

# JOHN BURT

Author of "The Alton Mystery," "The Alton Mystery," "The Alton Mystery," etc.

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**CHAPTER XV.**

**A Brilliant Campaign.**

James Blake yet fought for speculative markets. His one ambition was to achieve some sweeping coup, and taste the inward joy of triumph—sweeter far than the undesired fame which had assuaged half a million of dollars the temptation to risk it was too strong to be resisted. John Burt had just terminated a campaign which had netted him nearly a million in profit, and John Hawkins had been equally successful. Blake saw a chance and took it. With nerve and skill he forced a stock to a point where victory seemed certain; but an unforeseen event ruined his chances at the moment when the spell of ill-luck seemed broken. The market turned, but by a series of moves brilliant as if inspired by success instead of disaster, Blake saved himself from a complete rout, and emerged with one-half of his capital.

A few days later he held an interview with John Burt—an interview destined to mark an epoch in his career.

"Can you arrange your affairs so as to go to New York for me, starting on Saturday?" asked John Burt.

"I can start tonight if necessary," replied Blake.

"Saturday night will be better," said Burt. "Two important railroad stocks will decline heavily next week. They will be bought there to your credit. Proceed at once, on your arrival, to sell short one hundred thousand shares of each of these stocks. You should be able to do this without difficulty breaking the market. You hold in your name between five and six million dollars worth of stocks and bonds, which are



listed on the New York exchange. Express them to New York at once. I propose to convert them into cash. When I wire you, throw them on the market, and sell more of the railroad stocks. This is our introduction to the Eastern market. We'll discuss the details before you leave, and I have absolute faith in your ability to conduct the campaign."

It was a good moment for Blake. There was no shadow of envy or jealousy in his thoughts as he looked into the face of the companion of his boyhood, and heard him speak calmly of millions and of launching them against the giants of Wall Street.

"I can do it. I will do it!" he exclaimed. "If you see your plan, and its magnificent, John, magnificent! It will win—win beyond a doubt."

John was silent for a moment, and a far-off look came to his eyes.

"I have two important personal commissions for you, Jim," he said. "While in New York ascertain for me if Arthur Morris is alive. Find out what he is doing, and what he is doing about him. The second task is a more delicate one. It concerns Miss Carden. I wish to know—"

"I know exactly what you want," interrupted Jim Blake as John hesitated. "You want to know where she is, how she is, if she loves you, and—"

"You need not attempt the latter task," said John rather shortly. "You are likely to undertake too much. For the present I do not care to acquaint Miss Carden, or any one in the East, with my whereabouts, or you, with the fact of my existence. Be careful in this matter, Jim. Of course you will go to Hingham and visit your kinship. You can readily learn all the case to know from the Bishop, or perhaps from Sam Rodin. If not, go to Boston; but see the facts without calling on him. Do not let him understand, don't you, Jim?"

"Certainly I do, old fellow," said Jim heartily. "I'll be as cautious as a dice-thrower."

After repeated references to every detail of the Wall Street campaign he agreed upon, and James Blake set his face toward the East.

He arrived in New York on Friday evening. Early in the following morning he appeared in Wall Street, and presented letters of introduction to the broker and bankers who had been selected by John Burt to assist in his speculative operations.

On Monday morning he began negotiations with broker Morgan selling

small blocks of the two railway stocks. The market was strong, and all offerings were eagerly absorbed. In three days he had sold one hundred thousand shares. His one ambition was to achieve some sweeping coup, and taste the inward joy of triumph—sweeter far than the undesired fame which had assuaged half a million of dollars the temptation to risk it was too strong to be resisted. John Burt had just terminated a campaign which had netted him nearly a million in profit, and John Hawkins had been equally successful. Blake saw a chance and took it. With nerve and skill he forced a stock to a point where victory seemed certain; but an unforeseen event ruined his chances at the moment when the spell of ill-luck seemed broken. The market turned, but by a series of moves brilliant as if inspired by success instead of disaster, Blake saved himself from a complete rout, and emerged with one-half of his capital.

