



By Capt. Ormond Steele

CHAPTER VII—Continued.

They had gone but a few yards from the house, when a slender, well-clad elderly man, with piercing gray eyes touched his hat and motioned to them to stop. This man had a military bearing, and was accompanied by a young black man, who carried a large double valise, slung over his shoulders like a pair of saddle bags.

"Would you please tell me where one Squire Condit resides?" asked the stranger, in well-bred tones, his keen eyes fixed the while on Ralph's face.

The Captain pointed out the house and said:

"You can see the squire from here, working in his garden."

"Many thanks; I see you are both officers in her Majesty's service. Permit me to introduce myself as Col. Graham of Gen. Churchill's staff."

The young officers gave their own names and shook hands with the Colonel, who, taking two steps in the direction of Squire Condit's house, stopped and asked:

"Is the Wanderer in port?"

"Capt. Fox's?"

"Yes, Colonel."

"There he is," said Capt. Denham, "and from this hour you entered this bay. By the way, sir, if you are to make any stay at this end of the island it will afford me pleasure to receive you on board of the Sea Hawk, a colonial cruiser, which I have the honor to command."

Capt. Graham raised his hat, said he would be honored and delighted to visit the Captain, and then resumed his journey, followed by the sturdy black man.

CHAPTER VIII.

COL. GRAHAM VISITS CAPT. FOX.

Squire Condit was out in his garden looking over his fine array of roses, now showing their rare colors through the bud tips, and filling the air with their first delicious odor, when he saw the gray-haired, soldierly looking man approaching, with his servant just behind him, as was the custom of gentlemen making a journey on foot or horseback in those days.

Capt. Graham and his servant had come to the place on horseback, and left their horses and all the burden of a pack animal, the big saddle-bags excepted, at the "King's Arms," the principal inn of the place.

Squire Condit, seeing the stranger entering at the front gate, took of a sudden stop. Without looking at the Squire, he continued:

"You are a man of sense, and so I need not impress on you the importance of keeping our conversation to yourself. If you have Ralph Denham's happiness at heart, you will not tell him why I called. We shall meet again, and very soon."

"I cannot answer that till you have answered me."

"Then you will never answer, nor shall I suffer anxiety for the lack of knowing who Ralph Denham's ladylove is."

Capt. Graham took another stride in the direction of the door, and came to a sudden stop. Without looking at the Squire, he continued:

"You are a man of sense, and so I need not impress on you the importance of keeping our conversation to yourself. If you have Ralph Denham's happiness at heart, you will not tell him why I called. We shall meet again, and very soon."

"With a frigid bow, Capt. Graham left the room, and, addressing the negro as "Othello," bade him follow him.

Othello threw his burden across his shoulders, with an ease that showed wonderful strength, and followed, with the long, swinging stride that manifested undivided equal to his strength.

When Capt. Graham reached two hours for his appearance at Squire Condit's, he despatched a messenger to Captain Fox, asking him to send a boat for him.

This boat, under the command of Lieutenant Frenaud, was now waiting on the beach.

In a minute more, the Colonel and his servant would have been on board, and on their way to the ship, but an incident that astonished the Colonel prevented his progress for some time.

Old Dinah, who had been talking, in her disjointed way, to Ellen Condit and Lea Hedges, left the group, with the intention of going to her home, some miles away.

She caught sight of Capt. Graham approaching, and she came to a sudden halt, raised her lean, black hands, and shouted:

"Lod Paliton! Lod Paliton, or dead! Where hev you come from, wan'din' back en fo'—"

"Hist, Dinah!" said Capt. Graham, rushing toward the old woman, and speaking in a whisper, indicative of alarm. "Do not speak now; do not know me yet awhile, and you shall have gold—"

"Blood-red gold! blood-red gold. But who's dis? Who are de black boy?"

She ran at Othello, and took off his cap revealing a circular scar on his forehead.

"Hello, hello! de son of my darter!"

The old woman caught the young black man in her arms, and kissed him, and cried and laughed alternately, while he still supporting his burden, was in a perplexed way:

"Is you my graney ez ran away from Bodie high onnter twenty year agone, and all sal was drowned?"

