

# The Great Tontine

by HAWLEY SMART  
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## CHAPTER XIII.

Next day Jack Phillimore made his way to Ronald Ringwood's chambers in the temple. He found that light of the law at home. Jack's name, of course, was quite sufficient an introduction. Ringwood shook him heartily by the hand, put him into an easy chair, proffered him tobacco in all shapes, and then said: "Now you shall tell me what there is to tell about dear old Bob; by the time you have done that I hope you will feel that I am no longer a stranger."

Jack Phillimore heartily responded to his host's cordial welcome, and briefly told the little there was to tell about Bob Ringwood.

"By the way," he continued, "that was a very curious bit of news that you sent me in your last letter to him. I never heard my uncle make the slightest allusion to being engaged in any such big lottery as you mentioned. Of course, I understand that it is only a chance, but if it did come off it would be a tremendous windfall for him. I should think it would enable him to clear Laketown."

"That, of course, I cannot say, having no conception of the extent of his liabilities; but since I wrote Lord Lakington has taken steps to ensure that a big slice of that hundred and sixty thousand pounds falls to himself. I was talking over the whole thing with Mr. Carbockle, one of the great 'guys' of our profession, and an old friend of the Viscount's, and he said it was quite one of the smartest moves he had ever heard of."

"What the deuce do you mean?" said Phillimore.

"Why, surely you have heard that your cousin, the Honorable Miss Beatrice, is about to be married."

"Yes, to a fellow called Pegrum, I am told. And why on earth she is going to marry him we can none of us understand, unless it is that the beast has lots of money."

"I can make that clear to you in a very few words. Pegrum senior is one of the three nominators left in the 'Great Tontine.' His son is to marry Lord Lakington's daughter, so that the Viscount and Pegrum senior may share the whole hundred and sixty thousand pounds between them as soon as they can prove the death of the nominee of Miss Caterham, the third nominator left in. He was an old man of wandering habits, and, as he has not been heard of for some time, the probability is that the result of the inquiries the Pegrums are instituting will result in the discovery of his decease."

"What a rascally plot," exclaimed Jack Phillimore passionately. "I begin to see it all now. Beatrice is sacrificing herself and me for the sake of her father. Do you know that I looked upon myself as engaged to my cousin when I left England some few months ago?"

"No, I cannot say I did; nor did I know of this projected marriage till about three nights ago. I certainly did know that Lord Lakington had a daughter, because, as Miss Caterham's representative of the 'Great Tontine,' I made it my duty to inquire about the other competitors. I, like the Pegrums, am diligently searching for Miss Caterham's missing nominee, although of course in diametrically opposite interests to theirs; my object being to find the old man alive, and theirs to find him dead. Do you love your cousin Beatrice in genuine earnest?"

"Do I love her? What nonsense you are talking; she is the only woman I ever cared a rush about in the course of my life. Have I not come home to claim her as my bride, and prevent this disgraceful marriage, if possible?"

"Then you will excuse my asking you one more delicate question. Have you been at all successful?"

"No; my uncle won't listen to me. He says the marriage is all arranged, and must take place, while Beatrice refuses to see me."

"Well, Mr. Phillimore, you cannot be said to have done much for yourself as yet. What do you say to entering into partnership with me? If some vague suspicion I have formed should happen to be justified, there will be an end to this marriage at once."

"I will do anything to save Beatrice from her imprudence. She may never be mine; but I am convinced that she is marrying this man very much against her own inclinations, and is likely to be a very miserable wife in consequence."

course, fall through; or we may succeed in finding such strong presumption that he has done so as to justify a postponement of the marriage. That would suit you; while, on my side, I should get rid of one of Miss Caterham's adversaries perhaps."

"That is a splendid idea. I will go in with you heart and soul."

"Very good; then the first thing we have got to do is to ascertain, if possible, who is likely to be old Pegrum's nominee. I have a friend who, I think, will give us a valuable hint on that point if he can only be convinced that this marriage is against Miss Phillimore's inclinations."

"But when he hears all that I have to tell him surely that will be sufficient," replied Phillimore hastily.

"Well, she refused to see you. Is there not any friend of the family who takes your part?"

"Yes; Mrs. Lyme Wreigis, Beatrice's grandmother. It was she who sent me word of this projected marriage, and called me home from Malta. Beatrice has lived with her all her life."

