Over the Border

A Stirring Story of the English Parliamentary War

By ROBERT BARR

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SYNOPSIS OF OPENING CHAPTERS.

The earl of Strafford prime minister of Charles I. of England, is accosted in the royal park by a girl, who produces a letter showing that she is his daughter by his first wife, whom he married secretly and who he supposed had died without issue. The twin brother is against the king, and will have naught to do with his father. Strafford accepts Frances as his daughter. The king is announced and declares that they must set off for London, where parliament is proving unruly. De Courcy, a scented French fop, favorite of the king, pays the girl extravagant compliments, but she ignores him. The earl, after the others have gone, discloses that his enemies are bent on securing his downfall, and explains to the girl the political situation. She shows a quick intuition that pleases him. Arrived in London, he is arrested and lodged in the Tower. De Courcy renews his court, but is repulsed by Frances, who returns to her home in the north. At last hearing that Strafford is to be tried, she goes to London again and attends the trial incognito. At its close rumors that the king has signed his death warrant lead her to seek the king himself. Arrived at the palace she falls into the clutches of De Courcy, who, while promising to take her to the king, leads her to his own apartments. Here he offers her insult, and, on her threatening him with her father's vengeance, informs her that the earl has been executed. As she turns faint at the news, he seizes her by the wrists. She breaks from him and seizes a rapier from the wall. De Courcy, expert swordsman, disarms her, leaving but the broekn hilt in her hand. With this she slashes him across the face, blinding him so that she escapes his clutches. She tiien makes for her old home in the north.

William Armtrong, sturdy young Scot, riding along the Scottish border, happens on a conference at an inn between the earl of Traquair and his friends, as to how aid may be given to the king in his war with Cromwell and his forces. Armstrong agrees to go on a secret mission to the king at Oxford, thru the country held by the parliamentary troops. He is to get the king's commission for his Scottish subjects in order that they may have belligerent rights. Setting out as a cattle drover, he is almost immediately captured by Roundheads. This falls in with his plans, as he knows that news of his mission has reached Cromwell and he expects to be arrested and taken before the English general.

CHAPTER IX—Continued.

Enprise.

"Who are you?" asked the captain.

"My name is William Armstrong," replied the rider simply. In spite of himself, the stolid face of the leader showed some surprise at this announcement, as if it were unexpected, and as if he knew the name.

"Where are you from?"

"I came across the Border this morning. I am a Scotsman."

"Why are you here?"

"I am a cattle dealer, and as there is little doing in my own country I thought I would just see if business was better on this side of the line. This amusnig lunatic said there was cattle for sale in the valley, and led me hither, for which service I paid him a trifle."

"And so there is, and so there is," cried the lunatic, "but the price was for my advice, not for the leading hither. I must get my pay for that yet. Aye, there's cattle for sale here, and I'm the market man."

"Peace to your folly," said the captain, scowling. Then curtly to the horseman: "Dismount." Armstrong sprang to the ground.

"Your sword," demanded the officer. The weapon was handed to him.

"Do cattle dealers in your country carry arms?"

"To tell you the truth," said the young man with a laugh, "if they did not they would carry little money home with them. I not only carry arms, but know how to use them on occasion."

"I ask to see your papers giving you permission to travel in England."

"I have none. Scotland is at peace with England, and a citizen of my country should not require papers in visiting England, any more than an Englishman would need the same to go from one end of Scotland to the other."

"Humph," growled the captain, "you are well versed in the law. I hope you are engaged in no enterprise that is contrary to it."

"I hope not, captain. If you are king's men you maintain that you are upholding the law. If you are parliamentary, you swear the same thing."

"We swear not at all."

"Then I surmise you are no king's men. But, in any case, until one or other of you have declared war against Scotland, or until Scotland has declared war against either of you, or both, you meddle with free citizens of Scotland at your peril."

"It is perhaps wisest to indulge in no threats."

"I am not indulging in any. I am stating a plain, uncontrovertible fact, that would be held by none so stoutly as by General Cromwell himself."

"Then keep your dissertations on law until you see the general, which is like to happen before we are done with you."

"Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to have a discourse with that distinguished man. He is a fighter after my own heart, and I understand he is equally powerful in controversy."

"Search him."

To this order Armstrong not only made no objection, but assisted in its fulfilment. He took off his doublet and threw it to one of the men who approached him, then held his arms outstretched that another might, with greater ease, conduct his examination. A third paid minute attention to the saddlebags, and a fourth took the saddle itself off the horse. The search brought to light some papers that conveyed excellent information regarding steers and cows, but nothing about politics.

