

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

.Chapter I-At the suburban home of Charles Wainwright, "high finan-

cier," he and his broker, Scott Gibbs, hatch up a scheme to corner Borough street railway stock. They rely upon the support of Dick Horrigan, boss of the neighboring city, who is coming to discuss matters. Alderman Phelan, the thorn in Horrigan's side, whom Wainwright is anxious to conciliate, is also coming. Among the members of Wainwright's household are his niece and nephew, Dallas and Perry Wainwright, and his secretary, thirteen" on whom Horrigan counted. Thompson, a secretive young man in whom the financier has implicit confi- ed impatiently for his henchman to dence. Judge Newman, a neighbor of Wainwright, whose continuance in office depends upon Horrigan's favor, requests Wainwright's intervention with the boss. Another visitor to the Winwrights' is Alwyn Bennett, in loe with Dallas, who is calling to ask her about her rumored engagement to on"-Gibbs. Perry is in love with Synthia Garrison, also a neighbor. 11-Cynthia is the daughter of a bank president who nine years before the opening of the story was ruined by the dealings of an unnamed dishonest nett's putting up against us now, financier and shot himself. His son and"thereupon disappeared. Mrs. Bennett congratulates herself upon the immaculate record of her son's defeased father. Dallas refuses to marry Alwyn unless he does something worthy of his family and education. Phelan and Horrigan face each other. III.-Phelan defies Horrigan. Judge Newman is turned down by the boss, but at Wainwright's request Horrigan becomes suspicious of Thompson, but Wainwright scoffs at the idea Horrigan and Wainwright makes a corrupt deal whereby the former, for a big consideation, is to procure from the board of aldermen a perpetual franchise for the Borough street our aldermen found out about Ellis' railway. The boss is worried by the quitting, there's no knowing how many time playing pingpong and diabolo reform movement threatening his power at the coming election and is casting about for a candidate for mayor with a clean record. He hits upon Bennett, who has had some slight political experience. The lat-

and independent. IV .- Bennett is elected and appoints Cynthia his private secretary. Phelan tells him that the financier is that'll buy him if money won't" who caused the ruin of the Garrisons was Wainwright, who is also the power behind the crooked Borough franchise bills, with Horrigan and Gibbs. Dallas and Mrs. Bennett visit the city

if elected, he will be absolutely honest

V-Gibbs tries to induce Bennett to sign the bill. The mayor's talk with Dallas is interrupted by Horrigan.

VI-Bennett refuses to be bulldozed by Horrigan into signing the bill. The boss lacks one vote in the board and tone. of aldermen of the fourteen needed to pass the bill without the mayor's as- stiffly. sent. Despite the fact that defeating the bill means impoverishing Dallas and Perry, whose fortune Wainwright has invested in Borough stock, Bennett vetoes the measure. VII-Ben- ary assurance. nett's plan to save Dallas and Perry short. The mayor's opposition causes Horrigan and Wainwright to amend the bill, retaining however, some of the most objectionable features. VIII-Alwyn's lovemaking to ing at?" Dallas at the Mayor's ball is interrupted by Horrigan.

CHAPTER IX.

HE moment of strained silence that ensued upon Horrigan's entrance was broken by the irrerescued Cynthia from Gibbs at the close of their dance, was escorting her dignation. triumphantly from the ballroom.

"This is my dance." he remarked happily to Alwyn as he came up, "and we're going to sit it out. If Mrs. Bennett in her capacity of chaperon should ask for Cynthia, you can tell her we're going into the glass house to stroll among the romantic vegetables."

And he departed with his prize in the ment's interruption had sufficed for Wainwright to whisper an admonitory word in Horrigan's ear. Dallas, too, fearing a clash, took Bennett's arm.

"It's so warm in here!" she murmured. "Perhaps we can find better air in one of the other rooms. Shall we try?" "Wainwright," exclaimed Horrigan, as the portieres closed behind the mayor and girl, "I don't like that! Is your niece on his side or with us?"

