

### THE MIDLANDERS

By CHARLES TENNEY JACKSON

Author of "The Day of Souls, My Brother's Keeper, Etc."

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#### CHAPTER XVII The Backward Trail.

Harlan did not know what haunting loneliness took him the next evening to the hills. It was the first day of September, and already a veil of haze lay in the wooded little valleys, and the far slopes had the first bronze of the ripening corn. Yet it was summer, with a harvest moon drawing up across the river, round and full and golden. He wandered down old trails from Eastwood Point. Northward along the bluff were glimpses of the distant Mississippi over the sycamores and willow sloughs. He crossed the last glade to the ridge over which was Tanner's quarry. Already through the laurel and maples and young elms a patch of the white sheer rock arose. And on this point he stopped to look down in the valley. From the quarry bed the road ran on winding past the fringed corn patches of the Pickett squatters. But all the while in the shadow, and all the beauty of the hill beyond lay revealed by the moon, Harlan had not been on the back trail for more than a year. When he came to the old familiar rock jutting over the cliff he started to climb the last step and then paused. Some one was before him, sitting there as he had intended to sit, looking as he had wished to look out over the valley and the town.

And before he came out of the shadow he knew it was Aurelie. Aurelie, who could not leave without one look at the home trail. She had not been to Lindstrom's house, but tonight she had ridden over from Earlville, tied the livery mount at the Sinsinawa creek bridge, and clambered up to where she could look either way, to the village or to her foster-father's place below the quarry. Harlan watched her long. She was mute, dry-eyed, very still; but when, at length, he came out and stood before her, curiously she did not start.

She moved slowly and looked up at him. Her face had all that grave purity of outline that belied alike her temper and her humor. "It just seems," she murmured, "as if I was to find you here."

He remembered now that she said she was coming to the hills. "But I never thought of it, Aurelie. And yet—" He stopped and she sat forward to see his face. "Yet you came. Oh, the moonlight made me come, Harlan! I was restless and unhappy—and I remembered those beautiful nights here. Oh, very wonderful, September—like this. She moved with a little faintly gesture. "Sit down."

But he stood with his hand out to the lichened rock above her. "She did not seem to notice his constraint. When I was a little ragged kiddie, I used to climb up here. Always I loved it, Harlan."

"But I tell you," he answered quietly, "you came tonight because you remembered something else, Aurelie."

"Yes," she answered simply. "Our nights, I couldn't quite forget the last one. The night you took me to you mother's, Harlan. She laughed briefly. "And she tricked me—and I ran away. I saw so clearly, I just woke up that night, Harlan."

"She didn't trick you, Aurelie. Mother couldn't."

"Oh, well!" she smiled wilyly. "If you could realize how I've changed! That night I was breathless before her. She appealed to me—she wanted me to let you go—to help you, Harlan. I thought it was fine that night—but I tell you I paid! I did love you, Harlan."

He watched her face in the moonlight. "Mother did something, I knew. I wasn't sure; but that wasn't what hurt, Aurelie. It was afterward—your going on the stage—in that way. Everything—hurt."

### CORRUPTION IN ELECTIONS

#### John P. Grace Makes Attack on Senator Tillman.

Letters that Make the Fur Fly, and Information Which is Calculated to Give the People of South Carolina Something to Think About.

In his weekly paper, "Common Sense," Mayor John P. Grace of Charleston, makes a savage attack on Senator Tillman because of the latter's failure to act in the case of Whaley, who, Mr. Grace alleges, was elected to Congress by corrupt means. The attacks opens with the publication of a series of letters that have passed between Grace and Tillman, the first two of which are as follows:

**Letter from Mayor Grace.**  
Honorable E. R. Tillman, United States Senator, Washington, D. C.  
Dear Senator Tillman: I noticed what you said the other day in the paper about the possibility of Bleasem's election to the senate by fraud and corruption and of the fight that you would make against him in Washington. The News and Courier had a little editorial on the subject, of course commendatory, not because it hates corruption, but because it hates Bleasem. Other South Carolina papers, for the same reason, took the same view. An old time Tillmanite and general admirer of yours came in to me and he had read some of the press approval of your sentiment, which he intended sending to you, but at the same time he would ask you why you did not jump into the fight against Whaley on the same grounds. I have no doubt he expressed an almost universal question which the people are asking in their minds about you. They realize the inconsistency of your position, and your fame as a senator and your power as a councillor next summer in the fight against Bleasem. You stand against corruption and perjury as illustrated in the Whaley case. If Washington is the place to fight Bleasem, why not fight Whaley there?

