

MOONDYNE JOE

THE GOLD MINE OF THE VASSE

III.

THE SANDALWOOD AGENCY

About a year after his trip to Calcutta, while his ship lay in Shanghai, Sheridan received an invitation to dinner from the chief owner, a wealthy and acute old Scotchman, whose palatial residence and beautiful grounds overlooked the town. He was surprised at the courtesy, and showed the invitation to the captain, a kind old sailor, who had formed an affection for Will from the first.

and skins, that could be carried and shipped at the same time. The merchant listened attentively to the broad outline of Will's plans, which he spoke about quite freely as one outside the matter, but familiar with it.

families were all related to each other by inter-marriage; and the men of the whole settlement, who had been born and reared in the bush, were famous throughout the colony for strength, horsemanship, good-fellowship, and hard fighting qualities.

He had considered the matter well, and he was resolved on a plan of action. He told the Dardanup bushmen that he wanted twenty-four men, twelve to act as teamsters, and twelve as a reserve. In a few minutes he had booked the names and settled the conditions with two dozen of the strongest and boldest men in Western Australia.

One Saturday night as Father Vane entered the confessional he caught sight of the familiar figure passing by the door, and stood a moment watching. The man timed turned back, and with the dim light in the manner slipped through the open door and knelt in the back pew. There was no time to speak to him now, so with an earnest prayer to heaven to hold him there, Father Vane passed into the confessional.

bad. I know I am a sinner and all unworthy, but, Father, my heart is filled with hope. God wants me—even me—and I must go to Him." Father Vane's eyes filled with tears. He tried to speak, but could not, as he silently led the way back to the confessional booth. Hours later with his soul and body warmed and fed, and with a little money for his lodging in his pocket, the Derelict crept out into the night.

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THE TEAMSTERS' TAVERN

"Curse that fellow!" hissed Lane Scotty through his clenched teeth, "I hate him." The word was emphasized by a blow on the rickety table that made the glasses jump.

The scene was a public house in the little mahogany town of Bunbury, Western Australia; the time, six months after Will Sheridan had assumed the sandalwood agency.

The speaker was a ticket-of-leave man, a wiry, red-eyed fellow of middle age, whose face had the cunning ferocity of a ferret. His auditors were a shaggy crowd of woodcutters and ex-convict teamsters

TO BE CONTINUED

THE ELEVENTH HOUR

BY EUGENE T. FINN

Old St. Mary's stands in the heart of the city. Thousands pass by each day. Some look lovingly at it—others try to keep their eyes averted

One of these bits of human driftwood was standing now within the doorway, sheltered from the pouring rain. His shabby clothes hung limply on his thin figure and he shivered with cold. His face was aged and drawn past all resemblance

PARENTS AND VOCATIONS

Rev. Albert Munich, in Our Sunday Visitor.

The harvest fields stand white. The grain waves endless to the gray horizon's rim. Why are the reapers so few?

God alone can give a vocation, but Catholic parents can mightily cooperate with Him in preparing the souls of their children for this great gift.

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