

THE FOURTH ESTATE

Novelized by FREDERICK R. TOOMBS From the Great Play of the Same Name by Joseph Medill Patterson and Harriet Ford.

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(Continued.)

Wheeler... heart sick and discouraged and torn by the emotions that welled within him, leaned helplessly against the desk. After all, he reasoned, what did it all matter? There were lots of evil men in the world, always had been, always would be. What harm would it do if one dishonest judge were allowed to go unmolested, even if he happened to be a United States judge? Surely there were other dishonest judges, and he could not drive all of them off the bench—no, indeed. And, moreover, this thankless task he had shouldered would if he succeeded rob him of the girl he loved. It would rob him of the love of the girl who loved him.

Then the thought of the enthusiasm that had buoyed him as he wrote the story that had exposed Judge Bartelmy came to him and clung to him. The inspiration in doing a strong man's work for the public good enthused the spirit of Wheeler Brand, captured his soul. The steady light burned once more in his eyes. He shook himself together—fastened his old time grip on himself. As for Judith, he would do his duty, and he would win her yet.

When the managing editor of the Advance re-entered his office and walked briskly toward his desk he found Wheeler Brand looking eagerly over a notebook which, quite unknown to McHenry, contained the data for an article on the Lansing iron case even before the managing editor had written the one already printed.

"Well, did you settle it?" asked McHenry. Brand looked up and started toward the door.

"Yes, sir," he answered, and he was gone. At this juncture Downs, the city editor, came into the managing editor's room. He addressed McHenry rapidly.

"Water main burst on Morton street; drowned seven dago kids in the basement of a tenement; mothers, scrub-women, gone out to work and locked them in; water rising. He drew close to the desk. "Children, climbing stairs to escape, found huddled in each other's arms on top step, drowned! All but the youngest hanging on to a string of beads; must have died praying!"

The managing editor's face immediately lightened, and he pounded his desk enthusiastically. "Good! Good! By glory, that's a dandy! That saves our lives! Now we'll have a paper tomorrow! We'll go the limit on this. Did you send a photographer?"

"Yes, sir, I did." McHenry seized the office telephone. "Night editor! Oh, hello! Cut three columns more out of those shavings. We've got a live one. Seven dago kids drowned. First time they ever saw water in their lives. Run three columns! He hung up the receiver and turned to the city editor.

"Put in three leads and make it stick out like a sore thumb. And, say, put in a black faced bulletin saying the Advance will receive subscriptions for their families."

Durkin entered with a bundle of proofs. "And, say, Downs," added McHenry, "print in bold faced type that the Advance will start the subscription with \$100."

"Mr. Dupuy is downstairs," announced Durkin. The managing editor could not suppress a sour expression which crept across his face. "Dupuy, eh?" he granted half sardoniously. "Wonder what he wants around here now? He's a regular bottinik."

McHenry knew Dupuy in a business way, knew he was counsel for several of the big mercantile establishments which advertised in the Advance and that the lawyer had represented various corporations at the state capital.

"Well, I suppose I'll have to see him," he finally resolved. "Show Mr. Dupuy," he called to the boy.

"Good evening," was Dupuy's greeting to McHenry as he entered and placed his overcoat on a chair.

"Good evening, Mr. Dupuy. What can I do for you?" The visitor seated himself at the right of McHenry's desk.

"McHenry," began Dupuy decidedly,

"somebody on your paper has been making bad breaks lately, particularly the one this morning?" "What one this morning?" "The Judge Bartelmy story, of course."

"Help!" sang out McHenry. "I've been getting that all day." "It's no joke, McHenry," snapped Dupuy.

"It was a mistake," responded the managing editor. "Mistake! Who was responsible for it?" "Leaving forward."

"Oh, it just slipped through in the rush." "Tell that to the marines," retorted Dupuy sarcastically. He paused. "Who slipped it through?"

There was another pause. McHenry began to assert himself. "Excuse me, Dupuy," he asked pointedly. "But how does the Bartelmy story affect you?"

"Some of my clients have a very high regard for the judge. Your story grossly misrepresents him."

"Yes, I suppose so." "This growing tendency to bring our judiciary into disrepute is a dangerous symptom of the unrest beneath the surface," spoke Dupuy pompously. "The federal bench is the ultimate bulwark."

McHenry laughed. "Oh, capital in distress! Yes, I know all about that."

Dupuy stirred indignantly. "There was no occasion for that remark," he shot forth tartly. "I was very much in earnest, and the management of the Advance, as he had previously known it—representatives of an insurance company—would have desired to gratify the wishes of the powerful"

interests behind Dupuy. So far as the new owner was concerned, the managing editor could not tell what his attitude would be in the matter, but he had received no instructions as yet to change the policy of the paper.

