

# Jonathan Delvin's Troth

(Continued from page 9)

when her heart went not with her hand. There were hectic spots in the center of her white cheeks, and she started nervously at every unusual sound from without. The wind moaned dismally, and hurled the frozen rain violently against the window-panes. In the lull of the storm she could hear the crunching of the ice-cakes in the river, and the sound made her shiver, as if her own heart was being ground between the pieces. A wail of the wind louder than usual caused her to call out in fear. To her ears it had seemed a cry from the dark river. With unspeakable agony she had heard from the cruel lips of her fiancé how Jonathan Delvin had been captured, and of his mad plunge into the Charles River; yet, in spite of all, her heart bade her hope. Had he not promised Aunt Dorothy that he would be at the wedding? And to keep that promise she almost believed that Jonathan Delvin would come from his icy grave in the river.

There was a knock at the door. It was a message from her father. The bridegroom had come, the wedding guests were assembled, the minister was present—all were waiting the coming of the bride. Mistress Betty went slowly down the broad stairway and into the large room where the ceremony was to take place. As she entered the room the great clock in the hall began striking the hour of ten. Her eyes went quickly from one face to another, until they had circled the room. He was not there! She felt that she would recognize him in any disguise.

He was dead! Lieutenant Wilton had told the truth!

For an instant her form swayed. Then she straightened up, and walked with stately step to her station by the side of the bridegroom in front of the minister. In the hush that preceded the beginning of the sacred ceremony she heard the cry of the wind without, and the pounding of the rain on the window-panes, and the far-off crunching of the ice-cakes in the stream; and she shivered as though a cold, wet hand had been laid in her own.

At the first words of the minister a chill swept through the room. All felt it, and the flames of the tall candles flared. Then the curtains of a window parted, and the giant form of Jonathan Delvin stepped into the room. The water ran in streams from his clothing. His face was ghastly in its paleness, and there was a look in the glowing eyes before which the men fell back and the women covered their faces and shivered. Straight to the side of Mistress Betty strode the tall figure.

"I have come for my bride." A moment the glowing eyes looked steadfastly into the face of Mistress Betty; and then the great arms caught her up, and bore her swiftly toward the window.

A pistol shot rang out. In the deathly stillness of the room the sound was like a clap of thunder. "My God! it is Jonathan Delvin! Seize him! Kill him! Don't let him escape!" and Lieutenant Wilton, dropping his smoking pistol and drawing his sword, sprang toward the retreating man.

Then women screamed and fainted, and men drew their swords and rushed madly after the fleeing man, who by now was at the window. Again the curtains parted, and a pair of strong arms seized Mistress Betty and vanished with her; and "Big" Jonathan Delvin, a long, naked sword in his right hand, and a double-barreled pistol in his left, swung around and confronted the onrushing men. Two sharp reports, and two of the men reeled and went to the floor; and then the swords of the British officers clashed against the weapon of the best swordsman in the Continental Army.

With a swift sweep of his blade Jonathan turned aside the weapons aimed at him, and with a quick cut and thrust



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sent two of the officers staggering backward, fatally wounded; and then his sword struck against the sword of Lieutenant Wilton.

For the space of a minute their swords clicked and struck fire; and then Jonathan's blade leaped forward, and into the eyes of Lieutenant Wilton there shot a sudden look of mortal fear, and he reeled backward, the blood flowing from a cut in his breast. At that moment a loud whistle from without told Jonathan that he had held the window long enough to give his comrades the needed time to get Mistress Betty without the danger-zone of the house, and he turned and sprang through the window, and vanished into the rain and blackness of the night.

It seemed as if the heavens sought to aid the lovers; for the rain now began to fall in torrents; and when they sprang into the stout boat and pushed out into the waters of the Charles River, the darkness was so intense that, although they could hear the shouts of their pursuers on the banks not ten yards away, yet they were as effectually concealed from their eyes as if a stone wall lay between them, while the sounds of the falling rain and the roar of the wind drowned the noise made by their muffled oars.

After a perilous hour on the river Jonathan Delvin and Mistress Betty reached the American camp in safety, where they were married at once amid great rejoicings. General Washington himself gave the bride away, and made her the happiest little woman in all America by placing in her hands a Captain's commission for her husband, and telling her of the heroic service he had rendered the cause of liberty the night before.

## Senator Hoar's Form

By William J. Lampton

A PARTY of travelers on a sleeper out of Washington were talking about the late Senator Hoar, when Senator McCreary of Kentucky told this story:

"My election to the United States Senate in 1900 was rather peculiar," he said. "Our new Constitution says that the election of United States Senators shall take place on the second Tuesday after the meeting and organization of the legislature, and our legislature meets on the first Tuesday in January. When I was elected on the Tuesday following the meeting of the legislature the question arose as to whether or not it was the second Tuesday. To make my calling and election sure I asked the legislature to elect me again on the succeeding Tuesday, the third Tuesday of the month.

"I had all these facts set forth in my certificate of election, and it was quite a voluminous paper, as senatorial certificates go. In this form it went before the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which Senator Hoar was chairman. Senator Hoar was a particular person, and he insisted that everything be regular. In line with this he had drawn a form of certificate himself which was generally accepted by Senators.

"When my lengthy certificate was presented and all my explanations were being read Senator Hoar began to frown and shake his head in doubt and disapproval.

"How is this? How is this?" holding up a warning hand. 'The committee must inquire into the matter.'

"Some one suggested that the chairman wait until the certificate had been fully heard, and the chairman assented, though with disapproving shakes of the head. At least he disapproved until the last clause was reached.

"This was the chairman's own form word for word, and as he heard it the doubt and disapproval vanished, his kindly old face beamed with satisfaction, and he accepted my certificate in all its details without a word."