"What! the widow of the famous financier? That is the very thing. It is very possible my friend Hemmingby, the manager of the 'Vivacity,' knows something of her. You get a note from her, strongly backing up your case, and I think Hemmingby will help us. He knows these Pegrums well, and almost hinted the other night that he could make a pretty shrewd guess in what direction to begin his inquiries."

"All right," said Phillimore, rising. "I will get that letter from Mrs. Lyme Wreigis to-morrow, and we will expose these Pegrum bandits before the week is out."

CHAPTER XIV.

Jack Phillimore was an energetic young gentleman of eight-and-twenty as needs be. Of a restless and active disposition, he was not at all the man to sit with his arms crossed under any circumstances. That he should engage in this campaign against the Pegrums with all his characteristic energy was only natural. It was a fight for the hand of the girl he loved, wholesome animosity towards a rival that can always be depended upon in the glamor of a first passion. He was in the Victoria road soon after twelve; and, asking for Mrs. Lyme Wreigis, found that lady, as he anticipated, in the drawing room alone.

"I am afraid I did not play my cards well yesterday," said Jack, the first greetings passed. "I a little lost my temper. I was tried rather hardly."

"Yes," replied Mrs. Lyme Wreigis; "you had a chance and failed to take advantage of it. There was a moment when she was in a melting mood; and if you had only been tender with her then, I think the chances are that she would have confessed everything, and we should at least have known the 'why' of this strange marriage."

"I must do my best to remedy the mistake. In the meantime, strictly between ourselves, you will promise me, Mrs. Lyme Wreigis, not even to hint, not to breathe a word of what I am going to tell you?"

"You may rely upon my silence," said the old lady.

"It has been suggested to me that there is something not quite right about these Pegrums, and surely that is a point that ought to be cleared up. I am given to understand that the man who holds possession of the clue quite declines to open his mouth on the matter, unless he is first firmly convinced that Beatrice is in reality averse to this proposed marriage."

"Well, why do you not tell him that she is so?"

"Ah, you see that, as a rejected lover, he would hardly credit my evidence on that point. There is only one person that I can think of whom he is likely to accept as an authority, and that is yourself."

"Me! But who on earth, pray, is this mysterious unknown? and when, where, and how does he expect me to testify?"

"You know Mr. Hemmingby, manager of the 'Vivacity' Theatre, I think?"

he took the mislaid. "It shall be posted as you wish. Armed with this, if I have any luck, I shall beat that beast Pegrum yet; and now I will say good-by."

Jack awaited the arrival of that note of Mrs. Lyme Wreigis which he had himself posted, feeling a little disposed to anathematize that lady's over-caution. No sooner did it arrive than Jack sped to the Temple, and, placing it in Ringwood's hands, suggested the sooner they saw Mr. Hemmingby the better. The two accordingly proceeded to the "Vivacity," and were fortunate enough to find that Mr. Hemmingby had not left the theater.

"I gave you a hint," he said, "about what I should do if I were in your place, and I told you then that I had nothing new to do with it, and as they were both friends of mine, had excellent reasons for not meddling with what does not concern me."

"Yes," replied Ringwood, who had evidently got up his brief with great care; "but you would not see the young lady sacrificed fraudulently to a Pegrum who is within your power to prevent it?"

"Allow me to remark that I know nothing about any fraud; and as for the lady, she is going to marry Bob Pegrum of her own free will, and it is most obviously no business of mine even if she is only marrying him to please her relations."

He took the letter that Ringwood proffered. He read it carefully, and as he concluded, said: "Well, the writer speaks her mind pretty plainly. She is the young lady's grandmother, is she not? It does seem rather throwing herself away," continued the manager, "a beautiful girl like Miss Phillimore marrying such a one-horse looking concern as Bob Pegrum. Still, though they won't match, Bob is a good-tempered fellow; they will have plenty of gold dust, and I have no doubt will run together pretty comfortably."

"But still," burst in hot-headed Jack Phillimore, "you are an old friend of Lord Lakington's; you would surely not see his daughter made miserable for life by being married to a man she cannot care about—a man like Pegrum, whose account of himself, after all, is extremely doubtful."

"Excuse me, Mr. Phillimore," replied the manager. "That Bob Pegrum is what he represents himself to be, I can vouch for; but you are a relation, and so have a claim to interfere; to say nothing," he concluded slowly, "with a slight twinkle of his eye, 'of a rather personal interest in the matter if I mistake not.'"

