A GENTLEMAN FROM MISSISSIPPI

By THOMAS A. WISE

Novelized From the Play by Frederick R. Toombs

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Here is a story of an epoch making battle of right against wrong, of honesty against corruption, of simplicity and sincerity against deceit, bribery and intrigue. It is the story of today in this country. It vitally concerns every man, woman and child in the United States, so far-reaching is its influence.

The warfare is now going on—the warfare of honest men against corrupt political machines.

The story tells the "inside" of the political maneuvers in Washington and of the workings of bosses there and elsewhere — how they shape men and women to their ends, how their cunning intrigues extend into the very social life of the nation's capital. You will find inspiration in the career of the honest old southern planter elected to the United States senate and the young newspaper reporter who becomes his private secretary and political pilot. Your heart will beat in sympathy with the love of the secretary and the senator's youngest daughter.

You will read of the lobbyists and find that not all of them are men. You will see how avarice causes a daughter to conspire against her father. You will hear the note of a gripping national tragedy in the words of Peabody, the "boss of the senate." But cause for laughter as well will not be found lacking in this truly many sided narrative.

CHAPTER I.

PRACTICAL POLITICS.

That bids him flout the law he makes;
That bids him make the law he flouts.
—Kipling.

IN buoyant spirit the Hon. Charles Norton rode up the bridle path leading through the Langdon plantation to the old antebellum homestead which, on a shaded knoll, overlooked the winding waters of the Pearl river. No finer prospect was to be had in all Mississippi than greeted the eye from the wide southwest porch, where on warm evenings the Langdons and their frequent guests gathered to dine or to watch the golden splendor of the dying sun.

The Langdon family had long been a power in the south. Its sons fought under Andrew Jackson at New Orleans, under Zachary Taylor in the war with Mexico, and in the civil war men of that name left their blood on the fields of Antietam, Shiloh, the Wilderness and Gettysburg. But this family of fighting men, of unselfish patriots, had also marked influence in the ways of peace, as real patriots should. Generations of Langdons had taken deepest pride in developing the hundreds of acres of cotton land, whose thousands of four foot rows planted each April spread open the

Hon. Charles Norton, M. C.

silvery lined bolls in July and August, and the ripened cotton fiber, pure white beneath the sun, gave from a distance the picture of an expanse of driven snow.

The Hon. Charles Norton had reason for feeling well pleased with the world as he fastened his bay Virginia hunter to a convenient post and strode up the steps of the mansion, which was a characteristic survivor of the "old south," the south of gilded romance and of gripping tragedy. Now in this second year of his first term as congressman and a promising member of the younger set of southern lawyers, he had just taken active part in securing the election of Colonel William H. Langdon, present head of the family, to the United States senate, though the ultimate action of the legislature had been really brought about by a lifelong friend of Colonel Langdon, the senior senator from the state, James Stevens, who had not hesitated to flatter Norton and use him as a cat's paw. This use the Hon. Charles Norton seemed to consider an honor of large propositions. Not every first term congressman can hope for intimacy with a senator. Norton believed that his work for Langdon would win him the family's gratitude and thus further his ambition to marry Carolina, the planter's oldest daughter, whose beauty made her the recipient of many attentions.

A complacent gleam shone in Norton's eyes as they swept over the fertile acres of the plantation. He thought of the material interest he might one day have in them if his suit for the hand of Carolina progressed favorably. Suddenly his reverie was interrupted by the voice of young Randolph Langdon, a spirited lad in his early twenties, who had just been made plantation manager by his father.

"Well, how is the honorable today?" said Randolph, approaching from the doorway. "I didn't think a congressman could be spared from Washington but rarely, especially when the papers say the country needs such a lot of saving."

"Oh, this 'saving your country' talk goes all right in the story books," replied Norton, who exercised considerable influence over the youth through a long acquaintanceship and by frequently taking him into his confidence, "but this country can take pretty good care of itself. In congress we representatives put the job of saving it over on the senate, and the senate hands back the job to us. So what's everybody's business isn't anybody's, a fine scheme so long as we have a president who keeps his hands off and doesn't"—

"The senate hands back the job."

