A Gentleman From Mississippi

By THOMAS A. WISE

Novelized From the Play by Frederick R. Toombs

COPYRIGHT, 1909, BY THOMAS A. WISE

CHAPTER XXI. "IF YOU CAN'T BUY A SENATOR, THREAT-

TENATOR PEABODY was the most surprised man in Washington when he heard the junior senator from Mississippi state that no one was to enrich himself out of the government naval base

He heaped a mental anathema on the head of Stevens for saddling such a man on the senste "machine," for Langdon would of course never had been put on "naval affairs" (just now very important to the machine) without the "O. K." of Stevens, who had won a heretofore thoroughly reliable reputation as a judge of men, or of what purported to be men. The thought that at this time, of all times, there should be a man on the committee on naval affairs that could not be "handled" was sufficient to make him who reveled in the title of "boss of the genate" determine that he must get another chief lientenant to replace Stevens, who had proved so trustworthy in the past. Stevens had lost his cun-

ning! As the vote of Langdon could not be secured by humbug or in exchange for favors and as it could not be "delivered," Peabody, of course, was willing to pay in actual cash for the vote. This was the final step, but one in political conspiracies of this nature-cash. But Langdon would not take cash, so Peabody had to resort to the last agency of the trained and corrupt manipulator of legislation.

He would threaten.

Moreover, he knew that to make threats effective, if it is possible to do so, they must be led up to systematically-that is, they should be made at the right time. The scene must be set, as in a play.

Senator Peabody glared at Langdon as though to convince the latter that to stand in his way would mean political destruction.

"So nobody is going to make a cent, eh? Well, I suppose you want all the profits for yourself." Turning to Steyens, who had just entered, the Pennsylvanian cried:

"Do you but listen to our suddenly good friend Langdon. He wants to be the only man to make money out of the naval base. He won't listen to any other member of the naval committee making a cent out of it. Why, he"-

"Great God, sir!" exclaimed Langdon. "You are going too far, Peabody. You state what is false, and you know it, you-you"-

"Then you are willing that others Philadelphia?" should have their rightful share?" put in Stevens. "Oh, I understand now,

"No, no, no!" cried Langdon. "You do not understand, Senator Stevens, and I must say I am ashamed to speak of you by the honorable title of senator, sir. I will not listen to any person enriching himself at the government expense, and I am your enemy, you, Peabody, and you, Stevens, beyond recall. You both know you misrepresent

Langdon walked over to Stevens and faced him directly.

"Do you remember, Stevens, Lorimer Hawkslee, back in wartime? "Yes," said Stevens, puzzled, "I re-

member him-a very fine gentleman." The old planter sneered.

"Yes, a very fine gentleman! You remember he got rich out of contracts for supplies furnished to the Confederate government when it wasn't any too easy for the Confederate government to pay and when he was in that government himself. I never quite thought that the act of a gentleman, Stevens. It seemed to me to be very like dishonesty. I refused to speak to Lorimer Hawkslee in the Carroll hotel at Vicksburg, and when the people there asked me why I told them. I want to warn you, Stevens, that I'm likely to meet you some time in the

Carroll hotel at Vicksburg." Stevens backed away angrily. "I eatch your insinuation, but"-he received a warning glance from Peabody and broke into a pleasant smile calculated to deceive the old planterthis once I will overlook it because of our old friendship and the old days in Mississippi."

"You are a fine talker, Langdon," said Peabody, coming to Stevens' rescue, "but I can readily see what you are driving at. You want an investigation. You think you will catch some of us with what you reformers call 'the goods,' but forget evidently the entirely simple facts that your family has invested in Altacoola lands more heavily probably than any one else among us. You want to raise a scandal, do you? Well, go on and raise it, but remember that you will have to explain how it happened that there is \$50,000 invested in the name of your sen and \$25,000 in the name of your daughter, Miss Carolina, not to mention a few thousands put in by the gentleman who, I am given to understand, is to be your son-in-law, Con-

gressman Norton. "How about that, Norton?" Peabody asked, turning to the congressman, who had followed Stevens.

