

Our Saturday Short Story

Asabri

BY GOUVERNEUR MORRIS
Illustration from a post from life by Pauline Frederick, star of "Joseph and His Brethren," and by Earle Williams and William Shea.

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Asabri, head of the great banking house of Asabri Brothers in Rome, had been a great sportsman in his youth. But by middle-age he had grown a little tired, you may say; so he looked now with favor upon automobiles, moter-boats, and saddle-horses.

Almost every afternoon he rode alone in the Campagna, covering great distances on his stanch Irish mare, Biddy. She was the handsomest horse in Rome; her master was the handsomest man. He looked like some old Roman consul going out to govern and civilize.

One day as he rode out of Rome he saw that fog was gathering; and he resolved, for there was an exhaustible well of boyishness within him, to get lost in it. He had no engagement for that night; his family had already left Rome for their villa on Lake Como. Nobody would worry about him except Luigi, his valet.

"Biddy," he said after a time, in English, "this is no common Roman mist; it's a genuine fog that has been sucked up from the salt sea. You can smell salt and fish. We shall be lost, possibly for a long time. There will be no hot mash for you tonight. You will eat what goats eat and be very grateful."

He had not counted on two things. At dinner time he was hungry; at supper time he was ravenous. And he no longer thought of losing himself on purpose, but made all the efforts in his power to get back to Rome.

There was a glimmering point of light off to the left, and he urged Biddy toward it. He saw presently that it was a fire built against a ruined and unfamiliar tomb.

The fire was cooking something in a kettle. There was a smell of garlic. Three young men sat cross-legged, watching the fire and the kettle. Against the tomb leaned three long guns, very old and dangerous.

"Brigands!" smiled Asabri, and he hailed them: "Ho there! Wake up! I am a squadron of police attacking you from the rear."

He rode unarmed into their midst and slid unconcernedly from his saddle to the ground.

"Put up your weapons, brothers," he said; "I was joking. It seems that I am in danger, not you." The young men, upon whom "brigand" was written in no uncertain signs, were very much embarrassed.

"May I sit with you?" Asabri asked. "Thanks." He sat in silence for a moment; and the three young men examined with great respect the man's splendid round head, and his face of a Roman emperor.

"Whose tomb is this?" he asked them. "It is ours," said the one who had first smiled. "It used to hallow the remains of Attulius Climber."

"Oho!" said Asabri. "Attulius Climber, a direct ancestor of my friend and associate Sullandenti. And tell me how far is it to Rome?"

"A long way. You could not find the half of it tonight."

"Brothers," said Asabri, "has business been good? I ask for a reason."

"The reason, sir?" "Why," said he, "I thought, if I should not be considered grasping, to ask you for a mouthful of soup."

Confusion seized the brigands. They called upon God to smite them down for inhospitable ne'er-do-wells. They plied him with soup, with black bread; they roasted strips of goat's flesh for him; and from the hollow of the tomb they fetched bottles of red wine in straw jackets.

Presently Asabri sighed, and offered them cigarettes from a gold case.

"For what I have received," said he, "may a courteous and thoughtful God make me truly thankful. I wish that I could offer you, in return for your hospitality, something more substantial than cigarettes. The case? If it were any case but that one! A present from my wife."

He drew from his pocket a gold repeater upon which his initials were traced in brilliants.

"Midnight. Listen."

He pressed a spring, and the exquisite chimes of the watch spoke in the stillness like the bells of a fairy church.

"And this," he said, "was a present from my mother, who is dead."

The three brigands crossed themselves, and expressed the regrets which good-breeding required of them. The one that had been the last to help himself to a cigarette now returned the case to Asabri, with a bow and a mumbling of thanks.

"What a jolly life you lead," exclaimed the banker. "Tell me, you have had some hauls lately? What?"

The oldest of the three, a dark taciturn youth, answered, "The gentleman is a great joker."

