

"No: I noticed the '7' on his hat, of course, but never asked any questions, does all this mean?" for his face was strange. I didn't know. The name, when you just spoke minister, "and I will try to make my it, struck me rather queer. I-I used to know a Brant in the Seventh, but here to mince words, nor do I believe he was much older; it was not this

for a moment at the door, but he made through the open window, his eyes appearing glazed and sightless.

An hour later he was still sitting on between his teeth, thinking. The lowering sun was pouring a perfect flood of gold across the rag carpet, but he remained utterly unconscious as to you in behalf of this young lady, and aught save the gloomy trend of his her probable future. I trust not to be own awakened memories. Some one rapped upon the outer door.

"Come in," he exclaimed, carelessly, and barely glancing up. "Well, what is it this time, Mrs. Guffy?"

The landlady had never before seen this usually happy guest in his present mood, and she watched him cu-

"A man wants ter see ye," she announced, shortly, her hand on the

"Oh, I'm in no shape for play to night; go back and tell him so."

"Sure, an' it's alsy 'nough ter see thet wid half an eye. But this un isn't thet koind of a man, an' he's so moighty perlite about it. Oi jist cudn't sind the loikes of him away. It's 'Missus Guffy, me dear madam, wud ye be koind enough to convey me compliments to Misther Robert Hampton, and requist him to grant me a few minutes of his toime on an important matter?' Sure, an' what do ye think of thet?"

"Huh! one of those fellows who had these rooms?" and Hampton rose to his feet with animation.

The landlady lowered her voice to an almost inaudible whisper.

"It's the Rev. Howard Wynkoop," she announced, impressively, dwelling upon the name. "The Rev. Howard-Wynkoop, the Prasbytarian missionary -wouldn't thet cork ye?"

It evidently did, for Mr. Hampton stared at her for fully a minute in an amazement too profound for fit expression in words. Then he swallowed something in his throat.

"Show the gentleman up," he said,

shortly, and sat down to wait. The Rev. Howard Wynkoop was neither giant nor dwarf, but the very proclivities, yet in this case feeling business." abundantly fortified in the righteousness of his cause. His brown eyes disapproval. met the inquisitive gray ones frankly, and Hampton waved him silently to report was not altogether true," he ward a vacant chair,

"Our lines of labor in this vineyard fidence. "I did suppose you exactly said, coldly, but with intended polite- into this room. I have not believed ness, "the honor of your unexpected so, however, for a single moment call quite overwhelms me. I shall since. Nevertheless, the naked truth have to trouble you to speak somewhat is certainly bad enough, without any softly in explanation of your present necessity for our resorting to romance. mission, so as not to disturb a young You may deceive others by an assumpgirl who chances to be sleeping in the tion of recklessness, but I feel con-

I ventured to call," Wynkoop ex- which is none of my business. Let us plained in sudden confidence. "Might | deal alone with facts. You are a gam-I see her?"

Hampton's watchful eyes swept the other's face suspiciously, and his hands clinched.

"Relative?" he asked gravely.

The preacher shook his head. "Friend of the family, perhaps?"

"No, Mr. Hampton. My purpose in coming here is perfectly proper, yet the request was not advanced as a right, but merely as a special priv-

A moment Hampton hesitated; then he arose and quietly crossed the room, holding open the door. Without a word being spoken the minister followed, and stood beside him. For several minutes the eyes of both men rested upon the girl's sleeping form



"I Have Shot Men for Less. Go, Before I Forget Your Cloth."

and upturned face. Then Wynkoop drew silently back, and Hampton closed the door noiselessly.

"Well," he said, inquiringly, "what

"Let us sit down again," said the purpose sufficiently clear. I am not you to be the kind of a man who would respect me if I did. I may say some-She answered something, lingering thing that will not sound pleasant, but in the cause of my Master I cannot no response, and she passed out si- hesitate. You are an older man than lently, leaving him staring moodily I, Mr. Hampton; your experience in life has doubtless been much broader than mine, and it may even be that in point of education you are likewise the hard chair by the window, a cigar my superior. Nevertheless, as the only minister of the gospel residing in this community it is beyond question my plain duty to speak a few words to offensive, yet cannot shirk the requirements of my sacred office."

> The speaker paused, somewhat disconcerted perhaps by the hardening of the lines in Hampton's face.

> "Go on," commanded Hampton, tersely, "only let the preacher part slide, and say just what you have to say as man to man."

