

TWO GENTLEMEN OF HAWAII.

By SEWARD W. HOPKINS.

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CHAPTER XVI.

"Ob, Pele, thou great and good goddess, omnipotent, wise and kind, I am from this day thy faithful follower and worshiper, and do take upon me the vows of the Kamilonkanimawai. I will place my life at the bidding of thy priestesses, and will obey you in all things. By the light of the sun and the glory of thy crown, Pele, I swear these things!"

"You are now one of us," said Lowai, when I had finished.

"What am I to do with the ring?" I asked.

"Keep your business a secret from everybody. Even your uncle must not know it."

"I promise again," I said, impatiently.

"You must take that pack and go with the ring I have given you to the fishermen, Patua, in Kanaikai, on the coast of Molokai, and present yourself to him. He will offer you his hand in salutation. Upon the middle finger of his hand is a ring similar to yours. When you clasp his hand the rings must touch each other. You will feel a peculiar sensation, and will know by that token that Pele lives and that you are her follower, and Patua will recognize you, and will take you by night to the island of Lanai. You will land on the east coast of Lanai, and will proceed at once inland. You will find a rough path leading along the bottom of a deep ravine. In rainy seasons there is water there, but now it is dry. Follow that path until you come to a large, white stone—a huge stone—of glistening whiteness. If there is no one there you must wait. Nirolan will come. You will know Nirolan because he has a ring like this. And he will offer you his hand in the same manner as Patua, and you must take it. Nirolan is the guide to the priestess Kamai. Tell him you are the successor to poor old Lowai, and you wish to be led into the presence of Kamai. He will know, when you have obeyed his orders, whether you have told the truth. Then he will conduct you to the temple of Kamai, and you must be before her. Nirolan will tell you what to do. You must obey every word he says, or you are lost."

Toward the last, the words of old Lowai came painfully and slowly.

"What more?" I asked, as he paused.

"Nothing." "You have not told me a word of my sister. Where is she? Why do you not tell me that?"

"She is there. I have told you she is held by Kamai to be sacrificed to Pele when the volcano spits up its fire."

"But how can I see her, and how can I get her away from there?"

The old man looked at me vacantly a moment.

"I do not know," he replied, feebly. "I have made you a priest of the Kamilonkanimawai and have told you how to reach the presence of Kamai, the priestess of Pele in Lanai. Your sister is there. I can tell you no more. I know of no way you can get a victim away from Pele when once she has been chosen. You must take the course you think best."

"It is horrible! Who stole Winnie?"

"The goddess Pele does not tell to mortals whom she sends to seize her victims. Nor does the priestess Kamai. They would curse me if they knew I told you this. But you have been very kind to old Lowai, and Lowai does not forget."

Saying this, the old chief lay back upon his pillow, exhausted.

I was so unnerved by what I had heard and so torn with my belief and unbelief, that I sat like a man of stone. The horrible possibilities conjured up in my brain by Lowai's story chilled and frightened me. My first impulse was to rush to the authorities and make them acquainted with facts as I had learned them, and have a force attack the priestess Kamai and release my sister. But if Lowai's story was true, no doubt his advice was good. If Winnie was on the island of Lanai, she must be rescued by strategy alone.

So I resolved, controlled, seemingly, by an impulse emanating from the shrunken figure on the bed, to abide by Lowai's advice and visit Kamai. Mallianki came in with Doctor Tillings.

The doctor bent over old Lowai. "He is dead," he said. "Literally died of age."

I waited until the doctor had gone, and then told Lowai's daughter that he had given me the leather pack.

"I know," she said, and bent weeping, over the corpse of her aged father.

A servant came from the house and told me as I was returning from Lowai's cottage. He handed me a letter. "A messenger has just come with this. He says it is important. Your uncle had me bring it to you at once."

I eagerly opened the letter, recognizing Gordon's handwriting. The note was short, and evidently written in a hurry.

"Dear Tom," it ran, "meet me without fail at the American to-night. I have learned something about Winnie, and we must act at once. Do not breathe a word of this to a living soul. Even now, I fear trouble. Be cautious, and act as if nothing has happened. Above all, trust nobody."