"Believe me," said Asabri, "it is from habit—not from the heart. When I rode out from Rome today, it was with the intention never to return. When I came upon you and saw your long guns and suspected your profession in life, I said: 'Good! Perhaps these young men will murder me for my watch and cigarette case and the loose silver in my breeches

pocket, and save me a world of trouble—'"

The three brigands protested that nothing had ever been farther from their thoughts. "Instead of which," he went on, "you have fed me and put heart in me. I shall return to Rome in the morning and face whatever music my own infatuated foolishness has set going. Do you understand anything of 'stocks and bonds.'"

The brigands admitted that they knew nothing of these things. Asabri sighed.

"Two months ago," he said, "I was a rich man. Today I have nothing. In a few days it will be known that I have nothing; and then, my friends—the deluge. Such is finance.

"And yet the converse may be true. I have seen great endings come of small beginnings. Even now there is a chance for a man with a little capital."

He raised his eyes and hands to heaven.

"Oh," he cried, "if I could touch even five thousand lire I could retrieve my own fortunes and make the fortunes of whosoever advanced me the money."

The sullen brigand had been doing a sum on his fingers.

"How so, excellency?" he asked.

"Oh," said Asabri, "it is very simple! I should buy certain stocks, which owing to certain conditions are very cheap, and I should sell them very dear. You have heard of America?"

They smiled and nodded eagerly.

"Of Wall Street?" They looked blank.

"Recent geographers," said Asabri, "have discovered that the center of the universe is in the United States, in the city of New York, in Wall Street. The number in the street, to be precise, is fifty-nine. From fifty-nine Wall Street, the word goes out to the extremities of the world: 'Let prices be low.' Or: 'Let them be high.' And so they become, according to the word. But unless I can find five thousand lire with which to take advantage of this fact, why tomorrow—"

"Two months ago I was perhaps the most envied man in Italy. Tomorrow I shall be laughed at."

"But if five thousand lire could be found?"

It was the sullen brigand who spoke, and his companions eyed him with misgiving.

"In that case," said Asabri, "I should rehabilitate my fortune and that of the man, or men, who came to my assistance."

"Suppose," said the sullen one, "that I were in a position to offer you the loan of five thousand lire, or four thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, to be exact, what surety should I receive that my fortune and those of my associates would be mended thereby?"

"My word," said Asabri simply, and he turned and looked the sullen brigand directly in the eye.

"Words," said this one, although his eyes fell before the steadiness of the banker's, "are of all kinds

and conditions, according to whoso gives them."

Asabri smiled, and sure of his notoriety: "I am Asabri," said he.

"Beppo," said the sullen brigand, "whatever the state of his fortunes, the word of Asabri is sufficient. Go into the tomb and fetch out the money."

The money—silver, copper, and notes of small denominations—was in a dirty leather bag.

"One thing! Before I touch this money, is there blood on it?"



Posed by Pauline Frederick, and by Earle Williams and William Shea, of the Vitagraph Company.

Without embarrassment the young brigand and his sweetheart folded their arms closely about each other and kissed each other, once, slowly, with infinite tenderness."

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SUNDAY SERVICES AT ALL THE TACOMA CHURCHES

BAPTIST
Bethesda, cor. So. 45th and K sts., H. P. Cheney, pastor, 9:45 a. m.; Bible school, S. G. Bishop, supt., 11:30 a. m.; morning service, 11:45 a. m.; Junior B. Y. P. U., 6:45 p. m.; Senior B. Y. P. U., leader, H. P. Cheney, 7:45 p. m.; preaching; Tuesday, 8 p. m., choir practice; Thursday, 7:45 p. m., prayer meeting, followed by S. S. teacher training class.

Finland, So. Sheridan and 23d. A. J. Stormans, pastor, 8 a. m.; 9:45 a. m.; 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.; Y. P. U., 6:30 p. m.; Thursday, prayer meeting, 8 p. m.

