

The Mystery OF Carney-Croft

By JOSEPH BROWN COOKE

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CHAPTER III.—Continued.

The poor fellow's distress was so great that, a moment later, as I stood by his side at the door, I could not resist laying my hand on his shoulder and saying gently:

"Why don't you brace up, Mr. Carney? It isn't too late by any means. Just think of all that life has to offer you. You are a man of great wealth, the head of one of the best known families in the country, and everything that heart could wish for lies before you. Think it over, old man, think it over! Think of your sister, and—Miss Weston, and yourself, Carney; yourself, above all else, and leave the confounded stuff alone!"

As I uttered the last words he recoiled from me as if I had been the plague and muttered hoarsely, "My God, Ware, you don't think I am drunk, do you?"

Before I could reply he had hurried through the door, down the stairs and into the street.

CHAPTER IV.

Little Bobbs.

I followed him as rapidly as possible, hoping to overtake him and, at least, persuade him to return to my office until his excitement had cooled somewhat, but I reached the street only in time to see him turn the corner and mingle with the bustling crowd.

At the same instant a little man, not over five feet in height, and dressed in coarse drab, Norfolk jacket and tightly fitting trousers, turned in hurriedly from the opposite direction and collided with me with some violence.

"Beg pardon, sir," he panted, recovering himself with an effort and pulling off his cap respectfully. "Beg pardon, sir. I'm looking for Mr. Ware's office, sir. Mr. Frederick Ware, sir. Is this the place, sir?" and he placed his hand on his chest and gasped noisily in his endeavor to catch his breath.

"Mr. Ware's office is upstairs," I replied, "and I am Mr. Ware. Who are you?"

"Thank ye, sir," he said gratefully, an expression of relief lighting up his face. "I'm Bobbs, sir. Little Bobbs, they calls me, sir." Still holding his cap in his hand he pulled his forelock and bowed with the grace of an east-side dancing master.

"Very well, Bobbs," I said, completely puzzled. "Now what do you want?"

"Why, I want Mr. Carney, of course, sir," he replied. "I'm his man, you know, sir, and he told me to meet him here in half an hour."

"So you are Mr. Carney's servant, eh?" I queried.

He nodded respectfully and touched his forelock again.

"Well," I continued, "Mr. Carney has gone and you won't be able to overtake him, so there is no use in your trying. Moreover, I want to see you myself in the office for a few minutes."

He followed me upstairs and sat down gingerly on the edge of a chair, twirling his cap between his hands and twiddling his thumbs nervously. I watched him for a moment in silence and then, an idea striking me, I unlocked the small cupboard in my desk, took out a bottle and a glass and, placing them before him, said solicitously: "You are completely exhausted, Bobbs; better take a little of this."

His face was perfectly frank and honest as he said, politely, "Thank ye kindly, sir, but I never touch it. I'll be all right in a minute, sir."

I returned the bottle and glass to their places, fully satisfied with the result of my little experiment and convinced that the fellow had spoken the truth and could be relied upon in every way.

"How long have you been in Mr. Carney's employ?" I asked, as I turned the key in the lock.

"Three years, come next autumn," he replied promptly.

"And did you never drink anything in your life, Bobbs?" I continued, for I was working out a definite line of questions.

"Wei, sir," he rejoined, rather uncomfortably I thought, "I can't say as I've always been teetotal, sir, an' I used to take a drop now and then and again, sir. But since Mr. Carney got this way, sir, I gave it up entirely. It wouldn't do for me to be drinkin' now, you know, sir."

"No, it wouldn't," I said emphatically. "You are quite right, Bobbs, and you are a faithful fellow to give it up as you have."

"Thank ye, sir," said Bobbs.

"How long has Mr. Carney been in this condition?" I asked.

Bobbs looked at me in an undecided fashion for a moment and then blurted out, "Why, I don't know, sir, as I ought to be talkin' of his affairs so much, sir. It don't seem to me as it's quite right, sir."

I appreciated the fellow's devotion

and loyalty to his master's interests and hastened to reassure him.

"It's all right, Bobbs," I said. "You may talk to me perfectly freely for I understand everything. You know, Mr. Carney himself was here for some time this morning."

Bobbs looked relieved and proceeded without further diffidence.

"Why, I should say, sir, it's goin' on about two years now. Ye know, he had some trouble or other on his mind when he went away, sir, an' it seemed to prey on him more an' more all the time. After a while he began gettin' in with those people, which I suppose was a relief to him and kept his thoughts off the other thing. At first it was only occasionally when he got to feelin' specially downhearted, but it wasn't long before he was with 'em all the time, sir. I begged and begged him to keep away from 'em, for you know as well as I do, sir, that only one thing could come of it, but he wouldn't listen to me and things kept goin' from bad to worse.

