54-40 Or Fight

By
Emerson Hough
Author of
The Mississippi Bubble

Copyright 1909, The Bobbs Merrill Company

CHAPTER XIX.

THE GENTLEMAN FROM TENESSEE.

Women distrust men too much in general, and not enough in particular.—Philbert Commerson.

Now all the more was it necessary for me and my friend from Oregon to hasten on to Washington. Rumors abounded, I found as soon as I struck the first cities below the Canadian line. It was in the air now that under Calhoun there would be put before congress a distinct and definite attempt at the annexation of Texas. Stories of all sorts were on the streets; rumors of the wrath of Mr. Clay; yet other rumors of interesting possibilities at the coming whig and democratic conventions. Everywhere was that strange, ominous, indescribable tension of the atmosphere which exists when a great people is moved deeply.

Late as it was when I reached Washington, I did not hesitate to repair at once to the residence of Mr. Calhoun; and I took with me as my best adjutant my strange friend, Von Rittenhofen, who, I fancied, might add detailed information which Mr. Calhoun would find of value. We were admitted to Mr. Calhoun, and after the first greetings he signified that he would hear my report. He sat, his long, thin hands on his chair arm, as I went on with my story, his keen eyes scanning also my old companion as I spoke. I explained what the latter knew regarding Oregon. I saw Mr. Calhoun's eyes kindle. As usual, he did not lack decision.

"Sir," said he to Von Rittenhofen, presently, "we ourselves are young, yet I trust not lacking in a great nation's interest in the arts and sciences. It occurs to me now that in yourself we have opportunity to add to our store of knowledge in respect to certain biological features."

The old gentleman rose and bowed. "I thank you for the honor of your flattery, sir," he began; but Calhoun raised a gentle hand.

"If it would please you, sir, to defer your visit to your own country for a time, I can secure for you a situation in our department in biology, where your services would be of extreme worth to us. The salary would also allow you to continue your private researches into the life of our native tribes."

Von Rittenhofen positively glowed at this. "Ach, what an honor!" he began again.

"Meantime," resumed Calhoun, "not to mention the value which that research would have for us, we could also find use, at proper remuneration, for your private aid in making up a set of maps of that Western country which you know so well, and of which even I myself am so ignorant. I want to know the distances, the topography, the means of travel. I want to know the peculiarities of that country of Oregon."

Few could resist the persuasiveness of Mr. Calhoun's speech, certainly not Von Rittenhofen, who thus found offered him precisely what he would have desired. I was pleased to see him so happily situated and so soon. Presently we despatched him down to my hotel, where I promised later to make him more at home. In his elation over the prospect he now saw before him, the old man fairly babbled. Germany seemed farthest from his mind. After his departure, Calhoun again turned to me.

"I want you to remain, Nicholas," said he, "because I have an appointment with a gentleman who will soon be present."

"Rather a late hour, sir," I ventured. "Are you keeping faith with Dr. Ward?"

"I have no time for hobbies," he exclaimed, half petulantly. "What I must do is this work. The man we are to meet tonight is Mr. Polk. It is important."

Perhaps half an hour later, Mr. Calhoun's old negro man ushered in this awaited guest, and we three found ourselves alone in one of those midnight conclaves which went on in Washington, even then, as they do today. Mr. Polk was serious, as usual; his indecisive features wearing the mask of solemnity, which with so many passes as wisdom.

"I have come, Mr. Calhoun," said he—when the latter had assured him that my presence would entail no risk to him—"to talk over this Texas situation. How do you stand in case war should be declared against Mexico? That ought to be a popular measure. The Texans have captured the popular imagination. The Alamo rankles in our nation's memory. What would you say to a stiff demand there, with a strong show of military force behind it?"

"I should say nothing as to a strong showing in any case. I should only say that if war came legitimately — not otherwise — I should back it with all my might. I feel the same in regard to war with England."

"With England? What chance would we have with so powerful a nation as that?"

"There is a god of battles," said John Calhoun.

The chin of James K. Polk of Tenessee sank down into his stock. His staring eyes went half shut. At last he spoke, tentatively, as was always his way until he got the drift of things.

"Well, now, perhaps in the case of England that is good politics," he began. "It is very possible that the people hate England as much as they do Mexico. Do you not think so?"

