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OR

# FIGHT

BY EMERSON HOUGH

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### CHAPTER VIII. Mr. Calhoun Visits.

A woman's tongue is her sword, that she never lets rust—Madam Necker.

I struggled among three courses. The impulses of my heart, joined to some presence of trouble, bade me to follow Elisabeth. My duty ordered me to hasten to Mr. Calhoun. My interest demanded that I should tarry, for I was sure that the Baroness von Ritz would make no merely idle request in these circumstances. Hesitating thus, I lost sight of her in the throng. So I concluded I would obey the mandate of duty, and turned toward the great doors. Indeed, I was well toward the steps, when I led out into the grounds, when all at once two elements of my problem resolved themselves into one. I saw the tall figure of Mr. Calhoun himself coming up the walk toward me.

"Ah," said he briefly, "then my message found you?"

"I was starting for you this moment, sir," I replied.

"Wait for a moment. I counted on finding you here. Matters have changed."

I turned with him and we entered again the East Room, where Mr. Tyler still prolonged the official greeting of the curious, the obsequious, or the banal persons who passed. Mr. Calhoun stood apart for a time, watching the progress of this purely American function. It was some time ere he had thinned. This latter fact was not usually ended the reception, since it is not etiquette to suppose that the president can lack an audience; but today Mr. Tyler lingered. At last through the thinning throng he caught sight of the distinctive figure of Mr. Calhoun. For the first time his own face assumed a natural expression. He stopped the line for an instant, and with a raised hand beckoned to my chief.

At this we dropped in at the tail of the line, Mr. Calhoun in passing grasping almost as many hands as Mr. Tyler. When at length we reached the president's position, the latter greeted him and added a whispered word. An instant later he turned abruptly, ending the reception with a deep bow, and retired into the room from which he had earlier emerged.

Mr. Calhoun turned now to me with a request to follow him, and we passed through the door which had just been vanished. Directed by attendants, we were presently ushered into yet another room, which at that time served the president as his cabinet room, a place for meeting persons of distinction who called upon business.

As we entered I saw that it was already occupied. Mr. Tyler was grasping the hand of a portly personage, whom I knew to be none other than Mr. Pakenham. So much might have been expected. What was not to be expected was the presence of another—none less than the Baroness von Ritz!

"So we were apparently to understand that my lady was here as open friend of England! Of course, I needed no word from Mr. Calhoun to remind me that we must seem ignorant of this lady, of her character, and of her repeated relations with the British foreign office."

"I pray you be seated, Mr. Pakenham," said Mr. Tyler, and he gestured also to us others to take chairs near his table. Mr. Pakenham, in rather a lofty fashion, it seemed to me, obeyed the polite request, but scarcely had seated himself ere he again rose with an important clearing of his throat.

"Your Excellency," said he, "her Majesty the Queen of England has just been somewhat anticipated by my visit here today. I hastened only to put in the most prompt and friendly form her Majesty's desires, which I am sure formally will be expressed in the first mails from England. We deplore this most unhappy accident on your worship's Princeton, which has come so near working irreparable injury to this country."

"Sir," said Mr. Tyler, rising, with a deep bow, "the courtesy of your personal presence is most gratifying. Allow me to express that more intimate and warmer feeling of friendship for yourself which comes through our long association with you. This respect and admiration are felt by myself and my official family for you and the great power which you represent."

Each having thus delivered himself of words which meant nothing, both now seated themselves and proceeded to look mightily grave. For myself, I stole a glance from the tail of my eye toward the Baroness von Ritz. She sat erect in her chair, a figure of easy grace and dignity, but on her face was nothing one could read to tell who she was or why she was here.

"I seize upon this opportunity, Mr. Pakenham," said Mr. Tyler presently, with a smile which he meant to set all at ease and to soften as much as possible the severity of that which was to follow. "I gladly take this opportunity to mention in an informal way my hope that this matter which was already inaugurated by Mr. Uphur before his untimely death may come to perfectly pleasant consummation. I refer to the question of Texas."

"I beg pardon, your Excellency," rejoined Mr. Pakenham, half rising. "Your meaning is not perfectly clear to me."