"I corroberate all you've said," re-

money was going into Altacoola land. I will swear to it if necessary," and he glared bitterly at Carolina's father. feeling certain that the girl would cling to him as opposed to her parent. Langdon made a threatening move at

"I consider my riddance of you mighty cheap at the price," he cried. "Come, come, Langdon," fumed Peabody, "I must get away from here to

the congressman.

catch the midnight train. Let's get through with this matter. You must realize that you cannot fight me in Washington. You must know that men call me the 'king of the senate.' I can beat any measure you introduce. I can pass any measure you want passed. I can make you a laughingstock or a power.

"Why, my friend from Mississippi, 1 can even have your election to the senate contested, have a committee appointed to investigate the manner of your election, have that committee decide that you bought your way into the honorable body, the senate of the United States, and on the strength of that decision have you forfeit your seat! What a pretty heritage to hand down to posterity such a disgrace will be! Why, the very school children of the future will hear about you as 'Looter Langdon,' and their parents will tell them how particularly degrading it was for a man of your reputation to drag into your dishonest schemes your son, sir, and your daughter. For who will believe that this money was not put in these lands without your consent, without your direction, your order? Did you not sign the mortgage on which this \$50,000 was raised?'

Senator Langdon waved his hand deprecatingly. "I'm learning the underhanded ways of you professional politicians. I'm getting wise. I'm learning 'the game,' so I know you're bluffing me, Peabody. But you forget that the game of poker was invented in Mississippi-my native state."

Pressing a button, Langdon summoned a servant and said: "Send in Mr. Haines. I guess I've got to have a witness for my side."

"It's no bluff," spoke Stevens as Haines entered. "Peabody can and will break you like a pipestem; he's done it to other men before you who-who tried to dispute his power. But I'll try to save you. I'll ask him to be merciful. You are not of any importance in the senate. We do not need to deal with yeu"-

"Then why do you both spend so much time on me?" asked Langdon innocently. "Why doesn't Peabody go to

"Langdon," said Peabody, "you know my control of the senate is no piece of fiction. But I will forgive your obstinacy, even forget it. I"-

"Look here," cried Langdon, "just because I'm a fat man don't think that I can't lose my temper." He stopped and gazed at his two colleagues.

"Now, you two men stay still one noment, and I'll tell you what real, will happen tomorrow," he exploded "and I'm only a beginner in the game that's your specialty. The navai base is going to Altacoola"-

"Good!" simultaneously cried both Peabody and Stevens. "You're coming

"No, I'm not, but I'll pass the bill so that nobody makes a cent, just as I said I would. I'll fool you both and make you both honest for once in spite of your natural dispositions."

Stevens and the Pennsylvanian stared at each other in disgust. "Furthermore," continued Langdon,

"Altacoola must have the base because I've known for some time that Gulf City was impossible. But some crooked senators would have made money if they'd known it, so they didn't learn it. Altacoola, that proud arm of our great gulf, will have those battleships floating on her broad bosom and the country will be the better off, and so will the sovereign state of Mississippi-God bless it-but neither Senator Peabody of Pennsylvania nor Senator Stevens of Mississippi is going to be any better because of it. No, and if you men come to my committee room at 12:30 tomorrow noon you'll have a chance to hear how all that's coming about. If you are not there by that time I'll bring in a minority report in favor of Gulf City, just to show you that I know how to play the game-

this Washington game"-"Come, let's go. We can do nothing with him," said Peabody to the senior senator from Mississippi.

"Well, senator, in the name of goodness, what are you going to do? How can you win for Altacoola without let ting these grafters make money out of it?" asked Haines in astonishment as the other two walked away, "What are you going to do at 12:30 tomorrow?" Langdon turned to him and rolled his

eyes toward the ceiling despairingly. "I'm blamed if I know!" he ex-

CHAPTER XXII.