"I think they fear her more."

"But I was only thinking of the popular imagination!"

"You are always thinking of the popular imagination, Jim. You have been thinking of that for some time in Tennessee. All that outcry about the whole of Oregon is ill-timed today."

"Fifty-four Forty or Fight; that sounds well!" exclaimed Poke; "eh?"

"Trippingly on the tongue, yes!" said John Calhoun. "But how would it sound to the tune of cannon fire? How would it look written in the smoke of musketry?"

"It might not come to that," said Polk, shifting in his seat. "I was thinking of it only as a rallying cry for the campaign. Dash me—I beg pardon"—he looked around to see if there were any Methodists present—"but I believe I could go into the convention with that war cry behind me and sweep the boards of all opposition!"

"And afterwards?"

"But England may back down," argued Mr. Polk. "A strong showing in the Southwest and Northwest might do wonders for us."

"But what would be behind that strong showing, Mr. Polk?" demanded John Calhoun. "We would win the combat with Mexico, of course, if that iniquitous measure should take the form of war. But not Oregon—we might as well or better fight in Africa than Oregon. It is not yet time. In God's name, Jim Polk, be careful of what you do! Cease this cry of taking all of Oregon. You will plunge this country not into one war, but two. Wait! Only wait, and we will own all this continent to the Saskatchewan—or even farther north."

"Well," said the other, "have you not said there is a god of battles?"

"The Lord God of Hosts, yes!" half screamed old John Calhoun; "yes, the god of battles for nations, for principles, but not for parties! For the principle of democracy, Jim Polk, yes, yes; but for the democratic party, or the whig party, or for any demagogue who tries to lead either, no, no!"

The florid face of Polk went livid. "Sir," said he, reaching for his hat, "at least I have learned what I came to learn. I know how you will appear on the floor of the convention. Sir, you will divide this party hopelessly. You are a traitor to the democratic party; I charge it to your face, here and now. I came to ask of you your support, and find you only talking of principles! Sir, tell me, what have principles to do with elections?"

John Calhoun looked at him for one long instant. He looked down then at his own thin, bloodless hands, his wasted limbs. Then he turned slowly and rested his arms on the table, his face resting in his hands. "My God!" I heard him groan.

To see my chief abused was a thing not in my nature to endure. I forgot myself. I committed an act whose results pursued me for many a year.

"Mr. Polk, sir," said I, rising and facing him, "damn you, sir, you are not fit to untie Mr. Calhoun's shoe! I will not see you offer him one word of insult. Quarrel with me if you like! You will gain no votes here now in any case, that is sure!"

Utterly horrified at this, Mr. Polk fumbled with his hat and cane, and, very red in the face, bowed himself out, still mumbling, Mr. Calhoun rising and bowing his adieux.

My chief dropped into his chair again. For a moment he looked at me directly. "Nick," said he, at length, slowly, "you have divided the democratic party. You split that party, right then and there."

"Never!" I protested, "but if I did, 'twas ready enough for the division. Let it split, then, or any party like it, if that is what must hold it together! I will not stay in this work, Mr. Calhoun, and hear you vilified. Platforms!"

"Platforms!" echoed my chief. His white hand dropped on the table as he still sat looking at me. "But he will get you some time, Nicholas!" he smiled. "Jim Polk will never forget."

"Let him come at me as he likes!" I fumed.

At last, seeing me so wrought up, Mr. Calhoun rose, and, smiling, shook me heartily by the hand.

"Of course, this had to come one time or another," said he. "The split was in the wood of their proposed platform of bluff and insincerity. 'What do the people say?' asks Jim Polk. 'What do they think?' asks John Calhoun. And being now, in God's province, chosen to do some thinking for them, I have thought."

He turned to the table and took up a long, folded document, which I saw was done in his cramped hand and with many interlineations. "Copy this out fair for me tonight, Nicholas," said he. "This is our answer to the Aberdeen note. You have already learned its tenor, the time we met Mr. Pakenham with Mr. Tyler at the White House."

I grinned. "Shall we not take it across direct to Mr. Blair for publication in his Globe?"

Mr. Calhoun smiled rather bitterly at this jest. The hostility of Blair to the Tyler administration was a fact rather more than well known.

