

# The Castle of Lies

BY ARTHUR HENDY VESEY

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## CHAPTER XXVI.

**Incriminating Dispatches.**

She had been arranging the papers neatly in some sort of order. "You read French, I think?" The letter of Ferdinand is in that language; Sir Mortimer's notes and answers are, of course, in English.

"I drew toward me the first of the papers she indicated.

"You are nothing if not modern in your methods," I scoffed, glancing down the page. "Your safes and typewriters bring back to me the associations of my banking business. And a tankard, let me warn you, scans the signature of a draft carefully before he cashes it."

"The typewriter is an amusing little instrument," she yawned, "and I am proud of my success in mastering it. As for the safe, if you have been a banker, you know that the combinations are carefully guarded, Mr. Coward."

"I gave her the cruellest delight to taint me with the shameful word. During the next half hour she insulted me so at least half a dozen times. I bent my attention on the paper before me. I translate roughly Ferdinand's letter:

"(Strictly confidential.)

"Hotel du Rhin,

"Place Vendome, Paris,

"May 23.

"My Dear Sir Mortimer:

"I expect to start for Sofia via Vienna and Budapest in about a week; I trust I shall see you at the Palace shortly after my arrival. Meanwhile let me urge on you once more that you exert without further delay your great influence with your Foreign Office, that your ministers may be convinced that the crisis has come—the opportunity we have so long awaited. Now or never I must lead my army to the succor of the distressed people of Macedonia. I think that the profound knowledge you have always shown of affairs in the Balkan Peninsula must make you realize the truth of this statement. It is useless for me to repeat my arguments. For what you have done I thank you. But it is not to the diplomatist I am now speaking, but to the man. I have written this letter with my own hand, for reasons that you will understand.

"Believe me, my dear Sir Mortimer, "Faithfully yours,"

"Ferdinand."

"I see nothing incriminating in this letter," I said, "nor anything out of the usual run of letters.

"You will notice on the back of the letter this brief statement: 'Answered June 24, M. H.' As to the answer of the letter it is equally innocent. It is simply the guarded reply of a diplomatist dealing with a delicate topic. In these typewritten copies this letter and its answer are meaningless. The originals are simply useful to prove the authenticity of Sir Mortimer's handwriting."

I scanned the answer. It was not an exact copy, but the substance of Sir Mortimer's letter jotted down to refresh his memory:

"I replied in substance as follows: It was useless to bring up the matter again; my personal wishes would not be sufficient to change the programme of the Foreign Office; at present I did not see my way clear to advocate as a diplomatist England's espousal of this cause; I would continue to lay the matter before the Foreign Office; more than that, when events justified the act, I would see that such influence as I possessed was exerted in the manner Prince Ferdinand wished; but at present I could offer no encouragement."

(Note concerning the above, also in Sir Mortimer's handwriting.)

"This reply will put an end, I think, to further correspondence in that quarter. Certainly, the hopes of the nation seem so radically divergent from those of the ruler that I can favor one only at the expense of the other. Naturally, I prefer to favor the party that promises the most for my own interests."

"I told you that the originals are particularly useful to identify the handwriting and signature of Sir Mortimer. But observe, monsieur, the expression: 'Naturally, I prefer to favor the party that promises the most for my own interests.' That sentence is to be remembered when you read the other letters. It has its significance."

Again she stretched out her hand to receive the papers I had read. I did not relinquish them, however. I laid them carelessly on my knee as if to refer to them later.

"That remains to be proved," I said grimly. "The expression seems simple enough to me; on the face of it it would mean simply that Sir Mortimer's interests were identical with the interests of England."

"We shall see," she returned with confidence. "The papers of the second envelope, which I have called Documents B, are all in English. The writer was evidently an educated Bulgarian of the official class; many of this class are trained at Roberts College, and speak and write English fluently."

"Sofia, Headquarters of the Society of Freedom.

