

JOHN BURT

By FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS

Author of "The Kidnapped Millionaire," "Colonel Monroe's Doctrine," Etc.
Copyright, 1922, by FREDERICK UPHAM ADAMS All rights reserved Copyright, 1923, by A. J. DRISSEL BIDDLE

CHAPTER XX.—Continued.

"You remember that I was speaking of the remarkable success of a western man, named Blake? Well, here is a letter from him! This is what he writes:

New York, June 2.

"Dear Sir—I am informed that you hold an equity in ten thousand shares of the L. & O. railroad company. I have customers who are interested in this property, and represent them in negotiations now pending. It is possible your interests may be conserved by conferring with me on this matter. I shall be pleased to meet you at your earliest convenience. To a gentleman of your experience an injunction to secrecy is unnecessary.

"Awaiting the pleasure of a conference in my office, and trusting that it may result to our mutual advantage, I remain,

Very truly yours,

JAMES BLAKE.

"President, James Blake & Co."

"That is odd, isn't it?" said Jessie. The general's face glowed with pleasure. "Do you own ten thousand shares of stock in a railroad, papa?"

"I own an equity in that amount of stock in an alleged railroad," he said, with a grim smile. "An equity is something you think you own, and hope to realize on, but do not expect to. Do not bother your head about it, pet. From whom is your letter?"

"From Mr. Morris. He wishes to call some evening this week."

"Ah, um—m." The general cleared his throat and appeared to be concerned only indirectly. "Suppose you invite Mr. Morris to take dinner with us Wednesday evening."

"I have no engagement for Wednesday evening," said Jessie, carelessly. "I will write and ask him to call at that time."

"I have not told you of the change in Mr. Morris's affairs," said General

Carden, with some eagerness, "nor have I mentioned my good fortune in consequence of that change."

"And your good fortune is what, papa?" asked Jessie, without lifting her eyes.

"A much more important position has been awarded to me, with a corresponding increase in emolument," replied General Carden with more of dignity than of pride. Jessie threw her arms around her father's neck and spoke tender words of congratulation.

"We will talk no more of money and other gloomy things," she declared with a laugh which brought the roses to her cheeks. "I am going to play for you."

"Listen to this, papa!" She ran her fingers over the keys of the piano. The liquid notes swelled into the intoxicating melody of a gypsy dance and quivered with the trilling of birds among the trees. For half an hour Jessie played. Then she began a spirited recital of her experiences abroad. She mimicked the staid old German professors, and the general laughed until the tears coursed down his cheeks.

General Carden made an early appointment with James Blake and was promptly admitted to the private office of the famous operator.

"If you have no objection, general," said James Blake, after the usual commonplace remarks which preface business transactions, "explain the exact status of this block of L. & O. stock."

"There is no secret about it," replied the former banker. "A number of years ago I became convinced that the L. & O. railroad had a brilliant future. I purchased fifteen thousand shares on speculation. Then the panic swept the country. Not dreaming that my bank would be involved, I decided to protect my L. & O. stock and accordingly bought it in at fifty, paying the sum of \$500,000 in cash. Then the crash came and my bank went under with the others. Randolph Morris was my principal creditor. Mr. Arthur Morris consented, as a personal favor, to lend me two hundred thousand dollars on the stock. Interest and other charges have since accumulated until Mr. Morris has now a claim of \$248,000 against the stock."

"At what price does Mr. Morris propose to sacrifice the stock?" asked Blake.

"At twenty-six."

James Blake made a rapid calculation on a writing pad.

"I have a proposition to make you, General Carden," he said. "I will ad-

vance you the money to exercise your option, on the condition that you do so when it drops to 26. You will deposit the stock with me and place it in a pool to be handled at my discretion. As an evidence of my good faith I now offer you 35 for your stock—eight points more than the market price. After meeting the Morris claim this will leave you a balance of \$109,000."

General Carden looked into the handsome face of the young man who calmly made this proposition. For some moments he was silent, but the old hopes awoke and the courage of youth came back.

"I will follow your advice, Mr. Blake," he said, firmly. "My one ambition is to insure the happiness of my daughter. You must be sure of your ground, and I am content to rely on your judgment. I therefore accept your original offer, Mr. Blake, and will sign an agreement to that effect."

Blake called a legal subordinate and, in General Carden's presence, dictated the terms of the contract, duplicate copies of which were signed and witnessed.

"I should be pleased and honored," said General Carden, as he arose to go, "to have you accept the humble hospitality of my temporary home. If you have no other engagement, dine with us on Thursday evening."

