

BAREE

SON OF KAZAN

by
**JAMES OLIVER
CURWOOD.**

COPYRIGHT BY DOUBLEDAY PAGE & CO.

Chapter X—Continued

Pierrot, deep in his own somber thoughts, scarcely heard the strange laugh that came suddenly from her lips. Nepeese was listening to the growl that was again in Baree's throat. It was a low but terrible sound. When half a mile from the cabin, she unslung the panniers from his shoulders and carried them herself. Ten minutes later they saw a man advancing to meet them.

It was not McTaggart. Pierrot recognized him, and with an audible breath of relief waved his hand. It was DeBar, who trapped in the barren country north of Lac Bain. Pierrot knew him well. They had exchanged fox-pollens. They were friends and there was pleasure in the grip of their hands. DeBar stared then at Nepeese.

"Tonnerre, she has grown into a woman!" he cried, and like a woman Nepeese looked at him straight, with the color deepening in her cheeks as he bowed low with a courtesy that dated back a couple of centuries beyond the trap-line.

DeBar lost no time in explaining his mission, and before they reached the cabin Pierrot and Nepeese knew why he had come. M'sieu, the Factor at Lac Bain, was leaving on a journey in five days, and he had sent DeBar as a special messenger to request Pierrot to come up to assist the clerk and the half-breed storekeeper in his absence. Pierrot made no comment at first. But he was thinking. Why had Bush McTaggart sent for him? Why had he not chosen some one nearer? Not until a fire was crackling in the sheet-iron stove in the cabin, and Nepeese was busily engaged getting supper, did he voice these questions to the fox-hunter.

DeBar shrugged his shoulders. "He asked me, at first, if I could stay. But I have a wife with a bad lung, Pierrot. It was caught by frost last winter, and I dare not leave her long alone. He has great faith in you. Besides, you know all the trappers on the Company's books at Lac Bain. So he sent for you, and begs you not to worry about your fur-lines, as he will pay you double what you would catch in the time you are at the Post."

"And—Nepeese?" said Pierrot. "M'sieu expects me to bring her?" From the stove the Willow bent her head to listen, and her heart leaped free again at DeBar's answer.

"He said nothing about that. But surely—it will be a great change for M'sieu's wife."

Pierrot nodded. "Possibly, Netootam." They discussed the matter no more that night. But for hours Pierrot was still, thinking, and a hundred times he asked himself the same question: Why had McTaggart sent for him? It must be, he told himself finally, that M'sieu had sent for him because he wanted to win over the father of Nepeese and gain the friendship of Nepeese herself. For this was undoubtedly a very great honor that the Factor was conferring on him. And yet, deep down in his heart, he was filled with suspicion.

When DeBar was about to leave the next morning, Pierrot said: "Tell M'sieu that I will leave for Lac Bain the day after tomorrow."

After DeBar had gone, he said to Nepeese: "And you shall remain here, ma chérie. I will not take you to Lac Bain. I have had a dream that M'sieu will not go on a journey, but that he has died, and that he will be sick when I arrive at the post. And yet, if it should happen that you care to go—"

Nepeese straightened suddenly, like a reed that has been caught by the wind. "Non!" she cried, so fiercely that Pierrot laughed, and rubbed his hands. So it happened that on the second day after the fox-hunter's visit Pierrot left for Lac Bain, with Nepeese in the door waving him good-by until he was out of sight.

On the morning of this same day Bush McTaggart rose from his bed while it was still dark. The time had come. He had hesitated at murder—at the killing of Pierrot; and in his hesitation he had found a better way. There could be no escape for Nepeese.

It was a wonderful scheme, so easy of accomplishment, so inevitable in its outcome. And all the time Pierrot would think he was away to the East on a mission! He ate his breakfast before dawn, and was on the trail before it was yet light. There was a vast amount of brutal satisfaction to McTaggart in anticipating what was about to happen, and he reveled in it to the full. There was no chance for disappointment. He was positive that Nepeese would not accompany her father to Lac Bain. She would be at the cabin on the Gray Loon—alone.