"To His Excellency, Sir Mortimer Brett, plenipotentiary and Consul General to His Britannic Majesty at the Court of Sofia:

"Sir: We of the Society of Freedom wait patiently and anxiously for your Excellency's answer to our humble petition. We trust your Excellency does not ignore this petition because the signatures of the petitioners are not added thereto. Surely your Excellency understands that the dictation of prudence make it inevitable that it is sent to you anonymously.

"Your Excellency must be familiar with our grievances. Our present ruler cannot and will not be longer

tolerated by his subjects. We fear the British Foreign Office, however, does not realize the extent of Prince Ferdinand's unpopularity. Even if your ministers care nothing for that, do they feel no concern that he is the tool of Russia?

"He has asked Russia repeatedly that he be recognized a King, and that he receive that title. His vanity is such that he would sacrifice the freedom of his people to be on equal terms with the sovereigns of Serbia and Roumania.

"Once more, perhaps for the last time, we petition your Excellency to exert the extraordinary influence your Excellency possesses, that the English Minister be advised in time. The government of Prince Ferdinand must fall. We do not desire bloodshed. There shall be none, we swear it, if England will support the insurgent party. But in any case Bulgaria must be free.

"We do not ask for the active aid of England. We beg that England shall not interfere with the ambitions of the people."

"Your Excellency shall have no reason to regret being our friend. And there are other means of rewarding friendship besides empty words of gratitude. Let your Excellency once assure us of your intention to support our cause, and we shall make this more clear."

"Your Excellency knows the man

such expressions were hideously significant. But I met calmly the malevolent triumph of Madame de Varner. "When you read the next letter," she said, watching me closely, "you will understand the meaning of the expression. There are other means of rewarding friendship besides empty words of gratitude. Even so staunch an advocate of Sir Mortimer's honor as yourself must realize that in the words you have just read, he was endeavoring to discover just what that vague promise meant."

I received the next letter in silence. "To His Excellency, etc.:

"Our answer to your Excellency's kind letter wishes to make this fact clear: The people of Bulgaria pledge their word, through this committee, that if England gives to the insurgent party its support, an overthrowing the rule of Ferdinand, the relation of England to Bulgaria shall be similar to that which exists between Egypt and England.

"The Society of Freedom is fully aware that your Excellency's inconceivable and labor must be recompensed. The sum of £20,000 is already placed in the Ottoman bank, payable to your Excellency on demand."

(Note by Sir Mortimer pinned to the above letter.)

"To this I replied that the sum mentioned was too ludicrously small to be considered. Only the most substantial guarantee could justify me in taking the risks involved."

(Third letter to Sir Mortimer from the society.)

"To His Excellency, Etc.:

"The sum of £50,000 has been placed in the Ottoman bank to your Excellency's account. The society trusts that this sum will be sufficient to justify the risks. Will your Excellency give his answer without delay?"

(Note by Sir Mortimer pinned to the above letter.)

"I have taken the step. It is too late to ask myself now whether I have been indiscreet. If I have consulted my own wishes, if I have furthered my own plans, I feel that I am justified

see them from my grasp. When she saw that it was too late, she laughed boisterously—a laughter that showed at once contempt, defiance and triumph.

"Bravo!" She clapped her hands derisively. "You take your precautions. You are desperate. Protest as you will, you are convinced of Sir Mortimer's guilt."

"You are mistaken," I replied coolly. "But even if these papers are true copies of genuine documents, it is as well that even the copies be destroyed. If they are forgeries, and you have yet to prove to me they are not, they are dangerous toys, and so better destroyed."

"Another copy is easily made, so long as I have the combination of my safe, M. Coward."

"You are never weary of insulting me," I said indifferently. "But be sure of this, you will find I am not coward enough to yield weakly to your scheme of blackmail."

"No; you are so brave that you leave a helpless girl to bear the disgrace of her dead brother, when by a word you might save her the suffering. Your pretended honor is so precious to you that you scorn to aid the woman whom you love."

"Silence, woman!" I cried passionately. "Do you think I am convinced of Sir Mortimer's guilt because of these flimsy typewritten copies? You must let me see the papers in the safe."

