

Virginia of the Air Lanes

A ROMANCE OF FLYING

By Herbert Quick

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CHAPTER XIX.

FINALE.

THEODORE carried Virginia to a seaside cottage just in process of being put in order for its owners.

"Tell me, dearest," he kept whispering, "that you are safe—safe!" Virginia, wet, dragged, her strong little form resembling a rough cast statue of some one quite irresistibly shapely, silently hung about his neck.

"You love me?" said he. "I'm not going to let you leave me again, darling!"

She squeezed his hand in gratitude. Carson went out radiant, meeting Craighead with the red mantilla on his arm.

"You all do know this mantle," said he, "but not the soul of poetry in things great. Ethically, this is a lost damsel snatched from a watery grave as she went down in the penultimate descent. I put my confounded life in pawn—for what? For a mere trumpery kickshaw of silk with no more woman in it than a rabbit. Rotten! Rotten! This 'ere rescue ain't up to sample!"

"Craighead," said Carson, "I want you to run an errand, and be serious. Run for a doctor, Craighead. I believe she loves me."

Facing up and down the veranda, Carson was in a delicious disturbance of spirits. He forgot Shayne and his wife, but ran down to see the Virginia and found in charge the village constable.

"I know the rules of these cases," said he to Carson. "When you give this to the papers say something about the way the police end of it was handled."

"Thank you," said Carson, having made sure that the Virginia was intact. "I shan't see any reporters."

"Sure you will," said the thoughtful constable. "I've sent 'em."

The doctor, a nervous little man with no voice, whispered to Carson that his wife, meaning Virginia, was uninjured and urging him to go in and quiet her by his presence.

"Neurology my specialty," said he slyly in Carson's ear. "Left big practice in Philadelphia on account of nervous prostration. Acute neuropath-

But the real sensation was not known until afterward.

Craighead was a long time gone, returning with a perspiring man carrying a notary's seal in one hand, a huge volume under one arm and a fat book like an exaggerated check book under the other. Following them were a tall, angular, serious looking gentleman in wading boots, his eyes covered with immense blue goggles—a French chauffeur if one might judge by certain strong points in garments and features; a life saving crew from up the coast who had just arrived after a long distance view of the wreck and several water side characters belonging in a New Jersey way to the Captain Harold class. The man with the books seemed tired with his burden and was using occasional strong words.

"Set down, set down your honorable load," said Craighead. "If honor may be harried with a curse. Fellow citizens, we are delighted with what we have seen of your little city. The climate is lovely, the air fresh and the water warm. We like it. What do you call it?"

Carson drew Craighead aside and suggested dry clothes.

"Be silent, sirrah," cried Craighead, "and do as you are bid! Friends, the performance in the big tent is about to open. This, Mr. Van Brunt, is one of the principals."

"Of age, I see," said Mr. Van Brunt, looking at Carson. "I guess it's all right. An' where's the other party?"

A maid who had devoted herself to Virginia replied that Miss Suarez was quite able to see people.

"Come, Mr. Van Brunt," said Craighead, "and view the precious remains."

Craighead entered at Virginia's "Come in," but Mr. Van Brunt went no farther than to insert half his body and all his head in the room and look searchingly at Miss Suarez.

"Of course," said he, "you're over eighteen?"

"Considerably," said Virginia, "but—"

Mr. Van Brunt had vanished. Craighead gazed solemnly at Virginia and spoke sepulchrally.

"These," said he, "are some of the local forms of the initiation. Be obedient and thou shalt prosper. Don't do nothing that you ain't told to—see?"

"What does this foolery mean?" asked Carson as Craighead emerged into the parlor, where Mr. Van Brunt was engaged in filling up blanks and tearing them out of the big check book.

"Foolery?" said Craighead. "Profane not the sacred mysteries of Eleusis! Don't get cynical or funny. You are not a very important person here. Friends, fellow citizens, Jerseymen, lend me your ears. We have met for certain reasons connected with the vital statistics of our common country—to originate an epithet. Two problems look the American people in the face and gnash their problematical teeth and snort. What are they? My friend the doctor, who has returned with healing in his flus, and our reverend friend in the waders can bear witness from their reduced perquisites that I speak sooth when I say that these portentous national dangers lie in cellaby. I have made a speciality of it."

