

財 閥

THE MONEYCHANGERS

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THE MONEYCHANGERS

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作者傳略

沁克雷是一個並世的大作家。他是一個極端的改革派，是一個社會黨。他初時原以詩人自命，不能得名。他就研究其故，纔窺見世界上有種種不平的事。於是竭他過人的精力著書，揭露社會及實業界的種種黑幕。他以爲凡是一個人，都應該見義勇爲，攻打世上不平的事，不使其留存於人間，爲什麼要等他人負責。他與蕭伯納同一鼻孔出氣，都以爲世界上觸目都是痛苦與飢餓，既是無人有心腸，無人有本領，肯出來爲這樣無告的人民奮鬥，只好大作家們出來，替人民打不平。所以他遇着或曉得不平的事，就自己動手，用一片血誠，直捷痛快，不留餘地的，迎頭痛擊；著了許多小說與經濟學及社會科學的論說，攻擊報界，教士，大學，財閥，歐戰，等等，敢言人所不敢言。好在他所揭露的事實及黑幕，都是確有其事，不能否認，不能掩飾的。被攻擊的階級，自然羣起反對他，不料他們越反對他，他越發怒，他的文章越做得好，反成了他的名。他因爲人們反對，無人肯同他印刷，無人肯同他出版，他就設

法自己兼任這兩件事。他的筆墨極其深刻尖利，一針見血，其鋒不可當。他以他所著的「野獸世界」(The Jungle)得名。(此書與祁貝林的「野獸世界」書名略同，用意卻大不相同，祁貝林意在主張帝國主義，沁克雷是攻擊屠宰場壓制工人，不以人類相待。)今選譯一九二六年出版的「財閥」中幾回。這部書說豪富們奢侈橫行，互相傾陷，一九〇七年紐約市垣街的大恐慌是怎樣慘淡經營造出來的，以報私怨，以傾陷同業，以強逼政府取銷嚴禁專利的命令。其中描寫極熱烈的愛情，實寫大規模的擾亂金融，有世人所不知的種種祕密。在最末後一段，孟德古說道，『我要找着補救方法纔肯罷手，我要入政界，我嘗試教導國人。』這就是作者著書的本意。

伍光建記

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CHAPTER V

Montague hesitated only an instant. He sprang up to the deck. "Where is Mrs. Taylor?" he cried.

"She went below, sir," said the man, hesitating; but Montague sprang past him and down the companionway.

At the foot of the stairs he found himself in a broad entrance-hall, lighted by a glass dome above. He sprang toward a door which opened in the direction of the cry he had heard, and shouted aloud, "Lucy! Lucy!" He heard her answer beyond the doorway, and he seized the knob and tried it. The door was locked.

"Open the door!" he shouted.

There was no sound. "Open the door!" he called again, "or I'll break it down."

Suiting his action to the word, he flung his weight upon it. The barrier cracked; and then suddenly he heard a man's voice. "All right. Wait."

Someone fumbled at the knob; and Montague stood crouching and watching breathlessly,¹ prepared for anything. The door opened, and he found himself confronted by Dan Waterman.

Montague recoiled a step in consternation;² and the other strode out, and without a word went past him down the hall. There was just time enough for Montague to receive

¹ breathlessly 屏息. ² consternation 恐怖到動不得.

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第五回

[泰羅太太(Mrs. Taylor)名洛雪(Lucy)是一個有錢的美貌小寡婦，現時年紀不過二十二歲。她來紐約，找她的舊鄰居孟德古(Montague)兄弟照應。遇見一個大色鬼大資本家滑突曼(Waterman)。她去看他所收藏的名畫遇着他，他請她到他的遊船玩耍。孟德古與她約好，隨後找她商量要事。孟德古辦完公事，走到垣街的頂大的資本家滑突曼的遊船找洛雪。剛好上船，就聽見有人喊救命聲，他認得是洛雪的聲音。——譯者註]

孟德古只遲疑了一會，就跳上船面。他喊道，『泰羅太太在那裏？』

船上的人帶點遲疑說道，『先生，她走下艙裏了。』孟德古在他身邊跳過，下樓梯。

他到了梯脚，看見自己在一間寬大的入口的堂屋，由屋頂的大圓燈照着。他跳向叫喊聲所從來的門，大聲叫『洛雪！洛雪！』他聽見她在門裏答應，他就捉住門把，試推開門。門是鎖了。

他大喊道，『開門！』

無聲響。他又喊道，『開門！不開，我就把門拆下來。』

他果然用他的全力衝門。門響；忽然聽見一個男人聲音說道，『我就開。你等等。』

有人弄門把；孟德古墩下站着，屏息察看，防備一切。門開了，他與丹·滑突曼面面相對。

孟德古往後退一步，恐怖到動不得；那一個慢慢踏步出來，一言不發，在他面前走過，走入堂屋。只有時候使孟德古受那個人的一瞪眼——他從來未見過人類的面上，

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one look—of the most furious rage that he had even seen upon a human face.

He rushed into the room. Lucy was standing at the farther end, leaning upon a table to support herself. Her clothing was in disarray, and her hair was falling about her ears; her face was flushed, and she was panting in great agitation.

“Lucy!” he gasped, running to her. She caught at his arm to steady herself.

“What is the matter?” he cried. She turned her face away, making not a sound.

For a minute or so he stood staring at her. Then she whispered, “Quick! let us go from here!”

And with a sudden movement of her hands, she swept her hair back from her forehead, and straightened her clothing, and started to the door, leaning upon her friend.

They went up to the deck, where the officer was still standing in perplexity.

“Mrs. Taylor wishes to go ashore,” said Montague. “Will you get us a boat?”

“The launch will be back in a few minutes, sir—” the man began.

“We wish to go at once,” said Montague. “Will you let us have one of those rowboats? Otherwise I shall hail that tug.”

The man hesitated but a moment. Montague’s voice was determined,¹ and so he turned and gave orders to lower a small boat.

In the meantime, Lucy stood, breathing heavily, and

¹determined 剛決的。

有過這樣最狂怒的面色。

他衝入房裏。洛雪站在較遠那一頭，靠着桌子扶住自己。她的衣服全亂了，她的頭髮丟下來在兩耳旁邊；她滿臉紅漲，她在那裏很慌亂的喘氣。

他跑上前去張開大口呼吸，喊道，『洛雪！』她捉住他的膀子，纔站得穩。

他喊道，『什麼事？』她掉過臉去，一聲不響。

他站在那裏，瞪眼看她一兩分鐘。她隨即附耳低聲說道，『我們趕快走開這裏吧！』

她忽然動她的兩手，把頭髮從額上往後撥，把衣服拉整齊，靠着她的朋友，走出房門。

他們走上船面，船員還站在那裏迷惑。

孟德古說道，『泰羅太太要上岸，你肯替我們弄一小艇麼？』

那個人說道，『先生，那隻小火輪幾分鐘就回來啦。』

孟德古說道，『我們要立刻走，你可以給我們一條用手搖的船麼？不然的話，我就要喊那條拖船。』

那個人只遲疑了一會。孟德古的聲音是剛決的，船員只好掉過身子吩咐放下一條小舢板。

當下洛雪站在那裏呼吸得很重的，很膽怯的看了四

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gazing about her nervously. When at last they had left the yacht, he heard her sigh with relief.

They sat in silence until she stepped upon the landing. Then she said, "Get me a cab, Allan."

He led her to the street and hailed a vehicle. When they were seated, Lucy sank back with a gasp. "Please don't ask me to talk, Allan," she said. And she made not another sound during the long drive to the hotel.

"Is there anything I can do for you?" he said, after he had seen her safely to her apartment.

"No," she answered. "I am all right. Wait for me."

She retired to her dressing-room, and when she came back, all traces of her excitement had been removed. Then she seated herself in a chair opposite Montague and gazed at him.

"Allan," she began, "I have been trying to think. What can I do to that man?"

"I am sure I don't know," he answered.

"Why, I can hardly believe that this is New York," she gasped. "I feel as though I had got back into the Middle Ages!"

"You forget, Lucy," he replied, "that I don't know what happened."

Again she fell silent. They sat staring at each other, and then suddenly she leaned back in her chair and began to laugh. Once she had started, burst after burst of merriment swept over her. "I try to stay angry, Allan!" she gasped. "It seems as if I ought to. But, honestly, it was perfectly absurd!"

"I am sure you'd much better laugh than cry," said he.

"I will tell you about it, Allan," the girl went on. "I know I shall have to tell somebody, or I shall simply

圍，等到他們最後離開遊船的時候，他聽見她歎一口放心的氣。

他們坐在舢板上彼此都一言不發，一直等她登岸，纔說道，『亞蘭，你替我雇一部小馬車。』

他領她到大街，喊了一部馬車。當他們坐下的時候，洛雪喘一口氣往後靠。她說道，『亞蘭，你不要請我說話。』坐馬車到旅館路程很長，她再不發一言。

他把她平安送到她的房間之後，纔說道，『我能替你作些什麼事嗎？』

她答道，『沒事。我現在好了。你且等我。』

她退入她的梳洗房，等到她走回來的時候，全數驚擾的痕跡都消滅了。她隨即坐在孟德古對面的一張椅子上，瞪眼看他。

她起首開談，說道，『亞蘭，我嘗試在這裏思想。我對於那個人，能夠作些什麼？』

他答道，『我實在不曉得。』

她張大口喘氣說道，『我不能相信這裏是紐約；我覺得好像我走回頭到了中古時代啦！』

他答道，『洛雪，你忘記了我並不曉得剛纔發生什麼事。』

她又一言不發。他們坐在那裏相視無言，隨後她忽然背靠着椅，起首大笑。她只要一起首，她禁不住她自己一陣一陣的大笑。她張大口呼吸，說道，『亞蘭，我嘗試壓下我的怒氣。好像是應該壓下的。但是說句老實話，這件事完全是無理好笑的！』

他說道，『我很相信，你與其大哭，還莫如大笑的好。』

她往下說道，『亞蘭，我把這件事體告訴你。我曉得我必得告訴一個人，不然我簡直是會炸的。我生平並未遇過

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explode. You will have to advise me about it, for I was never more bewildered in my life."

"Go ahead," said he. "Begin at the beginning."

"I told you how I met Waterman at his art gallery," said Lucy. "Mr. David Alden took me, and the old man was so polite, and so dignified—why, I never had the slightest idea! And then he wrote me a little note—in his own hand, mind you—inviting me to be one of a party for the first trip of the *Brünnhilde*. Of course, I thought it was all right. I told you I was going, you know, and you didn't have any objections either.

"I went down there, and the launch met me and took me on board, and a steward took me down into that room and left me, and a second later the old man himself came in. And he shut the door behind him and locked it!

"'How do you do, Mrs. Taylor?' he said, and before I had a chance even to open my mouth and reply, he came to me and calmly put his arms around me.

"You can fancy my feelings. I was simply paralysed!

"'Mr. Waterman?' I gasped.

"I didn't hear what he said; I was almost dazed with anger and fright. I remember I cried several times, 'Let me go!' but he paid not the slightest attention to me. He just held me tight in his arms.

"Finally I got myself together, a little. I didn't want to bite and scratch like a kitchen-wench. I tried to speak calmly.

"'Mr. Waterman,' I said, 'I want you to release me.'

"'But I love you,' he said.

"'But I don't love you,' I protested. I remember thinking then how absurd it sounded. I can't think of anything that wouldn't have sounded absurd in such a situation.

這樣令我感亂的事，我要請教你。」

他說道，『請你說，從頭說到尾。』

洛雪說道，『我曾告訴你，我怎樣在藏書室遇見滑突曼。原是大衛阿爾登(David Alden)帶我去的，那個老頭子很多禮，很莊重——我最不會想到的！隨後他寫一封小信給我——你要曉得，是他親筆寫的(洛雪自己是有錢的還以得着國內首富滑突曼的一封親筆小信爲榮，可見他勢力之大。——譯者注)請我到他的遊船布朗尼狄(Brünnhilde)第一次出遊的宴會。我自然以爲是不會錯的。你是曉得的，我告訴你我要去，你也並無什麼反對。』

『我去到碼頭，有小輪船接我送我上遊船，一個管事的帶我入那間房就走了，一秒鐘後，老頭子自己進來。他進來就關了門，鎖門！

『他說道，「泰羅太太，你好呀？」我還沒得機會開口與回答，他就走來，很冷靜的兩隻手拖我。

『你能夠想像我的感覺。我簡直是麻木了，動不得！

『我張大口喘氣說道，「滑突曼先生？」

『我不會聽見他說什麼：我發怒與驚怕到幾乎糊塗了。我記得我喊過好幾次，「你讓我走！」他簡直的不理我。他只是兩手把我抱得緊緊的。

『最後我稍微心定一點。我不學灶下婢咬他，抓他。我嘗試冷冷靜靜的同他說。

『我說道，「滑突曼先生，我要你放了我。」

『他說道，「但是我愛你。」

『我拒絕他，說道，「但是我卻不愛你。」我記得那個時候我想這句話說得多麼無理可笑呀。在這樣地位的時候，我不能想出什麼不是無理可笑的話。

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“‘You will learn to love me,’ he said. ‘Many women have.’

“‘I am not that sort of a woman,’ I said. ‘I tell you, you have made a mistake. Let me go.’

“‘I want you,’ he said. ‘And when I want a thing, I get it. I never take any refusal—understand that. You don’t realise the situation. It will be no disgrace to you. Women think it an honour to have me love them. Think what I can do for you. You can have anything you want. You can go anywhere you wish. I will never stint¹ you.’

“‘I remember his going on like that for some time. And fancy, there I was! I might as well have been in the grip of a bear. You would not think it, you know, but he is terribly strong. I could not move. I could hardly think. I was suffocated, and all the time I could feel his breath on my face, and he was glaring into my eyes like some terrible wild beast.

“‘Mr. Waterman,’ I protested, ‘I am not used to being treated in this way.’

“‘I know, I know,’ he said. ‘If you were, I should not want you. But I am different from other men. Think of it—think of all that I have on my hands. I have no time to make love to women. But I love you. I loved you the minute I saw you. Is not that enough? What more can you ask?’

“‘You have brought me here under false pretences,’ I cried. ‘You have taken cowardly advantage of me. If you have a spark of decency² in you, you should be ashamed of yourself.’

¹stint 限制供應. ²decency 顧廉恥; 顧面子.

『他說道，「你將學會愛我。許多女人曾學會愛我。」』

『我說道，「我不是那種女人，我對你說，你錯認了人啦。你得讓我走。」』

『他說道，「我要你。凡是我要一樣東西，我總得到手的。你得明白，我是向來絕不受人拒絕的。你不明白你所處的地位。不會令你丟臉的。女人們以我愛她們爲一件有體面的事（這兩句話雙管齊下，罵盡許多女人。——譯者注）你試想看，我能夠替你做些什麼。你無論要什麼，你都能夠得到手。你無論喜歡往那裏去，你都能夠去，我對你是絕不會限制你的要求的。」』

『我記得他說這種話說了有好一會子。你想像我那個時候的情形！我不如被一隻熊抱住。他是可怕的強健有力，你是不會相信的。我不能動。我幾乎不能思想。我喘不出氣，我覺得他的呼吸在我的面上，他兩隻眼瞪着我，如同一隻可怕的猛獸一般。』

『我抗拒他，說道，「滑突曼先生，我不慣受這樣的待遇。」』

『他說道，「我曉得，我曉得。假使你是受慣這樣待遇的，我就不要你（可見他是專要強姦民家婦女，——譯者注）啦。但是我與別人不同。——你得想到這一層——你得想到我手上所有的全數。我沒得閒工夫同女人調情。但是我愛你。我一看見你就愛你。這還不夠嗎？你還再要什麼呀？」』

『我喊道，「你是騙我來的。你是個怯懦人，討我的便宜。你若是有一點顧廉恥的話，你該覺得很慚愧。」』

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“‘Tut, tut,’ he said, ‘don’t talk that kind of nonsense. You know the world. You are no spring chicken’¹—Yes, he did, Allan—I remember that very phrase. And it made me so furious—you can’t imagine! I tried to get away again, but the more I struggled, the more it seemed to enrage him. I was positively terrified. You know, I don’t believe there was another person on board that yacht except his servants.

“‘Mr. Waterman,’ I cried, ‘I tell you to take your hands off me. If you don’t, I will make a disturbance. I will scream.’

“‘It won’t do you any good,’ he said savagely.

“‘But what do you want me to *do*?’ I protested.

“‘I want you to love me,’ he said.

“‘And then I began to struggle again. I shouted once or twice,—I am not sure,—and then he clasped his hand over my mouth. Then I began to fight for my life. I really believe I would have scratched the old creature’s eyes out if he had not heard you out in the hall. When you called my name, he dropped me and sprang back. I never saw such furious hatred on a man’s countenance in my life.

“‘When I answered you, I tried to run to the door, but he stood in my way.

“‘I will follow you!’ he whispered. ‘Do you understand me? I will never give you up!’

“‘And then you flung yourself against the door, and he turned and opened it and went out.’”

Lucy had turned scarlet over the recalling of the scene, and she was breathing quickly in her agitation. Montague sat staring in front of him, without a sound.

