

The Magnificent Adventure

By EMERSON HOUGH.

CHAPTER I.

Meriwether and Theodosia.

Soft is the sun in the summer season at Washington, softer at times than any old Dan Chauer ever knew; but again so ardent that any one who would ride abroad would best do so in the early morning. This is true today, and it was true when the capital city lay in the heart of a sweeping forest at the edge of a yet unconquered morass.

The young man who now rode into this forest, rode steadily, as if with some definite purpose. It was not the horse of a monarch the young man rode, none the less it was the horse of one who insisted that his stables should be as good as those of any king—none less, if you please, than Mr. Thomas Jefferson, then president of the United States of America. This particular animal was none other than Arcurus, Mr. Jefferson's favorite saddle, it was the duty as well as the delight of Mr. Jefferson's private secretary to give Arcurus and his stableman, Wildair, their exercise on alternate days.

Abstracted as the young man was he must have been alert, for now, suddenly, he broke his moody reverie at some sound which he heard on ahead. It was the sound of a voice that the young cavalier had heard—the voice of a woman—apparently a woman in some distress. In less than half a moment the rider was around the turn of the leafy trail. There was, there, the woman who had cried out, herself mounted, and now upon the point of trying conclusions with her fractious mount.

The keen eye of the young man looked with hers, and found the reason for the sudden scene. A serpent, some feet in length—one of the mottled, harmless species sometimes locally called the blow-snake—obviously had come out into morning sun to warm himself, and his yellow body lying loose and uncoiled, had been invisible to horse and rider until they were almost upon it. Then, miraculously, the serpent had moved his head, and both horse and rider had seen him, to the dismay of both. This the young man saw and understood in a second, even as he spurred forward alongside the plunging animal. His firm hand on the bridle brought both horses back to their haunches. An instant later both had control of their mounts again, and had set them down to their places in workmanlike fashion. But at first they did not speak. A quick, startled look came into the face of the young woman. A deeper shade glowed upon the cheek of the cavalier.

"I am to thank Captain Lewis once more," began the young woman. "It is good that you rode abroad so early this morning. You always come at need!"

"Can you then call it good, suppressed?" His own voice was low, suppressed.

"Why not, then?"

"You did not need me. A moment, and you would have been in command again—there was no real need of me. Ah, you never need me!"

"Yet you come. You were here, had the need been worse. And there was the serpent."

"Madam, there was the serpent! And why not? Is this not Eden? Tell me, why is it that in the glimpses the fingers give us of paradise they no more than lift the curtain—and let it fall again?"

"Captain Meriwether Lewis is singularly gloomy this morning."

"Not more than I have been all ways. Yet for that time I knew paradise—as I do now. We should part here, madam, now, forever. You serpent spelled danger for both of us."

"For both of us?"

"No, forgive me. None the less, I could not help my thoughts—cannot help them now. I ride here every morning. I have ridden here since I first saw you turn here one morning. I guessed this might be your haunt at dawn. I have ridden here often—and feared each time that I might meet you. You see, madam, I speak the absolute truth with you."

"You have never spoken aught else to any human soul. That I know."

"And yet you try to evade, the truth?"

"My plans advance as well as I could ask."

Mr. Jefferson's secretary entered the presidential mansion; then—for such was the simple fashion of the manège, where Meriwether Lewis was one of the president's family—he stepped to the door beyond and knocked lightly, entering as he did so. Early as it was, he knew he would find at his desk the gentleman who now turned to him.

"Good morning, Mr. Jefferson," said Meriwether Lewis.

"Good morning, my son," said the other man, gently. He glanced at his desk, cluttered with a mass of maps, papers, letters in packets or spread open.

"I do not see how I could be president without you, Merne," employing the familiar term that Meriwether Lewis had not elsewhere heard used, except by his mother. "Look what we must do today!"

The young secretary turned his own gray eye upon the cluttered desk; but it was not dread of the redoubtable tasks awaiting him that gave his face all the gravity it bore.

"Mr. Jefferson, he began, "Your horse is a circus hard, and yet—"

"Yes, my son?"

But Meriwether Lewis could not speak further. He stood now, his jaws set hard, looking out of the window. The older man came and gently laid his hand upon his shoulder.

"Come, come, my son," said he, "Tell me—oh, yes, it is as you know it all. Put her out of your heart, my boy. Would you shame yourself—and her—and me?"

"No! Never would I do that, Mr. Jefferson, believe me. But now I must beg of you—please, sir, let me go soon—let it be at once!"

"As you say, your case is hopeless."

"Yes, sir."

"Ah, well, we have both been planning for our western expedition these 10 years, my son. There it lies, unknown, tremendous—no man knows what it will do to our country. I will spare you now—but yes, you must go!"

"Send me now, Mr. Jefferson," repeated Meriwether Lewis. "The old man laid a kindly hand upon his shoulder. 'I must yield you to your destiny,' said he. 'But I still am wondering what our friends are doing under in France: Livingston, Monroe, and the others—who are they doing with Napoleon Bonaparte?' The news from France—but stay," he added. "Wait! I had forgotten. Come, we shall see about it!"

