



SYNOPSIS.

The story is told by Nicholas Trist, His chief, Senator John Calhoun, offered the portfolio of secretary of state in Tyler's cabinet, is told by Dr. Ward that his time is short. Calhoun declares that he is not ready to die, and if he accepts Tyler's offer it means that Texas and Oregon must be added to the Union. He plans to leave the intentions of England with regard to Mexico through Baroness von Ritz, secret wife and reputed mistress of the English ambassador, Pakenham. Nicholas is sent to bring the baroness to Calhoun's apartments and a meeting with his sweetheart, Elizabeth Churchhill. While searching for the baroness' house a carriage dashes up and Nicholas is invited to enter. The occupant is the baroness, who says she is being pursued. The pursuers are shaken off. Nicholas is invited into the house and delivers Calhoun's message. He notes that the baroness has lost a slipper. Nicholas is given the remaining slipper as a pledge that she will tell Calhoun everything. He gives her an account of an Indian trick he intended for Elizabeth. Elizabeth's father consents to Nicholas' proposal for her hand. Nicholas is ordered to leave at once for Montreal on state business and decides to be married that night.

CHAPTER VIII.

Mr. Calhoun Accepts.

A woman's tongue is her sword, that she never lets rust.—Madam Necker.

I struggled among three courses. The impulses of my heart, joined to some presence of trouble, bade me to follow Elizabeth. My duty ordered me to hasten to Mr. Calhoun. My interest demanded that I should tarry, for I was sure that the Baroness von Ritz would make no merely idle request in these circumstances. Hesitating thus, I lost sight of her in the throng. So I concluded I would obey the mandate of duty, and turned toward the great doors. Indeed, I was well toward the steps which led out into the grounds, when all at once two elements of my problem resolved themselves into one. I saw the tall figure of Mr. Calhoun himself coming up the walk toward me.

"Ah," said he briefly, "then my message found you?"

"I was starting for you this moment, sir," I replied.

"Wait for a moment. I counted on finding you here. Matters have changed."

I turned with him and we entered again the east room, where Mr. Tyler still prolonged the official greeting of the curious, the obsequious, or the banal persons who passed. Mr. Calhoun stood apart for a time, watching the progress of this purely American function. It was some time ere the groups thinned. This latter fact usually would have ended the reception, since it is not etiquette to suppose that the president can lack an audience; but to-day Mr. Tyler lingered. At last through the thinning throng he caught sight of the distinctive figure of Mr. Calhoun. For the first time his own face assumed a natural expression. He stopped the line for an instant, and with a raised hand beckoned to my chief.

At this we dropped in at the tail of the line, Mr. Calhoun in passing grasping almost as many hands as Mr. Tyler. When at length we reached the president's position, the latter greeted him and added a whispered word. An instant later he turned abruptly, ending the reception with a deep bow, and retired into the room from which he had earlier emerged.

Mr. Calhoun turned now to me with a request to follow him, and we passed through the door where the president had vanished. Directed by attendants, we were presently ushered into yet another room, which at that time served the president as his cabinet room, a place for meeting persons of distinction who called upon business.

As we entered I saw that it was already occupied. Mr. Tyler was grasping the hand of a portly personage, whom I knew to be none other than Mr. Pakenham. So much might have been expected. What was not to have been expected was the presence of another—none less than the Baroness von Ritz!

So we were apparently to understand that my lady was here as open friend of England! Of course, I needed no word from Mr. Calhoun to remind me that we must seem ignorant of this lady, of her character, and of her reputed relations with the British foreign office.

"I pray you be seated, Mr. Pakenham," said Mr. Tyler, and he gestured also to us others to take chairs near his table. Mr. Pakenham, in rather a lofty fashion, it seemed to me, obeyed the polite request, but scarcely had seated himself ere he again rose with an important clearing of his throat.

"Your excellency," said he, "her majesty the queen of England's wish is somewhat anticipated by my visit here to-day. I hasten only to put in the most prompt and friendly form her majesty's desires, which I am sure formally will be expressed in the first mails from England. We deplore this most unhappy accident on your warship Princeton, which has come so near working irreparable injury to this country."