"Hooray!" shouted the captain of the life saving crew.

"My honorable and gallant friend," said Craighead, indicating the captain, "bath a Smith college pin on his service shirt. It's not to thee, O potential benedict, that I speak! We are here to call not the inoculated, but the hitherto immune, to repentance. Fellow reformers, at the request of my friend Mr. Carson—General Theodor' Cahson, M. A.—I sent a motorcar for Mr. Van Brunt, and the county seat of this county, so far as the marriage records are concerned, is here. The Rev. Mr. Coryell has kindly agreed to perform the ceremony. I will assume the chair if there are no objections. I will entertain a motion ordering the nuptials to proceed. I assume a motion for the regular order. Reading of the minutes dispensed with. All in favor of the marriage of Theodore Carson and Virginia Suarez say 'Aye!'"

There was a swelling roar of "ayes" that startled Virginia into a belief that a political convention was in session in the parlor. Craighead called for the "nays" with no response.

"It is a vote," said he—"unanimously! I congratulate you in this harmony! It augurs well for a successful campaign and a triumphant election. Will some one volunteer to play the wedding march? Thank you, sir."

This to the captain of the life savers, who seated himself on a piano stool and ran his hands over the keys.

"And now, general," said Craighead to Carson, "all is ready. The statutes in such case made and provided are all fulfilled. Bring out the bride and let the rapture culminate!"

"Craighead," said Carson, "come outside and I'll break every bone in your body!"

No one heard this but Craighead, and he received the announcement with the snarlest of bows and a withdrawal with Carson on his arm.

"Just a little delay," said he to Mr. Coryell. "You know how it is—last kisses of bridesmaids—well asked—rubbish—but we must wait."

Mr. Coryell, with Craighead's money in his pocket, sufficient in amount to pay the entire expenses of his vacation study of Atlantic gasteropods, waited smilingly, rubbing his hands. Mr. Van Brunt lit a cigar and looked off feebly grave. Carson seized Craighead by the throat in the privacy of the kitchen.

"What do you mean?" he snarled. "What insane thing is this?"

"Explanations," said Craighead, extricating his throat, "are uncalled for, it seemed to me, but it given require the use of the tractor. Ah've done did what you done tole me, boss?"

"What do you mean?"



SEE LAY IN HIS ARMS, QUITE SURRENDERED.

Carson stood before Craighead with clinched fists, furious at Craighead's scandalous use of Virginia's name in public.

"Strike in due time," said Craighead, "but hear! You told me to do for you what I'd want done in your place. You said Virginia loved you!"

"I said I believed it!" answered Carson, growling. "Oh, Craighead, Craighead, you've ruined me!"

"Ruined your granny—that is, of course, I disagree with you entirely. Faint heart never won the money. I tell you the wedding bells are now ringing. Go to, sirrah—go to her. Give her the rush. Lay it on me. Throw a fit on the rug, rip and tear, snort, weep, fight, fast, tear thyself, drink up eisels, eat a crocodile, take her in your arms, and incidentally mention the fact that the thing's a matter of record and will be in all the papers. It'll work. Why, blast your picture, it's got to work. If it doesn't, I'm stuck for \$75 for fees and corruption money!"

Carson walked back and forth, torn with rage, embarrassment and anxiety for the result with Virginia, thrilled with a growing realization of what it might mean to him.

"I'm going in to tell her," said he. "And if I fail I shall come out and kill you, Craighead!"

"I shall make no will," said Craighead. "Why, if she were Caroline and I you?"

Carson walked into the apartment of Virginia. The serving girl withdrew and left them alone.

"Virginia," said he, "I'm going to take you with me!"

She flushed rosily, but, woman-like, refused to take his meaning.

"I can't go back, unkie," said she. "You failed in your exams. You are marked away, away down as an unkie. But I've forgiven you."

"Don't let's talk of that," said he. "I shan't even apologize. I'm glad I deceived you! Glad, do you hear? And now you're going back—Psyche—as my wife. Don't struggle and try to escape. Don't you love me? Don't you love me? Don't you love me?"

