

# George Varney's Courage

AGNES BOOTH

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Fairfield pushed open the door of the judge's office, closed the door, and scanned the outside, his face portending his broad shoulders elegantly.

Little hesitation he again opened the door, and hurried through the office to the judge's private study. Within this shelter, he slipped into the nearest chair.

"I'd struck the wrong girl," he gasped, "when I opened the door and saw that bunch. Your must have increased amazement!"

"He asked admiringly at you?" she asked quizzically. "Heaven! I don't know. I never dare look at them. I've never been so scared before! Why, they seemed full of girls—hundreds!"

Varney laughed softly. "I am only six."

"Can't you see that I'm weak?" he asked, fainting from the shock of the girls."

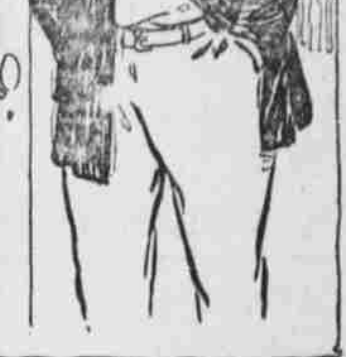
"I said you didn't look at the judge," she interposed.

"I don't, but after seven years in this girl is pretty. Now about them."

The judge's keen gray eyes sparkling. "Well, I hope I've a year's supply of stenography."

Varney lay in a stock against a wall. "I need," approved Fairfield.

"I'll keep one more than a year's supply of stenography."



"The signs on the outside."

"of months. Miss Allen left last night."

"my Drayton the lucky man?" she asked. "I've determined not to be engaged again—helpless—unable to write."

Fairfield nodded, with a commiserating glance at the empty right-hand chair of his friend.

"I wrote to my sister in Kansas to engage some stenographers for me. She has really a most respectable talent for analyzing characters. I need no reference if they pass inspection."

Fairfield chuckled—he had met Miss Allen. "How can you be so sure, Varney, six! How can you be so sure?"

"I beg your pardon."

"I'm perfectly honest, I'm acting for your benefit. I've had a nice girl here and you never tried to win favor with any of them. I thought you might be less than—a petrified clam if they were several together."

"See, 'safety in number.' Is this you sent for me? You're very kind to encourage me in this way. I'm doomed to lonely bachelorhood."

Fairfield sighed mockingly. "You deserve to be," his friend replied testily. "But Wyoming has single men to one single woman's not fair to the state. Go back and bring a wife home with you."

Fairfield's tanned face grew grave. "It was once a girl," he began faintly.

"There are plenty more," added the judge unfeelingly.

"Not for me. That's why I'm a bachelor."

"I'd like to marry the other man?" she asked. "I don't know. She was too young to marry anybody. I was a fool at boys are—and my folly cost my place in college and—"

"Suspended?" queried the older man. "I was 'vacationed' for three months when I was—"

"No," answered the other doggedly. "I was expelled. Expelled, fired—"

"I need to treasure the kick of the game of your life," the judge suggested kindly.

"I cost me also—home and—"

"I was given \$500 and told to get out and die!"

"The best of advice was good—you followed it all. That boy died."

"You've lived—like a man! I've known you seven years. About nineteen, were you, when—"

"When I played fool? Twenty. I've never touched a drop of liquor since, Judge Varney!"

"And the girl?"

"She was the daughter of one of the professors. Seventeen then, and I know, now that I'm older, that she cared for me. But I was an 'undesirable' from the first, and I never had a second alone with her—she was so infernally well chaperoned! Her mother meant her to make a great match. The girl gave promise of wonderful beauty, and for some reason the professor hated me as the devil hates holy water!"

"M—m," murmured the judge thoughtfully, "I think I can account for your expulsion!"

"I was as proud as I was foolish. I made no attempt at justification, perhaps if I had—Oh, what's the use? It's past and gone! Let the dead past bury its dead!"

