

# SQUIRE JOHN

## A TALE OF THE CUBAN WAR

BY ST. GEORGE BATHURNE

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### CHAPTER XXIII—Continued.

Again he is in the midst of battle. The shouts of frenzied men and the rude concussion of exploding gunpowder make a chaotic confusion. He can see desperate rivals engaged in hand-to-hand conflicts all around him, upon whose olive faces the fierce glow of passion has left its hated mark.

Then appears a milk-white steed, and, mounted on this, the little Cuban beauty with flowing hair, flashing machete, filled with the enthusiasm and patriotism that inspired Joan of Arc in the time of France's peril.

Evidently Lola Montez has returned in as mysterious a way as she left. Remembering the distance and the wretched roads from Havana to the scene of the engagement, Jack is more amazed than ever, and vaguely wonders whether she may not have some marvelous way of flying through the air.

He comes upon her in the garden, sitting upon a rustic bench near the fountain. It is hard to believe this lovely creature and the spirit of battle are one and the same.

She springs up and holds out her hand as he comes near. Even Jack can see the color fly into her cheeks. He would be a fool not to understand that he is more to this warm-blooded daughter of Cuba than other men.

Travers chats and laughs, but feels uneasy. He seeks to analyze the nature of this exotic plant. It gives him pain to believe that she can care for him—not on his own account, since the man hardly exists who could object to being loved by such a charming divinity, but, as usual, he is thinking of the fair flower of Scotland, sweet Jessie Cameron. How may it affect her? Will this Cuban girl hate her when she learns that he is wholly devoted to the one whom a kindly Fortune gave him for his wife? He has known of several instances in Mexico where such jealousy has been the cause of a terrible tragedy.

And so it is Jack's resolve to endeavor, so far as lies within his power, to break this spell, and cause Lola Montez to dislike him, if he can accomplish the same without any loss to his self-respect or his hitherto untarnished honor.

Perhaps the object may best be accomplished by relating to her the strange story of his marriage. Somehow he shrinks from the task, but this only arouses him to the necessity of prompt action if he would stem the tide before it has gone beyond his reach. And having thus resolved, he only awaits a fitting opportunity to carry out his plan.

### CHAPTER XXIV.

What Jack Heard by the Fountain. The best laid plans often go astray, and before Travers can summon his resolution to the sticking point, or find a suitable opening where he might wedge in some reference to his romantic history, Smithers joins them.

One glance tells Jack the other has news for him. Of course it must be in connection with the one around whom all of Jack Travers' plans for the future revolve.

This awakens a keen desire on the young man's part to hear what Smithers has found out. He imagines all manner of evil as hovering about the ward of Roblado, and it is with a peculiarly wolfish sensation he remembers that Spencer is yet in the game. Smithers, however, shows no desire to talk while the seniorita is present, and hence Jack has to curb his impatience as best he may.

The opportunity comes at last. Smithers manages it in some way,



He comes upon her in the garden, and they are left alone beside the fountain.

"Well?" says Jack, somewhat impatiently; "with it, my dear fellow."

"There you go again, Senior Jack; but, as usual, you hit the mark. I have something to tell you—something that bears upon your fortunes, and promises to bring the game to a speedy crisis," responds the other, soberly.

"For which Heaven be praised," breathes the younger man, endeavoring to calm his wildly-beating heart; for, cool customer as he has always proven in times of danger, the mere thought of one fair face awakens such a keen interest within him that he be-

comes almost alarmed. The disease has made rapid progress—it promises to be fatal.

Smithers seats himself upon the rustic bench, and Jack stands with one foot upon the same, leaning his head upon his hand, so that he can watch the agent's face as the soft glow of the Moorish hanging lamp from the enclosed court falls upon it.

"Of course you won't be surprised to hear that Senior Roblado, finding the Fates working against him on all sides, has resolved upon a grand coup de main, whereby several little enterprises in which he is deeply interested may be advantageously advanced."

"Perhaps you do not know that just at present Havana is in a ferment—that the Spaniards are celebrating changes that have recently been made. The city is thronged with newly-arrived troops; for during the summer months thousands will drop with the fever, and there must be enough poor devils to take the places of those who, not being acclimatized, fall ready victims to the awful Yellow Jack."

"This night Havana will go wild as never before. Bonfires will be lighted, torchlight parades seen in many of the streets, and the greatest exhibition of forced gaiety ever known occur. In a word, you will believe the old Cuban capital has gone mad, and that her citizens have determined to live up to that venerable shibboleth of pleasure seekers, 'Après nous le déluge.'"

