

# The Ring and the Man

WITH SOME INCIDENTAL RELATION TO THE WOMAN

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Illustrations by  
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## CHAPTER IX.

### The Plans of the Ring.

At this moment Haldane reentered the room. He looked gravely troubled.

"Gentlemen, it is past belief, but when I asked him whether he would accept the nomination or not, he said—"

Haldane paused. "He said he had already pledged his support to Gormly that afternoon at the intercession of—er—my daughter and some other friends."

"Well, I'm damned!" said the boss. "Are you going to stand for that?"

"I hardly see how I can prevent it," answered Haldane, very much perturbed, "unless I should disclose my own connection with the administration; which, I take it, is a thing to be avoided for all our sakes."

"Yes, unless we want to kill the cow we're milkin'," returned Liffey. "It is. But can't you put pressure on him?"

"To a certain extent, yes."

"Cut off his allowance."

"Unfortunately, he has sufficient money of his own from his grandfather's estate, to keep him from—er—want; and as he is quite of age, my influence must be a matter of persuasion."

"Gentlemen," said Rutherford, "this is a very serious indication of the gravity of the situation. If young men like Livingstone Haldane espouse the cause of George Gormly, it means that he'll have a following among that class that has tremendous weight."

"That class as a rule don't cut much of a figure in politics," said the street commissioner. "It's my white wings and Connell's gang and the society that does the work."

"Don't make any mistake," said Rutherford. "The class to which you refer, if it could be waked up, is capable of doing amazing work."

"If I know anything about it," said



"Turn Up Some Dirty Story About Him," said Liffey bluntly.

Van Slyke, "Gormly will wake them up too."

"I guess we'll have to fall back on Mr. Warren and his administration," said Haldane.

"Gentlemen," began Warren sententiously, "I shall always be glad to serve the people and—er—my friends and supporters in any office to which I may be chosen."

"We'll take care of that," interrupted Liffey contemptuously.

"In order to make it regular," said the district attorney, "I propose that we all declare here and now our preference for our candidate. I don't hesitate to say that I think Warren is the best man we can get. Ke know him; we know just exactly what we can expect from him. He is rather liked by the people, and his connection with this little ring here is not too obvious."

"I guess that suits me," returned Liffey.

Haberley and Connell agreed, and Van Slyke and his colleague also assented.

"Now," said Liffey, "I've got something else to propose. What do you think as to the likelihood of Gormly's getting in or acceptin' the nomination of the outs?"

"I think he could get it by turning over his hand," answered Haldane; "but I think it is extremely unlikely that he'll accept it. He told me that he intended to run as an absolute independent; not to be tied to any party whatsoever."

"They'll offer him the nomination sure," said Connell. "They ain't never had such a chance as he'll present since I've been chief of police, and that's nearly twenty years."

"Well, if he won't accept it, that'll make them all sore as the devil," said Haberley.

"Exactly," interposed Liffey, "and therefore I propose that we make a nonpartisan ticket to run against him:

... divide the offices between the ins and outs; reservin' to ourselves the most important and vital ones, of course, but givin' the outs enough to make 'em feel good, let 'em git their fingers into the public pie for a few pickins', and so on. We can easily do that without losin' too much, and we'll present a united front against him."

"A united front of all the grafters, thieves, blackguards, financiers, and politicians in New York!" sneered Rutherford.

"You don't like the scheme, Mr. Rutherford," roared Liffey angrily.

"Vastly. I think it's one of the best that could be proposed."

"As for myself," said Haldane, "I also think it has elements of attractiveness, although I must protest against being placed in the category you have enumerated, Mr. Rutherford."

"Oh, protest all you like," said the district attorney easily. "The suggestion is a good one, Liffey. It's not hard to see why you're in your present position. You have a level head. I think we are all agreed on what you suggest; eh, gentlemen?"

"Good!" said Haldane after the assents had been received. "It only remains then to make up the slate. Shall we do it now or later?"

"We might as well do our part of it now," said Liffey. "I'll see Benson tomorrow and put it up to him. He can give us his contributions to the list, and then we'll announce it."

"And our platform?" queried Rutherford.

"To stand on our record and point with pride, and say mighty little else," returned the boss concisely.

Rutherford laughed; so did the rest. It was so absurd and yet so exceedingly adroit.

"And I'll carry out my part of the game," said the chief of police.

"What part was that?" asked Haldane.