This aloneness was to Nepeese burdened with no thought of danger. There were times, now, when the thought of being alone was pleasant to her, when she wanted to dream by herself, when she visioned things into the mysteries of which she would not admit even Pierrot. She was growing into womanhood—just the sweet, closed bud of womanhood as yet—still a girl with the soft velvet of girlhood in her eyes, yet with the mystery of woman stirring gently in her soul, as if the Great Hand were hesitating between awakening her and letting her sleep a little longer. At these times, when the opportunity came to steal hours by herself, she would put on the red dress and do up her wonderful hair as she saw it in the pictures of the magazines Pierrot had sent up twice a year from Nelson House.

On the second day of Pierrot's absence Nepeese dressed herself like this, but today she let her hair cascade in a shining glory about her, and about her forehead bound a circlet of red ribbon. She was not yet done. Today she had marvelous designs. On the wall close to her mirror she had tacked a large page from a woman's magazine, and on this page was a lovely vision of curls. Fifteen hundred miles north of the sunny California studio in which the picture had been taken, Nepeese, with pouted red lips and puckered forehead, was fighting to master the mystery of the other girl's curls!

She was looking into her mirror, her face flushed and her eyes aglow in the excitement of the struggle to



"Tell M'sieu That I Will Leave, the Day After Tomorrow."

fashion one of the coveted ringlets from a tress that fell away below her hips, when the door opened behind her, and Bush McTaggart walked in.

Chapter XI

The Willow's back was toward the door when the Factor from Lac Bain entered the cabin, and for a few startled seconds she did not turn. Her first thought was of Pierrot—for a man reason he had returned. But even as this thought came to her, she heard in Baree's throat a snarl that brought her suddenly to her feet, facing the door.

McTaggart was standing with his back against the door; and at Nepeese—in her wonderful dress and flowing hair—was staring as if stunned for a space at what he saw. Fate, or accident, was playing against the Willow now. If there had been a spark of slumbering chivalry, of mercy, even, in Bush McTaggart's soul, it was extinguished by what he saw. Never had Nepeese looked more beautiful, not even on that day when MacDonald the map-maker had taken

her picture. The sun, flooding through the window, lighted up her marvelous hair; her flushed face was framed in its lustrous darkness like a tinted cameo. He had dreamed, but he had pictured nothing like this woman who stood before him now, her eyes widening with fear and the flush leaving her face even as he looked at her.

It was not a long interval in which their eyes met in that terrible silence—terrible to the girl. Words were unnecessary. At last she understood—understood what her peril had been that day at the edge of the chasm and in the forest, when fearlessly she had played with the menace that was confronting her now.

A breath that was like a sob broke from her lips.

"M'sieu!" she tried to say. But it was only a gasp—an effort. She seemed choking.

Plainly she heard the click of the iron bolt as it locked the door. McTaggart advanced a step.

Only a single step McTaggart advanced. On the floor Baree had remained like a carved thing. He had not moved. He had not made a sound but that one warning snarl—until McTaggart took the step. And then, like a flash, he was up and in front of Nepeese, every hair of his body on end; and at the fury in his growl McTaggart lunged back against the barred door. A word from Nepeese in that moment, and it would have been over. But an instant was lost—an instant before her cry came. In that moment man's hand and brain worked swifter than brute understanding; and as Baree launched himself at the Factor's throat, there came a flash and a deafening explosion almost in the Willow's eyes.

It was a chance shot, a shot from the hip with McTaggart's automatic. Baree fell short. He struck the floor with a thud and rolled against the log wall. There was not a kick or a quiver left in his body. McTaggart laughed nervously as he shoved his pistol back in its holster. He knew that only a brain shot could have done that.

With her back against the further wall, Nepeese was waiting. McTaggart could hear her panting breath. He advanced halfway to her.

"Nepeese, I have come to make you my wife," he said.