"But I must not give way to my feelings. Listen, then, sir, and hear first what is about to occur, and later how those in whom we are so deeply interested are to share in it."

"To-night there will be entertainments of all kinds—every house you will find illuminated; for to refuse to obey the edict that has gone forth would be to draw down the suspicion of the military authorities, and, under the accursed rule of Spain, that means a file of soldiers in the early dawn under the walls of Morro Castle yonder."

"Among all these gay scenes none will vie with the reception of the Captain General, who, as you well know, has absolute sway over the island as though he were a king."

"There is no building in the city capable of containing the great throng expected to be present—no palace in which such a reception could be held—and so, as the best thing to be done under the circumstance, the great theater where these buffights are held is to be utilized. Flags adorn the walls and soldiers will swarm through the aisles and throng the ring where but a few hours previous the torches met their fierce four-footed antagonists in deadly strife."

"Oh, Senior Jack, everybody of consequence will be at this great entertainment. Senior Roblado and his daughters have decided to go. You will, of course, attend? An invitation is not necessary, since it means homage to the Captain General, and is designed to show the tremendous power of Spain upon the island."

It will be a slight well worth your trouble, Senior Jack; and, what is more to the point, I believe you will, if the Fates continue to smile, be given a chance to win that which is ever uppermost in your thoughts."

"Go on," says Travers, who has not moved all this while, but listens eagerly.

"Enough of the picture; you yourself shall see it before many hours have passed. I said everyone in Havana of consequence would proceed to the grand reception at the Plaza de Toros in order to pay their respects to the Governor. Between you and myself, Senior Jack, there may be some present whose appearance, if known in Havana, would arouse the most intense excitement this city has known since the end of the Ten Years' War."

"You must mean the great Gomez himself," says Travers, quickly.

"Well guessed. He is in the city; it is not the first time since the struggle began. Before now he has had narrow escapes, and we have shivered for fear lest our beloved leader be taken from us, for upon him we have come to pin much of the faith that is in us."

"And now a new uneasiness has come. I do not understand what influenced him, but he had a motive back of it. I am sure. What do you think could bring him to take such risk? Certainly not a spirit of adventure. At any rate, he has determined to visit the reception to-night, and see the Captain General face to face, surrounded by scores of generals and other officers."

"Senior Jack, that was bad enough; but I had known of it, and was also aware that certain precautions had been taken to cover his retreat in case of discovery. There was worse to come—far worse. I have learned it only now, and it must be my duty to see that the terrible game does not succeed. That was where my great luck came in, hovering about the hotel on the Prado. I saw Senior Roblado take aside a man who had called to see him, and, in your service, sir, thought it my duty to overhear their interview. Little did I dream that this was a Heaven-sent opportunity to preserve the Light of Cuba."

"I shall not repeat all I heard. This man was a spy, an accursed renegade Cuban—of whose breed, thank God, we have but few—and who had been

bought body and soul with Spanish doubloons.

"He betrayed the secret presence of the great Gomez in Havana, and his daring design, so characteristic of our matchless leader, to see his mortal enemy surrounded by five thousand soldiers, by his best officers, and the citizens of Havana loyal to the mother country."

"Well, you see, I have the key. I know that already has the eager Roblado set the wheels in motion that will close the trap should Gomez try to carry out his plan, and being thus forewarned, it would appear that I might have no trouble in outwitting these schemers."

"Alas! Senior Jack, you do not know Gomez. He is a rook. When he says a thing all earth and the lower region cannot stop him. And I have heard him swear he would be present and shake hands with the Captain General this night. You see, it is serious."

"Rather," admits Jack, who, though deeply interested in this intelligence, falls as yet to grasp the connection with his fortunes, save that she will attend the reception, and he may possibly see her there."

"Well, you need know nothing further about this matter now. I shall leave you in ten minutes to communi-



"This man was a spy, an accursed renegade Cuban."

cate the startling intelligence to comrades, so that we may decide on a bold plan of action by means of which our beloved but reckless leader may be saved in case he insists on carrying out his design. Before I go it is my desire to let you know that I have discovered even more—that Roblado and your dear friend Spencer, whom I have good reason to hate, have arranged it so that the colonel may marry your widow."

"That is very kind of the dear fellows. Tell me how they mean to manage it," says Jack, sending out successive rings of smoke.

