

A Brave Coward.

By Robert Louis Stevenson.

CHAPTER II.—(Continued.)

My wife and I, a man and a woman, have often agreed to wonder how a person could be at the same time so handsome and so repulsive as Northmour. He had the appearance of a finished gentleman; his face bore every mark of intelligence and courage, but you only had to look at him, even in his most amiable moment, to see that he had the temper of a slave captain.

I never knew a character that was both explosive and revengeful to the same degree; he combined the vivacity of the South with the sustained and deadly hatreds of the North; and both traits were plainly written on his face, which was a sort of danger signal. In person he was tall, strong and active; his hair and complexion very dark; his features handsomely designed, but spoiled by a menacing expression.

At that moment he was somewhat paler than by nature; he wore a heavy frown; and his lips worked, and he looked sharply round as he walked, like a man besieged with apprehensions. And yet I thought he had a look of triumph underlying all, as though he had already done much, and was near the end of an achievement.

Partly from a scruple of delicacy—which I dare say came too late—partly from the pleasure of starting an acquaintance, I desired to make my presence known to him without delay.

I got suddenly to my feet, and stepped forward.

"Northmour!" said I.

I have never had so shocking a surprise in all my days. He leaped on me without a word; something shone in his hand; and he struck for my heart with a dagger. At the same moment I knocked him head over heels. Whether he was my quickness, or his own uncertainty, I know not; but the blade only grazed my shoulder, while the hit and his fist struck me violently on the mouth.

I fled, but not far. I had often and often observed the capabilities of the sand hills for protracted ambush on stealthy advances and retreats; and, not ten yards from the scene of the scuffle, plumped down again upon the grass. The lantern had fallen and gone out. But what was my astonishment to see Northmour slip at a bound into the pavilion, and hear him bar the door behind him with a clang of iron!

He had not pursued me. He had run away. Northmour, whom I knew for the most implacable and daring of men, had run away!

As I thus stood transfixed with wonder, I began to grow painfully conscious of the injuries I had received in the scuffle; I skulked around among the sand hills; and, by a devious path, regained the shelter of the wood. On the way, the old nurse passed again within several yards of me, still carrying her lantern, on the return journey to the mansion house of Graden. This made a seventh suspicious feature in the case. Northmour and his guests, it appeared, were to cook and do the cleaning for themselves, while the old woman continued to inhabit the big empty barrack among the policies. There must surely be great cause for secrecy, when so many inconveniences were confronted to preserve it.

So thinking, I made my way to the den. For greater security, I trod out the embers of the fire, and lit my lantern to examine the wound upon my shoulder. It was a trifling hurt, though it bled freely, and I dressed it as well as I could (for its position made it difficult to reach) with some rags and cold water from the spring. While I was thus busied, I mentally declared war against Northmour and his mystery.

CHAPTER III.

For two days I skulked round the pavilion, profiting by the uneven surface of the links. I became an adept in the necessary tactics. These low hillocks and shallow dells, running one into another, became a kind of cloak of darkness for my enthralling, but perhaps dishonorable, pursuit. Yet, in spite of this advantage, I could learn but little of Northmour and his guests.

Sometimes I thought the tall man must be confined to bed, for I remembered the feebleness of his gait; and sometimes I thought he must have gone clear away, and that Northmour and the young lady remained alone together in the pavilion. The idea, even then, displeased me.

Whether or not this pair were man and wife I had seen abundant reason to doubt the friendliness of their relation. Although I could hear nothing of what they said, and rarely so much as glean a decided expression on the face of either, there was a distance, almost a stiffness, in their bearing which showed them to be either unfamiliar or at enmity.

On the morning of the third day she walked alone for some time, and I perceived, to my great concern, that she was more than once in tears. You will see that my heart was already interested more than I supposed. She had a firm yet airy motion of the body, and carried her head with unimaging grace; every step was a thing to look at, and she seemed in my eyes to breathe sweetness and distinction.

