A GENTLEMAN FROM MISSISSIPPI

By THOMAS A. WISE

Novelized From the Play by Frederick R. Toombs

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CHAPTER XXIV. THE HONEYBIRD.

YN the African jungle dwells a pretty little bird that lives on honey. The succharine dainty is there found in the hollows of trees and under the bark, where what is known as the carpenter bee bores and deposits his extract from the buds and blossoms of the tropical forest.

The bird is called the "honeybird" because it is a sure guide to the deposits of the delicacy. The bird dislikes the laborious task of pecking its way through the bark to reach the honey, and so, wise in the ways of men, it procures help. It locates a nest of honey, then files about until it sees some natives or hunters, to whom It shows itself. They know the honeybird and know that it will lead them to the treasure store. Following the bird, which flits just in advance, they reach the cache of dripping sweetness and readily lay it open with hatchets or knives. Taking what they want, there is always enough left clinging to the tree and easily accessible to satisfy the appetite of the clever little

Senator Stevens of Mississippi bears

a marked resemblance to the honeybird - so much so that he has well won the bird's appellation for himself. Abnormally keen at locating possibilities for extracting "honey" from the governmental affairs in Washington, he invariably led Peabody, representing the hunter with the ax. to the repository. He would then rely on the Pennsylvanian's superior force to "Honcybird" Stevens.

barriers. Stevens would flutter about and gather up the leavings. Equally as mercenary as "the boss of the senate," he lacked Peabody's Iron nerve, determination, resourcefulness

and daring. He needed many hours of sleep. Peabody could work twenty hours at a stretch. He had to have his meals regularly or else suffer from indigestion. Peabody sometimes did a day's work on two bolled eggs and a cup of coffee.

The senior senator from Mississippi had been the first to point out to Peabody the possibilities for profit in the ulf naval base project, but the morning following the conference with fteinert when he rejoined them for life in jall than they does out. An' I reakfast at the Louis Napoleon he was far from comfortable. He did governed by folks that ain't not mind fighting brain against brain, of it, only durin' the session. Th' polieven though unprincipled methods were resorted to, but indications were that more violent agencies would be called into play owing to the complications that had arisen.

Stevens ate heartly to strengthen his courage. Steinert ate hugely to strengthen his body. Peabody ate scarcely anything at all-to strengthen

Waving away the hotel waiter who had brought the breakfast to his spartment, Senator Peabody outlined the probable campaign of the day.

"If our best efforts to weaken and scare off Langdon fall today," he said, "it will naturally develop that we must render it impossible in some way for him to appear in the senate at all, or we must delay his arrival until after the report of the committee on naval affairs has been made. In either event he would not have another opportunity to speak on that subject.

"Of course later, at 12:30, we will know his plan of action. Then we can act to the very point, but we must be prepared for any situation that can

"Cannot the president of the senate be persuaded not to recognize Langdon on the floor? Then we could ad-Journ and shut him off," asked Ste-

"No," responded Peabody; "he has siready promised Laugdon to recognize him, and the president of the sen-

ate cannot be persuaded to break his word. I am painfully aware of this

But Stevens was not yet dissuaded from the hope of defeating the junior senator from Mississippi by wit alone.

"Can we not have a speaker get the floor before Langdon and have him talk for hours-tire out the old kicker -and await a time when he leaves the senate chamber to eat or talk to some visitor we could have call on him, then shove the bill through summarily?" he suggested.

"I've gone over all that," answered Peabody quickly. "It would only be delaying the evil hour. You wouldn't be able to move that old codger away from the senate chamber with a team of oxen-once he gets to his seat. His secretary, Haines—another oversight of yours, Stevens"-the latter winced will warn him. Langdon would stick pins through his eyelids to keep

from falling asleep."
"I've been thinkin'." put in Steinert

slowly, "that a little fine-esse like this might keep him away: When Lang-



"Unless you got the right kind of woman." don's in his committee room before goin' to the senate send him a telegram signed by some of his frien's' name that one of his daughters is dyin' from injuries in a automobile collision a few miles out a-town, That nd"-

"Ridiculous," snorted Peabody. "He'd know where they were. They're al-

"Huh, then put in more fine-esse." "How, what?"

