

The Ring and the Man

WITH SOME INCIDENTAL RELATION TO THE WOMAN

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Brady

Illustrations by
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CHAPTER VI.

Gormly Announces His Candidacy.

The hall into which Miss Haldane stepped early the next morning had been transformed into a perfect bower of winter beauty. There had been no time to buy anything; but the most available pine trees on the place, of which there were several, had been ruthlessly sacrificed, and under Gormly's personal supervision the hall, a magnificent apartment under any circumstances, had been lavishly decorated with the fragrant evergreen in honor of Christmas.

The storm of the night had blown itself out with the advent of the day. It was a brilliant, sunny morning. The air was clear as a bell and very crisp and cold. Miss Haldane knew this; for, finding the hall deserted on her entrance, without more ado she went out through the vestibule and stepped on the porch, surveying the blue waters of the sound tossing gaily beyond the ice crust that lined the shore in front of her. The cold and brisk breeze brought a glorious touch of red to her cheeks. She incarnated the very spirit of youth and beauty and happiness as she re-entered the hall, and coming face to face with Gormly wished him again a Merry Christmas.

Gormly had been busy during the night. He actually had not slept a wink. So soon as he had got the party safely to bed, he had gone to the stable, and in default of anyone else who could do so, he had himself ridden across the country through the snow and storm, which was even then dying out, to notify the people at the Haldane place of the predicament of the family and to arrange that maids and men with proper clothing should be brought over to his own cottage early in the morning.

Hence Miss Haldane was under no necessity of appearing in evening costume at eight o'clock in the morning, or of making a guy of herself in Mrs. Bullen's extraordinary attire. She had learned, of course, from her maid how the news had been brought and how she happened to be there with the change of apparel.

Miss Haldane had not slept very well; for one reason her thoughts had dwelt unceasingly upon that strange conversation she had had with her host. She had awakened earlier than the rest, had dressed immediately, and had descended to the hall in hope of seeing him. Her pleasure and satisfaction sparkled in her eyes as she extended her hand.

"How delightfully Christmaslike is the room; how good it smells!" she said after the first words of greeting.

"I am glad indeed that it pleases you," answered Gormly, smiling. "And if you will permit me, I will repeat my words of last night, or early this morning, and wish you again a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as well."

"And I will give you back your wish with interest," returned Miss Haldane, "as I did last night. I am sure that we are all intensely grateful to you for your forethought in having the maids and clothes brought over. Felice, my maid, has told me that you rode over yourself very early this morning to carry the news of our plight, and to bring them. It must have been hard riding."

"It took me back to boyhood days, Miss Haldane."

"In the west?" asked the girl.

"Well, yes," was the somewhat reluctant answer, "although the greater part of my boyhood was not spent in the west."

"And this ride in the storm, was it like the other rides and storms you have experienced?"

"This was a very mild affair compared to those. I could wish it had been harder."

"Why?"

"This time I was riding for another woman, a different woman."

Miss Haldane rather thrilled to the direct statement; but womanlike she changed the subject. She was interested in Gormly, nothing else.

"Did you have this Christmas arrangement of pine made in the hall?" She asked irrelevantly.

"For you—and your party," interposed Gormly with a perceptible break after the pronoun so as to allow the fact to permeate thoroughly. "I wish," he added, "that circumstances permitted me to signalize the season by offering you an adequate Christmas present."

"I have, however, something that may possibly interest you, which I may venture to hope you may regard as a personal tribute from me in lieu of such a gift."

"And what is that?" asked Miss Haldane, her curiosity getting the better of her discretion.

"It is here!" said Gormly, extending to her a copy of The New York Planet of Christmas morning, which had been

brought over from the station by special messenger by his direction.

"The morning paper!" exclaimed the girl, with a laugh.

"Not so much the morning paper, interesting though it usually is, but something that appears therein."

"What is that?"

"Allow me."

He took the paper from her, opened it until he came to the advertising section, and then handed it back to her. In bold type covering a whole page she read the following:

"Mr. George Gormly offers himself to the people of New York as a candidate for the majority in the forthcoming election. Mr. George Gormly submits the following as his platform:

"Honest administration of the laws in the interest of the people; the preservation of all the rights and privileges of the people; the operation of the public franchises by the people, or if by corporations, the due safeguarding of the rights of the people; the abolition of graft; a non-partisan administration in which 'Honesty' and 'Honor' shall be the watchwords, which shall be conducted on business principles in the ancient and admirable acceptance of those words.