"Twill all get into Mr. Polk's newspaper fast enough," continued he, at last. "He gets all the news of the Mexican ministry!"

"Ah, you think he cultivates the Dona Lucrezia, rather than adores her?"

"I know it! One-third of Jim Polk may be human, but the other two-thirds is politician. He will flatter that lady into confidences. She is well nigh distracted at best, these days, what with the fickleness of her husband and the yet harder abandonment by her old admirer, Pakenham, so Polk will cajole her into disclosures, never fear. In return, when the time comes, he will send an army of occupation into her country! And all the while, on the one side and the other, he will appear to the public as a moral and lofty-minded man."

"If we temporarily lack the Baroness von Ritz to add zest to our game," I hazarded, "we still have the Dona Lucrezia and her little jealousies."

Calhoun turned quickly upon me with a sharp glance, as though seized by some sudden thought. "By the Lord Harry, boy, you give me an idea. Wait, now, for a moment. Do you go on with your copying there, and excuse me for a time."

An instant later he passed from the room, his tall figure bent, his hands clasped behind his back, and his face wrinkled in a frown, as was his wont when occupied with some problem.

(To be Continued.)

Delay in Smith Case.

Extradition proceedings in the case of W. W. Smith, "private banker," who is charged with swindling a large number of small property owners of Seattle, are again delayed at Winnipeg, and Smith, if extradited, will not arrive in Seattle until next week. Now there must be a transcript of all the testimony in the extradition hearing, before the Canadian officials will turn him over to the Seattle officers.

INDIGESTION, GAS, HEARTBURN OR STOMACH HEADACHE GOES

If what you just ate is souring on your stomach or lies like a lump of lead, refusing to digest, or you belch Gas and Eructate sour, undigested food or have a feeling of Dizziness, Heartburn, Fullness, Nausea, Bad taste in mouth and stomach headache—this is Indigestion.

A full case of Pape's Diapepsin costs only 50 cents and will thoroughly cure your out-of-order stomach, and leave sufficient about the house in case some one else in the family may suffer from stomach trouble or Indigestion.

Ask your pharmacist to show you the formula plainly printed on these 50-cent cases, then you will understand why Dyspeptic trouble of all kinds must go, and why they usually relieve sour, out-of-order stomachs or Indigestion in five minutes. Diapepsin is harmless and tastes like candy, though each dose contains power sufficient to digest and prepare for assimilation into the blood all the food you eat; besides, it makes you go to the table with a healthy appetite; but, what will please you most is that you will feel that your stomach and intestines are clean and fresh, and you will not need to resort to laxatives or liver pills for Biliousness or Constipation.

This city will have many Diapepsin cranks, as some people will call them, but you will be cranky about this splendid stomach preparation, too, if you ever try a little for Indigestion or Gastritis or any other Stomach misery.

Get some now, this minute, and forever rid yourself of Stomach Trouble and Indigestion.

SEATTLE'S POPULAR HOME-FURNISHERS

M. A. GOTTSTEIN FURNITURE CO.

CASH CREDIT

SECOND AVE. BETWEEN PIKE & PINE.

Live in a Home of Your Own

It's the best way, the pleasantest way, the cheapest way. In fitting up this home, this store will save you a tidy sum on your selections, whether you wish to buy for cash or on credit.

We are here to serve you, to furnish your home the way you want it. Mr. Gottstein will personally make the terms such that you'll see the uselessness of depriving yourself of articles of comfort and necessity to which you are fully entitled.

SATISFACTION TO YOU is the slogan here. Merchandise of highest quality, prices the very lowest and treatment the best in the world makes this your logical home-furnishing store.

$37 This Complete Bed Outfit **$37**
Brass Bed, Steel Spring and "King" Felt Mattress

$1 Now and $1 Weekly

BRASS BED of attractive design, as pictured; has 2-inch posts and seven pillars. Height of head 60 inches, of foot 39 inches; finished bright or satin; has full ball-bearing casters.

SPRING is of all steel, firmly woven diamond wire reinforced with helical springs at head and foot; frame of 1⅝-inch tubes. A very comfortable and very durable spring.