With the sudden enthusiasm of a boy he caught his young aid by the arm. They passed down the hall, out by the rear entrance and across the White House grounds to the brick stable buildings. It was not a mow or feed-loft, but rather a bird-loft, devoted to the use of many pigeons. All about the eaves were arranged many boxes—nesting places, apparently, although none of the birds entered the long room.

Mr. Jefferson hurried forward to a little flag, which stood up, like the tip of a fisherman on the ice, at the side of a box to which he pointed. "Done!" said he.

He reached up, pressed down a little catch and opened the hatch. He put in a card gingerly, and tenderly imprisoning the bird which he found therein, drew it forth, his long fingers eagerly lifting its wings, examining its legs.

"I told them," said he, "to loose a half-dozen birds at once. 'Seel See!' He unrolled from one leg of the prisoner a little cylinder of paper covered with red wax and tied in the place. It announced a transaction in empire. Mr. Jefferson read, and spread the paper that his aid might read. "General Bonaparte signed May 2—Fifteen millions—Belgium."

In no wider phrasing than that came the news of the great Louisiana purchase, by virtue of which this republic gained that vast and incalculably valuable realm which reaches from the Mississippi to the Pacific ocean.

"Mr. Jefferson," said Meriwether Lewis, "this is your monument!"

"And yours," was the reply, as the president began to descend the ladder. The ship which brought this news docked at New York yesterday. The post stages carrying it hither cannot arrive before tomorrow. This is news—the greatest of news that we could have. Yesterday—this morning—we were a young and weak republic. Tomorrow we shall be one of the powers of the world. Tomorrow you will go westward, to that new country which now is ours!"

(Continued in The Morning Bee.)

Woman Secretly Married
Willing to Wait for Spouse
If annulment of marriage proceedings instituted by the groom's parents are successful, it will only mean that Travis Nesbit, 17-year-old pianist, secretly wedded December 27 to Miss Lucinda Allen, 28, must wait four years for his bride, Mrs. Nesbit said yesterday.

John S. Nesbit, 2220 Fontenelle boulevard, last week filed suit to annul the marriage.

Young Nesbit plays at the Boulevard theater. Boulevard and Leavenworth streets. His bride is pianist at the Columbia theater, Tenth and Hickory streets.

Discuss Plans to Increase Market Week Attendance
Plans for enlarging the scope of the annual Omaha market week were discussed yesterday at a meeting of business men at the M. E. Smith & Co. plant. Ward Burgess, president of the company, presided. An effort will be made to reach more merchants in Omaha's growing trade territory by advertising, so as to increase the attendance during the week, starting March 5. Harry M. Hundley of Byrne & Hammer company was made chairman of the committee to work out details.

Victor February Records Have Many Male Solos
Vocal solos for February are preponderantly male, while string numbers, both in solo and organization interpretation, are also noteworthy features of the February program of Victor records, according to an announcement of the company. A "Father and Son" melody, sung Reinold Werrenrath, baritone, is one of the light airs. Among the new music are reproductions of the La Scala orchestra and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

U. S. Grand Jury Convenes.
The federal grand jury convened yesterday. United States Attorney Kinler said several important cases will be submitted to the jurors, who will be in session for several days.

Uncle Sam Says
Poultry Hints.
"Hints to Poultry Raisers" is the booklet designed primarily for persons who are just starting to produce poultry in numbers. It briefly covers selection of the breed, natural and artificial incubation and brooding, poultry houses and fixtures, common diseases and their treatment, and gives methods of preserving eggs for home use. Get a copy of this booklet. It will save many serious losses. Readers of The Omaha Bee may obtain a copy of this booklet free as long as the free edition lasts by writing to the Division of Publication, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., asking for "F. B. 523."

Salesman Sent to Jail for Reckless Driving
William J. Shields, a salesman, 3051 South Sixteenth street, was sentenced to 10 days in jail by Municipal Judge Dineen yesterday on a charge of reckless driving after he is alleged to have struck Howard Nelson, 14, at Twenty-fourth street between Parker and Decatur streets January 28.

Fred Farquhar, 18, also was struck by Shields' car but not injured.

Witnesses testified that Shields was driving about 35 miles an hour. He denied the charge and declared he was not exceeding 15 miles an hour. He denies he fled.

Lou Tellegan Is Booked for Orpheum Next Month
Lou Tellegan, Geraldine Farrar's husband, is booked for the Orpheum here the week of February 25, according to a telegram received by "Billy" Byrne, house manager.

He will appear in a condensed version of "Blind Youth," the play in which he starred for four years.

Mr. Tellegan last appeared at the Orpheum as leading man for Sarah Bernhardt in April, 1913.

Boy Scout Is Given Dog He Rescued From Street
Gift of the shepherd dog, which he found lying in the street and carried to the animal shelter of the Humane society at Twenty-first and Izard streets, has been made to Harry Kohlberg, a Boy Scout, by the Humane society, it was announced yesterday. Kohlberg also has been awarded a medal by the Humane society.

