

The Scourge of Damascus

A Story of the East...

By SYLVANUS COBB, JR.

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CHAPTER IV.

The Israelite.

When the king left his affianced bride he was sorely perplexed; and the longer he reflected upon what had transpired, the deeper grew his rage and chagrin. He walked alone in the garden until the sun had set, and then he went in and called for his minister to attend him.

"Aboul Cassem, what think you of this outrage which the Scourge of Damascus has now committed?"

"I think it is high-handed and startling," replied the minister.

"Has your daughter explained more to you than I have yet heard?"

"She has told me all she knows, sire. The robber came, according to his own account, for the purpose of wresting her from the King of Damascus; but she refused to go with him; and so urgent was she in her protestations, that Julian finally went away and left her. I think, however, that his retreat was hastened by the fear that your majesty might be upon him with a dangerous force."

"I have no doubt that such is the case, Aboul. But the end of this is not yet. This daring demon has run at large long enough. He has already stricken fearful blows upon our commerce, and now he takes a new course of attack upon our defenceless daughters. It has come to be so that a caravan is not safe to start from Damascus; nor are our merchants safe in returning from other lands. It must not be so. By the heavens above me, it shall not be so! I must find some way for this man's capture. I have sent out my armies against him, and he has either avoided them, or met and overcome them. Life of my soul just think of it. He met a thousand of my armed men, and swept them back over the plains of Abilene as though they had been so many women. What shall I do, Aboul?"

"There is but one way, sire, that I can conceive of. It seems to be useless to send out force against him; for he is a quick-witted rascal; and, if he cannot successfully cope with them, he can keep out of their way. He has spies throughout the whole land."

"Aye—I know he has!" cried the king, with a fresh burst of rage. "He has friends among those who live very near to our capital. I wish I could get hold of them."

"Get hold of the chieftain first."

"Ah—but how?"

"It must be done by stratagem, sire. If you cannot find some one man who is able to entrap the Scourge, I see not how you are ever to overcome him. A single man with wit, will and endurance may accomplish much. A little mouse, working in secret, may uproot a great tree."

"By my life, Aboul, you have spoken the truth. The work must be done secretly. Have I such a man about me?"

"How is it with Judah, the Israelite?" suggested the minister.

The king started and clasped his hands together when he heard the name.

"By the shades of Tartarus, good Aboul, you have hit the very man. Judah is with us now. I left him in the hall as I came in from the garden. I will send for him."

A slave, who stood just without the door, was sent after the man who had been spoken of, and ere long he made his appearance before his royal master. He was a middle-aged man, with black hair and keen black eyes; with features sharp in outline, and moulded into a cast of peculiar cunning; and with body and limbs light and muscular. He was below the ordinary size of man; and what he may have lacked in physical strength was more than made up by the quickness and precision of movement. He had been a dweller in Damascus since childhood, his mother having come from Judea, in poverty and disgrace, and given him away to an officer of the king's household.

"Judah," spoke the monarch, "I want you to engage in a dangerous enterprise; but, if you are successful, the honor will be greater than the danger. Are you willing to try it?"

"Anything, sire, that can yield me honor and emolument," replied the Israelite, with a low bow. "Give me the freedom of a citizen, and gird the sword of a lieutenant about my loins, and I will undertake anything. I would not even hesitate to go out against the Scourge of Damascus."

"Ha! It is the very thing, Judah. It is this accursed robber chieftain that I wish to secure. If you will slay him, and bring me his head, I will make you a free citizen of Damascus; and if you will bring him to me alive, and deliver him into my hands, I will not only bestow the citizenship upon you, and gird the sword of a lieutenant about your loins, but I will give you a house and a wife."

The black eyes of the Israelite snapped and sparkled like polished gems of jet. He strode across the room, and then walked slowly back.

"Sire," he finally said, "give me until tomorrow morning to think of this. In twelve hours from this you shall have my answer. If I embark upon this enterprise, I must have some hope for success. I will converse with those of the slaves who have seen the robber and his men, and their observations may help me."