> "I prefer to do so," he continued. "It will render my unpleasant task much easier, and yield us both a more direct road to travel. I have been laboring on this field for nearly three years. When I first came here you were pointed out to me as a most dangerous man, and ever since then I have constantly been regaled by the stories of your exploits. I have known you merely through such unfriendly reports, and came here strongly prejudiced against you as a representative of every evil I war against. We have never met before, because there seemed to be nothing in common between us; because I had been led to suppose you to be an entirely different man from what I now believe you

Hampton stirred uneasily in his chair.

words the picture given me of you?"

There was no response, but the speaker moistened his lips and proceeded firmly. "It was that of a professional gambler, utterly devoid of mercy toward his victims; a reckless fighter, who shot to kill upon the least provocation; a man without moral character, and from whom any good was said about you. Is the tale true?"

Hampton laughed unpleasantly, his eyes grown hard and ugly.

"I presume it must be," he admitted, fortunate possessor of a countenance with a quick side glance toward the which at once awakened confidence in closed door, "for the girl out yonder his character. He entered the room | thought about the same. A most exquietly, rather dreading this interview cellent reputation to establish with with one of Mr. Hampton's well-known only ten years of strict attendance to

Wynkoop's grave face expressed his

"Well, in my present judgment that went on clearly and with greater conbeing so entirely opposite," the latter that sort of a man when I first came vinced your true nature is not evil. It "It was principally upon her account has been warped through some cause bler, a professional gambler, with all that that implies; your life is, of necessity, passed among the most vicious camps, and you do not hesitate even to take human life when in your judgment it seems necessary to preserve your own. Under this veneer of lawlessness you may, indeed, possess a warm heart, Mr. Hampton; you may be a good fellow, but you are certainly not a model character, even according to the liberal code of the border."

"Extremely kind of you to enter my rooms uninvited, and furnish me with this list of moral deficiencies," acknowledged the other with affected carelessness. "But thus far you have failed to tell me anything strikingly new. Am I to understand you have some particular object in this ex-

change of amenities?" "Most assuredly. It is to ask if such a person as you practically confess yourself to be-homeless, associating only with the most despicable and vicious characters, and leading so uncertain and disreputable a life-can be fit to assume charge of a girl, almost

a woman, and mould her future?" For a long, breathless moment Hampton stared incredulously at his questioner, crushing his cigar between his teeth. Twice he started to speak, but literally choked back the bitter words burning his lips, while an uncontrollable admiration for the other's boldness began to overcome his first fierce anger.

"By God!" he exclaimed at last, rising to his feet and pointing toward the door. "I have shot men for less. Go, before I forget your cloth. You little impudent fool! See here-I saved that girl from death, or worse; I plucked her from the very mouth of

as I know there is not a single soul for her to turn to for help in all this wide world. And you, you miserable, snivelling hypocrite, you little creeping Presbyterian parson, you want me to shake her! What sort of a wild beast do you suppose I am?"

Wynkoop had taken one hasty step backward, impelled to it by the fierce anger blazing from those stern, gray | Hampton made no attempt to analyze eyes. But now he paused, and, for the only time on record, discovered the conventional language of polite so-

ciety inadequate to express his needs. his own words, "you are a damned

Into Hampton's eyes there leaped a light upon which other men had looked before they died,-the strange mad gleam one sometimes sees in fighting animals, or amid the fierce charges of war. His hand swept instinctively backward, closing upon the butt of a revolver beneath his coat, and for one second he who had dared such utterance looked on death. Then the hard lines about the man's mouth softened, the fingers clutchin; the weapon relaxed, and Hampton laid one opened hand upon the minister's shrinking shoulder.

"Sit down," he said, his voice unsteady from so sudden a reaction. "Perhaps-perhaps I don't exactly un-

derstand. For a full minute they sat thus looking at each other through the fast dimming light, like two prize-fighters meeting for the first time within the ring, and taking mental stock before beginning their physical argument. Hampton, with a touch of his old audacity of manner, was first to break the silence.

"So you think I am a damned fool. Well, we are in pretty fair accord as to that fact, although no one before has ever ventured to state it quite so clearly in my presence. Perhaps you

will kindly explain?" The preacher wet his dry lips with his tongue, forgetting himself when his thoughts began to crystallize into expression.