"Meaning your taking off. Oh, that is not a very hard thing to do under Cuban skies, and especially in these times when working hand-in-glove with the military authorities. You will be secretly arrested, charged with complicity in a plot to murder the Captain General. Without a chance to inform your Minister of the trouble, you will be buried in a dungeon of Morro Castle, to be taken out by stealth some dark night and made away with. You shrug your shoulders, sir. Such things have been done many a time in this country, and will be again. In this terrible game of chess, pawns do not count for much, and in their eyes you are a pawn. My advice to you, sir, is to write a letter to the American Consul giving him the facts in the case, and then, should you be seized, we will know how to gain your liberty. Just at present they hardly care to embroil your Uncle Sam in war."

"It shall be done, and I will give it to you to hand to the Minister," says Jack, blandly.

(To be continued.)

### WHERE CHALK WAS USEFUL.

Emergency Found Photographer Equal to the Occasion.

Senator Depew had consented to address a convention of photographers. When he rose he held up a piece of white chalk.

"Do any of you ever make use of this in your business?" he asked.

There were affirmative cries from different parts of the table.

"What for?" said Senator Depew.

Then various uses for chalk in photography were cited by various persons. The speaker nodded and said: "I'll tell you of another use you have not mentioned to me. Perhaps this new use for chalk will be valuable to you. Perhaps it will only be amusing."

"At any rate, it is vouched for by a friend of mine, an old friend, who is bald. My old friend went to a Georgia photographer during a recent trip south and he said he wanted his picture taken."

"The photographer put him in front of a camera, got under a dark cloth and finally emerged again with a piece of white chalk in his hand."

"With a smile slightly embarrassed he made a gesture toward my friend's vast bald head."

"Excuse me, sir," he said, "but the top of your head shines so it will take extra big; so if you don't mind I'll just chalk it a bit."

### Particular Where She Lays.

A hen in Williamsville, N. H., has her own peculiar taste about a nest. Every day for two weeks she has taken the china egg over the edge of a box four inches high, rolled it half way around the edge of the square box into a corner and laid an egg beside it.

## RETREAT GOES ON

THE RUSSIAN ARMY CONTINUES TOWARD HARBIN.

### JAPANESE CLOSELY FOLLOW

The Russians Said to Be Badly Demoralized.—Belief That the Muscovites Will Not Soon Attempt to Make a Stand.

ST. PETERSBURG—Commander-in-Chief Linevitch in a telegram dated Saturday says:

"On March 17 Japanese batteries bombarded our divisions in the valleys of Tavanun and Yanpu. The enemy appeared near Kaotit in the railroad, about twenty-two miles north of Tie Pass, and their cavalry has occupied Pakoman. Our armies continue their concentration."

In connection with the mobilization of a new army an imperial decree orders an inspection of horses in twenty-two districts of the military divisions of Odessa, Warsaw and Moscow.

WITH THE JAPANESE ARMY IN THE FIELD. Via Fusan.—The Russian army continues its northern retreat, the Japanese following. They have occupied Pakoman, to the northwest of Tie Pass. Yesterday evening the Russian cavalry camped three miles south of Kaiyuen. Large Russian columns are retreating towards this place from the southwest. The natives report that they are not stopping there, where the hills make a defense possible. If the retreat is forced it will probably be continued to Harbin. The Russians are described as being badly disorganized.

General Kuraki's army continues to lead the Japanese forces, which have been engaged for nine days in a hard pursuit in which they have covered a distance of more than ninety-five miles, with frequent fighting.

The weather in the mountains is very cold, with frequent hard storms. The brigade in advance occupied Tie Pass Wednesday night after a brief engagement.

The Russian retreat became more disorganized daily after the storm. During the first day the Russians buried their dead, but since then they have left the dead wherever they fell. Tuesday the Russians made an attempt at resistance in entrenchments north of the Hun river, but abandoned them after they had been shelled for two hours.

The colors were inscribed as having been presented to the regiment by the emperor in 1834. Most of the captured organizations succeeded in burning their standards before surrendering. A few prisoners are secured daily.

It is reported that during General Kouropatkin's resistance at Tower Hill on the first day's battle, he was slightly wounded by an eight-inch shell which fell near him. The Chinese officers received the Japanese officers and soldiers with banners at most of the towns entered.

### MORTON SENDS A CRUISER

The Colorado Said to Be Bound for Venezuela.

NORFOLK, Va.—The cruiser Colorado sailed from Hampton Roads. It is understood she is bound for Venezuelan waters, though reports have her going to join the combined fleet at Pensacola. The Colorado has not completed the crew she is supposed to leave this port with, despite the fact that men intended for other ships in the Caribbean squadron have been sent to her. Ten expert torpedo men were sent to the cruiser from the League Island navy yard. They left Philadelphia yesterday morning. The order for these torpedo experts was received in a personal telegram from Secretary Morton and the men were taken from the torpedo boat Hopkins, now at the League Island navy yard. The men from the League Island yard were selected by Rear Admiral Dickens, who is the ranking officer at that station and to whom the order from Secretary Morton was sent.

