

The ESCAPE

A POST MARITAL
ROMANCE

BY CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY

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SYNOPSIS.

The Escapade opens not in the romance preceding the marriage of Ellen Slocum, a Puritan miss, and Lord Carrington of England, but in their life after settling in England. The scene is placed, in early 1700, in London, Carrington castle in England. The Carringtons, after a house party, engaged in a game caused by jealousy, Carrington and Seton agreed to cut Ellen with Strathgate, whose attentions to Ellen had become a sore point with Carrington. The man who cut her was Seton, and her husband then cut for his wife's, O. U., and his honor. Carrington winning additional attentions of Lord Seton by Lady Carrington compelled the latter to visit him. Lady Carrington and her chum Deborah, an American girl, met Lord Strathgate at a two a. m. he agreed to see them safely away. He accompanied them home, but when she left him stunned in the road when the carriage met with an accident. She and Deborah then struck out for Portsmouth, where she found a ship for America. Hearing news of Ellen's flight, Lord Carrington and Seton set out in pursuit. Carrington, however, was not far behind, dashed on to Portsmouth, for when Carrington, Seton and Strathgate arrived in Portsmouth in advance of the others, finding that Ellen's ship had sailed, he cut her. Strathgate, and Carrington each had a call to pursue the wrong vessel, upon which each supposed Ellen had sailed. Seton, however, turned to Carrington, but his craft ran aground, just as danger was imminent. Ellen won the chase by her pursuers—Strathgate, Seton and Carrington.

CHAPTER XIII.—Continued.

"Gentlemen," continued Haight, who was not without a certain decision of character, "I swear to God there ain't goin' to be no fightin' on this boat. I don't know the rights and wrongs of this quarrel, but this boat's mine and I won't have it. You'll oblige me, Lord Carrington, by givin' me that pistol. And you, sir—" turning to Strathgate, "will do the like. When you get ashore I've naught to say about your actions, but here!"

He held out his hand imperiously for Lord Carrington's pistol and motioned Cooper to take that of Lord Seton.

The boat had shot up into the wind and lay idly rocking, practically drifting. Cooper's cutter had been shaken off and was a floating wreck some distance away. Cooper had a distinct interest in the quarrel, for he muttered:

"You're right, Haight, there can't be no shootin' here. Yonder gentleman might get a bullet in his inards and then who'd pay me for my sunken boat?"

Strathgate interrupted with a laugh, one of those irritating laughs that drove Carrington nearly frantic:

"Did you arrange all this with the captain of your 'Talbot'?"

"Strathgate, here's this a bit of bravado, with the appearance of this worthy sailor at the proper moment?"

"Course you!" cried Carrington, leaping up to windward. "Come up to windward with you."

He leveled his pistol full at Strathgate, having sprung clear of the hedge of men who happened to be to leeward. Strathgate had followed his movements and two shots rang out simultaneously. Quick as had been the rush of the two men, however, the sailors had followed suit. Haight threw himself upon Carrington and bore him back against the low rail, nearly throwing him overboard, while Cooper struck Strathgate's arm such a violent blow as he pulled the trigger that his pistol was hurled back wards and fell into the sea.

Haight was the first to recover himself.

"Gentlemen," he said in tones that indicated he had come to a final decision, "you've had it out now and there's got to be no more of it. Unless you give me your word," he said, turning to Strathgate, "and give me yours, Lord Carrington, to abide peacefully in the boat until we get ashore, so help me God! I'll lash you down to a ring bolt with a rope, and—"

"There's naught for it," returned Carrington whose pistol, knocked from his hand, had been taken possession of by one of the men, "but to give you the promise, for you have my pistol, the other has gone overboard and while I have a sword Lord Strathgate is without a weapon."

"Oh, you have my word, too," said Strathgate carelessly.

"He'll keep the forward end of the boat and you'll stay aft, my lord," said Haight to Carrington, "and now we'll put back to harbor."

My lord Strathgate amused himself during the hours that elapsed before he and Carrington were landed at the same wharf whence they had taken their departure, by humming graceful little tunes, whistling merry little airs and in general disporting himself as if he were having a delightful time.

My lord Carrington, who had more at stake, was gloomy and silent. He did not cast a glance in the direction of his brother earl reclining on the deck forward until the vessel was made fast to the wharf. Then he sprang out and touched Strathgate on the shoulder.

"We have matters of moment to settle, my lord," began Carrington gravely, "and it were better that we settle them quietly as gentlemen, which one of us at least is."

"I agree with you in that proposition," returned Strathgate bowing.

"We shall doubtless find friends in Portsmouth and may conclude our arrangements without the unseemly interruptions of brawling seamen."

"Brawling seamen!" growled Haight under his breath. "The only peaceful people aboard the cutter were Cooper and myself and the men."

"I am staying at the Blue Boar," said Strathgate gravely.

"Very well, I shall await a visit from your friends as soon as may be convenient."



"I Am Sir Charles Seton."

truth. He did not believe Strathgate's extravagant assertions about the earl's arrangement to meet Lady Ellen on the ship, but there was a possibility of truth in it and that at least kept him from entire confidence in his wife.

As for Strathgate, he was not feeling any too happy either. He had risked everything, got himself embroiled with a man of Carrington's unscrupulous character, had upon him all the odium of having run away with another man's wife, and yet he had lost the wife!

