

The Klondyke Gold Mystery.

By JOHN R. MUSICK,
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Dark Stranger," "Charlie Allendale's
Double," Etc.

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CHAPTER XII.

"D'ye know him?" Kate asked.
"Yes, I have seen him."
"Ye know no good o' him, I be
bound, and I'm one as is not slow in
expressin' my mind about such cat-
tle."

"Don't, Kate, I beseech you."
"All the while the marble white face
of Theodore was unmoved."

"Is this your hand-bag, Laura?" he
asked, picking up the pretty, white
bag where the porter had left it.

"Yes."
"Let me carry it to the hotel for
you. This good woman will assist
you. Come, there is but one hotel in
the place, and there is no missing it.
It is a long way from the landing, with
no cable line."

In a maze the unfortunate Laura
was led from the landing back toward
the hotel. She had left home, hoping
to be rid of her persecutor, and found
him waiting at the landing for her.
She longed to know, and yet dreaded
to ask him why he had come to
Alaska. Her heart told her he was
on his way to the Klondyke, and she
felt a strange dread of him.

On reaching the hotel, which was a
miserable affair made of boards and
but roughly finished, she ordered a
room and was taken to it. Kate was
assigned a miserable little apartment
near the kitchen, where she could
smell the beef roasting and hear the
cooks quarrelling.

Laura had not been long in her
apartment when there came a tap at
her door, and a boy with tangled, red
hair entered and said:

"Ef yer please, mum, this's a feller
downstairs who gin me this heard fer
ye, an' says he'd like ter chin yes a
bit."

Laura took the small, neat card
from the dirty hand of the boy and
glancing at it, read the name of Theo-
dore Lackland. Should she see him?
She knew the interview must come. In
fact she wished for it on her own
account, so why not have it at once,
understand each other and have it
over with?

She told the boy that she would see
the stranger at once, and he bowed
his red head and retired from the
apartment. She nerved herself for
the coming interview.

There came a light rap at the door.
"Come in," she said.

The door opened and Theodore
Lackland entered the apartment.
There was an insidious smile on his
face, as he said:

"You did not expect to meet me,
did you?"

"I certainly did not," she answered,
her eyes growing round with astonish-
ment.

"I hope my appearance did not
cause any unpleasant shock to your
nerves, and now that it is over I trust
you will be glad to have a friend in
this strange, wild land."

There was a short pause, after
which he went on:

"I will be frank with you, Miss
Kean. I came that I might be near
you."

"I am capable of taking care of my-
self," she answered.

"But while I concede all that, I
reasoned that you were coming to a
land beset by many dangers, and
could not feel comfortable in the
thought that you were alone. I had
leisure and means, and consequently
why not devote them to your ser-
vice? Oh, Laura, and he drew his
chair a little nearer to her. "I know
you spurn me. I know you believe me
to be a deceitful hypocrite, but I am
not so bad as you think. I am your
friend—your best friend if you will
only permit me—"

"I cannot."

"You have mistaken me all along."
"Perhaps at times I have, but I
know you now."

"Laura, will you listen to me a
moment—just one moment?"

"Yes, I will have to do so, as I have
no other choice."

His voice regained its calmness, but
his manner was still agitated.

"I may serve you even yet," he
said. "I have done you much wrong
—I know that—and him, too. I did
you and him a wrong, knowing I
would repent it to the last hour of
my life, but I was driven to it; I had
no power to resist it—it mastered me;
then, it masters me now."

Theodore had risen and took a step
nearer.

"Laura," he said, and his voice fell
to a broken whisper, "I love you so
I can see you the wife of another if
he can make you more happy than I.
Do you believe there can be an unself-
ish love? I know it, and I swear that
if you can be more happy as the wife
of Paul Miller, then I will go with
you all over the world to find Paul
Miller, and if he is living will find
him and give him to you."

His words had produced a profound
effect on Laura, and she could only
gaze on him in wonder. Overwhelmed
by the ardent manner of the man,
she was speechless and dumbfounded.
When she could regain her voice she
said:

"Heaven forgive me, Mr. Lackland,
if I have done you injustice."