"I have none, and shall do myself that pleasure. Until then, adieu, General Carden."

James Blake shook hands with the general, and turned and entered John Burt's private office.

"It's all right, John!" he exclaimed, with the enthusiasm of a boy. "You couldn't have managed it better yourself. I have his option and a contract which gives us absolute control. He's a dignified and at times a crusty old gentleman, but he stood in proper

awe of the famous firm of James Blake & Company."

"Did General Carden say anything about his daughter?" asked John, with anxious eagerness. "Has she returned from Europe?"

"I think the fair Jessie is in New York at this very moment," said Blake, smiling as he noted the flash of joy in the other's eyes. "I'm not supposed to know that he has a daughter, and you cautioned me to be very careful to say nothing which might arouse his suspicions. But he invited me to dine with him at the Bishop residence on Thursday evening."

"Of course, you accepted, Jim?"

"I should say I did," laughed Blake. "How would you like to take my place, John?"

"Very much, Jim." There was a wistful, far-away expression in the deep gray eyes. "I must wait a time yet—not long, I hope."

"Never mind, old man," said Blake, heartily, "I hope you may live to dine with her a million times, and that in future years an old chap named Blake may occasionally be permitted to have a seat at the table, and that he may be surrounded by a new and increasing generation of sturdy young John Burts and fair and radiant little Jessie Burts."

"Thank you, Jim," returned John Burt. His expressive face aglow with pleasure. "When that happy day comes you must bring Mrs. Blake and the children with you."

CHAPTER XXI.

Breaking Old Ties.

On the Thursday afternoon following his interview with General Carden, Blake strolled into his favorite club. He was chatting with Kingsley when Arthur Morris arrived, and at the first opportunity led Blake to a secluded corner.

"Pardon me, old chap, I don't often talk business after hours," apologized Morris; "you will excuse me for mentioning a little stock matter, won't you?"

"Certainly, Morris. What's up?"

Morris looked cautiously around and dropped his voice to a whisper. "Once in a while I get hold of a good thing, and I've got one now," he began. "There's going to be a boom in L. & O."

"Yes? What makes you think so, Morris?"

"Cawn't go into explanations, old chap, but you buy a little L. & O. When it drops below 26 it will take

a jump of eight or ten points. Take my word for it, old chap!"

"Much obliged to you, Morris," Blake took out his memorandum book and carefully made a note of the proffered advice. "I imagine you've got control of the stock. You needn't tell me, old man—I'll do my own guessing. We Yankees are great on guessing."

Blake ordered his coachman to drive to the Bishop residence. He lay back on the cushioned seat and laughed softly. "To think that such a hound is engaged to Jessie Carden! I fear Miss Carden is too fond of money. Well, money's a good thing, but if I were a woman I wouldn't marry Morris if he had a billion. And John's got enough to buy and sell him."

The carriage drew up at the Bishop residence. General Carden greeted Blake in the drawing-room. It was restful to contemplate this abode, to breathe the air of domestic luxury, and to contrast it with the frigid elegance of the bachelor apartments where his recent years had been spent. Blake's eyes wandered along the walls until they rested on a portrait—that of Jessie Carden. He paused in the middle of a sentence, his eyes riveted on the canvas.

"A portrait of my daughter, Jessie—one of Steinbach's best productions," exclaimed General Carden, with fatherly pride, mistaking Blake's amazement for polite admiration. "She returned from abroad only a few days ago. Ah, here she comes now!"

As he spoke Blake heard the faint rustle of silk and the music of laughing voices. The portieres parted, and Mrs. Bishop entered with Jessie and her cousin, Edith Hancock. With old-school dignity, General Carden presented James Blake.

There is born in every man's brain the image of an ideal woman; the ignis fatuus of fancy hovering above the swamps of realism. James Blake's ideal was dethroned the moment he looked into Jessie Carden's eyes he felt the mysterious thrill of her presence.

After a delightful hour spent over dinner, during which Blake was in lively humor, the young ladies left the general and his guest to the enjoyment of cigars. For the first time in his life Blake would willingly have sacrificed the soothing delights of the weed. He was glad when his host gave the signal and conducted him to the drawing-room, where they found Jessie and Edith awaiting them.

At the general's request Jessie played several of his favorite selections, Edith standing by her side and deftly turning the music pages for her. Then they sang a duet; a German folk song. Jessie's voice was a pure contralto—tender, rich and wonderfully expressive in its timbre. Blake was passionately fond of music and, though he had been given little opportunity to cultivate his decided natural talents, was nevertheless an excellent singer and a capable critic.