"That's right," the judge agreed heartily, "you've shown your worth here in Wyoming. You've lived white—playing the game of life like a man. You've made good with the money you were told to die on. You'll be a rich man before you are forty. Now if you'd only forget that girl—"

Fairfield raised an impatiently interrupting hand. "You mean well, Varney, and I'm not wearing my heart where the daws can get at it, but—there'll never be another girl for me. I knew it when I was a boy. I know it now."

"Suppose," mused the judge, in a voice of unwonted gentleness, "suppose you were to meet her again. Suppose you found you were right in believing she loved you long ago. Suppose she still cares—"

Fairfield's tanned face paled, and his strong, brown hand pulled impatiently at his collar.

"Don't, Judge, you only open an old wound! We won't mention it again. I don't know what possessed me to speak of it now—even to you!"

"But if you should meet her," the judge persisted, "and could get a chance to see her alone?"

"Great Heavens, man!" cried the other, roughly, "I'm no longer a boy. I wouldn't wait to see her alone! One look into her eyes would tell me all I want to know and I'd take her into my arms if all the world stood staring."

Checking himself abruptly, he walked toward the window, asking in an altered tone: "Will you go to lunch with me, Varney?"

"If you'll wait about ten minutes; I must sign some letters first."

Fairfield answered absently, looking from the window with eyes that saw nothing of the familiar scene before him. He heard the door open from the outer office; he was conscious that the judge was speaking to some one. He did not turn—his thoughts were back in the past he had tried to forget. He seemed to see again the shy little girl whose eyes had answered the words he could not speak, whose sorrowful face had looked down at him from her window when he, defiant and reckless, had turned to shake a boyish fist at the college walls he was leaving in disgrace.

A gentle hand touched his arm and a sweet voice said: "Dexter, I hope you haven't forgotten?"

"Grace!"

It was the cry of a strong man with empty arms and yearning heart a cry that was answered by clinging arms.

"I'm not conducting a matrimonial bureau exactly," the judge explained later, "but when this young lady addressed the district judge asking assistance in locating a certain Dexter F. Windsor, but only in case the said Windsor is not married, my suspicions were aroused, and I wrote to her to come on and help me identify the—'the chump!' he finished fondly, his hand on the young man's shoulder."

In a Tropical Forest.

Dr. Charles H. Townsend, director of the New York aquarium, who recently spent a month in and about the straits of Magellan, contributes to the Popular Science Monthly an account of his experience. The perpetual snow line is only 2,000 to 3,000 feet above tide-water, and yet in the summer season wonderful flowers and ripe berries are to be gathered, while humming-birds, parrots and flamingoes abound. Fortunately there are no mosquitoes. "No ordinary description can convey a clear idea of the generally impenetrable character of the forests, which are more tangled and difficult than those of the tropics. Fallen trees and branches cover deeply the whole forest floor, these in turn being mostly concealed with mosses and large plants, the whole always saturated as if by a recent rainstorm. After clambering over decayed logs, heavily blanketed with mosses, one may land waist deep in boggy vegetation. Progress is possible only by constant and laborious climbing over obstructions."

Archaeological Discovery.

A record of very great interest concerning the celebrated siege of Jerusalem by Vespasian's army, under the command of Titus, has been discovered in upper Egypt, consisting of a wooden panel, with raised borders, or frame, bearing a Latin inscription of some fifty lines, of which thirty-seven are still perfectly legible. Apart from its historical importance this relic, with the exception of the tablets found at Pompeii, containing some accounts of a banker there, is the most valuable specimen ever found.

Eastern Cities Growing.

Washington—The population of Springfield, Ill., is 51,678, an increase of 17,519, or 51.3 per cent as compared with 34,159 in 1900. The population of Watertown, N. Y., is 26,730, an increase of 5,034, or 23.2 per cent, as compared with 2,426 in 1900. The population of Oswego, N. Y., is 23,368, as compared with 22,199 in 1900. The population of Cohoes, N. Y., is 24,708, compared with 23,910 in 1900.

