



Mr. Barnes, American

By ARCHIBALD CLAVENING GUNTER

Author
of
MURDERS
OF NEW YORK,
THE PLOT
OF ZEEB,
THAT
FRENCHMAN,
etc.

A Sequel to
MR. BARNES
OF NEW YORK

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SYNOPSIS.

Burton H. Barnes, a wealthy American tourist, Corsican, meets the young English lieutenant, Edward Gurner, and his Corsican bride, Marina, daughter of the Paolis, from the murderous vendetta, understanding which results in the death of the girl he loves, Endo Anstruther, sister of the English lieutenant. The four fly from Ajaccio to Marseilles on board the French steamer *Corsican*. The vendetta pursues and as the quartet are about to board the train for London at Marseilles, Marina is taken ill, which causes her to collapse and necessitates a postponement of the journey. Barnes gets part of the mysterious and secret story of Endo, and learns that he is marked by the vendetta. He employs an American detective and plans to beat the vendetta at their own game. For safety's sake, the secret identity of the women Barnes arranges to have Lady Chartis lease a secluded villa at Nice, in which the party is to take up residence. It is supposed that Marina is in love with the Corsicans. A man, believed to be Correggio Danella, who has been a long time in America, is thought to have given him a sign. Marina refuses to explain to Barnes which fact adds to his latent suspicions. Barnes is planning to expose the secret, but he is learned by the Corsicans. The carriage carrying their party to the local landing is followed by two men. One of the horses is supposed to be Correggio. They try to murder the American. The cook on the yacht—a Frenchman—is suspected of complicity. The party arrives at St. Tropez. The yacht is followed by a small boat. The cook is detected giving signals to the boat. Barnes, who is a quick observer, but is prevented by Marina and Endo. The cook is found to be innocent of the supposed plot and is released. The party arrives at Nice, and finds Lady Chartis and her daughter Mandi domiciled in the villa rented with Barnes' money. Barnes is anxious to find out what Correggio had been in Nice for some time prior to the party's arrival.

CHAPTER VIII.—Continued.
"Will that woman never let me alone?" thinks the American, and pushes the note back in his pocket. "I'll forget Sally Spotts forever by going and seeing the minister."

But at the entrance to the residence of the divine a suspicion enters his mind that he is being followed. He makes his interview with the minister of the church of England a very short one, and coming rapidly out of the house, his quick eyes perceive two men on the opposite side of the street. These turn casually toward the traffic of the busy avenue from the railroad station and are lost in the crowd from an arriving train.

Now that his footsteps are being dogged, he thinks he had better see Perrier, the French detective recommended by the Pinkerton man. Therefore, keeping his eyes about him sharp at any dark corners of the streets, he walks to the Rue Palermo, and rings the bell at the house mentioned in Emory's letter.

Here an old woman concierge informs him that Monsieur Perrier's room is number four on the second floor.

Barnes, pushing his way to number four on the second floor, is confronted at the door of this apartment by a man of very brisk manner, sharp, penetrating eyes and a nose whose peculiar aquiline formation impressed itself on Barnes' memory.

"In order to avoid any mistake," whispers the American, "I simply mention to you the word 'Vendetta.'"

"And I simply reply 'Marseilles,'" answers the man, "but I don't wish to have anything to do with the affair."

"You are Monsieur Perrier?"

"Yes, of course; you know by my returning the word of recognition to you," remarks the Frenchman.

"I must have a reason for your declining to aid me. This matter is too important for you not to listen to me."

"I have been informed," answers Perrier, "by my poor friend Emory's letters of this peculiar and most unfortunate affair, but I do not wish to engage in it."

"Why not?" asks Barnes, shortly. "Don't you think I have money to pay for it?"

"Of course, I know Monsieur is rich," answers the Frenchman, deprecatingly. "But my life is my only asset. I have a wife and children. I saw one vendetta in Corsica a few years ago, and I don't want to get into another cat fight where cats are armed with stilettos. Your enemies already know your location at Villefranche. Bernardo Saliceti has come from Corsica hoping to win the election in his island by vengeance upon you. He and Enrico Danella, the dead Musso's nephew, are in Nice."