"Mr. George Gormly pledges his business and personal honor, which the people of New York who have dealt with him for a quarter of a century have had ample opportunity of testing, that, if elected, he will administer the affairs of the city honestly and with the same care and ability with which he has striven to carry on his own business to the satisfaction of the public. He would advise the voters, if they are in doubt as to what his business methods are, to refer to their mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters who have been patrons of his store.

"In the hope that better days are drawing for New York, Mr. George Gormly has the honor to wish his friends, and those whom he must to his great regret characterize as his enemies, a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year."

Eleanor Haldane read this extraordinary announcement aloud. Then she handed the paper back to him and extended her hand, joyfully exclaiming,

"It is perfectly splendid. It's the finest thing I have ever heard. Nothing could have delighted me more. I am so glad to see you irrevocably committed to the step! I am sure you will be elected, and—"

"What, my dear child," broke in the cold voice of Mrs. Haldane, who was just descending the stairs, "is giving you such joy, may I ask?"

"Mother," said the young woman, turning to her and lifting the paper from the table, "what do you think? Mr. Gormly has announced himself as candidate for mayor of New York at the spring election."

"Indeed," began Mrs. Haldane loftily, surveying Gormly through her lorgnette, "I am quite surprised."

"I think it's awfully jolly," broke in Miss Stewart, who had followed the elder woman into the hall. "I didn't know that gentlemen mingled in politics as a rule. I thought it was all reserved for the Schem society."

"What you don't know about the politics of New York would fill a large book, Miss Stewart," said Livingstone Haldane, who had entered the room with Dr. Deveaux at the same time.

"I am afraid it will be a sad day for the men," said the doctor, "when the women begin to take intelligent interest in men, not merely as men but as politicians."

"What has started the political discussion?" queried young Haldane.

"Mr. Gormly has," answered his sister. "He has announced himself as candidate for mayor of New York."

"And I said that I never knew that gentlemen went into politics," interposed Miss Stewart.

"They often enter," said the doctor, "as gentlemen; but infrequently leave with the same degree."

"That's right," answered Livingstone. "It is rather a nasty game to play."

"But don't you think," asked Gormly, "that if a few more gentlemen would play it, it would become a cleaner game?"

"Of course, it would," assented the vivacious Miss Stewart. "Mr. Haldane, why don't you enter it yourself?"

"By Jove!" exclaimed the young man, "that wouldn't be a half bad idea, would it, sis? Father's always talking to me about a career and all that. I wonder why that wouldn't be a good game?"

"It's expensive enough as a pastime," said Dr. Deveaux, "to rank with horse racing and automobiling and other pleasant enjoyments of the harmless rich."

"I should not think," said Mrs. Haldane ponderously, "of allowing my son to—associate himself with—"

"Mother," cried her daughter, "you forget that Mr. Gormly—"

"Quite so, quite so," said the lady vaguely; "but for persons in—er—trade."

"Yes," said Dr. Deveaux, "politics as a rule is made up of barter and sale, I believe."

"If that's the case," interposed young Haldane facetiously, "I'll get father to buy me the office, and—"

His sister turned on him contemptuously. "Livingstone," she said, "this is a serious matter. The people of New York have been robbed right and left in every way. Everybody knows that. We have the worst administration that has ever disgraced the city. Mr. Gormly, for the sake of the people, is going to try to make things different."

"They all say that," laughed Livingstone. "I don't mean anything personal of course, Mr. Gormly."

"Say whatever you like, Mr. Haldane," returned Gormly composedly,

"I expected that the notice would cause discussion; indeed I wrote it for that purpose. And while much that you have said, Dr. Deveaux, about politicians and the political situation is generally true, I wish to assure you that I reserve barter and trade for my business, and if I cannot be elected by the votes of the people on a plain, straightforward issue such as I present, then I shall cheerfully devote the rest of my life to minding my own business."

"The man who minds his own business," said Haldane the elder, who had entered unobserved by the rest of the group, and had listened long enough to catch the drift of the conversation, "as a rule is not cut out for a politician. The chief function of the politician is to attend to the business of other people, and the successful politician is the one who can first of all persuade the people that their business needs attention; and secondly, that no one can give it such attention as he himself; that he is the one indispensable man."