She was past the struggle now, and in the new print gown of the servant maid she lay in his arms, quite surrendered. The time passed much more rapidly for them than for Mr. Craighead. His voice grew hoarse, the rondo periods grew shorter, and at last he rapped on the door and called "Time!"

The audience had entered upon the phase of impatience characterized by stamping in unison.

"What do they want?" asked Virginia.

"Us," said Carson. "Let us go out."

"Out?" queried Virginia. "Out there?"

"Virginia," said Carson, "did I not say I was taking you away with me—now?"

"Oh," gasped Virginia, shrinking back. "You don't mean for me to understand!"

"The minister is outside—to marry us—darling! Come!"

"Oh, Theodore!" she gasped.

The door opened. Craighead's voice came through in inquiry.

"All ready?" he asked loudly. "Then let the cortege move! After these nuptials we shall have the full music of the grand sweet song. Like Prince Agib of Gilbertland story—"

"We will diligently play on the zootrope all day and blow the loud pantochinon all night! Forward, march!"

The wedding march from "Lohengrin" tinkled feebly forth from the piano. The minister stood in the narrow cirque left open by the crowd. Craighead, like a new ducked usher, bowed grandly at the door to let them through. Theodore took Virginia's plump, print covered arm and whispered in her ear promises which instinct told him would break down the last resistance. The short service went on as remembered by the priest.

"Who gives this woman away?"

And who but Finley Shayne broke through the press to take her by the hand and respond heartily, "I do!"

And when the ring was called for who but the captain of the life saving crew, true to the traditions of the service, came forward and took it from his chain and saved them?

And when the minister asked, "Do you, Virginia, take this man to be your wedded husband?" and the door all remainder of it who but Theodore Carson turned dizzy at the bride's gaze

before answering, and who but Virginia said sweetly and clearly, "I do!"

And as for Craighead, that worthy gentleman would have been in still higher feather had he known that within two weeks he was to succeed in persuading his adored Caroline to join him in a similar ceremony.

THE END.

COUNTY ATTORNEY FILES COMPLAINT

Under State Law Which Means Quite a Severe Punishment.

County Attorney Ramsey returned this morning and found several cases on his desk awaiting action. He filed a complaint sworn to by Chief of Police Rainey against Harry Poissall, John Jones, Peter Herold and John (Pup) Egan and these will be prosecuted under the state law. The complaint charges the four with being drunk on the first count, with an assault upon Rainey in the second count, with resisting and abusing Chief Rainey when he was in the performance of his duty as a police and peace officer. The penalty for these several offenses if they should be found guilty of all would be either a very heavy fine or a long jail sentence. It is the intention to prosecute these cases to a finish. They grow out of the trouble in the Hotel Riley bar last Saturday night when Chief Rainey was set upon by the crowd and beaten up. At the time there was serious danger of the chief being badly hurt had it not been for the bravery of William Fitzgerald who went to his aid and who assisted him in getting out of the clutches of the gang. Fitzgerald is said to have used an empty beer bottle with crushing effect upon some of the crowd and the chief lays his escape with injury to his timely aid.

Egan and Herold were apprehended shortly after the trouble and the latter has been serving a fine for his participation in the trouble. He was fined under the city ordinance and not under the statute which prescribes a heavier penalty for the offense of resisting an officer. Poissall and Jones escaped but have since been seen in Omaha. During the melee at the Riley bar, Chief Rainey was compelled to draw his revolver and he shot once but at the time it was not believed the bullet took effect. It has been found out since that the bullet went through the leg of Jones who was seen in Omaha with the wounded member. It is probable both of them will be apprehended shortly and returned for trial. It is said that threats have been made on Chief Rainey's life but he is determined to suppress the riotous conduct in the city at any cost.

Another Complaint Filed.

