54-40 OR FIGHT

BY EMERSON HOUGH

AUTHOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI BUBBLE

ILLUSTRATIONS by MAGNUS G. KETTNER

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SYNOPSIS.

The story is told by Nicholas Trist, the Englishman, who, with his friend, Richard Carfield, of Virginia, "of state" (Virginia Cabinet), is sold by Dr. Ward that his time is short. Carfield—Richard—is ready to die, and if he accepts Tyler's offer of the Secretaryship of State, which he added to the Tities, he plans to foil the intentions of England with regard to Oregon, Texas and California. Nicholas, by and regular interview of the English ambassador, Pakenham, Nicholas is sent to bring the business to Calhoun's apartments and obtain a meeting with the President. Tyler, Calhoun, Nicholas, searching for the successor, hence a cup of coffee, duchess and Nicholas is invited to the Tyler mansion. Nicholas, Pakenham, Tyler, Calhoun, Nicholas, Pakenham, are shaken off. Nicholas is invited into the house and delivers Calhoun's message. Calhoun, Nicholas, Tyler, Calhoun, Nicholas, Nicholas is given the compliments of a globe; Nicholas will tell Calhoun everything. He gives her as secretary of state, Nicholas is "Richard" Elizabeth.

CHAPTER VI.—Continued.

"After that, on guard?"

"Very well, on guard! Suppose I do not like this other woman?"

"Madam, you could not help it. All the world loves her."

"Do you?"

"With my life."

"How devoted! Very well, on guard, then."

She took up the Indian bauble, turning to examine it at the nearer radiance, even as I stood the little silver slipper of white satin again into the pocket of my coat. I was amazed at her. I wished this lady of fifteen both had not come on. I liked every thing to have Elizabeth's property in another's hands. Dissatisfied, I turned from the table, not noticing for more than an instant a little crumpled roll of paper which, as I was carelessly moving about, now appeared on its smooth surface—by fate.

"But see," she said, "you are just like a man after all, and an unmanly man at that! I waited for them in the streets in this costume—waited for a coward!"

She was off on the instant into the place where a few great curtains had stood. She drew the curtains as I cried for a moment to herself—as I thought to be alone—and I followed her. Both in one breath I cried out, "Stop!" and "Wait!" Her curtains, held tight together with her hands, as she did her mouth, as she was doing her wild amazed eyes, all at the same moment, stopped then before.

"Indeed I had not meant—I would I might about face—but I know you are alone. The right person, Mr. Trist, my master will be waiting. He is, I fear he roamed about. I know how upset he is—he knows I ought to be off to ship—and doing much.

And, now, I see, I—she looked at me from beyond the curtains, as indeed only on getting rid of them, I was sure, I should have to forget that either woman for one night.

At her she came out from between the curtains, pushed some notables her way—round this man who was before. A long dark cloak covered her about from head to foot. Had there existed a dainty uplifted bonnet whose jetted edges shone in the candle light as she stood upon a chair to see me expand to every detail, beautiful as nothing could wish, that not to wish was enormous to admitted by any man I dared not look at twice.

She paused for an instant drawing on a pair of long short gloves—as I made then correct—the two knew why I am to go on this mission of rare? Are we demanded I shook my head.

"Mr Calhoun wishes to know whether he shall go to the chiefest of your sun Tyler—and there he has been long—all your White House. I suppose Mr. Calhoun wishes to know how to serve Mr. Tyler."

I imagine he has. Serve him!" exclaimed. "Rather say lead him tell him, command him!

Yes," she mused. I began to see another and graver side of her nature. Yes, it is of course Texas."

"I did not see fit to make answer to this.

If your master as you call him, takes the responsibility, I will go to annex Texas," she repeated sharply "is not that your mission?

Still I would not answer. "Come" I said

"And he asks me to come to him on that he may decide—

"This matter Mr. Calhoun decides for John Calhoun madam, said. "You may answer that, but he will decide." Still she went on

"And Texas annexed is a new one. Without her, you heathen people would not present a solid front, would you?"

"Madam has had much to do with affairs of state." I said

She went on as though I had not spoken.

"And if you were divided in your southern section, England would have all the greater chance. England, you know, says she wishes slavery abolished. She says that.

"England says many things!" I replied

"The hypocrite of the nations!" flashed out this strange woman at me suddenly "As though diplomacy need be hypocrisy! Thus, to-night Sir Rob and of England forgiveness his place, his protestations He does not evil know that Mexico has forgotten his duty also. Sir, you were not at our little ball, as you could not see that very fat Sir Richard paying his bored civilities to Dona Lucrezia So I am left alone, and would be bored, but for you. In return—a slight jest on Sir Richard tonight—I will teach him that no fat gentleman should pay even bored attention to a lady who soon will be fat, when his obvious duty should call him otherwise" Huh! "As as though I myself were fat, which is not true."

"You go too deep for me, madam," I said "I am but a simple messenger." At the same time, I was deep admiringly things were shaping for us all. A woman's jealousy was with us and so a woman's whim.

"Madam," said I, my hand at the fastening of the door, "we have exchanged pledges Now we exchange messages. It is you who are the messenger, not myself. There is a message in your hands I know not whether you ever served a monarchy Come, you shall see that our republic has other secrets nor hypocrisies."