"You're arrested."

I impatiently waited for night to come. Before dark I was at Seacamp's hotel.

"Did Gordon say he would be here to-night?" I asked Seacamp.

"No, I have not seen Gordon in days."

I waited for hours but Gordon did not appear.

I grew anxious and apprehensive of danger. I resolved to hunt him up. I went to President Dole's house.

"Have you seen Gordon?" I asked him. "I was to meet him to-night, but he failed to keep the appointment."

"No," replied Dole. "I thought he was with you at the Corals. I had arranged a meeting between him and the Secretary of the Interior to-day at five o'clock, but he did not come. What can have happened him?"

Yes, what? What might not have happened to Gordon, with the mysterious thickening around us? I bade Dole good night, and hurried home with an aching head or heart. I fully expected my turn would come next. I would be prepared for it when it came.

CHAPTER XVII.

That night I passed sleeplessly, pondering over the strange events of the day. It was clearly my duty to place in the possession of President Dole such facts as I knew that would assist him in his search for Gordon. Gordon's disappearance would make a great disturbance. He had become a marked factor in Hawaiian affairs. The commander of an army cannot be spirited away without making a stir. But while I proposed to make Dole acquainted with the object of the meeting which was to have taken place between Gordon and me at the American Hotel, and even to give him Gordon's letter to me, I was equally firm in my resolve to say nothing about the strange tale of the old chief, Lowai. In fact, had it not been for the new mystery, the disappearance of Gordon, just when he had discovered some clue to the whereabouts of my sister Winnie, I should have doubted the wild story of the priestess Kamai, in every detail. But it was evident that we were surrounded by a mysterious power that had spies in our very households, watching for every act of suspicion or any move that might lead to their discovery.

The more I discovered the more manifest it became to me that I must seek Winnie alone and on the island partly laid down by Lowai. If I attempted to tell any one else of the mysterious Kamilonkanimawai; I would either be laughed at or would create so profound a sensation and make so much of a stir that I would be snatched away bodily myself. Indeed, as I stated in the foregoing chapter, I actually feared and half expected that at any moment I might be seized by some unassuming though powerful hand and spirited away through space.

Having reached a conclusion on these lines, I made haste to put my plans into operation. Early the next morning I was at Dole's house.

The president was at breakfast, but being well in his favor, no ceremony ever obstructed my visits. I was conducted into his presence.

"President Dole, you will, I presume, institute a search for Gordon?" I said.

"Why, certainly so, if he does not appear. But I cannot understand why he should be in hiding. He is a most trustworthy young man."

"True. Your confidence in him reflects credit upon yourself. He is not reticent in his hiding. You recollect that last night I told you that Gordon and I were to have a meeting at the American."

"I remember your saying that," replied the president, looking at me sharply.

"Here is a note I received from Gordon yesterday. I handed Gordon's letter to him. He read it over carefully."

"There is some devilment back of all this. We are not yet free from the superstitious practices or the vindictive hate of some of the natives. This demands our immediate attention. What are you going to do to-day?"

"I am going to prepare for a trip to Molokai."

"Molokai! What takes you there just now?"

"I am anxious to begin the monument to Warren, and must choose the site. The ship sails to-morrow, and I shall go in her."

President Dole studied me carefully a moment. His shrewd eyes seemed to pierce the armor of assumed ease I had put on.

But all he said was: "Very well."

I knew that Dole did not believe me. Yet, my resolve to pursue my search alone, with Lowai's secret unaided, was strong, and I risked Dole's displeasure rather than failure. For I knew that even had Dole given credence to the story of the priestess, he would be killed in revenge before he could rescue her. My part with Dole was done, and, leaving him with Gordon's letter in his hand, I returned to the Corals.

I had not as yet examined the leather pack bequeathed to me by Lowai, nor had I more than casually noted the ring.