When I was in Washington recently, you treated me cordially; although in such a way as almost to disarm me from persisting in bringing this Whaley matter to a direct issue between us. You would talk to me about everything else, and you permitted me to talk to you about a great many things; but you would hardly come to the point, man to man, on the Whaley question. You talked about an affidavit, but you would not let me know what you would prepare an affidavit which I would sign if you would use as the basis of a fight against Whaley and that you would sign it if I could. But I have not seen it. Weeks and months are passing. My patience is being taxed. I am honest about it and in dead earnest about it. The case against Whaley is overwhelming. I cannot believe that you hate fraud and corruption as much as you have said you do; because I have presented to you a case ready to present to Congress, the clearest possible case of it; and you only generalize and temporize.

Nobody can deny that my fight against Bleasem has not only been uncompromising, but has been pushed to the point of personal danger and even the risk of my life, as all South Carolina knows. All reports to the contrary notwithstanding, you know that I look upon Bleasem as the crowning curse of South Carolina. I earn my living by the law, and I am beginning to have doubts. For twenty years the people have conferred upon you their every power. You have enjoyed a fullness of leadership which carries with it the obligation of fearlessness. You cannot be afraid to fight Whaley because it will involve the exposure of some of your lifelong allies in this congressional district, and at the same time command any respectable attention from the people of South Carolina. Bleasem can only be beaten by a combination of men who are not afraid to fight anybody's corruption and, however, much they may differ on all things else, will agree that any man that South Carolina sends to represent her in either branch of Congress must have a title to that office as pure as Calhoun. You will be the means of electing Bleasem and all that he represents and everybody on his ticket (and I say this with a great many things in mind) now that the issue is made, unless you come out with a man and say that Whaley is a man who shall be the means of unseating him. Nobody puts any store in your idea against "washing our linen in public," but Whaley to keep his seat. Even most of those who voted for Whaley now want the facts to come out. The idea of South Carolina not washing her linen in public—South Carolina, whose politics is a "hissing and a byword!" (Do you recall using these words last summer?) There is hardly a serious comic paper that doesn't give at South Carolina every day and hold her up to the scorn of the universe because of her civic depravity. Why shouldn't they, when the senior senator from Calhoun's state temporizes over the unseating of a man who brazenly bought her people like cattle and then perjured his way into Congress? Our state with a glorious history behind her has fallen upon evil times. She now has the proud distinction of leading the sisterhood of states in lynchings and illiteracy, and her governor, who says, "to hell with the Constitution," boasts that he is needed in Washington, because she has nobody there to "represent" her; and he looks to a constituency made of such corrupt dealers as Ben Stogard and his very dear friend, and your very dear friend, Captain Martin, to send him there.

Unless you at once take a genuine part in bringing Whaley to justice, I will be compelled to believe that your talk about Bleasem and corruption is but "tinkling cymbals and sounding brass," and so will the people of South Carolina; and thus believing, they will elect Bleasem and he will be your colleague in the senate. And if you live long enough, some other Bleasem will defeat you, because you have been

"weighed in the balances and found wanting."

It is not a case of washing our linen in public anyhow. The public is already scandalized at South Carolina, and knows exactly what kind of linen she wears. Was there ever a mass of corruption equaling the last days of the dispensary? It's rottenness, as advertised to the world, was unexampled; but was anybody punished? Not only did the world read of those infamies and thievery, but it read also that out of the whole mess the only one man who was convicted was pardoned! Also the horrors of last summer, when our sad situation was depicted to the universe; and all the guilty parties were not only not punished but elected! She has shown, therefore, that she is too rotten to fight her own wrongs. Even the criminals of past times have been "turned loose" from the penitentiary on the open theory that they are no worse than most of the judges who sentenced and the juries who convicted them. Her courts have failed; her elections have failed; and our chief executive, with serene contempt for law and order, has not only pardoned the most hardened criminals, but when another jurisdiction has sent here to take one of them away to be dealt with according to law, he permits the criminal to "escape" from the Capitol while the anti-corruption forces are waiting in the ante-room. I say the only thing left to do is to go to Washington and wash, if you will have it, our very dirty linen, and let the world know that there is one laundry left where the stain of perjury can be washed even of the linen of South Carolina. And this is going to be done! But this is the last time I am going to ask you to help me to do it. In view of what you said from the beginning, I think you have cost me a great deal of unnecessary money and much loss of time. I have not changed my opinion as expressed to you in my letter of May 12th; "I would rather you fall in and help me, as you can most effectively, to reform state politics through the state convention next time it meets, by changing the rules of the party and fortifying all along the line against fraud and corruption; and then go to work when the legislature meets again to see that the statutes are changed in regard to primary elections so as to preserve the purity of the ballot among white men."

