

# MYNHEER JOE.

BY ST. GEORGE RATHORNE.

## CHAPTER I.

When the same order to land, in order to save the city from the mob, was given, I found myself thrown in the company of one who was a stranger to me. He came from a British warship. Liked his looks from the first, and side by side we went through the streets of Alexandria, firing all around us, got in a narrow lane, and were surrounded by a pack of howling native troops, who thought they could wipe us out. Mr. Grimes, you missed the sight of your life in failing to see how Gordon's friend stood off those rascals. Bless my soul! I can shut my eyes and look on the whole thing yet. I never saw such a fire-eater in action, and yet, in repose Joe is as meek as a lamb.

"After that I rose to him. We saw some weeks in company—weeks I have never forgotten, because I loved that man. Then I was ordered to watch the Italian operations about Abydos, while Joe went to find Chinese Gordon. I lost track of him, but have never ceased to feel the deepest interest in his work, as an explorer second only to Stanley and Emin Pasha. Now you can understand my intense delight upon hearing that the man we are going to see is no other than my comrade in Alexandria, Mynheer Joe."

This is about the longest consecutive narrative Mr. Grimes has ever heard Sandy give utterance to, which marks the power of that magical name. On his part, the silver king does not prove so confiding. He speaks of the man who interests them both as though acquainted with his past; but which he has personally met him, Sandy finds it impossible to say.

Meanwhile, they have been making progress in the direction of the river. A light of some sort is positively needed in these streets after nightfall, moon or no moon, on account of the peculiar custom of building. The houses, as a general rule, are three stories in height. As the street itself is but an alley, barely ten feet in width, and each story of the houses project beyond the one below it, it is easy to shake hands from the neighboring roofs. Even this small space is often covered with mats, to keep out the garish light of day, which, reflected from the white walls, dazzles the eyes.

In these narrow streets men stand in groups engaged in discussion or barter, now and then gently pushed aside by the nose of some camel advancing silently, the "ship of the desert" being, besides the donkey, the only burden-bearer allowed in the native section.

Here and there a light is seen moving along, as some sheik proceeds toward; but, as a general thing, darkness hangs over the street. In many of the houses, no doubt, gayety abounds; but Arab and Moor believe in keeping their homes sacred from the public, and only huge piles of whitened bricks lie on every side.

As yet they have met with no adventure, and the distance between the grand square and the river has been diminished by half. This savors of rare good luck, for it is not always that a Frank can traverse this region, at such a hour, unmolested.

Cairo abounds in rascals who do not fear the English law, however much they may respect the native koorbash and stocks. It is not a sin or a crime to rob a foreigner—unless caught in the act. That is the way they look at it.

Sandy knows this, if his companion does not happen to be so thoroughly posted with regard to the customs of the city on the Nile. He continues to keep his eyes about him, and does not let the Arab who carries the flambeau get beyond his reach, knowing that in all probability in case of an attack the first act of the dusky rascal will be to fly and leave them in darkness to meet the foe. They have even cut down the distance to a fourth and soon the light will fall upon the waters of the river, when the war correspondent bends suddenly forward and snatches the torch from the hand of the astonished carrier.

## CHAPTER II.

THE MAN WHO SAW BRAVE GORDON FALL. Mr. Grimes sees the action and does not appear to be at all surprised—in fact, he rarely deviates from the steady repose that marks him as a wonderfully nifty man.

Something glitters in his hand—it is a revolver, and the light gives the blue steel a cruel as well as a cold look. Evidently the stout tourist is ready to take care of himself.

Sandy has clutched the torch, which he at once raises above his head. Half a dozen ragged forms have sprung into view beyond. Perhaps some arch has secreted them until now. There can be no mistaking their intentions, for quickly they advance, spreading out as if to prevent the Franks, who have thus wandered into their net, from escape.

"Backhees!" they clatter like a lot of monkeys, holding out begrimed hands and scowling.

There is only one way to treat these rascals—if you comply with their demands they grow more and more impudent, until they finally proceed to openly rob their victim.

"Stand back!" cries Sandy with a roar, as he swings the flambeau around his head.

They understand enough English to know what he is saying—at any rate, his actions are doubly significant—but, believing they can rattle the rascal by force of numbers, the ragged beggars continue to push forward, thus hemming the two whites in.