Upon examining this ornament, I found it to be a peculiar combination of metals woven together. Zinc and copper seemed to be prominent in its make-up. I had seen similar rings worn by people in the islands, but as they were given to all sorts of odd jewelry and ornaments, the peculiar rings had never aroused any curiosity or excited my attention. It was plain that, if Lowai's story was true, and the Kamilonkanimawai really existed, it had many priests in Oahu, some of them of considerable political importance.

In the privacy of my own room I examined the pack.

The contents of it certainly gave a coloring of reality to what Lowai had said to me.

I found a long robe, which completely enveloped me.

This robe was ornamented with various stones found in abundance in the mountains; some of them, if properly cut and finished, perhaps valuable. And there were hideous heads and figures, idols no doubt, cut from the wood of the tree-fern, and some of them of considerable political importance.

The American Bar Association meets at Denver, Col., August 21 to 23, and C. Dale, of Philadelphia, being one of the speakers.

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL.

Everything Pivoting. A special from Birmingham, Ala. to the Atlanta Constitution says: There is no cause for any special complaint in this district, the manufacturing interests of the district being at full tilt and all wheels turning. The rolling mills are giving steady work to a large force of men and women.

At the steel plant at the rolling mills will be manufacturing a supply of steel. There are more blast furnaces in operation now than were running two weeks ago, and the pig iron production of the state is greater by more than a hundred tons of iron a day than a month ago.

There are indications that the demand for pig iron will be better in the near future, while some improvement is noted in the coal market. There are but three mines in the state where there are differences between capital and labor and less than 800 men are affected in all of them. There are more than ten thousand miners at work, while the railroads are doing a heavier traffic in this district, both passenger and freight, than this time last year. The various industries, such as foundries and machine shops, woodworking establishments and others are doing well and are giving steady employment to a large complement of men, all told. Some heavy payrolls are being experienced in this district and much money is going on deposit in the banks of Birmingham and those in the suburbs.

A New Cotton Mill. West Point, Ga., is justly proud of a new cotton mill, which has been erected at a cost of \$1,100,000. It has a Corliss engine of 300-horsepower and two boilers of 200-horsepower each. It has 5,152 spinning spindles and 3,000 looms. One quality of thread 20.2 is made. Its present capacity is 500 pounds per day. The employees occupy well-constructed houses built by the company. The mill is located just without the corporate limits southwest of the city, between the Southern and the Illinois Central railroads, and which is connected by switch on a piece of ground containing 20 acres. The mill owns its own electric lighting system. This mill ships a carload about once a week, principally to Philadelphia. The yarn is of a very fine quality and is used for fine curtains, gingham and kindred fabrics. Commission merchants pronounce this mill the second of the kind, as well as a quality of thread, in the United States.

The Oil Fever. A dispatch from Falmouth, Ky., says: "The oil fever has struck this county and everyone is talking oil. Several years ago home capitalists sunk a well about fifteen hundred feet and across a flow of gas, but for lack of capital the well was never bored deeper. Some years afterward an Eastern company bought close to the home well, but plugged it up at midnight and never let the people know what they struck, but the next day one could smell the gas for miles."

A Dispatch from Somerset, Ky., says: "Another well has been struck—a 200-barrel well. It is 840 feet deep. Another one on Coney creek is expected next week. Williamstown, Ky., reports a number of active young business men are anticipating the boring of wells within the city limits and that oil has been found in divers parts of the county. Fine oil prospects are also reported in Hancock county."

A \$2,000 Cotton Mill at Graham. A mill for the manufacture of coarse yarn will be built at Graham, N. C. This announcement has just been made, and Messrs. J. H. White and brother are the projectors and owners of the intended plant. Arrangements are about completed for the erection of the necessary building, which will cost \$12,000, and the machinery plant complete will cost \$40,000. The spindles will number 2,500, and later, after the enterprise is in operation, looms will be installed.

To Double It. It is announced that the Harmony Grove (Ga.) Mills will double its plant of 41 spinning spindles and 156 looms, which has been completed at \$100,000. Contracts for erecting the necessary additional buildings and for the installation of the required machinery will be arranged in the near future. It is stated that the funds for this enlargement will be entirely supplied from the company's surplus fund.

