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TOM MARKHAM,

THE SCOUT.

A MILITARY DRAMA

IN SIX ACTS,

—:BY:—

P. L. W. JANSON.

This Drama is Dedicated to Whittier Post, Department of Illinois, Grand
Army of the Republic, of which the Author is a member.

Chicago, Sept. 9th, 1876.

CHICAGO, ILL.

MILLER, WAGNER & UMBDENSTOCK, PRS., 11 & 13 S. CLARK ST.

1876.

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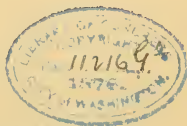
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PERSONS.

TOM MARKHAM, THE SCOUT. (Afterwards Colonel of Secret Service.)

(Great care should be taken in dressing, so that the audience may recognize him at all times. He will always dress semi-military, except when in enemy's lines. Smooth faced, except last act, where he will wear mustache.)

PRIVATE MICHAEL DOOLEY. (Afterwards 2nd Lieutenant in Colored Regiment.)

(First, Private U. S. Uniform. Last, 2nd Lieutenant U. S. Army. Rather shiftless.)

JOHANN KUGELFEUER, A GOOD SOLDIER OF COMPANY K. (Bloody Tigers.)

(Regular dutchman, regulation cap. Peak missing. At all times—no ridiculous get up—U. S. Uniform.)

CORPORAL CODY. (Corporal U. S. Army.)

NICODEMUS BLAKE, A CONTRABAND. (Afterwards Sergeant Colored Regiment.)

(Regular Contraband Suit of ragged gray, high, white hat with crape on, nearly 2 thirds. Afterwards Sergeant U. S. Army (infantry). This is no fancy-jumping darkey, but a good old fellow, about 60, who knows a thing or two. Gray wig. Above all let him speak natural. He is a calculating old chap and full of strategy.)

VAN BUREN SLEEPER, COLOR BEARER AT THE CHARGE OVER ANTIETAM BRIDGE.

(First Scene Yankee Suit. Last as Sergeant U. S. A.)

JOSEPH MARKHAM, A UNIONIST. (In the Rebel Lines.)

(Butternut Suit. Light colored felt hat. Full beard cut short.)

GENERALS.

McCLELLAN**,	} U. S. Uniform according to rank.	
BURN-SIDE**,		
HOOKER**,		Brigade General*.
GRANT***,		Major General**.
SHERIDAN**,		Lieutenant General***.
MEADE**,		
HANCOCK**,		

(Only 4 uniforms will be required, as McClellan, Burnside and Hooker do not appear after the charge on Bridge. It would be advisable to substitute in the 5th Act McClellan for Grant, Hooker for Sheridan and Burnside for Hancock.—Burnside will wear a plaid shirt. The Collar laid over the Coat Collar. Meade wears the Leather Regulation Cravatte. Persons Cast for Generals will please get an idea how the Generals looked at the time this piece plays. For instance, Meade, in a white shirt collar, would look ridiculous, because he always wore a leather cravat. All these details must be well attended to, to harmonize the whole play and portray the characters as they were.)

NOTE. Grant will appear with Cigar at all times.

HANIBAL MARKHAM, FATHER OF THE SCOUT.
(Civilian Costume.)

SIGNAL OFFICER. (Second Lieutenant U. S. Army.)

FLAGMAN TO SIGNAL OFFICER. (Private Soldier.)

DYING SOLDIER (UNION). (Corporal U. S. Army.)

ADELE MARKHAM, DAUGHTER OF JOSEPH MARKHAM.
(First Scene at Ashby's Gap. A suit of homespun, hair braided to hang down the back.
Last Scene, dressed in blue silk. Hair a la mode.)

MARIA JANE SMITH.
(Simple New England country dress, short, with slippers.)

GENERAL R. E. LEE.
(Rebel uniform, gold trimmings and stars on collar; a dignified, unassuming man, talks slowly and quietly.)

COLONEL RHETT,
MAJOR RAMSAY,
LIEUTENANT BROWN, } These Officers will appear in rebel
uniform, according to rank.

BENJAMIN HAWLEY, REBEL SCOUT.
(Will dress as the occasion may require for his branch of the business, but the favorite would be gray coat, brown pants and light colored felt hat.)

ADDIE MARKHAM, DAUGHTER OF THE SCOUT.
(Supposed to be about 8 years old, dressed in white with pink sash, high shoes, long loose hair in waves.)

SALLY, NICODEMUS BLAKE'S WIFE.
(Regular negro costume, head tied up in a handkerchief.)
(Union Soldiers will be in U. S. Uniform.)
(Rebel Soldiers in gray or butternut.)

PROPERTIES.

- (The signal flag will be of white muslin, 34x40 inches, with a red centre, 12x12 inches square.)
(One bears skin for Tom Markham in first act.)
(One rebel flag, stars and bars, for bridge at Antietam.)
(One flag, stars and stripes.)
(One live goose, 4 live chickens for 2nd scene, 5th act.)

SCENE FIRST, ACT FIRST.

(Woods. Private Dooley and Hans on Picket duty. This is supported, to be extreme outposts. Known as No. 13 and 14. Dooley is stationed at left and Hans right. Half dark stage.)

Dooley (alarmed).

What's that ; bejabers, they're coming.

(Grasps his musket at charge bayonet.)

Did you hear anything, Hans ?

Hans.

Keep shut mit your mout, I hear notings.

Dooley.

Shure, and I'll not stay here. I saw a black spot moving toward me with a tail 4 feet long. Creeping as slow as a turtle, it was either the divil or a ribel.

Hans.

Keep still, I hear notings.

Dooley.

I'll not stay on this post any longer. I'll call the Corporal. Shure, and I'll not stay here to get scalped.

Hans.

Be still with your nonsense. I hear and see noting.

Dooley (turns to the left and gazes into the woods. Grunting of a bear).

Hans.

Mike, by Jiminy, I hear somedings; do you ?

Dooley.

Hold yer gob. Divil a thing do I hear.

(Looks alarmed.)

Hans.

Gambrinus, I see somtings

(points left)

mit eyes like fire, jumping like der Teufel. I want to go home.

Dooley.

Ye are a coward, so ye are. If you are scared, I'll call the Corporal of the Guard.

(Walks to Hans.)

(Tom Markham, enveloped in bears skin, appears, walking on hind legs, at left wing. Grunts, shakes his paw and disappears.)

Dooley.

Mother of Moses, protect us! Did you see it, Hans?

Hans.

Shure.

(Scared.)

Dooley.

What'll we do?

Hans.

Go to your post.

Dooley.

I'll trade posts with you and give ye a pipe of tobacco to boot.

Hans.

You trade notings.

Dooley.

I'll not stay another minute

(Calls toward right.)

Corporal of the Guard 14.

(Dooley goes slowly to his post.—Enter Corporal Cody. Walking direct to Dooley.)

Dooley.

Halt, who comes there.

(Charge bayonet.)

Cody.

Friend with the countersign.

Dooley.

Divil, a hair I care; step up like a man and give the word.

(Cody whispers in Dooley's ear: Lyon.)

Dooley.

Get back, ye spalpeen. I'm a lying, am I.

(Charges at him.)

Cody.

That's a mistake, Mike. I said Lyon, that's the countersign you got.

Dooley.

Bejabbers, and you are right. I thought, you called me a liar. I beg your pardon, sur.

Cody.

What's up — anything wrong ?

Dooley.

The Ribels are advancing; they are around here and I had a *bare* escape. Aint that so, Hans ?

Hans (drawing himself up).

I sees noting.

Dooley.

Ye spalpeen, did'nt you see the *bear* escape ?

Cody.

I guess, your livid imagination sees more than you can *bear*, I'll relieve you and put you in your old position in the ambulance train.

Dooley.

I would rather stay here and *bear* it out with the dutchman.

Cody (to Hans).

Hans, you can take care of Dooley's post until I return with the relief.

Hans.

Yah, yah. I hold de front und de rear too.

Cody.

Come on, Dooley, take your *bearings* for camp.

Dooley.

Good bye, Hans.

Hans.

Yah, yah, Good bye, Dooley.

(Exit Dooley and Cody. Hans takes position centre of stage, covering both posts. Looks left into woods. Listens.)

By Teufel, I wish I was home by my Katrina. Was is das !

(Looks scared.)

(Enter Markham in bears skin, cautiously. Hans gets behind tree and, as bear advances, shoots; sticks his musket into the ground, grapples with bruin and shouts :)

Corporal of the Guard ! Corporal of the Guard !

(Has a severe tussle, but holds fast.)

Markham.

Hans, let me go, that's all right.

Hans.