His sensible admiration of Lady Ellen was turned to something like hate. He did not want to throw away any points in the game either, and he made up his mind to kill Carrington, if it was in his power, and to wreak such vengeance upon Lady Ellen as would cause her to remember to the very last hour of her life the time in which she flouted him.

CHAPTER XIV.

Admiral Kephad Joins the Pursuit.

We left Sir Charles Seton hard and fast in his boat on the shoal. Sir Charles had nothing to do but study the ocean and observe that which transpired upon it, for a few moments of hard work convinced worthy Master Whibley that only the rising tide would float his vessel. Sir Charles saw the whole drama enacted before him. He saw Ellen run down the Flying Star; he saw that vessel's way checked; he could see Deborah followed by Ellen clamber aboard. He marked the other two boats chasing down the channel and made a shrewd guess that one carried Carrington and the other Strathgate. He saw the collision, although of course he was too far away to know who was responsible or what was happening. He even saw the smoke from the two pistols which were discharged by the belligerents on the boat and after a time detected the report faintly, but other than that he knew nothing.

It was some time before the rising tide coupled with their own tremendous exertion got the boat off the shoal. Sir Charles had had plenty of time to mature his plans. He knew that Ellen was on that ship. He guessed that Carrington and Strath-

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Problem in Social Economy.

Starvation story from Lapland is to the effect that the natives are eating cats to keep alive. Now, the question is, what keeps the cats alive?

Japanese is not an easy language even for the native-born subject of the mikado, but it is very difficult of acquirement by the westerner. It takes a Japanese child seven years, it is said, to learn the essential parts of the Japanese alphabet.

The Difficult Japanese Alphabet.

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The Difficult Japanese Alphabet.

Solomon Chooses Wisdom

Sunday School Lesson for Dec. 6, 1908
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—1 Kings 3:1-15. Memory Verses, 10, 11.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."—Prov. 9:10.

TIME.—About 1022 B. C. (or 971).

PLACE.—At the court of Solomon's reign.

CHARACTERS.—Solomon, a man of five or six miles northeast of Jerusalem, where the tabernacle had been erected for a time, and with its buildings had been a center of religious worship.

Comment and Suggestive Thought.

In Joel (2:28, 29) there is a prophecy quoted in the Acts (2:17-18) that "your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." Visions and dreams bring before us the ideals and possibilities which we can press forward to make real and true. The whole church should keep before her the vision of a perfect church and a perfect world, the city of God.

How Solomon Reasoned Out His Decision.—Vs. 6-8. Solomon, when he considered his circumstances and needs, thus showing that well-balanced mind on which it was possible to bestow the gift of wisdom.

First Consideration.—The memory of what God had done for his father was a motive for walking in the same ways, receiving the same favor and carrying out to perfect fulfillment what his father had begun.

Second Consideration.—His work was laid upon him by God. Solomon had not sought the place as did Absalom and Adonijah.

V. 7. "Thou hast made thy servant king." The fact that God has put a man in any position of trust or duty creates an obligation to fulfill the trust and perform the duty.

Third Consideration.—His youth and inexperience. "And I am but a little child." He was young and inexperienced compared with his father, who came to the throne after a youth of activity, and ten or twelve years of special training, and seven more as king over a small kingdom. "I know not how to go out or come in." This expression is proverbial for the active conduct of affairs. See Num. 27:17; Deut. 28:6; 1 Sam. 18:13. This was a strong reason for asking of God the things he desired.

Fourth Consideration.—The greatness of the work to be done. V. 8. "Thy servant is in the midst of thy people." That is, is set over them as a king. They were a turbulent people, often going astray, often contending with each other, with strong wills and an impulsive temperament. Probably there was a strong party opposed to him, and brothers of full age ready to lead it. "Which thou hast chosen." It was not only a great nation, but the nation chosen to represent God before the world and carry out his kingdom and teach the world his truths. All this was a far greater responsibility than the ruling of an "ordinary" kingdom.

numbered." This was, on natural expression for se number. See Gen. 13:16. The number of men given in 2 S. 24:9 and 1 Chron. 21:5, 6, it is inferred that the population was about 6,000,000. It would have been very difficult in those days to get the exact number of the people.

Solomon Chooses Wisdom.—V. 9. "Give therefore." In view of all the above considerations, and because God had the gifts in vast abundance, and he alone was the source and fountain thereof. "An understanding heart." Wisdom for the administration of his duties, wise principles, and wisdom in the application of them to the nation. What Solomon asked for was practical wisdom, sagacity, clearness of judgment and intellect in the administration of justice and in the conduct of public affairs.

V. 10. "And the speech pleased the Lord." Why? (1) He was right, noble, unselfish, like God himself. (2) It rendered it possible for God to give him large measures of the best things in all the universe. (3) It furnished an opportunity to give many other things. God loves to give. He gives us all we can beneficially receive. The more he can give us the better he is pleased.

An officer met him at once.

"I am Sir Charles Seton," began the soldier, "captain in the Sussex light infantry."

"I am pleased to see you, sir," answered the officer, courteously, extending his hand. "I am Lieutenant Collier, your captain."

As Sir Charles shook the sailor's hand he asked:

"Is Admiral Kephad on the ship?"

"Yes, sir. He came aboard a hour ago and went immediately to his cabin."

"May I see him?"

"I'll send your name in. Mr. Mortlake," said the officer, turning about.

A smart midshipman ran across the deck and touched his cap.

"My compliments to Admiral Kephad."

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