"If you are desperate enough to destroy a copy, I should scarcely trust you with the original. For the last time, must the woman you love know of her brother's disgrace? I am in your power; perhaps you hope that I shall be coerced into opening the safe. Or are you about to compel me?"

"I should have resorted to that measure long ago had I thought it would prove effectual. It seems that there is again a deadlock between us. I refuse absolutely, not only to help you, but to believe that Sir Mortimer is guilty."

"If I show the papers in the safe to Helena Brett, even she must believe the evidence of her eyes. Shall I call her and ask her if she recognizes her brother's handwriting? If you believe so strongly as you profess that Sir Mortimer was innocent of wrongdoing, you will not refuse that."

"I would spare her even the thought of its possibility," I said sternly.

"That is impossible. She shall see those papers—if not to-day, to-morrow, the next day; it makes little difference to me."

"Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof," I quoted flippantly; but I began to think it inevitable that Helena Brett be summoned.

"Again we must compromise it appears. I will call Sir Mortimer's sister here. She shall see the papers—decide for herself and for you whether they are genuine. You see, I am strong enough to prevent a woman from destroying the originals as you have destroyed the copies."

"And when she has seen those papers?" I asked thoughtfully. "Say even that she herself believes them genuine? What then?"

"It will be for her to decide. Perhaps she will refuse to ask you to do what I wish. Perhaps she will offer to you happiness if you consent. She shall be the one to decide. You profess to believe that Sir Mortimer is innocent. More than that, you think her soul so white that she will refuse, even if she believes her brother guilty, to rescue his memory from dishonor with dishonor."

She had put into words my own thought.

"We will let her decide," I said quietly.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### The Two Women.



I Tore Them to Atoms Before Her Eyes.

"And am I again to shout my commands to my servant through the closed door?" asked Madame de Varner ironically.

I unlocked the door of the staircase in silence, taking the precaution, however, of not admitting Alphonse.

"Miss Brett come to the chateau as I wished?" Madame de Varner spoke naturally through the half-opened door, not betraying my presence behind it.

"She is waiting in the music room, madam."

"Bring her here."

"I shall do as madam wishes. But this American, this man we called his Excellency—he surprised me just now—has he intruded on madam or—"

"He came here to keep an appointment with me," Madame de Varner replied composedly, cutting short his agitated whisper.

"Ah, that is well."

Alphonse sighed his relief, and departed on his errand.

"What inducement can you have offered that she should come boldly to this Castle of Despair?"

"Is not the inducement great that she is to see a loved brother?"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



## Where Mankind Is King

Gift of Speech Puts Him in a Class by Himself.

The gift of speech is the last proof of Divine favor, in virtue of which mankind has the rest of the animal kingdom faded, and stands in a class by himself.

Some beasts are stronger than men, and some know more, but no beast can be such a bore as a man, nor can any beast sleep over, in the true sense of the term. These distinctions we owe to the gift of speech.

The gift of speech, moreover, lays us under compulsion to read a great many things which otherwise we would not, in order that when we have nothing to say, we may nevertheless say something. Thus we promote the publishing business, create a demand for wood pulp, assist in the deforestation of the earth's surface, stir up a new school of kickers, increase discontent and contribute, at length, to progress and petulance.

Our ancestors used to consider speech a means of concealing thought,

morally. I am helping an oppressed people gain their liberty. My own recompense is meager enough. If the Foreign Office should probe the matter, and discover the extent of my indiscretion, my diplomatic career will be ended. But I am content to do a little evil that good may come."

I crushed the paper in my hand, sick at heart. I shuddered at the hypocritical comfort this guilty man had hugged to his breast. I had hoped against hope. But if they were true copies, I could no longer doubt that Sir Mortimer had stooped to the taking of bribes.

"And these documents are word for word copies of those in the safe?" I demanded gloomily.

"I swear it by every oath I hold sacred!" she replied without hesitation, and kissed the jeweled cross that hung about her neck.

She stretched out her hand for the papers. I tore them to atoms before her eyes.

