

Mme. Humbert's right to open the safe and take possession of its contents. The greatest lawyers of France were engaged, the counsel including Waldeck-Rousseau, the French prime minister, who appeared for the creditor of the Humberts, and Du Buit, a distinguished leader of the French bar, for a generation, who appeared for the Humberts and was their devoted champion.

The Humberts all those years seemed to have no end of powerful friends who believed their story implicitly. Owing to the high legal position of the father of Therese's husband, eminent lawyers and judges were for years the delighted guests of the couple at social functions. It was Waldeck-Rousseau, however, acting in the interest of a creditor of the couple, who finally forced a settlement of the case and secured a peremptory order from the courts to have the safe deposit box finally opened so that its contents might be examined. Mr. Du Buit, counsel for the Humberts, and concededly an honest man, welcomed this act as an opportunity for a glorious vindication of his clients, whose honor had begun to be suspected after their twenty years' contest with the two Crawford. But Waldeck-Rousseau had discovered that no one except Mme. Humbert had ever seen the nephews, and that no trace of their existence could be found in America. It was time something was done, for many ruined creditors had committed suicide. On the Wednesday of this month before the safe was opened, Mme. Humbert appeared, in the full blaze of her diamonds, at the opera, in the box which cost her \$6,000 a year. On Friday, the 9th the safe was opened. A description of the scene that followed shows how dramatic it was. The witnesses pressed forward. The box contained a few bonds worth \$1,000, a copper coin, an empty jewel case and a brass button. "I am a ruined man," cried out a creditor. A deadly pallor swept over the face of M. Du Buit, the distinguished counsel for the Humberts, and he sank into a chair. Within an hour it was known that the Humberts had fled from the country.

The whole Crawford story was a fiction. There had been no American millionaire traveling in southern France, and no money had ever been left to Therese Daurignac. She invented the lie and probably won her husband,

the son of the minister of justice, on the strength of it. How far he was deceived in the preceding years does not appear. But Therese from the beginning to the end was the brains of what Waldeck-Rousseau had called "the greatest swindle of the century." She invented the Crawford nephews, and by clever forgeries and conspiracies with a few scoundrelly accomplices, kept going for twenty years in the French courts a law suit over a fortune that never existed. M. Du Buit, who occupied the highest place at the French bar, has ruined his career from having been her dupe. Ten creditors of the woman have committed suicide, and \$10,000,000 has been the extent of her actual plundering from the French bankers and business men.

One morning a loyal Irishman was at work near the top of a telephone pole, painting it a bright green, when the pot of paint slipped and splashed on the sidewalk. A few minutes later another Irishman came along. He looked at the paint, then at his countrymen, and inquired with anxiety in his tone, "Doherty, Doherty, hov ye had a him-orrhage?"

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SENATOR HANNA.

The settlement of the question of Cuban reciprocity by the United States senate is awaited with great interest by the whole country. Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia, is the leader of a formidable band of senators who are determined to check the efforts of the administration senators to carry out President Roosevelt's cherished scheme regarding our tariff relations with the new republic. Among his powerful allies are Senators Wellington and Jones. Senator Aldrich is the president's mouthpiece on the reciprocity question in the senate, and is prepared to make a hard fight to push through the bill which President Roosevelt and himself have so much at heart. His efforts will be warmly seconded by Senator Hanna.

THE CRISIS



James K. Hackett will open at Wallack's theatre, New York, early in the fall in the dramatization of Winston Churchill's great popular historical novel, "The Crisis." The play has already proved a phenomenal success on the road. It is the first civil war play to achieve popularity in the south.

Little Pitman (at the pantomime)—Aa's come all the way frae Dor'm, and cannot see a happorth o' the stage.

Big Woman—Hoots! Ye little foaks is aalls growlin'. Just keep your eye on me, and laugh when aa laugh.—Tit-Bits.

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Jaggles—How did that entertainment make out that was gotten up to establish a soup kitchen for the poor?

Waggles—The managers used up most of the proceeds for a champagne dinner.

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