

clerks got their revolvers ready and waited. At the gulch they were flagged as the engineer had expected they would be. As the locomotive slowed up in passing, the head mail clerk shot the man with the flag dead. A fusillade from the side of the track was returned by the other men on the locomotive, and then silence, save for the steady pant of the engine.

Two of the clerks tossed the dead man roughly on top of the coal in the tender and started with their companions on a run in the direction in which the robbers had disappeared. They were just in time to see four men jump on bronchos and ride for dear life across the plains.

"What can have become of Krause?" the chief mail clerk asked as they gazed disconsolately after the retreating figures.

"May be they took him with them," one of the number hazarded.

"Taint likely," the chief answered. "They've got enough to attend to in getting away without luging him along."

"Spread out and we'll beat the gulch," the engineer said. "We can only spend to minutes at it, but if he is anywhere about we can turn him up in that time."

The men moved out fanlike across the gulch, peering behind the rocks and lowlying bushes to see if by any chance he had been killed and his body disposed of in that way.

One by one the party returned to the locomotive with no news of the missing man. The engineer held down his whistle rope for a good two minutes and waited five more for results. As nothing came of it the trip back to Sealy City and the Junction was resumed.

As they neared the platform at Sealy City a lonely little figure stood silhouetted in the twilight against the passenger shanty. It was Jeb.

"I want to git outer here," he said, tearfully, as he climbed into the cab. "There ain't nothin' going to keep me around this place."

"What happened, sonny?" one of the clerks asked, as the dummy train ran swiftly back towards the Junction.

Then between sobs, despite his prairie training, for he wasn't a very big boy, Jeb told of watching Krause disappear in the gulch in the custody of the robber.

He had sent the message down the line as well as he could with the old sender and his knowledge of the code. It had taken him a long time to make sure that anyone had it, though, and even then he did not know where it had been received, as he knew nothing of the calls.

After the Junction's reply had reached him, he said, he ran to the head of the gulch by a roundabout way and saw the robbers ride up on their ponies. There were four of them, not counting the man who had Krause in custody. From their gestures he said they seemed to be arguing about something. At any rate they

shook their fists in Krause's face, and one man finally knocked him down and fired a pistol at him. Hence, Jeb said, he concluded they had killed him. He was afraid the robbers might catch him if he stayed any longer, so he went back to the station and reached there just after the dummy train had left for the gulch.

While Jeb had been telling his story the chief mail clerk had climbed over the coal to the body on the tender. He came back pale and with body all a-quiver.

"We got the wrong man, boys," he said; "it's Krause up there."

The other men on the locomotive were moved according to their na-

tures. Some swore sympathetically, while others simply shook their heads. The engineer did neither of these things. He opened the throttle a trifle and remarked: "Well, he flagged us for them, didn't he?"

"Yes," someone assented.

"Well, he got his wages."

Jeb spent that night with the operator at the Junction. The next morning Albright received this message:

"Send that boy Jeb that stopped the mail last night down to this office. I can use him.—James Brock, Dispatcher."

—J. P. Hebard, in New York Evening Post.

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## Hints by May Manton

### FANCY STOCK COLLARS, 4321

Number One combines a plain stock with a curved over portion and is made of mousseline with bands of silk, dotted with French knots, and further enhanced by applique of lace. Uprights of tiny silk-covered wire keep it in shape and the over portions are laced together with narrow ribbon.

Number Two is made of lace with bands of panne velvet and includes ties of Liberty with lace ends.

Number Three is somewhat plain—than the others and is made of

size is for number one  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard, for number two  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard, for number three  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard, for number four  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard and for number five  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard.

### WOMAN'S FIVE GORED FLARE SKIRT WITH HABIT BACK 4206

Perforated for Dip in Front.

Flare skirts with habit backs are among the latest of fashion's decrees and can be relied upon as correct both for immediate wear and the coming season. The graceful model shown is adapted to all dress, suit and skirt materials, but



4321 Fancy Stock Collar Medium Size.



4206 F v Gored Flare Skirt, 22 to 30 Waist.



4313 Child's Nightgown, 2 to 8 Yrs.

silk, enriched by either embroidery worked into the material or by motifs of lace or of silk applique. The plain stock is finished at the top with a turn-over portion, and at the lower edge with ties that are knotted at the centre front.

Number Four shows a deep point at the centre and allows of many combinations and materials, but as shown is of fillet net with bands of satin and a single motif of lace at the front. It is held in shape by strips of collar bone stitched to the wrong side.

Number Five is somewhat severe in cut but can be made more or less so as the material is lace or silk. The original is of heavy Venise lace bound with silk bands, but embroidery Oriental bands and what not can be substituted. The under stock is plain, the upper portion being finished and mounted over it.

The quantity of material 18 inches wide required for the medium

in the original is of taffeta with bands of cloth stitched with corticelli silk. The trimming is novel and, besides being arranged to give a flounce effect, serves perfectly to conceal the closing at the back when an invisible effect is desired. When such is not the case the skirt can be closed by means of handsome buttons and buttonholes that are arranged at intervals for its entire length. The skirt is cut in five gores that are carefully shaped and are fitted without darts. The upper portion is absolutely snug and smooth but below the knees the skirt flares freely and gracefully. The closing is made at the centre back seam beneath the trimming.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is 6½ yards 21 inches wide, 6½ yards 27 inches wide, 5 yards 44 inches wide or 4 yards 52 inches wide when material has figure or nap; 3½ yards 44 inch-