Although small in point of stature, Sandy is a warrior, every inch of him, and, as might be expected from his

Servant manner, possessed of an insufferable temper. When the nearest of the rogues pushes within reaching distance and clutches at him with bony fingers, the newspaper man brings the flaming torch, with a resounding thump, against the top of the beggar's head. It does not affect the dark, beyond sending forth a shower of sparks, but so unfortunate recipient of the blow, finding sparks in his long hair, utters vociferous shouts and dances with the fervor of a dervish.

This is deemed a signal for a general assault all along the line, and for the space of sixty seconds there is seen a spectacle rarely equaled in the narrow streets of old Cairo.

At first the two foreigners are averse to using their firearms, and endeavor to inspire terror in the breasts of their enemies by a generous exhibition of muscle.

When Sandy dares to dodge a fendish blow from a wicked dagger he thinks it about time they proceeded to sterner measures.

Sandy opens on the rag-tag-and-bob-tail crowd, as he terms them, seeking to inflict wounds and create a diversion. He is immediately backed up by his companion. His strong, white teeth hold fast to his cigar, and even as he lets drive at a dark-faced fellow who seeks to cleave him with an Algerian yataghan, the silver king puffs out a small cloud of smoke. Talk about coolness! Here you have it in a human iceberg. Sandy holds his breath while looking at this strange companion, and wonders whether he would show excitement in the heat of battle.

This sort of a reception is hardly to the liking of the cowardly cur who have appeared daring simply because their numbers gave them confidence.

At the first shot most of them began to glance over their shoulders. This is a sure sign of a desire to retreat. Then comes hotter work. Sandy no longer waits for them to come, but with his revolver in one hand and the flaming torch whirling about his head, he leaps toward the footpads.

This is too much for them—they break and fly with cries of terror, some springing up the street while others go down in the direction of the river. In a marvelously short space of time the street is empty save for one poor fellow, who, shot in the leg, is hopping off as fast as his good leg will carry him, calling on Mohammed to save him from the foreign tigers.

In any under city under the sun, such a commotion at dead of night would create an intense excitement. Not so in Cairo. The white walls shut them in, pierced by minute windows that allow little chance of street gazing. Those who hear the sounds of war are discreet enough to know that it is none of their business, and they will be better off away.

"Look out behind you, sir!" calls Sandy, and the silver king turns suddenly to cover a creeping figure that has advanced from a darkened archway, whereupon the most piteous jargon is heard, and behold the suspected assassin turns out to be their torch bearer, who, having witnessed the hot little affair from a place of security, is now crawling back to resume his interrupted duties.

They welcome him gladly, and Sandy relieves himself of the flambeau, glad to be rid of it. As there are no more footpads in view to give them battle, they again take up their line of march for the river, fortunately close at hand. Mr. Grimes has had explicit directions from Mr. Tanner how to reach the boat, and a suspicion has already entered his head that the ambuscade into which they ran might have been arranged by the rascals of the sailing craft to relieve his rich employer of superfluous wealth. These Arabs and natives are up to all manner of tricks to gain filthy lucre, and old travelers become so accustomed to treachery that they are surprised at nothing, and learn to depend upon themselves entirely.

He even mentions the fact, as it occurs to him, to Sandy, who declares there is a strong element of probability about it, and in the same breath swears that, if the occasion offers, he will sift the matter to the bottom and wring the neck of the wily old reif if such a course is necessary to extract the truth.

"The river!" calls out their guide in his native tongue; and the fact arouses the two men to new interest, as they remember why they have come here.

A minute later and they stand upon the edge of the Nile. Just here the bank is high, and at this season of the year the water reaches its lowest stage to the south, though at Cairo there is always plenty.

Below them they can see lights upon numerous vessels, some anchored out in the river, others tied up at the docks. Voices, too, come over the water from the west—men are singing on some of the coasters that ascend the river from the Mediterranean. All the typical boats seen upon this great sea can be found on the lower Nile. Here are schooners, brigs, ships, men-of-war—the baggala, felucca, shebe, keel and even a patamar from India, while numerous smaller craft and jahazs seek to travel on the Nile for the surface of the river by day, making a scene worth remembering.

Our two friends can discern nothing of this now since darkness rests like a pall over the water, relieved only by the riding lights and lamps on board the numerous craft. Their attention is directed at once to a point immediately below, where the gleam of several lights proclaims the presence of a boat.

