

JOHN BURT

By FREDERICK
UPHAM ADAMS

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

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A. J. DREXEL BIDDLE

CHAPTER XV.—Continued.

In an alcove, partially formed by a bay window, stood an easel, upholding a large frame. The light struck the canvas in such a way that Blake did not recognize the subject until squarely in front of it.

It was a portrait of Jessie Carden—not the Jessie Carden drawn by the San Francisco artist from the faded tints—but the Jessie Carden of later years, whose face and figure had taken on the perfect grace of womanhood.

Amazed and lost in thought, Blake did not hear Arthur Morris as he approached and stood back of him. He flushed when Morris touched him on the shoulder.

"By Jove! that portrait must have great attraction for you!" laughed Morris. "You've been staring at it five minutes! A box at the opera you cannot tell her name!"

"Done!" said Blake. "That's a portrait of Miss Carden—Miss Jessie Carden, of Boston."

An expression of dumb surprise swept across the face of Arthur Morris. With half-opened mouth and staring eyes he gazed at James Blake.

"Well, I'll be— Well, of all things!" He sank into a chair and laughed feebly. "I say, old fellow, you took me off my feet! How the devil did you guess that name?"

"Nothing wonderful about it!" said Blake, who by this time had perfected his course. "I met Miss Carden years ago, and I at once recognized the portrait."

"You met her? Where?"

"In the country, near Hingham, Massachusetts."

"How? When? By Jove, old fellow, this beats me! What were you doing in Hingham?"

"I lived on a farm near there," replied Blake. Morris leaned forward.

For an instant fear had possession of him. Who was this man who lived

her education in Paris and Berlin. Two years later Gen. Carden failed in business, his private fortune being wiped out in the crash. Jessie came back from Europe and remained a year with the Bishops. Arthur had induced his father to place Gen. Carden in a salaried position with the Morris bank in New York, and he persuaded Gen. Carden to accept a loan sufficient to defray Jessie's expenses in a second trip abroad. She was in Paris, but had completed her studies, and would return in a few weeks. He was engaged to the dear girl, but the date of the wedding had not been set.

"I've told you more'n any man livin'," half sobbed Morris, as he leaned on James Blake's shoulder.

Tears stood in his inflamed eyes and trickled down his red, blotched cheeks.

"You'll keep my secret, won't you, old chap?" he pleaded maudlinly. "You're the best friend I've got in the world! People don't like me; they don't know me. You know me, Blake, old fellow, don't you? I'm sentimental—old-fashioned like, on 'yer voice don't sound strange like, either. I believe I know ye! It's Jim Blake! Haou air ye, Jim? Well, well, well! Who'd a think it—who'd a think it!"

Sam reached across and shook hands with a vigor which nearly pulled Blake out of his carriage.

"Air ye the James Blake I've been readin' 'bout?" The one that's been givin' them New York sharps a whirl in stocks?" asked Sam.

Blake smiled and nodded his head.

"Is that so? Well, well, well! Say, I'm plumb glad to hear it!" and Sam's smiling face showed it. "Ain't never heard of John Burt, have ye? No? Well, he'll turn up on top some day, an' don't ye feiget, Sam Rounds allers said so. Where be ye goin' to, Jim?"

"I'm going back to New York tonight," replied Blake. "From there I return to San Francisco, but expect to make New York my home."

"Is that so? I'm livin' in New York now," said Sam, handing Blake his card. "Moved there several years ago. Mother an' I are here on a visit for a few days. I've been doin' fairly middlin' well in New York, Jim. When you write me, be shore an' put 'Hon.' before my name," and Sam laughed until the rocks re-echoed his merriment.

"How is that?" asked Blake, gazing blankly at the card.

"Read what it says," insisted Sam. "I'm alderman of my district, an' have just been re-elected tew a second term. Fact!"

"I congratulate you, Sam," said Blake, heartily.

"Sorry ye haven't time tew wait over an' go back with us," Sam said. "But if ye are goin' tew locate in New York, I'll see lots of ye."

"I certainly will look you up when I'm in New York," said Blake. "My regards to your mother, and say I'm sorry I didn't have time to call on her. Are you married, Sam?"

"Nop, but I has hopes," laughed Sam, gathering up the lines. "Good-bye, Jim, good-bye, an' more luck ter ye!"

