

## *The Intriguer*

sented the paper which he had written to Mr. Garnett for his signature. While the railroad president was signing the assignment, the attorney answered for Randolph Mason, explaining that the agreement should be filed with the trust company holding the assignment, in order that the terms of the escrow could not be mistaken.

The powerful hand of Thomas B. Wood, resting on his written resignation, clenched. "I will not consent to an escrow," he repeated.

Randolph Mason thrust across the table the paper which he had made out. "Sign that," he said.

The man took the memorandum, affixed his signature and laid it on the letter of resignation under his clenched hand. His face darkened. "I trust," he said, "that my words are intelligible. I have twice said that I would not consent to an escrow."

"There shall be no escrow," said Randolph Mason.

The attorney for John A. Garnett leaned forward in his chair. "How then," he said, "is Mr. Wood to obtain this assignment?"

"I shall give it to him," replied Randolph Mason. Then he picked up the assignment and handed it to the United States marshal. "Take this," he said, "and leave on the table the papers under your hand."

The shadows in the resolute face of Thomas B. Wood vanished. He got up, put the assignment into his pocket, buttoned his great coat, took up his driving gloves from the table, bade us good-evening and went out of the room, down the stairway to his horses.