



By Capt. Charles King, U.S.A.

Author of "DEBRAVEN RANCH," "THE COLONEL'S DAUGHTER," "MARION'S FAITH," ETC.

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Buxton could hardly wait until morning to see Rayner. When he passed the latter's quarters half an hour later all was darkness, though, had he but known it, Rayner was not asleep. He was at the house before guard mounting and had a confidential and evidently exciting talk with the captain; and when he went, just as the trumpets were sounding, these words were heard at the front door: "She never left until after daylight, when the same rig drove her back to town. There was a stranger with her then."

That morning both Rayner and Buxton looked hard at Mr. Hayne when he came in to the matinee; but he was just as calm and quiet as ever, and having said the commanding officer took a seat by Capt. Gregg and was soon occupied in conversation with him. Not a word was said by the officer of the day about the mysterious visitor to the garrison the previous night. With Capt. Rayner, however, he was again in conversation much of the day, and to him, not to his successor as officer of the day, did he communicate all the details of the previous night's adventure and his theories thereat.

Late that night, having occasion to step to his front door, convinced that he heard stealthy footsteps on his piazza, Mr. Hayne could see nobody in the darkness, but found his front gate open. He walked around his little house, but not a man was visible. His heart was full of a new and strange excitement that night, and, as before, he threw on his overcoat and furs and took a rapid walk around the garrison, gazing up into the starry heavens and drinking in great draughts of the pure, bracing air. Returning, he came down along the front of officers' row, and as he approached Rayner's quarters his eyes rested longingly upon the window he knew to be hers now; but all was darkness. As he rapidly neared the house, however, he became aware of two bulky figures at the gate, and, as he walked briskly past, recognized the overcoats of those officers. One man was doubtless Rayner, the other he could not tell; for both, the instant they recognized his step, seemed to avert their heads. Once home again, he soon sought his room and pillow; but, long before he could sleep, again and again a sweet vision seemed to come to him; he could not shut out the thought of Nellie Travers—of how she looked and what she said that very afternoon.

He had gone to call at Mrs. Waldron's room after dark. He was at the piano, playing for her, when he became conscious that another lady had entered the room, and, turning, 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 slender fingers in his grasp. She, too, had flushed—any one could see it, though the lamps were not turned high, nor was the frelight strong.

"Miss Travers has come to take tea very quietly with me, Mr. Hayne—she is so soon to return to the east—and now 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 music. You will, won't you?"

"So soon to return to the east!" How harsh 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 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, and so suddenly blazing star in the darkest corner of the heavens? Whence had come this strange power that enthralled him? He gazed into 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, Nellie?"

"Right or wrong, I mean that those two young people should have a chance to know each other. I have been convinced for three weeks that she is being forced into this New York match, and for the last week that she is wretchedly unhappy. You say you believe him a wronged and injured man, only you can't prove it, and you have said that nothing could be too good for him in this life as a reward for all his bravery and fortitude under fearful trials. Then Nellie Travers isn't too good for him, sweet as she is, and I don't care who calls me a matchmaker."

CHAPTER XIV. "The best laid schemes of 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 visit her father and mother in their possession of certain facts and theories which in her opinion bore strongly upon the "clearing up" of the case against him; Mr. Hayne had determined that he would see Maj. Waldron on the coming day and begin active efforts towards the restoration of his social rights; the doctor had about decided on a new project for inducing Clancy to unobscure himself of the long struggle, was almost ready to welcome anything which should establish his subaltern's innocence, and was on the point of asking for six months' leave just as soon as he had arranged for Clancy's final discharge from service; he had reasons for staying at the post until that Hilberian household was fairly and squarely removed; and Mrs. Clancy's plan was to take Mike to the distant east, "where she had friends." There were other schemes and projects, no doubt, but these mainly concerned our leading characters, and one and all they were put to the right about by the events of the following day.