First Baptist, 5th and D sts., a downtown church, J. A. Sutton, pastor, 10:30 a. m. and 7:45 p. m.; S. S. at 12 o'clock; E. Y. P. U., 6:45 p. m.; special song services, Mrs. W. S. Corwin will sing.

Central, No. L and Steels, Rev. N. H. Brooks, pastor, Bible school at 10 a. m.; preaching at 11 a. m.; prayer, Thursday, 7:45 p. m.

Sixth Avenue, Rev. Frederick Wightman, pastor, Morning worship 10:30; Bible school at noon; Young People's meeting at 6:45; service at 7:45 p. m.; midweek prayer meeting Thursday, 7:45 p. m.

German Baptist church, South 20th and J sts., Rev. A. A. Blandau, worship, 11 a. m.; evening worship, 7 p. m.; Wednesday evening prayer meeting, 7 o'clock.

Norwegian Danish Baptist church, corner So. 18th and K sts., Rev. O. Engst, pastor, 8 a. m.; sermon, 11 a. m.; Young People's meeting, 7 p. m.; Bible study Monday at 8 p. m.; weekly prayer meeting Thursday, 8 p. m.

CHRISTIAN
Central Christian church, No. L and Steels sts., Rev. J. S. Raun, pastor, Bible school, 10 a. m.; communion service and preaching, 11 a. m.; song service and sermon, 8 p. m.

South Tacoma Christian, 3519 So. Junete, Bible school, 9:45 a. m.; preaching, 11 a. m.; Junior C. E., 3 p. m.; Senior C. E., 6:30 p. m.; evangelistic service at 7:30 p. m.

First, 6th av and K. W. A. Moore, pastor, Prayer service, 9:45 a. m.; morning service, 11 a. m.; Christian Endeavor, 6:30; evening service, 7:30.

Roosevelt Heights, East 29th and V. Bible school at 10:30 a. m.; communion at 12:30 a. m.; C. E. at 6:30 p. m.; preaching at 7:30 p. m.

McKinley Park, East 21st and Spokane, Bible school at 10 a. m.; communion at 11 a. m.; C. E., 6:30 p. m.; preaching, 7:30 p. m.

Lincoln Park Christian church, 18th and O sts., Rev. G. C. Engstrom, minister, Bible school at 10 a. m.; communion and preaching services at 11; Christian Endeavor prayer

meet at 6:30 p. m.; special service at 7:30.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
First congregational church, Division av. and J sts., Rev. E. T. Ford, pastor, Services, 10:30 a. m. Bible school, 12:30 p. m.

East 26th and D sts., Rev. A. D. Shaw, pastor, Sunday school, 10 a. m.; morning worship and sermon, 11; evening worship and sermon, 7:30; Thursday, 8 p. m., Bible study and prayer.

Labor Day services.

Pilgrim, No. 14th and Warner, Rev. Edgar C. Wheeler, pastor, Morning, 10:30 a. m.; Sunday school, 11:40 a. m. Mr. J. S. Ellsworth will preach.

EPISCOPAL
St. Luke's Memorial church, So. C and 4th av., Rev. F. W. Keaton, bishop, Rev. F. T. Webb, vicar, Services, 7:30 and 11 a. m.

St. Andrews church, No. 6th and Oakes sts., Rev. Frederick Webb, rector, Evenings service, 8 p. m.

The Church of Holy Communion, cor. So. 14th and I st., Rev. Robt. H. McCall, pastor, Early service, 7:30 a. m.; S. S. and Bible service, 9:45 a. m.; morning prayer, 11 a. m.; evening prayer, 7:30 p. m.

Trinity, No. 3d and K sts., Rev. Charles Grimshaw, celebrant, Services, 7:30 a. m.; S. S., 9:45 a. m.; Bible class, 10:30 a. m.; Matins, 11 a. m.

St. John's, So. 58th and Puget Sound, Rev. Robert H. McClintock, rector, S. S., 10 a. m.; services, 8, 9, 11 p. m.

