

# THE MASTER KEY

By John Fleming Wilson

## CHAPTER XXIV.

"He is a Prisoner!"

**D**URING the long voyage to Hongkong the three were thrown much together, and Sir Donald learned in full the history of the "Master Key" mine and the present search for the plans of the site of the mother lode.

At first he could hardly believe that such things could happen, but slowly he came to understand that the tremendous passions that were fighting to be satisfied would stop at nothing.

"I fear you will find it different in India," he told John many times. "The country is immense, it is inhabited by races of different speech and habits and religions, and yet over it all there is the vague spell of the east which is so foreign to your western America that I fear you will not easily recover what you seek."

"But I must get the papers back," said John quietly. "There is no question about it."

"Many a man has refused to acknowledge that a thing is impossible," Faversham warned him, "and the east has driven him mad. However, I am much interested myself, not only for the sake of Miss Ruth, but from a sporting standpoint, and I promise you I'll do my best to help you."

They considered the suggested plan of taking the idol away from the Hindu during the voyage, but Faversham vetoed this after a somewhat extensive investigation.

"You see," he told Ruth, "I know the fellow's language, and he comes from a tribe far in the north of India. Most of those chaps are looked upon as rather sacred, and this man in special, I see, is much respected by the other natives in the steamer. To desert his image would simply mean an uproar that we could never explain to the satisfaction of the captain and his officers. In fact, we should all get into the most serious trouble."

"Then your advice is to wait?" she murmured.

"Most decidedly," said the baronet. "And the waiting isn't so bad, is it?"

The steamer was slipping easily along across a moonlit sea that night, and Ruth and Sir Donald were far in the bow watching the waves foam softly away from the cutter.

The girl had awakened during the past few weeks to the dim happiness of being always the center of men's thoughts.

She was not in love, but she was ready to be. The experienced man beside her surmised this. His own heart was beating a new time. He had lived much, and women had not been aloof from his life.

But this fair, proud, inexperienced, yet self-contained girl awakened in him a deeper feeling than he cared to confess.

To be sure, he had John Dorr to contend with. Faversham did not underestimate him as a possible rival when he allowed himself to go so far as contemplating marriage with Ruth.

He liked the young American, and none knew better than he the effect that constant association with Dorr must have upon a young and very impressionable girl. John's own sentiments were unmistakable—he was deeply in love.

From Hongkong they transhipped to a P. and O. steamer for Bombay, and under Sir Donald's expert guidance they shortly found themselves in India and installed in a very good hotel.

"We must wait here till I discover through natives just where that fellow is bound for."

"Why not simply trace him?" demanded Dorr, impatient to be about his errand.

"That would be out of the question," Faversham explained. "In the first place, you don't understand any native tongue, and in the second place the British government doesn't look with favor on strange and unattached Europeans stumbling about among the natives."

"If you leave it to me I think I not only can ascertain the exact place where this fellow comes from, but the temple where the idol belongs."

Several days passed, during which Sir Donald was busy among old acquaintances, leaving John and Ruth to their own devices.

They occupied their time in sight-seeing. At last Faversham came into dinner one evening with a smile on his face.

"I've found your man and learned something of the history of the image," he said.

"And was he get it back?" Ruth inquired promptly.

Sir Donald shook his head gently. "Not so fast, young lady."

"But that is what we came for," she went on.

"The plan of the matter is this," said the baronet, "the image was stolen by a Hindu priest—a great many of them. The priest's illegality duty of a small city on the river Ganges, and it is about as usual an article of your usual pick-up. Some people of that city think that such men have last their image that is in danger with them, and for some years they have quietly collected a sort of fund."

"Bhala is some hundreds of miles up country," Sir Donald continued. "Part



"Not so fast, young lady!"

of the way we can go by rail, but part of the road we must travel either on foot or by litter—if we go."

"Of course we are going," said Ruth. "I most earnestly beg of you to stop here," said the baronet. "You don't know your India as I do, and even if we accomplished our purpose we should run double risk in getting back."

They argued the matter for some time, but Ruth refused to consider retreat at this stage, and John, impressed though he was by the other's evident sincerity, could not help feeling that as an outsider he did not understand the necessity of the recovery of the plans.

