

Rob Cleverdale's Adventure.

By Seward W. Hopkins.

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CHAPTER XI.

On the following morning Rob rose weary and aching from a bed on which he had tossed in wakefulness since he had heard the words of Lemuel Sterne. Capt. Elvin nodded to him when he stepped out into the large room, and at once led the way to the dining-room.

"Eat heartily," he said. "You have a day of hard work before you."

It seemed to Rob that every bone in his body ached from the excessive exertion of his walk the day before. But he was so thoroughly aroused to the necessities of his situation that he grimly bore it without a word, and fell to on the breakfast as if he was really a happy boy.

Breakfast over, Capt. Elvin lighted a cigar and offered one to Rob.

"Thank you, sir, I don't smoke," said Rob.

"Not smoke! A nephew of Torrevo not smoke!"

"But I was not always with my uncle Ricardo," said Rob.

"True. Boys in New York do not learn to smoke as early as we do here. Well, Ricardo, come. Let's get to work."

The Englishman led the way to the office again, and pointed to a desk on which there were paper and writing materials.

"That is your place," he said. "You are young for this trust, but Torrevo spoke highly of you. He said you could be trusted. But, after all, I am not going to trust you far. You will know the names of the men you write to, and that is all. Now, I will give you three forms of letters. They are in cipher, and no one except those who receive them can read them. Then I will give you a list of names for each

and perhaps in a week or two you will have something to remember this occasion by."

Rob thought he would, too. If his own plans did not fail.

Elvin stood over him while he studied the names on the list.

List number one was made up of names and addresses in cities of South America, most of them being in Argentina. Some were even in New York, a few in London and Paris. There were about 300 in all. List number two, or those to whom the cipher was to be sent, were men in the republic, most of them with some kind of a military title. Rob's curiosity was aroused at this, and he resolved to read the cipher, if possible. There were about a hundred of these names. List number three, to whom the "Loyalty" letter was to be sent, were scattered all over the world, but most of them were civilians in South American countries.

It was clear to Rob that he had more than one day's work before him. He began at once. He was methodical in habit, and as he wrote a letter from form number one he would address an envelope from list number one, and then check off that name. Elvin watched him do this a few times, and then, with a satisfied nod of his head, he walked out.

Of course, letter number one was not clear to Rob. It was evidently a form previously agreed upon among the conspirators, to be sent under certain conditions. Rob soon had it word for word in his memory, and wrote the letters rapidly. But it took him till late in the afternoon to finish list number one. He had stopped for lunch, but ate alone. Capt. Elvin did not return.

It had begun to grow dark, and Rob

his uncle was killed, perhaps Elvin would take all his property and wealth.

With his heart filled with boyish courage, Rob wrote the letters in cipher, as he had been ordered to do. Then he addressed envelopes from list number two.

The message in form number three meant nothing to him. The nearest he could come to a guess was that it informed the persons to whom it was sent that the "Black Cat" had brought another cargo of contraband goods. But what had loyalty to do with smuggling? No, it was another revolutionary message, and the "Black Cat" had perhaps been taken as the symbol of the revolutionists.

Fortunately, Elvin remained away, and Rob had an opportunity to carry out the design he had formed. He wrote a letter to his uncle.