Dorsey Back from Probe.
Special Assistant United States Attorney Dorsey returned yesterday from West Virginia, where he investigated the Colonial Timber and Coal corporation, which is involved in trial of officers of the Guaranty Security company starting February 12 in federal court.

Complaint on City Jail Service Wins Cagran 60 Days free Board
Harry Deadwood of Dodge City, Kan., dropped into the police station Wednesday night and asked for a place to sleep. Sergeant Bert Thorpe invited him to a chair, but the visitor became impatient.

"What kind of a place is this?" he demanded. "I want a little service. Can't a man get a towel and a place to wash?"

"Tut, tut," the sergeant replied, "wait till a few more bedless ones drift in, and we'll take care of you all at once."

Mr. Deadwood pronounced it to be the darndest jail he was ever in and grew so insistent and unmannerly in his behavior that Officers Fee and Vohoril were forced to lay hands on him and rushed him into the cage on a vagrancy charge.

In police court yesterday Judge Dineen apologized handsomely for the seeming neglect on the part of the authorities and said that he would see that Deadwood got a good place to stay. He sentenced him to 60 days in the county jail and mentioned that towels, bathtubs, soap, mirrors, brushes and combs were all provided.

Mr. Deadwood thanked the judge before leaving for his new residence.

Friday and Saturday
The Last of Our Great

DOLLAR SALE

Never in all our history have we enjoyed so great a clearance sale business; our stocks are sold right down to "zero." Our Dollar Sale was a wonderful treat to hundreds of families. Today we find a nice assortment of mighty fine shoes, values up to \$15.00, in sizes from 3s to 5s, still on the bargain tables.

If You Are Small

Come and share in this real BARGAIN EVENT. Friday and Saturday will close this great sale. It will be profit days for little women and school girls.

The "Secret" Is Next
W. S. Stryker
DOUGLAS SHOE STORE, Inc.
117 North 16th St. Opposite Postoffice

Eatmor
Cranberries are plentiful and low in price!
Cranberries

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Gold's Broken Quickly
CASCARA QUININE
In disagreeable weather always have Hill's handy. Stops Colds in 24 hours—a gripe in 3 days. Standard remedy for two generations. No bad after effects. Safe and dependable. Demand red box bearing Mr. Hill's portrait and signature.
At All Druggists—30 Cents

February Furniture Sale
After taking inventory we find that we have on hand hundreds of high-grade pieces and suites that must be disposed of at once to make room for our spring stocks, now en route. Prices have been slashed to the core. Before buying be sure to see our furniture and get our Prices. WE CAN SAVE YOU MONEY.

Special Values in Suites and Complete Home Outfits

Beautiful Living Room Suites
\$109.50
Beautiful Living Room Suite, Overstuffed suite in tapestry or velour, spring construction. This suite regularly sells for \$235, during our February Clearance, only \$109.50

Dining Room Sets
Beautiful 8-piece period suites, made of walnut. Regular price \$198.50. During February Clearance Sale, only—
Only \$99.25

Walnut Bed Room Suite
Beautiful 3-piece Walnut Bed Room Suite, Period Design. Regular price \$147.50.
Only \$78.75

FLOOR LAMPS
1/2 Price
Our entire stock of Floor Lamps is on hand for quick clearance. We have a very complete stock of lamps in styles and sizes.

The EUREKA Vacuum Cleaner
We are authorized agents.
Electric Washer
\$36.45
A real genuine value in an O. K. Electric Washer. Standard for many years.

Complete Outfits
Look at These Prices
5 Rooms Complete... \$265
4 Rooms Complete... \$195
3 Rooms Complete... \$130

Exchange Department
Turn in your old furniture on new pieces. We allow high prices for your old pieces, and sell you new pieces at low prices. Call or phone Jackson 1317.

State Furniture Co.
Corner 14th and Dodge
We charge no interest on charge accounts.

NEW YORK
OMAHA
SALT LAKE CITY

Quality A Credit Store for the People Style

Friday and Saturday
A FINAL DARING DISPOSAL OF 125 OVERCOATS

For the Last Two Days of This Mighty

DOLLAR DOWN SALE

Your choice of the lot

\$28.75

Smart Plaid Backs, Ulsters, Great Coats, Dressy Coats—here in all sizes, belted and semi-belted. Buy now for next winter.

Pay \$1.00 Down—the balance can be cared for in easy Weekly Payments

It's good business to buy one of these Overcoats now—as every indication points to decidedly higher prices for next winter.



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1417 Douglas St.
Mail Orders Promptly Filled

M-J-B Coffee

Those who drink M-J-B will tell you that it is an ideal coffee for flavor & whether you drink it black or with cream there is a smooth mellow flavor not found in any other coffee

Why?

The Quality Coffee of America

Groneweg & Schoentgen Co.
Wholesale Distributors
Telephone Jackson 1302

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