"I don't know," answered Wainlike to force an issue by asking her. ing of a great financier, lacked the one It doesn't especially matter, I suppose.

In any case, I can trust her.'

"You're in luck!" sneered Horrigan That makes two people you say you can trust-first your secretary, Thompson, and then- Hello!" he broke off as a swarthy middle aged man hurrled in. "Looking for me, Williams? What's

The newcomer was visibly excited and at first glance Horrigan had seen that something was amiss.

"What's up?" repeated the boss, "Ellis has gone-deserted!" cried Wil-

"Ellis!" echoed Wainwright in dismay, for the man of whom Williams spoke was one of the aldermanic "solid The boss made no comment, but waitcontinue.

"Ellis has gone," repeated Williams. "He left a note for me saying his wife is very ill and the doctor's ordered him to take ber south. So he can't attend Friday's meeting."

"Can't attend the meeting?" gasped Wainwright. "But everything depends |

"Oh, he'll be on hand, the cur!" growled Horrigan. "The rest are stand-

ing solid of course?" "I think so," hazarded Williams, "but

some of 'em are pretty scared. We've never had such a fight before as Ben-"I'll strengthen 'em up so as to

knock out any weakening!" declared Horrigan confidently. "It's Ellis we've | got to look after now. Go after him. Williams, on the first train south and Friday if you have to kidnap him. I'll stand for any damage or expense. Only see he's here for that meeting. It's up to you. Now jump!"

As Williams hastened toward the door Horrigan called after him:

"On your way out send word to Roberts that I want to see him here. Well, Wainwright," he resumed, turning back into the room, "It looks bad," "Do you think"-

"I think we're in a tight place. If of 'em would bolt. If we could only work Bennett'

"Out of the question. He can't be turned.'

"There's no man who can't be turned. I've one card up my sleeve yet tell him to come here." that ought to land him. But I'd rathter accepts, but warns Horigan that, er try something else first. I wish we could get a line on his price."

"He can't be bought! He"-"Rot! Everybody can be bought. Only there's some that can't be bought with cash. I'm wondering what there

Gibbs, in search of an elusive partner, crossed the foyer and paused to greet them.

"What news?" he asked. Walnwright surveyed the broker's than usual.

tonight," said he. "It's a pity some of been devoted to your work this morning.

Gibbs flushed at the reproof in words

"I don't understand," he replied

"Why didn't you notify me of the big block of Borough stock that was bought up just before poon?"

"I hadn't heard about it," answered Gibbs, with not quite all his custom- dress

"Everybody else heard of it. You'll is to have Perry sell Borough stock have to keep better tabs on the market than that if you're to be any use to us.

Do you know who bought it?" uneasiness. "Of course I don't. How sume to"should I know? What are you driv-

loaded on the market during the past other way around you've got to come few days and have been quietly snap- down or"ped up. Somebody's evidently tailing

who?" "I've told you twice that I didn't concern under a show of virtuous in- a welcher?"

The effort called forth all the astute young broker's nerve, for a certain listen to me. Go to Bennett and do shrewd scheme of his showed signs of what you can to make him keep his falling through. By his original ar- hands off our Borough bill. If he's difrangement with Walnwright he was to ficult offer him, in my name, the nomhave manipulated all the Borough ination for governor next year. If you stock purchases on the exchange floor can get him-well, there's a vacancy and to receive 20 per cent of the profits next year in the supreme court and"on the condition that he invest not one direction of the conservatory. The mo- dollar in the stock on his private ac-

Having strong faith in the deal's success and having no equally strong in | Mr. Bennett tonight and use all the centive to keep faith with his partners, persuasion in my power. I'm quite Gibbs had sought to swell his own profits by secretly buying up quantities | if he will cease his unseemly opposition of the stock for himself until every penny of his capital was involved. His Horrigan. I'm very sure that Mrs. troubled mind could not now determine whether or not Wainwright suspected him. Gibbs, while possessing all the ambition, selfishness and lack wright discontentedly, "and I don't of conscience that go toward the mak-

essentials for the part-namely. a cold and un-

shaken nerve. It was this defect that now threatened to expose him. "Well," resumed Wainwright, as though dis-

missing the top-

ic, "you should

have made it

your business to

"Fall through?" cried ing this private Gibbs, dismayed. buying. That's what we brought you into the deal for.

