

SQUIRE JOHN

A TALE OF THE CUBAN WAR

BY ST. GEORGE RATHBONE

Copyright, 1897, by F. Tennyson Neely. Copyright, 1899, by Street and Smith.

CHAPTER XXV.

On the Way to the Plaza de Toros. Smithers is secretly delighted with the great nerve exhibited by his patron, for if there is anything on earth the secret agent admires, it is pure grit.

Havana is never thoroughly awake until this hour of sunset, and to-night the gay capital means to outdo every previous effort. The horrors of war will be forgotten in the grandeur of a military carnival, and until the small hours of the early morning merriment must abound.

Aroused from his reverie by the coming of a servant, Jack is again led to the dining hall, where he finds the senorita awaiting him.

She looks more ravishingly beautiful than before, and might charm the most confirmed bachelor; but Jack touches the card-board in the pocket over his heart, and lo! before his eyes appears an angelic face, a brown-haired, rosy-cheeked, blue-eyed lassie, and he feels secure. That is his talisman; he fears no fetish in existence. They become quite sociable over the dinner.

She describes some of the wonderful sights he will see at the grand reception, and the ardor with which she enters upon the subject declares that, after all, modern Joan of Arc as she has proven herself, leading the patriots into battle, Lola is but a woman, with all the love of her sex for gay scenes, where music and jewels and lovely damsels, as well as dashing military gallants, hold court with Terpsichore.

Then Smithers bobs up serenely and proceeds to make himself quite at home at the table of this most singular Cuban senorita.

Jack is struck by the fact, and shoots a quick glance from one face to the other, as a sudden suspicion gallops through his brain. Can it be possible there is any relation between these two? It would be remarkable, indeed, after he found himself thrown into the company of Lola at Santa Fe and Smithers in Edinburgh, to have them turn out father and daughter; and yet, after all, not more singular than some other chapters in his experience. At least, a mysterious tie connects them that is more cogent than the fact of their being both sworn to the service of Cuba libera.

Half an hour later the two men, having altered their usual street dress for something more appropriate to the captain general's reception, leave the sylvan retreat in which they have found such a refuge, and with Ah Sin as a bodyguard, head in the direction of the Plaza de Toros.

Even Jack's phlegmatic, cold Yankee blood is stirred by the picture presented by the wide square thronged with people, as seen under the numerous glittering electric lights, and a variety of glowing colored lanterns hung for effect upon the branches of orange trees or over the booths of the street vendors.

It is a grand holiday for Havana, and her citizens desire to make the most of it; for, in spite of the presence of so many soldiers, the merchants are uneasy about the future, knowing that, as of old, Cuba is proving the graveyard for the flower of Spain's army, and it has become simply a test of endurance. They see new troops constantly arriving and going to the front, multitudes being brought back sick, and shipped home or buried; while Gomez and Maceo and Garcia still hold their own, sometimes making their presence known by a dash into the very suburbs of the capital.

In glancing around with some curiosity as they make slow progress



They become quite sociable over the dinner.

toward the doors which have just been opened to the crowd, Jack is struck with the merry nature of the general assemblage. A gathering of people celebrating a holiday throw dull care to the wind, and although in places the crush is intense, the little shrieks from senoritas and the exclamations of the caballeros are uttered in sport. "Look!" says Smithers, pulling his sleeve.

Turning to the right, Jack notices a large tent or booth that has been raised, and under it may be seen for a small fee the camp of the Spanish gitanos, together with that mad whirl known as the gipsy dance. Just beyond is a small pavilion, and at the entrance a lusty lunge, orator announces the appearance of the charming Senorita

Sylvia, just over from Seville, in that most amazing of all Andalusian dances the bolero.

Though at another time Jack might have delighted in gazing upon these distinctly characteristic features of a Cuban holiday, he has too much on his mind just at present to award them anything more than an artificial glance.

Other gates are opened, and as the people pour through to scatter about the immense inclosure, the crush without diminishes.