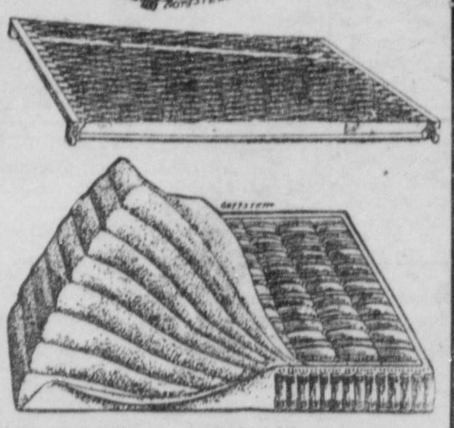
MATTRESS—Our special "KING" felt, considered the best made; strictly sanitary, being made of pure elastic felt. Weight 40 pounds. Has roll edge and is covered with old-fashioned striped tick.

Lace Curtain Specials

Our entire line of Lace Curtains at one-third less.

Nottingham Curtains, Scrim, Irish Point, Novelty Net, Cluny Lace and Cable Net Curtains, all in white and Arabian; all good, fresh stock.

$1.00 Nottingham Curtains	65¢
$2.25 Novelty Net Curtains	$1.50
$3.00 Cluny Lace Curtains	$2.00
$1.75 Scrim, hemstitch	$1.15
$3.50 Scrim, with insertion	$2.30
$4.75 Irish Point	$3.15
$6.00 Irish Point	$4.00



PIANOS HERE THEY ARE!

A partial list of the pianos purchased from the Lucore Piano Co. and now being closed out at tremendous reductions at the

EILERS MUSIC HOUSE

Sohmer	Kranich & Bach
Strohber	H. P. Nelson
Steger & Sons	Chase Bros.
Baumeister	Kingsbury
Gerhard	Schubert
Lucore	Autopiano
Etc.	Etc.

$600 Pianos now	$367
$500 Pianos now	$298
$400 Pianos now	$246
$300 Pianos now	$187
$265 Pianos now	$142

On Sale Until January 31, at

Eilers Music House

Successor to
D. S. JOHNSTON CO.
Third and University and 419 Union St.
Seattle

Program
Opening Day.
FREE LUNCHEON—
12 Noon to 2 P. M.
GRAND CONCERT—
2:30 P. M. to 4:30 P. M.

GRAND OPENING —OF— SEATTLE'S SANITARY PUBLIC MARKET

1513-15-17-19-21-23-25 First Ave.—Running Through From Street to Street—1512-14-16-18-20 Pike Pl.

GREETINGS TO ALL: You are invited to attend the opening of the SANITARY PUBLIC MARKET, Thursday, January 27. We want you to be our guests; to help us open our new market; to partake of the pure food luncheon we have prepared; to enjoy the musical program. We want to meet you and get better acquainted. We have the most up-to-date sanitary public market on the Pacific Coast, and it awaits your inspection and approval. Nothing but pure food products are handled here, and purity and cleanliness, as well as honest weight and right prices, will always prevail.

SANITARY PUBLIC MARKET

The Following Merchants Permanently Located in the Sanitary Public Market Will Be the Hosts

BAKERY GOODS
W. B. Kimball, Stall No. 120.
C. F. McNiminee, Stall No. 14.
Geo. Harding, Stall No. 113.

BUTTER, EGGS AND CHEESE
James Schuster, Stall No. 34.
J. J. Chandler, Stalls Nos. 8 and 127.
N. J. McIntyre, Stall No. 104.
J. L. Whitney, Stall No. 41.
Jacob Davis, Stall No. 118.
A. R. Nelson, Stall No. 22.
C. H. Stanton, No. 1514 Pike Place.
C. Bretherick, No. 1519 First Avenue.

CHEESE SPECIALTIES
R. H. Fried, Stall No. 20.

CONFECTIONERY
F. B. Hanna, Stall No. 25.
The Sweet Shop, No. 1515 First Avenue.

CEREALS
Battle Creek Sanitarium Co., Stall No. 133.

TABLE CONDIMENTS
Alstrom's, Stalls Nos. 19 and 123.
Mrs. N. E. Clark, Stall No. 124.