"Izoy graney, 'Thello. Har I is in de flesh, or wat's left of me. I'm the mudder of yr mudder. But 'till me, is you de servint of dat man?" she asked, pointing a skinny, black finger at the perplexed Colonel, who was now biting his gray mustache, and looking anxiously from Dinah to the waiting boat.

"Ye-yes, he bought me fo' foive unerd," replied Othello, his face showing that the unexpected discovery of his grandmother did not afford him any great amount of pleasure.

"En—yer both a gwyne to dat ship?" said Dinah, pointing to the Wanderer.

"Ye-yes," responded the still astounded servant.

Coming close to Capt. Graham, the old woman whispered:

"You've got to see me soon agin."

"But where do you live?" asked the Colonel, glad to see his way to getting rid of the crone.

"Mong the Montaucks. Ha, ha, ha! I was a black woman in Bermuda; hea' Ize a Hinjin priestess—a."

"I'll see you again," said the Colonel, motioning for his servant to follow him.

"You've got to see me agin. Ye'll be bleeded to see me. No' go to see Cap'n Wolf. Good-bye, 'Thello, come en see yer graney, honey."

Chuckling to herself, as if she thought she had said something humorous, Dinah grasped her staff and hobbled away in the direction of the land of the Montaucks.

Colonel Graham and Othello hastened on board the boat, where Frenaud, who was in charge, saluted the former with a deference that amounted to obsequiousness.

"The Captain is anxiously awaiting you," said Frenaud, as the oarsmen pulled for the ship.

"You have been here eight days," said

the Colonel, as if he were quite indifferent to the reply.

"Nine days, my lord."

"You mistake, sir," said the other in a stern whisper. "I am Colonel Graham."

"Beg your pardon, sir. I forgot for the instant," stammered Frenaud.

"Such forgetfulness proves the rule of many men," responded the Colonel, the line between his eyes deepening, as if Frenaud's apology had increased rather than lessened his displeasure.

"It is hard, sir, for one accustomed to calling another the name by which the world knew him, to change to a different name at the order of the individual, and to be censured for a slip of the tongue," said Frenaud, evidently but little pleased by the Colonel's manner.

"I fully appreciate what you say," replied the Colonel, condescendingly, but still with that manner of ostentatious superiority which marked everything he said or did. "But Graham is my family name, and I hold the commission of colonel in her Majesty's service. You know the rest; and, as I pay you to use this knowledge for my benefit, it holds, sir, that I should not be annoyed at any breach of the contract on your part, or on that of your superior officer."

This was said in a low tone, but the noise of the oars and the clumsy rowlocks in use at that time would have prevented the sailors from overhearing, had they been so inclined.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

A Desperate Situation.

In my younger days, says an Oriental traveler, I acquired a taste for country sports, and when I went to India, where field recreations were of a more serious kind, I soon became expert at hunting the jackal, leopard, and tiger; but it was not for a year that I tried my hand at elephant hunting.

When the eventful day arrived I was assigned to an elephant, and when the party reached the grove Tagore, an expert elephant hunter, called my attention to a tremendous fellow which we at once attempted to capture. Allowing our trained elephants to attract the wild elephant's notice, Tagore skillfully fastened a rope around his leg and to a large tree, and then we retreated to the elephant, and waited for him to fire himself out. Instead of this, however, the rope and made for us; and, as my elephant stood stock still as if paralyzed from fright, I promptly climbed into the nearest tree, while Tagore and the others ran for their lives. I imagined that I was secure for the time being; but, to my horror, the elephant began to batter the tree with his head, and with such violence that I was nearly shaken from my perch. I imagined that I still clung on, the animal changed his tactics and began tearing up the tree by the roots. I saw the tree would soon fall, and could perceive no possibility of escape.

