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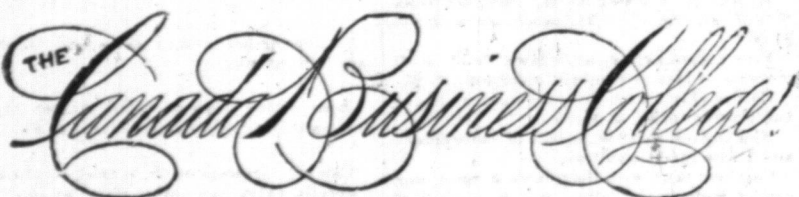
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THE MESSENGER FROM KHARTOOM

BY ST. GEORGE RATHBORNE.

Author of "Dr. Jack," "Dr. Jack's Wife," "Miss Caprice," Etc., Etc.

SYNOPSIS OF THE OPENING CHAPTERS.

The story opens at Cairo, where Mr. Grimes, who passes as an American silver king; Sandy Barlow, a newspaper correspondent; Mr. Tanner, a millionaire traveller, and his daughter Molly, all meet. Mr. Grimes informs Grimes that his dahabiah on its way down the Nile picked up Mynheer Joe a messenger from Gordon. As both Grimes and Sandy know Joe they go down to the boat to find him. Joe gives them the first news of the fall of Khartoum and Gordon's death. They bring Joe up from the boat to meet Molly, Millionaire Tanner's daughter, who he recognizes as a girl he once saved from drowning at Malta.

Mynheer Joe obtains presentable clothes from Mr. Grimes and has an interview with Molly, who thanks him for saving her life.

At Shepherd's hotel in Cairo, where a ball is in progress, he finds a big man and a little one quarrelling. Thinking the little one is Molly's father, he takes his part.

"Not at all, my dear fellow."

"Do you mean to say you have been in it?"

"I must plead guilty."

"They pitched on to you?"

"On the contrary, I think I did the aggressive. Never could see a big dog set on a small one."

"Oh, that's the way the game runs, is it? Well, did you chaw the big dog up?"

"I think I knocked him out. He's in that cluster over yonder. It's a lesson to him I hope, though I must admit the little chap was dented saucy, and the other didn't give way until forced almost beyond human endurance."

"For my part, I'd have let 'em at 'em. Because a man is small, it's no reason he should impose on those who are larger. The chaps need a lesson to teach 'em something," says the silver king.

Mynheer Joe laughs softly.

"Let me complete my confession, my friend," he says, with charming frankness.

"Willingly."

"There was another reason why I threw myself into the breach and took up arms against the more powerful side."

Mr. Grimes elevates his eyebrows and looks at his companion in a peculiar way.

"Well?" he says.

"It was on account of beauty that I took part in this disgraceful affair."

"What! Was the old villain beating his wife?"

"None!" The thought of Molly Tanner spurred me on to interfere."

"Come, no joking! What has she to do with the quarrel of street brawlers?"

"You are very obtuse, Mr. Grimes. It was her father who was in the affair."

"A light breaks upon me."

"Glad of it, sir. You see, I couldn't stand by and see a little man like Demosthenes Tanner being imposed upon. I brushed him aside and told his adversary to fight some one nearer his size. He did so, and—well the result is you-der."

"A little man, eh?"

"Well, he's small when compared with—say you or myself, for instance."

"Tanner—oh, yes, of course," with a grin.

"And, really, the other chap towered above him like a giant. I never felt better than when I faced him and gave him his quietus."

"Is he down there yet?"

"I think he's getting over it now. See the crowd part. That's him sitting there, with his hand up to his head. I reckon he's dazed."

Mr. Grimes looks.

Then he utters a low whistle.

"You've done it, my dear fellow!" he says, agitated.

"Oh, he'll be over it presently; may have a headache to-morrow. But these knock-out blows, if properly given, don't kill," says Joe, coolly.

"It ain't that," continues Mr. Grimes.

"What, then?"

"Well, you see—Deuce take it! Here she comes! Now there will be the mischief to pay!"

Mynheer Joe hears his words, and, turning his head, glances around. There is no difficulty in discovering just what is meant. From the direction of the piazza a figure in white advances hastily. The lights of the piazza flash from the diamonds in her ears and at her neck.

