

# The THIRTEENTH COMMANDMENT.

## RUPERT HUGHES

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(Continued from Last Issue.)

### SYNOPSIS.

**CHAPTER I**—Introducing Clay Wimburn, young New Yorker on visit to his island, and Mrs. and Miss Daphne.

**CHAPTER II**—The acquaintance of the young people ripens into love and Wimburn and Daphne become engaged.

**CHAPTER III**—Wimburn returns to New York, from whence he writes urging Daphne to marry him at once. She consents, and arranges to go to New York for her trousseau.

**CHAPTER IV**—Bayard, brother of Daphne, writes telling of his recent marriage and his departure for Europe with his bride Lella. Daphne and her mother are installed in Bayard's flat at New York.

**CHAPTER V**—Wimburn introduces his affianced and her mother to luxurious New York life. Daphne makes acquaintance of "Tom" Duane, man about town. He is greatly attracted by Daphne. Bayard and his wife return unexpectedly.

**CHAPTER VI**—The three women at once arrange a shopping excursion to secure Daphne's trousseau.

**CHAPTER VII**—From Dutilh, fashionable customer, the two younger women buy expensive gowns on credit. Bayard is furious over expense, being hard times ahead. Daphne, indignant, declares she will earn her own living, and breaks engagement with Wimburn. She has seen Miss Kemble, popular stage favorite, and believes she has the ability to achieve the same success.

**CHAPTER VIII**—Daphne invites Duane to visit her at the flat, and asks him to procure a theatrical position for her. He agrees, but assumes an attitude of affection, which Daphne resents.

**CHAPTER IX**—Duane apologizes and arranges a meeting for Daphne with Reben, theatrical magnate. Reben agrees to give her a chance. Batterton, Reben's stage manager, after a "tryout," endeavors to dissuade her from attempting to enter the profession, but she decides to persevere.

**CHAPTER X**—Daphne's first rehearsal at a Basco, and Reben advises her to give up idea of going on the stage. Duane encourages her.

**CHAPTER XI**—Wesley Kip, father of Daphne, arrives at New York with dire news of financial catastrophe. He goes back to Cleveland with Mrs. Kip, and Daphne takes a room with Mrs. Chivvis.

**CHAPTER XII**—Sudden illness of Miss Kemble, Reben's leading lady, gives Daphne her chance, but her acting is dismal failure. She is again consoled by Tom Duane.

**CHAPTER XIII**—Daphne gives up her position with Reben.

**CHAPTER XIV**—Daphne and Clay resume their relations as an engaged couple. She begins to look for work, determined to support herself. Outbreak of war causes Clay to lose his position, and Bayard's salary is cut in half. He speculates in Wall street and loses everything.

**CHAPTER XV**—Bayard appeals to his father for financial aid, only to find the old gentleman in a worse situation than himself. Lella's jewels go to the pawnshop.

**CHAPTER XVI**—Daphne's search for work is unsuccessful, as is Clay's, and things look black indeed.

**CHAPTER XVII**—Daphne gets a position addressing envelopes, but the firm fails. She secures another, but is insulted by the manager and leaves.

**CHAPTER XVIII**—In desperation Daphne accepts employment from Dutilh as a model. Bayard and Clay are enraged.

**CHAPTER XIX**—Duane invites Daphne to have dinner with him, and coming back urges her to become his mistress. She combats his specious arguments, though touched by his evident affection and the possibility of a life of elegant leisure which is offered her, and definitely refuses.

**CHAPTER XX**—On the way home Duane's car is injured in a collision, and they accept help from Wetherell, an Englishman, acquaintance of Duane's. Next morning Daphne tells Lella of her meeting with Wetherell, and discovers that Lella has met him at Newport. Daphne is vaguely disturbed by Lella's manner.

**CHAPTER XXI**—Lella resumes her acquaintance with Wetherell, and Bayard warns the Englishman to cease his attentions to Mrs. Kip. The affair almost ends in a fist fight. Wimburn calls on the Kips with an announcement of good times coming back as result of demand for war munitions. It appears that Wetherell is purchasing agent for Britain in this country, and Bayard is compelled to effect a reconciliation and deal with him.

to escape, but, being cornered, proceeded to fight back, whereupon Lella denounced her to Bayard and told of her ride with Duane.