"Dear Uncle David," he wrote, "I was not drowned when I was thrown overboard from the Royal Mail. I was picked up by a smuggler, and am now a prisoner among some men who are smugglers, and also conspirators against the government of Argentina. The head man's name is Richard Elvin, and he thinks I am the nephew of Torrevo, the captain of the schooner that picked me up. If he knew I was writing this, he would kill me. The man who threw me overboard was Lemuel Sterne, the same one who is trying to marry my cousin Elsie. He is a scoundrel. He is really the son of Elvin. He comes here, and I am afraid he will recognize me. So, as soon as I get this off with a lot of letters I am writing to other conspirators, I am going to slip out of the window and go back to the schooner 'Black Cat.' Captain Torrevo told me to come back if I was in danger, and I think I am. I could have gone last night, but I wanted to finish the job they set me at, so that I could get this letter off to you. There are three kinds of letters I am writing, and I can only read one. That is the very one that seems hardest to read. It is in cipher, but I made it out. It is being sent to several generals and colonels and captains in Argentina, and says: 'Everything is ready. You will at once assemble your forces and join me here.—Vin.' The name Vin means Elvin. 'Here' means a house not far from the river, at a spot called Black Cat Bay. If I get back to the schooner I will be safe until Elvin finds me. But I hope you will come after me, or send someone. I warn you against Lemuel Sterne, whose name is Elvin. He is trying to get Elsie and your money. He tried to kill me to prevent me from reaching you. Please try and get me away from these men. I am afraid they will kill me yet. Your loving nephew, 'ROB CLEVERDALE.'"

Rob addressed an envelope to "David Horton, Buenos Ayres," and slipped the letter, folded neatly, into it. Then he placed this among the letters of number one, that he had written the previous day and which Elvin had looked over.

(To be continued.)

ARCTIC MOSQUITO.

The Most Terrible Insect Pest in the World.

Nothing that has ever been written about the Arctic mosquito begins to come up to the real thing," said a guest in the St. Charles corridor to the New Orleans Times-Democrat man. "I went up the Yukon river in the summer of '96, representing the Alaska and Dominion Trading company, and we struck mosquitoes as soon as we got into the hills. They are twice as large as our familiar bayou species, and their sting is like the prod of a hot needle. They sweep along the valleys in dense clouds, and if they catch a man unprepared they are liable to blind him before he can escape. I heard stories of children being stung to death, and can readily believe them. Whenever we went ashore we wore heavy hat nets and took the utmost precaution, and were certain to suffer more or less. One of our party cut the tongues out of his shoes and a narrow line of sock was exposed under the lacing. Next day he was bitten there at least a hundred times, and his feet were so terribly inflamed that the shoes had to be cut off. Another man, a fireman in the boat crew, got drunk on Alaska whisky one afternoon and lay down to take a nap in the corner of the engine room. I noticed him a little later, and was horrified at the solid brown mass of mosquitoes that had settled on his cheek and throat. In an hour his face was swollen out of all semblance to anything human, he was unable to swallow, and was burning with fever. It was a week before he was able to be about. I saw a number of cattle near Fort Hamilton that had been made stone blind by stings near the eye. The Arctic foothill mosquito is without doubt the most terrible insect pest in the world."

Engaging Frankness.

Edith—There is one thing in particular that I like Mr. Tactin for. He is so frank, you know. He always tells me of my faults without the least hesitation. That was the agreement I caused him to make. Bertha—Do you mean to say that you do not get angry with him? Edith—Never. Bertha—Tell me some of the faults he has found in you. Edith—O, he hasn't found any yet. When I ask him to name them he always says that I am faultless.—Stray Stories.

It Didn't Count.

Boggs—Come and have a drink. Biggs—Why, I thought you swore off. Boggs—O, that was only a New Year's resolution.—New York Journal.

VOICE OF THE SOUTH

Ex-Governor McCorkle Says It Is Decidedly for Expansion.

PHILIPPINES FURNISH A KEY

Islands Open the Door to Trade in the Orient—China the Greatest Field for Commercial Conquest, and United States Must Improve Her Opportunity

NEWARK, N. J., Jan. 18.—The thirtieth annual dinner of the board of trade was held tonight. Among those in attendance were Governor Voorhees, Mayor Seymour and Congressman W. P. Hepburn, R. Wayne Parker and Charles N. Fowler. One of the guests of honor was Ex-Governor William A. McCorkle of West Virginia, who spoke upon the topic "The Attitude of the Progressive South in Promoting the Country's Foreign Trade." He said in part:

"The first question of absolute importance today to the north is the matter of foreign markets. It is supreme in its importance to the whole people. We cannot longer live within ourselves and such is the situation that, if the American people propose to assume the required position in the great foreign trade, they must grasp these markets."