"I freely forgive you. It is so diffi-
cult for us to understand each other
that we are continually blundering
and making mistakes. But now that
my motives are plain, now that you
see how unselfish I am, I hope you

will trust me implicitly. You may
think you have money sufficient to
push this search and may be mis-
taken; all I ask of you is that you
allow me to furnish the funds you
need. You shall not lack means to
find Paul."

The man watched with anxious eyes
the face of the girl to read the im-
pression his great generosity would
make.

It was favorable, and his delight at
the discovery was almost diabolical.

"Thank you, Laura. You have made
me supremely happy by accepting my
favor, I will endeavor to find Paul
for you. We will go together, and do
all that can be done to find him."

He bowed and went out. She bowed
her face in her hands and wept.

"My heart misgives me," she sob-
bed. "He talks fair and seems hon-
est, but something within keeps say-
ing: 'Trust him not!'"

Ben Holton, who had remained be-
hind to look after her heavier luggage,
arrived at the hotel, and went to con-
sult with his mistress about some
missing packages. On his way to her
room he met Lackland, and was much
astounded to see a man whom he
thought in Fresno that he was half
inclined to think himself mistaken.

"I say, Miss Laura, was a feller in
here a minit ago?" he asked.

"Yes."

"He looked just like Lackland."

"It was Lackland."

"Well, Miss Laura, I jist be he'd
gasted if he's here for any good. He's
after grub stakes, ye kin depend on et.
Look out for him."

She then told her faithful employe
the proposition he had made, and old
Ben listened carefully to her, and at
the conclusion said:

"I'll bet my head for a football that
it's a salted mine he's a-plantin'. Don't
ye bite at his bait, Miss Laura; don't
ye bite."

Laura was more distressed after the
departure of Ben Holton than before.
She began to realize how utterly help-
less she was.

There was quite a change in the
expression on Lackland's face after
he left Laura's room. All the benevo-
lence and unselfish concern for the
girl's welfare gave way to a look of
selfishness, and he chuckled in tri-
umph.

"I will have her yet. She will be
wholly in my power. A few weeks
more, another turn of the cards and
the game is mine."

At a low groggery in the town he
found his two employes, Ben Allen
and Horsa Cummins.

"Well, how are you faring?" asked
Lackland.

"Dry!" growled Cummins.

"Come, Cummins, you remember
the obligation imposed on you when
you were employed—you were not to
drink."

"Yes, but that makes me dry," said
Cummins, with a wink.

"Now, you have both been here be-
fore, have you not?"

"Yes."

"Do you know where to procure
good outfits?"

"Right here is the best place in
Alaska," declared Cummins.

"How much will a first-class outfit
cost?"

Cummins reflected a moment and
said:

"Well, I think it will take about two
thousand dollars."

Without returning a word his em-
ployer counted out the money and told
him to go and procure it at once.

Cummins and Davis set out, and
next morning reported that all had
been secured.

"It is well," declared the shrewd Mr.
Lackland. "Be prepared to go when-
ever I give the word."

"We'll be ready."

When his hirelings had gone Lack-
land went to the hotel and sent up his
card to Miss Laura Kean. She admit-
ted him, and he asked:

"Miss Kean, when are you going to
cross the pass and start for the Klon-
dyke?"

"As soon as I can. I want to go
with the first train."

"There are some gentlemen ready to
start in the morning."

"Then I can get ready. I will go
with them," she declared.

"Would you like my services in
securing you an outfit?"

"Yes, yes; if you can, secure me
an outfit at once."

"I'll do so. I would as soon start
myself to-morrow as any other time.
You will want Indian porters for your
luggage and a sled and dogs for your-
self. Have Ben Holton pack up all
your effects and be ready," and he
left.

Ben Holton was only a stupid fel-
low, but he declared he did not like
the arrangements at all, and smelled a
greatbig mouse somewhere. Never-
theless, Ben went to work packing up
the goods and preparing for the
journey.

