

The Corrector of Destinies

here without attaching strings to them. The resignation to you, the assignment to me."

The negotiation seemed on the instant to be conclusively blocked. Garnett insisted upon the protection of an escrow, and Wood upon the possession of the paper before he irrevocably resigned his office.

Randolph Mason came forward then, sat down at the table, dipped a pen into the ink pot and turned toward the United States marshal.

"In consideration of the assignment of this stock to your trustees," he said, "you agree, I believe, to resign your office."

"You have it correctly," replied the man.

Randolph Mason drew a writing pad over to his hand and wrote rapidly a memorandum of the same date as the assignment, reciting the consideration for the transfer of the stock. He spoke then to the attorney. "Give me the assignment," he said. Then he added a line at the bottom, showing it to depend upon an agreement of the same date. When he had finished he again addressed the United States marshal. "Prepare your resignation," he said.

Mr. Wood sat down opposite Mason at the table. He wrote out his resignation of the office of United States marshal; then he placed his hand on the paper and spoke to Randolph Mason. "I do not see that we are any further along," he said. "I will not consent to an escrow under any agreement, no matter how explicit."

Randolph Mason did not at once reply. He pre-