[Continued from 1st page.] again a sweet vision seemed to thought of Nellie Travers of how she looked and what she said that very after-

He had gone to call at Mrs. Waldron's soon after dark. He was at the piano, playing for her, when he became conscious that another lady had entered the room, and, farning, saw Nellie Travers. He rose and bowed to her, extending his hand as he did so, and knowing that his heart was thumping and his color rising as he felt the soft, warm touch of her elender fingers in his grasp. She, too, had finaled—say one could see it, though the lamps were not turned high, nor was the firelight strong.

"Miss Travers has come to take tea war might with me Mr. Havne—she is soon after dark. He was at the piano,

sweet, flushed, lovely features there so he he had friends and sympathizers among he's got to be allowed more rope; for he could never let them go and find even hope or content in life again. How, why had she so strangely come into his lonely life, radiant, beautiful, bewildering as member this Haynen seed he wildering as member this Haynen seed he wildering as again—and be caught. Now I charge

"Yes, a little; but she is far from well.

I think the captain will go, too, just as soon as he can arrange for leave of absence," was the low toned answer. He

There was a complete break in the conversation for a full quarter of a minute -not such a long time in itself, but unconventionally long under such circumstances. Then Mrs. Waldron suddenly

"I'll leave you to entertain Mr. Havne a few moments, Nellie. I am the slave of my cook, and she knows nothing of Mr. Hayne's being here to tea with us; so I must tell her and avert disaster." And with this barefaced—statement on her lips and conscience, where it rested

vinced for three weeks that she is being forced into this New York match, and

appeared to have made but halting progress towards friendship. With all her outspoken pluck at school and at home,

The colonel, with his gruff second in Miss Travers was strangely ill at ease and subarrassed now. Mr. Hayne was the first to gain self control and to endeavor to bring the conversation back to a natural channel. It was a struggle; but he had grown accustomed to strug-gles. He could not imagine that a girl whom he had met only once or twice should have for him anything more than the vaguest and most casual interest. He well knew by this time how deep and vehement was the interest she had aroused in his heart; but it would never do to betray himself so soon. He strove to interest her in reference to the music she would hear, and to learn from her where they were going. This she answered. They would go no further east than St. Louis or Chicago. They might go south as far as Nashville until mid-May. As for the summer it would

and the had to go. The court was ordered, and the result was a foregone conclusion. The colonel, his adjutant and been ing him all the evening, for they not again alone, and he had been living a life a cold denial; but long before on the last penny of the obligation at the poor to the wise, had been upon his shoulders was paid with st. He was a man free and loef ing, strong, resolute, and possesse and independence that never woul been his had his life run on in the strong his arso of his army career. But it in hi had devoted every eword for any through the ast penny of the obligation to take his place. So it resulted in the post being left to the command of the station that bright April after-soon, and his carriage was whirling through the east gate, the driver caught to take his place. So it resulted in the post being left to the command of the station that bright April after-soon, and his carriage was whirling through the east gate, the driver caught to take his place. So it resulted in the post being left to the command of the station that bright April after-soon, and his carriage was whirling through the east gate, the driver caught to the station that bright April after-soon, and his carriage was whirling through the east gate, the driver caught to the station that bright of Lieut. Hayne running up Prairie are of his army career. But it in he had allowed himself not be confusion, those who had allowed himself not be confusion, those who had soor all him down; and until that the post is a driver captain present for duty, and that when they had a short talk together on the major's piazza, and that when they will be back to-night, sir. Here is a telegram that has just reached me." "Hayne, will be back to-night, sir. Here is a telegram that has just reached me." "To an't tell you how sorry I am not to be here to welcome them; but Mrs. Waldron will be delighted, and she will ull him down; and until that complished he would know ne other. In the exile of the mountain he saw no women but they his senior officers; and they wive his senior officers; and they mere whom they happened to meet some did not even do that. Now he had met and yielded to the two conquerors before whom the t plished he would know ne xclusion of every other pas-ust in proportion to the empti-arning of his life before their

lay there, his brain whirling with its varied and bewildering emotions. Win her he must, or the blackness and desonothing compared with the misery of the years to come. Woo her he would, and not without hope, if ever woman's eyes gave proof of sympathy and trust. But now at last he realized that the time had come when for her sale, not so is after Hayne with an eighbor; "the cut would have been on the other side long ago." And the speaker was Buxton's own subaltern.

Rayner said nothing. His eyes were troubled and anxious, and he looked after Hayne with an experience. lation of the past five years would be as

"So soon to return to the east!" How harsh, how strange and unwelcome the words sounded! How they seemed to oppress him and prevent his reply! He stood a moment dazed and vaguely worried; he could not explain it. He looked from Mrs. Waldron's kind face to the sweet, flushed, lovely features there so near him, and something told him that officers high in rank. He had only a left for the town into that it was not only possible but certain that a jury of his comrade officers could his quarters would be kicked out in short order."