¹spring chicken 無知的小女子。

『他說道，「撻，撻（這是表示不耐煩的語助詞——譯者注），不要說這種胡話。你是曉得人情世故的。你不是一個無知的小女子」——亞蘭，他當真說這句話——我記得這個字眼。我聽了發狂怒——你不能夠想像！我又嘗試走開，但是我越掙扎，他越發怒。我簡直是受了驚嚇。你要曉得，我不相信，遊船上除了他的僕人們之外，還有別人。』

『我喊道，「滑突曼先生，我叫你撒手，不要抓住我。你若不撒手，我就要大鬧。我就要叫喊。」』

『他很野蠻的說道，「你叫喊也無用處。」』

『我反抗他，說道，「你要我做什麼？」』

『他說道，「我要你愛我。」』

『我起首又掙扎。我叫喊一兩次——我不能說得實在——他隨即用手堵我的口。我隨即爲我的性命奮鬪。我實在相信，假使他不是聽見你在堂屋叫喊，我會把這個老東西的兩眼抓了出來。當你喊我的名字時候，他放了我，向後跳。我生平未見過一個人的臉上有他那樣的狂怒的痛恨神色。』

『當我答你的時候，我嘗試跑到房門，但是他攔阻我。』

『他低聲說道，「我打定主意追逐你。你明白我麼？我絕不丟開你！」』

『隨後你用身子衝門，他掉過身子開門，走出去。』

洛雪想起剛纔的情景，臉上變作通紅，她心亂，呼吸趕快。孟德古坐下兩眼瞪着面前，一言不發。

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"Did you ever hear of anything like that in your life before?" she asked.

"Yes," said he, gravely, "I am sorry to say that I have heard of it several times. I have heard of things even worse."

"But what am I to do?" she cried. "Surely a man can't behave like that with impunity."¹

Montague said nothing.

"He is a monster!" cried Lucy. "I ought to have him put in jail."

Montague shook his head. "You couldn't do that," he said.

"I couldn't!" exclaimed the other. "Why not?"

"You couldn't prove it," said Montague. "It would be your word against his, and they would take his every time. You can't go and have Dan Waterman arrested as you could any ordinary man. And think of the notoriety it would mean!"

"I would like to expose him," protested Lucy. "It would serve him right!"

"It would not do him the least harm in the world," said Montague. "I can speak quite positively there, for I have seen it tried. You couldn't get a newspaper in New York to publish that story. All that you could do would be to have yourself blazoned as an adventuress."

Lucy was staring, with clenched hands. "Why, I might as well be living in Turkey," she cried.

"Very nearly," said he. "There's an old man in this town who has spent his lifetime lending money and hoarding it; he has something like eighty or a hundred millions

¹ with impunity 逍遙法外.

她問道，『你生平曾聽見過如這樣的事麼？』

他很嚴肅的說道，『我聽見過，我聽見過好幾次，我說出來心裏很難受的。我還聽見過比這樣還要兇暴的事。』

她喊道，『我該作什麼？一個人做這樣的事，必定不能逍遙法外。』

孟德古不響。

洛雪喊道，『他是一個怪物。我該把他監禁起來。』

孟德古搖頭。他說道，『你做不到。』

洛雪喊道，『我做不到呀！爲什麼做不到？』

孟德古說道，『你不能證實這件事，你說你的話，他說他的話，他們只會聽他的話。你不能走去把滑突曼拘捕，如同你能夠拘捕一個平常人一般。你還要想到會鬧出不好聽的事體來！』

洛雪抗議，說道，『我想揭破他這個人。他是應該受揭破的！』

孟德古說，『這樣辦法是絕不會傷害他絲毫的。對於這件事我能夠說得很切實的，因爲我曾見過有人嘗試這個辦法。你不能叫一張紐約的報登這段故事（早已不知主持公道及自由言論爲何物了。——譯者注）你只能做到宣布你自己是一個女光棍。』

洛雪聽了這兩句話握着兩拳，瞪着大眼。她喊道，『既是這樣，我不如住在土耳其啦。』

他說道，『幾乎是這樣。紐約市有一個老頭子，竭畢生的精力借錢與人，及積蓄錢財；我相信現在他約有八千萬

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now, I believe, and once every six months or so you will read in the newspapers that some woman has made an attempt to blackmail him. That is because he does to every pretty girl who comes into his office just exactly what old Waterman did to you; and those who are arrested for blackmail are simply the ones who are so unwise as to make a disturbance.”

“You see, Lucy,” continued Montague, after a pause, “you must realize the situation. This man is a god in New York. He controls all the avenues of wealth; he can make or break any person he chooses. It is really the truth—I believe he could ruin any man in the city whom he chose to set out after. He can have anything that he wants done, so far as the police are concerned. It is simply a matter of paying them. And he is accustomed to rule in everything; his lightest whim is law. If he wants a thing, he buys it, and that is his attitude toward women. He is used to being treated as a master; women seek him, and vie for his favour. If you had been able to hold it, you might have had a million-dollar palace on Riverside Drive, or a cottage with a million-dollar pier at Newport. You might have had *carte blanche*¹ at all the shops, and all the yachting trips and private trains that you wanted. That is all that other women want, and he could not understand what more you could want.” Montague paused.

“Is that the way he spends his money?” Lucy asked.

“He buys everything he takes a fancy to,” said Montague. “They say he spends five thousand dollars a day. One of the stories they tell in the clubs is that he loved the

¹ *Carte blanche* 無字的白紙，即謂有權歡喜做什麼就做什麼。

或一萬萬，每六七個月，你在報上就看見有女人嘗試訛詐他。這是因爲凡有美貌女子到他公事房的，他就要強姦她，如同老滑突曼對待你一般；凡是指爲訛詐被捕的，都是那些無智的女子喧鬧起來。』（很像施公案彭公案的土豪勢惡行爲，可惜紐約無義俠英雄，只好由作者在小說上揭露。——譯者注）

孟德古停了一會接連說道，『洛雪，你必得把事勢看清楚。這個人是紐約的一座尊神。他操縱錢財的全數的來路；他喜歡毀誰就毀誰，他喜歡成就誰就成就誰。這是真實情形——我相信他若有意毀人他就能夠毀了無論什麼人。他無論要做什麼事，他都能夠做到，這是說他能夠操縱警察。不過是花錢買他們罷了。他是習慣操縱無論什麼事；操縱法律，在他看來是最容易的事。他若要什麼，他就花錢買，這就是他用以對待女人的態度。他一向受慣人家以主人翁待他；女人們找他，爭先恐後的求他一顧。假使你忍受得了，你就可以得着河邊的大馬路值一百萬的如王宮的大第宅，不然就在紐坡特河邊得一所值一百萬的別墅。你可以有權在全數的店鋪喜歡買什麼就買什麼，你要無論什麼遊船及自備的在鐵路上的車輛，都能辦到。別的女人們所要的就是全數這樣的東西，他不能明白你能夠還要些什麼。』孟德古停住不說。

洛雪問道，『這就是他花錢的方法麼？』

孟德古說道，『他無論喜歡什麼就花錢買。人們說他一天花五千圓。幾個聯歡社說他一段故事；說他愛上一個

wife of a physician, and he gave a million dollars to found a hospital, and one of the conditions of the endowment was that this physician should go abroad for three years and study all the hospitals of Europe."

Lucy sat buried in thought. "Allan," she asked suddenly, "what do you suppose he meant by saying he would follow me? What could he do?"

"I don't know," said Allan, "it is something which we shall have to think over very carefully."

"He made a remark to me that I thought was very strange," she said. "I just happened to recall it. He said 'You have no money. You cannot keep up the pace in New York. What you own is worth nothing.' Do you suppose, Allan, that he can know anything about my affairs?"

Montague was staring at her, struck by a sudden strange idea. "Lucy!" he exclaimed.

"What is it?" she exclaimed.

"Nothing," he said; and he added to himself, "No, it is absurd. It could not be." The idea that it could have been Dan Waterman who had set the detectives to follow him seemed too grotesque for consideration. "It was nothing but a chance shot," he said to Lucy, "but you must be careful. He is a dangerous man."

"And I am powerless to punish him!" whispered Lucy, after a pause.

"It seems to me," said Montague, "that you are very well out of it. You will know better next time; and as for punishing him, I fancy that Nature will attend to that. He is getting old, you know; and they say he is morose¹ and wretched."

¹ morose 容易發怒; 不能與人相處。

醫師的太太，他就花一百萬建築一所醫院，他捐這筆大款卻有幾個條件，其中一條，就是要這個醫師出外三年，研究歐洲全數醫院的情形。』

洛雪坐在那裏深思到忘其所以了。她忽然問道，『亞蘭，他說他要追逐我，你猜他是什麼意思，他能夠做什麼？』

亞蘭說道，『我不曉得，我們要把這件事很小心的熟慮過。』

她說道，『他對我說過兩句話，我想是很奇怪的。我纔追想起來。他說道，「你無錢。你不能在紐約維持局面。你所有的股票不值一文錢。」亞蘭，你試猜，難道他能夠曉得我的景況麼？』

孟德古被一個忽然的奇怪的思想所動，瞪着大眼看她。他喊道，『洛雪呀！』

她喊道，『什麼呀？』

他說道，『沒得什麼。』他隨即又對自己說道，『不是的，無理的。不能夠。』他忽然想到丹·滑突曼會派偵探追隨他，好像是太離奇，不值得考慮。他對洛雪說道，『這不過是我偶然想起來的，但是你得要很小心。他是一個危險人。』

停了一會，洛雪低聲說道，『我無力量懲罰他！』

孟德古說道，『據我看來，你是很僥倖逃出的了。下次你就曉得更清楚些；說到懲罰他，我想『自然』將懲罰他。你是曉得的，他老了；人們說他常發脾氣，不能與人相處，況且又是極其不歡樂的。』

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"But, Allan!" protested Lucy. "I can't help thinking what would have happened to me if you had not come on board! I can't help thinking about other women who must have been caught in such a trap. Why, Allan, I would have been equally helpless—no matter what he had done!"

"I am afraid so," said he, gravely. "Many a woman has discovered it, I imagine. I understand how you feel, but what can you do about it? You can't punish men like Waterman. You can't punish them for anything they do, whether it is monopolising a necessity of life and starving thousands of people to death, or whether it is an attack upon a defenceless woman. There are rich men in this city who make it their diversion to answer advertisements and decoy young girls. A stenographer in my office told me that she had had over twenty positions in one year, and that she had left every one because some man in the office had approached her."

He paused for a moment. "You see," he added, "I have been finding out these things. You thought I was unreasonable, but I know what your dangers are. You are a stranger here; you have no friends and no influence, and so you will always be the one to suffer. I don't mean merely in a case like this, where it comes to the police and the newspapers; I mean in social matters—where it is a question of your reputation, of the interpretation which people will place upon your actions. They have their wealth and their prestige and their privileges, and they stand at bay.¹ They are perfectly willing to give a stranger a good time, if the stranger has a pretty face and a lively

¹stand at bay 負隅反抗。

洛雪很熱烈的說道，『亞蘭，我不能不想到，假使你不到船上來，我不定遭他什麼毒手！我不能不想到其他的女人們必定落在他的這樣陷穽裏。亞蘭，無論他曾作什麼，我也會是一樣的無人援救！』

他很嚴肅的說道，『我恐怕是這樣。我猜有許多女人會看出是這樣。我很明白你的感覺，但是你對於這件事能夠作什麼？你不能懲罰如滑突曼這樣的人們。無論他們作什麼，無論他們壟斷人生所必需的物件餓死千萬人，抑或是他們糟塌一個無保護的女人，你都不能懲罰他們。紐約市上有許多富人專門答復告白，以引誘少年女子，當作遊戲。我的辦事室裏有一個速記員告訴我，她一年裏頭有過二十個席位，她都棄丟不幹，因為公事房裏總有男人勾引她。』

他停了一會。他又說道，『你看呀，我曾打聽出這許多事體來。你以為我不講理，但是我曉得你的危險是什麼。你在這裏是一個外鄉人；你既無朋友又無勢力，所以你常會受禍害的。我的意思，不獨指這一件事，這件事不過驚動警察及登報罷了；我的意思是指在社會上應酬——在社會裏頭就是你的名譽問題，及人家怎樣解說你的行為舉動。他們有的是錢，有的是威權，有的是特別權利，他們能夠負隅反抗。只要一個從外路來的女子臉長得好看，性

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wit to entertain them; but when you come to trespass, or to threaten their power, then you find out how they can hate you, and how mercilessly they will slander and ruin you!"

CHAPTER XVIII

Montague had never seen anything like the excitement in Wall Street. Everyone he met had a new set of rumors, wilder than the last. It was as if a great rift in the earth had suddenly opened before the eyes of the banking community. But Montague was at an important crisis in a suit which he had taken up against the Tobacco Trust; and he had no idea that he was in any way concerned in what was taking place. The newspapers were all making desperate efforts to allay the anxiety—they said that all the trouble was over, that Dan Waterman had come to the rescue of the imperilled institutions. And Montague believed what he read, and went his way.

Three or four days after the crisis had developed, he had an engagement to dine with his friend Harvey. Montague was tired after a long day in court, and as no one else was coming, and he did not intend to dress, he walked up town from his office to Harvey's hotel, a place of entertainment much frequented by Society people. Harvey rented an entire floor, and had had it redecorated especially to suit his taste.

"How do you do, Mr. Montague?" said the clerk, when he went to the desk. "Mr. Harvey left a note for you."

Montague opened the envelope, and read a hurried scrawl to the effect that Harvey had just got word that a bank of which he was a director was in trouble, and that

情活潑，能夠令他們享受娛樂，他們就很願意使她過快樂日子；但是你若犯他們，恐嚇他們的勢力，你就會曉得他們能夠怎樣痛恨你，你就會看出他們會怎樣毫無憐恤的毀謗你，傷害你！』

第十八回

〔那時候鋼大王倒了，冰大王也倒了，還有許多銀行也倒了。——譯者注〕

孟德古從來未見垣街這樣的擾亂。他所碰見的人們，各人有各人的一派謠言，一個比一個更離奇。好像是地球在銀行世界的面前裂了一條極大的縫。但是這時候他當律師，幫人打官司，反對煙草託刺斯，正在緊要當口；他並不曉得他與現在市面擾亂有什麼相干。報紙是拚命努力安定人心——他們說全數的難關都過了，丹·滑突曼出來拯救受危險的銀行。孟德古相信報紙的話，就走他的路。

危險發展後三四日，他赴約，同他的朋友哈爾維(Harvey)吃大餐。孟德古終天在法庭，疲倦了，既無別人來，他又不想穿晚服，他就從他的辦公室走到哈爾維所住的飯店，這是社會中有名人物常來宴會的。哈爾維租了整個樓面，重新裝飾過，特為要合他的好尚。

當孟德古走到櫃台的時候，書記說道，『孟德古先生，你好呀？哈爾維先生留下一封信給你。』

孟德古拆開信封，讀匆忙所寫的話，纔曉得哈爾維當一間銀行董事，剛纔所說這間銀行有了為難，他要到當晚

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he would have to attend a meeting that evening. He had telephoned both to Montague's office and to his hotel, without being able to find him.

Montague turned away. He had no place to go, for his own family was out of town; consequently he strolled into the dining-room and ate by himself. Afterwards he came out into the lobby, and bought several evening papers, and stood glancing over the head-lines.

Suddenly a man strode in at the door, and he looked up. It was Winton Duval, the banker; Montague had never seen him since the time when they had parted in Mrs. Winnie's drawing-room. He did not see Montague, but strode past, his brows knit in thought, and entered one of the elevators.

A moment later Montague heard a voice at his side. "How do you do, Mr. Montague?"

He turned. It was Mr. Lyon, the manager of the hotel, whom Siegfried Harvey had once introduced to him. "Have you come to attend the conference?" said he.

"Conference?" said Montague. "No."

"There's a big meeting of the bankers here to-night," remarked the other. "It's not supposed to be known, so don't mention it.—How do you do, Mr. Ward?" he added, to a man who went past. "That's David Ward."

"Ah," said Montague. Ward was known in the Street by the nickname of Waterman's "office-boy." He was a high-salaried office-boy—Waterman paid him a hundred thousand a year to manage one of the big insurance companies for him.

"So *he's* here, is he?" said Montague.

"Waterman is here himself," said Lyon. "He came in by the side entrance. It's something especially secret,

所開的會議。他曾打電話給孟德古的公事房與他所住的旅館，都找不着他。

孟德古掉過身子就要走。他沒得地方去，因為他的家眷不在紐約；所以他走入飯廳，獨自一個人吃飯。後來他走出來，走入穿堂，買了幾張晚報，站在那裏看大字的題目。

忽然有一個人，在門口走進來，他抬頭看。原來是銀行家杜瓦爾 (Duval)。孟德古自從在文尼太太的客廳同杜瓦爾分手之後，從未見過他。他卻不看見孟德古，在他身邊走過，縳着兩個眉頭深念，就走入一座升梯。

再過一會，孟德古聽見身邊有人說話。『孟德古，你好麼？』

他掉過身子來。原來是旅館的經理里昂，哈爾維有一次曾介紹過的。他說道，『你來赴會議麼？』

孟德古說道，『會議麼？不是的。』

經理說道，『這裏今晚有銀行家們的一個大會議。原是不許人知道的，你不必提起。』——那時候又有一個人走過，他又說道，『和爾特先生 (Ward)，你好麼？這就是大衛和爾特。』

孟德古說道，『呀！』垣街都曉得和爾特，都稱他做滑突曼的『小跑』。他是一個受很豐薪水的小跑——滑突曼每年給他十萬，叫他替他管理一個大保險公司。

孟德古說道，『原來他在這裏，是不是的？』

里昂說道，『滑突曼自己在這裏。他是從邊門走進來的。我聽說今晚的會議是特別祕密的，他們租了樓上八間

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I gather—they've rented eight rooms upstairs, all connecting. Waterman will go in at one end, and Duval at the other, and so the reporters won't know they're together!"

"So that's the way they work it!" said Montague, with a smile.

"I've been looking for some of the newspaper men," Lyon added. "But they don't seem to have caught on."¹

He strolled away, and Montague stood watching the people in the lobby. He saw Jim Hegan come and enter the elevator, in company with an elderly man whom he recognized as Bascom, the president of the Empire Bank, Waterman's own institution. He saw two other men whom he knew as leading bankers of the System; and then, as he glanced toward the desk, he saw a tall, broad-shouldered man, who had been talking to the clerk, turn around, and reveal himself as his friend Bates, of the *Express*.

