The Recluse of Fifth Avenue

CHAPTER IX

Very ungraciously Mrs. Raxon permitted Agatha Brown to be absent for a night. Very gladly the Raxon girls learned of it. Robin would be theirs for a few hours. After cramping continental pensions and small hotels. their present lavish life rather went to their heads. It took the form of a superiority complex which irritated Robin enormously. But he had promised his father to aid him by preserving a heartiness of manner that he did not feel. He was wholly obsessed by the thought of Agatha, that strange and lovely girl who held him at arm's length, snubbed him, harassed him, and then brought him back with a glance of those amethyst eyes. She could tell him nothing about her past life, and that worried him very much. What men had loved her, he wondered and had there been men about whom she cared? Mrs. McKimber understood the situation and sympathized. Her husband was unusually irritable He could talk about nothing but the infamous manner in which his press agent neglected to have him featured. It seemed to McKimber that the papers were filled with Paul Raxon, Ac tually some club women had started a "Better Architecture League," with Raxon as president. They were to agitate for classes ir architectural appreciation in the high schools. McKimber wandered about the big

rooms fidgeting. Raxon was not to be seen. At midnight, when Sneed stood respectfully at his elbow, Mc-Kimber was as nearly nervous as he had ever been. But he was too old a campaigner to show it. He followed the butler into a big sexagonal room, entrance to which was gained by a flight of eight stairs. That the apart was furnished with subdued splendor and was of magnificent pro-portions added to McKimber's irritation. Instinctively he was aware that Raxon was getting ready to use his lavish settings in publicity work,

This tower study would soon be famous through the magazines. It was easy to visualize Paul Raxon leaning back in his customary indolent way with a specially prepared background. McKimber's private room represented office furnishing in its most efficient style. He reflected bitterly that this apartment must have been planned for photographic reproduction. McKimber decided it was effeminate It provoked in him a feeling of contempt which could not dispel the knowledge that Raxon's settings were superb. But they were presumptuous. Raxon was riding for a fall. He need ed to be taught a lesson. have been wiser for McKimber to recollect that Raxon had not succeed ed through any lack of strength.

"This extensive publicity campaign of yours," McKimber began, "doesn't deceive us any."

"Us?" Raxon queried.

"We who represent an organized party in this state. We know you're out to get a primary nomination, and as you've got money and a good press agent, it doesn't seem easy to prevent These primaries play the devil with party obligations. They encourage the malcontents and the ambi-"Which am I?" Raxon asked, smil-

"You're ambitious, Raxon. You are overambitious. The Bard of Avon says that's the thing which brought the angels down.

called an angel," said the other, McKimber frowned. He detested pect me to work for you!" flippancy.

I prefer to think of you as ambitious than to suppose you are wanting to split our ticket and let Westfield in. If one strong man with his party's solid backing runs against Westfield, he'll beat him."

"That cheers me very much," Raxon replied.

It was not easy for the domineering McKimber to hold himself in. He was accustomed to respect in the field of

"You won't be the man," he cxclaimed

"And you will?" "Unless any spiteful malcontent de liberately proves a traitor. Up-state, which I control poltically, has no use for you. It doesn't know about you. I asked a man from Wayne county the other day if he'd ever heard of Paul Raxon," McKimber smiled, "He said he never went to moving pictures."

"Your mistake," Raxon said, "was that you did not ask his wife. The women know me, McKimber, My 'Better Architecture Lengues' are springing up everywhere. There's a flour ishing one in Wayne county. larger cities, such as Buffalo, Roch ester, Syracuse and Utica, are taking the thing up admirably. Politicians of your old-fashloned kind resent women in public life, and you don't conceal this. Politically, women are hypersensitive because they know they have not accomplished what the world expected of them. I admit your upstate strength exceeds mine, but what

about New York city?" "A stronghold for Westfield." "Not so much as you imagine."

Raxon yawned a little, as though the subject wearled him. "At all events, it will be an interesting experiment." "Experiment!" McKimber cried, shocked at his callousness, "It will

be a tragedy for the party." "It will be your finish," Raxon re-

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mental agility and you won't reconcile yourself to new conditions. In the past you have been of great use to organization. Today you are merely amusing."

McKimber flushed red and instinctively clenched his big fists. Paul Raxon noted the gesture.

"That demonstrates it perfectly," he said. "When you lose a point or hear a disagreeable truth you want to hit a man. Elemental stuff. We are here to discuss political conditions in this state. I think that is how you put it."

"You want me to back down and leave the field to you. I refuse. If the party thinks I've the better chance they'll knife you in a minute. It isn't possible, surely, that you believe grafftude has anything to do with practical polities?"

McKimber did not answer imme diately. He was conscious that he had allowed personal antagonism to color his conversation. He adopted the confidential tone which had often won success for him.

"Raxon," he began, "I'm putting my cards on the table."

"Save yourself the trouble," Raxon replied. "I can see them just as well when you hold them in your hands. All you need to understand is that I have a better chance than you to go to Washington."