Das is not all right. I holds my front und hold you too.

(Enter Cody and two men.)

Cody.

Hans, what's the matter.

Hans.

I got him, he is a spy.

(They tear the skin open and disclose Tom Markham.)

Markham.

Hans, you are a good soldier and ought to be promoted to Corporal.

Hans.

Yah, dot ish so.

Cody (recognizes him.)

Markham, what the dickens is up ?

Markham.

Gen. McClellan detailed me to try this point, to find out how the boys felt after yesterdays fight. Hans grabbed me pretty lively, I tell you.

Hans.

Yah, dat was so.

END SCENE.

SCENE SECOND, ACT FIRST.

(Signal Station. Signal Officer has telescope fastened to tree. Looking through telescope towards rear left wing. Flagman with signal flag facing to left rear.)

Signal Officer (to Flagman).

11—5.

(Flagman makes 11—5.)

Put down your flag now.

(Enter Gen. McClellan and Tom Markham. Form right.)

McClellan.

Signal Officer, have you communication with Gen. Burnside.

Signal Officer.

I have, General,

(without taking his eye from the glass)

and I am just receiving a message from him to you.

McClellan (to Markham).

Markham, when you passed through Thoroughfare Gap, were there any indications of the whereabouts of Jackson or Early.

Markham.

When I left Warrenton, I learned that Jackson was passing through Ashby's Gap. I pushed forward under cover of the night and kept the range of mountains well to my left, entered the little village of Paris at day break and almost stumbled over the rear guard of Jackson. I at once made my way to the summit, and kept there to Thoroughfare Gap. Here I tapped the wires and found them broken somewhere in the direction of Gainsville.

McClellan.

How long is that ago?

Markham.

56 hours.

Signal Officer.

General, I have just received this message from General Burnside to you.

(Hands paper to McClellan.)

McClellan (reads).

General Jackson has just appeared on my left, pushing himself well forward. What shall I do? "BURNSIDE."

McClellan.

Signal Officer, tell General Burnside to extend his troops to the Boonsboro Pike, not to bring on an engagement. Jackson will not advance further than the Stone Church; there he will be confronted by Franklin, well intrenched; issue 3 days rations to his command, and to be ready at a moments notice to march. I have sent out Stoneman, with sufficient Cavalry, to take anything he may meet, to be ready when wanted and report every thing of interest.

(Signal Officer writes what McClellan says, and sends message by flag. Does not call members too loud, to interfere with McClellan and Markham.)

McClellan (to Markham)

You will at once repair into the enemies lines and penetrate as far as you can towards Leesburg, so as to warrant your return to my Headquarters at midnight. Act cautiously, ascertain what troops, if any, are concentrated there, their strength, condition, and above all, their base of supplies.

Markham.

General, your orders shall be obeyed, and you may look for me at the time set. Provided I'm all right.

(Exit.)

McClellan (aside).

That Markham is a good one; he is trustworthy and never shrinks from any duty assigned him. He is now well on his road to Leesburg.

(Enter orderly Salutes.)

Orderly.

General, Gen. Hooker instructed me to report to you that Longstreet is feeling of his pickets. Pending orders from you, he replied, reenforced his line and awaits your orders.

McClellan.

Tell the General to fall to this side of the creek and keep well closed on Sumners right. The enemy will not attack before night, unless we provoke it.

Signal Officer.

General, this has just been from Gen. Burnside's station.

(Hands him paper.—McClellan reads.)

My Signal Officer reports from his lookout as follows: General Jackson has halted, thrown out his pickets, command resting, no Artillery in view. I am ready. "BURNSIDE."

McClellan (aside).

The enemy is looking for our most valuerable point.

(Picket firing in distance on right slowly.)

They are at fighting Joe again; he is very impetuous and might engage them. I'll ride over to him and see for myself. Signal Officer, any message you may receive, send them to my Headquarter at the Clement Farm as fast as they arrive.

(Picket firing decreases.—Exit McClellan.)

END SCENE.

SCENE THIRD, ACT FIRST.

(Soldiers camp. Hans doing guard duty, walking across stage, near footlights. Four soldiers sitting on a blanket, playing cards. One soldier in his drawers, repairing his pantaloons. 2 stakes driven in the ground with sticks across, on which hangs a mess pot. There must be a fire beneath pot. Dooley as cook.)

Dooley.

Bejabers, this suits me. Company cook, I'll not starve now.

(Stirs bean soup with a narrow shingle for a spoon.)

Too many beans in this soup.

(Helps himself to some, burns his mouth.)

Ouch, Murther.

Hans.

What's the matter, Mike?

Dooley.

Mind your business, Hans, or divil a bean will now get in your dish; it's meself that's kaping this hotel now.

(Stirring soup.)

Hans.

Yah, das is so. You keep the beans too, putty quick.

(Dooley accidently drops his pipe into the pot of soup, fishes for it with Ladle and finds it)

Dooley.

Bejabers, there goes me dudeen into the soup again and lal the tobaccy I have in the world is spoilt. The soup will have a fine flavor now shure. But the beans are all right, I have them here.

(Pats his stomach.)

There's nothing like avoiding calamities

(Beating of long roll, soldiers jump up, from within.)

Fall in, Company K.

(Exit all, except Hans and Dooley.)

Hans.

Was, was mean das trommel.

Dooley.

Divil, a know, I know, it must be the Ribils.

(Enter Nicodemus Blake, with a bundle on a stick over his shoulder and a loaf of bread under his arm.)

Hans (charge bayonet).

Stop, quick. Halt, three times.

(Cocks his musket and points at Blake.)

Blake.

Don't shoot, massa, I'se all alone.

Dooley.

What the divil do ye want, ye black nagur.

(Blake lays down his bundle.)

Blake.

I'se an old colored man, and I heered, you'uns were camped around here, so I packed up my traps and is gwine to jine you all, and be a free nigger for sure, befo' de lord calls me home.

Dooley (taking his loaf of bread and eats).

Do you live around here?

Blake.

Right smart ways, massa, ober de hill on the left, two looks and a hollow, right down by Mudturtle Creek, on de right bank, facing the norf. I left Dinah dar with the young uns.

Dooley.

Do you own the place ?

Blake.

Golly, I does since a fortnight ; massa, heard you was coming and he took de whole family away and told me to watch de tings, but I can't stay dar. I must see de union flag, dars where my home is, shure.

Dooley.

Where the divil are you bound for now.

Blake.

I'se going to see good old Uncle Abe Lincoln, who set all de niggers free ; den I'se going to list in de Yankee Army and help to fight dem Rebels, who made dis poor back bleed many times. De time has come and God has god his foot on dere necks.

Dooley.

Where you ever General Washington's body servant ?

Blake.

Golly, massa, I'se been dar, when de General took his first breath, I watched him in his cradle and seed him grow up, I was dar, when General Billy Patterson surrendered to him at Bull Run, and I'se got de handle ob de hatchet, with which he cut down de persimun tree. Golly, massa, he never told a lie.

Dooley.

You don't take after him much.

Blake.

Massa, I'd be much obleeged to you, if you would show me the way to the Corporal of dis here Yankee Army. I can't live in dis country no how any more. I'se a free man now, I tole you, and if dese old legs will carry me, I'se goin to see Uncle Lincoln, I must see him. O Golly, I feel so good, because I'se a free man. Please show me de way, so I can see the captain of de army.

Dooley.

All right, my ancient landmark of slavery.

(Takes him to the left, points through wings)

You see the right hand road on the lift there, you take the lift hand side of that road, until you come to the cross roads, beyant

the knoll, straddle them both and take them. If you can't do that, take the left hand road across the creek, till you come to a cow, grazing, with a white spot on her tail, it's the cow I mane. Divil, a white spot is there on you, and then you turn to the right, countermarch to your left, keep on about 2 miles further and you will find Headquarters.

(Blake looks alarmed at the instructions, picks up his bundle.)

Blake.

Thankee, massa, kind of complicated, but I guess, I'll make it out. Good bye, gents, and may the good lord always gaze on you with kindness.

(Exit slowly.)

Dooley.

Good bye, old African. You are free now, and damned near as good a man as I am.

(Six shots fired in rapid succession. Hans and Dooley looked alarmed.)

Hans.

What was dot, Mike.

Dooley.

That's nothing, Hans. I guess the soup is done, let's take it to the company street and dish it out.

Hans.

Yah, dat wash so.

(They stick musket through handle of pot and exit.)

END SCENE.

SCENE FIRST, ACT SECOND.

(Interior of a house. A neat room, table with white table cloth, bouquet on table, window in rear, window to open.)

Maria.