The same joy smile set upon Mr. Tyler's face as he went on: "I can not believe that your government can wish to interfere in matters upon this continent to the extent of taking the position of open ally of the Republic of Mexico, a power so recently at war upon our own borders with the brave Texans who have left our flag to set up, through fair conquest, a republic of their own."

"The notified fact of Mr. Pakenham's mention in your speech," said he, "is that your Excellency," said he, "is to say, as I may state."

bearing upon the question of slavery in Texas, appears to this government as an expression which ought to be disavowed by your own government. Do I make myself quite clear?" (With John Calhoun present, Tyler could at times assume a courage though he had it not.)

"Mr. Pakenham's face glowed a deeper red. 'I am not at liberty to discuss my Lord Aberdeen's wishes in this matter,' he said. 'We met here upon a purely informal matter, and—'

"I have only ventured to hope," rejoined Mr. Tyler, "that the personal kindness of your own heart might move you in so grave a matter as that which

may lead to war between two powers."

"War, sir, war?" Mr. Pakenham went wholly purple in his surprise, and attempted to his feet. "Wait!" he repeated once more. "As though there could be any hope—"

"Quite right, sir," said Mr. Tyler grimly. "As though there could be any hope for us save in our own conduct of our own affairs, without any interference from any foreign power!"

I knew it was John Calhoun speaking these words, not Mr. Tyler. I saw the Calhoun's keen, cold eyes fixed closely upon the face of Pakenham, now all the colors of the rainbow, as he looked from one to the other.

"Of course, this conversation is entirely irregular—I mean to say, wholly unofficial, your Excellency," hesitated Pakenham. "It takes no part in our records."

"Assuredly not," said Mr. Tyler. "I only hope the question may never come to a matter of record at all. Once our country knows that dictation has been attempted with us, even by England herself, the north will join the south in resentment. Even now, in restiveness at the fancied attitude of England toward Mexico, the west raises the demand that we shall end the joint occupation of Oregon with Great Britain. Do you perchance know the waterhole which is now on the popular tongue to become an American Marsobla?"

"I must confess my ignorance," rejoined Mr. Pakenham.

"Our bookworms have invented a phrase which runs Fifty-four Forty or Fight!"

"I beg pardon, I am sure, your Excellency."

"It means that if we conclude to terminate the very unsatisfactory middle along the Columbia river—a stream which our marines first explored, as we contend—and if we conclude to dispute with England as well regarding our definitions on the southwest, where she has even less right to speak, then we shall content for all that territory, not only up to the Columbia, but north to the Russian line, the parallel of fifty-four degrees and forty minutes! We claim that we once bought Texas clear to the Rio Grande, from Napoleon, although the foolish treaty with Spain in 1819 clouded our title—in the belief of our White friends, who do not desire more slave territory. Even the Whites think that we own Oregon by virtue of first navigation of the Columbia. Both Whites and Democrats now demand Oregon north to fifty-four degrees, forty minutes. The alternative? My Lord Aberdeen surely makes no deliberate bid to hear it!"

"Or fight!" exclaimed Pakenham. "God bless my soul! Fight us?"

"Mr. Tyler smiled. 'Such things have been said,' said he, 'and I have been so dumfounded. This act of courage and confidence on the part of Mr. Tyler himself was something foreign to his record. I know the reason for his boldness. John Calhoun sat at his right hand. The meaning of this sudden assault was too much for England's representatives. Perhaps, indeed, the Emperor's hand of our frontier spoke in Mr. Tyler's gaze. That we would fight indeed was true enough.'

"At this point, your Excellency, the dignity of her Majesty's service would lead me to ask excuse," rejoined Mr. Pakenham formally, "were it not for one fact, which I should like to offer to you. In my, in short, news which will

appear full warrant for any communication thus far made by her Majesty's government. I can assure you that there has come into the possession of this lady, whose able services I venture to enlist here in her presence, a communication from the Republic of Texas to the government of England. That communication is done by no less a hand than that of the attaché of the Republic of Texas, Mr. Van Zandt himself."

"There was, I think, no other formal invitation for the Baroness von Ritz to speak; but now she arose, swept a curtsey first to Mr. Tyler and then to Mr. Pakenham and Mr. Calhoun.

