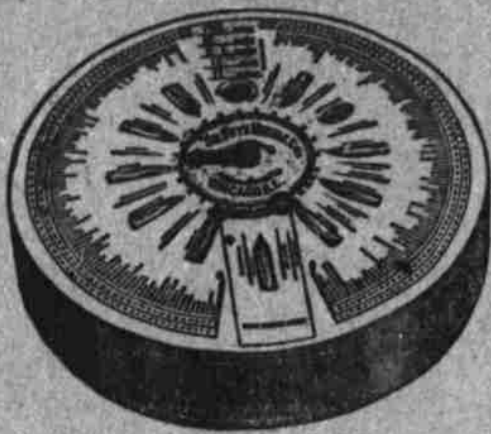


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SUMMERSVILLE

His Conversion

By EDGAR FALES MOODY

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Some years ago I visited the far west, passing through a region that had been infested by the worst element of society.

I put up one night at the house of John Murphy, a sheep raiser. His ranch house was not large, but comfortable, and its decorations showed evidence of refinement. His wife was a woman who impressed me as one having considerable equipoise and character. After supper I went out on the porch to have a smoke with Murphy and listened with interest to his account of the building up of his region. During our conversation I stated the opinion that men were what women made them. Then he told me his story.

"You're dead right, stranger," he said, "and I'm one of the men that has been made by a woman. When I came to this country it was from an eastern city, and my education was derived from the dime novel. I was a waif, with no father or mother to instill into me the fact that however brave the road agents and others of whom I read they were acting on a wrong principle. As it was, I admired them, and almost before I became a man I scraped up enough money to bring me out here to live the life of my heroes of the dime novel."

"I soon got to be a head man among them and for eight years lived a life that I would give anything I have to forget. I have to be thankful for only one thing. During that frightful period I never took a life. I didn't ac-

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