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Private Brown.

BY CAPTAIN JACK CRAWFORD.

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(CONTINUED.)

His heart throbbed with delight, and he pressed the precious missive to his lips again and again. Alice approved his action, and he did not now fear any punishment that might be for his offense. His one overshadowing fear had vanished through the iron grates of his prison window as he read the blessed words traced by her beloved hand, and the sentinel at the door was astonished to hear him whistling a merry air.

The proceedings of a court-martial are always tedious, and the details in the case of Private Brown will not be here given. Every whit of available evidence was produced both by the prosecution and defense, the lieutenant's words to Brown were testified to by the stable attaches who heard them, and the accused was permitted to make a statement of the affair. His manly bearing and straight-forward testimony, coupled with his eloquent speech and gentlemanly attitude throughout the trial, made a great impression on the judges, and won for him many an approving glance from the dignified officers who composed the court. Capt. Colby was summoned to testify to the previous character of the accused, and he grew almost eloquent in his commendation of Brown's soldierly conduct since he joined the troop.

The findings of the court-martial were duly made out, and sent to the commander of the post for his approval. Brown was found guilty of striking an officer, there was reference to aggravating circumstances, and his punishment was fixed at thirty days' confinement in the post guard house.

That love of justice, which was a marked characteristic of Col. Sanford's nature, asserted itself while he had the findings of the court under consideration. It is true that some outside influences had been at work, but it must not be assumed that they could sway the stern old man in the enforcement of his strict ideas of military discipline. Capt. Colby had taken the liberty to tell of the faithful service of the private soldier, and several officers of the post had freely aired their views of Brown's action in the colonel's presence, and Alice, after speaking of her ever-attending to herself and of the views she had heard him express regarding the men of the ranks, so warmly approved the punishment that the lieutenant had received that a great deal of thought. He had not by any means forgotten Vandever's treatment of old Sgt. Barrett, and when at last the findings of the court-martial were published, they bore this indorsement over the signature of the post commander:

The findings and sentence of the special court in the case of Private Richard Brown, B troop, Sixth cavalry, charged with committing an assault on the person of Second Lieutenant Alfred Talbot Vandever, B troop, Sixth cavalry, are approved. In consideration of the aggravating provocation which led to the assault and of the blameless previous record as a soldier of said Private Richard Brown, twenty-nine days of the sentence are hereby revoked, and after one day's confinement in the post guardhouse said Private Richard Brown will be released and will report to the commander of his troop for duty."

CHAPTER VIII.

When Brown was released from confinement he went at once to his quarters, and was accorded a warm welcome by his comrades. He took a bath and changed his clothing, for the guard horses of frontier military posts are not noted for cleanliness, and then went to report for duty to his troop commander. Capt. and Mrs. Colby were sitting on the porch of their quarters when he came up, and respectfully saluting the captain and removing his cap he said:

"I am instructed, sir, to report to you for duty."

"I am glad of it, Brown," the captain replied. "I am gratified that the result of your rash act has not proved so serious as I had feared. I know that you will kindly receive some advice from me, for I assure you I feel a more than ordinary interest in your welfare."

"Shall I retire, captain?" asked Mrs. Colby.

"No, my dear, I wish you to remain. I am not going to reprove Private Brown very severely, nor in the least humiliate him. I just wish to say this, Brown. You are not an ordinary soldier. Your demeanor, your language, your every act indicates that through some chain of circumstances, which I shall not inquire into, you are placed in a position far beneath the station in life in which you are fitted by education and training to hold an honored place. You no doubt at times deeply feel the chains of servitude which bind you, and unpleasant experiences which an ordinary soldier would accept as a matter of course, awake in your sensitive nature a spirit of resentment. I think I understand and believe I can fully appreciate your feelings in the recent trouble you had with a superior officer. Your sense of manhood revolted at the unwarranted abuse heaped upon you, and in your own stead a lady, your army rank and assumed him. That was very unwise. The men at the stable were witnesses to your altercation with Lieut. Vandever, and would have testified to that officer's action toward you in an official inquiry, and had you out-

etly submitted to his treatment and reported the matter to myself as your troop commander, a thorough investigation would have followed, and full justice would have been done by you. I have but this advice to offer you, Brown. While you remain in the ranks you must never lose sight of your position, and must submit to annoyances which you would resent in civil life. Always keep in mind the fact that the humblest private in the ranks has rights which his officers are bound to respect, and that redress for his wrongs is provided for by the rules and regulations governing military discipline. This cloud upon the face of your most excellent record as a soldier is not ineffaceable, and you can soon be in good standing as you were before the unfortunate occurrence."

