

CHRONICLES
of an Ancient Province--called Mississippi.

"AN O'ER TRUE TALE"

CHAPTER XXV.

1. In the reign of Andrew the first, King over the twenty and six united provinces which were in the country of the west, there was one among the southernmost of all the provinces which was called Mississippi, a very goodly and pleasant land to dwell in, and the soil thereof did bring forth cotton in great abundance, and the people of the province did gather the cotton and the ships of all nations did come to buy the cotton, and the people of the province did thereby get much gain.

2. And the great Bank of all the provinces, which was in the first years of the reign of King Andrew, did mightily help the people of the provinces, for it did lend its money unto them, wherewith they did greatly profit, and they did get of it also from the people of the other provinces which did buy of their cotton, and they had money in abundance, and yet they had none save that which was very good.

3. And so the people of the province did prosper exceedingly, and became very rich, and among all the people in the earth there was none which was accounted richer or more honorable than they.

4. And it came to pass, when King Andrew did send forth his royal mandate, commanding the rulers of all the provinces to make banks in the room of the great bank which he purposed to destroy, that the ruler of Mississippi did call together the Sanhedrim of the province, and he told them all that king Andrew had commanded.

5. And the wise men of the Sanhedrim consulted one with another, and they said, we will do even as king Andrew hath commanded.

6. And they made bonds of the province for two millions, which were signed by the ruler and sealed with the great seal of the province, and they did sell these bonds, and with the money which they got for the bonds they did make a bank.

7. And they called the name of the Bank which they had made the Planters' Bank, because they wished to please the ears of the people, which were called planters; and they said moreover to the people there should be no more taxation forever, for they said the bank will be profitable to the province, and will pay all the expenses thereof.

8. And the ruler of Mississippi sent unto king Andrew, saying, Thou mayest now destroy the great bank, and the people of my province will not complain of thee therefore, for I have obeyed thy commandment and have made a bank which shall give money unto the people of my province in greater abundance than the great bank which thou wilt destroy.

9. And it came to pass when the great bank of the United Provinces had been destroyed by King Andrew, that the Planters' Bank was not able to satisfy the people of the province of Mississippi with money, and they began to murmur against King Andrew and to yearn after another bank like unto that which he had destroyed.

10. And the ruler of the province did call together his Sanhedrim, and said unto them, Ye must needs make other banks for the people of the province, else will they rebel against King Andrew, for the Planters' bank is not able to supply them with money.

11. And the Sanhedrim and the Ruler together did make very many banks, and the pockets and the saddle bags of the people were filled with the money of the new banks, and all the people did sing together for joy, and say, O great is our King Andrew.

12. And when King Andrew did command that Martin the crafty should be king after him, the people of the province did say, So mote it be--for who is like unto our great King Andrew, by whose wisdom we got all this money, and so they helped to make Martin king.

13. And it came to pass when Martin had reigned about the space of two months, that all the banks of the province did blow up, and the banks of all the other provinces did blow up also, and the money of them was no more accounted of than tags.

14. And the servants of King Martin were sorely perplexed at these things, and they took counsel together, and said, Let us make a new bank for the people of this province, and so appease their wrath against King Martin, for their anger is kindled against him, and they be hungering and thirsting after a great bank, like unto that which King Andrew destroyed, and if so be they get another bank like unto that they will serve King Martin no longer, neither will they be ruled by us any longer.

15. Let us therefore make a very great bank in this province, even a bank of fifteen millions, and let us make bonds of the province for fifteen millions, and sell them and make this great bank, even as we sold bonds and made the Planters' bank. So shall the people of this province be satisfied, and they will desire no other bank, and they will serve King Martin and us, his servants, forever and ever.

16. And the Sanhedrim of the province did make a great bank of fifteen millions, which they did call the Union Bank, and they said, This great bank which we have made will give money enough and to spare unto the people of this province, and unto all the other provinces of the south also.

