The Ring and the Man

WITH SOME INCIDENTAL RELATION TO THE WOMAN

By Cyrus Townsend Brady

Illustrations by Dearborn Melvill

BOOK II.—THE BATTLE FOR FREEDOM.

CHAPTER VII.

The Outs Would Fain Take a Hand.

The political declaration of Gormly was the sensation of the hour; the sensation of many hours, in fact. It came at exactly the right time. The non-church going section of New York, from which the larger part of politics was unfortunately recruited—the truly good Christian being a man who leaves the doing of such duties to his ungodly neighbor as a rule!—had abundant leisure to read the papers on Christmas morning; and every paper in the city contained that same announcement which Miss Haldane and the party at the cottage had read in The Planet.

Every paper contained also editorial comment then and thereafter. The administration papers ridiculed the proposition, endeavored to laugh it out of court. Other men possibly as high in character had announced themselves from time to time with similar platforms. Their announcements had created mild sensations, their campaigns had sometimes created more sensations; but the results had invariably been defeat.

So the administration papers sought to whistle the new candidate down the wind of their disdain. Nevertheless, since George Gormly's money was as good as anybody else's in New York, they kept on printing his communications, in which his advertisements were alternated with his political manifestos.

The anti-administration papers, and those which strove so far as newspapers could to take a dispassionate view of the situation, were unanimous in their approval of Gormly's candidacy. They declared that his election would be the best thing that could happen for New York; they were also practically unanimous in their hopelessness of his success.

Gormly had carefully studied the situation. He was not disappointed in the least degree—and he realized that while such a proclamation as he had made would inevitably cause a tremendous discussion, it would have to be followed up by work, if it was to be more effective than a flash in the pan. He had learned that organization was the keynote of success, as overorganization was its death knell. He knew that the arrangement which secured all general principles, leaving the utmost liberty in details, was the one which was in the end bound to succeed, provided the factors upon whom dependence was to be placed were in any degree worthy of their responsibilities.

He was also aware that the native intelligence of the community, even allowing for the vast number of ignorant foreigners who were allowed without let or hindrance to fill the city, was very high. The first requisite for successful campaigning, therefore, he decided to be education. Knowledge, as of old, is still power.

The ideal method of enlightening the people to the seriousness of the situation and of convincing them of their ability to amend it was by word of mouth. Gormly had never been a public speaker. Fortunately he had plenty of self confidence, and he was quite capable of presenting a situation in a simple, businesslike, way, so clearly that even the ignorant could comprehend it. A few months only would elapse before the spring elections that would determine the issue. No matter how assiduously he campaigned, he could reach only a portion of the vast conglomeration that made up political New York. It would be necessary for him, therefore, to keep telling the same story in the different papers of the city to reach those who did not hear his voice, and to drive home in the minds of those who had heard what they had listened to.

He was prepared to spend his money as well as himself for this end.

Watson, one of the assistant general managers of his great institution, a tyro like Gormly in politics, but a man of great ability and acumen, he made manager of his campaign. The party out of power through its leaders declared that it intended to make him its candidate; other smaller parties proposed to fall in line. It was pointed out by those interested that indorsement by these organizations would provide Gormly with an organization and be of immense benefit in taking off his hands the details and minutiae of political campaigning, about which he was supposed to know nothing; that it would at once provide him with a respectable following, and, as they claimed, lend dignity to his position. The purpose of this political party, whose influence was considerable and whose ramifications were many, whose leaders were men of experience, was of course thoroughly well-known.

The conference between these leaders and Gormly was short, sharp, and decisive. It took place in his own business office. The deputation was

Poole Was the Natural Spokesman.

made up of a banker named Poole, who had a certain prominence in municipal affairs through his connection with the national committee of the party to which he belonged, who was a brilliant financier, a liberal giver, and a valuable member of the opposition; Benson the real leader of the party, the political boss so far as the outs had anything to boss; and Fitchett, an attorney as bright as he was unprincipled, who aspired to political preferment himeself. The trio met Gormly in his business office.

Poole was the natural spokesman. "We are," began Poole impressively, "a committee, I might say a deputation, from the board of management of our political organization, who have been appointed to—ah—interview you about the mayoralty situation."