"While you were out," answered Rutherford, "our worthy censor of public morals, guardian of public interests, and enforcer of public law, suggested that it would be a good thing to employ the detective force of the city in looking out for the interests of the party by investigating the past, present, and future of Mr. Gormly. You see a reform candidate has got to be of blameless life. That's the reason we are none of us allied with that party, I take it. And if anything whatsoever can be found which tends to cast a cloud over the individual reformer, his cake's dough."

"I suggest," said Mr. Haldane, "that any information you may acquire should be submitted to those of us who are present before any use is made of it."

"Oh that, of course," said Liffey. "Chief, don't make any moves without submitting them to me."

"There is still another matter of interest to us all which must be settled," continued Haldane.

"What's that?"

"The old franchise of the New York Street Car company that expires this spring; the link that completes the circle of the Gotham Freight Traction company."

"Well, it doesn't seem to me that's a very difficult proposition," said Liffey. "We've got the board of aldermen, and the borough presidents as well. All we've got to do is to draw up an ordinance and shove it through. The mayor here'll sign it, and that'll be the end of it."

"It is by no means as easy as you think, Liffey," said Haldane. "If I know anything about Gormly he'll make a fight on that issue. That is our weak point. If we had that franchise safely passed and in our pockets, we could laugh at him. I don't know whether it would not be better to defer the passage of such an ordinance until after the election."

"I think that while there is much in what you say, Haldane," said Van Slyke, "yet we'd better make sure of the ordinance before the election. We would have that, anyway, even if we failed, which, as Mr. Liffey says, is hardly possible."

"Gentlemen," said Haldane, "I am by no means convinced of what you say. I tell you that the main fight will be on the disposal of that very franchise. I admit that we can pass anything in spite of any commotions, but the question is do we want it?"

"That's hardly the question," said McDonald. "Of course we want it; but the question is, is it the best thing to do. I think there is tremendous force in your arguments, Mr. Haldane. If we present ourselves with that franchise, which is so immensely valuable and vital indeed to the completion of our properties, as well as to the public, we shall certainly have given to the opposition the strongest ground for appeal to the people. If we do not present ourselves with the franchise, if we allow the election to determine that unofficially as it were, and then when we have won the election, we avail ourselves of our opportunities, we shall be in a much safer and better position."

"Do you wish to submit this franchise to the vote of the people, Mr. McDonald?" asked Rutherford.

"By no means," answered the financier.

"Well, what do you propose then?"

"This. Would it not be well, in case this movement grows strong enough to be worthy of the attention we are giving it, to declare as from the party in power that while we have the power to grant the franchise, and while we think it would be for the interests of the people that it should be granted, yet we are willing to defer action until after the election and let the election determine."

"That would be a wise course," said Haldane. "I don't know but that it is the wisest course; but we must face the alternative."

"What is that?"

"Defeat! If we made that proposition, and then were defeated, it would be impossible for us to secure the franchise. The stock of the Gotham Freight Traction company is \$250,000,000, and the bonds outstanding aggregate almost as much. If we don't have this franchise, they won't be worth ten cents on the dollar to us."

"How much actual money has been invested in the concern?" asked the district attorney.

"Two hundred and fifty millions from the people, and—very little else," answered Haldane.

"How much is it really worth?" queried Liffey.

"It's worth, of course, what was put into it."

"And what will its earning capacity be?"

"If we control it, it will pay a fair dividend on all the stock that has been put out, most of which is held by our friends and the friends of the organization," answered Van Slyke.

"The problem was a tremendous one. They faced it silently a moment or two, and at last Haldane restated it."

"You see, we can, if necessary, defy public opinion and jam through an ordinance at the last minute even if we are likely to lose the election, although by so doing we should give the enemy a tremendous advantage at the close of the campaign. Or we can defer the granting of the franchise until after the election, in the hope that the postponement will be our strongest card for winning. I tell you, gentlemen, that other interests of greater magnitude would be involved in the fate of the Gotham Freight Traction company."

"Why in the name of all that's businesslike didn't you get control of this franchise before?" asked Rutherford.

"We couldn't," Haldane replied. "It is impossible to get a renewal of a franchise until it expires."

"Why didn't you wait before committing yourselves to the greater enterprise until this franchise matured?"

"We couldn't. There were other interests anxious to build the subway and unite the various other franchises in one organization. The people were clamorous that the road should be built, and there was nothing else to do but build it. Besides, who could have foreseen this situation. No, gentlemen, we were helpless, and without this franchise we are more helpless."