"If we two fight each other, West-field goes," McKimber said earnestly, "We need a senator at Washington."

"That's why I intend to go, as you may as well tell your friends. I've



"He Said He Never Went to Moving Pictures."

been working much longer than you can guess for this very end."

"Don't you realize you will be denounced as a traitor to your cause?" "If the cause means so much to you,

throw your influence my way. If you did that, Westfield wouldn't have a chance."

"You're d-d well right," McKimber shouted. "The man I indorse would get in even if you were he. I'll tell you just this, Raxon. From now on I'm going to devote myself to showing "This is the first time I have been you up for the crooked ward politician you are. My God! To think you ex-

"If you're going to be abusive," Raxon said coldly, "we may as well

McKimber struggled into a little less violent mood. He might yet be able to divert the Raxon ambition to some less lofty height. "I take that back," he said. "I rec-

ognize that you deserve some reward for what you've done in the past, but I'm entitled to the nomination. It is my just reward I want." McKimber's voice became almost conciliatory. "Don't you see the justice of it? I want in my old age the opportunity of

"And I." Paul Raxon sneered, "want in my early middle age the opportunity of serving myself. Why drag your country in? Do you think I'm a political idealist just because bad achitecture offends me?"

McKimber rose to his feet. He knew he had lost, and he wanted to go before he forgot the slender, sneering man was his host.

"They told me you were a dangerous man," he said slowly, "but I don't

By WYNDHAM MARTYN think they gauged your rottenness cor "I take good care to keep that from

"But you're giving it away to me,

confessed rival." Raxon laughed. The spectacle of this tall, portly man, whose career had

en so successful, amused him. "The trouble with you, McKimber," he said, "is that you don't understand you are a corpse. Politically, you are dead and buried. You are not a rival. Don't flatter yourself to that

"I tell you," McKimber thundered, "all the world shall know what has passed between us."

"If you don't lower your voice, all the world will hear. You're not a broadcasting station. Sit down. sent for you because there's a lot I have to say which you wouldn't care

Reluctantly, McKimber sank back in his chair. He was enwrapped by a certain and unwelcome uneasiness The man facing him seemed so secure, so unconcerned, so sure of ultimate

"The first thing to tell you," Raxon began, "is, I am going to Washington You will quit in my favor and lend me all your great influence. Naturally you must have an excuse which seems a true one. I have it all ready pre You are too heavy even for your height, and the pouches under your eyes are unhealthy signs. You had better drop out, because your specialist tells you there is heart and kidney trouble. I shall refer to the fact in my speeches with great re-

McKimber spoke with deliberation. "They told me you were dangerous and I know you are a traitor to your party, but not until this moment did 1 believe you were absolutely crazy They call your sort of madness megalo mania." McKimber rose to his feet "I've met all sorts of knaves and fools in politics, but you're the worst yet.'

"What a senator you would have made!" Raxon commented. "Do you suppose I should have talked like this if I had not been certain you were harmless, a rattler with his poison sacs extracted? My success has come mainly because I understand human motivation. I'm going to show you how it is that when you leave here it will be to start a Raxon boom in your own city. Sit down, McKimber."

John McKimber, who prided himself upon taking orders from none, dropped again into his seat. It seemed to him he was talking to a Raxon he had not until now understood. He found himself noticing what a cruel mouth the other had, and how in those brown eyes were little flecks of red. Paul Raxon gazed at him as an executioner might stare at a prisoner delivered to him for death. McKimber knew that he had been holding too cheaply one who had a dynamic and evil person-

"If I stay," he said huskily, "It will be to hear you give away more secrets about youself. Perhaps I shall learn by what trickery you got this place and how it was you sent Hazen Brew er to his grave."

"I got this place," said Raxon with his old urbanity, "as I have got everything else in my life, by using men as tools. I studied men and found them pugnacious, noisy, and vain. It was hard to influence them by my subdued personality, even though I had the right on my side. I do not mix well. I knew that had to be overcome. In other words, I determined to develop something to make up for it. My success has come from finding. almost unerringly, the weak spot in every man's make-up. I got my chance at International Motors by finding out much of Brewer's life in London that he was forced to take me in to protect himself."

"You're a d-d blackmaller," Mc-

Kimber cried hoarsely. "I am," Raxon agreed. "The phrase does not offend me in the least. Why should it? Is there any more powerful weapon? Most traitors in the great war were forced into espionage because the enemy threatened exposure as the price of refusal. In the drawer before me are two articles. One is an automatic pistol." Raxon opened the drawer and put the weapon on the writing table at which he sat, "I am not going to threaten you with it. That is old-fashioned, stupid stuff. I am merely reminding you have it at hand if you should attack me." There was undisguised amazement

in the bigger man's voice. "Attack you? What for?" (TO BE CONTINUED.)

Houses of Worship Found in Odd Places

The miners in the Myndd Newydd coal mines in Wales have no call to shave, shine their boots, or don Sunday garb when they go to worship. They have a chapel all their own at the bottom of the shaft, so that when they descend the plt they can have a short service before going to their working places.