"It is not to be expected, your Excellency and gentlemen," said she, "that I can add anything of value here." Her eyes were demurely downcast.

"We do not doubt your familiarity with many of these late events," encouraged Mr. Tyler.

"True," she continued, "the note of my Lord Aberdeen is today the property of the streets, and of this I have some knowledge. I can see, also, difficulty in its reception among the courageous gentlemen of America. But, as to any written communication from Mr. Van Zandt, there must be some mistake!"

soon enough, I fancy. I ask you, then, to hear what Mr. Calhoun replies."

"I have had some certain moments for reflection, Mr. President," said he, "and I have from the first moment of this surprising offer on your part been hungrily sensible of the honor offered so old and so unfit a man."

"Sir, if I take this office which you offered, I do so with avowed and expressed purpose of bringing Texas into this Union, in full view of any and all consequences. I shall offer her a treaty of annexation at once! I shall urge annexation at every hour, in every place, in all ways within my means, and in full view of the consequences!"

"That is well understood, Mr. Calhoun," began Mr. Tyler. "Your views are in full accord with my own."

"What, then, is the answer of John Calhoun to his latest call of his country?"

"That answer is one which is in our history."

"John Calhoun accepts!" said my master, loud and clear.

To be continued.

**MUSK OXEN AS LIFE SAVERS.**

Times When They Kept Peary and His Men From Starvation.

The latest installment of Peary's story of his journey to the pole deals with the hunting, by means of which the party's stock of provisions for the winter was very materially helped out. At first game was so scarce that he was a good deal worried.

Only a few hare and foxes were secured and he began to fear that he himself, on his latest previous expedition, he had killed off the musk ox upon which Arctic explorers have largely better luck when with three Eskimos he made a week's trip to explore Clements Markham Inlet.

"On the next march," he writes to Hampton's, "we had gone only some six or seven miles when rounding a point on the eastern shore of the inlet, Oob-loo-yah and I at the same moment saw black dots on a distant hillside."

### MR. FINLEY ADVISES FARMERS.

President of Southern Railway Writes Editor Yorkville Enquirer.

My close business association with the south and my intense interest in everything bearing on southern prosperity prompt me to write to you on the present outlook for agriculture in the south with special reference to the cotton situation.

The world demand for cotton is constantly increasing. Dr. S. A. Knapp of the United States agricultural department, has estimated that it doubles once in about twenty-two years. This means that the farmers of our section will be called upon for large supplies in future years. The practical question is how this increased demand can be supplied so as to yield the largest margin of profit to our farmers.

Coincident with the increased demand for cotton, the prices of grains, forage crops and meat products of all kinds are advancing. I do not believe, therefore, that it should be the policy of our farmers to increase their cotton production by planting large areas, to the exclusion of other crops or the neglect of livestock growing. I would suggest, on the contrary, that more attention be given to the diversification of crops and to live stock, and that cotton production be increased by the adoption of those methods of seed selection, soil preparation and cultivation which will result in larger yields per acre.

There is reason to believe that the demand for cotton will generally maintain the price at a level that will make intensive cultivation profitable, but, if conditions should be such as to depress the price in some seasons, the farmer who has grown his own corn and meat, and who has live stock and other farm products for sale, will be affected much less by the low price of cotton than will he who has nothing for sale but cotton, and who must buy meat for his family and feed for his work animals.

I believe that the south can keep pace with the growing demand for cotton and can, at the same time, increase its output of other farm products.

It may be objected that the possible spread of the Mexican cotton boll weevil east of the Mississippi river will tend to reduce the average production per acre in the areas affected, and make it impossible to keep pace with the demand for cotton which is increasing at an ever increasing rate.

I believe that a study of the effect of the weevil in the localities where it has been longest present does not sustain this objection. In fact, while the weevil is the most serious insect pest that the cotton grower has been called upon to combat, it has been demonstrated that by the adoption of proper methods it can be so far controlled that substantially as large yields per acre can be obtained as were its invasion, and that it is of more importance to the south as a whole, the methods that have been developed in fighting the weevil are identically those which will serve to increase the production per acre in those localities where the insect is unknown. They are methods, therefore, the adoption of which in regions where the weevil exists is imperative, but which may be adopted with profit by the cotton grower in any part of the south.

