

# A CAPTAIN IN THE RANKS

By George Carey Eggleston

(Continued from Last Week.)

### SYNOPSIS.

Captain Guilford Duncan, C. S. A., takes part in the last fight, at Appomattox, and leaves the army. He then determines to go to Cairo, Ill. Although well educated and a lawyer, Captain Duncan is without family or money, and works his passage to Cairo. Here he saves Captain Hallam's cotton from fire and Captain Hallam, a modern "captain of industry," hires Captain Duncan, and quickly advances in his employer's estimation. He saves Captain Hallam's coal fleet from destruction by a storm, and is made a partner by Captain Hallam. The young man becomes a force of good among the young men of Cairo. Barbara Verne, a young lady, runs the boarding house in which Captain Duncan takes his meals. Captain Duncan is thanked by Barbara for saving her from annoyance by mischievous boys. He determines to call upon her.

Captain Duncan invites Barbara to a dance. He incurs the enmity of Napper Tandy, a capitalist, a rival of Captain Hallam, by making of the latter's coal mine a paying property, in competition with one of Tandy's properties. At the coal mine Duncan meets an old acquaintance, Dick Temple, now working as a miner. Dick Temple suggests a way to increase the output of the mine and is appointed engineer. XVI—Duncan, who is in love with Barbara. Napper Tandy attempts to bribe Duncan. Duncan proposes to Barbara. She tells him she cannot give him a decided answer. Napper Tandy circulates the story that Duncan has asked him for a bribe. To retaliate, Hallam proposes to buy sufficient shares in Tandy's bank to elect Duncan president. Dick Temple is commissioned by Hallam to buy the bank stock. Barbara tells Duncan she cannot marry him because she is the daughter of a thief. Temple succeeds in buying the bank stock. Barbara tells Duncan she cannot marry him because she is the daughter of a thief. Temple succeeds in buying the bank stock. Duncan learns from Barbara that her father was an embezzler and a suicide. She tells him to wait a year before she finally rejects or accepts his proposal. XXIV—Captain Hallam tells Duncan of the plan to make him president of the Tandy bank. XXIV—Captain Hallam and Duncan are interested in the planning of a railroad to connect Cairo and the east. Tandy seems to be working secretly against the proposed road. The permission to build the road requires that between two towns in different counties a car shall pass before a certain date. XXV and XXVI—Duncan discovers Tandy's irregular dealings with the bank and forces him to make restitution. Tandy gives up his Cairo investments.

### CHAPTER XXVII.

IN accordance with his custom, Duncan told Barbara the whole story of the bank's dealings with Tandy and explained to her his reasons for suspecting, as Captain Hallam had said, that Tandy was "up to mischief" of some kind and needed close watching.

"Perhaps he has lost money heavily," suggested Barbara, "and is struggling to keep his head above water."

"That is extremely unlikely," answered Duncan, "particularly as his standing at Bradstreet's is unimpaired. I asked Bradstreet's yesterday for a special report on him, and they gave him four A's. That means that he has ample capital and abundant resources somewhere within the knowledge of Bradstreet's agents. I imagine that he is going quietly into some big enterprise and has so far invested his capital in it that he was sorely embarrassed for ready money when suddenly called upon to raise it. I would give a tidy little sum to find out what he is up to."

But neither Duncan nor Hallam was destined to make that discovery as yet. Soon after the bank matter was settled Tandy seemed quite at ease again financially. He resumed his purchases of property along the line of the proposed railway, but only along the eastern half of it. He bought none in Cairo or within fifty miles of that city. Two months later, after Duncan's campaign was over and the elections had been held, he and Barbara came back to the subject. Duncan told Barbara of the queer provision that Tandy had persuaded the authorities of two counties to put into their bond appropriation and expressed his curiosity to know the motive.

"He didn't do that thing just for fun, Guilford," the girl said after she had thought the matter over for twenty-four hours. "He has some interest to serve."

"Of course, I'm very sure of that." "We must find out what it is," said the girl, whose apprehension was strongly aroused.