### ANGERS GERMAN CHANCELLOR

Warm Debate Between Herr Bebel and Von Buelow in Reichstag.

BERLIN—Chancellor von Buelow and Herr Bebel, the socialist leader, engaged in a bitter discussion in the Reichstag over Germany's Russian policy.

The chancellor's usual composure and good humor in debate were disturbed by the almost savage criticism of the socialist chief, who said that Germany's "creeping before Russia had humiliated it in the eyes of the world and had brought it to shame." He held Von Buelow responsible for Prussia's "engaging in the nasty work of catching fugitives from Russian military service and turning them over to agents of the autocrat and for forcing men and women whose only offense was love of liberty to leave Prussian territory at the instance of Russian spies."

### Gompers Makes His Report.

WASHINGTON—President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor on Tuesday, submitted his annual report to the executive council of that organization, now in session in this city. It gives the details of the settlement of a number of disputes and shows the finances of the organization to be in excellent condition. The invitation of the Lewis and Clark exposition at Portland, Ore., to transfer the federation's exhibit at the St. Louis exposition to Portland was declined.

### COLLECTION OF THE CUSTOMS.

Program Under Old Arbitration to Be Followed.

WASHINGTON—In view of the expected adjournment of the present extra session of the senate without favorable action upon the pending Dominican treaty, it is understood that the state department has determined to proceed with the collection of customs at Puerto Plata and Monte Cristi under the terms of the arbitration award of last year.

It is feared that complications may arise through the action of some of the European powers whose citizens are heavy creditors of Santo Domingo. These claims have been held in abeyance because the European governments interested desire to shape their policies relative to Dominica by those of America, being desirous of avoiding any friction that would cause ill-feeling in this country and apprehension that the integrity of the Monroe doctrine was an object of attack. The question is whether, in view of the failure of the senate to act favorably upon the treaty which would have provided the means for the payment of these claims, the European governments will longer refrain from important action to collect their debts, and although it is fully realized here that such action, if attended by coercive measures will probably cause an ebullition of feeling in this country similar to that attending the appearance of the allied fleet on the Venezuelan coast in the winter of 1902-03, the state department probably will not feel authorized to intervene with a protest.

### PEABODY WINS HIS CONTEST

Colorado Legislature Declares He Was Duly Elected Governor of State.

DENVER, Colo.—James H. Peabody on Thursday won his contest for the office of governor, from which he retired on January 10 after serving a term of two years, but his victory was achieved only after he had given his pledge to resign and surrender the chair to Lieutenant Governor Jesse F. McDonald.

The vote in joint convention of the general assembly by which Governor Alva Adams was ousted and Governor James H. Peabody installed was 51 to 41. Ten republicans voted with the democratic members for Adams.

Governor Adams, who had spent the day packing his effects, surrendered his office to Governor Peabody shortly after 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Scores of letters, telegrams and telephone messages had reached the executive chamber during the day urging Governor Adams to hold his seat by force, but he decided to ignore this advice. In conversation he said he felt outraged at the action of the general assembly and expressed surprise that Mr. Peabody should become a party to what he termed a conspiracy to secure the office of governor for a man who had no claim whatever to the place. Governor Adams will issue a formal statement to the people upon the result of the contest.

### ASKS ISSUANCE OF MANDATE.

Northern Securities Makes Application to Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON—William P. Clough, for the Northern Securities company, made application to the supreme court for issuance of the mandate in the case of E. H. Harriman and others against the Northern Securities company in consequence of the decision of the court in favor of the company. He based it on the ground that until the mandate should be issued \$5,000,000 worth of property would be tied up by the injunction of the New Jersey court, and this was an injustice to the public and the owners of the property.

Maxwell Evarts, representing the opposing side, objected to the motion, saying that the mandate should not issue until the opinion of the court in the case is handed down.

### CARRIED ON CUT RATES.

Refers to Traffic Moving Through Atlantic and Gulf Ports.

CHICAGO, Ill.—During the remainder of this year all the import traffic which moves through the Atlantic and Gulf ports will be carried on cut rates. This fact developed at the joint import conference, which was held Friday with representatives present from all the trunk lines, the Central Freight association lines and lines between Chicago and the Missouri river and between the gulf and the river.

