



The Diamond Ring By GEORGE GRIFFITH. COPYRIGHT, 1898 BY GEO. GRIFFITH.

You might go far afield before you find two more queerly associated knights of industry than the Jew of Whitechapel and the Celestial of Singapore who were sitting together over a bottle of brandy in a little back room behind a tin coolie store in Old De Beers road, Kimberley, late one night in the early eighties, yet it was no very uncommon thing here in this vortex of cosmopolitan villainy into which the magical glitter of the diamond, more fatal in its fascination over than the glint of gold, had gathered together men of all colors and creeds from the remotest ends of the earth.

Something was evidently exercising the mind of the Jew very considerably, for his prominent eyes kept wandering restlessly about the little room, his fleshy, pendulous lips trembling every now and then with the movement of his heavy jaw; his fat, lavishly jeweled fingers kept alternately drumming on the dirty table and wandering aimlessly through his black and rather greasy locks.

The Chinaman sat with his long nailed fingers entwined on the lap of his ample blouse and looked at him placidly out of his bright, inward slanting little eyes. Neither had said anything for some little time. Each was pondering a very important problem in his own way.

A shaggy, long haired, disreputable looking mongrel, which seemed to combine some half dozen varying strains in his nondescript lineage, seemed to be doing the same thing as he lay on a frowsy sheepskin near the table, with his wickedly clever face between his paws, and every now and then blinked up at his heathen master as though wondering whether he had found any solution to the problem yet.

"Is he good, Loo?" half whispered the Jew, at length breaking the pause, and bringing his fingers down from his hair to the table for something like the twentieth time, "the old plaits will all be played out now that this infernal new law has passed. The gonivals will be harder to get than ever, and look at the risk—15 years on that blatted breaker, just for being found with a few little clips on you. The game ain't going to be worth the candle any more, if we don't find some new way of getting them out that the tecs won't tumble to. It'd be worth a fortune to a man who could hit on a real brand new fake just now, that it would, and if we can't get one the industry's going to be ruined, and that's all there is to it."

The Chinaman looked at him stolidly while he was speaking, and then, with a broad, wooden smile, which crinkled his eyes up into two little slits, he nodded his head after the fashion of one of his own idols, and said sententiously and with the air of one who knows what he is talking about:

"All right, Missa Lonenfeld, no need muchee scratch head ever dat. Kaffir boy plenty clever yet, allee same muchee screeche, no good. Plenty new fake too. Dodge tucman easy all same's before. You had no got go workes yet, Missa Lonenfeld."

Some news to Mr. Lowenfeld that the Pondo's dog would come out with such a biting to its second skin as the experienced broker felt justified in estimating at from \$10,000 to \$12,000 in value.

The Kaffir received five sovereigns in return for his paws, and with them and his own earnings he proceeded, after the manner of his kind, to blind himself to the lights of heaven and divers bar-rooms for three days and nights, after which he went back with a light pouch and a heavy head to do another two months' spell in the mine. This time he was the bearer of a message to the Pondo clam to the effect that if on his coming out he would take the dog to a certain place other than the house of Loo Chai he would get £200 for it in place of the £100 that his master had promised him. To this the Pondo, being easy of morals and longing greatly for the possession of wives and cattle in his own land, incontinent consented.

The reason for this leading astray of the unfortunated savage may be quickly seen in the fact that 10 per cent on, say, \$10,000 would be £1,000, and this, with the amount of the bill, would make £1,250, which, when Mr. Lowenfeld came to think quietly over the matter, seemed to be a most outrageous price to pay to a yellow skinned heathen even for a double skinned dog, and, after due deliberation, he decided not to pay it, if he could find any means of evading payment.

The shortest and easiest way to do this was to procure the arrest and conviction of Loo Chai as an I. D. B. before the Pondo got out, and to this end he succeeded in bribing Ah Foo with cash down and the promise of more to plant four "traps," which he took from his own safe, in a convenient place in his master's store. But, as there is more honor of a sort among heathens than among thieves, Ah Foo gave the plot away in the same hour, showed the trap stones to Loo Chai, who had been suspecting some friendly action of the sort, and, with his consent, took them away with him for greater safety and his own reward.

