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Synopsis.—Hilary Askew, a young American, inherits from an uncle a hundred square miles of forest in Quebec. Upon taking possession, he discovers all sorts of queer things. Lamartine, his uncle's lawyer, tells him the property is comparatively worthless and tries to induce him to sell. Lafe Connell, the mill foreman, tells him his uncle has been systematically robbed. Connell, the mill foreman, tells him his uncle has been systematically robbed. Morris, the manager, is associated with the Ste. Marie company, a rival concern owned by Brousseau, the "bons" of the region. Madeleine, the beautiful daughter of Seigneur Rosny, original owner of Askew's land, is pursued by Brousseau, who has her father in his power. The hero decides to stay and manage his property. He discharges Morris and makes Connell manager. He whips "Black" Pierre, foreman of a gang of Brousseau's men cutting on his land. He defies Brousseau. Leblanc, his boss jobber, deserts to the enemy. From Father Lucien Askew learns the story of Marie Dupont, daughter of the captain of a lumber schooner. The girl's mother, now dead, had been betrayed, and she herself is looked on askance and has few friends. Marie knows the name of her mother's betrayer, but has never revealed it to her father. Askew finds Madeleine Rosny hostile to him. Askew and Connell visit a Ste. Marie dance hall. nell visit a Ste. Marie dance hall.

CHAPTER VI .- Continued.

SCORESES

Baptiste sprang at her, seized her interfered. Baptiste turned upon them upon a lighter scale. with menacing fists. The little man Baptiste by both arms. With slow Ste. Marie?" but inexorable force he led him toward more of bulk than of velocity. Amid in afterward." the jeers of the crowd Baptiste was swing once more.

tiste, seated upon the step before the aggressive, as usual. dance hall, was weeping pitifully. The equal polgnancy. Hilary saw that his eyes were blazing.

"We'll get that girl away from here," he said.

Lafe nodded, and the two went in. through the clouds of rolling smoke. It was Nanette who saw Hilary first. She | tried very hard to do so. uttered a sharp exclamation and

The news reached Simeon Duval as he was reaching up for a bottle in his closet, and he came puffing out and waddled toward Hilary, his pale-blue eyes fixed on him in malevolent

scrutiny. "Eh, Meestair Askew, you have a drink on me?" asked Simeon, holding out the bottle under Hilary's nose. The action was at once a challenge and an overture, to be interpreted in either fashion, according to the hear-

er's inclination. Hilary shook his head. "I don't drink, Simeon," he answered curtly.

"You want to dance, then, eh? You want a lady to dance?" "I do not."

"Nor to play card, eh?"

"Not tonight, Simeon."

"Then what the h- you come to my place for?"

Simeon's blue eyes glared into Hilary's. In his younger days the man had been the bully of the lumber camps; still of great strength, he could



Baptiste Sprang at Her, Seized Her by the Sleeve of Her Dress and Tried to Pull Her From Her Seat.

have matched himself against any men, with the doubtful exception of the door, a cursing, struggling mass, had left St. Boniface behind him and Black Pierre; but Hilary's exploit upon the latter had a restraining effect upon bim.

"I've come to have a look at you. Simeon," said Hilary genially.

"Well, you see me now, eh, Meestair Askew? What you think of me, ch?" retorted the dance-hall proprietor, away, lumbermen and girls were run-"Maybe you like to look some more,

your brother is thinking of opening a

hell like this one at St. Boniface." The lumbermen had begun to edge by the sleeve of her dress, and tried to in about them. Sentiment, while runpull her from her seat. Hilary saw ning strongly against the intruder, Nanette protesting angrily; he could was not angrily hostile. The men were not hear Baptiste's excited exclama- eager to see how Hilary would bear tions, but he heard faintly the scream himself against Simeon, and they that came from Marie's lips. At once hoped for some fun. Hilary saw among there was a general movement toward them the face of Simeon's brother the group. Some of the lumbermen Louis, who looked like a small model

"My brother here. He speak for was beside himself with fury. Then himself, Meestair Askew, He not Simeon came waddling down the room afraid. You think, p'r'aps, because with his ducklike shuffle, and took you thrash Black Plerre, you boss in

"No, I don't. I wish I were," said the door. It seemed almost as if Bap- Hilary. "If I were, Simeon, I should tiste, struggling in vain and mouthing run you down to Quebec jail right off incoherently, was in the grip of some the reel. But I'm boss in St. Boniface, machine, for the momentum of Sime and if Louis opens a liquor den there, on's movements was composed much I'll break his head open and run him

Few of those present understood his thrust from the door, and Simeon exact meaning, but an ominous growl turned and waddled back into the showed that this declaration was aproom, where the dancing was in full preciated at more or less its correct value. The mob began moving for-Hilary saw Marie flying round in ward. For a few moments the situathe arms of a gigantic woodsman, Bap- tion looked menacing. Hilary took the

"Ah, Leblanc!" he called out, "How little drama came home to Lafe with do you like your new job? I'm starting in to cut out that limit you handed back to me. There's some good timber there, Leblanc."

