

# KING DON:

A STORY OF MILITARY LIFE IN INDIA.

....BY MAJOR ALLAN....

CHAPTER II.—(Continued.)

She looked up in his face with a little smile that would have appeared a very martinet in love.

"I am very sure that Roddy does not care a scrap nowadays for me," she said demurely, adding, with sweet contrition, "and I am not surprised, after the way I treated him. But I was only a thoughtless girl in those days, and I know he has forgiven me."

"How long ago is it since 'those days'?" queried Don, toying with a golden strand of her hair. Her words had restored his reassurance and calm.

"I try to think it is a long, long time, Don," she answered gravely, "for then I never thought of right or wrong, or how beautiful it makes life if we try to serve God rather than self. Oh," she broke off, with a thrill of emotion in her voice, "sometimes I pray I may live to be an old woman, just to try to make up for all those wasted years."

"And so I, too, pray that you may, though it were only to solace the declining years of a lost sinner like myself, sweet saint," he rejoined, lightly. "And now, my darling, since I know your heart is mine, beyond retraction, I can risk to tell you my news from home today. That faithless Roddy is about to be espoused to my sister, Di."

"Oh, I am so glad—so glad!" she exclaimed, and there was no mistaking the genuine warmth of her words. "You will tell him that when you write, won't you, Don? And I myself will write to Di. Oh, Don, I think Di is one of the noblest women in the whole world. But for her example I should never have learned to remember our lives are not our own."

Don rose from her side with a momentary flush on his cheek.

"You were not always such a little Puritan, Lillie," he rallied her, "or, don't you know, 'pon my word, I should have been afraid to think it possible you ever look at such a reprobate as me, for—you know I am not a hypocrite, Lillie—I'm not a good fellow by any means, and, to tell the truth, I don't want to be one."

It was a bold thing for him to say in the face of her guileless professions of faith; but love made Lillie blind to everything but the bliss of knowing he had claimed her heart forever, and that into his hands had been put the wondrous power of making his chequered life blessed.

She rose, too, and put her hands out to him with a sweetness that banished all thought of alien opinion.

"Some day, Don, perhaps you will come to know, as I do now, that this world is not everything; and so long as you love me I am content to wait for I know that God will make it plain to you in His own good time."

Don's arms closed around her with more demonstrative tenderness than he had yet shown.

"My white Lily, I am perfectly certain we shall prove a model Darby and Joan, for, since you will have me, what do I care for anything else?"

And then he kissed her again, and murmured "sweet nothings" in her ear that brought the color flitting happily to her lovely cheek. Lastly he drew from his little finger a gold band, bearing a diamond ivy leaf, and inscribed inside with the single word "Byland"—steadfast—the Gordon badge and motto.

And when he had placed it on the third finger of Lillie's fair hand, she repaid him by throwing her arms about his neck and giving him the first shy kiss of love.

"Oh, Don, may we be like the ivy, and always cling close to each other. May nothing ever come between us two!" she cried.

Those words of deepest love might maybe have fallen more fully from the man's lips than the girl's; but Don read in their sweet solemnity the hidden meaning of a hoped-for higher bond of union, and he only smiled considerably as he held her close and returned her kiss with liberal interest.

"I hope," he said playfully, "that means you never, never would be so cruel as to jilt me as you did old Roddy. There! forgive me, sweet, I'm a brute to have reminded you of those days when you were such a dear little coquette. Are you quite sure you are not afraid of giving yourself to such a jealous beggar as I am, Lillie? For you know I am jealous."

"Do you know why I didn't tell you of Roddy's engagement till I knew that I had won your dear heart? Because I didn't want to be taken out of pity."

"You need never be jealous of me any more, Don," she said, with sweet earnestness.

"What of His Highness Prince Clement Sing, who your father told me sent you lately a present of a certain cashmere shawl, and a champac necklace?" he queried, laughing.

But the question turned Lillie's blushing face for the instant pale. It had suddenly reminded her of Captain Derwent's favor of this would-be suitor for her hand. Prince Clement Sing, though a native of the Punjab, had European blood in his veins, and had lived from boyhood in England, and graduated at one of the English universities.

"I would have returned the presents, but father explained to me it would give serious offense," she said deprecatingly. "It was unpleasant to have

trembling girl in a lingering embrace. "What message shall I take to the father, little one?"

"That I love you," she answered simply, "and that I only live for you both to come back to me."

He sealed the confession with a passionate kiss, and tore himself away, to spring lightly to the saddle.

"For an instant he paused on his prancing steed with bared head, his brown eyes bent upon her, and a smile on his mustached lips.

"Till we meet again," He spoke softly then, as, kissing his hand to her, he resumed his helmet and galloped away into the moonlit night.

"Till we meet again!"

She lifted her tear-dimmed eyes to the star-spangled heavens in a mute supplication that the Father of all would watch between him and her till that day came.