"That was grand!" he exclaimed, his handsome face aglow with admiration of the music. "I have never heard Wanderer's Nachtleid rendered more exquisitely. Please favor me with Der Tannenbaum, will you?"

"Willingly," said Jessie, as Edith smiled her assent. "But Der Tannenbaum is much more effective with a tenor part. You sing, do you not, Mr. Blake? Something tells me you do."

"I'm sure Mr. Blake sings," asserted Edith. "Come, Mr. Blake, the general shall be our audience!"

"I have been charged with singing, but never by such fair accusers," laughed Blake, stepping forward. "I trust the general will not mete out a punishment to fit the crime. Sing the English translation and I will do my best to carry a part."

Blake acquitted himself famously. In San Francisco clubs and social circles his clear, strong voice had added to his popularity, but never did he sing so well as on that night standing by Jessie Carden's side.

(To be continued.)

Locating the Blame.

An amateur actor, who has a profound faith in the efficacy of advertising, was complaining, after the entertainment, to the chairman of the committee on arrangements.

"Who got up the programmes?" asked the young man.

"I did," replied the chairman. "I suppose you think that your part of the performance was not given sufficient prominence."

"I don't see that you ought to say anything about the way in which we called attention to you. The audience didn't seem to know you were there."

"On the contrary, a number of my friends told me I was first-rate, especially when I sang that comic song."

"I didn't hear anybody laughing."

"Of course not. And that's where I say you are to blame. How could you expect them to laugh? You didn't state in the programme that it was a comic song."

The Limit Reached.

Dr. W. H. Tolman, director of the American Institute of Social Science, told the following story the other day as an unconscious illustration of the prevailing sentiment in regard to the "race suicide" problem:

"A family of my acquaintance has a certain pewter cup which has been the property of five children in succession, at the period when they first begin to use cups. The other day one of the older children, a small boy, was discussing the propriety of bestowing the cup upon some poor child. His little sister remarked: 'Why, no, we'll keep it for the next baby.'"

"Well," said the brother, "I should think God would have sense enough to know that five babies in one family was enough."—New York Times.



Your Corner

Some of the Latest Designs in Garments—Gold Bullion Very Popular in Make-Up of Summer Confections—Little Hints.

way at the elbow or just a little below.

Fine valenciennes edging is becoming more and more fashionable, and charming gowns are trimmed only with narrow ruffles on the waist as well as the whole length of the skirt, each ruffle being edged with this narrow lace. The yoke may be of insertion joined together with fine leather stitching or laid between bands of lawn. Yokes are also made of lace edging laid on a fine white ground.

New Fashionable Colors.

The newest tints are geranium pink, Neapolitan violet and the popular champagne shade, which look so pretty trimmed with lace, and, in addition, there are some rose pinks, pale turquoise blue, while a fresh shade of mauve will be specially appreciated by blonde beauties, and a silver-gray is suitable for slight mourning. The fashionable brown, now called mordore, is also represented, and there are two good shades of royal blue and a rich poppy red. The white silks are suitable for children's frocks, as they are rather more substantial than Japanese washing silks, though just as easy to tuck and quite as soft, and any of the pale tints will make smart and serviceable slips for all occasions.

Batiste and Lace.

No waist of the season is more desirable than the pretty one of sheer batiste made with a fancy yoke. The model shown is admirable and is adapted both to the odd waist and the gown as well as to many materials and combinations, but is shown in mercerized batiste with yoke of all-over material, consisting of narrow shirred bands and lace insertion, and



Design by May Manton. frills of lace gathered to form headings. The line of the yoke is a peculiarly desirable one and the sleeves form the wide and drooping puffs that are so much in vogue and so graceful. To make the waist for a woman of medium size will be required 4 yards of material, 21, 3 yards 27 or 1 3/4 yards 44 inches wide, with 3/4 yards 18 inches wide for yoke, 5 1/2 yards of lace and 1/2 yard of soft silk for belt.

Dry Chocolate Ice Cream.

Whip the white of 1 egg until dry, and add gradually one-third cup of powdered sugar. Take a cup of double cream and 1 teaspoon of vanilla or other extract, and beat thoroughly until the cream is thick throughout. Fold the white of egg and cream together, chill, and pour into the mold, which should previously have been chilled and lined with chocolate ice cream. The outer lining needs to be spread about an inch thick. After pouring in the filling, cover with the ice cream, filling the mold as full as possible; spread a piece of white wrapping paper over the top, press the cover down on top securely, and pack the whole away in salt and ice.

