

Half A Chance

BY FREDERICK S. ISHAM.

Author of "The Strollers," "Under the Rose," "The Lady of the Mount," Etc.
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"You know how to write your name?" His voice was firm, unwavering. The revolver had disappeared from the table and lay now in his pocket.

"All right, gov'ner!" The other spoke with alacrity. "I'm game. A bargain is a bargain, and I'll take your word for it," leaning over and laboriously tracing a few letters on the paper. "You'll do your part. You'll find me square and aboveboard, although you did use me a little rough. There: here's your affidavit."

John Steele moved back to a corner of the room and pulled a wire. In some faraway place a bell rang faintly. "Are"—he spoke a woman's name, obviously a sobriquet, "and her daughter still here?"

"How?"

"Never mind; answer!"

"Yes; they're here, gov'ner. You'll want them for witnesses, I suppose."

Not long after, the paper, duly witnessed, lay on the table. The land-

When John Steele began to recover he was dimly aware that he was in a four wheeler which rattled along slowly through streets. At his side sat a figure that stirred when he did, spoke in crisp official accents. The police agent had come well armed and, moreover, had taken the precaution for this little journey of providing a cab in front and one behind, containing those who knew how to act should the necessity arise.

Furtively the prisoner felt his pocket. The memorandum book containing the paper that had cost so much was gone. He looked at the agent. Had it been shifted to Mr. Gillett's possession, or (dimly he recalled his assailant's last words) had Rogers succeeded in snatching the precious evidence from his breast before escaping? In the latter case it had undoubtedly ere this been destroyed. In the former it would presumably soon be transferred to the police agent's employer. To regain the paper, if it existed, would be no light task. Yet it was the pivot upon which John Steele's fortunes hung. The principal signer was in all likelihood making his way out of London now. He would in a few hours reach the sea and after that disappear from the case.

The carriage suddenly stopped before an eminently respectable and sedate front, and not long after John Steele, somewhat to his surprise, found himself in Lord Ronsdale's rooms. The nobleman sat behind a high desk. One drawer of the desk was slightly opened. The police agent he addressed first—he should remain in the hall with his men.

"There is no need for many words between us, Mr. Steele," Lord Ronsdale's accents were sharp. "Had you listened to what Mr. Gillett, on my behalf, would have said to you that night in the gardens at Strathora House we might possibly, both of us,

Roosevelt Either the Greatest Mystery or the Greatest Sham

"Mr. Roosevelt is either the greatest mystery or the greatest sham of modern times. Even I, with my prudence, fail to fathom him," says George Bernard Shaw in the New York World.

"He is supposed to be a great man, but I can find no attributes of greatness about him. If he is considered great by the eighty millions of people over whom he ruled, then I can only suppose that he is great. Apart from this, I can find nothing which he has either said or done which makes for greatness.

"His utterances are of the most elementary order: 'God is love,' 'honesty is the best policy' and 'procrastination is the thief of time' is about the best that Mr. Roosevelt can do. They are dear old phrases to be found in every copybook and I am left wondering whether Mr. Roosevelt's imagination ends here. I can only say that unless his inner mind is a little better than the outward mind he shows us he must be a very ordinary creature.

"On the other hand, Mr. Roosevelt has apparently done things which an ordinary creature could not do. Perhaps he clinches his arguments with the toe of his boot. I do not know, but I fancy it must be so. Otherwise his success cannot possibly be explained.

Shooting Exploits Horrible.

"You want to know what I think of his big game shooting exploits? All I can say is that as far as I am personally concerned I regard them as horrible. I look upon them as a most detestable and reprehensible form of murder. I cannot understand the mind which, tired with the course of office, seeks recreation in the indiscriminating slaughter of

beautiful creatures which bear him no ill-will.

"Some people call this sport. It may be sport, but, frankly, I do not understand it. The killing of blameless creatures is, after all, a very ordinary occupation. The broken-hearted hero of romance invariably goes abroad to shoot big game after his ladylove has refused him.

"King Edward was no exception to this peculiar frame of mind. One of the things which astonishes me most is that the man who earned the reputation of King Edward the Peacemaker, immediately after recovering from an illness during which he lay at death's door, went up to Scotland to shoot beautiful and harmless birds.

"Roosevelt belongs to the class of man who is never so happy as when he has a gun in his hand and can kill something. I am not blaming him—I am simply saying that I cannot understand such a frame of mind. I can see, of course, that it cannot be any fun unless something drops every time you fire.

"Of course, if I had been president of the United States I should have done very differently. The supposition, however, that I could ever have become president of the United States is a supposition which argues a perfectly unthinkable common sense insanity on the part of the people of America. Still, if I had been president I should have indulged in a different kind of sport. I should have organized a batteau of capitalists. It would have been splendid fun to see the bosses of the trusts drop one by one beneath my gun.

"Then when I had finished I

should have been most deservedly lynched. Still, being the leader of forlorn hopes, I should have attempted it.

"President Roosevelt naturally knows too much to attempt such a thing. He knew perfectly well when he was President that it would have been ridiculous folly on his part to try to improve the American government. He would have been howled down and probably killed. He contented himself with educating people up to the belief that 'God is Love,' 'Honesty is the best policy,' and that the last thing which is necessary is change of any sort or description.

"I am told that he will return to the United States and that, after Mr. Taft has served his term of office he will become President again. He will then tell the American people that he is not only the best of Presidents but that the destinies of America can only be entrusted to the House of Roosevelt. He will be crowned emperor amid the plaudits of 80,000,000 of people and Kermit Roosevelt will reign after him.