"Hev some'un take 'em out a-autoin' "-

"No, no, man!" snapped Peabody. "They'd stick in town to hear their father's wonderful speech."

"Well," went on the lobbyist, "I'll hev Langd'n watched by a careful picked man, a nigger thet won't talk. He'll pick a row with the colonel on some street, say, w'en he's comin' from his home after lunch. The coon kin bump into Langd'n an' call him names. Then w'en ole fireworks sails into 'im, yellin' about what 'ed do in Mississippi, the coon pulls a gun on the colonel an' fires a couple o' shots random. Cops come up, an' our pertickeler copper 'll lug Langd'n away as a witness, refusin' to believe 'es a senator. I kin arrange to hev him kept in the cooler s couple o' hours without gettin' any word out, or I'll hev 'im entered up as drunk an' disorderly. He'll look drunk, he'll be so mad."

"But the negro-how could you get a man to undergo arrest on such a serious charge, attempted murder!" exclaimed Stevens.

"There, there," said Steinert patronizingly; "coons has more genteel home don't forget the District of Columbia is ticians don't leave their fr'en's in the cooler very long. Say, Senator Stevens, are you kiddin' me? Is it any different down in your"-

The Mississippian choked and spluttered over a gulp of unusually hot coffee, and Peabody again decided Steinert to be on the wrong tack.

"That proceeding would attract too much attention from the newspapers,"

"Well, I thought you wanted to win," grunted Steinert. "I've been offerin' you good stuff, too-new stuff. None of yer druggin' with chloroform or ticklin' with blackjacks. Why, I've gone from fine-esse to common sense. But, come to think of it, how about some woman? I c'n get one to introduce to"-"This is the wrong kind of a man,"

interrupted Peabody. "Unless you got the right kind of s

woman," went on Steinert. Senator Stevens choked some more. "The boss of the senate" sank down in his chair, crossed one knee over the other and drummed his fingers lightly

on the table. He gazed thoughtfully at Stevens. "Yes," he observed slowly, "unless you've got the right sort of a woman." Rising, he led the Mississippian to

one side. The lobbyist heard the southerner give a short exclamation of astonish

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Same low prices that save money for every customer and accounts for our rapidly increasing trade. ment as reabody whispered to him. "It's all right. It's all right," he then heard the Pensylvanian say irritably. "She'll understand. She can be trust ed. She expects you."

Stevens gave a violent start at the last assurance, but his colleague hurriedly belped him

into his coat. "Go in a closed carriage," was Peabody's final warning. "Be sure to tell her to get hold of his two daughters on some pretext at once. She knows them well. Maybe we can influence the old man through his girls don't you see?"

And while Sen "Go in a closed car- Jake Steinert reator Peabody and riage." curred to a pre

vious discussion concerning one J. D. Telfer, mayor of Gulf City, Senator Stevens started on the most memorabl drive of his career on this bright win ter morning, to the house of the fasci nating Mrs. Spangler-who for the pasweek had been considering his proposa. of marriage.

CHAPTER XXV. CAROLINA LANGDON'S RENUNCIATION.

ENATOR LANGDON'S commit tee room at the capitol present ed a busy scene at an unusual ly early hour the morning after the entertainment at his home. Bud Haines, reinstated as secretary, was picking up the thread of routine where he had dropped it the day before, though his frequent thought of Hope and the words that had thrilled him-"I love you, I love you fondly"-made this task unusually difficult. He impatiently wished the afternoon to hasten along, as he knew he would then see her in the senate gallery, where she would go to hear her father's speech.

This speech had to be revised in some particulars by Bud, and the work he knew would take up much of his morning. The senator's speech was "The South of the Future," which he would deliver when recognized by the president of the senate in connection with the naval base bill, that officer having agreed to recognize Langdon at 3:30, at which time the report of the naval affairs committee would be received. Just how Langdon would turn the tables on Peabody and Stevens and yet win for the Altacoola site not even the ex-newspaper man, experienced in politics, had solved. Clearly the senator would have to do some tall thinking during the morning.

The junior senator from Mississippi burst into the office with his habitual heery greeting his broad brimme black felt hat in its usual position on the back of his head, like a symbol of undying defiance.

"A busy day for us, eh, senator?" gueried Bud.

"Now, look here, my boy, don't be gin to remind me of work right off."