She did not answer. He could see that her breath was choking her. She raised a hand to her throat. He took two more steps, and stopped. He had never seen such eyes.

"I have come to make you my wife, Nepeese. Tomorrow you will go on to Nelson House with me, and then back to Lac Bain—forever." He added the last words as an afterthought. "Forever," he repeated.

He did not mince words. His courage and his determination rose as he saw her body droop a little against the wall. She was powerless. There was no escape. Pierrot was gone. Baree was dead.

He had thought that no living creature could move as swiftly as the Willow when his arms reached out for her. She made no sound as she darted under one of his outstretched arms. He made a lunge, a brutal grab, and his fingers caught a bit of hair. He heard the snap of it as she tore herself free and flew to the door. She had thrown back the bolt when he caught her and his arms closed about her. He dragged her back, and now she cried out—cried out in her despair for Pierrot, for Baree, for some miracle of God that might save her.

And Nepeese fought. She twisted in his arms until she was facing him. She could no longer see. She was smothered in her hair. It covered her face and breast and body, suffocating her, entangling her hands and arms—and still she fought. In the struggle McTaggart stumbled over the body of Baree, and they went down. Nepeese was up fully five seconds ahead of the man. She could have reached the door. But again it was her hair. She paused to fling back the thick masses of it so that she could see, and McTaggart was at the door ahead of her.

He did not lock it again, but stood facing her. His face was scratched and bleeding. He was no longer a man but a devil. Nepeese was broken, panting—a low sobbing came with her breath. She bent down, and picked up a piece of firewood. McTaggart could see that her strength was almost gone.

She clutched the stick as he approached her again. But McTaggart had lost all thought of fear or caution. He sprang upon her like an animal. The stick of firewood fell. And again fate played against the girl. In her terror and hopelessness she had caught up the first stick her hand had touched—a light one. With her last strength she struck at McTaggart with it, and as it fell on his head, he staggered back. But it did not make him loose his hold.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Dan Beard Organized American Boy Scouts

The experiences of Lieut. Gen. Sir Robert S. S. Baden Powell of the British army with boys as messengers during the Boer war in South Africa so impressed him that he came later to devote almost his entire time to work with boys. He organized the boy scouts in England, and from there the movement spread to most other countries, and the membership has grown until it now includes millions of boys.

"The boys' general," however, freely acknowledged his debt to movements of a similar character in the United States. And so, although the Boy Scouts of America were not incorporated until 1910, which was some little time after the British organiza-

tion had been formed, the scouts in this country really date to a boys' organization founded by Daniel Carter Beard—Dan Beard—about 1905. This body became, with another founded by Ernest Thompson Seton, the foundation of the American scouts.

"Packing Industry"

From the beginning pork was salted down and packed in barrels, hence arose the name now given the meat industry. It is more or less a misnomer today because it applies in a greater degree to the industries of fruit and vegetable canning where packing in containers is an important feature.

Facts Everyone Should Know About Shoes



MOST of us who have feet wear shoes. And to most of us a pair of shoes is a pair of shoes. If we can get them over our feet and if they suit our taste, we buy them and forget it—that is, as soon as they allow us to forget them. And then if we can't forget them, if they hurt and make us unnecessarily aware of the fact that we have something on our feet, then something is wrong. And often it is more serious than we may think. Ill-fitting shoes can do permanent damage, as many of us can testify. How can we tell, then, just what kind of footwear to adopt?

Ethelwyn Dodson of the University of California college of agriculture has made a thorough study of feet and shoes. The results of this survey were incorporated in a circular for use in shoe demonstrations given throughout California by a lecturer of the extension service of the university. The purpose of this work is to aid in developing healthy, normal feet for infants and growing boys and girls, and to maintain good feet for adults. Read the following and see how much there is to know about our pedal extremities:

The Normal Foot.

