The Purchase Price

OR, THE CAUSE of COMPROMISE

By EMERSON HOUGH

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SYNOPSIS

Josephine, Countess of St. Auban, kidnaped from Washington by Captain Carlisle, acting on government order, is with him on an Ohio river steamboat. They are accompanied by Warville Dunwody, a Missouri state senator.

The countess in a note asks Dunwody for aid. She is posing as Carlisle's secretary. Carlisle plays cards with Dunwody, and others and loses.

The two men play cards for custody of Josephine. Dunwody wins, and Carlisle leaves the boat. Dunwody confronts Josephine.

Dunwody engages an overseer to kidnap Josephine. The cabinet discusses Josephine as a dangerous abolitionist and decides to use an opposition statesman to take her away should she return. Dunwody's mission.

CHAPTER V.

The Shadow Cabinet—Tallwoods.

"ALL very well, gentlemen! All very well," repeated the man who sat at the head of the table. "I do not deny anything you say. Now the real question remains, what were we to do with this woman, since she was here, I confess my own relief at this moment, from our agent, Captain Carlisle, taking of her temporary disappearance."

As he spoke he half pushed back his chair as though in impatience or agitation over the problem which evidently occupied his mind. A man above medium height, somewhat spare as to habit of body, of handsome features and distinguished presence, although with hair now slightly thinned by advancing years, he seemed, if not by natural right, at least by accorded authority, the leader of this company with whose members it was not unwilling to take counsel.

Those who sat before him were his counselors, chosen by himself, in manner ratified by law and custom. They made, as will proprietary may be stated, a remarkable body of men. If were less seemly openly to determine their names and their station, since they were public men and since, as presently appeared, they now were engaged on business of such a nature as might not be placed in full upon public records.

At least it may be stated that this meeting was held in the autumn of the year 1850 and in one of the great public buildings of the city of Washington. Apparently it was more private than official in its nature and apparently it now had lasted for some time. The hour was late.

The dark-browed man at the leader's right began to speak. His voice, deep and clear as that of a great bronze bell, was slow and deliberate, as fitfully voicing an accurate mind.

"Sir," he said, "this matter is one deserving our most careful study. Trivial though at first blush it would seem. As to the danger of this woman's machinations here there is no question. A match may produce convulsions, explosion, disaster, when applied to a powder magazine. As you know, this country dwells continually above an awful magazine. At any time there may be an explosion which will mean ruin not only for our party but our country. The Free Soil party, twice defeated, does not down. There is a nationalist movement now going forward which ignores the constitution itself. With you, I dread any talk, any act, of our own or another nation, which shall even indirectly inflame the northern resentment against the fugitive slave law."

"On that we are perfectly agreed, sir," began the original speaker, "and then"—

"But then, sir, we come to the question of the removal of this unwelcome person. She herself is a fugitive from outlaw. She has broken no law of this land or of this district. I may be unwelcome to you, you to me, either of us to any man, yet, having done no treason, so long as we pay our debts and observe the law, no man may raise hand or voice against us."

"Quite right!" broke in the leader again. "But let us look simply at the gravity of it. They say it is treason not only against our own country, but against a foreign power, which she is scheming. The Austrian attaché, Count Buchanan, is altogether too interested in the matter. He said as much to me."

"But, sir," broke in the vibrant voice of another gentleman, "what is our concern over that? Did they force us to fight, why, then, we might fight, and with proper reason."

"True again, sir!" said the leader, recognizing the force of the murmur which greeted this outburst. "But what I fear, what all of us fear, gentlemen, is the danger here, inside our own walls, inside our own country."

Silence again fell on all. They looked about them as though even in this dimly lighted room they felt the menace of a divided country.

"That is the dread of all of us," went on the leader. "Let the abolitionist bring on this outbreak which he covets, let the north and south fly at each other's throats, let the contending powers of Europe cross the seas to quarrel over the spoils of our own destruction—and what then will be left of this republic?

"And, I tell you now, gentlemen," he continued, "as you know very well yourselves, that this woman here in Washington would hold the match ready to apply to that magazine. Gentlemen, I am mild as any, and most of you I am sworn to obey the laws and, by implication, to safeguard the constitution; but I say to you"—and here his hand came down with an emphasis unusual in his nature—"law or no law, constitution or no constitution, an exigency existed under which she had to leave Washington, and that upon that very night."

"But where is she now?" ventured another voice. "This young army captain simply says in his report that he left her on the Mount Vernon packet en route down the Ohio. Where is she now and how long before she will be back here, match in hand?"