It is Molly!

Straight she comes to where they are standing, as if in that motley crowd her eyes have fallen upon these two figures first of all, and in them she recognizes friends.

Mynheer Joe feels a thrill of honest pride as it flashes upon him that this beauty will soon be thanking him from her heart for standing up in her dear old governor's place and meeting the attack of an enraged giant.

It is a pleasant sensation that creeps about his heart, for he feels that he has done a good action. In these days when a man dashes into a burning house and saves a child at the risk of his own life, he knows he has done a heroic act, though his modesty may prevent him from boasting about it.

Molly Tanner reaches them. It is Mynheer Joe she sees, and to him appeals. Her looks are startled. He will

never forget how lovely she appears when she clasps his arm, and in a breathless manner, gasps:

"Oh, Mynheer Joe, is it true? Has my dear old governor been hurt? He is always so impetuous—so ready to take offense. Tell me the truth. I can stand the worst. Indeed, I can!"

Her voice is pleading. One would imagine that he is endeavoring to hold back something from her that she should know.

"Miss Tanner, calm yourself. I beg," he says, wondering how he can explain matters without bringing his own share of it into notice.

"I am calm. Now tell me all," she replies, assuming with an effort a repose she is certainly far from feeling.

"There has been a little affair here over a dispute. I believe your father was engaged in it. Blows were exchanged—"

"And my dear old governor—"

"Was injured. See, there he is yonder at this very moment," says the delighted Joe, pleased because she does not look upon little Demosthenes Tanner pummed and bleeding.

"He catches a cry close to his ears. Molly is no longer standing there. Quick as a flash of light, she flits across the open space. Mynheer Joe hears a hoarse chuckle beside him, and knows it proceeds from Mr. Grimes. His eyes follow the figure of the belle of Cairo. To his amazement, she passes the pug-nacious little bantam without a look. What does this mean? She is on her knees beside the recovering Western cyclone Mynheer Joe groans. He calls himself a fool, a dolt, as the truth flashes upon him and he realizes that it is Molly Tanner's dear old governor whom he has so scientifically knocked out!"

CHAPTER VII.

Mynheer Joe, for once in his life, feels a cold perspiration come out upon his forehead, which he nervously wipes away. He wonders this fear. The man who has faced death in its most horrible forms, in the poisonous swamps of interior Africa, through the jungles of India, where cobras, tigers and venomous natives lie in wait; meeting the crazed Mohammedan derisives of the False Prophet face to face in many an assault at Khartoum—this man actually trembling with fear because he dreads the scorn of a woman!

He laughs at himself for the fancy, but it is a nervous laugh, not at all humorous, and, turning, finds Mr. Grimes surveying him in a comical sort of way.

"Tell me, did you really think that little nincompoop was Demosthenes Tanner?" asks the silver king, in a half-choked voice, for to him the whole situation is inexplicably funny.

"I certainly did," answers Joe, wondering if it will remedy matters any if he should pass over and shake the little terror until his teeth rattle in his head; he has conceived a sudden hatred for him.

"A terrible mistake, my dear fellow," grins the other, nodding his head seriously.

"Well, rather, under the circumstances. Tell me who that man is?"

Not that he is particularly anxious to know, but the question is a natural one and will help to carry him out of a predicament.

"The little man? That's the baron, one of Miss Molly's most devoted admirers."

"Confusion! How come it that he quarreled with her father. Anyhow, the baron is used to serfs, and imagines he can run things with a high hand wherever he goes."

"A Russian?"

"Heaven knows what he isn't—Russian, German and Austrian—he has served under all their flags. At present, I have learned, he is under Alexander, and bound for India by stages. Russia has dark designs on the rich possessions of England on the Indian Ocean, and some day the hosts of the White Czar hope to rush over the mountains and overrun the whole of the empire along the Ganges."

Mr. Grimes talks in this way with an object in view—he is interested in the subject, and at the same time hopes to divert the mind of his friend from the awful contretemps into which he has stumbled.

In this latter, he meets with a fair measure of success. As a traveller and explorer, Joe Miner is interested in the movements of armies on the chess-board of Europe, though his knowledge of diplomatic entanglements is very small compared with that of the war correspondent.

