

# THE CASTLE OF DAWN

## CHAPTER I

### THE CAUSE OF IT ALL

**H**AD Philip Elmore gone direct to the railroad station that June evening when he left the managing editor's office, it never would have happened.

But he did not. Instead, he chose to drop into — or more correctly speaking, to climb up to — the office of his very good friend, John Morden, affectionately known as "Jack," and there Fate laid hands on him and plunged him into a sea of intrigue, just as Elmore himself used to toss pebbles into puddles of water and watch the ripples widen. And before that debonair young man had time to realize what had happened, the ripples caused by his being hurled into this sea had widened until they were rolling in angry billows which threatened to engulf him.

And yet he had done nothing more incrimi-