

s'long's you stay with the business. That gives you all what you wants an' perfect us case'n you ev' got sore an' want'd to sell us out."

March Clisby beamed beatifically. He extended both hands comprehensively. "You is both gen'lemen of the first water," he proclaimed, "an I is proud to sacrifice myself on the altar of my friendship fo' such."

By noon of the following day Elijah and Brutus were all smiles. There was no gainsaying the fact that March had no intention whatever of shirking his end of the bargain. He spent every available minute in the immediate vicinity of Miss Clemmins, smirking and smiling ingratiatingly: a fish angling for the bait. He brought to the reception-room — when it was vacant — foamy, frothy, ice-cream sodas, samples par excellence of his own handiwork. That night he begged off and, leaving his assistant in charge, escorted Miss Clemmins to Champion Moving Picture Theatre Number Two — Coloured Only — where they sat tensely through the ninth blood-curdling episode of *The Hounding of Hattie*.

During the days which followed March intensified his efforts. Nor did Corena Clemmins register any violent objections. Her attitude toward Brutus and Elijah, however, was cold and aloof — much to the delight of those gentlemen. She was icily professional and stonily distant. The doctors attributed it all to March's effective work and gave that earnest young man due and liberal credit.

Brutus made two attempts to get back into the good graces of Mayola Kye. Both times the door was slammed viciously in his face. As for Lus-