

THE RIVALS.

A Story of the Times of Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton.

BY JERE CLEMENS.

CHAPTER VII—CONTINUED.

"Ah!" exclaimed Billings, in a tone of more surprise than he was wont to exhibit. "I had not thought of that. It is possible," he continued, after a pause, "that you have hit the right name on the head. Upon reflection, I am inclined to think you have. That foolish girl, to whom I paid fifty dollars for watching Miss Monticrie and reporting her acts, has been giving me her inferences, and calling them facts; and I, like an idiot, swallowed her story without investigation, because I wanted to believe it. Another such a blunder will woefully lessen my self-confidence, though, in this case—thank the stars, or the devil, or whatever goblin or sprite had a finger in the business—the mistake is of no great consequence. He will be quite as anxious to protect the fame of his intended wife as he would have been to hide the errors of his victims. Either will give him food for anxious thoughts; and the best of it is that he will be hampered by pride and delicacy in the one case, or by the consciousness of guilt in the other, that he will take no notice of the report unless it is forced upon him so publicly as to be unavoidable. You have the trumps in your own hand, Captain Hamilton, and if you do not win the game, the fault will be yours."

"There is one view of the case which does not seem to have occurred to you, Mr. Billings, that strikes me as worthy of consideration. Is it not possible that, to win the daughter's hand, he may seek to recommend himself to the father's favor, by turning traitor to his country? Such things have happened in times not very remote from ours."

"No, captain; I thought of that, and dismissed the idea as altogether improbable. It is possible to be sure, that a man in love may make an infernal fool of himself in every conceivable way, and Major Burr would save us a great deal of trouble by proving himself no exception to the rule; but he will not do it. It is my habit to study attentively the character and dispositions of those who occupy me, and I know from whom Scrooges took lessons, and I know from whom Pericles was the pupil and then the slave, could again revisit the earth the eloquence which captivated the philosopher, and the charms which enraptured the warrior-statesman would be wasted in the effort to win him to the side of England. I use strong language, for I wish to impress upon your mind the conviction of the truth of what I utter. We must make our calculations upon winning the game without any assistance from him."

"You are assuming more than half the argument," responded Captain Hamilton. "You are taking it for granted that I intend to play out that game, whereas I have informed you that I am strongly inclined to throw up my hand and begin afresh."

"I did not think you serious, particularly as I have heard from you no denial of my right to be consulted about a matter which so materially affects my interests."

"I do deny it, and insist that I alone am the rightful judge of the course it becomes me to take."

"You are in error, Captain Hamilton, and your position will not bear argument, if I were disposed to urge it. It would do me no good, however, and afford me no pleasure to convince you against your will. I prefer that your decision should be made according to your own sense of what is due to me and to yourself, only insisting that I have no fancy for the game of blind man's bluff; you will not leave me to grope in the dark, but inform me distinctly what your determination is."

The perfect coolness of the practiced villain, the total absence of every expression of regret, anger, or astonishment and his studied avoidance of every word that implied a threat, had a meaning for Alexander Hamilton that perfectly terrified him. Until recently, he had looked upon James Billings merely as an unscrupulous knave, who might be used when necessary, and bullied or bought into silence when his services were no longer needed. After he was too deeply committed to recede, he discovered that he was, to a great extent, in the power of a man of vast mental resources, of great wealth, (how great one knew) without a touch of fear, of pity, or remorse; full of ambitious schemes, as yet dimly disclosed; prepared to commit any human crime that promoted his views, and reckless of any human suffering that might follow his acts. Knowing this man as he did; knowing that with him there was no middle ground—that he must be either an ally or an enemy; knowing, further, that in less than an hour from the date of a rupture between them, he would be plotting his destruction, as earnestly as he was now

proached the spot. "General Howe seems to like your company so well, that he is preparing to make a permanent encampment in your neighborhood. You have reason to thank your stars that England did not send out a more energetic commander."

"What do you mean?" asked one of the younger officers. "Do you think General Howe ought to make an attack on these fortified heights?"

"I am not a military man, and my opinion is not entitled to much consideration. General Howe, doubtless, knows his own business better than I do; but if I was at the head of your army of red-coats, I think these fortified heights would be mine before the rising of tomorrow's sun, and George Washington a captive or a fugitive. In my judgment General Howe is over-cautious."

"You speak like a fool!" replied the officer hotly. "An army of fifteen thousand freemen, behind these works, is more than a match for treble that number of hireling mercenaries."

"I deserve the rebuke," answered Billings, with a bland smile. "For venturing an opinion on a subject of which I confess, I am ignorant. I shall not hereafter question the ability of the American army to perform miracles. Indeed, I was myself a witness to an achievement of theirs which has few recorded parallels. To my certain knowledge, on the fifteenth of this present month, they made the distance from New York to Harlem at an average speed of about twelve miles to the hour, and in such remarkable order, that not a single column was able to find its regiment, and very few captains possessed a more accurate knowledge of the whereabouts of their companies. Gentlemen, I bid you good day!"