"Has Enrico a scar upon his forehead over his left eye?" asks Barnes, eagerly.

"He has."

"Then I've the name of the scar-faced gentleman, thank you," remarks Burton. "Now it is necessary you come into this affair, Perrier. You've got to aid not only me, but two women."

The answer that comes causes Barnes to look astaghast.

"I dare not," answers Perrier, shortly. "The fate of my poor friend Emory is too horrible."

"Fate! What fate?"

"Why, he was to be here two days ago, according to his letters to me, to arrange for guarding your villa. He is not here even today. His last note from St. Tropez indicated he was close upon the track of those who have sworn this blood feud against you—all who aid you. That letter was written four days ago and—what has become of Emory?"

"How can I tell?" mutters the American gloomily.

"But I can," answers the private detective. "Madame Blackwood, for whom I have executed some little commissions, called on me two days ago excitedly. 'Perrier,' she said, in her American abruptness, 'want you to bring to justice some villains who

lunatic for Miss Anstruther should she become Mrs. Barnes of New York; that, as your wife, she would be drawn into this blood feud that has been declared against you. Now,' suggested Count Cipriano, 'you are the lady best fitted by past friendship and present charm, to prevent this danger to the pretty English girl, by destroying the wedding.'

"You have brought me here for this?" says Burton, his eyes growing angry.

"Wait! Listen! As an American, my desire is to protect you from death. I appeared to accede to Cipriano's request to fascinate you again. I wonder if I could do it?" She looks at him roughly and laughs through her white teeth. "Don't be frightened of me. So I pumped the romantic Corsican, who made half love to me while he tried to persuade me. I found out that not only was the commune of Boco—Bocognano or something of that kind—anxious for your blood, but that several gentlemen from that neighborhood were here in order to obtain it, and to make their task easy, they had done up in some way or other a detective you had employed to shadow them, a Yankee named Emory, I believe. Therefore, I said to myself: 'I'll take care if possible to inform Mr. Barnes of the dangers that surround him, and if he is the man I think him, he is about as well able to protect himself and his coming bride as anyone I know.'

"Hold up a moment. I want to ask you a question," interrupts Barnes. "What makes you think the devils have done up poor Emory?"

"Well, a careless expression of Count Danella—only this: 'He won't bother them again,' something of that kind from Cipriano."

"I must be going. I'm deeply grateful to you." Burton rises. "Mr. Ruggles—"

"Don't be afraid. Dan won't be jealous."

She extends to him her beautifully formed white fingers dazzling with

murdered a Yankee detective named Emory, the other day near St. Tropez. 'You saw him killed?' I asked. 'No, but I've got evidence—a few words from—' she checked herself; but added, 'I don't dare to tell Mr. Ruggles of this; he's so impulsive he'd spend his money and his blood, too, to bring a murderer of one of his countrymen to justice. So you just go on and get the evidence against these fellows and trot them to the guillotine.' But the fate of Emory warned me, I determined to give up the whole affair," adds Perrier.

"Thank you again," sneers Barnes, and coming out the American laughs to himself. But the mention of Madame Blackwood reminds him of her letter. "By George, Sally's note hinted at this Emory business!" and without more ado Mr. Barnes, hurriedly keeping his eyes alert for sudden daggers, makes his way to the promenade, by the sea and shortly after enters the luxurious Hotel St. Petersburg.

It is ten in the evening. He is about to send up his card to Madame Blackwood and request an interview when she enters. As she comes in by the ladies' entrance, the Kansas cattle king, who attends her, chances to glance into the office and calls out: "Whew, Barnes, that was a lucky address you gave me in Paris five weeks ago," and, taking him aside, whispers,

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"Why He Was to Be Here Two Days Ago."

"I caught the lady. The goods came high, but they're worth the money. Step up and have supper with us."

This invitation Barnes finds it impossible to politely decline, as Sally Blackwood has already put her beautiful eyes upon him and said: "So glad you're here. You mustn't refuse. We saw so little of you in Monte Carlo."