LOBBYISTS-AND ONE IN PARTICULAR. YASHINGTON has known many lobbyists in its time, and it keeps on knowing them. The striking increase in legislation that aims to restrict unlawful or

has caused a greater demand than ever for influence at the national capital, for these restrictive measures must be either killed or emasculated to a point of uselessness by that process which is the salvation of many a corrupt manip ulator, the process of amendment.

Predatory corporations, predatory business associations of different sorts and predatory individuals have their representatives on the field at Wash ington to ward off attack by any means that brains can devise or money procure and to obtain desired favors at a cost that will leave a profitable balance for the purchaser. When commercial tricksters, believing in the lobbyists favorite maxim, "The People Forget," feel that they have outlived the latest reform movement and see "the good old days" returning, the professional politicians introduce a few reform measures themselves, most stringent measures. They push these measures ahead until somebody pays up, then the bills die. The lobbyist knows al' about these "strike" bills, but does not frown on them. No, no. Perhaps he helped draw up one of these bills so that, with the aid of his inside knowledge of his employer's business, the measure is made to give a greater scare than might otherwise have re sulted. The bigger the scare the bigger the fund advanced, of course, for the lobbyist to handle. All this also helps the lobbyist to secure and retain employment,

Not all the Washington lobbyists are outside of congress. The senator of congressman has unequaled facilities for olling or blocking the course of a bill. Sometimes he confines himself to the interests of his own clients, who ever they may be. But sometimes he notices a bill that promises to be a pretty good thing for the client of some other member if it passes. Then he begins to fight this bill so actively that he must be "let in on the deal"



"Because I'm fat don't think I can't loss my temper.

himself. This is very annoying to the other member, but the experience is worth something. He has learned the value of observing other people's legis

The outsiders (members of the "third house') and the insiders have a bond of freemasonry uniting them; they exchange information as to what members of both houses can be "reached," how they can be "got to" (through whom) and how much they want. This information is carefully tabulated, and now prices for passing or defeating legislation can be quoted to interested parties just as the price of a carload of pork can be ascertained at a given time and place. Perhaps it is this system that leads grafting members of short experience to wonder how knowledge of their taking what is termed "the sugar" got out and became known to their associates. Did they not have pledge of absolute secrecy? Yes, but the purchaser never intended to keep the information from those of his kind. Lobbyists must be honest with each other.

Not all lobbyists are men. The woman legislative agent has been known to occupy an important position in Washington, and she does yet. She is bard to detect and frequently more unprincipled than the men similarly engaged, if that is possible.

A woman with a measure of social standing would naturally prove the most successful as a lobbyist in Washington because, of the opportunities her position would afford her to meet people of prominence. And just such a one was Mrs. Cora Spangler, with whom the Langdons had been thrown in contact quite intimately since their arrival at the capital.

Pretty and vivacious, Mrs. Spangler bore her thirty-seven years with uncommon ease, aided possibly by the makeup box and the modiste. Her dinners and receptions were attended by people of acknowledged standing. Always a lavish spender of money. this was explained as possible because of a fortune left her by her late husband, Congressman Spangler of Pennsylvania. That this "fortune" had consisted largely of stock and bonds of a bankrupt copper smelting plant in Michigan remained unknown, except to her husband's family, one or two of her own relatives and Senator Peabody, who, coming from Pennsylvania, had known her husband intimately.