Finally, having loosened the roots, the beast again began to push again with his head, and I felt the tree yielding to the pressure. I fairly shrieked in despair, as I felt it falling, but to my infinite joy, the tree fell against a much larger one, and the topmost branches became entangled. I quickly scrambled into the new piece of refuge, and then I think my nerves must have given way, as I remember nothing more until I heard the sound of tring below, and found that Tagore and his men had returned to my rescue and driven away my besieger. But I have not cared to hunt elephants since that day.

Snow Irrigation.

No doubt the recent famine in Russia was principally due to want of irrigation. The usual process of carrying irrigation works from neighboring streams is too costly, slow, and expensive, so far as is practicable in South Russia, on account of excessive small falls in all the rivers in this part of the country. The streams, moreover, have very little water during the summer months, when the irrigation is principally wanted. Now in several parts of Siberia the water obtained from melting snow is used for irrigation. The climate of these parts is quite continental, with very hot, dry summer, a severe winter, with plentiful falls of snow. The snow irrigation is managed in the following manner: At the first warm winter day after a plentiful snowfall, the whole village, not excepting women and youngsters, meet at a previously appointed spot in the field situated on a slope of a hill. One portion, consisting of strong men, collect and carry the snow to form a large bank, while others press the snow down and spread it evenly. This operation is repeated several times during the winter, and by spring a large bank of compressed snow is formed, a dozen feet deep and weighing several hundred tons. With the first approach of spring, the snow bank is covered with pine branches, straw and dung; if such material is not at hand, earth and sand are used as covering, but in the latter case the layer has to be about eighteen inches thick. The same plan of irrigation would be quite applicable to Russia, and for countries where snow falls in abundance. For regulating the flow of water from melting snow in the bank, a ditch is made on the lower side of the bank with two openings, one to be used as an outflow, in case the water is not wanted for irrigation, the other leads to the irrigation ditch distributing the water on the fields.

When the gape worm becomes established in the throat of a chicken, according to the American Agriculturist, death will result, unless, the worm is soon removed. One plan is to introduce some liquid substance in the throat that will kill the worm, or cause it to loosen its hold upon the membrane of the throat. For this purpose, kerosene or turpentine are the common remedies, being applied with a feather which is dipped in the liquid. The chicken's mouth is held

REAL RURAL READING

WILL BE FOUND IN THIS DEPARTMENT.

Benefit of Farmer's Clubs—Handy Arrangement for Taking Up Barb Wire—Selling Part of the Farm—Live Stock and Dairy—Horticultural Notes, Etc.

Reel for Taking Up Barb Wire.

According to a reader of the Practical Farmer a convenient reel for taking up barb wire may be made in the following manner: Take a pair of cultivator wheels, make an axle to fit, out of 2x4 oak, 30 inches long. Side pieces should be 1½ inches by 2 inches, 4 feet long, of hard wood. Bolt to axle securely. The uprights should be 2 inches by 4 inch pine, securely bolted to side pieces, and high enough to reach above wheels. The

cross bar may be 1½ inches square, ends rounded for handles. The whole (see Fig. 1) should be well braced, as it must be strong. For windlass axle (Fig. 2), take oak, 1½ inches square, 26 inches long, fit crank on one end; for reel, take barb-wire reel, cut hole through it square to fit axle.

[FIG. 1]

To take up wire, fasten end to reel, take cross bar in left hand, turn crank with right. The cart is propelled by winding wire on reel; when one reel is full, slip off and put on another.

[FIG. 2]

To take up wire, fasten end to reel, take cross bar in left hand, turn crank with right. The cart is propelled by winding wire on reel; when one reel is full, slip off and put on another.

The Farmer's Club.

Every town should have a farmers' club. Every farmer should attend it faithfully. A well-conducted schoolhouse club stands next to the agriculture paper as a means of disseminating useful knowledge among the farmers. The club can deal with the local issues of the particular section of where it is held, while the paper must needs be more or less cosmopolitan.

It is a simple matter to have a club. A few good, earnest, active members are all that is needed. There is very little need of a lengthy constitution, or of wasting time over obscure points of order. There needs to be a chairman, who shall preside at the meetings, and a secretary to take the minutes.

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