Ah! she little knew what the interval held in store.

CHAPTER III.

"Impossible, my dear sir—impossible!"

It was Captain Derwent who spoke in that decidedly aggressive tone of decision, and he whom he addressed was Don Gordon, as they strolled in company along a narrow track by the side of a winding nullah, on their way back to mess at the Tirah camp.

It was nearly three weeks since the lover had bidden Lillie farewell, and she it was who was under discussion now.

Don's cheek was flushed, and his dark eyes glowed ominously as their glance followed the clouds of pale smoke from the cheroot he puffed for several minutes in proud silence.

That he had never contemplated Captain Derwent's blunt refusal of his suit was very certain, by the easy assurance with which he had courted and won Lillie's own consent.

"You say it is impossible your daughter should ever be my wife?" Don spoke at last, with painful distinctness.

It was characteristic of Don's nature that he was rarely roused to passion; but, once roused, it was deep and lasting; and by the pallor that had replaced the flush upon his face it was too evident he was moved to passion now.

"Perfectly impossible, my dear fellow, though I hate telling you so, don't you know?"

"Since you have told me so much, I should like that you will tell me more," said Don, in that calm voice that little betrayed the fire at his heart. "May I ask why it is perfectly impossible?"

"My dear sir," exclaimed the elder officer, somewhat sharply, "if your own common sense does not tell you my chief reasons, then you must pardon my being outspoken. You've said yourself you haven't a rupee beyond your pay and what your uncle, Colonel Gordon, chooses to allow you yearly. Now, honestly, do you consider you are at all a suitable match for my little girl, who, you must remember, is now an heiress. Had you been heir of Gad—"

"Thanks," said Don curtly. "I do not need to be reminded of my reversed fortunes, and, I will confess, I should never have asked Lillie to share my poverty. It is only the fact of her being an heiress makes it possible she could ever become my wife."

"Pon my word, sir, you're frank!" exclaimed Captain Derwent, irritated by what he deemed effrontery on Don's part. "My daughter should be honored to know that, had she been a 'tocherless lass,' as we say in the north, you would have had none of her."

He laughed, as if to pass the matter off as a joke; but he was genuinely annoyed.

(To be continued.)

The Spread of Contagious Diseases.

The responsibility of those persons who supply the public with food and drink is not sufficiently realized by the community at large. Not long since a number of cases of diphtheria broke out in a neighborhood. The disease was of a very severe type, and, in several instances, proved fatal after two or three days' illness. It seemed impossible, at first, to trace the contagion to its source, but after a thorough canvass of the vicinity it was discovered that a dealer in milk had in his family a couple of cases of diphtheria. He professed ignorance of the cause of the children's sickness, and even when assured of its nature, claimed that he had no idea that it could be conveyed in milk. The fact that parents do not know how children could have contracted this disease often acts as a check upon any efforts to combat it, insisting that as the little ones have not been exposed to this malady it certainly must be something else that ails them. When illness of this sort breaks out in a family the only proper course is to have it investigated at once. Delays are quite sure to be disastrous if not fatal, and in the present condition of medical knowledge on this subject, there is reasonable hope of relief if attention is given when the first symptoms of illness manifest themselves.

All Kinds.

Snobson (to inhabitant of out-of-way seaside resort)—"What sort of people do you get down here in the summer?" Inhabitant—"Oh, all sorts, zur. There be fine people an' common people, an' some 'ust half and half, like yourself, zur."—Punch.

Love's Playfulness.

"And there's nothing more between us?" he asked. "No, Harry, dear," she replied, nestling against his shoulder; "I can't get any closer to you."—Philadelphia North American.

## BOERS WILL FIGHT ON

Spirit of the Sturdy Men of the Republic Remains Unchanged.

OFFICIAL ADDRESS FROM PRETORIA

Surrender of Cronje Will Not Discourage Them in Their Defense—Kraeger Says God is Testing Burghers—He Brings Tears to the Eyes of Bloemfontein People by a Speech.

PRETORIA, March 9.—Secretary of State Reitz has issued a war bulletin in which, after saying the government has no official tidings of the surrender of General Cronje, but must accept it as a fact, however painful, adds: "The government remains assured that the surrender will not discourage the burghers in their defense of their independence and standing as a nation. The struggle thus far has shown the republics have vindicated themselves as an independent people. This reverse will not stagger us. In the struggle for our cherished rights our belief remains that, whatever happens, the Lord still reigns.

"Owing to the invasion of the Free State by a large force of the enemy and other circumstances it became necessary to take up other positions, hence the burghers in Natal have returned to Biggarsburg. All the commandos have reached there safely, except a few which retired in the direction of Van Roeman's pass. Thus, Ladysmith and Kimberley are no more besieged.

"In retiring the enemy was time after time driven back, so that our lagers were not cut off. In these fights a few men were killed or wounded and the enemy lost heavily.

