

### CONFESSION OF THE HILLS

at a fair wage. Yet with all this in mind Baldy felt that it was a spirit of greed that was fixing its tentacles upon Fraser, goading him forward, that it was eating into his very vitals, and he was commencing to show effects of the strain. He felt that unless he could be persuaded to take a rest or change of some sort that the man's health would surely break down. It was from love, or at least a profound admiration for this man that we find Baldy reining up his steed before the door of the mill office one fine afternoon, just as Fraser was descending the steps on his way home.

In order that my reader may know somewhat of the early life and history of this man Fraser, who stands out so prominently in the commercial and political environment, as well as the diamond treasure life of the country, I will say, he was born, reared and educated in a little village set on a beautiful, gently sloping hillside of a good old southern state, east of the big Mississippi.

Fraser was a little boy of ten years, when by a strange coincidence both his father and mother died the same month, and the family was left to fight the battle of life alone. Two of the brothers gradually worked their way to the big west among the mining and lumber camps. They worked together for a year or two, when the brother decided