"But, Judah, you are not to breathe a word of this. My slaves must not mistrust your object."

"I understand you, sire; and I will be guarded. Shall it be as I have said?"

"Yes, only bear in mind that the thing must be accomplished if accomplishment is possible."

"I understand you, sire; and be assured that my wits shall be stretched to their utmost."

"Aboul Cassem," said the king, after Judah had gone, "what do you think?"

"I think the fellow will study up some grand plot between now and morning. At all events, sire, I do not believe you can find a better man for your purpose."

At an early hour the king retired, and all night long his sleep was troubled with very unpleasant dreams. He dreamed two or three times that the Scourge of Damascus had robbed him of his beautiful bride, and once he dreamed that his throne had passed from him. In the morning he was more anxious for the apprehension of the robber than before, and impatiently did he await the coming of the Israelite.

At the appointed hour Judah made his appearance and announced that he would undertake the task of delivering up the terrible Scourge.

"If I succeed," he said, "you will hear from me as soon as success crowns my efforts. If I fail, you will perhaps never hear from me again."

"And when will you set forth?" asked the king, almost beside himself with hopeful anticipation.

"At once, sire. This very day, if I can get ready."

"Do you want help?"

"I would select two of your most trusty guards."

"Take as many as you want."

"Two will be enough, sire."

"Will you take them from those who have been on duty here?"

"No, sire. That would not be safe. The robbers might recognize them. I will have two who came with us from Damascus yesterday."

"As you will, Judah. Select the men you want, and they shall accompany you."

The Israelite promised that he would have all his arrangements made before the king was ready to depart, and with this assurance he went away.

By the middle of the forenoon the king was ready to set forth on his return to Damascus. Ulin and Albia were placed within a comfortable box upon the back of a stout camel, and around them were posted a hundred armed men. The remainder of the retinue was arranged under the direction of Aboul Cassem, the king's prime minister, and only the order was needed to set the whole in motion. At this point the king withdrew to the palace, where he found Judah ready to set forth on his dangerous mission, and with him were two guards, Osmir and Selim, two resolute, intelligent fellows, who seemed to love the excitement of the work upon which they were about to enter. The king was pleased with the choice Judah had made.

"I might not have hit upon them," he said; "but I know they will serve you. And now, what more can I do?"

"Nothing," replied Judah. "I have all that I can use, and am ready for the work. If I succeed, you will hear from me in good time; and if you never hear from me, you may at least be assured that I failed from no lack of will to serve you."

With a few words of encouragement the king left his servant to pursue his own course, and proceeded to join his army, which was soon in motion; and before the close of another day he arrived at Damascus, where Ulin was once more suffered to find shelter beneath the roof of her father. Touching her marriage, it was understood that the ceremony should be performed as soon as the period of mourning had passed, which would be in two weeks; and until then she was to remain in close retirement. Horam asked that she might not be suffered to go out, for he feared to have her see too much of the outer world before he had secured her hand.

We must now return to the Palace of the Valley, where we left those who were to go in search of the robber chieftain. As soon as the king had gone, Judah repeated the instructions he had already given to the guards. They were not to accompany him; but they were to come after him, in a manner agreed upon, and were to conduct themselves towards him in all respects as though they had never before seen him.

Towards the latter part of the afternoon Judah stripped himself bare to the skin, and caused one of the men to beat him with a leathern thong until long livid ridges were raised upon his shoulders and back. After this he resumed his clothing, and as soon as the shades of evening began to fall, he mounted a fleet horse, and rode away to the northward towards the plains of Abilene. He knew that Julian had taken that course, and he hoped to overtake him before many hours. Until midnight he sped on quite rapidly; but after that he moved more cautiously, peering and listening, upon the right hand and upon the left, as he advanced. So he rode until day had

dawned, without seeing or hearing anything worthy of note. But he was coming upon something very soon. Just as the sky began to glow with the rich, red glare of the rising sun, he came to a point where a narrow pass between two steep hills opened into a pleasant vale, and just here his horse was stopped by a stout man who advanced, spear in hand, from some trees by the wayside.

