

The Ring and the Man

WITH SOME INCIDENTAL RELATION TO THE WOMAN

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CHAPTER VIII.

A Quiet Meeting of the Dictators. Early in the new year, at the instance of Haldane, a meeting of the inner circle of the governing body, popularly known as "The Ring," was called at his private residence on upper Fifth avenue, which he very unobtrusively reconquered for the occasion. The meeting was held late at night. The men summoned thereto came up town quietly and unostentatiously slipped into the house.

For many reasons Haldane's relation to the Sachem society was carefully concealed. He represented a distinct group of financiers and business interests whose relations with the party in power were most intimate. These relations in some instances were suspected, but their actuality had not been allowed to transpire. Haldane kept in constant touch with Liffey, the boss; but no one, save the inner circle, suspected that the two were hand in glove together.

Haldane did not often meet with anyone but Liffey. In this instance, however, he at least appreciated the gravity of the situation, and had directed Liffey to bring with him those whose advice would naturally be sought on such subjects as he desired to discuss. He had also assembled two of the directors of the Gotham Freight Traction company, to wit, Van Slyke and McDonald, men associated with him upon whose judgment and ability he could rely. In addition to them came Liffey, grand chief of the Sachem society and the acknowledged and undisputed boss of the party; Connell, the chief of police; Rutherford, the district attorney; Haberley, the street commissioner; and last and not least, Hon. Peter D. Warren, mayor of the city.

Liffey, as leader of the Great Sachem society, controlled the organization absolutely. The chief of police wielded the vast powers for graft of that remarkable organization. The district attorney, through whose hands all criminal prosecutions must pass, was the safety valve of both the Sachem society and that portion of the people to which it looked for support. The street commissioner, who had at his disposal more appointments than all the rest of the administration put together, used them primarily for the good of the party and after that for cleaning the streets.

The mayor, the ostensible head but really the servant of the quartet, was there because of his office, and he was in office because he could be controlled. From the point of view of the men present, he was the best mayor that New York had ever had. He was a man of some parts. He could make a brilliant speech, preside gracefully and with dignity at public meetings, and was altogether an admirable figure to head a great city in everything but morals.

Associated with these four intensely practical men and this plant, willing figurehead were the interests represented by the Gotham Freight Traction company, of which Haldane was in absolute control, although the presidency was vested in another man. The interests of Haldane and his associates were not confined to the Gotham Freight Traction company. They had their hands on every public franchise. Their private affairs, of course, were vast and multifarious; but with them we have nothing to do. Their alliance with the political party, for which they had paid and would continue to pay enormous sums, had brought them very material advantages in one form or another. All the trusts that make New Jersey their headquarters hardly equaled in wealth and control the organizations these men represented.

Haldane, from his one interview with Gormly, had an idea that in this instance the two forces to be dreaded by the ring were incarnated in Gormly and would rally about Gormly. Now, of course, everyone of those present had read Gormly's startling announcements of his candidacy. Most of them had read them with amusement; only the most president with any feeling of alarm, and even that feeling was not sufficiently deep to have awakened any special degree of anxiety. Yet the fact that each one had been summoned to Haldane's house, the politicians through Liffey and the financiers through Haldane himself, rather startled them.

The eight men assembled in the spacious library of the Fifth Avenue house. The curtains were discreetly drawn. The men had arrived singly and at different times. They were admitted by Haldane's confidential secretary in person. Cigars and liquors were provided, and the eight, from all sorts of differing social ranks, mingled freely together on terms of absolute equality.

The district attorney, for instance, was a graduate of Yale. Haldane himself had come from Harvard. The mayor was a product of Columbia.

Liffey had started in as a poor Irish immigrant. The chief of police had been a saloonkeeper and finally the colonel of a National Guard regiment. McDonald was a Scotsman whose shrewdness and ability had won him a high position among the financial magnates. Van Slyke belonged to an old Dutch family and had inherited a vast fortune, which his adroit management had tremendously increased. They represented American life with its opportunities and its possibilities.

"Gentlemen," began Haldane quietly. "I have called you here, as you have doubtless surmised, because of the announcement of the candidacy of George Gormly for mayor."

"Do you think it's of sufficient importance, Mr. Haldane, for such an



The Disgusted Delegation Tramped Out.

unusual conference as this is?" asked the boss.

"I certainly do, Liffey," was the reply.

"It isn't the first time," said Rutherford, a man of exceptional ability and great distinction of manner and bearing, "that some impracticable reformer has offered himself for popular suffrage on such a platform."

