

THE SCARLET SHADOW

THE SCARLET SHADOW

A STORY OF THE
GREAT COLORADO CONSPIRACY

BY
WALTER HURT

*A downright fact may be told in a plain way,
and we want downright facts at the present more
than anything else.* — JOHN RUSKIN.

GERARD, KANSAS
THE APPEAL TO REASON
1907

Copyright, 1907, by
WALTER HURT

TO
CHARLES GRANT MILLER

AN intellectual hero, whose pen is a
weapon always at the service of the
weak, and whose valiant voice was the
first to be uplifted in the columns of
the capitalistic press in behalf of the
victims of the great inter-state conspiracy,
this book is deservedly

DEDICATED

The Henneberry Company, Chicago
Printers and Edition Binders



PROLOGUE

I am not ignorant, ne unsure, that many there are, before whose sight this Book shall finde small grace, and lesse fauour. So hard a thing it is to write or indite any matter, whatsoeuer it be, that should be able to sustaine and abide the variable judgement, and to obtaine or winne the constant love and allowance of ebery man, especially if it containe in it any nobelty or unwonted strangenesse.

— FAYNALD'S WOMAN'S BOOK.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Unique interest attaches to this book from the fact that the author has introduced a new experiment in realistic story writing, in that all his characters are real persons and only in a few instances are fictitious names used.

While it has an economic *motif*, this is essentially a story of newspaper life. For such a work Mr. Hurt is especially well equipped, being himself a practical newspaper man whose experience has extended over many years in most of the larger cities of this country. As reporter, copy reader, city editor, night editor, and editorial and special writer he has become sufficiently familiar with the different phases of the life he portrays to make his descriptions admirably accurate. It is noteworthy that the newspaper men who are given parts in the narrative have been his actual working associates.

Additional interest is lent to the story by the circumstance that during a considerable period of the great class war in Colorado, the stirring incidents of which he narrates, Mr. Hurt was actively engaged in newspaper work in Denver, coming in daily contact with the public officials directly interested and having close relations with the labor leaders involved. It is to be said that he has presented conditions conscientiously and given the world a story of an exciting epoch that consists entirely with the authenticated facts of history.

PROLEGOMENON

No book gains anything by an "Introduction." An introduction to a good book is a piece of impudence as grotesque as it is aged; an introduction to a bad book is futile as the pulled fang or clipped claw. Its only excuse is the request of a friend; its only justification lies in the fact that it is never read.

When the intellectual aristocrats align themselves with the democrats, when the Knights of the Pen champion the rights of the horny-handed Helots, when the great Orators become as tongues to the "Good God's Old Shoes," be it known that Justice is in labor. Through the gates of pain is passing a new Spirit to bless the earth; through the trap-door of death a hundred vigorous and a thousand senile sins are falling into the hell of human contempt, to arise again no more.

As to this book, no matter! It breathes unaided. It is conscious, and capable of conveying its own message. As to its author, much, very much, might be said:

Walter Hurt is a genius. His brain is an altar wherein the sacred fires are burning. His soul worships in the sanctuary of the world, under the blue skies. No other dome is high enough. no other church broad enough, for him.

A strange fellow is this Hurt—this contemporary Spirit! now singing love-ditties that stir the blood with