"First of critical importance, is the market of the empire of China. This is the market for which Russia, Germany, Great Britain and France, with all their energies, are contending. Here is the most important market of the globe. Today, without organized effort, we sell them \$25,000,000 per year, and within a short time we will make it \$75,000,000. This means much to you. The mind can scarcely grasp our interest in an empire of 4,000,000 square miles, inhabited by an energetic people just opening their eyes to civilization. Within a short time in this new territory the American locomotive has undersold those of every other country, and this year China has purchased from you and the south about \$11,000,000 of cotton. Here is fast developing the great cotton market of the world. These people need everything we manufacture. Already we have built up a great trade in cottons, machinery, leather goods, electric goods, chemicals, railroad equipment, tools, hardware and the general products of our workshops. At the present rate of progress, our trade with China will, in fifteen years, be the most important of any trade in the world. We demand a vigorous policy which will be permanent in its effects, under which the rights of this country will be preserved, and under which the markets of China shall not be turned over to European nations as their own exclusive property, but shall be held alike on terms of absolute equality for the citizens of the United States."

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS THE KEY.

"Now, sir, we are face to face with the great question, how shall we keep open to our country the door of the great Chinese and eastern markets? There is but one door for us and that is through the Philippine islands. Here is the real strategical and commercial position of the east. Every eastern market can be reached far more easily through these islands than from any other position. Shanghai and Hong Kong, through which cities England has established her great trade, offer no such position for commercial success as do the Philippines. It gives control of the great northern and central coast of China, with its teeming, active population. They put us in a position to grasp through them the markets of Japan, with its 40,000,000 of energetic people and its annual trade of \$250,000,000. The great coast line of the Philippine islands of 800 miles practically dominates the northern coast of China, capable of a foreign trade of a billion dollars per year. Without our position in the Philippines, our commercial treaties with China would be valueless, and upon our withdrawal from these islands, the Chinese empire would not last a month, and its rich markets would forever be lost to the people of this country. Many who oppose our retaining an interest in these islands seem to imply that our retention of them is for the purpose alone of establishing a tyranny over the inhabitants. I find that thoughtful men are in favor of establishing the jurisdiction of our government, giving the Philippines full control of their local affairs when they are able to manage them, and allowing such liberty as they have never enjoyed, and such as they should never enjoy if the flag should be removed therefrom. To leave the islands is to turn them over to anarchy."

"Now, as to the position of the south on this last great question. What has been her tradition? Those who suggest that the south has been ultra conservative as to the widening of the sphere of this country's influence do not know her traditions. As to her action in the future, I confidently refer you to her past."

"Cuba, Siam, China, Philippine Islands, Japan, South America, and the islands of the sea desire your merchandise; and these markets must be reached by a cheaper route than around Cape Horn. England, by the completion of the Suez canal, has the advantage in trade routes. The south has never faltered and no interest has ever interfered with the persistent desire to see the great work of the Nicaragua canal completed by American hands and for the glory of American commerce."

Profitless Debate.

The wearisome debate on the Philippine question was continued in the senate yesterday without an interesting feature. What good is it doing and where is it to end? These are pertinent questions which the country will soon be asking the senators unless they pause long enough in their oratorical craze to ask themselves and be guided by the obvious answer. If talk is profitless, why keep talking? It will convince nobody that the administration is always wrong and its opponents always right, whatever the latter man think or say.

GREAT AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS.

Part Played by the Farmers in the Wonderful Commerce of the United States What the Protective Tariff Does.

The republican party has always made a definite claim that their principles of government were intended to benefit the great mass of the common people, that they are a business party, that is, a party, who, when in power, establishes such policies that the business of the country has always materially increased. This is true at home, where by the workings of their methods manufacturers are encouraged, employment given the idle, and their capacity for purchasing from the producers of grain, the agricultural classes in other words, is greatly enlarged. Under the wise rule of the republican party foreign commerce of the United States also has always been helped and developed.