EVANGELICAL
First Evangelical church, So. 18th and K sts., T. R. Hornschuch, pastor, 8 a. m., 10 a. m., sermon, 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.; Y. P. U., 6:30 p. m.; prayer meeting and Bible study, Thurs. 7 to 8 a. m.

Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran church, So. 17th and J sts., Rev. G. J. Ordal, pastor, Services in Norwegian, 11 a. m.; in English, 8 p. m.

Evangelical Lutheran (German), 21st and O sts., Emil Lehmann, pastor, Services at 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m.; S. S., 9:15-10:15 a. m.; Y. P. U., 7 p. m.

Adams St. Ev. church, No. Adams and 22d st., N. Shupp, pastor, Preaching service at 11 a. m.; evangelistic services at 8 p. m.; S. S., 10 a. m.; Young People's meeting at 7 p. m.

The Swedish church, 1212 So. 14th, Frank Abrahamson, pastor, Sunday school, 10 a. m.; services, 11 a. m.; S. S., 9:15-10:15 a. m.; Young People's meeting, 6:45 p. m.; Thursday evening prayer meeting at 8 p. m.

Ellis Free, So. Aina, and 17th, Rev. C. B. Brage, pastor, Norwegian services, 10:45 a. m., 7:30 p. m. Sermon by pastor at 5 p. m.

FREE METHODIST
First Free Methodist church, 1311 So. J st., C. M. DeFoe, pastor, S. S., 8 a. m., preaching, 11, followed by class meeting; Tuesday eve., prayer meeting held at 40th and Ea. M st., McKinley Park; prayer meeting Thursday at First church.

McKinley Park Free M. E., 36th and Howe sts., C. M. DeFoe, pastor, S. S., 8 p. m., followed by preaching. Prayer meeting Tuesday, 7:30 p. m.

LUTHERAN
Norwegian Lutheran Free church, So. 14th and K sts., Rev. D. Tolletson, pastor, Services 11:00 a. m.; Y. P. meeting, 6 p. m.; services, 8 p. m.

Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran church, corner of J and 17th sts., Rev. G. J. Ordal, pastor, Residence 912 So. 17th st. Divine services in the English language 11 a. m. and in the Norwegian language 8 p. m.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church, So. 27th and Tacoma av., Rev. R. Ave Lallemand, pastor, S. S., 9:30 a. m.; services, 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.; confessional, 10 a. m.; Holy communion, 11:30 a. m.

St. Paul's Danish Lutheran church, 1219 So. L st. Services at 11 a. m.; no evening services. Rev. C. J. Skorgaard, pastor.

St. John's, So. 5th and I, Rev. C. A. Steiner, pastor, Sunday school, 9:45 a. m.; services at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m.

German, So. 21st, Services in English at 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m.; S. S., 9:15-10:15 a. m.; Y. P. U., 6:30 p. m.

Ger. Lutheran, So. Tacoma, (Swedish Lutheran church, corner 49th and Birmingham av.) every alternate Sunday at 3:30 p. m. Pastor, Frank G. Graebner.

United Norwegian, So. 12th and I, S. S., 9:30 a. m.; services, 10:30 a. m. and 7:45 p. m.; J. O. Haugen, pastor.

First Swedish Lutheran, corner So. I and 5th st., S. S. at 9:30 a. m.; services at 11 a. m. and at 8 p. m.

Trinity, 1207 So. I, Rev. L. M. Peterson, pastor, S. S., 9:30 a. m.; services, 10:30 a. m.; S. S., 8 p. m.; S. S., 8 p. m.

Danish Lutheran, St. Paul, 1314 So. L, L. C. Skovgaard, pastor, S. S., 10 a. m.; service 11 a. m.; 4:30 p. m. and Young People's, Wednesday, 8 p. m.

First Norwegian, 53d and So. Warner, A. O. Bjork, S. S., 10 a. m.; second and fourth Sundays in Lent services at 11 a. m.; first and third Sundays, services at 8 p. m.

