

## THE CONFEDERATE DAUGHTERS

Even as he thus mused an approaching figure brought a humorous grin to Colonel Todhunter's lips. It was the martial figure of Captain Sim Birdsong of the Nineveh Light Infantry, but without the aggressive support of his regimentals, and with dejection in his every line. Sim's face was the tragic mask itself.

"Great name above, Cap'n!" vociferated the Colonel, mock apprehension in his tone, "what in thunderation is the matter, suh? You look like you'd lost your last friend on earth!"

"Colonel Todhunter," said Sim solemnly, "you're the very man I wanted to see, suh. I'm in a peck of trouble, and I'm a-goin' to ask you to tell me the best way out of it, if you'll be so kind, suh—you havin' more experience in the world than me."

"Sim," replied Colonel Todhunter, "I don't know whether I can or not, but I'll do my level best, suh. Specify your trouble."

"Colonel," responded Sim wearily, "it's Miss Angelica Exall's ma, that's what it is. I can't shake her off, suh. That old woman's worse'n the seven-year itch. I can't get rid of her for a minute, Colonel Todhunter!"