



By HARRIET-PRESCOTT-SPOFFORD

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Mr. Harry Benton, at the time of the first Cuban revolution, is a young member of Congress, with great ability and a fortune. He is popularly supposed to be in training to succeed Senator MacMichael.

PART II. When Mr. Harry Benton entered politics, he had, perhaps, no very definite aim.



"BUT YOU WILL BE CUBA'S FRIEND?"

As he knew that reward usually falls from the hand of necessity, he turned to the brilliant, the ardent, the great, but to the man whose career has made no enemies, to the stupid, the cunning, or the obtuse, to the available. He had meant, however, to be one of the great statesmen, first of all feeling that, short of the premier of Great Britain, no one on earth held a prouder position than the senator of a sovereign state.

When Mr. Benton appeared at the Arlington that afternoon the world had turned over so slightly upon its axis. Gloria was no longer in tears, but radiant. She was going to lunch with some South American, her dress of white cloth braided in silver hidden by her enveloping long hair.

But now things were not standing still. On the contrary, they were moving with rapidity. Flurry sprang up, and every day some new discovery or distinction was made, and negotiations made; for whatever would be suspected of Miss Campeador's political activity, with a sort of public secret, it was generally regarded as the business of a pretty woman whose social position was not to be ignored.

It was at the dinner of a high foreign functionary, who might not ever at this day care to have his name mentioned, that Mr. Benton, taking out another lady, found himself seated next to Gloria. She was in black, streamer with cut belt, with here and there a big diamond, glittering from head to foot like the frosty air of the mountains.

"There are a million pretty women in the world," she said. "One thing that I have done is to give notice that I shall tomorrow ask the attention of the house to some remarkable resolution in favor of the Cuban people."

"I think we will drive home, Johnson," she said. "I must ask you, I must implore you, not to ruin your whole career for this madman. You know very well that I will never have it—you will not even be returned to your seat in the house."

with a storm of sob, her hair falling from its comb and enveloping her in its black cloud.

"There came a rap upon the door, her brother loosened the checkered hands, still holding them, turned to Mrs. D'Arco, who, a fountain pouring rivers of tears in her eyes, had risen to embrace him. Then once more he took Gloria in his arms.

"Oh, mother of God," she shrieked, "if you should not come, that virgin!" "Do not let her faint," he said to Benton. "The carriage was waiting for her, and she was to go to Washington."

"I have no one left but you," she said. "And then, in spite of himself, he bent and kissed her falling lips. There was a cry, a cry of love or marriage; her head lay on his shoulder, he clasped her in his arms, a long hour of trance. Mrs. D'Arco slept, more or less soundly, in her chair, worn out with emotion.

"Your flowers are sweet. They always are," she said. "But, an rose—I must have time to consider. You are an intimate, you know," she said with an intimate sweetness, "of your sympathy, your compassion. So you are pledged to nothing—nothing, that is, Cuba."

Nevertheless Mr. Benton contrived to be present wherever the beautiful Cuban went, for his attractive personality, his wealth, his apparent possibilities, had made him a favorite in society, and he had not yet had to ask for anything, so ready was every one to confer. He felt a strong desire to surround her now with his own people; and he was surprised when, having sent a note to Mrs. MacMichael, a carriage came to receive him.

"What do you think of me? That I would ask a young lady not to marry you?" "It might be as well to wait till you know that I myself had asked her to do so."

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just where you are. What is a flirtation more or less? Now, my dear boy, he continued Mrs. MacMichael, laying her hand on his arm, "there is a million pretty women in the world, foreign and domestic. Why throw away a whole lifetime and its splendid possibilities on one of them?"

"Mrs. MacMichael, you and I are too long and too dear friends to quarrel," said Harry Benton, his face downcast and flushing, the face that was so exactly like the armless Hermes that there had been quite a sale for the best since he came to Washington. "But it is not worth while to say any more. I am not authorized, and you are not authorized, to use this young lady's name. But the question before us is, what is to be done?"

"Oh," said Mrs. MacMichael derisively, "it should be unable to be an American." "It should be unable to be an American," he exclaimed, "and believe in the divine right of the people if I do not sympathize with the heresies!"

"Oh, it is hopeless!" said Mrs. MacMichael, "I suppose there are no Spanish heroes no Spanish rights?" "None that I know of," said Harry Benton. "Of course not."

"And you believe the statements of the unsupported, irresponsible insurgents, these knight errants of venal patriotism, rather than the evidence of your own senses regarding the rich and populous, and flourishing dependency, whose commerce shows its good government? I heard the senator say so, and you have heard it."

"All the money you want. And I will tell you my good news as you go." "You have good news?" Then I didn't want the money; I want the woman, and she is not to be had."

"How can you talk so of a people with whom we are at peace? And the Spanish minister and his wife are charming, are most estimable! I dined there last week."

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than Mrs. MacMichael, who risked her husband's good report at home, and had Gloria Campeador beside her in the gallery, and went to the grandstand the great excitement which she carried, and took them both home to dine with her, and to a long row from the senator, who, having decided not to stand for another term, would have been better pleased if Harry had not made himself an impossible success.

"I have had news," said Gloria, meeting him radiantly a few mornings afterward. "It is only a scrap that I could have sent me. They are off. Oh, I have said all my prayers! And now I must go tell my news. Gen. Piers Peterson left his wife here, did you know?"

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must had gathered and had broken while they waited here; and then the sunset had burst over the high heaven, as if a vast ruby had let out its secret, transfiguring the piled marble and making the dome of the capital only a shadow on the wall.

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