On Elizabeth's face was not obvious and tactful woman of the world not indeed, but once more conquered and conquered. She looked at me

"Is That My Only Reward?" She Asked.

with mockery and imitation alike in her great dark eyes even as I threw open the door for her to pass. I then opened it wide for her to pass.

"Is that my only reward?" she asked, looking at me from under a glove.

In spite I bent and kissed the fingers of her unglloved hand. They were cold and trembled. Was I so different from I was had I not this Elizabeth single in her? Was I in the impulse of the moment to do what I had done in Texas?

Had I done so had I not thought of Elizabeth, then as in my heart I still believe—the flag of England would wave over Oregon and the Pacific, and a royal fleet would sail along the Rio Grande, and it would remain a divided country south, instead of expecting a strong and indivisible Union—which now one flag and dreams now in the world.

CHAPTER VII

Regarding Elizabeth.

Without woman the two extremities of this story would be perfect, but the middle would be devoid of pleasure and profit.

In some forgotten garret of this country, as I do not now remember with age, stained and undistinguish. Hence, in the more secured retire of another day, there may be records of that interview between two strange personalities, John Calhoun and Helena, his Fifth. In the arrangements of which I played the part above described I was not at that time privy legal. We have made more than a guess at the nature of the interview indeed, Calhoun was now occupied my mind I was very much in love with Elizabeth Carfield.

Of these matters I need to make some mention. My father's plantations were on the old ones in Maryland. That of the Churchills lay across a low range of mountains and in another county from us, but our families had long been friends. I had known Elizabeth from the time she was a tall, slim girl, been companion ever to her father, old Daniel Churchill, for her mother she had died when she was still young. The Church this maintained a city establishment in the environs of Washington itself. All though that was not much removed from their plantation to the old acres of Maryland. Elmhurst, this Washington estate was called, and it was well known there, with its straight road approaching and its great gates and its wide-doored halls—whereby the road itself seemed to run straight through the house and appear beyond—and its tall white pillars and hospitable galleries, now in the spring time inclined to green. I need not state that now I was having finished the business of the day, or, rather, of the night, Elmhurst, home of Elizabeth, was my immediate Mecca

I had clad myself as well as I could in the fashion of my time, and fastened myself, as I looked in my little mirror, that I made more such had figure of a man I was tall enough, and straight, this with long legs afoot or in the saddle, handsome enough, if not ruddy warm and impulsive. I long as I had lived, I believe, I had never was quite sure. Something held me back, something held me forward; so that I was always half fed, and yet always eager. God well I suppose this is the way of women at times I have been impulsive myself, knowing my own mind well enough.

At least now, in my tight-strapped trousers and my long blue coat and my deep embroidered waistcoat and my high stock, my shining boots and my tall beaver, I made my way on my well-groomed horse up to the gates of old Elmhurst; and as I rode I pondered and I dreamed.

But Miss Elizabeth was not at home. I sentenced Her father, Mr. Daniel Churchill, rather portly, and now just a trifle red of face, met me instead. It was not an encounter for which I devoutly wished, but one which I knew it was the right of both of us to meet ere long. Seeing the occasion predestined I plunged at once to medias res Part of the time explanatory, part apologetic and part, again, in trust, assertive, although always bien during and in the end I trust, I told the father of my intended, of my own Wishes, my prospects and my plans.

He listened to me greatly and, it seemed to me, with none of that en familiarity which I should have welcomed As to my family, he knew them well As to my prospects, he questioned me My record was not unfamiliar to him. I am gaining confidence at last under the insistence of what I knew were worthy motives, and which could not be misunderstood of themselves, so far as I was concerned, I asked him, I thought not more than an end of this, and, taking chances as they were, then lay my way clear. I asked him to take place as his very distant date

"Why, as to that, of course, I do not know what Elizabeth may say," said my friend Churchill, purring up his lips.

"Oh, of course that! I assure you," Miss Elizabeth, and I—

The whole world! I exclaimed, thought she told me everything.

I think Miss Elizabeth knew no more little everything I suspected. I can less also by her manner, which, to the dark as yourself, so that I only waited to ask if, after many years, I should be on the right path her consent to an early day you would be waiter and obedient servant, as my part and allow the matter to go for world as seem as possible.

In answer to this he arose from his chair and walked thinking out of the window his back turned to me I could not call his reception of my request his gracious, but at least he listened

I apologize that my two families might send you young people a such of meal or of ceremony, I said, and then, as far as that is concerned, he told

I could not call this speech brusque. I have gone out to the Cross in my time, or I ventured to say

but I do not follow you to confession my son, he said, and I know, I know, so your daughter doubts my loyalty to affairs when I should be at home. It is wise now to end all this, but—I know, I know, I know, I know, he repeated, I think that much perhaps he knew no More, I left the house.

After all, Mr Dan Churchill was obliged to me, I thought, for the change from the beginning of the world At least he told me I might make my way, he said, to the Cross and go my way

Yet that the instinct of lovers to bring them together I was quite confident, and at that time I thought that Mr. Dan and Mr. Trist and in the big was from at the greatest distance, I was thinking looking on with her uncomprehensive eyes at the little pageant which I have described. Yet I was sure of it. And there

My conclusion was correct I found a boy to hold my horse in front of the Cross, and I, I, I, I, I, I, I, I, across the intervening blocks, are through the intervening blocks, are through the intervening blocks, are through