

The Brass Bowl BY LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE

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SYNOPSIS.

"Mad" Dan Maitland, on reaching his New York bachelor club, met an attractive young woman at the door. Janitor O'Hagan assured him no one had been within that day. Dan discovered a woman's finger prints in dust on his desk.



And a Small White Hand Gestured Significantly Toward the Collection of Burglar's Tools.

CHAPTER III.—Continued. Did he catch a gleam of admiration in the eyes behind the goggles?

Her humor, her splendid fearlessness, the lightness of her tone, combined with the half-laughing, half-serious look that she swept up at him, to ease the tension of his emotions.

So he resembled this burglar, Anstie, strongly enough to be mistaken for him—eh? Plainly enough the girl believed him to be Anstie.

It might possibly suit his purpose. He thought his position one uncommonly difficult. As Maitland, he had on his hands a female thief, a hardened character, a common malefactor (strange that he got so little relish of the terms!).

As Anstie, however—if he chose to assume that expert's identity for the nonce—he would be placed at once on a plane of equality with the girl; from a fellow of her craft she could hardly refuse attentions.

Worthy ambition—to reform a burglar! Maitland regained something of his lost self-esteem, applauding himself for entertaining a motive so laudable.

His face lightened; his manner changed; he assumed with avidity the role for which she had cast him and which he stood so ready to accept and act.

"Well and good," he conceded with an air. "I suppose I may as well own up—"

"Oh, I know you," she assured him, with a little, confident shake of her head. "There's no deceiving me. But," and her smile became rueful, "if only you'd waited ten minutes more!

It was a test; Maitland watched her keenly, fascinated by the subtlety of the game.

"But I refuse, Mr. Anstie—positively refuse to go to work while you stand crack the safe, but upon conditions."

"You overwhelm me," he murmured. "Believe me, I have little conceit in my fame, such as it is."

"Quite right, too—and worth one's while. If rumor is to be believed, you have ordinarily more than your labor for your pains. You have taught me something already."

"Oh, if it's a matter of business—"

chisels, skeleton keys, putty, and all—neatly displayed upon the rug before the massive safe.

"You mean that you wish me to crack this safe for you?" he inquired, with inward consternation.

"Not for me. Disappointment I admit is mine; but not for the loss I sustain. In the presence of the master I am content to stand humbly to one side, as befits one of my lowly state in—in the ranks of our profession. I resign, I abdicate in your favor; claiming nothing by right of priority."

"You are too generous," he murmured, confused by her thinly veiled ridicule.

"Not at all," she replied briskly. "I am entirely serious. My loss of today will prove my gain to-morrow. I look for incalculable benefit through study of your methods. My own, I confess," with a contemptuous toss of her head toward the burglar's kit, "are clumsy, antiquated, out of date."

"But then, I'm only an amateur."

"Oh, but a woman!" he began to apologize on her behalf.

"Oh, but a woman!" she rapped out, smartly. "I wish you to understand that this woman, at least, is no mean—"

"Thief?" he supplied, crudely.

"Yes, thief! We're two of a feather, at that."

"Self-preservation," he corrected, with magnificent gravity.

"I will," he said, dropping on his knees by the safe. "In my lady's service!"

"Not at all," she interposed. "I insist. The job is now yours; yours must be the profits."

"Then I wash my hands of the whole affair," he stated in accents of finality. "I refuse. I shall go, and you can do as you will—blunder on," scornfully, "with your nitroglycerin, your rags, and drills and—"

"Ah, but—"

"Will you accept my aid?"

"On conditions, only," she stipulated.

"Half shares, or not at all!" She was firm.

"A partnership?"

"This educed a moue of doubt, with. 'I'm not worthy the honor.'"

a gibe she tried to pass off her astonishment.

"The thief apologizes to the thief 'Unkind!'"

Briefly hesitant, with an impulsive gesture she flung out a generous hand.

"You're right; I was unkind. Forgive me. Won't you shake hands? I . . . I do want to be a good comrade, since it has pleased Fate to throw us together like this, so—so oddly."

Maitland was curiously moved by the touch of the slim, cool fingers that lay in his palm. Not unpleasantly. He frowned in perplexity, unable to analyze the sensation.

"You're not angry?" she asked.