"Hold!" said the sentinel. "Who are you?"

"A wayfarer, as you may see," replied Judah.

"Whither are you traveling?"

"To the north."

"Of what are you in pursuit?"

"Just at this present moment I am in most urgent pursuit of something to eat."

"Have you money in your purse?"

"Enough for present use."

"Are you afraid of losing it?"

"How?"

"By robbers."

"Bless you, no. I am rather anxious to see some of these robbers."

"You may see them sooner than you would like."

"That cannot be, sir; for I would like to see them at once."

"Ah—what would you with them?"

"Never mind. If I am so fortunate as to find them, they shall know."

"Perhaps I can find them for you."

"I believe you can; and, my good sir, if you will conduct me into the presence of Julian, I shall thank you."

"Upon my life, you give me credit for wonderful power."

"I give you the credit of belonging to Julian's band; and as I am very anxious to see him, I ask you once more, to lead me to him."

The man hesitated a moment, and finally said, with a smile breaking over his sunburnt features:

"You are free-spoken, and seem to be honest; and I think I will lead you to the man you seek. But my bold friend, you have need of some fair purpose."

"Lead me to Julian, and I will be answerable for the rest."

"Very well; you shall not ask again. Dismount, and follow me."

(To be continued.)

TOO MUCH FAULTY ENGLISH.

People Have Grown Careless in Their Rhetoric—Familiar Errors.

The books of rhetoric used to tell us that the great qualities of style were perspicuity, energy and elegance, or clearness, force and grace; and that as a means toward these and for other reasons it was important to be concise to avoid needless words, writes Frederick M. Bird in the Literary Era. Whether they no longer teach thus, or their pupils disregard their instructions, you can scarcely read a page or a column anywhere without meeting words that add nothing to others with which they are immediately connected. Thus: Thought to himself. How else should he think? If he thought aloud you would have to say so. Either he "said to himself"—which is another way of putting it—or he simply "thought." Nodded his head. If he had nodded his legs or his elbows the case would be more notable. He might properly "shake his head," for he could shake other things; but in the present state of language one can nod no other part of himself or of creation than his head. Together with. If John went to town with his wife they went together; if they went together he was necessarily with her. Month of May, summer season, etc. Everybody knows that May is a month and summer a season. Rose up. If people were in the habit of rising down, or if it were possible to do so this would not be tautological. It will not do to say that these specimens abound in the best writers and are therefore justifiable. They are not the best writers when they write in this way, through pure carelessness, for they know better. Homer sometimes nods, but his nodding did not produce the "Iliad." We want to follow the best writers in their excellencies not in their errors.

Women Physicians in Russia.

Russia has long prided herself on having the first women physicians. The Chautauquan refers to the career of Nadezhda Susloff, one of the earliest and best women doctors, as particularly interesting. Born a serf, and freed, with her parents at the emancipation in 1861, she and her brothers and sisters received the best possible education at home and abroad, for her parents were both extremely intelligent and her father acquired wealth after gaining his freedom. Everywhere in Russia and in the continental schools Nadezhda was brilliantly successful. For thirty years there has been no manner of doubt as to the sympathy of the public and of the medical world with the idea of thorough medical instruction for women. Men started the movement. In 1877 one professor and two other men went to establish courses for instructing women. In ten years there were 959 women students the majority coming from the "privileged classes"—that is to say, not peasants. The majority were members of the Russian church, but there were several Jewesses, Roman Catholics and Lutherans. In 1877 twenty-four students were sent to the seat of war, during the Russo-Turkish campaign, and did so well that they received imperial permission to call themselves after due examination, "women physicians," and to wear a badge."

A Chicago photographer has invented and patented an automatic "nickel in the slot" photographing machine, which will make a complete picture in 20 seconds. The machine is called the "photographist," and is said to be as simple as it is remarkable.

THE REVISIONERS.

STRONG STAND TAKEN BY SENATOR GALLINGER.

He Opposes Tariff Tinkering of All Sorts, Whether by Direct Legislation or by Special Treaties for the Promotion of Foreign Trade.

