

The Mountain Divide

cine Bend?" demanded Dancing in a tone of calculated indifference.

"No," answered Bucks in decided but off-hand manner, "I never saw a shooting mix-up anywhere."

"Never got shot up just for fun?" persisted Dancing. "Do you know," he continued without waiting for an answer, "who that polite man was, the last one you shouldered out of here?" Dancing pointed as he spoke to the corner from which Levake had risen, but the operator, straightening out the papers before him, did not look around.

"No, Bill, I don't know anybody here. You see I am a stranger."

"I see you are a stranger," echoed Dancing. "Let me tell you something, the will you?"

"Tell it quick, Bill."

"There is no cemetery in this town."

"I have understood it is very healthy, Bill," returned the operator.

"Not for everybody." Bill Dancing paused to let the words sink in, as his big eyes fixed upon