The officer had utilized the interval in writing a brief dispatch, which he now handed to a young horseman. "Ride hard and give that to General Cromwell as soon as you can. In case you should lose it, tell him we have got our man, who crossed the border this morning. Say we are bringing him to Corbiton Manor, as directed, and expect to reach there before dusk."

The youth, without reply to our salute, pocketed the paper, shook out the reins and was off like the wind. Armstrong watching the pair with a glow of admiration in his eyes. Altho unused to the life of a camp, he was much struck by the absence of any attempt at secrecy in the proceedings. There was no effort to bewilder the prisoner, or make a mystery of the affair. That his advent had been expected was perfectly clear, and that a written description of his person had been distributed along the border was equally evident. They had been watching for him, and now they had him. There was no military fuss about the matter, and apparently very little discipline, yet instant and unquestioned obedience, without accompaniment of formal deference to authority or the genuflexions of salute to superiors. But underneath it all was a hint of power and efficiency. Armstrong realized that he was in the clutch of an admirably constructed human machine that knew what it wanted and went straight for it. No one had spoken except the captain, yet every man was on the alert to do what was required of him instantly, capably and in silence.

At a word from the captain a bugle call rang out, and its effect was soon apparent. An accoutred horse was led to the captain, who sprang into his place with the ease of one accustomed to the feat, and from the buildings appeared something like a score of mounted troopers.

"Get into your saddle," commanded the captain, addressing Armstrong. The latter tested the buckling, which a soldier had just finished, drew up the strap a point, then with his foot in the stirrup, turned and asked:

"Am I to consider myself a prisoner, sir?"

"Whatever questions you wish to put will be answered presently by one higher in authority than I."

"I must protest against this detention, sir."

"Your protest will doubtless be considered by the officer I referred to."

"General Cromwell, I surmise?"

"Or one delegated by him. Mount, we have far to go."

Armstrong leaped into the saddle, and the troop set off, with the captain at the head, and himself in the midst of it. There was no chance of escape, even if he meditated such an attempt which apparently he did not. The direction tended south and east, and as the sun was setting they came to Corbiton Manor, a large country house, which was seemingly the headquarters of a considerable section of the army encamped in the neighborhood. Into a room of this mansion Armstrong was conducted, and left under guard, and he was pleased to see by the spread table that there was at least no design on the part of his captors to starve him.

CHAPTER X.

Gripped.

The owner of the mansion of Corbitou had been Sir Richard Corbitou, one of the first to fall under the pikes of Cromwell's men. Now it was heavily garrisoned by the Roundheads, as Armstrong surmised from the sounds of singing that rang out thru the night. But suddenly the noise ceased. For a sentinel had pounded on the door with the butt of his pike, crying:

"Peace within there; the general is coming."

From the darkness emerged three horsemen, two following a leader a thickset man, who came somewhat stiffly to the ground as if fatigued with hard riding. To the man who sprang to the bridle he said curtly, "See the horse well rubbed down and in half an hour feed him with corn." Then to his two followers, "Look to your horses first and to yourselves afterward. Be ready in an hour."

The chief officer now stepped forward.

"You will surely stop the night, excellency. Everything is prepared."

"No. Did my order to stay the execution of Wentworth reach you in time?"

"Yes, excellency. I would not have ventured to execute him without your sanction, altho the death sentence was the unanimous finding of the court-martial."

"The sentence was just. It may yet be carried out, or it may prove that the Lord has other use for him. Lead the way within."

General Cromwell gave no greeting to the different groups as he passed them, his heavy riding boots swish-swashing against each other as he followed Colonel Porlock into the hall. He strode awkwardly like a man more accustomed to a horse's back than a tiled floor. The colonel led him into the great dining-room, one end of which was occupied by the shattered window, while the other was crossed by a gallery.

The vast room was almost completely bare of furniture, with the exception of a high-backed carved chair, which doubtless belonged to it, and a stout oaken table taken from some other part of the house, replacing the long, hospitable board that had witnessed many a festive gathering, but which had been used for firewood by the troopers. The general gazed about the ample apartment for a moment, as one who had never seen it before, estimating his bearings with the shrewd eye of a practiced soldier, then he pushed the table until it stood lengthwise with the room, instead of across, as before, glanced at the gallery and table, as if making some computation regarding their relative positions, drew up the chair and seated himself, setting the two candles by the edge furthest from him.

"Has Captain Bond arrived with his prisoner?"

"Yes, excellency, he came at sunset."

"Is he sure of his man?"

"He appears to be so, sir."

"Were any papers found on him?"

"Yes, excellency."

"The other prisoner, Wentworth, is little more than a youth, I am told?"

"He is very young, excellency."

