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UNDER HOTEL KENNON, - GOLDSBORO, N. C.

A Gentleman from Mississippi

By THOMAS A. WISE
Novelized From the Play by Frederick R. Toombs
Copyright, 1909, By Thomas A. Wise.

(Continued from Yesterday.)

"That's just what I came for, senator, but I have to go up to the war department now. When Senator Langdon comes will you be kind enough to tell him I want to interview him?"

Stevens bowed cordially. "Indeed I shall. I'll tell him he's in luck to have the smartest young man in Washington on the job."

"All right," laughed Bud, "only don't make it so strong that he won't recognize me when he sees me. Good day." And he hurried away to keep a belated appointment.

"Clever boy," said Stevens as the newspaper man disappeared.

The boss of the senate agreed. "Yes, only I'm not sure it's a good thing for a newspaper man to be too clever. Spoils his usefulness. Makes him ask too many confounded questions."

Stevens acquiesced, for it would never do to disagree with the boss. "It's very kind of you, senator," he began, changing the subject, "to come with me to welcome the new senator from my state, my old friend and colleague."

An inscrutable smile—a smile, yet a cold one—accompanied Peabody's answer.

"I have always found, Stevens," he said, "that a little attention like this to a new man is never wasted, and I make it a rule not to overlook opportunities."

Again the senior senator from Mississippi acquiesced, and he laughed heartily at Peabody's keen insight into human nature.

"I think you'll like Langdon," Stevens remarked after a pause, "and you'll find him easy to deal with. Just put up any measure for the benefit of the south and Langdon will go the limit on it. Even a Republican majority doesn't mind a little Democratic support, you know. I think he's just the man you can use in this Gulf naval base bill."

"You can swing him?" asked Peabody sharply.

Stevens drew closer to Peabody. "Then you guarantee him?" snapped the boss.

"I elected him, and he knows it," he chuckled.

"And it's likely that a man like Langdon, new to politics—a simple gentleman of the old school, as you describe him—might have considerable influence on opinion throughout the country."

Langdon's colleague grasped the arm of the senatorial dictator.

"He's just the man we want, senator. He's one of those old fellows you just have to believe when he talks. He'll do what I suggest, and he can make the public believe what we think."

"Then you guarantee him?" snapped the boss.

"Unreservedly, senator."

"All right," said Peabody. "He goes on the naval committee. That ought to be enough honor for a man who a year ago was growing cotton on an old plantation miles away from civilization."

"We have control now of all the land about Altacoola that can be used," said Stevens. "I have had Norton, the congressman from Langdon's district, working on it. There isn't a foot of land there which we do not now control under options, and," he added, with a chuckle, "the options were dirt cheap."

Peabody granted approvingly.

"There won't be any New York fortune in it, but it ought to be a pretty tidy bit," he said. "Now, if we could only get Langdon interested, directly or indirectly, in a financial way, that would clinch everything."

The senior senator from Mississippi shook his head.

"It's too risky. He's old fashioned, you know—has about as much idea about practical politics as—well, as we have of the Golden Rule. Fact is, he

done a big stroke for Altacoola today."

Even Peabody picked up his ears. "Yes," said both senators together. With a keen sense of the dramatic, the congressman let his next words drift out with full effect.

"I've got Senator Langdon interested—financially interested," he said. His two hearers exchanged a significant glance.

"How?" asked Peabody sharply. Norton smiled slyly.

"Well, I just let his son invest \$50,000 of the senator's money in Altacoola land. That ought to help some."

Stevens stared in amazement at his congressman, his eyes threatening to bulge out of his head.

"What?" he gasped. "You got Langdon's money in Altacoola, through his son?"

"I sure have, senator," chuckled Norton. "He's in to the extent of fifty thousand, and I've promised that the fifty shall make a hundred by spring."

"It'll make three hundred thousand at least," snapped Peabody. "Norton, you've done a good day's work. By the way, a New York client of mine has a little business that I cannot attend to handily. Doesn't involve much work, and a young, hustling lawyer like you ought to take charge of it easily. The fee, I should say, would be about \$10,000. Have you the time to undertake it?"