"Sir," said Mr. Tyler, rising, with a deep bow, "the courtesy of your personal presence is most gratifying. Allow me to express that more intimate and warmer feeling of friendship for yourself which comes through our long

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OR

## FIGHT

BY EMERSON HOUGH

AUTHOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI BUBBLE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MAGNUS G. KETNER

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association with you. This respect and admiration are felt by myself and my official family for you and the great power which you represent."

Each having thus delivered himself of words which meant nothing, both now seated themselves and proceeded to look mighty grave. For myself, I stole a glance from the tail of my eye toward the Baroness von Ritz. She sat erect in her chair, a figure of easy grace and dignity, but on her face was nothing one could read to tell who she was or why she was here.

"I seize upon this opportunity, Mr. Pakenham," said Mr. Tyler presently, with a smile which he meant to set all at ease and to soften as much as possible the severity of that which was to follow. "I gladly take this opportunity to mention in an informal way my hope that this matter which was already inaugurated by Mr. Upshur before his untimely death may come to perfectly pleasant consummation. I refer to the question of Texas."

"I beg pardon, your excellency," rejoined Mr. Pakenham, half rising. "Your meaning is not perfectly clear to me."

The same icy smile sat upon Mr. Tyler's face as he went on: "I cannot believe that your government can wish to interfere in matters upon this continent to the extent of taking the position of open ally of the Republic of Mexico, a power so recently at war upon our own borders, with the brave Texans who have left our flag to set up, through fair conquest, a republic of their own."

The mottled face of Mr. Pakenham assumed a yet deeper red. "As to that, your excellency," said he, "your remark is, as you say, quite informal, of course—that is to say, as I may state—"

"Quite so," rejoined Mr. Tyler gravely. "The note of my Lord Aberdeen to us, none the less, in the point of its bearing upon the question of slavery in Texas, appears to this government as an expression which ought to be disavowed by your own government. Do I make myself quite clear?" (With John Calhoun present, Mr. Tyler could at times assume a courage though he had it not.)

Mr. Pakenham's face glowed a deeper red. "I am not at liberty to discuss my Lord Aberdeen's wishes in this matter," he said. "We met here upon a purely informal matter, and—"

"I have only ventured to hope," rejoined Mr. Tyler, "that the personal kindness of your own heart might move you in so grave a matter as that which may lead to war between two powers."

"War, sir, war!" Mr. Pakenham went wholly purple in his surprise, and sprang to his feet. "War!" he repeated once more. "As though there could be any hope—"

"Quite right, sir," said Mr. Tyler grimly. "As though there could be any hope for us save in our own conduct of our own affairs, without any interference from any foreign power!"

I knew it was John Calhoun speaking these words, not Mr. Tyler. I saw Mr. Calhoun's keen, cold eyes fixed closely upon the face of his president. The consternation created by the latter's words was plainly visible.

"Of course, this conversation is en-

tirely irregular—I mean to say, wholly unofficial, your excellency?" hesitated Pakenham. "It takes no part in our records?"

"Assuredly not," said Mr. Tyler. "I only hope the question may never come to a matter of record at all. Once our country knows that dictation has been attempted with us, even by England herself, the north will join in restiveness at the fancied attitude of England toward Mexico, the west raises the demand that we shall end the joint occupancy of Oregon with Great Britain. Do you perchance know the watchword which is now on the popular tongue west of the Alleghanies? It bids fair to become an American 'Marseillaise.'"

"I must confess my ignorance," rejoined Mr. Pakenham.

"Our backwoodsmen have invented a phrase which runs 'Fifty-Four Forty or Fight!'"

"I beg pardon, I am sure, your excellency?"

"It means that if we conclude to terminate the very unsatisfactory mud-die along the Columbia river—a stream which our mariners first explored, as we contend—and if we conclude to dispute with England as well regarding our delimitations on the southwest, where she has even less right to speak, then we shall contend for all that territory, not only up to the Columbia, but north to the Russian line, the parallel of 54 degrees and 40 minutes! We claim that we once bought Texas clear to the Rio Grande, from Napoleon, although the foolish treaty with Spain in 1819 clouded our title—in the belief of our Whig friends, who do not desire more slave territory. Even the Whigs think that we own Oregon by virtue of first navigation of the Columbia. Both Whigs and Democrats now demand Oregon north to 54 degrees, 40 minutes. The alternative? My Lord Aberdeen surely makes no deliberate bid to hear it!"

"Oh fight!" exclaimed Pakenham. "God bless my soul! Fight us?"