The day was so agreeable, being calm and sunshiny, with a tranquil sea, and yet with a healthful pliancy vigor in the air, that, contrary to custom, she was tempted forth a second time to walk. On this occasion she was accompanied by Northmour, and they had been but a short while on the

beach when I saw him take forcible possession of her hand. She struggled, and uttered a cry that was almost a scream. I sprang to my feet, unmindful of my strange position; but ere I had taken a step I saw Northmour bare-headed and bowing very low, as if to apologize; and dropped again at once into my ambush. A few words were interchanged, and then, with another bow, he left the beach to return to the pavilion. He passed not far from me, and I could see him, flushed and lowering, and cutting savagely with his cane among the grass. It was not without satisfaction that I recognized my own handwork in the great cut under his right eye, and a considerable discoloration around the socket.

For some time the girl remained where he had left her, looking out past the islet and over the bright sea. Then with a start as one who, throws off preoccupation and puts energy again upon its metal, she broke into a rapid and decisive walk. She also was much incensed by what had passed. She had forgotten where she was. And I beheld her walk straight into the borders of the quicksand where it is most abrupt and dangerous. Two or three steps further and her life would have been in serious jeopardy, when I slid down the face of the sand hill, which is there precipitous, and, running half way forward, called to her to stop.

She did so, and turned round. There was not a tremor of fear in her behavior, and she marched directly up to me like a queen.

"What does this mean?" she asked. "You were walking," I told her, "directly into Graden Floe."

"You do not belong to these parts," she said again. "You speak like an educated man. What do you mean—you, a gentleman—by skulking like a spy about this desolate place? Tell me," she said, "who is it you hate?"

"I hate no one," I answered, "and I fear no one face to face. My name is Cassilis—Frank Cassilis. I lead the life of a vagabond for my own good pleasure. I am one of Northmour's oldest friends, and three nights ago when I addressed him on these links he stabbed me in the shoulder with a knife."

"It was you!" she said.

"Why he did so," I continued, disregarding the interruption, "is more than I can guess and more than I care to know. I have not many friends, nor am I very susceptible to friendship, but no man shall drive me from a place by terror. I had camped in Graden Sea-wood ere he came; I camp in it still. If you think I mean harm to you or yours, madam, the remedy is in your hand. Tell him that my camp is in the Hemlock Den, and to-night he can stab me in safety while I sleep."

With this I doffed my cap to her and scrambled up once more among the sand hills. I do not know why, but I felt a prodigious sense of injustice and felt like a hero and a martyr; while, as a matter of fact, I had not a word to say in my defense nor so much as one plausible reason to offer for my conduct.

Next day she came out about the same hour alone, and, as soon as the sand hills concealed her from the pavilion, drew nearer to the edge, and called me by name in guarded tones. I was astonished to observe that she was deadly pale, and seemingly under the influence of strong emotion.

"Mr. Cassilis!" she cried; "Mr. Cassilis!"

I appeared at once, and leaped down upon the beach. A remarkable air of relief overspread her countenance as soon as she saw me.

"Oh!" she cried, with a hoarse sound, like one whose bosom has been lightened of weight. And then, "Thank God, you are still safe!" she added; "I knew if you were you would be here. Promise me that you will sleep no longer in that wood. You do not think how I suffer; all last night I could not sleep for thinking of your peril."

"Peril?" I repeated. "Peril from whom? From Northmour?"

"Not so," she said. "Did you think I would tell him after what you said?" "Not from Northmour?" I repeated. "Then how? From whom? I see none to be afraid of."

"You must not ask me," was her reply, "for I am not free to tell you. Only believe me, and go hence—believe me, and go away quickly, quickly, for your life!"

An appeal to his alarm is never a good plan to rid one's self of a spirited young man. My obstinacy was but increased by what she said, and I made it a point of honor to remain. And her solicitude for my safety still more confirmed me in the resolve.

"You must not think me inquisitive, madam," I replied; "but if Graden is so dangerous a place you yourself perhaps remain here at some risk."

She only looked at me reproachfully.

"You and your father"—but she interrupted me almost with a gasp.

"My father! How do you know that?" she cried.

"I saw you together when you landed," was my answer; and I do not know why, but it seemed satisfactory to both of us, as indeed it was the truth. "But," I continued, "you need have no fear from me. I see you have some reason to be secret, and, you may believe me, your secret is as safe with me as if I were in Graden Floe. I have scarce spoken to any one for years."