17. Now it was a law of the province, that no bonds of the province should be made, until a decree thereof should first be made by one Sanhedrim and after that the decree should be confirmed by another Sanhedrim which should be chosen by the people; after that the decree was made by the first Sanhedrim.

18. And when the people of the province knew the decree which their Sanhedrim had made, they were delighted therewith, for they were sorely distressed for want of money, and they looked that the Union Bank would give them money and so their distress be put away from them.

19. And the people choose another Sanhedrim, and said unto the men which they had chosen, Make haste, and give us money from out the Union Bank, lest we be ruined for lack of money, for even now we be ready to perish.

20. And when the Sanhedrim assembled together again they confirmed the decree which the former Sanhedrim had made, but they could not obey the people to give them money straightway, for they could not give the people money, according to the decree which had been made, until after many months.

21. And because the people were so sorely distressed for lack of money, and had become very clamorous for succour in their need, the Sanhedrim did make a decree that five millions of the bank should belong unto the province, and that the ruler should straightway make bonds of the province for five millions, and sign them with his name and seal them with the great seal of the province, so that the bonds might be sold and the people get money thereby.

22. And the Ruler of the province did even according to the decree of the Sanhedrim, and he made the bonds of the province even for five millions, and the bonds were sold in a fair country.

23. Now when the bonds of the province of Mississippi were shown to the lenders of money, they were sold without delay, for it was known that much cotton was gathered in the province, and all men did believe of the people of the province that they were a very honorable and right-minded people.

24. And when it was made known among the people of the province that the bonds were sold, they did rejoice with exceeding great joy and they said, We shall now get money from out the Union Bank. And the ruler of the province, and the Sanhedrim, and all the people did rejoice together and said, All things have been done rightly and well.

CHAPTER XXVI.

1. And it came to pass, after the bonds of the province had been sold, that the price thereof, even five millions, was given into the hands of them, which were appointed by the Sanhedrim for to manage the Union Bank and which were called Directors, and these did lend the money unto the people, until none was left.

2. Now the name of the Ruler which ruled over the province was Alexander the fat, and there was none other man in the province which could be likened unto him for drinking of strong drink, and he was very pot-bellied withal.

3. And Alexander the fat had thought to rule the Union Bank; even as should seem good unto him, but the chief officer of the Union Bank, whose name was Hiram, did also desire to rule over the bank, and so were Alexander and Hiram at enmity with one and another.

4. And now was King Martin the crafty intent upon making his sub-treasurer, to destroy all banks and get into his treasury all the gold and silver which was in the provinces, and when Alexander heard thereof he was exceeding glad, and said, I will utterly destroy the Union Bank, because of the enmity that is between me and Hiram, and also destroy every bank which is in the province, and there shall be no money in the province save only gold and silver.

5. And when King Martin shall get all the gold and silver in his treasury, he will bestow upon me a portion thereof, because I have been a faithful servant unto him, and thereby I will rule over this people even as I list, because they will not be able to get money save only from me, and they shall serve King Martin forever.

6. And Alexander the fat commanded his servants throughout all the province, and he did never cease to cry aloud, both day and night, saying, Great is Alexander, our Ruler, and let all the banks be utterly destroyed, for such is the will of our Ruler, and let he be very great.

7. And Alexander the fat spake very hard things concerning Hiram the chief officer of the Union Bank, and when Hiram heard thereof, he was very wroth, and he took a whip and he smote Alexander therewith, until the feelings of Alexander were hurt exceedingly, and he lifted up his voice and wroth aloud.

8. But the people were partly persuaded by the men which Alexander had sent among them, and they chose men for a new Sanhedrim, which did utterly abhor all banks. And when the Sanhedrim was assembled together, Alexander did fill him with new whiskey, and he spake unto them saying:

9. All the banks in the province were made by the Whigs. My people is undone by the banks. The banks have swindled my people. They have snud me at the law, even me, your Ruler. I will that they be all destroyed. The Union Bank is a great monster. The directors thereof be all knaves. Hiram hath cowshided me, even me, your Ruler.