China's Imports Decline.

Washington—The growing commercial interdependence of Oriental countries, as against their former dependence on the Occident, is shown by the latest figures of China's foreign commerce, which have just reached the department of commerce and labor. In most cases China's imports from Occidental countries indicated a decline. The largest actual gains in imports were in merchandise coming from India, Japan, Russia, French Indo-China and Singapore. The figures show a larger decrease in imports from the United States than from any other of the special countries of the world.

Prince Hsun is Honored.

Honolulu—Prince Tsai Hsun, minister of the Chinese navy and uncle of the young emperor of China, arrived here on board the Manchuria. The prince is on his way to the United States to make a study of naval problems. He was given an elaborate reception here. Escorted by Governor Frear, the Chinese naval minister and his retinue were taken from the waterfront to the scene of the reception under guard of soldiers and marines.

Conservation Must Wait.

Washington—Congress may attempt further conservation legislation next winter and some bills urged by the administration may become laws, but there is little chance that any measure looking to the so-called "conservation of water power" can be passed in the limited three months of the closing session of the 61st congress, for there is too much diversity of opinion as to how water powers should be "conserved."

# NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

NO REFUSAL GIVEN.

Witness Says Importers All Paid For Underweighing.

New York—As the corollary to the statement, made recently from the witness stand by George T. Lunny, alleged go-between of importers and government weighers in bribery operations, that he had never known a weigher who would not accept a bribe, James P. Hyland, formerly an assistant weigher, testified that he had never met an importer who refused to pay for underweighing.

Hyland was the chief witness of the day in the trial of George E. Bedell and other ex-customs officials on charges of making fraudulent weights. He said he sometimes took off 50 per cent from the weights and sometimes did not weigh cargoes at all, but merely guessed at the weights.

Hyland was assistant government weigher from 1891 to 1909. On the stand, he was asked if he had ever done any underweighing.

"I underweighed the very first cargo I was assigned to weigh," was the reply of the witness. He said he continued underweighing from that time on, receiving most of the corruption money from "Big George" Lunny, who has been described in the testimony as the "go-between" for importers and weighers in bribery operations to secure underweights. The underweighers always got half the amounts of the duties out of which the government was defrauded, Hyland testified.

Hyland said that at one time he was not satisfied with the amount of his "rake-off" at one dock, and offered Bedell \$50 a ship if he would transfer him to a more fruitful field. The transfer was made, the witness testified. Bedell was chief clerk to Deputy Surveyor Vail. He paid Bedell, on the average, just what he promised to, Hyland declared.

RECOGNITION NEXT STEP.

Satisfactory Adjustment With Nicaragua Thought Near.

Washington—Events are moving towards a satisfactory adjustment of the relations between the United States and Nicaragua. It was admitted at the State department that the Estrada government was to be recognized immediately, as far as it was possible to do so at this stage.

It is pointed out that there are various degrees of recognition, and as Estrada's government is, after all, a provisional one, the recognition would be on that basis.

Estrada's representative in Washington will be Senor David Arrrellano, who achieved fame in this country and brought on his head the wrath of Zelaya by conducting a public demonstration in Managua in honor of the accession of Taft to the presidency.

SURETY COMPANY LIABLE.

Supreme Court Decision Protects Bank Guaranty Fund.

Guthrie, Oklahoma—Three surety companies, banking the funds of the Oklahoma school land office on deposit in the wrecked Columbia Banking & Trust company, of Oklahoma City, when the institution failed, were held liable for \$140,000 by a decision of the State Supreme court. At the same time the bank guaranty fund was relieved of responsibility for the same amount.

By the same court decision a Kansas City company, which had already paid \$30,000 bonds on state funds, and surety companies protecting the Oklahoma County deposit approximately \$70,000, are prevented from the recovering from the bank guaranty fund, which is thus \$240,000 better off by the Supreme court decision.