The foot is a flexible structure consisting of 26 bones held together by muscles and ligaments in the form of a springy arch supported by the heel at one end and the ball of the foot at the other. This is known as the longitudinal arch. Across the ball of the foot is another arch known as the anterior arch. Note: There is no normal type of arch. The height and shape are of no value in determining the usefulness of the foot. The number of high, medium, and low arches found in normal feet is practically the same as found in feet with weakened arches.

Infants.

A. Development and Care of Feet:
1. Develop good bone structure and muscle tone through proper nutrition. Note: Bow legs are an evidence of rickets. The poor muscular and skeletal development of a flabby baby rather than the overdevelopment and over use of the legs and feet is often the cause of bow legs. (Direct sunshine, cod liver oil and raw egg yolks properly used are recognized cures for rickets.)

2. Rest feet during the morning as well as during the afternoon. Over-fatigue hinders muscular development.
3. Allow infant to begin walking only when ready of his own accord. The bones and muscles are still weak and may be injured by too much work.
4. Do not allow a young child to walk beyond his strength.
5. Allow infant to walk barefooted when conditions are favorable.
6. Allow infant to walk naturally, toes straight ahead.
7. Bathe and dry feet thoroughly every day. Trim toe nails straight across to avoid ingrowing nails.

B. Stockings:
1. Wear no stockings or booties unless for warmth.
2. Have stockings or booties large enough for free toe action, one-half inch longer than foot.
3. Discard stockings which crowd toes.

4. Select cotton stockings unless in a very cold climate, when wool is preferable.

C. Shoes:
1. Wear no shoes until ready to walk.

2. Select soft-soled pliable shoes shaped like natural outline of baby's foot. Avoid slippers.

3. Select shoe with roomy toe—a moccasin type is good. A shoe may have the correct shape, length and width, but yet crowd the toes, due to a skimpy upper.

4. Have shoe one inch longer than foot and one-quarter inch wider; it is better to be too long than too short.

5. If heel rubs, pad the counter by gluing in fitted pieces of chamois skin.

6. Patent leather shoes or slippers

retard the evaporation of moisture from the feet.

Growing Girls and Boys Ages Two to Eighteen Years.

A. Care of Feet:
1. Develop good bone structure and muscle tone through proper nutrition.
2. Go barefooted whenever possible.
3. Toe straight ahead when walking. Toeing out weakens the ankles and arches and hinders speeding in walking.
4. Examine feet for spots caused by rubbing or pressure, and for toe crowding. Judge shoes and stockings accordingly.
5. Use foot brush with daily foot bath. This promotes circulation.
6. Trim toe nails straight across and flush with ends of toes.

7. Care should be taken to keep child from overtaxing feet during convalescence from any disease, children's diseases as well as others. Weakened muscles put greater strain on ligaments, resulting in flat feet.
8. Rest feet during day; overfatigue weakens the feet.

B. Stockings:
1. Select stockings one-half inch longer than foot. Avoid tight garters.
2. Discard stockings which crowd toes.

C. Shoes:

1. Have foot measured, weight bearing, every time new shoes are purchased.

2. Have child stand barefooted on a piece of paper and draw outline of foot. Cut this out. Compare with shape, length and width of shoes being purchased. Fig. 7 shows correct size and shape. Fig. 8 shows incorrect size.

3. Secure shoes shaped like the foot with full upper allowing toe freedom. (Fig. 7.)

4. Have shoes fitted one inch longer than foot. The width should be one-quarter inch wider than foot until the twelfth year, then the same as the foot.

5. Select shoes with flexible soles. Avoid stiff hard soles.

6. Avoid too heavy shoes for small boys as well as girls. The extra weight gives too much additional work for the leg muscles and is a cause of fatigue.

7. Select low shoes to develop strong ankles and to insure free foot circulation.

8. Select oxfords or barefoot sandals rather than slippers. Avoid slippers which press down the flesh along the upper edge, as shown by the bulging of the flesh above.

9. Patent leather slippers retard evaporation of the moisture from the feet.

10. Heels: Secure spring heels as long as they can be obtained, at least until the eighth year; then broad, low heels not over one-half to three-quarter inch for the growing child with one inch maximum for the high-school girl or boy.