Anyhow, the mysterious purchaser is Hable to find himself in hot water before long." "Why?" queried Gibbs in a voice he

tried to make indifferent. "Only because the deal will probably fall through."

"Fall through!" cried Gibbs, dismayed. "What do you- Why, you told me Mr. Horrigan could win over a fourteenth alderman, and that with his solid thirteen"-

"Yes," drawled Horrigan, who had been unobtrusively eying Gibbs from the moment of his entrance, "we had some such notion, as you say. But my 'solid thirteen' didn't happen to be as solid as he looked. He's bolted."

"Bolted! Then we-we will lose!

"Say, Mr. Gibbs," observed Horrigan, "you seem to take this thing pretty hard for a man with only 20 per cent at stake. Mr. Wainwright stands to lose some millions. I'm interested haul him back. Have him here by to the extent of almost a million. Yet you don't see us getting pale and shaky, do you? If a man can't pay for the chips he has no right in a poker game. Brace up and act like a man. can't you? We haven't lost yet. I've sent after the fellow that bolted, and I think I can land the fourteenth alderman too.'

"Good!" exclaimed Glbbs in wild relief. "And you'll do your very best to pull the deal through, won't you?"

"No!" snarled Horrigan in elephantine sarcasm. "I'm going to spend the with the kids or taking a course of lesons in fancy knitting. Oh, buck up, can't you, and quit acting like a baby! Judge Newman's out there on the other side of the bailroom. Chase over and

Too confused to resent the boss' words, Gibbs meekly set out on his errand.

"That chap's got a streak of yellow a yard wide," commented Horrigan, gazing after him.

"Not as had as that," replied Walnwright. "He's young and not used to reverses. You'll find he is game, all right, when it comes to a pinch. What did you want of Newman?"

"You'll see. Here he comes."

"You wished to speak to me, Mr. well groomed figure with less approval | Horrigan?" piped the little judge, hurrying into the foyer. "Good evening. "You seem to be industrious enough Mr. Walnwright. What a success the ball is! My daughters have been danctonight's dancing energy couldn't have | Ing all evening And Mrs. Newman is so"-

"Never mind Mrs. Newman just now," broke in Horrigan. "There's something important I want you to do for me."

He spoke, as he always did to Newman, in the manner of one addressing an incompetent servant. The judge, for all his pomposity, deemed it wise to ignore the politician's mode of ad-

"I want you to hunt up Bennett," went on the boss, "and persuade him io stop fighting the Borough franchise | That's being honest, isn't it?"

bill. Tell him" "Oh," gasped the judge in genuine "No," returned Gibbs, with growing alarm, "I really don't think I could pre-

"Yes, you can," contradicted Horrigan. "You can do it, and, what's more, "This is what I'm driving at: Several | you will. You don't feel shy about askbig blocks of the stock have been un- ing favors of me, and when it's the

"I know!" protested the on to our game. You don't know frightened little judge soothingly. "But you don't understand how"-

"I got you the nomination last fall. pressible Perry, who, having know," blustered Gibbs, masking his Are you going to be a white man or

"But I'm sure that Mrs. Newman"-"To blazes with Mrs. Newman! Now

"I'll do what I can," assented the judge. "I'm sure you are right, Mr. Horrigan, even if your way of putting matters is just a little ragged. I'll see sure civic welfare will be best served to the Borough bill. Thank you, Mr. Newman"-

"I'm sure, too." cut in Horrigan. "Now run on. We're busy. Remember, now -the very next supreme court vacancy"-

"Do you really think he has any in. past."

fluence with Bennett?" asked Wainwright as the Judge vanished.

