



What was the matter with your horse, anyway? Abbott cheerfully inquired.

Simon looked at him sourly. "Didn't Fran tell you that the horse got scared at her throwing rocks at my cork, and broke from the tree where I'd fastened it, and bolted for town?"

"Mr. Simon," said Fran innocently, "I don't believe the horse was mentioned once, while you were gone."

"It would be interesting to know what was," remarked Robert with humor so dry that apparently it choked him; he fell to coughing huskily.

Miss Sapphira gave him a look while he was struggling in his second paroxysm. It healed him by suggestion.

"Turn," said Miss Sapphira with becoming gravity. Robert, still under the influence of her though-wave, solemnly drove her from the scene.

When the last buckle was clasped—"I came out here for a quiet peaceable fishing," said Simon. "I've spent my time hunting horses, and being afraid something might happen to Fran."

"Mr. Ashton took care of me," Fran said reassuringly.

Simon cried explosively, "And who took care of him?" He climbed in beside Fran and begrudgingly offered Abbott the imaginary space of a third occupant; but Abbott declared his preference for strolling.

"This has been a hard day for my heart," Simon grumbled, as he snatched up the whip vindictively. The buggy rolled away.

"Mine, too," Abbott called after them emphatically.

Fran looked back at him from over the lowered top. He saw her hand go to her bosom, then something fluttered in the air and fell in the grassy road. He darted after it as if it were a clue, showing the way to the princess' castle.

Perhaps it was. He pounced upon it—it was the queen of hearts.

CHAPTER XVI.

A Tamer of Lions.

The life of a household progresses, usually by insensible gradations, toward some great event, some climax, for the building of which each day has furnished its grain of sand. Today, Hamilton Gregory and Grace Noir were in the library, with nothing to indicate the approach of the great moment in their lives. It was Grace's impatience to drive Fran away even before Robert Clinton should bring the secret from Springfield, that precipitated matters.

"May I speak to you, Mr. Gregory?" She rose from the typewriter, slightly pale from sudden resolution.

Gregory never missed a movement of his secretary, but now he lifted his head ostensibly, to make his observation official.

"It's about Mr. Clinton," said Grace in a low voice, feeling her way to "that Fran."

He laid down his pen with a frown. Suddenly his missions in New York and Chicago became dead weights. Why Grace's "Mr. Clinton" instead of her customary "Brother Clinton?" It seemed to equip the school director with formidable powers. Gregory hastened to put him where he belonged.

"Oh! Something about Bob?" he asked casually.

Her look was steady, her voice humble: "Yes."

Her humility touched him profoundly. Knowing how unshakable were her resolutions, he made a desperate attempt to divert her mind: "That is settled, Miss Grace, and it's too late now to alter the decision, for the school board has already voted us a new superintendent—he has been sent his notification. Abbott Ashton is out of it, and it's all his fault. Bob was the only one to stand up for him, but he wasn't strong enough to hold his friend above the wave of popular opinion. Don't ask me to interview Bob for Abbott Ashton."

Grace calmly waited for this futility to pass; then with an air suggesting, "Now, shall we talk sensibly?" she resumed: "I approve the action of the school board. It did well in dismissing Professor Ashton. May I ask about Mr. Clinton? He urges me to marry him at once."

"Nonsense!" he exclaimed.

"It is not nonsense," Grace calmly responded. "He thinks I could make him a better man. We would work among the very poor in the Chicago settlements; maybe in one of your own missions. I often wonder if I couldn't do more good by personal contact with evil, than I can here, with a person like Fran always clogging my efforts."

He started up. "Grace! You go away?—And—leave me and my work?"

"Let Fran fill my position. You think she's the daughter of your hood friend—it would give her position and independence."

"No one can ever fill your place," Gregory claimed, with violence. His cheeks burned, lambent flames gleamed in his brown eyes. The ef-

fect was startlingly beautiful. At such exalted moments, thinking no evil because ceasing to think, grown all feeling, and it but an infinite longing, the glow of passion refined his face, always delicately sensitive. The vision of Grace, in giving herself to another, like a devouring fire consumed those temporary supports that held him above the shifting sands of his inner nature.

"Grace! But Grace! You wouldn't marry him!"

Because she found his beauty appealing to her as never before, her voice was the colder: "Anyone's place can be filled."

"You don't care!" he cried out desperately.

"For Mr. Clinton? Yes, I admire his persistence in seeking God, and his wish to work for mankind. God comes easier to some than to others, and I believe I could help—"

Gregory, aghast at her measured tone, interrupted: "But I mean that you don't care—don't care for me."

