The Scourge of Damascus

A Story of the East...

By SYLVANUS COBB, JR.

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CHAPTER XI.

Horam is Caged.

Carefully the three men emerged from the dungeon; and when Osmir had closed and bolted the door behind them, Selim went on ahead with the lantern. They were armed with good stout swords, and the blacks wore daggers in their sashes.

"In what direction must we pass out?" asked Julian, as they came to the end of the first vaulted passage.

"We must pass up where a guard is always kept," answered Osmir, "and our only hope is that we may be able to fall upon the sentinels and overcome them, without creating disturbance enough for a general alarm."

"Whatever can be accomplished by strength of arm, we will accomplish," said the robber, "and I think we can be shrewd enough not to strike until we see that the blow shall fall surely."

"You can depend upon us," added Osmir, stopping while Selim opened a door. "We have already placed our lives in jeopardy, and only a successful exit from the palace can now save us. But, as I told you before, there is danger in the way."

[illegible]

Osmir, who heard the movement, seemed to have a better idea.

"My master," he whispered, touching Julian upon the arm, "let us draw back out of sight, and allow them to pass. They will certainly keep on to the dungeon we have left, and we will follow them thither."

"You are right," replied the chieftain. "They will be completely in our power when they have passed us."

Just back of where our trio stood was the door by which they had last passed, and upon one side was a deep niche in the wall, which had evidently been constructed for the reception of rubbish. Into this they quickly glided, Selim so effectually cloaking his lantern that not a ray of light escaped. In a little while the king came near to the hiding place, with his lantern held carefully before him, and his head bowed, as though he was fearful that he might make a misstep. He walked slowly, and his frame shook with a perceptible tremor. When he reached the door he stopped, and turned towards his companions.

"Benoni," he said, "I think you may remain here. This is the last passage, and I will go the rest of the way alone."

"I had better accompany you to the end, sire."

"No—I prefer to go alone."

"But," urged the captain, "the way is rough and dubious, and you may miss your step."

"Out upon thee for an ass!" cried the king, indignantly. "Do you think my step is growing feeble? I tell thee it was never stronger. I will go the rest of the way as I have said. I shall find Selim at the door of the dungeon, and he will render me such assistance as I may need there. I must see this prisoner alone. He possesses a secret which I must fathom before he loses his head."

"I beg thee, sire, be careful."

"Peace, good Benoni. Don't fret on my account. I know what I do. I'll find out the story of this robber's life, and then his head shall come off right quickly. Stay you here, and await my return."

Thus speaking, the king moved on, and when the sound of his uncertain, stumbling footfall could be no longer heard, Julian reached forth until his hand touched one of his companions.

"Who is this?" he asked, in a hushed whisper. It was Selim.

"There is no time to lose. The captain must be disposed of quickly. Uncover your lantern, and I will throttle him."

Selim did as directed, and as soon as the rays of light fell upon the captain, the latter started to gaze about him. But his free will movements were quickly terminated by a blow from the fist of the robber chieftain which felled him to the floor, and before he could move again he was securely bound, and Osmir's sash passed over his mouth.

"Now," cried Julian, "for the king! He will be an easy subject to dispose of."

[illegible]

[illegible] out a word [illegible] to the [illegible] him [illegible] of what had done [illegible] the monarch [illegible] enemy, and let him know to what he owed his disgrace, was too strong to be resisted. [illegible] now [illegible] the king of Damascus, and a [illegible] poor life which he had the power to take, was not to be passed by. And then the robber chieftain had another reason for wishing to speak with the king, since the opportunity had thus unexpectedly offered itself. Horam had come on purpose to see him to learn some secret. Our hero had a curiosity to know what this meant.

"Stay a moment where you are," he said, addressing the blacks; and thus speaking he passed into the dungeon just as the king had discovered that no prisoner was there.

"Ho! Selim!" shouted the monarch, turning his face to the door. "What is the matter here? Is not this the—"

He stopped, for the light of his lantern, falling upon the face of the man who had followed him in, revealed another face than that of Selim.

"Horam," spoke the chieftain, "you find the Scourge of Damascus not quite as powerless as you had expected."

"What ho! Selim! Selim!"

"Easy, old man. Selim will not come at your bidding. Let me inform you that I am master, for the present, of this lower region, and Selim is my slave."