Van Buren Sleeper, I thought you were brave enough to fly to the rescue. Here you are still at home, shivering in your boots. Hav'nt you heard the third call of Abraham Lincoln for troops. You are still here, snoopin around, when the alarun has sounded, when the stars and stripes are in danger. For shame.

(She turns from him.)

Sleeper.

Maria, Tarnation, don't you know, I must make hay next week. How could I leave?

Maria.

Let it go to grass, gird on your armor like a man, rush into the conflict, and when you return home, covered with honorable scars, your Maria Jane will love you all the more.

Sleeper.

I might get killed.

Maria.

No danger of that, you will not go to near real danger; but, if you should *fall*, you have only done what every loyal man should do: offer his *life* for the *life* of his country. Don't be a coward; were I a man, I would go this instant.

Sleeper.

I wish you were; I would'nt mind shooting, if they didn't shoot back.

Maria.

Van Buren Sleeper, I always thought a good deal of you, and always gave you the biggest lump of maple sugar; I've sat upon your knee and promised to be your wife, and now I demand of you, to go to the war, help to save your country, march under the glorious flag to victory. I will watch you every movement and encourage you in your great task. Go, do your duty like a man, decide to go, or leave me forever.

Sleeper.

You don't mean it, do you?

Maria.

Every word.

Sleeper.

That settles it. I'll run across the lots and see what ma says. I'll be back in a minute.

(Seats herself.)

Maria.

He's a good soul, and we will some day be happy. He's never been away from home, I do really love him, but I would not give a cent for a man that would'nt shoulder a musket and go to defend his country against treason.

(Enter Sleeper in great haste.)

Sleeper.

Maria Jane, I'm going.

(Looks brave.)

My country calls, ma said I mought.

(Aside.)

I don't care about going.

Maria.

Dear Van, I knew you were brave and chivalrous.

Sleeper.

You bet.

Maria.

I was certain, you would respond to the call of your country and fight its enemies.

Sleeper.

You bet.

(Aside.)

I'd rather stay home.

(Aloud.)

Maria, I'm afraid, when I'm gone, you'll be sweet on Seth Jones.

Maria (indignant).

Van Buren Sleeper, do you think, I'd ever forget you, when you are a soldier? I'll be as true to you as the stars are to the stripes on our glorious flag.

Sleeper.

Maria Jane, I never done it before, but I'll do it now.

(Hugs and kisses her.)

Maria (making no effort to get away).

Ain't you ashamed! I'm blushing all over, dear me, how wicked,

(Aside.)

it's nice though

(Aloud.)

to kiss me here all alone! But never mind, Van, it's all right.

Don't let them nasty Rebels capture you, will you?

Sleeper (drawing himself up).

Do I look like a squab?

(Maria Jane goes to window and looks out.)

Maria.

I declare, they are raising the flag on the old liberty pole, see how beautiful it looks; the troops are shouting and forming in line.

Sleeper.

If that's the Case, I'm off. Maria, keep a good lookout on my yellow rooster, and don't take to Seth Jones.

(Embrace.)

Maria.

Good bye, Van. Don't let them rebels shoot you, but do your duty like a man. Always keep the flag in sight, defend it with your life, and when you come home at the end of the war, no one will give her soldier boy a heartier welcome than your Maria. God bless you; you will find me as you leave me, your own. Farwell! One more is added to the army of freedom.

Sleeper.

Maria, you are a patriotic Cuss.

Maria.

We ought to be. Woman, in her domestic sphere of life, should love her country as well as any mortal. We cannot bear arms, but can pray for you. Farwell, Van. I hear the drums, join your comrades. God bless you.

(Kisses him on mouth.)

Sleeper.

Good bye, Maria; don't forget my yellow rooster.

Maria.

Good bye; be a good soldier, and I'll be proud of you forever.

(Sleeper exit, Maria goes to window and waves handkerchief.)

He'll be a corporal some day.

(Exit.)

SCENE SECOND, ACT SECOND.

(Same as scene second, act first. — Signal Officer enters and looks through telescope. — Enter McClellan, Hooker and Burnside.)

McClellan (to Hooker and Burnside).

I feel anxious about Markham he pushed; his way toward Leesburg this morning, and should be back by this time, I hope he is safe. I must hear from him before I make my final dispositions for tomorrows work, unless there have been changes occurred since 1 P. M. Hooker, you will cross the upper bridge and the Fords below it, gain the heights and hold them, and at the gray of the

morning attack with your whole strenght. Burnside, you will move to the left and overlap the enemys right. We will attack his left first, and, if he reinforces from his line, you will charge over the bridge in your front, get position for your artillery and sweep the plateau in your front. Hooker and Sumner will open the ball, Franklin will be able to help either wing.

Signal Officer.

General, the following message has just passed over the enemys signal station.

(Reads.)

To General Lee. The enemys cavalry has just dashed into our commissary train and destroyed sixty wagons. The rest I can't make out; there is a heavy smoke rising between us.

McClellan.

That's good, that will shake them up a little.

(Enter Markham, his left hand baudaged; salutes.)

Well, Markham, what's up, wounded?

Markham.

Slightly, General. I found myself behind time, so to gain a few miles, I shot across the country; the first thing I knew, I was among a rebel scouting party. I gave my horse the spurs and here I am to report.

McClellan.

Proceed.

Markham.

I pushed over the Potomac, as you directed, and found three raiding parties of our cavalry doing good service. I know they struck a large wagon train and made short work of it. I got to within 3 miles of Leesburg and found large bodies of enemys infantry moving this way. A large amount of stores are located there, the troops feel confident of victory. Lee promised them to move on Washington as soon as you are defeated.

Burnside.

They won't get there this week.

Hooker.

Not through my corps.

McClellan.

Gentlemen, there is no doubt, that Lee wants to fight a decisive battle in this vicinity. But with you, Hooker, on my

right, and you, Burnside, on my left, my wings are safe. Hooker, have you studied your ground well, and are you ready at this time to cross over and hold the other bank.

Hooker.

I am in readiness.

McClellan.

Go then, Sumner, and Mansfield will support you; get, what you can, and hold, what you get. At 2 A. M. I will send up 2 blue rockets and a white one, which will have no significance whatever only to mislead Lee. Go to your posts now and let me hear from you.

(Hooker salutes and exit.)

Burnside, get into your position, keep your left well extended over the bridge, mount two 30 lb. cannons on the heights in your rear, and reach the enemys ammunition train if possible.

Burnside.

My troops are under way now and your orders shall be obeyed.

(Exit Burnside.)

McClellan.

Markham, you can retire to Headquarters and rest for a few hours. I want you at 4 o'clock for duty.

Markham.

All right, General, I'll report at 4.

(Exit. — Picket firing on right.)

Signal Officer.

General Hooker is crossing, I can see the flashes of his muskets; the rebel signal station is busy sending messages, the following has just passed over: "Let the enemy cross over about a corps, then fall on his right, double him up, and he can't recross. Don't disclose your artillery. LEE."

McClellan.

Lee won't find Hooker alone, I'll ride over to Hooker now, send news to Headquarters.

(Exit.)

SCENE THIRD, ACT SECOND.

(Half dark stage. Woods, supposed to be part of a battle field. 5 dead rebel soldiers laying upon the ground. 5 dead union soldiers lie also upon the ground. One union soldier shot through the head, his head resting upon a dead rebel. The position of the soldiers will be same as cut below.)

(The rebel, dead, are represented by red lines, the union by black; feet to the audience, in the centre will be seen 2 dead, 1 union, 1 rebel, with lines crossing each others bodies; these are supposed to be muskets, with bayonets pierced through each other. The union soldier should have one side of his face (on which he was laying) marked with blood. Several muskets should lie near soldiers, as if dropped as they fell.)

Dying Soldier (raising himself up and looking around).

This was a terrible fight, it was hand to hand, we are pretty well mixed up I see, the blue and the gray. Lord, how my head does pain me, my tongue cleaves to the roof of my mouth. Had I but one drop of water, I would gladly die.

(Looks toward rebel No. 1, who has a canteen clutched in his hand.)

Thank God, I see a canteen over there, I'll endeavor to reach it, it may contain water.

(Crawls slowly to rebel No. 1, grasps the canteen and finds it empty.)

Great heavens, what mockery.

(Dispair.)

Had I only been shot dead, I am dying with thirst. This is an isolated spot, and whoever holds the field will not find us easily.

(Delirious.)

Must I die here? Mother, could you but help me, could you pray for my departing spirit, the fleeing life. I'm going, mother come to me, father in heaven, open thy arms. Where's the flag, mother?

(Falls back exhausted; in falling his head must strike the ground, so that the audience will hear it.)

