

"When the Wisconsin was beyond sight of land, Dale came to his senses. 'What a fool I am, and to leave at such a moment, too.' But this fury was useless. He could only go on, but he would lose no time in taking the next boat back, and then—amends.

"Even two weeks has some effect, and Jim couldn't bear to leave England without seeing London, so he went over intending to stay a day or two and then skip back. Although Dale had traveled all over the United States, he had never been abroad, and he found his mind continually filled with the new and strange scenes.

"When Jim had been away a month the intoxication of that happy evening was somewhat worn off, and he figured the thing out in a practical way. 'If Gertrude Grey really loved me she wouldn't treat me so,' he thought, 'and that last night—well, she must be a flirt.'

"Jim didn't dissipate much, but he went in a for a good time. He was soon on the Continent, and then nothing could stop him; he just went mad for travel and adventure. He had letters of credit for an indefinite amount, so he wasn't stinted for money, and he kept going and going until he had covered the Old World pretty well, and then he returned. In New York he met his lawyer. Miss Grey was married—yes, he expected that. Two years had passed, though he didn't realize it. He didn't realize much of anything, and the next day found him bound for London again.

"I really don't believe Dale's head was right. He was spending money by the thousand, with never a serious thought; and the next thing he did was to join a London sporting and exploring party bound for South America."

Perkins shifted nervously in his chair. Could it be his *own* story Jaimeson was telling?

"Well," he continued, "they stopped at Rio, at Ayres and other coast towns. They started out to explore the Rio Negro river, but they found the current too swift, so they kept on down the coast, rounded the Horn, and came up on the Chile side. The first halt of importance to my story was in the Biobio river, which runs near the 39th parallel, south latitude. It is fully two miles wide at the mouth, and they went up the river about a hundred miles, without any trouble, to the town of Nacimiento.

"Most of the party stayed around the village or made short