A moment later Barnes finds himself ushered into La Blackwood's private parlor, where supper is shortly served to them. Several times Burton is about to hint at the purport of her note, but the expressive eyes of the adventurous warn him to hold his tongue. Coffee, however, is no sooner served than the fascinating creature says: "Now, Dan, supposing you run downstairs and have your smoke there. I want to talk with Mr. Barnes of New York—something I don't want you to hear. That needn't make you jealous—it's about my parents in Ohio."

The minute the cattle king disappears the lady's manner changes. She cries airily: "Guess what made me write to you?"

"Hate," mutters Barnes, between puffs of his cigarette.

"No, though I ought to hate you. What I want to see you about—" La Blackwood's eyes become intense and her voice falls to a whisper—"is to save your life—if I can. Do you know that half of a commune in Corsica want your blood?"

"I've guessed it in the last few days," observes Barnes grimly.

"Are you acquainted with a certain Count Cipriano Danella?"

"Never; have seen him."

"No, but you've heard of him?"

"Oh, yes, he's a brother of the Della who was killed in Corsica."

"Yes, now, this gentleman, who is a very good man and very tender-hearted, obtained an introduction to me about three days ago on the des Anglais. From some words of a Lady Chartis, a cousin of yours, he has learned that you are to marry very shortly the pretty girl whose lips I threatened to kiss at Monte Carlo. Well, this Cipriano Danella, who looks quite romantic in his Corsican mourning, while making love to me till Dan got jealous," she laughs slightly, "hinted to me that it would be very unfor-

The State Capital

Matters of General Interest
From Nebraska's Seat of Government

Merchandise is Defined.

Attorney General Thompson, answering questions of the State Railways Commission, has given an opinion holding that the Sibley act in referring to "merchandise" means merchandise in its general sense and not as used in the classification by the express companies. Therefore the bill provides for a reduction on all commodities of merchandise in the broadest sense, including butter, eggs, cured and fresh meats, fruits, vegetables, commodities which Commissioner Williams claimed were not covered by the act. Mr. Thompson finds that the act does not provide for the reduction of the money rate, as contended by Commissioner Williams. The attorney general upholds the contention of Commissioner Clarke as expressed in a warm discussion at a recent meeting of the commission. Mr. Williams had asked the commission to ask for a reduction on articles which he said the Sibley act does not cover. The matter was referred to the attorney general.

Balks on Oil Inspection.

Whether the Nebraska law intends that oil shipped into the state and used by a company or individual which does not offer it for sale, should be inspected or not will be the point in question in a friendly suit by State Inspector Allen against the Burlington Railroad Company, which has refused to pay a bill for inspection of oil at its shops in Lincoln. Some time ago the state oil inspector sent a bill to the Burlington railroad for a considerable sum for inspecting the oil used at the shops in Lincoln. State Oil Inspector Allen received a letter from General Manager G. W. Holdredge in which Mr. Holdredge said the company refused to pay the bill, and did not believe that the law providing for the inspection of oil intended that such oil as was shipped in for the use of a company or corporation, and not for export, should be subject to any inspection. Mr. Holdredge suggested that if the oil inspector desired to test the law on the point, he would be glad to have a friendly suit brought against the Burlington railroad company for the collection of the bill. Inspector Allen announced that he would bring a suit at once.

Largest Number of Convicts.

Warden A. D. Beemer reported that he had 407 convicts under his care. This is the largest number ever in the Nebraska penitentiary. Only once before did the number reach 400. W. H. Dorgan of Lincoln, formerly prison contractor, tells how that high mark was made. It was during the time Wyoming state prisoners were kept at the Nebraska state penitentiary. When the number reached 399 report came that another prisoner was on the way. It was also known at the prison that one convict would leave the same day by reason of expiration of sentence. The man whose term expired was kept in the penitentiary until noon. By that time the new prisoner had arrived, and thus the number reached 400. Warden Beemer's monthly report shows 404 prisoners on the last day of December.

Telegraph Companies Report.

The Western Union Telegraph company, against which suit was filed some time ago for failure to furnish the railway commission with information, filed its report for 1907, together with a list of those who held franchises last year. The list includes Omaha, Lincoln and Norfolk newspapers and a number of railroad officers, who held the privileges at the time the law forbidding them went into effect. None was issued in 1908, according to the report.

