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 for Whooping Cough, Spasmodic Croup, Asthma, Sore Throat, Coughs, Bronchitis, Colds, Catarrh.

"Used while you sleep."

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"I am aware of that, Mr. Ricketts. Still, the sale must go on, and unless there is another bid, I am compelled to knock the property down to the last offer. Fifteen thousand dollars I am bid, and for the third time—"

"Sixteen thousand dollars," cried Ricketts, clutching his handkerchief, mopping his brow, and anxiously watching the door.

"The bid is against you, sir," said the sheriff. "By the way, what name, please?"

"Stranleigh."

"Well, Mr. Stranleigh, I'm waiting for your bid."

"Don't wait any longer, Mr. Sheriff. I'm anxious to know how much money Mr. Ricketts possesses at the present moment. The ranch belongs to him if he can hand over to you sixteen thousand dollars."

**DOWN** came the gavel on the table. "Mr. Ricketts, the ranch is yours." Ricketts rose to his feet. "I ask for a postponement of this sale for a week from today."

"I have no objection," said the sheriff, "as, of course, I shall earn another fee."

There was a laugh at this, then the sheriff continued:

"But I cannot postpone the sale without the consent of Mr. Stranleigh. What do you say, Mr. Stranleigh?"

"A postponement would be inconvenient to me, much as I should like to oblige Mr. Ricketts."

"If the sheriff is willing," roared Ricketts, "we will postpone without your consent, even if we have to turn you out by force."

"I ask that the sale go peaceably on, Mr. Sheriff," said Stranleigh, coolly and decisively.

"There must be a postponement! The sheriff has control over this meeting," shouted the lawyer, wildly.

"I am depending on that fact," said Stranleigh, "and I am sure he will adhere strictly to the law. How much money have you collected, Mr. Ricketts?"

"That's none of your business."

"Perhaps not. So, — to make everything easy and agreeable, I bid seventeen thousand dollars for the ranch property."

"Show your money," demanded Ricketts.

"You wouldn't show yours, so why should I show mine?"

"Knock it down to him, sheriff! I don't believe he has the cash."

"Seventeen thousand I am offered! Going at seventeen thousand, once; going at seventeen thousand, twice; going at seventeen thousand, third and last time! Going! Gone!"

Down came the mallet.

"I shall be obliged if you will hand over to me seventeen thousand dollars, Mr. Stranleigh," said the sheriff.

"With your permission, gentlemen!" and Stranleigh elbowed his way through the crowd, which parted good-naturedly. He counted out the money on the sheriff's table.

**ARMSTRONG** and his men went home directly the sale was over, but Stranleigh remained until all the legal business was finished, and the documents were in his possession. He determined to bid farewell to the Armstrongs and the bunk house men, then turn his face eastward.

Miss Armstrong was astonished to hear his decision.

"But you haven't enjoyed even a day's shooting!" she protested.

"I'll come for that another time," he assured her.

"Before you go away, my father would like to come to some arrangement with you about the ranch."

"I shall be glad to reach an agreement with him."

The girl sped up to the silver mine, where her father was superintending the removal of the dynamite to its proper place, a job requiring some little care. Armstrong accompanied his daughter down to the house, and greeted Stranleigh with eagerness.

"I am anxious to lease the ranch from you, Mr. Stranleigh, with the option of buying later on. I can make money from the silver mine."

(Continued on Page 13)



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