

Dr. Jack's Wife.

(Continued from 1st page.)

Leaving the little man on guard, Jack goes outside to find a vehicle which will carry him to the Intendencia. One happens to be near. It looks like a lucky chance, which he is only too willing to embrace. If he only knew that this same driver has twice refused a fare within the last half hour, perhaps his suspicions might be the sooner aroused. The night ride begins.

It is an ordinary hack in which Doctor Jack finds himself. He pays little attention to the vehicle itself, since its erratic movement presently engages his regards. The driver must be drunk, he at first concludes. Then it flashes through his mind that when he held his brief conversation with this worthy the man gave no evidence of being under the influence of liquor. Indeed, Jack was inclined to believe him unusually bright and smart for a Valparaiso Jehu.

This, then, brings the case down to one of design. If the man is out of his mind, there is a method in his madness. His eccentric movements, passing up one street and down another, might do for a man trying to throw another off the track, but they are certainly entirely out of place for a driver who has been hired at a round figure to take a fare to police headquarters as soon as possible. "Confound the fellow, what can he mean?" mutters the American, as for the third time the vehicle leaves the main avenue and plunges down into a darker calle.

It has gone beyond a joke. Doctor Jack hesitates a moment ere deciding what ought to be done. He then polices his head out of the window, half-expecting to see some footpads with whom the driver is in collusion.

The rattle of wheels drowns his voice when he speaks, and he seriously contemplates firing a shot past the fellow's ear that must bring him to terms. A shout, however, accomplishes the same thing. The Jehu turns, beholds his fare making a threatening movement, and pulls hastily up.

Doctor Jack fiercely demands the reason for his erratic movements, whereupon the man apologetically apologizes. The only excuse he makes is that the policeman's head on certain sections of the main street, which it is policy on his part to avoid.

"Well, get to the office of the Intendente as speedily as possible. It's all I ask."

Perhaps his excuse is valid, but Jack has been enough of a lawyer to know that he believes the man has another motive, and is in league with outside parties, though what his purpose may be is a mystery. The night air is chilly, and he keeps a window open, though he has to fasten it, as some secret spring pushes it shut. His mind is wrought up by the recent events that have occurred, and he keeps a window open, though he has to fasten it, as some secret spring pushes it shut. His mind is wrought up by the recent events that have occurred, and he keeps a window open, though he has to fasten it, as some secret spring pushes it shut.

Presently it strikes Jack that there is a peculiar, though pleasant odor in the vehicle. He did not notice it when he entered, hence it must be exhaled from some receptacle as they jolt along over the road.

He is at once suspicious. The very fact that the odor has no effect, and that it makes him drowsy, causes alarm. Such things he has read of as happening in London and Paris, where wonderful games of fraud are inaugurated, but who would dream of such a thing in old Valparaiso?

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CHAPTER VIII.

The office of the Valparaiso chief of police is not a model of comfort, by any means, and a strong odor of tobacco smoke impregnates the air at all hours. Doctor Jack finds the Intendente an agreeable man, however, more than ordinarily shrewd for a Chilean officer, though not to be compared with the Frenchman who occupies such a position in Paris.

So Jack tells his story, or at least as much of it as he deems necessary. From the manner of the officer he concludes that the main facts are already known to the officer. Perhaps he has means of collecting information. Perhaps he is in some way connected with the secret cabal against which Jack Evans struggles. If the latter proves to be the truth, there is small chance of help from this quarter.

At last the American completes his narrative and demands protection. He has not broken the laws of Chili, and it is the wrath of individuals in the mad race for wealth that has been kindled against him.

"I will do what I am able. Frankly, Doctor Jack, I must tell you my office at present is poorly equipped to cope with such a powerful secret society as your enemies. The recent events in this region have torn our relations asunder. We are almost in chaos as yet. Crime runs rampant. I hardly know which men to trust. But I shall do my best," he says, gravely.

