

fine to see you! Five years. Dick, five

years since I saw you run down Uni-

versity field and spread-eagle the

"Don't recollect that," replied Dick,

laughing. "George, I'll bet you I'm

gladder to see you than you are to

see me. It seems so long. You went

"What the devil's wrong? Your old

man's got too much money for you

ever to be up against it. Dick, you

A tide of emotion surged over Gale.

How good it was to meet a friend-

someone to whom to talk! He had

never appreciated his loneliness until

"George, how I ever drifted down

quarrel with the governor. But-

d-n it, Dad hurt me-shamed me,

and I dug out for the West. It was

this way. After leaving college I tried

to please him by tackling one thing

after another that he set me to do.

On the square, I had no head for

business. I made a mess of every-

thing. The governor got sore. When

I quit-when I told him straight out

that I was going west to fare for my-

self, why, it wouldn't have been so

tough if he hadn't laughed at me. He

said I couldn't earn a dollar-that I'd

starve out west, and couldn't get back

home unless I sent to him for money.

He said he didn't believe I could

fight-could really make a fight for

anything under the sun Oh-he-he

hands, somewhat ashamed of the

""What's ailing him? Didn't they call

you Biff Gale in college? Dick, you

were one of the best men Stagg ever

"The governor didn't count foot-

ball," said Dick. "He didn't mean that

kind of a fight. When I left home I

don't think I had an idea what was

wrong of me. But, George, I think

I know now. I was a rich man's son-

spoiled, dependent, absolutely igno-

rant of the value of money. I haven't

yet discovered any earning capacity in

me. I seem to be unable to do any-

thing with my hands. That's the

trouble. But I'm at the end of my

tether now. And I'm going to punch

cattle or be a miner, or do some real

"Aha! I thought you'd spring that

last one on me," declared Thorne,

wagging his head. "Well, you just

forget it. Say, old boy, there's some-

thing doing in Mexico. The United

States in general doesn't realize It.

But across that line there are crazy

revolutionists, Ill-paid soldiers, guer-

rilla leaders, raiders, robbers, outlaws,

bandits galore, starving peons by the

thousand, girls and women in terror.

Mexico is like some of her volcanoes-

ready to erupt fire and hell! Don't

make the awful mistake of Joining the

rebel forces. If you didn't starve or

get shot in ambush, or die of thirst,

some Greaser would knife you in the

back for your belt buckle or boots.

There are a good many Americans

with the rebels eastward toward Agua

Prieta and Junrez. Orozco is operat-

ing in Chibuahua, and I guess he has

some idea of warfare. But this is So-

nors, a mountainous desert, the home

of the slave and the Yaqui. There's

unorganized revolt everywhere. We're

patrolling the boundary line. We're

making a grand bluff. I could tell you

of a dozen instances where cavalry

should have pursued raiders on the

other side of the line. But we won't

do it. The officers are a grouchy lot

these days. You see, of course, what

significance would attach to United

States cavalry going into Mexican ter

ritory. There would simply be hell My own colonel is the sorest man or

the job. We're all sore. It's like sti

thing on a powder magazine. We can't

keep the rebels and raiders from cross

commission expires soon. I'll be dis-

charged in three months. You can

bet I'm glad for more reasons than

der strong, suppressed excitement,

His face showed pale under the tan,

and his eyes gleamed with a dark fire.

He had seated himself at a table near

one of the doorlike windows leading

These details gradually grew upon

kept consulting his watch.

Thorne was evidently laboring un-

I've mentloned."

ing the line. Yet we don't fight. M:

stunt-like joining the rebels."

Dick dropped his head upon his

shot it into me all right."

smarting dimness in his eyes.

developed."

"Fight !" cried Thorne

couldn't have gone to the bad?"

whole Wisconsin footbali team."

into the army, didn't you?"

than you know."

that moment.

AND BROTHERS. HARPER SYNOPSIS I'll explain in a minute. Say, but it's

PROLOGUE. Seeking gold in the desert. "Cameron," solitary prospector, forms a partnership with an unanown man whom he later learns is Jonas Warren, father of a girl whom Cameron wronged, but later married, back in Illinois. Cameron's explanations appease Warren, and the two proceed together. Taking refuge from a sandstorm in a cave, Cameron discovers gold, but too late; both men are dying. Cameron leaves evidence, in the cave, of their discovery of gold, and personal documents.

### CHAPTER I

Old Friends.

