

The RING and the MAN

WITH SOME INCIDENTAL RELATION TO THE WOMAN
By CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY
ILLUSTRATIONS BY DEARBORN MELVILL

SYNOPSIS.

A foolish young tenderfoot becomes fascinated with the beautiful wife of a drunken prospector in a western mining town. They prepare to elope in a blinding blizzard but are confronted by the maudlin husband. He is shot by the wife, but the chivalrous boy pins a note to the body taking the blame upon himself. In their flight to the railroad station the woman's horse falls exhausted, the youth puts her on his own and follows her to the station. Seeing he is an impediment, the woman thrusts her escort into a snow drift and rides on. He stumbles into the railroad station just as the train bears the woman away. Twenty-five years later, this man, George Gormly, is a multi-millionaire in New York. He meets Eleanor Haldane, a beautiful and wealthy settlement worker, and co-operates with her in her work. Gormly becomes owner of a steamship line and finds himself frustrated in plan and track extension plans by grafting aldermen, backed by the Gotham Traction Company. An automobile accident brings the Haldanes to his country home. Gormly announces that he will be mayor of New York and reforms the city from corruption. Mr. Haldane in a long desired interview with Gormly, makes an indirect proposition to compromise the fight which the latter has been waging in the newspapers against the Gotham Traction company, and which Haldane is suspected of being the head. Gormly boldly announces his plan of campaign to Haldane. Gormly rides to Haldane's place, carrying word of the auto accident. The next morning he refers to the ride of the night before as mild compared to one he experienced in his boyhood days. The papers announce his candidacy for mayor. The political declaration of the merchant prince produced a tremendous sensation. The minority party, seeing in him a possible Moses, make overtures looking to the endorsement of his candidacy by the "outs." Gormly, however, rejects all proposed alliances. A meeting of the Society of the City of the "Ring" is held at the Haldane Home. Many political dignitaries and henchmen are present and ways and means are advanced to damage Gormly's mayoralty aspirations and sidetrack his candidacy. The younger Haldane is proposed as an opposition candidate and the whole machinery of the city's detective force is to be invoked to dig up something damaging to Gormly. Haldane, Jr., refuses the nomination and announces that he will support Gormly.

CHAPTER IX.—Continued.

"What does it cover?" asked the mayor.

"It covers pretty much every available route by which we can connect the ends of the traction company."

"How much territory?"

"Oh, a mile or a mile and a half, I should say; but every possible right of way is included in the franchise."

"And if we don't get it?"

"Somebody else will get it, of course. He will build the connections, and hold us up for anything that he wants."

"But it will be no good to anybody else without what we've got," suggested Van Slyke.

"True; but we have got several hundred millions involved and can't adopt a do-nothing policy. Probably ten millions or even less will cover the expenses required by rebuilding under the old or new franchise, and that ten million has us by the throat."

"It should be easy for five hundred millions to freeze out ten," said Rutherford.

"Under other circumstances it would not be at all difficult," answered Haldane; "but the people are to be considered in this case. This road was built as a public convenience and, gentlemen, it has to be run."

"This is a hell of a fix for men as smart as you to get yourselves in!" said Liffey. "As I take it, we can secure the franchise or we can make its future grant the issue of the campaign; and if we win, pass it then; and if we fail, take our medicine."

"You've stated it exactly."

"For myself, I'm in favor of grabbing the franchise now," said the boss. "It means money. Money's what we're here for. The object of politics is money for the crowd that's in. The aim of the crowd that's out is to get in so they can get the money. With money we can buy votes; with votes we can get office; with office and money we can get immunity from the consequences. Even if we're beaten by the mayor, we'll still have the district attorney, we'll still have the police force. I'll still be here; so will you, Mr. Haldane. And therefore, rather than take any risk, I move that the franchise be renewed as soon as it expires, and that the grant be made to the Gotham Freight Traction company. I'd rather have something substantial than play for a chance any time. I guess we wouldn't suffer any therefore, no matter what happened. Besides, all it'd mean would be a wait for four years. These reform movements always get tired of themselves, and then one or the other of the old parties comes in. We'll be the one."

"I am inclined to believe that much of Mr. Liffey's contention is sound," said Van Slyke at last.