"For—" she began abruptly, then added in an odd whisper, "for you?"

"Yes, for me. . . . don't care how much I suffer, or whether I suffer at all—I mean my work, if it suffers. If I lose you, Grace—"

"Oh, you will always have Fran."

"Fran!" he ejaculated. "So you don't care, Grace. . . . It seems incredible because I care so much. Grace!" His accent was that of utter despair. "How can I lose you since you are everything? What would be left to live for? Nobody else sympathizes with my aims. Who but you understands? Oh, nobody will ever sympathize—ever care—"

"But, Mr. Gregory!" she began, confused. Her face had grown white.

"Grace!" he caught her hand, expecting it to be snatched away—the hand he had hourly admired at its work; he could feel its warmth, caress its shapeliness—and it did not resist. It trembled.

He was afraid to press it at first, lest it be wronched free; and then, the next moment, he was clasping it convulsively. For the first time in her life, Grace did not meet his eyes.

"Grace!" he panted, not knowing what he was saying, "you care, I see you care for me—don't you?"

"No," she whispered. Her lips were dry, her eyes wide, her bosom heaving. Boundaries hitherto unchangeable, were suddenly submerged. Desperately, as if for her life, she sought to cling to such floating landmarks as duty, conscience, virtue—but they were drifting madly beyond reach.

"But you can't love him, can you?" Gregory asked brokenly.

Grace, with closed eyes, shook her head—what harm could there be in that confession?

"You won't go away, will you, Grace?" he pleaded, drawing her closer.

She shook her head, lips still parted, eyes still closed.

"Speak to me, Grace. Tell me you will never leave me."

Her lips trembled, then he heard a faint "Never!" Instantly neck and brow were crimsoned; her face, always superb, became enchanting. The dignity of the queen was lost in the woman's greater charm.

"Because you love me!" cried Gregory wildly. "I know you do, now, I know you do!" His arm was about her. "You will never leave me because you love me. Look at me, Grace!"

It seemed that her eyelids were held down by tyrannous thumbs. She tried to lift them, and tried again. Her face was irradiated by the sunrise glow of a master's passion. Swiftly he kissed her lips, and as she remained motionless, he kissed her again and again.

Suddenly she exclaimed blindly: "Oh, my God!" Then she threw her arms about him, as he drew her to his bosom.

It was at that moment, as if Fate herself had timed the interruption, that Fran entered.

There was a violent movement of mutual repulsion on the part of Hamilton Gregory and his secretary. Fran stood very still, the sharpness of her profile defined, with the keenness of eyes and a slight grayness about the lips that made her look oddly small and old.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Columbia, Nov. 12.—The penitentiary board decided to buy 1,283 acres of land adjoining the State Reformatory in Lexington county on account of the increase in the inmates of that institution at their meeting today. The board did not close the contract for the sale of the furniture factory product, as A. D. Martin, of Kentucky, was not present. The board said tonight that the chair factory would soon be ready for work. Convicts are being hired out to counties at \$4 a month each and it is expected that 200 will be used in this fashion. The remaining 125 will be worked in the chair factory. Anderson county got her quota of prisoners tonight. Greenville is expected to get hers tomorrow and nearly half of the counties in the State have put in bids for convicts.

McKiever's Door, Sash and Blind factory is making extensive improvements at the old Building Supply Company plant. The place is being renovated in various ways and the work shed is being enlarged, so as to accommodate the large volume of work done by the new occupants. The office is still at the old site, but will be moved to its new quarters in the next few days.

WILL ISSUE NEW STATEMENT.

BRYAN SAYS POLICY OF UNITED STATES TOWARDS MEXICO WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON.

European Countries Will Do Nothing to Embarrass United States—Japanese Ship is Only for Protection of Subjects—Successor to Huerta Must Be Satisfactory to Both Sides.

Washington, Nov. 12.—Secretary Bryan today announced that a statement would be issued within a few days setting forth the policy of the United States towards Mexico.

Whether or not the statement will be in the form of a communication to congress by President Wilson has not been disclosed, but some of the diplomats here believe it will be. The statement has been under consideration several days and in Secretary Bryan's conferences with members of the diplomatic corps he has made it plain that the forthcoming pronouncement would clearly define the attitude of the United States.

Such a statement, it is thought, not only would reiterate the views that the United States never can recognize a government established by arbitrary force, but would give its reasons for refusing to recognize any acts of the new congress and as to the validity of loans or concessions, and point out the steps necessary to a solution of the problem.

