my confidence or not."

Claude Wheeler, living on a Nebraska ranch with his parents, left Temple coliege, denominational school at Lincoln, in his third year in order that he might tend the home place while his father. Nat Wheeler, and younger brother, Ralph, spend most of their time on their Colorado ranch. An older brother, Bayliss, runs an implement store at Frankfort. In Lincoln Claude became close friend to the Erlich famill. a motherly widow and five sons. Ernest Havel and Leonard Dawson, young farmers, are friends of Claude. Claude declares his love for Enid Royce, daughter of Jason Royce, Frankfort miller. World war is waging. Claude and his mother deeply interested in German advance on France through Belgium. Claude feels urge to Join French army. Turns to building future home. Enid doesn't enthuse over him, but is pleased with the house. She visits house with girl friend, Gladys Farmer. They are siting on the porch at dusk talking.

(Continued From Yesterday.) year. I'm going to plant a few rows of peas in there, so they'll have a feeding ground at home. I consider Leonard's cornfield a great danger. I don't know whether to take him into

(Continued From Yesterday.) Gladys, too, was lost in her own thoughts, sitting with that ease which made her seem rather indolent, her head resting against the empty winhead resting against the empty window frame, facing the setting sun. The rosy light made her brown eyes gleam like old copper, and there was a moody look in them, as if in her mind she were defying something. When he happened to glance at her, it occurred to Claude that it was a cocurred to be the excentional personal persona hard destiny to be the exceptional per-son in a community, to be more giftgo over with me, won't you? But wear heavy shoes; it's wet in the long

son in a community, to be more gifted or more intelligent than the rest. For a girl it must be doubly hard. He sat up suddenly and broke the long silence.
"I forgot, Enid, I have a secret to tell you. Over in the timber claim the other day I størted up a flock of the community of the little was the long grass.

While they were talking a sudden whirlwind swept round the corner of the house, caught up the little mound of folded lace corset covers and strewed them over the dusty yard. Claude ran after them with Enid's the other day I started up a flock of quall. They must be the only ones left in all this neighborhood, and I doubt if they ever come out of the timber. The bluegrass hasn't been mowed in there for years—not since I first went away to school—and maybe they live on the grass seeds. In summer, of course, there are mulberries."

Enid wondered whether the birds could have learned enough about the world to stay hidden in the timber let. Claude was sured workbag and thrust them into it as he came upon one after another, fluttering in the weeds. When he returned Enid had folded her needle case and was putting on her hat. "Thank you." she said with a smile. "Old you find everything?" "I think so." He hurried toward the car to hide his guilty face. One

world to stay hidden in the timber let. Claude was sure they had.

"Nobody ever goes near the place except father; he stops there sometimes. Maybe he has seen them and never said a word. It would be just like him." He told them he had scattered shelled corn in the grass; so that the birds would not be tempted to fly over into Leonard Dawson's cornfield. "It Leonard saw them, he'd likely take a shot at them."

"Why don't you ask him not to?" Enid suggested.

Claude laughed. "That would be asking a good deal. When a bunch

asking a good deal. When a bunch of quail rise out of a cornfield they're a mighty tempting sight, if a man likes hunting. We'll have a picnic likes hunting. We'll have a picnic for you when you come out next summer, Gladys. There are some pretty piaces over there in the timber."
Gladys started up, "Why, it's night already! It's lovely here, but you must get me home, Enid."
They found it dark inside. Claude took Enid down the ladder and out to her car, and then went back for Gladys. She was sitting on the floor at the top of the ladder. Giving her his hand he helped her to rise.

at the top of the ladder. Giving her his hand he helped her to rise.

"So you like my little house," he said gratefully.

"Yes. Oh, yes!" Her voice was full of feeling, but she did not exert herself to say more. Claude descended in front of her to keep her from slipping. She hung back while he led her through confusing doorways and helped her over the piles of laths that littered the floors. At the edge of the gaping cellar entrance she stopped and leaned wearily on his arm for a moment. She did not speak, but he understood that his new house made understood that his new house made her sad; that she, too, had come to the place where she must turn out of the old path. He longed to whisper to her and beg her not to marry his brother. He lingered and hesitated, brother. He lingered and hesitated, fumbling in the dark. She had his own cursed kind of sensibility; she would expect too much from life and be disappointed. 'He was reluctant to lead her out into the chilly evento lead her out into the chilly even-ing without some word of entreaty. He would willingly have prolonged their parage—through many rooms and corridors. Perhaps, had that been possible the strength in him would have found what it was seeking; even in this short interval it had stirred and made itself felt, had uttered a confused appeal. Claude was greatly surprised at himself.

CHAPTER XI.

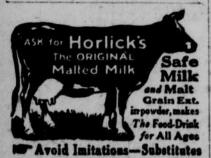
Enid decided that she would be married in the first week of June.

Early in May the plasterers and painters began to be busy in the new house. The walls began to shine, and Claude went about all day, oiling and polishing the hard-pine Roors and wainscoting. He hated to have anybody step on his floors. He planted gourd vines about the back porch, set out clematis and lilac bushes, and put in a kitchen garden. He and Enid were going to Denver and Colorado Springs for their wedding trip, but Ralph would be at home then, and he had promised to come over and water the flowers and shrubs if the weathen

was dry.
Enid often brought her work and sat sewing on the front porch while Claude was rubbing the woodwork inside the house, or digging and planting. This was the best part of his courtship. It seemed to him that he had never spent such happy days be-fore. If Enid did not come, he kept fore. If Enid did not come, he kept looking down the road and listening, went from one thing to another and made no progress. He felt full of energy, so long as she sat there on the porch, with lace and ribbons and muslin in her lap. When he passed by, going in or out, and stopped to be near her for a moment, she seemed glad to have him tarry. She liked him to admire her needlework, and did not hesitate to show him the featherstitching and embroidery she was putting on her new underclothes. He could see, from the glances they exchanged, that the painters thought this very bold behavior in one so soon to be a bride. He thought it very charming behavior himself, though he would never have expected it of Enid. His heart beat hard when he realized His heart beat hard when he realized how far she confided in him, how little she was afraid of him! She would let him linger there, standing over her and looking down at her quick fingers, or sitting on the ground at her feet,

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little lace thing he had not put into the bag, but had thrust into his early to hear the birds in the timber. (To Be Continued Monday.)

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