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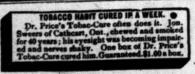
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THE MESSENGER FROM KHARTOOM

BY:ST. GEORGE RATHBORNE.

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

A landing is made at the same spot where they embarked. Ere leaving they settled with the old reis for the use of the craft.

Different indeed are their feelings

now; when going aboard, the near future was dark and forbidding; it was future was dark and forbidding; it was like a fottery from which they had just drawn a prize. Not one of the trio seems dissatisfied, save Mr. Grimes. That worthy shakes his head seriously a number of times and frowns, as though something weighs heavily on his mind. He can be heard to mutter, too, and the burden of his complaint is always in the same strain:

"A great mistake to only wound him. A scotched serpent is dangerous. will hear from him again."

CHAPTER XVI.

Once more in Cairo they proceed to look after various duties that call for attention, Mr. Grimes going one way, Sandy to send his long-delayed telegram securing passage on the good steamer Alhambra, while Mynheer Joe goes at once to Shepherd's, where he has, later on, an appointment with seversi diplomatic representatives of the British Government, who desire the fullest particulars he can give concerning the sad event that recently happened at Khartoom.

From a window of the hotel a pair of

anxious eyes note his coming. A flut-tering white kerchief attracts his attention, and he sees the face of Molly. She waves again and he bows. A tre-mendous load is taken off her mind. She has suffered keenly in the suspense that has weighed upon her ever since she heard the voices below in the court and learned from her father that Mynheer Joe had gone to fight a duel with the Russian baron.

Joe does not see her until evening, and then her look of eager interest tells him that she is acquainted with all. He flushes with a feeling akin to

"You seem to have come out of your little difficulty with credit, Mynheet she murmurs, as she walks at his

"Who told you about it, Miss Molly?" "I heard you leaving, and my father told me there was about to be some sort of an affair of honor, he called it." "I am sorry you heard of it," he says. "You have the glory of being the vi-

There is a slight sting of bitterness in her voice which he feels keenly. "It is a glory I never sought. I have not paraded it about Cairo. Being the

challenged party I was compelled to fight, or let that man, whom I despise, believe I feared him." "And what was it all about?"

"He insulted my flag to my face. am an American and resented the insult by tossing a glass of wine in his face. Then came the challenge. We had it out with swords under the palms, and I hope it is done with."

"But. I have always heard the baron had no equal as a swordsman," she says quickly. Mynheer Joe smiles.

Still, good fortune attended me, and that sometimes makes up for lack of skill, you know," he replies, but Molly believes he has not told the whole story, and privately makes up her mind to question Sandy at the very earliest op-

portunity that offers. "I have not seen the baron to-day"looking him steadily in the eyes. "You did not kill him, I hope," with a shud-

"Oh, no! Merely a puncture through the shoulder of his sword-arm that will keep him quiet for a few days, per-

haps. Mr. Grimes-" "Well, what about Mr. Grimes?" seeing that he hesitates to go on. "He declared it would have been bet-

ter for the whole of us if the baron had gone down in the duel; but I assure you I have no desire to see his blood on my hand. Let us talk something more agreeable, Miss Molly."

"I understand he intends going to India on the same steamer with us." "We will fervently hope and pray that something may occur to make him change his mind before we start," says the traveller, not thinking it good to icy to say anything about Sandy's little scheme until they see whether it turns

out to be a success or not. So they drift upon other subjects, which there are plenty to discuss. During the day, Mynheer Joe has met Molly's father and talked matters over, so that he knows much of their plans for the future and can shape his own

It is their last night in the grand old city of Cairo. When darkness again descends over Egypt, they hope to be on the crack vessel of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's fleet, heading for Port Said and the Suez Canal.

Whether Joe is conscious of the fact er not, Molly soon discovers that her companion is the observed of all. men and men look at him secretly or openly stare. The news of the duel has rmeated society in Cairo; it is a secret no longer. Nearly every one is glad the affair turned out as it aid, for the baron has made few friends in Egypt. Be-sides, it is human nature to delight in seeing pride lowered and; ever since the Russian came to Cairo his reputation as a duelist has been noised abroad. The man who has downed him must naturally be a hero, outside of the fact

Molly sees the admiring glances

position raises h.m still higher in he estimation. As for that worthy, he thinks of nothing beyond the fact that her smiles raise him to the seventh heaven of exaltion, and that he would gladly bask in them forever.

It may be readily imagined that with the evil genius locked up in his room, groaning and cursing with the pain of his wound inflicted by a rival, the two young people pass a delightful evening which neither of them will be liable

to forget in time to come.

Mr. Grimes is present and keeps watchful eye upon them, for he has a grave suspicion that further mischief will be hatched out by the ingenious mind of the baron and, under such circumstances, it behooves him to be constantly on guard in order to thwart any diabolical plans.

At last the great caravansary becom quiet, and the square in front loses its brill ant, bustling appearance. The howls of stray curs alone break the stillness of the night, as they gather here and there to hunt in packs, often rending each other.