"Well, gentlemen," said Haldane, "what do you all think about it?"

"Let's get what we can," said the mayor.

"And keep all we've got," added Connell.

"Very well then," said Haldane, "so be it. We are united upon a non-partisan ticket which we can select presently, with Warren at the head of it. Mr. Liffey will see Mr. Benson and induce his co-operation. Mr. Connell will investigate Mr. Gormly's career. Mr. Rutherford will arrange to have the franchise renewed as soon as it is possible to do so. Mr. Warren will at once announce himself as

a candidate for re-election. Messrs. Liffey, Habberley, and Connell will get their forces in line. And I think that's all."

"Not quite, Mr. Haldane," said Liffey.

"What else?"

"You'll get the barrel open for the necessary expenses of the campaign?"

"Quite so," said Haldane, dryly.

"You may depend upon us to do what is proper; eh, gentlemen?"

Van Slyke and McDonald nodded.

"I think we've done a pretty good night's work," said the district attorney, rising to his feet.

"Don't go yet," said Haldane. "We must fix up the slate first, and that will be all."

It was a half-hour later when the last one departed from the house. Haldane was quite aware of the conditions under which his fortune was being increased and his power extended. He had been brought in contact with the naked reality of the situation a great many times; but it seemed to him that never before had it presented itself in so hideous and unattractive a guise as on that night. The financier was hardened. His conscience, while keenly alive in other directions, in matters concerning politics and the people was seared and indurated. But what had been said and what he had discussed that night had sickened him.

Haldane felt quite lonely, quite old, as he sat there in the small hours of the morning, his cigar gone out, musing over the situation. He pulled himself together at last. The battle was not lost. The enemy had not won.



"You Get the Barrel Open for the Necessary Expenses."

and before that came about there would be a struggle which would beggar description. The cards seemed to be in his hands, or in the hands of the ring of which he was chief. No more experienced players ever sat at a game than those associated with him. They ought to win; but would they? Haldane was by no means certain.

CHAPTER X.

The Voice of the People is Heard.

Gormly's refusal to accept the endorsement and become the nominee of the outs created a great sensation. It was an evidence, which by and by even the stupid could apprehend, that Gormly literally meant what he said when he declared that he was to be an absolutely independent candidate, tied to no faction, bound by no party, entirely free and unfettered.

The men who rallied to his support, while as innocent as babes in the practical politics affected by Liffey and Benson, were nevertheless men of abounding zeal, keen intelligence, and high quality. Nor were the workers that gathered round the new leader entirely from the social set and circle of the Haldanes. Gormly in one way or another employed a vast number of working men. His relations with them had always been not merely "square," as they phrased it, but kind and generous. They were organized and started at work immediately in

every direction. Before the enemy realized it, ample time had been secured in every possible assembly room and there were nightly meetings all over the city.

In the Gormly store itself was a great auditorium in which free concerts, lectures, and entertainments had been given for the employes and patrons of the store. This auditorium had outside entrances and could be completely cut off from the other business. Every afternoon he assembled in the auditorium the workers and speakers, and every afternoon there was the freest possible discussion of the issues, of what was to be said in the speeches of the night, of the places to be covered. The man showed a genius for leadership and direction that was amazing. He developed a power of succinctly presenting the facts, which in large measure he was able to communicate to his followers.

Livingstone Haldane's example had been followed by not a few young men of fortune and position. It became in a certain sense among a certain set the fashion to campaign for Gormly. Automobiles of all sorts were available for transporting speakers, and classes and social distinctions were wiped out in the greater issues involved. By these methods what was picturesquely described in the city papers as a whirlwind campaign was inaugurated.

It must not be supposed that the opposition was idle; by no means. Never had its activities been so great. Its energies so manifestly put forth. It had welcomed with joy the news of the refusal of Gormly to become the candidate of the minority party. Liffey had at once decided in his own mind that that settled the issue. Even farther sighted men like Rutherford were of the same opinion. Haldane alone, the wisest, shrewdest, and ablest of the group, was not convinced, and under his vigorous though secret urgings the ring redoubled its efforts to beat the man.