"I do not assume to be the only man who can give New York a business administration; who can stop graft and abuse; who can safeguard the rights of the people; who can stand for justice and equal opportunity, the administration of the law, and the abolition of privilege. There are doubtless thousands of men who could be trusted to do those things, or at least to make a brave attempt in that direction; but none of them has come forward with an offer to do so."

"You are fully committed to the enterprise, I see, Mr. Gormly," said Haldane gravely.

"Absolutely."

"Well, I supposed as much after our conversation last night. Nothing can alter your resolution."

"Nothing; at least nothing that is likely to be offered."

"Eleanor," said Haldane—at which Mr. Gormly started violently, the word came in so pat,—"what do you think of this scheme?"

"Father, I think it is splendid, glorious! Mr. Gormly told me of his intention last night, as he seems to have told you. I have always said that the man who does something in a large way for his fellow men is after all fulfilling more nearly than any other the highest obligations and privileges of his manhood."

"My dear child," said Mrs. Haldane disapprovingly, "are you intending to enter the political field?"

"Not on the same terms as Louise; but so far as wishing Mr. Gormly success in his enterprise, I am fully committed thereto."

"If you wish to gain your sister's good opinion, Mr. Haldane," said Miss Stewart. "I see that you will have to do something."

"Would that also gain yours?"

"It is very doubtful," was the reply. "You see I haven't that innate predisposition to like you which would naturally be a family characteristic."

"Jesting aside, Mr. Gormly," said Haldane, "I suppose that you realize the tremendous nature of the undertaking you have set to yourself, if you are in earnest."

"I never was more in earnest in my life. I think I realize perfectly."

"Every vested influence, every political influence, will be against you."

"Certainly."

"And what will be for you?"

"I shall be," said Miss Haldane impulsively.

Gormly bowed. "With you and right on my side, Miss Haldane," he said on ungracefully, "I am sure of a majority."

"Don't delude yourself," continued the older man gravely, "with the belief that because your gallant, if somewhat quixotic, declaration wins the support of a certain section of the community, which like my daughter here, is made up more or less of dreamers and theorists, that you are thereby making possible the achievement of your desire."

"I think," returned Gormly, "that all my life I have been something of a dreamer." When I was a young clerk in an obscure store on the east side, I dreamed of that Broadway building, and the dream has come true.

"And I dream dreams of a regenerated New York as well," continued Gormly swiftly. There is one power which is above every other force or organization in communities like ours, if it can only be awakened to its responsibilities and made to feel its force; and that power—"

He stopped and looked smilingly at the elder woman.

"Is the people," cried her daughter with enthusiasm. "And that power I am sure you are going to have."

She stretched out her hand to him impulsively. Gormly took it, bowed over it, all but kissed it.

"I am going to try for it, at least," he said smiling gratefully at her.

"Sir," said the quiet voice of the butler at this moment, "breakfast is served."

"We will breakfast with you, Mr. Gormly," said Haldane, "on condition that you will take your Christmas dinner with us." He spoke with the utmost geniality and cordiality, in a manner so foreign to his usual bearing that his son and his wife looked at him with amazement. "I am sure," continued the older man, "that my wife joins me most heartily in this invitation. My dear—"

His voice took a slight touch of sharpness, scarcely perceptible, but quite sufficient to awaken the astonished Mrs. Haldane to action.

"Quite so," she said vaguely, not in the least understanding why the sacred portals of the Haldane home should be opened to this upstart outsider. She did not know that Hal-

dane intended to fight this man to the bitter end, and as a preliminary thereto he felt it advisable for many reasons to invite him to dinner—such are the conditions of modern war! "We should be charmed, I am sure, if Mr. Gormly would honor us," she continued, as she accompanied him toward the breakfast room.

But Gormly, though he saw an interested second to the invitation in Miss Haldane's glance, was wise enough to decline. He preferred to be in the position of one who confers favors rather than receives them at this stage of the game.

To be continued

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An especially medicated preparation for corn huskers hands.

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Druggists and Expert Pill Mixers

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POSITIVE PROOF.

Should Convince the Greatest Skeptic in Plattsmouth.

Because it's the evidence of a Plattsmouth citizen.

Testimony easily investigated.

The strongest endorsement of merit.

The best proof. Read it:

J. W. Hickson, Oak street, Plattsmouth, Nebraska, says: "I will never cease to praise Doan's Kidney Pills, as they proved of such great benefit to me several years ago. For some time I was caused much suffering by attacks of lumbago that came on without the least warning. The simplest movement was painful and I was also annoyed by irregular passages of the kidney secretions. I read so much about Doan's Kidney Pills that I finally procured a box from Gering & Co's drug store. I was so gratified with the results of their use that I publicly recommended them in 1906 and at this time, I willingly verify that statement. I hope that other kidney sufferers will profit by my experience."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

Notice to Hog Breeders.