"No—but—but—"

"Why do you do this, little woman? Why do you stoop to this—this trade of you—of ours? Why sully your hands—and not only your hands—impair your good name, to say nothing of your liberty—?"

She drew her hand away quickly, interrupting him with a laugh that rang true as a coin new from the mint, honest and genuine.

"And this," she cried, "this from Dan Anstie! Positively, sir, you are delightful! You grow more dangerously original every minute! Your scruples, your consideration, your sympathy—they are touching—in you!"

"I tell you!" more seriously, doubtfully. "I think I shall . . . truly, I do this sort of thing, since you must know, because—"

"I like it. Indeed and I do! I like the danger, the excitement, the exercise of cunning and—and I like the rewards, too. Besides—"

"Why . . . But this is not business! We must hurry. Will you, or shall I—?"

A crisis had been passed; Maitland understood that he must wait until a more favorable time to renew his importunities.

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Salem, Feb. 28.—Governor Orwald West and State Treasurer Kay returned today to Salem from their visit to definitely locate the site for the branch asylum at Pendleton. The governor says that though the site recommended by the legislative investigating committee does not accord with the views as to the proper location of the buildings held by himself and Mr. Kay, he considers the matter settled, since the legislature accepted the report of the joint committee and the work of building the Eastern Oregon asylum will be carried on as expeditiously as possible and Eastern Oregon will get the finest institution to be had for the money.

More land will be necessary, the governor thinks, in order to acquire necessary water rights, intake and right of way for water for power purposes. Though the matter is not yet fully determined, all the buildings at Pendleton will probably be of concrete. They will be arranged in a crescent shape, with the administration building in the center and fronting, with two retreating wings on either side and the other buildings will be in the rear.

Regarding the Eastern Oregon institution, the governor says: "The tract selected by the old board is about equally divided between hill and bottom land, the latter being separated from the former by the O. R. & N. tracks and the county road. The proposed building site was upon the hill tract, but the present board, after careful investigation, decided that the said site was unsuitable and their findings were borne out by the reports both of the special committee appointed by the board and the legislative committee."

The legislative committee, however, reported that the bottom tract afforded a suitable site for the buildings, and this report was adopted by the legislature.

Salem, Feb. 27.—Baker's demand for greater consideration at the hands of the Oregon & Washington Railroad & Navigation company in the way of distributive and special commodity rates was taken up for investigation officially today by the railroad commission. Baker has made a demand similar to the one made by the city of Medford for distributive rates as favorable as those enjoyed by the larger shipping centers such as Portland, Spokane and Seattle.

Attorney Arthur C. Spencer of Portland, is conducting the case for the railroad company. Attorney F. H. McCune of Portland, is attorney for the Baker Commercial club, the plaintiff bringing the complaint against the railroad company. At 11 o'clock when the case opened before the commission Attorney Spencer put on the stand General Freight Agent F. W. Robinson, of the Oregon & Washington railroad company and he read into the records a stupendous amount of statistics and figures showing the business relation of the business of the road to the different cities and centers of population in Oregon.

E. H. Flagg, chief clerk of the state senate, and John P. Hunt, assistant clerk, were prominent figures in the recent controversy over the revision of the senate journal. Flagg went into the courts to prevent Hunt and Colonel Mercer from revising the journal, as they had been directed by a senate resolution to do, and won his point.

This incident was of more importance than the average reader may suppose. A record of every bill enacted into law must be kept and set forth from the time of its introduction, and unless this record is correct in every detail the law may be assailed in the courts. Legal authorities differ as to whether a law can stand if it is not backed by a completely accurate record.

Salem, Feb. 25.—Of the 725 bills that were introduced in the two houses of the legislature, 275 of them have been allowed to become laws. The legislature itself failed to pass or indefinitely postponed 386 bills, or more than half the number introduced, and the governor by the exercise of his veto power, stopped a total of 64 bills, which is the largest number of bills of any one session that has ever been vetoed by a governor of this state.

By these vetoes and by other arrangements whereby only a portion of the sums appropriated by the legislature are to be used, the governor has turned back into the pockets of the taxpayers approximately \$600,000, or more than half a million dollars which will make the appropriations voted by the legislature aggregate a total of about \$4,300,000, instead of \$4,900,000, as previously estimated.

