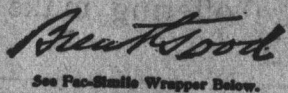


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## A Cowboy's Love.

By ABNER JOHNSON.

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Jim Traskon, cowboy, was riding slowly around a herd of a thousand steers on a grazing ground in Montana. As he rode he was occupied with pleasant thoughts. For years past he had had no other thoughts than for steers. Now he had got on to a new line, and his head was confused, and there was a new feeling in his heart. His attitude had been observed from afar off by Tom Matthews, a fellow cowboy. As the new arrival came within speaking distance he checked his pinto and exclaimed:

"Durn my hide, Jim Traskon, if you ain't homesick!"

"You're way off," was the reply.

"Then you are thinking of suicide."

"Wrong again."

"You can't be no doggone me—you can't be in love!"

Jim made no reply, but the hopelessness of his look increased. The other dismounted, came nearer, reached up and laid the palm of his hand on the suffering man's left side about where the heart is supposed to be. He held it there for twenty seconds. Then he stepped back and whispered:

"Jim, she's a palpitating as sure as your boral. It's a case of love, and don't you try to fool your Uncle Tom. Just pour out your confidence, and I'll advise to the best of my ability. I've been right there three or four times and know something about it."

"You wouldn't give me away?"

"Not a give."

"Nor make fun of me?"

"Not on your life. When a man's in love and got it bad, Tom Matthews is not a man to jump on him. Who's the maiden, Jim?"

"You know that girl from New York over on the Horseshoe ranch?"

"You don't say! That Miss Walters who is visiting Kitty Williams? Say, Jim, you are flying high! That girl's father is worth three or four million dollars, and she wouldn't stoop to such as you and me if we were up to the neck in quicksand. You can't mean that you are struck on her?"

Jim nodded and sighed and looked far away over the grazing herd.

"Well, by gosh! And now the question is, is she struck on you?"

"I can't say she is; but, Tom, I'm loving that girl till I shall die if I don't get her. Why, I haven't eaten enough for the last week to keep a jack rabbit alive, and there are times when it seems as if wheels was going around in my head."

"Um! Took me the very same way the first time, and I had chills and fever besides. In love with Miss Walters, eh? It's a cheeky thing, Jim—mighty cheeky. I'm afraid you'll have to take it out in palpitating of the heart and loss of appetite. If she was some half breed, now, or even, the school-marm over on Dog river, there might be a show, but bracing up to a millionaire's daughter is flying high, Jim, flying high."

"But I'm a desperate man, Tom," replied Jim. "This 'ere thing they call love has got a rope around both my legs. It's either matrimony or death with me. What I want of you is to tell me how to work it. You've made two trips to Chicago with cattle and ought to know all about it."

"So I do, so I do. You have just seen her at a distance and fallen in love with her. Maybe it's the same way with her, but it won't do to bank on it. It's safer to argue that she's also seen you from one of her herds. You can go over to the ranch and call on her, because you haven't got a boiled shirt to put on. You can't get an introduction in the regular way because Kitty Williams is stuck up and would give you the cold glare. Her mother is down on you because one of her cats got hold of some of your wolf poison. Jim, old man, you are up against it."

"Then I'll hang myself within a week!"

"Um! Just the way I felt the first time. Let me see. There ought to be a way—there surely ought. It mustn't be any common way. It's got to be a hair-raiser or it won't do. If you don't impress a millionaire's daughter like a

house falling on her, you can't hold her thoughts for five minutes. Jim Traskon, are you ready for a desperate venture?"

"You bet I am, if it's anything connected with that girl! Yes, sir, I'll fight a dozen grizzlies one after another for her sake."

"Then when you come in tonight we'll have a talk. I've got a plan, and I'm quite sure she's bound to work. Say nothing, but come and see me."

It was true that Miss Nettie Walters was visiting Miss Kitty Williams, daughter of Major Williams of the Horseshoe ranch. It was also true that she was the daughter of a wealthy resident of New York. Both girls rode out on their ponies almost every day, and as a matter of fact they had several times passed within a few rods of the cowboy—the particular cowboy. They had given him no more notice, however, than they had given his herd.