The foreign commerce of the United States is attaining wonderful proportions under the protective tariff laws, and is a great factor in adding to the general prosperity of the country. During the year 1899 this trade amounted to over two billion dollars, more than three-fifths being exports and less than two-fifths imports. The official figures are: Imports, \$799,434,620; exports, \$1,275,486,641. The excess of exports is larger than in any preceding year except in 1898. Products of agriculture form 63 per cent of the exports and less than 29 per cent of the imports.

TRADE IN BREADSTUFFS.

During last December the United States exported to foreign countries domestic breadstuffs, provisions and oils amounting to \$19,148,230; during the year ending December 31, the exports of these articles amounted to \$72,031,925.

During the four years of the last democratic administration the exports of breadstuffs amounted to \$623,051,656; during 1898 and 1899 of the present republican administration the exports of breadstuffs amounted to \$633,000,000. It is an expansion of trade that particularly interests the western farmer and stock raiser, and under republican rule it seems to be double what it is under democratic rule.

In this connection it is curious to compare the breadstuffs exports under the various administrations, and note the falling off when the democrats are in power:

1877-80, Republican years..	\$797,976,680
1881-84, Republican years..	\$23,588,612
1885-88, Democratic years..	\$79,177,728
1889-92, Republican years..	\$76,289,961
1893-96, Democratic years..	\$23,051,656
1897-99, Rep. (only 3 yrs)..	\$31,754,238

This tabulation, which is taken from the records, shows that during fifteen years of republican administrations the exportation of breadstuffs amounted to an average of \$210,640,479 per year, while under the eight years of democratic rule the average was only \$150,278,675 per year. So it makes a difference of sixty million dollars a year to the farmers of the country when the republicans are running the government.

The difference in the balance of trade under the different administrations is equally startling. During eight years of democracy the balance of trade in favor of this country was \$719,285,940, or an average of \$89,910,742 per year. This seems like a large amount, but it was doubled during the republican years. During the two last completed terms of republican presidencies and the three years under McKinley, making a total of eleven years, the balance of trade in favor of this country was \$2,190,394,365, being an average of \$199,126,760 per year. This is proof conclusive that under republican management the people of this country draw from foreign countries as a net balance \$109,216,018 more every year than they do when the democrats are in power.

A STUDY OF THE FIGURES.

A study of the imports and exports of 1899 compared with those of earlier years presents some interesting facts. From 1869 to 1899, imports doubled, while exports quadrupled. The imports of 1869 were \$438,455,894 and the exports \$337,375,983, making an excess of imports over exports amounting to \$101,079,911, while, as above indicated, the excess of exports in 1899 is \$475,652,051. Relatively the proportion of free and dutiable goods in the list of imports differs very greatly, only \$21,775,543 of the total imported in 1869 being admitted free of duty, while in 1899, \$351,814,004 of the imports came in free of duty.

The contrast in the receipts and expenditures of the government is also worthy of notice. During Cleveland's first term the receipts exceeded the expenditures by \$372,232,729, but during the four years of his second administration, when the democrats had full swing, the government ran in hind to the amount of \$158,672,675. In the meantime, during the last two completed republican administrations, which, like the democratic years, were in times of peace, the receipts of the government exceeded the expenditures by just \$62,440,638, or an average of nearly three times more every year than under democratic rule.

In spite of the unusual war expenses now being incurred, the good republican record is being kept up at the present time. From July 1st of last year up to the 15th of January, the receipts of the government exceeded the expenditures by \$29,989,157, which is almost twice as good as the democrats could do in time of peace during the eighties, and at the rate of \$75,000,000 per year better than the democrats did in 1893-96.

INCREASED EMPLOYMENT.

Bradstreet in December reported as follows: "Pennsylvania industries are using 200,000 more persons than at this time a year ago; 100,000 New England cotton mill operatives have received an advance of 10 per cent in wages; wages of employees in the cotton mills in Augusta, Ga., and Bath and Langley, S. C., are to be advanced; the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac railroad has increased the wages of its yardmen, conductors and brakemen 10 per cent; 2,400 workers in Elgin watch factory will receive an increase of wages January 1, etc."