At the conclusion of this bitter speech, James Billings made a polite bow, and walked deliberately away. "Who is he, Hamilton?" asked two or three of the astonished officers at once.

"Some years ago," he replied, "I knew him as a trader between New York and the West Indies. Afterward, I understood that he had accumulated a fortune in the city. As I understand that you have nothing particular to communicate in reference to that matter, it is best to drop the subject."

"I had no idea when I broached it, that it would lead to so much conversation between us; still, I do not like to leave anything unfinished; and I confess to some curiosity to know that pleasant man who was in connection with your sudden decease."

"Mr. Billings you spared me the mortification of listening to a threat from you, and I would willingly have exercised a little forbearance. If anything should sound unpleasant in what I am going to say, remember that your inquiry extracted it. The vision I saw while in the city, was not mine hereafter. The day that I resolve to break off our connection, will be the last of your life. You have the power to injure me deeply, and whenever I suspect that you are about to use it, (and I shall suspect it the moment we quarrel.) I will stay you as certain as there is a God in heaven!"

The words were hissed through his closed teeth, and the bloodless lips scarcely moved when the sound escaped. The superhuman self-control of Billings faded him for once, and his eye quailed before the glance of fire that was fixed upon him. It required a strong effort to recover from his confusion, and reply in his usual voice.

"That is a bond between us I had not thought of. By the Lord, there are few friendships so well cemented as ours! A quarrel is death to both. Well, I do not lament the little wrangling that has brought us to so clear an understanding, and I predict that our work will be better and more harmoniously done, since it is manifest that a failure on either side will be followed by consequences so serious. We will, if you please, consider this long episode at an end. I suggest you to say that I am going tonight to the city of New York, and from there I must take a journey southward. It will probably be two months or more before you see me again. In the meantime I will be best to let the little seed I have planted grow unattended. Indeed, if General Howe is a soldier of as few scruples as I have represented he will leave you no leisure to attend to private matters. At the head of his force, he ought to drive General Washington from the state of New York in two days. The Americans can make no efficient stand until he is drawn inland, beyond the reach of aid from his shipping, and is weakened by the garisons he must leave behind. I may have occasion to write to you, and if so, take it for granted that there is not one word of truth in the visible contents. When you are able, hold it over a hot fire, and whatever then appears upon the third page you may rely on."

"Going to the city, did you say? That is impossible; the enemy's lines extend from river to river."

Miscellaneous Reading.

GRAFT IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Conditions Worse Than They Have Been in Years.

The article printed below is reprinted from the Baptist Courier at Asheville, a gentleman who lives in the up-country and who says of the author:

"Capt. Edwards is a member of the Baptist church, a soldier of the Lost Cause with brilliant record for loyalty and fidelity to duty, and a man who has few superiors in the state as a clear, forceful writer. At one time he was prominently identified with the Tillamites and was elected superintendent of education of York county. In the infinite wisdom of our Creator, He organized the human race into families. The purpose of this was that each man should be able to comprehend. We hear him saying to Moses, when your children inquire why you observe the Passover feast, tell them of the mighty deliverance of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage, and how the destroying angel of the Lord slew the first-born of the Egyptians and passed over the houses of the children of Israel. And when you sit down at the table of the Lord, say, 'When thou art in thy house, when thou sittest down, when thou risest up, and when thou art in the way, let it be to the children of Israel.' A stream never rises higher than its fountain and a pure stream cannot flow from a corrupt fountain. The home and family is the source and fountain from which spring all other organizations of both church and state. No man can be a good citizen, a good Christian and taught in the principles of New Testament ethics. Just money men are so will be the churches. If ignorance and impiety dominate the homes of the people in any part of the progress of the churches is retarded.

TO BE CONTINUED.

SENATOR BAILEY'S THREAT.

Talks of the Penitentiary to a Group of Standard Oil Men.

A conversation at the Waldorf-Astoria, in which Senator Bailey of Florida, in a few evenings, had withdrawn entirely from the regiment, and never once interfered with its discipline or led it into battle while Colonel Burr continued in the service.

They sat down and the conversation naturally turned to the recent events at Washington, the determination to make things unpleasant for corporations, and in particular the passage of the rate bill, with the proposed amendments added in the senate.

Mr. Bailey did not say much at this stage of the conversation. He listened to the Standard Oil men, who gradually became stronger in their expressions.

They complained bitterly at the disposition evident in Washington to make things unpleasant for them, and sharply attacked the railway rate bill and the senate amendments.

"You gentlemen who run these corporations," said he "must obey the law. If you had obeyed it in the first place, you would not have this new legislation to complain of. All your properties are held by virtue of the laws enacted in respect for law, and yet you are the very men who are doing most of your acts to break down this respect for law."

"Every time congress passes a law you violate it. You have violated every law we have given you. We gave you the inter-state commerce act; you violated that. We gave you the Sherman anti-trust law; you violated that. We gave you the Elkins law, and you violated that. Now we give you a new one. If you violate that we will give you another one that will have iron teeth."

A pause ensued after this declaration of Senator Bailey. After awhile one of the corporation officers present asked:

PLAY A MAN'S PART.