County Attorney Ramsey today filed a complaint on behalf of O. W. Hamburg against William Mendenhall charging him with assault on Hamburg. This trouble grows out of the affair Saturday night when the two men had a fight at the corner of Fourth and Main streets. According to Mr. Mendenhall the fight started when they met at the street crossing. Hamburg was coming toward Mendenhall and his arms were free from any packages, he having taken the box he had been carrying across the street and then returning. As he approached Mendenhall he applied a vile epithet to him and struck at him. Mendenhall returned the blow and landed. As Hamburg was about to fall to the pavement Mendenhall hit him with his knee. He admits he intended to kick him and then was afraid of hurting him too bad so he used his knee instead. Mendenhall expresses confidence that he will be acquitted on a trial. The trouble between them dates back to a row they had while both were working in the Burlington shops. The two men are about the same size physically and Mendenhall denies he had any open knife in his pocket. Previously to the fight both men had knives open, Hamburg having his out and in his hand when Mendenhall approached him, seeing which Mendenhall drew his own knife.

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Colonel M. A. Bates of Plattsmouth has filed his petition to have his name placed upon the primary ballot as a candidate for the legislature between Cass and Otoe counties, on the Democratic ticket. Colonel Bates was a member of the last legislature and made a good and efficient member of the lower house.—Nebraska City News.

WANTED—Several good men for threshing service and other work. Apply to Robert Propst, Mynard, Neb.

ASKS MODIFICATION OF RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST TELEPHONE COMPANY

Manager Pollock of Plattsmouth Telephone Company Circulating Petition to Attorney General Thompson

Manager Bert Pollock of the Plattsmouth Telephone company, this morning was engaged in circulating a petition to Attorney General Thompson asking him to consent to modification of the recent restraining order issued by the supreme court against the Plattsmouth Telephone company, its officers and agents and the Bell Telephone company and its officials. The order provided among other things that the company could sell no more stock to the Bell interests and it was ordered to discontinue the connection between the two lines wherever they existed. It is to secure a modification of this latter clause that the petition is being circulated. The petition sets forth that the toll lines of the independent companies do not reach the most important centers and that wholesale business suffers from this fact that the new connection would give the business interests of the city at present were compelled to keep two telephones instead of one in order to be able to talk to wholesale houses in Omaha, Chicago and other centers. The petition also recites that a large part of Nebraska is not subject to connection over the independent lines and that the use of the Bell lines is necessary to reach those sections. A further charge is made that talking between this city and Omaha over the independent lines made the phones in the city accessible to only a small number without paying an extra messenger fee and that the system as it was at present, on the whole, was expensive and inadequate. The petition was very generally signed especially by the business interests who are glad to secure the needed connection with the various large centers of the country. In circulating the petition Mr. Pollock found that public sentiment was largely in favor of the proposed modification and that everyone was glad to know that the field of the toll lines was to be enlarged.

In connection with the proposed modification of the order, an investigation discloses that the connection had been made between the two companies some time before the restraining order was issued and that the toll service of the Bell had been placed at the disposal of the Plattsmouth company's patrons while the toll service of the company was still retained. This amounted to a vast increase in the field which the patrons of the independent company could reach and put the wholesale houses of the cities into direct connection with the independent phones. Of course, when the restraining order was made this service had to be discontinued and it is to restore it that the modification is asked.

In connection with the transfer of interests of the Plattsmouth stockholders of the independent company to the Bell interests, an important visit was made to the city today by Superintendent Pratt and District Superintendent May of the Nebraska Telephone company. The gentlemen while here took occasion to investigate the sentiment of the public regarding the proposed connection of the two systems and the develop-

ment of the toll lines. They were much gratified to find that the public sentiment was strongly for it. They found that nearly every one was of the opinion it had increased the value of the telephone immensely and that this feeling was especially strong among the business interests who had occasion to do most of the long distance work.

Mr. Pratt speaking of the matter, stated that he believed Attorney General Thompson when he had become fully informed as to the feeling of the public on the matter would decide favorably upon the question of modifying the restraining order. He was of the opinion that the attorney general had discovered that he might have been a little hasty in asking so sweeping an order and that he would permit this modification and fight the other questions involved in court. Mr. Pratt was of the opinion that the public at large would find the proposed connection of inestimable benefit to everyone and that the business men would be especially pleased with it. As things now stood one telephone was all which would be needed as it would reach anywhere in the outside world.