He it was who had suggested to her that she might make money easily by cultivating the acquaintance of the new members of both houses and their families, exerting her influence in various "perfectly legitimate ways," he argued, for or against matters pending in legislation. The Standard Steel corporation kept Mrs. Spangler well supplied with funds deposited monthly to her account in a Philadelphia trust

company. She avoided suspicion by reason of marked Norton. "I can state positively improper practices in business, the her sex and her many acquaintances that Senator Langdon knew that his awakening of the public conscience. of undisputed rank. Senator Peabody

was never invited to her bome, and never attended a single dinner, reception or musicale she had given, all of which was a part of the policy they had mutually agreed on to deaden any suspicion that might some time arise as to her relation to the Standard Steel company. It was well known that Peabody had been put into the senate by Standard Steel to look after

He had found Mrs. Spangler chiefly valuable thus far as a source of information regarding the members of congress, which she obtained largely from their families. He was thus able to gain an idea of their associations. their particular interests and their as pirations in coming to congress, which proved of much use to him in forming and promoting acquaintances, all for the glory of Standard Steel. Senator Helcomb of Missouri told

Mrs. Spangler at an afternoon tea confidentially that he was going to vote against the ship subsidy bill. Senator

Peabody was in formed of this two hours later by a note written in cipher When the vote was called two days later Sena tor Holcomb vot ed for the bill Standard Steel supplies steel for ocean liners, and their building must be encour aged. Mrs. Windson wife of Congress

man Windser of He was going to vote Indiana, remark against the ship sub- ed to Mrs. Span sidy bill.

gler at a recep tion that she was "so glad Jimmie i going to do something for us women a last. He says we ought to get silk gowns ever so much cheaper next year.' Jimmie Windsor was a member of the house committee on ways and means and was busily engaged in the matter of tariff revision. When President Anders of the Federal Silk company heard from Senator Peabody that Windsor favored lowering the tariff on silk a way was found to convince the congressman that the American silk in dustry was a weakling and many investors would suffer if the foreign goods should be admitted any cheaper

President Anders would be willing to do Senator Peabody a favor some

Sometimes Cora Spangler shuddered at the thought of what would become of her if she should make some slip some fatal error, and be discovered to her friends as a betrayer of confidences for money. A secret agent of Stand ard Steel! What a newspaper story she would make-"Society Favorite s Paid Spy;" "Woman Lobbylst Flees

Capital." The sensational neadlines flitted through her mind. Then she would grit her teeth and dig her finger nails into her palms. She had to have money to carry on the life she loved so well. She must continue as she had begun. After all, she reasoned, nothing definite could ever be proved regarding the past. Let the future care for itself. She might marry again and free herself from this mode of life. who knows?

So reasoned Cora Spangler for the hundredth time during the last two

home. She had spent part of Hope Langdon and in the even ing had attended the musicale at their house. But she had been forced to leave early owing to a severe headache, Now, after an hour or two of rest, she felt better and was about to retire. Suddenly the telephone

bell rang at a writing table "Hello! Who is it? near a window. She had two tele phones, one in the lower hall and one in her boudoir-to save walking down stairs unnecessarily, she explained to her woman friends. But the number of this upstairs telephone was not in the public book. It had a private number, known to but two people except herself.

Taking down the receiver, she asked in low voice, "Hello, who is it?"

It was the name Senator Peabody used in telephone conversation with her.

"Yes, congressman!" she responded She always said "Yes, congress man," in replying to "Mr. Wall," prearranged manner of indicating that he was talking to the desired person.

"I will need your services tomor row," Senator Peabody said, "on a very important matter, I am afraid Decline any engagements and hold yourself in readiness."

"Yes." "I may send my friend S. to explain things at 10:30 in the morning. If he does not arrive at that time, telephonme at 10:35 sharp. You know where Understand? I have put off going to Philadelphia tonight."

"Yes." "That is all; goodby."

"Something very important," she murmured nervously as she turned from the desk.

"I don't like his tone of voice; sounds

heavens, then Stevens must now have knowledge of my-my-business!"

She calmed herself and straightened a dainty, slender finger against her

"It must be something about that naval base bill, I'm sure. That's been worrying Peabody all session," she mused as she pressed a button to summon her maid.

CHAPTER XXIII.

"THE BOSS OF THE SENATE" GAINS A NEW ALLY.