Senator Gallinger of New Hampshire, who has during his entire public career been one of the most persistent and able advocates of the tariff policy of the Republican party, was recently asked his opinion as to the present agitation for a repeal of certain tariff duties and the modification of the Dingley tariff through the ratification of the reciprocity treaties negotiated by Mr. Kasson. The senator's reply was as follows:

The Democratic party in its economic blindness and political perversity is consistent in advocating the ratification of the treaties in question and enactment of legislation such as has been unwisely proposed by Representative Babcock. That party is wedded to the doctrine of Free-Trade, and seems quite willing to repeat the experiment of industrial disaster and wretchedness that has come to this country whenever a low tariff law has been placed on the statute books; but how any Republican or Republican newspaper can advocate that policy surpasses my comprehension. It would seem as though the sorrow and suffering incident upon the passage of the Wilson Tariff bill is recent enough to be fresh in the minds of our people, and that all classes would instinctively shrink from a repetition of such folly. But many seem to have forgotten those dark days, and even some Republicans have succumbed to the siren voice of Free-Trade. For one I am absolutely and unqualifiedly opposed to any change in the existing tariff laws of the United States. Under them the country has had four years of unexampled prosperity, and I do not propose to be a party to any proposition that looks to the repeal or modification of existing statutes. I believe it will be a crime against humanity to follow the lead of those who are agitating for an abandonment of Protection and a return to practical Free-Trade.

The proposed treaty with the Argentine Republic reduces the duties on wool 30 per cent, and if ratified will inevitably strike a death blow to the wool industry of this country as severe and disastrous as that which resulted from the President Cleveland's advocacy of free wool. The wool-producing states should rise in mighty protest against this proposition, and give the matter its eternal quietus. The proposed treaty with France deals a heavy blow to certain lines of manufacturing in the United States, and, if ratified, will result in the destruction of the industries agreed to by Mr. Kasson is inimical to American interests and ought to be rejected by the Senate.

As for the Babcock proposition, that is too absurd for serious discussion. The man who claims that trusts are created by tariff legislation has certainly not given serious thought to the proposition, and the legislator who believes that trusts can be destroyed by repealing the duties on certain classes of goods should join a kindergarten class in economics, unless the proposition is to destroy the trust by destroying the industry, thus closing American workshops and bringing disaster to the mechanics and laboring men of this country. The man who sawed off the limb of the tree on which he sat got rid of the limb, but his bruises and broken bones reminded him for a long time of the folly of the undertaking. The Republican party came into power because of its advocacy of Protection and when the party abandons that policy it will go out of power, and deservedly so. Just now there are evidences of timidity and retrogression in some quarters, but I feel confident that when the hour of trial comes the party will remain true to its traditional policy, and that the Kasson reciprocity treaties and the Babcock Free-Trade proposition will alike be relegated to the tomb of forgotten things. The duty of the Republican party is plain, and woe be to the man who attempts to strike down Protection in this country.

Senator Gallinger is noted for his plain, outspoken way of stating his views. You always know just where he stands. A little more than a year ago in a public speech he said, regarding the movement to remove the duties from paper and pulp:

You can not select a single industry for slaughter without imperiling the whole system of Protection. If Protection is withheld from one industry it must be withheld from all.

That warning was heeded. The bill in question was never pressed for passage. Today so influential a news-



SENATOR GALLINGER.

paper as the San Francisco "Chronicle" is saying in reference to the Kasson scheme of reciprocity treaties:

If the orange growers of California and the hosiery operatives of New England (and of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and other states) it might be added, are to lose their just Protection, their will endeavor to see to it that no one else is Protected at their expense.

These things are worth thinking about. They should engage the serious consideration of revisionaries and reciprocaters.

Reciprocity Treaties Again.

It would be interesting to know the facts in the case of the alleged reciprocity treaty negotiations between the United States and Germany. We find it difficult to believe that our ambassador at Berlin is seriously encouraging the German government in this regard, at least upon his own motion. If he has kept in touch with the representatives of American thought and purpose, he must know that the so-called reciprocity treaties have been set aside by the senate. If he has carefully examined the organic law of the land he must believe that the senate, and the state department cannot enact laws to create a public revenue. In a word, there seems to be absolutely nothing to warrant the faintest hope that any treaty of the kind mentioned will ever acquire the force of law, and yet if we may accept half the statements contained in our foreign press reports, Mr.