"Can't do any harm to try. They're neighbors in the country and in the same crowd in society and all that. If it fails, I've another card that's even stronger. Roberts ought to be here by now. You found out about those notes of his?"

"Yes; both of them. One for \$7,000, one for \$15,000. Both secured by mortgaging his factory. Roberts can't meet them. They've been extended twice, though the security must have been fairly good or the Sturtevant Trust company wouldn't have lent"-

"Williams said you wanted to speak to me, Mr. Horrigan," said a nervous voice from the door, and a pale, middle aged man came forward. He wore worry's stamp between his perplexed eyes, and care had bent his narrow shoulders.

"Yes. Good evening, Roberts," replied Horrigan cordially, "See you later, Wainwright."

The financier took the hint and walked toward the ballroom, on his way out nearly colliding with Phelan, who was entering the foyer. At sight of Horrigan and Roberts together Phelan's evebrows went upward, with a jerk, and he tiptoed out in the opposite direction as fast as his stout legs could carry him in search of Bennett. Meantime Horrigan had come directly to the point, as usual, in his appeal to Rob

"Look here, alderman," said he "you've been trying for years to get through a park bill for your ward. Still want it?"

"Yes," returned Roberts. "My constituents are at me all the time about

that park. They"-"It would make your ward's property values go up 50 per cent, and it would make you solid there forever, hey?"

"Yes, but"-"Introduce that bill again, and I'll guarantee it will go through."

"Are you in earnest?" "There's my hand on it. Only, of course, it's understood that your park bill won't come up until after the Borough Street railway franchise is pass-

ed. Understand?" "I'm afraid I do," said Roberts after a pause, "but I voted against that bill,

"You voted against the bill in its original form," Horrigan interrupted reassuringly, "and you were right, too, It had a lot of clauses that you thought weren't square. But all those have been cut out."

"But I still"-

"But you'll be doing what's best for your own constituents by looking after their interests in the matter of the park. You'll be their hero for that, Of course if I wanted to put it another way I could remind you that your



Judge Newman.

business is in a bad way and that a friend of mine has bought up your notes at the Sturtevant Trust company and means to send them to you tomorrow. But that has nothing to do with the case. So I just"-

"I'm honest, Mr. Horrigan," faltered Roberts. "I"-"Sure you're honest! That's why

you'll have the courage to vote for the bill when you see it's been amended so as to be a good thing for the city "I-I suppose so. And the notes-

the"-"They'll be sent you by registered mail tomorrow if you want them. Do

"Y-yes. That is, I"-"That's settled, then. You've got a level head. Good night."

The boss strode out, a grim smile of victory on his big face, leaving Roberts standing confused, doubtful, his brain awhirl. How long the tempted alderman stood thus-oblivious to the music, his surroundings and all elsehe could never remember, but a voice at his elbow brought him to his senses with a start that was followed by a thrill of fear as he wheeled and recogrized the speaker.

CHAPTER X.

OBERTS' eyes rested on the grinning, complacent feature of Alderman Phelan. At the latter's side was Bennett, "I was saying," remarked Phelm.

blandly, "that it's a fine ball, isn't it now, Robert ?" "Yes," said No east to the par MATISM and GOUT.

ing to move away. But Phelm button honor and me, Roberts," he begged. "I'm in a hurry," began Roberts.

"Alderman Phelan has been trying to cheer me up a bit," said Bennett. "He knows I'm worried about the Borough

"Same here," chimed in Phelan. "An you, Roberts!

"1?" muttered the uncomfortable man "Why?"

"It's Friday that the Borough bil comes up again," explained Bennett, a though imparting new information You will vote against it, of course Mr. Roberts?

"I'm not sure. You see, it's been nitered so as to"-

"The alterations don't affect the main issue, and they can't change any honest man's views. So I can count on you to continue opposing it, can't 1?" "I object to this catechizing?" flared

up poor Roberts. "I won't stand for it. tracy I'm my own

master and"-"Are you sure you're your own master?" demanded Bennett. "If so, why should you be afraid to say how you are going to vote?" "Do you ac

cuse me of"-"I accuse you of having changed your "Somebody's going to mind about the

prison before this matter's ended." reason that won't bear the light. And I warn you to go carefully. Somebody's going to prison before this matter's ended."