QUEER REFORM PRACTICES.

Leaders of the Populist Party Involved in Questionable Practices.

The news comes from Lincoln that there is a scandal in the affairs of the oil inspection bureau. Chief inspector has made a report, showing that the fees of the office are coming in more than twice as fast as they did when Edmisten was in charge.

This is not unexpected. It was well known that the bureau was conducted as an adjunct to the fusion party, and that the populist chairman was put in charge of it in lieu of other salary for his political labors.

But the question now comes up: What become of the fees which were not reported? Were they pocketed by the chairman of the "reform party," or were they turned into the treasury of the party? The latter supposition cannot be true, as a statement of the condition of the populist campaign treasury was published, and no mention of the oil fees appeared in the report.

Some of the crooked deals of the chief oil inspector came to light over a year ago, when he was detected in the act of padding his expense bills. He reported railroad fare when he carried free passes over the lines. There were also expense bills for many fictitious trips.

And yet this official was placed in command of the populist "reform forces," and is kept there. The conclusion is plain. Either the populist campaign steers are deriving a benefit from party pilferings that are going on; or else the populist party winks at and permits misappropriation of public money when only individuals are to be benefited.

The recent action of the populist committee in suppressing the resolution "board of transportation" would indicate that the party is hopelessly in the clutches of unprincipled politicians. The people of the state cannot too soon have their eyes opened to the real condition of affairs.

Read the following extract from the World-Herald:

"The World-Herald yesterday contained the following interesting matter:

SHELVED THE RESOLUTION.

Populist State Central Committee Steer Clear of Demand for Action.

Majority Defeated a Formal Request Urging State Board of Transportation to Grant Relief.

Action of Committee at Recent Meeting Leaks out—How the Members Stood on the Proposition.

Special Dispatch to the World-Herald. Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 13.—It has just leaked out in populist circles that at the meeting of the populist state committee held in this city last week a resolution urging the state board of transportation to do something was defeated. The resolution was as follows:

"Be it Resolved, By the state central committee of the people's independent party:

"First—We demand of the secretary of state, the attorney general, the auditor of public accounts, the state treasurer and the commissioner of public lands and buildings, constituting the board of transportation and elected by the suffrages of the party which we represent, that they cause their secretaries to investigate the complaints of shippers without further delay and, if those complaints be well founded, we demand that relief be given to the shippers of the state by a regulation of the freight rates charged by the railroads.

"Second—We demand of the secretaries of the state board of transportation that they proceed immediately to examine into the complaints of shippers and to determine whether the complaints are just and if the rates are unreasonable, we demand that the said secretaries regulate and reduce the same in such manner as that the cause of complaint may be removed; and if said secretaries are unwilling to regulate the freight rates in the state within their powers we then demand that they resign their offices and that the board of transportation appoint secretaries who will act.

"Third—We demand a regulation by the said board of the telephone and express charges in this state with view to allowing the companies controlling these monopolies to earn a reasonable income upon their investments and to give the consumers of these services the benefit of the enormous profits now being collected by those companies."

John C. Sprecher of Colfax county, D. W. Hamilton of Butler county, Judge Hale of Butler county and Elmer E. Thomas of Douglas county all spoke in favor of the resolution and urged its adoption. Senator Sprecher made several earnest appeals to the committee not to defeat the resolution.

Wilbur F. Bryant, who is not a member of the committee, came in and made a very eloquent speech pleading for the defeat of the resolution.

J. H. Edmisten also spoke in opposition to the resolution. LeMar of Saunders and Lewis Beltzer both made speeches against the resolution.

J. W. Edgerton, one of the secretaries of the board, came in while the resolution was under discussion and made a speech pleading for the resolution's defeat.

Senator Howard of Hamilton county spoke against the resolution and then made a motion to table it. This motion was adopted.