German Zion Evangelical Lutheran, Missouri synod, So. 16th and L sts., Rev. J. Hochhausen, pastor, S. S., 9:30 a. m.; service at 10:30 a. m.

METHODIST
First Methodist church, So. 8th and O sts., Thomas W. Lane, pastor, Class meeting, 9:30 a. m.; morning worship, 10:30 a. m.; S. S., 12 m.; Junior League, 4:00 p. m.; evening worship, 8:30 p. m.

Joint meeting of church and league, 8:30 p. m.

Fowler Methodist church, E. L. Moore, pastor, S. S., 10:00 a. m.; morning service, 11 a. m.; Fourth quarterly conference Thursday.

McKinley Park church, East 20th at G st., F. L. Moore, pastor, S. S., 8:45 a. m.; Epworth League, 7 p. m.; evening worship, 8:00.

St. Paul's, So. 43d and L sts., Waldo B. Marsh, pastor, S. S., 8:45 a. m.; Epworth League, 6:30 p. m.; prayer meeting, Thurs. 8 p. m.; preaching, 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Swedish Methodist church, cor. J and So. 11th sts., Rev. A. G. Book, pastor, S. S. at 9:45 a. m.; morning service, 10:45 a. m.; Epworth League, 7 p. m.; evening service, 7:45 p. m.

Central, So. 21st and I st., T. A. Graham, pastor, S. S., 10 a. m.; public worship, 11 a. m.; Epworth League, 6:30; public worship, 7:30.

Mason, 22th and No. Madison sts., Rev. E. L. Benedict, pastor, Bible school, 9:30 a. m.; sermon, 11 a. m.; preaching, 7:15 p. m.; Epworth League, 8:15.

Epworth, cor. So. 7th and Anderson, W. T. Randolph, pastor, Bible school at 9:30; sermon at 11 a. m. and 3 p. m. by the pastor; Epworth League, 6:45 p. m.; prayer meeting, 8 p. m.

Bethany, So. 58th and Thompson, S. S., 10 a. m.; preaching, 11 a. m.; Epworth League, 6:30; preaching, 7:30 p. m.; prayer service, Thurs. 7:45 p. m.; Rev. Francis A. Foker, pastor.

Spansway M. E., Frederick C. Thompson, pastor, S. S., 10 a. m.; morning worship, 11.

Park M. E., W. H. W. Reed, pastor, S. S., 10 a. m.; preaching, 11 a. m.; Epworth League, 6:30; preaching, 7:30 p. m.; Thursday afternoon meeting, 8 p. m.

Allen M. E., 1211 So. Yakima, Rev. M. Collins, pastor, Preaching at 11 a. m. and 3 p. m.; class meeting, 12:15 p. m.; S. S., 10 a. m.; Epworth League, 7 p. m.; prayer meeting, Wednesday evening.

Norwegian and Danish Methodist church, corner of 15th and J sts., E. P. Nelson, pastor, Services at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m.; S. S., 9:30 a. m.; Epworth League, 7 p. m.

Mission Park, cor. 15th and G sts., Rev. J. W. McCallum, pastor, Services at 10 a. m. and 8 p. m.; S. S., 9:30 a. m.; Bible school, 11:30 a. m.; prayer meeting, Thurs. 8 p. m.; J. W. McCallum, pastor.

Mission Park, cor. 15th and G sts., Rev. J. W. McCallum, pastor, Services at 10 a. m. and 8 p. m.; S. S., 9:30 a. m.; Bible school, 11:30 a. m.; prayer meeting, Thurs. 8 p. m.; J. W. McCallum, pastor.

First Friends, 36th and So. 1st, Rev. O. J. Getty, pastor, S. S., 10 a. m.; morning prayer and holy communion, 11 a. m.