"No offense meant," explained McHenry. "Well, we'll have nothing more about Bartelmy. Will that satisfy your people?"

"Thank you, McHenry. That will be eminently satisfactory both to them and to me as their legal adviser."

"All right; that settles that." "Oh, not quite," said Dupuy, raising his hand warningly. "There's one more point. Who was responsible for the story?"

"Oh, let's pass that!" But Dupuy could not be turned aside. McHenry had begun to give way to him and the lawyer intended to follow up his advantage.

"Very well; it's up to you," he said. "But I want you to realize, whatever happens, there is no personal animosity in the matter."

"What do you mean by 'whatever happens?'" asked the managing editor quickly.

The visitor was a living picture of complacency. "How much advertising did you get from our concern last year?"

The managing editor began to discern more clearly the hidden club in Dupuy's words and demands. "Oh, I can't say as to that."

"About \$300,000 worth, wasn't it?" "Yes, I should think so," admitted McHenry.

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the Common Council was held at City Hall, Monday evening, January 4, 1910. Present—Aldermen D. E. O'Neill, McHenry, Mahoney, Cassidy, McMurphy, Finlan, Conlin, Brady, Lavery, P. O'Neill, Paddock, Primrose, Gould, Wilder, Bertinson, Fletcher, Bulard, Jackson, O'Connell, Stewart, Foyner, Meyer, Zink.

On motion the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting were dispensed with and the records approved. BILLS.

The following bills against the city were presented and referred to the Committee on Finance, without reading: Berkshire Mills Co., \$336.47; Vincent Bros., \$215.90; Annie Kampf, \$79.97; United Manufacturers, \$56.52; Wm. A. Barnes, \$73.25; John J. Broderick, \$10.00; Peck & Linn, \$1.00; Southey, \$45.83; Marine Torch Co., \$32.50; Hunter & Havens, \$27.17; Lyon & Grumman, \$25.50; T. Hawley & Co., \$31.74; Demore & Meyers, \$33.40; Bridgeport Vehicle Co., \$19.00; Bridgeport Hydraulic Co., \$56.35; C. Rickard, \$24.00; M. H. Ford, \$24.00; Seeley & Marshall, \$16.67; Wooster, Atkinson Co., \$12.55; Game-well Tel. Co., \$18.50; W. J. Southey, \$3.71; Wm. M. Terry Co., \$8.00; Coe Brass Co., \$7.93; H. Beutelspacher, \$6.48; McMillan Book Co., \$6.20; Wm. R. Winn, \$5.30; E. Scoley, et al., \$3.13; D. Trube & Co., \$2.50; Ailing Rubber Co., \$1.80; Buckingham, Brewer & Platt Co., \$1.00; R. T. Whiting, \$3.75; Hawley & Co., \$4.50; W. J. Southey, O'Connell, \$5.00; The Joyce Press, \$197.75; United Illuminating Co., \$117.50; The Miller Lumber Co., \$56.10; Eastern Coupling Co., \$35.00; Eureka Fire Hose Co., \$27.60; C. D. Eames & Co., \$4.47.

PETITIONS. To the Committee on Streets and Sidewalks: De petition of George H. Zink, et al., for the macadamizing of Baldwin street, from Connecticut avenue to Stratford avenue. A. Levy, et al., for the completion of the grading and macadamizing of Madison avenue from North avenue to Jackson avenue.

De petition of N. E. Scoley, et al., for the grading of Trumbull Road. De petition of John Kosa, et al., for the macadamizing of Wordin avenue, from Bostwick avenue to Hancock avenue.

To the Committee on Lamps: De petition of Michael Ronan, et al., for the location of an electric light at the corner of Columbia street and Park Terrace. De petition of the Crane Valve Co. for the location of an electric light on South avenue west of Inman street.

To the Committee on Claims: De petition of William N. Beardsley for the abatement of lien for the Roosevelt street sewers. De petition of John J. McFarland for the abatement of lien for the Roosevelt street sewer.

To the Committee on Fire Department: De petition of the Standard Oil Co. for permission to distribute refined petroleum through the city in excess of five barrels.