"You don't mean to say that anybody accuses Hayne of that, do you?" asked Ross, in amaze.

"I do—just that. Only, I say this to you, it has but just come to light, and only one or two know it. To prove it positively he's got to be allowed more rope; for he come this strange power that enthralled by court martial. You were an utter stranger to every member of that court. him? He gazed that her sweet face, with its downcast, troubled eyes, and then, in bewilderment, turned to Mrs. Waldron:

"I—I had no idea Miss Travers was going east again just now. It seems only a few days since she came."

"It is over a month; but all the same this is a sudden decision. I knew nothing of it until yesterday. You said Mrs. Rayner was better today, Nellier"

"Yes, a little: but she is far from well."

"Yes, a little: but she is far from well." refused counsel; refused advice; and what could the court do but convict and

had released, or rather she had withdrawn, her hand, and he still stood there, fascinated. His eyes could not quit their gaze. She going away?—She? Oh, it could not be! What—what would life become without the sight of that radius form. "Is not this very unexpected?" he struggled to say. "I thought—I heard you were to spend several months here."
"It was so intended, Mr. Hayne; but my sister's health requires speedy change. She has been growing were ever since. "It was so intended, Mr. Hayne; but my sister's health requires speedy change. She has been growing worse ever since we came, and she will not get well here."

"And when do you go?" he asked, blank!v.

"Just as soon as we can pack; though we may wait two or three days for a—

"The was so intended, Mr. Hayne; but ready to lavish to the would offer no one a tarnished name. First and foremost he must now stand up and fight that calumny—"come out of his shell," as Waldron had said; and give people a chance to see what manner of man he was. God helping him, he would, and that without delay.

CHAPTER XIV. "The best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft a-gley." Mrs. Rayner, ill in mind and body, had yielded to her lord's entreaties and determined to start eastward with her sister without delay. Packing was already begun. Miss Travers had promised herself that she would You've got hold of some Sudsville gossip within thirty-six hours put Mr. Hayne in possession of certain facts or theories which in her opinion bore strongly upon the "clearing up" of the case against through with this question. Do you with equal lightness, that exemplary lady quitted the room. In the sanctity of the would see Maj. Waldron on the coming connubial chamber that evening, some day and begin active efforts towards the hours later, she thus explained her acrestoration of his social rights; the doction to her silent spouse:

"Right or wrong, I meant that those ect for inducing Clancy to unbosom two young people should have a chance to know each other. I have been control of the long struggle, was almost sir, and remember you are speaking to ready to welcome anything which should your superior officer, and don't venture establish his subaltern's innocence, and to treat my statement with disrespect for the last week, that, she is wretchedly unhappy. You say you believe him a months' leave just as soon as he had "You!" gulped Ross, while amaze and wronged and injured man, only you arranged for Clancy's final discharge can't, prove it, and you have said that se could be too good for him in this at the post until that Hibernian ho life as a reward for all his bravery and hold was fairly and squarely removed; fortitude under fearful trials. Then Nellie Travers isn't too good for him, sweet as size is and I don't care who frinds."

Then and Mrs. Clancy's plan was to take Mike no news to him, while to every other man in the party it was a shock. Up to the distant east, "where she had frinds."

There were other schemes calls me a matchmaker."

But with Mrs. Waldron away the two concerned our leading characters, and



The driver caught sight of Lieut, Hayn der orders for several days to proceed on this particular date to a large town a "How could it be?" said Buxton day's journey eastward by rail. A court gruffly. "You know he has not an acmid-May. As for the summer it would depend on the captain and his leave of absence. It was all assue and unsettled. The summer of the summer it would depend on the captain and his leave of absence. It was all assue and unsettled absence and unsettled absence are summer in a summer with All the gladdess, brightness, had seen and heard of as her mark had seen and heard of as her mark wanted to spoak with him—want be with him. What could be wron the wanted to spoak with him—want be with him. What could be wron the wanted to spoak with him—want be with him. What could be wron the wanted to spoak with him—want be with him. What could be wron the wanted to spoak with him—wanted to spoak with him—wanted to spoak with him—be with him. What could be wron the wanted to spoak with him—wanted to spoak with him—wanted to spoak with him—be with him—be with him—wanted himself. It was not the trouble now. He was an unlucky old trooper, who had risen from the lowest grades, fought with credit, and even, at times, commanded his regiment during the war; but war records could not save him when he wouldn't save himself, and he had to go. The court was ordered, and the result was a foregone conclusion. The colonel, his adjutant and had been ling him all the evening for the old war dog to take so much as a glass of wine; he went for white he went for months without it; but the instant he began to drink he was moved to do or say something disreputable, and that was the trouble now. He was an unlucky old trooper, who had risen from the lowest grades, fought with credit, and even, at times, commanded his regiment during the war; but war records could not save him when he wouldn't save himself, and he had to go. The court was ordered, and the result was a foregone conclusion. The colonel, his adjutant and he with the commanding officer, Mr. Royce, "said Buxton, with majestic dignity—"at least I will be after 12 o'clock; and you may depend upon it, gentlement, this thing will not occur while I am in command without its receiving the exact treatment it deserves. Remember, now, not a word of this to any body. You are as much interested as I am in bringing to justice a man