Speaking of F. H. Woods who has been the chief and moving spirit in the litigation now pending, Mr. Pratt stated that Woods had tried himself to buy the lines of the Plattsmouth Telephone company but had been unable to do so and that previous to this he had tried to get the Plattsmouth company to enter into an exclusive contract with him to handle all business over the independent lines exclusively. It was only when Woods found he could not have his own way in these matters that he became indignant and tried to stop the connection between the two companies. Mr. Pratt also called attention to the fact that Woods' company had recently voted an issue of \$1,250,000 in preferred stock which was to be used in purchasing other companies and combining them into a monster corporation. Woods' lines at present consisted of a number of separate companies including the Lincoln system, the Gage and Johnson county lines and a number of others.

Speaking of the benefits which physical connection between the Nebraska system and the Plattsmouth Telephone company meant Mr. Pratt called attention to the fact that connection now existed between 52,000 independent phones and 55,000 Bell phones while the Woods system had 30,000, thus illustrating the wider field which the proposed connection would make.

Mr. Pratt expressed the hope that the public would realize the condition of things as they existed and that the aim of the Nebraska company was to give the people the best and highest grade service. On the whole his talk was of the most encouraging kind and indicated that the Nebraska people wanted the cordial co-operation of the public and was willing to do its share toward getting it.

Mr. Pratt and Mr. May departed this afternoon for Nebraska City, where they hope to find as favorable a state of affairs as in this city.

CITY SHOULD GET FREE DELIVERY

Business Men Should Make Effort to Secure Free City Delivery.

Postmaster Schneider recently called the attention of the postal authorities at Washington to the fact that Plattsmouth was over the limit on postal receipts and was entitled to free delivery under the law. He has received a reply from the postoffice department to the effect that a check had been made and the statement found correct and that a postoffice inspector would be sent here very shortly to ascertain if the other conditions incident to free delivery had been or would be complied with. Just what these conditions are is not known but it is presumed good sidewalks is one of them and it behooves property owners who are interested in free delivery to get busy and put their walks in repair.

Plattsmouth seems now to have a good opportunity to advance and help itself a lot by securing free delivery and it is believed that nine of every ten citizens want this. The city has had its houses numbered for many years and now the putting down of good walks is essential. The city has been doing good work in this line for

several years past and has a large number of permanent walks already down with many more in sight. Free delivery promotes a town to the dignity of a first class city and it is a great convenience to the general public. Steps should be taken to see the inspector and find out what the requirements are and that they are complied with. Looked at from a number of standpoints the free delivery system is a mighty good thing. It insures work for several men at remunerative wages and also insures the speedy and prompt delivery of mail.

Presumably the commercial club will meet the inspector during his stay in the city and will take up with him the question. Plattsmouth has several times had the opportunity for free delivery but through neglect of some vital point it has been allowed to slip away. This time it must be secured.

The world's most successful medicine for bowel complaints is Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It has relieved more pain and suffering, and saved more lives than any other medicine in use. Invaluable for children and adults. Sold by all dealers.

W. R. Sperry of Weeping Water spent a few hours in the city this morning, coming in on the M. P. train and continuing on north to Omaha over the Burlington.



"BUT ACCIDENT! NOTHING TO IT!"

in symptoms in your very beautiful young wife, sir—but accident! Nothing to it!"

Carson explained, with some neuropathic symptoms of his own, that the young lady was not his wife.

"Excuse me!" whispered the doctor, on tiptoe. "As to whose the mistake is, yours or mine, omission or commission, can't say, but pardon me, just the same. Must go now. Other patients, you know, My card!"

And, slipping his card to Theodore with the air of a man seeking to establish a connection in the castaway trade, he whispered himself out, being replaced almost immediately by two local representatives of the metropolitan press, to whom Theodore resolutely refused to say a word beyond the statement that the Roe was wrecked and that the passengers were saved. This, however, did not prevent them from sending in highly colored accounts of the wreck and of the sensational assistance accorded her by the Virginia aeroplane—which were expanded in the city offices into the sensation of the day. Shayne of Aerostatic Power had violated the Craighead injunction in the Roe! Craighead, Carson and the Shaynes were together in a New Jersey village! Rumors and innuendos on "change and the curb! Extras and red type on yellow first pages!