"Humph!" thought Montague. "The newspaper men are 'on,' after all."

He saw Bates's glance sweep the lobby and rest upon him. Montague made a movement of greeting with his hand, but Bates did not reply. Instead, he strolled toward him, went by without looking at him, and, as he passed, whispered in a low, quick voice, "Please come into the writing-room!"

Montague stood for a moment, wondering; then he followed. Bates went to a corner of the room and seated himself. Montague joined him.

The reporter darted a quick glance about, then began hastily: "Excuse me, Mr. Montague, I didn't want anyone to see us talking. I want to ask you to do me a favor."

¹ caught on 得到消息.

房子，都是相連的。滑突曼將從這一頭進去，杜瓦爾將從那一頭進去，以便報館的訪事員不會曉得他們在一起！」

孟德古微笑說道，『原來他們是這樣辦的！』

里昂又說道，『我曾看過有無報館的人們。但是他們好像不會得到消息。』

經理慢慢走開了，孟德古站在那裏看穿堂裏的人。他看見希根(Hegan)來，走入升梯，他是同一個年紀稍老的人來的，他認得這個人就是巴斯柯木(Bascom)，帝國銀行的主席，這是滑突曼自己的銀行。他又看見其他兩個人，他認得他們是這一組銀行的領袖們；隨後他眼向櫃台，看見一個身長肩闊的人，正在那裏同書記說話，這個人掉過身子來，露出是他的朋友，捷報館的人，名貝特士(Bates)。

孟德古心裏想道，『哈！到底報館的人得了消息。』

他看見貝特士眼看穿堂，就看見他。孟德古伸手要招呼他，貝特士卻不回答。他反慢慢走向他，在他身邊走過，眼卻不看他，但是當他走過的時候，低聲急急的說道，『請你入寫字室！』

孟德古站了一會，在那裏納悶；隨後他就跟着走。貝特士走到房裏的一個角落坐下來。孟德古也坐在那裏。

這個訪事人快快的四圍一看，起首匆匆說道：『孟德古，請你勿怪，我不要有人看見我們兩個說話。我要你替我辦一件事。』

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"What is it?"

"I'm running down a story. It is something very important. I can't explain it to you now, but I want to get a certain room in this hotel. You have an opportunity to do me the service of a lifetime. I'll explain it to you as soon as we are alone."

"What do you want me to do?" asked Montague.

"I want to rent room four hundred and seven," said Bates. "If I can't get four hundred and seven, I want five hundred and seven, or six hundred and seven. I daren't ask for it myself, because the clerk knows me. But he'll let you have it."

"But how shall I ask for it?" said Montague.

"Just ask," said Bates; "it will be all right."

Montague looked at him. He could see that his friend was laboring under great excitement.

"Please! please!" he whispered, putting his hand on Montague's arm. And Montague said, "All right."

He got up and strolled into the lobby again, and went to the desk.

"Good evening, Mr. Montague," said the clerk. "Mr. Harvey hasn't returned."

"I know it," said Montague. "I would like to get a room for the evening. I would like to be near a friend. Could I get a room on the fourth floor?"

"Fourth?" said the clerk, and turned to look at his schedule on the wall. "Whereabouts—front or back?"

"Have you four hundred and five?" asked Montague.

"Four hundred and five? No, that's rented. We have four hundred and one—four hundred and six, on the other side of the hall—four hundred and seven—"

"I'll take four hundred and seven," said Montague.

「什麼事？」

「我要訪查一件故事。這件故事是極要緊的。現在我不能解說給你聽，但是我要租這間飯店的某間房子。你有機會替我做一件我一生都要感激你的事。等到只有我們兩個人在一起的時候，我就解說給你聽。」

孟德古問道，「你要我作什麼？」

貝特士說道，「我要租第四百零七號房間。我若不能得着四百零七號，我就要五百零七號或六百零七號。我自己不敢去問，因為書記認得我。但是他肯讓你租的。」

孟德古說道，「我卻怎樣問他要這個房間呢？」

貝特士說道，「你只管問他要，他不會不給你的。」

孟德古看看他。他能看出他的朋友是很受了激刺的。

他把手放在孟德古膀子上，低聲說道，「我請你替我辦，我請你替我辦！」

孟德古說道，「好呀，我去替你辦。」

他站起來慢慢又走到穿堂，走到櫃台。

書記說道，「孟德古先生，我同你請晚安。哈爾維先生還未回來。」

孟德古說道，「我曉得。我要一間房子過這一夜。我要近住我的一個朋友。我可以在四樓租一間麼？」

書記說道，「四樓麼？」回頭看了牆上所掛的表。「你要在那裏呀——要在前面，抑或要在後面呀？」

孟德古問道，「四百零五號空麼？」

「四百零五號麼？有人租了。我們還有四百零一號——四百零六號，這是在堂屋的那一邊——四百零七號——」

孟德古說道，「我就要四百零七號。」

THE MONEYCHANGERS

“Four dollars a day,” said clerk, as he took down the key.

Not having any baggage, Montague paid in advance, and followed the boy to the elevator. Bates followed him, and another man, a little wiry chap, carrying a dress-suit case, also entered with them, and got out at the fourth floor.

The boy opened the door, and the three men entered the room. The boy turned on the light, and proceeded to lower the shades and the windows, and to do enough fixing to earn his tip. Then he went out, closing the door behind him; and Bates sank upon the bed and put his hands to his forehead and gasped, “Oh, my God.”

The young man who accompanied him had set down his suit-case, and he now sat down on one of the chairs, and proceeded to lean back and laugh hilariously.¹

Montague stood staring from one to the other.

“My God, my God!” said Bates, again. “I hope I may never go through with a job like this—I believe my hair will be grey before morning!”

“You forget that you haven’t told me yet what’s the matter,” said Montague.

“Sure enough,” said Bates.

And suddenly he sat up and stared at him.

“Mr. Montague,” he exclaimed, “don’t go back on us! You’ve no idea how I’ve been working—and it will be the biggest scoop² of a lifetime. Promise me that you won’t give us away!”³

“I cannot promise you,” said Montague, laughing in spite of himself, “until you tell me what it is.”

¹ hilariously 快樂. ² scoop 先得消息 可以乘機很快發財. ³ give us away 走漏我們的祕密消息.

書記說道，『四塊錢一天，』一面把鎖匙拿下來。

孟德古並無行李，先付房金，就跟着侍役入升梯。貝特士跟着他，另外還有一個人，是一個短小精悍的人，拿着一個裝晚服的皮包，也同他們走入升梯，在四樓走出來。

侍役開房門，三個人走進去。侍役開電燈，拉下簾子與玻璃窗，就夠幾件事，好要酒錢。隨後走出去，關上房門；貝特士倒在床上，兩手磨額。喘喘的說道，『哈，我的上帝。』

陪他進來的少年，已經把他的裝晚服的皮包放下，現在他坐在一張椅子上，起首往後靠，大笑到樂不可支。

孟德古站在那裏瞪大眼從這個看到那個。

貝特士又說道，『我的上帝，我的上帝！我盼望我可以永遠做不完如這樣的事——我相信不等到明早，我的頭髮就會變白了！』

孟德古說道，『你忘記你還不曾告訴我是什麼事。』

貝特士說道，『可不是。』

他忽然坐得直直的，瞪眼看他。

他說道，『孟德古先生，你不要告訴別人！你不曉得我怎樣費了許多事——這是我一生先得消息乘機快發大財的事。你得答應我不走漏我們的祕密。』

孟德古不由自主的大笑，說道，『你得先告訴我是什麼事，不然，我不能答應。』

THE MONEYCHANGERS

"I'm afraid you are not going to like it," said Bates. "It was a mean trick to play on you, but I was desperate. I didn't dare take the risk myself, and Rodney wasn't dressed for the occasion."

"You haven't introduced your friend," said Montague.

"Oh, excuse me," said Bates. "Mr. Rodney, one of our office-men."

"And now tell me about it," said Montague, taking a seat.

"It's the conference," said Bates. "We got a tip¹ about it an hour or so ago. They meet in the room underneath us."

"What of it? asked Montague.

"We want to find out what's going on," said Bates.

"But how?"

"Through the window. We've got a rope here." And Bates pointed toward the suit-case.

Montague stared at him, dumbfounded. "A rope!" he echoed. "You are going to let him down from the window?"

"Sure thing," said Bates; "it's a rear window, and quite safe."

"But for Heaven's sake, man!" gasped the other, "suppose the rope breaks?"

"Oh, it won't break," was the reply; "we've got the right sort of rope."

"But how will you ever get him up again?" Montague exclaimed.

"That's all right," said Bates; "he can climb up, or else we can let him down to the ground. We've got rope enough."

"But suppose he loses his grip! Suppose—"

¹ tip 消息; 秘訣.

貝特士說道，『我恐怕你將不喜歡這件事。我要卑劣手段騙了你，但是我要拚命辦這件事，不能不這樣做。我不敢冒險，洛特尼(Rodney)又是專為這件事來的。』

孟德古說道，『你不曾介紹你的朋友。』

貝特士說道，『哦，請你莫怪，這是洛特尼先生，是我們報館裏的人。』

孟德古坐下，說道，『請你把這件事告訴我。』

貝特士說道，『就是這個會議。約一點鐘前，我們得了消息。他們就在我們底下的房間會議。』

孟德古問道，『會議什麼？』

貝特士說道，『我們要曉得他們作什麼。』

『你們怎樣打聽？』

『從窗子窺探。我們這裏有一條纜。』貝特士指着裝晚服的皮包。

孟德古瞪眼看他，驚駭到渾身麻木。他說道，『一條纜！你要從這個窗口縋他下去麼？』

貝特士說道，『這是很安穩的。這是一個後窗，是很安穩的。』

孟德古張大口喘氣說道，『你得很小心呀！譬如說，纜斷了怎麼樣？』

貝特士答道，『哈！不會斷的，我們帶來的是妥當的纜。』

孟德古說道，『你怎樣把他再拉上來？』

貝特士說道，『這是好辦的，他能夠爬上來，不然，我們縋他到平地。我們有夠用的纜。』

『譬如說他抓不緊，鬆了手！譬如——』

THE MONEYCHANGERS

"That's all right," said Bates, easily. "You leave that to Rodney. He's nimble—he began life as a steeple-jack. That's why I picked him."

Rodney grinned. "I'll take my chances,"¹ he said.

Montague gazed from one to the other, unable to think of another word to say.

"Tell me, Mr. Bates," he asked finally, "do you often do this in your profession?"

"I've done it once before," was the reply. "I wanted some photographs in a murder case. I've often tried back windows, and fire-escapes, and such things. I used to be a police reporter, you know, and I learned bad habits."

"But," said Montague, "suppose you were caught?"

"Oh, pshaw!" said he. "The office would soon fix that up. The police never bother a newspaper man."

There was a pause. "Mr. Montague," said Bates, earnestly, "I know this is a tough proposition—but think what it means. We get word about this conference. Waterman is here—and Duval—think of that! Dan Waterman and the Oil Trust getting together! The managing editor sent for me himself, and he said, 'Bates, get that story.' And what am I to do? There's about as much chance of my finding out what goes on in that conference—"

He stopped. "Think of what it may mean, Mr. Montague," he cried. "They will decide on to-morrow's moves! It may turn the stock market upside down. Think of what you could do with the information!"

¹ take chances 冒險.

貝特士很從容的說道，『不怕的。你隨洛特尼辦去。他是手脚靈敏的——他原是修理教堂的高塔出身。所以我挑選他』。

洛特尼露齒笑。他說道，『我肯冒險。』

孟德古看了這個，看了那個，想不出再說一句話。

最後他問道，『貝特士，我請你告訴我，你當訪事人，要屢次做這樣的事麼？』

他答道，『我從前做過一次。有一件殺人的官司我要照幾張像。我試過幾次後窗，太平梯等類。我當過幾時警察署的訪事人，你是曉得你，我學會了惡習慣。』

孟德古說道，『譬如你被人看見，把你捉住，你怎麼樣？』

他說道，『這不算什麼。有我們的報館照應。警察們是絕不麻煩報館人的。』

他們停了一會不響。貝特士很熱烈的說道，『孟德古，我曉得這是一件爲難的事——但是我們要想想這是多麼重大的事。我們聽說有人開會議。滑突曼在這裏——杜瓦爾也在這裏——你試想看！丹、滑突曼與煤油托刺斯在一起！管理的主任自己請我去，說道，「貝特士，你去打聽是什麼事。」我能不來嗎？很有機會使我窺探出會議所辦的事——』

他停住不說下去。他又說道，『孟德古，你得想這件是什麼重要事。他們要議決明天的舉動！就許可以把證券市場推翻了。你試想看，你能夠怎樣利用所得的消息！』

THE MONEYCHANGERS

"No," said Montague, shaking his head; "don't go at me that way."

Bates was gazing at him. "I beg your pardon," he said; "but then maybe you have interests of your own; or your friends—surely this situation—"

"No, not that either," said Montague, smiling; and Bates broke into a laugh.

"Well, then," he said, "just for the sport of it! Just to fool them!"

"That's more like it," said Montague.

"Of course, it's your room," said Bates. "You can stop us, if you insist. But you needn't stay if you don't want to. We'll take all the risk; and you may be sure that if we were caught, the hotel would suppress it. You can trust me to clear your name—"

"I'll stay," Montague. "I'll see it through."

Bates jumped up and stretched out his hand. "Good!" he cried. "Put it there!" . . .

CHAPTER XIX

Montague brought a couple of chairs, and the two seated themselves at the window for a long wait.

"How did you learn about this conference?" asked Montague.

"Be careful," whispered the other in his ear. "We mustn't make a noise, because Rodney will need quiet to hear them."

Montague saw that the cord was jerking again. Bates spelled out the letters one by one.

¹ go at 攻擊.

孟德古搖頭，說道，『不然，你不要這樣攻擊我。』

貝特士瞪眼看他。他說道，『我請你勿怪；但是也許你有你自己憂戚相關的事，不然，也許你的朋友有這樣的事——這樣的事勢誠然——』

孟德古微笑說道，『也沒得這樣的事，』貝特士大笑。

他說道，『既是這樣，你就當作是遊戲！不過玩弄他們！』

孟德古說道，『這卻較像。』

貝特士說道，『這間房子自然是你的。你若必定要阻止我們，你原能夠阻止。但是你若不要在這裏的話，你卻不必逗留在這裏。我們冒全數的險；你可以放心，假使有人看見我們，旅館是要壓住不宣布的。你能夠相信我不把你的名字拖在裏頭——』

孟德古說道，『我不走開，我要看你們辦完這件事。』

貝特士跳起來，伸出他的手。他喊道，『好呀！把皮包放在那裏。』（他們從皮包裏取出一條柔軟輕便的鋼纜，網上一塊板當坐位，又取出一條繩子，一端套在洛特尼的手腕，一端在屋裏，以使用打電報的符號通消息。洛特尼戴上極厚的貓皮套，還費了許多事，兩個人就在後窗口縋他下去。他到了下一層，拉幾次繩，貝特士曉得他到了下層的窗子，窗門是打開的。——譯者注）

第十九回

孟德古拖兩張椅子來，兩個人坐下久等。

孟德古問道，『你怎樣曉得這次的會議？』

貝特士附耳低聲說道，『你得小心。我們不要作聲，因為洛特尼要在靜中聽他們說話。』

孟德古又看見拉繩。貝特士逐個字母拼出來。

THE MONEYCHANGERS

"W-a-t-e-r-m-a-n. D-u-v-a-l. He's telling us who's there. David Ward. Hegan. Prentice."

"Prentice!" whispered Montague. "Why, he's up in the Adirondacks!"

"He came down on a special train to-day," whispered the other. "Ward telegraphed him—I think that's where we got our tip. Henry Patterson. He's the real head of the Oil Trust now. Bascom of the Empire Bank. He's Waterman's man."

"You can imagine from that list that there's something big going on," Bates muttered; and he spelled the names of several other bankers, heads of the most important institutions in Wall Street.

"Talking about Stewart," spelled out Rodney.

"That's ancient history," muttered Bates. "He's a dead one."

"P-r-i-c-e," spelled Rodney.

"Price!" exclaimed Montague.

"Yes," said the other. "I saw him down in the lobby. I rather thought he'd come."

"But to a conference with Waterman!" exclaimed Montague.

"That's all right," said Bates. "Why not?"

"But they are deadly enemies!"

"Oh," said the other, "you don't want to let yourself believe things like that."

"What do you mean?" protested Montague. "Do you suppose they're not enemies?"

"I certainly do suppose it," said Bates.

"But, man! I can give you positive facts that prove they are."

『滑突曼。杜瓦爾。他告訴我們誰在會場。大衛和爾特。希甘。普林提(Prentice)。』

孟德古低聲說道，『普林提呀！他原是在愛狄朗塔克(Adirondacks)地方的呀！』

貝特士低聲答道，『他是今天坐特別車回來的。和爾特打電報叫他來的——我想我們就是從這裏得到我們的消息。顯理巴特爾生(Henry Patterson)。現在他是煤油托刺斯的真正頭目。帝國銀行的巴斯柯木。他是滑突曼的人。』

貝特士喃喃說道，『你從這個人名單子就能夠想像那裏有一件很重大的事體進行；他又拼出其他幾個銀行家的名字，都是垣街的最要緊的銀行的頭目。』

洛特尼又報消息說道，『他們談論司圖亞特(Stewart)。』

貝特士喃喃說道，『這是古老舊事。他是早已倒了的。』

洛特尼又報道，『普賴士(Price)。』

孟德古說道，『普賴士呀！』貝特士說道，『是呀。我看見他在穿堂裏。我卻想到他會來的。』

孟德古說道，『但是來同滑突曼會議呀！』

貝特士說道，『這是對的。爲什麼不可以呀？』

『他們原是死對頭呀！』

『呀，你不要讓你自己相信這樣的事。』

孟德古駁他道，『你這句話怎麼講？難道你以爲他們不是對頭麼？』

貝特士說道，『我確以爲他們不是對頭。』

『我能夠給你許多確切事實，證明他們是對頭。』

THE MONEYCHANGERS

"For every fact that you bring," laughed the other, "I can bring half a dozen to show you they are not."