REPORTS. The Director of Public Works reported that, as directed by you, he has caused curbs and sidewalks to be constructed on the streets named, in front of property, of the following named persons, to wit:

- (On Main Street, east side.) E. Smith Hubbell, \$30.00; Fred A. Trug, \$7.00; Charles Fox, \$7.00; Mrs. M. E. P. Sherman, \$7.50; Thomas Arnold, \$7.43; Fanny Landes, \$15.73; Bridgeport Theatre Co., \$29.53; Joel W. Hastings, \$22.65; Bernard Libescher, \$103.57; Bradley Goodsell, Bertha Hawkins and Maria Hawkins, \$55.61; Harriet A. Perry, \$182.02; Abbie McCarthy, \$50.90; John Carpenette, \$21.48; Ellen A. Rawley, et al., \$29.09; Charles Hartley, \$13.43; Daniel T. Conger, \$75.60; George Stapleton, \$63.13; Sarah Goodsell, Est., and L. B. Sullivan, \$38.50; Fairchild & Shelton, \$3.85 (Main Street, west side.) William J. Nichols and Minnie C. Nichols, \$24.75; R. G. Barr, Est., \$14.30; Alfred Fones, \$48.47; Mary C. O'Brien, Fannie M. Teresa L. Annan, John J. O'Connell and Gertrude E. McMahon, Alice Gaynor and Josephine I. Laley, \$159.48; Marietta W. Crowley, \$43.02; John C. Curtis, Frederick Curtis and Ellen S. Curtis, \$118.84; William J. Nichols and Minnie C. Nichols, \$183.19; Susan H. Davis, \$83.13; Robert Brinsmade, \$112.32; P. J. Devitt and wife, \$84.45; Annie Gorman, \$150.55; Henry H. Hartner, \$55.45; William H. Fox, \$66.12; The Hartmann Brewing Co., \$38.81; Maria Hellman, et al., \$28.88; Max J. Ewech, \$2.95.

The passage of the following resolution is recommended: Resolved, That the foregoing report be accepted and a warrant for the collection of said sewers be placed in the hands of John M. Donnelly, Collector.

Adopted and the assessments confirmed. The report of the Board of Appraisal of Benefits and Damages on the construction of sewers in Wade street from Norman street to the city limits, 149 feet; in Worth street connecting with the sewer in Worth street near Coleman street and extending easterly about 100 feet; in Bostwick street, Main street to Madison avenue; in Norman street from Wade street southerly about 366 feet, laid over under the rules December 20, 1909, as appears of record in meeting of said date, were adopted and the assessments confirmed.

The same Board reported on the construction of sewers in Osborne street from Hancock avenue westerly about 927 feet; in Hallett street from Putnam street northerly about 46 feet; in Brewster street from Fairfield avenue southerly about 322 feet, laid over under the rules December 20, 1909, as appears of record in meeting of said date, were adopted and the assessments confirmed.

The same Board reported on the establishment of Harbor lines at the westerly end of the city, from the breakwater to and around the end of the beach to the town line where it crosses the Gut, laid over under the rules December 20, 1909, as appears of record in meeting of said date, were adopted and the assessments confirmed.

The Committee on Streets and Sidewalks reported relative to sundry petitions, as follows: De petition for the construction of a bridge across the Pequonnock River from the terminus of Arctic street on the east, connecting with the eastern terminus of Grand street on the west.

De report of the City Engineer in relation to the establishment of grade on Boston avenue from Glenwood avenue to Noble avenue. And recommended for adoption the following resolution: Resolved, That the Clerk be, and hereby is, directed to notify the persons in interest to appear before this Common Council in the Court Room, City Hall, on the 17th day of January, A. D. 1910, at 8 o'clock in the evening, and be heard in relation to de

petition for the construction of a bridge across the Pequonnock River from the terminus of Arctic street on the east, connecting with the eastern terminus of Grand street on the west. De report of the City Engineer in relation to the establishment of grade on Boston avenue from Glenwood avenue to Noble avenue.

The same committee reported relative to the petition of Percy Anderson for permission to erect a one story frame store and to extend same 6 feet over the building line on Gregory street, between Lafayette and Broad streets, a distance of 50 feet. Said store to be erected on the northeast corner of Lafayette and Gregory streets.

And recommended for adoption the following resolution: Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner be granted. De petition of Maria McKel Berry for abatement of the expense on the assessment for the Newfield avenue sewer, lined January 10th, 1899, and amounting to \$3.98, on the assessment for the Newfield avenue building line, lined May 6, 1899, and amounting to \$5.14.

De petition of Caspar and Louise Erbe for abatement of taxes and expenses on the list of 1908 in the name of Caspar Erbe amounting to \$17.08 in the First District and \$21.84 in the Second District. De petition of John O'Connell for abatement of taxes and expense in the name of John M. O'Connell for the years 1899, 1900, 1902, 1903, and 1904, as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Year, First Dis. Exp., Second Dis. Exp., Total. 1899: \$4.15, \$4.29, \$8.44; 1900: \$4.15, \$4.29, \$8.44; 1902: 6.18, 6.08, 12.26; 1903: 6.33, 6.08, 12.41; 1904: 6.16, 6.24, 12.40.

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Mr. Dupuy was downstairs.