"It is all I can say. I do not know whether it is customary to have a permit in your city for the carrying of arms, but I would like you to write me out one. Then I shall defend myself."

"And we will hear a good account of you. For Dios! I was in Madrid at the time you played your part in the plaza de toros, and I was forced to admire your grit."

Doctor Jack smiles. It pleases him to remember those old scenes once in a while, when the panorama of the past comes before him. Meanwhile the Intendente writes.

"That covers the case, Doctor Jack. It is hardly necessary, since every one carries arms in these disturbed times. However, in case you bowl over half a dozen of these fellows you will be held guilty."

"They take their lives in their hands when they run across my path. I am a peaceable man, sir, but must be let alone to attend to my business. As for this impudent English bull-dog who wants to wed Doctor Jack's widow—"

The officer laughs aloud. "Fascinating, but it is too comical. I have seen much of these Englishmen. They are brave, too, but so full of beast-carnal! the world belongs to them—we all breathe only because they are magnificent. Doctor Jack, I don't know myself would give ten pesos to be present when you again come in contact with this 'Plymouth.'"

Really, Doctor Jack is beginning to believe the Valparaiso chief of police may be a pleasant sort of fellow after all. When he leaves him he has not learned a great deal to be sure, but the mantle of police protection is cast upon him, whatever that may count for. At any rate, he has the right to protect himself.

The Chilean has suggested that he go on board the Baltimore. Captain Scheley would doubtless receive a fellow-citizen of the great republic, who has become so well known as Doctor Jack, with the greatest pleasure in the world, and make quarters for himself and wife on board—at least until their vessel leaves.

It is worth thinking over. Jack reaches the street. No vehicle can be seen, and he is now really sorry he let the other go. He might have kept the river in his employ, and between the gift of silver and the threat of lead influenced him to be faithful.

There is only one thing to be done—he must use shanks' mare and thus reach the fonda. His thoughts are with Avis. Heaven grants nothing that has occurred during his absence. The terrible nature of the last shaft, so recklessly aimed at him that it might easily have taken an-

other innocent party for a victim, has given Jack an uneasiness quite foreign to his nature.

He begins his walk. The hour has grown late, and it is just lacking seventeen minutes of midnight when he leaves the Intendencia. At this time the Chilean support might naturally be expected to have an air of quiet resting upon its streets.

It is just the contrary. The success of the rebellion against Balmaceda has excited all the elements in the city to such an extent that they seem to be holding a sort of picnic of rejoicing all the while. One from the States might readily believe an election had just taken place, for bonfires blaze here and there, while it is nothing unusual to hear a gun go off. Perhaps before settling down to a business life again the Chileans desire to use up the superfluous ammunition left over after the late unpleasantness.

At last he sights the hotel. His own position is now assured, and the fear that pushes itself into his mind is in connection with his wife. He glances up at the windows which belong to his rooms. All is dark there, and no sign of life can be seen, but this is just as Avis has said it would be. It was here, just beneath the window at the corner, that the English lord and his Chilean ally came to a halt, as if by accident, and held their pointed conversation concerning Doctor Jack, which was saturated with venom and especially intended for the ears of the wife seated above. Jack smiles as he remembers how this carefully arranged scheme fell to the ground, because Avis Evans had such perfect confidence in her husband.

Then, as he stands there, he remembers, too, the beautiful Chilean woman who has conceived such a passion for him, and whose adoration acts upon him as if the evil charm of a serpent, for Doctor Jack is an honorable man, deeply in love with his wife.

He has only stopped here a minute or so to recover breath after his rapid walk, and calm himself ere appearing before Avis.

Fate sometimes manipulates things in a queer way. Even this thirty seconds, during which he stands there, are destined to be marked by an event. It would seem as though he has been allowed to reach the scene in order to be a witness of the bravery of the woman he calls his wife.

As he glances up again toward the point where, as he well knows, the windows of his rooms are situated, Doctor Jack receives a start. Not more than fifteen feet of space lies between, and against the background of sky he sees a protuberance fastened to the face of the building.