Richard Gale reflected that his sojourn in the West had been what his disgusted father had predictedidling here and dreaming there, with no objective point or purpose,

It was reflection such as this, only more serious and perhaps somewhat desperate, that had brought Gale down to the border. For some time the newspapers had been printing news of the Mexican revolution, guerrilla warfare, United States cavalry patrolling the international line. American cowboys fighting with the rebels, and wild stories of bold raiders and bandits, Regarding these rumors Gale was skeptical. But as opportunity, and adventure, too, had apparently given him a wide berth in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, he had struck southwest for the Arizona border, where he hoped to see some stirring

-It was after dark one evening in early October when Richard arrived in Casita. There was a Jostling, jabbering, sombreroed crowd of Mexicans around the railroad station. He felt as if he were in a foreign country. After a while he saw several men of his nationality, one of whom he engaged to carry his luggage to a hotel. Of the many people encountered by Gale most were Mexicans. His guide explained that the smaller half of Casita lay in Arizona, the other half in Mexico, and of several thousand inhabitarts the majority belonged on the southern side of the street, which was the boundary line. He also said that robels had entered the town that day, causing a good deal of exeltement.

Gale was almost at the end of his financial resources, which fact occasioned him to turn away from a pretentious hotel and ask his guide for a cheaper lodging house. When this was found, a sight of the loungers in the office, and also a desire for comfort, persuaded Gale to change his traveling clothes for rough outing garb and boots.

"Well, I'm almost broke," he solfloquized, thoughtfully. "The governor said I wouldn't make any money. He's right-so far. And he said I'd be coming home beaten. There he's wrong. I've got a hunch that something 'll happen to me in this Greaser town."

He went out into the wide, whitewashed, high-celled corridor, and from that into an immense room , which, but for pool tables, bar and benches, would have been like a courtyard. Hare-legged, sandal-footed Mexicans in white rubbed shoulders with Mexicans mantled in black and There were black-bearded, red. coarse-visuged Americans, some gambling round the little tables, others drinking. There were khakl-clad cavalrymen strutting in and out.

At one end of the room, somewhat apart from the general melee, was a group of six men round a little table, four of w om were seated, the other two standing. These last two drew a second glance from Gale. The sharp-featured bronzed faces and plercing eyes, the fall, slender, loosely jointed bodies, the quiet, easy, reckless air that seemed to be a part of the men-these things would plainly have stamped them as cowboys without the buckled sombreros, the colored scarfs the high-topped, highbeeled boots with great silver-roweled

He satisfied his hunger in a restaurant adjoining, and as he stepped back into the saloon a man wearing a military cape jostled him. Apologies from both were instant. Gale was moving on when the other stopped short as if startled, and, leaning forward, exclaimed:

"Dick Gale? If this isn't great! Don't you know me?"

"I've heard your voice somewhere," replied Gale. "Maybe I'll recognize you if you came out from under that

For answer the man, suddenly manifesting thought of himself, burriedly drew Gale into the restaurant, where he thrust back his hat to disclose a handsome, sunburned face.

"George Thorne! So help me-" "S.s.ssh. You needn't yell," inter- into the street, and every little while sort of thing happen less than a rupted the other, as he met Gule's he would glance sharnly out. Also he outstretched hand. There was a close, hard, straining grip. "I must not be recognized here. There are reasons, Gate as Thorne talked.

Has the army changed you?"

Gale's face.

"I'm away from camp without ter class," leave," he said. "Isn't that a serious offense?"

asked Dick. "Serious? For me, if I'm discov- his talk, ered, it means ruin. There are rebels

"I dld. I'm here now with the Ninth cavalry. But-never mind me. What're you doing way down here?" "On the square, George, I don't know any more why I'm here than-"Well, that beats me!" ejaculated-Thorne, sitting back in his chair, amuze and concern in his expression.

For Me, If I'm Discovered,

here I don't know. I didn't exactly in town. Any moment we might have trouble. I ought to be ready for duty -within call. If I'm discovered it means arrest. That means delaythe failure of my plans-ruin."

It Means Ruin-"

Thorne bent over closer with his dark eyes searchingly bright.

"What would you say, Dick Gale, if I told you that you're the one man I'd rather have come along than any other at this crisis of my life?"

The earnest gaze, the passionate voice with its deep tremor drew Dick upright, thrilling and eager, conscious of strange, unfamiliar impetuosity. "Thorne, I should say I was glad to

be the fellow," replied Dick,

close over the table. "Listen," began Thorne, in low, swift whisper, "a few days, a week ago-it seems like a year!-I was of some assistance to refugees fleeing from Mexico into the States. They were all women, and one of them was dressed as a nun. Quite by accident I saw her face. It was that of a beautiful girl. I observed she kept aloof from the others. I suspected a disguise, and, when opportunity afforded, spoke to her, offered my services. She replied to my poor efforts at Spanish in fluent English. She had fled in terror from her home, some place down in Sinalon. Rebels are active there. Her father was captured and held for ransom. When the ransom was paid the rebels killed him. The leader of these rebels was a bandit named Rolas. Rolas saw the daughter, made off with her. But she contrived to bribe her guards, and escaped almost immediately before any harm befell her. She hid among friends. Rojas nearly tore down the town in his efforts to find her. Then she disguised herself and traveled by horseback, stage and train to Casita.

