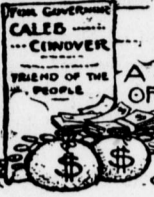


CALEB CONOVER

RAILROAD IR



A STORY OF LOVE, POLITICS, IN TRIGUE, OF A RICH & POWERFUL BOSS AND AN INTREPID YOUNG REFORMER.

BY ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE.

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She was half-way out of the room before her employer could hurry after and detain her.

"What's—what's the meaning of this?" asked Caleb, the brutal belligerency trailing out of his voice. Then, before she could answer, he added: "Because I spoke like that just now? Was that it? Because I said—And you'd throw over a good job just because of a few cranky words? Yes, I believe you would. You'd do it. It isn't a bluff. Maybe that's why you make such a hit with me, Miss Lanier. You're not scared every time I open my mouth. And you stand up for yourself."

He eyed her in a quizzically admiring fashion as one might a beautiful but unclassified natural history specimen. She made no reply, but stood waiting in patience for him to move from between her and the door.

Caleb grinned.

"Want me to apologize, I s'pose?" he grumbled.

"A gentleman would not wait to ask."

"Maybe you think a gentleman wouldn't of said what I did, in the first place, eh?"

"Yes, I do think so. Don't you?"

"Well, I'm sorry. Let it go at that. Now let's get to work. Say"—as they moved across to their wanted places at the big centre table, "you oughtn't to take offence at anything about me this morning. You must know how sore I am."

"What's the matter?"

"As if you didn't know! You saw how many kinds of a wall-eyed fool I made of myself last night. Isn't that enough to make a man sore? And to think of it being taken down by those newspaper idiots and printed all over the country!"

He gave the nearby chair a kick, availing himself of the morning papers to the floor.

"Have you read those?" queried Anice.

"No. Why should I rub it in? I know what they say."

"Why not look at them before you lose your temper?"

Caleb snatched up the Star, foremost journal of Granite. He glanced down the last column of the front page and over to the second.

"Here's the story of the show just as we dictated it beforehand," he commented. "List of guests—Where in thunder is that measly speech? Have they given it a column to itself? Oh—way down at the bottom. 'In a singularly happy little informal address at the close of the evening Mr. Conover mentioned his forthcoming candidacy for governor.' Is that all any of them have got about it?"

"They have your pledge to run for Governor blazoned over two columns of the front page of nearly all the papers. But nothing more about the speech itself."

"But how—"

"I took the liberty of stopping the reporters before they left the house, and telling them it would be against your wish for any of your remarks to be quoted."

"You did that? Miss Lanier, you're fine! You've saved me a guying in every out-of-State paper in the East. I want to show my appreciation—"

"If that means another offer to raise my salary, I am very much obliged. But, as I've told you several times before, I can't accept it. Thank you just the same."

"But why not? I can afford—"

"But I can't. Don't let's talk of it, please."

"And every other soul in my employ spraining his brain to plan for a raise! The man who understands women—if he's ever born—won't need to read his Bible, for there'll be nothing that even the Almighty can teach him."

"But Miss Lanier, let all the routine go over for to-day. I've a bigger game on, and I've got to hustle. That Governorship business—"

"Yes?"

"That was the fooliest thing I ever did. It seemed to me at the minute a grand idea as a wind-up for my crazy speech. But I guess I'll have to pay my way all right before I'm done with last evening. The free list's suspended as far as I'm concerned."

"You mean there's some doubt of your getting the nomination?" she asked a sudden hope making her big eyes lustrous.

"Doubt? Doubt? Say, I thought you knew me better than that. Why, the nomination's right in front of me on a silver salver and trimmed with blue ribbons. And the election, too, for that matter."

"Then—the hope dying—"why do you speak as you did just now?"

"It's this way: I've held Granite and the Mountain State by the nape of the neck for ten years. I'm the Boss. And when I give the word folks come to heel. But all this time I've been standing in the background while I pulled the strings. It was safer that way and pleasanter. That's why I've never took public office since I was Mayor. And then it was only a stepping-stone to the Leadership. Now I've got to leave the background and pose in the Capitol. There's nothing in it for me, except a better social position. That's a lot, I know. But I'm

not so sure that even such a raise is worth the price."

"Then why not withdraw?"

"Not me! Withdraw, and be laughed at by my own crowd as well as the society cлик? It'd smash me forever. No, sir! I'm in it, and I got to swim strong. The nomination, and the election's easy enough. But just a 'won handily' won't fill the bill. I've got to sweep the State with the all-fired landslide ever slidden since U. S. Grant ran around the track twice before Horace Greeley got on speaking terms with his own stride. I've got to start in right away."

"Any orders?"