Very early the next morning the police, "acting on information received," raided the store of Loo Chai, turned it mostly into the street, and found nothing, its owner meanwhile looking on with a bland resignation that would have well become a martyr in a better cause. A good deal of language was used by the executors of the law of which no respectable printer's ink would convey any adequate expression, but it was nothing to the eloquent Yiddish in which Mr. Augustus Lowenfeld relieved his feelings when he heard of the barren result of their labors.

The next morning a somewhat unwonted scene was enacted outside the main gate of the De Beers compound. Some 30 or 40 Kaffirs, whose time was up and who had gone through the final formalities preceding dismissal, were coming out laughing and singing and chattering and jingling their hard earned money like so many children, and among them, as innocently festive as any, was young Hynely, the Pondo's boy, who was not carrying his dog this time. He knew that the officials had almost, if not entirely, forgotten his existence, and he wisely thought that it would be more prudent to let it sneak quietly out among the legs of the crowd than to recall it to the gatekeeper's memory by taking it in his arms.

The animal had become quite attached to him, and he made sure that he would be able to pick it up without any difficulty when he had got a safe distance from the gate. This he could have done quite easily if the dog had only been left to itself. But it was not.

No sooner had it passed the Rubicon almost unnoticed and shown itself in the road than a peculiar cry, something like high tenn "oo-oo-ee," rose shrilly into the still air from somewhere in particular. The heathen dog pricked up its ears alert at the familiar but long unheard sound, and the next instant between £10,000 and £12,000 worth of dog and diamonds was scampering down the road as fast as four wiry legs could carry it.

By and by let out a high pitched howl of rage and horror and started off with great leaping strides in pursuit of the much longed for wives and cattle and guns that were literally running away with the dog. The rest joined in the hue and cry, some for good reasons of their own and some for the mere fun of the thing, but fortunately, just as the dog was beginning to gain the flying treasure, a squad of mounted police, coming back from their night's duty on the Free State border, turned a corner out of the Du Toits Pan road at a trot and barred their way.

Thompson & Benson APOTHECARIERS, 26 W. Leigh St., Richmond, Va. A complete stock of Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Fancy and Toilet Articles. First class line of Cigars and Tobaccos, Ice Cold Soda, Mineral Water, etc. We solicit your patronage. Prices reasonable.

Beats Them All. THE SOUTHERN AID AND INSURANCE CO. Pays SICK Benefits Weekly and DEATH Claims in Twenty Four (24) Hours after Satisfactory Proof of the Same.

Chartered, Feb. 25, 1893. HOME OFFICE: 311 N 8th St. BOARD OF DIRECTORS. President, A. Washington. Vice-President, W. M. Truheart. Sec. and Business Man, W. A. Payne. Treasurer, R. L. Lewis. R. Lewis Brown, Planning Goodman.

H. F. Jonathan, SHIPPER OF Fish, Oysters & Produce. 120 N. 17th St., Richmond, Va. Orders will receive prompt attention. Phone 157. LINCOLN BENEFICIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, Richmond, Va.

CHARTERED OCT. 14, 1897. Capital Stock, \$5000.00. HOME OFFICE: 1549 East Broad St. J. A. COOK, President; V. M. GWAYNE, Vice-President; J. A. JETER, Secretary and Manager. Claims paid promptly.

Agents wanted in all cities and towns. Weekly Payments. Sick Benefits. Death Benefits.

ALL HAIL TO THE C. & O. Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. COMMONWEALTH SICK BENEFICIAL CO. AUTHORIZED CAPITAL STOCK - \$5000. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

N. & W. Norfolk and Western. Schedule in Effect JUNE 12, 1898. LEAVE RICHMOND, BYRD STREET STATION.

ARRIVE BYRD STREET STATION. 8:00 A. M., Daily, Stops at Water, Brooke, Fredericksburg, Milford, Doswell, Ashland, Elba, and other stations. 8:30 A. M., Daily, Stops at Water, Brooke, Fredericksburg, Milford, Doswell, Ashland, Elba, and other stations.

ATLANTIC COAST LINE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1898. TRAIN LEAVE RICHMOND—UNION DEPOT.

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TRAIN LEAVE EIGHTH STREET STATION. 10:30 A. M., Daily, for Lynchburg, and Clifton Forge. Connects except Sundays with Lexington, Albemarle, and Lexington and Clifton Forge.

