The Marshal of Paradise

By George Edwin Hunt

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This is the story of Runty Smithers, as told to me by various and sundry citizens of Paradise, Ariz.:

Archibald Anstruther Smithers was born of rich and respectable parents, in the city of Richmond, Ind. His education was that of the young men of the middle states. He was taught to have faith, respect his conscience and be honest. He knew there were people in the world with but little regard for law and order, for he had read books and newspapers, but they figured as things remote, like Pompeii and the fixed stars. His upraising was on strictly conventional lines; his scheme of existence was bounded by the limited experience obtained among a refined and intellectual acquaintanceship. A well-marked idiosyncrasy in his character was his fear of bodily injury. It was more than timidity; it was abject physical cowardice. As moral courage and sense of duty were among his most prominent traits, his utter lack of physical courage was accentuated.

Developing tubercular tendencies during his last year in college, this studious, quiet, timid young man was given a letter of credit and much advice by his busy father, a chamois skin undervest and a cloud-burst of tears by his loving mother, and departed for Arizona to seek the robust health his physician predicted an outdoor life in that latitude would confer.

When Archibald Anstruther reached Paradise his general appearance must have failed, in many respects, to coincide with the atmosphere of that hustling community. Archibald Anstruther was short and slight, thin and pale of face, hollow-chested, and with a scholarly stoop to his shoulders. The spectacles he wore were rendered necessary by extreme nearsightedness. Following a custom of the free and unfettered west, lonesome Linthicum dubbed him "Runty" at their first interview, and Runty he remained to the end of the story.

Mr. Smithers neither drank, smoked nor gambled. He did not know how to load or fire a gun and used a knife only for the subdivision of his food. On the few occasions he was present at altercations between two or more gentlemen, he had, I was informed, "went white and hot-footed for cover." It was perhaps but natural that the rough and ready residents of Paradise should hold him at first in light esteem. He was incongruous—a tenderfoot. He did not fit. Physically, and in many ways mentally and morally, he was everything that they were not.

But when Billy Earle's broncho stepped into a hole and broke Billy's leg instead of the broncho's, Runty Smithers spent days and nights caring for Billy and loaned him money for his doctor's bill. And when Pat Johnson's ten-year-old boy was stricken with diphtheria, Runty brought a bag of clothes to the house, drove Pap off to his work, and saved the child's life by careful nursing.

One night Jake Sweeney partook of the cup that cheers and also inebriates, and did what Big Bill Jernigan described to me as "some promiscuous shootin' with various deleterious results," and Paradise decided in solemn conclave a marshal was needed. Lonesome Linthicum, straight, lithe, supple, gray-eyed and fearless, would have been unanimously selected at the time, but that an election was deemed the straight and regular method to pursue.

On the day of the voting some joker conceived it would be great fun to cast a ballot for Runty Smithers. Being unselfish, he shared his jest with a few friends, who followed his example and explained the humor of the occasion to a few of their friends. And when the votes were counted, it was found the humorists were in the majority. Runty Smithers was elected marshal of Paradise by a vote of 86 to 78. Paradise sat up and began to take notice.

A meeting was hastily called in Three-Fingered Pete's saloon and a resolution was offered providing for a committee of three, which committee should call on Mr. Smithers, inform him that the whole matter was a mistake, direct his attention to his manifest unfitness for the position, and request his withdrawal. As the question of the adoption of the resolution was about to be put, Lonesome Linthicum, the defeated candidate, stepped into the room.

Glancing over his audience, he said:

"Boys, I have just come from Runty Smithers. He has heard the result of the election and has taken the matter seriously. He has expressed his deep regret that I should have been defeated, but is firm in the belief that our republican institutions are based on the theory that the will of the majority must prevail. He is anxious to justify your judgment in his choice by doing his duty honorably and well. You elected Runty marshal of Paradise. The election was fair and square. You cannot—you shall not—humiliate him by asking him to withdraw. Boys, Runty Smithers is going to be marshal of Paradise! I say it! And, by God, the first man that bats an eyelid in contradiction of his authority will kill me or I will kill him!"

