

## The POOL of FLAME

by LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELLSWOOD RIFE YOUNG  
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CHAPTER XII.—In the duel O'Rourke masters his adversary and secures possession of the Pool of Flame.

CHAPTER XIII.—The efforts of O'Rourke are now directed toward securing the Pool of Flame with the level and he starts by ship.

Tactfully the vicomte digressed from the unpleasant topic. "I have asked you here, monsieur," he said with an air of deprecation, "to confer with me on business after we have dined. I trust the arrangement suits your convenience."

"I'm content, monsieur."

"I regret that circumstances prevent me from receiving you under my own roof-trees. The Villa d'Orleans is the property of a dear friend, merely loaned me during my stay in Algiers."

"You're fortunate in your choice of friends."

Over his next remark Des Trebes faltered a trifle, with a curious smile that O'Rourke failed to fathom. "Monsieur Glyn," he said, "is—ah—a trifling indisposed—the sun. Nevertheless, I believe he will join us during dinner, if you will be so kind as to excuse him—"

"I could do very well without him."

The vicomte caught the eye of a servant, and, "Dinner is announced," he said. "Do me the honor to accompany me to the table."

In the course of time, as the vicomte had predicted, the Honorable Bertie joined them; and on sight O'Rourke diagnosed the "indisposition" as plain intoxication. The Englishman was deep in his cups, far too deep to ape the urbane of his host. He favored O'Rourke with a curt nod and a surly look, then slumped limply into a chair and called for champagne, which he drank greedily and with a sullen air, avoiding the vicomte's eye. Before dessert was served he passed into a black humor, and sat mutely glowering at his glass (what time he was not unsteadily filling it) without regard for either of his companions.

When the cloth was cleared and the servants had withdrawn, Des Trebes definitely cut aside pretence. A cigarette between his lips, he lounged in his chair, eyelids drooping over eyes that never left his guest's while either spoke. A cynical smile preceded his first words.

"So," he said, "the farce is over. Some regard for the conventions was necessary before the servants of my friend, the owner of this villa. Now, we can be natural, Monsieur le Colonel."

"Be all means; I cannot say I found the play diverting, despite the skill of your friend's chef. I gather ye wish to get to business? Well—I'm waiting." O'Rourke pulled at a cigar, honoring the man with a cat-like attention. He had no longer to watch the honorable; the latter had fully relieved him of the necessity.

"You have been then," pursued the vicomte, without further circumlocution, "to the palace of Monsieur le Gouverneur-Generalet?"

"I have—unfortunately a few days too late, it seems."

"You are satisfied?"

"I'm satisfied that the Pool of Flame has been stolen."

"Then you will probably believe me when I declare myself the malefactor. It was an easy matter: I purposely brought up the name of Chambret in conversation with the Governor and by him was informed of the existence of the packet—which,

O'Rourke Whipped Hilt to Chin With Consummate Grace.

of course, I had already assumed. My secretary and I were absent, the safe open, the name on the packet started me in the face. What could I do?"

"Precisely, I'm convinced that, being what ye are, ye did only what ye could."

The vicomte bowed, amusement flickering in his glance. "Touched," he admitted. "Well, you have the jewel, you the information."

"And ye have to propose—?"

"A plan after your own heart: I do your contraband the credit to believe it possible. With another man, whom

### REASON FOR PERSIA'S OVERTHROW

Russia and Belgium Fail to Receive Big Annual Graft.

Washington, Jan. 1.—All of the bloodshed, the misery, the burned and sacked cities and villages, the indescribable cruelty of the Cossacks and Turcomans in Persia, is aimed at one thing, according to information received in Washington from the Persian central committee in Constantinople. According to this information, the real motive of Russia and her silent partner, Belgium, now brought for the first time into this sordid tragedy, is that \$4,000,000 in annual graft shall not escape their hands. For years the financiers of Russia and Belgium had muled the Persian government of \$400,000 annually, for taking care of her fiscal affairs. This is in addition to the great sums that disappeared from the Persian treasury, going no one knows where.