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I heard a gentleman say the other day, "I am not a member of the party of the leading men of the United States, that the gentleman quoted had said that he had always had respect for at least one thing about Tillman, he was honest; and hated corruption. But when I saw Tillman shed tears over the election of Lorimer, those tears instantly washed out the little good opinion he had. I told him you were perhaps blinded in the Lorimer case by personal affection. But I can imagine no personal affection between you and Whaley; nor can there be any social or political affection. He represents the things which you capitalized in arraying the people of the state against Charleston. Of course, you advocated some things which you might say all of us in Charleston respect, the dispensary, for instance. But on the other hand all those reforms designed to lift up the poor man and alleviate his awful condition in South Carolina many of us profoundly favored. But it is for just those things that Whaley and his whole party hate you. They were wanting the means to force both the legislature and the Democratic party of South Carolina to reform the situation in the state can be attributed to no other motive than that of the highest patriotism."

If you will permit me to do so, I will be glad to submit copies of the affidavit filed with Congressman Johnson, and such other affidavits as you have submitted to the chairman of the state Democratic committee, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the state senate, and both the head of the Democratic party and the heads of the state government in the legislature shall be advised of the situation in the First congressional district as you see it. If this course is followed, I believe that the moral sensibilities of the people of South Carolina can be so aroused that they will be able to force both the legislature and the Democratic party to reform the system of primary voting in such a manner as to make corruption absolutely impossible, and in this kind of an effort you may depend upon me to the fullest.

You overlook the responsibility which your wishes impose on me. You are asking me to pursue a course which you admit would cause the people of South Carolina to hang their heads in shame, and asking me to do so without giving to the people of the state through its legislature or its dominant political party of which you are a member, the chance either to confess their inability to deal with the situation or their desire that I should be made the vehicle by which the state may be brought into shameful publicity, in order perhaps, as many think, that you may be given the opportunity to prosecute your political enemy.

Yours very truly,  
John P. Grace.

**Senator Tillman in Reply.**  
Hon. John P. Grace,  
Charleston, S. C.  
My dear Mr. Grace: I am in receipt of your letter of July 25th, and have read it with much interest. The question of an "old time Tillmanite," to the effect that he does not understand why I do not jump into the fight against Whaley on the same grounds that would induce me to protect the swearing in of Bleasem, should I develop that his election was bought. The answer to this is simple. I am a member of the senate and have a right to

### UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

#### President Wilson Explains Situation to Congress.

**HUERTA REJECTED PEACE PROPOSALS.**  
President Woodrow Wilson went to Congress last Wednesday and revealed how the Huerta provisional government in Mexico had rejected the friendship of the United States and its effort to aid in the establishment of peace and a government which would be recognized by this nation and which would be obeyed and respected by Mexico's own people.

In a statement which breathed regret and sympathy in every phrase, the president clung tenaciously to optimism as to the ultimate result, notwithstanding the pessimistic facts confronting the two nations. After picturing the hopelessness for Mexico if she maintained her present position "isolated and without friends who can effectively aid her," the president announced the necessity of a firm neutral stand by this government, a policy of "hands off" to wait the time of Mexico's awakening. He also voiced an urgent appeal for all Americans to leave Mexico and for the United States to aid them in every possible way, but in emphatic language served notice upon those who assume to exercise authority in the revolution-torn country that they would be held to a definite reckoning for losses and suffering to American citizens.

The message of the president was received with enthusiastic applause gathered in joint session in the house chamber, and Wednesday night the machinery of the government was in motion for making effective policy for neutrality and "hands off" while the warring factions continue their struggle. To prevent the shipment of arms or munitions of war into any part of Mexico or to any faction, the United States troops on the border already have been warned to exercise increased vigilance. Whether more troops will be sent to the border is a question to be decided within the next few days. Major General Wood, Chief of Staff of the army, who has been inspecting the troops in Texas, already is on his way to Washington.

General Wetherston, attached to the office of the chief of staff, said Wednesday night that much would depend upon the experience of the next few days on the border in determining upon the order for more troops. Secretary Bryan will confer with President Wilson in the morning on the subject and the assurance was given that everything necessary would be done to carry out strict neutrality. Secretary Daniels conferred with the president during the day, and the navy department is ready to dispatch more ships to Mexican waters if required to prevent the shipment of arms to Mexico by sea.

Foreign powers, it was understood Wednesday, have not been asked to place an embargo on the shipment of munitions of war or arms to Mexico; but the president is not to be deterred by the fact that the United States has given generous moral support of foreign nations in proposals to the Huerta government, which have been rejected. It became known that the administration has under serious consideration the ordering of several thousand more troops to the Mexican border line, and it is said that cabinet members have urged that this be done.

The president's urgent request to Americans in Mexico to leave the country, and to present no case, without necessity for action on the recent request of Secretary Bryan for an appropriation of \$100,000 with which to aid citizens of the United States in their exodus from the scene of conflict. The state department estimates that there now are in Mexico not more than 15,000 Americans, whereas there were 60,000 several years ago. In Mexico City it is estimated that there are less than 2,000 American today.