"Same to you, Sam; good-bye!"

Ten days later James Blake arrived in San Francisco. He drove to John's apartment, and was greeted by him in the old study room. Blake sat where he looked at the portrait of Jessie Carden. His heart sank within him.

(To be continued.)

For an hour or more the head of the firm of James Blake & Company recited the history of John Burt's career in California, and the result of the recent speculative campaign in New York. Once in a while the old man asked a question, but he made no comment until the narrative was ended.

"Your heart dominates your judgment, but that is a trait and not a fault," he said, as he arose and offered his hand to James Blake. "God gives us emotions and faculties; from them we must develop character. Do not charge yourself with a broken promise to John. He has kept his part. I send him my blessing. Say to him that I am strong and well and happy. Say to him that his future field of work is in New York city."

Peter Burt stood in the doorway and watched until the carriage disappeared beyond the old graveyard.

"I'm glad that's ended!" said Blake to himself. "I wonder what I told the old man? Everything, I guess. I'm nearing a crisis, am I? Well, I'm used to crises and guess I can stand one more. Who's coming? His face looks familiar. It's Sam Rounds! Stop, driver! Hello, Sam! How are you?"

Seated in a stylish road cart, behind a rangy, high-stepping trotter was one of the companions of Blake's boyhood. Sam checked his horse and, with a puzzled grin, looked into the speaker's face.

"Haou de ye dew?" he drawled, slackening the lines. "Yer face looks familiar like, on 'yer voice don't sound strange like, either. I believe I know ye! It's Jim Blake! Haou air ye, Jim? Well, well, well! Who'd a think it—who'd a think it!"

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(To be continued.)

Luxuries of Russian Peasant.

The Russian peasant, even if the bread he eats is black, has a *bonne bouche* to add to his meal much sought by epicures in the western world—the wild mushrooms which grow thousands upon thousands on the steppes of Russia. At any time a full and savory meal is provided with the addition of sausage and onions; even a mushroom alone often contents them for a meal with their coarse rye bread. The poorest laborer has also a luxurious drink always available from the ever-present samovar, and the tea they drink would be the envy of any American connoisseur of that beverage, for the best of China's tea is found in Russia, and all classes enjoy its quality and fragrance. Never is the water allowed to stand on the tea over a few moments, so none of the poisonous tannin is extracted, and a delightful, mildly stimulating, straw-colored drink is the result.

Some Customs of Spain.

Writing of Spanish customs, Israel Zangwill says: "To call one another by our surnames in Spain would be wanting in friendly courtesy; indeed, for the most part, we are ignorant of them. A very grave and reverend senior might be addressed by his surname—and his surname alone—but even he were better addressed by his Christian name, preceded by 'Don.' 'Senor Don' is reserved for letters, and then the honor costs you 5 centimos. That the Portuguese are not to be confounded with the Spaniards is most lucidly learned from their methods of address, for, so far from addressing a young lady as *Juanita* or *Isabella*, I should have to say 'her excellency.' Here, in our palace, the very water has been heard to give the order: 'Fried eggs for Isabella.' And Isabella is a very stylish demofelle."

The Milliner's Blue Rose.

One of the astonishing millinery fancies of the year is the blue rose. Such a flower never sprouted on the earth's surface, but built in shaded velvet, crumpled silk or even cleverly tinted muslin, it is bewitching on the summer hat of lace or maline.

The girl who likes to wear blue and is a weary of ragged robins and forget-me-nots greets the blue rose with enthusiasm and uses it in profusion.

Another blue blossom which has made its appearance is the hyacinth, but it must be used with discretion. An imported hat in a peculiar shade, bordering on navy blue, is trimmed with these hyacinths and ribbon which matches the bloom.

In a certain light, the entire confection shades to blue; turn it toward the sun and it shows violet tints.

To Clean Jewels.

Every little while all brooches, rings and such things that are in constant use should be brushed with a toothbrush that has been dipped in eau de cologne. If the setting is open it must be done from the back, and care must be taken not to loosen the stones. Then lay the things in a box of jewelers' sawdust, which has been slightly heated beforehand, and leave for an hour, says the Ohio State Journal. Gold chains may be washed in warm soapsuds, drying them on a soft towel by pulling back and forward. They may also be dried in sawdust and the particles blown or dusted out afterward. Be sure and get them dry, as they will be apt to become worn between the links if any dampness remains.

