

Old Squire.

The Romance of a Black Virginian.

By E. K. BENSON.

Author of "Who Goes There?" "A Friend With the Countersign," "Bayard's Courier," etc. (Copyright, 1903, by THE MACMILLAN COMPANY.)

CHAPTER XXVII.

ONE WAY TO SWAP HORSES.

"Brother, by myn hals, Now I have aspired thou are a party fairs."

Lacy gave Mr. West the news that Lieutenant Morgan had gone to intercede with Pleasonton, and had taken Squire with him. Then, without beating the bush, he advised Mr. West of his plan to abet the Confederates in the matter of setting Hawley against Usher. Mr. West at once rode away; he knew not where Mosby was holding himself, but he had little doubt that he should find members of the band at their homes, and even before Junior reached Pleasonton, Mr. West was in Mosby's presence and had told his purpose.

Serg't Morgan had already recognized Hawley, and that prisoner was not happy; but Mr. West himself was the first to bring tidings of Usher's condition. The matter developed into Morgan's going alone to bear a message from Mosby to the effect that Hawley, for violation of parole, would summarily be shot in case Freeman's threat should be carried out.

For all answer, Morgan, after having been held by the sentinel for a full hour, was informed that Capt. Freeman had no communication to make to him.

Mr. West had waited until Morgan's return.

"How is my brother now?" the Sergeant asked, spite of the former's cruel suspense, indeed with a desire to deflect his thought.

"Gone to Gen. Pleasonton to intercede for Usher. Does that mean a no for you; do you know what he told me? He says that his grandfather's will was in favor of Daniel Morgan, and that you shall have every cent of the property."

"Tell him I'll share with him. I'm rich enough for both if he ever wants anything. I won't touch it."

"Just what I told him," said West. "Gone to Pleasonton to intercede. I do pray and hope. But can he stand it?"

"He took Squire. I hope he can make it, but—and Mr. West cut his speech short through fear of losing self-control.

Dr. Lacy had returned from Freeman's camp, but was holding himself aloof from the Captain. The day was wearing on, the little camp more and more gloomy; Usher's sound man was on duty, snoring the roads, the entire company always under arms. Freeman's excited condition caused much talk; and as it became current that Hawley was a prisoner under threat of return to his quarters, which Freeman seemed resolved to inflict upon West, murmurs of deep displeasure began to run; while it was true that Freeman's threat was not carried out, it was clear that in this matter he was transcending his own powers, and more than one man swore loudly not to serve if ordered on the detail of quieting the Sergeant's enervated and quieting the camp, but their efforts were vain, and at length one of them informed the Captain that it would be dangerous to proceed; but the warning had no seeming effect, and in the afternoon the Orderly-Sergeant notified each man of the detail for execution.

But now, Mosby, who had been known of the condition tantamount to mutiny, of Freeman's camp, might have refrained from the act, sent Morgan with a second message, which seemed to increase the violence of Capt. Freeman's rage; for Mosby served notice that, if West suffered, then every man of Freeman's company who should thereafter be captured by the partisan would be shot down without delay.

To this message, Serg't Morgan, after waiting long, returned without answer. Freeman, however, had been staggered by Mosby's threats, and it was nothing but pride that held him to his resolution—the wish to himself well his own trouble. But his men, hearing of the last threat, turned about, also through pride, and declared that they would not bend an inch for Mosby and his high airs—they would meet death with death.

Lacy's uneasiness had never been shown so great, and toward the middle of the afternoon he rode out of the camp, taking the way to Haymarket, up which he expected Lieut. Morgan to come, his nervousness such that he felt the need of ending it at the earliest possible moment.

He had ridden at a slow walk more than a mile when, from a light, he saw far at the south a moving spot in the road; he halted, for he knew at once that there was something greater than a horseman, or even than two. The object was moving northward and rapidly, but soon a turn of the road hid the thing from view, and when it next appeared the Doctor saw some half a dozen cavalrymen coming at a gallop, and close behind them an ambulance drawn by four horses.