"Mercy!" gasped the terrified king. "What ho! Benoni! Benoni!"

"Benoni is in my power," said Julian. "He is bound hand and foot, and cannot help you. And, thou base, false man—thou, too, art in my power. Down in this deep dungeon, where the light of day cannot come, and where the noise of the upper world cannot penetrate, here I have thee as thou did'st hope to have me. Horam, I am thy master!"

The king's knees smote together, and the lantern dropped from his hand.

"Mercy!" he cried. And then, as though remembering that he was king of Damascus, he clenched his hands, and tried to speak with the voice of authority.

"Vile miscreant," he said, "let me pass! If you dare to oppose me, you shall be torn limb from limb!"

"Easy, old man. I am your master now, and if you give me occasion, I may do you harm."

There was that in the look, tone and bearing of the stalwart chieftain which caused Horam to quail. The lantern had fallen in an upright position, and its light revealed quite plainly the features of the two men.

"You will not kill me?" whispered the king.

"No," replied Julian. "I should scorn the deed, and I should despise myself if I did it. I wish simply to do this: I must leave this palace tonight, and you must remain here in my place. Some of your slaves will find you in the morning. You must strip off that purple robe and that golden chain; and I must have the jeweled crown from your head. Come! I have no time to waste."

"Ye gods of heaven!" ejaculated Horam, "how can this thing be? Who ever heard of such a thing? Who dares to disrobe the king?"

"I dare to do it!" rejoined the robber [illegible]

[illegible]

PICKING THE TURKEY.

Fears That the Sultan's Country Will Be Divided.

It is feared in official circles of Washington that the withdrawal of the French ambassador from Constantinople marks the dissolution of the concert of European powers under which the intergrity of Turkey was guaranteed.

By the treaty of Berlin all the great powers of Europe subscribed to an agreement to refrain from any act that would tend to the destruction of the Ottoman empire.

This action was taken to forestall what were conceived to be the designs of Russia to seize on Turkish territory, and Russia was led to subscribe to the agreement by force of circumstances.

Although several times severely strained, notably by such events as the last war between Turkey and Greece, this pact has so far endured without amendment, but it is apprehended that if the action of France is carried out to the extreme indicated in dispatches, each of the other signatory powers will feel obliged in self protection to disregard the agreement and press on Turkey vast financial and other claims that have accumulated in the last quarter of a century, with a result of disrupting the present Turkish government.

The Sultan Frightened.

An [illegible] says: "In consequence of the declaration made to the porte by the French ambassador acting on instructions from the ministry of foreign affairs, an imperial irade has been issued directing that the [illegible] be opposed to the [illegible] company of the rights [illegible] from the concession. The settlement of [illegible]"

[illegible]

BASE BALL

[illegible]

HOME MADE HONEY.

[illegible]

THE MARKET.

[illegible]

Grain, Etc.

[illegible]

ITALY GIVES US A HINT.

What Her Five Fast Battleships Could Do to This Country.

We are not accustomed to consider Italy very much of a naval power, yet the five battleships of 20 knots and better that she has built or building might make us endless trouble if we were so unfortunate as to have them against us. They could range our whole coast destroying everything afloat except our battleships and our fastest cruisers and remaining themselves in absolute obscurity. They could cut off all trade between the United States, Cuba and Porto Rico. They could wreck the entrance of the Nicaragua canal, if that were finished. They could go through the Suez canal, harry our naval force at Manila and rekindle the insurrection in the Philippines. They could loot our coaling station at Tutuila, carry off our governor from Guam, as the Charleston did to the Spaniards, and wreck our trade with Hawaii. They could devastate our Pacific coast, ruin the shore mines at Nome and capture the gold fleet from Alaska. No battleships that we could send in pursuit of them could catch them. The only things with which we could hope to bring them to an engagement would be our new armored cruisers, and it might be that these commerce destroyers, without a gun heavier than eight-inch, and with only six inches of armor, but with the all-important quality of speed, would save us from a danger before which our ponderous battleships would lie helpless.—New York Journal.

Attorney (for the defense)—Now, what time was it when you were attacked? Complainant—I don't know; ask your client—he took my watch.

[illegible]

Patrick M[illegible], who many years ago was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in England for complicity in the Fenian plot for which the three Irishmen known to history as the "Manchester martyrs" were executed, is dying in St. Michael's hospital, Newark, N. J.