(Enter Tom Markham, disguised as a rebel (cautiously). Gazes around upon the dead, walks to the 2 dead in centre, contemplates.)

Markham.

Great heavens, what a sight. The rebel and union soldiers united in death. Will this slaughter never cease? It makes my heart ache to behold such a sight. Here lie the gray cold in death, died for imaginary wrongs. Here lie the blue, who gave up their lives in defence of our glorious flag.

(Dying soldier groans.)

Markham (startled).

What! A groan.

(Walks to soldier, listening and feeling pulse, raises his head gently and gives him a drink out of his canteen. — Soldier slowly opening his eyes and gazes on Markham.)

Dying Soldier.

May God reward you for that cooling draught, it has brought me back to life. Where are our troops? Who was victorious? All I remember, was when we charged and I was hit here.

(Points to his head. Markham takes his pocket handkerchief and ties it around the soldier's head.)

Markham.

Calm yourself, no harm shall come to you, the confederates will treat you kindly, and you will soon be to your old home. Be brave.

(Aside.)

Poor fellow, he is shot through the head and his brain is oozing out of the wound, he can't last long. I must cheer him up on his dark journey. Did he but know who I was? But I dare not tell him, the shock would be too great.

(Feels his pulse.)

He is dying. I must tell him, that his eyes shall be closed by one of his comrades.

(Whispers in his ear and tells him, that he is Tom Markham, a friend. — Soldier rises in the arms of Markham.)

Dying Soldier.

Now I die in peace. Take these letters, send them back to where they came from. Tell them, that I died upon the field, still loving the old flag and blessing it with my last breath. Take this picture.

(Kisses it.)

She is a noble girl, write and tell her, that I died in your arms.

(Moves his hand before his eyes.)

It's growing dark. Am I dying? My wound does not pain me now.

(Dying.)

See the flag, how it waves.

(Points to right.)

Beautiful stars. See it advance. The boys are charging. Hurrah! I'm ready.

(Calmly.)

Mother, Alice, give me your hands, guide me over. Markham, don't let them give up the fight. The Union must be preserved.

(Feeble.)

Hold me closer, I'm cold, I'm going home.

(Dies. — Markham lays him down gentle, rises and points to dead.)

Markham.

Treason behold thy work.

(A green light should be thrown over the faces of the dead, as the curtain descends slowly.)

SCENE FIRST, ACT THIRD.

(Room, table and 2 chairs (campstools). Map and papers laying on table. — Markham and McClellan.)

McClellan.

Markham, at daylight Hooker will open the ball, and the indications are, that to-days fight will be a victorious one for us. I have a hazardous duty for you to perform; it will require 10 days. You will at once cross the Potomac at Point of Rocks, push through Snicker's Gap, cross the valley as far as White Post, get, what information you can, of any note, then return through Ashby's Gap to a little hamlet, at the base of the mountain, called Paris. There you will find a Union Family bearing your name.

Markham.

Markham's ?

McClellan.

Yes, old man Markham will give you considerable information. You must use great caution, as he is watched. You will of course be in civilian clothing, and so, that he may know who you are and what you want. Give him the Password "Lincoln" and he will know with whom he is dealing. After you get any news from him, pass again through the Gap. Keep down the valley, recross at Swift River Gap, tap the wires somewhere and learn the news from Lee to Davis. Pass through Warrenton, make your way to the Potomac and embark at Aqua Creek for my Headquarters, wherever it may be. Here is a package of \$40,000 confederate money, use it to advantage.

Markham.

I think, I can tap the wires between Salem and Ashby's Gap.

(Firing on right.)

McClellan.

Hooker has opened, and the days work has begun. 'Tis a glorious day, and may it close as auspicious as it opens.

Markham.

General, I'll be off now.

(Exit. — McClellan does not hear him as he is looking right toward musketry. — Several Volleys fired.)

McClellan.

Hooker is engaged.

(Picket firing in centre.)

The fire stretches along to Burnside, it will soon be general. —
Orderly,

(To right.)

bring my horse.

(Exit right.)

SCENE SECOND, ACT THIRD.

(Woods. Lee's Headquarters. Lee sitting on stump of tree, looking at map stretched across his knees. — Enter Colonel Rhett, salutes.)

Rhett.

General, the enemys right and centre have been reinforced, and are doing heavy fighting. Our troops are repelling every onset with great bravery, but it is evident that we are too weak there.

Lee.

Order 2 Divisions from the right centre to the threatened point move well under cover. The signal station on North Mountain sees us and all our movements. Don't let one inch of ground be lost. Have our trains in marching order, and keep them more in the centre toward Shepardtown. Give explicit orders to have the Stone Bridge on the right well covered, and if we can keep McClellan's left on the other bank, the day is ours. If not, we will have a hard fight. Colonel, send me the Chief of Artillery at once. Have you taken any prisoners?

Rhett.

We have about 400.

Lee.

Send a few of them here; I may learn something. Tell Jackson not to move back, and Longstreet to hold his front.

(Exit Rhett.)

The firing is terrible. The artillery has almost ceased. The enemy must be preparing for a charge.

(Enter guard with Dooley and Hans as prisoners; they carry the bean pot between them on a stick.)

Lee.

Well, boys, you are outside of your lines, ain't you?

I dink so.

Hans.

Lee.

What regiment do you belong to ?

Dooley.

Two ones and a two, Company K, Bloody Tigers.

Lee.

Was your regiment engaged in the charge last night ?

Dooley.

It was ; Hans and meself are the only ones left.

Lee.

Do you think McClellan has his whole army in my front ?

Dooley.

Yes, I think he has, and Killpatrick in your rear.

Lee.

Do you think your army will whip us today ?

Dooley.

I can't say, but I don't think there will be much left of you, if you don't get out of here.

Lee (smiling).

You are very sanguine. Corporal, take these men back to the guard.

(Enter Hawley in great haste.)

Hawley.

General, here I am at last.

Lee.

I thought you were captured. What news ?

Hawley.

Hooker on your left, Burnside on your right, Sumner, Franklin and Mansfield centre, Porter reserve. I left Washington at day-break yesterday. A great many troops are enroute here. The road to Frederick is full of stragglers. Killpatrick moved by me through Harman's Gap this A. M. ; he had about 200 prisoners and 100 extra horses. Washington is in an uproar ; they expect a great victory today. A heavy wagon train of Ammunition and Commissary Stores are moving now between Monocacy and Middletown.

Lee.

Hawley, report to General Jackson and tell him, who is in his front.

(Exit Hawley.)

If I had four thousand cavalry, McClellan would be on the retreat in four hours, in a worse condition than he was on the Peninsula. I must go to the right.

END ACT THREE.

ACT FOURTH, ONE SCENE.

(This scene will portray the celebrated charge of Burnside's Troops over the Stone Bridge at Antietam, September 17th, 1862. The bridge must run diagonally across the rear part of the stage. The river supposed to run from rear left wing to front right.

The bridge has 2 arches and is made to imitate stone. Rebel and union pickets will be stationed at the bank of the river opposite each other.)

(As the curtain rises the pickets of both armies open fire at each other across the river. There will be no union troops visible at the bridge. After several shots are fired by both sides, General Burnside will draw his troops to left, behind wing preparing for the charge. Before he exits he will say :)

Soldiers, the eyes of the commanding General are upon you, and my orders are to take that bridge by storm at the point of the bayonet. The enemy is strong, but our orders are to take it, and it must be done. Let nothing stop. After we have the other side, Lee is lost. Follow your flag. Forward, march !

(Exit troops. Roll of drums.)

Charge bayonet, forward, double quick, march !

(Martial piece by the Orchestra. Quick time.)

(The Union troops charge and are fired upon by the rebels, who have a strong force at end of the bridge. Union troops lose several men, and braver enemy charges and drives Union troops near end of the bridge. Burnside orders a recharge and drives enemy from bridge. Union flag carried by Van Buren Sleeper, will be behind 2nd file, Burnside behind colors. Soldiers cheer. Rebel Skirmishers fall back from river bank.)

(As soon as Burnside reaches the centre of the bridge, scene will form a tableau. None will turn face to audience, except color bearer, who will salute audience with flag. Colored Lights may be used here to good advantage. — The curtain descends amidst "The Star Spangled Banner" by the Orchestra.)

ACT FIFTH, SCENE FIRST.

(Room. Table and 2 chairs. Door and window. No carpet on floor.)

Adele (looking out of window. She goes to table).

I was so frightened. I was certain I heard shots in the direction of Mannings. I am terribly afraid, father will be caught some day with papers upon him, that will condemn him to be shot as a spy. Our neighbors have suspicion that we are Unionists, and — —

(Knock at the door. Adele opens it. Enter her father, Joseph Markham.)

