

THE MATE OF THE HINDU

By Captain RALPH DAVIS.

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Give me two others, and we will take the places of the guards below. Put the whole guard under arrest and search every man. When you come to examine the man, you will discover that all are unloaded. After taking care of the guards there should be an inspection of the cages and the prisoners. They have been using saws and files down below."

The guard below was re-enforced and the cages examined. Bury had been out in every one of them, and it had been planned to make a rush and capture the bark as the first gang was turned up. We hadn't got to the bottom of affairs yet when a British man-of-war, on her way home from the Cape, was alongside of us.

CHAPTER VIII. HOW MATTERS IMPROVED.

The man-of-war remained with us until the cages were made secure, and when ready to resume her voyage Hooper, Larkins and Green were ordered aboard to be landed in England. They made no objections, knowing that we could clap them in irons if they remained on the bark. There wasn't the slightest doubt that they had shipped for the purpose of liberating the prisoners, but there were reasons why we wished to be rid of them as quietly as possible.

among the passengers, you will remember, while Thomas was the man we were returning to the Cape. I wish to give Dr. Haxton all possible credit, and therefore say that he made an earnest effort to do his duty after we resumed our voyage. The trouble with him was that he was not the man for the place. He was not a good judge of human nature, and he lacked that force of character which compels respect and that courage which enforces obedience almost without command.

We had many days of fine weather after the man-of-war left us, and no convict ship ever held her course under more favorable auspices. It was during this period that I began to see more of Mary Williams. I have admitted that I had taken a great fancy to the girl. You may even call it a case of love on my part, and I will not deny the allegation. I was not so soft headed, however, as to flatter myself that I could win her in a week. Her parents felt grateful to me, and I knew that she shared in the feeling. Why not? I had helped to save her from lasting ignominy. This feeling of gratitude caused her to meet me in a friendly manner, and I compelled myself to be satisfied with that. Whenever circumstances would permit, I smoothed my path, as you might expect, and as any other man would, but I flatter myself that I used more diplomacy than many another sailor would in my position.

I must tell you the conclusion we reached after a bit regarding the convicts. When I say "we," I mean Captain Clark and myself, for we did not always take the doctor or the second mate into our confidence, and as for the passengers, of course, they had nothing to say. We felt that we should be perfectly safe until reaching the Cape. We might give the convicts ever so good an opportunity to mutiny and they would not take advantage of it. The meeting with the man-of-war had settled that matter. Two days after Captain Hodgson left us we met a second cruiser, and on the fourth day we exchanged signals with a third. The convicts would figure that mutiny in the regular track of government vessels was altogether too risky. But after leaving the Cape the hour of peril would come. Once to the eastward of the Mozambique channel, with the island of Madagascar far to the north, we should have entered upon the broad expanse of the Indian ocean, where a craft might sail for days and weeks without sighting a sail. There were sailors among the convicts, and there were others who knew the Australian coast and the coasts of Java and Sumatra and the off lying islands. Once let them get possession of the bark and they had only to keep her head northeast to find 100 safe havens. I should have been less anxious if Ben Johnson had talked and exhibited more or less defiance after his whipping. He would then have acted a natural part. Instead of that he became humble almost to cringing, and I was sure he had an object in view in assuming this role. One afternoon while he was at work on deck he asked permission of the doctor to speak to me. I had passed close to him 100 times since the whipping, but he had never raised his eyes to mine. On this occasion, when I approached him, he said:

"Mr. Tompkins, it may make no difference to you what my feelings are toward you, but in spite of my being a convict I have not lost all self respect. I swore falsely against you and am sorry for it."

"That is past and gone," I said, hardly knowing how to take him. "I have threatened you and—others since I came aboard the ship, and I am sorry for that," he continued. "Well?" I answered. "I admit that I was a leader in the conspiracy, and I say that my punishment was well deserved."

"And now what do you wish?" "Simply to say that I regret everything, sir, and that I am firmly resolved to be a better man. I have influence over the gang aboard. I shall exert it in the right direction. There will be no more trouble aboard this craft. I know that a good word from the officers of

This ship to the authorities of Botany Bay will count for much in my favor. I'm thinking, sir, that if all goes well and you see me trying to do what's right you'll overlook the past and be willing to speak in my favor."

are neither hard hearted nor overcautious as a class, but I should have had a more favorable opinion of Ben Johnson and my mind would also have been easier about things below deck had he not sought the interview. As a matter of fact I did not believe a word he said. His past career, his present demeanor, the very tone in which he spoke, made me doubtful of his sincerity. No man can point me out a case where villainy has been whipped out of a man's heart through his hide. I was satisfied that the man was playing a part which would come to the surface later on, and his promises and protestations did not cause me to relax my vigilance one jot.