It was a right good fight and getting well beyond the bounds of discretion when the telephone announced that Clay Wimburn was calling.

Nobody imaginable would have been welcome in that battlefield, but Clay seemed peculiarly ill timed. Bayard went to the telephone and called down:

"Tell him we're out."

"Yes, sir."

Evidently the telephone was taken from the hallman's hand, for Clay's voice roared in Bayard's ear:

"I hear you, you old villain. I know you're in, and I'm coming up. It's a matter of life and death. I'm on my way up now."

It seemed decenter that Lella and Daphne should disappear, since Bayard had said that they were all out. The women retreated to Lella's room as a good coign of addition.

When Bayard opened the door Clay swept in like a March gale. He flung himself at Bayard and clenched his elbows in his hands and roared:

and billed, "don't you think you've done enough? You've shown me that you don't trust me and you've ordered Mr. Wetherell never to come near me again. Isn't that enough without begging us all for spite? What else is it but cheap, nasty spite?"

"It's a great deal more than spite," Bayard groaned. "Do you think I'll accept favors from a man who has been courting you and got caught at it? I'd rather starve!"

"Well, I wouldn't!" Lella averred. "And I'm not going to starve. And I'm not going to let you commit harikari on Wetherell's doorstep just to spite him. I tell you again, once for all, there was nothing wrong in Wetherell's behavior, absolutely nothing. It's outrageous that you should accuse me of such horrible things."

So Bayard was coerced into having his life saved by his enemy. It was



So Bayard Was Coerced Into Having His Life Saved by His Enemy.

one thing, however, to consent to deal with Wetherell, and another to devise a tolerable reconciliation.

"Well," Bayard sighed, "beggars can't be choosers. If I'd saved my money I shouldn't have to take Wetherell's money."

Bayard called up the president of his company at the office. His oration made a huge success. Bayard began to smile to himself, to wink at the spectators, and finally to share in the apparent rapture of his distant ear-to-ear.

The end of the matter was that when Bayard left the telephone he was a new man. He had cunningly raised his chief's hopes to the highest degree, yet withheld the name of the English agent. He explained that he intended to take Lella's advice and use his knowledge as a lever for his own advancement and Clays.

Clay and Bayard sat down to make figures, and the talk grew too technical for the women to endure. After hearing the first music of Bayard and Clay chanting in hundreds of thousands of dollars Daphne stole out unheeded and went up to her own room.

Mr. Chivvis was sitting by a window in mournful idleness. Mrs. Chivvis was stitching away at her embroidery. She was cheerful—for her. She told Daphne that she had found a market for her needlework; the prices were poor but they were real. She advised Daphne to get to work with her.

Daphne had not the courage to say that her brother and her betrothed were about to become plutocrats. She said only that she was very tired. And there is no more exhausting drain

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on the nerves than their response to unexpected good news. It is more fatiguing than bad. She was surprised and shocked, too, to find how snobbish she was all of a sudden about the petty earnings of a Chivvis.

### CHAPTER XXII.

In those days the United States of America suddenly woke to the fact that they could pull themselves out of bankruptcy by helping the benighted states of Europe into it.

There were sudden geysers of fortune and sudden collapses of failure. As in bonanza times, many were ruined, while the few prospered. But Clay and Bayard seemed to touch nothing that did not turn to gold. Bayard had gained immense prestige with his firm because of the huge orders he brought in. He took all the power that was accorded and grasped for more. His most reckless audacities were rewarded with success. He rode a tidal wave and swam with it so well that all his progress seemed to be due to his own power.

Bayard astounded Dutilh with the solution of that old account, and with a cash payment for new gowns in celebration of his new glory. He did not forget his own people. He telegraphed his mother a thousand dollars and almost slew her with amazement. He telegraphed his father simply the price of a railroad ticket to New York and a peremptory summons to take the first train east.

When Daphne heard this she had to sit down to keep from falling down. Bayard resuscitated her with a check for a thousand dollars. It meant

(Continued in Next Issue.)

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