Lacy had already sent his wounded to Fairfax, and he wondered why this ambulance was coming to his help; but almost at once he conceived the truth—Gen. Pleasonton had sent his exhausted horse in this degree of comfort, and it meant that Morgan had succeeded; he put spurs to his horse.

The Doctor found Morgan propped with mattresses, and incapable of continuous speech. Old Squire was curled up asleep. The tired horses they had ridden had in a minute lacy had the situation. The squad here to go on without Morgan in case the Lieutenant should be forced to halt.

Feeling it better that Freeman should not yet learn of Morgan's appeal to Pleasonton, Lacy now commanded the detachment of the ambulance to Mr. West, and with half of the squad he rode back to camp, where he remained until he knew that the General's instructions had been delivered, and when the orderly-sergeant had notified the detailed men that they were discharged; then he galloped hard and overtook his patient.

Junior's condition had been greatly impaired; he had brought joy in regard to Usher, but extreme anxiety concerning himself, and not only Jennie was oppressed by fears for his life, but even her father failed to conceal his emotion as he assisted in bearing the Federal to his bed.

In the meanwhile Maj. Mosby had made his arrangements for sending his prisoners and most valuable captives to the army under Gen. Lee, and had distributed to his men whatever would be too cumbersome for such a journey, which must be made with exceeding caution and rapidity. By means of his scouts, he learned that the threatened execution of West had not been carried into effect, and a messenger sent to Mr. West's returned after nightfall with complete information. Then Mosby put his train in motion; and the night he moved southwest through Loudoun Valley, and when the sun rose he was at Orleans, and almost in safety. Here he disbanded his men except but a few, with whom he brought his prizes to Stuart's cavalry. This journey took

ing, and now this notion of yours that Lee is advancing is worth no more than your old sign."

"Yassah, but Mahs Doctob, me an' somebody's a-gwine to be mighty bad avf some o' dese days of dat ole un is es good es dis un. Ain't shu gwine over to de camp to-day, sah?"

"Yes. I ax you, sah, dat ef you sees Bahney—you knows' Bahney, sah?"

"Capt. Freeman's man? Bahney, I be mighty bleesed to you, sah, ef you tell 'im dat ole Squire's a-gwine to light out 'fome dese diggin's, an' ef he got any wold to sen' to he ole mammy he kin git it ready; an' he kin sen' it to me up at de farka o' de road mos' to Hopewell, I tek it."

"Certainly, Squire, I'll tell him for you with pleasure."

There were no more sounds of artillery, but Lacy rode to camp, and when he returned at night it was with an ambulance. He told that the camp would be broken up; the troops would move to the front for it was known that Lee's army was in motion northward.

On the next morning Lacy took his patient away in the midst of a scene of silence and grief that must be forborne. Squire rode southward alone. He had provided for his horse, food for himself, and money given him by Junior. Lacy had wanted to give Squire a written statement that he had rendered good service to a Union officer, but consideration of

the matter with Morgan had made him abandon his design for fear that Confederates might examine the bearer; so, for the contrary reason, lest Squire should fall into Federal hands, the Lieutenant had decided to write no letter to his brother, and simply charged the old man with verbal messages of kindness.

In these parts every footpath was familiar to the negro, every farmstead and name. North of the Manassas Railroad he had no fear of molestation. As for Federalists, he had confidence that they were having enough to do to resist Stuart, whose cannon could now be heard with greater distinctness.

"Wondah ef dat boy's a-gwine to do w'at he promus'd," was the old man's thought. "He done went 'back awn me 'vrah in Mellan' and Penn'sylvania, an' I ain't had no 'seuse feh-mix'n' up wid him no mo'e. De good-book hit say dat ef a man tell you one lie he tell you a thousand; an' I b'lieve his right. I gwine to wait fuh him, but I not a-gwine to wait tell I git cotch, now I let shu know dat."

As he rode southward, skirting the western edge of Bull Run Mountains, the intermittent sound of cannon grew and grew, and from the varied sounds he knew the discharges came from no one spot; some were much nearer than others; they seemed to be pounding along a great line stretching east and west.