Southern Railway SCHEDULE IN EFFECT MAY 1, 1898. TRAIN LEAVE RICHMOND, VA. 12:10 A. M. DAILY, LEAVE RICHMOND, VA. 12:10 A. M. DAILY, LEAVE RICHMOND, VA.

TRAIN ARRIVE AT RICHMOND. 6:00 P. M., From Atlanta, Augusta, Asheville and Nashville. 8:40 P. M., Local, daily, except Sunday for Keokville and intermediate points.

YORK RIVER LINE, VIA THE FAVORITE ROUTE NORTH. LEAVE RICHMOND. BALTIMORE LIMITED, Daily, except Sunday, for West Point, close connection Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

LOCAL EXPRESS, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for West Point and intermediate stations, connects with stage at Lester Manor for Wakeston; also connects with stage at Wakeston for Baltimore. Stops at all stations.

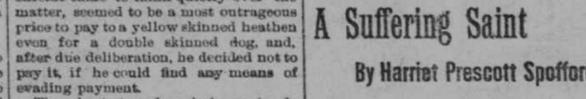
TRAIN ARRIVE AT RICHMOND. 8:17 A. M., Daily, Mondays and Fridays only. 8:26 P. M., Daily, except Sunday from West Point and intermediate stations.

VIRGINIA NAVIGATION COMPANY'S JAMES RIVER LINE. To Norfolk, Portsmouth, Old Point, Newport News, Gloucester, and James River landings, and connect with the Chesapeake and Ohio, Washington, Baltimore and the North.

SEA BOARD AIR-LINE SAL VESTIBULE LIMITED TRAINS SOUTH. ATLANTA, NEW ORLEANS, MACON, CHATTANOOGA, NASHVILLE, MEMPHIS, TEXAS.

NO EXTRA FARE ON ANY TRAIN. 12:10 A. M. DAILY, LEAVE RICHMOND, VA. 12:10 A. M. DAILY, LEAVE RICHMOND, VA.

OLD DOMINION STEAMSHIP CO. DAILY LINE FOR NEW YORK, EXCEPT FRIDAY. Passengers can leave Richmond daily except Friday and Sunday via Chesapeake and Ohio Railway.



A Suffering Saint By Harriet Prescott Spofford. A touching story of the faithful love of a noble woman.

This delightful piece of fiction, with several other short stories, will soon be printed in these columns. The names of the authors will convince our readers that they have a treat in store. Here are the names:

- CUTCLIFFE HYNÉ ROBERT BARR BRIGIDES OTTOLENGUI BRET HARTE CLARICE IRENE CLINGHAM GEORGE GRIFFITH CHARLES W. HARWOOD

LITERARY NOTES.

Under the title of "Black-Belt Diamonds" there has been published a dainty volume comprising pertinent extracts from the addresses and talks to students of Booker T. Washington, Principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. This institution is situated in what is called the Black Belt of Alabama, which explains the significance of the title.

The meetings in the room are continuing to grow in interest with both the boys and men. Mr. Robert Holmes, son of Rev. J. H. Holmes, gave the men a very practical and instructive address Sunday 5:30 p. m. We are compelled to admit that the speaker surprised us as well as a majority of the men present.

The annual outing of the boys' department took place Thursday at Westham Farm. President Taylor of the True Reformers, President R. T. Hill of the Y. M. C. A., Rev. T. H. Waite and Sec. F. H. Wyatt accompanied the boys. After spending quite a pleasant and enjoyable day the entire party left 7:30 p. m. for the city.

The men will be addressed next Sunday by Mr. George West, of Howard University, Washington, D. C. Mr. West is an all round speaker, who can and hear him. All men are welcome.

Double Funeral. GOODLAND CO., VA., July 14, '98. Dear Editor:—Please allow me space in your valuable paper to insert the sad occurrence which occurred here yesterday, 13th. We had a double funeral and burying from our church.



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What! Five hundred pounds for a blooming tike, and a precious ugly one at that! What's the good of pulling my leg like that when we're supposed to be

Never knew poor Gussie to have 'em before, one of his friends sympathizingly remarked to another when they had seen the remains safely on to the ambulance. 'D'you think there really was a dog there? Blah! If I did

Resignation. This is to certify that I, Patsie K. Anderson, have resigned as member of the Board of Directors in the Woman's Corner-Stone Beneficial Association. I am in no way responsible for its management. Patsie Kelley Anderson.

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