The exodus from Nome, Alaska, is fairly on, and each steamer arriving from there brings large numbers. Returning passengers report Nome remarkably quiet and filled with idle men, many of whom are willing to work for almost anything in order to get passage money.

While at target practice about 9 o'clock Monday morning on Fort Riley reservation, half a mile north of Junction City, Ks., a seven-inch 107-pound shell exploded as it was being placed in the breech of a section gun of siege battery O, Seventh Artillery, commanded by Capt. Vandusen. Four men were killed and four seriously wounded. Private Watson was ramming the shell home when there was a terrific explosion and the headless body of Watson was seen standing perfectly erect for almost fifteen seconds. Then it moved, as if to step, and fell, alighting on the back with the shoulders toward the gun.

Real Estate Exchange

Of Whitehead & Mitchell at the Exchange Bank, Birmingham, Mich.

The following is a partial list of farms, city and village lots and real estate generally which we have for sale. As our list is constantly changing, we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list.

1.

John McCarroll has a nice little farm of 11 acres in the town of Southfield and John says he must sell it pretty soon. All necessary buildings in good repair and ready for the successful prosecution of a profitable farm and the establishment of a happy little home. Lots of good fruits and all necessary conveniences. Terms easy. Price $[illegible], of which $500 will be taken on a mortgage at 6 per cent. Speak quick or you lose it.

2.

Farm of [illegible] acres, well fenced, well watered—never failing stream, 10 acres timber, 1¼ miles from Bloomfield Center and electric railway to Detroit and Pontiac. Terms easy.

3.

Twenty nine and two thirds acres of land near Irish church in Royal Oak township. It is excellent land, four good buildings and fences all in good repair, 65 apple trees, 150 plum trees and plenty of other small fruit. Buildings insured for $1,000. Price $2,800. Terms easy. The place is just outside of the lighter soil of Royal Oak and cannot be beaten for anyone requiring a small farm suitable for small fruit or poultry raising. Come and let us show you over the place some day.

4.

[illegible]

5.

[illegible]

6.

[illegible]

7.

[illegible]

8.

[illegible]

10.

[illegible]

11.

The old States farm in the township of Troy, [illegible] east of Birmingham, 50 acres, all cleared, [illegible] acres of fine [illegible] orchard, good house and [illegible]. All the advantages of the village and [illegible] of the [illegible] conveniences. There other things, too. Come and find out all about it.

12.

The Bayley farm in the town of Troy, 127½ acres. Good farm house and farm buildings; flowing well at the barn which is the wonder and pride of Troy, [illegible] acres good beech and maple timber, 4 acres fine grafted orchard. Circumstances render it advisable to sell at once, and the man who comes first will secure one of the best bargains in the country. Look it up.

13.

Farm in Southfield, 67 acres, of which 10 acres is timber, good beech and maple. Soil, clay loam. Creek runs through farm. Water in every lot the year round. New, small house and small barn. Terms easy and price so low that it will pay you to look it up. Will trade for Birmingham property.

14.

Two hundred and fourteen acres in sections 15 and [illegible], Southfield, with finest farm buildings in the township. Large and productive orchard of all kinds of best varieties of fruit, 10 acres of very heavy timber. Will sell or exchange for city property and will divide the two farms if required. Buildings on each tract. Price as low as any on our list, all things considered. Ask us about it.

15.

House and two lots on Ann St. in Birmingham, 100 ft. front, 2[illegible] feet deep. Small fruit. House insured for $[illegible]. Price $600. Want enough cash to secure and balance can remain at low rate of interest. Send us a postal card, you get full particulars by return mail.

16.

Fine fruit farm of [illegible] acres about 2 miles from Birmingham, nice rolling land, 5 acres timber. No waste land, 2[illegible] peaches, 100 plums, 500 grapes, [illegible] apples, 1½ acres raspberries, ½ acres strawberries, etc. Good house nearly new. Price $60 per acre. Will take other property for part pay. Tell you more about it if you ask us.

17.

Nice little farm of 50 acres, 2 miles from electric road, near Gilbert Lake, in Bloomfield. Good house and barn. Will sell for $50 per acre under the circumstances—which we will explain to you on application. This is positively one of the best bargains on our list, ask about it.

37.

