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J. W. HAMMOND Esq.

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GUIDE-ADVOCATE, WATFORD, JUNE 11, 1915

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ARMY RED

TAPE

It Was Cut In the Nick of

Time by a Girl.

By F. A. MITCHEL

Years ago when I was a lieutenant

in the regular army stationed in what

was then the wild west at Fort K. we had in the garrison an officer who was

a tyrant. The fort was a two com-

and assigned to Hawkins' company

He had very little knowledge of mili-

tary discipline and was unfortunate

Stevenson was a handsome fellow

I remember one day when several In-dian chiefs came to the fort on busi-

ness for their tribes and saw him they

any one.

grunted their admiration, one of them

with a young face and massive frame.

in having a martinet for a captain.

except the president of the United States.

A few days before the day set for Stevenson's execution an official document arrived at the fort postmarked Washington, the envelope bearing the printed words "From the President of the United States" and addressed to Major Charles F. Barton, commanding. It happened that the command was away on an expedition and the fort had been left in charge of Sergeant Conover. The sergeant was not authorized to open the mail and would have kept the missive until the major's return, but, suspecting it pertained to the matter of Private Stevenson, con-

cluded to send it to his commanding officer. Stevenson, when the command start-

ed on the expedition, was transferred under guard to Fort G., some twenty miles distant, where his execution was to take place. pany post, and he commanded one of Sergeant Conover knew of the disthe companies. Captain Hawkins was

tress his daughter was suffering at so severe with his men that Major Bar-Stevenson's misfortune and that she ton, commanding, felt called upon on was in an agony of suspense as to word from Washington concerning several occasions to remonstrate with him. Fearing a disappointment, he did not tell her of the message from A young man named Stevenson was sent out to us with a lot of recruits the president. He had no one to send

it by to Major Barton except a private named Cassidy, a worthless creature, who had been left behind when the expedition started. Mounting Cassidy on the best horse the garrison afforded, Conover gave him the message and told him to ride with it to Major Barton as fast as possible. During the night that Cassidy started the sergeant told his wife of the ar-

saying to him: "You come with us. We make you chief." Perhaps it was rival of the message from the president and his forwarding it to Major this manly beauty that won the heart Barton by Private Cassidy. Mrs. Conof Madge Conover, the daughter of an over, knowing that the execution of ordnance sergeant who wore half a dozen service stripes on his arm. At Stevenson was set for a near date, scolded him for intrusting so imporany rate, Madge fell desperately in love with Stevenson, though I believe tant a message to so unreliable a messenger. Madge, in an adjoining room, heard every word that was said. That night Madge was missing, also he was not disposed to fall in love with

The recruit was as high strung as a horse from the stable. Madge had he was handsome. But, knowing nothtaken the horse for the purpose of overtaking Cassidy and to make sure ing about the duties of a soldier, he that the message was delivered with the utmost expedition. The next day at noon Cassidy reached the encampment of the command

pardon him.

him.

the United States." A message from the president, though not addressed to her, was not a matter of reverence so long as Jim Stevenson's life was at stake. Her loving heart was not tied up with red tape. She tore the envelope to shreds to get at the contents and, unfolding the letter, with trembling hands, read that the president had granted a pardon to Private James Stevenson, ----th infantry, United States army.

Madge was at one angle of a triangle, Major Barton at another and the ndemned man at another. The shortest leg was to Barton. But Stevenson was to die the next morning at sunrise, and, though by that much respected book, the army regulations, she should have delivered the document through the major, she knew that by doing so she would fail to save her lover. It was 6 o'clock in the evening. Fort G. was some forty miles from Mounting, she turned her horse in that direction.

At daybreak-it came early-the garrison of Fort G. began preparations for putting Private Stevenson out of suspense. Just before sunrise he was marched out through the gate on to the open plain, blindfolded, his hands tied behind him and a firing squad drawn up before him. The attention of the officer of the day who had charge of the execution was called to a mounted figure galloping across the plain. As it drew nearer it held aloft something white. The officer directed the sergeant in command of the men to bring them to a "rest." "It's a woman," muttered the officer

to himself. The figure grew larger as it approached, and when but a short distance from the fort it was plain that it held aloft a paper. She pulled up in front of the officer, handed it to him, tottered, and he caught her in his arms as she fell from her horse.

Thus was the life of Private James Stevenson saved by a bit of red tape cutting on the part of a woman. Had the army routine prevailed, had she been delayed ten minutes more than she had been, he would have been riddled with bullets. Unbound and his eyes uncovered, he saw lying on the turf near him the inanimate figure of Madge Conover.

paper, but took Madge up in his arms, and when she revived she saw her lover looking down upon her

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that are making you feel so badly. If so, you can easily tell. It your head feels dull and achy—if your back hurts nearly all the time—if your appetite is poorly and your tongue is coated—if the urine burns, is highly colored and offen-sive in odor—if you notice a brick dust deposit or mucus in the urine after standing over night—then you certainly have something the matter with your Kidneys. Get

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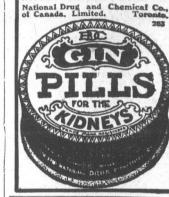
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