Leblanc snarled and started forward, shaking his fist and muttering. At first they were not recognized However, he could not get through the press, and it is not probable that he

"Well, that's about all, Simeon," pointed toward him. At once the two Hilary called. "I just came in to look found themselves under the fire of all at your place and give your brother a friendly warning, because I never warn when I'm ready to strike."

"My brother take care of himself. He ain't afraid of you," said Simeon, who kept as cool as Hilary. Hilary intuitively summed him up as the most dangerous of his opponents. "But I guess you ain't going like that, Meestair Askew," continued the liquorseller. "I ask you to have a drink on me an' you say no. Now you going to buy drinks all round, eh?"

Hilary laughed out loud. "Not for your crowd. Simeon," he answered. Simeon planted his fat body heavily before him. "What you say? You buy

drinks, eh?" he demanded truculently. Hilary put his hands on Simeon's shoulders and pushed him bodily backward. Simeon, who was plantedrather than stood, at first resisted as a tree might resist a gentle shove with the hand; but he could not resist the strength behind Hilary's shoulders, and he began to sway and went toppling backward, landing, still rigid, upon the floor.

Some of the girls shricked, and the lumbermen came surging forward toward Hilary and Lafe and began to hustle them. Yet, knowing Hilary's reputation, they hesitated a moment before initiating hostilities; and that moment brought an unexpected interruption.

For a boy ran screaming in at the door, and what he cried startled the entire assemblage. Simeon, who had been struggling to his feet, was upon them in an instant. But before the crowd had recovered from its confusion two officers in the uniform of the They carried revolvers in their hands, had him at their mercy in an instant. At once the whole scene was dis-

solved. Men and girls ran this way and that, a wildly flying, panicky mass. Ste. Marie, but quite another to defy the tireless officials of the revenue department, who patroled the river at uncertain intervals, whose arms were

very long. Whether any one except Simeon was wanted in that particular place was never known, for it was all the officers could do to hold on to him, while the crowd stampeded past them toward

carrying Lafe and Hilary along with it. In the street they pulled themselves out of the crush and took refuge in an alley. All Ste, Marie was in a turmoil, News of the raid had spread everywhere with lightning swiftness. Lights were being extinguished, liquor hidden ning in wild panic through the streets.

fro and moaning.

you home," he said.

She looked up at him piteously. She appeared to recognize him, but was too terrified to understand. He drew her to her feet and, with Lafe on the other side, they began to make their way quickly toward the beach by a narrow passage among the cottages.

But as they started Lafe looked back and saw, wedged in the crowd behind them, Jean Baptiste. He had been trying to reach the girl, but it was impos sible to move a foot in that struggling human torrent. He saw them, and his eyes were dilated with impotent fury. There was murder in them as they fell upon Hilary. Lafe shuddered.

His impulse was to wait for the man, but he recognized that Baptiste was the only thing now was to elude him and get the girl away before Baptiste could follow. He was glad Hilary had not seen Baptiste. He meant to say nothing of it.

The three set out on their way, Marie at first sobbing and holding back, then gradually growing calm under Hilary's assurances, and at last going willingly. Her dress was draggled with mud, her finery awry; she looked pitiful and frightened. Hilary felt a great wrath growing in him as he looked at her. At last they gained the shore road and presently reached Marie's cottage.

She felt in her dress for the key with shaking fingers. Hilary took it from her and opened the door. "Never go to that place again," he said stern-"Let this be a lesson to you!"

She went inside. Lafe and Hilary waited till the lamp was lit and, through the torn shade, they saw Marie Dupont crouched before the stove, her face on her arms.

"I guess we'd better be going, Lafe," he said.

"She's had her lesson." "I hope so. I've seen enough this evening, Lafe. It makes me sick to think that there are wretches vile enough to encourage this, for money or for influence." He turned on him. "If I can trace Brousseau's hand in this work," he said, "heaven help him!"

CHAPTER VII.

"Look to Your Boom!"