"But how about the speeches and the bills?" broke in Randolph. "I thought"—

"Yes, yes; to be sure," the congressman quickly added. "Nearly all of us introduce these so called reform bills. When they're printed at government expense we send copies, carried free by the postoffice department, to our constituents, and when we allow the bills to die in some committee we can always blame the committee. But if there's a big fight by our constituents over the bill we let it pass the house, but arrange to kill it in the senate. Then we do the same thing for the senators. Like in every other business, my boy," continued Norton as he led the way into the house, "it's a case of 'you tickle me and I'll tickle you' in politics. And don't let any one fool you about the speeches either. They are pretty things to mail to the voters, but all the wise boys in Washington know they aren't meant seriously. It's all play acting, and there are better actors in the senate than Henry Irving or Edwin Booth ever were."

"I don't think my father looks at things the way you do, Charlie."

"No? Well, maybe he doesn't now, but he will later on when he takes his seat in the senate. If he isn't wise enough to play around with the rest of the senators he won't get any bills passed, especially any bill carrying an appropriation or of any other particular importance."

"What!" ejaculated the planter's son. "Do you mean to say that if father won't do what the other senators want him to do they will combine against him and destroy his usefulness, make him powerless—a failure?"

The congressman smiled patronizingly on the youth. "Why, of course they will. That's politics, practical politics, the only kind that's known in Washington. You see"—

"But the leaders of the great parties!" cried the young plantation manager in amazement. "Why don't they prevent this?"

"Because they invented the system and because political party differences don't amount to a whole lot much of the time in Washington. The politicians do most of their criticising of the other party away from Washington, where the voters can hear them. But when circumstances sometimes force a man to rise to assail the other side in congress he afterward apologizes in secret for his words. Or sometimes he apologizes beforehand, saying: 'I've got to hand out some hot shot to you fellows just to please a crowd of sovereign voters from my district who have come up to Washington to see me perform. So, of course, I've got to make a showing. Don't mind what I say. You know I don't mean it, but the old fogies will go back home and tell their neighbors what a rip snortin' reformer I be.'"

"Is that the way you represent your district, Norton?" asked Planter Langdon, who at this juncture entered the room.

"No, no, Mr. Langdon—I should say senator now, I suppose. I was merely telling Randolph how some legislators conduct themselves."

The senator elect paused momentarily, gazing at the congressman, who, dark visaged, tall, black haired, broad shouldered and athletic, was visibly uneasy at having his conversation with Randolph overheard by the father.

"No doubt it won't be all plain sailing in Washington for an old fashioned man like me, but I believe in the American people and the men they send to congress," slowly spoke the planter. "There's Senator Stevens, for instance. He has always stood for the rights of the people. I've read all his speeches. Just why he brought about my election it is hard to tell, for I've been a planter all my life except when I fought under Beauregard. I feel that he did it out of friendship, and I simply can't say how much I appreciate the honor. I am indebted to you, too, congressman."

Tactfully disclaiming any credit for his work, only Norton's congressional training in repression enabled him to refrain from smiling at Langdon's innocence, his belief in Stevens' sincerity and his wonder over his election. Stevens, the keen, cold and resourceful, who forced his officeholders to yield him parts of their government salaries; Stevens, who marketed to railway companies his influence with the department of justice; Stevens, who was a Republican in the committee room in Washington and a Democrat on the platform in Mississippi; Stevens, who had consummated the deal with Martin Sanders, boss of seven counties, to elect Langdon because of the planter's trustfulness and simplicity of character, which should make him easy to influence and to handle in the all important matter of the gulf naval base project!

The entry of Carolina Langdon and her younger sister, Hope Georgia, gave Norton a welcome opportunity to shift the trend of conversation.

"You ladies will have a gay time in Washington," he began, after directing a particularly enthusiastic greeting to Carolina. "You will be in great demand at all the big affairs, and I don't think you will ever want to come back to old Mississippi, forty miles from a railroad, with few chances to wear your New York gowns."

Carolina spoke quickly, her face flushing at the thought of the new vista of life now opening. "Yes, I have always longed to be a part of the real life of this world, the life of constant action—meeting new people every day, and prominent people. Balls, receptions, teas, theater parties, afternoon drives, plenty of money and plenty of gayety are what I want. I'm not a bit like Hope Georgia, who thinks these ideas are extravagant because she has not seen real life yet"—

"I'm not a bit like Hope Georgia."