At noon he was near Hopewell. He must halt at the junction of the two roads where he had given Barney rendezvous. He would turn into the woods that he might be secreted from view, and watch toward the north for Barney's coming.

At his left was a natural hiding-place, a tumbledown fence with great bushes and briars. He rode to an opening and then turned toward the chosen spot, but as he turned he saw before him a horse, saddled and halted, head to earth, eating; and at the next breath he saw the dismounted rider spring up—Barney.

"Yes, Unc Squiah, I done got ahead of you, an' I jest be a-watch'n' of you, an' I sees in your thinkin' dat you good-feh-nothin' Bahney gwine to do you wait. Yah! yah! Now, Unc Squiah, tell de troof!"

"Bahney, boy, you peahs to be mighty high springed 'bout your own nose, feh true. Jest what you git dat hoss, Bahney."

"I got 'im jest what you got yo'n, Unc Squiah; dah now!" and Bahney laughed again.

Squire had also dismounted and was getting ready to feed.

"Dat hoss you got, Bahney, hit seem to me dat I done seed dat hoss befo' now."

"Mebbe you did, Unc Squiah."

"Boy, how come you git dis hoss?"

"Don't shu fret shoo'f about dat, Unc Squiah; I got 'im. An' it gwine to be a good man's two hundred dollars in gote git 'im, too, Unc Squiah."

"An' shu gwine to sell 'im to de Confedericks?"

"Dat's jest what I 'lows to do. But I make you a good swap, Unc Squiah, if you wants him."

Squire coveted the horse, which was much better one than his own—coveted him for Mahs Charley; but he shook his head; he had no money to spare.

They made a stand, and Squire insisted on keeping out of the main roads; for though when alone he had had no fear in this quarter, now, with a companion dressed in blue, he was afraid lest suspicion be aroused; moreover, one negro is an innocent slave on some mission for his master, but two constitute an insurrection.

In the woods the progress was slower. Neither had a definite intention beyond that of avoiding the Federal cavalry, and getting into the Confederate lines. They heard guns, but knew not whether their own approach was toward the backs of Union troops or those of Southern.

From time to time Barney bantered Squire for a horse trade, but the older man invariably answered that he would swap even, or not at all, while the younger wanted \$50 in gold.

Dusk was falling and they were still on the western edge of the mountains, but

they had passed the railroad, and were to the south of Thoroughfare. The night would be dark; the Autumn wind swept low clouds along the range, clearing all distant vision before the end of day. A place was chosen, and a halt made for the night; on the morrow they would go up the mountain and see what could be seen.

Barney seemed restless; he persisted in offering to trade horses, slowly reducing his demands. The old negro began to dread some deceit, from the fact that he not doubted that Barney had committed theft, and now he believed that the desire for exchanging was based upon fear lest he ride into a Federal camp where the horse would be recognized.

For his own mount, Squire proudly considered the lawful prize of his bow and spear.

The young negro became sullen. "Unc Squiah, it seem to me dat shu stannin' mightly in yo' own light. You don't know when you lucky. Dat hoss he wuff mo'e'n two o' yo'n, and dey ain't a man on de top side o' de yeath dat I let have 'im like I do you."

"Yes, chile, dat's all true, an' I ain't a-sputtin' it; but shu see dish heah hoss o' mine? I done got shute to 'im, Bahney, an' I dese can't mek up my mind to man 'im awf. I ain't a-sayin' dat shoy' hoss ain't wuff de mos', now mine you, but I dese say I don't go to shu on dis hoss."

"Den 'sposed I say wuff eben. Unc Squiah, what'd I say dat? No, I ain't a-sayin' I gwine to do it, but what'd I say?"

"Lawsd, chile, ain't no use to talk 'bout w'at shu ain't a-gwine to do. You ain't a-gwine to do it, 'cuzhe you know you ain't."