"Viewed from the standpoint of our diplomacy, the matter here is simple," said the tall, dark man. "Last week at the reception where the representatives of Austria were present this woman appeared, properly introduced, properly invited, it is true, but wholly unwelcome socially in certain quarters. The attache and his wife left the room and made plain to their host their reasons for doing so."

"Yes, and it was public shame that they should take such action. The woman had the right of her host's protection, for she was there by invitation." Thus the bony man in the shadows.

"But we have just heard what rights we have before the law, sir," ventured a hesitating, drawling voice which had earlier been heard. "How can we take cognizance of private insult given by a foreign power in only quasi-public capacity? I conceive it to be somewhat difficult, no matter what the reception in the society of Washington, to elect this woman from the city of Washington itself or at least very likely difficult to keep her elected, as you say, sir."

"Where should she go?" demanded yet another voice. "And why should she not come back?"

Impatiently the leader replied: "Where? I do not know. I do not want to know. I must not know. Must we not bear ourselves in mind?"

"Then, sir, in case of her sudden return you ask an uprising?" said a keen, clear and incisive voice which had not yet been heard. "Gentlemen, shall we cast lots for the honor of watching the Countess St. Auban in case of her undesired return?"

The grim demand brought out a hasty protest from a timid soul. "To that I would not agree."

"Very well, then," went on the clear voice. "If we may not again kidnap the lady why may we not bribe her?"

"It could not be done," broke in the dark man toward the head of the table. "If I know the facts, this woman could not be bought for any ransom. She has both station and wealth accorded her, so the story goes, for some service of her family in the affairs of France. But we will done of mon archies. She turned démocrat, revolutionist in France and on the hotter side of its insurgency, and so finally sought this new world to conquer."

"Let us go softly," came the rejoinder from the shadows. "We need some man who is a nice judge of psychological moments and nicely suited methods. We need all of us, for the compromise of 1850. That compromise is not yet complete. The question of this unwelcome lady still remains to be adjusted. Were Mr. Clay not quite so old, I might suggest his name for this task. He might create a tolerably fair compromise."

"He is a widower, and out," sent the man across the table.

"Yet all the more an adjuster of nice matters. He has proved himself a politician. It was his accident and not his fault not to reach unity in his own party. Yet I happen to know that though once defeated for the presidency and twice for the nomination, he remains true to his free soil beliefs. It has just occurred to me, since my friend from Kentucky mentions it, that could we by some fair means, some legal means—some means of adjustment and compromise, if you please, gentlemen—place this young lady under his personal care and induce him to conduct her, preferably to some unknown point beyond the Atlantic ocean, there to lose her permanently, we should, perhaps be doing our country a service and would also be relieving this administration of one of its gravest concerns."

"Let us be sure, gentlemen, of one thing at a time," resumed the man who presided. "As we come to this final measure suggested by our friend from Kentucky, I am at a loss how further to proceed. Will we be consulted made public. We cannot sign a joint note asking this distinguished gentleman to act as our intermediary."

"I suggest, sir, that we should grade the personal responsibility of this did you put it to the vote of the states represented here," said the dark man.

"I rely upon the loyalty and the unanimity of my family," replied the leader, with more firmness than was his wont. "Gentlemen, are we then agreed? Does Massachusetts consent? Is Virginia with us? Is New York agreeable? Does Kentucky also agree?"

There was no murmur of dissent, and the leader, half rising, concluded: "Gentlemen, we agreed four days ago that the Countess St. Auban should leave Washington not later than this night. We are now agreed that, in case of her return, she shall if possible be placed under the charge, not of any responsible figure of our party, but of a gentleman distinguished in the counsels of an opposing party, whose abolitionist beliefs coincide somewhat with her own. Let us hope they will both get them to Missouri, the debating ground, the center of the political battlefield today. But, Missouri or Hungary, Kentucky or France, let us hope that one or both of them shall pass from our horizon.

"If we agree upon New York as our agent, who shall be our emissary to New York? Be you alone the—the chair"—he smiled as he bowed before them—"to appoint this committee of one?"

There was silence to this. A moment's hesitation, and the speaker announced his decision. "The gentleman from Kentucky is appointed to execute this task for the people of the United States. Let us hope he never will have need to serve."

It cost the self-controlled scholar to remain silent at this, and the courage of the remaining members also to preserve the silence which meant his acceptance of a task so difficult and disagreeable.