The colonel, with his gruff second in command, Maj. Stannard, had been under orders for several days to proceed on this particular date to a large town a day's journey eastward by rail. A court martial composed mainly of field officers was ordered there to assemble for the trial of an old captain of cavalry whose propensity it was not so much to get drunk as never to get drunk without a concomitant publicity and discovery. It was a rare thing for the old war dog to take so much as a glass of wine; he went for months without it; but the instant he began to drink he was moved to do so 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 was recorded as not being in his mind when he wouldn't stay himself, and he had to go. The court was ordered, and the result was a foregone conclusion. The colonel, his adjutant and Maj. Stannard were to drive to town during the afternoon and take the east bound train, leaving Maj. Waldron in command of the post; but before guard mounting a telegram was received, which was sent from department headquarters the evening before, announcing that one of the officers detailed for the court was seriously ill and directing Maj. Waldron to take his place. So it resulted in the post being left to the command of the senior captain present for duty, and that man was Capt. Buxton. He had never had so big a command before in all his life.



The driver caught sight of Lieut. Hayne waving his hand.

Maj. Waldron of course had to go home and make his preparations. Mr. Hayne, therefore, had brief opportunity to speak with him. It was seen, however, that they had a short talk together on the major's piazza, and that when they parted the major shook him warmly and cordially by the hand. Rayner, Buxton, Ross and some juniors happened to be coming down along the walk at the moment, and, seeing them, as though with pointed meaning the major called out, so that all could hear:

"By the way, Hayne, I wish you would drop in occasionally while I'm gone and take Mrs. Waldron out for a walk or drive; my horses are always at your service. And—a—I'll write you about that matter the moment I've had a chance to talk with the colonel—to-morrow, probably." And Hayne touched his cap in parting salute, and went blithely off with brightened eye and rising color.

Buxton glowered after him a moment, and conversation suddenly ceased in their party. Finally he burst out: "Strikes me your major might do a good deal better by himself and his regiment by standing up for its morale and discipline than by openly flouting his favoritism for convicts in our faces. If I were in your regiment, I'd cut him." "You couldn't have to," muttered one of the group to his neighbor; "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 expression far more wearied than vindictive. "The major is fond of music, captain," said Mr. Ross, with mischievous intent. "He hasn't been to the club since the night you sang 'Eileen Alanna.' That was about the time Hayne's piano came." "Yes," put in Foster. "Mrs. Waldron says he goes and owes Hayne now night after night just to hear him play." "It would be well for him, then, if he kept a better guard on Mr. Hayne's other visitors," said Buxton, with a black scowl. "I don't know how you gentlemen in the Riflers look upon such matters, but the man who dares to introduce a woman of the town into his quarters would be kicked out in short order."

ODDS AND ENDS.

A Little Nonsense, Now and Then, is Refreshed by the Sweet of Men.

It's a poor mule that doesn't work both ways.

Stubborn children readily take Dr. Low's Worm Syrup. It pleases the child and destroys the worms.

Women, if healthy, too out; most men too in a hilt, at least with the right foot. Notice yourselves and see.

As an aid to internal remedies for skin diseases, Dr. Low's Sulphur Soap proves very valuable.

Boiling water will remove tea-stains, and many fruit-stains. Pour the water through the stain, and thus prevent its spreading over the fabric.

The red color of the blood is caused by the iron it contains. Supply the iron when lacking by using Miburn's Beef, Iron and Wine.

One ounce each of cloves, cedar and rhubarb, pulverised together, makes a good perfume for closets and drawers, and the mixture helps to prevent moths.

"Many men, many minds," but all men and all minds agree as to the merits of Burdock Pills, small and sugar-coated.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that easy crying widows take new husbands soonest. There is nothing like wet weather, he says, for transplanting.

Ladies who are troubled with roughness of the skin or cracked, should keep a bottle of Parisian Balm in the house. It is delightfully perfumed and softens, heals and beautifies the skin.

"Isn't it heavenly?" ejaculated Miss Gush, in reference to Miss Pedal's performances on the piano. "Yes," replied Foggy, "it is indeed heavenly. It sounds like thunder."

The value of a remedy should be estimated by its curative properties. According to this standard, Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the best and most economical blood medicine in the market, because it is so pure and concentrated. Price \$1. Worth \$5 a bottle.

