## THE MAN AT LONE LAKE

(Continued from page 14.)

Francois was helpless, his right hand disabled for weeks to come. His. gun and knives rotted in water thirty feet deep. He had other knives and another gun, but they were secondrate weapons, clumsy and hard to handle. He would be slow to attack either

handle. He would be slow to attack either man or beast at close quarters, and his trigger finger was useless. Wanota would snare rabbits for him, would cook for him, keep his cabin, and humbly do as he bade her. He would not fare ill, for he knew many ways of killing time even in the wilderness. Wynn put the half-breed out of his thoughts. He had done with him. For a few nights he slept in his shack as usual, and spent hours each day at the log-house. It had become more a home to him than any place he remembered. He had tired of the great cool halls and dormitor es of school and college, tired of rule and order that repressed the spirit, and of pedantry in cap and gown. This rough house enriched by tro-phies of the wild lands, with its kind-ly hearth-fire, simple fare and unpre-tentious hospitality, called to him as on place had ever done. The past was best forgotten, but the future he saw through a rose-coloured mist.

The past was best forgotten, but the future he saw through a rose-coloured mist. To see Nance each morning when it was as though he had been away a year since the night before, to tramo over the sparkling uplands in the blue noon and bring in what small game was needed. To drink the wine of the wind that sent his blood beating high with the joy o' living; to smoke by the fire in the evenings and watch the gold of  $\gamma$ sirl's hair glitter in the shadows— life had come to mean these things for R'chard Wynn. "While the old man lived it would go on thus," he told himself. "After-wards"..., well, he could not dwell on that and keep a cool head. Nance McCullough was for him and him alone, he had long decided but he planned to go slowly. Ex-perience had undermined his faith in his power to charm a woman, and robbed him of that pleasing confi-dence born of conceit. Never knight of old strove harder to win favour of his lady, than he

Never knight of old strove harder to win favour of his lady, than he to gain headway in the good grace<sup>o</sup> of the lady of the log-house. And Nance kept him in a turmoil of un-certainty as to whether he gained or not not.

After deliberating at great length on the ways annd manners of town-bred conventional young persons, and comparing what she knew of them with her own unfortunate tendency to impulse out about the charge of the set with her own unfortunate tendency to impulse and abandon, she set a strict guard on her eyes and lips that they should neither look nor speak more than she willed. But with it all she had never been more gay. "Her grandfather was, better," she asserted determinedly." "there was reason enough to be glad!"

"there glad!"

Wynn now and then played on the violin, and Nance, not to be outdone even went so far as to sing the little French chansons Sister Mary Philomena had taught her.

A WEEK went by of crystal-clear skies and sunshine, and then, without warning, and as on the day of the Indian's visit to McCullough, he was seized with the same violent battling with the same violent battling with it had recourse to the morphine. On that day also the Weather turned bitterly cold. The old man begged Wynn not to return to h's shack, but to stay with him indefinitely

indefinitely. Nance said nothing, but the man thought he read fear in her eyes, so

he stayed. McCullough made no such good re-covery from this second attack of pain. Following the sleep brought by the opiate he was weak and rest-less. Wynn knew the end was not far off, and said no more of going back to h's cabin, but agreed to



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