On the hard earth, covered by his saddle cloth, old Squire rested for more than half the night in a fitful slumber. The light woke with a start and listened. Near by he heard sounds of hoofs, growing suddenly louder, and in a moment more receding, halloping away.

"Bahney," he called softly; but the wind in the trees was the only answer. He called louder. Then he moved, and felt where Barney had lain. He rose up and looked about, groping his way in the darkness.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

IN THE NICK OF TIME.

"Mar. How far off lies these armies? Mass. Within this mile and half."

Mar. Then shall we hear their 'harum and their ours." —Shakspeare.

When it became fully evident that Barney would not be able to keep his horse trade, and had gone without so much as by your leave, Squire's fears permitted him no longer to rest; anything might be trayed him, so he gathered his effects and led Barney's horse away.

The clouds were gone; from the stars he learned that day was not far, and he carefully choosing his way. But prudence, fear was lessened by every step, and before he had made a furious he halted and sat down, bridle in hand, to await the dawn, his thoughts bitter, lonely, and from dread of a future caused by Barney's desertion; for the younger negro's conduct was now understood—he had for a long time been a booty too dangerous to keep in these parts, with the aid of his might he might run against Freeman's company; and the act that had helped himself and been done to the peril of him he described.

When daylight came, Squire trudged up the mountain side, and as the sun rose looked out east and south and southwest. The region was a great degree familiar. In his young manhood he had seen these woods and fields by night, for slaves wandered far at times betwixt sun and sun; and in the campaigns of Lee and Pope, he had seen the mountains, and had learned a little of the more distant country in regard to the main roads and the villages. The smoke at the southwest where Stuart was now crossing the Hedge-man he knew was in Rappahannock County; and the smoke nearer by, but a little to the left, he thought came from Warrenton, where were many camps. And far eastward the atmosphere was a mingling of dust and smoke, which the negro understood to mean the presence and the movement of a mighty army—which army? Lee's or Meade's? It was far away.

Near the mountain, an air was pure; for 10 miles there was neither dust nor smoke, except thin spots that indicated dwellings; here and there in this quarter the roads were visible—but for very short spaces, the region hilly and wooded. Had it not been for hills and woods a watcher with a glass of indefinite power might have seen from this high a panorama which the Government's agents would have trembled to watch, for on this field the Southern army was moving once more in a hope to interpose between its giant antagonist and his Capital.

Squire knew not what to do, not what he would wait here, if need be, until night. So on this mountain top the slave remained, at each successive moment striving from some distance to strain his vulgarly to this far distance by the assembled powers of North and of South to solve its meaning to himself. Down there was Stuart, and he was coming. Squire saw the smoke of his cannon, but he heard sounds and the smoke mingled with those of the Northern artillery, and he could not divide them. Over at the southeast stood the infantry regiments of Sedgwick and Warren, and Fenton and Johnston—all unseen by the lone spy upon the mountain, while to their north rolled the visible smoke of their camps and the dust of their war-trains, hurrying back to Bull Run; but the dust and the smoke drifted without regard to sectional prejudice, and their political cause was unrevealed.

In the southwest the noise of cannon died away, and Squire still held his post. Yet he thought it prudent to examine the ground near him; he tied his horse, and sought a spot from which he might look near to the west, and now he saw, not half a mile away, a white flag waving from an isolated perch, waving nervously, according to the drift of the wind, the signal for springing upon the foe.

Right—left—left—right—right, left up—zigzag, rapidly and incoherently, lacking utterly the rhythmic precision of the fluttering in spasms of apprehension and warning. And Squire knew that they were signals of warning, but of whom and to whom, and for what, he could not know; he was sure that the flags were waving Federal signals to Federalists to tell that Lee was marching. He went back to his former position, and continued to strain his eyes at the landscape under the blinding sun; and as he gazed he still saw that dust rolling northward and now knew that that Meade was hurrying his long trains in retreat; and he knew that between the mountain and those trains, and in rear of the trains, Meade's divisions were seeking some strong position for battle.