It is now learned that the contract made by the Persian government with W. Morgan Shuster and his twenty-one assistants was for three years at approximately \$100,000 per year, a saving to Persia in the aggregate for that time of nearly \$1,000,000, this in addition to the vast sum that by honest administration will be kept out of the hungry hands of the greedy grafter. Even before Shuster and his aides assumed charge of the Persian finances Russia and Belgium made protest. Practically the first day Shuster was in office he and the Russian and Belgian bankers clashed. So eager were the two grasping nations to retain control that they proposed to Persia that Shuster and his party be paid the full amount of their contract and be sent home to America. Belgium even went so far, it is stated, as to offer to foot the bill. Persia refused.

We are closing out our entire stock of Mens and Boys Clothing, Overcoats, Pants and Ladies Suits and Cloaks at New York cost. A good stock to select from. These goods must go. J. J. Baxter.

New Bern Oyster Retains its Flavor.

The following letter received by Gen. N. Ives & Son, explains itself—Mr. Avirett will be remembered by the old residents:

Cumberland, Md. Dec. 27, 1911, Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find check to pay the enclosed bill, which please receipt and return with the lowest price on your "Extra Selects," as I find "the Broad Creek" oysters of the New Bern market have lost none of their fine flavors since 1856 when as a young lawyer I used to eat them out of the shell on the old county wharf.

Please thank Mrs. Bryan for putting me in communication with you.

Faithfully yours,  
(Rev.) JAMES BATTLE AVIRETT.

TRUST FIXED MEAT PRICES

Packers Combine Apportioned Business and Fixed Prices so as to Be Non Competitive.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—Documentary evidence that the price of meat was fixed and the business apportioned on a non-competitive basis by the packers at their weekly meetings was introduced by the government at the trial of the ten Chicago packers before United States District Judge Carpenter.

Special Counsel Pierce Butler read several letters received by W. D. Miles manager of the Armour Packing Company, Kansas City, in June, 1896, in which the amounts of beef to be shipped to certain eastern markets were given and the price to be charged, based on a margin of 50 cents on the uniform test cost estimate used by the packers, was named.

The letters also flatly refuted the statement of Henry Veeder on the witness stand that no meetings of the packers to fix prices and apportion business were held between April, 1897, and January, 1898, when a "statistical bureau" was maintained to compile records of meat shipped and prices obtained at different points. Miles, who severed his connection with Armour interests. In 1903, will, it is said, be one of the star witnesses for the government.

Notice—Watch This.

A brand new splendid new 3 room house, toilet and bath, modern and up to date and an automobile house, all to rent or lease, at No. 22 New street, See Big Hill, the man who sells Shingle for less, and the only Shingle man.

BIG HILL.

Drop Dead.

Unexpectedly learning that her son had married, Mrs. J. B. Hagan, of Snow Hill, dropped dead at her home at that place last Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Hagan had no reason to believe that her son was contemplating matrimony, and when one of the neighbors came to her residence and informed her that he was married a few hours previous to Miss Maude Hagan of the place, she was so shocked for her and she expired without uttering a word.

We have a few Cook Stoves on hand at your price—but they are not Bucks. J. S. Basnight Hdw. Co.

### FEDERAL SINE-CURES TAKEN

Away With New Year. Increased Deficit in Treasury. Democrats Plan Economy.

Washington, D. C. Jan. 1.—Uncle Sam has handed a number of his employees New Year's presents that will live long in their memory. With one fell swoop he has deprived these men of sinecures they have been enjoying for years. It comes about through the consolidation of all the District and Circuit Courts in the United States.

On January 1, 1912 all Circuit Courts of the United States will cease to exist, likewise the salaries of all the clerks and employees attached to them will cease. On the same date the various District Courts in the country will have conferred upon them by the United States Congress additional power and influence. This new order of things springs out of the recent action of the United States Congress in perfecting the new judicial code, that caused so much debate and divided both houses of Congress into hostile camps of acrimonious statements. On this date twenty-seven United States Circuit Courts will cease to do business at the 276 places they have been accustomed to meet.