10. I did command my servant Volney for to kill Hiram. Hiram did put my servant Volney in very great fear, and had well nigh slain him. I did send Paddy and Bob to the bank, for to examine it. They were sent scornfully away, with a flea in their ears. This is a very grievous offence. The Union Bank doth pertain to the province. The province is mine; I am the Ruler thereof. The province is bound for the bonds, even for five millions. My people will have the bonds to pay, every one of them.

11. And when Alexander had made an end of speaking, the Sanhedrim were well pleased at his words, and they did make a decree that every bank which would not obey Alexander, should be destroyed, and the officers of the bank should be cast into prison.

12. Moreover, they did decree that the banks should pay all that they did owe, as well that which should become payable thereafter as that which was then payable. This they did decree, lest otherwise the banks might not be destroyed.

13. They did also decree that no man should pay ought unto the banks, neither should any pay any thing in all the province, save only the banks, which should pay every thing. And they said, Now will all the banks be utterly destroyed, and Alexander the fat will rule, over the people forever, and cause the people to consent unto the sub-treasury of King Martin.

14. Now there were in the Sanhedrim certain leaders thereof, which were very zealous for to destroy the banks, and desired that the people should consent unto the sub-treasury of King Martin. Of these was Tilghman the iron-fighter, from the east, and Hanson the luckless, from the south, and Joseph the well-digger, from the north.

15. And these men were sent to look into the doings of the Union Bank, that they might counsel the Sanhedrim what to do therewith.

16. And they did look into the doings of the Union Bank, and they did write unto the Sanhedrim and said that Alexander the fat had spoken very rightly concerning the same. Moreover, they did say that the bank belonged only unto the province, and that the province was firmly bound for the bonds which had been sold.

17. Now Tilghman and Joseph were very cunning men, and they said unto Hanson, The people of thy portion of the province do obey thy voice, but our people are unruly and will not obey us, and peradventure we may come to harm among our people by reason of these our doings.

18. Do thou therefore sign thy name unto this writing which we have written unto the Sanhedrim, and so, if haply our people be wroth at our doings, we can say that thou didst this thing and not we, for that we were very sick when the thing was written, and our people will blame thee only for this thing, and we shall be blameless in their sight.

19. And Hanson consented unto the desire of Tilghman and of Joseph, and he signed the writing which had been written unto the Sanhedrim, and no other man did sign the writing.

CHAPTER XXVII.

1. And it came to pass after these things that a portion of the bonds of the province which had been sold to make the Planters' bank did become payable, and Alexander said unto the Sanhedrim, We have not wherewithal to pay these bonds, and our province will be dishonored if they are not paid.

2. And the Sanhedrim were sorely perplexed at the words of Alexander, for they said, We may not tax the people, lest they rebel against us and against Alexander and against King Martin; for they will remember our promise that the Planters' bank should save them from all taxes forever.

3. And they said moreover, We will not tax the people to pay these bonds, for it were better that the province be dishonored and every where spoken evil against than that Martin and Alexander should cease to rule over the people. Therefore we will not tax the people, but we will let the bonds pay themselves, and all the people will serve Alexander the fat and Martin the crafty forever and ever.

4. And the Sanhedrim did even as they had said, and they said, moreover, Now we have destroyed the banks and have refused to tax the people, and they will therefore help to make Martin king over them forever.

5. But the people were sore distressed when all the banks were destroyed, for the money of the banks was destroyed also, and became tags in the hand of them which had it; and the people were wroth with Alexander for all that he had done, and they said, Let us have another great Bank, like unto that which king Andrew did destroy.

6. And the people were sore displeased with king Martin which had refused to give the people a great Bank of the United provinces, and had commanded Alexander to rule over them with rigor, and they did help to make William Henry king in his room, because he did promise to give unto the people a Bank, such as they did desire.