When an attempt was made to restore an import rate it quickly developed that practically all of the imports of the country had been contracted for at reduced rates, averaging not more than 50 per cent of the regular rates. It was agreed that during 1906 nominal tariffs should be adhered to. The question of differentials between the gulf and the Atlantic ports was discussed and a committee will be appointed to settle the matter. For the present, however, there is no agreed differential.

### Railroads Defy Commission.

SAN FRANCISCO—The law departments of the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe have reached an agreement respecting the orange rates. They have decided to ignore the recent decision of the Interstate Commerce commission, which decided that the rate of \$1.25 on oranges from California to all eastern points was unreasonable and should be reduced to \$1.15. In other words, the railroads propose to require the payment of the existing rate unless the orange shippers can find relief in court.

## KOURAPATKIN OUT

DISMISSED IN DISGRACE ON THE FIELD.

### LINEVITCH IS HIS SUCCESSOR

Fate of the Army of Manchuria Now in His Hands.—The New Commander a Line Officer With a Long Record as a Fighter.

ST. PETERSBURG—With the Japanese hanging on the heels and flanks of the remnants of the broken, defeated Russian army, General Kourapatkin, the old idol of the private soldier, has been dismissed and disgraced and General Linevitch, commander of the First army, is appointed to succeed him in command of all the Russian land and sea forces operating against Japan. The word disgrace is written in large letters in the laconic imperial order gazetted, which contains not a single word of praise and also disposes of the rumor that Kourapatkin had asked to be relieved. The Russian military annals contain no more bitter imperial rebuke.

Decided anxiety is felt regarding the fate of the army in Manchuria under its new commander. No news of military developments during the last three days have been received. The only dispatches from the front are the brief announcements yesterday that General Linevitch had assumed command and that General Kourapatkin, disposing of a rumor that Kourapatkin had committed suicide, and the Associated Press' Changtufa dispatch of the morning of March 16, and written at the station of Kaiyuan, which was then held by the Russians. In this correspondent's opinion no pause in the Japanese advance is probable for some time. The Russians were losing heavily in the rear guard actions and Japanese columns are reported to be pushing northward, as fast as possible to complete the envelopment of the Russian forces.

General Linevitch will have a considerable accession of fresh troops in a day or two, the Fourth European corps being now at Harbin and departing southward. Military officers declare that there are now 268,000 men at General Linevitch's disposal in Manchuria, and it is believed that this force will be sufficient to cause the Japanese to exercise greater caution in their pursuit.

### FRANCE STOPS THE LOAN.

No More Money for Russia if She Persist in War.

PARIS—The postponement of the Russian loan is definitely confirmed. This is likely to exert a powerful influence towards peace as it is the first time the French financiers have shown an indisposition to advance funds while the uncertainties of war continue.

A committee representing the syndicate of French underwriters went to St. Petersburg to arrange the conditions with the minister of finance and a contract was drawn up for a loan taking the form of treasury bonds running seven years at 5 per cent. The contract was then brought back to Paris for the approval of all the underwriters.

In the meantime the disastrous events in Manchuria naturally aroused doubts on the part of the financiers as to whether Russia would make peace or pursue the war. The influence of the financial elements was almost unanimous for peace but Russia's disinclination to consider peace appears to have induced the decision not to proceed with the contract and accordingly the signing, which was expected yesterday has been postponed and all the pending negotiations are also postponed.

### RECORD OF NEW COMMANDER

Has Taken Part in Russian Wars Since He Was Twenty-one.

ST. PETERSBURG—Lieutenant General Linevitch, the new commander of the Russian land and sea forces in the far east, is in the sixty-sixth year of his age. He was fighting in the Caucasus when he was 21, took part in the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-8, and has since then taken part in all of Russia's campaigns. Linevitch was also prominent in the relief of the legations at Peking. He is greatly beloved by the soldiers because of his constant solicitude for their welfare.

At the battle of Mukden General Linevitch was reported, March 5, as stubbornly holding his position and as having repulsed thirteen consecutive attacks of the Japanese, but in spite of this he is said to have escaped with slight losses, and March 13 he entered the Russian lines south of Tie Pass with his regiments in perfect order. The following day the Russian troops, apparently those commanded by General Linevitch, repulsed an attack at the Fan river, the Japanese leaving 1,000 killed before the Russian position.

### Girls Lead Strike Breakers.

CHICAGO—Girl leaders have escorted hundreds of strike breakers to safety from the big clothing factories in the wholesale district, which were besieged by workers' pickets. The employers adopted this strategy successfully when it was feared the police would be unable to prevent a serious clash between the union and non-union factions. From the workrooms of the International Tailoring company and of Fred Kaufman the young women marched through crowds of jeering strikers without flinching.