Those who voted against the resolution were as follows:

Howard of Hamilton, LeMar of Saunders, Felber of Cedar, O'Hara of Knox, Gentry of Hart, Anderson of Fillmore, Hayes of Holt, Swoboda of Howard and Tibbles of Thurston.

Those who voted for the resolution were Sprecher of Colfax, Hamilton of Butler, Thomas of Douglas, Dalley of Nemaha and Hale of Butler.

Those not voting were Witford of Washington, Nowner of Sarpy, Wagner of Gage and Uhl of Cuming.

China has six smokeless powder mills.



ELVIN WATCHED HIM DO THIS.

form. Now, take your pen and write this down."

"I am ready sir," said Rob, dipping his pen in the ink.

"The blue flag waves," said Elvin. "Have you got that?"

"The blue flag waves," repeated Rob, writing it down.

"I will go on. The blue flag waves. La Plata smooth and friends find easy sailing. Splendid anchorage in Black Cat bay. Three days from this a storm is expected. Cover your house well."

"I have that down, sir," said Rob. "Very well. Mark that form number one."

"It is marked number one, sir."

"Now another. Are you ready?"

"Ready, sir."

"Write these letters, one after another, and write them very plainly."

"Yes, sir," said Rob.

"FWFSZUJOHJTSFBZ. ZPVXJM MBUPDFBTTFCNCFZPVSMPSPDFT BKQEPJONFISF."

This was a terrible jumble to Rob, who knew nothing about writing in cipher.

"Got that all down?" asked Elvin.

"Yes, sir."

"Read them over."

Rob repeated the letters.

"Correct," said Elvin. "It is an easy cipher, but none of the letters will get into the hands of the government, and even if one did, I don't think there is any one who would bother to make it out. Now take this down."

"I am ready, sir."

"Loyalty to loyalty, and Black Cat sends greetings."

"Is that all, sir?"

"That's all. You will sign to each letter you write the name Vin. You understand, it is the last syllable of my own name."

"Yes, sir."

"Now, here are three lists of names. You have the first letter marked number one. Did you mark the cipher number two?"

"Yes, sir."

"The short one is number three. These lists of names are numbered one, two and three. You will send a letter of each number to every person named in the list bearing the same number. Do you understand that?"

"Yes, sir."

"Here are envelopes. There are stamps. Do it all up in good shape."

felt tired of the work. So he gave it up for the day and wandered around to look at the place. Capt. Elvin appeared for supper and looked over the letters Rob had addressed. Rob noted with pleasure that he did this carelessly and did not see half of them.

"You finished number one?" said the captain.

"Yes, sir. I got tired, and left the others till morning."

"That's all right. You did well. I could not do it. I could not sit down and write an hour at a stretch to save my life."

Rob had a good night's rest, and after his breakfast the next morning tackled number two. The captain went off again, and Rob's curiosity had grown so that now, while he was fresh, he felt like reading the cipher. But it was a mystery. Such a meaningless lot of letters he never saw before. Turn and twist them as he would he could make nothing of them. Suddenly it occurred to him that these letters did not spell the message at all. They must, then, stand for other letters in the alphabet. How was he to learn what they stood for? He took the first sentence. FWFSZU, and so on, meant absolutely nothing, and could not be made to spell anything. Starting with A, the first letter of the alphabet, Rob tried to make F stand for it. But there was no way to fit the same rule to F, and make sense. This would be ARA. It might lead to something. But when he had gone through the sentence he found it would not do, and began on B. He kept this up, with all the ingenuity his young head was capable of, and tried C and D. He began to despair of reaching it, when he tried E.

The first five letters gave the word "Every."

With his heart beating faster now, Rob kept on his way. Each letter of the simple cipher really stood for the letter that came before it in the alphabet. And when he had studied it all out, the message read as follows:

"Everything is ready. You will at once assemble your forces and join me here."

This meant something, surely. It meant that a revolutionary army was to assemble under Richard Elvin and make an attack on the forces of the government. This means, perhaps, ruin to his uncle in Buenos Ayres. And if