"I regret having spoken as I did," he began. "Such language is not my custom. I was irritated because of your haste in rejecting my advances before hearing the proposition I came to submit. I certainly respect your evident desire to be of assistance to this young woman, nor have I the slightest intention of interfering between you. Your act in preserving her life was truly a noble one, and your loyalty to her interests since is worthy of all Christian praise. But I believe I have a right to ask, what do you intend for the future? Keep her with you? Drag her about from camp to camp? Educate her among "Shall I paint in exceedingly plain | the contaminating poison of gambling holes and dance-halls? Is her home hereafter to be the saloon and the rough frontier hotel? Her ideal of manhood the quarrelsome gambler, and of womanhood a painted harlot? Mr. Hampton, you are evidently a man of education, of early refinement; you have known better things; and I have come to you seeking merely to aid you action was impossible. That was what in deciding this helpless young woman's destiny. I thought, I prayed, you would be at once interested in that purpose, and would comprehend the reasonableness of my position."

Hampton sat silent, gazing out of the window, his eyes apparently on the lights now becoming dimly visible in the saloon opposite. For a considerable time he made no move, and the other straightened back in his chair watching him.

"Well!" he ventured at last, "what is your proposition?" The question was quietly asked, but a slight tremor in the low voice told of repressed feel-

"That, for the present at least, you confide this girl into the care of some worthy woman."

"Have you any such in mind?"

"I have already discussed the matter briefly with Mrs. Herndon, wife of the superintendent of the Golden Rule mines. She is a refined Christian lady, beyond doubt the most proper person to assume such a charge in this camp."

Hampton flung his sodden cigar butt out of the window. "I'll talk it over to-morrow with-with Miss Gillis," he said, somewhat gruffly. "It may be this means a good deal more to me and degrading elements of mining than you suppose, parson, but I'm bound to acknowledge there is considerable hard sense in what you have just said, and I'll talk it over with the girl.

Wynkoop held out his hand cordially and the firm grasp of the other closed over his fingers.

"I don't exactly know why I didn't kick you downstairs," the latter commented, as though still in wonder at himself. "Never remember being quite so considerate before, but I reckon you must have come at me in shout the right way."

If Wynkoop answered, his words were indistinguishable, but Hampton remained standing in the open door watching the missionary go down the narrow stairs.

"Nervy little devil," he acknowledged slowly to himself. "And maybe, after all, that would be the best thing for the Kid."

> CHAPTER VI. "To Be or Not to Be."

They were seated rather close together upon the steep hillside, gazing silently down upon squalid Glencaid. At such considerable distance all the dull shabbiness of the mining town had disappeared, and it seemed almost ideal, viewed against the natural background of brown rocks and green trees. Everywhere was loneliness, no sound telling of the labor of man reached them, and the few scattered buildings far

below resembling mere doll-houses. They had conversed only upon the constantly changing beauty of the scene, or of incidents connected with

hell: I like her: she's got sand: so far | their upward climb, while moving slowly along the trail through the fresh morning sunshine. Now they sat in silence, the young girl, with cheeks flushed and dreamy eyes aglow. gazed far off along the valley, the man watching her curiously, and wondering how best to approach his task.

Observing her now, sitting thus in total unconsciousness of his scrutiny, the depth of his interest for this waif who had come drifting into his life.

Even to his somewhat prejudiced eyes she was not an attractive crea-"I think," he said, scarcely realizing | ture, for she possessed no clear conception of how to render apparent those few feminine charms she possessed. Negligence and total unconsciousness of self, coupled with lack of womanly companionship and guidance, had left her altogether in the rough. He marked now the coarse ragged shoes, the cheap patched skirt, the tousled auburn hair, the sunburnt cheeks with a suggestion of freckles plainly visible beneath the eyes, and some of the fastidiousness of early days caused him to shrug his shoulders. Yet underneath the tan there was the glow of perfect young health; the eyes were frank, brave, unflinching; while the rounded chin held a world of character in its firm contour. Somehow the sight of this brought back to him that abiding faith in her "dead gameness" which had first awakened his admiration.

"Kid." he ventured at last, "you were talking while we came up the trail about how we'd do this and that after awhile. You don't suppose I'm going to have any useless girl like you hanging around on to me, do

She glanced quickly about at him, as though such unexpected expressions "Why, I-I thought that was the way mind. you planned it yesterday," she exclaimed, doubtfully.