"In spite of all reports the spirit of the fighting men as to the outcome remains unchanged. Among the commandos in Natal the burghers are full of courage.

"General DeWet now commands all the commandos at the Modder river.

"It is understood that President Kruger's visit to Bloemfontein was to try to arrange a compromise of the differences between the Transvaalers and Free State."

A special dispatch from Bloemfontein says that President Kruger, addressing a crowd of people Monday, said:

"Although God is testing our people, my personal opinion is that the limit of the test is nearly reached. If the people are sustained by faith in the time of adversity, God will soon again turn the tide in our favor. If we have strong faith in God, He will surely deliver us. The God of Deliverance of the olden-time is the same God now."

The speech of the venerable president brought tears to the eyes of men and women alike. The Free State national anthem was then sung.

The visit of President Kruger has done much good and has cheered the despondents. More recently he has been visiting the commandos south of Bloemfontein.

Much satisfaction is expressed in all circles at the courtesies extended to General Cronje by the British.

## LEAD IS FIRE SWEEP.

South Dakota Town Damaged to Extent of Three Hundred Thousand.

LEAD, S. D., March 9.—Fire which started about 1:30 this morning in the Dalenberg saloon destroyed \$300,000 worth of property before it was brought under control at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The loss is covered by \$100,000 insurance. Forty-three buildings were destroyed, including two brick blocks. The Homestake offices and large store, as well as the Hearst free library, sustained considerable damage from water and explosion of dynamite across the street. One solid block of wooden tenement houses was consumed.

One contract was let today for a \$15,000 stone and brick block to replace the burned structures and architects from this city and Deadwood are drawing plans for four other buildings.

Several reasons contributed to the spread of the flames. One of them was the inflammable nature of most of the buildings, which were of frame. Another was the high wind, which amounted almost to a gale, and another was the inadequate pressure of water. In addition to the local fire department the entire force of the Deadwood, Terravilla and Central City departments were summoned, but in spite of their best efforts the fire continued to spread. It was finally checked by the use of dynamite. Buildings in the path of the flames were blown up and so far as possible the debris taken out of the way. The shocks of the explosions were so great that they shattered the windows in many business houses.

At one time it looked as though nothing could save the entire business part of the town and the big reduction works and stamp mill of the Homestake Mining company and the other big mining properties of the camp.

The blowing up of the buildings stopped the fire, however, before it reached these valuable properties. In all, between forty and fifty buildings were destroyed. Among them were practically all the houses in the tenement district.

## PLANS TO IMPROVE RIVERS.

Number of Suggestions for the Mississippi Are Offered.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The senate committee on commerce granted a hearing today to a number of persons interested in river improvements, among them James Selden Cowden, in the interest of his plan for the improvement of the Mississippi river, a number of New Orleans business men in behalf of other plans for Mississippi river improvements and Mr. Charles Stoughton, in support of the project for the construction of a canal to connect the lower Harlem river with Long Island sound.

Messrs. Bryant, Saunders and Woodward were heard upon the necessity for the improvement of the Mississippi river outlet. They especially urged an immediate appropriation for the construction of dredges with which to keep the South Pass clear after the expiration of the present Eads bridge contract.

## EXPERTS SAY PEACE IS NEAR.

Expect Free Staters to Abandon the South.

LONDON, March 9.—The full extent of Lord Roberts' success of yesterday is not clear, but the best informed are perceptibly nearer. Experts anticipate that the burghers will make no further stand west of the Free State capital, and some of them even deduce from the fact that the Boer forces are divided and have retreated in different directions that demoralization has set in and that the Transvaal forces will not be found carefully entrenched in positions north of the Valt river, while the bulk of the Free Staters will abandon the contest and sue for peace. Elsewhere the news indicates that the conditions continue hopeful from a British point of view, the telegrams from Mafeking alone showing any despondency.

## RUMOR OF PEACE OVERTURES.

London Paper Bears Reports of Informal Proposals.

LONDON, March 7.—The Daily News makes the following editorial announcement: "It was rumored in London yesterday—and we have some reason for believing the rumor to be correct—that the two republics made informal and unofficial overtures of peace on the preceding day.

"Unfortunately the conditions suggested were of such a character as to preclude the possibility of leading to any result. Terms which might have been gladly accepted before the war in order to avert it are impossible after the war, with all the sacrifice it has entailed."

## TROUBLE IN SANTO DOMINGO.

Governor in a Plot to Overthrow the Government.

SANTO DOMINGO, March 9.—The government has apparently discovered that a political movement in opposition to it is pending. General Popin, the former governor of Santiago de los Caballeros, has voted against the government and government troops have been sent against him. A state of siege has been declared and constitutional guarantees have been suspended in the southwest part of the island. Several arrests have been made and a change in the cabinet may take place soon. This city is quiet.

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