PRESBYTERIAN
Calvary Presbyterian church, Division Lane and D sts., Rev. G. K. Standt, pastor, S. S., 10 a. m.; services, 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.; Junior Endeavor, 8 p. m.; S. S., 8 p. m.; prayer meeting, Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

Immanuel Presbyterian church, No. J and 9th sts., Robert H. Milligan, pastor, Morning service, 10:30; evening service, 8 p. m.; Bible school at 10:30; men's class, led by pastor, at 12 o'clock; Y. P. S. C. E. at 7 p. m.

First Presbyterian church, corner So. 16th and G sts., Rev. H. T. Mitchell, pastor, Morning service, 10:30; evening service, 8 p. m.; S. S., 8 p. m.; immediately after morning service; Y. P. S. C. E., 7:00 p. m.

Sprague Memorial 28th and Warner, So. Tacoma, S. S., 9:45 a. m.; services, 11 a. m.; Y. P. S. C. E. at 7 p. m.; evening service, 8 p. m.

Bethany, No. 41st and Verde sts., Rev. O. J. Malen, pastor, S. S. at 9:45 a. m.; Y. P. S. C. E. at 6:45; services, 11 a. m. and 7:45 p. m.

Oakland, So. 14th and Prater sts., S. S., 10 a. m.; Intermediate Endeavor at 8 p. m.; Services at 8 p. m.; Rev. W. Chalmers Gunn, pastor.

Washington, So. 40th and I sts., Services at 10:30 a. m. and 8 p. m.; Y. P. S. C. E., 7 p. m.; Bible school, 11:30 a. m.; prayer meeting, Thurs. 8 p. m.; J. W. McCallum, pastor.

Mission Park, cor. 15th and G sts., Rev. J. W. McCallum, pastor, Services at 10 a. m. and 8 p. m.; S. S., 9:30 a. m.; Bible school, 11:30 a. m.; prayer meeting, Thurs. 8 p. m.; J. W. McCallum, pastor.

First Friends, 36th and So. 1st, Rev. O. J. Getty, pastor, S. S., 10 a. m.; morning prayer and holy communion, 11 a. m.

"High hands only," said the sullen brigand. "One thing more," said Asabri; "I have said that I will mend your fortunes. What sum apiece would make you comfortable for the rest of your days and teach you to see the evil in your present manner of life?"

"If the money were to be doubled," said the sullen brigand, "then each of us could have what he most desires."

"And what is that?" asked the banker. "For me," said the sullen brigand, "there is a certain piece of land upon which are grapes, figs, and olives."

The second brigand said: "I am a waterman by birth and by longing. If I could purchase a certain barge upon which I have long had an eye, I should do well and honestly in the world, and happily."

"And you? What do you want?" Asabri smiled paternally in the face of the youngest brigand.

"I am nineteen years of age," he said, and his eyes glistened. "There is a girl, sir, in my village. Her eyes are like velvet; her skin is smooth as custard. She is very beautiful. If I could go to her father with a certain sum of money, he would not ask where I had gotten it—that is why I have robbed on the highway. He would merely stretch forth his hands and roll his fat eyes heavenward, and say: 'Bless you, my children.'"

"But the girl," said Asabri.

"It is wonderful," said the youngest brigand, "how she loves me. And when I told her that I was going upon the road to earn the moneys necessary for our happiness, she said that she would climb down from her window at night and come with me. But," he continued unctuously, "I pointed out to her that from sin springs nothing but unhappiness."

"We formed a fellowship, we three," said the second brigand, "and swore on oath: to take from the world so much as would make us happy and no more."

brigands than yourselves living in palaces."

The fog had lifted, and it was beginning to grow light. Asabri gathered up the heavy bag of money, and prepared to depart.

"How long," said the sullen brigand, "with all respect, before your own fortunes will be mended, sir, and ours?"

"They shall be mended today. Tomorrow come to my bank—"

"Oh, sir, we dare not show our faces in Rome."

"Very well, then; tomorrow at ten sharp I shall leave Rome in a motor-car. Watch for me along the Appian Way."

He shook them by their brown, grimy hands, mounted the impatient Biddy, and was gone—blissfully smiling.

(Concluded Monday.)

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