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# ILLINOIS NEWS

**STATE SURVEYORS MYSTIFY PEOPLE**  
Cause Alton Citizens to Fear.

Strange Proceedings at Midnight.

A party of river engineers who are at Alton making a survey for the proposed waterway under the direction of the Mississippi river commission started the residents in the vicinity of Prospect and Summit streets by their seemingly mysterious movements. In order to determine the exact variation of the compass the engineers conducted an observation of the north star from a mark set twenty-three years ago in the rear of the homestead of the late J. H. Rabble. The engineers desired to find the correct north and south line with reference to the stone, which marks meridian at 90 degrees and 13 minutes west of Greenwich, the longitude of Alton. In order to make the observation the engineers were scattered over the hills in the vicinity of the Rabble homestead, some holding lamps in special boxes and others helping the principal observer, Chester Thompson.

The line was finally determined and about midnight the startled residents of the vicinity were relieved to see the supposed treasure seekers, or grave diggers, as they were supposed to be, take their departure.

**Mormon Issues a Def.**  
Rev. A. Postelthwait, who is holding a revival at Pana in the Mormon temple, vigorously condemned the various religious demonstrations. He repudiated the alleged grasping proclivities of priests in regard to money and denounced the founders and teachings of the Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and other churches with very effective. He made a bitter trade on the various religious demonstrations. He closed his sermon with a sweeping challenge to all ministers to meet him in joint debate.

**Clinton County Institute.**  
The Clinton county normal institute held an interesting session at Carlyle. One hundred teachers from Clinton and adjoining counties were in attendance. The institute was conducted by County Superintendent of Schools William Johnston, assisted by Prof. P. W. Shryock of English literature department of the Southern Illinois normal university at Carbondale.

**Body Plundered to Car.**  
The body of C. L. Stanley, aged 19, was found in the yards of the Terre Haute and Indianapolis railroad in Springfield. The body was pinned to the end of a coal car by heavy bridge girders which is supposed to have been shifted by the bumping of the car. He is the son of George W. Stanley, a rural mail carrier of Newton.

**Will Assess Capital Stock.**  
Following a decision of the state supreme court, the Adams county board of review will make assessments on the capital stock of corporations, such as are engaged in manufacturing, coal mining, stock raising, publishing of newspapers, etc. This is the first time in the history of the county that such stock has been assessed for taxes.

**Plays With Rusty Sword.**  
Armed with a rusty sword, with which he was hacking down weeds, Raymond Knotts, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Knotts of Chatham, fought a duel in play with a companion. He fell and the victor pierced his abdomen. He is now in a critical condition at the home of his parents.

**Township High School.**  
The Mount Vernon township high school board has adopted plans for the new township high school building, which will be erected on the Greenview Springs site. It will be a two-story structure of brick and stone and will contain all the modern conveniences for school work.

**Barber to Work on Streets.**  
C. D. Norris, a Greenville barber, was convicted of keeping a gambling house and fined \$100 and costs by Judge McGowan. Norris has been placed under the supervision of the superintendent of streets and will have to work six months on the streets of Greenville.

**Letter Carriers Elected.**  
The Cass County Rural Letter Carriers association elected officers as follows: President, Arthur Germer, Beardstown; vice-president, Luther Paschal; Monroe; secretary, Treasurer, J. Albert McClure; Vienna.

**Freight House for Centralia.**  
The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad company has prepared plans for the erection of a large freight house in Centralia, work on which will be commenced in a few days.

**Sweden Streets Damaged.**  
The waters of Skooki had overflowed the streets of the Kaskaskia river at Carlyle. The water was so high that it was necessary to have the streets raised. The water was so high that it was necessary to have the streets raised. The water was so high that it was necessary to have the streets raised.

**To Retain Y. M. C. A. Building.**  
The Young Men's Christian Association has decided not to offer their building for sale, but to have a determined effort to revive the institution and place it on a strong footing.

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