The weevil crossed the Rio Grande into Texas about 1892, but did not attract general attention until 1894, since that time the area in which it is present has gradually increased, the insect itself and methods of controlling it have been subjects of constant study by the United States agricultural department, state agricultural officials and intelligent farmers. Its direction and extent of its spread cannot be predicted with certainty, but the farmers east of the Mississippi have the greatest knowledge of the weevil and its control, and the experience gained in the campaign that has been waged against it for sixteen years in the territory west of the river, where it has been demonstrated that cotton can be grown successfully and profitably in spite of its presence.

This may be illustrated by some facts as to production under boll weevil conditions. In the state of Texas the area in which it is present, as shown by the accompanying chart of that state, has been approximately the same since 1894, embracing by far the greater part of the cotton growing area of the state. Yet the two largest crops ever produced in Texas—those of 1906 and 1908—were grown under these boll weevil conditions. There are fluctuations in the size of the crop in Texas as well as in other parts of the cotton belt, but where scientific methods of combating the weevil are adopted, these fluctuations are due not so much to the presence of the boll weevil as to weather conditions.

Thus the crop of 1909 in Texas was more than a million bales below the crop of 1908, but Dr. Knapp, has expressed the opinion that, but for the excessively hot and dry weather which prevailed in the middle of the growing season, the yield would have been ten times as large in the history of cotton growing in the state. He points out as significant the fact that the greater increase as compared with 1908 was in the dry western part of the state, where the eastern counties, where the insect is most numerous, there was the least falling off. Dr. Knapp estimates roughly that the falling off in the eastern part of the state, where the weevil was worst, was only about 28 per cent; in the central part, about 28 per cent; and in the western part, where the weevil is less prevalent, about 21 per cent.

In localities west of the short crop in Texas in 1909 should not be charged to the weevil, but to the unfavorable weather conditions. Fluctuations in yield due to weather conditions are inevitable where the weevil is present or not. Thus, Calhoun county, Ala., which has never had a boll weevil in it, had an unfavorable season in 1902 and produced 8,811 bales, but two years later, under favorable weather conditions, the yield of the county was more than twice as much—18,527 bales.

In the case of the Mississippi the appearance of the weevil was followed by a decline in production, but with the adoption of the methods recommended by the agricultural department and the state officials improved results were soon attained.

In Limestone county, Texas, the normal production before the boll weevil appeared was about 20,000 bales. In 1902 the county produced 22,562 bales. In 1903 the weevil cut the crop down to 17,029 bales. The agricultural de-

partment methods of combating the insect were introduced, and the production rose to 41,902 bales in 1904; 38,110 bales in the season of 1905, when the weather conditions were unfavorable; 72,320 in 1906, when weather conditions were favorable; 36,253 under the unfavorable weather conditions of 1907; 70,525 in 1908, when the weather was favorable, and 50,184 under the unfavorable weather conditions of 1909.

Harrison county, Texas, had a normal production of about 20,000 bales before the weevil appeared. It did not become destructive until 1906, when, in spite of favorable weather conditions, the crop was reduced to 18,131 bales. The next year with a combination of the weevil and unfavorable weather conditions it fell to 7,833 bales. In 1908, with a favorable season and the general adoption of agricultural department methods, it rose to 16,844 bales, and in the unfavorable season of 1909 the crop was 16,883 bales.

In De Soto parish, La., the normal yield before the appearance of the weevil was about 29,000 bales. The weevil and general unfavorable conditions cut this down to 6,343 bales in 1907. The adoption of agricultural department methods resulted in a crop of 13,625 bales in 1908, and although weather conditions were less favorable in 1909 the parish produced 14,199 bales, showing the same tendency to return to normal production noted in the case of the weevil was about 29,000 bales. The weevil and general unfavorable conditions cut this down to 6,343 bales in 1907. The adoption of agricultural department methods resulted in a crop of 13,625 bales in 1908, and although weather conditions were less favorable in 1909 the parish produced 14,199 bales, showing the same tendency to return to normal production noted in the case of the weevil was about 29,000 bales. The weevil and general unfavorable conditions cut this down to 6,343 bales in 1907. 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