As they advance, they make out the clean-cut model of a new dahabeh, and can see the dark-skinned Egyptian sailors squatted on deck forward, while aft, the cabin, painted snow-white, is easily distinguishable.

The boat is in a distinguished position, but, as the boat is in a distinguished position, it is also in a distinguished position.

Then they step across the plank and reach the roof of the cabin, where the captain meets them—a man with grizzled beard, white turban and flowing robes. Upon his face Sandy reads a look of perplexity and disappointment, and from this moment he knows the truth—that they really owe their adventure to this role, who, believing millionaire Tanner would come to the boat, arranged to have his pockets tapped while en route.

These captives all talk fairly good English, although their hatred for the foreigner seems to be an inherited quality. Ourselves they may appear jolly and as meek as lambs, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Sandy has a habit of pushing himself forward; not that he means to be rude, but it is a characteristic of his impetuous nature. To his credit be it said, the same thing urges him found in the van.

"This boat is the Alice?" he asks boldly.

The captain removes the stem of his long pipe from his mouth, and gravely nods his head in an affirmative way.

"We have come direct from Mr. Tanner, to whom you are engaged for the season."

Another solemn nod.

"Unable to come himself, he has sent us to see the man you picked up on the Nile—a man who was once my friend."

The native captain looks at him closely, as though mentally figuring just where he should place Sandy. Then he smiles blandly and holds out his hand.

"If his friend, then mine. I have suffered at the hands of El Mahdi, and he who is an enemy to the False Prophet is my brother. Shake!"

Sandy complies, and gives the old rascal such a Freeman grip that it wrings a groan from the dark-skinned owner of the dahabeh Alice.

"Now lead us to your guest. We are in haste," he says, with an assumption of authority that no one ventures to dispute; for, despite his lack of majestic proportions, the war correspondent has the air of one born to command. It is not nature that makes a leader like Napoleon.

"Follow, gentlemen," says the captain, with a majestic wave of his hand.

They obey willingly. The door of the cabin is close by. On either side are the steps leading to the promenade on the roof, over which an awning is stretched, for it is here that the tourist lives during the day, for the cabin, beginning amidsheps, extends to the stern. When the cabin-door is opened they behold a splendid interior. Money has not been spared in fitting out the Alice, and only a millionaire like Tanner could engage such a lovely craft for the season.

A lamp is turned low, so that something of a dimness rests upon the interior, but the sharp eyes of Sandy have already discovered the figure of a man upon a divan.

"Enter, gentlemen," says the old rascal.

Straight across the luxurious cabin strides the newspaper correspondent direct to the lamp, which, with a turn, he causes to send forth a flood of light. Then he faces the recumbent figure on the couch; recumbent no longer, for as though the voice of the reif at the cabin-door has broken the chain of slumber which exhaustion has forged around him, the castaway of the Nile has raised his body with one arm and looks at them in a way that proclaims his bewilderment; the bright light dazzles his eyes, too, so that with his other hand he shades them.

It is a picture—Sandy, standing there, bending eagerly forward, his eyes glued upon the bearded face of the other, and actually holding his breath as he gazes spell-bound. The man who thus half raises himself upon the couch is worthy of a second look. His figure is splendidly proportioned, though not above the ordinary in point of size. It is the face that must interest an observer most of all—a face that is marked by determination, valor and frank fearlessness. This man has been suffering in the past; he shows it in his eyes, and yet it has not crushed the spirit that leads the explorer to seek new honor and renown amid the dangers of unknown wilds, pestilential swamps or in the depths of an African desert.

[To be Continued.]

Have Emigres on Coins. A new issue of silver 2-shilling pieces by the British mint has on it a figure of Britannia which is a portrait of Miss Susan Hicks-Beach, whose father, Sir Michael, was until recently the chancellor of the exchequer. This peculiar perpetuation of a nonroyal lady has precedent in the duchess of Portsmouth, who in the guise of Britannia has decked out British copper coins since the time of Charles II. The head of Liberty which adorns the silver dollar of the United States reproduces the features of a young school teacher of Philadelphia. A century ago the Rothschilds adorned their bank notes with the benevolent face of Baroness de Rothschild. In 1897 the state bank of Budapest engraved the countenance of Mme. Luise Blanka, the prima donna, on its thousand-gulden notes.