Fine new house located on lot 7 of Campbell's subdivision, Birmingham. Price $900. House cost that to build. At this price it would be all cash to owner—but we can arrange that. Inquire about it.

When Answering Advertisements Kindly Mention This Paper

18.

A small farm of 5 acres, being part of the w½ of section 2, Southfield township, Oakland county. Four good buildings; house, barn, fowl-house and pig-pen. Buildings insured for $1,200. Premises abundantly supplied with cold pure water from flowing well, which is piped to barn, furnishing plenty of water for stock or other purposes all the year 'round. Good fences, excellent soil, gravelly loam in high state of cultivation. House, two-story and wing, 9 rooms; woodshed, cellar, cistern and all conveniences; 2¾ miles from Birmingham, over roads which are the best in the country; 40 rods from good school; 10 rods from Erity's mill. Excellent neighborhood. This little farm is ready for business, without a cent for repairs or improvements. Price $1,500. Terms easy.

19.

A farm of 100 acres in the township of Rose, Ogemaw county, Mich.; 50 acres cleared, 50 acres mixed hardwood timber. Barn worth $100. Soil, sandy loam. Price $25 per acre; terms $500 cash, balance on long time at 5 per cent. Here is a golden opportunity for a poor man to acquire a good home in a short time. Better investigate.

20.

This includes all of the Corson addition left unsold, comprising lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7. Lots 1 and 2 face Woodward Ave., next to the residence of W. C. Jenks and the others face out on Vinewood Ave. These are, without exception, the finest building lots in Birmingham. High and dry, city water, convenient to the D. & P. Electric R'y and will be sold cheap and on easy terms. Prices range from $125 up. Let us tell you all the particulars about 'em. We also include in this number lots 49, 50, 51 and 52, block 5, Urbanrest, near Royal Oak, at $[illegible] per lot.

21.

House and one acre of land, corner of Saginaw St. and Cemetery Ave., Birmingham, $500 cash and the balance on long time. Opposite the electric park and one of the most delightful locations in the village.

22.

One hundred and ten acres in the town of Troy on section [illegible], 8[illegible] acres cleared, 25 acres in timber, beech, maple and elm. On the line of Detroit, Rochester & Lake Orion Electric R'y, cars every hour each way, 15 miles from the city hall, Detroit. Good wells, cisterns, cellars, with house on each side of the road with barns complete with each outfit. Cider mill with three complete presses and [illegible] horse power steam engine in good repair. Good productive farming lands under good state of cultivation. Best of reasons for selling. The farm is owned by Adam Most and—here is the most interesting part of it—he will sell it at $[illegible] per acre and that is less than he paid for it before electric railways were thought of. Only 40 rods to a good school and [illegible]

23.

House and lot No. [illegible] block [illegible] in the Campbell subdivision. A comfortable little home for [illegible] City and [illegible]

[illegible]

26.

[illegible]

27.

[illegible]

28.

[illegible]

29.

[illegible]

30.

[illegible]

31.

[illegible]

32.

A fine little farm in the township of Troy, [illegible] Beaver, [illegible] from the [illegible] cars every [illegible] farming land, comfortable buildings all ready for a nice little chicken farm for some city man to bring his family during the summer. An hour's ride from the city hall. Price $1,500, $500 cash, balance on long time and easy terms.

33.

Twenty-three hundred dollars cash will buy one of the most profitable farms in the township of Southfield, consisting of 96 acres. The price is $50 per acre, but the balance of the purchase price will be allowed to continue on mortgage at 6 per cent, or will trade for a smaller farm or house and lot in Birmingham; three good buildings, good cellars, wells, cisterns and all the usual conveniences. There are other things which we will whisper in your ear upon application.

34.

Nice little forty-acre farm up in Sanilac county for $25 per acre; 30 acres cleared, 2 acres of orchard; a good barn and a comfortable log house; 5½ miles from Lexington; 4 miles east of Applegate post office on the F. & P. M. R'y; will exchange for Birmingham property or a small farm hereabouts. For a poor man with a small amount to invest and a right good chance to work out the balance, this will be worth coming to see us about. Now don't go along all your life working for someone else and without a home. Come and tell us what you can do and see if we can help you out. It don't cost anything if we don't deal, and if we do, the man who is selling the property pays all the commission.

35.