White, United States envoy to Germany is gravely confabulating with the authorities at Berlin alternately exalted and depressed by developments within the empire.

The language of the constitution seems to be unmistakable. It provides that laws intended to create a public revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives, and while the Senate is authorized to offer amendments to such laws, the concurrence of the House is indispensable to their validity. If there be in all this a hook upon which to hang tariff laws made by the state department and the senate acting in collusion and without the knowledge and consent of the House, we are too dullwitted to discern it. Nevertheless, Ambassador White is said to be solemnly pushing the reciprocity negotiations, and the wires are warm with messages of rapprochement and tender yieldings and all the rest of the affectionate folderol which makes diplomacy so beautiful and bright a thing.—Washington Post.

AREN'T THEY DAISIES?



Dissecting the Babcock Plan.

Discussion of Representative Babcock's idea of removing the tariff from all products of the steel trust has brought out some interesting facts about the steel trade. It has been shown that big as the trust is, it by no means controls the steel trade in this country, there being many establishments some of them employing a large number of men, which have no connection with the trust. It seems to be generally admitted that the removal of the tariff on steel products would not injure the big trust to any marked extent, but it is claimed that it would necessitate an immediate reduction of the trust. This claim, which is being made by those who ought to know whereof they speak, is causing many who were at first inclined to favor Mr. Babcock's idea to entertain doubts of its wisdom, and if it be substantiated by unprejudiced investigation which a number of members of the House are quietly making, the bill for the repeal of the tariff on steel products will not be supported by a corporal's guard of Republicans in either branch of congress at the coming session. Desirable as many consider it to curb the power of the big trusts, the Republican majority in congress are not going to be stampeded into the support of anything of the sort without carefully considering it from every point of view, and they will certainly not allow any legislation to get through that will reduce the wages of American workmen.—Crawfordsville (Ind.) Journal.

Protection Gains Foreign Markets.

Our increase of exports during the fiscal year 1901 over the preceding year will approach \$100,000,000. This, too, has been done without the sacrifice of a single American industry or the loss of a single job. Were our exports to Porto Rico and the Hawaiian Islands included, as formerly, \$20,000,000 could be added to the above amount, which is, in itself, very satisfactory, considering the war in China, "European retaliation," etc. Protection gains more foreign markets than free trade, and preserves our grand home market as well.

Higher Than Under Free Trade.

The wool sales at Price yesterday averaged over 11 cents. This of course, is not as high as wool raisers have got at some times, and it is below the average for wool under this Republican administration but it is so much higher than the average under the Democratic administration that preceded it that it takes the cheek of a mump sufferer for a Democrat to speak of low prices for wool.—Salt Lake City Tribune.

Expanding Home Market.

Bank clearings throughout the country continue to show about 25 per cent increase over last year. This is outside of New York City, where the increase is over 75 per cent. This means that the Dingley law is expanding our home market to the value of at least \$10,000,000,000 a year. And yet the free-trade trust want us to abandon our home market and try for some foreign sales in competition with the pauper labor of the world.

Farmers Getting Rich.

The farmers of the United States are getting wealthy. The banks are bulging with their money. Abandoned farms and farm mortgages are a thing of the past, and instead of paying from 6 to 10 per cent for money, our western farmers, after buying all the necessities and luxuries they want, have money to lend.

The census returns giving the area of various states show that the one which has the largest amount of land under water is Florida, and the least, in proportion to size Wyoming.

WESTERN WATER FARMING.

Wisconsin's Many Lakes Give Promise of Great Profit.