Thousand-Year-Old Cedar. There are many large specimens of the brown cedar, Juniperus monosperma, in the Garden of the Gods, Pike's Peak, Colorado. Prof. Bessey of the University of Nebraska, during a recent visit to that place, made an effort to ascertain the age of some of the magnificent specimens. He was fortunate enough to find the stump of a recently cut tree on which it was easy to distinguish the annual growth rings. These were counted for a section of the trunk, care being taken to select a portion in which the rings were of average thickness, and on this basis the number of the whole stump was calculated. In this way it was found that this particular tree was between 800 and 1,000 years old.

Remember that trees get ripe the same as wheat or other crops. When ever trees are ready to cut they should be made into fire wood or lumber. But this does not mean the destruction of the forest. If the trees which have attained full growth and are fully matured are cut down, younger trees will remain. Then numerous young trees will spring up on every acre, and the wood lot will be renewed for cutting in the years to come. I believe in retaining at least a small wood lot on every farm.

Pullets Are the Egg Producers. Pullets that were hatched in 1903 should now be laying an egg every other day. While eggs are selling at twenty to twenty-five cents per dozen is the time to give particular attention to them. They must have warm quarters so they can rest at night and be ready for forming the egg and taking exercise in the day. Where the farmer has well cured clover, if it be cut into lengths of an inch and soaked and mixed with meal, the pullets fed on this will have red combs, and eggs will come in rapidly.

A Handy Contrivance For the Farm. The following is a description of a cheap and serviceable wire gate which will be found satisfactory, especially in places where a gate is not often used. It, of course, will not do for sheep or hogs, but will serve the purpose in cattle pastures where a three-wire fence is sufficient to confine stock. Cut three wires each about a foot longer than the distance between posts, and three short wires each six inches long. Form the short wires into loops and fasten to post (A), (B, E, J) with staples, the desired distance apart. Hook the long wires (C, C, C) into the loops (B, B, B), so as to form hinges. Shape three boards each four feet long, as illustrated in (D). Place a

wire ratchet on each of these boards about six inches from the end (figure E, E, E), attach the other ends of long wires to ratchets. Nail an inch board (figure G) four inches wide the height of post to post (F). Nail another board (H) on top of this overlapping the first an inch or two. Drive a stake (I) inside of wire fence three and one-half feet from post (F). Nail three pieces of board (J) each three feet long, on inside of post (F) and also inside of stake parallel to wires. Tighten up wires on ratchets (E, E, E), sufficient so that when each of the boards (D, D, D) are inserted into slot (H), and pushed back into position against (J) the wires will be taut. Three rings, one for each pair of boards, slipped over the ends, hold wires in proper position. If one would prefer four wires instead of three, another one can be added.—Jas. Colter, in The Epitomist.

Heavy-coated horses should be clipped now, just as the hair begins to shed. Blanket warmly and make the skin active by a vigorous, thorough brushing from head to heels every day. The health and thrift of the horses will be improved in this way. Keep a stubby broom in the stable to brush all the mud and ice from the horses' legs. Then rub them dry with a wisp of straw. Rheumatism and chapped heels result from carelessness in this way. This is the time to train the colts and young horses. Carefully accustom them to all sorts of things. Teach them to hold the cart back with their hind quarters as well as the breeching. Let wheels run off, open umbrellas over their heads and under them. Let straps and things hit their legs and heels. Let them understand that they will not be hurt and they will submit to almost anything. It is the low-voiced, sympathetic, self-controlled, firm person who should train colts. It is not the man who breaks the colts, but the one who trains them who does the most good. The heaviest feed should be given at night when the horses have time to digest it. When horses are taxed to the limit of their endurance all grain should be ground and fed on moistened cut hay. Some long hay should be put in their mangers for them to nibble at while they are resting. The morning feed should be mostly grain and not bulky. Water before feeding always. Give a horse a chance to drink often and he will never take enough to injure himself. For over-reaching—"forging"—lower the front foot, shorten the toe and bring the heel up and set the shoe well back. Set the hind shoe ahead and cut down the heel. Most blacksmiths do the opposite. Stay with your horse while he is being shod.