"But how, Barbara?" "I don't know how at present, but I'm trying to find out a way. I don't know enough about the facts as yet to make a good guess. You must tell me some things."

"Anything you like."

"Is there any other railroad that

might be injured by this one? Any road, I mean, that he might be interested in enough to make him want this project defeated?"

"No, certainly not. On the contrary, he has a tremendous interest in the building of our road. Of course his interests here in Cairo are comparatively small, now that he is out of the bank, but, as you know, he has been buying property very heavily along our proposed line. Of course when the road is finished the towns along the line will grow, and property there will go up. In view of that he has been buying lots, houses and business buildings at all the places where principal stations are likely to be located."

It was two or three days later when Barbara returned to the subject by a somewhat indirect route.

"Tell me about Paducah, Guilford," she said to him suddenly.

He laughingly answered: "Paducah is a thriving town in northwestern Kentucky. It lies on the Ohio river about fifty miles above the mouth



"You've solved the riddle!"

of that stream. It has a small but ambitious population, and is a considerable market for the sale of tobacco. That's about all I remember of what the gazetteer says about the interesting burg."

"And you know that isn't what I want you to tell me. Are there any railroads there?"

"One small one, running from the south, ends there, I believe, and the Paducah people are trying to induce the company which is building the Memphis and Ohio River railroad to make its northern terminus there instead of at Cairo. They are trying, too, to get a bridge built across the Ohio at that point. They are unlikely to succeed in either project, for the reason that they have no railroad connection north or east. Railroads from the south running into Paducah would find no outlet except by the river."

Barbara was silent for some time; then she asked, "Is Mr. Tandy interested in any business at Paducah?"

"I really don't know. He's in all sorts of things, you know. But why do you ask?"

Instead of answering she asked another question: "Is he interested in the company you spoke of, that is building a line from Memphis to the Ohio river?"

"Yes; he's heavily in that. Indeed, he is president of it, I believe, or something like that, just as he is of our company—well, no; the parallel doesn't hold, for ours is only a projecting company as yet, while that is a full fledged railroad company actually engaged in building. I suppose that is one of the things that tied Tandy up at the time of the bank trouble. He had put a pot of money into it, and he could neither sell his stock nor raise money on it till the road should be finished and in operation. But why do you ask about that, Barbara?"

For answer she crossed the room and, returning, spread out a map on a table.

"Look," she said, putting her finger on the map. "At a point only a little east of that county line concerning which Tandy got the strange stipulation made our proposed line will be much nearer to Paducah than the distance from that point to Cairo. May it not be possible?"

"By Jove, Barbara," Duncan exclaimed as he bent over the map, "you've solved the riddle! What a splendid combination it is! And how we must hustle to defeat it!"

"You must be calm, then, and let us work it all out and be sure of everything before you tell Captain Will about it. I want you to have full credit for the timely discovery."

"Me? Why, it is all yours, Barbara, and you are to have all the credit."

"Oh, no. You told me the things that enabled me to guess it out, and I've only been trying to help you. I'm glad if I have helped, but positively my name mustn't be mentioned. I'm only a woman!"

"Only a woman!" Duncan echoed. "Only a woman! Barbara, God's wisdom was never so wise as when he created 'only a woman' to be a 'help-meet for man.'"

### CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE next half hour was spent, as Barbara expressed it, in "perfecting the guess" she had made.

"Tandy has gone into that Memphis and Ohio river enterprise up to his eyes," said Duncan. "Naturally he has got his controlling interest in it at an extremely low price as compared with the face value of the stock and bonds, for the reason that the road ends at Paducah, which is much the same thing as ending nowhere."

"But if he can succeed in diverting our line to Paducah instead of Cairo, thus securing an entirely satisfactory connection north and east, his Memphis and Ohio road will become part of one

of the greatest trunk lines in this part of the country, and the advance in his stock and bond holdings will make him one of the richest men in the west."

"That is what I was thinking, Guilford, but I hardly dared suggest it, I know so little. I didn't know that it would be possible to change our line. I thought that maybe its charter compelled it to run to Cairo."