By this time Tanner is on his feet. His fate antagonistic: feels as though he would like to sink out of sight, but that he is in the least ashamed of the part he took in the recent engagement, but because he dreads the moment when Molly's eyes must fall upon him? or her father has pointed out the man to whom he owes his life and downfall.

(To be Continued.)

A GIRLISH DREAM.

"I'd like to marry a lawyer."

"Why for, my dear?"

"He wouldn't be always arguing with me."

"How do you know?"

"Lawyers never argue without a fee in sight."

The man who has nothing to do but clip coupons cuts quite a figure. The opinions of a child may be of no value, but they are at least honest.

Sooner or later every woman must duel with Death. Nature has provided her with

a set of extremely sensitive organs upon the condition of which the health of her whole body depends. She must keep these distinctly feminine organs fully protected by the armor of health. That is her best defense against Death at the time that Death comes closest to her—the time when she becomes a mother.



Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is designed for the one purpose of curing all diseases, or disorders of the feminine system, except cancer. It stops debilitating drains, soothes inflammation, promotes regularity of the monthly function and puts the whole female organism into a state of strong, vigorous health.

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"In October 1886 I gave birth to a baby and the treatment I received at the hands of the midwife left me with prolapsus. I had no health to speak of for three years. I had another baby which was the third child. My health began to fail and I then had three miscarriages and found myself completely worn out. I had so many pains and aches my life was a burden to me and also to all the family, for I was nervous and cross and I could not sleep. Had four doctors. They said I had liver, lung and uterine trouble. I was in bed for months and when I did get up, I was a sight to behold. I looked like a corpse walking about. I commenced taking Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and in a few weeks I became a well woman. Before I began the use of Dr. Pierce's medicine I suffered all a woman could suffer at my monthly periods, but now I have no pain. The dark circles around my eyes are gone and I feel better in every way. My cheeks are red and my face is white; before my face was as yellow as saffron."

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A Soldier Carries a Card with his Name and Address.

And Also Bandages for Binding up Wounds—He is Prepared for the Worst

The names of the British killed and wounded after a battle are ascertained by means of the identification cards which all our soldiers carry sewn up in the left-hand corner of their khaki tunics.

On the card is written the soldier's name, rank, regimental number, together with the name and address of his next-of-kin. The latter is added so that the authorities may know where to forward the effects of any soldier who gets killed.

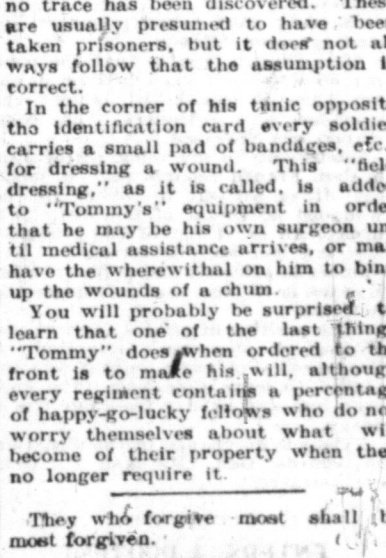
After an engagement the roll is called as soon as the regiments get back to their camp. Every man who does not answer is "ticked off" as missing, and search is made for him on the field. As the search parties come across the dead and wounded men they rip open the tunic at the left hand corner and take out the identification card. The cards thus collected are carried back to camp, and handed over to the clerks of the general in command, who therefrom compile the casualty lists.

After all the cards have been collected the roll is checked again, and a note made of those men of whom no trace has been discovered. These are usually presumed to have been taken prisoners, but it does not always follow that the assumption is correct.

In the corner of his tunic opposite the identification card every soldier carries a small pad of bandages, etc., for dressing a wound. This "field dressing," as it is called, is added to "Tommy's" equipment in order that he may be his own surgeon until medical assistance arrives, or may have the wherewithal on him to bind up the wounds of a comrade.

You will probably be surprised to learn that one of the last things "Tommy" does when ordered to the front is to make his will, although every regiment contains a percentage of happy-go-lucky fellows who do not worry themselves about what will become of their property when they no longer require it.

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