Brown listened attentively to the kind words of the captain, and quietly replied:

"Thank you, sir, for the words you have spoken, and I deeply appreciate the spirit in which the advice is given. I assured you when you so kindly visited me in the guard house that I deeply regretted my assault upon Lieut. Vandever, and I now repeat it, sir, that I am sincerely sorry I did not bridle my temper and seek for redress through the proper channels."

The captain regarded the young soldier attentively for a moment, and said:

"If asked to do so, Brown, would you go to Lieut. Vandever and offer him an apology for striking him?"

Brown's face flushed and a look of manly independence shot from his eyes; but, before he could reply, Mrs. Colby, with marked emphasis, exclaimed:

"Indeed, he would not, Capt. Colby. This man is—"

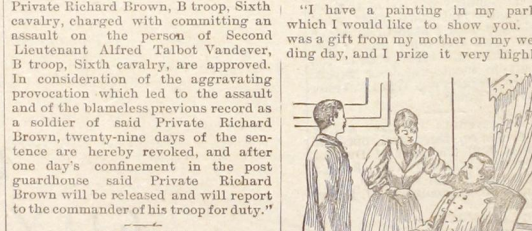
"There, there, my dear, I was just testing the young man's mettle, and his eyes have answered me," the officer interrupted with a knowing smile. "I had no thought of asking him to humiliate himself to a man who certainly wronged him. The testimony given at the court-martial showed conclusively that Lieut. Vandever's action toward him was unwarranted, every officer in the garrison knows it was unwarranted, and the action of the commanding officer when reviewing the findings and sentence was a rebuke to the lieutenant which I sincerely hope he may profit by. You will report for duty to your first sergeant, Brown, and I trust that no similar trouble may ever again come into your army life."

The young soldier saluted and was about to retire when Mrs. Colby said:

"I have been informed that you are an artist, Brown."

"Yes, madam, but a very ordinary one. A much poorer one than I hope to be some day when again given facilities to follow an art which I dearly love."

"I have a painting in my parlor which I would like to show you. It was a gift from my mother on my wedding day, and I prize it very highly."



"NEED HE WOULD NOT, CAPT. COLBY."

Would you mind looking at it? You will excuse us a few moments, captain?"

"Certainly, my dear. I must go to headquarters and attend to some business that demands my attention."

Brown followed the good lady into the house, and the painting was pointed out to him. He stood gazing upon it in rapt admiration, his eyes glowing with pleasure as they drank in every detail of light and shade and bold coloring.

"Bierdstadt?"

"How did you know?" she asked.

"His name does not appear on the picture."

"No one acquainted with his bold touch and happy conceptions could ever mistake the work of that master hand," he replied. "There is an individuality clinging to his pictures which proclaims their authorship as plainly as if his name appeared in glowing distinctness on the margin of the canvas."

The painting was one of those bold mountain conceptions for which Bierdstadt was famous. A great rocky gulch rose in the breast of the mountain chain, the sides of the yawning chasm and the surrounding face of the mountain bristling with pines and studded with beehives. The morning sun was just peeping over a rag to the eastward, bathing the rugged face of nature in mellow, golden light. On the brink of the precipitous wall on one side of the canyon stood a lady, with head erect and nostrils distended, gazing across the great chasm to where, on the opposite brink, stood a mountain shepherd in the same startled attitude. The animals seemed to have discovered each

offier at the same moment, and their pose, the rising sun and the soft blush of color which surrounded all confirmed the appropriateness of the title of the picture, "A Morning Surprise."


In words of eloquence the young soldier traced the artistic beauties of the rare work of art, and Mrs. Colby listened in admiration of the intelligence of the man in whom she felt such great interest, but whose value she had never before heard of. As he went on and on, gliding upon this point and that, comparing the work of Bierdstadt with that of other famous artists, every doubt of the truth of the story told her by Alice Sanford faded from Mrs. Colby's mind, and in her eyes the young man became a hero. It must be remembered that Brown was ignorant of the fact that she was in possession of his story, and in the midst of an eloquent speech his position as a private soldier flashed upon him, and in an embarrassed manner he said:

"I beg your pardon, madam. In my pleasure at being permitted to view this beautiful work of art I quite forgot myself, and I fear I have tired you. With your permission I will retire."