In life's drama just beginning. Play a man's part in the world; Whether losing or if winning, Play a man's part in the world. Hard may press on you the deal In the struggle of the real. But be true to your ideal— Play a man's part in the world.

Wear no tagged and slavish collar. Play a man's part in the world; Sell not honor for the dollar. Play a man's part in the world; Be your own life's only master; Rule success and dare disaster. In both gripping goads the faster— Play a man's part in the world.

PHASES OF DESERT THIRST.

Terrible Experience of Man Lost in Waterless Wastes of the Southwest.

Of the three types into which thirst as a pathologic condition has been grouped that of the desert is most purely the deprivation of moisture without the influence of modifying external circumstances. That form known as ordinary thirst occurs under the favorable surroundings of humid air and often protection from the sun. Sea thirst is also under the influence of air heavily charged with vapor, with plenty of water, though non-drinkable, at hand, and is modified by the presence of salts externally.

As a vapor, is entirely lacking or nearly so and the influence of external salts is a minimum. Death from thirst is a horror that has many times been described by onlookers, or, paradoxically speaking, occasionally by those who have really suffered its pangs by going through the various stages until unconsciousness is reached but who happily though rarely, are rescued and survive.

Never have the phenomena of extreme thirst been pictured more graphically than by W. J. McGee, director of the St. Louis public museum, in a paper reporting the remarkable survival of a Mexican in southwestern Arizona. This man was lost for eight days and nights with only one day's supply of water. During that time he rode in the saddle thirty-five miles and walked or crept between 100 and 150 miles.

For seven days he was entirely without water. As a result of the deprivation the man lost one-fourth his body weight. An extraordinary feature was the lack of totally insane delirium which so commonly is a part of the mental condition of these persons. This allowed him to follow the trail and accounts for his reaching aid, although his phenomenal physical condition was the real cause of survival.

The case recorded by Dr. McGee was most unusual in that half of those dying from desert thirst perish in thirty-six hours, a quarter within forty-six or fifty hours and all others of which the history is known by the eighth hour. Dr. McGee discusses thirst in general and then in particular desert thirst, the phenomena of which he arranges under three stages, normal thirst, functional derangement and structural degeneration.

Making up these stages are five phases, most of which are descriptively named by survivors and well-known to those who frequent the desert, namely, the clamorous, cotton mouth phase, the shriveled tongue the blood sweat and the living death. The first phase is relieved by water, or in some instances fruit acids or similar substances may be required. Thirst in the second phase is best relieved by water taken by sips in small quantities. Persons in the third phase also require water by gallons, inside and out, but cautiously applied. Usually in addition a febrile stage should be given, and in some cases a heart tonic also is indicated. Little of value may be possible for those in the fourth phase. Water may be a damage. If physical recovery does occur the mental condition may never clear.

In the final phase, there is no alleviation but the end is painless. Dr. McGee has spent a great deal of time in the deserts of the southwest and has himself gone half through the stages of desert thirst, and is thus personally well qualified to speak upon the subject.—American Magazine.

SUPERSTITIONS OF SAILORS.

Some Uncanny Phenomena That Assail the Seafaring Man.

All sailors are superstitious, and the legends of the sea are legion, ranging from phantom ships to spectral lights suddenly gleaming from yachts and masted. That many of these legends are of an ancient make is proved by the fact that the sea harpies are described by Homer and Hesiod, while according to Virgil they plundered Aeneas during his voyage to Italy. The beautiful sirens, too, are of classic origin.

Weird, indeed, are the tales of haunting specters, fit to send one's nerves shivering after a heavy sleep, well suited to Christmas time ghost stories.

Curious Instances of Sleep.

It is related of a Chinese merchant who was convicted of wife murder and sentenced to die by being deprived of sleep, that he was placed in a prison with guards changed hourly for the purpose of preventing him from sleeping. After the sentence was put into effect his suffering was so intense that he implored the authorities to strangle, guillotine, burn him, drown him, garrote, shoot, quarter, blow up with gunpowder, or put him to death in any conceivable way. Natural sleep has been defined as mental rest produced by an appetite resulting from fatigue. But the idea that mental rest means mental inactivity is hardly tenable, inasmuch as it quite frequently happens that the solution of unsolved problems is the first thing to appear in the consciousness on awakening, and thus the mind must have been operative while asleep.

It is commonly supposed that the greatest depth of sleep occurs about the end of the first hour. This, however, is not invariably the rule, according to my own observations in the Cook county (Chicago) Insane asylum I made some years ago, when I spent two successive nights in hourly testing the depth of sleep by light, sound and touch. A majority of the ten cases I had under observation showed the greatest depth to be at about 3 a. m. More recently Drs. Sante de Sanctis and N. Nyroos, at the University of Rome, tested the depth of sleep in four normal persons by pressure upon the temples. One of these showed the greatest depth of sleep in the second hour, while the others showed the greatest depth between the first and second hours.—Harper's Weekly.

It is a good deal easier to pray for men's souls than to pour balm into their wounds, not to mention that it costs less.