"But that is perfectly absurd!" began Montague.

"Hush," said Bates, and he waited while the string jerked.

"I-c-e," spelled Rodney.

"That's Cummings—another dead one," said Bates.

"My Lord, but they did him up brown!"¹

"Who did it?" asked Montague.

"Waterman," answered the other. "The Steamship Trust was competing with his New England railroads, and now it's in the hands of a receiver. Before long you'll hear that Waterman has gathered it in."

"Then you think this last smash-up was planned?" said he.

"Planned! My Heavens, man, it was the greatest gobbling up of the little fish that I have ever known since I've been in Wall Street!"

"And it was Waterman?"

"With the Oil Trust. They were after young Stewart. You see, he beat them out in Montana, and they had to buy him off for ten million dollars. But he was fool enough to come to New York and go in for banking; and now they've got his banks, and a good part of his ten millions as well!"

"It takes a man's breath away," said Montague.

"Just save your breath—you'll need it to-night," said Bates, drily.

¹ did him up brown 騙苦了。

貝特士大笑說道，『你無論有多少事實證明他們是對頭，我能夠給你六七倍多的事實，證明他們不是對頭。』

孟德古說道，『這完全是太不合理啦！』

貝特士說道，『不要響，』繩子在那裏牽動，他在那裏等。

洛特尼報告道，『冰，』

貝特士說道，『這是指甘明士(Cummings)——又是一個早已倒了的。我的上帝呀，他們會把他騙苦了。』

孟德古問道，『是誰幹的！』

貝特士答道，『是滑突曼害他的。輪船托刺斯同他的新英吉利鐵路競爭，現時在管理債務人手上，不久你就要聽說，滑突曼又撈過來啦。』

孟德古說道，『既是這樣，你以為最後這次的大破壞是有意做出來的麼？』

貝特士說道，『有意做成的！自從我在垣街以來，我所曉得的大魚吞小魚，以這次為最重大！』

『原是滑突曼幹的麼？』

『他串同煤油托刺斯幹的。他們原要毀了少年的司圖亞特。你要曉得，他在孟搭那(Montana)把他們打跑了，他們要花到一千萬圓買他罷手。但是他不該那樣傻，走來紐約辦銀行；現時他們把他的幾間銀行得到手，還得很大部分他的一千萬圓。』

孟德古說道，『聽你這樣說來，令人喘不出氣。』

貝特士冷冷的說道，『節省你的呼吸，——今晚你要用得着。』

THE MONEYCHANGERS

The other sat in thought for a moment. "We were talking about Price," he whispered. "Do you mean John S. Price?"

"There is only one Price that I know of," was the reply.

"And you don't believe that he and Waterman are enemies?"

"I mean that Price is simply one of Waterman's agents in every big thing he does."

"But, man! Doesn't he own the Mississippi Steel Company?"

"He owns it for Waterman," said Bates.

"But that is impossible," cried Montague. "Isn't Waterman interested in the Steel Trust? And isn't Mississippi Steel its chief competitor?"

"It is supposed to be," said the other. "But that is simply a bluff to fool the public. There has been no real competition between them ever since four years ago, when Price raided the stock and captured it for Waterman."

Montague was staring at his friend, almost speechless with amazement.

"Mr. Bates," he said, "it happens that I was very recently connected with Price and the Mississippi Steel Company in a very intimate way; and I know most positively that what you say is not true."

"It's very hard to answer a statement like that," Bates responded. "I'd have to know just what your facts are. But they'd have to be very convincing indeed to make an impression upon me, for I ran that story down pretty thoroughly. I got it straight from the inside, and I got all the details of it. I nailed Price down, right in his own office. The only trouble was that my people wouldn't print the facts."

孟德古坐下想了一會。他低聲問道，『我們剛纔談普賴士，是不是約翰普賴士？』

貝特士答道，『我只曉得一個普賴士。』

『你不相信他同滑突曼是對頭麼？』

『我是說普賴士不過是當滑突曼要做大事時候的一個代理人。』

孟德古問道，『密士失必鋼鐵公司不是他該的嗎？』

貝特士說道，『也不過是他替滑突曼該的。』

孟德古說道，『但是這是不可能的。滑突曼不是與鋼鐵托刺斯利害相關的嗎？密士失必鍊鐵公司不是那個托刺斯的最大的對頭嗎？』

貝特士說道，『許多人以為是的，其實不過是欺騙世人的。有四年以來，這兩處鋼廠其實並無實在的競爭，那時候普賴士忽然動手擾亂股價，替滑突曼搶過來。』

孟德古瞪眼看着他的朋友，驚駭到幾乎說不出話來。

他說道，『貝特士，碰巧我很新近與普賴士及密士失必鋼鐵公司有一種極其密切的關係；我曉得最的確你所說的話不真實。』

貝特士答道，『答復如你所說的這一句話原是極難的。我要曉得你的事實是什麼。但是你的事實必要是很能令人深信的，然後能夠在我的心裏發生印像，因為我探聽這段故事，探聽得很透澈的。我是直接從內幕得到消息的，全數詳細情節我都曉得。我在普賴士自己的公事房裏釘住他的。只有一件事為難，我們的報館不肯刊登這許多事實。』

THE MONEYCHANGERS

It was some time before Montague spoke again. He was groping around in his own mind, trying to grasp the significance of what Bates had said.

"But Price was fighting Waterman!" he whispered. "The whole crowd were fighting him! That was the whole purpose of what they were doing. It had no sense otherwise."

"But are you sure?" asked the other. "Think it over. Suppose they were only pretending to fight."

There was a silence again.

"Mind you," Bates added, "I am only speaking about Price himself. I don't know about any people he may have been with. He may have been deceiving them—he may have been leading them into a trap—"

And suddenly Montague clutched the arms of his chair. He sat staring ahead of him, struck dumb by the thought which the other's words had brought to him. "My God," he gasped; and again, and yet again, "My God!"

It seemed to unroll before him, in *vista* after *vista*. Price deceiving Ryder! leading him into that Northern Mississippi deal; getting him to lend money upon the stock of the Mississippi Steel Company; promising, perhaps, to support the stock in the market, and helping to smash it instead! Twisting Ryder around his finger, crushing him—and why? And why?

Montague's thoughts stopped still. It was as if he had found himself suddenly confronted by a bottomless abyss. He shrank back from it. He could not face the thought in his own mind. Waterman! It was Dan Waterman! It was something which he had planned! It was the vengeance that he had threatened! He had been all this time plotting it, setting his nets about Ryder's feet!

等了好一會孟德古纔又說話。他在他的心裏頭瞎摩，嘗試明白貝特士所說的話。

他低聲說道，『但是普賴士那時候正在同滑突曼奮鬥，全羣的人都打他！他們的全個用意就是要打他。並無其他用意。』

貝特士問道，『但是你曉得的確麼！你得想想。譬如他們不過是裝作打他。』

他們又不響。

貝特士又說道，『你要記得，我只說普賴士本人。我不曉得他可以共事的別人。他許欺騙他們——他許引他們入一個陷穽——』

孟德古忽然抓住他的椅子的兩邊扶手。他坐在那裏兩眼瞪着面前，貝特士的話令他思想，這種思想打擊他，使他變作啞口無言。他喘息說道，『我的上帝！我的上帝！』一連說了好幾遍。

這件事體好像在他面前揭露出來，先窺見一點，隨後又窺見一點。普賴士騙賴特爾！引他入網羅，辦密士失必的大交易；使他以密士失必鋼鐵公司的股本作抵借錢與人；還許答應在市場上維支公司，反幫忙毀了公司，使賴特爾隨他的手指轉，毀了他——這是爲什麼？這是爲什麼？』

孟德古的思想停止不進；好像他忽然見得自己站在一個無底深坑邊上。他往後退避。他不能見他的心裏思想的面。滑突曼呀！是丹·滑突曼幹的！這是他定計在先的！這是他的從前恐嚇過的報仇！他這些時候原來是陰謀做這件事，在賴特爾腳下密布羅網！

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It was an idea so wild and so horrible that Montague fought it off. He pushed it away from him, again and again. No, no, it could not be!

And yet, why not? He had always felt certain in his own mind that that detective had come from Waterman. The old man had set to work to find out about Lucy and her affairs, the first time that he had ever laid eyes on her. And then suddenly Montague saw the face of volcanic fury that had flashed past him on board the *Brnünhilde*. "You will hear from me again," the old man had said; and now, all these months of silence—and at last he heard!

Why not? Why not? Montague kept asking himself. After all, what did he know about the Mississippi Steel Company? What had he ever seen to prove that it was actually competing with the Trust? What had he even heard, except what Stanley Ryder had told him; and what more likely than that Ryder was simply repeating what Price had said?

Montague had forgotten all about his present situation in the rush of thoughts which had come to him. The cord had been jerking again, and had spelled out the names of several more of the masters of the city who had arrived; but he had not heard their names. "What object would there be," he asked, "in keeping the fact a secret—I mean that Price was Waterman's agent?"

"Object!" exclaimed Bates. "Good Heavens, and with the public half crazy about monopolies, and the President making such a fight! If it were known that the Steel Trust had gathered in its last big competitor, you can't tell what the Government might do!"

"I see," said Montague. "And how long has this been?"

這個意思太野啦，太可怕啦，孟德古要把這個意思打走了。他推出這個意思，推了又推。他不相信，不是的，不是的，不能夠的！

爲什麼不能？他心裏常覺得那個偵探必定是滑突曼打發來的。那個老頭子第一次看見洛雪就動手窺探她的行爲，打聽她的財產情形。隨後孟德古忽然看見在布朗尼狄遊船上所瞥見他的如火山崩炸的滿面狂怒。老頭子還說過，『我還有話對你說，』這幾個月一點聲響也沒有——到底他聽見他說啦！爲什麼不能？爲什麼不能？孟德古屢次問他自己。到底他曉得密士失必鋼鐵公司什麼情形？他曾看見什麼，以證實公司實在同托刺斯相競爭？他曾聽見什麼，他所聽見的只是賴特爾所告訴他的；很像是賴特爾不過轉述普賴士的話，沒有比這個更像的了？

他的許多思想一陣一陣的衝來，他就忘記了他現時所處的地位。那條繩子又抖動啦，拼出幾個到會的紐約的主人翁的姓名；他卻不曾聽見他們的姓名。他問道，『他們把那件事體嚴守祕密——我說的是普賴士原是滑突曼的代理人——究竟有什麼目的？』

貝特士說道，『目的呀！好嗎，國人爲專利的事發怒到半瘋，況且大總統要同專利奮鬪！假使國人曉得鋼鐵托刺斯把最後最大的對頭收買了，你不能說政府會怎麼辦！』

孟德古說道，『我明白啦。這件事辦了有多久啦？』

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“Four years,” was the reply; “all they’re waiting for is some occasion like this, when they can put the Company in a hole, and pose as benefactors in taking it over.”

“I see,” said Montague, again.

“Listen,” said Bates, and leaned out of the window. He could catch faintly the sounds of a deep voice in the consultation room.

“W-a-t-e-r-m-a-n,” spelled Rodney.

“I guess business has begun,” whispered Bates.

“Situation intolerable,” spelled Rodney. “End wildcat banking.”¹

“That means end of opposition to me,” was the other’s comment.

“Duval assents,” continued Rodney.

The two in the window were on edge by this time. It was tantalising to have to wait several minutes, and then get only such snatches.

“But they’ll get past the speech-making pretty soon,” whispered Bates; and indeed they did.

The next two words which the cord spelled out made Montague sit up and clutch the arms of his chair again.

“Gotham Trust!”

“Ah!” whispered Bates. Montague made not a sound.

“Ryder misusing,” spelled the cord.

Bates seized his companion by the arm, and leaned close to him. “By the Lord!” he whispered breathlessly, “I wonder if they’re going to smash the Gotham Trust!”

“Refuse clearing,” spelled Rodney; and Montague felt Bates’s hand trembling. “They refuse to clear for Ryder!” he panted.

¹wildcat banking 不穩固的銀行營業。

貝特士答道，『有四年啦；他們所等的就是如同現在這樣的機會，他們就能夠使公司受窘，他們就出來做好人，把公司抓過去。』

孟德古又說道，『我明白了。』

貝特士伸頭出窗外，說道，『你細聽。』他能微微聽見會議室裏很深的聲音。

洛特尼拼道，『滑突曼。』

貝特士低聲說道，『我猜是起首開議啦。』

洛特尼拼道，『是不能忍受的局面。結果是做不穩固的營業。』

那一個說道，『這就終止反對我。』

洛特尼又拼道，『杜瓦爾答應。』

這時候那兩個在窗口的人有點難受。在那裏等好幾分鐘只得着不多的消息。

貝特士低聲說道，『他們不久就演說完了。』果然是的。

那條繩子所打來的隨後兩個字使孟德古坐起來又抓住他的椅子的兩邊扶手。

『高塔謨托刺斯!』(Gotham Trust)

貝特士低聲說道，『呀!』孟德古不響。

繩子又拼道，『賴特爾錯用。』

貝特士抓住他的同伴的膀子，緊靠住他。他喘不出氣的低聲說道，『上帝呀！我恐怕他們要毀了高塔謨托刺斯!』

洛特尼報道，『不肯交換支票找清款目。』孟德古覺得貝特爾的手發抖。他喘氣說道，『他們不肯同賴特爾交換支票!』

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Montague was beyond all speech; he sat as if turned to stone.

"To-morrow morning," spelled the cord.

Bates could hardly keep still for his excitement.

"Do you catch what that means?" he whispered. "The Clearing-house is to throw out the Gotham Trust!"

"Why, they'll wreck it!" protested the other.

"My God, my God, they're mad!" cried Bates. "Don't they realize what they'll do? There'll be a panic such as New York has never seen before! It will bring down every bank in the city! The Gotham Trust! Think of it!—the Gotham Trust!"

"Prentice objects," came Rodney's next message.

"Objects!" exclaimed Bates, striking his knee in repressed excitement. "I should think he might object. If the Gotham Trust goes down, the Trust Company of the Republic won't live for twenty-four hours."

"Afraid," spelled the cord. "Patterson angry."

"Much he has to lose," muttered Bates.

Montague started up and began to pace the room. "Oh, this is horrible, horrible!" he exclaimed.

Through all the images of the destruction and suffering which Bates' words brought up before him, his thoughts flew back to a pale and sad-faced little woman, sitting alone in an apartment up on the Riverside. It was to her that it all came back; it was for her that this terrible drama was being enacted. Montague could picture the grim, hawk-faced old man, sitting at the head of the council board, and laying down the law to the masters of the Metropolis. And this man's thoughts, too, went back to Lucy—his and Montague's alone, of all those who took part in the struggle!

孟德古坐在那裏好像變了一個石人，說不出話來。

繩子又報道，『明天早上。』

貝特爾很受了激刺，幾乎按不住跳動。

他低聲說道，『你明白這幾句話的意思麼？交換所要逐出高塔謨托刺斯！』

那個更嚴厲的說道，『何止呀，他們要毀了這個托刺斯！』

貝特士說道，『我的上帝，我的上帝，他們瘋了！他們難道不體會他們所要做的事麼？那就發生恐慌，是紐約從前所絕未見過的！這就把紐約的無論什麼銀行都遍倒了！高塔謨托刺斯！試想想！——高塔謨托刺斯！』

洛特尼下一個報告說道，『普林提反對。』

貝特士按住他的憤怒打他的膝，說道，『反對呀！我想他是要反對的。倘若高塔謨托刺斯倒了，共和托刺斯公司就不能再活二十四點鐘。』

繩子報道，『害怕，巴特爾生發怒。』

貝特士喃喃說道，『他要大有所損失。』

孟德古跳起來，起首走來走去。他說道，『這件事真可怕，真可怕！』

貝特士所說的話使他想到全數的毀壞與全數的受害的人們，他的思想飛回去一個淡白面色，滿面愁容的女子，獨自一人坐在河邊街的旅館的一間房子裏。所有他的思想都回到她身上。原來這本可怕慘劇全是爲她演的。孟德古能夠想像那個殘酷，鵝臉的老頭子，坐在會議席上的首座，對紐約市的主人翁們定法律，要他們奉行，指揮他們作這個，做那個。這個老頭子的思想也是回到洛雪身上——這次預聞奮鬪的許多人，只有他與孟德古的思想，是回到她身上的！

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"Waterman protect Prentice," spelled Rodney. "Insist turn out Ryder. Withdraw funds."

"There's no doubt of it," whispered Bates; "they can finish him if they choose. But oh, my Lord, what will happen in New York to-morrow!"

"Ward protect legitimate banks," was the next message.

"The little whelp!" sneered Bates. "By legitimate banks he means those that back his syndicates. A lot of protecting he will do!"

But then the newspaper man in Bates rose to the surface. "Oh, what a story," he whispered, clenching his hands, and pounding his knees. "Oh, what a story!"

Montague carried away but a faint recollection of the rest of Rodney's communications; he was too much overwhelmed by his own thoughts. Bates, however, continued to spell out the words; and he caught the statement that General Prentice, who was a director in the Gotham Trust, was to vote against any plan to close the doors of that institution. While they were after it, they were going to finish it.

Also he caught the sentence, "Panic useful, curb President!" And he heard Bates's excited exclamations over that. "Did you catch that?" he cried. "That's Waterman! Oh, the nerve of it! We are in at the making of history to-night, Mr. Montague."