"No, unfortunately it doesn't. Tandy secured the charter in the first place, before Hallam and Stafford went into the project. I wonder," he added, with a puzzled look, "I wonder if the old scoundrel was looking this far ahead. At any rate, the charter, as Tandy had it drawn, requires only that the line shall be so located and constructed as to connect the railroads running east from its eastern terminus with the Mississippi river. It doesn't say at what point. That requirement would be fully met, of course, if the road should be diverted to Paducah, connecting there with the line to Memphis."

"But why did Tandy want that county line provision put into the bond subscription?"

"Look at the map again. Those two counties lie west of the point at which the road must be turned south if it is to be diverted to Paducah. If we fail to build across that county line by noon of the 15th of next March the subscriptions of both those counties will be forfeited. Then Tandy will step in and offer the company that is building the line a much larger subscription of some sort from Paducah and from his Memphis road as an inducement to shorten the line by taking it to Paducah instead of Cairo."

"That would ruin Cairo!" the girl asked anxiously.

"It would be a terrible blow to the city's prosperity. But," looking at his watch, "I must lay this matter before Hallam and Stafford tonight, late as it is."

Then, going to the little telegraph instrument which for his own convenience he had installed in Barbara's house, he called Captain Hallam out of bed and clicked off the message:

The milk in the cocoanut is accounted for. I must see you and Stafford tonight, without fail. Summon him. I'll go up to your house at once.

It did not require much time or many words for Duncan to explain the situation as he now understood it, nor was there the slightest ground for doubt that the solution reached was altogether the correct one.

"It's a deep game he's been playing," said Hallam.

"I've one of the finest combinations I ever heard of," responded Stafford. "You've a mighty long head, Duncan, to work out such a puzzle."

"Don't be too complimentary to my head. I didn't work it out," responded the younger man.

"You didn't? Who did, then?" "Barbara Verne! She forbade me to mention her name, but I will not fall under false colors."

"Well, now, I want to say," said Stafford, "that you've a mighty long head, anyhow, to make a counselor of such a girl as Barbara Verne. It's the very wisest thing you ever did in your life and the wisest you ever will do till you make her your wife. Of course that will come in due time."

"I hope so, but I am not sure I can accomplish that."

"Why, I had supposed it was all arranged. Why haven't you?"

"Perhaps I have. At any rate, the doubt I spoke of is not due to any neglect of opportunity on my part. But we must get to business. It is 2 o'clock in the morning. We've found out old Napper's game. Now, what are we going to do about it?"

During this little side conversation Hallam had been pacing the floor, thinking. He now began issuing orders, like shots from a rapid fire gun.

"Go to the instrument there, Duncan, and telegraph Temple to come to Cairo by the first train. Tell him to give instructions to his assistant as to the running of the mine during a long absence on his part."

When Duncan had finished the work of telegraphing, Hallam turned to him, saying:

"You, Duncan, are to start for New York on the 7 o'clock train this morning. Leave your proxy with Stafford to vote your stock in the present company, and—"

"What's your plan, Hallam?" interrupted Stafford.

"To give old Napper Tandy the very hardest lesson he's ever had to learn at my hands. You and I will call a meeting of the company immediately and make Duncan president."

"But how are we to get rid of Tandy?"

"Ask him to resign and kick him out if he doesn't. But listen! We've no time to waste. We'll reorganize this company, making it a real railroad company to build the road instead of being the mere projecting company it is now. You and I and Duncan will put all the money we can spare into it, and we'll make every man in Cairo who's got anything beyond funeral expenses put it in. All the subscriptions already made to the inducement fund we'll convert into permanent stock subscriptions. Then, with the county, city and town subscriptions in hand, we'll have about \$4,000,000 of our stock subscribed. We must have \$12,000,000 of stock in all. It is for you, Duncan, to find the rest in New York. You must see capitalists and persuade them to go in with us as subscribers either to the stock or to the construction bonds that we'll issue. You are to use your own judgment, and we'll back you up."

