by such transgressions," she laughed. "I will leave you and papa to your business plottings. Edith is here, and when you have ended your serious affairs perhaps you will join us and we can have music or cards."

Blake's face glowed with a pleasure no formal words could conceal.

"Our business will be ended in a minute," he said. "I know the general has not forgotten the defeat we administered to him the other evening, and as an old soldier I fancy he is eager to wipe out his repulse with a victory."

"He certainly is," asserted Gen. Carden. "I'm so sure of winning to-night that on behalf of Edith I challenge you and Jessie to a rubber of whist, with a box to-morrow evening for Booth's production of 'A Fool's Revenge' as a wager!"

"Done!" exclaimed Blake.

"I warn you that papa generally wins when something is at stake," said Jessie, "but I'll do the best I can, and hope for good luck to offset my poor playing."

She excused herself, and Blake and Gen. Carden plunged into stock technicalities.

"I wished you to know the cause of to-day's advance in L. & O.," explained Blake. "For reasons you surmise, I am picking up blocks of this stock. It will go higher to-morrow, and then a slump may follow, but you need not worry whether it advances or declines. I have the market under control. From present indications you will be called on to exercise your option inside of ten days."

"I have confidence in your judgment and you can rely on prompt execution of your instructions," said Gen. Carden. "For twenty years I have been identified with Wall street, and I understand its ethics. In this campaign you are the general. You will find me a loyal aide."

There was more talk, but since Blake had nothing of importance to disclose, the conference soon ended.

Blake was triumphantly satisfied with his progress. He rightly interpreted Gen. Carden's suggestion of a theater party as a tacit permission to pay his addresses to Jessie Carden. Later in the evening, through a chance remark by Miss Hancock, he learned that they had declined a theater invitation from Arthur Morris. He no longer had the slightest fear of Morris. He felt sure of the consent and even the support of Gen. Carden in his suit for the hand of his daughter.

The whist game was closely contested, but as Jessie had predicted the general and Edith won a hard-fought victory, and Blake agreed to pay the wager the evening following.

HE WAS AFTER MORE.

Overworked Man Carried Out Bluff to the Last.

Two brothers, both active, young business men of this city, went lately to visit an uncle, a short, stout, light-hearted man of 60, who owns a farm up state. They found him loading hay into a cart. Wishing to impress his nephews with his agility, he declared he could stack hay as fast as they could pitch it. The nephews accepted the challenge, threw off their coats and when he had mounted the rack, fork in hand, work commenced.

The boys lifted large forkfuls rapidly and all went well while the body of the rack was being filled. But when the load began to settle above and beyond the stakes and it became necessary to place each forkful in the proper place for binding the mass below things became a little mixed up on top of the load. Still their uncle yelled out at the top of his voice:

"More hay! More hay! D'rat it, boys, you don't keep me half busy!"

The boys tossed the hay up faster, and the old man's puffing as he struggled to keep his head above the flood could be plainly heard. At length, what with his struggling and his choking and his being blinded under the thick coming mass, and the clumsy, ill-fashioned manner in which he had piled the last half dozen forkfuls, the top of the load slid off upon the ground and the old man with it.

"Hello, Uncle Sam, what are you down here for?" asked one of the nephews.

"Down here for," gasped the old man, struggling up from the choking, blinding pile, "why, consarn yer lazy, good for nothing picture, I've come down after more hay!"—New York Press.

ROOSEVELT OTIFIED OF NOMINATION

Speaker Cannon, Chairman of the National Committee, Makes the Address.

RESPONSE OF PRESIDENT THERE TO

Chief Executive Touches Upon Some of the Issues That Will Be Before the People in the Coming Campaign.

July 27th President Roosevelt was formally notified of his nomination for the presidency by the national republican convention. The ceremony took place at his country home at Sagamore Hill. There was, first of all, an informal reception, at the conclusion of which Speaker Cannon, chairman of the notification committee, delivered his address, as follows:

Mr. President: "The people of the United States, by their legislatures, electors and practice are a self-governing people. We have sometimes been subject to prejudice and embarrassment from harmful conditions, but we have outgrown prejudice and overcome conditions as rapidly as possible, having due regard to law and the rights of individuals. We have sometimes made mistakes from a false sense of security or from a desire to change instead of to improve. We have sometimes, merely to see what would happen, but we have always paid the penalty of unwise action at the ballot box and endured the suffering until under the law, through the ballot box, we have returned to correct policies. Under the leadership of the republican party for several years, the United States has been a third-class power among the nations has become in every respect first. It is necessary that they should be competent to rule. Competency requires not only patriotism, but well-being, education and statecraft."