While Jack gazes, spell-bound, it moves, and he makes out beyond all question the figure of a man. This is a strange place for one to cling to like a monkey. No man would be in such a position unless he has evil intentions. It flashes through the mind of Doctor Jack that some enemy seeks to do him harm. He is surrounded by so many who wish him ill that it is folly attempting to better his head concerning the identity of this fellow.

Of course, he may be an ordinary thief, for the city has more than its usual quota of this species. Doctor Jack ponders concerning his best move, and handles his revolver with the air of a man who feels half impelled to use it, yet hesitates before he does so, lest he should be mistaken in his judgment, and the other may deserve it.

And while he thus deliberates the matter is taken out of his hands. Some one is concerned in the game whom he has forgotten to figure on—Avis.

The figure clinging to the wall makes another movement. Evidently he has stopped to rest upon a ledge, or else because Jack's footsteps on the pavement alarmed him; but if this latter is the case he has bravely overcome his fear, since his movement is certainly upward.

By this time the fellow has his hands upon the window-sill. What if Avis sleeps—the watcher smiles grimly with the satisfaction he feels at being on hand—surely a little cherub aloft must be watching over his fortunes.

It is time something was done, and Jack slowly raises his hand to wing the dark mass thus outlined against the sky, to bring him down to the pavement a crippled wretch, howling with agony and fear.

At this moment occurs the event not down on the bills. Doctor Jack plainly hears the shriek of his foe, and sees something shoot from the window. A few drops even splash upon his face and feel like flashes of fire, such is the heat contained in them.

As for the rogue who clings to the wall, and receives the full benefit of the fiery deluge, he gives one wild shriek of anguish. His hands release their clutch upon the window-sill above and down he comes in a heap.

Some good fortune causes him to drop in a sitting posture, and this, although doubtless painful, saves him from a fractured limb. Perhaps he fears a second deluge of hot water, or it may be his brain has been so stunned that he is ludicrous to see the way in which the demoralized chap scrambles to his feet and rushes down the calle, groaning, and grinding out Chilean curses with a proficiency acquired in the army.

A few people come running up and out of the hotel to see what is the matter, for although scenes of violence are frequent in the streets, they never fail to attract attention. A cock-fight or battle of the bulls has always been a drawing card in Chili, though of late the laws are becoming more severe in this regard, and a live Yankee circus pleases the populace about as well. They are fast becoming educated along the republic of the Andes.

Nothing is to be seen, save a wet spot on the pavement, and only through speculation can they reach the truth. Doctor Jack does not linger, but a minute later gives the peculiar rap on his door which Avis recognizes, and it proves an "open sesame," admitting him to the sacred precincts beyond.

While Avis relocks and barricades the door her legs lord grope for a chair, and, throwing herself into its depths, laughs as though he would take a fit.

"Well, you seem amused. Suppose you share the subject?" she says, sitting in the arm of the chair and stroking Doctor Jack's curly hair.

"Ye gods! I shall never forget how that fellow came down, bounding like a great bear. You brave little woman, I declare—"

"Oh, that's it! Well, I meant he should go, and gave him the benefit of the whole can of hot water heated on our little oil stove here," she remarks, composedly, as though such a feat were an everyday occurrence. "And now, Jack, if you can control your laughter, tell me what you have seen and done since you left here."

(To be continued.)

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The Twentieth day of January, A. D. 1897. WILLIAM PUGSLEY, Solicitor for Applicants.

Executors' Notice.

All persons having just claims against the Estate of the late John Shireff, High Sheriff deceased, are hereby requested to bring the same duly attested with M. S. Benson, Attorney at Law, within three months from the date hereof, and all persons indebted to the said Estate are required to make immediate payment to Mary Henrietta Shireff, Executor.

Dated at Chatham 15th day of March, 1897. MARY HENRIETTA SHIREFF, Executor, HARRY SHIREFF, Executor.

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