In regard to the many inquiries about the O. I. C. (white) boar I recently purchased from Ohio, I wish to say that this hog was two years old August 27, 1910, breeding weight 600 pounds; guaranteed to weigh 1,000 to 1,200 fattened. Also have one April boar same stock, not related, weight 175. Service fee for either \$3.00 to insure little.

Frank L. Rhoden, Murray, Neb.

For Sale!

A number of Duroc boars with pedigree. L. H. Oldham.

EVERY MONDAY

at the C., B. & Q. Freight Depot. The highest market price paid. Bring in your poultry.

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JOHNSTONE DIES FROM LONG FALL

Holder of World's Altitude Record Crushed by 500 Feet Drop.

SPECTACULAR DIP IS FATAL

All Bones Reported Broken, Though Aviator's Body Is Not Badly Mangled by Accident—Aeroplane Turns Over Three Times During Plunge.

Denver, Nov. 18.—Ralph Johnstone, holder of the world's altitude record for aeroplanes, fell 500 feet while attempting a spectacular dip and was instantly killed. Apparently every bone in his body was broken, though his body was not badly mangled.

When the fatal dip started the crowd began cheering, not realizing that Johnstone had dipped too far until the aircraft had turned completely over three times and plunged toward the earth. Some say Johnstone merely dipped too far, while others claim that the frame broke under the terrific strain.

Johnstone struck the ground with his machine between two trees about 150 yards from the aviation grand stand.

Scarcely had Johnstone hit the ground before morbid men and women swarmed over the wreckage fighting with each other for souvenirs.

The dead aviator was born in Kansas City thirty years ago. His parents are dead. An invalid sister, Miss May Johnstone, lives in Moberly, Mo. Johnstone's wife and two children, a boy and a girl, are in New York.

Johnstone was a trick cyclist before he became an aviator. He traveled extensively abroad, giving exhibitions on his bicycle. He met in Berlin the girl who later became his wife.

Six months ago Johnstone, through Roy Knabenshue, secured an engagement with the Wright brothers. They liked his work and a few weeks ago he signed a contract extending until Jan. 5, 1912.

Johnstone had the greatest confidence in his ability to keep the world's record for height. He said while here that if anyone broke the world's record, which he held at the time of his death, he would go even higher.

DOUBLE TRAGEDY IN WOODS

Hunter Accidentally Kills Cousin, Then Commits Suicide.

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Nov. 18.—True Smith, twenty-two years old, was found in the woods near here, dead from a self-inflicted wound. Nearby his cousin, Samuel, fifteen years of age, lay dying, having been shot. Circumstances indicate that Smith mistook his cousin for a deer and after realizing his mistake, took his own life.

Farmer Hauls Hog in Auto.

Creston, Ia., Nov. 18.—John Brooks, a well known farmer of Center township, near Glenwood, recently carried home from a sale a fine pedigree hog in his automobile, much to the amusement of his friends, who have not yet become accustomed to the innovation, despite the commonness of cars in that vicinity.

DROUGHT HELPS WHEAT

Final Tone, However, Is Weak, Owing to Profit Taking.

Chicago, Nov. 17.—Drought in the Canadian Northwest helped put up the price of wheat here today. It was also asserted that more rain was needed in Argentina. The market closed with a net gain of $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢, but profit-taking made the final tone weak. Corn finished $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢ lower than last night and oats off $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. There was a turn in provisions varying from 10¢ advance to an equal decline. Close:

Wheat—Dec., 99 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢@99 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; May, 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. Corn—Dec., 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; May, 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. Oats—Dec., 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; May, 34¢. Pork—Jan., \$17.37 $\frac{1}{2}$; May, \$16.25. Lard—Jan., \$10.07 $\frac{1}{2}$; May, \$9.65. Ribs—Jan., \$9.20; May, \$8.95.

Omaha Cash Prices.

Omaha, Nov. 17.—Wheat— $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢ lower; No. 2 hard, 89 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢@92¢; No. 3 hard, 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢@90 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. Corn—No. 2 white, 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢@46¢; No. 2 yellow, 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢@47¢; No. 2, 45 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢@46¢; No. 3, 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢@45¢. Oats—2@3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ lower; No. 3 white, 30@30 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; No. 3 yellow, 30@30 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

Chicago Live Stock.