Joseph Markham.

Adele, Love.

(Kiss on forehead.)

You thought I was captured, didn't you?

Adele.

Dear Papa, I had such a dreadful forebodings. I knew, you were prepared for any emergency, but I had such a horrid dream last night, and our good dog, Jack, was so restless, that I really became alarmed. Being alone, I took your old pistol and prepared myself for the worst. We are watched and must act cautiously.

Joseph Markham.

I know it, darling, but we must make all these sacrifices to help along the cause of our Starry Banner.

Adele.

Yes, Papa,

(Taking a miniature flag from her bosom.)

here it is in all its beauty, heavens own banner, right in the midst of the enemy. How I love it. May God keep watch over it and guide it to victory.

(Replaces the flag.)

Joseph Markham.

Yes, my dear, it is glorious when I look back through the vista of years; it makes my heart ache to see it hauled down and the Rebel Rag floated to the breeze over these gray hairs. Some day, perhaps, God willing, I will take you to my dear old home in Vermont, where you can breath the free air of liberty. My brother has three sons, and surely they must be in the army somewhere fighting for the Union. Have any troops passed through here, since I left?

Adele.

Yes, Pa. 2 regiments of rebel cavalry passed through the Gap on Sunday. They took possession of the house, and ate everything I had, even so the nice plum cake I had baked for you. There's not a chicken left, and they wanted to go into the cellar after the bacon, but Pa, I got your pistol and told them, I would die first before I would let them go down.

Joseph Markham.

Ha! Ha!

(Laughs.)

there was not a speck of powder in the pistol.

Adele.

It had the same effect. They desisted, retreated, and I held the field, and one big, dirty wretch called me a bully Gal. There has been no one here since. But this morning about half past four I looked out of the window of my room and saw a horseman, in a gray uniform, riding by the edge of the woods at Mannings; he was looking at a piece of paper, and took an occasional glance at this house. I became alarmed, dressed myself and put Jack on picket in the front yard, and awaited results.

Joseph Markham.

Did he come to the house?

Adele.

No, Pa. After studying the paper for some time, he put spurs to his horse, and examining his pistols, he galloped off in the direction of the Gap.

Joseph Markham.

You are quite a General.

Adele.

No wonder; these times try every one's soul. Why should not a woman do her duty as well as a man.

Joseph Markham.

These are terrible times. I am almost discouraged.

Adele.

Dear Pa, don't worry. Let me cheer you up. Did you get any news since you left? General McClellan's Scout will soon be here.

Joseph Markham.

I did get news. But Haverly, the Scout, who has been here so often, will never come again.

Adele.

Why, Pa?

Joseph Markham.

Poor fellow! he is dead. He was captured at Mitchel's Station last monday. He was told to prepare himself for death. God willed I should be there. Brave Soul. Gazing around upon the crowd, he prayed a moment; then straightening himself up, he said, I am ready. As he spoke, he recognized me. What a terrible moment. He made no motion of recognition, but his black eyes spoke. I could not help him; in a few minutes all was over. He was dangling on the limb of an oak. I felt like rushing upon them, and had it not been for you, dear daughter, your father would have exposed himself and shared the same fate as poor John Haverly. Heavy hearted I pursued my way toward Locust Grove. I did not go far however, I secreted myself and at night, amidst the darkness, I returned to the spot. The millions of leaves seemed to whisper courage in my ears. The giant trees looked like so many spectres. Undaunted I climbed up, cut the rope, and down upon the earth fell the lifeless body. I listened for a moment. Every thing was as still as death. With herculean strength I threw the body in front of me on the saddle and started across the country. I reached a little knoll, surmounted by 3 trees. Here, with the aid of my large clasp knife and sharp stones, I dug a grave and buried brave John Haverly.

(Adele weeps, laying her head on table.)

Rise up, Adele. The rebel army has been defeated in Maryland and it is reported in Richmond, that they are on the retreat.

Adele.

Thank God!

Joseph Markham.

Take this bundle of papers

(Produces them.)

and secrete them in the old spot until General McClellan hears of Haverly's death and sends another Scout. Then, love, see if you can't find something for me. I'm hungry.

(Adele takes papers and exit.)

She is the very picture of her mother and just as brave.

(Knocks at the door. Joseph Markham opens the door. Enter Tom Markham, the Scout.)

Markham.

Can I rest here a few minutes? I have lost my way. I saw a light in your window and took the liberty to enter.

Joseph Markham.

Certainly, Sir. Make yourself as comfortable as you can. We can't offer you much. The war has stripped us of very near everything. What regiment do you belong to?

Markham.

I'm attached to no regiment at present. I am a scout. I formerly was a member of the 13th North Carolina infantry. General Lee sent me here in search of a man named Markham.

Joseph Markham (startled).

That's my name. What's your business with me?

Markham.

I'll tell you.

(Whispers McClellan's password in his ear.)

Joseph Markham.

Welcome. What news?

(Shake hands.)

Markham.

McClellan fought Lee at Antietam and whipped him. I left on the morning of the fight to come to you for news. But before we proceed, how long have you lived here?

Joseph Markham.

It's nigh on 40 years. I came here when quite a boy. I was restless and left a good home. I drifted down here. Well, to cut it short, got married. Prospered, until the war broke out, then everything went backward. My wife died 3 years ago, and Adele and myself are alone. I promised her, when the war is over, to take her to my old home in Vermont.

Markham.

Have you a brother named Hannibal?

Joseph Markham.

I have, and a good brother he is. The last time I heard from him he had three sons.

Markham (rises up).

I am his son Tom.

Joseph Markham.

You? God bless you!

(Embraces him.)

What a kind act of providence to bring us together under these circumstances.

Markham.

Yes. My brothers are all in the war. But I must see my cousin. Where is she?

Joseph Markham.

I'll call her. She will be delighted.

(Calls her. Enter Adele.)

Adele.

What, Pa!

(Constrained at seeing Markham.)

Joseph Markham.

This is your cousin, Tom Markham, with a rebel uniform, but with a loyal heart underneath.

(Markham and Adele shake hands.)

Adele.

God has not forgotten us. But why are you in this dress?

Markham.

I am in the secret service, and McClellan sent me here. We have not heard from Haverly in 16 days.

(Father and daughter exchange glances.)

Joseph Markham.

Poor John is dead. He was captured, condemned to death and hung. I buried him.

Markham.

Such is life. He was a brave boy.

Joseph Markham.

He was quite a favorite of Adele's.

(She puts her hand over his mouth.)

Adele.

No, Pa. I loved him as I do every Union soldier.

Markham.

Well, uncle, I must get off again before daylight. I am going into the valley, and in my return I will take what news you may have.

Adele.

Supper is ready now, Pa. If you are ready I'll prepare table.

Markham.

Yes, we are ready, and I dare say Tom has an appetite. So go, darling, prepare the feast, and we will follow. Get the best the

house affords. Give this yankee a good impression of southern chivalry.

(Exit Adele.)

How is that, Tom ?

Markham.

That's good. Only don't bother yourself about me. I'll slide right off through the gap in a short time.

Joseph Markham.

* You shant leave this house until you have refreshed yourself, and by the way I have something here won't go bad.

(Produces bottle and 2 glasses, fills up.)

Markham.

Here is success to the Union arms.

(Drinks.)

Joseph Markham.

Here is a confusion to treason.

(Drinks. — Enter Adele.)

Adele.

The repast is ready and steaming hot. Come, Pa! come, Tom!

(Exit.)

END SCENE.

SCENE SECOND. ACT FIFTH.

(Woods. Tree on left. Enter Hans and Dooley. Dooley with no coat, Hans with no hat. Hans has 4 live chickens, and Dooley a live goose.)

Dooley.

Bejabers, that was a bare escape.

(To the goose.)

Stop your wigglin. I'd had the pig too, but the divil bit at me. If we had a gridiron now, we'd be all right. Sit down, Hans. I wish we had a ham instead of this divil of a goose.

Hans.

Dooley, I'll give you the chickens for the goose.

Dooley.

All right, Hans.

(They trade. While Dooley is arranging his chickens they get away. Dooley runs after them. They disappear in wings.)

Hans (to goose).

You not get away with me.

(Twists her neck and sits on her. — Enter Dooley with one chicken.)

Dooley.

That was a bad trade.

Hans.

Good for me.

(Enter Blake with three chickens ; saunters leisurly across the stage.)

Dooley.

Hello there !

(Blake startled.)

Drop the chickens ! Where did you pick them up ?

Blake.

