

SYNOPSIS.

Senator John Calhoun is invited to become secretary of state in Tyler's cabinet. He doctors that it be accepted fersian and Oregon must be auded to the Union. He sends has so reary. Nishedas Trist, to ask to Baroness von Ribs, buy of the British ammarsance, Pakennam to call at his apartments. While searching for the baroness home, a carriage drives up and Nichelas is invited to enter. The occupant is the bytoness, and she asks Nichelas notes that the baroness has best a slipper. She gives lim the remaining slipper as a pledge that she will fell Calhoun what he wants to know regarding England's intentions toward Mexico. As security Nichelas gives her a trinket he intended for his sweetheart. Engabeth Caurchill. Tyler tells Pakennam that joint occupation of Oregon with England, must cease, that the west has raised the try of "Fifty-four Forty, or Fight," Calboun becomes tion of Oregon with Einziand, must cease, that the west has raised the cry of "Fif-ty-four Forty, or Fight," Calboun becomes secretary of state. He orders Nicholas to Montreal on state business, and the latter plans to be married that night. The baroness says she will try to prevent the marriage. A drunken congressman whom Nicholas asks to assist in the wedding arrangements sends the baroness slipper to Elizabeth, by mistake, and the wedding arrangements sends the baroness slipper to Elizabeth, by mistake, and the wedding is declared off. Nicholas finds the bareness in Montreal, she having successed, where he failed, in discovering England's montions regarding Oregon. She tells him that the supper he had in his possession contained a note from the attache of Texas to the British ambassador, saying that if the United States did not annex Texas with a 30 days, she would lose both Texas and Oregon. Nicholas masses a naturalist, Von Rittenhofen, who gives him information about Oregon. The between and a British warship disappear from Montreal small-taneously. Calhous engages Von Rittenhofen to make maps of the western country.

CHAPTER XX .- Continued.

"I will tell you, Nicholas," said he at last, wheeling swiftly upon me. "Start next week! An army of settlers waits now for a leader along the Missouri. Organize them; lead them out! Give them enthusiasm! Tell them what Oregon is! You may serve alike our party and our nation. You cannot measure the consequences of prompt action sometimes, done by a man who is resolved upon the right. A thousand things may hinge on this. A great future may hinge upon it."

"While you have been busy, I have not been idle," he continued. "I have here another little paper which I have roughly drafted." He handed me the document as he spoke.

"A treaty-with Texas!" I ex-

claimed. "The first draft, yes. We have signed the memorandum. We await only one other signature." "Of Van Zandt!"

"Yes. Now comes Mr. Nicholas playing also with England."

with England."

Calhoun smiled enigmatically.

"But she has gone," said I, "who knows where? She, too, may have from Mexico. The ease and warmth ties, even thus," sailed for Oregon, for all we know."

He looked at me as though with a flash of inspiration. "That may be," said he: "it may very well be! That would cost us our hold over Pakenham. Neither would we have any chance left with her.'

"How do you mean, Mr. Calhoun?" said I. "I do not understand you."

"Nicholas," said Mr. Calhoun, "that lady was much impressed with you." He regarded me calmly, contemplatively, appraisingly. "I do not understand you," I reiter-

ated.

"I am glad that you do not and did not. In that case, all would have prise and gratification that mere been over at once. You would never have seen her a second time. Your constancy was our salvation, and perhaps your own! In due time you will see many things more plainly. Meantime, be sure England will be careful. She will make no overt movement, I should say, until she has beard from Oregon; which will not be before my lady baroness shall have returned and reported to Pakenham here. All of which means more time for us."

I began to see something of the structure of bold enterprise which this man deliberately was planning; but no comment offered itself; so that presently he went on, as though in solilo-

"The Hudson Bay Company have deceived England splendidly enough. Dr. McLaughlin, good man that he is, has not suited the Hudson Bay Company. His removal means less courtesy to our settlers in Oregon, Granted a less tactful leader than himself, there will be friction with our highstrung fronticrsmen in that country. No man can tell when the thing will come to an issue. For my own part, I would agree with Polk that we ought to own that country to fifty-four forty -but what we ought to do and what we can do are two separate matters. Should we force the Issue now and lose, we would lose for 100 years. Should we advance firmly and hold firmly what we gain, in perhaps less than 100 years we may win all of that country, as I just sald to Mr. Polk, to the River Saskatchewan-I know not where! In my own soul, I believe no man may set a limit to the growth of the idea of an bonest government by the people. And this continent is meant for that honest government!"