Perhaps half an hour later, Montague, standing beside Bates, saw his hand jerked violently several times.

"That means pull up!" cried he. "Quick!"

And he seized the rope. "Put your weight on it," he whispered. "It will hold."

They proceeded to haul. Rodney helped them by catching hold of the cornice of the window and lifting

洛特尼報道，『滑突曼保護普林提，一定要逐出賴特爾。不肯放款。』

貝特士低聲說道，『他們若要毀他，誠然能夠毀他。但是，我的上帝，紐約明天會發生什麼事！』

往下的消息就是『和爾特保護合法律的銀行』。

貝特士很蔑視的說道，『這個可惡的小狗！他說合法律，是指做他們的幾個銀行團的後盾的銀行，他肯怎樣保護呀！』

這時候貝特士的報館人的性格浮在面上。他握緊兩拳，打他的兩膝，低聲說道，『他說的是什麼謊呀，他說的是什麼謊呀！』

對於洛特尼其餘的消息，孟德古只是模模糊糊的記得一點；他太過被他自己的許多思想所打倒了。貝特士卻接連拼出用繩子傳來的字；他得着一句，說普林提軍長（他是高塔謨托刺斯的一個董事）要投票反對用無論什麼計劃，關閉該托刺斯的門。他們正在要辦這件事，他們是要進行辦到底。

他又聽見一句，『恐慌是有用的，掣大總統的肘！』

他聽見貝特士的對於這個消息受了激刺的話。他說道，『你聽見麼？這是滑突曼說的，他真敢做！孟德古，我們預聞今晚他們製造歷史。』

大約半點鐘後，孟德古站在貝特士身邊，看見他的手抖動幾次，動得很利害。

他說道，『這是洛尼特要上來啦！我們趕快。』

他捉住那條鋼纜，低聲說道，『你用全力拉纜，不會斷的。』

他們就往上拉。洛特尼抓住窗子的簷板，舉起自己，以助他們。隨後有一會子他們覺得很吃力，孟德古屏息；

himself. Then there was a moment of great straining, during which Montague held his breath; after which the weight grew lighter again. Rodney had got his knees upon the cornice.

A few moments later his fingers appeared, clutching the edge of the sill. He swung himself up, and Montague and Bates grasped him under the arms, and fairly jerked him into the room.

He staggered to his feet; and there was a moment's pause, while all three caught their breath. Then Rodney leaped at Bates, and grasped him by the shoulders. "Old man!" he cried. "We landed¹ them! We landed them!"

"We landed them!" laughed the other in exultation.

"Oh, what a scoop!" shouted Rodney. "There was never one like it."

The two were like schoolboys in their glee. They hugged each other, and laughed and danced about. But it was not long before they became serious again. Montague turned on the lights, and pulled down the window; and Rodney stood there, with his clothing dishevelled and his face ablaze with excitement, and talked to them.

"Oh, you can't imagine that scene!" he said. "It makes my hair stand on end to think of it. Just fancy—I was not more than twenty feet from Dan Waterman, and most of the time he seemed to be glaring right at me. I hardly dared wink, for fear he'd notice; and I thought every instant he would jump up and run to the window. But there he sat, and pounded on the table, and glared about at those fellows, and laid down the law to them."

"I've heard him talk," said Bates. "I know how it is."

¹landed 捉住了。

後來覺得不那麼重了。洛特尼兩膝在簷板上。

過了一會，看見他的手指抓住窗檻邊。他一搖身子就搖上來，孟德古與貝特士在他的臂下抱住他，把他拋進屋來。

他搖擺幾次纔立住脚；停了一會，那時候三個人都屏息。洛特尼隨即向貝特士跳過來，抓住他的兩肩。他說道，『老火記。我們看破他們的祕密啦！我們看破他們的祕密啦！』

貝特士很高興的大笑說道，『我們看破他們的祕密啦！』

洛特尼喊道，『我們得着多麼要緊的消息！這是向來未有過的。』

這兩個人很快樂如同小學生一樣。他們互相摟抱，他們大笑，他們亂跳。不久他們又變作很嚴肅。孟德古開電燈，拉下玻璃窗；洛特尼站在那裏，他的衣服亂到不成樣子，他受了激刺，滿面發紅，他對他們說道。

『你們不能想像會議的情景。我一想起就使我的頭髮直豎。你們試想像——我離丹·滑突曼不過二十尺，有許久他好像是瞪着兩眼直看我。我幾乎不敢瞬眼，恐怕他看見，我心裏想無論什麼時候他都會跳起來，走到窗口。他卻坐在那裏，擊桌子，瞪眼看預會的人們，定法律逼他們奉行。』

貝特士說道，『我聽見過他說話。我曉得是什麼情景。』

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"Why, he fairly knocked them over!" said the other. "You could have heard a pin drop when he got through. Oh, it was a mad thing to see!"

"I've hardly been able to get my breath," said Bates. "I can't believe it."

"They have no idea what it will mean," said Montague.

"They know," said Rodney; "but they don't care. They've smelt blood. That's about the size of it—they were like a lot of hounds on the trail.¹ You should have seen Waterman, with that lean, hungry face of his. 'The time has come,' said he. 'There's no one here but has known that sooner or later this work had to be done. We must crush them, once and for all time!' And you should have seen him turn on Prentice, when he ventured a word."

"Prentice doesn't like it, then?" asked Montague.

"I should think he wouldn't!" put in Bates.

"Waterman said he'd protect him," said Rodney. "But he must place himself absolutely in their hands. It seems that the Trust Company of the Republic has a million dollars with the Gotham Trust, and that's to be withdrawn."

"Imagine it!" gasped Bates.

"And wait!" exclaimed the other; "then they got on to politics. I would have given one arm if I could have got a photograph of Dan Waterman at that moment—just to spread it before the American people and ask them what they thought of it! David Ward had made the remark that 'A little trouble mightn't have a bad effect just now.' And Waterman brought down his fist on the table. 'This country needs a lesson,' he cried. 'There's been too much abuse of responsible men, and there's been too much wild

¹ on the trail 追蹤.

洛特尼說道，『他幾乎把他們打倒！當他說完的時候，寂然無聲，你可以聽見一枝針丟在地下。看見這種情景，令人發狂！』

貝特士說道，『我幾乎不能呼吸。我不能相信。』

孟德古說道，『他們不曉得他們所做的是什麼事。』

洛特尼說道，『他們曉得，不過他們不顧。他們聞了血腥味。他們大約就是這樣——他們像一羣追蹤野獸的獵狗。你們該看看滑突曼，帶着那副瘦而想食人的面孔。他說道，「時候到了。在場的人們那個不曉得遲早總要做這件事。我們必得打倒他們。一次過打倒，永遠打倒！」你們該看看當普林提膽敢說一句話的時候，滑突曼怎樣掉過臉來恐嚇他。』

孟德古問道，『既是這樣，普林提是不喜歡的，是不是？』

貝特士說道，『我看他是不會喜歡的！』

洛特尼說道，『滑特曼說他肯保護他。不過他必得把他自己絕對的放在他們手上。共和托刺斯公司好像有一百萬存在高塔謨托刺斯，這筆款要提出來。』

貝特士張大口喘氣說道，『我們試想像這件事！』

洛特尼說道，『你且等等！他們隨即說到政治。假使我能夠照那個時候的滑突曼的一張相片，我肯割斷我的一隻手——我只要得着這樣的一張相片，就可以播傳給美國人看，問他們對於這張相片作何感想！大衛和爾特纔說過，現在鬧點小恐慌也許不會有不好的效果。滑突曼就用拳頭打桌子。他喊道，「美國要受一次教訓。負責的人們向來太過濫用他們的權力啦，居高位的人們太過亂說話

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talk in high places. If the people get a little taste of hard times, they'll have something else to think about besides abusing those who have made the prosperity of the country; and it seems to me, gentlemen, that we have it in our power to put an end to this campaign of radicalism.' ”

“Think of it, think of it!” cried Bates. “The old devil!”

“And then Duval chimed in¹ with a laugh, ‘To put it in a nutshell, gentlemen, we are going to smash Ryder and scare the President!’ ”

“Was the conference over?” asked Bates, after a moment's pause.

“All but the hand-shakes,” said the other. “I didn't dare to stay while they were moving about.”

And Bates started suddenly to his feet. “Come!” he said. “We haven't any time to waste. Our work isn't done yet, by a long sight.” . . .

CHAPTER XX

Then he crossed over and went down to the River drive, and entered Lucy's apartment house.

“Is Mrs. Taylor in?” he asked of the clerk.

“I'll see,” said the man. Montague gave his name and added, “Tell her it is very important.”

Lucy came to the door herself, clad in an evening gown.

One glance at his haggard face was enough to tell her that something was wrong. “What is it, Allan?” she cried.

He hung up his hat and coat, and went into the drawing-room.

¹ chimed in 說同調的話。

啦。人民若略嘗時局困難的滋味，他們就要想別的事體，不止詬罵其使美國繁榮的人們啦；諸位，據我看來，我們有力量使根本推翻主義的作戰告終！』

貝特士說道，『你們想想看，你們想想看！這個老魔鬼！』

『隨後杜瓦爾大笑，說同調的話，「諸位，我說句單簡話，我們要進行打倒賴特爾，驚嚇大總統！」』

貝特士停了一會，問道，『會議完了麼？』

洛特尼說道，『全完了，只差拉手。當他們正在那裏走來走去的時候我不敢逗留。』

貝特士忽然站起來，他說道，『來呀！我們不能糟場時候。我們的工作還未完啦，還差得很遠啦。』……

第二十回

[孟德古把真消息告訴普林提問他既然辦得很好，毫不作弊，爲什麼反要聽滑突曼指揮；他纔說出有八分存款是要還的，他只有五釐的準備金。
——譯者註]

孟德古隨後走過對街，向河邊的大街走，走進洛雪所住的旅館的房子。

他問書記道，『泰羅太太在家麼？』

那個人說道，『我去看看。』孟德古把名姓告訴他，還說道，『你得告訴她我有極要緊的事要見她。』

洛雪穿了晚上穿的長衣，自己走到門口。

她一看他的憔悴臉，就足夠告訴她出了不好的事啦。她喊道，『亞蘭，什麼事！』

他掛起他的帽子與外衣，走入客廳。

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"What is it, Allan?" she cried again.

"Lucy, do you know where Stanley Ryder is?" he asked.

"Yes," she answered, and added quickly, "Oh! it's some bad news!"

"It is," said he. "He must be found at once."

She stared at him for a moment, hesitating; then, her anxiety overcoming every other emotion, she said, "He is in the next room."

"Call him," said Montague.

Lucy ran to the door. "Come in. Quickly!" she called, and Ryder appeared.

Montague saw that he was very pale; and there was nothing left of his air of aristocratic serenity.

"Mr. Ryder," he began, "I have just come into possession of some news which concerns you very closely. I felt that you ought to know. There is to be a directors' meeting to-morrow morning, at which it is to be decided that the bank which clears for the Gotham Trust Company will discontinue to do it."

Ryder started as if he had been shot; his face turned grey. There was no sound except a faint cry of fright from Lucy.

"My information is quite positive," continued Montague. "It has been determined to wreck your institution!"

Ryder caught at a chair to support himself. "Who? Who?" he stammered.

"It is Duval and Waterman," said Montague.

"Dan Waterman!" It was Lucy who spoke.

Montague turned to look at her, and saw her eyes, wide open with terror.

"Yes, Lucy," he said.

她又喊問道，『亞蘭，什麼事？』

他問道，『你曉得賴特爾在那裏麼？』

她答道，『我曉得。』又快快的說道，『有不好消息呀！』

他說道，『是的。我們必得立刻找着他。』

她瞪眼看他一會，在那裏遊疑；隨後，她的着急關切，打倒其他無論什麼情緒，她就說道，『他就在隔壁的房子。』

孟德古說道，『請他來。』

洛雪走到房門。她說道，『你進來。快點。』賴特爾出來。

孟德古看見他的臉色很灰白；他的貴族的寧靜神氣全消滅了。

他說道，『賴特爾，我纔得着與你有很密切關係的消息。我以爲你應該曉得。明天早上開董事會議，要決定替高塔謨托刺斯公司交換支票的銀行，不再交換啦。』

賴特爾好像中了一槍的驚跳起來；他的臉變作灰色。這時候屋裏並無聲響，只有洛雪的驚怖的低微聲音。

孟德古接連說道，『我的消息是很確實的；他們打定主義要毀了你的公司！』

賴特爾抓住一把椅子以支柱他自己。訥訥的說道，『誰呀？誰呀？』

孟德古說道，『杜瓦爾同滑突曼。』

洛雪說道，『丹·滑突曼呀！』

孟德古掉過頭來看她，看見她害怕，瞪着兩眼。

他說道，『洛雪，是的。』

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"Oh, oh!" she gasped, choking; then suddenly she cried wildly. "Tell me! I don't understand—what does it mean?"

"It means that I am ruined," exclaimed Ryder.

"Ruined?" she echoed.

"Absolutely!" he said. "They've got me! I knew they were after me, but didn't think they'd dare!"

He ended with a furious imprecation; but Montague had kept his eyes fixed upon Lucy. It was her suffering that he cared about.

He heard her whisper, under her breath, "It's for me!" And then again. "It's for me!"

"Lucy," he began; but suddenly she put up her hand, and rushed toward him.

"Hush! he doesn't know!" she panted breathlessly. "I haven't told him."

And then she turned toward Ryder again. "Oh, surely there must be some way," she cried, wildly. "Surely—"

Ryder had sunk down in a chair and buried his face in his hands. "Ruined!" he exclaimed. "Utterly ruined! I won't have a dollar left in the world."

"No, no," cried Lucy, "it cannot be!" And she put her hands to her forehead, striving to think. "It must be stopped. I'll go and see him. I'll plead with him."

"You must not, Lucy!" cried Montague, starting toward her.

But again she whirled upon him. "Not a word!" she whispered, with fierce intensity. "Not a word!"

And she rushed into the next room, and half a minute later came back with her hat and wrap.

"Allan," she said, "tell them to call me a cab!"

He tried to protest again; but she would not hear him.

她喘不出氣，張大口說道，『哎喲！』隨後她忽然像發狂的喊道，『你告訴我！我不明白——那句話怎麼講？』

賴特爾說道，『就是說毀了我。』

洛雪說道，『毀了你麼？』

他說道，『絕對把我毀了！他們抓住我了！我曉得他們要同我作對，但是一向我以為他們不敢動我的手！』

他說完，發狂的詛罵一番；但是孟德古的兩眼注視洛雪。他所顧慮的原是她的痛苦。

他聽見她低聲說道，『這為的是我！這為的是我！』（與第五回遙遙相應。——譯者注）

他說道，『洛雪，』她忽然舉手，向他衝過來。

她喘氣說道，『你不要響，他不曉得！我不曾告訴他。』

她隨即又轉身向賴特爾。她狂亂的喊道，『必定有方法，必定——』

賴特爾倒在一張椅子上，他的臉埋在他的兩手裏，說道，『我被毀了！完全毀了！我連一塊錢也沒得剩下來。』

洛雪喊道，『不是的，不是的，這是不能的！』她兩手放在額上竭力想法子。『這件事必得攔阻住。我去見他，我去求他。』

孟德古走向她喊道，『洛雪，你必不可以去見他！』

她又轉身過去對着他。她極其兇猛熱烈的低聲對他說道，『你一字都不要提！一字都不要提！』

她衝進隔壁的屋子，半分鐘後她拿了帽子及大衣出來。

她說道，『亞蘭，你告訴他們同我喊一輛馬車！』

他又嘗試反抗她；她不肯聽他的話。她說道，『你可以

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"You can ride with me," she said. "You can talk then. Call me a cab! Please—save me that trouble."

He gave the message; and Lucy, meanwhile, stood in the middle of the room twisting her hands together nervously.

"Now, Allan, go downstairs," she said; "wait for me there." And after another glance at the broken figure of Ryder, he took his hat and coat and obeyed.

Montague spent his time pacing back and forth in the entrance-hall. The cab arrived, and a minute later Lucy appeared, wearing a heavy veil. She went straight to the vehicle, and sprang in, and Montague followed. She gave the driver the address of Waterman's great marble palace over by the park; and the cab started.

Then suddenly she turned upon Montague, speaking swiftly and intensely.

"I know what you are going to say," she cried. "But you must spare me—and you must spare yourself. I am sorry that you should have to know this—God knows that I could not help it! But it cannot be undone. And there is no other way out of it. I must go to him, and try to save Ryder!"

"Lucy," he began, "listen to me—"

"I don't want to listen to you," she cried wildly—almost hysterically. "I cannot bear to be argued with. It is too hard for me as it is!"

"But think of the practical side of it!" he cried. "Do you imagine that you can stop this huge machine that Waterman has set in motion?"

"I don't know, I don't know!" she exclaimed, choking back a sob. "I can only do what I can. If he has any spark of feeling in him—I'll get down on my knees to him, I will beg him—"

同我坐馬車，你就能夠同我談。替我喊一輛車！我請你替我喊——省得我費事。』

他打發人去喊馬車；當下洛雪站在屋子中間，很不安靜的扭她的兩手。

她說道，『亞蘭，你現時走下樓，在樓下等我。』孟德古再看那個被打倒的賴特爾一眼，拿着帽子與大衣，就聽她的話，走下樓。

孟德古在入門的穿堂走來走去。馬車來了，一分鐘後洛雪走出來，戴很厚的面紗。她一直走到馬車，就跳進去，孟德古跟進去。她吩咐趕車的趕到滑突曼的在公園旁邊的雲石大宅；馬車就起程。

她忽轉臉向着孟德古，很激烈的很快的說道。

『我曉得你要說什麼。但是你必得看開了不使我心痛——你必得看開了不使你自己心痛。我要你曉得這一層，我心裏是很難過的——上帝曉得我不能不這樣做！這是不能不做的。除了這個就沒得其他方法解圍。我必得去見他，嘗試救賴特爾！』

他說道，『洛雪，你聽我說——』

她很狂亂的喊道，『我不要聽你說，我受不了有人同我辯論。如現在這樣，我已經是很難過的了。』她說這番話的時候，幾乎像得了神經擾亂病。

他喊道，『你要想到事實方面！你以為你能夠阻止滑突曼所發動的極大的機器麼？』

她把她的嗚咽塞回去，喊道，『我不曉得，我不曉得！我只能做我所能做的事。他若還有一點的感觉——我將跪在他面前，我將哀求他——』

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"But, Lucy! think of what you are doing. You go there to his house at night! You put yourself into his power!"