"We have," continued Poole with lofty dignity, "of course observed your announcement of your candidacy in the daily papers." Gormly bowed. "We have been struck with your peculiar availability for the office. Your large business interests, the fact that you are so well known to the people of New York, your undoubted probity, the evidence of good management and ability which we see around us, and—er——"

"And in short, we have come here to proffer you our support, and to say to you that our convention which is to be held next week will undoubtedly make you our candidate, and indorse your platform. And in fine we want you to lead us."

"Your convention is composed of deputies from all the voting precincts of the city, is it not, who are elected at regularly called primaries?'

"Certainly," was the answer.

"Well, how can you three gentlemen, or your central committee—which has how many members?"

"A hundred," replied Fitchett.

"Exactly, a hundred. How then can you three gentlemen, or even the whole hundred of you, forecast the action of your convention which has not yet assembled?"

"It's easy to see, Mr. Gormly," said Benson half pityingly, ":that you don't know anything about practical politics. The committee of a hundred will carry out the will of the party because the will of the party will be the will of the committee of a hundred; and the committee of a hundred will carry out the will of this committee visiting you, because the will of this committee is the will of the committee of a hundred. If I say—I mean if we say—that our party wants you for mayor, you can bet your last dollar that you're the man it wants. See?"

"I see," said Gormly. "In that case why have any convention at all! Why have any committee of a hundred? Why have anybody but you, Mr. Benson," he stopped long enough to make the pause appreciable, "and your coadjutors? Why have any people, as a matter of fact? Why don't you and Mr. Liffey, who I believe holds a somewhat analogous position to yours in the other party, get together with two able coadjutors like those you have brought and settle the question what the people are going to have?"

"Well, Mr. Gormly, since you put it that way," said Benson coolly, "if I was a little stronger than I am, if this city wasn't so hopelessly in Charley Liffey's grasp, that's about what we'd do. Now, we think that you've got certain elements of strength with the people that'll sort of balance things. I don't know whether you can be elected or not. I'm speakin' frankly now, gentlemen, and as a practical politician; but I believe you're more apt to be elected than anybody else, if we can get a fair count, or count the ballots ourselves, which is more or less doubtful with Liffey in power, and therefore we want you for our candidate, because we think we can win.

"And therefore we offer you our assistance."

"I accept your offer, as I cannot permit myself to be allied with any political party, or to be known specifically as the nominee of that party."

"Mr. Gormly," said Benson after a long pause, "what's to prevent us from nominatin' you anyway, and makin' you the nominee of our party."

"Nothing that I know of can prevent your doing such a thing; but nothing can force me to accept your nomination.

"But Mr. Gormly——" began the banker.

"Mr. Poole, excuse me; it is quite useless to talk to me any more on this line. My mind is made up, and nothing you can say, or anyone can say, will change it."

"Mr. Gormly," said Benson, rising, contempt and resentment striving for the mastery of his voice, "in some ways you're a mighty smart man. You have begun this movement brilliantly, but the position you're takin' now makes me regard you as, you'll forgive the language, a damned fool!"

"Mr. Benson," said Gormly, "thank you for your compliment. Your opinion does me honor, at least the last part of it. Let me say that I have been considered by politicians of your stamp as damned fools who have done the good work of the world. Mr. Poole, Mr. Fitchett, I wish you good afternoon."

The disgusted delegation tramped out. The three men had to run the gauntlet of reporters outside the business office. They communicated nothing whatsoever of the results of their interview to these assiduous young men.

Gormly, however, was more amenable to their appeals for an interview. One resolution Gormly had taken; to give the people the fullest information all the time about what he proposed. He was willing to discuss any public question at any time with anyone, and he had no objections to his opinions being quoted.

"Gentlemen," said Gormly to the group of newspaper men, "as has already appeared in the press of the city, these gentlemen who have just left came to offer me the nomination of the minority party for the office for which I have proposed myself. I thanked them for the honor that they had done me; I declared that I should appreciate the individual votes of any members of that or any other party at election time; but I refused positively to allow myself to be tied up to any party, to be allied with any party, to be the candidate of any party. I intend to make this canvass as an absolute independent."

