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SUPPRESSING THE BULLETIN.

BY C. H. WETMORE.

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"Mr. Hudson, I believe?"

"Sir to you; that is my name." And the attorney swung round from his desk.

"You represent Jeremiah Selkirk?" queried the visitor who had drawn up a chair.

"Yes, sir. I care for his legal interests in this city."

The questioner drew a letter from his pocket, remarking as he passed it over, "This will explain why I have called."

"So," exclaimed the lawyer after reading a dozen lines. Then rising, he slowly stepped to the side of his caller and, extending his hand, said in the usual conventional tones, "Allow me, my dear Mr.—Mr."—

"Adams is the name. It is so stated in the letter, I believe."

"Ah, yes—Mr. Henry Adams. I believe that I have heard of you."

"Very likely. I was employed by Mr. Selkirk before he made Paris his home. It was in Paris you have doubtless observed, that I purchased the property."

"And may I ask, my dear sir"—

"If I will retain your services as legal adviser? I shall be glad to do so."

"Then my dear sir, we might as well attend to the matter at once. The letter states that you are anxious to have the transfer take effect at noon on the 5th. which is this date, and as it is now 11 o'clock perhaps it would be well to visit the courthouse and have these documents placed on the records."

While going the few short blocks the attorney asked his client if he contemplated personal control of the property.

"Such is my intention," was the reply.

"That is well. No matter how faithful subordinates may be, it is wise for the proprietor of a large enterprise to keep in personal touch with those who carry out his orders."

The document having been passed to the clerk and the customary certificate having been received, Mr. Hudson said to his client, "Will you take luncheon with me?"

"Thank you, no. I wish that you would accompany me to the office and introduce me to the gentlemen who now are in my employ."

"I see!" exclaimed the lawyer. "You are anxious to get into harness, and I don't blame you. It must be a pleasing sensation to feel that one is at the head of a great newspaper."

As they walked arm and arm down the street they were passed by several young men who were running, despite the weather, spurred on by the information gained in the recorder's office that one of the largest dailies in the United States had suddenly changed hands.

Five minutes later Mr. Hudson and Mr. Adams stepped from an elevator and stopped in front of an office door which bore the legend "Editor" and from behind which came the sound of voices in eager conversation.

"Come in," was the reply to their knock, and as the portal swung it disclosed one of the reporters who had passed them on the way and who was red of face and perspiring profusely.

"Here is Mr. Hudson now!" exclaimed a short, stout man, rising from a revolving chair and taking a step forward. "Perhaps you can tell me what has happened. Chalders here has run so fast that his breath has failed him."

"To make a long story short, I will tell you that the Evening Bulletin has been sold by Mr. Selkirk to Mr. Adams, and the latter is now in absolute control."

Too astonished to speak, the editor sank back in his chair, and the silence was not broken until the new proprietor said soothingly:

"This change need not affect you, Mr. Hamilton, unless you wish to take the initiative, for I shall be well pleased to continue you in active charge of the news colums. Taking it for granted that you will remain, I would like to ask the hour when the next edition goes to press."

"At 2 o'clock."

"I would like to have a slight change made on the fourth page and also have an editorial put in type, and, as I wish to give some instructions concerning the typograpical features, it might be well for me to talk with the foreman."

While an office boy was hurrying down stairs for the head of the mechanical department the editor asked his new employer if he had ever been a resident of that city.

"Yes, for a short time, many years ago. But I have always kept in touch with the residents, in whom I have taken a great interest."

"Mr. Sill, our foreman," said Hamilton, as a man appeared on the threshold.

"Here is a short editorial which I wish run in all editions today," said Mr. Adams after a hearty handshake. "Also at the top of the first column of the editorial page substitute the words 'Edited and Published by Henry James Adams' for the phrase 'Published by Jeremiah Selkirk, Proprietor.'"

"Yes sir," said the foreman.

"Please have a proof ready for me in an hour—by the time I return from luncheon. There will be nothing more today, Mr. Sill. Now, gentlemen," and Mr. Adams turned as the foreman left the room, "will you be my guests across the street?"

The tenderloin steaks were very tender, the mushrooms with which the meat was smothered were unusually juicy, and the wine had been well iced so that they were in no haste to depart. At last, when finally they strolled past the desk, Mr. Adams stopped in front of the cashier and said, "Charge it, please."

The knight of the automatic register, looked up in surprise; but receiving a nod from the other two, he made a note on a tab.

They found considerable excitement at the office. They had no sooner taken seats than the city editor found it necessary to come in and ask about the manner a certain elopement should be handled; then one of the editorial writers wished instruction concerning a leader for the next days issue, the Sunday editor gained entrance to complain of a poor halftone, and even the society editor managed to pass the threshhold.

Meanwhile Mr. Adams, who apparently was not in the least disturbed by the interruptions, was carefully reading proof on the editorial he had written. He made a few corrections, then passed it to Mr. Hamilton, saying, "Tell me how you like it."

The editor read:

"Henry James Adams, having purchased the Evening Bulletin in its entirety and having decided to publish the same from today, takes this occasion to introduce himself to the citizens of St. Louis and to ask them for a continuance of their generous patronage.

"It is not his purpose to make any radical departure, and the newspaper will remain independent in politics as it always has been. As for the news service, the fact that the present publisher has decided to retain in their various positions the men who have given satisfaction to the former owner and to the reading public of this large city should be a sufficient guarantee that the occurences of each day will be faithfully and accurately chronicled.

"It has occurred to the publisher that there are certain reforms which might be brought about if the right force were wielded. The first of these will be the effort to have the course of the Mississippi changed so that the current will flow north and the microbes of the drainage canal will re enter Chicago and no longer infest this fair place."

"Don't you think, sir, that some persons might consider it a—a—a—joke?" stammered Hamilton.

"Oh dear, no! I have consulted with some of the most eminent engineers on the subject, and only after due consideration have I decided that this shall be the first mission undertaken by the Bulletin."

Then changing the subject, he commenced a series of interrogations concarning the various members of the staff.

A tremble of the building announced that the presses had started.

"In here, did you say?" they heard some one ask, and the door was unceremoniously pushed open.

"Beg pardon, gentlemen, for not knocking," hurriedly said the intruder "but I was afraid he might make for the window. You wont do that now, will you, Smiley. Glad to see me?

"We thought he was up to something like this," continued the newcomer, "for we found pen, ink and paper in his room, also several blank deeds, a description of this property and several letters from Mr. Selkirk, which he secured goodness knows where."

"What does this mean?" asked Hamilton, jumping up suddenly like a man awakened from a sound sleep by a cry of alarm.

The newly arrived tapped his head with an index and winked, then said: 'He's been like this for five years. Thinks that he is a great newspaper publisher, and the only way we can keep him quiet is by letting him monkey with a little press which has been set up in his room. But hold on there! Don't knock a fellow over!'

For Hamilton had pushed him one side and was going down the stairs two steps at a time, yelling at the top of his voice: "Stop the presses! Kill the edition!"

A half hour later Mr. John G. Hudson, attorney-at-law, entered the restaurant across the street and paid the cashier $11 50.

A Few Word Dont's.

Here is a list of words and phrases in common use that boys and girls should avoid. They may be easily remembered. Don't say: Guess, for suppose or think; fix for arrange or prepare; ride when you mean drive; real good, for really good; not as I know, for not that I know; try an experiment, for make an experiment; she don't read well, for she doesn't read well; party, for person; posted, for informed; depot, for station; stopping, for staying; like I do, for as I do.

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