



The Defaulter's Protective League.

BY DAVID WECHSLER

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PART I.

Two hundred thousand dollars, that in round numbers, was the amount of my defalcation. Somehow, I had never realized the enormity of it all until that afternoon, I gazed blankly about the bank, with my head upon my hands. How would it end, how would it end? It may be because I was too young—too to feel a weight of guilt, or because I have always lived in an atmosphere of falsehood, that I felt no fear on my own account. I well knew how likely detection was. Any contingency might ruin me. And yet I felt no anxiety as far as I alone was concerned. It was all for Margaret—dear, dear Margaret. How she believed in me! What castles in the air she built, in anticipation of the time when we two should be happily married.

He looked at me in astonishment. "I never dreamed it was that much," he said, after a moment's silence. "How long have you been at it?"



How Much Have You Stolen.

to have me in his power from the first. When I lied answered his last question he smiled grimly and remarked: "You are cleverer even than I thought you, and I knew all along that you must be very clever." I made no reply. I was too weary of the world to make conversation with anyone a pleasure. "I shall show my high opinion of you," he went on, "by emulating your frankness. You must know that my visit here bodes no ill to yourself. I will convince you further of that fact by confessing that I, like yourself, am a defaulter. My shortage is about three times the amount of your sum."

was keenly, wildly unhappy. Never have I heard of such pain as I felt every time Margaret looked at me. Perhaps I have given the impression that my wife was a doll like innocent, and perhaps I thought she was at first. But soon I had reasons to change my estimate of her. Pure and good she could not help but be, but there was a morosity to her intellect and character that made me perceive how futile all efforts to conceal myself from her must ultimately be. And that was the chief source of my sorrow.

When I reached home after my interview with Mr. Meldon, Margaret's face told me plainly that some anxiety was pressing her.

"May I talk a little business with you, dear?" she began, in the touching, half-maternal way that made her seriousness as sweet to me as her smile.

"One of my dreams was a dream of conversation with you, as long as she talked I felt soothed, but long ago I had found my own speech a pitfall. I was perpetually saying things that called for explanation, and perpetually explaining in the lamest way."

"It is about money," she persisted. "Do you know we are living far beyond our means?" She looked at me in a playfully severe way.

"I was not aware of it," I replied, guiltily. I thought of my \$10,000 in annual stealings and of my \$3,000 of annual salary and averted my eyes from very shame and fear.

"Of course I do not censure you," Margaret went on. "You love me so much that you cannot feel happy if luxury does not surround me. But you misjudge me, even if you think I can feel happy, even in so pretty a home as this. I know you can with difficulty afford it."

"I tried to find some words in which to put the idea that she was wrong in her impression that we were living beyond our means. But I could not; I simply could not."

"You only earn \$3,000 a year," my sweet tormentor went on again, "and we are spending at the rate of five." Whereupon she looked at me very seriously. We were really living at the rate of \$10,000 a year, did the poor girl but know it. Our home was exquisite, but I had to be systematic about the expenses. This being had been harder and harder to keep up and I had invented a story about some money made by speculation. Margaret had been terrified by this and insisted upon my promising never to speculate again.

"Dearest," I said, "do not allow these matters to trouble you. Indeed, we are doing very well, and I am to get my salary raised, you know."

"This was more falsehood, but it failed to help matters."

GIVES MAN GOOD REASONS

Circular of President Grant of the Union Ex-Prisoners of War.

PENSION BILL SHOULD PASS

Facts Set Forth by the Official Head of Ex-Prisoners' Association Urging the Passage of the Bill Introduced in Congress.

The following official circular has been issued by George W. Grant, of Minnehaha, Minn., president of the National Association of Union Ex-Prisoners of War:

Office of the President, Minnehaha, Minn., Jan. 15, 1896. To Union Ex-Prisoners of War, Greeting: Comrades—Very early in the session of the present Congress a granting pension to soldiers and sailors confined in so-called Confederate prisons was introduced by Hon. E. J. Haines, of Nebraska, a measure so fair and just in its character that it will commend itself to all Union ex-prisoners of war, its provisions are identical with those designed by the committee having charge of a bill on the part of the National Association and it has been deemed best to avoid complication or division of the purpose and strength by uniting on the Haines bill. The recommendation of the committee has received the unanimous approval of the executive committee and the Haines bill, known as H. R. 306, has, by such action, been endorsed by the National Association of Union Ex-Prisoners of War and should receive the hearty and earnest support of each local association and every Union ex-prisoner of war. The bill is herewith printed in full for your information and guidance: Fifty-fourth Congress, first session—H. R. 306. In the house of representatives Dec. 6, 1885. Read twice, referred to the committee on invalid pensions, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Haines introduced the following bill: A bill granting pension to soldiers and sailors confined in so-called Confederate prisons. Text of the bill: "Whereas, Many officers, soldiers, sailors, and marines of the Federal army and navy were confined in so-called Confederate prisons for a great length of time, suffering unusual hardships and contracting diseases and disabilities, and in consequence of their confinement in such prisons, are unable to support themselves and their families; therefore, for the purpose of doing justice to a specially deserving class of surviving veterans of the war; be it enacted by the Senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that the secretary of the interior be, and is hereby, authorized to place on the pension roll the names of each and all officers, soldiers, sailors and marines now surviving, who, while in the service of the United States and in the line of duty, were taken prisoners of war and as such confined in so-called Confederate prisons between the first day of May, 1861, and the first day of July, 1865, and who are now aged sixty-five and there shall be paid to every officer, soldier, sailor and marine so placed on the pension roll the sum of two dollars for each and every month so confined in any such prison; and, furthermore, and in addition, such surviving prisoners of war shall each receive the sum of twelve dollars for each month so confined in the remainder of his natural life; provided, that each pension shall in each case begin from the date of the passage of this act and be paid at the same time and in the same amount as other pensions are now being provided; further, that this act shall not entitle any person to draw more than one pension, but that such surviving prisoners of war as are entitled to and are receiving a pension at the time of the passage of this act shall be entitled to the increase of their pension which this act may grant them, and in no event shall the total amount of any pension granted under this act exceed the full amount of the pension which they were receiving at the time of the passage of this act in addition to the monthly pension allowed him."

Waited Long and Patiently. We have waited long and patiently for this legislation and recognition from congress, and if we do not make a vigorous effort it will be further probably indefinitely postponed, and for that reason and many others, we should do our utmost at this time. Justice and humanity demand that from the hands of our government, which the valor and sacrifices of our comrades saved from dissolution and made its present greatness possible. To secure the passage of this just measure, the National Association of Union Ex-Prisoners of War as well as every individual comrade. With combined effort this can be done, if all, individually and collectively, will earnestly urge its passage to congress to favorably consider the measure, and in all reasonable ways solicit public opinion in its behalf. The following reasons may be urged, with others that may suggest themselves, why our claim is a just one: First, we were prevented from re-enlisting and securing large bounties, granted to others, being held in service. Second, we were deprived of all opportunity of securing promotion, while the danger risk was greatly increased, as shown by the treatment of our comrades brought into the Union lines were discharged or mustered out of the service, while yet in the line of duty, causing them to spend large sums, in payment for medical treatment, and loss of time incident to such disability. These, and many other facts, constitute a claim, which, if fairly presented before the people, will find a ready endorsement, and congress will gladly grant a long-delayed benefaction.

Comrades Urged to Act. Let the comrades make known to their representatives in congress what they expect. Letters from individuals, and petitions and resolutions from local organizations should be sent at once. Don't send these to congress, but to the individual members and senators asking them to support such a measure. Send the national secretary a copy of all resolutions adopted by local associations. No time should be lost in completing the organization of ex-prisoners into local associations. The treatment of our comrades in a town or county to form one, and when that is not practicable every ex-prisoner should cause his name to be enrolled on the books of the National Association as an individual member. This is necessary to enable association to communicate with comrades quickly when any thing of importance arises, touching their interests. All inquiries in regard to organizing local associations, individual memberships, badges, buttons, dues, etc., will be promptly answered by comrade Stephen M. Long, secretary and treasurer, East Orange, N. J. Statistical errors appearing in the manuscript "A Reply to Jefferson Davis' article on the Treatment of Prisoners of War," our historian, Louis R. Fortescue has kindly undertaken the revision of the same and that is an assurance that the work will be faithfully performed and the book prepared for the public, perfected in every detail.