"Isn't Mr. Poole a stockholder in the Gotham Freight Traction company?" asked one of the reporters.

"I know nothing whatever about Mr. Poole's financial undertakings."

"Doesn't Lawyer Fitchett desire to run for district attorney?" asked another.

"I am not informed as to the political ambitions of Mr. Fitchett."

"What did Bill Benson say to you?" asked a third.

"As a practical politician of large experience, he ventured to give me some advice upon the conduct of my campaign."

"Did you take it?" asked another amid the roar of laughter which greeted this reply.

"I am sorry to say that the cogency of his arguments and the force of his representations did not appeal to me as he expected. My methods are so different from those he advocated that it is hardly possible to harmonize our views or practises."

"I think that will be all this afternoon, gentlemen," said Gormly, rising to signify that the interview was over.

To be continued

REPORT OF THE CONDITION of the

BANK OF MURDOCK

CHARTER NO. 678

Of Murdock, Neb., Incorporated in the State of Nebraska at the close of business November 10, 1910.

RESOURCES

Loans and discounts		$ 90,475 46
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured.		428 41
Banking house, furniture and fixtures		4,000 00
Current expenses and taxes paid		7,601 17
Cash items		121 95
Due from nat'l, state and private banks		15,384 80
Checks and items of exchange	$ 242 80	
Currency	2,930 00	
Gold coin	145 00	
Silver, nickels and cents.	598 46	3,916 26
Total		$121,928 05

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in		$15,000 00
Undivided profits		7,910 75
Individual deposits subject to check	$40,141 72	
Time certificates of deposits	41,197 65	
Cashier's checks outstanding	1,748 51	
Due to national, state and private banks	5,929 42	—89,017 30
Bills payable		10,000 00
Total		$121,928 05

STATE OF NEBRASKA } ss
Cass County }

I, Henry A. Tool, vice-president of the above named bank, do hereby swear that the above statement is a correct and true copy of the report made to the State Banking Board.

HENRY A. TOOL, Vice-President.

Attest,
F. Wolf, director,
H. A. Guthmann, director,

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of November, 1910. H. A. GAST, Justice of the Peace

FRANK BOYD SECURES CONTRACT FOR BUILDING

The committee on building had a session last evening and considered the bids of five local contractors for the erection of the new factory building to be occupied by the gas engine manufacturing plant as soon as erected.

Those making bids on the work were Frank Boyd, H. C. McMaken & Son, G. L. Larson, Emil Walters and Tom Isner. Mr. Boyd being the low man in his estimate, the contract was awarded to him for the building complete, including excavation for foundation.

Mr. Boyd has sublet the contract for the grading or excavating to Walter Scott, who has commenced the work today. The work of grading the lot for the building will occupy two days, approximately, after which the work on the building will be pushed right along.

The material for the building will be purchased from Mr. Mockenhaupt, the home manufacturer, and all of the labor will be done by Plattsmouth mechanics, and the work is to hum from the start to the completion of the building. The contractor states that he will break the record for time in erecting the building, and will have it enclosed in the shortest time possible. Mr. Boyd is a mechanic of much experience and the building committee has made no mistake in letting him have the contract. The plan of allowing none but Plattsmouth skill and brawn to work on the building is certainly commendable, and will be appreciated by the mechanics of the city. The committee are certainly entitled to commendation for action in this regard.

Janda Farm Is Sold.

The enterprising real estate firm of Smith & Trility have just closed a deal for John Janda whereby he disposes of his farm west of the city. There are fifty-seven acres in the tract, and Mr. Janda will realize the neat sum of $5,000 for the same. An Iowa party is the purchaser.

H. Tams, the Burlington carpenter, yesterday was busy with repair work at the station in this city.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION

—OF THE—

Union State Bank

of Murdock, Nebraska

Charter No. 855

Incorporated in the State of Nebraska, at the close of business, November 10th, 1910.

RESOURCES

Loans and discounts		$ 15 501 05
Due from national, state and private banks		929 42
Currency	$400 00	
Gold coin	6 20	406 20
Total		$16 836 67

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in		$ 10 000 00
Surplus fund		1 100 00
Undivided profits		4 79
Individual deposits subject to check	$ 3 045 87	
Time certificates of deposit	2 686 01	5 731 88
Total		$16 836 67

STATE OF NEBRASKA, } ss
COUNTY OF CASS, } I, H. A. Guthmann, cashier of the above named bank, do hereby swear that the above statement is a correct and true copy of the report made to the State Banking Board. H. A. GUTHMANN, Cashier.