For a moment she struggled to resist

# CENTENNIAL OF THE VOYAGE OF THE CLERMONT

Robert Fulton, a Pennsylvania genius, first steamed his boat up the Hudson, August 7, 1807. Practically the beginning of modern steam navigation

Philadelphia.—While New Yorkers were jubilating over the centennial of the historic journey of Robert Fulton's steamboat Clermont, which made the trip from New York city to Albany under her own steam, on August 7, 1807, Pennsylvanians have a more than ordinary interest in the honors to be paid to the inventor, for he was a son of this commonwealth, and it was here that he obtained his first ideas of a method of propelling boats by the use of steam.

In some quarters Fulton, rather incorrectly, has been lauded as the inventor of the steamboat. As has been well said, neither the steam engine nor the steamboat was, in the strict sense of the word, invented. Fulton was not the inventor of the steamboat, but neither can any other person be so characterized. "The steamboat was a good many years before being invented and there were many hands at the work. This fact, however, does not lessen the brightness of Fulton's achievement, for, had he never been connected with the inauguration of steam navigation, he showed so many other evidences of mechanical inventiveness and of artistic effort that it is extremely probable that his name would not be forgotten.

**Projects Before Fulton's.**

More than 100 years before Fulton began his experiments the idea had possessed inventors in other parts of the world. In 1690 Papin proposed the use of a steam engine for the purpose of propelling boats through the water, and exactly a century before the Clermont made its famous run the inventor actually constructed such a boat, which he used on the River Fulda, at Cassel. The boat was of rude construction, and the method of propulsion consisted of raising water by means of a steam pump, which water was then applied to a water wheel and drove a set of paddles on the same shaft. What influence this invention might have had upon the commerce of the world will never be known, for it was not allowed to prosper, being destroyed by some ignorant fanatics.

In the century which intervened there was considerable talk of applying the steam engine to the use of boats. Nothing came of it in a practical way until an American blazed the way. The first of these pioneers was also a Pennsylvanian—William Henry, a native of Chester county, but at the time of his experiment a resident of Lancaster county. About 1763 Henry, who had just returned from a visit to England, took up the subject of a steamboat. He constructed a small boat, or rather attached an engine to an old bateau. This consisted of a pair of paddles, and with this

next found as an officer in the Continental army. The Indians took him prisoner, and he was removed into the Northwest territory. He made a map of the then little known country west of the Alleghenies, and subsequently came to Philadelphia. Here, near Vine, but began his inquiry into steam navigation at his place at Neshaminy.

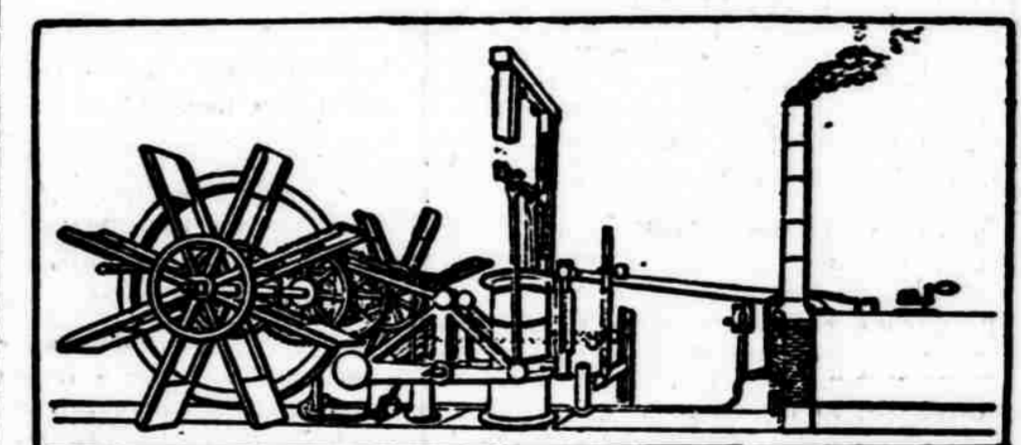
With Fitch the idea was not original any more than it was with any of his predecessors, or with those who followed him. While he was engaged as a civil engineer in the southeastern part of Pennsylvania, he came into contact with William Henry, and if he did not see the latter's invention he at least met him and heard of it. At any rate, in 1787 Fitch did construct a steamboat which he set in motion on the Delaware river.