Note: Under the direction of an orthopedic physician, some foot deformities may be corrected by alteration of the heel.

11. Avoid high heels. The foot is thrown in an unnatural position by high heels, which causes the ligaments and muscles to be stretched, lessening the elasticity of the arches and weakening the foot. (Fig. 2.) High heels retard efficiency in walking.

12. Keep shoes in repair. Air at

night. Use shoe trees. Dry slowly when wet. Keep polished.

Adults.

A. Care of Feet:
1. Provide the best type of shoe for the foot during the working hours.
2. Avoid high heels for working hours. Secure comfortable height.
3. Discard shoes which are making trouble and are uncomfortable.
4. Toe straight ahead when walking. Toeing out weakens the arch.
5. Avoid unnecessary use of feet in standing and walking. Sit at work whenever possible.
6. Rest feet during the day.

Note: A good way to rest tired feet during the day is to remove shoes and stockings and to lie on the bed with the legs at right angles to the body against the headboard of the bed or the wall.

7. Do not overtax feet during any abnormal physical condition, or during convalescence from an illness. The muscular and ligamentous support is diminished and if overworked may result in muscular atrophy and loss of muscle tone.

8. Avoid overweight. As the weight increases rapidly above normal, the ligaments and muscles of the feet do not increase in strength sufficiently to carry the extra weight.

9. Bathe feet daily with warm water and soap. Scrub thoroughly with foot brush to stimulate circulation. Feet may be toughened by soaking in salt water.

10. Trim toe nails straight across; file off rough edges with nail file.

B. Stockings: See notes on stockings under Growing Girls and Boys.

C. Shoes:

Select shoes which maintain good feet—any shoe which meets all the following requirements:
1. Straight inner line. Check by holding both shoes in the hands, soles up and inner edges together with heels and ball touching. Note the amount of divergence of the inner lines of the toes. The less the better for the great toe.

2. Broad roomy toe in sole and upper; no pressure from toe cap or seam. Compare with shape of foot. Fig. 4, shoe with good toe room; Fig. 1, crowded toe room.

3. Broad low heels, three-quarter inch to one and one-quarter inch. (Figs. 5, 6.) Rubber heels are satisfactory.

Note: The height depends upon what the foot has been accustomed to. In case heels are too high for comfort and efficiency the height should be reduced gradually and proper foot exercises taken.

4. Low cut shoe permits free use of ankle and free circulation. (Figs. 5 and 6.)

5. Correct length and width. Have feet measured, weight bearing, each time shoes are purchased. The length should be one inch longer than the foot. The width not more than one-quarter inch narrower.

Note: Flexible shanks allow free action of arch muscles. They are good for healthy, normal feet. Sick feet with weak or broken arches need the advice of an orthopedic physician or competent surgeon.

Shoe Care: Keep the heels leveled. Replace worn linings. Air. Dry slowly. Polish. Use shoe trees.

Life's Many Phases

Some one has said that life is either a hope or a memory, and that does seem true. How very seldom do we see persons who are absolutely satisfied with their present condition! They are either planning for the future or recalling other days in their happiest moments, and the present seems to be only a place from which to look backward or forward. Perhaps it is a good thing this is

so, for effort is the soul of achievement, and while we may reach our longed-for goals, they should prove merely stepping stones to greater endeavor if we are to reach the highest peaks of success.—Contact Magazine.

They Have Four Eyes

Swamps hold many oddities. In the water you will find those whirligig beetles on the surface, says Nature Magazine. Do you know they have four eyes? They need them—confronted with the traffic situation that

faces them. See how their legs are put on and perhaps you can account for the whirligig.

Use for Phonograph Needle

The discarded phonograph needle will do nicely to clean bottles, cruetes, flower vases, etc. Fill receptacles with warm water, to which a little ammonia has been added. Let soak a few hours, then pour off about four-fifths of the water, drop in the old needles and shake until all the sediment disappears.