Baptiste worked all the next Monday himself or his men. Hilary, a little churned up a shower of stones. puzzled by the little man's sullen manner toward himself, attributed it to his girl. personal distress at what had happened in Ste. Marie. He did not know that Baptiste was aware of his presence there, and felt happy in the consclousness that he had done him some him better than to have seen his suit with Marie Dupont successful.

The strengthening of the boom was trunks, lashed and nailed together, resting in concrete which had been molded into the crevices of the rocks It seemed to remove all possibility of

the sluice gates, in the main, the logs would find an easy passage over the dam into the lake. But actually the retorrent without any likelihood of breakage.

The charge was to be exploded at ary was kept busy in his office, going toward St. Boniface. over the pay roll in preparation for the October changes. Gangs of men revenue department came running in. had been returning from the south eyes he found himself lying upon a shore, and he had signed on a number. ledge a little distance from the top of and they pounced upon Simeon and He was aware that some of Brousthe men wanted work, and even Brousseau could not hire them and It was one thing to drink and brawl in keep them idle upon his skeleton company at Ste. Marie. Hilary discovered that the Ste. Marie enterprise existed only upon that of St. Boniface, and, like the parasitic plant, withered each other. when its prop and sustenance was

withdrawn. It was two o'clock by his watch when he pushed his papers aside and strolled up the path that led through upon her face; and then it hardened the woods toward the gorge. Hilary was approaching the gorge, from which he could hear the shouts of the gang wish you were a thousand miles away. making preparations for the discharge, I wish I had never seen you!" when he saw Madeleine Rosny riding

along the road toward him, She had evidently been to the Ste. pected." Hilary answered. "I hear wide with fright, and she was strug- young spruce and pine, upon the other. of intruding on you further."

FORMERS OF THE FORMERS OF THE FORME this way and that by the conflicting girl passage. He was watching the currents. Hilary forced his way toward | trotting horse, now swiftly nearing her and dragged her into the alley, him, and wondering whether he ought There she broke down; she fell upon to make any sign of recognition, when her knees in the mud, rocking to and he was almost thrown from his feet by a vibration of the ground, followed Hilary bent over her. Lafe saw that by a dull roar that grew into an inhis face was stern. "I am going to take fernal crescendo and rolled away underground in a prolonged reverberation. The charge had been exploded.

Hilary saw the horse rear, curvet, and then, maddened with fear, leap widly forward. An instant later it beder control. The terrified animal bolted at full speed along the road toward him, while the girl plucklly kept her seat and pulled with all her might, but unavailingly, on curb and snaffle,

She was a practiced horsewoman for none other could have kept her seat when the horse went rearing manded. backward; but no amount of skill could avail unless the beast were got under control before the downhill into the village was reached. There was a gate across the track, which Hilary beyond all reason and self-control. He had closed. Flung over this, it would had misinterpreted Hilary's action; be a miracle if the girl escaped with her life.

Hilary made his decision in an instant, made it with the roar of the released torrent in his ears, and the thunder of the breaking jam, the crash



They Saw Marie Dupont Crouched Before the Stove, Her Face on Her Arms.

of logs hurled free and rebounding from and buffeting one another. He planted himself directly in the course on the boom, fiercely and unsparing of of the maddened animal, whose hoofs

"Keep your seat!" he shouted to the

For one instant he saw her, pale, with frightened eyes, but firm in the saddle, still pulling against the curb, while the open mouth, distorted by the bit and chain that pressed the unservice. Nothing would have pleased derlip, foamed, and the white of the eyes gleamed wickedly beneath the ears, flat with the head. Then Hilary saw the horse rear and the shod hoofs finished. The wooden structure had uprise. Then, somehow, he caught been immensely fortified with great the reins and leaped for the shelving bank, and missed.

He lost his foothold, but he clung to the reins, while the horse plunged on either side of the cataract. Hilary and reared, each jerk almost tearing examined and approved of the work. his arms from their sockets. Now he was swept against the branches of the trees that overhung the road, and Everything depended on the first blinded by the swishing twigs and minute after the jam was broken. If boughs, now the precipice was under the torrent could be carried off through him, and the gorge below, where the logs crackled and thundered as they battered their way down the river. He saw the girl clinging to the saddle, enforced boom seemed to resist the then to the beast's mane; he tried to reach her with his arms, but he could not stop the bolting animal; and then he was flung free, and the riderless three in the afternoon. That day Hil- horse went galloping down the road

He must have been stunned for few moments, for when he opened his the steep bank. On the same ledge seau's agents had been at work at- was Madeleine Rosny clinging to a tempting to dissuade them; however, swaying sapling that overhung the river, and trying to rise.