"Be quiet, Phillimore," suddenly exclaimed Ringwood. "Look here, Hemmingby, you know just as well as we do that this marriage is simply the amalgamation of the two last shareholders, if they suppose themselves, in the 'Great Tontine.' I declare I think, under the circumstances, that somebody ought to see that old Pegrum's claim is all right. If Lord Lakington is too indolent to take the trouble, then I really think that Jack Phillimore, as Miss Beatrice's next nearest relation, is justified in seeing that Miss Beatrice's wedding settlements, which, in good truth, are involved in the 'Tontine,' are all right and genuine."

"Quite so," replied the manager. "Still, as I said before, what have I to do with all this?"

"Everything and nothing," replied Ringwood. "We will investigate the Pegrums; but what we want you to do for us, is just to give us a hint where to begin."

"And now," exclaimed Ringwood, breathlessly, "what is to be our first move?"

"I think," replied Hemmingby slowly, "that the history of the illness of Mr. Krabbe, from the time he broke down in Pegrum's office and had to give up work, down to the state of his health in his retirement at the present day, would very likely pay for looking into."

"Crabb—Crabb; I never heard the name before," observed Ringwood. "How do you spell it—C-r-a-b-b?"

"No; it is rather singularly spelled—K-r-a-b-b-e—Krabbe. He was, till lately, old Pegrum's confidential clerk, and that is where I should begin, no matter why."

"Well, Phillimore," exclaimed Ringwood, rising, "we must be very grateful for what has been vouchsafed to us. Good-by, Hemmingby; I do not suppose we shall get any more out of you."

"No," rejoined the manager, laughing. "The oracle has spoken. When you have worked out the clue I have given you let me know the result, and I will tell you what I think of you as detectives."

(To be continued.)

Hot Onions Cure for Pneumonia.

## PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRIEF

Tuesday, May 18.

Washington, May 18.—After devoting the greater part of the day's session to debate, the senate passed upon a number of important committee amendments to the tariff bill. It also rejected an amendment by Stone, restoring the Dingley rates on razors.

On table and butcher knives, etc., the committee reduced the rates of the Dingley law about 30 per cent.

The committee has increased the duty on needles to \$1.25 per thousand and 25 per cent ad valorem. Gallinger declared that the present rate was so low that foreign needles were driving the American article out of the market. The paragraph was adopted.

An increase of 5 per cent of the house duty on steel plates, and increases on wood screws of various sizes were adopted. The adoption of committee amendments without aye and nay votes being called for, the reading proceeded rapidly until the section relating to umbrella and parasol ribs and stretchers was reached, and then Dilliver objected to any increase. The committee rates were sustained.

Monday, May 17.

Washington, May 17.—A comprehensive discussion of the income tax by Sutherland, of Utah, and an extended speech by Dewey in support of the pending tariff bill, consumed most of the session of the senate today. Sutherland argued against the constitutionality of the Federal income tax and declared such a tax should be left as a means of revenue for the states. Before adjournment a couple of hours were devoted to a discussion of the cutlery schedule.

A general reduction of customs duties of five per cent annually is proposed by Owen in an amendment that he offered. The amendment proposes that this reduction be made annually until a lessened revenue from each article is shown, and in such case the president is authorized to fix the duty at a rate that he believes will produce the greatest revenue.

Saturday, May 15.

Washington, May 15.—The lowering of duties in the case of eight or ten classes of wire goods contained in the steel schedule, upon motion of Aldrich, in charge of the tariff bill, gave great encouragement today to senators who are advocating a revision downward. With evident gratification, Beveridge greeted the proposed amendments by the chairman of the finance committee, declaring:

"Good; that's making progress."

The entire session was devoted to the steel schedule, the section relating to pen knives being under consideration when the senate adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock Monday morning, one hour earlier than the senate has been beginning business during the last ten days.

Friday, May 14.

Washington, May 14.—Again the committee on finance was upheld when the senate today by a vote of 35 to 42 voted down an amendment by Cummins to lower the duty on round iron and up-held the house rate, which was recommended by the senate committee. Almost the entire day was given up to a debate on the profits of the United States Steel corporation, and toward the end personalities were exchanged. Beveridge proposed an amendment increasing the duty on tobacco and its products and charged that by continuing the short weight packages of the Spanish war period the tobacco trust was reaping a harvest of \$2,000,000 a year.

Asking that an interview with J. J. Hill be read Scott endorsed his advice to congress that oratory be suspended and that congress promptly pass the bill.