If I have given you the idea that I was carrying most of the burden on my shoulders, let me explain that as mate of the ship my responsibilities were not confined to caring for the craft during my watch. Knowing as we did that the doctor was not to be fully trusted, I had to have an eye out in his direction. It was one of my duties to make a daily inspection of the food furnished the convicts. I had to make a daily examination of the cages between decks. In company with the doctor I had to oversee the gangs while they were being bathed or washed down on deck. The government required daily reports from the ship's officers as well as the doctor on several matters. Then, you will remember, I was part owner of the bark and financially interested in the voyage, and you may guess the fact of Mary Williams being aboard did not serve to lessen my anxieties.

We had run south until off the Hottentot coast, carrying favorable winds and fine weather and having no more trouble with our convicts, when something like a tragedy happened one afternoon. The breeze died away soon after noon, leaving the ship lazily heaving on the ground swell. We had among the prisoners a young man named Edgar Davis. In one way and another by that time I had come to know what particular crime most every one was guilty of. Davis' offense was passing a forged check. He belonged to No. 3 gang, and I had picked him out from the first as being of the better class at home. When called upon to give his trade, he replied that he had none, being a salesman in a silk store for several years previous to his conviction. He stated that he was a good penman, however, and asked to be allowed some light work of that sort owing to his poor state of health. After a couple of weeks the doctor detailed him to fill out the various blanks required by the government, and later on I turned over a part of my work to him. He was a quiet spoken young man, and the three or four months he had been imprisoned had broken down his health. There was no doubt in his own mind that consumption had a fast hold on him.

Davis told me his story one day. He had presented the check and got the money for another, having no idea that anything was wrong. I cannot recall all the particulars at this late day, but I am free to say that his story impressed me as being truthful. He had been sentenced for ten years. He did not assume the role of a martyr, as most convicts do, nor did he revile judge and jury, as is the usual course. In fact, he made no complaint, not even of his sickness, and though he was granted special favors it was not because he had first asked for them. Well, on this afternoon of the calm, while everything was very quiet aboard, the attention of several of the sailors was attracted to a monster shark alongside, and after a bit we all crowded to the port rail for a look. The fish was fully 15 feet long and on the lookout for his dinner. Had we been a merchant vessel Jack would have been allowed to drop over a hook and have a frolic with his old enemy, but the nature of our "cargo" prohibited any such excitement. We had been watching the shark for ten minutes, and its presence was known to all on deck, though the convicts were not allowed to leave their work to look at him, when there was a sudden rush along the deck, a shout, a splash, and we were horrified to see Davis, the convict, struggling in the water. No, he was not struggling. As he came to the surface he whirled over on his back, folded his arms and waited for the shark to take him. A dozen men cried out, and a dozen men ran about, but the fact was that nothing could be done. Two ropes which were thrown fell right across Davis' breast, but he threw them off. The order was given to lower a boat, but before the falls had been cleared the shark made a rush and drew the poor fellow down to be seen no more. It would have seemed sorrowful enough had he planned to commit suicide by drowning, but to throw himself to a shark as he knowingly did was an act to make one's flesh creep a bit as he remembered the cruel eyes staring up at us from the green waters and the mouth filled with sharp teeth which opened now and then as if the monster intended to make an upward spring and snap at one of the heads overlooking the rail.

"I am sorry for that."

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JNO. S. KIRKPATRICK, Attorney and Solicitor. Room 23 and 24 Richards Block, Lincoln Neb. Counsel for Nebraska Law & Collection Company. H. D. RHEA, Attorney-at-Law, Office—24 Floor, Brownell Block. Telephone 108. LINCOLN, NEB.

Notice of Incorporation. Notice is hereby given that articles of incorporation have been filed in the office of the county clerk of Lancaster county, Neb., according to the statutes of Nebraska, as follows: 1. Name, Central Land company. 2. Principal place of business, Lincoln, Neb. 3. Nature of business to be transacted: To buy, hold, sub-divide, plat, sell and convey, mortgage and encumber real estate. To borrow or loan money, to buy, hold, sell, transfer and assign all kinds of real, personal or mixed estate in any lawful way, and to transact such other business as may be auxiliary thereto. 4. Authorized capital stock, \$25,000, to be paid in such assessments of such per cent and at such times as shall be ordered by the board of directors. 5. Commenced business October 12, 1896, and continues for twenty years. 6. Indebtedness not to exceed two-thirds of capital stock. 7. Business to be conducted by a board of directors. Officers shall be president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

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Christmas and New Year's Holiday Rates. The Burlington will on December 24 and 25, also on December 31 and January 1, 1897, sell round trip tickets to points within 200 miles at one fare and a third. Tickets good to return until January 4, 1897. Take advantage of this and visit your friends. G. W. BONNELL, G. P. & T. A. BANE & ALTSOUBLER.