**Fitch's Scheme Languished.**

Two years before Fitch had appeared before the American Philosophical society and showed a model of a steamboat which he intended to construct, and in 1790 he had a steamboat on the river that could make eight miles an hour, and was advertised to make regular runs between this city and Trenton three days a week.

A Virginian, James Rumsey, at the time Fitch was requesting various state legislatures to grant him assistance, claimed to have invented a steamboat prior to that of Fitch. Rumsey's claim, however, was discredited, even by his own state. Fitch's lack of support and the coolness with which the country viewed the project, although one small boat had made no fewer than 21 advertised trips without accident, permitted Fitch's scheme to become quiescent.

Fulton never disclaimed the obligation he owed to Fitch's steamboat. At the time the first Fitch boat was shown here Fulton was an apprentice to Edward Duffield, a silversmith, who was in business on Second street below Chestnut. The old frame building, lately numbered 121, was standing until 25 years ago. It is only natural to infer that the active young apprentice should have enough curiosity to see the invention, especially as he was something of an ingenious mechanic himself.



Empire of the Clermont

**Robert Fulton's Career.**

Robert Fulton was born in Little Britain township, Lancaster county, November 14, 1765, his father being a native of Kilkenny, Ireland. The Fultons moved to Lancaster city when Robert was an infant, and it was in the schools of that city that the ingenious young inventor received his education. He is said to have known

primitive contrivance he boldly essayed to steam down the Conestoga river. From what can be learned of the attempt, it was far from being successful, but by an accident the boat was sunk, and the steamboat had to wait another quarter of a century before it was to be given practical shape.

**Distinction Due Fitch.**

This time it was a resident of Philadelphia, John Fitch, who from all appearances lacked only support to be known for all time as the man to whom modern steam navigation is due. Fitch had an adventurous career. He was born in Connecticut. At the time of the revolution he was a watchmaker at Trenton, but the British destroyed his stock and he is

weighers that the system devised by Carle C. Hungerford of the railway mail service is employed.

"The weighing of the mails for the purpose of awarding the contract is not a new departure," said Mr. Hungerford. "That was part of the old system. The mail weighers have cards on which they record the weight of the mail taken on at each station on the route, and also the weight put off. Another card records the weight on the return trip between the same points.

"This process of daily weighing is kept up for 90 days, and the totals must be footed at the end of each week and the end of the whole period. Formerly each day's report was entered by the clerks on a large tabulating sheet three feet long and two feet wide, and figures had to be totaled vertically and horizontally.

"The size of the job can be seen when I tell you that the report of just two trains on a long run for the period of 90 days took up 13 of these large sheets.

"The work kept 25 men busy in the Chicago headquarters during the time

something of a genius. It is told of him that at the age of ten years he had made for himself his own lead pencils. They were crude affairs, of course, but at that time they were nearly as good as could be purchased. At 14 he devised a skyrocket, and had invented an airgun. His biographer says that it was at this time that the idea of steam propulsion for vessels first took possession of him, and that he actually made a model of a boat that could be propelled by means of paddles.

Experiments on the Hudson.

After he went to England, where he studied painting, in which art the numerous examples of his work extant show him to have been proficient, he went to France. There he became busy on a plan for steam navigation, which he succeeded in getting presented to the first consul; but the French government was too much preoccupied to pay much attention to the young American's representations. A friendship, however, most important for the future of steam navigation, sprang up between Fulton and our minister to France, Robert R. Livingston, formerly chancellor of the state of New York. Livingston had become interested in steam, and had built a vessel and made experiments on the Hudson. In 1798 the New York legislature gave him a monopoly of navigating the waters of New York by steam, provided that within one year he should propel by steam a vessel of 20 tons four miles an hour. This he failed to do, but his interest in the problem never flagged. The two men formed a partnership and made an experiment on the Seine, which, however, proved a failure. Then they decided to make experiments on the Hudson, and the New York legislature granted another potential monopoly similar to that granted to Livingston.