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DEAD TIMBER TO BE SOLD.

Government Would Dispose of That Killed by Forest Fires.

Washington—Government timber that was killed by the recent forest fires that swept over large areas in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, is to be sold as speedily as possible by the forest service, provided purchasers can be found. A great deal of this timber, though killed by the fire, is entirely sound and fit for the mill, provided it is cut and removed within two or three years. It is this timber that is to be sold.

The sales will be made under the direction of the district foresters having jurisdiction over the states in which the big fires occurred; and these officials will be at liberty, if they so desire, to sell this burned timber at lower rates than have heretofore been asked for mature timber sold from forest reserves. There will be no instructions issued by the Washington office directing the sale of this timber at reduced prices, as the district officers will be permitted to exercise their best judgment. It is the desire of the forest service, however, that all timber killed by the fires be cut and removed as early as possible, and it is also the belief of the Washington office that a reduction in price might well be made as an inducement to mill men who are so situated as to be able to handle this timber.

In the main, the lands burned over by the August fires, so far as they lay within the boundaries of the forest reserves, will be kept in reserves, and will be reforested. Some of the lands, however, that prove to be chiefly valuable for agricultural purposes, now that the timber is burned off, will be opened to homestead entry. It is the understanding of the officials in Washington that the bulk of the land is suitable principally for forest purposes, however, and this land will in time be replanted unless it naturally reforests.

RESTORE VALUABLE LANDS

Large Areas Eliminated From Forest Reserves.

Washington—Under a plan of co-operation outlined by Secretaries Ballinger and Wilson, and now being carried out by the officials of the Interior department and department of agriculture, material areas of agricultural land, is to be eliminated from forest reserves and restored to the public domain. Some of this land has already been restored; a much greater area is expected to be restored during the coming winter, when reports on this summer's field work are collected and maps submitted to the heads of the two departments.

There seemingly misunderstanding in the minds of many as to just what Secretary Ballinger and Secretary Wilson are undertaking to do. Their purpose is simply to take from forest reserves lands that are not properly included in such reserves—lands that are not primarily valuable for their timber, or as protection to water supply. In other words, they are seeking to meet strong objections that have been raised against forest reserves in times past, by removing one cause for complaint.

EXTENDED CONTROL URGED

Beveridge Tells Bankers Government Should Supervise Trusts.

Evansville, Ind.—Urging government supervision of meat-packing companies, the "steel trust," the "sugar trust," the railroads and other great corporations, Senator Beveridge told the delegates to the convention of the Indiana Bankers' association that he "could see no reason why moral obligations should have to be made legal obligations for bankers and not for other persons in whom there is placed a public trust."

He added, "I spoke of packers, railroad management, steel trust and sugar trust men. And if the government controls banks, as it does, why should not it control railroads and other public corporations. The relationship to the people is just as great, if not greater than that of the banks."

Packers Give Bail.

Chicago—Seven of the 10 officials of the Chicago packing companies indicted by a Federal grand jury for violation of the Sherman anti-trust law appeared in the Federal court and gave bail for their appearance. Each defendant was obliged to furnish three bonds for \$10,000 each.

The three men who did not furnish bail are Louis F. Swift, president of the Swift & Co., who is in Europe; Thomas J. Connors, superintendent of Armour & Co., who is now returning from Europe, and Francis A. Fowler, department manager of Swift & Co., who is ill. Judge Landis ordered bench warrants issued for the defendants, but after attorneys for the absentees explained why they had failed to appear the order was recalled.

Expense Exceeds Salary.

Atlanta, Ga.—For the Democratic nomination for governor of Georgia, Hoke Smith, successful candidate in the recent primary election, paid \$17,596.10, according to an itemized account filed by him with the comptroller of the state. Of this amount friends contributed to his campaign fund \$7,097.47. Governor Joseph M. Brown spent \$3,950.75. The office of governor pays a salary of \$3,000 annually.