"At the beginning he kept up his interest in the business pretty well, but finally he lost all track of that, and then it wasn't many months before he couldn't attend to it whether he wanted to or not. That was the time I quit drinkin', sir, for I saw that he needed every minute of my time, day and night, or at least that he might need it."

"His neglectin' the business as he did wasn't any harm, you know, sir, for it's so well managed that it could almost run itself, but I did wish that he had worked off his bad feelin's in the office, 'stead of the way he did. My heart aches for him all the time, sir," continued the faithful fellow, brushing away a tear with his knuckle, "but he got so obstinate that nobody could do a thing with him an', anyway, I could have managed him myself if anyone living could."

"You think there is no chance for

you think he will reach the hotel safely?"

"No doubt about that, sir," said Bobbs. "If he has any trouble or should get er-dizzy or anything, he'll take a cab, sir. The way he can keep his head is wonderful, sir."

He had risen to go as I asked my last question.

"Bobbs," I said, earnestly, "I want you to tell me something. What, in heaven's name, does Mr. Carney drink, to keep him in this condition?"

"What does he drink, sir?" exclaimed Bobbs in a half frightened tone and viewing me with evident and sudden suspicion. "Why, I thought you knew, sir! I thought you knew!" and before I could stop him, he, like his master, had rushed out of the office into the street.

CHAPTER V.

A Question of Guessing.

Some men are so stupid at times that one wonders how they get on in life at all, and after a few moments of ridiculously profound thought, I was quite ready to consign myself to this class. Here was a man, obviously a slave to a habit which was slowly but surely eating his very life away, who virtually admitted his shortcomings in the plainest of English, and yet who rushed from my presence in horror and disgust when I attempted to persuade him to leave intoxicants alone! Here was his servant, an honest, trustworthy fellow, who not only admitted his master's failings but gave many details of his unfortunate downfall, and yet who regarded me with suspicion and dread when I ventured to ask him a most natural question! And here was a fool of a lawyer who could not see through a millstone with a hole in it!

I reached for the telephone and called up MacArdel.



"Well, What Is It?"

him now, Bobbs?" I inquired anxiously.

"Not one in a million, sir," answered Bobbs, sadly. "He's too far gone now, sir. He was takin' the cure for a time an' we began to have some hopes of him, but it wasn't any use, an' the first thing we knew he was as bad as ever."

"I wonder he came back at all," I remarked. "I shouldn't have thought he would have felt inclined to."

"I didn't think he'd come, myself," said Bobbs, "but he insisted upon it, and, as I told you a minute ago, there's no changing him now when he once gets an idea in his head, so we packed up and came. He said he had some matters to attend to with you that he must see about at once, sir."

"Yes," I replied, "he arranged certain affairs with me this morning."

"Well," said Bobbs, "I'm glad that's done, for it will be a great load off his mind."

"Where do you suppose he has gone now?" I asked. "He left here very hurriedly and I wonder if he will get into trouble." My calmness of mind was due to the fact that, under the circumstances, I should not have cared if he had broken his neck.

"Oh! he'll get back to the hotel, sir," returned Bobbs confidently. "He told me to get the tickets for to-night and a few other things he needed and then meet him here, or at the hotel if he had left here. You know he is going home to-night, sir."

"Yes," I said, "but he tells me he does not expect to stay there long. Do you know what his plans are?"

"I haven't the slightest idea, sir," said Bobbs. "He never tells anyone what he is going to do, and he's in such a bad way now that I fancy he's as likely to go one way as another, sir. But I'll stick to him, sir; you may be sure of that. I must be going now for he may need me. You know, sir, he's not always as bad as you've seen him to-day. It's only at times, sir, that he gets like this."

"I should hope so," I returned. "And

"Hello, Mac!" I said. "Busy to-night?"

"Nothing special," he replied, laconically. "What's up?"

"Dine with me at the club at seven, will you?" I asked. "I want you to tell me something."

"All right," said MacArdel. "Seven sharp, and I'll order the dinner. Good-by," and he hung up his receiver with a snap.

I did not resent MacArdel's abruptness, for I knew he had a room full of people waiting to see him and the fact that he was to order the dinner was enough to make a man forgive anything short of an unpardonable sin.

MacArdel was late, of course. He was born half an hour after he was expected and his time-table through life has always been that much behind to a second; so I called for the things and made the cocktails myself. I cannot order a dinner as MacArdel can, but I can construct a cocktail that would make the nectar of the gods taste like Bloomsbury coffee.