Hilary scrambled to his feet, to find that, in spite of painful bruises, he was uninjured. He gave Madeleine his hands and pulled her out of the branches; and they stood looking at

"Your horse bolted," explained Hilary. "I am sorry you did not know about the dynamiting."

At his words a look of fear came and her gray eyes flashed angrily. "You have saved my life!" she cried. "You have saved me, and I

"There is no need to let that trouble you, Mademoiselle Rosny," answered Hilary, stung into scorn by her in-Marie territory, and, he suspected, on gratitude. "There is enough room in a visit to Brousseau. The path was this country for both of us. If you narrow, with the descending bank of will let me help you up the bank, no Suddenly they perceived Marie Du- the wooded gorge on one hand and a doubt you can find your way home. "I think you're just about what I ex- pont among the crowd. Her eyes were steep, shelving ascent, overgrown with I assure you that I have no intention

time without hatred.

"Why have you come into my life? Why do you begin to play a part in it?" she whispered, as if in terror. the bank, Mademoiselle, before I answer your question. We can hardly

She seemed to recover her self-possession. "There is no need to answer me," she replied scornfully. Nevertheless she permitted him to brush the September first. That will last us till came clear that it was no longer undust from her skirt and to give her Christmas. On the first of the year his hand. They scrambled up the side of the gorge and stood breathless upon another sixty thousand to carry us the road again. Far away Hilary heard the crash of the logs, flung over opens and we call sell our cutting. No the dam and shooting toward the boom. bank's going to lend us anything with Madeleine Rosny turned and faced our record."

Hilary. "Well, monsieur?" she de-"It is because I want us to be friends," he said. And he took the haps less."

girl's hand frankly in his. She let it lie there for a moment, gazing at him in astonishment and puzzlement. Then, to Hilary's surprise, he saw the look of fear come into her eyes again.

"It is too late," she whispered. misunderstood each other, perhaps, but-"

"I tell you it is too late. Oh, why sleur! Look to your boom!"

road, leaving Hilary staring after her glad." in uncomfortable dismay.

He could not understand her meanfled through the trees like a hunted put it into this bankrupt concern?" deer. She was out of his sight around

Hilary heard the shouts of the workawful smashing of the logs. Then, while he still looked after Madeleine, it." here came a sound louder than any garment.

There was no need to wonder what had occurred. Hilary began running that or I'll leave. It ain't so crazy down the road. His eyes were fixed as you think. It'll give me an interest ahead where the log boom lay rent like in getting the last ounce out of the a straw pipe, and the great burden of men-and I guess Clarice will aplogs which the Rocky river had borne prove. And when the concern's on its so long was plunging down the cata- own legs, you-why, you can raise my

He ran on, breathless, and the stupendous spectacle went on before his eyes. A mighty barrier, piled up for a few moments against the rocks that spanned the eataract, gave promise of arresting the debacle. Behind it the logs spun and twisted. All the freight | I've been!" of the river, far back from the hills, was sweeping onward, an irresistible army, forging past stone and boulder, tossing, upheaving, mounting the dam, whose cement wall was now submerged, swept by the milk-white torrent to where had been the boom. The clashing of the logs against that wooden wall was like battering rams against | logs right down stream to the mill, and a city wall. Then swiftly, as Hilary still ran, he saw the picture dissolve, The wall of logs went down into the cataract, and a column of spray rose higher than the flume, flared funnelwise and caught the sunlight into prismatically banded hues like a rainbow, and went down.

Over the cataract swept the logs, unmpeded now. The river had burst its chains and spewed its burdens into the Gulf. Fanlike, the lumber began to Hilary. spread and stain the gray St. Lawrence surface with mottled brown.

Hilary reached the waste place beside the mill. The workmen stood he could not wholly rid himself of there, impotently watching the ruin of them. their toll. It was the wreck of every thing. There could be no hope of building up the boom in the face of that cident? You started." torrent of water until the river was low enough for the closing of the dam gutes to keep it pent back. And long before that time the entire lumber load of Rocky river would be in the Gulf. Hilary looked on in embittered silence. He might as well give up now and go home. Brousscau and Nature had united to thwart him.

The workmen had been joined by the mill hands, who had left their logs of the boom." work and hurried down to the boom when the catastrophe occurred. They seemed all to have lost their heads, They were chattering excitedly; Hilary could not understand a word, but Connell started and looked about him.