"What are you going to do with Temple?"

"Make him chief engineer to the company and set him at work surveying and locating the line at once. It's now

3 o'clock. You must go and pack your trunk, Duncan. I'll telegraph you in New York, telling you everything you need to know. Take your copy of our private cipher code with you, in case we should have confidential communications to make. Go, now. I'll smooth your way by telegraphing our correspondents in New York and the officers of the Fourth National asking them to help you. Stafford, you'd better go home now. You're getting along in life, you know, and need your sleep." Stafford was about ten years younger than Hallam.

So ended a conference that was destined by the success or failure of its purpose to decide the fate of a great enterprise and the future of a thriving city, to say nothing of the career of a brilliant young man.

(To be continued.)

### A PECULIAR FISH.

The Turbot's Ball and Socket Eye of Black and Gold.

Lying limp and slimy on a fishmonger's slab, or dry and sandy in the fishwives' baskets, the turbot is, perhaps, the least interesting of fish. When swimming in an artificial sea or lying on the sandy bottom it is the most attractive of all of the denizens of this mock ocean and whether at rest or in motion has an air of vigilance, vivacity and intelligence greater than that of any of the normally shaped fish. This is in part due to its habits and in part to the expression of the flat fish's eye. This, which is sunk and invisible in the dead fish, is raised on a kind of turret in the living turbot, or sole, and set there in a half revolving apparatus, working almost as independently as the "ball and socket" eyes of the chameleon. There is this difference, however, in the eye of the lizard and of the fish—the iris of the chameleon is a mere pinhole at the top of the eyeball, which is thus absolutely without expression. The turbot's, or "butt's," eyes are black and gold and intensely bright, with none of the fixed, staring stupid appearance of ordinary fishes' eyes. It lies upon the sand and jerks its eyes independently into position to survey any part of the ground surface, the water above, or that on either side at any angle.

If it had light rays to project from its eyes instead of to receive, the effect would be precisely that made by the sudden shifting of the jointed apparatus which casts the electric light from a warship at any angle on to sea, sky or horizon. The turbot, though ready, graceful swimmers, moving in wavelike undulations across the water or dashing off like a flash when so disposed, usually lie perfectly still upon the bottom. They do not, like the dals and the founders, cover themselves with sand, for they mimic the color of the ground with such absolute fidelity that except for the shining eye it is almost impossible to distinguish them. It would appear that volition plays some part in this subtle conformity to environment, for one turbot, which is blind, has changed to a tint too light and not at all in harmony with that of the sand.—London Spectator.

### POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

No man is as dangerous as his threats.

When some men have nothing to do they become reformers.

If a man asks a candid opinion from a friend and gets it, it makes him mad. Some people invariably get the worst of it, because they are always demanding the best of it.

As soon as a man gets a notion that his employer can't get along without him he is getting ready to lose his job.

There is always the danger that every man will become the hired man and every mother the hired girl to their family.

When a young man begins to make regular visits to a girl, how it would knock out the romance if it were said that he was calling on her to make arrangements for hiring a cook.—Athens Globe.

### Oddly Shaped Spiders.

The most peculiar spiders in the world, as well as the largest ones, inhabit the island of Sumatra. They are of all conceivable forms and colors, and some of them spin threads almost as large and strong as the grocer's twine. Some queerly shaped spiders have square bodies poised on long red legs, and others have crooked green and yellow legs which support heart shaped bodies. One of the very oddest of the lot has a body that looks like that of a young turtle, the "shell" having round knobs and pear shaped projections all over it.

### Monument to a Fish.

A "tombstone" which is to be seen in the garden of Fish cottage, Blockley, a picturesque village in South Worcestershire, is believed to be the only fish's tombstone in existence. The inscription is as follows:

In Memory of the Old Fish. Under the soil the Old Fish, do lie. Twenty years, he lived and then, did die. He was so tame you, understand He would, come, and eat, out, of, our hand.

Died April the 26th, 1885. Aged 20 years.

—London Graphic.

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