"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 git 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 fall, 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 git in so they can git 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 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 got 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 nonpartisan 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, Haberley, and Connell will get their forces in line. And I think that's all."

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

"What else?"

"You'll git 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, 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.

To be Continued.

## BREACH OF PROMISE SUIT STIRS UP NEBRASKA CITY

A special from Nebraska City, under date of November 25, has the following to say in reference to a great sensation which has just been sprung in that city: Miss Lulu Lloyd, through her attorney, John C. Watson, has filed a suit against George W. Justice asking for \$25,000 damages for a breach of promise. The plaintiff is one of the best known young women in this city and the daughter of the late L. W. Lloyd, one of the pioneer merchants of this city. The defendant is a wealthy bachelor and a retired farmer and about 50 years of age. He lives in town with his maiden sister and is secretary of the Otoe County Corn show. Both were born and reared in this vicinity and are prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and active workers. The suit was a surprise. In her petition Miss Lloyd states that on June 11, 1910, the defendant promised to marry her and a reasonable time has elapsed and he has failed to comply with his promise, and she feels humiliated and aggrieved.

## Celebrates 75th Birthday.

Last Sunday was the 75th birthday of Mr. George Shoeman, of this city, and the event was celebrated in royal style by having a family reunion of the children and grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Shoeman at their residence in this city. A sumptuous dinner was prepared by Mrs. Shoeman and a long table set and spread with snowy linen, which fairly groaned under its weight of palatable dishes which the hostess had prepared.

Those present to partake of Mr. and Mrs. Shoeman's hospitality were: John Shoeman and wife and children, Fred Krecklow, wife and children; William Hoover and wife and two children; W. A. Melsinger and wife and two children, John Leuchtweils and wife and four children, Mrs. John Cleveland, and Miss Frances Leuchtweils, both of Omaha.

## Miss Edith Martin Weds.

A marriage license was issued this morning by the county judge permitting the marriage of Mr. Mathew F. Morton and Miss Clara Edith Martin. The wedding occurred this afternoon at 2:30 at the residence of the bride's parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Martin, on North Sixth street. The Journal hopes to have an account of the wedding for tomorrow's issue.

## Poultry Wanted

Spring ..... 8 1/2 c  
Hens ..... 8 1/2 c  
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.

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### What is CASTORIA

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### BEE RAISING AND HONEY PRODUCTION PROVES PROFITABLE

### Some Valuable Information in Regard to a Good Money Making Industry That is Rapidly Growing.

Since the culture of alfalfa and clover has become quite extensive in eastern Nebraska, especially the former, which is cut and blooms three or four times a year, thus furnishing material for the best quality of honey in large quantities.

A few men in the community have recognized the opportunity for making money from this source and have already started a large number of hives of bees which are doing well.

Mr. E. F. Phillips, who has charge of the bureau of entomology at Washington, in discussing the subject says that the annual production of honey and wax in the United States makes apiculture a profitable minor industry. He estimates the average annual yield per colony for the country, under good management at from 25 to 30 pounds of comb honey, or from 40 to 50 pounds of extracted honey.

The money return to be obtained from the crop depends on the market and method of selling the honey. If sold direct to the consumer, extracted honey brings from 15 to 20 cents per pound and comb honey from 15 to 25 cents per pound.

### THEY ALL DEMAND IT

### Plattsmouth, Like Every City and Town in the Union, Receives It.

cured. When one suffers the tortures of an aching back, relief is eagerly sought for. There are many remedies today that relieve but do not cure. Here is evidence to prove that Doan's Kidney Pills cure, and the cure is lasting:

Frank S. Brinkman, Eleventh St., Plattsmouth, Neb., says: "I can vouch for Doan's Kidney Pills, knowing them to be a good kidney remedy. My back at times became so lame that the simplest movement was painful and I had frequent headaches and dizzy spells that caused me no end of annoyance. Mornings on getting up, I could hardly drag myself about. In spite of the many remedies I tried, I found no relief until finally I began using Doan's Kidney Pills, procured from Gering & Co's drug store. They effected a prompt and permanent cure."

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.

Lost—An all red calf, weighing 250 or 300 pounds. Please notify me and receive reward. Frank Lepert, R. F. D., Plattsmouth, Neb.

### Packing House to Open.

The Morton-Gregson Packing house has been idle for some time, on account of the high price of hogs and the making of a number of improvements. This morning the good news was sent to the outside world that the packing house would begin buying hogs on Saturday next and on Monday would begin killing. They intend to care for all hogs shipped here.—Nebraska City News.