"This," Scott said, "is in line with letters I am daily receiving, begging and praying that these gentlemen (waving his hand over the senate chamber) get through with their windjamming and let the country go ahead with its business."

Thursday, May 13.

Washington, May 13.—After a day devoted to discussing the duty on iron ore, the senate adopted by a vote of 61 to 24 the recommendation of the committee on finance for a duty of 25 cents per ton. Party lines were annihilated in the vote today, as 17 Democrats voted "aye" with the Republicans and 12 Republicans voted "no" with the Democrats.

During the day Bailey announced that he proposed to vote for the duty on iron ore as a revenue measure; declared that free ore would not affect the prosperity of the United States Steel corporation, and added that, even if it did, there was a better way to deal with that organization, which was by an enforcement of the anti-trust law against it. He declared he expected to see this law enforced, and expressed confidence that eventually the officers of the Steel corporation would either be in the penitentiary or fugitives from justice. For the first time there was a suggestion looking to the fixing

of a date for a vote, but it came to naught because of objection from Beveridge.

Wednesday, May 12.

Washington, May 12.—After a debate of several hours in the senate today on the window glass schedule of the tariff bill, Aldrich asked that the paragraph be passed over. Some other sections relating to glass manufactured articles that previously had been passed over were agreed to.

The senate considered sections that had been passed over until the iron ore paragraph was reached, when Crawford spoke at length upon the lack of wisdom of any tariff that encouraged the exhaustion of natural resources which could not readily be produced here. He insisted that there should be no tariff on iron ore, oil, lumber and coal.

Paynter spoke in favor of the removal of the duty of six cents a pound upon leaf tobacco as a means of freeing the tobacco growers from the control of the tobacco trust.

To Proclaim Conservation.

Washington, May 18.—Special Director John A. Fox, of the National Rivers and Harbors congress, who is now on the Pacific coast, has planned a tour of the state of Washington in conjunction with Dr. N. G. Blalock, a director of that organization, residing at Walla Walla. The propaganda started in the East and South in behalf of a comprehensive plan of waterway development is thus to be extended to the Pacific coast and for the next few months Fox and Blalock will meet the business men and commercial bodies of the state of Washington for the purpose of arousing additional interest in this rapidly developing subject.

Employees Make Charges.

Washington, May 14.—Representative Ellis said today it was because of complaints made by school employees at the Umatilla Indian agency against Superintendent McFratridge that the latter had been relieved of charge of the school affairs, pending investigation into the charges. It is understood the complaint is based entirely on the superintendent's administrative methods and that nothing sensational is involved. Temporary Supervisor McClesney is in charge of the school.

Court Martial for Hains?

Washington, May 14.—Final adjudication of the case of the state of New York against Captain Peter C. Hains, Jr., for the murder of William E. Annis, will be awaited by the War department before it determines upon the attitude the military branch of the government will take. If the department decides there was a military offense, as distinct from a civil offense, the officer may be tried by court martial, irrespective of the action of the courts of New York.

Persia Plans Reforms.

Washington, May 13.—That the Persian government will look to England and Russia for support in tranquilizing the disturbed situation in Persia and bringing about reforms contemplated under a constitutional form of government, is stated in dispatches from the American legation at Teheran. A new cabinet has been formed, general amnesty is to be granted to the political offenders and permission extended for political exiles to return.

Cure Act of Court.

Washington, May 15.—Attorney General Wickham has endorsed the joint resolution introduced by the Pennsylvania delegation in congress to make effective the commodities clause of the Hepburn act against the coal carrying roads. This is regarded as an administration act to counteract the results of the Supreme court's decision last week, which was that the roads might transport the coal of the mining companies they control.

Shut Off Talk, Says Hill.

Washington, May 15.—"Prosperity will return to the country as soon as the oratorical steam is shut off on Capitol Hill," declared James J. Hill today. Hill had just emerged from the president's office, where he had been in conference with Taft. He declared that the tariff agitation was the only thing now preventing the return of prosperity. Permanent prosperity would come within a short time, he said.

Form Art Federation.

Washington, May 14.—Architects, artist, landscape gardeners, sculptors, men of science and others from organizations for the promotion of art, met in convention here today. The object of the gathering is the formation of a National Art federation, and it is being held under the auspices of the National Academy of Art, of which James Pierpont Morgan is president. Vice President Sherman welcomed the guests.

Hodges to Command Dakota.

