

classes; one, the democratized son of ancient nobility; the other, the aristocratic scion of plebeian democracy grown wealthy in a generation. Strength, firmness, self-control marked the features of the champion of democracy; weakness, self-love and arrogance were pictured on the other's countenance.

"What do you want, sir?" asked Roland Gregory, with a frown, when Reginald had entered the office and stood facing him.

"I want to see you privately for a few moments," replied Reginald, fixing his eyes on the manufacturer.

"We are alone," said the other. "The office is empty. What do you want?"

"Have you ever seen that ring before?" Reginald handed the ring, which Allan Rutledge had given him, to Joy Graham's fiancé as he spoke.

Roland Gregory started as he saw the ring and hesitated before taking it from the other's hand.

"Take it and look it over. Did you ever see it before?" continued Reginald.

Roland Gregory took the ring and examined it hastily. He handed it back, saying scornfully, "No, I know nothing about that ring."

"Did you not buy that ring in Chicago about a year ago?" asked the other.

"Get out of here," responded Gregory, losing his patience. "I know nothing about that ring, I tell you. Get out."

"I will get out of here when I am through with this interview," said Reginald, firmly. "Do not get too hasty, Mr. Gregory."