"I don't care, Allan—I am not afraid of him. I have thought about myself too long. Now I must think about the man I love."

Montague did not answer, for a moment. "Lucy," he said at last, "will you tell me how you have thought of yourself in one single thing?"

"Yes, yes—I will!" she cried, vehemently. "I have known all along that Waterman was following me. I have been haunted by the thought of him—I have felt his power in everything that has befallen us. And I have never once told Ryder of his peril!"

"That was more a kindness to him—" began the other.

"No, no!" panted Lucy; and she caught his coat sleeve in her trembling hands. "You see, you see—you cannot even imagine it of me! I kept it a secret—because I was afraid!"

"Afraid?" he echoed.

"I was afraid that Ryder would leave me! I was afraid that he would give me up! And I loved him too much!—Now," she rushed on—"you see what kind of a person I have been! And I can sit here, and tell you that! Is there anything that can make me ashamed after that? Is there anything that can degrade me after that? And what is there left for me to do but go to Waterman and try to undo what I have done?"

Montague was speechless, before the agony of her humiliation.

"You see!" she whispered.

"Lucy," he began, protesting.

『洛雪，你要想想你將要做的是什麼事。你是在黑夜到他的家裏！你把你自己放在他的掌握中！』

『亞蘭，我不顧啦——我不怕他。我只顧我自己顧得太久了。現在我必得顧我所愛的人。』（甘爲愛情犧牲，洛雪確是一個烈女；筆墨真寫得出。——譯者注）孟德古有一會子不答。後來他說道，『洛雪，你肯告訴我你對於有單獨一件事，你會怎樣想過麼？』

他熱烈的說道，『我肯，我肯。我一向都曉得那個滑突曼追逐我。我無時不想到他——我所遭遇的無論什麼事，我都覺得他的勢力。我卻從未告訴過賴特爾他有危險！』

孟德古說道，『這是你爲他好的意思較多——』

她兩手發抖，拉住他的衣袖，喘氣說道，『不是的！不是的！你須曉得，你須曉得——你想不到我會這樣的！我嚴守祕密——因爲我害怕！』

他說道，『害怕呀！』

『我害怕賴特爾曉得了，會離開我！我害怕他曉得了會拋棄我！我愛他愛得太利害啦！』她往下快說道，『你現在曉得這些日子我是一個什麼樣的人啦！我能夠坐在這裏，把這種樣的話告訴你！我告訴過你之後，還有什麼事能夠使我覺得慚愧呀？還有什麼事能夠降低我的人格呀？解鈴還是繫鈴人，我除了去求滑突曼之外，還有什麼我所能做的事呀？』

孟德古眼看她甘受屈辱的痛苦，一句話也說不出來。

她低聲說道，『你須曉得！』

他反對她，說道，『洛雪！』

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But suddenly she caught him by the arm. "Allan," she went on, "I know that you have to try to stop me. But it is no use, and I must do it! And I cannot bear to hear you—it makes it too hard for me. My course is chosen, and nothing in the world can turn me; and I want you to go away and leave me. I want you to go—right now! I am not afraid of Waterman; I am not afraid of anything that he can do. I am only afraid of you, and your unhappiness. I want you to leave me to my fate! I want you to stop thinking about me!"

"I cannot do it, Lucy," he said.

She reached up and pulled the signal cord; and the cab came to a halt.

"I want you to get out, Allan!" she cried wildly. "Please get out, and go away."

He started to protest again; but she pushed him away in frenzy. "Go, go!" she cried; and half dazed, and scarcely realising what he did, he gave way to her and stepped out into the street.

"Drive!" she called to the man, and shut the door; and Montague found himself standing on a driveway in the park, with the lights of the cab disappearing around a turn.

CHAPTER XXI

"Is Mrs. Taylor in?" he asked, and gave his name.

"Mrs. Taylor says will you please to wait, sir," was the reply. And Montague sat down in the reception-room. A couple of minutes later, the hall-boy brought him a note.

He opened it and read these words, in a trembling hand:—

她忽然抓住他的手臂。她往下說道，『亞蘭，我曉得你會嘗試攔阻我。這是無用的，我必得做這件事！我忍受不了聽你說——聽你說就令我太爲難啦。我擇定方針啦，無論什麼事都不能使我回頭不做；我要你走開，我要你離開我。我要你走——現在就得走！我不怕滑突曼；無論他能夠做什麼，我都不怕。我只怕你，與你的不歡樂。我要你隨我去受罪！我要你不要想我！』

他說道，『洛雪，我不能。』

她伸高手，拉傳記號的繩，馬車就停住了。

她很狂亂的喊道，『亞蘭，我要你下車！我請你下車，走開。』

他又起首抗議；她同瘋了的一樣，把他推開。她喊道，『你走，你走！』他幾乎還不曉得他自己做什麼，就讓她推，他下了車站，在街上。

她對趕車的人說道，『走！』

隨即關了車門；孟德古看見自己在公園裏的一條馬路上，馬車的燈一轉灣就看不見了。

第二十一回

〔孟德古只好在公園及大街上盤桓。後來他去捷報館找貝特士，纔曉得報館的經理不肯刊他那樣費事窺探來的消息，氣到了不得。孟德古打電話找洛雪，回話說不會回來。他離開法庭，出來吃中飯，聽見大街上的賣報人喊銀行的董事們的舉動。他曉得洛雪的哀求無效。他看晚報，曉得賴特爾辭了高塔謨托刺斯公司董事，他又去找洛雪。——譯者註〕

他報名問道，『秦羅太太在家麼？』

有人答道，『秦羅太太說，請你等等。』孟德古坐在接待室。兩分鐘後，管堂屋的小子送一封信來。

他手抖抖的拆信讀道：——

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"DEAR ALLAN: It is good of you to try to help me, but I cannot bear it. Please go away. I do not want you to think about me. LUCY."

Montague could read the agony between those lines; but there was nothing he could do about it. He went over to Broadway, and started to walk down town. . . .

Then he thought of Bates, and went down to the office of the *Express*. He found Bates hard at work, seated at a table in his shirt-sleeves, and with stacks of papers around him.

"I can always spare time for a chat," he said, as Montague offered to go.

"I see you came back," observed the other.

"I'm like an old horse in a tread mill," answered Bates. "What else is there for me to do?"

He leaned back in his chair, and put his thumbs in his armholes. "Well," he remarked, "they made their killing."

"They did, indeed," said Montague.

"And they're not satisfied yet," exclaimed the other. "They're on another trail!"

"What!" cried Montague.

"Listen," said Bates. "I went in to see David Ward about the action of the Clearinghouse Committee; Gary—he's the *Despatch* man—was with me. Ward talked for half an hour, as he always does; he told us all about the gallant efforts which the bankers were making to stem the tide, and he told us that the Trust Company of the Republic was in danger and that an agreement had been made to try to save it. Mind you, there's not been the least sign of trouble for the company. 'Shall we print that?' asked Gary. 'Surely,' said Ward. 'But it will make trouble,' said Gary. 'That's all right,' said Ward. 'It's a fact. So print it.' Now what do you think of that?"

『亞蘭：你嘗試幫助我，我很領略你的好意，但是我不能受。我請你走開。我不要你想我。洛雪。』

孟德古能夠在墨裏行間看出她的痛苦。他卻不能做什麼幫助她。他走入百老匯路，起首往本市的那一頭走……

隨後他想到貝特士，就走入捷報館。他看見貝特士很忙碌的辦事，捲起兩袖，坐在桌旁，左右前後都是一堆一堆的紙。

當孟德古說要走的時候，貝特士說道，『我只管忙，我總能夠找出閒工夫談談。』

孟德古說道，『你說過不幹的，你卻又回來了。』

貝特士答說，『我如同一隻推磨子的老馬，除了報館，還有什麼事讓我做呀？』

他的背往後靠着椅子，兩隻大拇指放在腋下。他說道，『他們已經動手殺人啦。』

孟德古說道，『他們果然殺人啦。』

貝特士說道，『他們還不滿意。他們又追尋別人啦！』

孟德古喊道，『什麼呀？』

貝特士說道，『你且聽我說。我走去見大衛和爾特，打聽交換支票委員會的舉動；快報的人格雷(Gray)同我一道去。和爾特向來好說話，他說了半點鐘的話；他告訴我銀行家們怎樣努力攔阻潮流，他告訴我們共和托刺斯公司有危險，於是衆人同意立約，嘗試援救。你須知，這個公司毫無危險的現象。格雷問道，「我們可以登報麼？」和爾特說道，「一定可以。」格雷問道，「但是這樣新聞會擾亂市面的。」和爾特說道，「不要緊的。這原是一件事實。所以你可以登報。」你看這件事體怎麼樣？』

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Montague sat rigid. "But I thought they had promised to protect Prentice!" he exclaimed.

"Yes," said Bates, grimly; "and now they throw him down."

"Do you suppose Waterman knew that?"

"Why, of course; Ward is no more than one of his clerks."

"And will the *Despatch* print it, do you suppose?"

"I don't know why not," said the other. "I asked Gary if he was going to put it in, and he said 'Yes.' 'It will make another panic,' I said, and he answered, 'Panics are news.'"

Montague said nothing for a minute or two. Finally he remarked, "I have good reason to believe that the Trust Company of the Republic is perfectly sound."

"I have no doubt of it," was the reply.

"Then why—" He stopped.

Bates shrugged his shoulders. "Ask Waterman," he said. "It's some quarrel or other; he wants to put the screws on¹ somebody. Perhaps it's simply that two trust companies will scare the President more than one; or perhaps it's some stock he wants to break. I've heard it said that he has seventy-five millions laid by to pick up bargains with; and I shouldn't wonder if it was true."

There was a moment's pause. "And by the way," Bates added, "the Oil Trust has made another haul! The Electric Manufacturing Company is in trouble—that's a rival of one of their enterprises! Doesn't it all fit together beautifully?"

Montague thought for a moment or two. "This is rather important news to me," he said; "I've got money in the

¹ put the screws on 陷害人; 收拾人.

孟德古坐住不動。他喊道，『我以為他們已經答應保護普林提了！』

貝特士冷笑說道，『是呀，現在他們卻把他推下來了。』

『你猜滑突曼曉得麼？』

『你為什麼要問，他自然曉得；和爾特不過是他的許多書記中之一。』

『你猜快報肯登這段新聞麼？』

貝特士說道，『我不曉得為什麼不登。我問過格雷，他是否刊登，他說道，「要登的。」我說道，「這又要發生另一個恐慌，」他答道，「恐慌就是新聞。』』

孟德古有一兩分鐘不說話。後來他說道，『我有理由相信共和托刺斯公司是完全穩固的。』

貝特士答道，『我相信是穩固的。』

『既是這樣，為什麼——』他停住不往下說。

貝特士聳了兩肩。他說道，『你去問滑突曼。其中有過爭執，他要收拾某人。也許是不過因為一個托刺斯公司嚇不了大總統，兩個托刺斯恐嚇大總統更利害些，也許是因為他要打倒某種股票。我會聽人說過，他預備七千五百萬買便宜股票；倘若果有其事，我是不會詫異的。』

他們停了一會不說。貝特士又說道，『我想起來了，煤油托刺斯又撈了一個公司！電氣製造公司有了為難——這是他們所辦的幾個公司的一個勁敵！這豈不湊合得很妙麼？』

孟德古想了一會。他說道，『這段新聞與我有要緊關係，我有錢在共和托刺斯公司。你猜他們會讓這個公司倒

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Trust Company of the Republic. Do you suppose they are going to let it go down?"

"I talked it over with Rodney," the other replied. "He says Waterman was quite explicit in his promises to see Prentice through. And there's one thing you can say about old Dan—for all his villainies, he never breaks his word.¹ So I imagine he'll save it."

"But then, why give out this report?" exclaimed the lawyer.

"Don't you see?" said Bates. "He wants a chance to save it."

Montague's jaw fell. "Oh!" he said.

"It's as plain as the nose on your face," said Bates. "That story will come out to-morrow morning, and everybody will say it was the blunder of a newspaper reporter; and then Waterman will come forward and do the rescue act. It'll be just like a play."

"It's taking a long chance," said Montague, and added, "I had thought of telling Prentice, who's an intimate friend of mine; but I don't suppose it will do him any good."

"Poor old Prentice can't help himself," was the reply. "All you can do is to make him lose a night's sleep."

Montague went out, with a new set of problems to ponder. As he went home, he passed the magnificent building of the Gotham Trust Company, where there stood a long line of people who had prepared to spend the night. All the afternoon a frantic mob had besieged the doors, and millions of dollars had been withdrawn in a few hours. Montague knew that by the time he got down town the

¹ never breaks his word 他絕不食言。

下去麼？」

貝特士答道，「我會同洛特尼談過這件事。他說滑突曼答應援救普林提，是說得很坦白的。老丹只管做許多害人的事，他卻從來不食言的，對於他你能夠說這一句公道話。所以我想他會救這個公司的。」

這個律師喊道，「既是這樣，爲什麼要刊登這樣的報告呀？」

貝特士說道，「你還看不出麼？他要有機會救援公司。」

孟德古的顎骨垂下來。他說道，「哦！」

貝特士說道，「這是很淺白的，如同你面上的鼻子。這件故事將在明早發表，人人都要說這是一間報館的訪事人鬧錯了；滑突曼隨後就出頭首先做援救的事。很像演戲。」

孟德古說道，「這是乘難得的機會；我曾想到告訴普林提，他是我的一個密友；但是我猜告訴他也無益。」

貝特士答道，「可憐的老普林提不能自主。你若告訴他，不過使他一夜不能睡罷了。」

孟德古走出去，想着一組的新問題。當他回家的時候，他經過高塔謨托刺斯公司的宏麗建築，站着一長線的人，他們預備在那裏過夜。發狂的羣衆全個下午在那裏圍公司的門，在不多的幾點鐘裏頭就提了千百萬的存款。孟德古曉得等他明早到了紐約市的那一頭的時候，共和托

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next morning there would be another such mob in front of the Trust Company of the Republic; but he was determined to stand by his own resolve. However, he had sent a telegram to Oliver, warning him to return at once.

He went home and found there another letter from Lucy Dupree.

"Dear Allan," she wrote. "No doubt you have heard the news that Ryder has been forced out of the Gotham Trust. But I have accomplished part of my purpose—Waterman has promised that he will put him on his feet again after this trouble is over. In the meantime, I am told to go away. This is for the best; you will remember that you yourself urged me to go. Ryder cannot see me, because the newspaper reporters are following him so closely.

"I beg of you not to try to find me. I am hateful in my own sight, and you will never see me again. There is one last thing that you can do for me. Go to Stanley Ryder and offer him your help—I mean your advice in straightening out his affairs. He has no friends, and he is in a desperate plight. Do this for me. **LUCY.**"

CHAPTER XXII

At eight the next morning the train from the Adirondacks arrived, and Montague was awakened by his brother at the telephone. "Have you seen this morning's *Despatch*?" was Oliver's first word.

"I haven't seen it," said Montague; "but I know what's in it."

"About the Trust Company of the Republic?" asked Oliver.

刺斯公司門前也有這樣的羣衆，等候提款；但是他已經決定不提他的存款，他還是不提。雖是這樣說，他卻發電報給他的兄弟，警告他立刻回來。

他回家又得着洛雪一封信。

她寫道，『亞蘭，你必已聽見賴特爾被逼出高塔謨托刺斯。但是我已經達到一部分我的目的——滑突曼曾答應等到這次的擾亂過去之後幫他再恢復。當下他叫我走開。這爲的是好；你當記得，你自己曾力勸我走開。賴特爾不能見我，因爲許多報館訪事人緊緊的跟隨他。』

『我求你不要嘗試找我。我看得我自己很可厭，你將永遠不能見我的面啦。你卻能夠替我做最後一件事。你去找賴特爾，告訴他你願意幫他——我說的是你可以對他獻策，料理他的錢財事。他無朋友，他處於極困難的地位。我請你替我辦這件事。洛雪。』

第二十二回

第二天早上八點鐘從愛狄朗塔克的火車到了，孟德古的兄弟電話來，驚醒他。奧利華的第一句話就是問他，『你看見今早的快報麼？』

孟德古說道，『我不曾看見，我却曉得裏頭有什麼新聞。』

奧利華問道，『說的是共和托刺斯公司麼？』

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"Yes," said the other. "I was told the story before I telegraphed you."

"But my God, man," cried Oliver—"then why aren't you down town?"

"I'm going to let my money stay."

"What?"

"I believe that the institution is sound; and I am not going to leave Prentice in the lurch.¹ I telegraphed you, so that you could do as you chose."

It was a moment or two before Oliver could find words to reply.

"Thanks!" he said. "You might have done a little more—sent somebody down to keep a place in line for me. You're out of your mind, but there's no time to talk about it now. Good-by." And so he rang off.