"But it is the first time in my recollection," returned Haldane, "that a man possessing the peculiar combination of business ability, unquestioned integrity, and unlimited money has put himself forward, and I beg to assure you that I consider him the most available man from the point of view of the opposition that has ever appeared on the political horizon."

"I don't care a cuss how available he is," said Liffey. "We can beat him, and we will. Of course, it'll take more money."

He looked significantly at the trio of financiers.

"The amount of money that it takes now," said McDonald grimly, "is something terrific."

"I should say so," added Van Slyke. "Well, you get what you bargain for, don't you?" returned the boss viciously. "You get a free hand to take it out of the people, don't you?"

"Gentlemen, gentlemen," said Haldane authoritatively, "I hardly think the discussion is taking a profitable turn. Doubtless, as Liffey says, we can beat him; certainly we must do so. Probably it will cost more money; that is, if in some way his candidacy cannot be headed off."

"You can set your mind at rest as to that, Liffey. He wouldn't tie to a man like you."

"Oh, I don't know. Pretty good men have found it to their interests to tie up with me, and they haven't lost anything by it. Have you, Mr. Haldane?"

Haldane locked his teeth. It was this sort of covert insult which was the necessary concomitant of his alliance with him, in his secret heart, he loathed. Again it was the district attorney who interposed.

"I take it that this is a conference," he said equably, "as to what we are to do, if anything, to head off this man. You don't think he can be bought off, Mr. Haldane?"

"I am sure he cannot be."

"Well, then, he'll have to be fought down," returned the other; "for it is evident that we cannot afford to have the workings of the Sachem society brought before the public. The thing to be done now is to get together, keep together, and beat Gormly."

"You think he's got a chance, do you?"

"More than a chance."

"But we control everything."

"Everything but Gormly, apparently," answered Van Slyke.

"Yes," said Rutherford, disregarding the last remark; "but you know, Liffey, our control rests largely upon the indifference of the people. If they get waked up, it would go like that."

He snapped his finger as he spoke, and no man contradicted him, for true it is that on the indifference of the many is founded the power of the one.

"We could still count the votes," said the chief of police uncertainly.

"Undoubtedly; but if there are enough people interested in the affair, the votes will be counted as cast."

"And we have the courts on our side," added Haberley.

"Yes, to a certain extent; but there are limits beyond which even our own judges could not go. Therefore, if Mr. Haldane's estimate of Gormly is correct, and for myself I am rather inclined to believe that it is, we are face to face with a terrific proposition."

"Well then," said Liffey, "I think the best thing to do, if you gents are all agreed that it's serious, is to pitch upon a candidate. We want to have a man that's entirely respectable, and yet who knows which side his bread's buttered on and who'll take care of the organization."

"I think," said Warren tentatively, "that I have earned another term. I certainly haven't failed in my duty."

"To the people?" asked Rutherford.

"To the organization," answered the mayor with dignity, "and my private character is all that could be desired."

Liffey snorted with disdain.

"My dear Mr. Warren, undoubtedly you are very available. Whether or not you are the most available is the question," interposed McDonald.

TOWN BUILDERS, BOOSTERS AND THOSE WHO DISTURB THE DEAD ONES

Suggestions That Will Prove Beneficial and at Least Furnish Much Food for Thought to the Readers of the Journal.

The following, taken from the fund. "Easton, Pa., tried it and landed a factory employing 2,000 men in only a few months. Manufacturers everywhere are looking for long time loans with which to extend their business and any town in the west can move prosperous, growing factories from the east if they can only supply long time loans in large amounts.

"Without calling it the Williamsport plan, Waterloo, in Iowa, has been at this kind of business for some time. Waterloo has a trust company in which most of the bankers are interested. This trust company loans money to Waterloo factories. Several high class gentlemen visit the village banks of Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois, offering to these banks the paper of Waterloo manufacturers in almost any sum, for any length of time desired and at attractive rates. As much as \$200,000 of Waterloo paper has been known to have been sold to the banks of one fat and sleek town. The banking capital of three states is thus back of the factories in Waterloo and such a thing as moving an automobile factory becomes easy. As compared to the plan of the Greater Des Moines committee it is payment in full with real gold instead of a promise of hot air.