It was apparent that developments in various foreign capitals today brought encouragement to administration officials and there was a feeling among them that the desire of the United States to prevent interference by the powers virtually has been accomplished.

Premier Asquith's speech explaining that Great Britain wished to do nothing that was unfriendly to the United States; semi-official assertions from Berlin that no financial assistance would be given Huerta by Germany; a definite understanding with France that nothing would be done by France to embarrass the United States; assurances from the Japanese ambassador that the sending of the armored cruiser Isumo to Mexican waters was for no political purpose, but merely to extend protection to Japanese subjects if necessary—all tended to strengthen the belief here that the Washington government finally had secured the moral support of the world powers in its efforts to unravel the Mexican tangle. It also is felt that from no part of Europe will Huerta get financial assistance.

Fear reflected in some of the dispatches from abroad that the overthrow of Huerta might produce a state of anarchy in Mexico City unless a strong substitute immediately were provided agrees with the point of view of many senators who have been discussing that phase of the situation with President Wilson. The Washington administration has taken cognizance of this eventuality, and if Huerta retired it is said, there need be little fear of any physical disturbance in Mexico City.

In the plan of the United States to afford Huerta every opportunity to retire peacefully, there is a desire for definite understanding as to who the succeeding provisional president will be. The United States recognizes that the provisional successor must be acceptable to the constitutionalists if the latter are to stop fighting.

Close observers of the situation pointed out that the United States today was in a better position to bring about an understanding between the constitutionalists and the authorities at Mexico City than has been possible since the United States first posed its good offices to solve the situation.

ASSUMES NEW GOVERNMENT.

Spartanburg, Nov. 12.—Spartanburg inaugurates the commission form of government tomorrow, when John F. Floyd becomes mayor and the four commissioners, Coleman E. Waller, a Wofford college professor; J. P. Felder, a wholesale merchant; J. T. Hudson, an insurance agent; O. T. Gallman, a merchant, assume the duties of their offices.

Interest centres now in the activities of the new civil service commission composed of A. M. Chreitzberg, Dr. James L. Jefferies and J. T. Cottrill, who have announced that they will hold examinations at Wofford college on Friday for all applicants for positions on the police force and in the fire and public health departments. The commission has announced its rules and regulations governing these examinations and has sent out to all applicants blank forms to be filled in.

Perhaps the event most interesting to the High School boys just now is the coming football game with the Charleston High School on Thanksgiving Day. Booth and Brunson are both out of the game for the present, badly crippling the team, but it is hoped to round it into shape before the big battle comes.

HUERTA FAILS TO ANSWER.

DISREGARDS ULTIMATUM SENT HIM BY UNITED STATES.

Last Chance of Keeping Favor of United States Gone and Communications with Washington Will Probably Be Cut Off—John Lind Leaves Mexico City for Vera Cruz.

Mexico City, Nov. 12.—Gen. Victoriano Huerta tacitly refused tonight to accede to the demands of the United States expressed in an ultimatum, sent to him by President Wilson's personal representative, John Lind. Gen. Huerta early today was notified that unless he returned an answer at 6 o'clock this evening to the effect that he would prevent the newly elected congress from convening and, furthermore, make this action known to the members of the diplomatic corps by midnight, the United States would have no further parleying with the Mexican government.

Mr. Lind waited until 6 o'clock and received no answer. He then made arrangements for his departure on the train leaving for Vera Cruz at 8 o'clock. It was announced, however, that Gen. Huerta had one more chance—that if he took the action demanded by midnight the fact that he failed to reply to Mr. Lind within the time specified would be overlooked. Mr. Lind could see no good reason to suppose that Huerta intended to accede.

Nelson O'Shaughnessy, the charge d'affaires, was the messenger who delivered the ultimatum. He was unable to get into personal touch with Gen. Huerta, but left the message at the president's office.

It was intimated tonight at the palace that Gen. Huerta had not received the note in time to give it full consideration. This, however, did not appear to Mr. Lind a valid excuse for procrastination.

The prevention of the convening of congress has been one of the essential points in the negotiations conducted by Mr. Lind; this for two reasons—first, it was believed that the new congress would lose no time in passing measures having to do with the oil concessions and second, because the convening of congress would give an air of legality to Huerta's government.

Not since the recent revolution began has the feeling in the Mexican capital been as tense as it was today. The most categorical denials by the American charge, Nelson O'Shaughnessy, and Mr. Lind of knowledge of any development on which this feeling could be based, helped to disabuse the minds of some people that the next 24 hours would see a decisive move on the part of Washington.