Laura took her place on the sled,
and the Esquimaux with big snow
shoes came to strap her in and draw
the robes and furs over her.

"Are you strapped in securely?"
Lackland asked Laura.

"Yes."

"Do you think you will be comfort-
able?"

"I know I shall."

They were soon in the midst of a
driving snowstorm, and Kate Willis
declared that she "just knew that
child would freeze."

They halted before reaching the
summit and camped. Tents had been
brought and every precaution was
taken to provide for the comfort of
Laura Kean. She and Kate were
housed in a tent warmed by a gasoline
stove, which made it quite comfort-
able.

Next day they resumed their march,
crossed the summit and began the
descent.

Lackland was often seen talking
with one of the Indians, who spoke
English fair, well, and was a big,
burly, villainous-looking fellow. One
day two men came to their camp.
They held long and earnest confer-
ences, and when they went away that
night the man named Ben Allen went
with them. It is perhaps needless
to inform the reader that the two men
were Morris and Ned Padgett, who
brought the information that Paul and
the old hermit were prisoners in the
cavern.

"It is lucky I learned of his cap-
ture," thought Lackland. "Curse him,
why isn't he dead? For over a year
he has been lost in the forest and
thought to be dead; now, why isn't
he dead?"

Lackland little dreamed that the
very tools he was using were willing
to betray him if they could make
more out of it, and that they were try-
ing by bribes and threats to extort
from the prisoners in the cavern the
secret of the cached treasure.

After Ben left the party to fulfil his
orders they camped three weeks in a
valley.

Laura inquired why they delayed so
long, but Lackland had abundant
excuses, and assured her they would
go on before winter set in in earnest.
Already lowering clouds had hung
over the valley and covered it with
snow.

At last they broke camp and were
moving slowly toward the Yukon,
when a dog was discovered coming
toward them. Beyond a doubt it was
the property of some of the Klondy-
kers. Horsa Cummins discovered a
strip of tanned skin about its neck
and called the attention of Lackland
to it.

He quickly removed it and read:

"We are in the forest out of food
and starving. Follow on the trail at
once and find us. Paul Miller and
Companion."

The bit of tanned skin dropped from
the trembling hand of Theodore Lack-
land. He pressed his hand to his fore-
head and groaned.

"What is it, boss?" asked Cummins.

"Go into camp. We must start at
once to find some men who are starv-
ing."

When they went into camp, after
taking care to see that Laura was
made comfortable, he took one man
and three Indians and started on the
back trail made by the dog. All the
while he was thinking:

"Paul Miller and one companion.
Who can that companion be?"

CHAPTER XIII.

Clarence Berry and the Metlakah-
tians.

Clarence Berry and his brave little
wife Ethel continued to heap up their
golden treasure day by day, but they
had not forgotten their unfortunate
friend, Paul Miller. One evening, as
they sat in their shanty, before the
great, blazing fire, they received the
usual visitors, Long Dick and Gid
Myers.

"Say, ef ye want t' see d' worst old
recessers ye ever clapped yer lamps
upon, ye want t' go down d' camp," be-
gan Dick.

"Dun know, but it looks mighty t'
me like it was some starved-out Egyp-
tian mummies az had been resurrected
from de pyramids."

"Where are they from?"

"Metlakahitia."

"Where is that?"

"An island far away across the
mountains."

Clarence opened his book again,
and, casting a casual glance over the
pages, remarked that he did not see
what they had to do with the peace of
the miners of the Klondyke. Gid was
about to speak when his friend began:

"That's where yer off yer trolley,
Clarence. They come without recom-
mendation, but they spin mighty
strange yarns, and old Gidum he put
this thing and that thing together
and say they got some information."

(To be continued.)

OUR SOIL RICH IN GEMS.

Where American Precious Stones
Have Been Found by Miners.

The report of the geological survey,
just compiled for 1901, shows that
during that year there were mined in
the United States precious stones to
the value of about \$300,000. When
talking about rare and beautiful gems
one's thoughts naturally revert to
South Africa or the orient or the
mountains of Asia or Europe, or per-
haps to South America, but one is not
likely to think of our own land yield-
ing them; but the fact is, that no in-
significant value in gems is taken
from the soil right here at home. The
report of the geological survey shows
that during that year we mined in
the United States precious stones to
the value of about \$300,000.