My horse is my only companion, and even he, poor beast, is not beside me. You see, then, you may count on me for silence. So tell me the truth, my dear young lady, are you not in danger?"

"Mr. Northmour says you are an honorable man," she returned, "and I believe it when I see you. I will tell you so much, you are right; we are in dreadful, dreadful danger, and you share it by remaining where you are."

"Ah!" said I; "you have heard of me from Northmour? And he gives me a good character?"

"I asked him about you last night," was her reply. "I pretended," she hesitated, "I pretended to have met you long ago and spoken to you of him. It was not true; but I could not help myself without betraying you and you had put me in a difficulty. He praised you highly."

"And—you may permit me one question—does this danger come from Northmour?" I asked.

"From Mr. Northmour?" she cried. "Oh, no; he stays with us to share it."

"While you propose that I should run away?" I said. "You do not rate me very high."

"Why should you stay?" she asked. "You are no friend of ours."

I know not what came over me, for I had not been conscious of a similar weakness since I was a child, but I was so mortified by this retort that my eyes pricked and filled with tears as I continued to gaze upon her face.

"No, no," she said in a changed voice; "I did not mean the words unkindly."

"I was I who offended," I said; and I held out my hand with a look of appeal that somehow touched her, for she gave me hers at once and even eagerly. I held it for awhile in mine and gazed into her eyes. It was she who first tore her hand away and, forgetting all about her request and the promise she had sought to extort, ran at the top of her speed and without turning till she was out of sight.

And then I knew that I loved her, and thought in my glad heart that she—she herself—was not indifferent to my suit. Many a time she has denied it in after days, but it was with a smiling, not a serious denial. The following day we again met.

The next, and that was the fourth day of our acquaintance, we met in the same spot, but early in the morning, with much familiarity, and yet much timidity on either side. When she had once more spoken about my danger and that, I understood, was her excuse for coming—I, who had prepared a great deal of talk during the night began to tell her how highly I valued her said interest, and how no one had ever cared to hear about my life, nor had I ever cared to relate it, before yesterday. Suddenly she interrupted me, saying with vehemence:

"And yet, if you knew who I was, you would not so much as speak to me!"

I told her such a thought was madness, and, little as we had met, I counted her already a dear friend; but my protestations seemed only to make her more desperate.

"My father is in hiding!" she cried. "My dear," I said, forgetting for the first time to add "young lady," "what do I care? If he were in hiding twenty times over, would it make one thought of change in you?"

"Ah, but the cause?" she cried, "the cause! It is—" she faltered for a second—"it is disgraceful to us."

(To be continued.)

The Dangerous Bone.

"I have sometimes wondered whether a fever would affect a man today as it did in war time," said the veteran. "My experience isn't very extensive, but I wouldn't care to be a trained nurse if all typhoid convalescents resembled Jim Bolles. Our command was scouting in Southern Tennessee, covering a good deal of ground on a basis of very small rations. Jim's acquaintance with field hospitals had not been wholly delightful, I imagine, and he reported for duty when he had hardly any symptoms of recovery but an appetite. Rusty ham and hardtack didn't seem to do Jim much good. He ate them, but they left him looking thinner and hungrier than ever. Two of the boys had captured a chicken somewhere, and had stolen away by themselves for a quiet feast. Wandering lonesomely around, Jim discovered them. He stood and looked at the chicken, spitted on a ramrod and roasting over a fence rail fire. The boys were hungry, too, and they didn't say a word. 'Did you ever see two dogs quarrelling over a bone, Dan?' Jim asked at length. 'Yes,' 'Well, pretty soon you may see a bone quarrelling over two dogs,' he added. 'And I'll be the bone.' They divided the chicken."

Africa's Ancient Sea.

Recent studies of the animal life of Lake Tanganyika has shown that that lake differs from all other African lakes in possessing inhabitants that belong to oceanic species. Still, these singular denizens of Lake Tanganyika are not exactly like the marine organisms of the present day, and the conclusion is drawn that a sea, connected with the open ocean, once occupied the part of Africa where Tanganyika now lies, and that the lake is the last remnant of the ancient sea.

He Was Handicapped.

