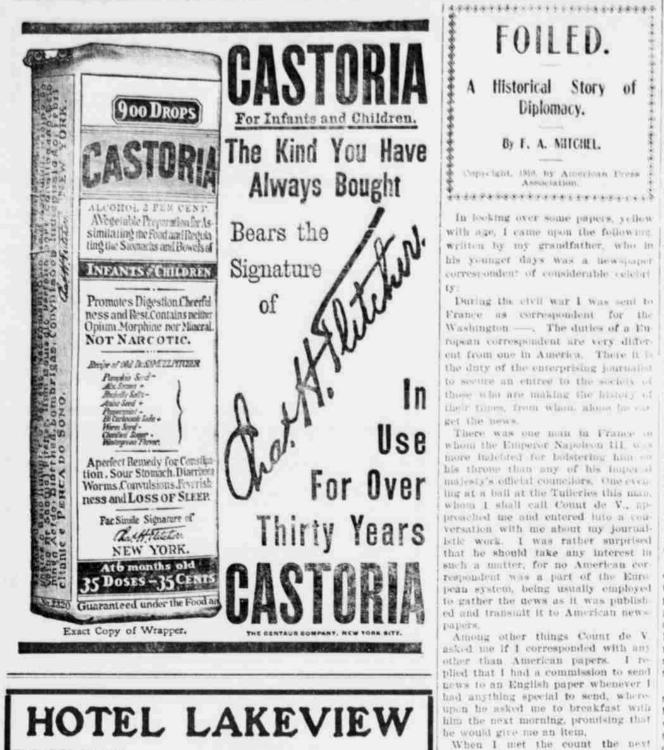
PARE SIX





WALLACE & SON

FOILED. A Historical Story of Diplomacy.

By F. A. MITCHEL. Copyright, 1910, by American Press

In looking over some papers, yellow written by my grandfather, who in from higself. By securing a premahis younger days was a newspaper. correspondent of considerable celebri-

During the civil war I was send to France as correspondent for the Washington ----. The duties of a European correspondent are very different from one in America. There it is the duty of the enterprising journalist those who are making the history of greetheir times, from whom along in car Though 1 was burning to act in the get the news.

There was one man in France of whom the Emperor Napoleon 411, was more indebted for bolstering him his throne than any of his imper almatesty's official councilors. One even hig at a ball at the Tuileries this man. whom I shall call Count de V., approached me and entered hato a couversation with me about my journalthat he should take any interest in such a matter, for no American correspondent was a part of the Euroo gather the news as it was published and transmit it to American newspapers.

Among other things Count de V asked me if I corresponded with any other than American papers. I replied that I had a commission to send news to an English paper whenever 1 ad anything special to send, wheremon he asked me to breakfast with his desk, seized pen and paper an im the next morning, promising that ie would give me an item.

When I met the count the next morning at breakfast I was not only amazed at the frem he gave me, but at his giving it. He told me that the emperor had been striving to securanother power to join him in interfering to stop the war in America; that he had been working secretly and per sistently upon the English government, the people of England being at nost wholly on the side of the southwing largely to their dependence on petting cotton from that section. "The imperor," he added, "is about to succeed, and within sixty days a conblacd French and English fleet will be on the American Atlantic coast to break the blockade."

Patriotic American that I was, my blood chilled at this information; but, immediately remembering that if the news were true a man so close to the emperor would be guilty of betraying a trust to give it to me, I said, "Itwantd be impossible for me to seeme the publication of this news in any could get the benefit of De V.'s infor sh paper without documentar proof." "I can give you the proof," replied the count, "provided that proof remains with you and dies with youthat it is kept a secret till we now all dead. "I am quite sure, count," I replied "that if I can say that I am convinced the paper will act upon my destrance. that I have been convinced." Count de V. arose, went to a enbinet, unlocked a drawer with a key he took from his yest pocket and brought out a package of papers, which he laid beore me. I perused them with ever growing wonder and long before I had finished was convinced not only of the truth of his statement, but that within sixty days the independence of the Confederate states would be acknowl edged by France and England. I kept recention: the papers in order to gata

"And your opinion, count, of the wisdom of all this? He shrugged his shoulders.

