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BRIGAND.**

**He Had Stolen the Tutor of a Rich
Man's Children and the Sweetheart
of His Son—A Romance of the
Mountains.**

From the mountains of Mexico comes a story that reads more like a romance of medieval times than a narration of occurrences in modern life. Indeed it hardly seems possible that even in Mexico such an event could occur. One hundred and twenty pounds of gold and alongside it 120 pounds of girl! The gold ransomed the girl and the son of the man who paid the ransom now is the husband of the girl.

Among the last lingering bandits of Mexico Luigi Cortina still holds place, his abode, if it may be so called, being the mountains of Western Chihuahua, where offshoots of the Sierra Madre cut away from the main range by the Gulf of California afford him a hiding place. The rurales have not yet found him, nor is it likely they will, for Cortina has just retired from "business" with the proceeds of his new venture, estimated at \$40,000. It is an ideal bandit story.

Senor Poyerima, grown rich by his mines, realized, when no longer young, that his children's education was defective. His friend, La France, suggested that he send for Lorena Jarrett, his niece, and make her the tutor of his children. Lorena lived in Texas. She was sent for and came quickly. She became more than a tutor to the children. The son saw in her much to admire. They became lovers. Frequently

multeers together in the old days before he grew rich, and he knows me. He knows my word is perfectly good, and you need have no fear if you will follow my directions. Come with me!"

He took the young man aside and then told him his plans. They were simple and brief.

In short, Cortina remarked that he was anxious to abandon his career as a brigand, but must have money enough to live as a gentleman should. He then told young Poyerima to go to his father and tell him that he could ransom the girl on paying her weight in gold—"which," continued Cortina, "is cheap, as she is not very heavy."

There was an agreement as to a place and time for meeting, and young Poyerima rode away with his own horse, leaving Miss Jarrett to wonder what fate had in store for her.

Young Poyerima lost no time in hurrying home. He speedily acquainted his father with the facts. Ordering the pack animals to the front of the hacienda, he loaded two of them with sacks of gold, partly in bars and partly in coin, and, the son leading the way, the party set out to the hills to keep Cortina's appointment. Reaching there, they found that a scale had been made by balancing a pole over the bough of a tree, and at one end a hoop of leather things showed where the young woman, who was to be the weight, should sit. At the other an open-mouthed sack hung ready to receive Poyerima's gold.

Miss Jarrett was brought from the woods and placed in the seat. She almost fainted with fear, for she knew nothing of the strange ceremony in which she was taking part, although the presence of the Poyerimas, father and son, reassured her. But she realized her position when the peons began pouring the gold into the sack.



they rode out together into the mountains.

It was one of these joyous, free rides that the shadow of Cortina fell upon them. It happened that Miss Jarrett and young Poyerima were riding along in the foot hills, drinking in the scenery and stimulated by the wine-like atmosphere of autumn, when two men stepped from the wood, and pointing their rifles at them ordered them to dismount.

Of course they complied. In fact resistance was impossible, and they offered none. The bandits tied the hands of their captives behind them and ordered them to move on. The orders were not delivered in most choice language, but there was no misunderstanding them. Their horses were ridden by their captors; and so they slowly clambered the steep, narrow trail in the hills.

At last they reached a spot that seemed to suit the views of their captors for a stopping place. The camping was brief and simple. They were ordered to sit down—on the ground. They complied.

The captors then went to playing cards, not for amusement, but to divide the spoils. The winner was to have the girl—a muchacha—and the loser must content himself with the boy. It became evident before they had played very many minutes that neither of them wanted the boy, and that whichever got him would lose no time in shooting him.

While the game was still in progress, amid much cursing as luck seemed to vibrate from one side to another and then back, a tall, typical Mexican strode into the recess and looked on. He seemed oblivious to the presence of the two captives, but very much interested in the game. But, seeing no stakes, which in Mexico are always kept in sight, he inquired what the game was for.

Just as the pole tipped Cortina stepped forward. "Not another peso!" he called out, grandiloquently. "I said her weight in gold, and that is enough."

Then she was given into the care of Poyerima, while Cortina, with many flourishes and bows and adios, followed his men back into the woods.

There was a wedding soon after, as might be expected. Mrs. Poyerima lives with her young husband at the marble quarry in Texas. Just across the line, and tells the story only when the neighbors press her to. But the Mexicans call her "La sposa del oro"—the wife of gold.

Spanish Titles for Sale.
An agent in Paris is sending out a circular marked "confidential" to rich but untitled people in Europe offering to sell them titles of Spanish nobility. Some circulars have been received in this country, but have met with few or no responses. When an American wants to buy a title these days he is mighty particular as to the quality and buys it in the open market after a careful examination of the goods. Not so a European, who will take any old title which he can buy and be thankful. The enterprising Paris broker offers the title of baron, viscount or count at prices ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 and declares that the letters patent conferring the title chosen will be attested legally by the Spanish government.

Discouraged.
"You used to be something of an altruist," said the friend.
"Yes," answered Willie Washington. "I was a Theosophist for a while, too. But I had to give up. I've tried being a whole lot of things, but I never got far enough along to find out what the names by which they are called actually meant."—Washington Star.

Horses in Des Moines.
Des Moines has more horses in proportion to her population than any other city or town in the United States, the census showing a total of 6,631, or one horse for every ten of the population.

In China.
First Statesman—Then we have agreed to the demands of the powers? Second Statesman—Yes. The next question is how shall we avoid complying with them?—Puck.

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