"Oh, yesterday! Well, you see, yesterday I was sort of dreaming; to-day I am wide awake, and I've about decided, Kid, that for your own good,

A sudden gleam of fierce resentment leaped into the dark eyes, the unrestrained glow of a passion which had never known control. "Oh, you have, have you, Mr. Bob Hampton? You have about decided! Well, why don't you altogether decide? I don't you for mercy. Good Lord! I reckon I can get along all right without you-I did before. Just what happened to give you such a change of

"I made the sudden discovery," he said, affecting a laziness he was far from feeling, "that you were too near around the country with me, living at shacks, and having no company but gambling sharks, and that class of

"Oh, did you? What else?" "Only that our tempers don't ex- such. actly seem to jibe, and the two of



"I Think You Are a Damned Fool."

us can't be bosses in the same ranch." She looked at him contemptuously, swinging her body farther around on the rock, and sitting stiffly, the color sunburn. "Now see here, Mister Bob Register will accompany them. Hampton, you're a fraud, and you know it! Didn't I understand exactly who you was, and what was your business? Didn't I know you was a gambler, and a 'bad man?' Didn't I

tell you plain enough out yonder"and her voice faltered slightly-" what I thought about you? Good Lord! you, have I? I just didn't know which way to turn to, after dad was killed, and you sorter hung on to me, and I let it go the way I supposed you wanted it. But I'm not particularly stuck on your style, let me tell you, for me to get along. . Only first, I pro- of it. pose to understand what your little game is. You don't throw down your hand like that without some reason.'

Hampton sat up, spurred into instant admiration by such independtrained, and I wouldn't make much of a trainer for a high-strung filly like you. Ever remember your mother?" "Mighty little; reckon she must

old. That's her picture.'

catch with his knife blade. She bent down to fasten her loosened shoe, gaze was riveted upon the face in the

"Mighty pretty, wasn't she?" she Schwartz. asked, with a sudden girlish interest, bending forward to look, regardless of August Back, sr., was a business visitor Sold under guarantee at F. C. Fricke his strained attitude. "And she was in the metropols this afternoon.

The County Exchanges

General Interest Selected from the Columns of Contemporaries **** ******************

Louisville

Harry Jones and family, of Omaha, visited here over Sunday with Mr. and

Mrs. F. W. Schleifert. Oscar and Arthur Palmer and Bert Transportation Managers to Take the Jacobson returned to their studies at

Wesleyan university Monday evening. The Free Methodist people are holding a revival this week, Rev. L. Forlman and others assisting in the meet-

A Chester-White sow owned by Dan Phelps gave birth to eighteen pigs, and Dan says there is not a runt in the litter.

Wesleyan university Monday evening after having spent her holiday vacation Chas. Hoover departed Wednesday for North Platte to resume his position

as locomotive firemen on the Union Pacific. His run is from North Platte to Sidney.

from nervous prostration and his many old time Cass county friends will regret | made public. The road wants to keep startled her from a pleasant reverie. to learn that he has almost lost his on friendly terms with the people. It

The drill team of the local Woodmen camp, accompanied by about a dozen points out that railroad officials are members, went to Murdock Tuesday more talkative now than they were a evening, by invitation of the camp of few years ago. He observes that Mr. that place, and conferred the initiatory Mohler of the Union Pacific has been and my comfort, I've got to shake degree on three candidates. They were honored by the Omaha Commercial club treated royally by the Murdock Wood- and that Mr. Mohler goes about meetmen and all felt repaid for their ride ing patrons of the road, making speeches across the country.

An Insidious Danger.

One of the worst features of kidney trouble is that it is an insidious disease think I'm down on my knees begging and before the victim realizes his danger he may have a fatal malady. Take Foley's Kidney Cure at the first sign of troubles as it corrects irregularities and prevents Bright's disease and diabetes r sale by F. G. Fricks & Co.

Nenawka

guard at the penitentiary at Lincoln, when he began with the transportation and has entered upon his duties as business. He has talked to the farmers

Mrs. J. M. Stone who has been at at their celebrations-wherever and Nebraska City for some months taking whenever he could be present when an medical treatment spent the holidays invitation was extended. From the at home. She returned to the city start he has said things, and the fact Thursday.

the Schwartz family are suffering of the old school. from an epedemic of very sore eyes. John says it is a kind of pink eye. The eyes of those suffering from it

A dispatch was received at Plattsmouth Wednesday from Sheridan, Wyo., announcing the death of Fred Kroehler, formerly of Plattsmouth, and well known to many of our citizens. He Chamberlain's Cough Remedy a Safe will be remembered as taking a prominent part in the "cannon war" here many year ago.

their effects into a car Wednesday and dedarted for their new home in Wil- It is intended especially for coughs, on her cheeks deepening through the lard, Kansas. The best wishes of the colds, croup and whooping cough, and

Mrs. W. H. Porter and daughter Letha, returned from York Wednesday, where she had been visiting relatives. Grandma Carper who has been at the same place for two months returned with her.