Morning again! It is the day when the Alhambra is due at Alexandria, and the train leaves Cairo for the city at the mouth of the Nile at eight. What is an early breakfast to sojourners in Egypt is despatch. ed, and then the travellers are taken to the train that is in waiting.

As yet they have seen nothing of the baron. Mynheer Joe wonders if the Russian's absence is in any measure due to the machinations of Sandy. He endeavors to read the face of the little war correspondent, but it is no go. The great Napoleon could not have presented a more unruffled countenance. Sands looks as innocent as a babe.

It lacks but five minutes to eight when a carriage drives up. The baron alights from it. All notice that his right arm is in a sling, but his face has a smile upon it as he bows.

He does not go alone. Colonel Taylor and the Hindeo servant are in his company, and look after the portmanteau and various packages.

Mynheer Joe realizes that Sandy has not yet had a chance, in all probability, to put his little game into operation. Perhaps he does not desire to do se until the last hour. He wonders what sort of a scheme it may be, and how the little correspondent will manage to

manipulate the wires. Then, as the baron and his companions enter a compartment, Joe loses them, and they drop from his mind at the

Our five friends occupy one carriage and have quite an enjoyable time during the seven hours it takes them to make the hundred and thirty miles between Cairo and Alexandria.

Lunch has thoughtfully been provid ed, and is enjoyed en route. Mynheer Joe sees more to admire in Molly T: n ner with every hour of his acquaint ance, and if the thought had not comto him before, he is now fully resolved to win her for his wife.

Why not, when fate seems to have made them for each other? He has saved her life; they meet again in a peculiar fashion and are mutually attracted; she is the one who would benefit by his uncle's will in case he never turns up-all these things can mean but one result. She must be his.

He revels in the thought that the worthy old pater may return to his beloved Chicago while the young people. filled with the desire to see more of the world, visit the strange places of earth, to add to the geographical knowledge of humanity. With such a companion, it will be happiness to isolate oneself for months, if need be, in the wilderness. He only longs for the chance to

Mynheer Joe is no fool, if he has spent much of his later life away from society. He does not wish to be too abrupt. It is just as well that they get to know each other better before he attempts to assume the position of

The journey becomes a trifle wearisome with such slow time, and all are really glad when Alexandria is reached, about three in the afternoon.

The tourists are taken to the Hotel de l'Europe, on the grand square. If the steamer arrives, they will have to make a speedy transfer, as she will not remain more than an hour or so. Sandy becomes all business.

He asks none of them to join in his secrets, but disappears from view. Perhaps he means to get the first informa tion concerning the coming of the steamer and has his own way of doing

At exactly five minutes to four he nakes his appearance at the hotel. "Steamer is in sight!" he says, to Mr. Grimes. "How do you know, Sandy?" asked

that worthy.

"I had a good glass and the pasha's palace afforded me a fine situation for observation. She will be in at five and leave at six. See that you are ready. "Look here: How about that little engagement rou made t keep-"."
"Silence, my dear fellow! Say noth-

ing, but leep your eyes open." And Sandy marches to find the others and Mr. Grimes looks after him and

"I really suspect the sharp little fel low has been up to something or other. He has good friends here in Alexan: dria among the officers, who would do s good deal for him. I wonder what his game is, and if he will succeed in giv-



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Perhaps it will be my turn to have a hand in the game ofter a while. Sandy cannot hope to keep the news of the approaching steamer from all

others, nor does he desire to do so. All that he wants is to get his friends in readiness, so there may be no delay on their part.

He is off again as though very im-

portant business demands his attention; nor do the others see him until it is time to leave. Amid the bustle of departure from the hotel Sandy again shows up and

secures his baggage. They are soon landed at the quay. The steamer lies ome little distance out and shows sigpals that demand haste on the part of those coming aboard. Then begins a din that is only equaled by the shouts of the donkey-drivers n the public square. The boatmen of

Alexandria can give even a New York hackman points about bulldozing a traveller into accepting their particular The clamor is intense, and at times it actually looks as though some of the rascals might lay violent handupon the travellers and attempt to toss them into their boats-a proceeding that would result disastrously to the

At length, however, they hire a couple of boats to take themselves and luggage out to the steamer and when this point has been actually settled the mob quiets down like a hive of bees after an eruption, or else seeks fresh victims. To be Continued.

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The many friends of Mrs. Edward Wells will be pleased to know she has recovered from her recent illness, and returned to her home Sunday after

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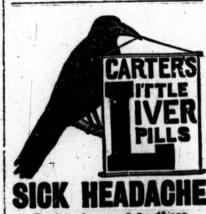
The Ladies' Aid will hold a social a the 'residence of Wm. Irwin, in th near future. Miss Kenny, who has been visiting

Mrs. Frank Suitor for the past week, returned to her home in London to Notwithstanding the bad weather there has been a large attendance at S. S. No. 12. Several families have tak-

en the children to and from school in igs. Harry Webster has moved to the Mason homestead, which he has purchas

John Chinniek has been busy hauling brick for his residence to be built this season.

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