



The New Mayor Based on G.H. Broadhurst's Successful Play THE MAN OF THE HOUR

CHAPTER XIII—(Continued)

The antechamber door opened, and Williams hurried in. "I got Ellis!" he reported. "He's here, and—with significant emphasis—he'll vote right!" "Good!" assented Horri-

you a 90 per cent better chance with him. Now, then," pulling a paper from his pocket, "I told you about the report I had Morris & Cherrington dig out showing up Bennett's old man. Here it is. Like to look it over while we're waiting?"

"Little enough good it seems to have done," returned Wainwright as the three heads bent over the documents. "He's still fighting us, tooth and nail."

"The gallery in here is jammed," reported Williams, jerking his head toward the aldermanic chamber. "I never saw such a mob in the place before."

"That's what comes of all this newspaper publicity," growled Horri-

"Hello!" he called. "I want 900 F-900 F. Yes—yes. Is that the captain?" he went on a moment later. "Then send him to the phone. Tell him Mr. Horri-

"No trouble at all. An' even if it was I'd come a-runnin' to meet it. I'm the original trouble eater. Besides, the best in the house is none too good for the lady who was so interested in my outtings. So long! I'll be right back."

"What a queer chap he is!" mused Perry, as Phelan hastened away on his mission. "If I could take a six weeks' course in slang and hot air from that man I'd be able to sew buttons on the whole English language."

"I don't think you need very much tuition," observed Dallas. "But it was kind of Mr. Phelan to look after us. I like him."

Bennett had crossed to where Dallas stood irresolute and, under cover of Phelan's talk with Perry, said to her, with a certain unconscious stiffness: "I fear I was too taken aback by your announcement the other evening to remember to congratulate you, but please believe me when I say I wish you every happiness in the new life you have chosen."

"Thank you very much," faltered Dallas. "There was an awkward pause; then she said: "You came in here to write something. I'm afraid we are detaining you. You must be busy with your fight against the Borough bill. You are quite determined to continue it to the end?"

"To the bitter end!" he answered miserably. "Even though that end can hold nothing but bitterness for me."

"The set anguish in his face moved Dallas more than she dared confess even to herself. "I am sorry," she said softly. "It is the course I have chosen," he answered, with a shrug, "and if it leads to eternal darkness instead of the sunlight I expected I must follow it none the less."

"That is sheer obstinacy," she cried, battling against her own heart's passionate plea. "You have laid out a plan to ruin Mr. Gibbs, to deprive Perry and me of my own fortune, to enrich yourself by selling Borough stock short and then vetoing the bill so that the stock would collapse. You have done all this, and yet you talk of following your abominable course to the end?"

"Dallas," he said very quietly, "you don't trust me to explain, so I can say no more. But one day you may learn the cruel mistake you are making."

"Mistake?" "I don't mean that you are mistaken in choosing Gibbs instead of me, but that you are wrong in your judgment of what I am doing. I hope you will understand some day. It will be too late to change anything then, but at least I shall be set right in your eyes. And that means more to me than you can ever know. Goodbye."

He left the room abruptly, and Dallas stared after him, her brain whirling with conflicting thoughts. "There's a man in ten million, miss," volunteered Phelan, breaking in on her reverie. "an' from the looks of that bran' new dinky, three-k' spark on your finger I guess you're wise to the fact."

"I'll be on hand to help her if there is," Gibbs answered him. "I'm," granted Horri-

"All right," agreed Perry, a little rueful at the prospect of missing a free fight. "Let's go in there now. I've never been to an aldermen's meeting before, but I ran up against a car strike riot once, so I guess I'm on to most of the subtle rules of elegance that govern such shows. Come on, people, if you're coming."

"Your niece is a thoroughbred," repeated Horri-

"Why?" asked Wainwright sharply. "Because it won't take her a year to find out that he's a yellow cur. And when she does she'll either kick him out or lead him around on a chain. Now, the fellow a girl of that sort ought to have married is Bennett. He's an obstinate fool, but he's a man. I thought you said once he was stuck on her."

"He was. He still is." "And she took Gibbs instead?" cried Horri-

"I let her see Gibbs was a heroic martyr," said Wainwright, with quiet significance. "and that Bennett was—" "Oh, I see!" chuckled Horri-

"What do you think of that?" asked Horri-

"I returned the notes to him!" pleaded Roberts in panic. "Honestly, I did! Just before you came in. I could have kept them, and he couldn't have prevented me even if I voted against the bill. But I'm square and—"

"I'm not quite sure. I'll have to think it over."

"Roberts has come!" exclaimed Williams, entering from the corridor. "He's asking for you. Shall I bring him in here?"

"Yes," replied Horri-

"I thought so. Be quiet, Horri-

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