Chicago, Nov. 17.—Cattle—Receipts, 6,000; steady; beefs, \$4.40@7.40; western steers, \$4.10@6.10; stockers and feeders, \$3.30@5.60; cows and heifers, \$2.20@6.20; calves, \$7.50@10.00. Hogs—Receipts, 20,000; steady; light, \$7.05@7.50; mixed, \$7.20@7.60; heavy, \$7.10@7.65; rough, \$7.10@7.30; pigs, \$6.75@7.50; bulk of sales \$7.40@7.50. Sheep—Receipts, 15,000; weak; natives, \$2.25@4.05; westerns, \$2.50@4.10; yearlings, \$4.00@5.25; lambs, \$4.25@6.15.

South Omaha Live Stock.

South Omaha, Nov. 17.—Cattle—Receipts, 4,800; 10¢ lower; beef steers \$4@6.75; cows and heifers, \$2.50@4.90; 6.75; cows and heifers, \$2.50@4.90; stockers and feeders, \$3.00@5.25; veal calves, \$3.25@7.25. Hogs—Receipts, 5,600; 5¢ higher; heavy, \$7.30@7.40; mixed, \$7.45@7.55; light, \$7.50@7.70. Sheep—Receipts, 9,500; fat lambs, \$5.65@5.75; ewes, \$2.75@3.00; wethers, \$3.25@3.50.

Cafes' Not Saloons.

New York, Nov. 18.—"Saloon" has gone out of existence in Jersey City. By edict of the Hudson County Liquor Dealers' association it became known that the word "cafe" is hereafter to be substituted. Further yet, the bartender has been done away with, now being known officially as a "server."

MAYORS AT MUNICIPAL MEET

Hastings and Grand Island Executives Express Views on Public Questions.

Lincoln, Nov. 18.—Legislation wanted by the cities of the state was discussed at the meeting of the Municipalities league. Mayor Miles of Hastings made a short talk, in which he presented a few changes he desired to see made in the city charters. He was followed by Robert P. Starr, E. P. Clements and C. P. Anderbury.

Mayor Miles first attacked the water regulations which have been framed by the state legislature. His next contention was that in the laying of sewers and paving, the abutting property should be assessed by the lineal foot instead of by the benefit derived, as is now the case.

In cities of the second class, in which are such cities as Hastings, Fremont and Grand Island, there is at present only one registration required of the voters. A man may move from one town after registration and after some years return and claim his vote. Mr. Miles is of the opinion that the law should require either one registration every year or none whatever. Following this talk there was a general discussion, in which all delegates joined.

Mayor Henry Schuff of Grand Island delivered an address.

Of the twenty-eight cities belonging to the league, twenty-seven have sent representatives to the meeting. The attendance exclusive of Lincoln is now fifty-two.

POSSE IN PURSUIT OF BANK ROBBERS

Secure \$3,000 at Cushing and Escape With Stolen Team.

St. Paul, Neb., Nov. 18.—The cafe in the bank at Cushing was blown up and robbed at 3 a. m. The people were awakened by a quick roar of an explosion and saw two men hurrying away from the bank building. The robbers seized a team and struck out in an easterly direction. Sheriff Sutton of Greeley and Sheriff Higley of Howard, with a posse of men, are following them up as rapidly as they can.

The burglars managed to get all the cash in the vault with the exception of a little small change, about \$3,000 in all, but left all papers untouched. Nitroglycerine is supposed to have been used, as the vault doors were torn entirely off and the interior of the building is demolished. The burglars had secured tools for their work by breaking into the adjoining blacksmith shop. The Cushing State bank is owned by local capitalists, and this incident will not interrupt its business. Burglary insurance was carried in the amount of \$25,000.

The robbers were trailed to a point on the Loup river near Fullerton, where all trace was suddenly lost.

MULLEN TO STIR THINGS UP

Decides to File Suit Against Corporations While He Is in Office.

Lincoln, Nov. 18.—Though he will be in office not more than six weeks, Arthur Mullen, recently appointed attorney general, is preparing for a very busy time. One of the first numbers on his program is to go after those corporations which have failed to file a report with the legal department of the state annually, as required by the Junkin anti-trust law.

Corporations which fail to comply with the statutes by not filing their annual reports or statements with the legal department may be ousted from the state and refused permission to do business here, by a proceeding