Diamonds represent only \$100 of
this amount, but the fact that they are
found at all gives encouragement to
the hope that paying fields of them
may some time be found. Last year
one diamond was found in Lee county,
Georgia, where diamonds were not be-
fore known to exist. New Mexico
furnished \$118,000 in turquoise, and
these have been placed on the market.
Montana gave us \$80,000 in sapphires,
which come next. They come from
Fergus county. Granite county is now
being explored for fancy colored sap-
phires, that give evidence of being
there in paying quantities. Fine and
extensive rhodolite garnet deposits are
found in Macon county, North Caro-
lina. Many dark green, blue and
yellow beryls, as well as amethysts and
emeralds, were found in that state.

There is hardly a state of the Union
in which there is not some trace of
precious stones and it appears not at
all unlikely that before many years
we may be competing with the old
world in furnishing gems.

OVER THE TEACUPS



Miss Barrymore's Gown.

Miss Ethel Barrymore is wearing a
girlish gown of white net, striped hori-
zontally with rose pink ribbon—the
bayadere striping thus made suiting
her tall, slender form. The bodice
blouses all around, and the ribbon
used on it has a finely corded edge;
it is perhaps three-fourths of an inch
wide, and the bands are also three-
quarters of an inch apart. There is a
little lace around the neck, and from
there to the belt the bands go round
and round. The sleeves fit the arms,
but not too closely; and are made of
net and ribbon to match the bodice,
and end a little below the elbow in a
single ruffle, not over two inches
wide. The bands of ribbon used to
bar the skirt are of graduated width,
that at the bottom of the scant, trail-
ing skirt being three inches wide and
the upper one the width of that used
in the corsage; the width of net show-
ing between is the same—three-
quarters of an inch. Long white gloves,
a small black and white ruche boa, and
a flat black hat, not very large and
trimmed with ostrich plumes, also
black, complete this toilet.

Norfolk Coat.

Norfolk coats have acquired great
vogue and are seen upon the smartest



walking suits. This handsome model
is shown in the fashionable "mannish"
cloth of mixed gray and makes part of
a costume, but the design suits the
general wrap, all serges, cloths, wool
canvases, and chevots, including the
new black and white mixtures known
as "Queen's Mourning" equally well.

The coat is made with loose fronts
and fitted backs that are seamed at
the center and includes applied box
plaits that give the Norfolk sugges-
tion. At the upper portion is an ap-
plied yoke the neck of which is fin-

TWO ATTRACTIVE EVENING COATS.



The black evening coat is of silk,
lined with white, and having white
moire, black velvet, and white lace for
its trimmings.

The other evening coat is made of
white broadcloth. The cuffs and col-
lar are pale blue cloth, and the dec-
orations are blue and silver buttons.

After the candy has disappeared these
dainty boxes and baskets form lovely
resting places for handkerchiefs,
laces or other dainty femininities.

Little Girl's Dress.

Little girl's frock of white pongee.
Both blouse and skirt are trimmed
with valenciennes lace insertion. The



round yoke is made with fine tucks,
alternating with bands of the same
insertion, and is bordered with a ruf-
fe of the material, cut in points, and
also trimmed with the lace. The sash
is of sky-blue ribbon, knotted in the
back.

For the Kitchen.

In kitchens where economy of
space is a consideration a combined

HELD UP NEAR CITY

B. & M. Portland Special Robbed
Close to Lincoln

BAGGAGE CAR IS WRECKED

Robbery Occurs Early Friday Morning
on the West Slope of the West Lin-
coln Hill—Complete Details
Not Received—The News

Burlington train No. 41 was held up
on the west slope of the West Lincoln
hill at an early hour Friday morning.
The distance of the scene of the holdup
from Lincoln is not more than five
miles.