Gents, dose chickens come all de way from Carrolton. I'se carried dem over three hundred miles. Sometimes I let them walk. They follow me like a dog.

Dooley (to Hans).

Bejabers, that's the same nagur we saw a month ago.

Hans.

Yah, dot ish so. He ain't so black like he used to vos.

Dooley (to Blake).

Did'nt we meet you before.

Blake.

I think I had the honor of knowing you. You gave me the direction to find Headquarters. I'se been walking ever since, and de lord only knows when I'll get through.

Dooley.

We are looking for the captain too. So we'll all travel together.

Hans.

Don't be in a hurry so quick.

Dooley (looking through left).

Bejabers, I see one coming. It's a rebel ! Let's capture him and takes his clothes.

Hans.

That's just a good idea.

Blake.

Gents, I'se under the impression I had better travel on. I'se not used to dis business.

Dooley.

You will have to stay now and help capture him. I'll command the squad and get behind the tree, and when I give the command, you and Hans will charge on him. Hide yourselves, he's coming !

(They hide. — Enter Markham slowly, looking around.)

Markham.

The creek is high. I don't believe I can cross here. I must go down lower.

Dooley (cries).

Charge!

(No one advances but Hans. Markham is about to draw his pistol, when Hans falls down and rolls into wing. Markham goes to tree and finds Dooley.)

Markham.

Come out from behind that tree or I'll blow the top of your head off! Come here all of you!

Dooley.

It's a mistake, sir. I told the byes to be aisy.

Markham.

Where do you belong?

Dooley.

Barring the nagur. We belong to camp K.

Markham.

What army? Union or Confederate?

Dooley.

Yes, sir.

(Pause.)

The Union army. We were taken prisoners and escaped.

Hans (to Markham).

I tink I see you one time before in de bears skin.

Markham.

Hans, is that you? I'm glad to meet you again. You want to move away from here lively. Have you anything to eat?

Dooley.

Divil a bite.

Markham (gives each some confederate money).

Now keep well to the left and in the woods. Let Blake go into the town and buy something to eat. Then get on the ridge

(Points left.)

and keep north-east, and you will be all safe.

Dooley.

Many thanks, sir. Come boys, pick up your goose and chickens, and we'll get.

(Exit left.)

Markham.

This was quite a surprise. I didn't expect to find any one here. What's that?

(Noise, as if horses were coming through woods.)

They've tracked me and I can't get out. I'll make the best of it.

(Examines his pistols.)

They are all right. Here is something just suits me. I'll hide these papers first, then I'll hide myself.

(Hides papers at foot of tree, then crawls in hollow tree on right. — Enter Major Ramsay and Lieutenant Brown with 4 rebel soldiers.)

Ramsay.

He can't get away this time. He's around here somewhere. We've got his horse, and we will get him. He might be in this tree.

(Runs his sabre into it.)

He is not here, or I would have run this into his yankee carcass.

(To soldiers.)

Scour around a little, then report to me here.

(Exit soldiers.)

I was sure we had him this time. He's as slippery as an eel, and the best scout the Yankees have got; by the way, Brown, have you kept a good lookout on old Joe Markham?

Brown.

We have, but find nothing suspicious.

Ramsay.

We have good information that he is engaged as a spy by the Yankees, and my orders are to arrest him to night, also to take his charming daughter.

Brown.

She is a fine girl.

Ramsay.

That's true; but orders are orders. Both are to be taken to Richmond, and the old man will take a dance in the air as did John Haverly the other day.

Brown.

He was a brave fellow and died like a man, and I am sorry I had a hand in it.

Ramsay.

But the most singular thing about the affair was, the next morning I repaired to the spot and his body had disappeared. We left him as dead as a stone.

Brown.

That was singular what could have become of him.

(Enter squad of soldiers bring Nicodemus Blake. The soldiers have his chickens and bread.)

Sergeant.

This is all we found. He was sneaking about, and we thought we would bring him in.

Ramsay.

Uncle, do you live about here ?

Blake.

Golly ! No, massa. De Yankees done tuk everything massa had, and I'se drifting around like a lost sheep.

Ramsay.

Did you see anything of a man in this neighborhood this morning, mounted on a black horse ? He was dressed in gray and a slouched hat.

Blake.

Smoothe face ?

Ramsay.

That's him to a T.

Blake.

Golly, massa. I seed de very same individual about 2 hours ago on de road ober dar. He axed me some question and then shot off like lightening up de telegraph road. He is a good ways from here by dis time. Judging by de way he started.

Ramsay.

Sergeant, give the old fellow back his chickens, and report to your company.

(Exit soldiers.)

Lieutenant, it is needless to search any longer in this vicinity. He is probably in the mountains by this time.

(To Blake.)

Which ways now, uncle ?

Blake.

De Lord knows. I'se guine to rest a while, and den dese ole legs will be movin.

Ramsay.

Lieutenant, you will now report to your company. Meet me alone to night at 9 o'clock at Mannings, and we will proceed to Markham's, and arrest him and his daughter and send them to Richmond.

(To Blake.)

And you, uncle, if you see that fellow again, snatch him and we will reward you.

(Exit Ramsay and Brown.)

Blake.

Thankee, massa. I'll do my best to catch him.

(Alone.)

Golly, I'se got a heap of trouble in dis wah. But de nigger has found his level in society, and is going to keep it.

(Markham comes out of tree, brushes himself off, and walks to Blake.)

Markham.

Nicodemus Blake!

(Blake startled, jumps up in air.)

Blake.

Lord a massey! I'se dead shuah!

Markham.

All right, uncle. Don't get scared. You know me.

Blake.

Sartin, I does. I tole them you was far away by this time.

Markham.

I know you did, and I'll remember you. Where are Dooley and Hans.

Blake.

De Lord knows. I went to get some bread and de rebels captured me and brought me here.

Markham.

You did well, and I want you to assist me to night in something greater. You heard them talking about old Markham and his daughter. They are going to arrest him. Markham is my uncle and I must save them. You go to the house and tell them to be prepared to leave as soon as I arrive. Will you do it?

Blake.

As shuah as a God in heaven. Show me de way and I'll trabble.

(Markham takes Blake to left of stage and points the directions.)

Markham.

You see that hill? Get on it, and from there to the south-west you will see a church steeple, painted light brown. Go directly for that, and about 600 yards in the rear of the church, you will find a stone house, with piazza in front, almost covered with vines. Ask for Markham and tell him what I told you. I'll be there about 9 o'clock.

Blake.

All right, I'se off.

(Takes chickens and exit.)

Markham.

That was a close shave for me. I almost suffocated in that tree, and where he shoved his sabre into it, it passed between my feet. But still I was glad to be there. I can now save them.

(Looks left.)

I guess I'll mount one of these trees and see if I can't get a glimpse of them. I'm sorry they got my horse, but I'll soon have another.

(Exit.)

(NOTE 1. The tree in this scene will represent a hollow one, and so constructed as to admit the body of Tom Markham.)

SCENE THIRD, ACT FIFTH.

(Same scene as scene 1st, act 5th. Enter Adele and Joseph Markham.)

Adele.

Dear Pa, I wish we could leave this place. We have nothing left. Your barns pulled down and fences destroyed, and your field overgrown with weeds. What will we do?

Joseph Markham.

Don't get discouraged, Adele. All will be right at last. I've 500 Dollars in tinkling gold buried outside, and we will not want. We can't get into our lines just now, and we must wait till Tom comes back; he will give us some instructions.

Adele.

Dear me, I wish he would come. He promised to be here to night.

(Knock at door.)

Joseph Markham

Come in!

(Enter Blake.)

Blake

Beggin pardon for intrudin on dis, yer family circle, massa. I'se looking for Mr. Markham, who libs about here.

Joseph Markham.

That's my name.

Blake.

De Lord be praised. I'se mighty glad to find you. I have a message from Massa Markham, the scout.

Joseph Markham

What is it ?

Blake.

To make it short: The rebels will arrest you to-night and carry you to Richmond, and Massa Markham told me to tell you to be ready to leave here as soon as he arrives. Pack your little trinkets; that's all.

Adele.

Great heavens! Papa, what shall we do ?

Joseph Markham.

Nothing but obey orders. Tom will be here in good time. On him we must rely.

Adele (to Blake).

Uncle, when will Mr. Markham be here ?

Joseph Markham.

Adele, pick up whatever little jewelry you have, and let's be prepared to leave.

(Exit Adele. — Enter Markham in haste.)

Dear Tom, at last!

Markham.

Yes, uncle. In a few minutes 2 officers of the rebel army will be here to arrest you and Adele. Have you a cellar under the house ?