A Problem in Flounces.

Flounces and ruffles are becoming more and more fashionable all the time, and just how to arrange for



Your Corner



Misses' Collarless Jacket of Tan-Colored Cloth—Garnitures for the Neck—Calling Gowns and Negligees—To Clean Jewels.

A Soothing Drink.

Inflammation of the throat and tonsils is a common complaint at this season of the year. A soothing drink for persons so affected is made by boiling a teaspoonful of isinglass in half a pint of milk with half a dozen bruised almonds and sweetened to taste.

This drink has a marvelous effect in reducing the inflammation. It is widely used in England, but is not commonly known in this country.

Fashionable Neck Garnitures.

No one of the many accessories of the season is more attractive or adaptable than the fancy collars which take such a variety of forms. The group illustrated includes several sorts, all of which are smart and any of which can be reproduced in a variety of materials. As shown, however, the collar in the upper left-hand corner is made of all-over lace edged with banding. The round collar below is made of net with heavy silk applique and is finished with a silk ruche. The collar to the right is of quite a different sort, including long stole ends, which are eminently effective, and is shown in inserted tucking with a muslin frill as a finish. The fourth and last collar is made with deep points, each of

them on a gown which should have long lines is a puzzle to many a dress-maker. The skirt should first be most carefully fitted and made, and then the flounces should be put on in such a way (if the wearer of the gown be tall) as to make them encircle the skirt at the same distance from one another. If the wearer be short and stout and wishes to be thought tall and slender, then the flounces must be arranged so as to be higher either in front or at the back—whichever is more becoming. The flounces may be of the same material as the gown, edged with lace and trimmed with rows of tucks and lace insertions, or they may be made entirely of lace.

Told in Her Boudoir

Tucks of all widths are noted on new dresses.

Coarse laces trim the canvas fabrics to perfection.

Elaboration is the keynote of the season in dressdom.

Nets printed in cloudy Dresden effects are very attractive.

Shoulder trimmings droop in pseudo grandmama style.

Daisies and buttercups are reappearing as millinery blossoms.

A panel front makes round and round trimmings possible for the stout woman.

The newest skirt tuckings turn toward the front and taper to a point at the knee.

Colors will be more of a feature in women's handkerchiefs than they have been in many seasons.

The red hat is the correct thing to wear with a black and white striped or checked gown.

Nice For Toilet.

Hand-embroidered towels are the latest vogue in towels for actual use where something specially nice is desired. The embroidery is done on plain, fine huckaback or other fine towel fabric taking the place of damask or other decoration. A deep hemstitched hem is the usual finish, and one end only is embroidered.

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warm water and into this squeeze the sponge. Let it lie a few minutes, then rinse it in clear water.

Silk ribbons may be washed in suds made of lukewarm water and good soap, but they must not be wrung or they will be badly creased. Wash in a second lot of suds and rinse in clear cold water. Then lay on a table or board and with rather a stiff nail brush brush sideways till all the creases are removed. Leave till thoroughly dry.

Asparagus Omelet.

Boil about twenty-five heads of asparagus and cut the green ends when tender into short pieces. Mix with them four well-beaten eggs, adding a little pepper and salt. Melt an ounce of butter (or perhaps rather more) in an omelet pan, pour in the mixture, stir till it thickens over the fire, fold it nicely over. Clarified butter may be served with it, into which a few drops of vinegar have been poured.

One of the New Coats.

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"THAT'S A PORTRAIT OF MISS CARDEN—MISS JESSIE CARDEN, OF BOSTON," SAID BLAKE.

on a farm near Hingham, and who

was once acquainted with Jessie Carden? Was he John Burt?

"From the time I was thirteen until I ran away from home," Blake continued, with nonchalance and confident mendacity, "I lived on a farm about three miles from the old Bishop mansion. Miss Carden used to visit there in the summer seasons and I saw her frequently. The last time I saw her she came past our house with a friend of mine. That reminds me—dear old John—I must look him up when I go to Rocky Woods."

Blake threw back his head and reflectively exhaled a wraith of cigar smoke.