"Yes. When you go down stairs, please send for Shevlin and Bourke and Raynor and the rest on this list, and telephone the editors I'd like to see 'em this afternoon. I'll have the ball rolling by night. Say, Miss Lanier, the campaign'll mean extra work for you. I want to make it worth your while. Come now, don't be silly. Let me make your salary—"

"I beg you won't speak of that any more. I cannot accept a raise of salary from you."

CHAPTER IV.

Gerald Conover's Wife.

THE door was here flung unceremoniously open and Gerald slouched in, his pasty face unwontedly sallow from last night's potations. For, with a few of the mushroom crop of the jeunesse doree of Granite, he had prolonged the supper-room revels after the departure of the other guests.

"Hello, Dad!" he observed.

"Thought I'd find you alone."

Caleb, his initial temper softened by his talk with Anice, greeted his favorite child with a friendly nod.

"Sit down," he said. "I'll be at leisure in a few moments. And, say, throw that measly blend of burnt paper and Egyptian sweepings out of the window. Why a grown man can't smoke man's-sized tobacco is more'n I can see."

The lad, with sullen obedience, tossed away the cigarette and came back to the table.

"Hear the news?" he asked. "It seems you've got a rival for the nomination."

"Hey?"

"Grandin was telling me about it last night. His father's one of the big guns in the Civic League, you know. It seems the League's planning to spring Clive Standish on the convention."

"Clive Standish? That kid? For governor? Lord!"

"Good joke, isn't it? I—"

"Joke? No!" shouted Caleb. "It's just the thing I wouldn't have had happen for a fortune. He's poor, but he belongs to the oldest family in the State, and his blood so blue you could use it to starch clothes with. Just the sort of a visionary young fool a lot of cranks will gather around. He'll yell so loud about the 'people's sacred rights' and 'ring rule' and all that rot, that they'll hear him clear over in the other States. And when they do, the out-of-State papers will all get to hammering me again. And the very crowd I'm trying to score with, by running for Governor, will vote for him to a man. He's one of them."

"So you think he has a chance of winning?" asked Anice.

"Not a ghost of a chance. He'll die in the convention—if he ever reaches that far. But it will stir up just the opposition I've been telling you I was afraid of. Well, if it meant work before, it means a twenty-five-hour-a-day hustle now. I wish you'd telephone Shevlin and the others, please, Miss Lanier. Tell 'em to be here in an hour."

As the girl left the room, Caleb swung about to face his son. The glow of coming battle was in his face.

"Now's your chance, Jerry!" he began, hot with an enthusiasm that failed to find the faintest reflection in the sallow countenance before him.

"Now's your chance to get back at the old man for a few of the things he's done for you."

"I—I don't catch your meaning," muttered Gerald, uncomfortably.

"You've got a sort of pull with a certain set of young adleptates here, because you live in New York and get your name in the papers, and because you've a dollar allowance to every penny of theirs: I want you to use that pull. I want you to jump right in and begin working for me. Why, you ought to round up a hundred votes in the Pompton Club alone, to say nothing of the youngsters on the fringe outside, who'll be tickled to death at having a feller of your means and position notice 'em. Yes, you can be a whole lot of help to me this next few weeks. Take off your coat and wade in! And when we win—"

"Hold on a moment, Dad!" interrupted Gerald, whose lengthening face had passed unnoticed by the excited elder man. "Hold on, please. You mean you want me to work for you in the campaign for Governor?"

"Jerry, you'll get almost human one

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"You—what?" grunted Caleb, incredulously.

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"Now then!" bellowed the Railroad, mighty, masterful, terrible as he let the breathless lad slide to the floor and towered wrathful above him.

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"Are you going to tell me about this thing, or have I got to shake it out of you? Speak up!"

(To Be Continued.)



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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION SUBMITTED TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION, BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH, IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Number One.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to section twenty-six of article five of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Resolved (if the Senate concur), That the following amendment to section twenty-six of article five of the Constitution of Pennsylvania be, and the same is hereby proposed, in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:—

"That section 26 of Article V, which reads as follows: 'Section 26. All laws relating to courts shall be general and of uniform operation, and the organization, jurisdiction, and powers of all courts of the same class or grade, so far as regulated by law, and the force and effect of the process and judgments of such courts, shall be uniform; and the General Assembly is hereby prohibited from creating other courts to exercise the powers vested by this Constitution in the Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas and Orphans' Courts,' be amended so that the same shall read as follows:—

Section 26. All laws relating to courts shall be general and of uniform operation, and the organization, jurisdiction, and powers of all courts of the same class or grade, so far as regulated by law, and the force and effect of the process and judgments of such courts, shall be uniform; but, notwithstanding any provisions of this Constitution, the General Assembly shall have full power to establish new courts, from time to time, as the same may be needed in any city or county, and to prescribe the powers and jurisdiction thereof, and to increase the number of judges in any courts now existing or hereafter created, or to reorganize the same, or to vest in other courts the jurisdiction theretofore exercised by courts not of record, and to abolish the same wherever it may be deemed necessary for the orderly and efficient administration of justice.