Among the last bills to receive the governor's disapproval was the Rogue River fish bill, upon which the governor for some time has intimated his action. He says the people have expressed themselves without qualification on the matter and left nothing for the legislature or himself to do other than follow their will. In the message accompanying this veto he says: "The purpose of this bill is to nullify a law passed by the people of the state at the last general election whereby the Rogue river was closed to commercial fishing. The commercial fishing on the said river has been controlled by one man who, through riparian ownership, maintained a complete monopoly of the industry. Through the exercise of this monopoly he grew wealthy and was absolute dictator so far as the stream was concerned. Deriving revenue from Oregon, he spent the money he spent for the propagation of fish was spent because it would ultimately add to his revenue."

Shellburn Wants Waiting Room. Salem, Feb. 28.—A petition was received by the railroad commission this morning from citizens who live in the vicinity of Shellburn, where the Corvallis & Eastern railroad intersects with the Springfield branch of the Southern Pacific company, asking that the commission investigate conditions, and, if it is found necessary, to make an order requiring these roads jointly to build a depot or waiting station at the point of intersection.

MUCH LUMBER USED HERE

Oregon Industries Required to Use 800,000,000 Feet. Out of the 2,000,000,000 feet, in measure, of timber cut in the state of Oregon during the year of 1906, 800,000,000 feet were used in Oregon. This fact is shown in a report issued by the Oregon Conservation Commission and the United States Forest Service. Howard B. Oakland, of the United States Forest Service, compared the data under the direction of J. B. Knapp, who is in charge of engineering work of the service this district.

Of the 800,000,000 feet used in state, 296,791,900 feet were taken for the wood-using industries. Distinctive lines of manufacture, in the respective lines of manufacture, found that pulp in 1909 required 367,600 feet; boxes, 77,840,000; sashes and doors, 43,158,500; finish work, 22,660,000; cooperage, 20,685,000; furniture manufacturing, 9,835,350; excelsior, 4,320,000; crates and veneers, 3,102,000 and minor lines make up the balance.

POWER LINE PROGRESS

Big Plant at Springfield Will Supply River Current Through Valley.

Eugene—The transmission line extending from the Oregon Power company's big electric plant at Springfield down the valley as far as Albany is practically complete, the line having reached Albany. This line means the electrification of practically the entire Upper Willamette valley, for numerous towns and cities besides Springfield, Eugene, Albany will be supplied with lights and power from the line. The line, however, cannot be used for some time yet, because the substations at Albany and other points are not completed. The line is 46 miles long and is said to be one of the best on the Coast. It was built at a cost of \$2,000,000. The poles, which are all over 40 feet high, are the best obtainable and the big porcelain insulators cost over \$1 apiece. Heavy copper wire is almost a mile of an inch thick. It is easily seen that the cost of the transmission is quite heavy.

The towns of Coburg, Harrisburg and Junction City are already supplied with light and power from the plant at Springfield over the transmission line and the company is planning on furnishing these utilities to the other villages and farm communities in this part of the state.

DRAIN 1,000 ACRES.

Owyhee Farmers Would Regain Moisture in Soil.

Nyssa—A meeting of land owners has decided that preliminary steps to the drainage of 1,000 acres of land under the Owyhee ditch be taken, that the engineer start the work at once. Some of the land is now suffering from too much moisture, the greater portion is as yet in condition. The owners realize the necessity of drainage, and the steps taken to prevent the land from being waterlogged. Some of the sections owned by what is commonly called "road grant company," and the work taken depend a great deal on the people who look at the project. The engineer is preparing to run the preliminary survey of the right of way.

Extend Power Lines.

Milton—City Electrician Coffey a large crew of men will commence work next week setting poles and stringing wire for two power lines to be projected into the country east and west of Milton. The line is to be built at once, while another is to be built on the east side of the Walla river.

The new lines will be situated those built by the city two years ago and which have been in use since. The past two years have been onstrated to many of the farmers, cheapness of electricity for power purposes, and it is now thought for the large field is opening up for the plus of municipal juice which has generated since the extension and largement of the municipal plant.

Develop Coal in Coquille.

Coquille—A deal in Oregon lands involving about \$150,000 closed here when H. B. Coquille, George E. Pike and R. E. Doolittle to the Pulaski Coal & Navigation company 329 acres of coal land at Coquille near tidewater. The company will begin immediately to arrange for the development of the property on an extension of about \$75,000 for the development and the shipment of coal to the points. It is of first-class quality.