RS. SPANGLER would have flattered herself on guessing correctly as to Senator Pea-

body's uneasiness had she heard and seen all that had taken place in his apartment at the Louis Napoleon hotel, where he had hurriedly taken Senator Stevens on leaving the Langdon house.

Not only would the two senators lose their immense profits on the Altacoola transaction if Langdon persisted in his opposition, but they would lose as well the thousands of dollars spent by their agents in purchasing options on hundreds of acres and, where they could not get options, the land itself This land would be on their hands, unsalable, if the base went somewhere else. Moreover, they feared that Langdon's revolt would bring unpleasan newspaper publicity to their opera tions.

"There's only one course to pursue Stevens," snapped Peabody as they took off their overcoats. "That is to be prepared as best we can for the very worst and meet it in some way yet to be determined. But first we must try to figure out what Langdon

is going to dowhat it can be that he says he will tell us tomorrow at 12:30 if we appear. He must have some thing very startling up his sleeve if he makes good his assertions, 1 can't see how"-

"Nor I," frowned Stevens, "and my political eye sight is far betterthan that fool Langdon's, Un-"I'm going to send for der ordinary cir-

Jake Steinert." cumstances we could let him go ahead with his minor ity report for Guif City, but as things stand he'll have every newspaper reporter in Washington buzzing around and asking impertment questions"-"Yes, and you and I would have to

go to Paris to live with our life insur ance friends from New York, wouldn't we?" laughed Peabody sarcastically "I'm going to send for Jake Steinert,

"Steinert?" Stevens ejaculated

"Oh, that's all right. Maybe he can suggest something," said Peabody, go-Ing to the telephone. "We've too much at stake to make a mistake, and Jake may see a point that we've overlooked. Luckily I saw him downstairs in the grill room as we came through to the elevator."

"Steinert is all right himself." con tinued Stevens, "but his methods"-"Can't be too particular now about his methods-or ours, Stevens, when a bull like Langdon breaks loose in the political china shop. Fortune and reputation are both fragile."

A ring of a bell announced the arrival of Jake Steinert, whose reputation as a lobbyist of advanced ability had years as she sat in her boudoir at her spread wide in the twenty years he had spent in Washington. Of medium height, sallow complexion, dark hair and dark eyes, his broad shoulders filled the doorway as he entered. An illy kept mustache almost hid a thin lipped, forceful mouth, almost as forceful as some of the language he used. His eyes darted first to Peabody and then to Stevens, waiting for either of them to open the conversation.

The highest class lobbyists, those who "swing" the "biggest deals," concern themselves only with men who can "handle" or who control lawmak ers. They get regular reports and outline the campaign. Like crafty spiders they hide in the center of a great web a web of bribery, threat, cajolery and intrigue, intent on every victim that is lured into the glistening meshes.

Only the small fry mingle freely with the legislators in the open, in the hotels and cafes and in the capitol corridors.

Jake Steinert did not belong in either of these classes; he ranked somewhere between the biggest and the smallest He coupled colossal boldness with the most expert knowledge of all the intricate workings of the congressional mechanism. Given money to spend among members to secure the defeat of a bill, he would frequently put most of the money in his own pocket and for a comparatively small sum defeat it by influencing the employees through whose hands it must pass.

"Sit down, Jake. Something to drink?" asked Peabody, reaching for a decanter. "No," grunted the lobbyist; "don't

drink durin' business hours; only durin' the day."

you probably know something of and if you want to try it before buywhat's going on in the naval affairs ing, send your address for a free committee."

"You mean the biggest job of the session?" "Yes."

"Sure thing, senator. It's the work of an artist." "The boss of the senate" smiled

suppose a committeeman named Langdon absolutely refused to be taken care of and insisted on handing in a minority report tomorrow. with a speech that read like the Decla-

ration of Independence?"

Steinert jerked his head forward

"You mean what would I do if I was-er-if I was runnin' the job?"