"She had no friends here, no money She knew Rojas was trailing her. This talk I had with her was at the Office 340 railroad station, where all was bustle and confusion. No one noticed us, so I thought. I advised her to remove the disguise of a nun before she left the walting-room. And I got a boy to guide her. But he fetched her to this Over the Oasis house. I had promised to come in the evening to talk over the situation

"I found her, Dick, and when I saw her-I went-stark, staring, raving mad over her. She is the most beautiful, wonderful girl I ever saw. Her name is Mercedes Castaneda, and she belongs to one of the old wealthy Spanish families. She has lived abroad and in Havana. She speaks French as well as English. She is-but I

must be brief. "Dick, think, think! With Mercedes also it was love at first sight. My plan is to marry her and get her farther to the Interior, away from the border. It may not be easy. She's watched. So am I. Rojas must have got word to his friends here; yesterday his gang of cutthroat rebels arrived, and today he came. When I learned that, I took my chance and left camp; I hunted up a priest. He promised to come here. It's time he's due. But I'm afraid he'll be stopped.

You see, we're over the line-"Are we in Mexican territory now?"

merled Gale, sharply. "I guess yes, old boy. That's what omplicates it. 'Rojas and his rebels cedes is really watched-If her identity is known, which I am sure is the case-we couldn't get far from this house before I'd be knifed and she

"Good heavens! Thorne, can that

stone's throw from the United States line?" asked Gale := edulously.

"It can happen, and don't you forget it. You don't seem to realize the CANDIDE CONTACT MADE UP TO THE PROPERTY.

"George, it strikes me that you're power these guerrills leaders, these upset," said Dick, presently. "I seem rebel captains, and particularly these ment hall of the city. New under to remember you as a cool-headed bandits, exercise over the mass of management of the American Legion fellow whom nothing could disturb. Mexicans. I've seen Rojas. He's a Orchestra. handsome, bold, sneering devil, valuer Thorne laughed. It was a laugh than any peacock. He decks himself with a strange, high note. It was in gold lace and silver trappings, in reckless-it hinted of explination. He all the finery he can steal. He spends Must have trapping license. peered out one window, then another, gold like he spills blood. But he is His actions were rapid. Returning to chiefly famous for abducting women, the table, he put his hands upon it. The peon girls consider it an honor and leaned over to look closely into to be ridden off with. Rojas has shown a penchant for girls of the bet-

Thorne wiped the perspiration from his pale face and bent a dark gaze out of the window before be resumed

"Consider what the position of Mercedes really is. Rojas can turn all the hidden underground influences to his ends. Unless I thwart him he'll get Mercedes us easily as he can light a cigarette. But I'll kill him or some of his gang or her before I let him This is the situation, old friend. I've little time to spare. I face arrest for desertion. Rojas is in town. I think I was followed to this hotel. The priest has betrayed me or has been stopped. Mercedes is here alone, waiting, absolutely de Everything first class and prices pendent upon me to save her from- reasonable. Opposite Union Pacific She's the sweetest, love-. In a few momentssooner or later there'll be hell here! Dick, are you with me?"

Dick Gale drew a long, deep breath. A coldness, a lethargy, and indifference that had weighed upon him for mouths had passed out of his being. On the instant he could not speak, Rooms 5 6, 7 Building & Loan Bids but his hand closed powerfully upon his friend's. Thorne's face changed wonderfully, the distress, the fear, the appeal all vanishing he a smile of passionate gratefulness.

Then Dick's gaze attracted by some slight sound, shot over his friend's shoulder to see a face at the window -a handsome, bold, sneering face, with glittering dark eyes that flashed in sinister intentness.

Dick stiffened in his seat. Thorne, with sudden clenching of hands, wheeled toward the window, "Rojas!" be whispered.

> CONTINUED J. C. Hollman, Attorney NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate No. 1916 of William S. Depuy deceased in the County Court of Lin-

coln County, Nebraska. The State of Nebraska, ss: Creditors of said estate will take notice that the time limited for presentation and filing of claims against said Estate is March 12th, 1923, and for settlement of said Estate is Nov. 7th, 1923; that I will sit at the county court room in Their hands locked for the moment, said County on December 12th, 1922. and they sat down again with heads at 10 o'clock a. m., and on March 19th, 1923 at 10 o'clock a. m., to receive, examine, hear, allow, or adfust all claims and objections duly filed.

