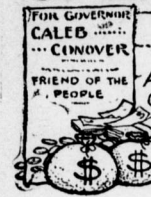


# CALEB CONOVER RAILROADER



A STORY OF LOVE, POLITICS, INTRIGUE, OF A RICH & POWERFUL BOSS AND AN INTREPID YOUNG REFORMER.  
BY ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE.  
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Something swished through the air from behind Clive's head. A big shapeless object hurtled forward and smote the broken-jawed tough full across the eyes on the very instant he fired at point blank range.

The ball went wild, and surprised at the odd blow he had received (apparently from nowhere), caused the man's pistol to clatter to the ground.

The girl in the box—innocent cause of the whole battle—had paid her debt to the man who had imperiled his life in her defence. She had crouched, trembling, in the background watching the progress of the fray. But as the intended murderer's trigger-finger had tightened, she had hurled at his face, with all her frail force, the huge bouquet she carried. For once a woman's aim was unerring, and thereby a man's life was saved.

Her act—melodramatic, amazing, unlooked for, eccentric in its poetic justice and theatrical effects—sent a roar of applause from the onlookers, even as the pistol-shot momentarily startled the group of ruffians into sanity. Clive, without waiting the result of the shot, had flung himself upon the little knot of toughs who were locked in death-grip about Ansel.

But even as he did so, a cry of warning rang from a dozen parts of the big building:

"The cops! Lights out! The cops!"

The hastily-summoned cohort of blue-coated reserves, pistols and nightsticks drawn, charged down the centre aisle. And before their onset the rabble melted like snow in April. The historic Grafton Opera House riot was a thing of the past.

CHAPTER X.  
Caleb Undergoes A Home Evening.

HERE'S no use glowering at me every time you speak of poor Clive," protested Mrs. Conover with all the fierce courage of a chased guinea-pig. "It isn't my fault he's running against you, and it isn't my fault that he's my nephew, either."

"I guess both these failings would come under the head of misfortunes, rather'n faults," retorted Caleb. "And they're both as hard on him as they are on you, Letty. I wasn't glowering at you, either. Don't stir up another spat."

The idea that Mr. Conover was capable of inciting any such dispute so flattered that poor, spiritless little creature that she actually bridled and looked about her to make sure Anice and Gerald, the only other members of the household present, had heard.

The quartette were seated in the Conover library, whither they had gathered after dinner for one of those brief intervals of family intercourse which Caleb secretly loved, his wife as secretly dreaded and Gerald openly loathed. The Railroader, at heart, was an intensely home-loving man. He had never known a home. Least of all since moving into the Mausoleum. He had always, in increasingly blundering fashion, sought to make one.

The wife he bullied, the son he hectored, the daughter with whom he had forever quarreled, the secretary who met his friendliness with unbroken reserve; all these he had tried to enroll as assistants in his various home-making plans. The results had not been so successful as to warrant description.

Finally, Conover had centred his former efforts on one daily plan. He had read in the advice column of the Star about the joys of "pleasant evening hour in the bosom of one's family" and directions therefor. The idea appealed to him. He ordained accordingly that after the unfashionably early evening meal the household should congregate in the library, and there for at least one hour indulge in carefree, confidential chat. This, Caleb mentally argued, was a capital

opening wedge in the inculcation of the true home-spirit which had been his lifelong dream.

The household obeyed the order, even as all Conover's orders—at home and abroad—were obeyed. The session usually began in laborious efforts at small talk. Then an unfortunate remark of some sort from Mrs. Conover, or an impertinence or sneer from Gerald, and the storm would break. The "pleasant evening hour" oftener than not ended in a sea of weakly miserable tears from Mrs. Conover, a cowed or sotto voce profane exit on Gerald's part, and in Caleb's stamping off to his study or else around to the Kerrigans' for a blissful, shirt-sleeved, old-time political argument in front of the saloon's back-room stove.

On this present evening Caleb had just received Shevlin's report of the Standish tour. He was full of the theme and strove to interest his hearers in it. In Anice he found, as ever, an eager listener. But Gerald yawned in very apparent boredom, while Mrs. Conover shed a few delightfully easy, but irritating tears at the account of the opera house fight. Caleb had silently resented these moist signs of interest, and his glare had called forth an unusual protest from his weak little spouse.

The butler entered with a card, which he carried to Caleb. After one glance at the pasteboard Caleb crushed it in his fingers and threw it to the floor.

"Turn her out!" he ordered.

"Why, who is it?" squeaked his wife in high excitement.

"It's some woman for Jerry. Gains brought me the card by mis-"

"For me?" cried Gerald, jumping up, his face aflame. "Why, it—it can't—"

"Yes, it can. And it is, or rather it was, for I've sent her away. Maybe you forget I made you promise—"

"Enid Conover!" snorted the Railroader. "Why—"

"Yes, Enid Conover. How I have learned to love that name!"

"Have, hey? Then take my advice, young woman, and stifle that same wild adoration for my poetic cognomen, for you aren't going to have the renting of it any longer—I can help."