Joseph Markham (points to trap door).

Yes, there is the door.

Markham.

Good, we will put them down there, and nail it up until we are out of their reach.

(Enter Adele, hat and shawl in her hand, which she lays on table.)

Adele.

Dear Tom, is there any danger ?

Markham.

Not much. Only keep your courage up, and all will be right. Don't betray yourselves. Hush! they are coming. I'll step into this room till the time for work. Be brave.

(Markham steps into room. — Enter Major Ramsay and Lieutenant Brown.)

Ramsay.

Mr. Markham and daughter, I presume.

Joseph Markham.

Yes, Gentlemen.

Ramsay (to Blake).

And, uncle, you here too ?

Blake.

Yes, massa. I straggled along here. I going to cook my chickens and have a feast.

Ramsay.

That's right, old fellow. Mr. Markham, I have a very painful duty to perform. I have orders to arrest you and your daughter, and take you to Richmond at once.

Adele (alarmed).

What for, sir, pray ?

Ramsay.

You are suspected of being in league with the enemy.

Joseph Markham.

I don't think I'll leave this house before day light, sir.

Ramsay.

My orders are imperative, and you will make it more pleasant for yourselves to quietly go with us. We have horses at the door to convey you.

Joseph Markham.

We won't leave this place until day light.

Ramsay.

I do not wish to use force.

Joseph Markham.

Force or no force, we won't go till day light; then we will go.

(Steps in front of Adele as if to protect her. Blake goes near door.)

Ramsay.

Lieutenant, this farce can go on no longer. Handcuff the old man, and I'll take the girl.

(They move toward Adele and Joseph Markham. — Enter Markham, pistol in each hand, covering Ramsay and Brown. They drop their arms, completely surprised.)

Markham.

Gentlemen, desist. I've got the bead on you. Don't move a muscle, or I'll send a ball into you. Blake, lock the door; take their pistols and swords.

(Blake does it. — Markham lowers his pistol, puts one away, holds one in his hand.)

Ramsay (to Blake).

You black scoundrel, what does this mean ?

Blake.

This means, massa, dat I'se not traveled for nothing. I'se a Union man, if I is black.

Markham.

To gain time for us to get away from here, we will be compelled to secure you for 48 hours.

(Lifts cellar door.)

You will please enter here.

(Points down.)

You will find enough to keep you alive till you are released. I'll see that you don't stay there any longer. Please make your exit, Gentlemen, and we will drop the curtain ; time is precious.

Ramsay.

You have us at a disadvantage, but I would like to know who you are.

Markham (smiling).

I'll satisfy your curiosity, gents. I'm Tom Markham, the Yankee Scout.

(They descend.)

Now hammer and nails, and we will secure the rebel rats until you are safe.

(Nails down door.)

They have four horses. Just enough. Ten chances to one, the one they took from me this morning, is with them. Get ready now.

(Put on their clothes. Adele takes the Union flag from her bosom, and pins it against the wall.)

Adele.

We will show them that we did love the flag, and had to leave our home for it. We will leave this one here, to remind them that it still lives, and that its defenders will carry it until the rebel hordes lay down their arms. Tom, I'm ready ! are you, Pa ?

Joseph Markham.

Yes, dear. Good bye, old home !

(Dries his eyes.)

Markham.

Then we are off. Blake, you will go with us to the land of the free. You have proved yourself worthy to be one of us.

(To Joseph Markham.)

I'll take you into our lines, and then you can find your way to old Vermont. Take good care of old uncle Blake. We will all be home again some day. Forward, march!

Adele.

God be praised for this escape. Good bye, home of my childhood.

Blake.

I'll take these along as prisoners.

(Picks up his chickens. All exit.)

SCENE FIRST, ACT SIXTH.

(A lapse of 2 years and 4 months. — Scene, room in Avery house in rear of battery No 17, in front of Petersburg. — Enter General Grant, Meade, Hancock, and Colonel Thomas Markham, Chief of Scouts, Army Potomac.)

Grant.

Well, Colonel, what news?

Markham.

Nothing of importance. Two of my men have just returned from across the James; they penetrated as far as Charles City cross roads; found some small bodies of the enemy.

Grant.

Have you heard from the man you sent to Amelia Court House?

Markham.

He has not yet returned.

Grant.

General Hancock, you prepare your corps to move across the James to-night. Make a feint on Malvern Hill, and if Lee reinforces your front from here, we will break his lines at Fort Hell. If he sees the feint, you recross the river in 48 hours, and take your old line.

(Enter Signal Officer.)

Signal Officer.

General, the enemy is mounting an 8 inch Columbiad, directly to the left of the cotton mill, about 2100 yards from here.

Grant.

Captain Pratt with his first Rhode Island battery of 30 pound parrots is at battery 17. Tell him to keep them from working during the day.

(Signal Officer exit. — To Meade.)

You had better send the 5th corps to the Weldon R. R., and destroy as much of it as you can in a day. The cavalry can protect your flank. Make a complete job of it. I'll ride over to the Peeble's house now. Have all the corps commanders meet me at my Headquarters at 7 to-night. Come, Hancock.

(Both exit left. — Enter General Sheridan right.)

Meade.

Good morning, General. Is the whole of your command up?

Sheridan.

The first division is just going into camp. The third is crossing at Jones Landing.

Meade.

You have had quite a trip this time, I suppose your men are exhausted.

Sheridan.

We are all tired out. We've been marching and fighting ever since we left Winchester on the 27th of February. We shook them up pretty lively, I tell you. We broke his canals and railroads, burnt his bridges, and scattered his cavalry. I don't see how the devil he can hold out much longer.

Meade.

Get your men and horses in good shape. In three or four days we will try the final struggle. General Grant has laid out a campaign which will finish the rebel army in Virginia, and you are to play an important part on Lee's right.

Sheridan.

My command will be on hand in good time.

(Enter Lieutenant Dooley and Sergeant Blake, of colored troops. — Bringing in Hawley, the rebel scout.)

Dooley (salutes).

General Butler told me to bring this man to ye. He was captured by Sergeant Blake here, and had those papers on him.

(Hands Meade papers, who opens them and finds sketches of union works and lines of troops.)

Meade (to Sheridan and Markham).

This is a good map, and the position of troops accurate. The estimate of the strength of the different corps good.

(To Hawley.)

How long have you been in our lines?

3 days, General.

Hawley.

Meade.

Which way did you get in ?

Hawley.

Through Dinwiddie Court House and stony creek.

Meade.

When did you take these observations ?

Hawley.

Mostly at night.

Meade.

How were you captured ?

Hawley.

It was the most singular thing, and even if I were shot this minute, I could'nt help being delighted. I passed through your lines, and feeling safe, I sat down and began to sketch the exact position of one of your signal towers, and complete a few details, and the first thing I knew, I was grabbed from behind, and a nozzle of a pistol thrust into my face. I was taken so quick, I did not realize it until I was brought to camp. That old colored sergeant there did it, and mighty slick too.

Meade (to Blake).

Sergeant, you made a good catch. How long have you been in the service ?

Blake.

About one year, General.

Markham.

General, Sergeant Blake I know well. He rendered his country good service. 2 or 3 years ago he assisted me one night to capture 2 rebel officers, who had come to arrest that union family at Ashby's Gap.

Blake.

Is dis you, Colonel Markham ?

Markham.

I am Tom Markham, Blake !

Dooley.

Bejabers, I thought I knew ye.

(They all shake hands.)

Markham.

I did'nt think you were in the army, uncle.

Blake.

I could'nt rest till I listed, and now I'se satisfied.

Meade (to Hawley).

Your drawings of our situation are good. You are a brave man, but of course you understand the situation you are placed in.

Hawley.

General, I comprehend the situation fully, and am prepared for almost anything.

Meade.

We will deal leniently with you. Perhaps you might give us the strength and position of Lee's army.

Hawley.

That, General, I will not do. I shall divulge nothing connected with our cause. I have its confidence, and will not betray it. Never! I would sooner die! Anything else I'll do!

Meade.

Take the prisoner to Gen. Patrick. Have him well guarded, and then return to your commands.

(Exit Dooley and Hans with prisoner.)

Sheridn.

I don't think I'd hurt the poor fellow. It won't be many days before Lee will surrender, then the war will be over. Keep him till then, and let him go to his home.

Markham.

That's a fact, General. He's had a hard time of it. He has been with Lee ever since I can remember. I should feel sorry to have him shot with the war so near over.

Meade.

That's so. I'll speak to the Lieutenant General about it.

(Enter Signal Officer to Markham.)

Signal Officer.

Colonel, Gen. Grant wants you to report at his quarters at once.

