## Desert Dust <br> By Edwin C. Sabin

With that, she aceepted my
arm. Wromended, Jim armu. We promenaded, Jim
sountering near. And as she em.
phatieally was. the superior of of all other
did not in the elances, the deference and the ready make-way which attended u y to say, possibly I strutted-as
a young nian whii when "fortified withts and without and ele-
yated from the station of non-
deseript stranger to that of favordescript
ed beau.
Where Whereas an hour before I had I turned out my toes and stepped
bravely - my twenty-one dollars a poeket, my six-shooter at belt, red kerchief at throat, the
ueen of the hall on my arm, and ray trunk
well.being.
Thus in easy fashion we moved midst eyes and salutations from
the various degrees of the company. She made no mention of een odd in the East but did not
mpreess me as especially odd here in the democratic Far West.
The women appeared to have an independence of actio
"Shall we "Shall we risk a play or two ${ }^{\text {she }}$
she proposed. "Are you ac-
quainted with hree-card monI. "Bndifferently, madam," said gambling devices." "You shall learn," she encouraged lightly. In Bente, you know. There is no disgrace attached to laying
down a dollar here and down a dollar here and there-
we all do it. That is part of we all do it. That is part of our
amusement, in Benton." She
halted. "You are game, sir? halted, "You are game, sir9
What is life but a series of
chances 1 Are you disposed to
win a little and flot the dager "I am in Benton to win," I
valiantly asserted. "And if unvaliantly asserted. "And if un-
der your direction, so much the quicker. What first, then? The
three-eard monte It is the simplest. Faro
would be beyoud you yet. Rondo
coolo is boisterous eoolo is boisterous and confusing

- and as for poker, that is a long and as for poker, that is a long
vession of nerves, while chuck-a-luek, though all in the open, is
for children and fools, You might throw the dice a thousand
times and never cast a lucky comThe percentage in favor of the per cent bquare game is forty
I'I initiate you shan stealing. II initiate you on monte. Are
your eyes quick 9 "
"For some things," I replied leaningly
She con out montucted me to the near-
"spieler" "spieler"'-a smoothefaeed lad
of not more than nineteen-sat
behind his three behind his three-legged little ta-
ble, green covered, and idly shifting the eards about mainconversational incitement to bets.
As happened, he was illy patronized at the moment. There
were not more than three or four on-lookers, none risking but all
waiting apparently upon one Another. ed up with the most innocent
pair of long.lashed brown eyes
that $\mathbf{I}$ ever had seen. A hand

"Hello yourself."
My lady and
know each other.
"How goes it to-night, Bob?" "Slow. There's no nerve or
Bhe's a dead one." "In pad My Lady gaily retorted.
We'll buek your game, Bob. But you must be,
We're green yet., -in one look had had read me from hat to boots. He had shrewder
eyes that their firn eyes that their first languor in-
tingated.
"Pleased to accolen I'm sure,", he answered. "The
greenies stand as greenies stand as good a sh"
his board as the profesh."
"Will
"Il play for play for a dollar?" aything to start action." He twisted his mouth with ready I'm about ripe to bet against She fumbled at her reticule, but I was beforehand, reticule,
$\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { my pocket. "Allow me. I will } \\ & \text { furnish the funds if you will do } \\ & \text { the playing " }\end{aligned}\right.$ furnish the funds if you will do
the playing."
"I choose the card"" said she.
"That is up to you, sir. You are "By watching, at first," I pro-
tested, "We should be part-
ners." "Well," she consented, "if you
say so. Partners it is. A lady
brings luek, but I shall not al-
Trays do your playing for you,
sir. That kipd of partnership sir. That kind of partnership
comes to grief." "I am hopeful of playing, on
my own score, in due time," my own score, in due time,", I
responded, As you will see.",
"What's the card, Bob? We've
a dollar on it, as a starter."
He eyed her, while faeing the
cards up.
"The ace. You see it-the
ace, baeked by ten and deuce.
Here it is. All ready He" He
turned them down, in order;
methodically, even listlessly
moved them to and fro, yet with
light, sure, well-nigh be-wilder-
ing tuoch. Suddenly lifted his
hands. "All set. A dollar you
don't face up the ace at first try."
She laughed, bantering.
"Oh, Bob! You're too wonder you aren't broke. You;re
no monte spieler. Is this your best 9 " I believed that I myself
Anew which card was the ace "You hear me, and there's
dollar." He coolly waited. "Not yours; ours. Will you
make it five ".
"One is my limit on this throw. "One is my limit on this throw.
Younamed it."
"Oho!" With a dart of hand she had turned up the middle card, exposing the ace spot, as
had anticipated. She swept the
two dollars to her. "Adios,", she her.
He smilede. indul. He smiled, indulgent.
"So soon D Don'tI get my re-
venge? You, sir." And he apvenger You, sir "" And he ap-
pealed to me. "You see how easy it is. I'll throw you a turn
for a dollar, two dollars, five dol-lars-anything to combine busi-
ness and pleasure. Whether II
win or lose I don't care. You'll ness and pleasure.
win or lose I don't care. You'll
follow the lead of the lady What I was on fire to accept, but she stayed me.
Not now. I'm showing him Not now. Ym showing him
around, Bob. Yon'll get your re-
venge later. Good-bye. I've venge later. Good-bye.,"
drummed up trade for you,"
As if inspired by the winning As if inspired by the winning
several of the by-standers, some
newly arrived newly arrived, had money in
their hands to stake, So we stroll. ed on; and I was conscious that
the youth's brown eyes briefly flicked after us with a peculiar
glint. glint. "Yours," she said, extending
the coins to me. I deelined. the coins to me.
the coins to melined
"No, indeed. It is part of my
tuition, If you will play I will


## She also declined.

 "I can't have that. You winback." take your own money back." " am," I assented.
"In that case we'II find a livelier game yonder", said inc.
"Bob's just a lazy boy. His
game is a piker game. He's too slow to learn from. Let us wateh
s real game," a real game."
CHAPTER VIII


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## 81

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Britain Growing Tobacco
As a matter of clvic prlde and in interest of industrial development
reat Britain is making stremsous ef cale and to tobacco on a commercila rabat Britain, stince the docal week when
sre Walter Ralelgh Introduced smokmainly from Havana, Jamaitca, Nigeria
and Vriginta plantatons. In fact,
areat Brituin once got finer leaf than

DEMAND "BAYER" ASPIRIN Take Tablets Without Fear if You
See the safety "Bayor Cross." Warning1 Unless you see the name
Bayer" on package or on tablets you are not getting the genuine Bayer Asplrin proved safe by millions and
preserbe by phystelans for 23 years.
Say "Bayer" when you buy Asparian Imitations may prove dangerous.-Adv
$\begin{gathered}\text { A man Isn't necessarlly brilliant be } \\ \text { cause he sits down and reflects occa }\end{gathered}$
"CASCARETS" FOR LIVER AND BOWELS 10 C A BOX Cares Blltougness, Constlpation, stclu
Headache,Indigestion, Drug stores. Advo Lamb with green peas sults some
men, but the bucket shop prefers lamb
with greenbacks.


HAVE YOU A COUGH?


