

## **EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY BY H.E. SMITH**

### **IN BUSINESS HOURS**

“The occasion does not lessen the danger,” Mr. Clarkson answered. “Some men who go away from here this morning will be poorer by nightfall than when they came.”

“In the chance of trade and speculation, loss and gain come to some men every day. It is the natural course of things,” said Howard.

“But I mean poorer for the wine drank here,” replied Mr. Clarkson. “I see men in this room who have large business interests of their own and others to manage; interests that require the coolest judgment and the most careful thought. They will hurry away from here in a little while, and go back to their offices, their stores and their counting-rooms, to take up the work they intermitted for a brief hour. Do you think they will be as clear-headed as before? As well fitted to grapple with the issues that demand their highest ability? Will the wine they take be a help or a hindrance? I could tell you a story,” added Mr. Clarkson, after a pause. “So full of warning that its lesson would hardly fail to impress you deeply. But this is neither the time nor the place.”

“Will you make the time and place?” asked Howard, whose interest and curiosity were both fully awakened.

“Yes” “When and Where!” “I shall be at home this evening, and will be happy to see you. I live at 403 – street.” “Thank You. I shall certainly call.” The two men separated young Howard wondering why Mr. Clarkson should have manifested any special concern for him.

**Register of Deeds  
Judy Lambert  
(continued)**