There was a talk that evening between Jim Traskon and Tom Matthews, and when it was concluded the hopeless lover was no longer hopeless. In fact, he had been brought around to realize that life was worth the living. He even executed a shuffie and indulged in suppressed whoops of exultation.

Two days later fortune favored him with a broad smile. At 10 o'clock in the forenoon he caught sight of the New York girl riding alone—not quite alone, either, as she had three dogs with her, and the animals were doing their best to scare up a rabbit to be run down. When she was half a mile away a big jack broke cover, and away went girl and pony and dogs. It took Jim Traskon just two minutes to adorn himself in the Indian trappings which he had brought along for the occasion by the advice of Tom Matthews. Then he started the chase. His get-up was good, and his whoops had the true ring. Of course he depended on Miss Williams having told her girl friend that some of the Sioux Indians had left their reservation and were committing outrages along the skirts of the valley. As a matter of fact, this information had been imparted, but it hadn't deterred the New Yorker from riding out alone. She heard the whoops and looked back to see the redskin coming after her. Then she gave her pony the switch. In her go-off she rode straight away from home, and at the end of a three mile chase her pony was winded, and she was being overhauled.

Then was the psychological moment for Jim Traskon to strip off his disguise and begin to whoop and shoot and convey the idea to the girl that he had come up in time to run the redskin off and save her from being carried into captivity. According to Tom Matthews, she must feel grateful, she must smile on her rescuer, she must extend the glad hand, and if she didn't faint in his arms she must at least invite him to call on her at the ranch and sooner or later fall in love with and marry him.

All that ought to have taken place as easy as two and two make four, but, alas, it didn't. In the first place, the redskin away by his hopes and fears, the cowboy got too close; also he forgot to throw away his disguise. Then the girl pulled her tired horse in, wheeled him around and suddenly came riding back with a six shooter in her hand. She had never shot at a man before, but for a novice she did remarkably well. Out of six shots she sent three bullets into Jim at points calculated to give him pain, and before she had ceased firing he was on the run for cover. When he had got a gallop on him the girl headed for the ranch at alope, and her part of the adventure was over. Not so with Jim Traskon. He had to get into the brush and send for Tom Matthews, and Tom had to ride eight miles for a surgeon to pick the lead out and dress the wounds, and after Jim had told about forty lies about the affair the foreman said he was too ripe for him and had better go. Tom shook his fist under the poor fellow's nose and roared: "When I was telling you how to get that girl I didn't know that I was talking to a blame fool! Jim, you've mixed and muddled the case worse than an idiot, and now you go and suspend yourself from the limb of a weeping willow tree and be hanged to you! You had a mighty handsome girl and untold millions within your grasp, and then you went like a durned kype and forgot that you was a white man instead of an Injun. Get along out of Montana with you!"

One Test of the Teacher.

The true teacher must have a readiness to be forgotten. And what is harder? Many a man is ready to be generous if by it he can win praise. The love of praise is the almost universal infirmity, but there is no more baffling infirmity for the teacher. If praise and recognition are dear to him, he may as well stop work. Dear to him perhaps they must be, as a human being; but, as a teacher, he is called on to rise above ordinary human conditions. A teacher does not live for himself, but for his pupil and for the truth which he imparts. His aim is to be a colorless medium through which that truth may shine on an opening mind. How can he be this if he is continually interposing himself and saying: "Instead of looking at the truth, my children, look at me and see how skillfully I do my work. I thought I taught you admirably today. I hope you thought so too." No, the teacher must keep himself entirely out of the way, fixing young attention on the proffered knowledge and not on anything so small as him who brings it. Only so can he be wholehearted in invigorating the lives committed to his charge.

Professor G. H. Palmer in Atlantic.

The Proper Thing.

Mrs. Parke—I see that Mrs. Van Cobb has been abandoned by her husband.

Parke—What shall we do—send her congratulations?—New York Life.

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Every Woman

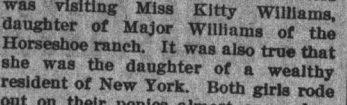
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