Dusk was falling and they were still on the western edge of the mountains, but

Short Histories of Notable Regiments

By COL. WM. F. FOX.

FIRST NEW JERSEY CAVALRY.

DAVIES'S BRIGADE—D. M. GREGG'S DIVISION—CAVALRY CORPS, A. P.

COMPANIES.	KILLED AND DIED OF WOUNDS.			DIED OF DISEASE, ACCIDENTS, IN PRISON, &c.			Total Enrollment.
	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.	
Field and Staff.....	4	11	15	2	..	2	23
Company A.....	1	20	21	3	35	38	103
B.....	1	22	23	1	16	16	106
C.....	3	27	30	1	19	20	104
D.....	1	26	26	1	17	17	103
E.....	1	27	28	1	19	20	106
F.....	1	20	21	3	12	15	101
G.....	1	10	11	4	7	11	85
H.....	1	5	6	1	4	5	8
I.....	2	8	10	2	20	22	104
K.....	1	4	5	1	7	8	95
M.....	3	8	11	..	14	14	233
Totals.....	12	116	128	4	185	189	2,846

Total of killed and wounded, 457; died in Confederate prisons (previously included), 35.

BATTLES.	R. & M. W.	BATTLES.	R. & M. W.	BATTLES.	R. & M. W.
Picket, Va., Feb. 25, 1862.....	1	Guerrillas, Va., Dec. 17, 1863.....	1	Bellefield Station, Va., Dec. 30, 1864	4
Rappahannock, Va., May 14, 1862.	1	Warrenton, Va., Jan. 15, 1864.....	1	Hatcher's Run, Va., Feb. 6, 1865..	3
Strasburg, Va., June 1, 1862.....	1	Todd's Tavern, Va., May 5, 1864... 21		Picket, Va., March 4, 1865.....	2
Woodstock, Va., June 2, 1862.....	1	Beaver Dam, Va., May 9, 1864... 1		Dinwiddie C. H., March 30, 1865..	1
Harrisonburg, Va., June 6, 1862... 3		Richmond Raid, Va., May—, 1864	2	Chamberlain's Creek, March 31, '65	1
Cedar Mountain, Va., Aug. 9, 1862	2	Hanover Court, Va., May 26, 1864.. 1		Burke's Station, Va., April 4, 1865..	2
Brandy Station, Va., Aug. 20, 1862.	1	Hawes's Shop, Va., May 28, 1864.. 21		Amelia Springs, Va., April 5, 1865..	3
Rappahannock, Va., Aug. 21, 1862.	1	Trevilian Station, June 11, 1864... 2		Sailor's Creek, Va., April 6, 1865..	2
Aldie, Va., Oct. 31, 1862.....	1	Petersburg, Va., July—, 1864..... 2		Farmville, Va., April 7, 1865.....	2
Brandy Station, Va., June 9, 1863.	4	Shenandoah, Va., July—, 1864.... 1		Appomattox, Va., April 9, 1865....	1
Aldie, Va., June 22, 1863.....	1	Malvern Hill, Va., July 28, 1864... 7		Andersonville Prison.....	1
Sulphur Springs, Va., Oct. 12, 1863	8	Deep Bottom, Va., Aug. 14, 1864... 2		Place unknown.....	5
Mountain Run, Va., Nov. 27, 1863.. 10		Vaughn Road, Va., Oct. 1, 1864.... 4			

NOTES.—Of the 272 cavalry regiments in the Union Army, the First New Jersey stands sixth in point of losses in action. It was organized at Trenton, N. J., August 14, 1861, and arrived at Washington the same month, where it remained encamped during the succeeding fall and winter. In February, Colonel Halsted resigned, and was succeeded by Percy Wyndham, an officer of the Italian army who had seen some service in Europe. The regiment took the field early in 1862, entering upon a series of arduous and perilous campaigns which ended only with the war. In addition to the actions above mentioned, the regiment was engaged in a large number of affairs in which it lost men wounded or captured. In 1862 it served in General Bayard's cavalry brigade; at Gettysburg, it was in McIntosh's (1st) Brigade, Gregg's (2d) Division, Cavalry Corps; in 1864 Davies commanded this brigade, in which the regiment remained without further change. Colonel Janeway fell at Amelia Springs; Lieutenant-Colonel Virgil Broderick and Major John H. Shelmore were killed at Brandy Station; Major James H. Hart was killed at Dinwiddie C. H., March 31, 1865.

