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TWO GENTLEMEN OF HAWAII.

By SEWARD W. HOPKINS.

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CHAPTER XV.

CONTINUED.

Gordon met me at the wharf in Honolulu.

"God bless Warren!" he said, as he clasped my hand. "All Honolulu is ringing with his praises. Dole is beside himself with joy at his success. It means so much for Hawaii. But enough of that. Your uncle is waiting for you on the porch at The Corals. He would have come to meet you, but feared the excitement would be too great."

"Dear old uncle!" I replied. "I wish Warren could do something for him. But it is mental worry that is killing him. There is no cure for that."

"But your return will do much to distract his mind."

"But for a short time only. Uncle Tom will never be himself again until Winnie is found."

Gordon said nothing. He had gotten, of late, so that when Winnie's name was mentioned his manner changed. But with the exception of the day before I left The Corals for Molokai, he did not mention the fact that he loved my sister.

It was a rapid ran that we gave the horses up the Nuuanu Valley to The Corals. Minutes were precious.

When we turned in at the gate, Uncle Tom stood facing it. He saw us coming, and stood trembling with excitement, waiting for me. I jumped to the ground and rushed up to him.

He folded me in his arms and sobbed like a baby.

"Tom, my dear boy, what a day this is," he cried. "God be praised. What a glorious crown awaits Warren when he goes to meet his last reward. Oh, Tom, Tom! How I have missed you! How I have waited and prayed for this day! But Warren would not let me tell you a word of it. He said there must be no false hopes aroused — no efforts made in your behalf until he was sure. Oh, he was sure! We are sure at last. Thank God!"

My uncle was exhausted, and I led him to his chair, and sat down beside him, patting his white head and speaking encouragingly to him.

"Well, old fellow, you don't need me any more to-day," said Gordon, "and I must be off. I am quite busy. I will ride up this evening, though."

"No, Gordon," I replied; "and there is one thing I wish you would do for me. Find out if the government will sell the ground where my cottage stood at Molokai; or if not, if they will accept a proposition from me to make it a public spot."

"Dole is in a position to give you all Molokai if you want it, he is so elated over the thing. But what do you want of that ground?"

"I shall erect there a monument to Warren. I shall not wait till he dies. It shall be done at once, and it shall be a worthy tribute. I will have space left upon it for the addition of the date of his death. But upon that spot, the scene of hopeless waiting for death, and my wonderful rescue by Warren, there shall be a tribute—a life-size statue of the man, with his noble record carved in undying letters of stone. It shall stand facing Father Damien's monument. The one sacrificed his life in tenderly caring for the sufferers at Molokai; he died too soon; the other has lived to see the grandeur of the accomplishment of his life-work. What do you say to the plan?"

"A good plan—a splendid one! I'll see the secretary of the interior and fix it up. There will be no trouble about it."

"There's a monument to Warren in every honest heart in Hawaii," said my uncle. "He deserves not only our thanks, but our worship."

"And in the fulfillment of this great hope, may there not be an augury for hope that Winnie may yet be found, and that we may be a united and happy family?"

"Ah, Tom, Tom!" cried my uncle, breaking down completely. "If it could be so, if it could be so, I would die content!"

CHAPTER XVI.

From the day I returned to The Corals almost the entire management of the plantation fell to me. My uncle was too much weakened by the severe trials he had gone through to carry on the labor of overseeing the work, while I was constantly gaining in strength.

On the plantation my uncle employed, beside Chinese and Portuguese, a great many natives. To these he had always been a kind friend, standing ever ready to help them in time of sickness or trouble. Most of them were old, and while still wedded to the forms of royalty and their old customs, seemed at least to bear none but good-will toward my uncle and myself.

I followed in the footsteps of my uncle.

Whenever a native was ill he always sent for me. I would go to his cottage and have medical attendance with proper care, procured at once and talk with the sufferer as a friend.

So it was not a surprise to me when my boy, Malliauki, came to me one day and said:

"Master, old Lowai wants to see you."

"Old Lowai? Is he ill?"

"Very ill, sir. He is a very old man—is Lowai."

Lowai was a native that had been on the plantation for many years. He had grown old in my uncle's service.

"I will go to him at once. Where is he—at his cottage?"

"Yes; his daughter is with him."