To bathe the eyes properly, take a large basin of cold water, bend the head close over it, and with both hands throw the water with some force on the gently-closed lids. This has something of the same effect as a shower-bath, and has a toning-up influence.

The strength of this article is extraordinary. After being cemented most articles will break in another place rather than where cemented. Price 15 cents from druggists.

A Fever. A lady who had been teaching her little four-year-old the elements of arithmetic was astounded by his running and propounding the following problem: "Mamma, if you had three butterflies, and each butterfly had a bug in his ear, how many butterflies would you have?" The mother is still at work on the problem.

Cough No More. Your cough may lead to disease of the lungs, therefore do not neglect it. Wilson's Wild Cherry will cure it quickly and effectually. For colds, croup, whooping cough, bronchitis, loss of voice, etc., no medicine equals Wilson's Wild Cherry, as thousands testify. Sold by all druggists.

The Worthy Peer. "Say, mister," said a soiled-looking boy on the wharf, "do you ever give a piece of watermelon to a poor boy whose father 'n mother's dead, 'n who goes to Sunday-school, 'n who's got a sore heel?" The man was deeply touched, and gave him a large slice of a partially decayed one.

Easily Ascertained. It is easy to find out from anyone who has used it, the virtues of Hagar's Yellow Oil for all painful and inflammatory troubles, rheumatism, neuralgia, lumbago, frost bites, burns, bruises, sprains, contracted cords, stiff joints, aches, pains and soreness of any kind, it has no superior.

She Knew It All. A young woman who had never learned the art of cookery, being desirous of impressing her husband with her knowledge and diligence, managed to leave the kitchen door ajar on the day after their return from the bridal trip, and just as her lord came in from the office exclaimed loudly, "Harry up, Elizabeth! Haven't you washed the lettuce yet? Here, give it to me; where is the soap?"

High Time to Begin. After a long winter the system needs a thorough cleansing, toning and regulating to remove impurities and prepare for summer. Thousands of testimonials show that Burdock Blood Bitters is the best spring medicine ever discovered, producing a feeling of buoyancy and strength. It removes that tired, worn out feeling, and restores lost appetite. 2

An Ounce Only. An old Highlander rather fond of his toddy was ordered by his physician, during a temporary illness, not to exceed one ounce of spirits daily. The old gentleman was dubious about the amount, and asked his son, a schoolboy, how much an ounce was. "Sixteen drams," was the reply. "Sixteen drams!" an excellent doctor," replied the delighted Highlander. "Run and tell Donald McTavish and Big John to come down the hill!"

The Best and the Cheapest. 100 doses for 100 cents, Burdock Blood Bitters. Does your head ache? Take Burdock Blood Bitters. Is your blood impure? Take Burdock Blood Bitters. Are you constive? Take Burdock Blood Bitters. Are you bilious? Take Burdock Blood Bitters. Are you dyspeptic? Take Burdock Blood Bitters. I cent a dose, 1 cent a dose, Burdock Blood Bitters.

A Seasonable Hint. During the breaking up of winter, damp, chilly weather prevails, and rheumatism, neuralgia, lumbago, sore throat, croup, quinsy and other painful effects of sudden cold are common. Hagar's Yellow Oil is a truly valuable household remedy for all such complaints. 2

A Lake Industry.