"What is it?" Hilary asked. "Where's Jean Baptiste?" said Lafe. "I don't know. He set off the dynamite, and that ended his job. Why?" "Nothing," said Lafe, still glancing

Hilary looked at him curiously, but said no more. He began to push his way through the crowd in the direction of the office. He had not invited Lafe to accompany him, but Lafe was

His scorn seemed to beat down her | at his elbow when he went in, followed anger. She looked at him for the first him inside the room, and took a chair beside him.

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Hilary looked at him with a whimsical smile. "We're finished, Lafe. This affair, coming on top of the can-"Suppose you let me assist you up celing of those jobbers' leases, has ended me."

Lafe scratched his chin, but said nothing to this.

discuss that matter here," said Hilary. "You see," said Hilary, "according to my reckoning we shall have about forty thousand dollars on hand about we shall be up against it. We need through the winter, till navigation

> "We can ship six thousand cords by December first," said Lafe.

"Thirty-five thousand dollars-per-

"We could get more out of those river bottoms." suggested Lafe. "And shut down in the middle of

March." "As far as I can see," Lafe blurted out, "you'll be about ten thousand shy, Mr. Askew, assuming things go fairly "Surely not, mademoiselle. We have well. That's why I came here. You see, it's like this. I've got nearly eight thousand in the First National bank at Shoeburyport, Mass. Clarice-Mrs. did you not come to me and say this Connell, that is-wouldn't let me buy before?" she cried, and suddenly broke her a house on the installment plan into unrestrainable sobbing. "I thought as I wanted to. She said as I'd never you were grasping and wicked, and I know when we'd need the money, and hated you. I wished you evil. Look if I couldn't pay up on time they'd get to your boom! No, let me go, mon- it away from us somehow, no matter what the contract said. It seemed And, snatching her hand away, she mighty unreasonable to me, Mr. Asran, still sobbing wildly, down the kew, but I'm glad now-I sure am

"Lafe," said Hilary, "are you crazy enough to suppose I'm going to take ing, though her last words still rang the money that you and Mrs. Connell in his ears. He watched her as she have been saving up for a home, and

"Oh, shucks!" said Lafe. "Why the bend of the road almost in an in- that ain't nothing. I guess I know a stant, her shoulders heaving and her good thing when I see one. I'm loanhands outstretched in blind panic be- ing it to you, Mr. Askew, at-any rate you want to pay me."

"Lafe, you're a fool," said Hilary, men still more plainly, rising above the trying to keep his voice steady: "I'm tempted. But I'm not going to take

"Then I guess I'll take the next boat he had heard, rivaling that of the ex- home!" shouted Lafe, "I ain't going piosion itself, as if Thor's hammer had to work for a busted concern what's clanged upon a leaden anvil, as if the going to leave me stranded up here in earth were rent in twain like a stitched midwinter, not drawing a cent, and Clarice-my wife-and the kids in Shoeburyport. No, sir! You take wages."

"Connell, you're a trump," said Hilary. "I'll take it. Yes, I'll take it, because I know now that I am going to succeed. We can't fail, Lafe, when we're as much in earnest as we are. Good Lord, what a despondent fool

"Same here," said Lafe. "I was just hopeless, till you made me see straight."

"Why, it was you made me see straight," said Hilary. "Now, Connell, we'll push things hard from this very minute. We'll start in cutting along the river, and we'll float the we'll keep Dupont and his schooner coming and going till navigation closes, even if we make Riviere Rocheuse look as bare as our bank account was looking just now Baptiste will be worth a score when he understands."

looked at each other. "I wonder why Baptiste went off as soon as he'd dynamited the jam," said

He broke off suddenly, and the two

men, struck by the same thought,

He felt ashamed of his suspicions. Yet, remembering that day when Baptiste was conferring with Pierre,

"Lafe," he said. "what was it you heard those men saying after the ac-

"Why, I guess that wasn't nothing, Mr. Askew. You know how excited these people get over trifles. They're just like a flock of geese gabbling around." "What was it, Lafe?"

"Just nonsense, sir. Not worth repeating, but-well, you see, it's this vay. Some darned fool said that somebody had sawed part way through the Then for the first time the words of

Madeleine Rosny came back to Hilary: "Look to your boom! Look to your He hung his head and flushed with

shame. It seemed impossible to associate that act of treachery with her. Yet, struggle as he did, her last

words haunted him. Trouble, trouble - and

more to come.

(TO BE CONTINUED.) Thrift is better than an annuity.