

# The Fighting Chance.

By ROBERT W. CHAMBERS.

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their ears the thunderous undertone of the mounting sea.

"Look at Stephen," murmured Sylvia, her enraptured eyes following him as he strolled hatless and coatless along the cliff's edge, the sun glimmering on his short hair, a tall, slim, well coupled, strongly knit shape against the sky and sea.

But Lella's quick ear had caught a significant sound from the gravel drive behind her, and she stood up, a delicious color tinting her face.

"Are you going in?" asked Sylvia. Then she, too, heard the subdued whirring of a motor from the front of the house, and she looked at Lella as she turned and recrossed the terrace, walking slowly, but erect, her pretty head held high.

Then Sylvia faced the sea again and presently descended the terrace, crossing the long lawn toward the headland, where Seward stood looking out across the water.

Lella from the music room watched her; then she heard Plank's voice and his step on the stairs, and she called out to him gayly:

"I am downstairs, thank you. How dared you send me those foolish nurses?"

She was laughing when he came in to the room, standing there erect, head high, a brilliant color in her cheeks, and she offered him both hands, which he took between his own, holding them strongly and looking into her face with steady, questioning eyes.

"Well?" she said, still smiling, but her scarlet underlip trembled a little; then: "Yes, you may say what you wish—what I—I wish you to say. There can be no harm in talking about it. But will you be very gentle with me? Don't make me cry. I have—I am trying to remember how it feels to laugh once more."

Sylvia, lying in the hot sand on the tiny crescent beach under the cliffs, listened gravely to Seward's figures as, notebook in hand, he went over the real estate problem, commenting thoughtfully as he discussed the houses offered.

He turned to look at her, and she lay there, silent, blue eyes looking back into his. Suddenly they glimmered with tears, and she stretched out both arms, drawing his head down to hers convulsively, her quivering mouth crushed against his lips. Then she rose to her knees, to her feet, dazed, brushing the tears from her eyes.

"To think—to think," she stammered, "that I might have let you face the world alone! Dearest, dearest, we must fight a good fight."

He looked straight into her eyes, fearlessly, tenderly, and she looked back with the divine, untroubled gaze of a child, laying her slender, sun tanned hands in his.

And, deep in his body, as he stood there, he heard the low challenge of his soul on guard, and he knew that the enemy listened.

THE END.

### Change in Hospitality.

"It is strange," sighed the blue-eyed girl, "how quickly even your best friends will learn to regard you with suspicion. Take my case, for example. When I boarded and had to pay for all my meals whether I ate them in the boarding house or not I had a standing invitation at several places to drop in any time for dinner. My friends knew I wouldn't save anything by partaking of their hospitality, and they always were urging me to come.

"But now everything is changed. I eat out now and pay for each meal as I get it; consequently all those standing invitations have been tacitly but none the less unmistakably recalled. The fact that I am saving the price of a dinner every time I eat with them makes my friends think I am trying to economize at their expense. I am just as cheerful a guest now as formerly, I don't eat any more and am not a bit more trouble, but I find that not even my closest friends want to feel that they are being used for a good thing."—New York Press.

### Frankness in Invitations.

Among curiosities which are models of frankness is the following:

"Lord and Lady Spencer request the

honor of — company at dinner at half past 6 o'clock on —. An answer is particularly desired. Nobody waited for after 7 o'clock."

On many invitations the time was, of course, stated, and "A polite answer requested," or sometimes "A reply would oblige," but the letters "R. S. V. P." were hardly ever used at this date, their first mention being in 1781, on the card of Lord and Lady Kerry. Indeed, till quite recently "An answer will oblige" was the general formula, and it is only in the last thirty years that the French form has been at all generally adopted in England.—Windsor Magazine.

THE END.

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### OUTLINE BOWERMAN REFORMS.

Nominee's Speeches Clearly Show Attitude on Important Issues. As indicated by his public addresses in his present campaign of the state, here are some of the important things that Jay Bowerman, the Republican direct primary nominee for governor advocates:

Protection of the laws of the people. "If I am elected governor," says he, "I shall defend by exercise of the veto if necessary, any efforts made by the legislature to repeal any laws written upon the statute books by the people. This applies to the direct primary, Statement No. 1 and all the laws of the people. The people alone have the right to make changes. Their voice is final; their will supreme."

Economy in the operation of public institutions. The buying of supplies in bulk for the institutions at Salem, entails a saving to the taxpayers of \$50,000 a year.

Elimination of machine politics and defeat of the Bourne-Chamberlain combine, which is seeking to gain imperial control of Oregon politics for selfish ends.

Putting state employees to work and compelling them to do a day's work instead of putting in part of their time in political activity, as under the present machine system.

Enactment of a law giving protection to employees of street car companies, railroad companies and other corporations, which now discharge men indiscriminately on complaints often made without foundation.

"The accused men should be brought face to face with the accuser and the charges should be proved," is the Bowerman rule.

Enlargement of the scope of the State Railway Commission or establishment of a public service commission to adjust differences arising between the people and corporations dealing in such utilities as gas, electricity, telephones and transportation.

Removal of state normal schools from the pale of political log rolling and legislative bartering and trading. "Let these schools be the best that money can establish, but let them stand on their merits, supported by legitimate methods," is his idea.

Protection of bank depositors by establishment of a rule instructing bank examiners to reject as assets stocks and bonds having no fixed and profitable income.

Promotion of good roads by employment where possible of convict labor so as to do away with the present practice of manufacturing stoves at the state prison and selling the product in direct competition with free labor.

Abolition of the old practice of peddling out state appointments for political reasons and without regard to merit. "Merit must be the basis of all appointments," he declares.

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A maker has his own reason for putting his name on a piano. It is a creditable piece of work. He is willing to assume the responsibility for its future.

Makers who send out pianos without their factory imprint have their own reasons also. Stenciling on the name board any name that strikes a retailer's fancy their own personality does not appear in the attraction at all; why, then, invite trouble? The dealers who sell these fatherless "stencil" instruments—sell them, recommend them, do everything but become accountable for them. How can they? Their interest in a piano that bears one name this year, another the next, must be more or less transient. The purchaser cares nothing about that. He does care, though, about the instrument wearing well. Not for one year nor for ten, but long after the dealer may have, and doubtless has, gone out of business. That is why all sound piano reasoning leads to buying from the manufacturer or from his direct representatives. Here is the

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