Paradise was used to following Lonesome's leads. The humor of the situation also appealed to many. So, instead of appointing a committee of three, the assemblage went into a committee of the whole for the purpose of congratulating the newly elected marshal.

One Monday morning Lonesome Linthicum received a message calling him to a ranch 200 miles up the valley on a mission that would require his attention three or four days. With a word of warning to a few of the boys, he rode out of town. The following day announcement was made of a dance to be given at Bloomer's Gulch on Saturday night. All Paradise was invited, and most of it accepted. Jernigan, Windy, Billy Earle, Pap Johnson and others tried to prevail on Runty to join them, but the marshal's conception of his duty would not permit him to leave his post.

As nearly everyone that had the evening free was expected to attend the dance, Runty's self-appointed guardians could see no risk in leaving him uncared for that one night, and it was so decided.

At ten o'clock that Saturday night, while all was peacefully quiet in Paradise, four men, masked and heavily armed, rode into town from the Tucson trail. In silence they passed through the deserted streets to where the lights from Three-Fingered Pete's saloon and gambling house shone across the darkened thoroughfare. Noiselessly dismounting, they hitched their ponies, readjusted their masks, and surveyed the room from their concealment in the outer shadow. Pete's bartender, Dutch Henry, the sole occupant, was dozing in a chair at the end of the bar. With one swift stride he who acted as leader of the outlaws was in the saloon, a 44 in each hand covering Dutch.

"Hands up!" short and sharp.

A glance toward the door, an almost involuntary movement of the hand toward the gun under the bar, a sharp report, and Dutch Henry had paid the debt of indiscretion. The outlaws hastened to a small safe in the corner of the room where Pete kept his "bank roll." Finding it locked, the leader gave quick and decisive orders.

"Jake, knock that knob off with the hammer. Squint, get out your brace and bit. Here's the dynamite. Jerry, go outside and watch. There may be some one left in this cursed town, after all."

There was. The words were scarcely spoken when Marshal Smithers stepped into the saloon. Even his defective vision could not mistake the visible evidences of crime. Halting inside the door, he said:

"Men, c-c-come with me."

At the sound of his voice the leader

No Quarter Was Given or Received.

of the outlaws whirled on his heel—fired—and missed. Runty had never been shot at before. His sand-founded confidence fled in a flash. His face turned ashen gray as his soul was suddenly steeped in the agony of physical fear. His frame trembled with the wild desire to turn and flee. His lips went dry, a cold sweat bathed his body and the horror of cowardice cried aloud within him. But he walked steadily forward, pointing to the star on his coat lapel, and said:

"Men, c-c-come with me."

The amazement that an unarmed man, and one of such peaceful appearance, should venture to challenge them, held the outlaws spellbound for a moment, but now, with an oath, the leader fired again, the report of his revolver barely preceding a fusilade from those of his followers, and Marshal Runty Smithers sank to the floor, murdered in the attempted fulfillment of his duty.

The reverberation of the reports had not ceased when a madly galloping horse was curbed to his haunches in front of the door and Lonesome Linthicum strode into the room a revolver in each hand. The spasm of unutterable regret on his face as he glanced at Runty, prone upon the floor, changed to one of berserker rage as he faced the outlaws. No words were spoken, no quarter was given or received. When the smoke lifted there were three dead safe robbers and one with two bullet holes through his lungs at one end of the room and a gallant gray-eyed fellow at the other end with a broken arm, a bullet in his shoulder and a hole through his thigh. His sound arm lay over the body of the late marshal of Paradise. And so the boys found them when they returned from the dance.

A Question of Title.