Attest:
HENRY A. TOOL, Director.
J. E. GUTHMANN, Director.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of November, 1910. H. A. GAST, Justice of the Peace.

SANTA CLAUS' ADVANCE AGENT ARRIVES IN PLATTSMOUTH

Evidences are Many That the Veteran Actor Will Fill the Greatest Engagement of His Career.

Christmas advance agents are here. Santa Claus has one of the largest exploitation bureaus in the world. He spends a lot of wit and money on advance men and his appreciation of the value of publicity outdoes a Bernhardt any time he decides to make an appearance in his Christmas show.

Every year the genius of the Old World and the New is given carte blanche in the planning and excution of the Christmas play. We marvel at the stage properties he uses and their number would tax the memory and energy of any property man of years' experience. His program is not long, but the cast is stupendous, containing, perhaps the greatest number of juveniles ever known to appear at one time.

This far ahead of his performance, a trifle less than six weeks, his advance agent has appeared in Plattsmouth. Never before in the history of this city has the forerunner of a show promised so much. In every shop window in town many be seen representations of his repertoire and also his advertising mediums.

A Menagerie, Too.

Animals from the jungle and varieties quite unknown in these parts are representing the old man. "Oh, you billy goat!" is also here. The latest of inventions are not absent. Airships and motor cars and tricycles with express trains may be seen. The juveniles are well exploited, too, by the Doll family of every nationality.

Advance information meets one at every turn. In the jewelers' windows, for instance, where new uses of silver are shown in a lovely centerpiece of five brass vases, held together by chains. This silver seems to have an especial Christmas polish, and the Empire baskets of plated gold are perfectly alluring.

Ribbons are always in the van of the advance man's Santa Claus stuff. Ribbon roses in bunches and clusters and wreaths, tiny ones on bows, garlands for the hair, bags of pompadour and plain satin, even muffs made of them and pincushions like little mattresses, boxes covered with them and bound with gold lace—everywhere a craze for ribbons. There is a gold ribbon band with zig-zag rows of pearls, this for the hair.

Pretty Appointments.

At another place are tapestry boxes with quaint minuet figures and trimmings of gold guimpe. At the same place a vanity in ivory is irresistible.

Exquisite laces drape the windows, and table linens are luxury itself. Dresden china in old and new form appears also. Furs, silk hosiery, pictures, household conveniences, exquisitely natural flowers made in France for the occasion, books, scarfs and other articles without number are all for the great performance of Santa Claus on Christmas day, the 25th of December, 1910.

There will be other notices of this spectacle, but there will never be enough space provided to relate all the details of the many acts included.

Comfort and pleasure will be assured those who arrive early.

Calls This His Home.

William Hayward, defeated republican candidate for congress in this district on the republican ticket, was in this city today and was inclined to be sarcastic regarding the report that had gained publicity among his best friends and supporters, that he was going or had moved away from here and that he was going to make Lincoln his home. He denied that he had or contemplated removing from this city. He said, "It was a great pipe dream you had regarding me moving to Lincoln. I have not, nor do I intend to move away from here and besides Lincoln is the last place on earth that I would move to to make my permanent home. Lincoln was my headquarters and I wanted to have my wife and son with me as much as possible so they come up there and stayed with me, but it is not their permanent home. Nebraska City is and always will be, my home."—Nebraska City News.

Knights and Ladies Meet.

The local council of Knights and Ladies of Security held an interesting session at their cozy lodge room in the Coates' block last evening. Considering the number of unusual attractions in the city during the past few days there was a fair attendance. Refreshments were served during the evening, and an impromptu program was given consisting of vocal and instrumental music and two excellent readings, one by Miss Mildred Cummins and the other by Miss Ellen Windham. The readings were of high merit and greatly enjoyed by those present. The Aeolean quartet had been invited to be present and favor the company with one of its rare selections, but was unavoidably absent, much to the regret of the council.