"I'm not answerable to any one but my constituents," said Roberts, with a pitiful attempt at cold dignity, "and

"And they shall demand an answer from you," warned Bennett. "I'll see to it that they do. Now, you can go if you want to," turning his back on the confused Roberts, who eagerly took the

opportunity to escape. 'I'm afraid friend Roberts ain't havin' the happiest time of his life tonight," remarked Phelan, going to the doorway and looking after the departing alderman. "There's not much of what the poet geezer calls 'whoop up the dance, fer joy be unrefined' about him. Poor fool! He never was cut out to be a crook. He makes a punk job of it in spite of the trimmin's Horthe sense to be crooked without makin' a monkey of myself. I'm blest if I don't believe I'd turn honest. Hey! Here's a couple of folks, though, that's gettin' more fun out of the ball than

ever I had at a dog fight!" As he spoke Perry Wainwright piloted Cynthia in from the conservatory Frank Hart and Leading Druggists. at top speed, his jolly young face alight with a joy that reflected itself in Miss Garrison's own very flushed counte-

"Alwyn," shouted young Wainwright, three guesses and"-

rison every happiness that"-

four minutes ago. I was telling Cyn- Druggists.

thin what a daisy little girl she was, and she said she thought I was pretty nice, too, and so I got brave and said, Then why don't you'"

"Perry!" reproved Cynthia sternly, jerking his arm to show that Phelan as well as Alwyn was recipient of the

highly intimate tidings. "Oh, don't mind me, children!" put in Phelan, "I'm used to it. I was young myself once, so I've been told, though I don't clearly remember it myself. Can I butt in with a line of con-

gratulations?" He extended his big hand with an honest cordiality that quite won Cyn-

"Thanks, alderman," grinned Perry effusively. "Now, Alwyn, we've got to go and break it to your mother if we can find her. Come along and back us

Dragging Bennett between them, the two foungsters started off on their quest. Phelan was about to return to his beloved bar when he was checked by seeing in the opposite doorway a man who stood as though petrified watching Cynthia Garrison's departing form. The intruder was about to withdraw when Phelan haifed him.

"Good evening," called the Alderman, "Good evening, sir," said the newcomer respectfully, pausing on the point

bill for some of leaving the foyer. "I've met you before, I think," went

on Phelan. "Some days ago in the mayor's office," assented the other. "I am Thompson, Mr. Walnwright's private secretary.

"I'm Alderman Phelan of the Eighth, and I've seen you before we met at his honor's.

"So you said then, sir. But you were mistaken. Good evening." He turned again toward the door, but Phelon resumed, without seeking

to stop him: "A mistatre, was it? I'm not a man who makes many mistakes, Mr. Gardson.

(To be Continued.)

Whooping Cough.

"In February our daughter had the whooping cough. Mr. Lane of Hartland rigan's dec'rated him with. If I hadn't recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and said it gave his customers the best of satisfaction. We found. it as he said, and can recommend it to anyone having children troubled with whooping cough," says Mrs. A. Goss, of Durand, Mich. For sale by

Bad Attack of Dysentery Cured. "An honored citizen of this town was suffering from a severe attack of not seeing Phelan in his excitement, dysentery. He told a friend if he "guess what's happened! I'll give you could obtain a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic Cholera and Diarrhoea Rem-"And I can't possibly guess if you edy, he felt confident of being cured, gave me a thousand," retorted Bentry. I'll just congratulate you with all West. He was told that I kept it in my heart, old chap, and wish Miss Gar- stock and lost no time in obtaining it, and was promptly cured," says M. J. "Gee! How'd you know? We haven't Leach, druggist, of Wolcott, Vt. For told a soul. It only happened about sale by Frank Hart and Leading

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