When he and Sir Donald talked it over alone the baronet was even more insistent.

He characterized the whole expedition as rash and plainly stated that should the British government get wind of such a search immediate steps would be taken to see that the Americans went no further.

Dorr was unconvinced and finally intimated that Faversham had not meant what he said when he had volunteered to help them.

Sir Donald shrugged his shoulders and admitted himself helpless in the face of such arguments.

"At least I can go along and do what I can to save the young woman from actual peril," he remarked. "I by no means promise to give you active assistance."

"I'll be satisfied if you'll just tip me off once in a while," John responded.

They made the journey to Bhala safely. Ruth and John viewing the novel sights that met their eyes on every hand, Sir Donald acting as general guide and instructor.

On their arrival at the teeming city they were soon installed in an inn outside the center and some distance up the river.

Faversham wasted no time in looking up certain people he knew among the natives and was in a position to inform them that he had not only discovered the temple, but that he had learned that the idol had been recovered and would be restored to its proper shrine with due ceremony and great festivity.

"That will be just our chance," said John. "In the crowds we ought to be safe."

Faversham tried to convince him that this was not so, but Dorr insisted so strongly that the Englishman yielded to his better judgment.

"I'll try to get you within sight of the idol anyway," he consented. "But I must insist that you obey my instructions implicitly. Otherwise we shall all get into trouble and you will eventually kill any chance you may have of attaining your purpose."

The result of this was that Ruth late that night was awakened by Sir Donald's rapping on her door.

When she had flung on some clothes and opened she saw from his manner and his disheveled dress that all had not gone well.

"It's true," Faversham told her. "Dorr couldn't resist what he thought was a chance to get hold of the idol. He was captured, but I managed to get away by my knowledge of the language and the help of some natives who are friendly to me."

For the moment Ruth was speechless; then she inquired for the particulars, and Sir Donald gave them briefly.

At the conclusion he remarked, "They won't harm him, but if it gets out that he really intended to steal that image we shall have trouble."

"But he is a prisoner!" she cried.

"True," said Faversham wearily. "I didn't dare stay. If they had got me, too, you wouldn't have known anything about what had happened for days possibly."

"But you will save him?" she pleaded. In her appealing beauty Ruth stirred Sir Donald to the depths. He knew now that he loved her.

"I'll get him," he told her. "It will be a hard job, but I'll save him for your sake, Ruth, and when I come back with him!"

She leaned forward, gloriously content that John was to be brought back to her.

She did not read aright the expression in the man's eyes. She threw out her little hands to him joyously.

"I'll always love you if you will," she whispered.

He stared dizzily, and she withdrew before he could put out his hands or say a word. Five minutes later he was hastily making his way back toward the temple.

To his dying day Sir Donald was never able to explain just how he found John Dorr nor how he extricated him from the howling mob who yelled for the life of the impious man who had laid foul hands on their god.

His own recollection was of desperately using his tongue, his muscles and his knowledge of the usual intricacies of a native city.

John himself could give no clear description, but confessed that he had given up hope of rescue when Sir Donald appeared as by magic.

It was dawn when they reached the hotel, and Ruth was on the balcony watching. When Faversham looked up and called out, "I managed it!" she leaned far over, her eyes shining, and threw him a kiss.

The baronet's heart beat high. He had won her for his wife.

The fact that Dorr and Ruth had sailed for India did not escape Wilkerson and Mrs. Darnell's sharp senses, and they sailed, with Drake as their companion, on the next steamer.

"We can easily pick up Dorr's trail when we land," Wilkerson told them.

He found this true. Within two days he had also ascertained that they had left for the interior under the escort of Sir Donald Faversham.

Without delay they followed and in due time landed in Bhala, not long after Sir Donald had rescued Dorr from the mob who had seized him when he had tried to recapture the idol. Wilkerson grinned when he told Mrs. Darnell of this fiasco.

"But will you fare any better?" she demanded.

"Sure," he said confidently. "I'll let Dorr and this British baronet burn



"Then the 'Master Key' will be ours," their fingers getting the thing; then I'll get it away from them. It's a long way back to America, and if we stick tight to Dorr we'll sooner or later be able to handle the plans ourselves.