At the proper time the proposition from the party in power to make a combination with the outs was sprung upon the public. It was hailed on one side as an evidence of the fairness of the party in power and the Schem society, which many people imagined needed no alliance of that kind. It

was favorable to the new candidate. Incidentally, nothing that he could have said or done could have so increased the business of his store! His business rivals and associates indeed suggested, and the suggestion was quickly seized upon by the administration papers, that the whole thing was a clever advertising dodge, and that Gormly was simply using his candidacy to boom his business. There was no satisfactory answer to this argument, which was one of the best that could have been devised by the opposition, and it was harped upon immensely, although their leader was vigorously justified from this charge by his army of fighters.

The expenses of the campaign were enormous. Not one cent was paid out for bribery or for the purpose of influencing votes in any improper way; but the hiring of halls, the payment of the expenses of meetings, organization, transportation, printing, salaries, and so on aggregated an extraordinary sum. Even Gormly himself had not realized how great these expenses would be; but he paid them without blenching. His resources were vast. He put at the disposal of his candidacy all the accumulations and earnings of twenty-five years. He saw that by the time the vote was taken, his ready money would be expended. Of course, he would still have his great business, which would be entirely unencumbered; but everything else would go.

He still kept to his plan of printing every week sworn statements of his expenses, challenging the other party to do the same. The reason the society did not publish its expense account was not because it was ashamed of the amount, for it was vastly greater than what Gormly expended. They had nearly as many expenses as he, except for the newspaper advertising, which they got free, and in addition they disbursed an immense bribery and corruption fund through Liffey, Connell, Habberley and Benson.

Again and again were Haldane and his associates called upon for remittances, which were invariably forthcoming. There was no possibility of refusal. Failure to win a victory would mean financial ruin to many of them. Fortunately for him, it did not mean so much to Haldane, although his great fortune would be seriously impaired by defeat. Most of the others, however, had turned over everything that they possessed, and pledged their credit as well, to the vast syndicate of which he was the head. Indeed, he and Van Slyke would be the only ones not totally ruined by the election of Gormly. Consequently they paid and paid, protesting in their hearts but shutting their teeth grimly and handing out the cash, which was disbursed to the best advantage by Liffey and Benson.

Gormly himself spoke every night somewhere, and the crowds that greeted him were enormous. Meanwhile every detective in the employ of the city, and all others who could be suborned, were concentrating their efforts on Gormly's past and present. He could not take a step outside of his office without being shadowed. It was not difficult for spies to mingle with the crowd of buyers in his store and scrutinize every person who entered his private room. They had so far discovered nothing. Gormly had lived an absolutely clean, upright, honest, hardworking life since he landed in New York. They did not find out where he came from or even where he was born. The only possible clue they had was the statement that he had once been in the west, with which Haldane had supplied them. Men had scoured the principal cities of the west; but nothing had been learned. Connell was in despair. He and Liffey and Benson had again and again been on the eve of determining upon the manufacture of some grading or incriminating story which would at least serve their purpose. It would not be difficult to get witnesses to such an endeavor; but it would be highly dangerous to resort to such an expedient, and they were still hesitating and undecided.

About this time the disputed franchise expired. A resolution was immediately introduced in the board of aldermen at the city hall granting a renewal of it to the Gotham Freight Traction company. Every move in the game was watched, and the resolution had scarcely been read and referred to a committee when it was communicated to Gormly. The next day the Gormly papers rang with the charge that the city fathers intended to give away its most valuable remaining public franchise to the Gotham Freight Traction company.

At the next meeting, despite the furious protests of the Gormly party, the resolution was put upon its passage. Gormly here played his greatest political card. Attended by a body of friends, he presented himself at the council chamber and forced admission. When the resolution renewing the franchise was about to be voted upon, as a citizen of New York deeply interested in the matter he demanded to be heard. Before permission was either granted or refused, Gormly drew from his pocket a piece of paper. Amid the deepest silence he held it up and said:

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Riches and Honor.

It is an honorable thing to be rich. It is not dishonorable nor creditable in any sense, so long as he who acquires it has remembered and has practiced the golden rule.

Labor and Drudgery.

It is claimed that nine-tenths of all productive labor is drudgery. The overwhelming percentage of all the effective work in every vocation is done by the average man and woman.