He sighed as he paused in his walk and turned to me. "But now, as I said, we have at least time for Texas. And in regard to Texas we need another woman

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You come now to me with proof that my lady baroness traffics with Mexico as well as England," he resumed. "That is to say, Yturrio meets my lady baroness. What is the inference? At least, jealousy on the part of Yturrio's wife, whether or not she cares for him! Now, jealousy between the sexes is a deadly weapon if well handled. Repugnant as it is, we must handle it."

I experienced no great enthusiasm at the trend of events, and Mr. Calhoun smiled at me cynically as he went on. "I see you don't care for this sort of commission. At least, this is no midnight interview. You shall call in broad daylight on the Senora Yturrio. If you and my daughter will take my coach and four tomorrow, I think she will gladly receive your cards. Perhaps also she will consent to take the air of Washington with you. In that case, she might drop in here for an ice. In such case, to conclude, I may perhaps be favored with an interview with that lady. I must have Van Zandt's signature to this treaty which you see here!"

"But these are Mexicans, and Van Zandt is leader of Sie Texans, their most bitter enemies!"

"Precisely. All the less reason why Senora Yturrio should be suspected." "I am not sure that I grasp all this, Mr. Calhoun."

"Perhaps not. You presently will know more. What seems to me plain is that, since we seem to lose a valuable ally in the Baroness von Ritz. we must make some offset to that loss. If England has one woman on the Columbia, we must have another on the Rio Grande!"

CHAPTER XXI.

Politics Under Cover.

To a woman, the romances she makes are more anousing than those she reads. -Theophile Gautler.

It seemed quite correct for the daughter of our secretary of state to call to inquire for the health of the fair Senora Yturrio, and to present the compliments of Mme. Calhoun, at that time not in the city of Washington. Matters went so smoothly tle drive, and Senora Yturrio had no of Mr. Calhoun's greeting to her were Only now and again she turned such that she soon was well at home and chatting very amiably. She spoke eyes, searching him, English with but little hesitancy.

Lucrezia Yturrio, at that time not ill known in Washington's foreign colony, band was with that particular woman was beautiful, in a sensuous, ripe way.

chance had enabled him to meet the '-does not dare to say-

wife of a gentleman so distinguished in the diplomatic service as Senor tell you all that Mexico plans, and all Yturrio.

west," said he, at last, with a slight addition of formality in tone and at-

At these words I saw my lady's eyes flicker. "It is fate, senor," said she, again casting down her eyes, and spreading out her hands as in resigna- in Texas now, or will be." tion, "fate which left Texas and Mexico not always one."

"That may be," said Mr. Calhoun. Perhaps fate, also, that those of kin should cling together."

"Dear senora," said Mr. Calhoun, valuable in our society here."

there are so many things a woman may not know. For instance, how perchance leave the legation to which ing eyes read his meaning. he was attached and pay a visit to another nation?"

Again the slight flickering of her yea, but again her hands were outpread in protest.

"How indeed, senor?" "What if my young aide here, Mr. Trist, should tell you that he has seen Tyler." your husband some hundreds of miles

"Ah, you mean that baroness-!" So soon had the shaft gone home! Her woman's jealousy had offered a bowed, without a smile upon his face.

-informally. It is sometimes unfortunate that plans are divulged. To me it should not let any of these little per-I think you understand me, perhaps, Senora Yturrio?"

to the effect that Mr. Van Zandt is us close to the residence of Miss Call and her husband. But we must have one thing, one very little thing." houn. That lady suggested that, since friends with us under our flag, or "And what is that, senor?" she "And that woman also is playing the day was warm, it might be well know that they are not our friends, asked at length. to descend and see if we might not You are welcome in my house. Your

upon him the light of her splendid

"If I should recall again, gently, my dear senora, the fact that your hus--if I should say that Mexico has Her hair was dark, heavily colled, and | been found under the flag of England, packed in masses above an oval fore- while supposed to be under our flaghead. Her brows were straight, dark if I should add that one of the repreand delicate; her teeth white and sentatives of the Mexican legation strong; her lips red and full; her chin | had been discovered in handing over well curved and deep. A round arm to England certain secrets of this and taper hand controlled a most art- country and of the Republic of Texas -why, then, what answer, think you, Mr. Calhoun expressed great sur- senora, Mexico, would make to me?"