"Not—"

"Oh, you'll get over it easy! Just as you got over your love for that high-sounding title, Enid Montmorency. And just as, before that, when you left your mother's Germantown boarding-house, you got over any passion you may have had for your original name, Emma Higgs. You see I know some little about you. I took the trouble to have you looked up. You and your family. You told Gerald your family's old. From all I

"Stand aside! I have a right here."

"Stand aside!" spake a dramatic contralto voice from beyond the portieres. "I have a right here."

The curtains were thrust apart, revealing the protesting, discomfited butler; and, pushing past him, a tall, slender young woman, quietly but prettily dressed, pompadoured of hair, and very, very determined of aspect.

"Good Lord!" grunted Caleb under his breath, "she ain't even a blonde. I thought they all—"

But she was in the library itself, facing the amazed master of the house. Gerald, at first sight of his wife, had sprung forward and now grasped the newcomer ardently by both hands and drew her to him.

"I was sure," murmured the intruder in that same throaty contralto, rich, yet insensibly conveying a vague impression of latent vulgarity, "I was sure your man was mistaken, and that you couldn't have meant to turn me away without a word when I had come so far to see my precious truant boy. Did you? We women, Mrs. Conover," she went on, eyes and voice claiming alliance of the meek-faced little nonentity who shrank behind Anice Lanier, "we women understand how hard it is to keep away from the man who has taught us to love him. Don't we? Men never can quite realize that. Not even my Gerald, or he wouldn't have stayed away so long or made me stay away from him. Would he?"

"It was Dad," broke in Gerald. "I told you that in my first letter, darling. He won't stand for our marriage, and—"

"Ah! that is because he doesn't know," she laughed archly. "Mr. Conover, this big splendid boy of mine is too much in love to explain as he should. And he's so high-spirited, he can't listen as patiently to advice as he ought to. Can you, Gerald? So I came myself, when I couldn't stand it any longer to be away from him. I knew I could make you understand. Can't I?"

"I can tell better when you've tried," answered Caleb, watching with a sort of awed fascination the alternate plunges and rearings of the

vibrant black pompadour, which, in deference to the prevailing style of the moment—and of the chorus—was pendant directly above the visitor's right eye.

His curt rejoinder rather took the caller aback. She looked about the group as if for inspiration. Anice Lanier had risen, and was at the door. Caleb saw her.

"Please don't go, Miss Lanier!" he called.

"I would much prefer to," answered Anice, "if you don't object. This seems to be purely a family affair and—"

"And at least one person with a decently-balanced brain ought to be present. Our affairs are your affairs as far as you'll allow. Please do me the favor of staying."

The visitor had, by this diversion, regained grasp on her plan of action.

"Mr. Conover," she said, stretching out her suede-gloved hands toward the Railroader in a pretty gesture of helpless appeal as to an all-powerful judge, "I am your son's wife. He loves me. I love him. Does that tell you nothing?"

"Yes," said Caleb judiciously, "it tells me you love each other; if that's what you mean. For the sake of argument we'll take that for granted, just for the present. Now get down to facts."

"I am your son's wife," repeated the woman, somewhat less throatily, but still with brave resolve. "He sought me out and wooed me. He told me I should receive a welcome in his home. He made me love him. Didn't you, Gerald? And I married him. Ah, but we were happy, we two! Then, like a thunderbolt from the blue sky fell your command that we part. He and I. For long—oh, so long—I have tried to be patient, to wait for time to soften your heart. But at last I couldn't bear it. I couldn't bear it, so I came here to meet you in person, to cast myself at your feet if need be. To—"

She paused. The cold, inscrutable gaze of the Railroader's light eyes did not tend to inspire her very creditable recitation. As a matter of fact, Caleb was at the moment paying very little attention to her words. He was noting the hard dryness of her skin and the only half-hidden lines about mouth, brow and eye; and contrasting them with Anice Lanier's baby-smooth skin and the soft contour of her neck and cheek.

Her pause brought him back to himself.

"Well?" he demanded.

"So I am here to implore you to be just, to be generous," resumed the girl, slightly raising the pitch of the scene as she approached the climax. "I throw myself on your mercy, I, Enid Conover."

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hear, I guess the main difference between you and that same family is that one's older'n you make out and the other's younger. Take your choice as to which is which. And now—"

"You insult me!" declaimed the girl, her eyes flashing, her figure drawn to the full height of a really excellent pose, her pompadour nestling protectively above the arched brow.

"No, I don't. I couldn't. (Jerry, you sit down there and behave yourself or I'll spank you!) If you think I'm wrong, maybe you'd like me to tell my son the way you first happened to go on the stage. No? I guess I've got this thing framed up pretty near straight. It's a grand-stand play, and Papa is it, eh? A masterpiece of surprise for the old man, and a final tableau of the bunch of us clustering about you and Gerald in the centre of the stage, while you fall on each other's necks and do a unison exclamation of 'God-bless-the-dear-old-Dad!' How-much-will-he-leave-us? And-how-soon? You waited in town awhile, but Papa didn't relent and send Hubby back to his lonely wife. Then you sick Gerald on to acting like a human being, hoping to win Papa over by being a good boy. No go. Then as a last play you butt in here on a sudden with all your lines learned down pat, and do a grand appeal. Well, Mrs. Miss-Emma-Higgs-Enid-Montmorency-Conover, it doesn't work. That's all. If you've got the sense I think, you'll see the show's a frost, and you'll start back for Broadway. Take my blessing, if you want it, and take Jerry along for good measure, if you like. It's all you'll ever get from me, either of you."