The statement shows the capital stock of the company to be \$97,270,000. The total revenue of the company in 1906 was \$30,675,645.53 and in 1907 \$32,856,406.25, an increase of \$2,180,751.2. The profits in 1906 were \$5,742,607.88, and in 1907 \$4,504,149.05, a decrease of \$1,238,458.3. The total property was \$157,378,971.95, including the franchise.

Commissioner Ames Resigns.

Supreme Court Commissioner John H. Ames tendered his resignation to the supreme court and it was accepted. Mr. Ames is in poor health and Judge Ames will leave with her at once for the south. This was the reason given for the resignation. No one has yet been appointed to fill the vacancy.

Cut in Laundry Bill.

The state will not pay for the laundering of shirtwaists, corset covers and other female wearing apparel for which a claim was recently filed with the state auditor by the secretary of the board of regents of the state university. President Ernest of the board of regents has withdrawn his approval of the voucher.

Protest on Increased Rates.

The State Railway Commission received a request from the Independent Telephone Company of Kearney, asking permission to advance the rates for telephone service. The proposed raise would give the company \$3 per month in place of \$2 for business telephones, and \$2 instead of \$1.50 for resident telephone service. Frank Beeman of Kearney telephoned to the commissioners that he had written a letter protesting against such an advance in rates and fully set forth his objections.

Kruger Case Reversed.

The supreme court has reversed a judgment for damages obtained by Mette Kruger against the Omaha Street Railway Company. The girl, who is under 14 years of age, became frightened and jumped off a moving car, but in this case the court erred in instructing the jury that the plaintiff might recover damages even though she was negligent in her act.

Judge Sedgwick Honored.

Chief Justice S. H. Sedgwick of the supreme court was given a magnificent gold headed cane. It was presented in an informal manner by Judge J. B. Barnes on behalf of the judges of the court and the court commissioners. Chief Justice Sedgwick retired from office and his associates, most of whom have been with him for the past six years, took this as a fitting occasion to show their regard for him. He left for his home in York, carrying with him the best wishes of the entire bar of the state.

AMATRIMONIAL MISSTEP

One of the Twelve Stories of Solomon.
BY THE "HIGHWAY AND BYWAY PREACHER."

(Copyright, 1907, by the Author, W. E. Nixon.)
Scripture Authority—1 Kings 3:1; 11:14.

SERMONETTE.

"Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her into the city of David." Here was the first step in a course which was to work the ruin of Solomon's life.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers," is the Scriptural admonition. It was one of the laws of the Jewish dispensation on which great emphasis was laid, and it is one of the admonitions of the Christian dispensation which is clearly and positively set forth by the Apostle Paul.

Why should this be so? Why cannot we have happy successful union between the Christian and the non-Christian? The apostle answers the question when he goes on to say: "for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

There is no relationship in life so intimate and close as that of husband and wife, and hence if such relationship is to be enduring there must be fellowship and communion between the lives thus linked together.

It is then a question as to what direction such fellowship and communion shall take. Will the righteousness dominate the unrighteousness, the light, the darkness? Or will the heart of the worldling lead away from God the one who has pledged himself to God? Will the worldliness stifle and quench the light of God's truth which has shined in the heart?

Almost invariably the marriage of the Christian with the non-Christian works disaster to the faith of the former.

Solomon's union with Pharaoh's daughter was a brilliant political marriage, with every reason from a human and worldly point of view to command it. It gave him a powerful ally to the south, assuring not only protection from attack from that quarter, but strengthening his bonds with the nations to the north and east. It gave a brilliant aspect to the reign of King Solomon and was the beginning of that splendor and magnificence which marked his entire reign. And further, it brought into the national life of Israel a liberal, progressive element which was broadening in its influence, commercially and socially.

And yet in spite of all the temporary advantages which were to accrue, it was an unwise, unsafe, and unholy alliance.

Unwise, because counter to the explicit command of God, and certain it is that violation of God's command ultimately brings ruin.

Unsafe, because it was not only weakening the national ideals of a people wholly set apart to God, but a weakening also of the individual ideals which were going to make the second step away from God easier.