Textile Notes. The Sidney Cotton Mills of Graham, N. C., operating 108 looms, has ordered and is installing more machinery. A Norfolk (Va.) real estate firm is negotiating for the establishment of a large knitting mill at Norfolk-on-the-Roads.

The Easley (S. C.) Cotton Mills will increase capital stock from \$200,000 to \$250,000, presumably for improvements.

A movement for establishing a knitting mill is on foot at Leesburg, Ga., and it is probable that C. H. Beasley will be interested.

A movement is on foot at Aberdeen, Miss., for the organization of a cotton mill company and Hamp E. Reynolds is interested.

The Centreville (Miss.) Delinting Co. has in view the ultimate erection of a cotton factory in connection with other industries.

The Business Men's Club of San Antonio, Texas, will endeavor to secure the organization of a company to build a cotton factory.

The Sutro Cotton Mill at Yorkville, S. C., will be put in operation soon. The recent purchasers of the plant were the bondholders, and they will organize a new company, capitalized at \$20,000, to operate the 5,000 spindles now in place. S. M. McNeel represented the bondholders at the sale.

The Elizabeth Cotton Mills of Atlanta, Ga., recently completed with 5,000 ring spindles, is reported as to add looms and manufacture brown shoomings.

The Smithfield (N. C.) Cotton Mills is nearing completion, and will be ready for operation soon. This \$100,000 plant will turn 5,000 spindles and looms to suit.

The Clover (S. C.) Cotton Manufacturing Co., operating 10,000 ring spindles, has declared a dividend of 10 per cent, and passed an amount to surplus fund. The plant is capitalized at \$150,000. Additional spindles to the number of 2,500 will be installed.

Industrial Briefs.

Philadelphia (Pa.) parties, whose names have not been announced yet, have leased building at Shepherdstown, W. Va., and installed knitting machinery in it.

The Knifed (N. C.) Knitting Mill contemplates doubling its capacity in the near future. The plant now employs forty hands and produces 110 dozen pairs of hosiery daily.

The establishment of a knitting mill is talked of at Malee, N. C., and G. C. Baldwin is interested. Mr. Baldwin asks for prices on knitting machinery and on cop-yarns for manufacturing.

A. C. Dover of Charlotte, N. C., contemplates organizing a company to build a cotton factory, and has gone to New York for the purpose of endeavoring to interest North Carolina capitalists.

The Sanford (N. C.) Cotton Mills has completed its addition, recently under construction, and has new spindles, 4,000 in number, now in operation. The entire complement is now 8,000 spindles and 256 looms.

Work is progressing rapidly on the construction of the Alexander City (Ala.) Mills, previously announced as to be a 10,000 spindle plant. The walls of the main building are about up, two stories high, and the machinery will be placed as soon as the structure is in readiness. The investment will be \$200,000.

Work is progressing rapidly on the construction of the Elizabeth Mills at Charlotte, N. C. The mill building is under roof and will be completed next week. The company expects to begin operations by October, unless unfavorable delay arises. The spindles (ring) will number 8,000. A complete mill town is being established as a result of this enterprise.

The Nantuxet Mills of Spray, N. C., announced recently its intention to increase capital from \$150,000 to \$250,000. This action is being extended for extensive improvements. The mill building has been enlarged and additional spindles have been ordered.

All Sorts. The army quartermaster's department calls for bids on 1,000,000 yards of cotton khaki, subject to an increase of 100 per cent. bids to be submitted before noon of August 12. This effectively disposes of reports that the department is to substitute khaki-colored flannel for the cotton material. It is understood, however, that specifications on the new contract have been changed and now call for a perspiration-proof fabric.

Bolly Pinklights—"The tenor's voice is going back on him. Don't you think he seems rather thin?" "Fanny Footlights—"On the contrary he seems quite cheery."

"When Jack proposed to me," remarked the maiden trim, "The boy was all at sea." "And yet she landed him!"

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