Mr. Westlake says he didn't enjoy the basket picnic you got up at all. What was the trouble?" "It was all because he couldn't eat any of the pie. We forgot to take knives along."

Her Advantage.

Mrs. Hinks—"Does your husband ever complain when he gets home and finds that the dinner is cold?" Mrs. Fuddy—"No; he always goes to the ball games."

FOUGHT FROM LAUNCHES.

Spaniards Attack a Reconnoitering Party From the Massachusetts.

FIRE VIGOROUSLY RETURNED.

The Enemy Compelled to Retreat to the Woods—The Yankee Has a Hot Brush With a Spanish Gunboat—A Severe Flesh Wound to an American Sailor.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, June 20.—A hot brush between some Spanish troops and a reconnoitering party in steam cutters occurred at daylight yesterday morning in a small cove west of Morro castle. The Massachusetts' steam cutter, in charge of Lieutenant Harlow, entered the cove to take soundings and reconnoiter. When well inside the inlet a detachment of Spanish infantry opened fire on the cutter from a block house. The fire was vigorously returned by the marines in the Massachusetts boat and also by marines who were in the New York's cutter, which was in charge of Naval Cadet Powell, and which had followed in. The New York's cutter was hit ten times and the rifle stock of a marine in the cutter of the Massachusetts was shattered but by great good luck no one was hit.

The Texas opened fire on the hillside with her 6-pounders and the Vixen steamed right into the cove and peppered the block house with her rapid-fire guns.

Eventually the Spaniards retreated to the woods and the two steam cutters withdrew.

The Yankee arrived here Thursday and Captain Brown reported that last Monday while off Cienfuegos a Spanish gunboat came out to meet the Yankee, evidently mistaking her for a merchant vessel. The Spaniard, however, soon saw his mistake, turned tail and opened fire, which was hotly returned by the Yankee. The latter chased the gunboat until the Spaniard took refuge in the harbor, whose forts opened fire on the American vessel.

Thereupon the Yankee engaged the eastern and western batteries, but seeing no chance of catching the gunboat the Yankee withdrew. During the engagement a Spanish shell burst over the Yankee and a falling fragment struck a landsman named Kennedy, formerly an insurance clerk in New York City, inflicting a severe flesh wound on his right shoulder. He is expected to recover. The Spanish gunboat chased by the Yankee was about 500 tons and 200 feet long. The naval reserves who man the Yankee fought well.

AGUINALDO'S LATEST MOVE.

Americans Invited to Witness the Formal Declaration of Independence.

MANILA, June 20, via Hong Kong, June 18.—Aguinaldo, the insurgent leader, issued a proclamation calling on the natives to assemble at Cavite on June 12, and inviting the Americans to be present at the ceremony of a declaration of independence.

The Spaniards are making desperate attempts to regain their lost positions. Under American orders, the insurgents are holding back and playing elusive tactics that are cruelly exhausting to the Spaniards.

To-day 300 native Carabineros deserted to the insurgents. They were originally disbanded by the captain general, but recently were given their arms again.

NO TIME FOR MANEUVERS.

Great Britain Will Dispense With the Usual Marine Exercises.

LONDON, June 20.—It is announced that Great Britain will not hold her usual annual naval maneuvers this year, which has caused much speculation as to the reason for this step. In some quarters, it is said, it is due to lack of coal, owing to the Welsh strike. But in other quarters it is believed that important events are in sight.

The officials of the British admiralty decline to give their reasons for abandoning the maneuvers, but they say it is not because of lack of coal, as ample supplies of fuel were secured previous to the strike of the miners in Wales.

THE CONVOY OFF CAPE MAYS.

If the Expected Speed Was Maintained the Army Should Be Near Santiago.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—To-morrow the government hopes to receive word of the arrival of the army of invasion off Santiago. If the expected speed was maintained the convoy this morning should be near Cape Maysi, the eastern extremity of Cuba, and should be entering on the stretch towards the fleet that awaits it. No direct news from the expedition has been received since it left the Dry Tortugas.

ITALY'S MINISTRY RESIGNS.

After a Few Weeks' Service the Cabinet Is Ready to Quit.

ROME, June 20.—In the chamber of deputies to-day the premier, the Marquis di Rudini, announced that the ministry, which was formed May 31, had resigned.