To Caleb Conover's unbounded horror and amazement, Enid, instead of spurning him haughtily, burst into a crescendo, throaty gurgle of contralto weeping, and flung herself bodily upon him; her long-gloved arms twining about his neck, her pompadoured head snuggling into his bosom.

"Oh, Father! Father!" came a muffled, yet artistic wail from somewhere in the region of his upper waistcoat buttons. "How can you? You've broken Gerald's heart. And now you're breaking mine. Forgive us!"

"Miss Lanier!" thundered Caleb, struggling wildly to escape the snake-like closeness of the embrace, "for heaven's sake won't you come and— and unwind this person? She's spoiling my shirt-front. Lord, how I do hate to be pawed!"

"Do not touch me! Do not dare to, menial!" commanded the bride, relinquishing her hold, and glaring like a wounded tigress at Anice, who had made no move whatever in response to Caleb's horrified plea. The visitor drew back from Caleb as though contact with him besmirched her.

(To Be Continued.)

For several years Parisians and English visitors to Paris have made pious pilgrimages to the Dogs' Cemetery on the Ile des Ravageurs, just outside the city. There they have read with emotion such inscriptions as "A mon toutou adore," "A mon malou cher!" and many others of a similar kind. But it now transpires that these tender tributes were the invention of some enterprising stonecarver who, when the graveyard was opened, in 1899, was given a monopoly for the tombstones to be erected over the graves of canine favorites. In order to attract others he erected fifty stones in various parts of the cemetery and engraved apocryphal inscriptions on them.

TEDDY FOLLOWS LE D' (From page one.)

rupt practices act and the personal registration law, which were passed by Republican legislators and signed by a Republican governor.

President Taft is showing a keen interest in the success of the Republican party in every state in the Union, and his speech at the dinner of the National Republican League in New York attests the concern he has for the election of every Republican nominee for congress.

Penrose Confers With Taft.

Senator Penrose had a couple of personal interviews with President Taft in Washington last week, following his official conferences with him and Postmaster General Hitchcock regarding the establishment of postal savings banks. As chairman of the committee on postoffices and post roads, Senator Penrose has given the subject of postal banks much study and he says he is pleased with the progress being made by the postal department to provide for this innovation. He is of the opinion that the proposed system is in advance of the methods employed in older countries.

Senator Penrose's conferences with the president were made the occasion of much newspaper comment. The Washington, D. C. Evening Star, an independent paper, directing attention to the strength of the Republican party in Pennsylvania, made this statement:

"Senator Penrose, since the wiping out of the New York 'Old Guard' bosses, remains, next to Theodore Roosevelt himself, the greatest political chieftain in the country. Undisputed in his control of the Republican organization of the surest Republican

state in the Union, Senator Penrose watches with interest the factional strife and contention all over the country. The storm has not reached his own state, and he and his organization are passing through the most quiet year politically they have had in some time. It is so placid that Senator Penrose has had little to do in the way of directing the leaders through out the state."

Penrose seems to be one of the prominent men in the Republican party who stand well with "the Old Guard," and who are on intimate terms with Roosevelt. It is believed that the relationship between Roosevelt and Penrose has more of a personal side but while he was in the White House there was no one with whom Roosevelt talked more confidentially upon important political matters than he did with Penrose.

## LAFOLLETTE UNDER KNIFE

Eight Gall Stones Removed and His Chances For Recovery Good.

Senator LaFollette was operated on at Rochester, Minn., for gall stones. Eight stones were removed from the gall bladder. Prospects for his recovery are good. All the gall stones were small.

The inflammation of the gall bladder and gall duct is not extensive, but the greatest danger at present lies in the possibility of the inflammatory area increasing the danger from septic infection.

The appendix is not affected, and in general there is positively no occasion for alarm.

## MOODY WILL RESIGN

Justice Will Quit Supreme Court Bench on Nov. 20.

President Taft received a letter at Beverly, Mass., from Justice William H. Moody, announcing that he will resign from the supreme court on Nov. 20 next.

Justice Moody told the president early in the summer that he would retire this fall if ill health still prevented him from resuming his seat on the bench. The justice is crippled with rheumatism and has given up all hope of being able to occupy his seat on the bench before the Standard Oil and Tobacco cases come up for reargument.

PROPOSER 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 CONCURRENT 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 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:

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 citizen of Pennsylvania, he, 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 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 and co-ordinate 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 more than three judges, such increase shall be by law, 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 more than three judges, such increase shall be by law, 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 more than three judges, such increase shall be by law, and shall be in like manner designated by successive numbers.

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