"How came he to be set on an important outward post that night?"

"There was no danger of attack, and I placed him there of deliberate purpose. He was most reluctant to go, making one excuse and then another, saying he was ill, and what not. For more than a month he has been under suspicion of communicating with malignants, altho we had no direct proof. He had been seen stealing away from the domain of Lord Rudby, the chief of the disaffected in this district. On the night in question he was watched, and as soon as he supposed himself alone, he deserted his post, put spurs to his horse and rode straight across country to Rudby hall."

"And was arrested there?"

"No, excellency. An unlooked-for event happened. He rode out from the grounds of the hall, fighting his way, as it appeared, against a band of Rudby's followers, who were attacking him, and ran into the arms of our men, who were watching for him. The attacking party, seeing, as they supposed, an unknown force of rescuers, turned and fled. The night was very dark, and the account of what took place is confused, but Wentworth was carried back to Corbiton, tried and condemned for deserting while on duty, and holding commerce with the enemy."

"Umph. What version did Wentworth give of the affair?"

"He maintained he was no traitor, but did not give any explanation of his absence from duty."

"I thought Rudby had surrendered all arms and had taken the oath to remain neuter?"

"His men were armed with staves only, and so Wentworth, better equipped, held his own against them."

"What view did the court take of this affray?"

"They thought it merely a feint to cover the retreat of a discovered traitor. The night, as I said, was dark, and our men, being mounted, could not move silently. Knowing the house would be searched if Wentworth was hidden, this plan of seeming enmity against him who was prepared beforehand, in case of discovery."

"How old a man is Rudby?"

"Nearly 50."

"What family has he?"

"His two sons are supposed to be with the king at Oxford. There is no daughter at Rudby Hall."

"Humph! Is this the young man who is said to be a son of the late scoundrel, Strafford?"

"Yes, Excellency."

"In that very blood is hatred of the people, contumely and all arrogance. At heart he must be a royalist. And yet—and yet—where was he brought up?"

"On the estate of Sir John Warburton, dead these some years back. Warburton was his grandfather."

"Where is the Warburton estate?"

"It adjoins the lands of Rudby."

"A—h. Is the boy's mother living?"

"No. His only relative is a sister who seems to be the most bitter king hater in all the land."

"Is there not a chance the boy was on his way to see his sister?"

"It was thought not. She has been at liberty to visit him here, and has done so on various occasions."

"Has Wentworth ever been in action?"

"Oh, yes, Excellency, and he acquitted himself bravely enough."

"No hanging back, no wavering in the face of the foe?"

"No, Excellency."

"Humph. Send Captain Bent to me with the papers. When he is gone I wish you to bring me a trooper, some silent man who can be depended upon, an unerring marksman."

When Captain Bent arrived he handed to the general the papers he had taken from Armstrong. Cromwell examined them with great minuteness in the light of the candles, then set them in a bunch on the table, without comment of any kind.

To be Continued.

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to cure even the worst and most deep-seated cases where doctors, patent medicines and hot springs fail. Heals all sores, stops all aches and pains, reduces all swellings, makes blood pure and rich, completely changing the entire body into a clean, healthy condition. B. B. B. has cured thousands of cases of Blood Poison even after reaching the last stages.

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are caused by an awful poisoned condition of the Blood. B. B. B. stops Hawking and Spitting, Itching and Scratching Aches and Pains, cures Rheumatism, Catarrh; heals all Scabs Scales, Eruptions, Watery Blisters, foul festering sores of Eczema, by giving a pure, healthy blood supply to affected parts.

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Botanic Blood Balm (B.B.B.) is Pleasant and safe to take. Thoroughly tested for 30 years. Composed of Pure Botanic ingredients. Strengthens weak kidneys and weak stomachs, cures dyspepsia. Complete directions go with each bottle.

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"Pe-ru-na Afforded Immediate Relief"
Writes
COUNTY AUDITOR MINOR.

Hon. C. J. Minor

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.

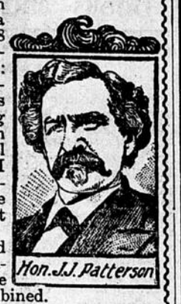
Pe-ru-na Endorsed as a Cure for Catarrh by Prominent Men.

Hon. C. J. Minor, County Auditor, for Hennepin Co., in a letter from Minneapolis, Minn., says:

"I am pleased to say that Peruna is the best remedy I have ever tried for catarrh. It afforded me immediate relief and I shall always be a friend of your famous remedy."—C. J. Minor.

A U. S. Senator's Letter.