The Toledo Blade claims that it is possible to introduce a new industry on the line of the great lake which will be most profitable, namely, the breeding of seals. A justification of this claim our contemporary reminds the people that a few years ago some men in California determined to go into the ostrich business. People all over the United States thought they were visionaries, but nevertheless they expended a good deal of money in sending to Africa for ostriches and bringing them to California. Several of them died while being transported, but there was a sufficient number of them left to give the industry a fair trial. Even after the birds began to lay eggs people in California said the projector of the enterprise had thrown their money away. But incubation went on satisfactorily, and the young ostriches came out in a healthy condition, and it was not long until all admitted that it was a success. More ostriches were brought from Africa, and the industry flourished to such a degree that the authorities issued an order preventing the taking of any more ostriches out of the country. There are plenty of these birds in California now, and large and fine as the best specimens found in Africa. It is claimed that the seal industry promises as good results as ostrich farming, and that they may be raised in any of the great lakes, Lake Erie especially. The small islands and rocky promontories of the lake would be just the place for them to come out and bask in the sun, for seals like to get out on a rock and warm themselves in this way. All small lakes, however, are, it is claimed, suitable. Rocky promontories might be made as basking places, and the industry would flourish from the start. They would soon learn to go regularly to a given place for their food. It would be an immensely profitable business. Some people have an idea that a seal will not thrive excepting in a very cold climate. This, however, our contemporary claims, is a mistake. They will thrive in any fresh lake. In the Pacific ocean, off the coast of California, there is a prominence, and there are many seals there. They are protected by law. It must be remembered that it is warm there. During the winter months fa- cheap house for protection could be built on the edge of the lake, to which the seals could come for air, as they must have this. The house, however, is necessary when the lake was frozen over. A seal can stay under the water from 15 to 20 minutes, when it must come to the surface for air. Summing up, the Blade concludes that one need not live many years to see the lady residents of lake cities wearing seal skin escaques made from seals who were taken from the great chain of American and Canadian lakes.—Guelph Herald.

The French Reverses. PARIS, April 23.—Official report of a Dahomey. One white and 30 native allies were wounded.

The Antipodes. SYDNEY, N.S.W., April 23.—Caused by the overflow of a subiding. A fund has been established for the benefit of the sufferers.

The Miner's V. PARIS, April 23.—The Congress has resolved to give of eight hours and a collieries and if these don't comply with it strike on May 1.

The Irish Ports. COBK, April 23.—The strike is spreading to other stations is serious.

Whipped by V. ST. LOUIS, April 23.—Chickasaw Nation say a caps raised a wide section of the reservation. A number of men and gavi Nation in five days. Persons who were not w leave in ten days.

Never Too Late. MAY'S LANDING, April 23.—Sally Smith, aged 82 years. Many relatives and friends the happy couple tripped to old-time music.

Killed by a Woman. PICKERING, April 23.—A woman about 30 years of age was walking on the track. She leaves 4 daughters.

A Texas C. AUSTIN, TEX., April of Kyle, 30 miles south by a cyclone last night were overturned and several persons were killed.

Another C.P. WINDSOR, April 23.—Pacific Railroad survey. It is reported that Jones Amberburg from a Pacific Railway close to

Minard's Lintment re- Why do they The man who does the theory that it doesn't afford to ad judgment in opposit business men in few years' experience small business on a fr capital, he assur thousands of ad- sessions aggregat in a year, and who lions by pursuing a doesn't pay. If advertising does every town, large thousands of ad- doesn't pay, who do If it doesn't pay to the heaviest business spend millions in the they want to donat dollars to the news publishers, or becau as much about busin dollar "stroke-spee" who says money spe thrown away or de ricious, and it re average patience to t with that kind of pleasant self-concei knows more than world is laughable, the man who prove by placing amp and watchin Exchange.

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TRANSATLANTIC

ARRIVAL OF QUEEN DARMSTAT

President Carnot's To china's Military Grab sentience. The Pres- homony—Honors to the

BERLIN, April 23.—Que at Darmstadt to-day. She the railway station by the ties and other prominent of honor was also present Majesty.

Carnot's To PARIS, April 23.—The President Carnot was travo cio, Cordoc, was prevent Bastia on time by of 12 hours preceding 31 miles southwest Carnot received the m ties. He made an address gratulated them that t Corica had ended and the party united by patrioti track was finally clear President reached Bastia by an immense crow- squadron lying in the hart in honor of the president.

Seooped by the St BELGRADE, April 23.—Passed a bill introduc ment retaining for militi twentieth of all the m direct taxation until \$ accumulated. It has also establishing a new powde

Bank Smashes LONDON, April 23.—Living their names as F riam Smith and Charles E convicted of attempt Clerk Stone of a bag cont of checks, notes and gold 17 months imprisonment.

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