Dated November 7th, 1922. Wm. H. C. WOODHURST, County Judge.

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When in North Platte Ey virtue of an order of sale issued from the District Court of Lincoln County, Nebr., upon a decree of fore-closure rendered in said Court wherein David H. Corbett is plaintiff, and W. L. Fristo, et al are defendants, and to me directed, I will on the 9th day of December 1922, at 2 o'clock P. M., at the east front door of the Court House in North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder for cash, to satisfy said decree, interest and costs, the following described proper-

ty, to-wit: West half of the southwest quarter (Wigor SWig) of section thirty-ave (35) in township eleven (11) north of range thirty-one (31) west of the 6th P. M. Lincoln County, Nebraska. Dated North Platte, Nebr. Nov. 4,

A. J. SALISBURY,

Sheriff.

Beeler, Crosby and Baskins, Attys. NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Bstate No. 1913 of Robert A. Mo-Knight deceased in the county court of Lineeln county, Nebraska.

The State of Nebraska, ss: Creditors of said estate will take notice that the time limited for presentation and illing of claims against said estate is March 8th, 1923, and for settlement of said estate is November 3, 1928; that I will sit at the county court room in said county on December 8 1923, at 10 o'clock a. m. and on March 8, 1923 at 10 o'clock a. m. to reecive, examine, hear, allow or adjust all clasms and objections duly filed.

Dated November 3, 1922. Wm. H. C. WOODHURST, County Judge

NOTICE OF FINAL REPORT DERRYBERRY & FORBES

Eletate No. 1856 of Bernard Winken-

werder, deceased in the County Court Undertakers and Funeral Directors of Linceln County, Nebraska. The State of Nebraska, to all per-Day Phone 41 Night Phone Black 552

sons interested in said Estate take notice that the Administrator has filed a final account and report of his administration and a petition for final settlement and discharge as such administrator which have been set for hearing before said court on December 1st, 1922, at 10 o'clock a. m., when you may appear and contest the

Wm. H. C. WOODHURST, Phones. Office 642 Residence 676 Seal County Judge.

# Public Sale

The undersigned will sell at public auction at his farm 12 miles east of North Platte, Nebr., and one half mile west of Bignell, Nebr., and 8 miles southwest of Maxwell, Nebr., on

## Tuesday, November 28th.

Commencing at one o'clock sharp, the following property to-wit:

17 HEAD CATTTE

Consisting of 8 milch cows from 3 to 7 years old, one registered White Face Bull, 3 steers, one year old, 6 sprink calves.

16 HEAD OF HORSES

Consisting of 10 mules, 3 and 4 years old, 2 mules 6 and 9 years old, weight 2100; bay are 8 years old weight 1100; bay standard bred mare weight 1200; bay horse 5 years old weight 1200; by colt 3 years

108 HEAD POLAND CHINA HOGS Consisting of 40 sows, 50 barrows, 12 pigs, 2 registered male hogs, 4 registered sows.

50 PLYMOUTH ROCK HENS **FARM MACHINERY** 

McCormick binder, 7 foot, nearly new: McCormick corn binder; Emerson two-row cultivator; P & O lister; McCormick mower, 6 foot; hay rack; Great Western manure spreader; 31/2 in tire wagon complete 4 inch tire wagon and rack; 3 sets of work harness; saddle and other articles too numerous to mention.

TERMS-\$20 and under cash, over that amount, 6 months time at 10 per cent interest will be given on approved notes.

FREE LUNCH AT NOON.

WILL ALSO SELL 160 ACRES OF LAND

Being N1/2 of N1/2 of 34, 13, 29.

A choice home farm.

Located 12 miles south east of North Platte, Nebr., and one-half mile west of Bignell, Nebr., and eight miles south west of Maxwell, Nebr., on good road to any of the above towns, one half mile from school in which they teach all grades to eleventh grade, one half mile from church. Improvements consist of large seven room stucco bungalo with full basement, new horse barn 30x42x14, nearly new cow barn 24x30, nearly new cattle shed 22x44, hog house 10x50, good water supply, furnishing water to all buildings, eight hydrants being used as convenience, 2 good wells, granary 12x14x8, one chicken house 14x24, one chicken house 12x14, garage 12x16. All buildings nearly new and in good condition.

3 feed lots for cattle and hogs. Land fenced and cross fenced with

Farm has 130 acres cultivated land, part being alfalfa, 30 acres nasture, orchard consisting of 250 good bearing apple, pear, cherry and peach trees, also good grove.

Will carry mortgage for \$8,000, payable \$1,000 or multiple on any Interest paying date, on or before August 1st. 1926. Terms on above farm to be announced on date of sale.

## R. L. DOUGLAS, Owner.

H. M. JOHANSI N, Auctioneer.