

MAMBA'S DAUGHTERS

By Du Bose Heyward

(Continued from page 4)

with warrants under perfectly valid statutes, crap shooting, delinquent road taxes, dog taxes, and God only knows what not, and in this way pauperise our Negroes, and deprive us of labour. No, we are expected to extend co-operation, as it is called, and as long as we do we have a

right to expect him not to be too excessive in his demands. At any rate, be the ethics what they may, we are powerless because Baggart is doing exactly what his constituency put him here to do.

"But," interrupted Saint, "all the money that the fines bring in what becomes of that?"
Mr. Raymond inhaled a deep breath of tobacco smoke and blew it toward the ceiling. "That," he said with a cryptic smile, "is Proctor Baggart's little secret." After a moment he added: "I may say in the strictest secrecy that we are trying through an underground route to have all magistrates required to give receipts for fines. That may be some small restraint, but I doubt if we can get away with it."

"But Mr. Raymond," Saint asked, "what would you have me to do about Davy? Why, he was working under my eyes at the time I had to take care of him."

"Certainly, take care of him, but in the proper way. What you've done is apt to lay him open for an ungodly disciplining now. It will be Baggart's indirect way of enlightening you. He has to come down hard on insubordination. He has to be invincible. That's what gives him his hold over them. Remember that last case? Time Bluton was ripped by that old fellow Ned? Baggart simply had to get that man. It cost him lots of money, private detective, and all that, but he put him up for ten years. Result: no more razor exercise since that night. But to get back to this specific case—here's how it stands: Everybody knows Davy's weakness

for craps. He was due for a contribution, that's all. You had only to sit tight, and the next morning he'd have come to you for his fine. If his credit was strong on your books you could have advanced him the ten dollars then and there; if not, you could have sent two down on account. Baggart makes erms, you know—two down, 'we a week. That way you would have been playing the game and everybody would have been happy."

Saint said, "I mind most getting Davy in wrong by it. What had I better do about it now?"

The employer saved the matter for thought. At length he said, "I'll tell you what. Just go over to Baggart. He's not a bad sort to talk to. You'll have to handle it a little delicately. Compliment him on the way he keeps order. Tell him that you are just beginning to understand how he gets such fine results. That he can count on your co-operation in future. Fine word that—co-operation. Then say offhand that you have a special interest in Davy and that if he gets in trouble again to let you know."

"That's a nasty dose to stomach," Saint remarked, "but I can't have Davy persecuted. I suppose I'll end by going."
"That's right," Mr. Raymond approved. "Better take a bull by the horns and haul him out of the road. One way to get ahead." He sat an aching for a moment or two, then touched on the subject in the abstract. "Strange tangle, this Negro business. Had a talk with a neighbour of yours about it yesterday. Atkinson—fine chap—open mind. He's

been thinking a lot about it and had it sized up pretty well. He said that the Yankee was all for the Negro, vice, and hated him as an individual, but that in the South we love the individual Negro while we hate, or at least fear, him as a race. He told him that if he had been South during reconstruction and had seen them making laws for us in Columbia, he'd know mighty well why as a race, we have to hold him under control."

"But in the meantime," Saint argued, "they're not getting anywhere, are they?"

END OF INSTALLMENT VII.

Mr. Raymond has found Saint, a man who does not hesitate to speak his own opinion. Consequently there is considerable difficulty in breaking Saint into the old conventional social order. Just how far Mr. Raymond succeeds is to be found in the eighth installment next week.

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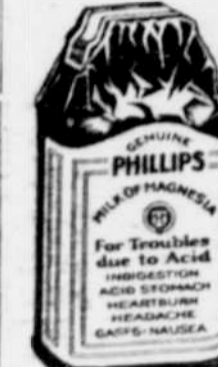
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