Gold Bullion in Favor.

Gold bullion plays no small part in the make-up of summer confections. Among the girdles of the moment are those of cloth of gold, embroidered in silk floss in small designs, the color of the embroidery matching that of the frock with which the girdle is to be worn. A pale blue pongee silk has a deeply pointed girdle in cloth of gold, embroidered with small fleur-de-lis in pale blue silk. A sage green etamine costume shows a cloth of gold crush girdle, embroidered in disks nearly an inch in diameter.

The Handkerchief as a Material.

The rage for fancy articles made from handkerchiefs has by no means died out, and handkerchiefs in various sizes are now woven with this end in view.

A square as large as the old-fashioned bandanna is printed in sweet peas, in pink or lavender shades. Three of these squares are divided into quarters. Four points of one handkerchief are turned in, and the position of the square is reversed, the joining being effected by a coarse lace beading through which ribbon is run, pink for the sweet peas, lavender for lavender blossoms.

The corners of the other two handkerchiefs are then joined to form a founce, which hangs around the pillow in deep points. The back of the pillow is of lawn to match the prevailing tone in the fowers.

Our Summery Gowns.

Deep berthas of lace or of the material and bands of lace entre deux are smart. The waist below the bertha may have a few bands of cording or of fine tucks, or, again, of lace insertion, or the bodice may be quite plain.

Sleeves should be large and rather elaborate, one large puff with a fall of lace at the elbow where the deep cuff is joined to the sleeve, or three or four comparatively large puffs with the ruffle of lace added in the same



For the Dining Room.

A few drops of oil of lavender in a silver bowl or ornamental dish of some kind, half filled with very hot water, and set in the dining room just before dinner is served, gives a delightful and intangible freshness to the atmosphere of the apartment. Hostesses often put a small vessel in the parlor and dressing rooms, when arranging the house for a festivity. The suggestion is especially valuable to the hostess in a small apartment, which sometimes in the bustle of preparation becomes stuffy.

Pongee and Lace.

No material makes more satisfactory undershirts for summer wear than pongee. It is light in weight, sheds dust and can be laundered with success if proper care be taken. This one is admirable in design and includes a removable founce, that is buttoned onto a smooth fitting upper portion, and is trimmed with self-colored lace. The founce provides abundant flare about the feet while the plain portion above does away with all fullness over the hips, a most essential feature of petticoats worn under the fashionable full skirts. When liked several founces can be



Design by May Manton, made with one upper skirt, so allowing renewal of the soiled portion with the minimum of labor. The quantity of material required for the medium sizes is, for skirt 2 1/4 yards 21 or 1 1/2 yards 36 inches wide, for founce 6 1/2 yards 21 or 3 3/4 yards 36 inches wide.

Rules for Arranging Flowers.

In arranging flowers for the table there are a few rules to follow: Group them loosely with plenty of delicate green leaves as a groundwork and above all things have some regard for color in arrangement. Do not place together all sorts and conditions of blossoms. Simple, unpretentious jars are the most suitable as flower holders. Clear glass jars that show the stems to perfection are appropriate for wild roses. A flower centerpiece on a dining table should be kept so low that it will not interfere with the view across the table.

Curling Ostrich Tips.

To curl ostrich tips dip the feathers in water in which a little borax has been dissolved. Then curl in the usual amateur fashion; that is, by stretching three or four strands of the plume at a time over the blade of a dull knife until dry. This gives a fine and lasting curl.

Told in Her Boudoir

Little ties, fichus, collars, belts and all the "finishes" are the most important things about the toilet.

Such a smart jabot may be made by gumming velvet disks to plain mousseline de soie.

Short skirts show a trim patent leather walking shoe with low heel and generous bow.

The mixture of different laces accomplished in one frock is one of the amazing features of this year's fashions.

Some of the most exclusive of tailored gowns are done in one color throughout, self-colored buttons, embroidered in self-color, and braids to match, being used.

COREAN CREPE AND NET.



All Oriental silks are delightful to wear and make charming effects but none is more desirable than the white Korean crepe which, combined with point d'esprit net, makes this pretty waist. The blouse portion is full and droops over the soft belt while the yoke, made of net insertion and gog-

ling with motifs of lace, is cut in deep points that give a most satisfactory outline and is finished with a lace frill that is graceful and generally becoming. The quality of material required for the medium size is 3 3/4 yards 21, 2 yards 27 or 1 1/2 yards 44 inches wide, with 8 yards of insertion and 6 1/2 yards of lace.