Another vessel was built at a shipyard on the East river, according to plans carefully worked out by Fulton.



ROBERT FULTON

The Clermont, as she was called, was 160 tons burden, 130 feet long, 16 feet wide and four feet deep. Her engine had a steam cylinder 24 inches in diameter, her wheels were 15 feet in diameter and uncovered.

**Description of the Voyage.**

Here is Fulton's description of the voyage which revolutionized navigation, in the form of a letter to the American Citizen:

"I left New York on Monday at one o'clock, and arrived at Clermont, the seat of Chancellor Livingston, at one o'clock on Tuesday—time, 24 hours, distance 110 miles. On Wednesday I departed from the chancellor's at nine in the morning and arrived at Albany at five in the afternoon—distance 40 miles, time eight hours. The sum is 150 miles in 32 hours, equal to near five miles an hour. On Thursday at nine o'clock in the morning I left Albany, and arrived at the chancellor's at six in the evening. I started from thence at seven and arrived at New York at four in the afternoon—time, 30 hours, space run 160 miles, equal to five miles an hour. Throughout my whole way both going and returning, the wind was ahead; no advantage could be derived from my sails; the whole has therefore been performed by the power of the steam engine."

**Memorial to Fulton.**

The task of erecting an adequate monument to commemorate the great inventor is in the hands of an association of public-spirited men, incorporated under the laws of New York, known as the Robert Fulton Monument association. The association has determined that the monument shall take the form of a water gate and mausoleum to be erected at One Hundred and Sixteenth street and the Hudson river. A bill has been passed by the legislature making the necessary grant of land. It is intended to provide a place where distinguished foreign visitors to our shores may be fittingly received by the municipal, state or federal authorities; in a word, to give New York a front door. It is expected that ground for the construction will be broken on the next anniversary of Fulton's birthday, November 14.

william Henry, and to have visited his home to see some of the earliest efforts of Benjamin West, of whose painting he was, as were all artistically inclined Americans in those days enamored.

At the age of 17 Robert was brought to Philadelphia and put as an apprentice with Duffield. There he finished his trade, but his artistic instincts getting the better of him, he decided to abandon his trade and take up art. Although he had a widowed mother to support, he managed in some manner to save enough to take him to London, where he placed himself at the feet of his master in painting, Benjamin West.

As a youth he showed talents in many directions, and was undoubtedly

**WEIGH MAIL ON CARS.**

Done Every Four Years as a Basis for Railroad Contracts.

The railroads are paid for carrying the mails on the basis of a contract running four years. Once during this period additional men are put on the mail cars, whose duty is to weigh all mail received and delivered at each station.

The figures thus secured are assumed to represent an average of the amount of mail carried on that route, and become the basis of the contract. Four years later a new period of weighing is begun, and the contract is revised in accordance with the new figures.

The United States is divided into four contract districts, says System, and the weighing is carried on simultaneously in all parts of a district. The following year some other district is weighed, and thus the circuit of the country is covered in the four year period.

It is in the tabulation and compilation of the reports sent in by these official

of the weighing, and for three months afterward. Then there was liability of error in the footings.

"So we developed the plan of doing away with the tabulating sheet altogether. We used the adding machine and make its record strip the permanent record of the weights. Instead of first entering the figures on the large sheet and then transferring them to the machine, one man reads the amounts from the weighing report and another operates the machine.

"The figures for a week are kept together, and totals taken for each town. At the end the totals are taken for the whole route.

"The cipher in the middle of the column marks the dividing line between the columns for mail put off the trail and mail taken on. At the end of the weighing period the totals for the various weeks are footed on the machine.

"We can do the work with half the clerks that were formerly needed. It takes three months to finish the reports after the weighing closes. Heretofore we had to keep 25 men at work tabulating and adding; now half the number can do the work."