"Then the 'Master Key' will be ours for good and all."

(To be Continued.)

## YEOMEN CELEBRATE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDER

Three Hundred Members and Friends Make New Record for Food Consumption at Big Banquet.

When it comes to appetites, no lodge members can compete with those who belong to the local branch of Brotherhood of American Yeomen. This was proved last night by three hundred lodge members and guests who attended the eighteenth anniversary of the local order. The occasion was celebrated with a banquet and dance in the Odd Fellows' Hall.

Two hogs, twenty-three chickens, three turkeys and ten geese comprised the courses of meat served at the feast. Then there were cranberries, olives, celery, pie, cake and a list of edibles that were fit for a monarch.

After the banquet Mayor Kage addressed the meeting, and his talk was followed by a brief speech by Dr. Grissom.

S. V. Kirksey of Jackson visited friends in this city yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Watters of Little Rock, Ark., are visiting friends in this city.

Randall Wilson, Charles Lindley and Tanner Dye of Silkeston visited friends in this city yesterday.

T. C. Lutz of St. Louis visited in this city yesterday.

## COWPEAS IN THE COTTON BELT

By W. J. Morse.

The cowpea is at the present time the best known and most extensively grown leguminous crop in the cotton belt. Its value for hay, grazing, catch and cover crops, and for soil improvement is well known and thoroughly appreciated by farmers. The feeding value of the forage has long been recognized, and it is used for all kinds of live stock. Cowpea hay has a high percentage of digestible protein and is fully as valuable for feed as red-clover hay. As a green-manure crop this plant greatly increases the humus and nitrogen content of the soil. The seeds of the cowpea are also commonly employed for human food, being used in the pod, shelled green, and shelled dried.

On a very large proportion of the area planted to cowpeas no effort is made to harvest the seed. Moreover, a large percentage of the seed harvested is picked by hand. Under these conditions the increased culture of the cowpea has brought about a high price of seed, which without doubt has retarded a greater use of the crop. The demand for seed of well-known varieties has kept the price in recent years so high as to make cowpea seed production a most profitable line of farming. The harvesting of seed by machinery is now carried on very successfully in several communities. Localities well suited to the production of cowpea seed will find it highly profitable to grow seed on a large scale, especially if the best machinery for handling the crops is employed.

The cowpea can be depended upon to succeed on practically all types of well-drained soils, thriving on poorer soils than most other cultivated legumes. A soil of medium fertility is considered best for the production of this crop. Sandy and sandy-loam soils are most suitable for seed production, while the heavier soils produce more herbage and less seed. The best results on soils of rather low fertility will be had by applying 300 to 400 pounds of acid phosphate and 100 pounds of potash to the acre.

Although the cowpea will grow under rather unfavorable conditions of soil preparation, the best results are to be obtained on well-prepared land. The same preparation and cultivation ordinarily practiced for corn are recommended for cowpeas.

Planting should be done when the soil is warm and not too wet, as the seed will then germinate very readily. Very early plantings require a greater length of time for maturity than late plantings and are of advantage only where the crop is to be used for silage, green manuring, or pasturing. Cowpeas may be planted as late as mid-summer for hay or green manure.

The method of planting depends upon the purpose for which the crop is grown. For the production of seed, the best practice is to plant in rows about 36 inches apart, using from 20 to 30 pounds of seed to the acre.

When the crop is to be used for forage or soil improvement, a broadcasted or drilled crop is preferable, using from 60 to 90 pounds of seed to the acre. In regions of light rainfall thin planting is recommended. Where there is ample moisture thicker planting is desirable. A cotton planter may be used in row plantings, or, if available, a grain driller, the width of rows being spaced by covering the feed cups not to be used. Cultivation should begin as soon as the plants appear above the ground, and the crop should receive at least three cultivations.

The time of harvesting depends primarily upon the use to be made of the crop. For hay, cowpeas should be cut about the time the first pods begin to turn yellow. Where seed is the object, cutting should be delayed until one-fourth or more of the pods are mature. In harvesting for seed production a mower with a bunching attachment is most satisfactory, but the self-rake can be used to advantage.

