

One of the councilmen of the city was present, and he informed them that a reform ticket had already been agreed on by the "Rutledge crowd," as he called the reformers.

"I heard about that," said Roland Gregory. "I understand they have put up Edgar Prince's name for mayor, and George Caldwell, Dr. Gracely and Mr. Cameron have been picked out for councilmen. Think of it?"

Bud McCrea frowned darkly as he heard these names spoken which he well knew boded no good to his empire in Bronson.

"That fellow, Nelson, — him, is at the bottom of it all. He is worse than the preachers. Can't we make away with him?"

There was a fiendish scowl on the boss's face as he spoke. It is no child's play to interfere in "practical politics" in some American cities, as other reformers besides Reginald Nelson have discovered.

"You are right, McCrea," chimed in Roland Gregory. "If I got a good chance I would like to rid our community of that fellow myself."

"No, no," said Mr. Graham, frowning. "We do not want to use any illegal way in which to defeat these upstart disturbers in Bronson's politics."

"Who is this fellow, Nelson?" asked McCrea.

Mr. Graham told the history of Reginald as far as he knew it, speaking of the letter which he had received from London a short time before.

"I am convinced there is something in his record in England, if we can get hold of it, which will enable us