To Aid Missouri Soldiers.

MACON, Mo., June 20.—The Women's Relief League of Missouri has been organized here, with Mrs. John F. Williams of this place as president. As outlined in the resolutions adopted the object and work of the league will be to collect and furnish to the Missouri soldiers in camp, field and hospital such articles, supplies and comforts as are not furnished by the government, including books, papers and magazines, and to do what is possible to relieve their distress and privations and promote their comfort and happiness.

CAUSE OF THE DELAY.

Railroad Officials Say It Was the Gross Incompetency of Army Quartermasters.

CHICAGO, June 20.—A prominent railroad official who returned from Tampa to-day said: The delays attending the transportation of troops from Tampa were caused by the lack of ability on the part of army quartermasters, who seemed to be utterly unable to properly discharge their duties. Many carloads of provisions for the troops were not handled promptly and their contents, in consequence, spoiled, and had to be thrown into the sea. The magnificent military system of the United States is defective in the quartermaster's department. There is apparently a lack of quartermasters who have a thorough knowledge of up-to-date rail as well as ship transportation. It seems that the remedy for it is to give instructions at West Point in transportation, so that army officers can supervise the work of this most important department and see that it is properly done.

THINK MANILA HAS FALLEN.

Washington Believes That Dewey Has an Understanding With the Insurgents.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—Dewey's report, taken in connection with the press reports, would seem to indicate that Manila probably has fallen by this time. One phrase used by the admiral, that "they do not intend to take the city at the present time," warrants the belief that he has reached a perfect understanding with the insurgent leader, and that the town is not to be attacked until his own troops arrive. For some reason it is extremely desirable that such should be the case and that Dewey should receive the surrender of the town in person, rather than force the Spaniards to surrender to the insurgents and thereby afford a possible pretext for the interference of some of the European powers, whose ships are gathering in suspiciously large numbers in Manila bay.

PURISIMA CONCEPCION LANDS

Manages to Elude the American Warships and Arrives at Manzanillo.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, June 20.—A dispatch from Manzanillo, province of Santiago de Cuba, announces the arrival there of the Spanish steamer Purisima Concepcion, which sailed from Kingston about 2 o'clock Thursday morning with food supplies for the Spanish troops and carrying, it is understood, \$100,000 gold.

Bonds in Great Demand.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—The secretary of the treasury informed the members of the cabinet at to-day's session that the subscriptions to the war loan were coming in very rapidly and that the indications pointed to a very large over-subscription. It is now believed the entire amount could have been disposed of at a less rate of interest than 3 per cent, and regret is expressed that the act authorizing the issue did not name a rate a fraction less.

War News Braces Them Up.

MADRID, June 20.—There is a feeling of great optimism in official circles here owing to the departure of Admiral Camara's fleet. It is said in Madrid that it consists of over twenty ships, including auxiliary cruisers, and it is added that it has an enormous quantity of war material on board, including a mysterious new explosive. It is also whispered that the squadron, when at sea, was to be divided and to proceed to different destinations.

Madrid Hears of War News.

MADRID, June 20.—The governor of Santiago de Cuba has sent a cable dispatch to the government describing the bombardment of Wednesday, in which he says: "The Americans fired 1,000 shots. Several Spanish shells hit the enemy's vessels. Our losses are three killed and twenty-one wounded, including two officers. The Spanish squadron was not damaged."

Manila Bishop Gets a Message.

LONDON, June 20.—The Hong Kong correspondent of the Daily Mail says: The archbishop of Manila, Mgr. Nozalceda, announces that he has had a communication from God, who has promised him that the "Yankee pigs" will be driven out of the island, and that "Spain will be triumphant in the end."

Desert by Spanish Spies.

NEW YORK, June 20.—A special from Kingston, Jamaica, says that United States Consul Dent has been so beset by Spanish spies that he has been forced to leave the hotel at which he was living and take up residence at a club.

Large Railroad Earnings.

CHICAGO, June 20.—Gross earnings of 132 American railroads for the first five months of the present year show an increase, as compared with the corresponding period of 1897, of \$29,902,820. The aggregate gross earnings of these roads was \$224,761,111.