"But Senor Calhoun does not mean



"And What is That, Senor?" She Asked at Length.



"I do dare it; I do mean it! I can that Texas plans. All the secrets are "We are especially glad always to out; and since we know them, we purhear of our friends from the south- pose immediate annexation of the Republic of Texas! Though it means war, Texas shall be ours! This has been forced upon us by the perfidy of other nations."

"You seek war, Senor Secretary! My people say that your armies are

"They are but very slightly in advance of the truth, senora," said Calhoun grimly. "For me, I do not believe in war when war can be averted. But suppose it could be averted? Sup-"How can a mere woman know?" My pose the Senora Yturrio herself could lady shrugged her very graceful and avert it? Suppose the senora could beautiful shoulders-somewhat ma- remain here still, in this city which ture shoulders now, but still beauti- she so much admires? A lady of so distinguished beauty and charm is

He bowed to her with stately grace. If there was mockery in his tone, she could she know if her husband should could not catch it; nor did her search-

> "See," he resumed, "alone, I am helpless in this situation. If my government is offended. I cannot stop the course of events. I am not the senate; I am simply an officer in our administration-a very humble officer of his excellency our president, Mr.

My lady broke out in a peal of tow away and in conference with a lady rippling laughter, her white teetn supposed to be somewhat friendly to- gleaming. It was, after all, somewhat difficult to trifle with one who had been trained in intrigue all her life.

Calhoun laughed now in his own quiet way. "We shall do better if we point unexpectedly weak. Calhoun deal entirely frankly, senora," said he. "Let us then waste no time. Frankly, "Mr. Pakenham, the British minis- then, it would seem that, now the ter, is disposed to be friendly to this Baroness von Ritz is off the scene, the same lady. Your husband and a certain | Senora Yturrio would have all the betofficer of the British navy called upon ter title and opportunity in the affecthis same lady last week in Montreal tions of-well, let us say, her own husband!"

She bent toward him now, her lips seemed only wise and fit that you open in a slow smile, all her subtle and dangerous beauty unmasking its sonal matters make for us. greater batteries. The impression she concomplications in these perilous times, veyed was that of warmth and of spotted shadows such as play upon the leopard's back, such as mark the She gurgled low in her throat at wing of the butterfly, the petal of this, any sort of sound, meaning to some flower born in a land of heat that I felt justified in suggesting a lit- remain ambiguous. But Calhoun was and passion. But Calhoun regarded her calmly, his finger tips together, hesitation in accepting. Quite natural- "It is not within dignity, senora, for and spoke as deliberately as though Trist, with word of a certain woman ly, our stately progress finally brought | me to make trouble between a lady communing with himself. "It is but

"The signature of Senor Van Zandt, find a sherbet; all of which also husband is welcome in the house of attache for Texas, on this memoranseemed quite to the wish of the lady our republic. There are certain du-dum of treaty between the United States and Texas."

Bowing, he presented to her the document to which he had earlier directed my own attention. "We are all well advised that Senor Van Zandt is trafficking this very hour with England as against us," he explained. "We ask the gracious assistance of Senora Yturrio. In return we promise hersitence!"

"I can not-it is impossible!" she exclaimed, as she glanced at the pages. It is our ruin-.!

"No, senora," said Calhoun sternly; it means annexation of Texas to the United States. But that is not your ruin. It is your salvation. Your country well may doubt England, even England bearing gifts!"

"I have no control over Senor Van Zandt-he is the enemy of my country!" she began.