The dying year of 1911 is bequeathing the Federal government a materially increased deficit, as compared with the close of 1910, to be wiped out, it is possible, during the remaining half of the current fiscal year. The general fund, representing the available resources of the Treasury, showed a big growth due to the sale of \$50,000,000 in Panama Canal bonds during the year.

It is known that the disbursements exceeded the receipts during the last six months, exclusive of the Panama Canal financial operations, by about \$22,000,000. The principal causes of the increased deficit were a fall off of probably \$10,000,000 in customs receipts and an increase of at least \$7,000,000 in the cost of the navy during the last half year, as compared with the same period in 1910. Approximately \$152,000,000 was received from customs receipts during the last six months, while at the close of December last year, this source of revenue had yielded \$162,000,000. The navy has cost about \$70,000,000 up to date this year. The disbursements during the first half of the last fiscal year were \$63,000,000.

Democrats of the House plan to eliminate from the next sundry civil appropriation bill the \$225,000 appropriation for the President's tariff board, the \$75,000 appropriation for the economy committee and the \$24,000 appropriation for the President's traveling expenses. Democratic members of the committee are understood to be unanimously in favor of this elimination program, and they believe that the cutting out of this expenditure of \$325,000 all of which is under the direction of the President will meet with approval of the majority party in the House.

As far as the President's traveling expenses are concerned, the Democrats feel that the annual appropriation of \$25,000 for that purpose is being used against the Democratic enemy, and they propose to cut it off for that reason. These eliminated items are certain to provoke lively discussion when the sundry civil bill is reported.

Same at This Office.

Greenboro News.

Col. Joe Reece says that "Governor Wilson is not sending out any literature." We can turn over to him one-half the staff that comes to this office from Wilson headquarters and then have left more than we shall have time to read. No checks, however, accompany the matter to pay for its publication.

Teachers' Examination.

A public examination for Teachers' Certificate will be held at the court house in New Bern Thursday and Friday, January 11th and 12th. Examination on Thursday will be for white teachers and on Friday for colored teachers. Examination each day will begin at 10 a. m.

S. M. BRINSON,  
Sup't, Public Instruction.

Nearly all those mentioned as aspirants for the presidency are encountering much opposition in their own states.

THE COLONEL IS A CANDIDATE

Many Things Have Conspired to Crystallize Suspicion of Long Standing into Definite Conviction.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Suspicion of long standing crystallized to definite conviction among all factions here last night that Theodore Roosevelt is a candidate against President Taft for the Republican presidential nomination. The conviction exists in Mr. Taft's immediate circle at the White House, but Taft answers that he will fight.

"If death should lay his hands on the President's shoulders," said one of the President's closest advisers, "that would settle it, but let no one entertain for a moment that any other contingency will remove him from the field."

Many things have conspired to bring about the crystallization of opinion upon Roosevelt's attitude. These were created yesterday by the action of the Republican progressives at Columbus, O., who, with Gifford Pinchot and James R. Garfield present, adopted a "go white" inaugural anti-Taft platform, but refused to endorse LaFollette for the Presidency. They made it clear that they were not for Taft, but also while they acclaimed LaFollette a great progressive leader they were not for him. The personality of Roosevelt loomed up in the background of that convention as plainly as a thunder-cloud in an otherwise clear sky.

It is even rumored here in Taft circles that the Taft crowd have themselves sought Roosevelt to remove all doubt about his attitude and that he has refused.

Another Veteran Passes.

News comes from Onalaska county of the death of Mr. Frank J. Barbour, which will be received with much regret by his many friends. Mr. Barbour was of advanced age, being well along in his seventies. A veteran of the Confederate army, he was one of the leading men of his section, a substantial farmer, a kind neighbor and a good man that will be sadly missed in his community. He leaves a widow with two daughters and a son, two older sons, Mrs. Sam and Glen Barbour reside in this city.

Drop Dead.

Unexpectedly learning that her son had married, Mrs. J. B. Hagan, of Snow Hill, dropped dead at her home at that place last Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Hagan had no reason to believe that her son was contemplating matrimony, and when one of the neighbors came to her residence and informed her that he was married a few hours previous to Miss Maude Hagan of the place, she was so shocked for her and she expired without uttering a word.