"It means the end of the empire. No more crazy scheme was ever devised. I believe that there are underlying principles in this American struggle of yours which in the end, however remote, will give the free nerth the victory over the slave south -that even the south, once free, will not tolerate a foreign government set up so close to her. And now we come to the object of this revolution. I have begged and pleaded with the emperor to have nothing to do with America or the struggle new going on in America. He declares that it is his only hope to save his throne. He will with age, I came upon the following | not listen to me. I would save him ture publication of the plan I may thwart it, and my master will be saved

from its disastrous consequences." In my enthusiasm I grasped the count's hand and held it as in a vise. "Count," I exclaimed, "I am no less struck with wonder at your disinterested whalom than 1 was at first at your seeming distoner. These men about the emperar are idiots. You are to secure an entree to the society of a statesonan in the very highest de-

matter. I left the count to spend twenty four hours in thought upon it be fore doing so. The fate of my countrymen was in my hands. By an errer I might turn the clock of human liberry back half a century. By a well among stroke I might change the fate of the Ameri an reput ic. I slept not a while that night and when the morning came had formed a new plan. istle work. I was rather surprised At to o'clock I was savia with the Count do V.

"Count," I said, "I have not suffclent standing with may limitsh paper pean system, being usually employed to feel sure I can per your scheme in practice. Anothern include would page multilongs for the neuro tort they are too far away to often I working J have a propricition to write. Thus me to reveal fits cours h ruler who have the prevanily infrasticity thwart it."

> The count thought or fear anne then with a sudden impulse turned t wrote. "There" he sold when he had finished. The a mote of introduction to a man very near the person of the emperor of Russia. I have told him to introduce you to his muster and say that I have proof in my presention of all you may tell him. Go to St. Pe tersburg, reveal the plot to the czar, but remember that my honor, my life, depend upon your ability to play this difficult role."

"I will do my best, count, not only for my country, but for you."

"Goodby!" he said "And may you save the empire of France as well as the cause of liberty in America. If you do either and I am sacrificed I shall not go down in vain.

That night I took a train for St. Petersburg. Fast as we traveled we seemed to me to be going at a snall's pace. My mind was ever an my work of blocking the most rascally political game that was ever played by civ flized governments But while I thought much of the main issue, thought more of devices by which I



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time to think. I was perusing doeu ments of which President Lincoln was gnorant and which constituted the death warrant of the Union cause. What should I do what could I doto arrest such a blow? Finally I look ed at the count and said:

"Count, you are either the greatest. mays or the greatest fool on earth or ou have some especial purpose which will result beneficently to the emperor."

I am no knave. How much of a fool 1 am depends upon your sense of honor. That I have a purpose I will not deny.

"You have gone so far that you must to further. Tell me all." The count deliberated for some time. and before he spoke his manner indicated that he had resolved to tell the ; whole story.

"Very well," he said. "Listen. The throne is fotbering. There are too many factions striving to possess the government to permit the emperor to , remain in peace upon it. He realizes this and desires to concentrate the minds of the people on some foreign achievement for the benefit of France, He purposes to take possession of the government of Mexico, which has been offered him by a few malcontents there. Before doing this he desires to break the United States into two parts, gaining at the same time the good will of one. By bringing about this intervention he will establish the Confederacy and gain the eternal ending with the coar's assurance, gratitude of the southern people. His In a few works, hearing not Mexican scheme will then be on a far , stronger budls,"

The count passed, and 1 noticed that a pained expression passed over his

without bringing him into the unitter

Arrived at St. Petersburg, as soon us I had made a toilet I drove to the house of Alexiael Vrousky, to whom I have the letter of introduction. I found a middle aged gentleman, untitled, but for some reason possessing great influence with the czar. He listened to what I had to say, then told me that he would go at once with a view to making an appointment for me at the palace. The same afternoon he wrote me a note saying that he would go with me and present me to the emperor the next morning at 11 o'clock.

On the way to the palace Vronsky sald to me:

"There is great hope for you in this. The emperor is not fearful or Jealous of the French, but he is watching the efforts put forth by England control the sea and thereby the trade of the world. I tell you this that you may know your best card and know how and when to play it."

When I studd in presence of the autocrat of all the Russias I felt that I have on my shoulders the cause of freedom for the world. He listened to what I had to say intently and with evident interest. But, seeing me hestfate, he said:

"You may trust me as you have been trusted."

That was a help to me, and I got on much better as soon as I had been thus assured. I laid bare the whole scheme and showed a knowledge of facts which listed in with much that he knew binnelf about the schemes not only of Napoleon III., but the prime minister of England. Before I had finished ; knew I had at heart won the czar's confidence.

"I can only say to you now," said his majesty, "that the scheme will not be curried out."

I withdrew at once perfectly satisfied with the rotall of my mission. After founding Vronsky again and ngain for this introduction I took the train at once for Paris, knowing that De V would be eager to hear what I might have to say. I called on him on my arrival before going to my home and after assuring him that his part in the matter would never be known gave him an account of my interview

In a few week-, hearing nothing more of the matter and becoming un easy, I sailed for America to report the effair to the president. In sailing up New York hay I found it filled with a Russian war fleet.

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