"Sir," hastily went on the original speaker, "our thanks are due to you. We shall hold you with no instructions. All the money required by you as agent, or required by your agent shall of course be forthcoming, and you shall quietly have also the assistance of all the secret service, if so desired. None of us must know who has become of the Countess St. Auban now or later. You have heard me, gentlemen; we adjourn."

* * *

Tallwoods, the home plantation of the Dunwody family in the west, now the personal property of the surviving son, State Senator Warville Dunwody of Missouri, presented one of the contrasts which now and again shock and have been seen in our slaty, sectional civilization. If lay somewhat remote from the nearest city of importance, in a region where the wilderness of the owner bleeded, unused and unrelated, with those still more wild, yet unclaimed under any private right. Yet in proper hands, indeed, the surroundings of life in Tallwoods would be those of the old estate of Kentucky, characteristic of the manners and customs and conditions of the southern family. The place was in itself a little kingdom, a village, a hamlet, a ride to a neighbor, two miles to a neighbor, a day's journey to the village. The place was

[illegible] road, which entered along the bank of the little stream, ended at Tallwoods farm. Beyond it, along the river, which led dark into the wilderness, it was no more than a horse path and used rarely except by negroes or whites in hunting expeditions back into the mountains, where the deer, the wild turkey, the bear and the panther still roamed in considerable numbers at no great distance from the home plantation.

Corn, cotton and cotton these made the wealth of the owner of Tallwoods' plantation and of the richer lands in the river bottoms below. These products brought the owner all the wealth he needed. Here, like a feudal lord, master of all about him, he had lived a baronial life and had, as do all created beings, taken on the color and the savor of the environment about him. Rich, he was generous; strong, he was merciful; independent, he was arrogant; used to his own way, he was fierce and cruel when crossed in that way.

If in Tallwoods the owner might do as he liked, certainly he had elected first of all to live somewhat as a gentleman. The mansion house was modeled after the somewhat stereotyped pattern of the great country places of the south. Originally planned to extend on one of its sides a large central colonnade of lattice, with a wing on each side of somewhat lesser height, it had never been entirely completed, one wing only having been fully erected. The main portion of the house was of two stories, its immediate front occupied by the inevitable facade with its four white pillars, which rose from the level of the ground to the edge of the roof, shading the front entrance to the middle rooms. Under this tall gabled roof, whose front showed high, white and striking all across the valley, lay four windows, and on each side of the great double doors lay yet another two windows. On either side of the pillars and in each story yet other two admitted light to the great rooms, and in the completed wing which lay at one side of the main building deep embrasures came down almost to the level of the ground, well hidden by the grouped shrubbery which grew close to the walls. The visitor approaching up the straight gravel walk might not have noticed the heavy iron bars which covered these, giving the place something the look of a jail or a fortress.

Tradition had it that the reason the building had never been completed was that the old master would have been obliged to cut down a favorite elm to do it. Be that as it may, the place was left as it was, and all his children but one had died and all his children but one had followed her, the house was large enough for them.

[illegible] the house ran a wide hall. To the left, beyond the existing wing, lay the fenced vegetable gardens, where grew rankly all manner of provender intended for the bountiful table, whose board it was that, save for sugar and coffee, nothing was used at Tallwoods which was not grown upon its grounds.

It might have been called matter of course that Warville Dunwody should be chosen to the state legislature. So chosen, he had through sheer force of his commanding nature easily become a leader among men not without strength and individuality, a self contained man who never lacked money, who never lacked wit, whose hand was heavy, whose tongue was keen, whose mind was strong and whose purse was ever open.

The wife he had produced a Benton was now building up a rival to Benton. That giant, then rounding out a history of thirty years' continuous service in the senate of the United States, unlike the men of this weaker day, reserved the right to his own honest and personal political belief. He steadily refused to countenance the extending of slavery, although himself a holder of slaves; and, although he admitted the legality and constitutionality of the fugitive slave act, he deplored that act as much as any.

Perhaps thirty or forty slaves were employed about Tallwoods home farm, as it was called. Idle and shiftless, relying all the frequent absence of the master and his one or two sons upon their they worked no more than was necessary to keep up a semblance of routine.

But now another and most important matter for our note—there was no woman's hand at Tallwoods. The care was that of servants of slaves. When things grew insupportable in their shiftlessness, the master lashed out an order and got what he demanded, then soon shifters sank back again to their old state.

(Continued next week.)