The report spread until there was scarcely a foreign resident in the city who had not heard that the American charge had been given, or was about to be given, his passports. A large part of the population confidently expect to depart on the evening train for Vera Cruz.

All sorts of rumors were current. Many persons, who were contemplating leaving the country in the near future, made hurried preparations and caught the night train to Vera Cruz, preferring to wait there until they can procure steamer accommodations to remaining in the capital.

Mr. Lind was said to have received messages from Vera Cruz, urging him to return at once, for fear the railroad would be cut.

The uneasiness was accentuated through the receipt by several persons of messages from relatives and friends in the United States urging their immediate departure from Mexico.

WOMEN WANT FRANCHISE.

Southern Suffragists Form Association at New Orleans.

New Orleans, Nov. 12.—Women suffragists who with several representatives from other Southern States met here as the Louisiana suffragist association this afternoon, organized a Southern conference of suffragists and a new State body. Miss Kate M. Gordon, New Orleans, was elected president of the body embracing the Southern States.

The organization will be known as the Southern States Woman's suffrage conference. It will hold annual meetings. The chief contention in forming this organization was whether it would stand for State rights and whether the words "State rights" should be embodied in the name. The words were not used, but it is understood the organization will try to gain votes for women through amendments to State constitutions rather than a federal measure, as advocated by the National Women's Suffrage organization.

Among the State vice presidents elected were: Mrs. Eugene Reilly, North Carolina; Mrs. Helen H. Gardner, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Florence Cooley, Florida; Mrs. Frances Gordon Burton-Smith, Georgia; Mrs. Laura L. C. Poe, Maryland; Mrs. John B. Gibbons, South Carolina.

HALE TALKS WITH CARRANZA.

Representative of President Wilson and Mexican Rebel Leader Discuss Plans.

Nogales, Mex., Nov. 12.—Crossing a narrow little street from the United States into Mexico today, William Dayrol Hale, personal representative of President Wilson, met the constitutional chief, Gen. Carranza, and his cabinet and presented to them a definite proposal from the American government.

What the proposal was the American diplomatic agent declined to say. The Mexican revolutionary leaders also were silent, but to those who have been anxiously awaiting the development of the American policy with regard to Mexico, it was fraught with possibilities for the destinies of the war torn republic and her relations with her northern neighbor.

Carranza and his entire cabinet were present and with them Mr. Hale conferred, exchanged views and impressions and consulted for several hours.

The conference was held amid the simplest surroundings. Mr. Hale, accompanied by American Consul Frederick Simplic, entered the customs house and immediately was ushered into the tiny room.

Ignacio Bonillaz, an American university alumnus and Carranza's minister of fomento, acting as interpreter for the American representative and Gen. Carranza, listened to President Wilson's proposition from Mr. Hale and in Spanish presented it to the rebel chieftain.

No word as to what President Wilson had proposed to Gen. Carranza through Mr. Hale or what the rebel leaders thought of the proposal was allowed to leak out.

Mr. Hale went directly from the conference room to the American side and entered into communication with Washington.

While they maintained silence as to the topics discussed at the conference, the constitutionalists could not repress the pleasure they felt over the action of President Wilson in sending a personal representative to them. They felt it was tantamount to unofficial recognition of the revolutionists.

Coupled with this, there was among those Mexicans not in the conference a feeling that the proposition of President Wilson vitally concerned Gen. Carranza's wish to have the American embargo on the importation of arms into Mexico lifted.

Immediately on his arrival Mr. Hale got a taste of frontier hospitality. The few hotels of Nogales were crowded with refugees and President Wilson's representative was forced to accept the tender of a railroad conductor's room.

VACANCIES AT ANNAPOLIS.

Senator B. R. Tillman Announces Competitive Examination at Columbia on December 30.

Senator B. R. Tillman announces a competitive examination to be held under the direction of Hon. J. E. Swearingen, State Superintendent of education, at Columbia, at ten o'clock on December 30, 1913, to fill two vacancies in the United States Naval Academy, at Annapolis. This examination will be open to all white boys of the State between the ages of sixteen and twenty years.

A candidate must have been for at least two years immediately preceding the date of his appointment an actual and bona fide resident of the State of South Carolina. Unless a candidate knows that he is nearly perfect physically, it will be absolutely useless for him to go to the trouble and expense of standing the examination, for the naval authorities would reject him.