I had been lounging on the porch with Uncle Tom and had on slippers.

"Put on your shoes, Tom, my boy," said my uncle. "The ground is wet [illegible] that the old fellow has everything he wants. If he is dangerously ill, I will get over and see him myself."

"Probably only the trouble of age," I said. "Lowai is very old, and can not last much longer."

"That is so. He was a great chief in his day."

"So old as that?" I asked.

"Lowai must be nearly a hundred."

I followed my uncle's advice and put on a pair of shoes capable of keeping my feet dry; for while there is shower, and, as he said, the ground was wet. Lighting a cigar and taking a bottle of wine and some dainties from the larder, I started off to see the old chief.

A woman, old herself, met me at the door. It was Lowai's daughter.

"Lowai is ill?" I said, half question-ingly, as I entered.

"Ah! He is worse than ill. He is in a very bad way—to my father."

"What is the trouble?"

"I know not. He tells me nothing. He lies upon his couch and asks for you. And he cries to the Goddess Pele to have mercy."

"Pele? I thought all that nonsense was done away with long ago."

"Not so. He believes in Pele, that he wants you. Will you see him now?"

"Yes. Take me to him at once."

She led me into a small room, where an old chieftain lay upon a bed.

So old was Lowai, that his skin was like leather stretched over his frame of bones.

He saw me enter, and smiled.

I stepped to the side of the bed and took his hand.

"What is the matter, Lowai, you are never ill."

"No," he said, with an effort, "I am never ill. I am not ill now. I am just going to die. That's all."

"Oh, no, I think you will get over this again. I have brought you some wine, and Malliauki has gone for Doctor Gilling."

"I do not need him. I need only you, Lowai's time has come. He knows it. He is not sorry."

I poured out some wine into a glass and gave it to him.

"Thank you," he said simply. "It gives me strength. And I need it. I must hurry. I have not long to live and, before I go, I must tell you much."

I was surprised at this. The old man was excited, and spoke as if under a strain.

"You have something to tell me—something you want done if you do not get well?"

"No. Something for you alone."

He motioned to his daughter, and she bent her head down to him. He whispered something into her ear and she went out. While she was gone, Lowai moaned and rubbed the palms of his hands together. When she returned, carrying a large bundle done up in leather, he became calm.

"Give me more wine," he said.

I gave him a glassful. He drained it, and fell back on his pillow.

He made a sign to his daughter.

"Leave us," he said.

I sat down by his bedside.

"We are alone, Lowai," I said. "You have something of importance to tell?"

"Yes. You must listen well. I must save my words. And upon your following my advice depends your happiness."

"Is it about my uncle?"

"No—your sister."

"Winnie!" I cried. "Do you know of her? She is dead!"

"No, she is not dead! She is alive—and well—but in horrible danger."

I sat stunned and chilled by the fearful words—words full of hope and life, yet laden with fear. Winnie alive, and yet in danger! Had she been secretly hidden only to be in danger now, or had she been tortured and ill-used since she had been stolen away?

My hand shook violently as I laid it upon that of old Lowai.

"Go on!" I said. "Tell me all."

"Give me more wine! I am growing weak."

Fearful lest he would not live to tell me the secret he held, I gave him plenty of wine. My heart throbbed painfully. A cold sweat poured from me.

The old chief fell back again upon his pillow with half-closed eyes. He feebly pointed toward the leather pack.

He spoke again.

Old Lowai's voice was very weak. He was going fast. Breathlessly, my heart palpitating, I leaned over him to catch his whispered words.

"Guard that pack," he said, "and upon the use you make of its contents depends your sister's life."

"Go on, for Heaven's sake, go on!" I said, as he paused.

"Don't hurry me. My strength is spent. If I become exhausted my secret cannot be told. Guard the pack with your very life. In it are all the vestments and belongings of a priest of the goddess Pele. Breathe to no living soul what I am about to tell you—save those to whom I read your letter. Do you promise?"

"Yes, yes, I promise. Quick!"