Hawaii in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—The foreign relations committee yesterday reported favorably to the Senate the Newlands resolution for the annexation of the Hawaiian islands. Debate will begin Monday. The Democrats will make vigorous opposition to the bill.

Li Hung Chang in Luck.

LOSTON, Ga., June 18.—Official changes at Pekin, says a dispatch from Tien Tsin, foreshadow the return of Li Hung Chang to power. His influence is predominant in the Tsung-li-Ramen, and he is strongly biased in favor of the Russians.

Prince Bismarck's Health.

BERLIN, June 20.—Prince Bismarck's health is causing renewed anxiety. He is reported to be suffering great pain from inflammation of the veins of his right leg, his daily drive has been suspended, and his sleep is broken.

SIGHTED THE CADIZ FLEET.

It Has Passed Gibraltar Going in an Easterly Direction.

MAY BE BOUND FOR MANILA.

War Board Believes That It Is Simply Maneuvering to Make the Spanish People Believe It Is Going Somewhere to Engage the American Navy.

GIBRALTAR, June 18.—The captain of a German steamer which arrived here this morning reports having sighted the Spanish Cadiz fleet of Ceuta, north coast of Africa, about opposite and seventeen miles southeast of Gibraltar, last night. The warships, it is added, were going in an easterly direction.

The fleet consisted of two battleships, four large cruisers and four torpedo boat destroyers.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—Positive information reached the department of State this morning through official sources that Admiral Camara's fleet has sailed from Cadiz again in an easterly course. The subject was at once taken under consideration by the war board, and the movement of the Cadiz fleet will be closely watched by our representatives abroad. Additional information received at the State department relative to the Cadiz fleet states that Admiral Camara's vessels have passed Gibraltar going eastward, indicating that the fleet may be bound for Manila. Captain Crowinshield, when interviewed on the subject, remarked that it is evidently the intention of the Spanish admiral to make his people believe that he is going to Manila or to some point where his vessels will engage the American navy. It is a long way to Manila, and the facilities for obtaining information are such as to enable the United States to keep fully advised should the fleet attempt to go through the Suez canal.

TEN DAYS TO TAKE SANTIAGO.

Senator Elkins Says the City Will Not Fall in Twenty-Four Hours.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—I will give Admiral Sampson and General Shafter ten days to capture Santiago," remarked Senator Elkins yesterday, as he left the Navy department after visiting Secretary Long. "The army should reach Santiago not later than Saturday or Sunday," added the senator, "and I understand no time will be lost in making a combined attack upon the Spanish forces. I am not one of those who believe Santiago can be captured in twenty-four hours. I have watched the published accounts of our efforts of invasion, and I have been surprised at the number of Spanish soldiers massed all along the Cuban coast."

KANSANS IN BAD SHAPE.

Over 500 of the Twenty-Second Regiment on Sick List at Camp Alger.

CAMP ALGER, Va., June 18.—The measles had water, heat and vaccination are the causes of much illness in the Twenty-second Kansas regiment. This morning there were 555 officers and men on the sick list, although most of them are capable of light duty. Twenty-six of the worst cases have been sent to division hospitals. Major Stewart, the surgeon, says that the regiment has only eighteen or twenty measles patients.

NO TRANSPORTS YET.

Advices From Sampson's Fleet Said Shipper's Army Had Not Arrived.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, June 18.—The transports having on board the American troops destined to reinforce the fleet of Rear Admiral Sampson here not yet arrived. The landing place of the army is not absolutely decided upon. It will probably be west of Santiago de Cuba.

FOR HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

The Senate Committee Reports Favorably on the Newlands Resolution.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—The Senate committee on foreign relations has agreed to report the Newlands resolution for the annexation of Hawaii.

More Troops Bound for Tampa.

ATLANTA, Ga., June 18.—Out of nearly 3,000 troops at Camp McPherson about 600 were to-day started for Tampa over the Southern railway. Every man was uniformed and equipped.

Robbers Wore Soldiers' Uniforms.

GRIFFIN, Ga., June 18.—Men masquerading as soldiers at Camp Northern last night held up every back that left the city for the camp ground and robbed the drivers of their money at the point of pistols.