Finally their turn arrives; there is something of a squeeze, and at length they find themselves beyond the barriers.

In all Spanish speaking countries the one national sport is bull-baiting. Wherever the language of Spain prevails there will be found the Plaza de Toros, toward which the people flock on holidays, as Britons do to the cricket and golf games and Americans the baseball field. That standard of "sport" is a sure thermometer to the nature of the people. Spaniards have, it must be confessed, a reputation for cruelty far in excess of their Anglo-Saxon neighbors, though they also possess many admirable qualities when you come to know them at home. One may witness a bullfight in almost any South American country, although here and there an element hostile to such bloody sport is gradually gaining headway.

CHAPTER XXVI.

How a Black Bull Ran the Circus. While in Mexico, Jack has been a spectator at a bullfight, and that one sight quite satisfied him. He never wants to look upon another.

It is with a keen interest, however, that he now glances around. The place has been gaily decorated. Pillar and post are covered with bunting; bright colors meet the eye in every direction. Even the ring where such spirited action occurred only a few hours before has had all traces of the bullfight removed, and a portion of the crowd wanders over the ten-bark and wonders how it would feel to be chased around the ring by a savage beast with sharp horns, a massive neck and steaming breath.

Already the vast amphitheater is beginning to show quite an animated appearance as the audience scatters to various quarters.

Jack and Smithers, having secured a position that affords a good view of the whole expanse, stand there to comment upon it.

Some parties are talking on the right, and Jack catches the drift of what they say. The leading speaker is an American, but his two companions seem to be, one a French tourist, the other a Cuban merchant.

The New Yorker has evidently attended the great entertainment given by the management the previous afternoon, and as he is still filled with the to him, unusual spectacle of a bullfight, he describes it in snatches, while the Parisian exclaims in wonder, and the Cuban nods his head approvingly, as though proud of the fact that his land may provide an amusement unequalled for desperate valor and the shedding of gore since the days of Roman gladiators.

"Well, sir," the American is saying, "the black fellow overtook the banderillero who had been throwing fancy darts at him, and with one gigantic sweep of his superb head he sent the wretch flying through space. I never saw such a sight. Jove! he must have gone twenty feet high, his arms and legs flying in every direction. Over the barrier he came, struck this pillar, and fell in a heap. They carried him away to the Hospital San Merced, but 've since heard he is dead."

"Mon Dieu! it must have been a wonderful sight," declares the Gaul, as he surveys the high fence.

"Caramba! what other country could produce such a rare spectacle?" asks the Cuban proudly, as he puffs away at his cigar.

"I know of nothing that can approach it unless it be our annual Thanksgiving college football game on Berkeley Oval," replies the man from New York with a perceptible sneer.

"Was that all?" asks Paris. "Ah! Not by a jug full. Ah? Well, I wish you could have seen it. That was only the beginning, my dear man. The bull seemed to be possessed of a devil; like a crazy Chinaman running amuck, he saw only foes around him. The way he tossed those chaps was a caution. Men and horses fell victims; he soon had them so badly rattled that not one would enter the ring. They sat on the fence and defied him, and even then if the rascals made a rush every perch in that quarter was vacated."

"And the matador—the unequalled Pepito?" asks the Cuban eagerly. "Oh, he was game enough. I give you my word. He lacked discretion, that was all. But he did better than the poor banderillero who got his neck broken."

"Ah, better, say you? Pepito always excelled in anything he undertook," remarks the Havana merchant, with pardonable pride.

"Yes," continued the American drily, "he went some six feet further than the other poor devil; but, then, you see, no pillar stopped his aerial flight and he dropped into the seats, thus spurring his life."

The Gaul laughs, the Cuban scowls,

and then joins in the merriment. "Carajo! then if the only Pepito could not master the black devil, who did?" he demands.

"No one. All the purses in Havana did not tempt another matador to pick up the sword."

"Then the bull is still alive?"

"Very much so, I should imagine. Listen; I think I hear him now."