COFFEES, TEAS AND SPICES
Ceylon Tea and Coffee Co., No. 1521 First Avenue.
Geo. Gunther Co., 1519 First Avenue.
Philippino Coffee Co., Stall No. 119.
N. J. McIntyre, Stall No. 102.
Richardson & Holland, Stall No. 12.
Plantation Mills, Stall No. 43.

DELICATESSEN
Mrs. P. G. Ehlers, Stall No. 111.
J. H. Bray, Stall No. 33.
Johansen & Springer, No. 1521 First Avenue.
B. Kalter, No. 1525 First Avenue.
W. T. Fleming, Stall No. 21.

FIG PUDDING
Mrs. G. H. Coffin, Stall No. 126.

FISH, OYSTERS, ETC.
Henry Becraft, Stall No. 9.
John Ripley, Stall No. 3.
Nick Skomerna, Stall No. 28.
G. Nicholas, Stall No. 128.
Alex. August, Stall No. 105.

FISH SPECIALTIES
H. A. Cook, Stall No. 108.
Geo. H. Sesnon, No. 1514 Pike Place.

FRUIT AND PRODUCE
G. N. Baker, Stall No. 121.
R. A. Nye, Stall No. 24.
D. Celestino, Stalls Nos. 115 and 116.
R. L. Lloyd, Stall No. 31.
J. E. Coulthurst, Stall No. 112.
W. W. Crenshaw, Stall No. 11.
Sanitary Fruit Co., No. 1519 First Avenue.
G. E. Smith, Stall No. 15.
T. A. Tubbs, No. 1520 Pike Place.

VEGETABLES
H. Singer, Stall No. 144.
H. W. Wise, Stall No. 146.
M. Matsura, Stalls Nos. 140 and 141.

GROCERIES
C. H. Thompson, Stall No. 10.
D. Celestino, Stall No. 114.
H. C. Ludorf, Stall No. 45.
L. H. Waterman, Stall No. 39.
G. E. Smith, Stall No. 13.
W. E. Brown, No. 1516 Pike Place.
G. S. St. Clair, No. 1523 First Avenue.

FLORISTS
H. B. Burdett, Stall No. 122.

PICKLES
Hörluck & Hagan (Heinze), Stall No. 117.
Miss Mabel Whelan, Stall No. 23.

HAWAIIAN SPECIALTIES
Loid Childs, U. S. Commissioner, Stall No. 136.

LUNCH COUNTER
W. B. Kimball, Stalls Nos. 47 and 49.

MEATS
James & Frisby, Stall No. 101.
Michael Endres, Stall No. 109.
Mengedolt & Kruse, Stall No. 30.
Herbert Steeves, Stall No. 132.
James Urane, Stall No. 36.
W. D. Glen, Stall No. 1.
Nels Helgert, Stalls Nos. 5 and 7.
Henry Becraft, No. 1512 Pike Place.
Kennedy Market, Stall No. 26.
Parkinson, Stall No. 44.

NUTS AND POP CORN
M. C. Gowan, Stall No. 42.
A. L. Delkin, Jr., Wholesale.
Pacific Vending Machine Co., Second Floor.

THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE OVER THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS OR THE POWER OF THE DENTAL COMBINE

King George III, upon coming to the throne of England, said: "I would rule for, but never by, the people."

Class government was all that the people had known, and the "divine rights of kings" was yet maintained by many. In other words, the people still thought that God made the king and the king made the law and the king was accountable to God only for his acts.

King Louis XIV, when an appeal was made in behalf of the people of France, said: "Damn the people of France. Who is France? Is not the state France, and am I not the king and the state?"

We proud Anglo-Saxons, since mellow and temper our bold claim to the highest civilization the world has ever known, by a careful examination of our English history in the seventeenth century, when men, women and children were hanged because they had stolen eight or ten dollars' worth of food or clothing to alleviate their distress, and when human beings were thrust into jail and kept there until they starved or rotted, simply because they owed a few dollars, which they could not pay, and when the elite of society formed pleasure parties to go and enjoy seeing women stripped and flogged and hear the chimes of human agony and witness the sight of pale-faced wretches hanged as if for the entertainment of society of that time. This was when **KINGS RULED THE PEOPLE.**

PEOPLE'S POWER TO RULE KINGS

Ruling powers are always safe in the people's hands, when the public mind is not infected by kings.