"I'll have to incubate an idea." he said, with a humorous gleam in his

I'm her father." Bud laughed through the flush that rose in his cheeks,

"No. I won't forget that. But have you decided what to tell Peabody and Stevens as your plan of action if they come in here at 12:30?"

"If they come?" exclaimed Langdon They'll come. Watch 'em." Then he hesitated worriedly.

"I'll have to incubate an idea be tween now and noon somehow. But don't forget this, Bud-we're worried about them, true enough, but they're

worried a heap more about us." Senator Langdon stepped into an adjoining room, where he could be plone.

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As Haines resumed his work Carolina Langdon entered. Avoiding the secretary's direct gaze,

she asked for her father. "He ought to be back shortly, Miss Langdon," responded Haines, "You can walt here. I must ask pardon for leaving, as I must run over to the library." As the secretary bowed himself out from me so quickly,' he laughed scornfully. "But I'll show you, you and your blundering old father. I'll win of the door he almost collided with Congressman Norton. Both glared at

each other and remained silent. "Carolina," spoke Norton as he entered, "I hope-I know you won't allow your father to influence you against me-because of last night. I"-

Carolina would rather not have met Charles Norton on this morning. She had hardly slept for the night. She had fought a battle with herself. Her father had shown her plainly the mistake she had made. She saw that her influence had not been without effect on Randolph. Probably for the first time she realized that there are glory and luxury, pleasure and prestige for which too big a price can be paid.

The senator's daughter turned slow ly and faced the man she had promised to marry.

"Charlie, I have come to a decision. I came here to talk with father about

Norton started toward Carolina, a look of apprehension on his face. He gathered from the trend of her words and her demeanor that she had turned against him.

"You couldn't be so cruel, Carolina," he protested.

"Charlie," she went on determinedly, "I will always cherish our friendship, our happy younger days down in Mississippi, but I must give up thinking of you as my future husband. We've both made a mistake, mine probably greater than yours, but I now am convinced that I should not marry you. Your way of thinking about life is all wrong. and you are too deeply entangled with the dishonest men in Washington to draw back. I cannot love you."

"But I am doing it all for your sake, Carolina. Don't let an old fashloned



"Charlie, I must give you up."

father come between a man and a woman and their love," he cried. "Charlie, I must give you up."

The girl turned to one side, as though to give Norton a chance to He looked at her in stience a mo-

ment or two. Then a change came into his bearing. Wrinkling his face into a sucer, he stepped before the

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"You've been converted mighty sud

den, I reckon, from land speculation

to preaching - and preaching, too,

against folks who tried to make a for-

Norton stopped, expecting a reply,

"You think I'm done for, that I've

lost my money, that's why you turned

you yet, and I'll ruin your father's po-

"Are you quite sure about that?"

spoke a voice sharply behind the con-

gressman. He swung around vigor-

ously. Bud Haines had returned in

"Yes, and while I'm doing that I'll

take time to show you up, too, some-

how. I guess a congressman's word

will count against that of a cheap sec-

retary-that's what Miss Langdon said

Carolina looked appealingly to

Haines to rid her of the presence of

this man, whose last words she knew

But Norton had had his say. He re-

treated to the door.
"Miss Langdon," he cried as he

backed out and away, "you have an idea that I am dishonest, but kindly

remember that, whatever you think I

Haines advanced and procured a

"I'm terribly sorry to have come

The girl cut him short with a ges

"I want to say to you," she said.

then halted-"that I want to be friends

with you. I want you to forget the

happenings of yesterday-last evening

-so far as I was concerned in them.

want to work together with you and

father-and so does Randolph. Father

and you are standing together to up-

matter the cost of our former folly,

Before Haines could reply Senator

"Bud, Bud." he cried, "I've got it!

"You've got what, senator?" ex-

"That idea, my boy, that idea! It's incubated all right, and Peabody and

Stevens can come just as soon as they

(Continued next week.)

If you are all run down Foley's

Kidney Remedy will help you. It

want to share in that work,'

Langdon burst into the room.

I've got it!"

back at such a time," he began.

am, I never was a hypocrite."

chair for Miss Langdon.

but the girl remained silent.

litical reputation. I'll"-

time to hear Norton's threat.

Haines would not believe.

tune for you."

you were."

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