Convicts to Be Whipped.

Austin, Texas—The last official act of the fourth special session of the Texas legislature was the signing by lieutenant-governor and speaker of the house of the law making radical changes in the conduct of the state penitentiary. Whipping in the cases of convicts in what is known as the third or incorrigible class, was restored.

HILL TO TAP COAST.

Road Will Be Pushed Through to Los Angeles, Is Rumor.

Los Angeles—Well-informed railroad men believe that to all intents and purposes James J. Hill has, or is about to force a way through to this coast for his trains.

Hill has for some time controlled a line to Benson, Ariz., within 50 miles of this city. He is master of the Burlington, reaching with its main line to Denver, and the Colorado & Southern from Denver to Fort Worth.

Handing the reins of the latter line to Hill was one of the biggest mistakes ever made by the late E. H. Harriman, because at Dallas the Colorado & Southern crosses the Rock Island, which operates over the Phelps-Dodge road, the El Paso Southwestern, to El Paso, whence trains come over the Southern Pacific. The Phelps-Dodge line continues, however, to Benson, and its owners have arranged to build to Phoenix.

These interests are at war with the Southern Pacific, and it is understood they have a track-right arrangement with the Santa Fe, which will be highly advantageous to the latter when the new link is built.

There is every reason to expect, authorities declare, from that connection Hill, through his Phelps-Dodge influence, will operate to this coast over the Santa Fe via the Parker cutoff.

MAN EATS GRASS TO LIVE.

Alaskan Prospector Saved From Starvation on Yukon Island.

Seattle—A special dispatch from Fairbanks, Alaska, says that one of the deckhands of the steamer Monarch has an acute appreciation of what it means to be stranded on a desert isle.

On the last trip of the Monarch down the Tanana river, some one noticed that a flag was being waved from a little island in the river. Captain Blair stopped his boat and sent back to investigate. There he found an unfortunate man who had been wrecked on the island, lost all of his outfit and was reduced to the necessity of eating grass.

As the man had been three days without food, he was weak, but he accepted a job as a deckhand on the Monarch, where good meals revived him.

PETRIFIED FISH ARE FOUND.

California Miners Discover Two Prehistoric Monsters of the Sea.

San Andreas, Cal.—Word was brought here from Railroad Flat that in the tunnel of the Bouvois mine, near the Calaveras river, 15 miles East of Mokelumne Hill, two immense petrified fish were found a few days ago, one 37 feet long and the other 15.

The longest one was lengthwise of the tunnel and the miners had blasted into it some distance before they determined what it was. Then it was too late to preserve it, large portions having been blown to pieces. The other one was crosswise and the tunnel was put through it.

The fish were imbedded in cement gravel, and had no doubt been there many centuries, since gravel filled what must have been in the remote past an immense inland sea.

CLARA MORRIS IN FLIGHT.

Aged Actress, Destitute, May Lose Her Home.

New York—Blind, feeble from illness, deserted by those whose friends she was when they were needy, Clara Morris, 20 years ago the idol of applauding audiences, will be turned from under her roof unless \$20,000 can be raised to lift the mortgage on her home on Riverdale avenue. Headed by a man who had never seen Clara Morris off the stage, a company known as the Clara Morris Holding company, has been organized to save her house for her and has raised \$15,000 towards lifting the mortgage of \$30,000 on the home of the once famous tragedienne. But unless the remaining \$15,000, together with an additional \$5,000 to meet interest, taxes and assessments for some years to come is secured, Clara Morris may be thrown on charity for support.

Many Preachers to Quit.

Charles City, Ia.—When the Upper Iowa Methodist conference convenes in Charles City next week, it will find itself face to face with a decided shortage in the number of preachers necessary for the district, and 57 charges in the conference will have to be filled from a source not known at present. Fifty-seven men, the greater part of them in the prime of life, a number of them only a few years out of the university and seminary, will quit the ministry at this time and take up secular work.