The dinner was as good as the cocktail and we went to the roof for our coffee and cigars.

MacArdel tipped back in his chair and rested his heels on the broad coping, for we were sitting in a secluded corner, back of a pillar, and the only light we had came from the restless city far below us, sparkling and glittering like the reflection of a September sky at midnight. An occasional glimmer of moonlight broke through the fleecy, scudding clouds, so that, from time to time, we caught glimpses of each other as we lazily puffed our cigars.

It was a dreary night and a dreamy place and I dreaded to bring up the disagreeable topic that we had met to discuss. So we sipped our coffee and smoked out our cigars almost oblivious of each other's presence. But when the fresh cigars were lighted, MacArdel yawned impolitely, as was his habit when we were alone, and said briefly: "Well, what is it?"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Lincoln Letter Current Gossip from the STATE CAPITAL Legislative and Otherwise

Sheldon estimated the receipts of fees by the various offices as follows: Governor, \$170; auditor, \$210,000; secretary of state, \$65,000; land commissioner, \$10,000; banking department, \$30,000; food commissioner, \$5,000; board of irrigation, \$500; oil department, \$19,000; board of cemetery, \$19,000; national aid for the soldiers' homes, \$72,000; interest on deposits, \$16,700; convict labor, \$68,000; back taxes, \$100,000; a total receipt, including the general fund levy, of \$3,476,370.

Prospects for a good state fair this year are looking up and the indications are the exhibits of live stock and other features which will go to make a good fair will be far in excess in number and quality of previous years. Just at this time Secretary Mellor has been notified that space has been asked for 325 pens of hogs when the accommodations will take care of only 442. A feature which will be added this year is the contest for a prize for the best Shorthorn milker.

State Superintendent McBrien went to Grand Island, where he takes part in an entertainment given in honor of Superintendent R. J. Barr of the Grand Island schools, who has served in this capacity for twenty-five years. No other school teacher in Nebraska has ever held onto a job that long.

Judge A. M. Post, the referee appointed by the Nebraska supreme court to take testimony on the alleged lumber trust, made his report. He finds that the Nebraska Lumber Dealers' association, as now maintained, is not contrary to the state trust laws. The investigation made by the referee covered a period of several months, in which practically all the lumber dealers of the state were made defendants. If the supreme court sustains the referee it means the dismissal of the suits.

Grain dealers of the state doing business along the line of the Missouri Pacific railway for some months past have experienced considerable trouble in getting cars in which to ship their grain. Some elevators have been able to secure but one or two cars in an entire month. The grain men doing business on the line of that road, in this state, met to organize and do what they could towards getting after the railroad.

The corps of janitors at the state capitol have been busily occupied in moving the property of the various state officials who have been assigned new quarters by the state board of public lands and buildings. Oil Inspector Church was the first man to change his office quarters. The bureau of labor has so far refused to comply with the edict that it move from the first to the third floor. Its officers declare that they mean to secure legal advice before they give up the room occupied for twenty years.

Governor Sheldon has finished his work on the bills passed by the legislature and out of the various appropriation bills he cut a total of \$249,411. This leaves the total appropriations of the legislature \$3,241,780.90. The cuts made by the governor were as follows: Wolf bounty, \$35,000; deficiency wolf bounty, \$22,411; a deficiency on the deficiency, \$2,000; for a wing to be built at the Kearney Normal school, \$85,000; for a new building at the Beatrice Institute for Feeble-Minded, \$30,000; for Yukon-Alaskan exposition, \$15,000; for a gymnasium for the Institute for Deaf and Dumb at Omaha, \$30,000; for an engine and boiler at the Peru Normal school, \$5,000; for a building at the Grand Island Soldiers' Home, \$25,000. All the other appropriation bills that passed were signed.

Nebraska has a pure food law at last. After all sorts of amendments had been made, they were all overturned and the bill made even more drastic and sweeping than the national law. Nearly twenty years ago United States Senator Paddock championed a pure food law in the U. S. senate, but as he then thought, without avail. It was the seed that was sown then that has slowly grown and is just now bearing fruit, not only nationally, but in his own state and in many others.

Attorney General Thompson has recommended to County Attorney Roach of North Platte, Lincoln county, that he begin prosecution of the Union Pacific Railroad company for violation of the 2-cent passenger fare law. County Attorney Roach complained to the attorney general that the Union Pacific continues to charge at the rate of 3 cents per mile for tickets between North Platte and Sidney, notwithstanding both cities are in Nebraska.