GUT THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

W. H. Chapman, Wilnebago, Neb., tells how he did it. "My two children had a very bad cough and the doctor's medicine did them no good. I got a bottle of Foley's Honey and Tar Compound, and before it was all used the children were free and cured of their cough. I saved a doctor's bill for one 25c bottle of Foleys' Honey and Tar Compound." No opiates. Brundage Drug Co.

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[illegible] TIMES

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F. D. SNOW, Prin.

Affairs at Washington

Current News of the Week and Events of Importance in Which the Empire State Figures

The Prince of Wealth Relates His Tale.

Washington, D. C., December, 28.—Two things stood out prominently in the examination of J. Pierpont Morgan in the money trust investigation. First the most hideous nose ever inflicted on man, and secondly the good humor back of the man who wore it—for Morgan was a good witness. When he entered the hearing there was a feeling of deep prejudice against him, but the atmosphere of geniality in the great financier's man ner spread like contagion, and a more friendly feeling crept over the large gathering of spectators. Morgan was asked at one time whether he was not one of the largest stockholders in a certain New York bank, to which he replied that he was "only a small stockholder." But you have over a million dollars interest there? "Oh yes, over a million," he replied, like one talking about cigar money. The financial king recited how he made the directorates of the country's greatest corporations, like that of the steel trust. He asserted that he gave little attention to the affairs of the New York banks, and did not know who the directors were of most of them. Morgan was positive a money trust was impossible, yet the opinion of those who heard his testimony was that the control of such a large amount of the nation's money as to make the centralization dangerous, is vested in a few closely knitted interests. The money trust investigation promises to eclipse all its predecessors in point of popular interest, as one by one the biggest financial giants of the nation will tell their story before the Committee. Morgan came to town with a retinue of attorneys, including former Ambassador Joseph H. Choate and former Senator John C. Spoon.

Robbing the Oklahoma Indians.

Representative Burke of South Dakota, tore the lid off the Oklahoma method of handling dead Indian's money. One-third of the Indians of the country are in Oklahoma, and each year special legislation is asked from Congress for the management of Indian affairs that do not apply to the other states. This year the proposition is to do away with the federal agents for Oklahoma Indians and to further entrench state control. In 1908 a law was passed which provided that the estates of deceased Indians should be administrated by the local state courts. In the argument against further authority being surrendered to the local officials of Oklahoma, Mr. Burke showed the operation of the law of administration of the estates. As a part of the system of corruption that has grown up Mr. Burke showed that in 4,339 cases no report of the Administration had ever been filed. He showed that there existed 2,320 professional guardians in the state. In the handling of estates aggregating $3,896,683.06 the expense had been charged up and allowed at 19.2 per cent. In contrast he showed that in Oklahoma the percentage of cost for administration of the estates of whites amounted to about three per cent. of the estate. In many cases the expense of administration amounted to ninety per cent., and then there was no evidence that the remaining per cent. was ever turned over. Mr. Burke stated that he had observed "that there has been a consistant effort to obtain legislation to make it easier to rob the Indian has," and his conclusion was that the removal of the special agents of the government from Oklahoma, would be a step in that direction. Burke adds: "Having options, in the probate courts in that portion of Oklahoma where the Five Civilized Tribes reside, some of the judges are corrupt and dishonest, and a large number of them are inefficient." Some of the Congressmen in Oklahoma, notably Mr. Carter, are for the abolishment of the office of Indian agent, late of the Office of Agriculture, who advocated building four new bachelaps a year, declared that these "son fighters were the antitoxin of strife." Congressman Mann stated that "we can only maintain order by force."

Warning Mexico to be Good.

President Taft and his Cabinet are evidently of the belief that the Republic of Mexico is not seriously concerned over the rights of American life and property, and the policy of protecting the Madero government along the United States border has been changed. Madero and his swarthy warriors have been called down to a turn by the American President. The United States has very little affection to the Mexicans shooting one another full of holes, but there is a growing sentiment in officials that the pillaging of Americans must cease.

Corn Growing Boys.

Ohio sent 271 boys of the state, who have made records in growing corn, to Washington. The average yield per acre obtained by these boys was eighty-five bushels. Large delegations from southern states have been coming here every winter, but this is the first of the large parties to come from the north, although Illinois, Iowa and a number of other states have participated in a smaller way in former years.

Interstate Shipment of Liquors.

Petitions from all over the country are pouring into Congress in support of the Kenyon-Sheppard bill to regulate liquor shipments. Senator Kenyon explained the measure, saying that "in its ultimate analysis the bill is simply to permit the states to exercise their reserved police power without interference by the federal government; or in other words to subject interstate commerce in certain articles to the laws of the several states. "The liquor interests are fighting the proposed legislation."