"Listen carefully. There are caves in all the islands of Hawaii a secret order devoted to the worship of the goddess Pele, who dwells in the crater of Halealaka. Halealaka is a dead volcano, and the goddess, having killed it, and being pleased at its obsidience, has up her abode within it. The goddess has killed other volcanoes—taken away their power—and she will continue to do so until Hawaii has no more eruptions. But the goddess Pele is a cruel goddess, and we make sacrifices to her, to make her kindly gracious. Whenever an eruption of a volcano is threatened, a sacrifice is made to Pele. This calls her attention to it, and she stops the evil spirit who control the fires under us and seal the lava out of the mountains. That is why every volcano speaks and remains silent each time for a longer period. Do you understand?"

"Yes, yes," I said. "But about Winnie, my sister—where is she?"

"Wait! Be patient! I am coming to that. Give me a little more wine."

I hastily forced the wine down his throat.

"Hurry! Tell me all!" I said.

"In each of the islands there is a representative of Pele, who is at the head of the secret order. This priestess is always beautiful, and as merciless as Pele herself. The rule of the priestess is absolute."

"How can these things be and the government remain ignorant of them?" I said. "I think you are lying to me, Lowai."

The old man's eyes opened wearily, as he had been lying with them half closed, and he gave me a peculiar, shivering look.

"Master, if you think I am lying, do not listen."

"No, no. Go on."

"When I am gone, and my story is told, you judge if I am lying; then act as you will. You may follow my directions and save your sister, or you may doubt me and let her die."

"No; I believe you. For Heaven's sake proceed."

"There are also priests of the order, but they are under the authority of the priestesses. There is but one priestess on each island; there are many priests. Each priest must, however, when it comes his time to die, have the power to appoint a successor. It is for this I have called you. I shall make you my successor, and you shall go to the home of your sister. I am violating my vow to the goddess Pele in giving you the power to take away one of her chosen victims, but I am violating no vow when I tell you the secrets of the order, for I am dying, and I make you by mine swearing."

"I fully comprehend," I said, as Lowai paused for breath.

The office next to this order is 'Kanaimoiloaikaiaka.' It means 'Power exhaustless and omnipotent.' As I have said, there is a branch of the order on each of the islands, under a priestess who represents Pele, our supreme being. It is with the priestess of the island of Lanai you have to do, she is fierce, warlike and the most beautiful being who ever lived. She is not dark like my people. She is like pure marble. She is immortal. You will fall down and worship her when you once see her marvelous beauty. But you must not allow Kamaai or the wall slay you. She has many followers in Lanai, who dwell in the caves, who have never visited by your people. They obey every word, every order she gives. Be cautious and obey blindly."

Lowai paused, and his heavy breathing showed how exhausted he was. I waited a moment. He stirred his head a little and pointed toward the bottle of wine.

I gave him some more, and under its stimulation he restated:

"There is not a priest of the Kanaimoiloaikaiaka at nearly a hundred years, and I have never seen in any island a priestess of Pele so beautiful as Kamaai."

"Never mind, Kamaai. Tell me about my sister Winnie," I said.

"She is there. The great volcano of Kapiolani has not spoken these many years, but the deeds of the fire spirits are powerful, and the ruddiness in the crater tell that an eruption must soon come. Your sister is held on Lanai to await that exception. When it comes, she will be sacrificed to Pele."

"Sacrificed! Heaven! Help!" I exclaimed, nearly beside myself with excitement.

"Immersed in the lake of flowing lava."

"Heaven, have mercy! Winnie alive all this time and waiting for a fate like that! Why did you not tell me before, Lowai?"

"I did not know I was going to die," said he, as if that excused all.

"How can I find this Kamaai? How can I go into her presence?"

He pointed toward the leather pack.

"When I am gone," he whispered, "open that—not before. The curse of Pele will be on you if you do not obey me. You will find in there everything needed by a priest of the order. See, I give you this."

He took from his finger a massive and peculiarly formed ring, and by a gesture commanded me to hold out my finger. I did so, and he slowly put the ring upon it.

"Repeat after me," he said.

(To be continued.)

Quinine is made from Peruvian bark—the outer part of a medicinal plant, called cinchona. It was so named from the wife of Count Chinchon, of Peru, in the seventeenth century, who by its use was cured of intermittent fever.

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The modern lady governess, who in [illegible] has always played such a [illegible] part and who is real life, even as fairy stories would describe her, must undergo a transformation. In the place [illegible] she appeared in the days when the [illegible] in the nursery and [illegible] in the [illegible] of the family, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]