"Town-builders, boosters and those who would disturb the dead ones generally should look into this Williamsport plan. It brings enormous factories to town, starts house building by the thousands and yet gives no one a bonus. In Williamsport the substantial well-to-do and successful business men subscribe to a fund which is used as the basis of credit for manufacturing enterprises. Each man assumes a liability up to the amount of his subscription and with the best men of a town thus back of the trust company the company can go to New York, Philadelphia or Boston and borrow money just as easily as can the Pennsylvania railroad, or it can sell its own securities locally. It loans money to new factories, \$100,000 at a time. The subscribers merely put up for losses if there are any. They are back of a guarantee

A SLIGHT SCRATCH RESULTS IN BLOOD POISON

Mrs. Christina Rummel, residing a few miles in the country, had the misfortune to get her thumb slightly scratched about a week ago which has since developed a rather serious case of blood poison. The accident occurred while Mrs. Rummel was about her household duties. At the time Mrs. Rummel had a couple of syrup pills in her hand and accidentally slipped, causing her to strike the hand in which the pills were held against the wall, inflicting a very slight cut, which did not bleed any at the time, and Mrs. Rummel thought nothing of the matter. On Sunday morning, when her thumb pained her and had begun to show infection, her son, Will, brought her to town to have Dr. Livingston examine the injured hand, and on advice of the physician, Mrs. Rummel remained in the city, where treatment could be frequently administered, going to the home of Mrs. Peter Munn, where she has been since last Sunday. Her condition has been quite serious for several days, but this morning the physician thought her condition improved somewhat.

Have Begun to Lay Brick.

Yesterday morning brick laying on the new gas engine factory was commenced, Mr. Emil Walters having the contract from Mr. Boyd for this portion of the building, and while only one or two masons worked yesterday, next week it is intended to work the force now on the postoffice building, as the contractor there is out of brick. With the force now at work and the masons to be placed on the job next week, the walls will go up pretty rapidly.

Mr. Scott is delivering the brick and sand to the site, and already has several thousand brick and many yards of sand on the ground. There is about 150,000 brick to lay, and each mason will lay from three to four thousand per day, so that if the weather is good, next week will see the brick work completed.

Poultry Wanted

Spring	8 1/2c
Hens	8 1/2c
Old Roosters	4
Stag Roosters	6 1/2
Ducks, fat	8
Geese, fat	8

Highest prices paid for all kinds of produce.

HATT PRODUCE CO.

Big Combination PUBLIC SALE

The undersigned will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at the Silas Long farm, three miles west and a quarter mile south of Mynard, or seven miles southwest of Plattsmouth, Nebraska, on

TUESDAY, NOV. 29

Commencing at 1:00 o'clock p. m.
Live Stock.

One sorrel mare, 11 years old, weight 1,350; one buckskin, 10 years years old, weight 1,350; one bay mare, 9 years old, weight 1,100; one bay horse, 12 years old, weight 1,200; one gray horse, 7 years old, weight 1,400; one bay horse, 6 years old, weight 1,350; one mare colt, 6 months old.

One Jersey cow, 5 years old, will soon be fresh; one Jersey cow, will be fresh January 1st.

Implements, Etc.
Two walking stirring plows, one 3-section harrow, one disc harrow, two combined walking listers, three walking cultivators, one St. Joe two-row machine, one Deering binder, two farm wagons, two top buggies, four sets of work harness, one set of light harness, one set of single harness, one wood heating stove, one five-gallon barrel churn.

Some household goods and numerous other articles.

Terms of Sale.
All sums of \$10 and under, cash; over \$10, a credit of twelve months will be given, purchaser giving good bankable paper bearing interest from date. All property must be settled for before being removed from the premises.

Geo. Gradoville,
W. A. Griffin,
Q. K. Parmele, Auct.
C. G. Fricke, Clerk.

Family Reunion.

Tom Svoboda, the accommodating and gentlemanly janitor of the court house and his estimable wife on Thanksgiving day gave a dinner, to which they invited the relatives of both. Turkey, duck and chicken, roasted to a beautiful brown, with oyster dressing and vegetables in profusion, were served. Deserts, pie, cakes and fruits followed and the table groaned with a load of delicately prepared dishes to tempt the palate. Those present to enjoy the feast were Thomas Janda and children, and sister, Miss Mary, from North Platte; John Svoboda, Jr., wife and children; John Svoboda, Sr.; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hiber, Mrs. Louis Janda, of Havelock, and J. W. Bookmeyer and wife.

Leaguers Hold Interesting Meeting.

The Epworth League held its annual Thanksgiving meeting last evening at the beautiful home of Mr. J. M. Leyda, with his daughter, Miss Ethel, as hostess. The program was in keeping with the season, and consisted of games, readings and music.

Miss Ellen Windham read a Thanksgiving poem and selections from James Whitcomb Riley. The attendance was all that could be desired and a most pleasant and profitable session was had.

Mrs. M. A. Gell Jones was a passenger for Omaha this afternoon to visit friends. Mrs. Jones gave the Journal a call while in Plattsmouth en route for Omaha, and paid for the daily for six months, which she will receive on route 1.