They create useful commercial products. The former groups may be distinguished by the various "lady-bird" beetles which destroy myriads of aphids, insects and plant lice, and by the parasitic Hymenoptera—for the most part very minute insects resembling bees or wasps—which live as parasites upon the adults, larvae or even eggs of destructive pests.

Of insects directly beneficial we may cite the silk worm, the cochineal insect and the honey bee. It is with the latter that we now have to deal. The relation of bees to fruit growing has not received much attention from the average orchardist. I am convinced, however, that it is a subject of much more importance and a discussion of this relationship will, I trust, be of very little interest. It seems to me very essential that we should arrive at a clear understanding of the relationship of these two industries, horticulture and apiculture, as they are of mutual benefit to each other.

It has been demonstrated that when the harrow is used over growing wheat early in the spring the result is beneficial, and it is when the wheat is harrowed that the grass seed should be sown, if grass or clover are to follow a grain crop. It is important that the seeds be covered; and if the field be harrowed there will be less loss of seed and greater chances for a good stand. As an application of nitrate of soda or wheat in the spring pushes it forward very rapidly, it soon reaches sufficient height to shield the young grass from the extreme heat of the sun. The harrow may also be usually employed as a mix fertilizer with the soil at the same time. The ground upon which grass seed is to be sown deserves more attention than the grain crop, for if the grass crop be intended as a permanent pasturage it must not be overlooked that weeds will spring up to compete with the grass, and for that reason the ground must be very clean. It is best, therefore, that grass should be seeded on land that was previously in corn, as the extra cultivation required for corn better prepares and cleans for the grass which is to follow.

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wire ratchet on each of these boards about six inches from the end (figure E, E, E), attach the other ends of long wires to ratchets. Nail an inch board (figure G) four inches wide the height of post to post (F). Nail another board (H) on top of this overlapping the first an inch or two. Drive a stake (I) inside of wire fence three and one-half feet from post (F). Nail three pieces of board (J) each three feet long, on inside of post (F) and also inside of stake parallel to wires. Tighten up wires on ratchets (E, E, E), sufficient so that when each of the boards (D, D, D) are inserted into slot (H), and pushed back into position against (J) the wires will be taut. Three rings, one for each pair of boards, slipped over the ends, hold wires in proper position. If one would prefer four wires instead of three, another one can be added.—Jas. Colter, in The Epitomist.

Heavy-coated horses should be clipped now, just as the hair begins to shed. Blanket warmly and make the skin active by a vigorous, thorough brushing from head to heels every day. The health and thrift of the horses will be improved in this way. Keep a stubby broom in the stable to brush all the mud and ice from the horses' legs. Then rub them dry with a wisp of straw. Rheumatism and chapped heels result from carelessness in this way. This is the time to train the colts and young horses. Carefully accustom them to all sorts of things. Teach them to hold the cart back with their hind quarters as well as the breeching. Let wheels run off, open umbrellas over their heads and under them. Let straps and things hit their legs and heels. Let them understand that they will not be hurt and they will submit to almost anything. It is the low-voiced, sympathetic, self-controlled, firm person who should train colts. It is not the man who breaks the colts, but the one who trains them who does the most good. The heaviest feed should be given at night when the horses have time to digest it. When horses are taxed to the limit of their endurance all grain should be ground and fed on moistened cut hay. Some long hay should be put in their mangers for them to nibble at while they are resting. The morning feed should be mostly grain and not bulky. Water before feeding always. Give a horse a chance to drink often and he will never take enough to injure himself. For over-reaching—"forging"—lower the front foot, shorten the toe and bring the heel up and set the shoe well back. Set the hind shoe ahead and cut down the heel. Most blacksmiths do the opposite. Stay with your horse while he is being shod.

They create useful commercial products. The former groups may be distinguished by the various "lady-bird" beetles which destroy myriads of aphids, insects and plant lice, and by the parasitic Hymenoptera—for the most part very minute insects resembling bees or wasps—which live as parasites upon the adults, larvae or even eggs of destructive pests.

Of insects directly beneficial we may cite the silk worm, the cochineal insect and the honey bee. It is with the latter that we now have to deal. The relation of bees to fruit growing has not received much attention from the average orchardist. I am convinced, however, that it is a subject of much more importance and a discussion of this relationship will, I trust, be of very little interest. It seems to me very essential that we should arrive at a clear understanding of the relationship of these two industries, horticulture and apiculture, as they are of mutual benefit to each other.

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