The diplomatic relations between the two countries, it is understood, will remain unchanged at present, save without necessity for action on the recent request of Secretary Bryan for an appropriation of \$100,000 with which to aid citizens of the United States in their exodus from the scene of conflict. The state department estimates that there now are in Mexico not more than 15,000 Americans, whereas there were 60,000 several years ago. In Mexico City it is estimated that there are less than 2,000 American today.

Meanwhile Nelson O'Shaughnessy, the American representative in Vera Cruz and probably will remain there as long as there is any possible chance for a renewal of negotiations.

In his message, which was in the nature of an appeal to the moral conscience of this nation, the president made it clear that he based his hope upon the effect the announcement of the determination to maintain strict neutrality would have upon not only the people of this country and the governments of other nations, but upon the people of Mexico themselves. Now that the United States has exhausted the effort to bring about peace and a stable Mexican government, the president says that the government will examine the good in the end.

"A steady pressure of moral force," he declared, "is the only way to break the barriers of pride and prejudice down and we shall triumph as Mexico's friends sooner than we would as her enemies—and we would more handsomely, with how much higher and finer satisfactions of conscience and honor."

The president told Congress that everything this nation did in the situation confronting it must be "rooted in an essential detail of disinterested deliberation." He had no word of rebuke for Mexico and reached the determination to maintain strict neutrality after having presented the whole situation to the members of the foreign relations committees in Congress. No armed intervention. Strict neutrality "forbidding the exportation of arms or munitions of war of any kind from the United States to any part of the republic of Mexico."

Under no circumstances to "be the partisans of either party to the contest, and to abstain from any action that constitute ourselves the virtual umpire between them."

To urge all Americans to leave Mexico at once and to assist them to get away in every possible way. To let every one in Mexico who assumes the responsibility of assisting this government "shall vigilantly watch the fortunes of those Americans who cannot get away and shall hold those responsible for their sufferings and losses to a definite reckoning."

### HIGH SPEED TRAINS

#### George Westinghouse Says 80-Mile Trains are Impossible.

Shortly after the elevated railway system of Boston was equipped with electricity and the elevated system of Manhattan and Brooklyn adopted electric energy there was discussion in which a group of capitalists participated, and there was nothing in the way of constructing a true air line between Philadelphia and New York to be operated by electricity. It was asserted in these discussions that it would be practicable to build a line of this kind about ninety miles in length of the best modern construction which could be operated for through trains at the average rate of a mile and a quarter a minute, perhaps a little more.

George Westinghouse, at the time this project was under discussion, stated that there was nothing in the way of constructing or in the installation of electric energy for operating trains in the way of success of the proposed plan; motors could be built and electric energy furnished capable of hauling a train considerably in excess of sixty miles an hour. But in his opinion an insuperable obstacle was the impossibility of constructing any signal system upon a perfectly straight line, which would enable an engineer to stop his train when running at the rate of 70 miles an hour with safety.

He himself had caused careful experiments to be made to show how distant a signal must be set if it were to come within the range of an engineer's accurate vision. These tests proved conclusively that no signal could be brought within the range of vision of an engineer at a distance sufficient for him to stop his train within safety limits if the train was running at a speed in excess of sixty miles an hour. Automatic signals might be devised which would bring a train to a halt within safety distance, but at the time Mr. Westinghouse seemed to have no great confidence in the reliability of an automatic system.

Mr. Westinghouse has always been somewhat opposed to the operation of trains at a speed averaging in excess of about fifty miles an hour. The danger, in his view, lies in the fact that even with the best kind of emergency brakes a train running at the rate of eighty miles an hour would still be going at a speed which would make it difficult to stop it in time. In his view, the brakes were put on in his view, the fact, furnish indisputable evidence that when speed in excess of sixty miles an hour is obtained, and he doubts whether any kind of automatic signal will secure safety.

Mr. Westinghouse, in view of the recent accident at Stamford, Conn., is satisfied that there should be authority for the limitation of the maximum speed of trains, and he believes further that locomotives should be fitted with speed indicators or some recording apparatus which will tell the engineer by a glance of the eye exactly how rapidly he is running and would, in fact, furnish indisputable evidence to railroad officials of what the maximum speed really was.

Mr. Westinghouse has, therefore, made the suggestion that the managers of the railroads upon which trains are now operated at very high speed should be authorized to examine the Interstate Commerce Commission, so that there may be exhaustive investigation of the entire question of what is really safe and sound operation of modern equipment and modern safety appliances. He is convinced that the Interstate Commerce Commission can, in this way, prepare an authoritative report which may do much to restrain the prevailing demand for very high speed of trains, and to prevent the decline of our larger cities—Holland, in Philadelphia Ledger.