"That is, of course, if my surmise is correct, and that Mr. Roosevelt has anything in him at all. It is, however, very difficult to gauge his character. He veils his personality beneath a cloud of the commonplace. And, if he had not apparently done a great deal I should regard Roosevelt as the most ordinary and childish average man. So far as I can see he has never done anything which could not be thought of by the most ordinary schoolboy.

"As I said at the beginning, he is either an unknown quantity or the most colossal bluff which the world has ever known."



"STOP!" THE VOICE WAS JOHN STEELE'S.

lady and her daughter had gone. John Steele only waited for the ink to dry. He had no blotter or sand. The fluid was old, thick. The principal signature in its big strokes, with here and there a sputter, would be unintelligible if the paper were folded now. So he lingered. Both men were silent. A few tense minutes passed. John Steele leaned against the wall. His temples throbbed. The fog seemed creeping into the room, and yet the door was closed. He moved toward the paper. Still maintaining an aspect of outward vigilance, he took it and held it before him as if to examine closer.

The other said nothing, made no movement. When the women had come in his accents had been almost too frank. The gentleman had called on a little matter of business. He, Tom Rogers, had voluntarily signed this little paper, and they could bear witness to the fact.

John Steele folded the paper and placed it in an inside pocket. The other suddenly breathed heavily. John Steele, looking at him, walked to the door leading to the street. He put his hand on the key and was about to turn it, but paused. Something without held his attention—a crunching sound as of a foot on a pebble. It abruptly revived misgivings that had assailed him before entering the place.

Involuntarily he turned his head. Tom Rogers sprang behind in a flash and seized John Steele by the throat. It was a deadly, terrible grip. The fingers pressed harder. The other strove, but slowly fell. As dizziness began to merge into oblivion Rogers, without releasing his hold, bent over.

"You fool! Did you think I would let you get away with the paper—that I couldn't see you were about done for?"

He looked at the white face and started to unbuckle the coat. As he reached in his attention was suddenly arrested. He threw back his head.

"The traps!"

Voices below resounded without.

"So that was your game! Well," savagely, "I think I have settled with you."

He had but time to run to the rear door, unbolt it and dash out when a

have been saved some little annoyance. We now start at about where we were before that little contre-temps."

(To Be Continued.)

You haven't read all of today's news that's important to you until you've read the ads.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND ELECTION NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that a school meeting of School District No. 49 of Jackson County, Oregon, to be held at the high school building, in said district, on the 15th day of July, A. D. 1910, there will be submitted to the legal voters of said district the question of contracting a bonded debt of fifty thousand (\$50,000.00) dollars, thirty thousand (\$30,000.00) dollars thereof to be used for the purpose of erecting and equipping an east side school building, and twenty thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars thereof for the purpose of repairing and constructing an annex to the Washington school and installing a new heating plant therein, the vote to be by ballot, upon which shall be the words, "Bonds—Yes," and the words, "Bonds—No." Polls to be open at 1 o'clock p. m. and remain open until 4 o'clock p. m.

By order of the Board of Directors of School District No. 49 of Jackson County, Oregon.

Dated this 25th day of June, A. D. 1910.

ORIS CRAWFORD, Clerk.

DR. GOBLE'S OPTICAL PARLOR REMOVED TO 235 E. MAIN STREET, OVER STRANG'S DRUG STORE.

PROGRESSIVES ORGANIZE TO FIGHT NEBRASKAN

LINCOLN, Neb., July 6.—Congressman Norris of Nebraska, insurgent, today announced that he is not a candidate for senator from Nebraska, but that he intends to seek re-election to congress.

Senator Burkett is a candidate for re-election. The "progressives" of the state, as well as the leaders in the movement outside, are organizing to fight him. Senators La Follette, Bristow and Cummings, it is understood, will take the stump to urge his defeat in Nebraska.

TALENT REBEKAH LODGE INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

Talent Rebekah lodge installed the following officers:

Noble grand, Mrs. Hazel Ferns; vice-grand, Mrs. Effie Seman; secretary, Miss Clara Terrill; treasurer, Mrs. Blanche Robinson.

About thirty members of Hope Rebekah lodge of Ashland were present. Ice cream and cake was served and all had a jolly time in the lodge room. All were invited to Ashland next Thursday evening.

ESTRADO AWAITS RESULTS OF MENA'S INVASION

SAN JUAN DEL DUR, Nicaragua, July 6.—General Estrada and his followers have decided to await the outcome of General Mena's invasion of Chontales before declaring the independence of Eastern sections of Nicaragua, according to released prisoners returning here from Bluefields. This decision was reached after a conference between General Estrada, General Diaz, General Chamorra and other leading insurgents. The original plans were to declare

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independency and call the new republic New Nicaragua. It was to have come under the protection of

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800 acres—35 acres in alfalfa, 35 acres in orchard, 200 acres more can be put in alfalfa; good buildings and barns; live stream through the property; this is an ideal stock and dairy ranch. Price is only \$15,000; terms.

1000 acres—Fine, level wheat land at \$25 per acre; this is a bargain, as the adjoining lands are selling at double; every acre has been and can be farmed.

960 acres—Good improvements, 160 acres of fine creek bottom land that could be put in alfalfa; 200 acres of summer fallow. Price is only \$25,000; will sell for double within 12 months; two live streams through this property all year.

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