Part of the "future" of President Taft is settled by his acceptance of the Kent Chair of Law of Yale, which will likely fix his residence at New Haven. The place carries $5,000 a year as a salary, and is a "good start," since it will in no way interfere with anything else Mr. Taft may want to do.

Page after page of the Congressional Record contain the nominations for office by the President. The explanation is that for raesons political most all appointive positions have been held up since last spring, and now they are being all turned loose at once, giving to hungry Democrats a splendid view of the pie counter. "Hold up those jobs" is the slogan and the Senate is obeying.

When the General Land Office was established one hundred years ago it consisted of a Commissioner and nine other persons. There were 19 offices throughout the country. N ow there are 1417 officials in Washington and 102 district land offices and a large field force.

Congressman Curley of Massachusetts, declared that the "Boston Tea Party" originated in a saloon, and he believes that the men who threw King George's tea into Boston Harbor had a jag on. Whenever Bostonians fail to agree America history stands a chance to be set straight.

More than 3,000 cats have recently been put to death by the authorities in the national capital.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In pursuance of an order of the surrogate's court of Allegany County, N. Y., issued by Hon. Mike Reynolds of said County, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate of Mr. Rufus H. Lamphear, late of the Village of Andover,

Sign Boards on the Uproad—

By Hamilton W. Williams.

[illegible] number "13" is bigger than [illegible] people, some say, [illegible] of it. Sometimes it is unlucky [illegible] are at a table on which only six [illegible] at provender has been provided [illegible] some one will be unlucky. It [illegible] unlucky to start a job on Friday if it should have been begun on Monday of the same week. If one [illegible] born on an unlucky day the only way to overcome the hoodoo is by [illegible] success in business. Wednesday is [illegible] lucky day for matrimony. Any [illegible] day is as auspicious providing [illegible] man and woman are determined to keep self under. It is love, some philosophers say, that makes marriages lucky. Selah.

Friday, the 13th, is the big voodoo, very unlucky for those who depend [illegible] luck instead of good management, hard work and unconquerable [illegible]. A rabbit's foot in the vest pocket is a powerful charm if there's backbone in the same vest.

A man had a dream of wealth and [illegible] at the end of a long road. He was [illegible] warned with the dream, even as you and I, and waking saw one standing at the door. "Who are you?" he said, coming into full view the figure said, "I am opportunity, and these dreams I have conjured for you." But the man said, "Go away; for you are like hard work to me. We have no place between voodoo and God, chance and order, luck and reason. We can't serve both. If law is in the world luck is necessarily excluded. So long as wheat sown comes out wheat, luck makes a poor showing. When wheat comes out corn I'll change my gods. Until it does I'll stick to God and keep on planning, sowing, working, trusting."

"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves," said Cassius, interpreting their failure to be great as Cæsar. There is a divinity that shapes our ends by way of law.

A review of editorials that go into many heads says they are "full of unlucky for cowards, cheats, sneaks, liars and wasters. Be right courageously extend the catalog. It will be an unlucky year for all who stand against the laws of life. The universe is friendly to law-keepers, but a nemesis with writhing whips of fire is for law-breakers.

The proper swastika is—obedience. Bad luck, the writer says further, is a matter of character and not calendar. He repeates evil spirits in the grog-shop.

The only devil we need to fear is the one who resides beside the door of ill-temper, evil passion, greed, selfishness.

Watch and Pray.

And Pray.

The world that lies in the heart is all the world we shall ever know.

Set an angel of Ideal, an angel of Self-respect, with flaming swords to guard all gates. The problem of calamity is beyond human solution. If I were to interpret the puzzle I should apply add to the confusion. No theory of providence works.

Nevertheless we believe in God's goodness, justice and love. If we lose God we indeed are on a barren island without hope. We believe that he is master of His world and will deal righteously with all his children.

We do not believe in fate. We do not believe that God has left the world to run itself.

Let us believe in God.

Another world may show these light afflictions to have been stage upload.

There is a word that must be written above the lintels of our homes if we shall press forward toward the highest life. The word is mother. Sometimes the word means sacrifice, sometimes love. Sometimes it means a mother's touch that comforting is needed. Sometimes it is like a sledge-hammer blow which is evil incarnate. Sometimes it is a caress of courage, cheer and [illegible]. Sometimes it is like the roll of kettle drums which [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] Sometimes it is a [illegible] of