"Carolina, you must not think me 'only your little sister' now. I have seen life. Haven't I spent a week in Jackson?"

"That's enough proof. You know all about life, I'm sure, Miss Hope Georgia," smilingly remarked Norton.

Later, rising to join Planter Langdon on the veranda, where he had gone to smoke, the congressman gazed intently at Carolina. "You will probably forget your old friends when you enter the dizzy social race in Washington."

"No, Charlie, I couldn't forget you anyhow. You will be there too. I shall depend on you a great deal to take me about, unless you are too busy making speeches and fighting your opponents."

Again it was Norton's turn to be inwardly amused at the political ignorance of the Langdon family. Speeches? The first term congressman doesn't make speeches in Washington because no one cares what he thinks—except the lobbyists, whose business it is to provide new members with a complete set of thoughts. Neither does he have opponents—he is not considered important enough by the veterans to be opposed.

Skillfully approaching the subject which next to Carolina Langdon had been uppermost in his mind during his visit, Norton asked the senator elect on joining him if he did not believe that the entire south would benefit if the plan to establish a naval base on the gulf was successfully carried through.

"Most certainly I do, and, as I said during the senatorial fight, the whole country as well will be the gainer," responded Langdon.

"Don't you think the people who want Altacoola chosen as the site have the best arguments?" was the visitor's next question, the reply to which he anxiously awaited.

"Yes, I do, from what I've already heard, but I haven't heard very much of what the folks who advocate other sites have to say. So until I've heard all sides and made my own examination I couldn't give any one my final answer, but Altacoola seems to have the necessary qualifications."

"Senator Stevens is in favor of Altacoola," eagerly suggested Norton.

"Yes, and that's a pretty good argument in its favor," responded Langdon.

Norton now excused himself, pleading an appointment with a client at a neighboring village. Waving farewell to Carolina and Hope Georgia, who stood at a window, he rode away. "The old man is sure to be all right," he muttered. "He leans toward Altacoola and believes in Stevens. He'll lean some more until he falls over—into the trap. There's a fortune in sight, within reach. Langdon has faith in his friends. He won't suspect a thing."

Still another thought occurred to the Hon. Charles Norton. "Stevens elected Langdon out of friendship," he chuckled gleefully. "That will be well worth telling in Washington."

(Continued next week.)

Professional Directory of Wallowa County

THOS. M. DILL
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
Office first door south of New Fraternal Bldg., Enterprise, Ore.

BURLEIGH & BOYD
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
Practice in all State Courts and Interior Department. Careful attention to all business.

D. W. SHEAHAN
LAWYER - ENTERPRISE
Practice in State and Federal Courts and Interior Department.

C. T. HOCKETT, M. D.
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
Office upstairs in Bank Building. Ind. Home phone in office and residence.

W. C. KETCHUM
DENTIST - ENTERPRISE
Office Berland Building. Home Independent Phone.

CONAWAY & CORKINS,
A. B. Conaway. O. M. Corkins.
LAWYERS
Enterprise, Oregon.

E. T. ANDERSON, M. D.
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
Calls attended to day or night. Home phone. Enterprise, Ore.

DR. C. A. AULT
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
Office in Bank Building. Home phone both office and residence.

Coyote Scalp Bounty.

Present coyote scalps to W. F. Savage, at W. J. Funk & Co's store, Enterprise, who is authorized to take affidavits and give warrants for same on behalf of the Wallowa County Woolgrowers association.
35b4 THOS. MORGAN, Secretary.

50,000 Folders for Lewis County.

Chehalis, Wash., April 24.—This week the Bee-Nugget Publishing Company is printing the first installment of the advertising for Lewis County. The order is 50,000 folders, of 24 pages each, devoted to the resources and advantages of Lewis County. Eastern railway companies have signified their willingness to distribute 35,000 of these in places where they think they will do the most good. Within about a week a supply of the folders will be placed with every postoffice in the county with the understanding that the postmaster place them at the disposal of their patrons.