7. And Alexander was troubled in spirit when all these things did come to pass, and he called together his counselors, and said unto them, What shall we now do with this people, for they have rebelled against King Martin, and they be ready to rebel against us also, and to ask for a branch of the great bank.

8. And his counsellors advised him, saying, command thou thy servants which be in the lower house in the Sanhedrim, that many of them get out therefrom and let the friends of William Henry (which be called whigs) take their place. Then will the whigs out-number thy servants in the lower house, but thy servants will still out-number them in the upper house.

9. (Now it was so, that there were two houses of the Sanhedrim, and no law could be made in the province except both houses did consent thereto.)

10. And it shall come to pass, whatever law is made which doth please the people, we will say it was made by the upper house; but whatever law doth not please the people we will say it was made by the lower house, and so shall the people continue to be ruled by thee and us, as in time past, for we shall be praised for all the good which the Sanhedrim shall do, and the whigs will be blamed for all the evil.

11. And fear not thou that a branch of the great Bank shall be sent among us. Let have we not destroyed all the banks which were among us, and have we not made laws that none shall pay their debts, until no man will trust his neighbor. Now do thou one thing more, and surely no branch will be sent among us, and thou shalt rule this people forever.

12. Do thou say unto all the earth that the people of this province will never pay the bonds for five millions which were sold to make the Union Bank, and we will persuade the people to say so likewise, for we will say unto them that all their substance will not suffice to pay these bonds, and then will they surely be persuaded.

13. If thou wilt do this thing, no man will ever trust thy people more; the united provinces will fear to send a branch of their great bank within our borders, and thy people will be a by-word, a hissing and a reproach in all the earth, and none save thee only, and them which be like unto thee, will consent to rule over them.

14. And the thing pleased Alexander well. And he commanded, and Joseph the well-digger and other of his servants did go out from the lower house of the Sanhedrim and whigs were chosen in their room until the whigs did out-number the servants of Alexander. And the Sanhedrim assembled together, and Alexander spake unto them, saying:

15. Verily, verily I say unto you, my people shall not pay the bonds for five millions which were sold to make the Union Bank, forasmuch as Nicholas the great banker did buy them of us, and I say unto you he is a swindler, and because much of them is owned by Rothschild the Jew, which hath the holy sepulchre in pledge. Is not he therefore a heathen man and a great sinner, and shall my people pay unto him the bonds which he hath purchased of Nicholas the banker? Nay! God forbid.

16. And I say unto you, moreover, it is lawful for us to swindle swindlers and to rob the heathen, and so do all my people believe. My people would not pay the bonds for five millions, even though they had wherewithal to pay them, neither could they pay them if they would.

17. And the Sanhedrim was sorely vexed when they heard the words of Alexander, and they said, The words of Alexander the fat be false and slanderous, for our people be not knaves, but they will pay the bonds which they did sell for to get money thereby.

18. And when Alexander did hear these things which the Sanhedrim had said, he was exceeding wroth and did curse and swear vehemently, for he was greatly troubled in his mind.

19. But James the bog-trotter came unto him and said, Be not cast down, O Alexander, neither be thou disquieted at these things. Behold! I will call unto me Charles the simple and John the noisy and George the crazy, and we will publish thy edict that none shall be officers in all the province save only them which say unto the people, it is not right that ye pay the bonds.

20. And I will promise unto some cunning man which is able to persuade the people, that when thou diest thy mantle shall fall upon his shoulders, if so be he will perform my bidding, and speak against the bonds.

21. And Alexander was well pleased with this counsel and James the bog-trotter did send unto Thomas the long, which was of the north, saying, Persuade thou the people against the bonds, that they shall refuse to pay them, and thou shalt be ruler of this province after Alexander.

22. But Thomas the long would not hearken unto the message of James, for he said, It is meet and right that the people pay the bonds, and I will not persuade the people to do unto themselves a great dishonor.

23. And James the bog-trotter was very wroth with Thomas for this answer, and he said, Of a surety, the mantle of Alexander shall fall upon the shoulders of another.