Steinert leaned toward Peabody.

"Where do I come in on this?" he

asked suspiciously. "Come, come, man," was the irritable retort. "I never let a few dollars stand between myself and my friends."

"All right, senator." The lobbyist thrust himself down in his chair, puffed slowly at a cigar and gazed thoughtfully at the ceiling.

was goin' to squeal about a bond issue. He had his speech all ready to warn the country that he thought a crowd of the pluto-cracy was goin' to get the bonds to resell

advanced rates. Well, sir, I arranged to have a "He was at the tasans carriage, a closed asylum

carriage, call that night to take him to see the president, for he was told the president sent the carriage for him. When he got out he was at the insane asylum, an' I can tell you he was bundled into a padded cell in jig time, where he stayed for three days. 'He thinks he's a member of congress.' I told the two huskies that handled him an' gave 'em each a twenty case note. The doctor that signed the necessary papers got considerable more." Stevens' gasp of amazement caused

the narrator genuine enjoyment. "I know of a certain senator who

was drunk an' laid away in a Turkish bath when the roll was called on a certain bill. He was a friend of Peabody's," laughed the lobbyist to the Mississippian.

"But in his case," said Stevens, "we must be very careful. Possibly some of your methods in handling the men you go after"-

"Say," interposed Steinert, "you know I don't do all pursuin', all the goin' after, any more than others in my business. Why, senator, some of these congressmen worry the life out of us folks that sprinkle the sugar. They accuse us of not lettin' 'em in on things when they haven't been fed in some time. They come down the trail like greyhounds coursin' a coy-

The speaker paused and glanced across at Peabody, who, however, was too busily engaged in writing in a memoradum book to notice him.

"Why. Senator Stevens," went on the lobbyist, "only today a down east member held me up to tell me that he was strong for that proposition to give the A. K. and L. railroad grants of government timber land in Oregon. He says to me, he says: 'What 'n b-1 do my constituents in New England care about things way out on the Pacific coast? I'd give 'em Yellowstone National park for a freight sidin' if 'twas any use to 'em,' he says. So you see"-

"I must go." broke in Stevens, rising and glancing at his watch. "It will soon be daylight."

"If you must have sleep, go, but you must be here at 9 o'clock sharp in the morning," said Peabody. will sleep here with me. We'll all have breakfast together here in my

A Tr

names.'

rooms and a final consulta. tion." "You won't plan anything really desperate,

Peabody, will

you? I think I'd

rather"-"Nonsense, Stevens, of course Our game not. will be to try to weaken Langdon, to prove to him in the morning that he alone will suffer, be-

"Suppose Langdon cause our names does not weaken?" do not appear in the land deals. The options were signed and the deeds signed by our agents. Don't you see? Whereas his daughter and son and future son-in-law actually took land in their own

"How clumsy!" "Yes. Such amateurism lowers the dignity of the United States senate,"

Peabody answered dryly. "But suppose Langdon does not weaken?" asked Stevens anxiously as

he picked up his hat and coat. "Then we will go into action with our guns loaded," was the reply. Continued next week,

How Diseases Start.

Nine times out of ten chronic disases like rheumatism, kidney trouble heart disease, skin disease, etc., start with a disorder of the stomach or bowels. To cure constipation, liver trouble, indigestion, sour stomach, heartburn, etc., take Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, which cures and prevents these diseases. It is absolute-"Well, Jake," said the Pennsylvanian ly guaranteed to do what we claim, sample bottle to Pepsin Syrup Co., 119 Caldwell Bldg., Monticello, Ill. It is sold by Hood Bros. at 50c and \$1 a bottle.

All Grist for Trusts.

"We will teach those trusts thing or two," said the statesman. "Don't do it," answered Senator Sorghum, "my observation is that the trusts never learn anything new without making it a source of further profit."-Washington Star,



"Few years ago." he began after a minute or two, "there was a feller who