Absolute power to rule was never safe in the hands of kings.

When the people rule the kings are out of a job. When the kings rule the people are out of a job. The kings cannot work, they don't know enough; so they study how to rule the people; and a government ruled by kings is the most effectual way for silent kings to rule, because in instilling patriotism into the people their consciousness as to their material, economic interests is anesthetized, and then the fixers and grafters are in full control, and woe be unto him who dare raise his voice in the people's behalf. LET THE PEOPLE KNOW THEIR POWER, AND EXERCISE IT ON ELECTION DAY.

THE WASHINGTON DENTAL KINGS' POWERS

The power of the kings of old was absolute, even unto arbitrarily putting a human being to death.

The Dental Kings of this state exercise absolute power, but it only extends to the limits of starving a dentist out while he is waiting for the kings to arbitrarily grant him permission to live in this state. The power exercised by the Dental Kings is based on the same principle as "the divine rights of kings," because the Dental Kings are accountable to their conscience only. Under the Dental Law the power of the kings is absolute, and the people are at the mercy of the Dental Kings.

It is this power, which is so strained by law, that I am fighting. What do I care who or what particular person it is that exercises the power to rob me of my rights and deprive me of the protection of the law? I don't care what particular man robs me, hangs me or destroys the means upon which the support of my family depends; but I am concerned about the power which allows a man or men to rob, hang or destroy me, because this same power, though unseen by the multitude, robs them and me as sure and as true as though it stood us up with a gun and said "Hands up! Give me your money or your life!" For after all, what is your life, when robbed of its liberty to live in its fullness thereof?

If my rights are gone today, your rights are gone tomorrow, and the only way to keep the great constitutional dike as a protection against the power of kings is to look well to it that our constitutional rights are not infringed by statutory piracy.

The people are slow to redress their wrongs, and rather prefer to suffer durable wrongs than change the customs under which they live, but when once stirred to action the people are all powerful, and I tremble for their enemies, the kings and fool kings they are.

It seems strange to some of me Washington Combine Dentists to hear another dentist talk about constitutional rights, and I note with extreme satisfaction that the dentist who copies my advertisements and articles as well, now declares in sympathy, pride and purpose with the Dental Combine as against the people, and I am obliged for his acknowledgment.

I am not posing as a savior of the people, but I do know that I am, by going to the people that I have so far saved myself.

Few people comprehend the tremendous power I have battled against; but the power of the people saved me. Their power once organized and consciously exercised will give relief against the power and divine rights of kings, which is in full force today, only under a new name.

I admit that I need the money to fight the power of the kings. Give me your dental work. The Dental Kings are at the end of their rope. Their course is run. Their sun is set. Believe me.

I WILL LECTURE TO THE WORKING PEOPLE AT ARCADIA HALL, SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 30, AT 8 P. M. MY SUBJECT WILL BE: "THE POWER OF THE KINGS."

EDWIN J. BROWN,
713 First Av., Union Block.
Between Columbia and Cherry Sts.
Open evenings until 9 and Sundays until 6 for people who work.

HEADACHES
In most cases are caused by eye strain. We make a specialty of correcting eye defects, and by so doing relieve the headache. If you have trouble, see us.
Schuchard Optical Co.,
1207 Second Ave.

EVERETT & EDMONDS ROUTE
Str. City of Everett or Telegraph

Three round trips daily. Leave Seattle at 7 a. m., 12 m. and 5 p. m. Sunday, leave Seattle at 7:30 a. m., 1 p. m. and 5 p. m. Leave Everett at 8 a. m., 2:15 p. m. and 7:15 p. m. Sunday, leave Everett at 9:45 a. m., 3 p. m. and 7:15 p. m.
Steamer leaves from Colman dock. Steamer and schedule subject to change without notice.
Phones—Sunset, Main 2952; Ind. 738.
MEALS SERVED.

The Raven prescription service means that the doctor's skill in prescribing is most efficiently supplemented by the druggist's skill in compounding. RAVEN DRUG CO., 1416 Second Av.

PIANOS
FOR RENT.
Kohler & Chase.
1218 Second Av.
Tel. Main 1032.
Ind. 1032.

Do you want to buy a home? See The Star's classified real estate columns.