LAUGHTER PLEASING TO GOD

Nowhere in Biblical Lore Can There Be Found Intimation of Any Other Idea.

We misjudge and distort the normally human nature of the Saviour when we picture him going through life, as Dante did after he had written his "Inferno," with the shadow of perdition on his brow. We may gravely question when it was that the cross began to darken our Lord's pathway; there is no hint of such a foreboding until we reach the middle of his ministry. From that on there are occasional tokens that he saw Calvary ahead of him, and was at times pressed down with a dreadful sense of the inevitable agony which awaited him at the end. But all this is very far from affording any reasonable ground for the conclusion that he smiled sometimes, but never laughed.

If God did not intend us to laugh, on occasion why did he endow us with the capacity to laugh, with a sense of the humorous, with the faculty to see and enjoy wit, fun and the absurd side of life; and, furthermore, why did he produce so many things and people to laugh at?—Zion's Herald.

LAWYER CURED OF ECZEMA

"While attending school at Lebanon, Ohio, in 1882, I became afflicted with boils, which lasted for about two years, when the affliction assumed the form of an eczema on my face, the lower part of my face being inflamed most of the time. There would be water-blisters rise up and open, and wherever the water would touch it would burn, and cause another one to rise. After the blister would open, the place would scab over, and would burn and itch so as to be almost unbearable at times. In this way the sores would spread from one place to another, back and forth over the whole of my upper lip and chin, and at times the whole lower part of my face would be a solid sore. This condition continued for four or five years, without getting any better, and in fact got worse all the time, so much so that my wife became alarmed lest it prove fatal.

"During all this time of boils and eczema, I doctored with the best physicians of this part of the country, but to no avail. Finally I decided to try Cuticura Remedies, which I did, taking the Cuticura Resolvent, applying the Cuticura Ointment to the sores, and using the Cuticura Soap for washing. In a very short time I began to notice improvement, and continued to use the Cuticura Remedies until I was well again, and have not had a recurrence of the trouble since, which is over twenty years. I have recommended Cuticura Remedies to others ever since, and have great faith in them as remedies for skin diseases." (Signed) A. C. Brandon, Attorney-at-Law, Greenville, O., Jan. 17, 1911.

Although Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold everywhere, a sample of each, with 32-page book, will be mailed free on application to "Cuticura," Dept. 3 K, Boston.

Character in the Eye.

Beware of the man who does not look you clearly in the eye. He has possibilities of evil in his nature. There are eyes which are luminous, others which seem to be veiled behind a curtain.

Men and women of the world are accustomed to judge human nature by the expression of the eye. Many people read character by the eyes, and can thus distinguish the false from the loyal, the frank from the deceitful, the hard from the tender, the energetic from the indolent, the sympathetic from the indifferent.

Tuberculosis Among the Insane.

Autopsies made in New York state hospitals for the insane and elsewhere show that tuberculosis is an active disease in about 20 per cent of the cases, as compared with about half that percentage in the normal population.

Wifey Knew Him.

Benham—I can't remember dates. Mrs. Benham—But you have a pretty good memory for peaches.

What some lawyers don't know isn't worth lying about.

LEWIS' "SINGLE BINDER."

A hand-made cigar fresh from the table, wrapped in foil, thus keeping fresh until smoked. A fresh cigar made of good tobacco is the ideal smoke. The old, well cured tobacco used are so rich in quality that many who formerly smoked 10c cigars now smoke Lewis' Single Binder Straight 5c. Lewis' Single Binder costs the dealer some more than other 5c cigars, but the higher price enables this factory to use extra quality tobacco. There are many imitations; don't be fooled. There is no substitute! Tell the dealer you want a Lewis "Single Binder."

Of Short Duration.

"Pimply is afraid to ask old Mr. Plunker for his daughter's hand."

"Why, Pimply told me yesterday he stood in with the old gentleman."

"Oh, that was only for a few minutes in the vestibule of an office building during a shower."

Why, Willie!

Sunday School Teacher—Yes, Willie, the Lord loves every living creature.

Willie—I'll bet he was never stung by a wasp!—Puck.

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Is life worth living? I should say that it depends on the liver.—Thomas Gold Appleton.

Appetite Gone

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