Rough timbers form the pillars and beams of this chapel, and a coal troiley serves as a pulpit. The miners sit on rough wooden benches and the

oldest among them acts as pastor. A chapel, more finished in appearance, the St. Anthony, exists in the salt torted. His manner had no animus in mines of Wieliczka, Austria. It has tt. He had neither raised his voice an altar, crucifix, and life-size figures nor shown heat as McKimber had, of the saints, apparently in black "Like all old-time politicians, you lack | marble, but really made of salt.

In the old German town of Oberstein an ancient church stands in a great rock rising from the river. The front is of stone, but the church itself is hollowed out of the rock and penetrates far into its heart. This curious church is now the only Protestant place of worship in the town.

A church in a Pennsylvania town is said to possess the distinction of being the work of one pair of hands. One man carried every block of stone of which it was constructed, cut each of them into shape, and laid it in

On the Way

The road to heaven is filled with folks going lickety split the other way .- Niagaru Falls Review

Improved Uniform International

esson

(By REV. P. B. FIIZWATER, D.D., Dean, Moody Bible institute of Chicago.) (②, 1927, Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for September 11 SOLOMON DEDICATES THE TEMPLE

LESSON TEXT-I Kings, chapter 8, GOLDEN TEXT-I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. TOPIC-Worshiping in

God's House.

JUNIOR TOPIC—A Young Man's

Love for God's House.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Love for God's House.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Value of God's House to a

Community.

The first task of Solomon after his coronation was the building of the emple, a privilege which was denied to his father, David. In his preparation for this task he secured wood from King Hiram of Tyre, stones for the foundations from the Phoenicians, skilled workmen also from King Hiram, It was located on Mount Moriah (II Chron, 3:1). The suitableiess of this place was due to the fact that the Lord had appeared here to Abraham. Its dimensions were 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It contained the brazen altar, the laver, the golden candlesticks and cherubim. The dedication of the temple was arranged to take place at an auspicious time. The dedicatory services consisted of:

1. Bringing Up the Ark (vv. 1-11). The ark of the covenant was typical of Jesus Christ. God dwells am men through Jesus Christ (John 1:14). The ark was God's holy dwelling place This, therefore, must be brought up first and placed in the temple. For the manifestation of the divine presence was the real dedication. When the house of God was to be dedicated the king arranged for a representative gathering of the people, consisting of the eiders, princes and heads of the tribes. There were many great men present, but only the priests, God's appointed ministers, moved the ark. The fatal experience of Uzzoh in David's time was doubtless clear in their minds. Solomon profited by the blunder of his father. Connected with this service was a very great sacrifice, one in keeping with the occasion. The ark with the two tablets of stone under the mercy seat shows God manifesting Himself to His people on the ground of a law perfectly kept and since atoned for by the shedding of blood. At the completion of the sacrifice, the temple was filled with the glory of the Lord.

II. Solomon's Address to the People (vv. 12-21).

He points out to the people that God had chosen David to be king, yet for certain reasons He would not allow him to build the temple, promising that his son should do the work. Now hat the work was done, the temple was built and the ark of the covenant was in its place, they could be assured that God had raised him up in he room of his father.

III. Solomon's Dedicatory Prayer (vv. 22-53).

The ark having now been placed in the most holy place, and the address to the people being ended, the king pours out his soul to God in prayer. In this prayer Solomon gratefully ac knowledges God's goodness in the past, giving glory to Him, and pleads that His promise to his father be verifled (vv. 22-26); he prays that God's eyes might be continually open toward the temple which He had now taken possession of (vv. 27-33); so that (1) in case of contention between parties He would judge between them (vv. 31, 32); (2) in case of being smitten by the enemy, even though they had sinned, upon confession of the same, God would forgive and restore (vv. 33, 34); (3) in case of famine as chastisement for sin, upon confession and prayer before the temple, God would forgive and send rain (vv. 35, 36): (4) in case of pestilence and sickness, if they pray to God toward the temple, God should hear and forgive (vv. 37-40); (5) in case of the coming of the foreigner who comes at the news of God's greatness, and prays toward Jerusalem, his prayers should be heard (vv. 41-43); (6) in case of going out to battle, their cause should be maintained (vv. 44, 45); (7) in case of being in captivity because of sin, God should hear their prayers and restore (vv. 46-53).

IV. Solomon Blesses the People (vv. 54-61).

On the strength of the covenant promises, he invokes His presence niways with them to keep them faithful. and exhorts the people to have their hearts perfect before God, walking in HIs commandments and statutes.

V. Solomon and the People Offer Sacrifices of Thanksgiving (vv. 62-66).

Ideals Like Stars

Ideals are like stars; you will not ucceed in touching them with your hands; but, like the senfaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and, following them, you reach your destiny .- Exchange.

Charming Human Beings

It is always good to know, if only It refreshes one like flowers and woods and clear brooks.-George

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