A true copy of Resolution No. 1.

ROBERT McAFEE,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Two.

RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, so as to eliminate the requirement of payment of taxes as a qualification of the right to vote.

Resolved (if the House of Representatives concur), That the following amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and the same is hereby proposed, in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:—

That section one of article eight be amended, by striking out the fourth numbered paragraph thereof, so that the said section shall read as follows:—

Section 1. Every male citizen twenty-one years of age, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections, subject however to such laws requiring and regulating the registration of electors as the General Assembly may enact.

First. He shall have been a citizen of the United States at least one month.

Second. He shall have resided in the State one year (or if, having previously been a qualified elector or native-born citizen of the State, he shall have removed therefrom and returned, then six months), immediately preceding the election.

Third. He shall have resided in the election district where he shall offer to vote at least two months immediately preceding the election.

A true copy of Resolution No. 2.

ROBERT McAFEE,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Three.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, so as to consolidate the courts of common pleas of Allegheny County.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania be, and the same is hereby proposed, in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:—

That section six of article five be amended, by striking out the said section, and inserting in place thereof the following:—

Section 6. In the county of Philadelphia all the jurisdiction and powers now vested in the district courts and courts of common pleas, subject to such changes as may be made by this Constitution or by law, shall be in Philadelphia vested in five distinct and separate courts of equal rank and jurisdiction, composed of three judges each. The said courts in Philadelphia shall be designated respectively as the court of common pleas number one, number two, number three, number four, and number five, but the number of said courts may be by law increased, from time to time, and shall be in like manner designated by successive numbers. The number of judges in any of said courts, or in any county where the establishment of an additional court may be authorized by law, may be increased, from time to time, and whenever such increase shall amount in the whole to three such three judges shall compose a distinct and separate court as aforesaid, which shall be numbered as aforesaid. In Philadelphia all suits shall be instituted in the said courts of common pleas without designating the number of the said court, and the several courts shall distribute and apportion the business among them in such manner as shall be provided by rules of court, and each court, to which any suit shall be thus assigned, shall have exclusive jurisdiction thereof, subject to change of venue, as shall be provided by law.

In the county of Allegheny all the jurisdiction and powers now vested in the several numbered courts of common pleas, composed of all the judges in commission in said courts. Such jurisdiction and powers shall extend to all proceedings at law and in equity which shall have been instituted in the several numbered courts, and shall be subject to such changes as may be made by law, and subject to change of venue as provided by law. The president judge of each court shall be selected as provided by law. The number of judges in said court may be by law increased from time to time. This amendment shall take effect on the first day of January succeeding its adoption.

A true copy of Resolution No. 3.

ROBERT McAFEE,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Four.

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to section eight, article nine, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof:—

Amendment to Article Nine, Section Eight.

Section 2. Amend section eight, article nine, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

"Section 8. The debt of any county, city, borough, township, school district, or other municipality or incorporated district, except as herein provided, shall never exceed seven per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein, nor shall any such municipality or district incur any new debt, or increase its indebtedness to an amount exceeding two per centum upon such assessed valuation of property, without the assent of the electors thereof at a public election in such manner as shall be provided by law; and the debt of any city, county, or other municipality or incorporated district, except as herein provided, shall never exceed seven per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein, nor shall any such municipality or district incur any new debt, or increase its indebtedness to an amount exceeding two per centum upon such assessed valuation of property, without the assent of the electors thereof at a public election in such manner as shall be provided by law; but any city, the debt of which now exceeds seven per centum of such assessed valuation, may be authorized by law to increase the same three per centum, in the aggregate, at any one time, upon such valuation," so as to read as follows:—

Section 8. The debt of any county, city, borough, township, school district, or other municipality or incorporated district, except as herein provided, shall never exceed seven per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein, nor shall any such municipality or district incur any new debt, or increase its indebtedness to an amount exceeding two per centum upon such assessed valuation of property, without the assent of the electors thereof at a public election in such manner as shall be provided by law; but any city, the debt of which now exceeds seven per centum of such assessed valuation, may be authorized by law to increase the same three per centum, in the aggregate, at any one time, upon such valuation, except that any debt or debts hereinafter incurred by the city and county of Philadelphia for the construction and development of subways for transit purposes, or for the construction of wharves and docks, or the reclamation of land to be used in the construction of a system of wharves and docks, as public improvements, owned or to be owned by said city and county of Philadelphia, and which shall be added to the city and county of Philadelphia current net revenue in excess of the interest on said debt or debts and of the annual installments necessary for the cancellation of said debt or debts, may be excluded in ascertaining the power of the city and county of Philadelphia to become otherwise indebted. Provided, That a sinking fund for their cancellation shall be established and maintained.

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 4.

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Secretary of the Commonwealth.

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