

MASTERS AND SLAVES

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Masters and Slaves by C. H. Wunderlch

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C. H. WUNDERLCH

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AND SLAVES**

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By

C. H. WUNDERLICH



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THE AUTHOR.

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CAST

- James R. Winslow,....A Millionaire Pork Packer.
Walter Winslow,.....His Son, a Yale Graduate.
Henry Howard,.....A Cattle Dealer.
Fritz Hinkle,.....A German Worker.
Mr. Raymond,.....Superintendent. (Doubled by Howard.)
Dave Owens,.....Friend of Walter's.
Morgan,.....Keeper of the Employment Office.
Henry Powers,.....An Old Cattle Dealer.
Billy Wallace,.....An I. W. W. Enthusiast.
Hans Swanson,.....A Laborer. (A bit in Act Two only.)
Sam Jackson,.....A Laborer. (A bit in Act Two only.)
Simpson,A Jailer. (Doubled by Morgan.)
Florence Winslow,....With her father's point of view.
Grace Owens,.....Dave's Sister.
Miss Fabor,.....Senator Fabor's Daughter.
Miss Smith,.....A Stenographer.
Laborers, Police and Sympathizers.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY

- ACT I. The Chicago Office of Winslow's Pork Packing Company. Father and Son.
ACT II. Scene, a Street in Chicago. The Employment Office. The Great Strike.
ACT III. The City Prison.
ACT IV. Home of Dave Owens.

SETTING. ACT I.

Scene. Mr. Winslow's Office. There is a window C. looking out on a street backing. A door R. I. E. which leads into interior of offices. A double door up L. U. E. leading to the street. A safe L. of window C., A filing cabinet R. of Window C. A large flat top desk C. a swivel chair behind it. Two chairs on either side of desk. A typewriter against flat L. Book cases with legal books and papers about room. Medallion down. Desk telephone on desk. Writing paper, etc. The window is to be a double window C. The office to be elegantly fitted up. The time is about 11 A. M.

Street Backing.

C.

Window.

Filing Cabinet

Safe.

Bookcase.

Entrance.

Entrance.

Typewriter.

Desk and Chairs.

MASTERS AND SLAVES

ACT I.

Discovered at rise. Stenographer at work at typewriter L. 2 E. Winslow seated at desk C. writing, and looking over papers.

Winslow.

(To Stenographer.) Take this letter—Miss Smith. (Stenographer takes her book over to his desk C.)

(Dictating.) Senator Faber, Senate of the United States, Washington, D. C. My dear Senator: In reference to yours of the tenth, I would say that we are much concerned over the legislation pending in the house, looking towards an investigation of the large corporations, and with particular reference to our company. We feel that this investigation is merely to make political capital for the gentleman who occupies the White House. We look to you to protect our interests should it ever reach the Senate. Yours very truly—that's all. (The Stenographer goes back to her desk and transcribes her notes. Winslow goes back to reading his mail.)

Walter.

(Enters from R. I. E. with the New York Sun in his hand.) Good morning, Father.

Winslow.

Good morning, Walter. I may have to send you to Washington this week. Election is coming on, and they are at the old game of trying to make votes by hectoring the big business interests.

Walter.

(Sitting on R. corner of desk and reading the Sun.) It wouldn't be so bad if they would do things, but they get no farther than talk.

Winslow.

(Looks at his son questioningly.) And a mighty good thing for the country.

Walter.

It all depends on the point of view. (Hands him the paper at the market quotations.) Have you seen the market quotations this morning?

Winslow.

(Taking the paper.) No—anything of interest?

Walter.

Tremendous interest, read it. (He sits at Chair B. of Table C.)

Winslow.

(Sits at the table C. and reads aloud.) The wholesale price of beef has advanced two cents per pound. (Winslow rubs his hands together with enjoyment.) Advanced two cents a pound, eh? That means to me a clean-up of half a million dollars.

Walter.

Yes, but do you ever stop to think of what that advance of two cents means to the consumers who are largely of the working class?

Winslow.

What is your interest in the "Working man"? They will pay the advance as they have always done before. And they will pay exactly what we demand. If they don't want to buy, they don't have to. Nor do we have to sell except at our own price. My expenses this year will be enormous. I want a new steam yacht, and Florence must have an increased allowance. Since she has taken up this pet Angora Cat fad, her outlay is tremendous.

Walter.

(Hotly.) Its about time Florence tried to do something useful. She ought to be learning something about housekeeping, instead of being head nurse to a lot of cats. The money she spends on her fads would feed

and clothe ever so many poor families.

Winslow.

What is the matter with you, Walter? I have noticed lately that you are spending a good deal of your time reading socialistic literature. Can't you find something more interesting?

Walter.

No, sir.

Winslow.

Well, if you find that the reading interferes with your personal prospects— (Telephone Bell rings; Winslow answers the telephone.) Hello. What? Yes, I have just read the quotations; it was a nicely planned coup. If you think the market will stand another raise—if only a half a cent on the by-products, send them up. All right. Good bye. (Hangs up.)

Walter.

Are you ordering another raise in prices, Father?

Winslow.

Yes—it's good business.

Walter.

I doubt it.

Winslow.

(Sharply.) What do you mean by that?

Walter.

That I'm not satisfied with the present method of conducting business.

Winslow.

Nonsense. You have no reason to be dissatisfied. You have everything you want. I gave you a good education. You have a good home, and I will give you a good start in business any time you desire it. What is the matter with you—disappointed in love? You act as though you had been jilted.

Walter.

It is not a love affair. I am thinking of the men, women and children who are being ground into dollars