Candidates will be examined mentally in punctuation, spelling, English grammar, geography, United States history, World's history, arithmetic, algebra through quadratic equations and plain geometry.

No formal application will be necessary, but all candidates should present themselves to Hon. J. E. Swearingen at the time and place above mentioned with the proper writing materials.

For detailed information relative to the regulations governing the admission of candidates into the United States Naval Academy, and for old examination papers, used in former examinations, address Hon. J. E. Swearingen, Columbia, South Carolina, who will be glad to supply them.

BANKS L. CAUGHMAN WILL RETIRE.

Columbia, Nov. 13.—Bankston L. Caughman, for 11 years member of the railroad commission of South Carolina, said yesterday that he would very probably retire from office at the end of his term next year. He will have completed 12 years in the office and at present does not think he will offer for re-election. Mr. Caughman is one of the best known men in public life in South Carolina. He has been in bad health for several months.

EXPECTS PROHIBITION VICTORY.

Prediction of Speaker at Anti-Saloon Meeting—Governor Patterson Joins Ranks.

Columbus, O., Nov. 12.—Predicting that a resolution prohibiting the traffic in intoxicants as beverages in the United States and all territories under its jurisdiction soon will be adopted by congress and declaring that "I am governor of Kansas I will immediately convene the legislature in special session if necessary for the purpose of ratifying the amendment," Gov. George H. Hodges of Kansas tonight threw the 15th biennial convention of the American Anti-Saloon league into an uproar of applause.

Gov. L. B. Hanna of North Dakota another speaker, gave statistics to show the prosperity of his State under prohibition and said the "brewers' year book" showed no consumption in his State of their manufactures in 1911.

The day's session was brought to a climax with a stirring address by Former Gov. M. R. Patterson of Tennessee, in which he gave reasons for his enlisting with the anti-saloon movement and reviewed his former life and activities, which, according to his statement, had been with the forces opposed to suppression of the liquor traffic.

U. D. C. WON'T HEAR SUFFRAGISTS.

Refuse Greetings from Suffrage Conference of South.

New Orleans, Nov. 12.—United Daughters of the Confederacy today deviated from their programme long enough to flatly refuse to accept greetings from the Southern States Woman's Suffrage Conference, and to invite Miss Kate M. Gordon, the Conference president, to speak. It was declared that the Daughters will not have politics of any sort injected into their organization.

The Suffrage Conference was organized by delegates to a Louisiana Suffrage Convention, which adjourned late this afternoon. After the adjournment Mrs. C. A. Cantrell, of Kentucky, offered a motion asking that Miss Gordon be invited to speak, saying that the Daughters should receive greetings from a Sister Convention. Mrs. Norman Randolph, of Virginia, made a spirited address against such action, and moved that the motion be tabled. The motion was tabled by a large majority.

Among the interesting reports of officers submitted at the three sessions today was that of the historian general, Miss Mildred Rutherford. She said she had compiled a history of disputed points of the War Between the States, of which there are many. All sides of each disputed point that could be found have been given in this history, and it is so arranged that readers may take their choice.

President General Mrs. White brought cheers when she read the portion of her report advising U. D. C. members to discourage attempts to get pensions for Confederate veterans from the government.

Mrs. White announced that Virginia, for the second time, had won the honor of gaining the most new members since the last convention.

The delegates late today were entertained at a musicale, and tonight after a brief business session, a reception was given for them.

TO URGE FEDERAL ROADS.

E. J. Watson on Committee to Present Proposal to Congressional Committee.

St. Louis, Nov. 12.—The United States Good Roads association today appointed a committee, headed by Gov. Elliott W. Major of Missouri, to confer with committees of both houses of congress in an effort to agree on a measure that ultimately will result in the construction of a comprehensive system of national highways at the expense of the federal government. The others on this committee are E. J. Watson, commissioner of the South Carolina department of agriculture; Senator J. H. Bankhead of Alabama, president of the United States Good Roads association, and Jesse Taylor of Jamestown, Ohio.

WINS FREIGHT RATE CASE.

Columbia Wins in Suit Brought Against Railroads.

Washington, Nov. 12.—The Columbia Chamber of Commerce has won its case against the Southern and other railways doing business in Columbia-Augusta territory which has been pending for some time before the interstate commerce commission, a decision having been rendered today declaring a sweeping victory for the Chamber of Commerce. Complaint was brought in this case several months ago by R. B. Herbert, C. S. Monteith and H. N. Edmunds, and Messrs. Herbert and Monteith subsequently argued it before the commission.