George Holmes was called to Omaha I haven't been begging to stick with the first of the week by the road master of the Omaha line and was tendered the section between Union and Murray which he has accepted, and was called there to take permanent charge Tuesday. This is a good section and George and I reckon there's plenty of ways we have no doubt will be able care

county last Friday, where he had been sit up some Sunday, and has had the with the calves that he bought from stitches in his side removed, and is given the Sheidon Estate. He got them in assurance by the attending physicians ence of spirit. "You grow rather good- fine shape without losing a single one that he may come home by the last of looking, Kid, when you get hot, but and has them all eating alfalfa hay. the week. This is pleasant news to his you go at things half-cocked, and Zack says that he had the distinction many friends who have watched his you've got to get over it. That's the of having the finest bunch of young progress with a great deal of solicitude, whole trouble-you've never been stuff that was ever taken into that ever hoping for his recovery, although country, and his only regret is that he at times it looked doubtful. did not buy more of them.

A New Year's gathering at the home have died when I was about five years of Mrs. Fred Schomaker marked the thirtieth successive gathering at that Hampton took in his hand the old- place for the purpose of celebrating fashioned locket she held out toward New Year's day. The first one was him, the long chain still clasped about when this place was owned by Mr. her throat, and pried open the stiff Timm and of all the neighbors then present there is only two living, Geo. and when her eyes were uplifted his Hansen and John Schwartz. There was present on this occasion only the families of John Wunderlich and John

WILL ENDEAVOR TO PLEASE PEOPLE

Public Into Their Confidenc Wherever Interest is Shown by People.

"The Burlington has nothing whatever to hide from the public these days," says a Burlington man in a position of authority, to a Lincoln Journal reporter. "We are going to make friends with the people, try to give them good ser-Miss Beth Maxfield returned to vice, make an effort to perform every function that a well regulated railroad should perform for its patrons and the territory it serves. We are making no secret rates, giving no special service to favored patrons, and are trying to obey the laws. The service given is service for the public and the public may learn what it inquires about. We Chris. Gauer went to Council Bluffs are not seeking newspaper notoriety Monday to visit Fred Schroeder who is nor newspaper discussions, but anyin a hospital at that place, suffering thing about the operation or management of the road is open and may be

wants to serve them." A representative of another railroad and explaining the position of the road in its relation to the business producing public. During Mr. Willard's frequent trips over the lines west of the Burlington he has frequently met business men and has talked to them about business and railroad affairs, open, unreservedly and with a frankness unknown to the railroad managers of a generation ago. Mr. Stickney of the Great Western, for a number of years has made a

practice of meeting business men. The pioneer railroad man in this work of getting in touch with the patrons of the road, in talking to them about business matters and learning what they Julius Ruhman has been appointed want, is James J. Hill. He began it of the northwest at their county fairs, that he has talked volubly and well has Adolph Schwatz and two others of startled and bothered railroad managers

Other railaoad men have talked, but few have said more that really touched things the people wanted to know swell up and become badly inflamed, about. Of late, however, a marked Otto Schacht's family we understand change has been noticed by railroad obare having an attack of the same dis- servers, and the Burlington's statement that it has nothing to hide from the public is believed more generally now that it would have been a few years ago.

Remedy for Children. In buying a cough remedy for children, never be afraid to buy Chamber-James Lemon and family loaded lain's Cough Remedy. There is no dan-Ser from it and relief is sure to follow. there is no better medicine in the world for these diseases. It is not only a certain cure for croup, but, when given as soon as the croupy cough appears, will prevent the attack. Whooping cough is not dangerous when this remedy is given as directed. It contains no opium or other harmful drugs, and may be given as confidently to a baby as to an adult. For sale by F. G. Fricke & Co.

Ray Chriswisser Improving.

Yesterday Mrs. Ray Chriswisser was a visitor in Omaha and on returning home, in conversation with a reporter said that Mr. Chriswisser was progress-Zach Shrader returned from Harlan ing nicely now and that he was able to

A Cure for Misery.

"I have found a cure for the misery malaria poison produces," says R. M. James, of Louellen, S. C. "It's called Electric Bitters, and comes in 50 cent bottles. It breaks up a case of chills or a bilious attack in almost no time; and it puts yellow jaundice clean out of commission." This great tonic medicine and blood purifier gives quick relief in all stomach, liver and kidney complaints and the misery of lame back. & Co.'s drug store.