Calhoun now fixed upon her the full cold blue blaze of his singularly penetrating eyes. "No, senora," he said sternly; "but you have access to my friend Mr. Polk, and Mr. Polk is the friend of Mr. Jackson, and they two are friends of Mr. Van Zandt; and Texas supposes that these two, although they do not represent precisely my own beliefs in politics, are for the annexation of Texas, not to England, but to America. There is good chance Mr. Polk may be president. If you do not use your personal influence with him, he may consult politics and not you, and so declare war against Mexico. That war would cost you Texas, and much more as well. Now, to avert that war, do you not think that perhaps you can ask Mr. Polk to say to Mr. Van Zandt that his signature on this little treaty would end all such questions simply. immediately, and to the best benefit of Mexico, Texas and the United States? Treason? Why, senora, 'twould be preventing treason!"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Johnny on the Spot. Peddler (selling preparation for removing stains from clothing)-I have

got here-Servant (who responds to the ring)-Excuse me, please, but we are in great trouble here today. The gentleman of the house has been blown up in an explosion.

Peddler-Ha! Hurt much? Servant-Blown to atoms. Only a

grease spot left of him. Peddler-Ah! Only a grease spot, you say? Well, here's a bottle of my champion eradicator, which will re-

move that grease spot in two minutes.-Tit-Bits.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, els of flax per acre on 300 acres; THE GREATEST WHEAT MARKET ON THE CON-TINENT

REMARKABLE YIELDS OF WHEAT, OATS, BARLEY AND FLAX IN WESTERN CANADA LAST YEAR.

the wheat receipts at Winnipeg last year were \$8,269,330 bushels, as comof \$1,111,410 bushels, this placing Winnipeg at the head of the wheat receiving markets of the continent. Following up this information it is found that the yields throughout the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, as given the writer by agents of the Canadian Government stationed in different parts of the States, have been splendid. A few of the instances are given:

Near Redvers, Sask., Jens Hortness

threshed about 50 acres of wheat, averaging 29 bushels to the acre. Near Elphmstone, Sask., many of the crops of oats would run to nearly 100 bushels to the acre. A Mr. Muir had about 200 acres of this grain and he estimates the yield at about 60 bushels per agre. Wheat went 35 bushels to the acre on the farm of Mr. A. Loucks, near Wymyard, Sask., in the fall of 1910. K. Erickson had 27 and P. Solvason 17. In the Dempster (Man.) district last year, wheat went from 25 to 30 bushels per acre. Fifteen acres on the Mackenzie & Mann farm today went forty-three bushels to the acre. In the Wainwright and Battleriver districts yields of wheat averaged for the district 26 bushels to the acre. M. B. Ness, of the Tolield, Alberta, district, got 98 bushels and 28 lbs. of oats to the acre, while near Montrose, over 94 bushels of oats to fume in it, for some women prefer to the acre was threshed by J. Leonie, notwithstanding the dry weather of thought I would leave it to the re-June. Further reports from the Edmonton district give Frank McLay of the Horse Falls 100 bushels of oats agine I was somewhat amazed to read to the acre. They weighed 45 lbs. to this in her enthusiastic letter of the bushel. A 22-acre field of spring thanks: 'It's perfume has pervaded wheat on Johnson Bros.' farm near the whole room."-New York Press. Agricola yielded 401/2 bushels to the acre. Manitoba's record crop for 1910 was grown on McMillan Bros.' farm near Westbourne, who have a total crop of 70,000 bushels, netting \$40,000 off 2,200 acres. G. W. Buchanan of Pincher Creek, Alberta, had 251/2 12 boys in one bedroom, and 11 bushels of No. 1 spring wheat to the got into bed at once, while the other acre. Mr. A. Hatton of Macleod district had wheat which averaged 21 boy would show true courage." bushels to the acre. B. F. Holden, near Indian Head, Sask., threshed 950

bushels of wheat from 20 acres. On the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, wheat has gone below 40 and one got into bed without saying bushels, while several, such as the his prayers!" Marquis and the Preston, have gone as high as 54 bushels to the acre. At Elstow, Sask., the quantity of wheat to the acre ran, on the average, from 26 right up to 40 bushels per acre, while oats in some cases yielded a return of 70 to 80 bushels per acre, Signature of Cart Flither. with flax giving 13 to 14 bushels per In Use For Over 30 Years.