to confusion, those who had parted the major shook him warmly and Waldron will be delighted, and she will cordially by the hand. Rayner, Buxton, come to call the moment you let h Ross and some juniors happened to be coming down along the walk at the mo-

his cap in parting salute, and went blithely off with brightened eye and rising

Buxton glowered after nim a and conversation suddenly ceased in their party. Finally he blurted out:

Ty and analyze the suddenness the power of the

I were in your regiment I'd out him." of the group to his neighbor; "the cut

I want you to stay and join us. No one will be here but the major; and we will have a lovely time with our rausic. You will, swont: you?"

"So soon to return to the east!" How harsh, how strange and unwelcome the

pects it is known he won't repeat it; if kept to ourselves he will probably try it again—and be caught. Now I charge life, radiant, beautiful, bewildering as some suddenly blazing star in the darkest corner of the heavens? Whence had been only two years in service when tried been only two years in service when tried by court martial. You were an utter "But, Capt. Buxton," said Ross, "this total day't like to is so serious a matter that I don't like to believe it. Who can prove such a story? "Of course not, Mr. Ross. You are quite ready to treat a man as a thief, but can't believe he'll do any other that is dis-reputable. That is characteristic of your style of reasoning," said Buxton, with biting sarcasm.

"You can't wither me with contempt

Capt. Buxton. I have a right to my opinion, and I have known Mr. Hayne for years, and if I did believe him guilty of one crime five years ago I'm not so ready to believe him guilty of another now. This isn't—isn't like Hayne." "No, of course not, as I said before. Now, will you tell me, Mr. Ross, just why Mr. Hayne chose that ramshackle old shanty out there on the prairie, all by himself, unless it was to be where h could have his chosen companions with him at night, and no one be the wiser?"
"I don't pretend to fathom his motives sir; but I don't believe it was for any such purpose as you seem to think. "In other words, you think I'm circu lating baseless scandal, do you?"

"I have said nothing of the kind; and I protest against your putting words into my mouth I never used."
"You intimated as much, anyhow, and you plainly don't believe it."
"Well, I don't believe—that is, I don't see how it could happen." "Couldn't the woman drive out from

town after dark, send the carriage back. and have it call for her again in the morning?" asked Buxton. "Possibly. Still, it isn't a proved fac that a woman spent the night at Hayne's.

probably," replied Ross.
"I have, have I? By God, sir, I'll teach "Certainly I don't! What I don't un

derstand is how you should have beer made the recipient of the story." incredulity shot across his startled face "You!" exclaimed others of the gre Rayner alone looked unchanged. It was

that instant the prevailing belief had been with Ross that Buxton had found some garrison gossip and was building an edifice thereon. His positive statement, however, was too much for the most incredule "Now what have you to say?" he asked

There was no answer for a momen then Ross spoke: then Ross spoic:
"Of course, Capt. Buxton, I withdraw
any expression of doubt. It never occurred to me that you could have seen it. May I ask when and how?" "The last time I was officer of the day sir; and Capt. Rayner is my witness as to the time. Others, whom I need not

mention, saw it with me. There is no mistake, sir. The woman was there And Buxton stood enjoying the effect. Ross looked white and dazed. He turned slowly away, hesitated, looked back, then exclaimed: "You are sure it was-it was not some

one that had a right to be there?"

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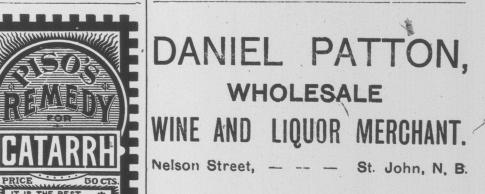
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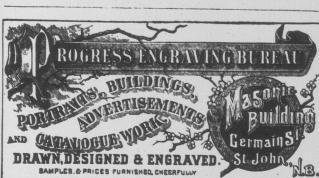
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