

# OUT JOE'S ORGANIZATION'S BUSINESS, SAYS WARD FEELER IN "THE CRACK IN THE BELL"

## Archer Learns His First Lesson in Practical Politics From Michael Kelly, Division Leader in the Fifth Ward, While Recuperating in the Lafayette Club From Strongburger's Beating

BY PETER CLARK MACFARLANE

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JOE ARCHER, who, with his elder brother, Paul, are actively continuing the fight for the Republican City Central Committee, was the young man who, in the course of his long and arduous career, has learned the first lesson in practical politics from Michael Kelly, division leader in the Fifth ward, while recuperating in the Lafayette club from Strongburger's beating.

CHAPTER III—(Continued)

“Friend of mine,” objected Jerry, “breaking into a flood of angry denials. ‘Any man is a friend of mine who is a friend of mine.’”

“You don't know that little man?”

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“And this organization we have been talking about is the Republican City Central Committee?”

“I didn't realize it,” confessed the young man frankly. “I hadn't identified the two in my mind. Then the business of the organization is to secure Republican majorities in all elect Republican Congressmen and Senators so that the whole of Philadelphia's influence in a legislative body may be cast for a protective tariff.”

“That's better than I can say it,” conceded Kelly.

“But you didn't tell me that at first?” reproached Jerry.

“I forgot it,” admitted Kelly with a smirk.

“And the organization, in distributing jobs and contracts, merely pays itself well for attending to this matter of majorities for the tariff?” persisted the inquiring young man.

“That's all,” agreed the leader.

“I reckon they don't yet. I've just been sent out to find you.”

“In other words, you waited to see how badly off I was and how far you could go toward squaring me before you called?”

“Well, I'm not bad off at all and you can't square me, so much for that. Now you get to a telephone quick, call up my mother—that'll take care of all the fees, and I'll be home in an hour, and don't let out one word of what you did to me.”

“Jerry, meantime, had turned once more to the organization,” he inquired.

“About the organization,” he inquired.

“Everybody knows what the organization is,”

“I confess I have only the vaguest notion,” said Jerry.

“The organization is a committee in each division, with a leader, and then there's an executive committee in each ward, of which the ward leader is chairman; and all these ward committees make up the city committee, and there's an executive committee of the city committee, and generally two or three leaders claim to boss this executive committee, and all more or less doing it.”



“Edmunds,” announced Higgins, presenting the telephone to Buckingham.

“Did he say anything about me?” inquired Jerry.

“Why, no, dearie. You see it was another man that phoned for him.”

“Thank you for telling us,” said Ruth politely.

“But she hung up the phone with a little snap, and there was a smolder of fire in her eye. With relief at the ending of her suspense had come revulsion and resentment. She began to feel that she had excited herself unduly, and that she had been treated rather badly by this absent-minded lover whose present duty in life, as she regarded it, was to be where he was wanted when she wanted him. But while meditating what form of punishment should be meted out, an unusually judicial mood overtook the girl and she decided to await that young man's explanation before passing sentence. Such an explanation should come by telephone immediately upon his arrival home. Meantime here was Jerry's brother Paul clattering up her father's Sunday afternoon.”

“I'll send you home right away, Paul, if you wish,” she proposed.

“But Paul, whose notion of making himself agreeable to a young lady was to tease, pretended to be reluctant. ‘I think the person who snatched me rudely away from my pleasant family party should take me back, not send me back,’ he reproached.

“Maybe I'm not going back,” bristled Ruth. ‘There's a limit to the number of times I'll overlook the girl and she decided to await that young man's explanation before passing sentence. Such an explanation should come by telephone immediately upon his arrival home. Meantime here was Jerry's brother Paul clattering up her father's Sunday afternoon.’”

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