"Senior, you make no mistake. That is the bull beyond the door. I have heard many such bellow, but none give tongue like that. Por Dios! this place may not contain the multitude of people who will flock hither to see such a famous beast."

"It would be a terrible thing. I am thinking, if the old brute smashed down the door of his pen and suddenly entered the arena now. Good heavens! I can imagine the distracting scene that would follow. The band is directly in his way. We would have music in the air then, and no mistake."

"Senior, it would not be possible."

"That door doesn't appear any too strong, and he has fearful shoulders,



At the bull fight. A wonderful neck. If he came against it full tilt I should expect to see the whole thing cave away."

"Sacre! let us hope such an idea may not enter the mind of Mr. Bull," says the Frenchman, with the usual Parisian shrug.

Jack mechanically casts his eyes in the direction of the door indicated and makes up his mind on the spot that the American is a keen observer, for there appears to be a frail look about the barrier which he really does not like.

Smithers' thoughts appear to run in something of the same groove.

"Suppose the vicious old chap should take a notion to introduce himself to the Captain General, and you were down yonder at the time, what would you do, Senior Jack?" is what he asks. "I do not like to say. It would seem like boasting, and yet, with a weapon I know how to handle, and helpless women in danger of death down there, I would be a coward if I failed in my duty."

Quietly said, but Smithers realizes he means every word. Little does he dream that what he sees now in imagination may be a reality ere the night passes.

"I notice some one you want to communicate with, Senior Jack," he exclaims.

"Over yonder you are looking. I fail to discover her," replies the other, eagerly.

"Pardon; you mistake me. I meant him."

"Senior Roblado—Spencer?"

"No, no; the American consul. See, he is chatting with the ladies."

"You are right."

"Then give me the letter, and I will see that it reaches his hands."

"O, yes—that is, if I haven't made a beastly mistake and left it in my other coat. No, here it is. Thanks, my dear fellow."

(To be continued.)

PERILS OF THE STOWAWAY.

One Part of the Game Wise Old Tramp Avoided.

"The most dangerous graft of all is the stowaways," said a tramp. "I wouldn't stowaway. Never."

He regarded thoughtfully a crack in his shoe. He passed his hand tenderly over his bristly chin.

"Two lads I knew stowed away in '97 in the coal bunkers of a Portuguese merchantman. The second day out the coal crushed them to death. A fireman found them lying side by side, holding each other's hands. "A friend of mine was a sailor before he took to the road. Once he was on a brigantine bound for Malabar. In the forecabin he and his mates heard one night a scratching and they thought it was ghosts. The next night and the next day they heard this scratching, very loud and fierce. The next night it was weaker. The next it stopped. When they came to open the hatches at the voyage end they found the skinny body of a stowaway that had starved to death. Then they wished they hadn't been so superstitious."

"It never pays to try to come into this country as a stowaway. Captains are mighty careful to see that they let no stowaways land. Why? Why, because any captain that brings in a stowaway to America is liable to be fined \$2,500."

"I've been brave and reckless in my time. I've been robbed and I've fought and I've forged. I never had the nerve, though, to stowaway."

Czarina's Coronation Robe.

The coronation robe presented to the Empress of Russia was of fur. It weighed only sixteen ounces, yet was worth \$6,000, or \$375 an ounce.

COL. CODY LOSES

COURT FINDS HE IS NOT ENTITLED TO A DIVORCE.

DEFENDANT WINS ALL POINTS

Judge Scott of Wyoming Says that the Plaintiff Failed to Prove Any of the Allegations in His Complaint.

SHERIDAN, Wyo.—The district court here on Thursday refused the petition of Colonel William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) for a divorce.

A decision in the case was not expected before Friday at the earliest, but the court room was filled with residents of Sheridan and the surrounding country when it was given. After the reading of the depositions was finished the lawyers for both sides announced that they would submit the case without argument. After a short recess Judge R. H. Scott asked the attorneys for the defendant, Wilcox & Halligan of North Platte, Neb., to amend their answer in the case by striking out those sections which dealt with charges against Colonel Cody's conduct in Chicago and his early excesses at Fort McPherson. When this was done the court found entirely in favor of the defendant, Mrs. Louisa Cody.