Threshing may be done at any time after the pods are thoroughly dry. When grown in quantity and picked, the pods are commonly thrashed with a pea huller. When the crop has been cured like hay it may be thrashed with an ordinary grain thrasher by removing some of the concaves and running the cylinder at a low and even speed (about 500 revolutions a minute) to prevent splitting the peas. Special pea and bean separators are now on the market and do excellent work. In localities favorable for seed production an investment by several growers in a special pea separator would be of great advantage and economy.

Cowpea seed can be stored for a considerable length of time without much danger of loss of germination. It is, however, subject to attack by the pea weevil and is often considerably damaged in storage by this insect. By treating the seed at the time of storing with carbon bisulphid, using one-half ounce of this substance to a bushel of peas, the weevil is easily held in check. The seed should be placed in an air-tight box or vessel, the bisul-

phid in a small open dish on top of the seed, and a covering thrown over the surface of the peas to confine the gas. The vapor is highly inflammable, and no fire of any nature should be allowed where this substance is being used. It may be necessary to follow a second treatment a few weeks later as it often happens that some forms of the weevil are not checked by the first treatment.

Although there are a large number of varieties of cowpeas grown, comparatively few are of prime importance. Some of the extensively cultivated varieties are known under various names in different sections of the country. Varieties of cowpeas are distinguished most readily by the color and size of the seed, though they differ in habit, maturity, disease resistance, etc. The use to be made of the crop should determine to a large extent the variety to be selected. The Groat, Brabham, New Era, Whipper will, Iron, and Early Buff varieties are desirable for hay production. The Unknown, or wonderful, and most varieties of the Clay, Red Ripper, and Black groups are somewhat late maturing varieties, rather poor in seed yields, and are more suited for forage and green manure. The Brabham and Iron varieties should be grown wherever wilt and root-knot are prevalent as these varieties are practically immune to these diseases. Varieties of the Blackeye and Crowder groups and these with white seeds are used most commonly for table purposes.

The cowpea succeeds under so many different conditions that it can be raised in almost any system of rotation. Its place usually assigned to cowpeas is that of a spring crop planted between the corn rows at the last cultivation or that of a second crop on land where oats, wheat or rye have been harvested.

Cowpeas for hay production are very advantageously grown in mixture with other crops, giving a greater variety and larger yield of forage. Corn is also used very extensively in mixture with cowpeas, but only to a small extent for hay purposes. The mixture widely used crop is sorghum, including both the sweet sorghum and the fire. Other crops that can be used in mixture with cowpeas are soy bean, Sudan grass, and Johnson grass.

Well-cured cowpea hay is a most valuable and nutritious feed for stock and for beef or milk production and it gives good results when fed to poultry. Cowpea hay is rather difficult to cure, especially if the weather is not favorable. Although there are many methods of curing the hay, it is commonly used. One method, suitable for any season, requires the use of poles with crosspieces or of triangular frames, about which the green cowpea forage is placed and left until cured. The method most used is to let the vines lie in the swath until thoroughly wilted, then rake into wind-rows, and throw into small, loose cocks, which after drying somewhat can be placed in large cocks. In curing, care should be taken to guard against the loss of leaves, the most valuable part of the plant.

The seed of cowpeas is a rich feed, but on account of its high price it is little used, except to a small extent for poultry. Only a few localities produce seed on an extensive scale, and the industry has been found very profitable. In addition to the value of the seed, the benefit to the land and the thrashed vines as a source of forage are important factors to be considered in the production of a seed crop. At the present time the price of seed ranges from \$1.50 to \$3 a bushel, higher prices being obtained for improved varieties, such as Brabham, Groat, and Early Buff.

The cowpea is an excellent plant for pasture, and with its numerous varieties affords good grazing from early summer until late fall. Cowpeas are very commonly planted in corn, and profit is realized both from the animals pastured and from the increase of soil fertility from the manure and refuse vines.

Along the cowpea does not make a first-rate silage. When combined with corn in the proportion of one-fourth cowpeas and three-fourths corn it makes an excellent silage. It keeps well, is readily eaten by all kinds of stock, and has a greater feeding value than corn silage. In general, the practice is to grow corn and cowpeas for the silo in the same row and run them through a silage cutter.