The congressman drew a long breath. His eyes beamed with gratitude.

"I should say I have, senator. Of course it won't interfere with any of my duties as a congressman."

Peabody smiled.

"Of course not, Norton. I see that your sense of humor is improving. If convenient, run over to New York the last of the week. I'll give you a card. My client's office is at 10 Broadway."

The ruler of the senate nodded a curt dismissal.

"Thank you, senator; thank you very much." And Norton bowed and left, rejoicing.

Peabody turned to Stevens. "You see, even a congressman can be useful sometimes," remarked Stevens dryly.

"Keep your eye on that young man, Stevens. He's the most valuable congressman we've had from your state in a long while. Does just what he is told and doesn't ask any fool questions. This was good work. Langdon's on the naval committee now sure. Come Stevens; let's go to some quiet corner in the smoking room. I want to talk to you about something else the Standard has on hand for you to do."

Hardly had they departed from the lobby when resounding commotion at the entrance, followed by the rushing of porters and bellboys and an expectant pose on the part of the clerk, indicated that the new senator from Mississippi had arrived.

CHAPTER V.

THE BOSS OF THE SENATE INSPECTS A NEW MEMBER.

A actor playing the role of a high type of southern planter would score a decided success by picturing the character exactly after the fashion of Senator William H. Langdon as he strode to the desk of the International hotel. A wide brimmed black hat thrust back on his head, a long black perfect in his mouth, coat tails spreading out behind as he walked, and the "Big Bill" Langdon smile on his face that carried sunshine and good will wherever he went, he was good to look on, an inspiration, particularly in Washington.

Following the senator were Miss Langdon and Hope Georgia, leading a retinue of hotel attendants staggering under a large assortment of baggage. Both beautiful girls, they caused a sensation all of their own. Carolina, a different type from the younger, had an austere loveliness denoting pride and birth, a brunette of the quality that has contributed so much to the fame of southern women. Hope Georgia, more girlish and vivacious blond, was the especial pet of her father and usually succeeded in doing with him what she chose.

A real senator and two such young women handsomely gowned seemed to take the old hotel back a score of years—back to the times when such sights were of daily occurrence. The ancient greatness of the now dingy International lived again.

"How are you, senator? Glad to welcome you, sir," was the clerk's greeting.

The genial senator held out his hand. Everybody was his friend.

"Glad to meet you, sir; glad to meet you," he exclaimed. "Must make you acquainted with my daughters. This is Miss Carolina Langdon, this Miss Hope Georgia Langdon."

The two girls, with their father's idea of courtesy, shook hands with the clerk, who was not at all taken aback by the unexpected honor.

Hope Georgia was thoroughly delighted with everything, but Carolina looked at the worn and faded walls and furnishings with evident distaste.

"Oh, this is Washington," murmured Hope Georgia ecstatically, clasping her hands and gazing at a vista of artificial palms in a corridor.

"Ah, this is Washington," sighed the new senator contentedly as he gazed across a hall at the biggest and most gorgeous cigar stand he had ever seen or ever hoped to see—the only new thing added to the hotel since Grant was president.

"Truly magnificent establishment you have here, sir; magnificent!" he exclaimed as an imitation marble column came within his purview. "I remember my friend Senator Moseley speaking to me of it thirty years ago. Are our rooms ready?"

The clerk, hugely pleased, hastened to assure him that everything was in first class order, waiting.

"You better go up, girls, while I like to interrupt you. I think I've

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100 Tons Pocomoke Guano.

500 Tons Alliance Guano.

500 Tons B & T Cotton & Tobacco Guano.

750 Tons 14 per cent & 16 per cent. Acid Phosphate.

750 Tons Pure German Kainit.

500 Tons Cotton Seed Meal.

100 Tons Muriate and Sulphate Potash.

100 Tons Nitrate of Soda.

50 Tons Lee's Prepared Lime.

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We have also taken the sale of Hackney Wagons and Cart wheels, and will carry these goods in stock.

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