"O, no, you must not. I assure you your criticism of the picture greatly interests me, and your praises of its beauty gratify me more than I can tell you. Please be seated, for I love to hear you discuss art and artists."


She motioned him to a chair, and for an hour they sat in interested conversation. Mrs. Colby was, unknown to him, sounding the young soldier to the depths, and with womanly tact she drew from him bit by bit little touches of coloring from his early life, and by her ease of manner and gracious demeanor so impressed him that he again lost sight of his humble rank and conversed with her as he would with a lady in the parlors of society in the east. She was a woman of finished education, one who had seen much of the world, and as she led him on and on from topic to topic, her wonder grew at his intelligence and fine conversational powers.

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Express, daily..... 5:10 a.m.
Accommodation, except Sunday, leaves..... 6:00 a.m.
Humber, daily..... 7:20 a.m.
Express, except Sunday..... 8:25 a.m.
Mail, daily..... 9:00 a.m.
Joliet, Accommodation, Ex. Sunday..... 9:50 a.m.
Way Freight, except Sunday..... 11:30 a.m.

GOING NORTH.

Bloomington, Accom. ex. Sunday..... 7:55 a.m.
Mail, daily..... 11:42 a.m.
Kankakee, Ex. Sunday..... 4:35 p.m.
Accommodation, except Sunday..... 6:25 p.m.
Humber, daily..... 7:38 p.m.
St. Louis, Express, daily..... 11:50 p.m.
St. Louis & Kankakee, Ex. Sunday..... 2:40 a.m.
Way Freight, except Sunday..... 10:00 a.m.

BRANCH TRAINS.

Accommodation, except Sunday..... 7:00 a.m.
Mail, leaves except Sunday..... 4:45 p.m.

MAIL ARRIVES EXCEPT SUNDAY..... 10:15 a.m.
Accommodation, freight, except Sunday..... 10:30 p.m.

J. CHARLTON, G. P. & T. A. Agent.

I. I. I. Time Table.

Regular passenger train service operated daily between Streator, Ill., and South Bend, Ind. Except new equipment and fast time West bound train No. 1 leaves South Bend at 7 a. m., East bound at 11:50 a. m. East bound arrive at Streator 4:00 a. m. West bound train No. 2 leaves Streator 4:00 a. m. arriving at South Bend 10 a. m. Following freight trains will carry passengers: West bound Nos. 3 and 9 from all stations. No. 13 between South Bend and North Joliet. East bound Nos. 8 and 10 between all stations. 12 from Kankakee to Shelby and Westfield; No. 14 from Streator, Dwight and Kankakee to Momence. Trains leave Dwight.....

WEST.

No. 1, mail and express..... 11:47 a.m.
No. 7, Local..... 6:25 p.m.

N. 2, mail and express..... 5:17 a.m.
No. 8, Local..... 9:10 a.m.
No. 14, mail and express..... 2:01 p.m.

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On and after Dec. 30th, 1894, and until further notice, trains carrying passengers will leave Brazealville as follows:

GOING EAST.

No. 1, Express, Mail..... 4:25 p.m.
No. 2, Atlantic Express..... 4:47 a.m.
No. 7, R. C. & St. L. Express..... 11:45 a.m.
No. 3, Chicago Accommodation..... 6:27 a.m.
No. 4, Joliet Express (Sunday only)..... 9:10 a.m.
No. 11, Way Freight..... 7:30 p.m.
No. 17, Joliet Accommodation ex. Sun. 7:25 p.m.

GOING WEST.

No. 2, Express, Mail..... 11:18 a.m.
No. 6, Pacific Express..... 12:14 p.m.
No. 8, R. C. & St. L. Express..... 4:45 p.m.
No. 18, Bloomington Accom. ex. Sun. 7:36 a.m.
No. 10, Joliet Accommodation..... 8:15 p.m.
No. 16, Way Freight..... 9:40 p.m.

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Gardner C. & A. Time Table.

GOING WEST.

No. 201..... 10:00 a.m.
No. 203..... 5:25 p.m.

GOING EAST.

No. 200..... 8:15 a.m.
No. 202..... 4:10 p.m.

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No. 201..... 10:00 a.m.
No. 203..... 5:25 p.m.

GOING EAST.

No. 200..... 8:15 a.m.
No. 202..... 4:10 p.m.

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