Hon. John J. Patterson, Ex-United States Senator from Pennsylvania, in a letter from 37-8 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa., writes:



Hon. J. J. Patterson

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Peruna has cured more cases of catarrh than all the other remedies combined.

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The day was when men of prominence hesitated to give their testimonials to proprietary medicines for publication. This remains true today of most proprietary medicines. But Peruna has become so justly famous, its merits are known to so many people of high and low station, that no one hesitates to see his name in print recommending Peruna.

The highest men in our nation have given Peruna a strong endorsement. Men of all classes and stations are equally represented.

They have no hesitation in lending their influence to assist in letting the people know of the virtues of Peruna.

TOLD IN A LINE

Frankfort, Ky.—There were seven fist fights in Frankfort yesterday and not a pistol was used.

Chicago—Plans for consolidating he surface street car lines here have reached an advanced stage.

Charleston, W. Va.—The operators and miners in the New River coal fields have settled their differences after an eighteen months' strike.

San Francisco—H. C. Fraser, who practically established the system of air brakes on the Pacific coast, is dead. He was a prominent Mason.

Niagara Falls, N. Y.—Warrants have been issued for the arrest of twenty New York Central railroad clerks in connection wih the robbing of freight cars.

Chicago—From loss of blood caused by the mangling of a finger and thumb by a firecracker, yesterday afternoon, William Ballard, 16 years old, died last evening.

Elgin, Ill.—James Ford, of Marengo, Ill., shot and killed Mrs. Louise E. Harding and then committed suicide by shooting himself thru the head. Both were colored.

Sparta, Tenn.—Four persons were drowned by the capsizing of a skiff. They were John Ramsey, aged 65; his 9-year-old grand daughter, and two other children, aged 7.

New York—Seventeen representatives of the Paulist order from various states have assembled here for the annual conference called for by the rules adopted five years ago.

Biddeford, Me.—A small steamer was wrecked at Biddeford Point early to-day. The crew of seven men, including the officers, was saved. The steamer is a total loss.

Jefferson City, Mo.—J. M. Shepperd, editor of the Standard-Herald, of Warrensburg, was fined $300 here yesterday because of his criticism of the supreme court in the Oglesby case.

New York—Frederick W. Holls, secretary of the American delegation to The Hague peace conference, and more recently member of the international court, died suddenly to-day at his home at Yonkers.

Harrisburg, Ill.—Orton Carter slipped up behind Will Rhine and struck him over the head with a fence rail, inflicting injuries from which he will die. The difficulty arose over a quarrel Rhine had had a few days before with Carter's mother.

Best Fishing is on the Omaha.

Low excursion rates any day with still lower fishing rates every Friday and Saturday to north Wisconsin points via North-Western Line. City Office, 600 Nicollet. Either phone 240.

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The most durable, economical and practical fire-proof roofing made. W. S. Nott Company. Both 'phones, 376.

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On Aug. 1 to 14 the M. & St. L. will sell round trip excursion tickets to San Francisco or Los Angeles, Cal., at the extremely low rate of $50; tickets limited for return to Oct. 15, 1903, and good going one route and returning another, with stop-overs in both directions.

The Minneapolis & St. Louis railway has been appointed the official route from Minnesota, and a special train will leave their depot at Washington and Fourth avenues N, on Aug. 10th, carrying Pullman sleepers and chair cars through to the coast without change.

For full particulars call on E. W. Mortimer, C. P. A, or W. L. Hathaway, C. T. A., No. 1 Washington avenue S, Minneapolis.

Their gentle action and good effect on the system really make them a perfect little pill. They please those who use them. Carter's Little Liver Pills may well be termed "Perfection."

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Hyomei Destroys Germs of the Disease and Keeps People Well.

There can be little or no doubt as to hay fever being a germ disease. It is, too, one disease where prevention is much easier than cure.

All who are subject to this disagreeable trouble should use Hyomei daily for at least two weeks before the time of their annual attack. In this way the annoying paroxysms of sneezing, running at the nose and watery and smarting eyes can be avoided.

This remarkable discovery makes it possible for any one to breathe air at home which is almost identical with that of the Adirondacks or White mountains or other resorts where hay fever sufferers go to escape their trouble.

If, however, Hyomei has not been used until the disease has begun, it is necessary to use it more frequently, at least half a dozen times daily, and Hyomei Balm should be rubbed into the nostrils both morning and night. This treatment will relieve at once and will effect a cure in nearly every case.

Voegeli Bros. Drug company has a complete line of the Hyomei goods and will sell an outfit of inhaler, Hyomei and medicine dropper for $1, and will also agree to refund the money if the treatment does not give satisfaction.