Mr. Tyler flushed. "Such things have been," said he with dignity.

At this astounding speech the British minister sat dumfounded. This air of courage and confidence on the part of Mr. Tyler himself was something foreign to his record. I knew the reason for his boldness. John Calhoun sat at his right hand.

"At this point, your excellency, the dignity of her majesty's service would lead me to ask excuse," rejoined Mr. Pakenham formally, "were it not for one fact, which I should like to offer here. I have, in short, news which will appear full warrant for any communication thus far made by her majesty's government. I can assure you that there has come into the possession of this lady, whose able services I venture to enlist here in her presence, a communication from the Republic of Texas to the government of England. That communication is done by no less a hand than that of the attaché for the Republic of Texas, Mr. Van Zandt himself."

There was, I think, no other formal invitation for the Baroness von Ritz to speak; but now she arose, swept a curtsy first to Mr. Tyler and then to Mr. Pakenham and Mr. Calhoun.



"I Must Confess My Ignorance," Rejoined Mr. Pakenham.



## APPROVES A REPORT

PRESIDENT TAFT AGREES WITH BOARD OF ARMY ENGINEERS.

20 MILLION DOLLARS TO BE SPENT

Officers Recommend Expenditures at Many Points—Tell of Work Now Under Way—Irrigation Is a New Art—Water Supply Uncertain.

Washington.—President Wm. H. Taft has approved the report of the special board of army engineers, recommending the apportionment of the new 20 million dollar fund, provided by Congress, among the following reclamation projects in the West:

- Salt River, Arizona, \$495,000; Yuma, Arizona, and California, \$1,200,000; Grand Valley, Colorado, 1 million dollars; Uncompagne, Colorado, 1 1/2 million dollars; Payette-Boise, Idaho, 2 million dollars; Milk River, Montana, 1 million dollars; North Platte, Wyoming and Nebraska, 2 million dollars; Truckee-Carson, Nevada, \$1,192,000; Rio Grande, New Mexico, Texas and Mexico, 4 1/2 million dollars; Unatilla, Oregon, \$325,000; Klamath, Oregon and California, \$600,000; Strawberry Valley, Utah, \$2,272,000; Sunnyside and Tieton, at Yakima, Washington, 1 1/2 million dollars and \$665,000 respectively. Total, 20 million dollars.

The 20 million dollars is to be spent within the next five years and the interest on the loan is to be charged against the projects. The following projects, completed or nearing completion, carry a recommendation for funds from the general reclamation act sufficient only for maintenance and operation:

- Oland, Cal.; Carlsbad, N. M.; Honol, N. M.; Garden City, Kan.; Kittitas, Wapata, and Benton Units of the Yakima, Wash., project.

### Recommends Other Projects.

For the following existing reclamation project the board of engineers, in the report approved by the president, recommends allotments from the general reclamation fund:

- Missouri Pumping, N. D.; Bellefourche, S. D.; Shoshone, Wyo.; Mindoka, Id.; Huntley, Mont.; San River, Mont.; Lower Yellowstone, Mont.; Okanogan, Wash.

In his letter to the secretary of the interior approving the report of the engineers, President Taft says in part:

"I hereby approve the report of the board of engineers in respect to the reclamation projects, to which they have made allotments from the 20 million dollar fund; but this approval, so far as the amounts of the allotments are concerned, is not final and absolute, but is intended to be subject to change by adjustment and modification of the amounts as may be necessary for the intelligent and proper prosecution of the work, and to the advantage of the service."

### May Call For Funds.

"You are authorized to call upon the secretary of the treasury to issue the certificates of indebtedness needed to furnish the funds in accordance with the allotment recommended by the board and approved by me as the same shall be needed from time to time in pursuance of the terms of the act.

"The remainder of the report of the engineers, which was not responsive to the direction of the law but was drawn at my request and for my information, I hereby approve; and when congress reconvenes in January I shall submit a message to the two houses, transmitting the report announcing my approval of the same and urging the adoption of the enabling legislative measures recommended by the board."

In its comprehensive report on the reclamation work in general, the engineers' board says in part:

"The engineering structures of the various projects are, as a whole, well designed and well built. Some of them, as the Pathfinder dam, the Shoshone dam, the Roosevelt dam and the Gunnison tunnel, are monuments reflecting great credit on both designer and builder."