24. And he sent unto Tilghman the iron-fighter and said unto him even the same thing which he had said unto Thomas the long.

25. And Tilghman did listen with greediness unto the message of James the bog-trotter, for he had long desired to wear the mantle of Alexander, and he did straightway saddle his ass, and he did ride over all the province, crying with a loud voice, Woe unto this people, and very grievous taxation, if they refuse not to pay the bonds.

26. And James the bog-trotter did also send a message unto Joseph the well-digger, saying, Do thou persuade thy neighbors against the bonds, and I will promote thee unto the second place of honor in the province, for I will make thee chief over the upper house of the Sanhedrim, and if haply Tilghman

shall die, being Ruler, thou, even thou, shalt be Ruler after him.

27. And Joseph was mightily pleased at the message of James, for he had repented him of going out from the Sanhedrim, and he longed after the loaves and fishes which he did eat in the Sanhedrim in time past.

28. And Joseph did call unto Robert the hungry, and together they did go over the land, and did say unto the people, If ye pay these bonds ye will all be sold into bondage forever, ye and your wives and your little ones, and therefore ye do not owe the bonds and it is wrong that ye should pay them.

29. And they did accuse Alexander the fat that he had forged the bonds, and said the Sanhedrim which did help to make the bonds were all very great knaves, and that the province did have no part nor lot in the Union Bank.

30. And when Joseph was shown the letter which he together with Hanson and Tilghman, did write saying, The province doth own the Union Bank altogether, he answered, saying, Not I, but Hanson did this thing, for I was sick when the thing was written.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

1. Now the friends of William Henry, which were called whigs, did desire to avert the dishonor from the province which was like to befall it by reason of the doings of Alexander the fat. And his servants which did his pleasure, and they longed also for a bank of the United provinces, that the people might prosper once more.

2. And because they did desire these things, they did make the evil things which had been done by the servants of Alexander the fat which were leaders in the Sanhedrim they did send forth in the portion of the province which was called Marshall, one Ellick the valiant and one Billy the active, to battle against the servants of Alexander the fat, even against Joseph and Robert.

3. And Ellick and Billy did go forth and speak against Joseph and Robert, before the people, and they did show how that Joseph and Robert did make of the people, as they did show how that Joseph and Robert did make of the people, as they did show, wherewith they might ride into office and thereby continue that the people might not get a branch of a great bank of all the provinces.

4. Moreover, Ellick and Billy did say unto the people, and so unto the Sanhedrim, and we will not tax the people to pay the bonds, for the Union bank can pay most of the bonds before they will become payable, for it will be many years before that thing will come to pass.

5. And here is a letter from James, the chief officer of the Union Bank, and he saith the Bank hath three millions wherewith to pay these bonds.

6. And as to the obligation of the province to pay these bonds, behold, the Court of Chancery is provided by law to determine such matters, and let the bond-holders in such cases sue at law, for the law is open, and what is right concerning this thing, will the chancellor do.

7. And we will say unto King John the 3d, Give unto us a bank, like unto that which king Andrew did destroy; and we will also do all the evil things which the servants of Alexander have done.

8. And the people gave heed unto this saying of Ellick and Billy and they said one unto another, these men do speak as they say, and we will even trust unto them, and we will send the Sanhedrim, for they cannot make laws that shall be worse than them which we now have.

9. And when Joseph and Robert did hear this, they were troubled, and they said, the people have found us out, and they will not trust us more.

10. And they got up a caucus in the house of John the benighted to counsel what they should do. And William the cunning so did say unto them, which were assembled together, Let us be of good cheer, for have we not among us Andrew the big, which was a mighty man in Tennessee and did rule over all the Western District thereof. Of a surety he is able to rule over the people of Marshall also.

11. Now let us pray unto him that he will say to the people of Marshall, Ye ought not to pay the bonds, and they will surely trust him and be ruled by him, for Andrew the big, is a very mighty man for wisdom.