Do not try to cure hay fever by dosing the stomach. Breathe Hyomei and in that way the medication will reach the minutest air cells in the nose, throat and lungs, soothe and heal the irritated mucous membrane, and prevent and cure all hay fever troubles.

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Every mother feels a great dread of the pain and danger attendant upon the most critical period of her life. Becoming a mother should be a source of joy to all, but the suffering and danger incident to the ordeal makes its anticipation one of misery. **Mother's Friend** is the only remedy which relieves women of the great pain and danger of maternity; this hour which is dreaded as woman's severest trial is not only made painless, but all the danger is avoided by its use. Those who use this remedy are no longer despondent or gloomy; nervousness, nausea and other distressing conditions are overcome, the system is made ready for the coming event, and the serious accidents so common to the critical hour are obviated by the use of **Mother's Friend.** "It is worth its weight in gold," says many who have used it. $1.00 per bottle at drug stores. Book containing valuable information of interest to all women, will be sent to any address free upon application to BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., Atlanta, Ga.

Mother's Friend

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COME BEFORE 1 O'CLOCK FRIDAY.

These prices are for Friday forenoon only. The prices are so low we should do a full day's business during the four and one-half hours' selling time.

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10c New Wrapper cloths and waistings, just received, handsome styles, dark and light effects, worth 12½c.

9c Printed dimities, figured dotted swiss, and printed batiste, our entire collection for 4½ hours' selling, worth to 18c.

7½c 50 pieces of Barnesley heavy pure linen crash toweling, ought to sell it all in 4½ hours, worth 12c.

49c 64 inch table damask, extra heavy, cream, all linen, guarantee perfectly satisfactory wear, worth 70c. HURRY! There isn't much of it.

10c Bleached bath towels ready for use. Better come early for these. It is a great chance.

Dress Goods

50c Black Camel's Hair Canvas, 42 in. wide, stylish, and a splendid wearing cloth, our regular 75c quality. Special Friday, **50c** a yard.

Dress Trimmings

1-2 Price Remnants of Dress Trimmings, black and cream appliques, cream and black braids, Persian bands, all fancy trimmings. These remnants are in 1½ to 3-yd. lengths, and are marked **1-2 Price.**

Corsets

47c Girdles, made of fine batiste, lace trimmed, 10-in. clasp, colors pink and blue, worth 69c, special, **47c.**

Bathing Suits, Waists

$2.89 Ladies' Bathing Suits, in fine quality brilliantine, large sailor collar, short sleeves, trimmed with five rows of narrow mohair braid, blue and black, special, Friday forenoon, **$2.89.**

89c We will sell about seven dozen white lawn Waists, handsomely trimmed with fine embroidery, full pouch sleeves, and fancy stock to match, regular $1.50 waists, special, Friday, **89c.**

Silks

$1.29 36-in. Black Wash Taffeta, guaranteed to wear and to wash, splendid deep black, regular price $1.50. Special for Friday morning, **$1.29** per yard.

Men's Furnishings

50c Men's Negligee Shirts—A line of our one dollar shirts, in small, neat effects, stripes or solid colors, cuffs attached or separate. Special Friday morning at **50c** each.

63c Men's Underwear—Fine lisle thread, Jersey ribbed shirts and drawers, value $1.50 per suit. Special **63c** per garment.

Umbrellas

87c Women's and Men's Umbrellas of fast black silk serge, made on best paragon frame with steel rod, case and tassel, selected natural and fine novelty handles, worth $1.50 each. Special, each, **87c.**

Gloves

47c Ladies' Gloves, lisle, worth to 75c, Friday for **47c.**

Perfumes

25c Our best imported French Perfumes, in the best odors, put up one ounce in fancy bottles, each bottle in box, sold at 50c per bottle. Special, per bottle, **25c.**

Jewelry

19c Shirt waist sets of fine hard enamel, pretty designs in blue, red, green and black, three pins to each set, sold to 35c per set, Special, per set **19c.**

19c Belt pins and brooch pins of sterling silver, gilt, Royal copper, hard enamel, pearl, etc., big variety of styles, sold up to 50c each, Special, **19c** each.

Leather Goods

25c Wrist Bags of walrus and suede leather, in black and gray, frames and chains of gilt and nickel, sold at 50c each. Special each, **25c.**

Ribbons

32c Velvet ribbons, with satin back, in black and the good colors, the popular narrow width, always sold at 45c per piece. Special, per piece, **32c.**

Housefurnishings

90c Fruit Jars—The celebrated Globe Glass Caps, the best fruit jar in the world, 1-pint size only, per doz **90c.**

2c Plain Tumblers for home use, or for jelly, regular 40c per doz., special, each, **2c.**

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