W. C. Carnell had a yield of 42 bushels per acre from six acres of breaking. Neil Callahan, two miles northwest of Strome, had a yield of 42 bushels of wheat per acre. Wm. Lindsay, two miles east of Strome, had 1,104 bushels of Regenerated Abundance oats from ten acres Joseph Scheelar, 11 miles south of Strome, had 12,000 bushels of wheat and oats from 180 acres. Part of the oats yielded 85 bushels to the acre. and the wheat averaged about 40 bushels. Spohn Bros., four miles southwest of Strome, had a splendid grain yield of excellent quality wheat, grading No. 2. A. S. McCulloch, one mile northwest of Strome, had some wheat that went 40 bushels to the acre. J. Blaser, a few miles southwest of Strome, threshed 353 bushels of wheat from 7 acres. Among the good grain yields at Macklin, Alberta, reported are: D. N. Tweedle, 22 bushels to the acre; John Currin, 24 bushels wheat to the acre; Sam Fletcher,

20 bushels to the acre. At Craven, Sask, Albert Clark threshed from 60 acres of stubble 1,890 bushels; from 20 acres of fallow 900 bushels of red fife wheat that weighed 65 pounds to the bushel. Charles Keith threshed 40 bushels to the acre from 40 acres. Albert Young, of Stony Beach, southwest of Lumsden, threshed 52 bushels per acre from summer fallow, and George Young 5,000 bushels from 130 acres of stubble and fallow, or an average of 38 1-2 bushels to the acre. Arch Morton got 5,600 bushels of red fife from 160 acres. James Russell got 8,700 bushels from stubble and late breaking, an average of 231/2 bushels. At Rosthern Jacob Friesen had 27

bushels per acre from 80 acres on new land and an average over his whole farm of 211/2 bushels of wheat. John Schultz threshed 4,400 bushels from 100 acres, or 44 bushels to the acre. John Lepp had 37 bushels per acre from 200 acres. A. B. Dirk had 42 bushels per acre from 25 acres. Robert Ree of Grand Coulee threshed 45 bushels to the acre from 420 acres.

Sedley, Sask., is still another district that has cause to be proud of the yields of both wheat and flax. J. Cleveland got 30 bushels of wheat per acre on 100 acres and 18 bushels of flax on 140 acres. T. Dundas, southeast of Sedley, 40 bushels per acre on 30 acres; M. E. Miller, 34 bushels per acre on 170 acres of stubble, and 35 bushels per acre on 250 acres fallow; W. A. Day had 32 bushels per acre on 200 acres of stubble, and 35 bushels on 250 acres of fallow; J. O. Scott had 30 bushels of wheat per acre on 200 acres, and 18 bush-

wheat; A. Allen 30 bushels; Jos. Runions, 40; Alex Ferguson, 38; W. R. Thompson, 35, all on large acreages. The flax crop of J. Cleveland is rather a wonder, as his land has yielded him \$60 per acre in two years with one ploughing. Russell, Man., farmers threshed 30 bushels of wheat and 60 to 80 bushels of oats. A. D. Stenhouse, near Melford, Sask., had an average yield on 131/2 acres of new land, 631/2 bushels of Preston wheat Figures recently issued show that to the acre. Hector W. Swanston, a farmer near Welwyn, Sask., had 5,150 bushels of wheat from one quarter pared with the Minneapolis receipts section of land. John McLean, who owns two sections, threshed 12,860 bushels of wheat.

Probably Got Off.

Apropos of certain unfounded charges of drunkenness among the naval cadets at Annapolis, Admira Dewey, at a dinner in Washington, told a story about a young sailor.

"The sailor, after a long voyage," he said, "went ashore in the tropics, and, it being a hot day, he drank, in certain tropical bars, too much beer.

"As the saller lurched under his heavy load along a palm-bordered avenue, his captain hailed him indignantly.

" Look here,' the captain said, 'suppose you were my commander, and you met me in such a condition as you're in now, what would you do to me?

"'Why, sir,' said the sailor, 'I wouldn't condescend to take no notice of you at all, sir.' "

And It Was All Imagination.

"I wonder how much imagination governs some persons' senses?" remarked a visitor at the St. Regis yesterday "For a Christmas present I sent to a young woman of my acquaintance one of the most elaborate sachet cases I could find. It was such a beautiful thing that I didn't put peruse a certain kind all the time, and I cipient to put her own particular sachet powder in the case. You may im-

Real Courage.

He was the small son of a minister and his mother was teaching him the meaning of courage,

"Supposing," she said, "there were knelt down to say his prayers, that

"Oh," said the young hopeful, "I know something that would be more courageous than that. Supposing there were 12 ministers in one bedroom,

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