The RING and the MAN

WITH SOME INCIDENTAL RELATION TO THE WOMAN

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SYNOPSIS.

A football player, industrial leader, fascinated with the bold, artist side of a newspaper woman, and a young society girl, form a triangle. The girl, finding herself left out, confesses to the newspaper woman that she has been employed by the football player to write his love letters. The newspaper woman, indignant at the trick played upon her, and fascinated by the football player, writes him a letter signed with the girl's name. Before he is to appear in court in a suit brought by the girl, he stumbles into the newspaper woman and, on the train home, the woman reads the letter. Both are thrown from the train by a wreck. Following a long illness, Frances Hildreth, the newspaper woman, is visited by Ruth Lilley, a young woman lawyer, who tells her that Gormly has become owner of a steamship company and has appointed Hildreth to the command. Frances, on reaching the steamship, finds Gormly in command. Gormly tells her that he has been made owner of Jessup Line, and makes the new freight rate to Hildreth a long distance one. Frances, on reaching New York, meets Frances Hildreth, who tells her that Gormly has been in communication with her, in her self-appointed capacity of a steamship owner, and has made a proposition to her. Gormly proposes that Hildreth shall be given the command of the steamship Jessup, and that the latter has been staying in the town of Hillsboro, Connecticut, with Ruth Lilley, a young lawyer, and a mutual friend of the two. Gormly becomes owner of a steamship line, and Hildreth is appointed to the command. Gormly has become owner of a steamship line, and Hildreth is appointed to the command. Gormly has become owner of a steamship line, and Hildreth is appointed to the command. Gormly has become owner of a steamship line, and Hildreth is appointed to the command.

CHAPTER VII.—Continued.

Mr. Poole, excuse me. It is quite useless to talk to me any more on this line. My mind is made up, and nothing you can say, or anyone can say, will change it."

"Mr. Gormly," said Horace, rising, contempt and resentment stirring for the mastery of his voice, "in some ways you are a mighty smart man. You have begun this movement well. Insulty, but the positive you're talkin' now makes me regard you as you'll forgive the language, a damned fool."

Mr. Horace, said Gormly, "thank you for your compliment. Your opinion does not bother, at least the last part of it. Let me say that I have been considered by politicians of your stamp a damned fools who have done the good work of the world. Good-by, Poole. Mr. Pitchett, I wish you good afternoon."

The disgusted delegation trooped out. The three men had to run the gauntlet of reporters outside the boardroom office. They communicated nothing whatsoever of the result of their interview to these newspaper vultures.

Gormly, however, was more than able to their appeals for an interview. One resolution Gormly had taken, to give the people the fullest information all the time about what he proposed. He was willing to discuss any public question at any time with anyone, and he had no objections to his opinions being spoken of.

Gormly sent Gormly to the group of newspaper men, as he always appeared in the public affairs of city, those men who have control both sides of the political fence, and of the minority party for the office of mayor, and have opposed myself, thanks—they for the honor that they had done me. I declared myself absolutely independent of the machine, and of any other party organization, and I pretended myself entirely to allow myself to be tied up to any party, but offered myself as a candidate of any party. I intend to run as a citizen, as an absolutely independent."

Until he took a stockholder in the Gotham Freight Traction company," continued one of the reporters. "I know nothing whatever about Mr. Gormly's connection with that company. I haven't known Pitchett's desire to be interested in the matter." And so with the other.

I was not informed as to the political ambitions of Mr. Pitchett.

"What did Mr. Gormly say to you?" asked a friend.

As a practical politician of high standing, Pitchett refused to give any one answer upon the conduct of his employer.

"Mr. Gormly," he asked modestly, "would be very happy if asked to say on this reply.

I am sorry to say that the country of his arguments and the force of his representations did not appeal to me as he expected. My methods are so different that I must be advised that it is hardly possible to harmonize our views on any point.

I think that will be all this after noon, gentlemen," he added kindly, "I regret that the interview was over."

CHAPTER VIII.

A Quiet Meeting of the Directors.

Early in the new year, at the office of the company, a meeting of the directors of the governing body, practically known as the Ring, was held. The chief of the private residence on up by Fifth avenue, which he privately administered for the new owner, Mr. Gormly was held late at night. The men summoned therefore came up town quietly and unobtrusively and slipped into the house.

For those to Holdane's residence on the fashion society was easy enough, and they arrived in small groups of financiers and business directors. Gormly, as the owner in power were most interested. These relations in some "of cases were reciprocal, but there was duality had not been allowed to transpire. Gormly had kept in constant touch with Liffey the boss, but no one save the latter 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, as well as Van Slyke and McKenzie, men associated with him upon whom could at all times be counted. Van Slyke belonged to an old Dutch family and had inherited a vast fortune, which his adroit manipulation had tremendously increased. He represented American life with unquestionable and its prejudices. Gentlemen," began Haldane quietly, "I have called you here, as you have doubtless surmised, because of the appointment of the candidate of Gormly for mayor."

Do you think it's of sufficient importance, Mr. Haldane, for such a special conference as this is?" asked Van Slyke.

Decidedly so, Liffey was the reply.

It isn't the first time," said Rutherford, with a touch of irritation and sharp distinction of manner and speech, "that some impracticable reformer has offered himself for popular support. What's the matter with Mr. Haldane?"

Nothing, but in the first time in my political experience I have had to face some one the peculiar combination of circumstances which would make a candidate absolutely unquestionably and unlimited money back of himself, and I beg to say that I consider him the most available man from the point of view of the opposition that has ever appeared on the political horizon."

"Then he is the most available to be said Liffey," We can beat him, and we will. Of course, it'll take money."

He looked significantly at the trio of Gormlies.

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

I should say so," added Van Slyke. "Well, you get what you bargain for, don't you?" returned the boss impatiently. "I'm not here to talk it out of the people, don't you?"

Gentlemen, gentlemen," said Haldane authoritatively, "I hardly think

SHORT DISSERTATION ON MUD

Evidently the Work of One Who Was Thoroughly Familiar With the Subject.

Mud is found in the bottom of lakes, on roads and in political assemblies and deliberative bodies. It is also made in the form of pies.

It is the common belief of scientists that human beings are made of, originally, mud.

Mud is at its best in the spring of the year, and it is then that it is most used by mischievous.

Mud is a great leveler. It is good indiscriminately on the rich and the poor, and St. Louis is taken with mentality.

Mud is a great purifier. Many a Hannibal complexion it and Napoleon owes its whiteness to the fact that he was often bespattered with it.

The ancient Egyptians were wont to get rid of its superfluous by means of it, but it stuck to them with such persistency that it finally became a badge of nobility.

Mud is used by the Chinese in the form of pies, which are considered a delicacy.

Mud is also a favorite with the Fijians, who use it for the purpose of decorating their persons.

Mud is used extensively in the manufacture of bricks, which are used in building houses.

Mud is a favorite material with the Japanese, who use it in the form of pies.

Mud is also used in the form of pies by the Chinese.

Mud is also used in the form of pies by the Japanese