Montague dressed and had his breakfast; in the meantime he glanced over a copy of the *Despatch*, where, in the account of the day's events, he found the fatal statements about the Trust Company of the Republic. It was very interesting to Montague to read these newspapers and see the picture of events which they presented to the public. They all told what they could not avoid telling—that is, the events which were public matters; but they never by any chance gave a hint of the reasons for the happenings—you would have supposed that all these upheavals in the banking world were so many thunderbolts which had fallen from the heavens above. And each day they gave more of their space to insisting that the previous day's misfortunes were the last—that by no chance could there be any more thunderbolts to fall.

¹ to leave in the lurch 忽然提款。

那個答道，『是的。我先得了消息，纔打電報給你的。』

奧利華喊道，『我的上帝呀，你爲什麼不到這邊來？』

『我還是把我的錢存在那裏，不提出來。』

『什麼呀？』

『我相信公司是穩的；我不願出其不意的忽然提款，令普林提爲難。我打電報給你，使你能夠斟酌。』

過了一兩秒鐘，奧利華纔能夠有話答復。

他說道，『我謝謝你。你原可以再多作一點——打發一個人到這裏來，在等候取款的一串人裏頭，替我留個地方。你的心是亂了，現在沒得時候談這件事啦。我走啦。』他就關了電話啦。

孟德古梳洗穿衣，吃早飯；當下他看看快報，他在當天的新聞裏頭，看見有關於共和托刺斯公司的致命傷新聞。孟德古讀新聞，又看見報紙所表現於世的事變的情形，覺得很有意味。報紙所告訴人的，都是不能不告訴的，——所告訴的都是人人所曉得的公開的事體；但是報紙卻絕不流露是爲什麼理由會發生這許多事變——讀者只會猜銀行界這許多翻騰都是從天而降的幾陣風雨雷電。報紙一天比一天的多佔篇幅力勸讀者相信昨天的禍害是最後的禍害——還說絕無機會能有任何更多的風雨雷電下降。

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When he went down town, he rode one station farther than usual in order to pass the Trust Company of the Republic. He found a line of people extending halfway round the block, and in the minute that he stood watching there were a score or more added to it. Police were patrolling up and down—it was not many hours later that they were compelled to adopt the expedient of issuing numbered tickets to those who waited in the line.

Montague walked on toward the front, looking for his brother. But he had not gone very far before he gave an exclamation of amazement. He saw a short, stout, grey-haired figure, which he recognized, even by its back. "Major Venable!" he gasped.

The Major whirled about. "Montague!" he exclaimed. "My God, you are just in time to save my life!"

"What do you want?" asked the other.

"I want a chair!" gasped the Major, whose purple features seemed about to burst with his unwonted exertions. "I've been standing here for two hours. In another minute more I should have sat down on the sidewalk."

"Where can I get a chair?" asked Montague, biting his tongue in order to repress his amusement.

"Over on Broadway," said the Major. "Go into one of the stores, and make somebody sell you one. Pay anything—I don't care."

So Montague went back, and entered a leather-goods store, where he saw several cane-seated chairs. He was free to laugh then all he pleased; and he explained the situation to one of the clerks, who demurred at five dollars, but finally consented for ten dollars to take the risk of displeasing his employer. For fifty cents more Montague found a boy to carry it, and he returned in triumph to his venerable friend.

當他到本市的那一頭的時候，他多走一站，以便經過共和托刺斯公司。他看見一串的人，伸長到繞那一堵房子的半周，在站住看的那一分鐘裏頭，又加上二十多人。巡警往來彈壓——再過幾點鐘只好發號牌，給等候的人們。

孟德古向門前走，找他的兄弟。他走不多遠，就很驚訝的喊。他看見一個矮胖白髮人，他看見這個人的背就認得是誰。他張口喘氣喊道，『大佐文尼布(Venable)』。

大佐轉過身子，他喊道，『孟德古！我的上帝，你來得正是時候。救我的命！』

孟德古問道，『你要什麼？』

大佐喘氣說道，『我要一把椅子坐下。』

大佐在人堆裏擠，太過費力，滿臉紫漲到快要炸了。他接連說道，『我在這裏站了兩點鐘。再站一分鐘，我就要坐在街邊啦。』

孟德古咬住舌頭禁止他自己要大笑，問道，『我從那裏能夠得一把椅子？』

大佐說道，『你走到百老匯路。走入一間店裏，叫店裏的人賣一把給你。你只管買一把來，無論花多少錢買來，我都不管。』

孟德古只好走回去，走入一間皮革店，看見有幾把木架的藤椅。他這時候可以隨便大笑啦；他把情形告訴店夥，他五塊錢不肯賣，後來他願負店主不高興的責任，十塊錢賣了一把。孟德古再花半塊錢給一個小孩子搬來，他就很得意的回來見老朋友銷差。

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"I never expected to see you in a position like this," he remarked. "I thought you always knew things in advance."

"By the Lord, Montague!" muttered the other, "I've got a quarter of a million in this place."

"I've got about one-fourth as much myself," said Montague.

"What!" cried the Major. "Then what are you doing?"

"I'm going to leave it in," said Montague. "I have reason to know that that report in the *Despatch* is simply a blunder, and that the institution is sound."

"But, man, there'll be a run on it!" sputtered the old gentleman.

"There will, if everybody behaves like you. You don't need your quarter of a million to pay for your lunch, do you?"

The Major was too much amazed to find a reply.

"You put your money in a trust company," the other continued, "and you know that it only keeps five per cent reserve, and is liable to pay a hundred per cent of its deposits. How can you expect it to do that?"

"I don't expect it," said the Major, grimly; "I expect to be among the five per cent." And he cast his eye up the line, and added, "I rather think I am."

Montague went on ahead, and found his brother, with only about a score of people ahead of him. Apparently not many of the depositors of the Trust Company read their newspapers before eight o'clock in the morning.

"Do you want a chair, too?" asked Montague. "I just got one for the Major."

"Is he here, too?" exclaimed Oliver. "Good Heavens! No, I don't want a chair," he added, "I'll get through

他說道，『我以為事前你常得着消息的。我絕不會預料你這次會處於這樣的地位。』

大佐喃喃說道，『孟德古，我有二十五萬存在這個公司。』

孟德古說道，『我自己有三十多萬存在這裏。』

大佐喊道，『什麼呀！既是這樣，你怎麼辦？』

孟德古說道，『我還是存在那裏。我有理由曉得快報的新聞不過是弄錯了，我曉得公司是穩實的。』

老頭子不連不貫的快說道，『但是人們要擠兌呀！』

『若是人人都像你這樣不放心，自然會發生擠兌風潮。你用不着二十五萬圓給一頓中飯的錢呀？』

大佐太過驚訝，說不出話來。

孟德古接連說道，『你放款在一個托刺斯公司裏，你是曉得的，公司只留百分之五做準備金，卻是要負責給還全數的存款。你怎樣望公司給還？』

大佐很嚴厲的說道，『我並不希望全數，我只望分得那百分之五。』他看看那一串人，他又說道，『我看，我很像在其列。』

孟德古向前走，找着他的兄弟，只約有二十個人在他的前頭。看來好像有許多存款人不是在八點鐘前看報的。

孟德古問道，『你也要一把椅子麼？我纔弄了一把給大佐。』

奧利華喊道，『他也在這裏麼？老天呀，我不要椅子。我很早就辦完了。亞蘭，你得告訴我——究竟是怎麼一會

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early. But, Allan, tell me—what in the world is the matter? Do you really mean that your money is still in here?"

"It's here," the other answered. "There's no use arguing about it—come over to the office when you get your money."

"I got the train just by half a minute," said Oliver. "Poor Bertie Stuyvesant didn't get up in time, and he's coming on a special he's got about three hundred thousand in here. It was to pay for his new yacht."

"I guess some of the yacht-makers won't be quite so busy from now on," remarked the other, as he moved away.

That afternoon he heard the story of how General Prentice, as a director of the Gotham Trust, had voted that the institution should not close its doors, and then, as president of the Trust Company of the Republic, had sent over and cashed a check for a million dollars. None of the newspapers printed that story, but it ran from mouth to mouth, and was soon the jest of the whole city. Men said that it was this act of treachery which had taken the heart out of the Gotham Trust Company directors, and led to the closing of its doors.

Such was the beginning of the panic as Montague saw it. It had all worked out beautifully, according to the schedule. The stock market was falling to pieces—some of the leading stocks were falling several points between transactions, and Wyman and Hegan and the Oil and Steel people were hammering the market and getting ready for the killing. And at the same time, representatives of Waterman in Washington were interviewing the President, and setting before him the desperate plight of the Mississippi

事？你的錢當真還在這個公司裏頭麼？」

孟德古答道，『還在這公司裏。辨論是無用的了。你拿了錢就到我的公事房來。』

奧利華說道，『我一上車，只有半分鐘就開行啦。可憐的司圖威桑 (Stuyvesant) 來不及，他坐專車來——他有三十萬存在這裏。這是預備購買他的新遊船的。』

孟德古走開，一面說道，『我猜有幾個製造遊船的人，從此以往不會十分忙啦。』

當天下午他聽說軍長普林提以高塔謨托刺斯公司的一個董事的資格，投票提議公司不該關門，他以共和托刺斯公司主席資格，送一張支票過來取了一百萬圓的現款。沒得一個報館刊登這件新聞，但是人人嘴裏都傳說這件事，不久就變作整個紐約市的一段笑話。人們說原是這一件陰謀傾陷的舉動，灰了高塔謨托刺斯公司董事們的心，纔關了門的。

孟德古眼見的恐慌，就是這樣起首的。照着預定的辦法做去，辦得很好。證券市場是全坍塌了——幾種領袖證券當交易的時候就跌了好幾點，威曼 (Wyman) 與希甘及煤油與鋼鐵的人們，在市場裏大鬧，預備殺人。同時在華盛頓的滑突曼代表見大總統，面陳密士失必鋼鐵公司的絕望的困難情形。全國財政的構架，已經搖動，快要塌

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Steel Company. Already the structure of the country's finances was tottering; and here was one more big failure threatening. Realizing the desperate situation, the Steel Trust was willing to do its part to save the country—it would take over the Mississippi Steel Company, provided only that the Government would not interfere. The desired promise was given; and so that last of Waterman's purposes was accomplished.

But there was one factor in the problem upon which few had reckoned, and that was the vast public which furnished all the money for the game—the people to whom dollars were not simply gamblers' chips, but to whom they stood for the necessities of life; business men who must have them to pay their clerks on Saturday afternoon; working-men who needed them for rent and food; helpless widows and orphans to whom they meant safety from starvation. These unhappy people had no means of knowing that financial institutions, which were perfectly sound and able to pay their depositors, might be wrecked deliberately in a gamblers' game. When they heard that banks were tottering, and were being besieged for money, they concluded that there must be real danger—that the long-predicted crash must be at hand. They descended upon Wall Street in hordes—the whole financial district was packed with terrified crowds, and squads of policemen rode through upon horseback in order to keep open the streets.

“Somebody asked for a dollar,” was the way one banker phrased it. Wall Street had been doing business with pieces of paper; and now someone asked for a dollar, and it was discovered that the dollar had been mislaid.

啦；現在有一個大公司的失敗正在要發現。鋼鐵托刺斯體會這樣絕望地位，願意盡其一部分的責任救國——只要政府不干預，這個托刺斯情願把密士失必鋼鐵公司拿過來。政府答應不干預（政府中計了。——譯者注）；滑突曼的最後的目的就是這樣達到了。

但是這個問題裏頭有一個因數，是很少人計及的，這個因數就是極多數出錢供財閥耍把戲的人們——這極多數的人們看來，金銀幣並不是不過是賭錢人的籌碼，他們看是生命所必需的；有許多做生意的人每到星期六下午要拿錢發給伙記們工資的；工人們要錢給房租與買火食；無靠的孤兒寡婦要錢養命以免餓死。這許多不幸的人們，無從曉得銀行及公司情形，這許多行號只管是完備的穩實可靠，只管能夠給還存戶，若遇有人有意倒把，存心擾亂，就可以被人擠倒的。他們一聞銀行搖動，有許多人圍住要錢，他們以為必定是有真實的危險——久已預料在先的坍塌，必定就在目前啦。於是他們成羣成隊的到垣街來——全個銀行區都塞滿了恐慌的羣衆，幾隊的騎馬巡警遊行，不使斷絕交通。

有一個銀行家說這次的情形說得好，他說道，『有人要一塊現銀圓。』垣街做生意向來都是用紙；現在有人要一塊現銀圓，纔曉得那塊現銀圓誤放在別處了。

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It was an experience for which the captains of finance were not entirely prepared; they had forgotten the public. It was like some great convulsion of nature, which made mockery of all the powers of men, and left the beholders dazed and terrified. In Wall Street men stood as if in a valley, and saw far up above them the starting of an avalanche; they stood fascinated with horror, and watched it gathering headway; saw the clouds of dust rising up, and heard the roar of it swelling, and realized that it was a matter of only a second or two before it would be upon them and sweep them to destruction.

The lines of people before the Gotham Trust and the Trust Company of the Republic were now blocks in length; and every hour one heard of runs upon new institutions. There were women wringing their hands and crying in nervous excitement; there were old people, scarcely able to totter; there were people who had risen from sick-beds, and who stood all through the day and night, shivering in the keen October winds.

Runs had begun on the savings banks also; over on the East Side the alarm had reached the ignorant foreign population. It had spread with the speed of lightning all over the country; already there were reports of runs in other cities, and from thousands and tens of thousands of banks in East and South and West came demands upon the Metropolis for money. And there was no money anywhere.

And so the masters of the Banking Trust realized to their annoyance that the monster which they had turned loose might get beyond their control. Runs were beginning upon institutions in which they themselves were concerned. In the face of madness such as this, even the

財政界的大統領們並不會整個的預備這樣的一種閱歷；他們忘記了極多數的羣衆。這就如同一陣狂風驟雨或山崩地裂，全數人力都無所施，眼見的人都變糊塗了，只曉得恐怖。人們在垣街如同在一個山谷裏，看見山上有一座大冰山起首衝下來；他們站在那裏被恐怖所迷住了，看着冰山往前衝，看見攪起一陣一陣的塵土，聽見吼聲越來越響，他們曉得再過一兩秒鐘就來到，把他們掃走，毀了他們。

在高塔謨托刺斯與共和托刺斯公司門前的一串一串的人，現在有好幾堵房屋那麼長；每點鐘都聽說別的銀行也受擠兌啦。有許多女人扭手在那裏害怕到哭；有幾乎不能邁步的老人；有從病榻起來的人，日夜站在那裏，在十月間的尖利的冷風裏頭發抖。

好幾家儲蓄銀行也起首被人擠兌啦。這場恐慌傳到東邊的無知識的外國居民們啦。如同電光那樣快，蔓延到全國啦；已經有報告說別的市鎮也擠兌啦，在東方，南方，及西方的幾千幾萬銀行，都向紐約取錢。無論那裏都無現錢。

銀行托刺斯的頭目們纔曉得他們所放出來的妖怪鬧得太兇，他們很許降伏不了這個妖怪，他們纔着急起來。他們與有關係的公司及銀行，也起首受擠兌了。當這樣狂亂的時候，國立銀行的百分之二十五的存款也是不能夠

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twenty-five per cent reserves of the national banks would not be sufficient. The moving of the cotton and grain crops had taken hundreds of millions from New York; and there was no money to be got by any chance from abroad. Everywhere they turned, they faced this appalling scarcity of money; nothing could be sold, no money could be borrowed. The few who had succeeded in getting their cash were renting safe-deposit boxes and hiding the actual coin.

And so, all their purposes having been accomplished, the bankers set to work to stem the tide. Frantic telegrams were sent to Washington, and the Secretary of the Treasury deposited six million dollars in the national banks of the Metropolis, and then came on himself to consult.

Men turned to Dan Waterman, who was everywhere recognized as the master of the banking world. The rivalry of the different factions ceased in the presence of this peril; and Waterman became suddenly a king, with practically absolute control of the resources of every bank in the city. Even the Government placed itself in his hands; the Secretary of the Treasury became one of his clerks, and bank presidents and financiers came crowding into his office like panic-stricken children. Even the proudest and most defiant men, like Wyman and Hegan, took his orders and listened humbly to his tirades.¹

All these events were public history, and one might follow them day by day in the newspapers. Waterman's earlier acts had been planned and carried out in darkness. No one knew, no one had the faintest suspicion. But now newspaper reporters attended the conferences and

¹ tirades 盛氣申斥.

應付的。棉花與麥子的收成，從紐約刮了幾千萬走；又無機會可以從外國取現款。無論他們面向那一方，那一方都是令人可怕的那樣無錢；無論什麼東西都賣不出，無論什麼錢都不能借到手。有不多的幾個人僥倖得到現款的，都租用保管箱，把金銀幣收藏起來。

銀行家們看見他們的計劃全達到目的，就起首工作以阻遏潮流。打許多發狂的電報到華盛頓，財政部總長存了六百萬圓在紐約的幾家國立銀行裏，自己還親身跑來商量。

許多人都向着丹·滑突曼，到處都承認他是銀行界的大頭目。各黨派看見面前的危險，就停止競爭；滑突曼忽然變作一個大王，實際上他有了絕對的勢力操縱紐約的各銀行的款項。連政府自身也放在他的掌握中；財政部總長變作他的一個書記，銀行主席們，與財政家，成羣的擠入他的公事房，如同受了恐怖的小孩子。即使是最驕傲的與最反對的如同威曼與希甘等，都得聽他的號令，都得低首下心的聽他盛氣申飭。

全數這樣的事體都是人人所曉得的，隨便什麼人都可以逐天在報紙上追尋。滑突曼的較早的舉動是在黑暗裏籌劃與施行的。無人曉得這樣的黑幕，亦無人存過極輕微的疑心。但是到了現在，無論滑突曼往那裏去，總有報館的人們到會議，與追尋他的蹤跡，報紙請國人看看這個

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trailed Waterman about wherever he went, and the public was invited to the wonderful spectacle of this battle-worn veteran, rousing himself for one last desperate campaign and saving the honor and credit of the country.