Judge Scott delivered an opinion of considerable length, reviewing the allegations and evidence and giving his conclusions.

"The law of the state does not make incompatibility a ground for divorce, but it does read that extreme cruelty, rendering the condition of either party to the marriage contract intolerable is sufficient ground to allow the granting of a divorce."

"The first cause of action in this case is the charge of poisoning on December 26, 1900, or some time prior thereto. The evidence wholly fails to support this issue, but shows the defendant was trying to rescue the plaintiff from a state of intoxication and administered not poison, but remedies which she deemed beneficial to him. His inability to speak on this occasion did not come from these remedies, but came from his excessive use of intoxicating liquors at the banquet board, and was humiliating to the defendant as to the plaintiff."

"The unhappiness caused by the actions of the plaintiff is shown by the letter of their daughter Arta Thorpe, whose beautiful character shone out from her unhappy home and the words of her letter written before her death: 'Oh, papa, why did he do it. My heart is just broken over it. Oh, why did he do it?'"

Judge Scott also found that the charge of unbecoming actions on the part of the defendant toward the colonel's guests was not proven, that there was no evidence that she had even threatened her husband's life and that when attending the funeral of her daughter Arta at Rochester, N. Y., in February 1904, she offered a permanent reconciliation and no answer ever came to this. He then continued:

"She was an over-indulgent mother and wife who always took pride in his success and always looked forward to his home-coming and made great preparations to receive him."

"She entertained his guests with cordiality. She did not use profane language. The poisoning of his pet dogs was accidental. She never spoke disrespectfully of him to his friends or guests. She always accompanied him to the depot on his departure and was there to receive him on his return. In return for this wifely devotion the plaintiff has been cruel to her and heaped indignities upon her."

An exception to the ruling of the court was not noted by Judge H. S. Ridgley, attorney for Colonel Cody, and his request for sixty days for filing a petition for a rehearing was granted.

The motion for a new trial will be argued at the next term of court and in case this is denied Cody's attorneys will take the matter to the supreme court of Wyoming.

JULES VERNE PASSES AWAY.

Novelist Dies at His Home in Amiens Surrounded by His Family.

AMIENS, France—Jules Verne died on Friday. His family was at his bedside.

M. Verne has been subject to chronic diabetes, but the disease did not assume a critical aspect until March 10. He gradually failed and the end was hastened by a stroke of paralysis covering his right side until the tongue was affected. The novelist retained consciousness until shortly before his death. He calmly foresaw death, called the members of his family to his bedside and discussed his departure. Deceased was born in 1828.

China Will Be Good.

ST. PETERSBURG—Paul Lezsai, the Russian minister to China, has transmitted to the foreign office the most solemn assurances from the Chinese government regarding its intention to preserve neutrality.

RETREAT GOES ON.

The Russian Army Continues Toward Harbin.

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

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

RACE FOR HARBIN

Issue Depends on Marching Abilities of Armies.

ST. PETERSBURG—In view of the increasing number of doctors required at the front an official order was published Tuesday permitting during the war the appointment of students to medical posts and allowing foreigners to join the service.

General Linevitch's headquarters has been established for the present at Chenchiwatzu, situated at the crossing of the Sungari river, whence he is directing the retreat of the three armies and disposing of the fresh troops of the Fourth corps, just arriving from European Russia. The protection of the Sungari bridge is vital to the salvation of the army, as the river is not fordable below Kirin, and once the line of the river is passed and the bridge blown up the Japanese pursuit will be effectually checked. At the same time the second army is falling back on the line of the railroad, while the first and third, with transport, are retreating along the Mandarin road to Kirin, both destroying bridges and roads and denuding the country behind them and making it impossible for the Japanese to live in the immediate wake of the retreat without their own commissariat. The Japanese are advancing over the Grand Trade route, twenty miles west of the railroad. However, they could probably live on the country, the road, just before the opening of the navigation of the Liao river, being crowded with Chinese provisions on the way to market southward.