SEVENTH WEST VIRGINIA INFANTRY.

KIMBALL'S BRIGADE—FRENCH'S DIVISION—SECOND CORPS.

COMPANIES.	KILLED AND DIED OF WOUNDS.			DIED OF DISEASE, ACCIDENTS, IN PRISON, &c.			Total Enrollment.
	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.	
Field and Staff.....	16
Company A.....	1	20	21	3	35	38	103
B.....	1	22	23	1	16	16	106
C.....	3	27	30	1	19	20	104
D.....	1	26	26	1	17	17	103
E.....	1	27	28	1	19	20	106
F.....	1	20	21	3	12	15	101
G.....	1	10	11	4	7	11	85
H.....	1	5	6	1	4	5	8
I.....	2	8	10	2	20	22	104
K.....	1	4	5	1	7	8	95
Totals.....	9	133	142	4	154	158	1,008

142 killed — 14 per cent. Total of killed and wounded, 522; died in Confederate prisons (previously included), 20.

BATTLES.	R. & M. W.	BATTLES.	R. & M. W.
Romney, W. Va.....	2	Po River, Va.....	5
Harrison's Landing, Va.....	1	Spotsylvania, Va.....	7
Antietam, Md.....	48	North Anna, Va.....	2
Friedricksburg, Va.....	6	Totopotomoy, Va.....	1
Chancellorsville, Va.....	6	Cold Harbor, Va.....	15
Gettysburg, Pa.....	13	Petersburg, Va.....	7
Mine Run, Va.....	5	Deep Bottom, Va.....	1
Morton's Ford, Va.....	2	Ream's Station, Va.....	3
Wilderness, Va.....	8	Boydton Road, Va.....	10

Present, also, at Front Royal; Strawberry Plains; Hatcher's Run; Sailor's Creek; Farmville; Appomattox.

NOTES.—At Gettysburg, the Seventh West Virginia, under command of Colonel Jonathan Lockwood, charged and drove back the Seventh Virginia (Confederate), wounding and capturing its Colonel; also, a Lieutenant Lockwood, a nephew of Lieutenant-Colonel Lockwood, who was wounded. Becoming much reduced in numbers, it was consolidated, on September 5, 1863, into four companies, the enrollment given above being the number enrolled up to that time; three new companies were added in March, 1865. As an acknowledgment of the superior qualities of the Battalion, it was furnished, in 1864, with Henry rifles—sixteen shooters. The Seventh was organized in August, 1861, serving in West Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley until May, 1862, when it was assigned to Kimball's Brigade, which joined McClellan's army at Harrison's Landing, just after the battle of Malvern Hill. At Antietam, the regiment lost 29 killed and 116 wounded; no missing. In that battle, Colonel Snider and Lieutenant-Colonel Lockwood had their horses killed under them, and three color bearers were killed. Its casualties at Gettysburg were 5 killed, 41 wounded, and 1 missing. It re-enlisted and returned to Wheeling on its veteran furlough in February, 1864, taking the field again in May, 1864, in Carroll's (3d) Brigade, Gibbon's (2d) Division, Second Corps. Subsequently, this brigade was commanded by General Thomas A. Smyth, and the division by General William Hays. The Seventh was mustered out July 1, 1865, having served with credit to itself and honor to its State.

EDITORIAL NOTE: The above pages are reproduced from Col. Fox's famous book, "Regimental Losses." Other pages, giving short histories of notable regiments, will appear from week to week. It is hoped the appearance of these short histories will stimulate comrades to send in material for the preparation of more complete histories of their respective regiments than have yet appeared.

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