EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY
BY H.E. SMITH

A TRANSACTION IN STOCKS

"Oh-yes! Jennie; so it is. Strange I should forget the name when I have heard it so often," answered the Judge, flushing a little. And then as they came to a small building on a corner he added, "Here's my office, Bronson. Come in a little while, I want to see you."

Still wondering Silas obeyed. If the Judge had asked him to take off his boots it is probable he would have done so. He entered the office as requested, and sat down in an awkward way by the stove, and stretched out his hands toward it as if he were cold. To be sure it was a warm day, and there was no fire in the stove; but then Silas didn't know what else to do, so he did that while he awaited the Judge's pleasure.

"Quite a cosey little office I have here, haven't I?" queried the latter gentleman, pleasantly. "Take a cigar Bronson," producing a case. "Perhaps they are not as good as you are accustomed to, but they are imported, and I think them very fine."

Silas meekly accepted a cigar, lighted it, and then said, "They are very nice" – applying the remark to both office and cigar.

For a few minutes the Judge puffed away in silence.

"That was a comfortable little wind-fall you had-your uncle dying off there in California and leaving you that money," he said at last.

"Yes," answered Silas, beginning to feel complacent. "Toler'ble nice little pile on't-a thousand dollars. Got it this morning."

"To be sure it is not a very large sum for a man of your means," continued the Judge; but it is nice to get such thing, and it will do to get a suit of clothes and a few knick-knacks, maybe. And that makes me think, Bronson-where is it you get your clothes? My wife often says: "Now, Judge Fay, if you only had the taste of Mr. Bronson about dress!"   But then, bless me! I haven't or I would look as tasteful on Sunday as you do." The Judge was careful to say "Sunday," for if he had included week-days it would have been more than even Silas could swallow.

Register of Deeds
Judy Lambert
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