In the District Court of Lancaster County Nebraska. NOTICE. Andrew J. Howland, Plaintiff. Patrick Kelly and Mary Kelly, his wife, W. A. G. L. Woodward, William M. Wilson, John L. Parson, John Cunningham, James E. Kinney, Fred Miller Brewing Company of Milwaukee, Hilda J. Westburg, William M. Seitz and Joseph Chandler, Defendants. To the defendants, William M. Wilson, John L. Parson, John Cunningham, James E. Kinney, Fred Miller Brewing Company of Milwaukee, Hilda J. Westburg, William M. Seitz and Joseph Chandler: The above named defendants will take notice that on the 17th day of December, 1896, Andrew J. Howland, plaintiff herein, filed a petition in the district court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, against Patrick Kelly and Mary Kelly, his wife, and all the defendants in the above entitled case, the object and prayer of which are to foreclose a certain mortgage executed by the defendants, Patrick Kelly and Mary Kelly, to W. A. G. L. Woodward, and duly assigned by said William Howland, and to the plaintiff herein, said mortgage being in the above entitled case, the principal thereof being due on the first day of September, 1897; that there is now due and unpaid on said mortgage and interest thereon \$1,040, for which sum, with interest from December 1st, 1896, the plaintiff prays for a decree of foreclosure and sale of said premises, and that his mortgage is declared to be a first lien upon said premises. You are required to answer said petition on or before the 26th day of January, 1897. Andrew J. Howland, Plaintiff. By Bane & Altsouler, his attorneys.

Notice of Petition For Letters. In re Estate of Charles C. Morse, deceased, in the County Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska. The state of Nebraska, to Clarence E. Morse, Harriet C. Morse and to any other person interested in said matter. Take notice, that a petition signed by C. E. Morse praying said court to grant letters of administration of said estate to Harriet C. Morse has been filed in said court, and that the same is set for hearing on the 29th day of December, 1896, at 9 o'clock a. m. and that if you do not then appear and contest said court may grant administration of the said estate to Harriet C. Morse. Notice of this proceeding shall be published three weeks successively in the Nebraska Independent prior to said hearing. Witness my hand and the seal of said court this 23rd day of December, A. D. 1896. E. T. COCHRAN, County Judge.

BANE & ALTSOUBLER Attorneys, 1101 O Street, Lincoln, Neb. In the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska. Caroline M. Stagg, Plaintiff. Kate Mitchell, Joseph Mitchell, her husband, George L. Mitchell, Nancy E. Bentley, Ben Franklin D. Mills, Estelle M. Mills, his wife, Henry A. Gross, J. M. Hussey, Frank M. Pierce, Mrs. Frank M. Pierce, first name unknown, the State Bank of Burlington, Fred L. Campbell, receiver of State Bank of Bethany, C. M. Crawford, cashier, the Merchants' bank, the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co., of Hartford, Conn., Frank M. Cook, Joseph B. Ferguson, the Trust Co. of America, Emma H. Holmes, administrator, the American Exchange National Bank of Lincoln, and Mrs. Y. Moore, Defendants. The defendants, Kate Mitchell, Joseph Mitchell, her husband, Henry A. Gross, J. M. Hussey, the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn. and the Trust Company of America, will take notice that on the 5th day of November, 1896, Caroline M. Stagg filed her petition in the district court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, against all of the above named defendants, the object and prayer of which are to foreclose a mortgage given by the defendants, Kate Mitchell and Joseph Mitchell, her husband, to G. L. Woodward, and by the said Woodward duly assigned to the plaintiff herein, upon lot 14, in block 19, in Peck's Grove, located on the west side of the 24th section 19, township 23 north, range 4 east, surveyed, platted and recorded, to secure the payment of one promissory note of \$500 dated August 29th, 1892, and payable on the first day of September, A. D. 1897; that the said note and unpaid on said note and mortgage the sum of \$500, with six per cent interest from March 1st, 1896, for which sum with interest thereon and date, the plaintiff prays, and that the premises be foreclosed and sold and a further order that plaintiff's mortgage be declared to be a first lien on said premises, and that the interest, if any, of each of the above named defendants, be declared to be junior and inferior and subsequent to plaintiff's mortgage; that said premises may be sold according to law and out of the proceeds thereof the plaintiff be paid the amount adjudged to be due her on said note and mortgage, with interest and costs of suit. You are required to answer said petition on or before January 1st, 1897. Plaintiff's Attorney: Bane & Altsouler.