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Drug Sale to Be Stopped.

Pittsburg—A country-wide campaign against the illegitimate traffic in narcotics and habit-forming drugs began here when the National Association of Retail Druggists went on record as favoring a national law along these lines.

Portugal Exiles Monks.

Lisbon—The monastery of the Spanish Jesuits at Aldeira-Ponte has been closed by a government decree, and the Jesuits have been expelled from the country. They are warned that if they return to Portugal they will be arrested.

# LATEST ZEPPELIN AIRSHIP BURNED

Benzine Tank Explodes While Ship Is Being Housed

Three of Crew Hurt—Balloon an Entire Wreck—Had Been In Passenger Service.

Baden Baden—The latest type of Count Zeppelin's inventive genius met with disaster here when the dirigible balloon Zeppelin VI took fire after an explosion while being warped into her shed. A score or more of men were engaged in the task of housing the airship when a benzine tank in the rear gondola exploded, setting fire to an adjacent compartment. The explosion of this compartment was followed by the explosion of the 16 others.

There was a gush of flames and the whole structure was destroyed in a few minutes. Three of the crew were injured.

Nothing remained of Count Zeppelin's latest model except a tangled mass of aluminum frames.

The shed also caught fire, but the blaze was put out without serious damage. Several workmen were burned, but none fatally.

The igniting of the benzine occurred while workmen were cleaning the machinery, during which the benzine holders were open. The cause of the fire has not been ascertained.

Zeppelin VI, during the last 18 days, has made 34 passenger trips, covering about 2,000 miles, and carrying more than 300 passengers. The flights of the dirigible were made regularly, often in unfavorable weather.

This is the fifth serious accident which has befallen the Zeppelin dirigibles.

The Zeppelin VI was under charter of the Passenger Airship company, having replaced in the passenger service the recently wrecked Deutschland. It was transferred from Friedrichshafen to this place, and after being fitted with improved propellers and new features, made a trial trip on August 19. It proved to be the speediest of its type, and it was announced that it would maintain a speed of 38 miles an hour.

The dirigible was reconstructed to carry 10 passengers, and in the last few days had made several trips. Many Americans were among the excursionists. Baron Rudolph Goldsmidt-Rothchild had chartered the airship for the use of a private party. He had agreed to pay \$500 for the first two hours of the excursion, and \$250 for each additional hour.

FALLIERES SEES DIRIGIBLES.

French Army Corps Use Aeroplanes in Field Maneuvers.

Grandvillieres, France—President Fallieres, accompanied by the president-elect of Brazil, Marshal Hermes Fonseca, Premier Briand and foreign military attaches, witnessed the operation of dirigibles in the army maneuvers. Three dirigibles and six aeroplanes, including those manned by Latham and Paulhan, took prominent part in the operation.

Thus far aeroplanes have given better results than the dirigibles, which for two days were prevented from leaving their stations by high winds. Army officers are enthusiastic over the results.

General Picquart, commanding the Second corps, and General Meunier, commanding the Third corps, each morning before 7 o'clock were in possession of an accurate description of the location and movements of each other's forces. Meunier outgeneralized Picquart, succeeding in turning the latter's position.

Standard Sues Carriers.

Washington—A claim for reparation has been instituted by the Standard Oil company before the Interstate Commerce commission against the Chicago Terminal Transfer company, the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railway company, and other carriers. It is alleged that the Standard Oil company was overcharged by the carriers on shipments of refined oil from Whiting, to Bear Springs, Tenn., through the filing by the carriers with the commission of a faulty tariff.

Man Tells of Murders.

Denver—Michael Siften, a Polish laborer, who came to Denver from Pueblo a few days ago, related to Chief Armstrong, of the Denver police, a remarkable tale of a series of murders alleged to have been committed in Pueblo several years ago. Siften says he is able to account for a dozen mysterious disappearances and crimes. He did not tell of them before, he said, because of fear. The crimes were committed at a boarding house.

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