For a burn or scald apply Chamberlain's Salve. It will allay the pain almost instantly and quickly heal the injured parts. For sale by Burnaugh and Mayfield.

MINING ACTIVITY ON LOWER SNAKE RIVER.

The old "Anaconda" mine at Wild Goose Rapids on Snake river is to be revived, according to the Asotin Sentinel, which says a party of surveyors and assistants in charge of Engineer Hunter were taken up the river to the old mine last week, equipped for a long stay. The party is to do considerable mining surveying between the Grand Ronde river and Wild Goose rapids.

The "Anaconda" was partially developed 14 years ago by a company that spent several thousands of dollars but later dropped the work. A Lewiston man has now taken hold of the mine, and matters are likely to become pretty active as the Anaconda was always recognized as something pretty good.

Nature's Remedy.

Levy's Oregon Grape Compound. Enriches your blood. Regulates kidney and liver. Sold and guaranteed by Burnaugh & Mayfield, Enterprise, Oregon.

Read the advertisements.

L. Berland,

Dealer in

Harness, Saddles, Chapps, Spurs, and Leather Goods of all descriptions.

I will fit you out with the best goods for the least money. When in need of anything in my line, call and inspet my stock before purchasing.

ENTERPRISE, - - - - - OREGON

Red Front Livery and Feed Stable

First Class Accommodations
Best of Hay and Grain

ONE BLOCK SOUTH OF HOTEL ENTERPRISE

BOWELL & SON
PROPRIETORS.

Did It Ever Occur To You That A

Telephone in Your Home

Provides safety, convenience, economy and pleasure, and makes your home life complete? Its cost is little, its benefits are manifold.

Home Independent Telephone Co.

Covering Union and Wallowa Counties

MAIL AND PASSENGER STAGE LINE

Wallowa Appleton, Flora to Paradise,
MONDAYS WEDNESDAYS and FRIDAYS; and

From Paradise, Flora and Appleton to Wallowa,
TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS and SATURDAYS

Good accommodations, courteous treatment and reasonable rates. Leaves Wallowa at 6 a. m.

E. W. SOUTHWICK, Proprietor.

Whooping Cough.

This is a more dangerous disease than is generally presumed. It will be a surprise to many to learn that more deaths result from it than from scarlet fever. Pneumonia often results from it. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has been used in many epidemics of whooping cough, and always with the best results. Delbert McKeig of Harlan, Iowa, says of it: "My boy took whooping cough when nine months old. He had it in the winter. I got a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy which proved good. I cannot recommend it too highly." For sale by Burnaugh & Mayfield.

A man employed by the government in the national forest, killed 23 coyotes and located 27 dens in a month. The quick way of capturing them is by raiding a den of young ones.

Lived 152 Years.

Wm. Parr—England's oldest man—married the third time at 120, worked in the fields till 132 and lived 20 years longer. People should be youthful at 80. James Wright, of Spurlock, Ky., shows how to remain young. "I feel just like a 16-year-old boy," he writes, after taking six bottles of Electric Bitters. For thirty years kidney trouble made life a burden, but the first bottle of this wonderful medicine convinced me I had found the greatest cure on earth." They're a godsend to weak, sickly, rundown or old people. Try them. 50c at Burnaugh & Mayfield's.

She Wasn't Playing.

In a western Kansas town, relates Paul Lovewell, at a party of adults it was proposed that the entertainment consist of games that prevailed in the good old days of childhood—postoffice, tin-tin, London bridge, and so on. Finally a prize was offered for the person who could make the "ugliest face." The judges witnessed the contortion of faces for awhile and then awarded the prize to an old maid.

"You win," they said, handing her a box of bonbons.

"I will thank you to know," she replied, "I was not playing."

Smashes All Records.

As an all-around laxative tonic and health builder no other pills can compare with Dr. King's New Life Pills. They tone and regulate stomach, liver and kidneys, purify the blood, strengthen the nerves; cure constipation, dyspepsia, biliousness, juandice, headache, chills, and malaria. Try them. 25c at Burnaugh & Mayfield's.

MILLIONS OF MONEY

AT LOWEST RATES. ON EASIEST TERMS.

Wm. Miller & Brother,

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