The news of the holdup first reached
the officials by telephone message from
the flagman of the Union Pacific cross-
ing west of the roundhouse, saying
that the train had been held up. It
was conveyed to the flagman by Brake-
man Moore, who came back with his
lights to report the holdup. The brake-
man reached the passenger station at
2:24 a. m., just one hour after the
train left Lincoln.

The story told by Mr. Moore of the
holdup contained none of the particu-
lars. He said that he felt the air shut-
ting off the speed of the train as it was
dropping down the west slope of the
hill. As the train stopped he got down
from the cars with his lantern and
started back to flag approaching
trains. He had not gone far when the
order came:

"Stop, you ———, or I'll
blow your head off."

"I stopped," said the brakeman.

No. 41 was made up of eight cars,
pulled by engine No. 31. It is the
Portland special and this is the third
holdup within a few miles of Lincoln
since the train was put on, three
years ago.

At 2:45 the train was reported on the
way back to Lincoln. It reached Lin-
coln at 3 o'clock. It was then ascer-
tained that the holdup was accom-
plished by three men. They stopped
the train with lights and then terror-
ized the fireman and engineer and pro-
ceeding to blow open the safe. The
safe was badly wrecked and the safe was
found open. Judging from this fact
the trainmen believe the robbers se-
cured the contents of the safe. Ex-
press Messenger Lupton was not in-
jured.

Before blowing the safe the high-
waymen cut the train in two and ran
the express car some distance from the
other cars. The entire contents of the
safe were found missing on an exam-
ination that took place after the
train reached Lincoln. The amount
taken is not known, but it is supposed
to be quite large. The train was im-
mediately got ready to start out again
at 3:15 a. m. The exact place where
the holdup took place was bridge No.
58, about two miles west of the city.

In speaking of the firing one of the
trainmen said it appeared to him that
the shots rang out almost incessantly
for several minutes. While only three
men were seen, it is believed there
were more.

A careful investigation later gave
rise to the report that only \$2,500 was
obtained by the gang.

LIMB ALMOST TORN OFF

Distressing Accident to Little Girl at
Plattsmouth

The seven-year-old daughter of Mr.
and Mrs. E. C. Slagel, of Plattsmouth,
met with a serious accident which ne-
cessitated the amputation of one of her
lower limbs between the knee and hip.

She was on her way home from school
when a farmer drove along with a
buggy and she got in behind for a ride.
In some manner she got one of her
legs caught in the wheel and before
the team could be stopped the limb had
almost been torn from her body. Two
physicians were summoned and every-
thing was done to ease the sufferings of
the little child, but amputation of the
leg was found necessary.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS

The Lexington ice plant, Hoffman's
brewery and several dwelling burned.
Losses aggregate \$100,000.

E. K. Robnett has been appointed
receiver of the Midland Fire Insurance
company of Kansas City, Kan.

The executive council of the Ameri-
can federation of labor decided to ap-
peal to the business men and other
sympathizers with the anthracite coal
miners for financial aid for the strik-
ers.

The German cabinet has decided to
establish a German legation at Havana
and the foreign office has inserted an
appropriation for that purpose in the
next budget. The reasons for taking
this step appear to be largely com-
mercial.

An opinion was given in the United
States court at Kansas City in which
it is held that a railroad incorporated
in one state and afterwards merged
or consolidated with railroads incor-
porated in other states retains its origi-
nal identity.

The Interstate Grocer of St. Louis
says that a combine, to include every
wholesaler of groceries in the United
States, is in the course of formation.
The details of the great plan will not
be made public until after November 5,
next, when a meeting is to be held in
Detroit. George D. Hanford of New
York city is engineering the deal.

"An extraordinary rumor is current
here," says the aPis correspondent of
the London Standard, "that private
negotiations are proceeding between
Russia and Turkey which if successful
will result in an agreement to close the
Dardanelles to all but Russian war-
ships."

"My advances tend to show that the
Indian scare in western Colorado is
greatly exaggerated," said Maj. A. C.
Sharpe, adjutant general of the depart-
ment of the Colorado. "I have been in
communication with that section of the
country and there is no cause whatever
for alarm."