Conclusion of the Appeal. A final word of appeal. Do not neglect the bill before congress. Work diligently for its passage. Earnestly second the efforts of the National Association, and be a very great extent as is the executive committee, by the advice of Mr. Haines, who is excellently informed as to the situation. At the proper time the executive committee will be convened in Washington, D. C. Meantime, comrades, do your full duty as associations and as individuals; work unceasingly and success will crown earnest endeavor. Deserve success by honestly striving to attain it. Fraternalty yours, George W. Grant, President.

Official. Stephen M. Long, Secretary. General Order No. 2. Sec. 1. The following additional appointments are announced: By virtue of the authority vested in me by the constitution, I hereby appoint the following named comrades as aides to the president of the National Association: H. Z. Wing, of Allegheny county association, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Saul Cassidy, of Blair county association, Altoona, Pa. Sec. 2. The presidents of the various local associations in good standing in the National association are requested to forward at once the name and address of a good working member of their association for appointment as aide to the president. By order of George W. Grant, President. Official. Stephen M. Long, Secretary.

General Logan's Dollar. When the old postoffice building is torn down perhaps some workman will find the silver dollar which General John A. Logan, in 1861, buried in the concrete floor. General Logan was looking over the government building when he was far from being finished. The workmen were gutting the basement floor near the southeast corner of the building. General Logan stroled into the unfinished building from the superintendent's office and passed to watch the men pouring in the broken stone and cement. They all knew Logan's dollar was firmly imbedded in material as solid as unbroken stone—Chicago Record.

All His Wife's Fault. To the large number of stories of the "mean" making when he is quietly related should be added that of a certain Frenchman famous for his habit of grumbling and complaining on every occasion. He was attacked by inflammatory rheumatism and was very carefully nursed by his wife, who was very devoted to him, in spite of his fault-finding disposition. His suffering ceased her to burst into tears sometimes she said by his bedside. One day a friend of this invalid came in and asked how he was getting on. "Badly indeed," he exclaimed; "and it's all my wife's fault."

"Is it possible?" asked his friend, in surprise. "Yes, the doctor told me the humblity was bad for me and there that woman sits and cries just as if I must in the room,"—Pearson's Weekly.

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RAIL ROAD NOTES.

It is reported that the Cleveland and Pittsburgh docks, at Cleveland, O., are to operate night and day. If the railroads have equipment to move ore they will thus be enabled to increase train mileage at a greater rate. The Pennsylvania Railroad company is reported to have ordered 6,000 cars for this service, and the Erie roads and the Lake Shore roads are figuring on 1,000, all of which will be of large capacity. The Pennsylvania Railroad company's car shops at Lambertville, N. J., which have been for over two years working only five days a week and eight hours a day, have started six days' work a week and nine hours a day in order to keep pace with the requirements of the road. H. P. Porter & Co., of Pittsburg, Pa., will soon ship two compressed air mine locomotives to the Peersless Coal and Coke company, of Vivian, W. Va. A full force of men is now employed in the works of the Wagner Palace Car company, at East Buffalo, N. Y., where 15 new sleepers are being built. The Lake Erie and Western Railroad company has recently ordered six Mogul engines from the Brooks Locomotive works, of Dunkirk, N. Y. The Main Central Railroad company has ordered seven passenger cars from the Pullman Palace Car company, of Pullman, Ill. The Mexican Central Railway company has ordered 100 freight cars from the St. Charles Car company, of St. Charles, Mo. The Lehigh and Hudson River Railroad company has ordered three cars from the Milton Car works, of Milton, Pa. The new Ann Arbor car shops in Owosso, Mich., are being pushed to completion as rapidly as possible. The S. E. Barrett Manufacturing company, of Chicago, Ill., will soon place an order for 10 tank cars. The Cincinnati, Jackson and Mackinac railway is soon to place an order for six or seven engines. The Lake Erie and Western and Northern Ohio roads have let a contract for 60 cars. The Wabash railroad will be in the market for 1,000 freight cars. Yvette Guilbert never wears jewelry on the stage. For four weeks in New York she will receive \$10,000. Her income a minute is about \$10. Computed by her actual time on the stage, Yvette Guilbert's income is larger than that of the Astors, Vanderbilts or the emperor of Russia.