Scientists who make it their business to look ahead into the far future are now busy telling what will happen after all the land in the United States has been put under cultivation. When there are no more quarter sections upon which the settler can establish himself, it is predicted that water farming will become a general occupation. This information is comforting to residents of Wisconsin. No state in the Union has better facilities for water farming than the one famous for the number and beauty of its lakes. When the time comes for men to fence off acre plots on the crystal waters of the inland seas Wisconsin will have a boom worth while waiting for with patience. Of course there will be drawbacks to water farming, but the industry offers great possibilities. Although it will be difficult to keep one's crop of fish from being mixed with one's neighbors', there will be no plowing or harrowing, no wrestling with stumps, and no trouble over irrigation. After the fish are planted each season there will be nothing to do but wait until harvest time. By a little diplomatic advertising water farmers may persuade city men to spend their vacations on the lakes as assistants during this harvest season. Houseboats on the water farms would be ideal places of residence during the hot months. It is estimated that the fisheries of the United States produce food of the value of \$45,000,000 every year. As soon as the water farming industry has a good start, Wisconsin will be able to add millions to this amount. If the calamity howler cannot find anything worse to prophesy about than the water farm, this state can pursue daily its business pursuits without any forebodings.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

HOW TO KILL MOSQUITOES.

Chinatown Sells a Cheap and Most Effective Obolator.

It is the experience of the average housekeeper in Philadelphia that no matter how thoroughly the doors and windows of a house are screened, mosquitoes will get inside. Many of them do not understand that a small pool of stagnant water in a cellar or water standing in pithy plants is a birthplace for thousands of mosquitoes. In flower vases on the table, where the water is not frequently changed, mosquito eggs are found in great numbers. Applications of kerosene oil will stop that. The general question is how to get the small insect pests out of the house when once they are in. To persons of careful habits chlorine gas is recommended. Pour into a plate containing four teaspoonfuls of chloride of lime about ten drops of crude sulphuric acid. This liberates the chlorine gas, which is said to kill the mosquitoes. The plan can be used only in rooms not temporarily occupied, or in which the gas vapors can be allowed to remain for several hours. The burning of pyrethrum powders in a room will also kill them. The powder should be moistened and then made into little cones, which are dried in the oven. When a cone is lighted at the top it smoulders slowly, emitting an odor which many persons find pleasant. But a good, simple and cheap mosquito killer may be bought in Chinatown. The Chinese use pine or juniper sawdust, mixed with a small quantity of brimstone and an ounce of arsenic. This mixture is put into little bags in a dry state. Each bag is coiled like a snake and tied tightly with a thread. The outer end is lighted. The coils sell at 10 cents a hundred and two of them are said to be enough to clear any ordinary room of mosquitoes.

Drastic Anti-Gambling Laws.

Some little time ago the Belgian chamber of deputies passed a somewhat drastic anti-gambling law. The bill has reached the upper house, and is being discussed in a somewhat acrimonious tone, and meeting considerable opposition. Some of the senators point out that gambling is inherent to human nature, and that if the law were carried into effect it would tend to foster clandestine gambling-houses on an extensive scale. This argument has been put forward before, but where the shoe really pinches seems to lie in the fact that the fashionable watering place of Ostend would be the principal sufferer. The casino there ranks with the famous gambling hell at Monte Carlo, and many of the senators are said to be financially interested, and hence their opposition. It is claimed that if the casino were abolished the loss to the town would be between \$2,500,000 and \$5,000,000, and that most of the public works now in progress would have to be abandoned as they were undertaken on the strength of the revenues derived from the gaming tables.

A Remarkable Voyage.

The arrival at Manila of the squadron comprising the gunboat Annapolis and the ocean tugs Frolic, Piscataqua, and Wampatuck, which sailed from Hampton roads early last winter, completes a remarkable voyage. This is the longest trip ever accomplished by such tiny naval craft and was probably never equaled by similar warships. The distance covered was nearly two-thirds around the world, crossing one ocean, skirting the southern part of Europe, thence through the tornado seas of the Indian ocean, down to the Philippines at a season when typhoons are usual. There have been trips of small ships across the Atlantic and once an old monitor was sent around to San Francisco by the Horn, but no vessels of such light displacement have yet covered so much dangerous water area as the little squadron of American boats.