House and two lots S. & C. subdivision, Birmingham, 80x176 ft. on Southfield Ave., 1½ story frame house, 9 rooms, cellar, cistern, well and city water; fine fruit. Parties have removed from this locality and will sell for cash at the very low price of $1,000. That's all there is of it and to any person wanting a very desirable home in a good neighborhood it ought to be enough.

36.

Farm of 200 acres at $60 per acre and it is one of the most productive farms in this locality. Formerly known as the Wm. Durkee farm. 2[illegible] acres beech and maple timber—and it is timber, not scrub oak and waste land. 7 acres of fine orchard. Modern dwelling of 12 rooms; flowing well, wind mill supplies house with excellent water; 3 fine barns. 3 miles west of Birmingham; 100 rods from good school; ½ mile from Wing Lake, 1¼ miles from Franklin village. Well fenced and tiled; absolutely no waste land. Well, what do you want anyhow? There are other things about it. Ask us.

38.

Two story house and lot on south side of Daines street, 2 doors from electric road on Saginaw street, 80 ft. front 110 ft. deep. Hot and cold water on both floors, water closet, bath, furnace and every modern convenience. Terms $500 cash, balance on long time. Price $2,800. If you are curious or interested just ask us for fuller particulars. If you are only curious it will be curious if we can't interest you.

39.

Lot 4, Harrison Ave., Campbell subdivision, Birmingham. Price $90.

40.

Two story house and lot corner Saginaw Ave. and Brown street, Birmingham; good hot air furnace; 9 rooms; fine, new house; one of the most desirable residences in the village; fine shaded lawn on west side of best residence street. Price $3,000. Come quick or you lose it.

41.

Two and one-half acres and good house and barn 15 rods from the Electric road at Circle. 40 plum, 50 pear, 26 apple trees and other fruit. Will exchange for small farm. Oh, yes! the price. Well, we might as well give you the rock bottom at once. We are almost ashamed to say it, but if we are properly approached, we will take $900 for it. There!

42.

Brick house, good barn and seven acres of land suitable for platting on south side of Maple Ave. east, Birmingham, opposite the Poppleton subdivision. Price $3,500 and it is worth every cent of it. If you don't believe it, ask us about it and we will prove it.

43.

Lot No. 68 of Randall's subdivision, Birmingham, one of the best in the plat. Next to the park. Price $75.

44.

Fine Stock Farm—the celebrated Collier Farm—168 acres in township of Southfield. Buildings are well painted and in good condition: Large 12 room frame house, with cellar divided into three compartments. House surrounded with large handsome elm trees. Horse barn with stalls for six horses and separate carriage room. Bank barn with granary, overhead track, cow stables underneath with cement floor and 5 or 6 additional stalls, sliding doors, good windows, window guards, stone foundation, etc., etc. Horse barn with 10 box stalls and paddock. Horse barn with 4 box and 5 other stalls and paddock enclosed with high board fence. Straw shed. Tool house, enclosed with sliding doors. Office with large stallion or foaling box stall attached and paddock. Bull box stall with paddock secure and strong for this purpose and isolated from other buildings. Outside closet for house. Outside closet for stables. Fruit: Large and bearing apple orchard well trimmed and in good condition, Baldwins, Greenings, Kings, Steeles Red, Jonathans and Russets, 100 pear trees, 300 peach, 25 cherry, 25 plum, all of best varieties, 2 apricots, 2 quince, currants, grapes, strawberries, etc. 5 acres timber or wood lot. Water: Good well with iron pump at house; good well with iron pump at stables; branch of River Rouge runs across entire south end of farm and is NEVER DRY. Farm is well tiled. Fences all in first class shape, many of them entirely new. Condition of soil: Farm has carried an average of 40 head of stock during past five years. No feed of any kind sold and entire farm heavily manured. No commercial fertilizers used. Better inquire about this farm it may pay you.

45.

Seventy acre farm in Bloomfield. Buildings: Small house of little value, good barn. Good well, good fences. Fruit: Few peach and quince trees. Entire 70 acres heavily seeded to clover and timothy. A good bargain.

46.

We can now offer for sale one of the finest building sites in the hill country north of Birmingham along the line of the D. & P. Electric Railway. Forty acres on north side of W. H. Benedict's farm adjoining the Trowbridge farm. Fine soil, no waste land, beautiful rolling country. Will be sold in parcels if necessary and at prices which are sure to go. Call at the Exchange Bank and learn about it.

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