As a soiling crop cowpeas are very satisfactory. The great variation in the maturity of varieties makes it possible to have an abundance of succulent green feed throughout the summer and fall. With its high percentage of protein the cowpea is an excellent supplement to less nitrogenous crops, such as corn, sorghum, and millet.

The degree of improvement of soils through the growing of cowpeas de-

## SHORTHORN CATTLE IN MISSOURI

BATES' SHORTHORNS.

Work of Col. H. M. Vaile—Soon after the Civil war a herd was started in Jackson County that later became very strong and distinctively Bates. It was established by H. M. Vaile, and his first purchases, according to herdbook evidence, were made in 1868. Like nearly all beginners, Col. Vaile started by buying cattle of promiscuous breeding from various herds.

Among his first bulls was General Sheridan 5700, bred by Daniel McMillan, Xenia, Ohio, and from a Torr-broth foundation. His next bull was Duke of Starlight 13240, bred by Thos. Kirk of Ohio, and tracing to the importation of 1817, which shows that the prejudice against these cattle was not so strong at that time. Mr. Vaile next used Meteor 13277, bred on the Vaile farm, and got by General Sheridan 5700 and from a cow that came from Rose of Sharon of the Ohio company's importation of 1834. In 1875 he bought the Bates bull, Peri's Oxford 24294, and from this date he began a system of intensive breeding that soon made his herd at Independence the best in Bates blood of any in Missouri. He bought both bulls and cows from the best herds of Bates Shorthorns in America, and on his own account and in connection with E. C. Emery of Buffalo, N. Y., he made importations of cattle of this line of breeding. A very many choice Shorthorns which he brought over were the Waterfords, which formed the strong foundation of Mr. Vaile's large herd.

Some imported through the agency of the west. Later bulls used in the Fruitland herd were 31st Duke of Airdrie 50831, bred by A. J. Alexander; Winsome Duke 3d 72209, Waterloo Duke 8th 89876 and Pecunia 109348, all three bred by himself.

These were all good bulls, but Waterloo Duke 8th was probably the best. A brief analysis of the pedigrees of these bulls will show the intensity of the blood in Mr. Vaile's herd at this time. Winsome Duke 3d was by 31st Duke of Airdrie and his dam was by the same sire. Waterloo Duke 8th was by Winsome Duke 3d and of Waterloo Duchess 5th by 31st Duke of Airdrie and President Wilkes by 31st Duke of Airdrie and the same sire. The blood of these bulls is of a high quality and of a character of Thos. Bates, whose system of breeding he had adopted. Whether the system was wisest or not, he undoubtedly built up one of the best herds of his time, and it became the fountain from which many other breeders drew Bates blood.

The great prices secured for Bates Shorthorns at private and public sales culminated in the sensational sale at New York Mills, September 10, 1873, where 100 head sold for the astonishing average of \$3,504. It is a question if such phenomenal sales are not a detriment instead of an aid to any live stock industry, but the effect of this sale was to set the breeders of Shorthorns, especially Bates, wild with enthusiasm. Wild enthusiasm may result in the multiplying of cattle and intensifying the blood of certain families that are bringing extreme prices but it requires sober thought and discriminating judgment to improve a breed.

That Mr. Vaile exercised most discriminating judgment in his herd of Shorthorns must be admitted by all who are conversant with the facts and with his wonderful success, but both he and his prototype, Thos. Bates, had many imitators who bred pedigrees rather than cattle. By this I mean that the imitators were more concerned about the purity of the pedigree, from the Bates standpoint, than they were about the quality of bulls used.

Mr. Vaile died in 1894, and his herd was dispersed at public sale at Kansas City, October 10th of that year. In this sale 102 head were included, and the catalog shows that 100 of these were descendants of the importation made by him in 1880.

An anecdote related by a man who

pends largely on the use to which the crop is put. The roots and stubble contain about 15 per cent of the total matter of the plant, and therefore where the crop is removed for forage only a small proportion of the fertilizing value is left. A good crop of cowpeas will contain 60 to 80 pounds of nitrogen to the acre, most of which is drawn directly from the air. Numerous experiments with the cowpea as green manure demonstrate its beneficial effect on the succeeding crop, as shown by the increased yields obtained of corn, cotton, sorghum, and small grains.