### Irrigation a New Art.

"Modern irrigation, being a relatively new art in this country, much freedom was allowed local engineers in the design of minor structures. While this was a wise policy in the early stages of this work, it has resulted in complicated and unnecessarily expensive structures. With the present knowledge of the comparative merits of the different types, it is believed that standard designs of the simplest, satisfactory type should be adopted for all minor structures."

"The most uncertain feature of nearly all the projects is the water supply. This is under state control, and in the prosecution of its work the reclamation service bears the same relation to the state as a private individual or corporation. Where the water rights have been adjudicated, the rights of the United States are well defined, but elsewhere they are uncertain and may prove to be materially different from that assumed."

### To Settle With Trainmen Now.

Chicago, Ill.—With the wage controversy between the Western railroads and the locomotive engineers adjusted amicably, the managers are ready to resume negotiations with the trainmen and conductors in the hope that the slate may be wiped clean by the New Year.

A \$75,000 Fire at Mount Ida, Ark. Mena, Ark.—Fire at Mount Ida, near Mena, caused a loss of \$75,000. The fire originated from an unknown cause

## ONE REDEEMING FEATURE

When Papa Hears It He Urges Only Son to Get Girl Quick.

The only son had just announced to the family his engagement. "What, that girl!" remarked his mother. "Why, she squints." "She has absolutely no style," commented his sister. "Red-headed, isn't she?" asked auntie.

"I'm afraid she's flighty," was grandma's opinion. "She hasn't any money," said uncle. "And she doesn't look strong," chimed in the first cousin.

"She's stuck up, in my opinion," asserted the second cousin.

"She's extravagant," was the opinion given by the third cousin.

"Well, she's got one redeeming feature, at any rate," remarked the only son, thoughtfully.

"What's that?" chorused the chattering band.

"She hasn't a relative on earth."

Papa had not yet spoken, but now he did.

"Grab her, my boy, grab her," he said.

## HIRAM CARPENTER'S WONDERFUL CURE OF PSORIASIS.

"I have been afflicted for twenty years with an obstinate skin disease, called by some M. D.'s, psoriasis, and others leprosy, commencing on my scalp; and in spite of all I could do, with the help of the most skillful doctors, it slowly but surely extended until a year ago this winter it covered my entire person in the form of dry scales. For the last three years I have been unable to do any labor, and suffering intensely all the time. Every morning there would be nearly a dustpanful of scales taken from the sheet on my bed, some of them half as large as the envelope containing this letter. In the latter part of winter my skin commenced cracking open. I tried everything, almost, that could be thought of, without any relief. The 12th of June I started West, in hopes I could reach the Hot Springs. I reached Detroit and was so low I thought I should have to go to the hospital, but finally got as far as Lansing, Mich., where I had a sister living. One Dr. — treated me about two weeks, but did me no good. All thought I had but a short time to live. I earnestly prayed to die. Cracked through the skin all over my back, across my ribs, arms, hands, limbs; feet badly swollen; toe-nails came off; finger-nails dead and hard as a bone; hair dead, dry and lifeless as old straw. O my God! how I did suffer.

"My sister wouldn't give up; said, 'We will try Cuticura.' Some was applied to one hand and arm. Eureka! there was relief; stopped the terrible burning sensation from the word go. They immediately got Cuticura Resolvent, Ointment and Soap. I commenced by taking Cuticura Resolvent three times a day after meals; had a bath once a day, water about blood heat; used Cuticura Soap freely; applied Cuticura Ointment morning and evening. Result: returned to my home in just six weeks from the time I left, and my skin as smooth as this sheet of paper. Hiram E. Carpenter, Henderson, N. Y."

The above remarkable testimonial was written January 19, 1880, and is republished because of the permanency of the cure. Under date of April 22, 1910, Mr. Carpenter wrote from his present home, 610 Walnut St. So., Lansing, Mich.: "I have never suffered a return of the psoriasis and although many years have passed I have not forgotten the terrible suffering I endured before using the Cuticura Remedies."

Reverse Art. "An actress in her makeup reverses the usual rules of art."

"How so?" "She paints first so she can draw afterward."

A Dodger. "Fine weather we've been having."

"Yes, but we'll pay for this fine weather later on."

"I won't. I'm going to Florida for the winter."

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