An incident of the waiting and worrying over the governor's action on the appropriation of the Kearney Normal school was the meeting of the State Normal board at the office of the state superintendent. The board convened to discuss cutting down their plans for a \$100,000 building to an \$85,000 building, as that was the way the bill read when it passed the legislature. Suddenly the board remembered that the governor had taken no action, so proceedings were stopped for the time being.

The legislature passed a total of 221 bills, of which ninety-six were senate files and 125 were house rolls. Governor Sheldon signed 204 bills and vetoed fifteen. Two bills became laws without his action. Of the bills vetoed eleven were house rolls and four senate files.

Following are the reasons assigned for the vetoes of the governor:

H. R. 112—Appropriating \$85,000 to erect two wings to the Kearney Normal school. In vetoing this bill the governor says: "The appropriations for the coming biennium must be kept safely within the state's income. In my judgment the necessities of this institution and the present condition of our finances do not warrant this expenditure."

For the same reason the governor has vetoed H. R. 190, 381, 478 and 491.

In vetoing H. R. 355, amending the banking law, the governor says: "The section of the statutes which section 3 of this act would amend has already been similarly amended by H. R. 105. Many of the country banks do not fulfill the requirements of section 8 of this act. It does not exempt banks now doing business under their present charters. In my judgment an act like this which would probably disturb these banks greatly, should not be passed by the emergency clause."

H. R. 534, the deficiency claims bill, was approved, with the exception of the following items: Bounty on wild animals, unpaid claims Nos. 35,638 to 36,360, inclusive, and Nos. 556 to 3,644, inclusive, as recorded in the auditor's record, \$22,411.50, and estimated deficiencies for the payment of animal bounties, \$2,000.

In vetoing S. F. 266, by Burns of Lancaster, a bill for the appointment of a board of examiners of plumbers for the city of Lincoln, the governor says: "This bill is amendatory. The original act as passed in 1891 (session laws 1901, chapter xxi, page 321-326) under the title thereof the enactment was restricted to cities having a population of more than 50,000. In 1903 the legislature attempted to amend section 1, so as to make this act apply to cities having a population of more than 40,000, but the title of the amendatory act referred alone to section 1 of the original title so as to apply to cities having less than 50,000 inhabitants. The amendment of 1903, making the act applicable to cities having more than 40,000 inhabitants, was not within the title of the original act, which referred alone to cities having more than 50,000 inhabitants. The amendment of 1903, therefore, was not within the title of the original act and is unconstitutional. This void provision is a part of the act as it appears in chapter xiv, article 3, compiled statutes of 1903. This S. F. 266 conflicts with the constitution and cannot be approved. Besides, the repealing clause in S. F. 266 is a general one, purporting to repeal all conflicting provisions in existing statutes. This form of repealing clause in an amendatory act does not meet the requirements of that part of the constitution which declares that the section or sections so amended must in express term be repealed."

Within a few days the offices in the state house, with the exception of those occupied by state officers, will all be changed and it will take an directory for any one to find any one. The State Board of Public Lands and Buildings met Wednesday and allotted new rooms, it being necessary in the opinion of the board to change practically every office to make room for the State Railway commission, which is the only addition to the present number of offices in the state house. It fell to the lot of Chairman Eaton and Secretary Junkin to carry around the move out notices and some of the language used by those to be ejected from pleasant quarters was unique and entirely original. Offices were allotted as follows:

The oil office moves from the first floor to the lieutenant governor's room on the second floor.

The state veterinarian will office with the State Board of Charities on the third floor. This office has been on the second floor.

The labor bureau, which for years has been on the first floor, moves to the house engrossing room on the third floor.

The Agricultural society moves from the first floor in the north center of the building to the labor bureau room.

The game warden moves from the second floor to the senate judiciary committee room on the third floor.

The irrigation board moves from the north center of the building to the senate enrolling room on the third floor.

The State Railway commission takes the rooms now occupied by the State Board of Irrigation and the Agricultural society.

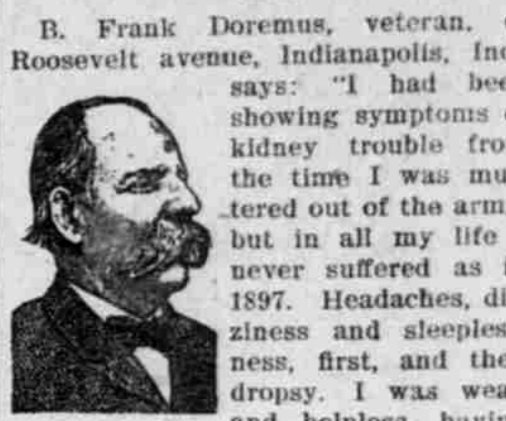
The Supreme Court commission takes the two rooms of the secretary of the senate and when it wants it will use the senate chamber.