Washington, May 18.—Brigadier General Charles T. Hodges, recently detached from command of the Department of the Visayas in the Philippines, will be assigned to the command of the Department of the Dakotas, with headquarters at St. Paul.

Dewey's Porto Rico Bill.

Washington, May 14.—Senator Dewey, of New York, has offered a bill in the senate embodying the recommendations made by President Taft in his special message in relation to Porto Rico.

## HOMES NOW RUINS.

Much Suffering and Death in Wake of Kansas Tornado.

Kansas City, May 17.—A recapitulation of the storm, general over Northwestern Missouri and Eastern Central Kansas, and extending into Oklahoma, and which in places reached the proportion of a tornado, shows three known dead and 55 injured, at least half a dozen of the latter seriously hurt.

The principal damage was done at Hollis, a town of 150 inhabitants, near Concordia, Kansas, and at Mount Washington, Mo., a suburb eight miles east of Kansas City. In both of these places practically every house was either damaged or demolished, and dozens of persons injured.

Mount Washington, Mo., 22, three perhaps fatally.

Near Great Bend, Kansas, 20, mostly members of a crew on a Santa Fe work train, which was blown from the track. Four of these are in a serious condition. Ho'is, Kansas, three.

Rosedale View, Kansas, a suburb of Hoisting, Kansas, four.

Pond Creek, Oklahoma, four.

The storm followed a terrific down-pour of rain. The wind came up suddenly, swooped down with but little warning, and striking the small territory described, wiped it out almost completely. Frame houses were crushed, the sides apparently being forced inward, while others were toppled over and carried from their foundations. In some cases sides of buildings were carried away, leaving the roof and a few small articles to mark the site.

THE A.-Y.-P. FAIR.

Some Brief Notes of Interest on the Exposition Which Opens June 1.

The Oregon building was the first of the state buildings to be finished. California made a good second.

Mt. Rainier, the highest mountain in the United States, towers 15,000 feet above the grounds of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition.

Five million dollars' worth of gold dust, just as it came from Alaskan placers, will be part of the Alaska exhibit.

Live specimens of all game and game birds found from Point Barrow to Tia Juana, will be seen in the immense game paddock.

The provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada, will make splendid exhibits of their mineral and agricultural resources.

The University of Idaho cadet band of 40 pieces will play at the fair this summer. The Idaho legislature passed an appropriation allowing the battalion to go into encampment at the exposition immediately after the end of the university year.

The Michigan building will be the only state structure financed locally. The money to defray the expense of building and entertainment was raised by subscription in Seattle.

Guards on the grounds of the exposition will wear pearl gray uniforms and it is planned to make the force the best dressed police body ever seen in this country.

TRAIN HELD UP.

Robbers Make Good Haul on Great Northern Road.

Spokane, Wash., May 17.—Great Northern passenger train No. 3 was held up by two masked robbers between Mead and Colbert shortly before midnight Saturday night. The mailcar and the engine were detached and taken by the robbers three miles east of Hilliard, where the mails were rifled. The engine was then reversed and sent back down the track, where it crashed into the standing train.

When the collision occurred a number of the passengers, it is reported, were injured. A hurry call was sent to Hilliard for doctors, who were rushed to the scene in a special train carrying the officers.

The train was left standing several miles from a telegraph station, where one of the trainmen was sent to notify the Spokane office of the hold-up.

According to the report at Hilliard, the robbers have obtained booty amounting to more than \$20,000 from the mailcar.

More Time is Given.

Washington, May 17.—As a result of several conferences, the Interstate Commerce commission today announced a postponement from June 1 to July 1 of the time for taking effect of its decision in the Spokane rate cases. The commission recently had postponed until June 1 the time when the new rates ordered by it should go into effect, but as a result of conferences within the last few days with the representatives of the Hill and Harriman lines it was decided today further to postpone the operation of the order until July 1.

Earthquake in Montana.

Glendive, Mont., May 17.—At 9:16 o'clock Saturday evening Glendive felt a very perceptible seismic disturbance. A number of men gathered in the Masonic temple rushed from the building, believing it was about to fall. In many places dishes rattled in the pantries. The first shock lasted probably two or three seconds, with unusually rapid vibrations. The shock was felt at Forsyth and Dickinson, N. D., where it is reported to have been very severe.

Bank Guarantee in Texas.

Dallas, Tex., May 17.—A general movement among state banks to take advantage of the new state guarantee law, signed last week, has begun. During the two days since the law was signed 25 banks have accepted the provisions of the deposit guarantee sections.