### PROBABLY WILL BE TOTAL LOSS

The British Steamer Thisteeroey Aground And Cannot Be Saved.

Beaufort, N. C. Jan. 2.—Efforts to save the British steamer Thisteeroey, aground on Lookout shoals, have been unsuccessful, and the vessel probably will be a total loss. After a hard battle with a heavy sea, twelve members of the crew were picked up from a disabled motor life saving boat sent out from the Cape Lookout station, the revenue cutter Itasca sending out a crew in an open life boat to rescue them.

Aided by the tug Murrill, the steamer Rescue and the power schooner Pilgrim, an attempt was made today to pull of the Thisteeroey. She was moved twice her length, but the heavy sea put an end to further efforts. When he became apparent the ship would have to be abandoned, the master's wife and the remainder of the crew were taken from the ship by the Itasca and brought to the cape station.

Master Ferguson has refused to leave the ship, and is aiding the wreckers in the effort to save 8,000 bales of cotton, shipped from Galveston for Liverpool. The Thisteeroey left Galveston December 21st.

Capt. W. A. Sanders, of the tug Blanche, returned to Wilmington from the scene of the stranding of the Thisteeroey, and reports were made by telegraph to Messrs. Heide & Co., agents of the ship in this city. Capt. Sanders thinks the steamer will be a total loss with cargo of cotton and about 3,500 tons phosphate rock taken on at Tampa, Fla., after receiving cotton at Galveston. Capt. Sanders offered the assistance of the Blanche and had partially arranged with the master for a line, but finally offers of assistance were refused and the consequences were related.

How about a barn-size Range, for twenty-five dollars? J. S. Basnight Hdw. Co.

ARAPAHOE ITEMS.

Pamlico County, Jan. 2.—Christmas has come and gone, and left everybody in good spirits.

The New Year has arrived bringing a misty rain, which is not an unusual occurrence of late.

Every body seemed to enjoy the holidays to the utmost in this section.

There have been three entertainments in Arapahoe recently, one at each of the churches. The first one was held at the Christian church Wednesday night after Christmas. The one at the Baptist church was held Friday night, and the one at the Methodist church Saturday night.

Miss Maud Rawls and Mr. Jacob Paul were quietly married last Wednesday night at the home of Mr. G. W. Brinson.

Miss Fannie Brinson and Mr. Otis Broughton were married last Saturday week. We hope them much happiness through life.

Misses Beasie Rawls, Lydia Johnson and Mollie Tingle who returned home from Littleton College to spend the Christmas holidays, will return to Littleton tomorrow to resume their studies.

Mr. George Taylor, who spent last week at this place visiting his aunt, Mrs. W. B. Nunn, returned to New Bern this afternoon.

Mr. Hugh Taylor, of New Bern, who came last Saturday night to visit relatives returned today.

Miss Lydia Johnson gave a social at her home last Monday night, quite a crowd being present. They were entertained principally with music furnished by Messrs. Clifford and Henry Nunn and Geo. Taylor, they played mandoline, guitar and harp.

Messrs. George Taylor, Clifford and Henry Nunn attended a social at Baldo Creek at the home of Miss Ruth Brinson Friday night. They reported a good time.

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Lewis, of Wendell, are in Arapahoe visiting relatives.

Mrs. Sarah Bennett who has been very sick is now improving.

The public school at this place begins again tomorrow. The teachers have all returned.

WATER LILLY.

If you want the Stove of quality, Bucks line is your only solution. J. S. Basnight Hdw. Co.

### PAY ONLY FOR WHAT IT GETS

Second Assistant Postmaster General Endorses Hitchcock's Plans as to Mail Service.

Washington, Jan. 3rd.—A feature of the annual report of Joseph Stewart, second assistant postmaster general, made public, is a recommendation that the government shall pay only for what it receives in the transportation of the mails. An elaborate discussion of the proposed plan of postmaster-general Hitchcock to pay the railroads for actual service performed is presented. This plan, it is agreed, "would eliminate all distinction between payment for weight and payment for space and would be based on the space occupied by the mails in transit and the haul of the same."