The state superintendent takes on the room vacated by the oil office and makes it a part of his already large office rooms.

The Beatrice Times hopes the time will come before many years when the state will feel warranted in giving its capitol an extensive overhauling and improving. It is a very commonplace building in comparison with the one in Iowa, and rather of a discredit to a state that has grown in wealth like Nebraska has during the past ten years. People should not take the narrow view that rebuilding and improving the state house will help Lincoln chiefly. It belongs to Nebraska.

A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE.

How a Veteran Was Saved the Amputation of a Limb.



B. Frank Doremus, veteran, of Roosevelt avenue, Indianapolis, Ind., says: "I had been showing symptoms of kidney trouble from the time I was mustered out of the army, but in all my life I never suffered as in 1897. Headaches, dizziness and sleeplessness, first, and then dropsy. I was weak and helpless, having run down from 180 to 125 pounds. I was having terrible pain in the kidneys, and the secretions passed almost involuntarily. My left leg swelled until it was 34 inches around, and the doctor tapped it night and morning until I could no longer stand it, and then he advised amputation. I refused, and began using Doan's Kidney Pills. The swelling subsided gradually, the urine became natural, and all my pains and aches disappeared. I have been well now for nine years since using Doan's Kidney Pills.

For sale by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Prize for the Unmarried.

The latest novelty in bazar attractions is that introduced by the Springside Wesleyan chapel, Rawtenstall, England. A wedding cake was cut up, and in one section was concealed a marriage certificate. It was announced that the bachelor or spinster securing the "chunk" containing the document had the opportunity offered to be married free of cost within the next 12 months by the Rev. J. Bennetts.

Laundry work at home would be much more satisfactory if the right Starch were used. In order to get the desired stiffness, it is usually necessary to use so much starch that the beauty and fineness of the fabric is hidden behind a paste of varying thickness, which not only destroys the appearance, but also affects the wearing quality of the goods. This trouble can be entirely overcome by using Defiance Starch, as it can be applied much more thinly because of its greater strength than other makes.

I have lived to know that the great secret of human happiness is this: Never suffer your energies to stagnate.—Dr. Adam Clarke.

ILL FROM OVERWORK

NERVOUS PROSTRATION CURED BY DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS.

By Toning up the Blood and Nerves Patient Recovered Weight, Strength and Good Spirits.

When the nervous system is broken down from overwork, or whatever cause, life loses its joys. Not only is the nervous victim a sufferer himself but he is usually a trial to the whole family. Nervous breakdown is often gradual, appearing at first to be merely an unusual fretfulness. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills tone up the nerves in the most direct way and not only cure minor troubles but serious disorders as well.

Mr. W. W. Munroe, of 16 Hazel Park, Everett, Mass., says: "About four years ago this September I became all run down from overwork and from confinement to work during warm weather. For two months I grew steadily worse. I lost in weight and strength and had no appetite. My memory failed me quite rapidly and I became in a very low state, both physically and mentally. I took no interest in life, neither in business nor recreation. In my position, as foreman in a large manufacturing chemist's establishment in Boston, a good memory is absolutely essential to success because of the immense amount of detail that must be carried in the head. I grew very despairing, could not bear to have people meet me and my friends remarked on my condition. About the middle of December a friend told me one day that he had tried Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and found them reliable. I commenced taking them and at the end of two weeks the change for the better was remarked by friends. I continued using the pills until I was thoroughly recovered. I regard them as a fine remedy and make this statement voluntarily in gratitude for the benefit I received from them."

These pills actually make new blood and have cured such diseases as rheumatism, nervous and general debility, indigestion, nervous headache, neuralgia and even partial paralysis and locomotor ataxia. As a tonic for the blood and nerves they are unequalled. If you are a sufferer from any disorder of the blood and nerves write for proof of what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have accomplished in cases similar to yours. Every testimonial used by this company is carefully investigated before being published and is authentic. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all druggists, or direct by mail, postpaid, on receipt of price, 50 cents per box, six boxes for \$2.50, by Dr. Williams Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

You can identify Alabastine by the trade mark, but you can't fully appreciate all the reasons why you should identify it unless you write today for booklet and full information about how you can make your home more beautiful at little expense by using it. Alabastine is a sanitary wall covering that secures a simply wonderful result in a wonderfully simple way. The Alabastine Co., 210 Grandville Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich., or 110 Water Street, New York City.