Markham.

All right!

(Exit.)

Meade.

I'll ride over to your camp now, if you are ready?

Sheridan.

I'm ready.

(Exit all.)

END SCENE.

SCENE SECOND, ACT SIXTH.

(Inside of tent. Camp table and camp stools. Grant looking over maps ; smoking.)
(Enter Markham.)

Markham.

I am here according to your order.

Grant.

Be seated.

(Seated.)

Have you a man that can get into Richmond to-night.

Markham (studying).

I have not, General. The only man that would be able to get through, has not yet returned from Amelia Court House, and I'm afraid he's lost. He should have been here last night.

Grant.

That's too bad. I must have a man in Richmond to-night. My combinations are such. Certain things must be carried out before I am ready to move.

Markham.

I'll go myself.

Grant.

You will, Colonel ?

Markham.

Yes, General. I'll be in Richmond before 2 o'clock to-morrow morning, or be in the hands of Lee.

Grant.

I don't like to have you go, but as you have no man that it would safe to trust you may undertake it. It is a most dangerous mission.

Markham.

However dangerous, I'll undertake it. I've been there before now, and if fate decreed I should be captured and shot, I have but one who will miss me, and that is a bright-eyed child of 8 years, whose mother sleeps peacefully in the village churchyard. 'Tis for this child, General, that I would do anything to crush out this Rebellion, so that she may grow up under the folds of an undivided flag.

Grant.

Colonel, you are a true soldier.

Markham.

I am ready now and will be off, General. I have a favor to ask at your hands. The rebel spy Hawley was captured to-day, and is at the Provost Marshalls now. Please spare his life. The war is too near ended. He is a noble fellow. Will you do it?

Grant.

I will. Hawley shall not suffer death. Go on your trip, brave Markham. Take this envelope, and when you are outside of my lines, open and find your instructions.

(Hands Markham envelope.)

Meet us somewhere near Burk's Station. Sheridan starts out on the 29th with his cavalry and some infantry. We will strike the final blow, and then let us have peace.

Markham.

Farewell, General. I have no time to loose.

(Salute and exit.—Enter Meade.)

Meade.

General, we have a rebel spy at Headquarters. What will we do with him?

Grant.

Send him to Washington for the present. Orderly, bring my horse. Come, Meade, let's go to the left.

(Exit both.)

SCENE THIRD, ACT SIXTH.

(Woods. The orchestra plays a short solemn piece. Enter Ramsay, Brown, Markham, prisoner, and a squad of 8 rebel soldiers. They enter slowly. Music ceases.)

Ramsay.

We've got you this time, and have got "the bead on you." Let us select a good tree to string this infernal Yankee up.

Brown.

All right, Colonel. This one will do first class. Here's the rope, well greased, and it will slip like lightning.

(Produces it.)

Ramsay.

Throw it over the limb.

(Brown does it.)

We hav'nt much time to loose. They are pressing us. This fellows carcass will make a good sign board for them. Put the noose around his neck and prepare him to join Haverly.

(Brown ties Markham's hands, and adjusts noose around his neck.)

Ramsay.

Now, Mr. Yankee, we will elevate you. Have you anything to say before you make your final exit?

Markham (cooley).

Not much, Gents. I merely wished to say not to get excited. I wish to commane with myself for a few moments. I have a little one who is watching for my return, and I want to ask my father in heaven to protect her. Take this rope from my neck for a few moments, so that I may kneel down and speak to him.

(Ramsay unloosens rope. Markham kneels down.)

Father in heaven, if it is thy wish I should die here for the good of my country, thy will be done. I beseech thee, protect that innocent child of mine. Teach her to be good. Learn her that her father died for his country.

(Rises.)

I am ready.

Ramsay.

Fall in boys.

(Soldiers fall in.)

Markham.

Major, don't mutilate my body. Bury me as becomes a soldier.

(Brown about to put cloth over Markham's eyes.)

Don't bandage my eyes. I am no coward.

Ramsay.

Man the rope.

(The soldiers take hold end of the rope as if to pull Markham up.—Enter in great haste an Orderly with white flag.)

Orderly.

Don't hang that man. General Lee has surrendered.

(Soldiers shout.—Brown unloosens rope and unties Markham's hands.)

Ramsay.

One minute and all would have been over.

Markham.

We both did our duty. Give me your hand. Let's be friends.

Ramsay.

Man proposes, God disposes. Here are some of your troops coming now.

(Enter Dooley, Hans, Blake and Sleeper, and more soldiers.)

Dooley (pointing to Markham).

Bejabbers, there he is again.

Markham.

Yes, Dooley. But I had the "bare escape" this time.

(Enter Grant, Sheridan and Meade.)

Grant.

Colonel Markham! you here?

Markham.

Yes, General. I came near missing you.

(Points to the rope.)

They had it around my neck. The surrender of Lee saved me.

Grant.

Never mind, Colonel. You will live to see that little darling of yours yet, and tell her, that Gen. Grant promoted her Papa to Brigadier General at Appomattox.

(Music Star Spangled Banner.—Exit all.)

(NOTE.—The tree in this scene will have a limb, over which the rebel officer can throw rope to hang Tom Markham.)

SCENE FOURTH, ACT SIXTH.

(Well furnished room. Chairs and table. Door back centre. Windows. Motto over door: "God bless our heroes." Flag festoons.—Enter Hannibal Markham, Joseph Markham, Adele Markham, little Addie Markham. They seat themselves. Addie sits on Grandpapa's knee, miniature flag in her hand.)

Addie.

Is Papa surely coming to-day?

Hannibal Markham.

Yes, darling. Your Pa will be here soon.

Addie.

And is the war over and are those nasty rebels whipped.

Hannibal Markham.

Yes, they are whipped. But many families have vacant chairs. We have 2. I sent out 3 boys, but one returns. 'Tis hard, but our flag is safe. That's my recompence.

Adele.

What did Tom say about bringing a few friends ?

Hannibal Markham.

I almost forgot. He says in his letter, that besides Uncle Blake and Sleeper he will bring a couple of friends, who live somewhere in Maine. They will stay a few days.

Addie.

I hope he will bring me a live rebel.

(Enter Maria Jane in great haste.)

Maria.

The train has come in, and everybody is running down. Come all of you.

Hannibal Markham.

Keep cool, Maria. They will come in good time.

Maria.

O dear ! O dear ! I can't wait.

Hannibal Markham.

Don't get excited. Van Buren is all safe and will soon be here.

Adele (to Addie).

Come to the window, dear. They must be coming up the street by this time.

(All go to the window, except Joseph Markham and Hannibal Markham.)

Maria.

O dear ! O dear ! Here they come. I see Van.

Hannibal Markham.

I must call Aunt Sally.

(Calls.—Enter Sally.)

Sally.

Yes sah.

Hannibal Markham.

You can stay here now. The soldiers are all coming home from the war, and Nicodemus is coming too.

Sally (dances around).

De Lord be praised. War is day ?

Hannibal Markham.

Keep quiet. Here they come.

(Orchestra, Home, sweet Home.—Enter Tom Markham, Sleeper, Blake, Hans and Dooley.—

Markham takes his daughter in his arms. Sleeper embraces Maria.

Dooley attempts to embrace Sally.)

Blake (to Dooley).

Drop that chicken!

Markham (kisses Addie).

God bless you, darling. God bless you all.

(Shake hands all around.)

Father, and all of you, let me introduce my friends Hans Kugelfeuer and Lieutenant Dooley. We all fought together and came home together, and we have had many a "bare" escape. They'll remain here a few days.

Hannibal Markham.

All your friends are welcome, Tom.

Maria (taking Sleeper by the hand).

Van, you are my hero. You carried the flag at the stone bridge at Antietam. I'm proud of you, Van. Your yaller rooster is all right, and Seth Jones has married Matilda Higginbottam.

Sleeper.

And I'll marry you.

Maria.

Suit yourself. I'm your prisoner.

Addie.

I'm so glad you came back, Papa. And Miss Adele told me such nice stories about you. How you saved them from being captured, and how you put the 2 rebels in the cellar. She has been so kind to me, and as I have no mother now, wont you let her be my mother? I love her.

Markham.

Yes, if she wants to.

Addie (to Adele).

Won't you?

Adele (modestly).

Yes, if your Pa wants me, I will.

(Joseph Markham takes the hand of Adele and places it in the hand of Markham.)

Joseph Markham.

I'll take charge of this field now. I'll unite the North and the South, and may there never be a cause for a separation.

(Markham takes Addie's hand, faces to Audience.)

Markham.

I accept the trust, and swear to be as faithful to her as I was to the flag.

END.

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