Liberal compensation for labor makes liberal customers of our products. Under this policy of protection a better market affords all our people on earth, and this, too, even if our industries are to be carried abroad. In addition to this, we have come to be the greatest exporting nation in the world. For the year ending in 1901 our exports to foreign countries were valued at \$1,460,000,000, of which \$450,000,000 were products of the United States. Our debt last year was \$470,000,000, an increase of \$75,000,000 over the preceding year.

Dilemma of Democracy.

This policy of protection has always been opposed by the opponents of the republican party and is opposed by them today. In their last national platform, adopted at St. Louis, they denounce protection as robbery, but they proceed by word and act to destroy the policy of protection. Their platform is as silent as the grave to the gold standard and our currency system. Their chosen leader, after his nomination, having been silent up to that time, sent his telegram, saying in substance that the gold standard is established and that he and his cabinet are now working so well with all foreign nations are now of Prosperity has come at home. The national honor and interest have been placed in the hands of the nation upon a sound gold basis. We have done this with the aid of many who were formerly our enemies, and who would never openly support nor silently acquiesce in the heresy of unsound finance, and have done it against the concerted and violent opposition of the mass of our present opponents who still refuse to recant the unsound opinions which they have advanced in the past. It is the efficient way to turn the rascals out and to keep them out, and it has the merit of sincerity. Moreover, the years have been insignificant in number when compared with the extent of the service. Never has the administration of the government been on a cleaner and higher level; never has the public work of the nation been done more honestly and efficiently.

Unwise to Change Good Policies.

Assuredly it is unwise to change the policies which have worked so well with all foreign nations are now of Prosperity has come at home. The national honor and interest have been placed in the hands of the nation upon a sound gold basis. We have done this with the aid of many who were formerly our enemies, and who would never openly support nor silently acquiesce in the heresy of unsound finance, and have done it against the concerted and violent opposition of the mass of our present opponents who still refuse to recant the unsound opinions which they have advanced in the past. It is the efficient way to turn the rascals out and to keep them out, and it has the merit of sincerity. Moreover, the years have been insignificant in number when compared with the extent of the service. Never has the administration of the government been on a cleaner and higher level; never has the public work of the nation been done more honestly and efficiently.

Under the financial legislation which we have enacted there is now ample circulation for every business need, and every dollar of this circulation is worth a dollar in gold. We have reduced the interest-bearing debt and in still larger measure the interest on that debt. All of the war taxes imposed during the Spanish war have been removed with a view to relieve the people and to prevent the accumulation of an unnecessary surplus. The result is that hardly ever before have the expenditures of the government so closely corresponded. In the fiscal year that has just closed the excess of income over the ordinary expenditures was \$90,000,000. This does not take account of \$50,000,000 expended out of the accumulated surplus for the purpose of the isthmian canal. An extraordinary proof of the sound financial condition of the nation that instead of following the usual course in such matters and throwing the burden upon posterity by an issue of bonds, we were able to make the payment outright and yet after it to have a surplus of \$150,000,000. Moreover, we were able to pay \$5,000,000 out of hand without causing the slightest disturbance to business conditions.

Country on High Plane.

We have enacted a tariff law under which during the past few years the country has attained a height of material well-being never before reached. Wages are higher than ever before. That whenever the need arises there shall be no readjustment of the tariff schedules is undoubted; but such changes can with safety be made only in those whose devotion to the principle of a protective tariff is beyond question; for otherwise the changes would not amount to readjustment but to repeal. The readjustment which made must maintain and not destroy the protective principle. To the farmer, the merchant, the manufacturer, the laborer, both at home and abroad, there is no more interested as the wage worker in the maintenance of our present economic system, both as regards the finances and the tariff. The standard of living of our wage workers is higher than that of any other country, and cannot so remain unless we have a protective tariff which will always keep as a minimum a rate of duty sufficient to cover the difference between the labor cost here and abroad. Those who, like our opponents, "denounce protection as robbery" thereby exploit an opponent themselves to the proposition that if they were to revise the tariff no heed would be paid to the loss of those whose devotion to the principle of a protective tariff is beyond question; for otherwise the changes would not amount to readjustment but to repeal. The readjustment which made must maintain and not destroy the protective principle. To the farmer, the merchant, the manufacturer, the laborer, both at home and abroad, there is no more interested as the wage worker in the maintenance of our present economic system, both as regards the finances and the tariff. 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