The cowpea has been used to a considerable extent in the Southern States for human food. It is a most nutritious food stuff, from which a large number of palatable as well as economical dishes can be prepared.

was examining some bulls at Fruitland farm shows that Mr. Vaile was different from most men. The visitor asked the price of a bull that was for sale, and Mr. Vaile replied, "Well, you name the price and I will ship him to you." Men who knew Mr. Vaile well said he would have made good his promise in case the visitor had put him to the test.

A Rose of Sharon Herd—That portion of Missouri about Kansas City had several excellent herds of Shorthorns in an early day. One of these was that of Jacob Powell & Sons. Mr. Powell bred Shorthorns in Ohio, and soon after 1861 he moved to Missouri and settled near Independence, Jackson County, and his name appears in our herdsbooks at that address in 1866. About this time Mr. Powell bought from Daniel McMillan of Ohio the bull, General Sheridan, which he afterward sold to H. M. Vaile, as stated in a previous paragraph. Mr. Powell built a herd, most of which were Rose Shorthorns. They were produce of Rose of Sharon, bred in Ohio, and are descendants of Paint, one granddaughter of Imp. Rose of Sharon, while those bred in Kentucky came through another granddaughter, Paint, the ancestress of the Ohio branch of the family, was by Prince Charles (2461), bred by Mr. Whitaker of England, and her dam was Rose of Sharon by Imp. Comet (1415), and her granddam, Lady of the Lake, by Reformer (2505). The Kentucky Rose of Sharon came from Thos. Bates of Shropshire of 2195, bred by the same sire as that of Lady of the Lake by Reformer (2505). Both branches of the family were well bred, but it was one of the varieties of the Shorthorn trade that a Rose Sharon that came from Paint by Prince Charles (2461) was less valuable than one that descended through Thos. Bates of 2195, though individually of equal merit. Jacob Powell built up a herd of much merit, which was continued by his sons for many years in Jackson and Cass Counties.

Theodore Bates of Lafayette County—Lafayette County had a very prominent herd of Shorthorns at this time. This herd was established by Thos. Bates soon after the Civil war and for many years was quite prominent in Central and Western Missouri. The blood of this herd is of a high quality and of a character of Thos. Bates, whose system of breeding he had adopted. Whether the system was wisest or not, he undoubtedly built up one of the best herds of his time, and it became the fountain from which many other breeders drew Bates blood.

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SEABAUGH WILL HANDLE FREIGHT FOR ST. JAMES

Owner of Cape-Jackson Truck Will Carry Goods From This City to the County Seat.

Leo Greenwell, Cairo representative of the Peoples' Packet Company, which operates the steamer St. James, yesterday contracted with Eli Seabaugh, to carry freight for the steamer from Jackson to the Cape and from Cape to the County Seat.

Mr. Seabaugh will co-operate with A. R. Zoelsman, president of the Dempsey Grocer Company, in handling all freight brought to this city for Jackson merchants or shipped to outside points by business men living in Jackson.

Mr. Greenwell announced last night that a flat rate of 15 cents per hundred for all freight will be charged by the steamer St. James. This rate is slightly under that asked by some of the competing packet companies.

The steamer St. James is making its first season in upper Mississippi trade. It is the largest steamboat afloat on the Mississippi river and is valued at \$90,000. On its initial trip out of St. Louis it carried eighty tons of freight, and left Memphis on its return with 116 tons. It has a capacity of 1,000 tons.

OSCAR FISHER IS DEAD

Oscar Fisher, the young man who passed through this city a few nights ago, with an attendant who was accompanying him to his home in Osceola, died in that city yesterday morning at about 9 o'clock.

His widow telephoned George Quinn, a brother-in-law, of Poplar Bluff, and last evening Mr. and Mrs. Quinn arrived here enroute to Osceola where they were going to attend the funeral. Mr. Fisher, who leaves a widow and one child, was a brother to Mrs. Quinn.

The Quinns departed on passenger train No. 805 for Osceola this morning.

J. T. Adams of Hope, Ark., transacted business in this city yesterday.