Apparently it is a question as to which army will outmatch the other, although the general staff seriously doubts the ability of Field Marshal Oyama's fatigued soldiers, with the difficulties of getting guns, ammunition and provisions over the ruined roads, to continue the pursuit energetically.

No information is available regarding the strength of the Japanese column advancing along the Grand Trade route, but the war office says it is hardly large enough to constitute a menace with the dispositions General Linevitch is able to make of such troops. Nevertheless, St. Petersburg is in the dark as to the exact situation, and, considering the resourcefulness of the Japanese, there is constant fear that they may manage to get astride of the railroad and bar the Russians' retreat.

The Russian army in Manchuria is still to have the services of General Kouropatkin, who is considered by many, in spite of his series of reverses, the best general and foremost strategist of the Russian army. Sinking all feeling of personal bitterness because of his supercession and all the old time enmity between himself and General Linevitch in a patriotic desire to be of service to the fatherland, the former commander-in-chief volunteered to remain in any capacity with the army which he had so long commanded. The tender has been accepted by Emperor Nicholas and gratefully received by the new leader of the grand army.

MUST FALL BACK.

Rumor that Russians Will Not Be Able to Make Stand at Harbin.

ST. PETERSBURG—The possibility that if the Russian army should be unable to hold the lower line of the Sungari river at Chunchiatzu it may be compelled to retreat not only to Harbin, but also further westward along the railroad, abandoning to the Japanese northern Manchuria and the Russian maritime Amur provinces as well, is the latest startling news from the front.

The strategic weakness of General Linevitch's position as he falls back northward is made clear by a Gunshu dispatch to the Associated Press, in which it is pointed out that unless Chunchiatzu and the Sungari lines, a scant 100 miles below Harbin, can be held, it will be difficult to maintain a position farther back before Harbin, where, with the front of the army paralleling the railroad, the practicability of a turning movement to completely sever communication and isolate the army 6,000 miles from home, is too serious for Russian consideration. In view of this possibility the dispatch alluded to suggests the advisability of immediately providing Vladivostok with war munitions and supplies for a two year's siege. The correspondent estimates the number of reinforcements needed to give General Linevitch the requisite superiority in force at 200,000.

Cody Divorce Case Drags.

SHERIDAN, Wyo.—Reading of depositions in the Cody divorce case was continued here Tuesday before Judge Richard A. Cott, in the district court. Numerous objections raised by counsel are delaying proceedings. Final arguments will be reached Thursday or Friday.

New Ritual for B'Nai B'Rith.

NEW ORLEANS—The convention of the grand lodge, Independent Order B'Nai B'Rith, which has been in session here since Sunday, held an executive session Thursday night. The day session was taken up largely with committee reports. Late in the session commemorative services in honor of deceased members was conducted. At the session the report of the committee on ritual was adopted. This is a new ritual of secret work in force, greatly expanding and improving the features.

STATES OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, I. S. S.

LUCAS COUNTY. FRANK J. CHERNEY makes oath that he is a partner of the firm of F. J. CHERNEY & CO., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHERNEY sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1906.

A. W. SLEAHOX, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for treatise, free.

F. J. CHERNEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists, etc. Take Hall's Catarrh Cure for constipation.

Don't quarrel with the cook until after you have dined.

Dwarfs of Ox Family.

One of the greatest curiosities among the domesticated animals of Ceylon is a breed of cattle, known to the zoologist as the "sacred running oxen." They are the dwarfs of the whole ox family, the largest specimens of the species never exceeding 30 inches in height.

Mad Dogs Held Sacred.

It is claimed that if a dog goes mad among the Mokis, a special house is built for him, and there he is kept and nursed in the greatest reverence until he dies. Like the venomous reptile, the mad dog is sacred to this eccentric Arizona redskin.