12. (Now Andrew the big was once a lover of Andrew the first who was King over all the provinces, and he was very wroth with him when he did destroy the great Bank. And when Andrew the big did desire the Sanhedrim of Tennessee to make him a Senator and send him into the great Sanhedrim of the United provinces, it came to pass that one Ephraim was wroth against Andrew the big, and Andrew was wroth against Ephraim, and they did speak well of King Andrew the first, and wherewith more work his former friends.)

13. And the caucus were delighted with the counsel of William the cunning, and they wrote an epistle unto Andrew the big, saying, Tell us, we pray thee, that the province should not pay the bonds, and we will speak thy words unto the people of Marshall, and they will follow thy counsel (for they do know thee for a mighty man), and they will send Joseph and Robert unto the Sanhedrim.

14. And Andrew the big was mightily pleased at the words of the epistle, and he did write unto the caucus, even according unto their request, and these were the words which he did write:

15. I, even Andrew the big, do say to the people of this province, ye ought not to pay the bonds, for it were absurd that ye should pay them. And I do also say that the bonds were unlawfully made, and it were absurd to say that I do not know this thing to be so. And if I have proven these two things, it were worse than anything for any to say unto the people, Ye do owe these bonds.

16. And when Joseph and Robert did read the words of Andrew the big, they were very glad, and they said, Surely no man, no not even Ellick or Billy, will dare gainsay the words of Andrew the big, and the people will surely be ruled by his counsel. And for his labor herein we will make him a senator, and send him to the great Sanhedrim of the United provinces, even to the Sanhedrim of Tennessee would not.

17. And they did make copies of the letter of Andrew the big, even a thousand copies thereof, and did send them among the people of Marshall, for to frighten the people with the terrible name of Andrew the big until they should all consent to they the voice of Joseph and Robert and be ruled by them.

18. But the people of Marshall were perverse and unruly, and they would not be frightened by the letter of Andrew the big, and they said, moreover, We will even think for ourselves, and neither Andrew the big nor any other shall command us what we shall believe, for he shall not dictate unto us, to make us believe whatsoever he will.

19. And the people remembered how they had been often deceived by the servants of Alexander the fat, and they knew the present trouble had all come upon them by reason of the counsel of James the bog-trotter, a other like lewd fellows of the baser sort, which had long ruled the Ruler of the province; and that Joseph had been consenting unto all the evil which had been done by the servants of Alexander the fat, and had striven to make them subject unto Martin.

20. And the people of Marshall did say one to another, These servants of Alexander have ruled wickedly over the province and have made bad laws for us, and if we trust them any more, they will surely do even as they have always done hitherto, and so we will not put any trust in them again.

21. But we will trust Ellick and Billy, and will send them unto the Sanhedrim, for they do promise to do better than these others have done, and we know they cannot do worse, even if they arrive never so hard.

22. And they will say unto King John the 3d that we do want a great Bank of the United provinces, and maybe he will give one unto us, and then shall we prosper again, even as we did in the first years of the reign of King Andrew.

23. And they will undo the evil laws which have been made by Joseph and the servants of Alexander, and will restore unto us our ancient laws, which were much better than these.

24. So will we even trust them this once, and if they do not better for us than the servants of Alexander did, we will cast them off altogether, and put our trust in them no longer.

25. And the people of Marshall did even as they said, and they did send Ellick and Billy unto the Sanhedrim, and the people of the province did also make David the Judge to be ruler over the province, in the room of Alexander the fat, which had with his nose set fire into his bad and been burned unto death. And when these things came to pass, the people of the province were respected, as in time past.

26. And the Sanhedrim of the province did say unto King John the 3d, Our people do want a Bank like unto that which thou didst make, and the Sanhedrims of the other provinces did say the same thing unto King John, when he consulted thereto, and made a bank, and all the people of the provinces did prosper, but the province of Mississippi was more prosperous than any other.

27. Now the other acts of Ellick and Billy, and all the things which they did, behold they are written in the story of the book of the province where they did dwell.