The public hung upon his lightest word, praying for his success. The Secretary of the Treasury sat in the Sub-Treasury building near his office, and poured out the funds of the Government under his direction. Thirty-two million dollars in all were thus placed with the national banks; and from all these institutions Waterman drew the funds which he poured into the vaults of the imperilled banks and trust companies. It was a time when one man's peril was every man's, and none might stand alone. And Waterman was a despot, imperious and terrible. "I have taken care of my bank," said one president; "and I intend to shut myself up in it and wait until the storm is over." "If you do," Waterman retorted, "I will build a wall around you, and you will never get out of it again!" And so the banker contributed the necessary number of millions.

The fight centered around the imperilled Trust Company of the Republic. It was recognized by everyone that if Prentice's institution went down, it would mean defeat. Longer and longer grew the line of waiting depositors; the vaults were nearly empty. The cashiers adopted the expedient of paying very slowly—they would take half an hour or more to investigate a single check; and thus they kept going until more money arrived. The savings banks of the city agreed unanimously to close their doors, availing themselves of their legal right to demand sixty days before paying. The national banks resorted to the expedient of paying with clearing-house certificates. The

百戰老將的令人驚奇的面目，說他抖搜他的精神，作最後一次拼命的大戰，援救本國的威名與信用。

國人留心聽他的最無關係的說話，祈求他成功。財政部總長坐在與他相近的本部的附屬辦公室，聽他指揮把政府的款項傾倒出來。共總撥了三千二百萬圓入國立銀行們；滑突曼就從全數這樣的銀行支取，倒入有危險的銀行及托刺斯公司。到了這個時候，一個人的危險就是人人的危險，無一個是可以孤立的。滑突曼就是一個專制帝王，是嚴厲的，可怕的。有一個銀行總理說道，『我已經很小心照應我的銀行，我意欲把我自己關在裏頭，等到風潮過去再出來。』滑突曼駁他，說這，『你若果關在裏頭，我將築一道牆包圍你，你是永遠再出不來的！』這個銀行總理只好乖乖的湊出他所要的幾百萬。

這次奮鬪，以受危險的共和托刺斯公司為中心點。人人都認，倘若普林提的公司倒了，就算是失敗。守候的存戶越聚越多，那一串的人越變越長；金庫幾乎空了。發現款的人們採用慢慢付款的妙法——他們查驗一張支票要費半點鐘工夫；他們就是用這個法子支持住，等候再有現金到來。紐約的儲蓄銀行一致議定關門，利用他們法定權利，六十日後給款。國立銀行利用交換所憑據。報館勸人

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newspapers preached confidence and cheered the public—even the newsboys were silenced, so that their shrill cries might no longer increase the public excitement. Groups of mounted policemen swept up and down the streets, keeping the crowds upon the move.

And so at last came the fateful Thursday, the climax of the panic. A pall seemed to have fallen upon Wall Street. Men ran here and there, bareheaded and pale with fright. Upon the floor of the Stock Exchange men held their breath. The market was falling to pieces. All sales had stopped; one might quote any price one chose, for it was impossible to borrow a dollar. Interest rates had gone to one hundred and fifty per cent to two hundred per cent; a man might have offered a thousand per cent for a large sum and not obtained it. The brokers stood about, gazing at each other in utter despair. Such an hour had never before been known.

All this time the funds of the Government had been withheld from the Exchange. The Government must not help the gamblers, everyone insisted. But now had come the moment when it seemed that the Exchange must be closed. Thousands of firms would be ruined, the business of the country would be paralysed. There came word that the Pittsburgh Exchange had closed. So once more the terrified magnates crowded into Waterman's office. Once more the funds of the Government were poured into the banks; and from the banks they came to Waterman; and within a few minutes after the crisis had developed, the announcement was made that Dan Waterman would lend twenty-five million dollars at ten per cent.

So the peril was averted. Brokers upon the floor wept for joy, and cheers rang through all the Street. A mob

相信銀行，與鼓勵國人放心——連賣報的孩子們也不叫喊啦，所以無尖聲的叫喊，增取國人的擾亂。

成羣的馬巡在大街上下跑，催羣衆走動，不許停留。

最後就到了最有關係的星期四日，這一天恐慌到了極點。好像有一條罩棺被，罩在垣街上。人們光着頭帶着受了恐怖的死灰色的臉在街上亂跑。人們在證券交易所裏頭都喘不出氣。市面是破壞到成碎塊了。全數買賣都停止；任憑你怎樣要價，要想借一塊錢是絕不能辦到的。利息飛漲，從每百元願納一百五十元增至二百元重息；你只管願借一百元納利一千元，也借不到大筆款項。經紀們站在那裏面面相視，絕對毫無希望。一向未曾見面這樣情景。

這個時候政府的款項從交易所提了出來。人人都竭力主張政府必不可以幫助賭博的人們。現在到了時候，好像必定要關了交易所的門。千萬家的行號都要毀了，全國的買賣都全停滯了。這時又得了消息說披特士堡（Pittsburgh）的交易所已經關門了。於是受了驚怖的大老官們，又擠在滑突曼的公事房裏頭。政府的錢又倒入許多銀行裏；現錢從這許多銀行又到了滑突曼手上；危機發表後不過幾分鐘內，就有宣傳，說丹·滑突曼肯借出二千五百萬元，只取一分利。

這就阻遏了危險。經紀們在交易所歡喜到哭，垣街上全是一片得意高興聲音。有一羣人聚在滑突曼公事房面

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of men gathered in front of Waterman's office, singing a chorus of adulation.¹

All these events Montague followed day by day. He was passing through Wall Street that Thursday afternoon, and he heard the crowds singing. He turned away, bitter, and sick at heart. Could a more tragic piece of irony² have been imagined than this—that the man, who of all men had been responsible for this terrible calamity, should be heralded before the whole country as the one who averted it! Could there have been a more appalling illustration of the way in which the masters of the Metropolis were wont to hoodwink its blind and helpless population?

There was only one man to whom Montague could vent his feelings; only one man besides himself who knew the real truth. Montague got the habit, when he left his work, of stopping at the *Express* building, and listening for a few minutes to the grumbling of Bates.

Bates would have each day's news fresh from the inside; not only the things which would be printed on the morrow, but the things which would never be printed anywhere. And he and Montague would feed the fires of each other's rage. One day it would be one of the *Express's* own editorials, in which it was pointed out that the intemperate speeches and reckless policies of the President were now bearing their natural fruit; another day it would be a letter from a prominent clergyman, naming Waterman as the President's successor.

Men were beside themselves with wonder at the generosity of Waterman in lending twenty-five millions at ten per cent. But it was not his own money—it was the money

¹ adulation 恭維. ² irony 說反語; 暗諷.

前齊唱歌功誦德的歌。

孟德古逐日注意全數這種事體。這個星期四日的下午他在垣街走過，聽見幾堆的人唱歌。他掉轉身子走開，心裏是很痛恨很惡心的。我們能夠想像比這件種的明褒暗貶的唱歌更慘痛的麼？擾亂全國金融，使許多人受這樣可怕的禍害的，原是滑突曼最負責，羣衆反在全國面前恭維他，說是他打退禍害的！紐約市的頭目們怎樣蒙蔽盲目無睹的與毫無勢力的羣衆，能有比這次那樣更可怕的發明麼？

孟德古只能向單獨一個人發洩他的一肚子的氣；在他之外，只有一個人曉得真實情形。當辦完公事出門的時候，他習慣走入捷報館，聽幾分鐘貝特士發牢騷。

貝特士每天都有從內裏得來的新消息；不獨有明天見報的新聞，且有無論那一個報所絕不肯登的消息。他就同孟德古兩個人彼此互相供給發怒的火。一天是他們對於捷報自己的社論發火，因為幾篇論說指斥大總統的演說，與鹵莽的政策，說現在得了自然的結果啦；一天是對於一個有名的教士的一封信發火，因為信裏提倡選滑突曼做下屆的大總統。

人們都很詫異滑突曼這樣慷慨，只取一分利息，借出二千五百萬。但是這筆錢並不是他自己的——他所肯借出的都是好幾家國立銀行的錢；這些錢又不是這好幾家

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of the national banks which he was lending; and this was money which the national banks had got from the Government, and for which they paid the Government no interest at all. There was never any graft¹ in the world so easy as the national bank graft, declared Bates. These smooth gentlemen got the people's money to build their institutions. They got the Government to deposit money with them, and they paid the Government nothing, and charged the people interest for it. They had the privilege of issuing a few hundred millions of bank-notes, and they charged interest for these and paid the Government nothing. And then, to cap the climax,² they used their profits to buy up the Government! They filled the Treasury Department with their people, and when they got into trouble, the Sub-Treasury was emptied into their vaults. And in the face of all this, the people agitated for postal savings banks, and couldn't get them. In other countries the people had banks where they could put their money with absolute certainty; for no one had ever known such a thing as a run upon a postal bank.

"Sometimes," said Bates, "it seems almost as if our people were hypnotised. You saw all this life insurance scandal, Mr. Montague; and there's one simple and obvious remedy for all the evils—if we had Government life insurance, it could never fail, and there'd be no surplus for Wall Street gamblers. It sounds almost incredible—but do you know, I followed that agitation as I don't believe any other man in this country followed it—and from first to last I don't believe that one single suggestion of that remedy was ever made in print!"

¹ graft 違法所取得的政府錢財。 ² to cap the climax 變本加厲。

銀行的，原是得自政府的，他們並不給政府什麼利息。貝特士說，世界再沒有比國立銀行那樣從易違法所取得政府的錢財。這些滑頭先生們，取人民的錢財，開他們的銀行。他們又得到政府存款在他們的銀行裏，他們不納息與政府，借貸與人民，卻要取息。他們有特別權利發行幾千萬鈔票，還要取息，卻不納息與政府。他們還要變本加厲，用他們的餘利買政府！全個財政部都是他們的人，等到他們有了爲難，就把財政部的庫藏搜括淨盡，都搬入他們自己的庫裏。當這樣的事體進行的時候，人民運動開設郵局儲金，反不蒙批准。在別的國裏頭，人民有絕對靠得住的銀行可以存款；因爲一向無人見過在郵局銀行擠兌的事。

貝特士說這，『我們美國人，有時好像是受了催眠術的。孟德古，你曾見過人壽保險公司的騙局；原有一種單簡的與顯然的方法，補救全數這樣的禍害——假使我們有政府的人壽保險公司，是絕不會倒的，那就不會有餘款給垣街的賭棍。我說出來好像是不能令人相信的——你可曉得我很留意那次的運動，我相信本國沒得他人有如我那樣留意的——從始至終我不相信有人刊登過那個補救方法的無論那一個提議！』

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A startled look had come upon Montague's face as he listened. "I don't believe I ever thought of it myself!" he exclaimed.

And Bates shrugged his shoulders. "You see!" he said. "So it goes."

CHAPTER XXIII

"Father is home now," Miss Hegan continued. "We should like so much to have you."

He sat staring in front of him. "No," he said at last, in a low voice. "I would rather not come."

His manner, even more than his words, struck his companion. She glanced at him in surprise.

"Why?" she began, and stopped. There was a silence.

"Miss Hegan," he said at last, "I might make conventional excuses. I might say that I have engagements; that I am very busy. Ordinarily one does not find it worth while to tell the truth in this social world of ours. But somehow I feel impelled to deal frankly with you.

He did not look at her. Her eyes were fixed upon him in wonder. "What is it?" she asked.

And he replied, "I would rather not meet your father again."

"Why! Has anything happened between you and father?" she exclaimed in dismay.

"No," he answered; "I have not seen your father since I had lunch with you in Newport."

"Then what is it?"

He paused a moment. "Miss Hegan," he began, "I have had a painful experience in this panic. I have lived through it in a very dreadful way. I cannot get over it—

當孟德古留心聽他說話的時候，臉上發生驚愕神色。他喊道，『我不相信我自己會想到這件事！』

貝特士聳聳兩肩。他說道，『你看呀！世事就是這樣。』

第二十三回

〔孟德古曾勸賴特爾重整旗鼓，他不聽。過了幾天賴特爾自殺。翌日報紙登這件慘事。同那一天早上丁華爾的報紙登有一個神祕的美貌女子在旅館服毒死；報紙猜她是一個女戲子，還登了她的相片。可惜孟德古不曾見了丁華爾的報紙，所以至今還不曉得洛雪的生死存亡。有一天他在路上遇見希甘小姐。小姐請她到家吃飯。——譯者註〕

他有一會子不置答。

希甘小姐接連說道，『我父親現時在家，我們很想你來吃大餐。』

他坐下，兩眼向面前瞪。後來他低聲說這，『我不想來。』

他的態度比他的說話更令他的同伴注意，她很詫異的看他一眼。

她說道，『爲什麼？』說完就停住了。兩人都不響。

後來他說道，『希甘小姐，我原可以說俗套的藉口話。我原可以說我有約在先；原可以說我很忙。我們在應酬界裏頭，通常是值不得說實話的。我卻多少覺得我必得對你說坦白話。』

他並不看她。她卻很詫異的兩眼瞪着他，她問道，『是什麼？』

他答道，『我不甚願意再見你的父親。』

她很驚怪的喊道，『這是爲什麼！難道你同我的父親有什麼過節麼？』

他答道，『並無過節；自從我同你在紐坡特吃中飯以來，我未曾見過你的父親。』

『究竟是什麼事呢？』

他停一會子。他起首說道，『希甘小姐，我在這一次的金融恐慌裏頭曾得過痛心的閱歷。我經過這一番的恐慌心裏是極其難過的。我不能忘記這件事——我不能從我

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I cannot get the images of suffering out of my mind. It is a very real and a very awful thing to me--this wrecking of the lives of tens of thousands of people. And so I am hardly fitted for the amenities¹ of social life just at present."

"But my father!" she protested. "What has he to do with it?"

"Your father," he answered, "is one of the men who were responsible for that panic. He helped to make it; and he profited by it."

She started forward, clenching her hands and staring at him wildly. "Mr. Montague!" she exclaimed.

He did not reply.

There was a long pause. He could hear her breath coming quickly.

"Are you sure?" she whispered.

"Quite sure," said he.

Again there was silence.

"I do not know very much about my father's affairs," she began, at last. "I cannot reply to what you say. It is very dreadful."

"Please understand me, Miss Hegan," said he. "I have no right to force such thoughts upon you; and perhaps I have made a mistake—"

"I should have preferred that you should tell me the truth," she said quickly.

"I believed that you would," he answered. "That was why I spoke."

"Was what he did so very dreadful?" asked the girl, in a low voice.

¹ amenities 娛樂; 適意.

的心中拋脫痛苦的印象。自我看來，這是一件很真實很可怕的事——就是說這次恐怖毀了千萬人的生活。所以現在我難以享受應酬的娛樂。』

她駁道，『但是我的父親！他與這件事體有什麼相干？』

他答道，『這次的恐慌原有幾個人負責，你的父親就是其中的一個。他幫助做出這次恐慌的；他從中得利。』

她跳上前，握着兩拳，兇兇的瞪眼看他。她喊道，『孟德古先生！』

他不答。

兩個人許久不說話。他能夠聽見她的呼吸來得很快。

她低聲說道，『你確實曉得實有其事麼？』

他說道，『我曉得很的確。』

他們又不開口。

後來她說道，『我不甚曉得我父親的錢財事體。我不能答你所說的話。這是很可怕的。』

他說道，『希甘小姐，我請你不要誤會我的意思。我不該強你聽我這種的思想；也許是我做錯了——』

她快快說道，『我更願意你把實話告訴我。』

他答說，『我相信你願意聽實話。所以我纔說。』

這個女子低聲問道，『他所做的事果真是這樣的極其可怕麼？』

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"I would prefer not to answer," said he. "I cannot judge your father. I am simply trying to protect myself. I'm afraid of the grip of this world upon me. I have followed the careers of so many men, one after another. They come into it, and it lays hold of them, and before they know it, they become corrupt. What I have seen here in the Metropolis has filled me with dismay, almost with terror. Every fibre of me cries out against it; and I mean to fight it—to fight it all my life. And so I do not care to make terms with it socially. When I have seen a man doing what I believe to be a dreadful wrong, I cannot go to his home, and shake his hand, and smile, and exchange the commonplaces of life with him."

It was a long time before Miss Hegan replied. Her voice was trembling.

"Mr. Montague," she said, "you must not think that I have not been troubled by these things. But what can one do? What is the remedy?"

"I do not know," he answered. "I wish that I did know. I can only tell you this, that I do not intend to rest until I have found out."

"How are you going to begin?" she asked.

He replied: "I am going into politics. I am going to try to teach the people."

他說道，『我不願置答。我不能判斷你的父親。我不過嘗試保護我自己。我恐怕這個世界牢牢的抓住我。我會留心觀察許多人的行爲，逐個都留心過。他們出來問世，世界就拖住他們，他們就變腐敗了，變了纔曉得。我在紐約市所見的事使我驚駭，幾乎使我害怕。我全力反對這樣的事；我立意要同這樣的事奮鬥——我終身要奮鬥。所以我因爲這種事，不肯同他們來往應酬。當我看見一個人做一件事，是我所相信爲一件可怕的害人的事，我就不能到他家裏，不能同他拉手，不能向他微笑，不能同他交換人生的平常禮節。』

希甘小姐過了好一會纔答話。她的聲音是抖抖的。

她說道，『孟德古先生，你必不可以想我不會爲這些事煩心。但是我能作什麼？有什麼補救方法？』

他答道，『我不曉得。我很願我曉得。我只能告訴你一句話，我要等到我找出補救方法，我方肯罷手。』

她問道，『你怎樣起首呀？』

他答道，『我要入政界。我嘗試教導國人。』（此是作者自命，所以先著這部小說。——譯者注）