Wedding Anniversaries.

Wedding anniversaries follow: First, cotton; second, paper; third, leather; fifth, wood; seventh, wool; 10th, tin; 12th, silk and fine linen; 15th, crystal; 20th, china; 25th, silver; 30th, pearl; 40th, ruby; 50th, gold; 75th, diamond.

Mosquito's "Usefulness" Lasting.

The old fashioned theory that a mosquito bites but once and then dies is a myth. Some varieties are ready for all comers although it takes three days to digest a full meal of blood.

What the Dentist Says.

Toledo, Ohio, March 27th.—(Special.)—Harry T. Lewis, the well known dentist of 607 Summit street, this city, is telling of his remarkable cure of Kidney Disease by using Dodd's Kidney Pills.

"I was flat on my back and must say I had almost given up all hope of ever getting any help," says Dr. Lewis.

"My kidneys had troubled me for years. The pains in my back were severe and I had to get up several times at night. I tried different medicines but kept on getting worse till I was laid up."

"Then a friend advised me to try Dodd's Kidney Pills and in about two weeks I started to improve. Now I am glad to admit I am cured and cannot praise Dodd's Kidney Pills too highly."

If you take Dodd's Kidney Pills when your kidneys first show signs of being out of order you will never have Bright's Disease, Diabetes, Dropsy, Gravel or Rheumatism.

It is something to be very proud of if one has been so sick they had to have the doorbell muffled.

A 480-ACRE FARM YIELDS 25 PER CENT PROFIT IN A YEAR.

What a Mercer County (Ohio) Farmer Received from One Year's Crop.

Extracts from an interesting letter from P. H. Rynhard, of Starbuck, Manitoba, Canada, gives an excellent idea of the prosperity of those who have gone from the United States to Canada. He says:

"I bought, August, 1903, 480 acres of land, paying \$12,000 for it. We threshed 2,973 bushels of wheat and between 1,200 and 1,300 bushels of oats and barley from 200 acres. But part of the wheat went down before filling and was not harvested except for hay. The crop was worth at threshing time, \$3,000. Besides 120 acres laying idle except a timothy meadow, which is not included in this estimate. Counting the value of the product and the increase of value of land will pay me more than 25 per cent on the investment. Two brothers in the same neighborhood bought 160 acres each six years ago. They have not done a single thing to this land except to fence it and break and cultivate about one-half of it. Harvested last year 28 bushels wheat per acre. This year 27 bushels per acre. They can get any day \$25 per acre. These are only a few of many hundreds of such chances. It looks like boasting, but truth is justifiable and the world ought to know it, especially the home-seeker. I know of quite a few farmers that have made fortunes in from 10 to 20 years, retired with from \$20,000 to \$100,000."

Writing concerning another district in the Canadian West, S. L. Short says:

"Dear Sir—I have to inform you that I have just returned from the Carrot River Country in Saskatchewan, where I located land of the very finest black vegetable loam, which I am proud of, and will move in the spring. Farmers are still plowing there. A mild climate and beautiful country to behold. Cattle are fat and running outside. Wood and water good. Saw oats weighing 42 pounds to bushel. Potatoes large and well ripened; also wheat that brought there 82 cents. The country exceeded my expectations. Saw oats in stock, thicker on the ground than appears in many of the illustrations sent out in descriptive pamphlets. I have been in many western states, but the soil excels any I ever saw."

The Canadian Government Agents at different points report that the enquiries for literature and railroad rates, &c., to Western Canada, are the greatest in the history of their work.

Some people drop out of a social set and others climb out.

STATES OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, I. S. S.

LUCAS COUNTY. FRANK J. CHERNEY makes oath that he is a partner of the firm of F. J. CHERNEY & CO., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHERNEY sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1906.

A. W. SLEAHOX, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for treatise, free.

F. J. CHERNEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all Druggists, etc. Take Hall's Catarrh Cure for constipation.

Don't quarrel with the cook until after you have dined.