A western politician, new to the ways of Washington, tells of an amusing incident in connection with his hunt for lodgings when first he came to the national capital. "I approached the head of a fine place in the swell quarter," said he. "This lady—an elderly lady of a terrible and aggressive refinement of manner—met me at the door. Awed to a nervous degree by her excess of manner, about all I could gasp out was: "'Would it be inconvenient to let me an apartment in your establishment, Mrs. Blank?' "At this the elderly person stiffened even straighter than before, and then delivered to me this crushing rebuke: 'Miss Blank, sir! Miss — from choice!'"—Sunday Magazine.

Thoughtless.

"His wife has been mad at him for over a week." "What about?" "He said that Helen of Troy was doubtless the most beautiful woman that ever lived."—Houston Post.

The Reason.

"Where does that writer get the time to write as fully and beautifully as she does about bringing up children?" "She hasn't got any."—Baltimore American.

TIRED BACKS.

The kidneys have a great work to do in keeping the blood pure. When they get out of order it causes backache, headaches, dizziness, languor and distressing urinary troubles. Keep the kidneys well and all these sufferings will be saved you. Mrs. S. A. Moore, proprietor of a restaurant at Waterville, Mo., says: "Before using Doan's Kidney Pills I suffered everything from kidney troubles for a year and a half. I had pain in the back and head, and almost continuous in the loins and felt weary all the time. A few doses of Doan's Kidney Pills brought great relief, and I kept on taking them until in a short time I was cured. I think Doan's Kidney Pills are wonderful."

For sale by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

GRIT SAVED HIS LEG.

Ranchman Rode Far After Most Serious Injury.

Jack Farland, a ranchman living at the base of Pike's Peak, and whose post office is Midland, in this county, yesterday suffered a broken leg by being caught between a horse which he was riding and a timber wagon which he was attempting to pass while en route to this city, says the Cripple Creek Times. Farland displayed the greatest of pluck by riding on to Victor after suffering the injury, although he said upon arriving here that he felt several times that he must give up. Knowing, however, what difficulty would attend any attempt to dismount, and how well nigh impossible it would be for him to remount in the event that he succeeded in getting safely off his horse, the ranchman gritted his teeth and kept on. After having his leg set by a surgeon of this city, Farland collapsed and it was late in the afternoon before he was able to proceed homeward in a carriage, the accident having happened early in the morning.

SARSAPARILLA TIME.

Make Your Own Sarsaparilla or Spring Blood Medicine.

Mix one-half ounce Fluid Extract Dandelion, one ounce Compound Kargon, three ounces Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla. Shake well in a bottle and take one teaspoonful after meals and again at bedtime. Any good druggist can supply these ingredients.

This is said to be a splendid Spring Blood Tonic and system renovator because of its gentle action in restoring the Kidneys to normal activity, forcing them to filter from the blood all impure matter and acids, destroying micro-organisms which produce ill health and sour blood.

Everyone should take something to cleanse the blood at this time of year, and the above simple prescription is the most highly indorsed of the hundreds of home remedies generally used.

Mix this yourself, then you will know what you are taking.

Sheep Raising in Australia.

The greatest industry of Australia is sheep raising, mainly for the sake of the wool, but also in part, of course, for the meat. Australia now ranks second among the great sheep-raising countries, Argentina being first with 92,000,000 sheep, Australia second with 72,000,000, and Russia third with 70,000,000. Only a few years ago Australia was first, possessing no less than 106,260,000 head of sheep. That was in 1891. Prolonged droughts were the cause of the destruction of many millions of Australian sheep, but since 1902 there has been an annual gain. Yet these sheep were not indigenous to Australia. They were first introduced in 1797, being of the Spanish merino species.

Queer Idea of Chinese.

The following is a quite modern Chinese conception of the foreigners' treatment of infectious cases: "If an epidemic broke out two foreigners took the sick away and put them in a little room, washed them with lime water and then locked them up, so that no one could see them, on purpose that they might soon die and not propagate the disease. Wives and children might cry and weep, but the foreigner would but drive them away with sticks, for until dead no one must see those faces again. Better for all of us to jump into the sea than submit to this."—South China Post.