The plan would enable the government to transport the mails at the rate of six per cent above the actual cost to the roads the interstate commerce commission to have authority to resolve any difference that might arise between the railroads and the post office department as to an equitable adjustment of the pay.

For the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1911, the expenditures of the second assistant postmaster-general's bureau aggregated \$81,042,509. The appropriations for the current fiscal year amounted to \$87,993,580, all of which, probably, will not be expended because of economies that have been introduced.

Recommendations concurred in by the postmaster general are made to Congress for new legislation for the service. Among the changes sought are a readjustment of compensation for the transportation of mails by railroad; to permit the payment of vessels of the second class on mail routes to South America, the Philippines, Japan and Australia, 4,000 miles or more in length at a rate not exceeding that applicable to vessels of the first class.

There also was recommended laws affecting the welfare of the employees of the post office system.

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THE PEOPLE MUST RULE

LaFollette Says 100 Men Control Country's Business. Dingley Law Responsible for Big Trusts.

Saginaw, Mich., Jan. 2nd.—Senator Robert M. LaFollette wound up his first days campaign in Michigan in the interest of his "progressive" candidacy for the Republican nomination for President with an address at the Masonic Temple here recently. He discussed the trusts and their relation to the tariff, the money trust as the climax of all, and the necessity of returning the government, as he said, to the hands of the people. He asked the support of all Republicans and Democrats alike, in doing this.

The Dingley tariff law, he said, by raising the tariff high enough to eliminate foreign competition, opened the way for the trusts. In describing their rapid growth since 1897, when the Dingley law was passed, the Senator said trust capitalization had increased over 54 per cent. During the four years of the preceding administration, despite the fact that a number of prosecutions had begun. By that time they had become so strong that they defied prosecution.

"Alexander Hamilton, Henry Clay and William McKinley," said Senator LaFollette, "would never have spoken of the tariff as they did if there had been no competition. The stand pat today is the worst enemy of the protective system." He declared that a few men in Wall Street, who have no politics, but who are interested only in business, control the affairs of the country, and that the big problem now is to return control to the people.

"If I did not believe the Republican party was the best instrument for getting control into the hands of the people," he said, "I would leave it. If I believed the Democratic party was a better instrument I would join it. If I thought a new party would be more effective, I would form one. But I think the Republican party is the best instrument there is."

"There is quite a progressive sentiment all through the North. I do not know of any progressive sentiment or any progressive legislation in the South and the strength of the Democratic party is in the South. If the sentiments of the Democrats of the South were the same as that of the Democrats of the North, I think it would be as good an instrument as the Republican party."

"A true American believes in democracy. He believes men and women are equal and entitled to an equal chance. But the Democratic party of the South is not by inheritance that sort of organization. All the strength of the party in the South is the aristocracy. The Southern Democrat despises, alike, the poor white and the negro, and that is not the sentiment that makes the popular government."

Beautiful Home Wedding.

Hickory, Jan. 4.—In a ceremony impressive, though marked by simplicity, Miss Lovie A. Sigmon, of this city and Mr. George Ethorbert Weeks, of Mayaville, N. C., were wedded yesterday morning at the home of the bride on Tenth Avenue. The ceremony was solemnized by Rev. J. L. Murphy, pastor of the German Reformed church. Only members of the immediate family and a limited number of friends were present. The bride, an attractive type of brunette, was stylishly gowned in a coat suit of blue cloth, with hat and gloves to match.

Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Weeks left on train No. 22 for Mayaville, where they will make their future home.

Yesterday's wedding was an event in which centered the interest of a legion of friends who unite in wishing for the bride and groom all possible happiness. Mrs. Weeks is a native of this town whereby her lovely character and distinct attractiveness she has won a large circle of friends.

She has been pleasantly identified with the social life of the town and will be greatly missed. She is a talented musician, having taught piano for some time, and this marriage is the culmination of a romance which began while she was teaching at Mayaville.

The groom is a prominent young man of eastern North Carolina, and is member of the Mayaville Banking and Trust Company. He is widely recognized and by his high qualities of character has won the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

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