Read Slowly.

The New York Medical Journal wisely remarks: "The colon bacillus is usually ranked in the saprophytic group of bacteria rather than placed among the organisms distinctly pathogenic for man; but we know that it is far from being devoid of virulence, and that it is capable under certain conditions of gaining increased powers of invading the organism and of manifesting very definite pathogenic effects."

FIND OUT

The Kind of Food That Will Keep You Well.

The true way is to find out what is best to eat and drink, and then cultivate a taste for those things instead of poisoning ourselves with improper, indigestible food, etc.

A conservative Mass. woman writes: "I have used Grape-Nuts 5 years for the young and for the aged; in sickness and in health; at first following directions carefully, later in a variety of ways as my taste and judgment suggested.

"But its most special, personal benefit has been a substitute for meat, and served dry with cream when rheumatic troubles made it important for me to give up the 'coffee habit.'

"Served in this way with the addition of a cup of hot water and a little fruit it has been used at my morning meal for six months, during which time my health has much improved, nerves have grown steadier, and a gradual decrease in my comfort." Name given by Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., Battle Creek, Mich. Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

Judging People.

We are all inclined to judge of others as we find them. Our estimate of a character always depends much on the manner in which that character affects our own interests and passions. We find it difficult to think well of those by whom we are thwarted or depressed; and we are ready to admit every excuse for the vices of those who are useful or agreeable to us. That is, we believe, one of those illusions to which the whole human race is subject, and which experience and reflection can only partially remove.—McCaulay.

Sheer white goods, in fact, any fine wash goods when new, owe much of their attractiveness to the way they are laundered, this being done in a manner to enhance their textile beauty. Home laundering would be equally satisfactory if proper attention was given to starching, the first essential being good Starch, which has sufficient strength to stiffen, without thickening the goods. Try Defiance Starch and you will be pleasantly surprised at the improved appearance of your work.

Parisian Champions Barmaids.

The Paris Matin says, apropos of the proposal to abolish the British barmaid: "One must have lived through a dull winter's night on the shores of the Thames; one must have looked in the laughing eyes of some waitress for a reflection of the absent blue sky, in order to understand all the horror of the proposal to replace charming barmaids by men."

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A powder. It cures painful, smarting, nervous feet and ingrowing nails. It's the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Makes new shoes easy. A certain cure for sweating feet. Sold by all Druggists, 25c. Accept no substitute. Trial package, FREE. Address A. S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

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In 1906 the resources of the savings banks of the state of New York reached $1,465,000,000, an increase of $59,000,000 in only one year.

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An aim in life is the only fortune worth pursuing.—Adnah.

Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c. You pay 10c for cigars not so good. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

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Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.

For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

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Fruit acids will not stain goods dyed with PUTNAM FADELESS DYES, and the colors are bright and fast.

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Lewis' Single Binder costs more than other 5c cigars. Smokers know why. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

Every truth that comes home to us is a moral call, bidding us rise to a new position.—Goethe.

Garfield Tea—the indispensable laxative! Take it in the Spring; it purifies the blood, cleanses the system, eradicates disease. It is made wholly of simple Herbs. Guaranteed under the Pure Food and Drugs Law.

Chinese City Waking Up.

Nankin, China, is to have an electric light system of the most modern kind; also a new water works.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury,

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

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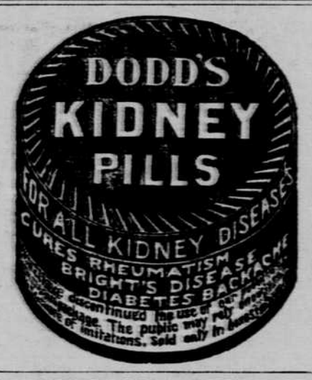

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